

## DRAIN PAINTERS LEAVE LASTING REMINDER

Only Rain Goes Down the Drain is the message from Countdown supermarkets and the students of nine Nelson and Stoke schools. The students all took part in a drain painting day last week, painting environmental messages around the drains in the car parks of the three Countdown supermarkets in Stoke and Nelson.

The three supermarkets are all located close to city streams, and undertook this project as an environmental action to care for the streams. The paintings carry an environmental message that river and sea life are affected by anything other than rainwater going down the drain.

Each school was supplied with paints by sponsors Resene, and the painting areas around the drains cordoned off and supervised by Nelmac. Countdown staff were very supportive and supplied the students and their helpers with morning tea.



## YORK STREAM MURAL ADDS MESSAGE TO KOHA SHED



The Koha Shed at the Victory Community Centre is now the bearer of an important environmental message relating to Te Wairepo, (York Stream) which flows beneath the site. A sign on the vibrant stream mural bears the message:

"Our native freshwater species thrive in an environment free of rubbish, toxic substances and cooled by riparian vegetation. Let's all work together for the benefit of these creatures."

The mural was designed and painted by Anahera, Pingo, Jesse and artist

Vicki Smith, with help from Victory Primary School's Te Whānau o Ngā Mana Kākano o te Wairepo, Mahitahi, and Abby, Malakai, Sarah and Willa (from Room 12). Also Sally Shaw and others who added their kōhatu.

The paint was kindly donated by Resene, and the project was

supported by Victory Community Centre, Nelson College for Girls, the Koha Shed, and Project Maitai/Mahitahi.

Above: The York Stream design on the Koha Shed at Victory Community Centre.

## TOXIC ALGAE ALERTS NOW AVAILABLE ON COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

Toxic algae alerts for the Maitai River are now available on Council's website, allowing dog walkers and river users to be aware of algae levels on a weekly basis. Toxic algae (also known as Cyanobacteria) is naturally occurring and can be harmful to dogs and humans if it is eaten.

Toxic algae levels are monitored weekly and the website is updated every Wednesday over summer. The three alert levels, Surveillance, Alert and Action, give a good indication

of the risk to health from toxic algae exposure at any one time.

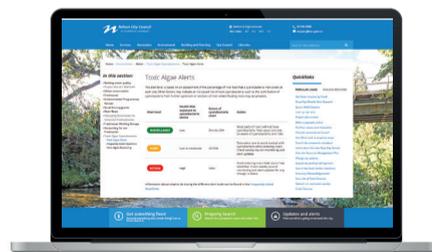
Toxic algae mats grow on the riverbed and are brown or black in colour. They produce a strong musty odour, which may attract dogs to eat them. If monitoring shows a moderate or high level of algae present in the river, Council recommends keeping your dog on a lead, or using the back beach at Tahunanui as an alternative exercise area.

Please note that Council monitors three sites in the Maitai River, however toxic algae can also be

found in other streams and rivers, so it is important that dog owners know what to look out for.

If you suspect your dog has eaten toxic algae, seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible.

Visit [nelson.govt.nz](http://nelson.govt.nz), search term = **toxic algae**.



## DOG'S BREAKFAST

Over the summer months, Council will be holding a series of Dog's Breakfasts, raising awareness of how to recognise toxic algae, by the Maitai Riverside, opposite the Riverside pool. Call in for a doggy treat and find out more about protecting your dog from toxic algae poisoning.

The next Dog's Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday 24 January, 9 am – 11 am.