



## NEW RAINWATER HARVESTING VIDEO LAUNCHED

Council has created the first in a series of 'How To' videos on rainwater harvesting.

The first one covers the installation and set-up of a simple rainwater tank for use in the garden. Using a rainwater tank can save lots of water by collecting it when it rains, and then using it in dry periods to keep your garden growing.

The video covers the reasons why we harvest rainwater, what equipment you need, where to install the tank and how to set up a rainwater diverter. You'll find the video and more information and tips on how to save water at [nelson.govt.nz/water-conservation](http://nelson.govt.nz/water-conservation).



[nelson.govt.nz/water-conservation](http://nelson.govt.nz/water-conservation)

## HEALTHY STREAMS WEBSITE

Healthy Streams now has its own webpage on the Nelson City Council website.

Go to [healthystreams.nz](http://healthystreams.nz) – you'll find links to our freshwater programmes and to our story maps of Nelson's rivers and streams.

## WATER SAVING TIPS FOR SUMMER

We only drink around 5% of the water we use in our homes. The other 95% goes down the drain from showers, taps, laundries and toilets, as well as use in gardens.

As the drier months approach, saving water in the home and garden can keep your water bills down and help keep our river levels up. Low flows in the river means warmer temperatures for fish and can have an impact on their ability to survive and breed.

### IN THE GARDEN:

- Hand water or use a soakerhose. If you get that rainwater tank installed in time for summer, use it to fill your watering cans or set up a low pressure soakerhose that will trickle water just where you need it.
- Mulch your vegetables with compost or other organic matter that will help to keep the moisture in.

- Only water when it is needed, and give plants a good long soak rather than frequent light watering – this will help root development and use less water. Test the moisture content of your soil by pushing a finger into the soil – if it's damp they can go another day, but if it's dry and crumbly then they need water.

### IN THE HOME:

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Save the water from cooking pasta or vegetables, and when it is cooled use to water pot plants or garden beds.
- Choose efficient shower heads and low water use appliances
- Keep your showers short – less than five minutes.

## FARM FORESTRY EVENT ATTRACTS A CROWD

Interest in planting trees on rural land is running high, with around 100 people attending the **Trees in Productive Landscapes free community seminar at Wakapuaka Hall on 29 November**.

The seminar was presented to support landowners planting trees for erosion control, which has a direct impact on sedimentation of our rivers – a major issue for Nelson's river health.

Speakers Jane Gosden (Nelmac Ecologist), Dean Satchell (Sustainable Forest Solutions), Robert Appleton (Appleton's Nursery) and Roger May (Tomorrow's Forests) gave presentations on their specific areas of knowledge.

Jane Gosden gave a talk about native forest restoration – how to get started, and how to manage trees in a rural landscape.

Dean Satchell spoke about alternative plantation forest species, including suitability for farm forestry.

Robert Appleton talked about the suitability of exotic species for erosion management, and for supporting land restoration goals. Robert's talk was illustrated with images of the property he has planted.

Roger May talked about the Emissions Trading Scheme, and the implications of the scheme for foresters.

The event was co-hosted by Nelson City Council and NZ Landcare Trust. Council is looking for landowners interested in establishing a land management plan which will include the prevention of erosion on their property through tree planting. Trees for erosion control will be provided based on these plans.

Videos of the presentations will be available at:

[healthystreams.nz](http://healthystreams.nz)



## HOUSEHOLD WATER USE SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to everyone who took part in our household water use survey.

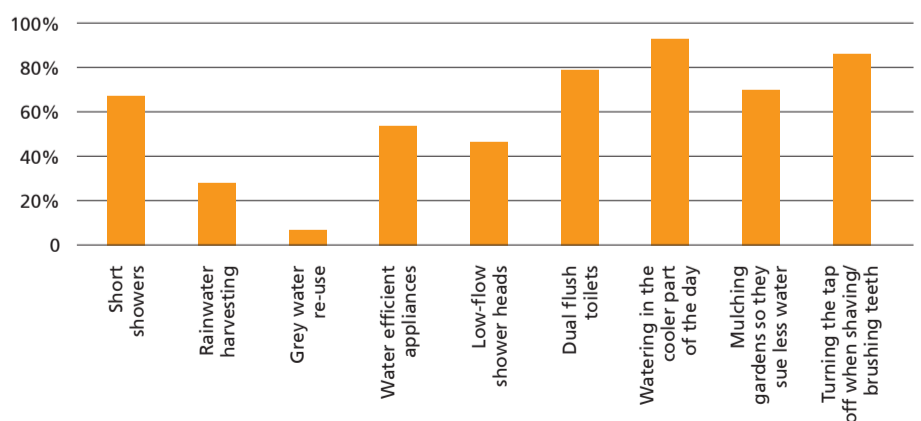
Everyone who took part in the survey went in the draw to win a Marley Twist rainwater diverter or an outdoor tap timer.

The winners were Geoffrey Harwood, Eric and Bev Humphreys, Alison Rowe and Mat Thornton.

The survey gave us lots of useful information, including how people are trying to save water around the home.

Rainwater harvesting was one of the top ways people wanted to save more water, along with more efficient use of water, re-using greywater, buying a dishwasher and using notes to remind the family to conserve water.

How people save water



**NELSON HAS 19,036 RESIDENTIAL WATER CONNECTIONS**

**WATER USE**

Average per connection: 272 L/day, 99,280 L/year

If every home saved 10 litres per day, we would save 75 million litres per year – that is equivalent to 13.5 days of water for our city's domestic users.