



## LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Nelson EnviroSchools is a programme aimed at linking students with local environmental issues and growing a generation of sustainable thinkers. All of the schools in the Nelson Region are involved in learning about our natural environment through the programme, which is facilitated by Nelson City Council.

Students in the Nelson EnviroSchools programme range from 3–18 years. They have been involved in a wide range of activities this year including worm farms, trapping, monitoring water quality and making beeswax wraps.

Connecting the community with their local waterways, from the Mountains to the Sea, also contributes to Council's Nelson Nature and Healthy Streams programmes – there is no greater environmental ambassador than a passionate student advocate! The children at Clifton Terrace School have adopted Corder Park. The whole school worked together over the planting season to plant 600 native plants that will not only help protect the health of Oldham Stream, but also support local biodiversity in the future.

As part of the Nelson Halo project, Nelson College have been mucking in on their school restoration project with a little help from their fellow Secondary Enviroleaders.



The enviro group at Hira School is building on the work they have been doing with the Wakapuaka Field Guides and Adopt-a-Spot projects by developing a local Herbarium – a catalogue of plant specimens – to be both a legacy book for their school peers but also a resource for the community.

The students are identifying and mapping the plants in the school grounds, working towards capturing the seventy species within the Wakapuaka river catchment. This activity is encouraging them to think about the importance of every aspect of the eco-system, and growing their understanding of the connections between plants, freshwater, and the life in their local stream.



Nayland College got down in the mud to plant in the Waimea Estuary. Enhancing plant communities in our estuarine environments not only enriches the plant communities that grow in this ecosystem, but will hopefully also attract shore dwelling birds such as the banded rail.



## TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CONSERVING WATER

As we head into what is predicted to be a long hot summer it's time to start thinking about water conservation. Nelson City Council asks all residents to use water wisely, whether you are on the city supply or in a rural area with a bore or spring.

Diverting rainwater from your downpipe to a storage tank is a great way to conserve water, especially for gardening or outdoor cleaning use.

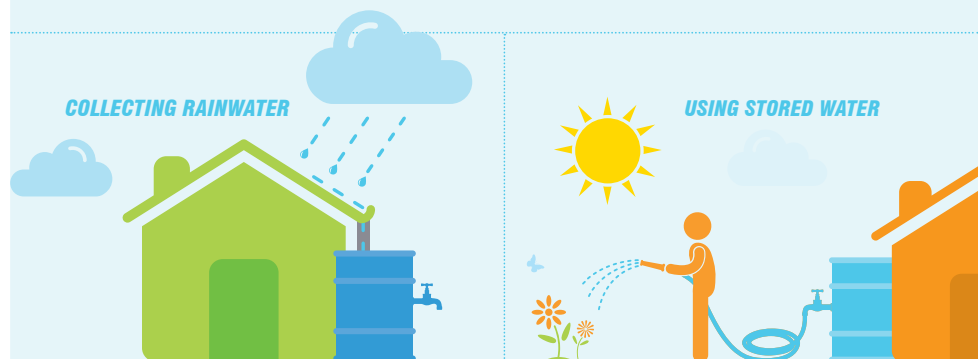
It can also increase your options in the event of a water supply emergency.

It can be relatively simple to install a kit that diverts the 'first flush' of rain from your roof and gutters, which contains most of the contaminants, away from

your tank, feeds clean water into your tank, then directs overflow back into your stormwater system. Check out our rainwater harvesting FAQ, brochure, and 'how-to' video at [nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting](http://nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting)

Water is a taonga – we need to use it wisely. Please be mindful of conserving water where you can for the summer months ahead.

[nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting](http://nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting)



## LOOKING AFTER THIS LAND – STARTING FROM SCRATCH

The third video in our Looking After this Land series tells the story of Serena and David Haines, who live on a steep 5.5ha block of land in North Nelson. Over the 10 years they've lived here, they have battled soil erosion, invasive vine weeds, floods, droughts and hard clay soil to live a self-sufficient sustainable lifestyle.

When they bought the land it was neglected, over grown and precipitous.

"We couldn't see most of the land, as it was vine infested. We had our rose tinted spectacles on and didn't realise how much work it would take," says David.

They've learned to take note of where the water flows on their land and worked to stabilise the soil by planting trees. They've developed terraces and enriched the poor soil through mulching and composting, so they can grow the crops they need.

They live as sustainably as possible and grow, catch, swap or harvest most of their food; the rewards are greater than a full pantry.

"We have a connection with the land," says Serena. "We see it and work on it every day. We know the seasons, when it is time to

prune, to harvest, what grows and what doesn't. We've become very grounded and tuned in to it."

You can watch the video about how David and Serena are looking after their land at:

[our.nelson.govt.nz/starting-from-scratch](http://our.nelson.govt.nz/starting-from-scratch)

