



THE STORY OF POORMAN VALLEY STREAM – IN PICTURES



Above: Students from Nayland College play their part in looking after Poorman Valley Stream.

The story of Poorman Valley Stream is now told in a new Story Map available online.

Poorman Valley Stream rises in the hills of the Marsden Reserve, about 800m above sea level. Over its 2.32km course from the hills to the sea, it traverses native forest, an old cemetery, three schools and Isel Park.

The stream has a rich history, embodied in the cemetery and the tall trees and colonial buildings of Isel Park. Its catchment and the wildlife it supports have many guardians.

Within the beech and kanuka forest of the Marsden Reserve, the Marsden Valley Trapping Group controls predatory pests such as stoats and rats, to protect the tui, korimako and pīwakawaka that call the valley

home. Nelson Christian Academy, Stoke Tahunanui Rotary Club, Nayland Primary School and Nayland College all contribute time and energy to keeping their sections of the stream free of rubbish and planted with native species that will enhance its biodiversity.

To view the story map, find out more about the stream’s history and the people who look after it, visit Council’s website. If you are interested in becoming a stream guardian in your area, please contact Environmental Programmes Adviser Susan.moore-lavo@ncc.govt.nz.

nelson.govt.nz/story-maps/poorman-valley-stream.

WATCH OUT WASPS

Nelson City Council is working with the Marsden Valley Trapping Group and the Nelson Mountain Bike Club to control wasps in Marsden Valley and along mountain bike and walking tracks between the Brook and Maitai valleys. Council is providing technical support and funding and the two community groups are providing volunteer labour.

Wasp control is essential not just to reduce the potential for wasp attacks on people, but to reduce the impact they are having on our native flora and fauna.

Introduced wasp species such as the German wasp and the common wasp have no natural predators in New Zealand, and are a major problem in

beech forests, where they compete with native birds, bats, insects and lizards for the honeydew that forms a large part of their diet. They also prey on native invertebrates and bird nestlings.

The control programme will involve installing bait stations in the designated areas, ready for the baiting operation which will take place over one week in late January or early February. Monitoring of wasp nests will take place before and after the bait operation, with the expectation of a marked drop in wasp numbers in the areas being treated.

Group Manager Strategy and Environment Clare Barton said that the wasp control work being supported by Council will complement the Wasp Wipeout community conservation project being run by Fairfax Media in the Nelson-Tasman area. “Council is keen to support community initiatives to reduce numbers of wasps over the summer. The impact of these invasive insects on biodiversity and recreation in Nelson is considerable, so to see the whole community getting behind wasp control is very heartening.”

The common wasp is one of the introduced wasp species being targeted through a joint Nelson City Council – community group wasp control programme. Image by David Farquhar.



Wilding Pines will be controlled in the hills behind Nelson over the late summer months.

PINES GO WILD – BUT NOT IN A GOOD WAY

Council has been engaging wilding conifer experts from around the South Island to assist in developing a plan to effectively control wilding conifers in the unique tussock grasslands behind Nelson.

The area around Dun Mountain is nationally significant because of the unique mineral belt ecosystem and the rare plants and animals that live there. Wilding conifers, as well as gorse and Spanish heath, have the potential to completely change the natural character of the ecosystem.

Council has been mapping the site, estimating the density of wilding conifers and the most efficient method of controlling pines within each area. Some areas are relatively free of wilding conifers, but some very dense infestations (over 200 per ha) exist, particularly above the Roding Valley.

Later this summer, Council contractors will be controlling by chainsaw some of the more densely infested areas near the Roding.

In other areas where conifers are less common, Council contractors will be walking through the site and controlling any wilding conifer, gorse and Spanish heath they encounter.

If you’re tramping or mountain biking through the area this summer and encounter wilding conifers, you can help us control them by using Council’s Snap Send Solve app to inform us of their location.

nelson.govt.nz
search term = snap send solve.

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