

Tō Tātou Whakatū Our Nelson



Waitī, Waitā, Waiora: Millers Acre mural unveiled

A new Toi Māori mural at Millers Acre celebrates the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of Whakatū.

The stunning Kāruhiruhi (pied shag) mural, Waitī, Waitā, Waiora by toi Māori artists Charles and Janine Williams was completed over four days and officially unveiled with karakia by kaumātua on Saturday 21 December, 2024.

The ceremony was attended by the artists, iwi, elected members, council staff, and members of the community.

The mural is situated in the Millers Acre car park on the Glasgow Harley building, alongside the Maitai River. Work at Miller's Acre to create a new bus hub will get underway this year and the mural's theme was chosen to reflect this exciting new gateway location for Whakatu-Nelson.

Iwi provided a whakataukī (proverb) Waitī, Waitā, Waiora, which was used by the artists to create a concept design. Waitī, Waitā, Waiora symbolises the interconnectedness of fresh and sea water, and their vital role in sustaining the wellbeing of our community.

Waitī and Waitā are also referenced in the Matariki star cluster.

Collaboration and engagement between the artists, iwi and Council via Te Ohu Toi Ahurea, Council's iwi cultural engagement panel, was integral to the mural's creation with a strong emphasis placed on the importance of ensuring the finished product was deeply rooted in local narratives.

Charles and Janine began their artistic journeys during the 1990s, each developing a passion for street art. Since then, they have worked collaboratively, bringing together their unique strengths to create large scale murals.

"We have different parts that we tend to concentrate on, Charles works on the birds and all the detailing, and I tend to focus on the backgrounds and symmetrical patterning work," says Janine

"We make sure our work speaks to the land, to the people, to the communities that live there. So, it has a connection," says Charles Williams.

"We had an open conversation with iwi so they could share stories or history they feel are important to say in the mural," says Janine Williams.

To complete a mural of this scale within the short timeframe, the artists used a doodle grid to sketch the design and relied on a scissor lift to complete the work. Acting Group

Manager Community Services Martin Croft says Council is pleased to see an increase in the representation of toi Māori in Nelson's public art collection.

"Over the past five years, council has tripled the number of toi Māori artworks in Whakatū, this has largely been due to an increase in partnerships with iwi," says Martin.

"The artists have already created two beloved murals in Nelson - Rise Up in Stoke and Sky Tūi in Neale Park - and this new mural will be their largest piece yet in Whakatū."

Council would like to acknowledge the building owner Peter Rait and tenants Lawyers Glasgow Harley for their ongoing support of this project and public art in Nelson.

The mural is partially funded through Nelson City Council's annual public art budget and Capital Projects as part of the City Revitalisation project, with a total cost of \$43,000.

This mural marks a significant achievement, reflecting the successful collaboration between Nelson City Council, iwi, artists, the building owner and tenant to deliver a culturally meaningful addition to Whakatū. It reinforces the council's commitment to celebrating Māori heritage and enhancing the city's artistic landscape.



Teddy Bears' Picnic

Teddy Bear had a great time catching up with friends and whānau at the Teddy Bears' Picnic on Sunday, "It was great to get out of the house and catch up with the other bears over some tasty cream scones," says Teddy. "Looking forward to next year already!"

AI Sandbox now at the Elma Turner Library

The Nelson AI Sandbox, a unique non-profit set up to demystify artificial intelligence (AI), is partnering with Nelson Public Libraries.

The Sandbox will be hosted in the Elma Turner Library Discovery Room until mid-March 2025.

Since its launch in March 2024, some 8,000 people have delved into AI at the Sandbox.

"The AI Sandbox is for people of all ages and stages; a safe, discovery space where you can learn more about AI and how to make the most of it, and what to be careful of when using it," says co-founder Richard Brudvik-Lindner. "The library is the heart of community learning and discovery, making it the perfect partner for the AI Sandbox."

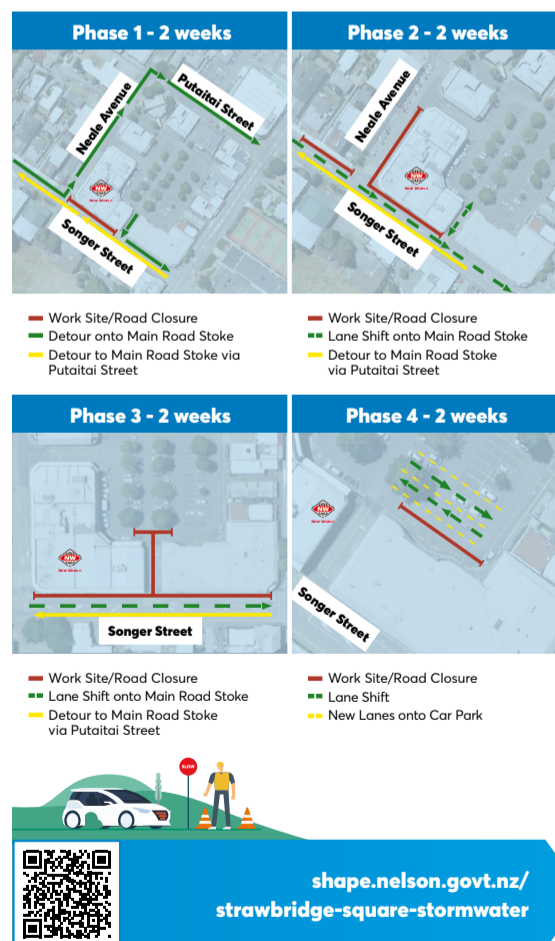
Group Manager Community Services Andrew White says the library is a tech-forward organisation, adapting to the fast-changing digital landscape.

"The Elma Turner Library is a great space for people to learn about AI tools and software," Andrew says. "By partnering with the AI Sandbox, we're making these technologies freely accessible to the public."

For the AI Sandbox's opening hours, go to www.aisandbox.org.nz

Strawbridge Square upgrade

Work began this week to upgrade the stormwater network around Strawbridge Square, as flooding can occur in heavy rainfall in the corner of the carpark. Upgrading the size of stormwater pipes will reduce the chance of flooding occurring, protecting properties in the area and making sure water flows where it needs to go. There will be varying traffic management plans in place as the work progresses.



shape.nelson.govt.nz/strawbridge-square-stormwater



Experience a classic Nelson summer evening of music, food and fun at Tāhuna Summer Sounds!

Join us on **Friday 17 January, from 4pm to 8pm** at the scenic Tāhunanui Beach Reserve for a FREE community event for all ages. Wet weather date: Saturday, 18 January 2025.



Meetings

Hearing Panel 9am	12 Feb
Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit: Boardroom, Best Island, Richmond 10am	12 Feb
Council meeting 9am	13 Feb
Joint Nelson Tasman Regional Transport Committee: Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond 1pm	20 Feb
Joint Shareholders Committee: Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond 9:30am	25 Feb
Audit, Risk and Finance Committee 9am	26 Feb
Chief Executive Employment Committee: Mayor's Office, Floor 2B, Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson 2pm	26 Feb
Saxton Field Committee: Tasman District Council Chamber, 189 Queen Street, Richmond 9am	27 Feb