



## ONE YEAR ON

Nelson Nature has reached the end of its first year of operation. Since the initial announcement in April 2015 of Council's intention to invest in a 10 year biodiversity programme, much progress has been made towards a more environmentally sustainable Nelson.

Key outcomes are:

- New partnership established with the Department of Conservation
- 135ha of wilding pines eradicated in the Dun Mountain Mineral Belt
- Eight Significant Natural Areas under active management, with work ongoing to develop further sites in the year ahead
- 14,500 plants provided for planting on private and public land
- 25ha of climbing asparagus and banana passionfruit control in the Grampians
- Weed treatment and planting along the Dun Mountain track in the Tantragee reserve.
- 30 vouchers issued for greenwaste disposal
- Wakapuaka River Family Fun Day
- 1,512 ha of inland hill country brought into active weed control

- Approximately 11,000 Taiwan Cherry plants controlled over 22 properties.
- 1,200 metres of new trap-line established in coastal areas
- 1400 sqm area Orphanage Stream Delta planted (Waimea Inlet).
- Back Beach Beetle survey and report.
- 4.6 ha native habitat restoration in Upper Poormans and Orphanage Streams.
- Two new community groups and four schools actively engaged with the urban streams programme.
- Community kererū count
- Six videos made to tell the Nelson Nature story
- 87 vegetation plots, 62 bird count stations, 13 fish monitoring sites, 8 bird study plots established
- Enhanced planting along Orchard Stream for fish habitat.

The Nelson Nature team is grateful for the assistance of the Nelson Biodiversity Forum, private landowners and local community volunteer groups Marsden Valley Trapping Group, Birdlife on the Grampians, Brook Sanctuary,



Native kererū are one of the key species that Nelson Nature is working to protect.  
Image – Photoneuzeland/Rob Tucker

Centre of NZ Trapping Group, Nelson Mountain Bike Club, Titoki Reserve Trapping Group, Boulderbank trappers, Haven Holes caretakers, Paremata Flats planters and trappers, and Nelson/Tasman Weedbusters. Find our more at [www.nelsonnature.nz](http://www.nelsonnature.nz)

With the assistance of many volunteers, and the support of Nelson City Council and the Department of Conservation, Nelson Nature has made a great start towards a biologically rich and sustainable future for Nelson.

## NELSON WEEDBUSTERS NEED YOU



Nelson Tasman Weedbusters are working hands-on to save our ecosystem from environmental weeds.

Nelson Nature is supporting volunteer groups as they take action to reverse the destruction caused by pest weed species, the worst of which are Banana Passionfruit vine, Old Man's Beard and Climbing Asparagus.

Nelson Tasman Weedbusters is an environmental volunteer group that meets regularly in the battle against these nasties, with the prize being our lowland coastal forest, some of which is under severe threat from weed infestation. It's one of the groups that Nelson Nature has identified as being key to the on-the-ground efforts to protect our ecosystems. Michael North started Nelson Tasman Weedbusters eight years ago when, during his work as an ecologist surveying native bush in the region,

he felt he was witnessing first-hand the collapse of our local ecosystems because of environmental weeds.

"I wanted to engage proactively in doing something to stop the encroachment of these pest plants in our native forests," he said.

The group meets approximately six weekly at a specific site and Michael says that saving mature trees is just as effective and important to the health of the ecosystem as planting new ones.

"The buzz I get from saving a 500 year old totara tree is immeasurable. I hope that with the added assistance of Nelson Nature, we can save more of our indigenous forest before it is too late."

The next Weedbusting day is on Sunday 28 August at Delaware Bay, from 10am.

Volunteers need to bring their lunch/drinks and wear suitable clothing and sun protection. All weedbusting equipment is provided.

### CONTACT:

For more information about the day, to arrange shared transport or to get involved with Nelson Tasman Weedbusters contact Michael North:

e: [totara@ts.co.nz](mailto:totara@ts.co.nz)  
Phone: 03 545 2431  
[www.nelsonnature.nz](http://www.nelsonnature.nz)

## IT'S THAT TAIWAN CHERRY TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

Council is offering free removal of Taiwan Cherry, an invasive garden pest tree that blooms at this time of year. Over the last year, Council contractors have controlled approximately 11,000 Taiwan Cherry trees from gardens and reserves around Nelson. The focus this year is on removing residual trees which are recognisable by their bright pink blossoms in late July and early August.

While this pink invader looks pretty, it poses a real threat to the environment. Its seed is spread by birds, and it can dominate the landscape, crowding out native trees that would otherwise supply food for birds all year round.

Council contractors will be contacting landowners with known trees over the next few weeks, to arrange tree removal free of charge - particularly in the Dodson Valley

area where this plant is becoming extremely invasive.

Council urges anyone who suspects they have Taiwan Cherry on their property, and hasn't been contacted, to get in touch to arrange for the tree/s to be assessed. We recommend replanting with native species such as kowhai, rata or cabbage trees to benefit the local bird population.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To discuss tree removal, contact Nelmac on 546 0910 or Steve Price 027 7068930

For more information contact Lynne Hall, Environmental Programmes Officer, Phone 546 0308 or email [lynne.hall@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:lynne.hall@ncc.govt.nz)



Taiwan Cherry is an invasive weed tree that spreads fast and threatens our biodiversity.