



Attract Lizards to your Garden

Get involved in conserving our lizards by creating an inviting home for them or check out heaps of the other free conservation activities and ideas for kids (and adults) these holidays on the DOC website. Did you know? All native lizard species are protected and by building a special habitat in your garden you give them shelter from their biggest threats: predation and habitat destruction.

What you will need: Some found materials like old concrete, stones, dead wood or corrugated metal, A native plant or two, A quiet, dry area of your garden that gets decent sunlight. For more information see below or go to www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/attract-lizards-to-your-garden/

Location: Your backyard!

Date: Dec - Ongoing

Top of the South

Merry Christmas and Happy Summer! Welcome to the December/January 2025 Conservation Volunteer Newsletter for the Top of the South Island. Thank you for your help and interest this year! We live in an incredible area and it is so special to get involved in some of the community conservation learning and activities happening! We hope you enjoy seeing some of the incredible activities and holiday programmes happening around the community, and as always we highlight the awesome crews monitoring and maintaining our natural areas!

DOC Volunteer Coordinator
Amme Hiser
nelsontasmanvolunteers@doc.govt.nz
Phone: +64 027 365 4519

Toi Toi Trappers



Toi Toi Trappers is a community effort to rid Toi Toi of rats and mice. With a trap in every 5th yard, they plan to turn Toi Toi into a biodiversity corridor and connect other trapping groups and reserves in the area. Contact them to get a trap or get your own subsidised trap from the DOC Info center (1/37 Halifax Street) for \$15 if you are a Nelson or Tasman Council rate payer.

Location: Toi Toi Nelson

Date: Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Scott Skearney

Email: scottskearney@gmail.com

Momorangi Treasure Hunt



The popular Great Momorangi Treasure hunt is back this summer! Come and discover nature's treasures at Momorangi Campground. You will be given a list of treasures to find, then learn how to identify them. A FREE event that is fun for kids and kids at heart. Meet DOC staff at the start of the nature trail at the top of Momorangi Campground and don't forget sun protection and solid shoes.

Location: Momorangi Campground

Date: 24 January Time: 2-3pm

Contact: Miranda van der Linde

Email: mvanderlinde@doc.govt.nz

Hut painters



Starvall and Slaty Huts are due a paint job- inside and out and we are looking for some help! Come and join our rangers this summer in the Richmond Ranges for 3-4 days each repainting one of the two huts. Support our awesome hut network and give the huts some love! Included are stunning views over Tasman bay and a helicopter ride!

Location: Mt Richmond Forest Park

Date: 1 Dec 24 - 28 Feb 25

Contact: Amme Hiser

Email: ahiser@doc.govt.nz



December, 2024

Nelson Lakes - Kerr Bay Camp Hosts



Location: Nelson Lakes National Park

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Sandie Hutchinson

Email: [See text](#)

Phone: 03 5211806

www.doc.govt.nz



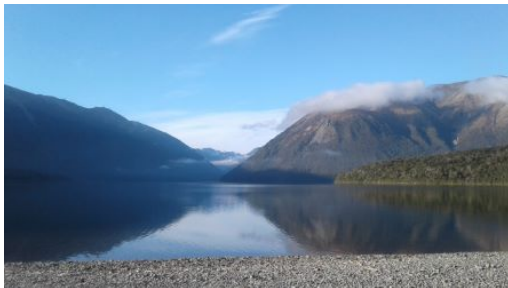
Kerr Bay campground is situated in the Nelson Lakes National Park, a short distance from the lake edge where you can enjoy boating, kayaking, swimming and many of the day walks through the native bush.

Camp hosts with their own motorhome/caravan are provided with a powered site for the week. Duties include twice-daily trips to the Visitor Centre, checking bookings and selling shower tokens (no cleaning required).

Different shifts available through 18 December – 14 May (7-day period Wednesday – Wednesday)

Apply online on the DOC website or email nelsonlakesvolunteers@doc.govt.nz

Nelson Lakes - West Bay Camp Hosts



Location: Nelson Lakes National Park

1 Dec 24 - 30 Apr 25

Contact: Sandie Hutchinson

Email: [See text](#)

Phone: 03 5211806

www.doc.govt.nz



Camp hosts are located at the West Bay campground in the stunning Nelson Lakes National Park. Duties include twice-daily trips to the Visitor Centre (vehicle provided), checking bookings, selling shower tokens (no cleaning required).

Current dates available are:

12 – 19 February; 19 March – 2 April (7-day period Wednesday - Wednesday)

Apply online on the DOC website or email nelsonlakesvolunteers@doc.govt.nz

Kaipūpū Sanctuary



Location: Picton

Dec - Ongoing

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

Dec - 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

1 Dec 24 - 30 Nov 25

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

Dec - Ongoing

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 for details.

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.

Cob Cottage Camp Hosting



Location: Molesworth Recreation Reserve

1 Dec 24 - 30 Apr 25

Contact: Chris Smithers
Email: csmithers@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. Apply online or email volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz

Abel Tasman Education Boxes



Location: Abel Tasman National Park

Dec - 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.



Kai Rescue Volunteers



Location: Nelson

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Nelson Environment Centre

Email: volunteer@nec.org.nz

Phone: 03 545 9176 (Ext 4)

www.nec.org.nz



Kai Rescue, a programme of the Nelson Environment Centre, saves good food from going to waste in landfill and redistributes it as food support to help feed our community.

Kai Rescue has opportunities for people on weekday mornings. You will need to be able to lift boxes of around 15-20 kg and have a friendly, can-do attitude. We also have opportunities with our Electronics ReUse and ReUse shops. Keen to know more? Please contact Ellie volunteer@nec.org.nz or phone (03) 545 9176 (ext 4) or 020 4112 4878.

Free Online Training Courses



Location: Free Online Training Courses

1 Dec 24 - 30 Nov 25

<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/>

Onamalutu/Renwick Nursery



Location: Renwick Nursery

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Chris Smithers

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

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Pip Burkett
Email: friendsofROTOITI@gmail.com
Phone: 0275211130
www.friendsofROTOITI.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, .

Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust



Location: Abel Tasman National Park

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Abby Butler
Email: atbirdsong1@gmail.com
Phone: 027 3408939
www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz



The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust checks a network of predator traps in the Abel Tasman National Park. The Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust requires volunteers with a high level of fitness to join our trapping team. There is some beautiful bush to explore with plentiful birdlife to keep you motivated. Please get in contact to find out details.

Project Mahitahi- Christmas Tree Festival



Location: Millers Acre, Nelson

1 Dec 24 - 12 Jan 25

www.tukuwhakatu.nz/our-events



Project Mahitahi is working to restore the ecosystems of the Maitai/Mahitahi Valley so that native plants and wildlife can thrive. Head along to Nelson Cathedral's Christmas Tree festival to see our unique tree, showcasing the biodiversity of the Maitai valley and acknowledging the challenges faced. Check out the story map at: <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/environment/project-mahitahi/>

Toi Toi Trappers



Location: Toi Toi Nelson

Dec - Ongoing

Contact: Scott Skearney
Email: scottskearney@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/881546217240748>



Join our community group uniting Toi Toi households to come together, set rat traps in your back garden to control pests and welcome more beautiful native birds in our neighborhood! We will provide you with one of our traps (free of charge), some resources and some help getting started (if you need it!). Traps are easy to manage and safe for birds, pets and kids. Check out our face book page for details. If you don't live in Toi Toi, don't let that stop you! You can get your own heavily subsidised trap from the DOC Information center (1/37 Halifax Street) for \$15 if you are a Nelson or Tasman Council rate payer. Or email toitotrappers@gmail.com and we'll help you get started trapping in your backyard.



Nelson Tasman Summer Parks Programme



1 Dec 24 - 1 Feb 25

Email: [See facebook for details](#)
www.facebook.com/parksprogramme/

Location: Nelson Tasman

Clue Quest: Embark on a thrilling adventure at the Centre of New Zealand and other locations throughout Nelson and Tasman this summer. Navigate through iconic locations, uncovering clues and tackling fun challenges along the way. It's a unique quest that will test your problem-solving skills and lead you on an exciting journey through Nelson's most famous landmarks. These Free community events are perfect for families, friends, and adventurers of all ages! Check out the guide and join us for a summer full of excitement and community vibes! <https://www.nelson.govt.nz/recreation/festivals-and-events/summer-events-2/>

Attract Lizards to your Garden



Location: Your backyard!

Dec - Ongoing

www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/



Get involved in conserving our lizards by creating an inviting home for them or check out heaps of the other free conservation activities and ideas for kids (and adults) these holidays on the DOC website. Did you know? Many geckos make 'chirping' noises, or even 'bark'. All native lizard species are protected and by building a special habitat in your garden you give them shelter from their biggest threats: predation and habitat destruction. What you will need: Some found materials like old concrete, stones, dead wood or corrugated metal, A native plant or two, A quiet, dry area of your garden that gets decent sunlight. For more information go to www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/attract-lizards-to-your-garden/

Hut painters



Location: Mt Richmond Forest Park

1 Dec 24 - 28 Feb 25

Contact: Amme Hiser
Email: ahiser@doc.govt.nz



Starvall and Slaty Huts are due a paint job- inside and out, and DOC is looking for some help! If you have some experience with painting or just enthusiasm we are looking for two groups of 3-4 people to assist rangers for 3-4 days repainting the two huts this Jan - Feb in the Richmond Ranges. You will get flown in and out by helicopter as well as given a daily food allowance. Fill in this form or send us an email to find out more information. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/nelson-tasman/top-of-the-south-region-volunteer-application-form/>



Farming with Native Biodiversity



Location: Nationwide

Dec - Ongoing

Email: kiaora@biodiversity.org.nz

<https://www.biodiversity.nz/>



Healthy ecosystems with high biodiversity are essential for multigenerational sustainable farming. Science and experience have found that wins for native biodiversity can also mean wins for farm production. The Farming with Native Biodiversity project was developed to create enduring resources and capabilities that created a step-change for native biodiversity within pastoral farm systems. The aim was to support groups and share knowledge so farms and catchment groups could create economically viable practices with better biodiversity outcomes. There are now loads of online learning resources on “farming with native biodiversity” at <https://www.biodiversity.nz/>

Onamalutu Escape - Camp Hosting Opportunity



Location: Onamalutu Escape - Camp hosting Opportunity

4 Dec 24 - 30 Apr 25

Contact: Chris Smithers

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 remnant 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. Email volunteersouthmarlborough@doc.govt.nz and [Apply now!](#)

South Marlborough Landscape Restoration



Location: South Marlborough

8 Dec 24 - 24 Oct 25

Contact: Hayley McCairns

Email: info@marlboroughrestoration.org.nz

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/Waiatu-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/



Paint and wine night - Kowhai Tui



Location: Two thumb brewery, Nelson

12 Dec 24

Phone: +64 98889220

<https://paintvine.co.nz/>

Time: 7 - 9pm

The concept is simple - take a brush in one hand, a drink in the other and let's paint a masterpiece! Join us for a creative night of drinking and painting in the heart of Nelson! No previous painting experience necessary. Get your creative juices flowing and your brush strokes going! We provide all the materials you need (high-quality canvas, acrylic paint, brushes). All you need to bring is your creative spirit (or find some at the bottom of a glass). At the end of the night you will leave with your own painting ready to hang up on your wall. Food/Drinks: are not included but are available. What is Paintvine? - It's a fun social painting class where our artists will run you through step-by-step instructions on how to create your very own masterpiece.

Kaipūpū Botanical Tour



Location: Kaipūpū Sanctuary, Picton

16 Dec 24 - 15 Dec 24

Email: admin@kaipupoint.nz

www.kaipupusanctuary.co.nz



Pick up a "Take a walk on the wild side" booklet (\$2) from the Picton Environment Centre (14 Auckland Street, Picton) and go on a self-guided botanical journey through Kaipūpū Sanctuary. Follow the 2.7 km loop track and see if you can find all 36 marked species in the booklet, as well as additional botanical treasures that might take some more searching. Entry into the sanctuary is free, but you will need to arrange water transport to get there. See "Kaipūpū return boat transport in this newsletter for discounted travel dates offered by Beachcomber Cruises.

Kaipūpū return boat transport



Location: Kaipūpū Sanctuary, Picton

21 Dec 24 - 31 Mar 25

Contact: Beachcomber Cruises

www.beachcombercruises.co.nz



Kaipūpū is a community conservation project focused on rewilding a 40-hectare peninsula through a pest-proof fence, pest species control, and the re-introduction of native species. The Sanctuary is a refuge for a variety of insects, birds and native plants thanks to the hard work of our volunteers. Beachcomber Cruises is offering discounted boat transport to the Sanctuary on select dates throughout the summer. See their website for dates, prices and to book: www.beachcombercruises.co.nz
\$1 of every ticket sold will go directly to the Kaipūpū Point Trust



January, 2025

Volunteers for Endeavour Inlet



1 Jan 25 - 31 Dec 25

Email: endeavourconservation@gmail.com



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.

Children's Conservation Adventure Day



Location: **Penzance Bay**

4 Jan 25

Contact: Miranda van der Linde

Email: mvanderlinde@doc.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents

Time: 10am - 1pm

Join us on the 4th of January in Penzance Bay for a Children's Conservation Adventure Day! There will be a range of fun activities - make a hanging native bird, chew card or tunnel trap and personalise it with leaf stencils. Identify and find trees on the Archers track, learn how to identify predators, where best to site your trap, and how trapping and planting suitable shrubs/trees will make a difference in protecting birds. We will end the morning with a sausage sizzle. Please email to register your attendance by December 27th: mvanderlinde@doc.govt.nz.

Alpine Flora and Fauna



Location: **Blackbirch**

11 Jan 25

Email: volunteermarlborough@doc.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents

Time: 10am start



Meet our Bio Ranger Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls at 10am at the Awater Road turn off on State Highway 1. Join him on a botanist adventure into Blackbirch – 4WD/All-wheel drive essential as the road climbs to the summit of Altmarloch. See some interesting Marlborough alpine plants and if you are lucky, maybe some alpine insects. Bring lunch, water, clothing suitable for the weather, sun protection and comfortable walking shoes. Postponement date Sunday the 12th Blackbirch. Registration essential -Volunteermarlborough@doc.govt.nz. Any changes or cancellations will come through on our Facebook page. This is a DOC Summer Explorer Programme Event.



Kotuku Bird Safari



Location: Kotuku Walkway, Blenheim

17 Jan 25

Email: volunteermarlborough@doc.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents

Time: 10am - 2pm



Patrick Crowe, our Senior Biodiversity Ranger, will be hosting a guided "Kotuku Safari" along the Kotuku Walkway. You will be learning skills to see more birds, identify them with confidence and understand their stories and lives. This is a great chance for birders from beginners to enthusiasts and experts to be part of a fun and informative day out. Meet at the start of the Kotuku Walkway down Hardings Road for a 10am departure. Bring water and lunch, a waterproof/windproof jacket, sun protection, To join please register by emailing volunteermarlborough@doc.govt.nz. Details on the Facebook page. This is a DOC Summer Explorer Programme Event.

Momorangi Treasure Hunt



Location: Momorangi Campground

24 Jan 25

Contact: Miranda van der Linde

Email: mvanderlinde@doc.govt.nz

Time: 2-3pm



The popular Great Momorangi Treasure hunt is back this summer! Come and discover nature's treasures at Momorangi Campground. You will be given a list of treasures to find, then learn how to identify them. A FREE event that is fun for kids and kids at heart. Meet DOC staff at the start of the nature trail at the top of Momorangi Campground and don't forget sun protection and solid shoes.

Any changes or cancellations due to weather will come through on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents This is a DOC Summer Explorer Programme Event.

Pekapeka evening



Location: Pelorus Bridge Carpark

30 Jan 25

Email: conservationkids@envirohub.co.nz

www.envirohub.co.nz/conservation-kids-nz



This event is part of our Save our Species Programme. Join Conservation Kids NZ this summer holidays to learn about some of our amazing local species that live here in our own backyard - long-tailed bats/pekapeka. Please register on our website (www.envirohub.co.nz/conservation-kids-nz) or via email. You also get the chance to become one of our Species Superstars! Keep up to date and informed of our activities by becoming a Conservation Kids New Zealand member. Head on over to our website to join for FREE.

This is a DOC Summer Explorer Programme Event.

Whites Bay Ranger Day



Location: Whites Bay

31 Jan 25

Email: ccornelius@doc.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/marlboroughconservationevents

Time: 9am - 4pm



Come along for a day of local adventures with the Rangers of South Marlborough. Drop by during the day and meet our fabulous Freshwater Ranger Anna Henderson who will be exploring the streams that lead onto the beach - a great chance to discuss wonderings and identify flora and fauna. Join our Community Ranger for a scavenger hunt and take time to walk around the Black Jack track with our Bio Rangers - spot the trapping programme in action. Bring your lunch, water, clothing suitable for the weather, sun protection and comfortable walking shoes. Any changes or cancellations will come through on our Facebook page. This is a DOC Summer Explorer Programme Event.