



## Top of the South Newsletter

Welcome to the April - May 2024 conservation volunteer activities newsletter for the top of the South Island.

We hope you enjoy seeing all the great conservation work going on around your community and are inspired to participate and support these activities to grow conservation and celebrate Earth Day!

There is something for everyone from skilled, high fitness activities to social and educational events, to days you can bring the whole family.

DOC Volunteer Coordinator  
Amme Hiser  
nelsontasmanvolunteers@doc.govt.nz  
Phone: +64 027 365 4519

### Earth Day: Picnic in the Park

Envirohub Marlborough's annual Earth Day: Picnic in the Park is back to celebrate Earth Day and the incredible efforts our community make together! This is a free glamping-style picnic showcasing the awesome conservation and environmental efforts within Marlborough - and is completely zero waste!

We need your help making it an amazing event for all in our community with Set up and pack down, our children's activity tent (with Conservation Kids NZ), stall assistance and with zero waste. We'd love your help and we'd love to see you there!

Location: Pollard Park, Blenheim  
Contact: Ailie Suzuki  
Email: [info@envirohub.nz](mailto:info@envirohub.nz)

Phone: 0211978777      Time: 10am -3pm  
Date: 21 April

### 2024 Te Tauihu Trapper Hui



Predator Free NZ and Tasman Environmental Trust are hosting a 2 day event aimed at inspiring and connecting predator free and restoration community groups, local strategy and big picture. Featuring speakers, field trips, workshops, tradeshow and community display. See listing for more info.

Location: Headingly Center, Nelson  
Date: 17 May 24 - 18 May 24  
Contact: Elaine Asquith  
Email: [elaineasquith@tet.org.nz](mailto:elaineasquith@tet.org.nz)

### Mahitahi Tuna Migration



Come and experience the life cycle of the tuna (longfin eel), our treasured endemic species. This two-part event begins with a walk along the Maitai River and ends at Queens Gardens with a game and prizes. Learn about the life of tuna (and other freshwater species) as part of Tuku 24 Whakatū

Location: Millers Acre, Nelson  
Date: 20 April      Time: 1pm 3pm

### Avon Catchment Workshop:



An open workshop for Marlborough farmers and conservationists. Topics include: Avon Valley catchment group, council support and freshwater policy, water quality monitoring and data, weed control, wetlands as dairy farm assets, Biodiversity on farms and more. See listing for more information.

Location: Waihopai Valley  
Date: 30 April      Time: 9.45 - 4pm  
Contact: Wendy Sullivan  
Email: [wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz](mailto:wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz)



## April, 2024

### Otuwhero Working Bees



Location: Marahau, Tasman

#### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Terry Stanbridge

Email: [naote@farmside.co.nz](mailto:naote@farmside.co.nz)

Phone: 03 527 8656

Time: 1pm



The Otuwhero Trust carry out restoration work in the beautiful Otuwhero wetland near Marahau. The Trust holds working bees on site on Friday afternoons from 1 -4pm, work involves planting and the maintenance of plantings. Please contact Terry Stanbridge if you would like to spend time in this lovely piece of wetland. The Otuwhero Wetland is a stronghold for banded rail and fernbird, it also hosts an important whitebait spawning area and has a number of threatened species of plants.

### Kaipūpū Sanctuary



Location: Picton

#### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Jen Dunlop

Email: [See listing](#)

Phone: 03 928 4957 extension 1

[www.kaipupusanctuary.nz](http://www.kaipupusanctuary.nz)



Kaipūpū Sanctuary is a 40ha predator free sanctuary in Picton Marlborough. Volunteer roles include trapping, monitoring, weeding, native tree nursery, education trips with local schools, maintenance, guiding and helping in our information shop. Come and join us to learn more about Kaipūpū . For more information contact Jen at [volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz](mailto:volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz)

### Picton Dawn Chorus Volunteers



Location: Picton

#### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Jen Dunlop

Email: [volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz](mailto:volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz)

Phone: 03 928 4957 Ext. 1

[www.pictondawnchorus.nz](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz)



Do you enjoy long walks in native bush? Volunteers are needed to check the traps placed out on the town's reserves. If you are not comfortable with handling catches, you can help keep our trap lines weed free providing easy access to the traps. Induction and training is given and you will become part of a very passionate group of volunteers working towards making Picton and NZ predator free. If you can spare a few hours on a weekend we would love to hear from you! Contact Jen at [volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz](mailto:volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz)

### Wild About The Grampians



Location: Grampians Reserve, Nelson

#### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Nicola Gabelich

Email: [nicpaul38@gmail.com](mailto:nicpaul38@gmail.com)

Phone: 021 376115



We're a community group who clear invasive weeds from our target area of the Grampians Reserve, in Nelson. We are removing many species such as old man's beard, banana passionfruit vine, privet, tradescantia, fan palms etc. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping either regularly or occasionally. We also plan to plant the area in natives to allow it to regenerate over time. No experience needed. Get in touch with Nicola for more information or visit our facebook page - Wild About The Grampians, to see our progress so far.



## Paremata Flats Restoration Project and Working Bee



Location: Paremata Flats Reserve, Cable Bay

### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: [See below](#)  
Email: [moiratilling@gmail.com](mailto:moiratilling@gmail.com)  
[www.paremataflats.co.nz](http://www.paremataflats.co.nz)  
Time: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month



Paremata Flats Reserve in Cable Bay is a unique lowland forest area which is home to fernbird and banded rail. Forest and Bird are helping to restore the area.

We are in need of more trappers! If you'd like to help protect our birds in this beautiful young forest please contact: [moiratilling@gmail.com](mailto:moiratilling@gmail.com)

Or to help with weeding on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month (6th April and 4th May ) please contact: [mianlim@gmail.com](mailto:mianlim@gmail.com)

## Friends of the Maitai Plant Care & River Monitoring



Location: Maitai River, Nelson

### 3 Apr 24 - 31 Aug 24

Contact: Friends of the Maitai  
Email: [friendsofthemaitai.org.nz](mailto:friendsofthemaitai.org.nz)  
Phone: 0211011772  
[Friends of the Maitai Facebook Page](#)  
Time: 1-3 pm alternate Fri from 6th April



**Plant care Sessions:** Come along to Groom Creek on alternate Fridays 1- 3pm from the 6th April. Cross the bridge and park by the mulch pile. Bring gloves, buckets, clippers or hand weeding tools if you have them, as well as sun hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes, water bottle and or a thermos so you can enjoy a cuppa with us at 3 pm.

**River Monitoring:** Want to know what's happening to the Maitai river and Brook stream? Come along to our monitoring group on the first Friday of the month. We meet at 9.45am at Clouston Bridge. Beginners most welcome. Bring waders or boots. Contact Philippa by email on [philippa@eberlein.co.nz](mailto:philippa@eberlein.co.nz). For more info phone / txt 0211011772 or check the Friends of Maitai website or Facebook page.

## Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust



Location: Abel Tasman National Park

### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Abby McCall  
Email: [atbirdsong1@gmail.com](mailto:atbirdsong1@gmail.com)  
Phone: 027 3408939  
[www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz](http://www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz)



The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust checks a network of predator traps in the Abel Tasman National Park. We have opportunities for those looking for an off-the-coast-track challenge where **high fitness is required**. There is some beautiful bush to explore with plentiful birdlife to keep you motivated. Please get in contact to find out details.

## Hinepango Wetland - Rarangi



Location: Rarangi, Marlborough

### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Leticia Dodson  
Email: [leticia\\_david@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:leticia_david@yahoo.co.nz)

There's a battle underway at Hinepango Wetland in Rarangi. Willow, old man's beard and blackberry are the enemy here. The 27 hectare wetland is one of the largest in Marlborough and its unusual landform makes it almost unique in New Zealand. It's also home to several threatened flora and fauna. Now it is being rescued. With a growing interest from the local community, Rarangi residents Leticia Dodson and Nicole Banks have formed the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group. Plans are being developed for a loop track, boardwalk, and educational displays so that visitors can enjoy the emerging native landscape and returning wildlife.



## Cohen Bush Restoration Project



Location: Appleby, Nelson

**3 Apr 24 - 31 Aug 24**

Contact: Julie McLintock  
Email: [nikau48@gmail.com](mailto:nikau48@gmail.com)  
Phone: 03 5450989  
Time: 9-4pm on Wednesdays

If you have one hour or three to spare, between 9 - 4 on a Wednesday we would appreciate your help. Six hectares of coastal property have been planted in natives and some of the 4 year old trees are needing a trim back to allow their neighbors more sunshine. For more details contact Julie McLintock, phone 03 5450989 or email [nikau48@gmail.com](mailto:nikau48@gmail.com)

The Cohen volunteer trapping team are after someone to join us to cover every 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in trapping, please contact Jess at [armstrongjess777@gmail.com](mailto:armstrongjess777@gmail.com) or phone 0225963502.

## Kai Rescue Volunteers



Location: Nelson

**Apr - Ongoing**

Contact: Nelson Environment Centre  
Email: [volunteer@nec.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@nec.org.nz)  
Phone: 03 545 9176 (Ext 4)  
[www.nec.org.nz](http://www.nec.org.nz)  
Time: Mondays 7am-10.30am



### Are you an early bird?

Kai Rescue saves good food from going to waste in landfill and redistributes it as food support to help feed our community. The Kai Collection Volunteer supports the driver in collecting, inspecting, loading and delivering the rescued kai from donors to Kai Rescue in Victory. We currently have an opportunity on Mondays from 7 am until approximately 10.30 am. Interested? Please contact Ellie [volunteer@nec.org.nz](mailto:volunteer@nec.org.nz) or phone (03) 545 9176 (ext 4) or 020 4112 4878.

## Kea Survey Tool



Location: Backcountry NZ

**Apr - Ongoing**

<https://survey.keadatabase.nz/>



If you are heading for the hills, think about contributing a kea survey or two.

This project aims to measure: Spatial patterns in Kea abundance, and changes in Kea abundance over time. Our chosen metric is the chance of a Kea encounter per observer hour.

How can I contribute?

You can survey for kea whenever you visit the back country for one hour or more. All you need to do is set your intention to survey for kea in advance of your trip, and then record your hours, approximate location, what you were doing and whether or not you heard or saw kea, for each hour that you were out and about.

Go to <https://survey.keadatabase.nz/> for more information.

## Otuwhero Wetland-banded rail and fernbird



Location: Marahau, Tasman

**Apr - Ongoing**

Contact: Terry Stanbridge  
Email: [naote@farmside.co.nz](mailto:naote@farmside.co.nz)  
Phone: 03 527 8656  
Time: 1pm



The Otuwhero Trust carry out restoration work in the beautiful Otuwhero wetland near Marahau.

The Trust holds working bees on site on Friday afternoons from 1 -4pm, work involves planting and the maintenance of plantings.

Please contact Terry Stanbridge if you would like to spend time in this lovely piece of wetland.

The Otuwhero Wetland is a stronghold for banded rail and fernbird, it also hosts an important whitebait spawning area and has a number of threatened species of plants.



### Could you be Flossies new home??



#### Apr - Ongoing

Contact: Maire Hearty  
Phone: 027 282 2289

Flossie is a four month old lab/border collie cross. Her mum (the lab) has bred LandSAR pups, her dad, Zuko (the collie) is a delight. Flossie is able to sit, she comes when she is called and is fully inoculated and wormed.

Flossie needs to find her long-life home where she can spread her joy. Contact Máire at 027 282 2289 for further information.

### Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Big Green Day Out



#### 7 Apr 24

Contact: Brook Waimārama Sanctuary  
Email: [events@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:events@brooksanctuary.org.nz)  
[www.brooksanctuary.org.nz](http://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz)  
Time: 10am - 4pm



Location: Nelson

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary are excited to present NELSONS BIG GREEN DAY OUT on April 7th 2024, add it to your calendars!

Join us and celebrate our native flora and fauna in an idyllic setting. Enjoy delicious street food, bask in the beauty of the pristine Waimārama stream, take a stroll along peaceful bush tracks or sit back and enjoy the birdsong. The Sanctuary will also have several additional special events, so keep up to date by subscribing to our newsletter and following us on social media.

[Subscribe To Our Mailing List \(brooksanctuary.org.nz\)](http://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz)

[Follow us on Facebook - The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary.](#)

### Mahitahi Tuna Migration



#### 20 Apr 24

[www.tukuwhakatu.nz/our-events](http://www.tukuwhakatu.nz/our-events)  
Time: 1pm 3pm



Location: Millers Acre, Nelson

#### MAHITAHU TUNA MIGRATION

·Saturday, 20 April 2024· 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm  
Free. No bookings required.

Come and experience the life cycle of the tuna (longfin eel), our treasured endemic species found nowhere else on earth. This two-part event begins with a walk along the Maitai River and ends at Queens Gardens with a game and prizes. Learn about the life of tuna (and other freshwater species) from the ocean to upstream along the river and view local public artworks along the way as part of Tuku 24 Whakatū - NCC. Fun for the whole family. **MEET AT THE WALKWAY BY MILLARS ACRE CARPARK AND RIVER KITCHEN.**

Go to <https://www.tukuwhakatu.nz/our-events/mahitahi-tuna-migration>

### Earth Day: What is your activity?



Location: Everywhere!

#### Apr - Ongoing

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/>



Volunteers vs. Plastics, Planet vs. Plastics

For Earth Day 2024 on April 22nd, EARTHDAY.ORG is committed to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040. That's where you come in: As an individual, you yield real power and influence as a consumer, a voter, and a member of a community that can unite for change. Check out the website and have a think if there is a cleanup or community collection you can organise. Find planning help and register your event here <https://www.earthday.org/actions/register-your-earth-day-event/#plan>  
Our world needs transformational change.



## Earth Day: Picnic in the Park



**21 Apr 24**

Contact: **Allie Suzuki**  
Email: [info@envirohub.nz](mailto:info@envirohub.nz)  
Phone: 0211978777  
[www.envirohub.co.nz](http://www.envirohub.co.nz)  
Time: 10am -3pm



Envirohub Marlborough's annual Earth Day: Picnic in the Park is back to celebrate Earth Day and the incredible efforts our community make together! This is a free glamping-style picnic showcasing the awesome conservation and environmental efforts within Marlborough - and is completely zero waste! We need your help making it an amazing event for all in our community with Set up and pack down, our children's activity tent (with Conservation Kids NZ), stall assistance and with zero waste. We'd love your help and we'd love to see you there! 10-3pm

Location: **Pollard Park, Blenheim**

## Avon Catchment Workshop: farmer based environment



**30 Apr 24**

Contact: **Wendy Sullivan**  
Email: [wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz](mailto:wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz)  
[See listing](#)

Time: 9.45 - 4pm



An open workshop for Marlborough farmers and conservationists. Speakers include: Richard Dawkins, Avon Valley Catchment Group chair, Peter Hamill, MDC - council support for catchment groups and freshwater policy, Anna Batty, M&R - AVCG water quality monitoring and understanding freshwater data, Ben Minehan - Weed control in dryland Marlborough and Barberry trials, Shaun Lissington, Waiau dairy farmer - Wetlands as farm assets, Biodiversity on Farm Tour – Jim Lambie (ecologist) with Richard & Chris Dawkins (landowners) Lunch provided, so registration essential at <https://landcare.org.nz/events-calendar/> or phone 0272473503 The Pvravid Woolshed. 256 Avondale Road.

Location: **Waihopai Valley**

## May, 2024

### Gondola Hill Walk



**12 May 24**

Contact: **Zoe Aitchison**  
Email: [See Text](#)  
Phone:  
[www.pictondawnchorus.nz](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz)  
[www.kaipupusanctuary.nz](http://www.kaipupusanctuary.nz)

Time: 9.30am -2pm



Come and walk Gondola Hill (Mt Collins, 433m asl) and help raise funds for the rewilding of Kaipūpū Sanctuary and Waitohi Picton. The 1hr / 2.2km walk to the top is steep in places, but there are plenty of opportunities to 'stop and enjoy the view!' Once you are at the top you will enjoy fabulous views of Waitohi Picton, Queen Charlotte Sound and of course Kaipūpū Sanctuary! [Click here \(https://pdc.infooodle.com/f/GondolaHillExpressionOfInterest\)](https://pdc.infooodle.com/f/GondolaHillExpressionOfInterest) to receive full details of the event or find it on Eventfinda or Facebook. For more information contact Zoe Aitchison at [administration@pictondawnchorus.nz](mailto:administration@pictondawnchorus.nz)

Location: **Picton**



## 2024 Te Taihu Trapper Hui



Location: Headingly Center, Nelson

### 17 May 24 - 18 May 24

Contact: Elaine Asquith

Email: [elaineasquith@tet.org.nz](mailto:elaineasquith@tet.org.nz)

Phone: 0212608415

<https://www.tet.org.nz/>



2024 Taihu Trapper Hui, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Predator Free NZ Trust and Tasman Environmental Trust (supported by councils, DOC, KMTT and community) are co hosting a Top of the South Island Te Taihu Trapper Hui. It will be a 2 day event, with speakers on the 17th and field trips and workshops on the 18th. A tradeshow and community projects will be on display. The hui is aimed at inspiring and connecting predator free and restoration community groups to each other, local strategy and big picture. Please RSVP as spaces are limited.

Day 1 Speakers, Panel Discussion, Tradeshow/  
community groups showcase

Day 2 Workshops, field trips, Tradeshow/  
community groups showcase