



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Image: John Black ©

Get involved with Whio Awareness Month

You may recognise these special ducks from our \$10 note! Yet there are only 3,000 blue duck/whio left which makes them a Nationally Vulnerable species, facing the risk of extinction. In [partnership with Genesis](#), our Whio Forever project aims to increase whio numbers and raise awareness of this river rapid surfing duck.

Learn more about Whio Awareness Month and how you can get involved this March by clicking below or follow the [Whio Forever Facebook page](#).

[Learn more](#)

Learn about our Kapiti Marine Reserve Sentinel site

For Seaweek 2019 we worked with partners [Air New Zealand](#) and Greater Wellington Regional Council to take you on a unique virtual journey. Watch our new video to check out the latest developments in marine research:



- [watch the video](#)
- [read the blog](#).

Himalayan tahr control work resumes

Nearly 35,000 Himalayan tahr are estimated to be on public conservation land, well above the limit of 10,000 set out in control plans years ago.

The latest Tahr Control Operational Plan sets to remove 10,000 tahr by the end of August 2019. [Read more about the operation](#).



Image: Dylan Higgison | [DOC](#)

Recreation

A tourist's insight to New Zealand's tramping conditions

American Ashlyn shares her experiences of how changeable our conditions can be when tramping in the outdoors.

Even on a short walk like the Hooker Valley track, [it's ok to turn back at any point](#).

What to do if a sea lion approaches you

For Seaweeek this year, Ranger Phred shared [a couple of handy tips](#) to look after our marine life the kiwi way.

Find out more about [keeping safe around wildlife](#).

Fox Glacier access road closed

The access road has been destroyed by a major landslide again, washing away \$430, 000 of repairs done after the previous slip in December last year.

[The road may remain closed for some time](#) while conditions in the valley settle.



Image: Ashlyn Oswalt



Image: Wayne Costello | [DOC](#)

Get involved

Brand new funding opportunities available

Predator Free 2050 Ltd (backed by the Provincial Growth Fund) has new funding available for community regional projects eradicating introduced predators.

Submit your [expression of interest for funding](#) before 24 March.

Apply for community funding



Pureora hunting competition opening





Image: Becky Moss Photography ©

Get involved with the 36th [annual deer hunting competition](#) starting 18 March.

Hunters and the community are invited to join in family-friendly events and activities in Pureora Forest Park.

The DOC Community Fund supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land.

[Applications are still open](#) until 22 March 2019.

Nature

Have you heard of black coral?

It's usually found in deep water, but Fiordland is one of the few places in the world that it's found as shallow as 5-10 m.

This may be because Fiordland waters have lots of tannins (the stuff that makes your tea black) meaning less light reaches shallower depths than usual.



[See more photos.](#)

Is Wellington home to a new biodiversity hotspot?

Citizen scientists have recorded nearly 2,000 observations at Wellington's [Taputeranga Marine Reserve](#).

That's more recordings than in New Zealand's most internationally famous dive destination, the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve. [Read more about some of the discoveries.](#)

Dogs sharing the beach with our coastal taonga

We had a fun night out for dogs and owners to learn about [sharing the beach with coastal wildlife](#).

Games included guess and fetch, a chance to become wildlife qualified and purchase a colour coded lead denoting their dog's behaviour.



Our work

Tiny seabirds transferred 800 km from the Chathams

50 white-faced storm petrels chicks from the Chatham Islands have been translocated to predator-free Mana Island.

It's the start of a [3 year project by Friends of Mana Island to start a new colony.](#)

Protecting the future of our myrtle species

We're leading work to safeguard the long-term future of these taonga species by seed banking.

Find out more about [the what, why, when and how of seed banking.](#)

Waikanae River restoration

We have a long-term freshwater goal to restore 50 freshwater ecosystems from mountains to the sea.

The Waikanae river has been chosen from a national shortlist to improve the [catchment's ecological integrity and resilience.](#)



Image: Christopher Stephens ©



Photo of the month

At the height of the Nelson fires up to 40 of our staff were engaged in critical work. DOC came to assist from Nelson, Tasman, Whangarei, New Plymouth, Te Kuiti, Invercargill, West Coast and other parts of New Zealand.

[Read some of our team's stories](#) from their perspective on the front line.



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See more from DOC

- [Kaimanawa wild horses available for rehoming](#)
- [Information sought after death of kahu/harrier hawk](#)
- [Online training programme launched to help public identify myrtle rust](#)

- [Mixed results for sea lion breeding season](#)
- [Population of kōkako growing at Mokaihaha Ecological Area](#)

**More news and
events**

Department of Conservation

National Office | PO Box 10420 | Wellington 6143 | New Zealand

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