

WE'RE BUILDING A WETLAND AT GROOM CREEK

Work has started on the construction of the Groom Creek wetland. The first phase of work, to excavate two wetland ponds and lay a liner to contain the water, will be complete by Christmas.

Work to realign Groom Creek with its original route to the Maitai River will start in February. The construction and re-alignment should be completed by autumn, and we'll be working through the middle of the year with contractors and the community to plant about 40 different species of wetland and riparian plants – about 1500 individual plants. Watch out for a community planting day in winter 2018.

The wetland will fulfil a number of different functions to enhance water quality, and create a significant food source for native birds coming from the Brook Valley, up into the Maitai Valley, and over into the Richmond Ranges.

The wetland will be planted with hollow reeds (*Machaerina articulata* or *Eleocharis sphacelata*) which are particularly good at stripping nitrates from the water. Nitrates come from a number of different sources, including plants such as gorse and broom, and can be carried into the river through sediment.

We expect that it will take a year or two for the wetland plantings to establish, and they'll need careful tending during this time. By the third year after construction, the wetland will begin to settle into the wider landscape and become naturalised as plants, birds and wildlife become established and repopulate the surrounding area.

At that stage we'll start to plant the longer-lived tall canopy trees, some of which are specific to the Maitai Valley, amongst the initial nurse plants.



NEW POLLUTION HOTLINE

Council now has a freephone pollution hotline – 0800 NOPOLLUTE or 0800 667 655 – that people can call if they see a pollution threat or incident in the Nelson area. The hotline has been activated to ensure that, in the event of a pollution incident, Council is able to respond as quickly as possible to prevent and mitigate pollution incidents.

Clare Barton, Group Manager Strategy and Environment, said that the new hotline is another tool in Council's frontline defence against pollution, and responds to a suggestion from the Friends of the Maitai.

"The hotline reflects Council's commitment to working with the community so that quick action can be taken to protect the environment."



Blechnum minus (Swamp koekoe)



Machaerina articulata (Jointed twig rush)

Groom Creek Wetland will be planted with a variety of water-loving species. Photos: Naturewatch

CYANOBACTERIA MONITORING STARTED FOR THE SUMMER

Council has started its summer blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria) monitoring programme, to ensure it can provide up-to-date weekly information to river users on any elevated levels of algae.

Blue-green algae is a naturally occurring organism found throughout New Zealand in lowland streams and rivers where water quality is good.

Blue-green algae mats can produce toxins that are harmful to humans, dogs, livestock and wildlife when ingested. Levels typically spike during



Blue-green algae is a naturally occurring river organism that blooms in warm, settled weather

warm, settled weather, and Council's monitoring and reporting processes are designed to manage the risk of this natural phenomenon to the health of dogs and humans using the river.

Blue-green algae mats are usually washed away following moderate rainfall and elevated river flows.

The weekly results, along with the Current Alert Status, Frequently Asked Questions and further information about blue-green algae are available on the Council web page, updated on a Thursday: nelson.govt.nz/toxic-algae.

REMINDER: TOP OF THE SOUTH TRAPPING WORKSHOP SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER, 8.30AM – 4.30PM, SAXTON NETBALL PAVILLION

Help us protect our native wildlife by trapping invasive predators such as rats, stoats and possums.

Registrations close 27 November. Visit trapping-workshop.lilregie.com for details.

