



THE
Brook Waimarama
S A N C T U A R Y
N E L S O N N E W Z E A L A N D



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

Our Mission: A community-led organisation creating a pest free ecosystem in mature native forest in Nelson
Our vision: To be New Zealand's richest conservation environment for visitors, education and research

Introduction

The Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust (BWST) was established in 2004 to create a pest-free wildlife sanctuary in the former Brook waterworks reserve, right on Nelson City's doorstep. The fenced sanctuary is the largest in the South Island and provides 700ha of predominantly beech forest habitat for a range of endangered native wildlife. It will become a major visitor attraction providing the opportunity for Nelson/Tasman residents and visitors to connect with New Zealand's globally unique natural heritage.

The project is intergenerational and will extend well into the future by enhancing conservation and biodiversity awareness and education. The green bonding that occurs through study of the natural world is an invaluable component of our children's education in which BWST is investing, with an environmental education programme, in collaboration with local schools, Nelson City Council and the Nelson Provincial Museum.

The project provides an unparalleled match for the vision put forward by Sir Paul Callaghan and others of a series of 'mainland island' sanctuaries with expanding halos of increasingly-protected habitat. This vision is now embraced by the Government's Predator Free New Zealand 2050 initiative, in which we look forward to playing a significant role. The sanctuary is a key component of the Nelson Nature Programme – a bold Nelson City Council initiative to work with the community to enhance indigenous biodiversity over the next 10 years, including in the 'halo' around the sanctuary.

This report highlights our current position and next steps towards achieving our vision of building a viable sanctuary and sustainable eco-tourism business here in the heart of Nelson.

In summary:

- With the pest-proof fence surrounding the sanctuary complete, we now enter the next phase of our development - removing the pests within it, re-introducing endangered species and creating facilities and experiences for visitors.
- To achieve this, we will be working to grow our support base, and enhance our productive relationships with our existing volunteers, membership, donors, sponsors and business partners.

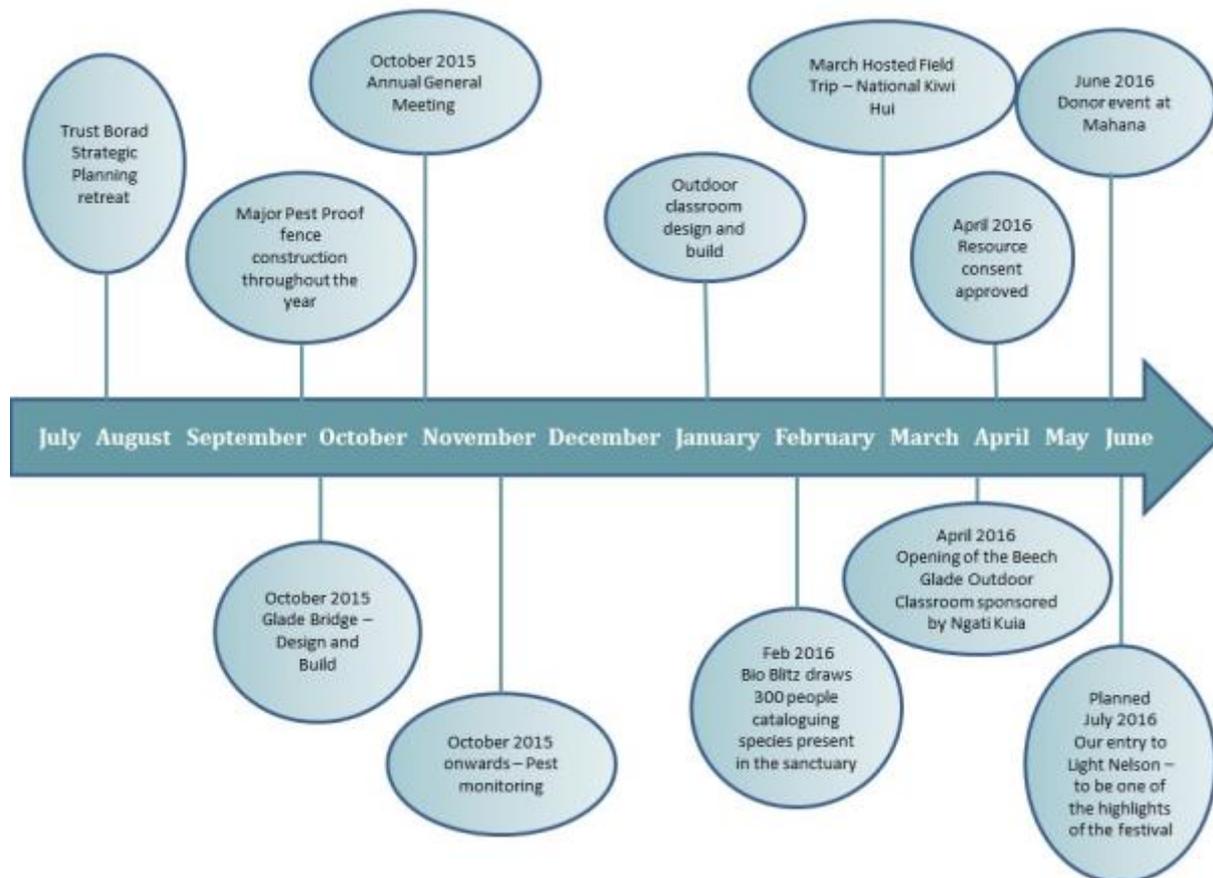
What we have achieved this year

- Completed the pest-proof fence and pest-proof Brook Stream floodgate within 2% of budget
- Remediated two major slips as part of fence construction
- Gained resource consents for pest removal (aerial drop of brodifacoum) to clear the sanctuary site of pest mammals
- Established and activated a fence maintenance team performing weekly inspection and maintenance
- Delivered a 100+km operational and visitor track network – the culmination of nearly a decade of work from a dedicated and skilled team of volunteers
- Completed the Beech Glade Pedestrian Bridge – now being enjoyed by the public
- Made submissions to NCC's Brook Reserve Management Plan, with many of our recommendations being incorporated into the plan adopted in principle by Council
- Collaborated with NCC's Nelson Nature Programme to discuss priorities for pest control and ecosystem restoration in the sanctuary halo
- 4000 school children experienced the sanctuary through organised educational and volunteer experience visits
- Updated and implemented essential health and safety policies and procedures to ensure compliance with legislative changes

Events

During the year, we have celebrated a number of events:

- February: Completion and opening of the Beech Glade Outdoor Classroom (sponsored by Ngati Kuia)
- February: Bioblitz (in collaboration with Project Maitai)—citizen science initiative with 200 participants cataloguing species present in the sanctuary
- June: Funder and donor event at Mahana Estate to acknowledge our significant donors for the pest-proof fence campaign
- July: Light Nelson 2016 (in collaboration with artists Lori Davis and Larisse Hall) - Our installation attracted huge interest and featured contributions from a number of local school students and families
- September: Public Fence Enclosure Ceremony performed by Right Honourable John Key, Prime Minister and attended by 600 people
- Ongoing quarterly volunteer get-togethers providing a forum for various teams to collaborate and share achievements, experiences and best practice.
- During the course of the year we have hosted and updated a number of key visitors to the Sanctuary – The Prime Minister, Minister of Conservation, Air New Zealand CEO, DOC Deputy Director General Operations, National Kiwi Hui, Rotary NZ (Central Region) conference delegates, and the Resource Management Legal Association conference delegates



People who make it happen

This project is very much a team effort and input from donors, members, friends, supporters, volunteers, partners, trustees, and staff members continues to be the lifeblood of the Sanctuary. Without this amazing collaborative effort, we would not be where we are today.

Contributors	This year's highlights
Volunteers	<p>Last year approximately 500 volunteers last year put in over 30,000 hours of work.</p> <p>Track Cutter team, led by Peter Hay and Deryk Mason, have completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 88 kms of operational tracks around valley perimeter ▪ 11 kms of tracks on ridge spurs ▪ 20 kms of contour tracks for public walking access <p>Fence Maintenance team, led by Hans Wiskerke and Derek Walker, have initiated the critical job of managing fence integrity with weekly inspections and maintenance of the fence and associated storm-water systems</p> <p>Pest Trapping & Monitoring teams: Tom Brett, Arthur Jonas, Karen Driver, and Geoff Galbraith have led these volunteer teams through a major transition phase.</p> <p>Visitor Centre team: ~5,000 visitors passed through the Visitor Centre this year wonderfully cared for and informed by Annie Henry and her team. From this we extrapolate ~\$12,000 visitors to the sanctuary.</p> <p>Public Engagement team: Jane Stevens and her team donated over 500 hours in representing the BWST at many local public events (including the Home and Garden Show, and the Sprig & Fern Hardy St quiz nights) and in the process raised \$6K.</p>
Donors and Sponsors	<p>More than 400 business sponsors have contributed, from small local retailers to regional leaders, such as Nelson Forests and Bowater Motor Group, to national corporates such as Air New Zealand, Honda New Zealand, and New Zealand Steel, with major contributions from the contractors for the fence build, Xcluder Pest-Proof Fences, Taylors Contracting, and Opus Intl</p> <p>More than 1,300 fence posts sponsored by individuals, families, businesses, and organisations, totalling ~\$330,000.</p> <p>Over the past few years significant grants toward developing the sanctuary and completing the pest proof fence, have come from the Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council, the Lottery Grants Board, Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment, as well as numerous charitable and family trusts including the Rata Foundation, McKee Trust, JD Stout Trust, Jasmine Social Investments, Pub Charity, WWF/Tindall Foundation, Air New Zealand Environment Trust, and the Cawthron Institute Trust Board.</p>
Staff	<p>Raeonie Ellery our long time Trust Coordinator departed in February.</p> <p>Jim Livingstone made a significant contribution to our operations capability before returning to DOC in July.</p> <p>Rick Field was awarded an Eelco Boswijk Civic Award for his contributions to environmental education.</p> <p>Bo Stent returned to the Trust in November as Facilities Development Coordinator and transitioned to the role of Operations Manager in July.</p> <p>Phil Suhm led major IT upgrades including customising our supporter database.</p> <p>Jennie Harrison assumed the role of Trust Coordinator in August.</p> <p>Robert Schadewinkel assumed the role of Ecosystem Ranger in September.</p> <p>Naina Mahto completed her certificate in business at NMIT while maintaining high standards of financial administration for the Trust.</p> <p>Hudson Dodd completed his fifth year in the role of General Manager.</p>
Trustees	<p>Dave Butler (Chairman) awarded Rotary NZ's Paul Harris lifetime achievement award</p> <p>Alastair Wiffen ("Wiff") re-joined the Trust board in December after an integral contribution as the pest-proof fence project manager at Opus.</p> <p>Cindy Batt of Te Atiawa joined the board as an Iwi Representative, alongside Chris Hemi of Ngati Kuia.</p> <p>Craig Wilson and Sian Holden stepped down from the board in February.</p> <p>Mike Elson-Brown joined the Trust board in August with a strong background in trustee governance.</p>

Where to from here

Our Vision

Our vision continues to excite and motivate us, and guides our decision making.

A forest teeming with life

The Sanctuary will:

- Turn back the tide of loss of our endangered indigenous birdlife and other species.
- Provide a home for the largest population of rowi, our rarest kiwi, and many other endangered species such as tuatara, mohua (yellowheads), tieke (saddlebacks), kaka, whio (blue duck), and giant weta.
- Provide a safe environment to enable existing birds such as bellbirds, tui and robin to thrive and flourish.
- Create an amazing dawn chorus for Nelson

An accessible wildlife experience and wildlife nursery

The Sanctuary will:

- Be a protected nursery for wildlife that will bring rare birds into the gardens and parks of central Nelson, Stoke and Richmond, and back into people's daily lives.
- Produce a profound "halo" effect (as we have seen in Wellington with Zealandia), increasing residents' awareness of local birdlife, with birdsong in the city, and native wildlife dispersing from the sanctuary's protective nursery into the proximate Mount Richmond Forest Park, our largest forest park with 184,000 hectares.
- Create an explosion of associated biodiversity in a pristine bush, upon the removal of the pests in area, largely untouched for 150 years, as the city's original water supply catchment.
- Be a very special place for all visitors to our region. Thanks to its close proximity, it has the potential to become the #1 visitor attraction in Nelson city.
- Provide a significant boost to the Nelson/Tasman economy through creating a major additional visitor attraction in the region.

Our Vision in action

A forest alive with birdsong, crawling with reptiles and insects, and enjoyed by all in the Nelson region.

An accessible and inspiring wildlife experience only a few kilometres from Nelson's CBD that is a major visitor attraction bringing significant resources into the region.

A place where you can play a practical role in safeguarding your natural heritage.

A major resource for education and training.

A nursery for wildlife that will spread north and west into nearby towns and south and east into the large wilderness of Mt Richmond Forest Park.

Safeguarding our natural heritage and providing an education resource

The Sanctuary will:

- Be an amazing space for interaction with our endangered, globally unique birdlife, providing an opportunity to enjoy our natural heritage in pristine native beech forest.
- Be a place for education, training and research, with over 100 organised school groups already visiting each year (~3,000 students per annum).
- Hold a dedicated conservation education and training facility in partnership with DOC and NMIT to be the sole location for delivery of the national Trainee Ranger program.

Our Goals for 2017

We have ambitious plans for the Sanctuary in the coming year and will deliver:

- A pest free sanctuary – pest removal is scheduled for the third quarter of 2017.
- Establishing the Sanctuary attractions—new facilities for wildlife breeding and holding, and visitor facilities and information.
- Species reintroductions species such as kaka, kiwi, and tuatara, in collaboration with key partners including DOC, Project Janszoon, Ngati Koata, and Natureland.

Call to Action

- To achieve our ambitious goals and exciting vision, we need the ongoing support of the wider Nelson/Tasman and New Zealand communities. To secure delivery on our exciting plans for 2016/17, we are aiming to raise a further \$1M. Our ongoing operational costs and developmental requirements will necessitate ongoing fundraising of approximately \$1m per annum for the next three years until budgeted visitor and other revenue commences

Top 10 ways to help us meet our goals:

1. Enrol as a volunteer – there are an increasingly wide variety of roles to be undertaken this year
2. Become a member of the Trust
3. Make regular monthly contributions as a Friend of the Brook Sanctuary
4. Make a one-off generous donation or sponsor (further) fence posts
5. Plan a legacy bequest (directly to the Trust or through the Nelson Bays Community Foundation’s Brook Sanctuary Endowment Fund)
6. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram--use your personal networks to gain new supporters across the region and New Zealand
7. Take a friend for a walk on the Sanctuary’s outstanding track network
8. Involve your business and workplace team financially (in cash or in kind) or as volunteers—we’ll work with you to tailor an appropriate workplace giving or team volunteering program
9. Join one of the Trust’s task forces or committees and contribute your expertise
10. Consider becoming a trustee and join our dynamic governance team

To contribute in any of these ways, pay us a visit:

- **Online:** brooksanctuary.org
- **Sanctuary Visitor Centre:** 651 Brook Street (at end of road through the holiday park)
- **City Office:** Level 1, Suite 3 Morrison Square, 777 Selwyn Street (above the square’s SW stair well)

Brook Sanctuary Trust Financial Position

The audited annual financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2016, are located on the Brook Sanctuary website: www.brooksanctuary.org.nz