



Backyard traps being snapped up

We've had a great response to our Nelson Nature subsidised pest trap sale at Nelson i-SITE's Department of Conservation desk.

The trap project is part of Nelson Nature's work to reduce pests and protect native wildlife in the Nelson Halo, an area outside the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary.

Traps have been purchased by locals for backyard trapping in gardens and on larger properties around Nelson – all of which contributes to making the Nelson Halo a safer place for our wildlife.

Subsidised possum, rat and stoat traps are on sale (one trap per household) at the i-SITE while stocks last.

Tunnel traps for rats are on sale at \$15; DOC200 traps in tunnels are \$60 and possum traps are \$30 - available at the i-SITE until all sold.

Traps come with instructions and links to further information online. You can also download the Nelson Halo Predator Trapping Guide at:

nelson.govt.nz/predator-trapping-guide

Environmental Grants support the restoration of Fairfield Heritage Woodland

Fairfield House sits on a prominent 3.12ha site at the head of Trafalgar Street. The site is cared for by the Friends of Old Fairfield House (FOOF).

The Fairfield Heritage Woodland includes regenerating indigenous forest and 20 listed heritage trees.

Over the last year, FOOF successfully applied to Council's Environmental Grants Scheme for support to control invasive vine weeds that were threatening the native woodland.

In 2019 FOOF received a Nelson Nature Environmental Grant of \$10,400.

The grant funds were used to develop a weed management plan, and to pay for contractors to help them eradicate invasive weed species in the native forest and replace them with dense fast-growing native species.

This year FOOF has been awarded a grant of \$3000 for further contractor support to control some of the more difficult vine weeds.

Once the weeds are under control, ongoing maintenance will be achievable by volunteers. The FOOF hope their hardy band of six volunteers will grow as the community starts to see the results of the work being done in the heritage woodland.

Clare Barton, Group Manager Environmental Management says she is keen to see wider community involvement in this site.

"This is a good example of the grants process being used to support the recovery of a native forest that the community can enjoy. As it recovers the reserve will become increasingly important as a native species habitat within the Nelson Halo. We hope that people see the way the reserve is recovering and are inspired to get involved in the excellent volunteer project to look after it."

Free native trees at the Brook Sanctuary Open Day

The Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Open Day is on Saturday 24 October, and Nelson Nature is offering a free native tree to the first 200 people who come along.

The trees will be given to Nelson residents to plant in their garden, creating more habitat for native birds within the Nelson Halo. The Halo is an area of predator control and habitat enhancement outside the predator-free Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, that provides a safe haven for wildlife and helps bring the wild into people's lives. Nelson Nature is working with the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, community groups and residents to strengthen and enhance the Halo. The free trees (one per household) will be available from the Nelson City Council stall at the Brook Sanctuary Open Day.

To learn more about the Nelson Halo and how to get involved go to:

nelson.govt.nz/nelson-halo

Environmental Grants prove popular

Council's Environmental Grants Scheme received a record sixty-two applications for the August 2020 funding round.

The Environmental Grants Scheme, which was introduced in August 2019, provides funding to support groups and individuals working to improve the health of Nelson's natural environment.

A total of \$270,000 was awarded, with most applicants getting some funding towards their projects. The funding comes from Council's Nelson Nature, Healthy Streams and Sustainable Land Management programmes plus \$150,000 from the Ministry of Primary Industries Hill Country Erosion Fund to help to reduce erosion in Nelson.

The grants provided will help support landowners and community groups to control weeds and animal pests; erect fences to protect streams and bush fragments; manage erosion, and plant over 35,000 native plants across the Nelson region.

A second, smaller, round of the Environmental Grants Scheme will be open for applications again in February 2021. More information on the scheme can be found at:

nelson.govt.nz/environmental-grants