

Our River



PROJECT
MAITAI
Mahitahi

Nelson City Council
te kaunihera o whakatū

PROJECT MAITAI

Project Maitai/Mahitahi began in 2014 as a four year programme to improve the health of the Maitai Mahitahi, and its tributaries.

The programme saw the Council working in partnership with iwi, the community, agencies and volunteer groups to identify issues and find solutions to improve the river. A healthy river means we can swim safely, collect kai, and value this taonga, while also recognising that the river provides us with drinking water, and functions as a stormwater channel.

The restoration of the river under Project Maitai/Mahitahi has been a great story, and

we've now created a story map to pull it all together. You can access this story map online at nelson.govt.nz/story-map-maitai.

Of course the work doesn't end here, but will carry on under the Healthy Streams programme. You're invited to continue to provide images and memories to be included as part of the River's story. We'll continue to update the map as new material comes to light.

If you have historic material you'd like to contribute please email susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz.



AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

We regularly carry out fish surveys in the Maitai Catchment, the results of which will help us to understand the impact of improvements to fish passage and habitat.

For instance, upstream of the site of the former Almond Tree Ford, a good sized inanga was found which previously would have been unable to negotiate its way up stream.

A survey in the Brook near the Dairy, found 78 eels, 12 upland bullies, 2 brown trout, 12 inanga, and 7 koura. The most exciting find of the year was a banded kokopu spawning site in a creek running through Pipers Park, which is rare not only regionally but also nationally. Finds such as this show the benefits of fish barrier remediation and habitat enhancement in our urban streams.



MAITAI WETLAND AT GROOM CREEK

The Maitai Wetland at Groom Creek has now been completed, and a formal blessing will take place on 21 September.

The wetland will be monitored to gauge its effectiveness in filtering nitrates and sediment, which are particularly high in the water coming from Groom Creek.

Since the wetland was planted, we've noted the increase in bird life at this site as a result of the abundance of insects hatching on the ponds. Piwakawaka (fantails) in particular are frequent visitors, much to the delight of the kotare (kingfisher) and the karearea (falcon).

We've installed a sign along the Maitai walkway to recognise the work of the Friends of the Maitai at the planting site that sits just upstream from the Maitai Wetland. If you wish to help with any Friends of the Maitai Planting projects, please visit their website: friendsofthemaitai.org.nz.



Koaro near Brook Dam



Banded Kokopu eggs in Pipers Park

TE WAIREPO – YORK STREAM PROJECT

The Te Wairepo – York Stream Project aims to encourage the community living around York Stream to understand, and better care for, their local waterway.

Over the two years that the project has been running, 160 school students and 30 NMIT students have learned about freshwater ecology and translated their ideas into visual projects. Most recently, NMIT Media Students have designed the Matariki Calendar, a perpetual calendar which marks important dates on the environmental calendar. If you would like a copy of the Matariki Calendar, email susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz and tell us what you have done to help our environment during Matariki.

MATARIKI TU RĀKAU – BRANFORD PARK

On 28 July, over 100 people participated in an event to mark Matariki as well as the commemoration of the end of World War One.

As part of a series of commemorative plantings, supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries Matariki Tu Rākau project, Project Maitai partnered with the Nelson RSA and the community to plant over 1,000 native plants at Black Hole, Branford Park. The plantings at this popular and historic swimming spot will in time provide enhanced shade to improve water quality, as well as be a living memorial to mark this commemorative year.

