

EELS ENJOY YORK STREAM ARTWORK

An innovative art project to celebrate Te Wairepo/York Stream has recently been completed by students from Victory Primary School and artist Vicky Smith. The artwork has been woven through the high gates where York Stream disappears into a concrete culvert at Victory School, and has been designed to show how much the students value the stream.

Artist Vicki Smith worked with Victory Primary School junior and senior students to create the design and then to complete the artwork at the site. The design represents people, fish, and ducks as well as lettering spelling the name of the stream in both English and te reo Maori. It is made from brightly coloured PVC material donated by Aflex Technologies, woven through the links in the gate.

Students from the school and the after school programme have been coming to help and there have been many positive comments from people passing. Students were particularly delighted by the presence of two large tuna (short-finned eels) in the recently cleaned culvert while they were working on the project.

"One disappeared quickly back into hiding but the other stayed out and active for sometime, much to the delight of the kids later that afternoon," said Vicky.



York Stream artwork



York Stream eels

HAY BALES FOR SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT

Council contractors are building a duplicate supply line from the Water Treatment Plant to Brook Street, to improve the security of Nelson's drinking water supply.

Hay bales and silt fencing have been used to create a barrier and hold back sediment from the Brook Stream tributary.

Hay bales are frequently used by Council in this type of situation as they filter water surprisingly well, whilst being easy to move around the ever changing construction site.

These barriers will remain in place to prevent future erosion and sediment run-off until the natural vegetation has regenerated on the land around the work site.



Brook Street Pipeline



An artist's impression of the Groom Creek Wetland

WETLAND RESTORATION ON THE CARDS FOR GROOM CREEK

The year ahead will see work get underway on the Project Maitai/Mahitahi Groom Creek Wetland project – an exciting opportunity to restore a habitat type that has largely been destroyed, and to improve the water quality in the Maitai River at the same time.

Groom Creek is the small creek that runs into the Maitai River just opposite the Maitai Camp. Prior to the 1950s the creek formed a wetland at the base of the hill, and it is this area that the project will restore.

The new wetland will use some careful engineering to reduce the

nitrates and sediment entering the Maitai River, as well as improving fish and bird habitat, and allowing the introduction of rare species unique to the Maitai. It will also provide community information about wetlands and the plant and fish species that live in them.

This project is likely to run for the next two years, and will involve some public planting events in winter next year, for those who would like to get involved. For more information visit www.nelson.govt.nz search term = Project Maitai.

ALMOND TREE FLAT SURVEY RESULTS



Almond Tree Flats Ford

Council has been investigating how Almond Tree Flat ford is used, and whether people think the ford should be removed because it is a barrier to fish passage.

An onsite survey was carried out in April (37 respondents), and an online survey was conducted in June (134 respondents). A track counter was also installed and recorded 40 users per week in June and 27 users per week in July when the ford was wet. The survey results showed that the majority of users were local to the Maitai Valley, central Nelson

and Atawhai areas. Most users were runners, walkers and dog walkers, or mountain bikers who use it when both wet and dry and value it as a convenient crossing point to join two mountain biking areas.

There was strong support for removal of the ford to allow fish passage up and down stream, and for an alternative crossing nearby to maintain user access across the river. The survey results will be used in a report to the Works and Infrastructure Committee in November.