



Fish scientists searching for koaro eggs in the Brook Stream

FOCUS ON FISH

Council's fish surveys have shown that the Brook Stream is becoming increasingly important as a spawning site for koaro. The first recent sighting of koaro eggs was in May—June 2017. Eggs were found again in 2018, and this year they were found on 7 May, suggesting koaro spawning is generally from late April – July.

Koaro eggs have also now been found in Poorman Valley Stream and a tributary at the head of the Whangamoia River.

The three spawning sites offer similar habitat for these fish. They are several kilometres from the coast in upland boulder streams with a mix of overhanging native and exotic vegetation. In all cases the eggs found were underwater, and hidden under the larger boulders in stream riffles. We think that these sites are favoured as the eggs are protected under boulders when the stream is running high, and eggs are also likely to be

deposited in the gravels under the boulder by the fish digging a nest. These are the first confirmed findings of koaro spawning under submerged boulders in riffles in New Zealand and Australia, and the fact they have been found in three catchments suggests that this behaviour probably occurs elsewhere in NZ.

We'll be continuing our surveys in Nelson's streams, and these results will help us to focus our future search effort. This information will also help to define and manage native fish spawning habitat.

MATARIKI MAGIC

Join the Te Wairepo crew at the Victory Community Centre Matariki celebration from 3pm on Wednesday 26 June.

We'll be giving away the Te Wairepo and Wakapuaka Field Guides to help you get out and understand your local awa. We'll also have some native trees to give away in exchange for your commitment to take action within the community, to improve the health of your awa.

This year's theme is guided by the star Waiti, which looks after fresh water and the connection between our people and our community with the freshwater in our awa. Ko au Te Wairepo, Ko Te Wairepo ko au. Come along and find out more about how we can help look after our waterways

and enjoy some yummy food and great entertainment at the same time. More info on the Matariki Celebrations will be available at victorycommunity.org.nz/matariki You can find out more about the field guides here:

nelson.govt.nz/field-guides



Photo © John-Paul Pochin

JOURNEYING WITH THE BIRDS AT WAKAPUAKA

The Manu Hikoi bird journey on 19 May saw a gathering of people from the Wakapuaka River catchment and beyond enjoying the glorious autumn weather and learning all about our native birds and the important place they hold in the ecosystem.

The 'early birds' on the Manu Hikoi bus trip began the day with a karakia, before following the river upstream. The guide on the bus was local ornithologist Josh Kemp, who told stories of the history of the area and the birds that live there and led a walk into the Fantail Forest. The bus group then joined the public event held over midday at the Hira Reserve.

The Wakapuaka fire station was turned into a bird themed info and activity centre, with large format guides, nests to identify and a chance to make bird masks or origami birds.

Hira school showcased their predator trapping work and created an ecosystem game to show which birds live where. Nelson Provincial Museum had a cabinet display and information about the two excellent exhibitions

on at the moment (especially relevant is Buller's Birds). Friends of Hira School provided hot drinks and baking to enjoy while listening to with local musicians Polly and the Minstrel.

A very special treat was the korero and taonga pouro which wove the sounds of the instruments, and their stories within a picture of where manu (birds) appear in the creation and how they link to us.

The bus then carried on down to Paremata for an opportunity to understand the ecological importance of the intertidal area, see the work of the Paremata Flats restoration project and engage in some positive action by choosing a bird-attracting tree to plant or take home.

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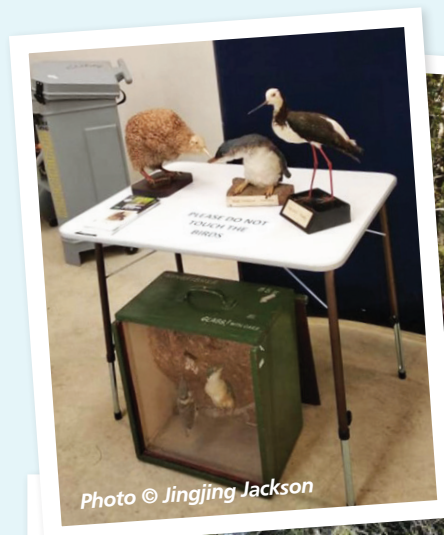


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