



Marlborough Biodiversity Forum

Top of the South

Welcome to the October/ November 2024 conservation volunteer newsletter for the Top of the South Island. We hope you enjoy seeing some of the incredible conservation work going on around your community and are inspired to participate and support these activities to expand your connection to the natural environment and conservation in your area. There is something for everyone from skilled, to social and educational events for the whole family, and always a great opportunity to get some fresh air!

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Marlborough Biodiversity Forum

The Marlborough Biodiversity Forum is focused on What difference we are making for biodiversity and aims to provide a platform for community groups, agencies, iwi, landowners and youth to network, support and learn with each other to support the restoration of biodiversity in Marlborough. Sunday 20th October is the next forum at the Marlborough Research Centre in Blenheim. There are a fabulous selection of speakers that focus on the different ways we can make a difference in marine restoration, advocacy and education, wetland biodiversity success, iwi perspective and the long term success of the Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon. Morning tea provided, BYO Lunch. Please RSVP by the 17th of Oct. For updates follow [Marlborough Biodiversity Forum](#) on facebook or email biodiversitymarlborough@gmail.com to subscribe and RSVP.

Location: Blenheim
Email: [See text](#)

Date: 20 October

Hinepango Wetland - Rarangi



Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group is working on restoring the 27 hectare wetland as one of the largest in Marlborough. Its unusual landform makes it almost unique in New Zealand with endangered plants and birds making a comeback it is very exciting. Plans are being developed for a loop track, boardwalk, and educational displays so that visitors can enjoy the emerging native landscape and returning wildlife.

Location: Rarangi, Marlborough
Date: Sep - Ongoing
Contact: Leticia Dodson
Email: leticia_david@yahoo.co.nz

Wild About The Grampians



We are a recently established community group to clear invasive weeds from our target area of the Grampians Reserve, in Nelson. We are removing species such as old man's beard, banana passionfruit vine, privet, etc. We're looking for volunteers who are keen to help either regularly or occasionally. We also plan to plant the area in natives to allow it to regenerate over time. No experience needed. More info in the listing below.

Location: Grampians Reserve, Nelson
Date: Sep - Ongoing
Contact: Nicola Gabelich
Email: nicpaul38@gmail.com

Abel Tasman Education Boxes



Abel Tasman Education is a collaboration between Project Janszoon, DoC, Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and local teachers. The boxes provide resources for teachers to use with students in Marahau, Anchorage and Bark Bay based on favorite activities from Project Janszoon's Education Programme. A number of the resources are transferable anywhere. Get in touch if you are interested and we can send you the resource list.

Location: Abel Tasman National Park
Date: Aug - Ongoing
Email: abeltasmaneducation@gmail.com



September, 2024

Conservation for Endeavour Inlet



Location: Endeavour Inlet

Sep - Ongoing

Email: [See text](#)

We are looking for people who enjoy spending time in the bush and are interested in being part of an important conservation project in the outer Marlborough Sounds to join our volunteer trapping programme on the eastern face of Punaruawhiti/Endeavour Inlet. You will be warmly welcomed to our team and full training is given. If you can commit to a regular, scheduled effort, anything from a couple to a dozen times a year in the bush and have easy access to Punaruawhiti/Endeavour Inlet we'd love to have you on our team. Endeavourconservation@gmail.com for more details

Nelson Lakes - Travers Sabine Hut Wardens



Location: Nelson Lakes National Park

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Sandie Hutchinson

Email: [See text](#)

Phone: 03 5211806

www.doc.govt.nz



The Travers Valley is a medium to hard tramp nestled in tranquil beech forests, fields of waving tussocks, 2000m high mountains and clear rushing streams. Opportunity to explore the side valleys to Hopeless or Cupola Hut or explore the landscape around John Tait. Volunteer period runs from Tuesday to Tuesday with induction on the Monday afternoon in St Arnaud.

There are hut warden opportunities from December 2024 through to April 2025.

Apply online or contact nelsonlakesvolunteers@doc.govt.nz

Nelson lakes - Angelus Hut



Location: Nelson Lakes National Park

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Sandie Hutchinson

Email: [See text](#)

Phone: 03 5211806

www.doc.govt.nz



Angelus, at 1650m, is perched high on the ranges between Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa. The 28-bunk hut overlooks Rotomaninitua/Lake Angelus, a beautiful alpine lake with some spectacular scenery. The hut is on a booking system all year round. Each volunteer duty runs from Thursday to Thursday with induction being on the Thursday morning in St Arnaud, volunteers are then driven to Mt Robert car park for a 6 hour walk to Angelus Hut.

Hut warden opportunities are available from late November 2024 to April 2025.

Apply online or contact nelsonlakesvolunteers@doc.govt.nz

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust Wilding Pines



Location: Abel Tasman National Park

16 Sep 24 - 30 Apr 25

Contact: Abby Butler

Email: atbirdsong1@gmail.com

Phone: 027 3408939

www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz



The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust requires volunteers to join our small but mighty wilding pine control team. This is off-track, requires high fitness and is very satisfying work! Please get in contact to find out details.



Otuwhero Working Bees



Location: Marahau, Tasman

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Terry Stanbridge
Email: naote@farmside.co.nz
Phone: 03 527 8656
Time: Fridays 9-12pm



The Otuwhero Trust carry out restoration work in the beautiful Otuwhero wetland near Marahau. The Trust holds working bees on site now with the warmer weather, on Friday mornings from 9-12am. Work involves planting and the maintenance of plantings. Please contact Terry Stanbridge if you would like to spend time in this lovely piece of wetland. The Otuwhero Wetland is a stronghold for banded rail and fernbird, it also hosts an important whitebait spawning area and has a number of threatened species of plants.

Kaipūpū Sanctuary



Location: Picton

16 Sep 24 - 30 Nov 24

Contact: Jen Dunlop
Email: [See listing](#)
Phone: 03 928 4957 extension 1
www.kaipupusanctuary.nz



Kaipūpū Sanctuary is a 40ha predator free sanctuary in Picton Marlborough. Volunteer roles include bird counts, trapping, monitoring, weeding, native tree nursery, education trips with local schools, maintenance, guiding and helping in our shop. Come and join us to learn more about Kaipūpū Sanctuary.

Email volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz for more information

Picton Dawn Chorus Volunteers



Location: Picton

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Jen Dunlop
Email: volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz
Phone: 03 928 4957 Ext. 1
www.pictondawnchorus.nz



Do you enjoy long walks in native bush? Volunteers are needed to check the traps placed out on the town's reserves. If you are not comfortable with handling catches, you can help keep our trap lines weed free providing easy access to the traps. Induction and training is given and you will become part of a very passionate group of volunteers working towards making Picton and NZ predator free. If you can spare a few hours on a weekend we would love to hear from you! Contact Jen at volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz

Wild About The Grampians



Location: Grampians Reserve, Nelson

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Nicola Gabelich
Email: nicpaul38@gmail.com
Phone: 021 376115



We're a community group who clear invasive weeds from our target area of the Grampians Reserve, in Nelson. We are removing many species such as old man's beard, banana passionfruit vine, privet, tradescantia, fan palms etc. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping either regularly or occasionally. We also plan to plant the area in natives to allow it to regenerate over time. No experience needed. Get in touch with Nicola for more information or visit our facebook page - Wild About The Grampians, <https://www.facebook.com/people/Wild-About-The-Grampians/> to see our progress so far.



Friends of the Maitai Plant care & River Monitoring



Location: Maitai River, Nelson

16 Sep 24 - 30 Nov 24

Contact: Friends of the Maitai

Email: friendsofmaitai@gmail.com

Phone: 0211011772

www.friendsofthemaitai.org.nz



Plant care sessions - Come along on alternate Fridays from 1 to 3pm at Groom Creek just before the Maitai Campground. Cross the river and park by the mulch. Bring gloves, buckets, clippers, hand weeding tools if not we have a good supply to share. Bring a sun hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, sturdy shoes and a water bottle and or a thermos so you can enjoy a cuppa with us at 3 pm after the work has been done. Ph 03 5456169 or check the website.

River monitoring - group meets on the 1st Friday of the month, 9:45am at Clouston Bridge, off Nile Street East. The group monitors and carries out water quality and stream habitat measurements. All welcome. Contact: philippa@eberlein.co.nz for info.

Abel Tasman Education Boxes



Location: Abel Tasman National Park

Aug - Ongoing

Email: abeltasmaneducation@gmail.com



Abel Tasman Education is a collaboration between Project Janszoon, DoC, Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and local teachers to ensure visiting schools are well-prepared to learn about biodiversity and conservation. The Education Boxes are resource kits for teachers to use when taking students into the park in Marahau, Anchorage and Bark Bay Huts based on activities most enjoyed at Project Janszoon's Schools' Education Programme. Teachers will be given access to box contents before the trip, including equipment, monitoring activities, games, and challenges to connect and engage students during their visit. Teachers can contact abeltasmaneducation@gmail.com for info.

Hinepango Wetland - Rarangi



Location: Rarangi, Marlborough

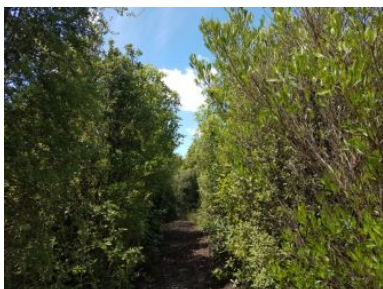
Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Leticia Dodson

Email: leticia_david@yahoo.co.nz

There's a battle underway at Hinepango Wetland in Rarangi. Willow, old man's beard and blackberry are the enemy here. The 27 hectare wetland is one of the largest in Marlborough and its unusual landform makes it almost unique in New Zealand. It's also home to several threatened flora and fauna. Now it is being rescued. With a growing interest from the local community, Rarangi residents Leticia Dodson and Nicole Banks have formed the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group. Plans are being developed for a loop track, boardwalk, and educational displays so that visitors can enjoy the emerging native landscape and returning wildlife. Contact Letticia for more info.

Cohen Bush Restoration Project



Location: Appleby, Nelson

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Julie McLintock

Email: nikau48@gmail.com

Phone: 03 5450989

Time: 9-4pm on Wednesdays

If you have one hour or three to spare, between 9 - 4 on a Wednesday we would appreciate your help. Six hectares of coastal property have been planted in natives and some of the 4 year old trees are needing a trim back to allow their neighbors more sunshine. For more details contact Julie McLintock, phone 03 5450989 or email nikau48@gmail.com

The Cohen volunteer trapping team are after someone to join us to cover every 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in trapping, please contact Jess at armstrongjess777@gmail.com or phone 0225963502.



Kai Rescue Volunteers



Location: Nelson

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Nelson Environment Centre

Email: volunteer@nec.org.nz

Phone: 03 545 9176 (Ext 4)

www.nec.org.nz

Time: Mondays 7am-10.30am



Are you an early bird?

Kai Rescue saves good food from going to waste in landfill and redistributes it as food support to help feed our community.

The Kai Collection Volunteer supports the Driver in collecting, inspecting, loading and delivering the rescued kai from donors to Kai Rescue in Victory. We currently have an opportunity for a reliever from 7 am until approximately 10.30 am on any weekday as required.

Interested? Please contact Ellie volunteer@nec.org.nz or phone (03) 545 9176 (ext 4) or 020 4112 4878.

Paremata Flats



Location: Paremata Flats Reserve, Cable Bay

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: See text

Email: moiratilling@gmail.com

www.paremataflats.co.nz

Time: 1st Saturday of the month



The Nelson Tasman branch of Forest and Bird is helping to restore Paremata Flats Reserve in Cable Bay. Oct and Nov, Time: 1st Saturday of the month More trappers are needed and if you'd like to help please contact: moiratilling@gmail.com To help with weeding and general care please contact nelsontasman.branch@forestandbird.org.nz Location: take Cable Bay Road then turn off into Maori Pa Road, a labelled gateway is on the left. www.paremataflats.co.nz

Pearl Creek Restoration Project



Location: Pearl Creeek Riparian Reserve

Sep - Ongoing

Email: [see below](#)

Time: 9 - 12am, 2nd Sat of the month



[Pearl Creek Restoration Project](#) Pearl Creek Riparian Reserve is at the end of Cotterell Road off Appleby highway. Nelson Tasman F&B works in conjunction with Tasman Environmental Trust caring for this area. The riparian reserve is part of the Waimea River delta. There is a continual need to look for germinating weed seeds spread by birds. Second Saturday of each month, 9am to 12pm. Bring weeding tools and a drink. Please contact: nelsontasman.branch@forestandbird.org.nz for more information



Free Online Training Courses



Location: Free Online Training Courses

Sep - Ongoing

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved>



The DoC website has a multitude of resources for community groups, individuals, organisations and schools to assist them with their outdoor adventures and activities. Get information on 5 minute bird counts, setting up a conservation project on your land or public land, assessing your bush health, applying for funding, activities for outdoor classrooms, advice on how your business can help with conservation projects or check out some of our free online training courses to increase your groups field skills, natural heritage knowledge or lone worker training.

- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/training/online-courses/>
- <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/other-funding-organisations/>

Seed collecting and planting guides



Location: Free Online Training Courses

16 Sep 24 - 28 Feb 25

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/run-a-project/restoration-advice/native-plant-restoration/>



This season check out these resources to help attract birds and extend the local green corridor into your garden!

- <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-region/environment/environmental-management/biodiversity/native-plant-restoration-lists/>
- <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity/biodiversity-publications-and-reports/planting-guide-north-marlborough>
- <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/assets/Environment/Downloads/living-heritage-nelson-native-plants.pdf>
- <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/publications/plant-lists/>
- <https://www.tet.org.nz/conservation-hub/useful-resources/>

Eco Restoration Research Orchard Rd



Location: Research Orchard Rd, Appleby

Sep - Ongoing

Email: ian.price@xtra.co.nz

Phone: 0272879203

Trappers Wanted - A group are undertaking an ecological restoration on a private property in Appleby with QE2 Covenant where over 30K native trees have been planted. We are presently looking for trappers to fill some vacancies. You would be part of a roster and would be expected to check the lines around once a month, it takes around 2.5 to 3.5 hours.

Full training would be given, if you would like to be part of a dedicated team, keen to make a real positive difference in restoring a unique part of the Waimea Estuary then contact Ian Price ian.price@xtra.co.nz or ph 0272879203 to discuss.



Kellys Conservation Forest



Location: Kellys Conservation Forest, Enner Glynn

Sep - Ongoing

Email: lindykelly@xtra.co.nz

Kellys Conservation Forest in Enner Glynn are happy to welcome new volunteers Thurs 9-12am for a variety of jobs. Homebaked morning tea, and a really lovely casual group of all ages, some come each week and others just when they have the time. **We would love help with** - Planting, Propagating native plants, Potting & caring for plants in the shadehouse, Track maintenance, Weed control, Pest control, Building and mending bridges, Making signs, Activities for children, Bird counts, Helping with Open Days, Planning, Clearing, photographing, Gecko watching, Helping with the orienteering course, Helping with school visits. Contact: lindykelly@xtra.co.nz for more info.

Onamalutu/Renwick Nursery



Location: Renwick Nursery

16 Sep 24 - 30 Nov 24

Contact: Caroline Cornelius or Anna Aichele

Email: volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz



Do you enjoy being around plants, potting and weeding? Are you a keen gardener with an interest in restoration? Would you enjoy some quiet hours listening to bird song while contributing to Conservation? Volunteers are needed in our small native nursery in Onamalutu where we are growing natives for diverse range of restoration projects around Blenheim. Induction and training are provided as well as tools and gear. If you can spare a few hours during the week and have your own car, we would love to hear from you! Contact: Caroline Cornelius or Anna Aichele. DoC Renwick: volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz

FOR - The Ratters!



Location: Saint Arnaud Village

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Pip Burkett

Email: friendsofrototi@gmail.com

Phone: 0275211130

www.friendsofrototi.org.nz/



Saint Arnaud Village Trapping, nicknamed 'The Ratters', are a loyal group of FOR (Friends of Rotoiti) volunteers that ensure the village traplines are checked and maintained every two weeks. For twenty years these efforts have kept stoat, rat, and mouse numbers down so that the sight and sounds of native birds can continue to be experienced. Village trapping brings the story of pest control to the attention of local communities, New Zealand travellers and international visitors alike as the trap lines are on popular walking tracks and are clearly visible to walkers. We are always looking for more volunteers to join our group. Please contact Pip Berkett for more information, .



South Marlborough Landscape Restoration



Location: South Marlborough

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Hayley McCairns

Email: info@marlboroughrestoration.org

www.marlboroughrestoration.org.nz/



South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust aim is to reduce wilding pines in South Marlborough and restore and protect the iconic scenic tussock grassland and alpine landscapes of South Marlborough and increase biodiversity. Our efforts cover an area of 870,000 hectares, from south of the Wairau River and the foothills of Blenheim to the Clarence/Waiapu-toa and Molesworth/Rangitahi Station in the south. South Marlborough is one of the highest sites of endemism in the country - which means there are literally hundreds of plants and some animals that are found nowhere else in the country! Community volunteer control day in September (Check website) Wilding Pine Conference in Oct wildingpinenetwork.org.nz/wilding-pines-conference-2024/

Battle for the Banded Rail



Location: Waimea Estuary, Tasman

Sep - Ongoing

Contact: Kathryn Brownlie

Email: bandedrail@gmail.com

Phone: 03 544 4537

www.tet.org.nz

Time: 9am to 1pm



The Biennial Banded Rail Survey Our two-yearly survey is planned for the morning of Saturday 12 October, meeting 8.30am on Westdale Road opposite The Playhouse. There will be a group briefing so we know what we are looking for. We then split into smaller groups to survey different segments of the Waimea Inlet. If you are interested in taking part, please let Kathryn know by emailing bandedrail@gmail.com. The recent increase in Fern bird and Banded Rail numbers in the Waimea estuary is a brilliant shout out to the awesome habitat restoration and trapping programme that has been underway by this group since 2015, with over 164,000 plants already planted and 10,900

Mighty Molesworth Camp Hosting



Location: Molesworth Recreation Reserve

30 Sep 24 - 1 May 25

Contact: Kirsten Booker

Email: volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 275 362

www.doc.govt.nz



Adventure into the remote Molesworth, the largest high-country farm in New Zealand with a detailed history and over 70 threatened species. The Acheron Road from Hanmer to Blenheim opens from October – mid April every year. On either end of the 59-kilometre road are campsites where you can find historic cob buildings. Volunteer camp hosts stay in the provided ranger accommodation, fitted with hot water and a fireplace. Cob Cottage has close by tramps, whilst the Acheron Cottage is riverside. Two-week time commitment required. [Apply now!](#)



Onamalutu Escape - Camp Hosting Opportunity



Location: Onamalutu Escape - Camp hosting Opportuntiy

Oct - Early

Contact: Kirsten Booker

Email: volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz

Phone: 0800275362

www.doc.govt.nz



Want to escape everyday life to a riverside campsite surrounded by native bush and birdsong galore? Onamalutu Campsite might be the place for you. This family-friendly campsite is surrounded by remanent podocarp forest and is ripe with life. The secluded campsite has no reception, despite only being 15 minutes from Renwick; the perfect combination of escape and practicality. Camp Hosting here with a provided powered site is an amazing opportunity to escape to nature in your own backyard. Two-week time commitment required. [Apply now!](#)

October, 2024

Kaitiaki Leadership Programme - Whenua iti



Location: Whenua Iti

1 Oct 24 - 9 Oct 24

Contact: Bree Arnott

Email: info@wio.org.nz

www.whenuaiti.org.nz



The Kaitiaki Leadership Programme is an opportunity for 16-18yr olds to connect to nature while developing outdoor adventure skills in our local national parks, learning about conservation & biodiversity management to protect these taonga. Participants have the opportunity of completing 13-Level 3 NCEA credits on this programme. They will build adventure skills and conservation knowledge, from both Western and te āo Māori perspectives, across 9 days of multi-activity expeditions, while contributing to local trapping networks and conservation projects. Enrollments are limited to 14 places.

Marlborough Biodiversity Forum



Marlborough Biodiversity Forum

Location: Blenheim

20 Oct 24

Email: [See text](#)

The Marlborough Biodiversity Forum aims to provide a platform for community groups, agencies, iwi, landowners and youth to network, support and learn with each other to support the restoration of biodiversity in Marlborough. Save the date 20th October for the next forum at the Marlborough Research Centre in Blenheim. This forum will be focused on the difference we are making for biodiversity. For updates follow [Marlborough Biodiversity Forum](#) or email biodiversitymarlborough@gmail.com to subscribe to the mailing list.



November, 2024

Marlborough Weed Workshops - Ward and Havelock



18 Nov 24 - 29 Nov 24

Contact: Wendy Sullivan

Email: wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz

Phone: 0272473503

Time: 18th and 29th Nov, 9-12.30pm

Marlborough weed workshops – Ward & Havelock. 18th & 29th November from 9:00-12:30pm
These half day workshops include: Know your enemy - how to identify weeds and find information, choosing the right approach, when is a consent required and how to get one and a local site visit. See landcare.org.nz/events-calendar/ for more information and to register

Location: Ward and Havelock

Mana Whaitake Seaweed Workshops



26 Nov 24

Contact: Vicki Karetai

Email: vicki.k@mountainstosea.org.nz

Time: 9.30 -2.30

This event champions the biodiverse marine ecosystem and history of the area. The teams rotate through “worth it” engagements, learning about marine biodiversity, local ecosystem inhabitants, and the area’s history through interactive, place-relevant activities. snorkeling experience. This event, is part of the nationwide “Seaweed,” aimed to inspire curiosity and a love for our moana (ocean), fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. activities last 45 min each, Be prepared to get wet! sensible clothing and shoes essential. Schools can register up to 10 students from yr 5-8. Register asap to vicki. k@mountainstosea.org.nz

Location: Kaiteriteri

December, 2024

Bringing Back Bittern



6 Dec 24

Contact: Wendy Sullivan

Email: wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz

Phone: 0272473503

Time: 6 -9 pm



Bringing Back Bittern
Join bittern expert Wendy Ambury from the Love Bittern Project.

The Love Bittern Project is dedicated to empowering community-led conservation of Australasian Bittern. Wendy will discuss bittern basics, what is happening nationally and features of an intact bittern habitat.

We will then head out to Grovetown Lagoon at dusk and practice bittern survey technique. Pizza provided, registrations essential landcare.org.nz/events-calendar/

Location: Grovetown laaon