NELSON NATURE

Bringing the **wild** into our **life...**

WAKAPUAKA – BURSTING WITH LIFE!

The Nelson North Community around the Wakapuaka River is launching a project, supported by Nelson Nature and Landcare trust, to improve the health of the river and strengthen community connections with it.

The project will be driven from within the community with support from Nelson Nature and the Landcare Trust. The name 'Wakapuaka' translates literally to 'Bursting with life'.

Much of the land in the Wakapuaka catchment is in private ownership, so work to improve water health issues such as *E.coli* and raised nutrient levels will focus on enabling the community to continue to care for its river. The project will recognise previous work in this area, and build on the community's long experience in caring for its treasured waterway.

So how will Nelson Nature support this project? As well as monitoring water quality and quantity to identify issues that need fixing, we're looking at helping with tree planting and fencing along the river; running a rainwater harvesting project, to encourage people to harvest and store rainwater and reduce the volume of water taken out of the river for domestic use; working with the school to strengthen student connections with the values of the river; supporting best practice septic tank management, and learning more about the history of the community and the river that touches the lives of many.

Wakapuaka – Bursting with Life! will be launched at a community barbecue on 9 March, where we'll also show a short video we've made with the help of those living in the Wakapuaka River catchment about the river and the community it supports. There will be an outdoor movie, a chance to learn about the river's rich biodiversity, children's activities and an opportunity for locals to identify the issues they care about.

We'll also be partnering with Landcare Trust to run a landowner workshop in late March to encourage best practice land management to improve the river's health.

Hira Freshwater Fun Day

WAKAPUAKA
Bursting with life
Healthy River - Healthy Community

RAINWATER HARVESTING – HOW MUCH WATER COULD YOU COLLECT?

If you're interested in helping your local rivers and streams, and having free water to use for cleaning, watering the garden and household tasks, you might consider installing a rainwater tank. You'll be surprised just how much water you could collect from a simple rainwater collection system!

To calculate the total amount of water you could collect from your roof in a year, you need to multiply your roof area by the annual rainfall by 0.9.

If you have a roof area of 100m^2 and there was 100mm of rain in a year, 100m^2 x 100mm x 0.9 = 9000, so you could collect 9,000L of water.

By following the steps below you can estimate how much water you might collect in an average year.

1. Choose the rainfall location closest to where you live from the table below.
2. Estimate the area of your roof in m^2 (if you don't know just use your floor area).
3. Use the equation below to calculate the amount of rainwater in litres you could collect a year:

Roof Area x Rainfall x 0.9 = Rainfall Collected

_____ x _____ x 0.9 = _____

LOCATION	AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL TOTAL (MM)
Maitai Dam	1664
Founders Park	935
Princes Drive	946
Orphange @ Ngawhatu	964
Hira Reserve	1398

FENCING AND PLANTING OF WATERWAYS

Nelson Nature has funding and support available to help with fencing and planting of waterways for landowners who wish to protect water bodies on their property.

Ponds, lakes, wetlands and streams provide inanga spawning habitat, can be places for gathering of mahinga kai (food), and support a variety of native fish and invertebrate species. Both natural (rivers, streams and wetlands) and artificial (drains) water bodies can have these values. In addition, our rivers are highly valued as places for us to enjoy recreational activities.

Ensuring stock are kept out of waterways, and increasing riparian planting, prevents one source of harmful bacteria from entering our rivers and keeps them safe for swimming. It also helps to protect our aquatic life by reducing bankside erosion, addressing high stream temperatures, and limiting direct inputs of nutrients. The four main pollutants that can enter water bodies because of stock access are faecal bacteria like *E.coli*, nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment.

Fencing choices need to take into account stock type and flood risk and can range from temporary hot wire or flood-proof fencing, to permanent seven-wire post and battens.

Along small streams and drains, grass species can do a good job of filtering contaminants and keeping erosion down. Bigger streams and river margins usually benefit from planting with shrubs and trees, which will help control erosion and provide shade and habitat for freshwater life. Maintaining a grassy area of about a metre between trees and fences will enhance filtration of runoff and reduce the risk of grazing damage.

While most landowners recognise the benefits of fencing and planting waterways, there are other practicalities that need to be considered, such as how to control weeds around the trees, an alternative stock water supply, the cost of fencing and associated infrastructure such as culverts and bridges to enable stock crossings. Tools such as the Dairy NZ Riparian Planner can help with planning and managing riparian areas on the farm: **dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/riparian-planner**.

HOW CAN COUNCIL HELP?

Nelson City Council offers a range of support for landowners who wish to fence and / or plant riparian margins. Fencing assistance is available through the provision of up to 50% of the cost of installing a stock exclusion fence. This is available for both permanent and seasonal streams. We can also help with the cost of plants for riparian margins, regardless of whether the land is grazed for stock or not. If you would like to know more about what assistance is available contact susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz.

dairynz.co.nz/environment/waterways/riparian-planner