



# PICTON HAPPENINGS

Free Newsletter

03 April 2024

**05** **Picton Wine Club  
AGM, 5.50pm Fri 5  
April**

Picton Wine Club AGM and in house tasting with Eradus Wines at Picton Little Theatre. All welcome, see page 6 for more information.

**10** **Waikawa Ratepayers  
& Residents Assoc  
AGM, 5.30pm Wed 10  
April**

Come along to Waikawa Boating Club and have your say on our lovely Waikawa Bay. See page 3.

**23** **LTP Community Drop-  
in Clinic, 5.30pm -  
7.30pm Tue 23 April**

Find out more about Council's planned expenditure in its Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034. See page 16 for more information.

**06** **Dori's Dumpling  
Cooking Class,  
10.00am - 1.00pm Sat  
6 April**

Join us for a delectable Dumpling-Making Workshop with Midori. Bring along the harvest available from your garden on the day. This class will cater to meat-eaters, vegans and vegetarians! \$80 per person. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092839881512>

**13** **Jackie Bristow and  
Barry Saunders  
Concert, 7.00pm -  
10.00pm Sat 13 April**

Few contemporary music collaborations spark as much intrigue as that of Jackie Bristow and Barry Saunders. Playing at Le Café, tickets available from Eventfinda.

**24** **A Cuppa With Your  
Councillors, 10.00am  
Wed 24 April**

Council's Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month. Come along to Picton Library. For info see page 17.

**07** **Fresh Choice Rainbow  
Run, 11.30am -  
12.30pm Sun 7 April**

This event is not a race it is just a chance to walk or run along with your family and friends, get a bit messy and have a laugh while our team douses you with lots and lots of rainbow colours. Light coloured clothing and eye protection (sunglasses, goggles etc) are recommended for the best time. 11:00am registration, 11.30am start. See page 6 for information.

**14** **The Edwin Fox Book  
Launch, 2.00pm -  
4.00pm Sun 14 April**

Hear Boyd Cothran and Adrian Schubert, the authors of a new book on the Edwin Fox, talk about how the an ordinary sailing ship, played a role in connecting New Zealand to the rest of the world. See page 4.

**25** **ANZAC Parade,  
6.00am Thu 25 April**

Located at Picton War Memorial, this ceremony commemorates all New Zealanders killed in war & honours returned servicemen & women.

**17** **Sonic Delusion,  
7.30pm - 9.30pm Wed  
17 April**

Too funky for folk and too folky for funk - that's Sonic Delusion's happy, funky & groovy indie pop. See page 5 for more information.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication date: 1 May 2024

Copy deadline: 5pm 24 April 2024

**SUBSCRIPTION:** The Picton Happenings is a FREE monthly newsletter circulated via email. To subscribe please send an email.

**CONTENT:** Are you a community group who would like to promote your activities or have a story to tell? Then please get in touch.

☎ 03 520 7400

✉ [nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz)



# iReX Project

## Waitohi Picton - iReX project update



By Rose Northcott

The Inter-island Resilient Connection (iReX) project was wound-down by the end of March 2024, aside from a small tail of construction work required to make good the Interislander sites in Waitohi Picton and Wellington.

iReX was set up to replace the existing Interislander fleet with two new, diesel electric hybrid ferries and to redevelop long-term resilient terminal infrastructure in Waitohi Picton and at Kaiwharawhara in Wellington.

In December 2023, the Government announced it would not provide additional funding to meet an increase in construction costs. The KiwiRail Board then decided to wind down the iReX project.

KiwiRail hosted around 60 people including Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor at a coffee

morning in Picton in March, so the iReX and Interislander teams could thank the community for their support and hospitality.

iReX Programme Director David Warburton provided an update on the project and David and the Mayor answered questions, with keen interest in the roads.

### Dublin Street update

KiwiRail has been in discussions with the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi regarding building the Dublin Street overbridge and associated road upgrades in Waitohi Picton relating to iReX.

KiwiRail iReX Programme Director David Warburton says while discussions are ongoing with NZTA, KiwiRail has made the decision to

re-instate the level crossing and re-open Dublin Street.

The re-opening means the Waitohi Picton community can use the road, while decisions are being worked through on the future of the transport network.

Dublin Street will re-open in two phases, with work starting after Easter to re-open the street west of Market Street by the end of April, including Market Street and the side streets. East of Market Street will come second. We don't have firm dates but are working to do this as quickly as possible, however it does rely on the availability of specialist equipment.

People are reminded that until the Dublin Street re-opens, it is also closed to pedestrians for safety reasons.

KiwiRail is also working with Marlborough District Council and NZTA Waka Kotahi on how the Broadway intersection will be left moving forward.

KiwiRail is also working with port partner Port Marlborough on the best options for the old terminal buildings and the new temporary terminal and completing work on the Waitohi Awa Culvert strengthening work.

### Next steps

The Interislander service is part of an essential supply chain, moving on average \$14 billion of freight and over 800,000 passengers between Aotearoa's main two islands each year.

Everyone, including the Government, accepts that investment is needed to secure the future of the Interislander service.

To ensure we are able to maintain a reliable service for our customers, KiwiRail is now looking at a fleet transition plan which includes options to extend the working lives of our existing fleet beyond 2026 (when the new ferries were due to arrive) and sourcing replacement ferries.



### DO YOU KNOW A NATURES CHAMPION?

Nominate them today and they can be in to win A \$200 Dalton's prize pack

The ideal candidate will be doing the work to provide a safe, healthy and thriving environment for native birds.

This can be through trapping or planting native species and food sources for the bird populations.



VISIT PICTON DAWN CHORUS WEBSITE [HERE](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz/he-toki-a-t257ne-nomination.html) TO NOMINATE  
[www.pictondawnchorus.nz/he-toki-a-t257ne-nomination.html](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz/he-toki-a-t257ne-nomination.html)



## Waikawa Ratepayers & Residents Association AGM 5.30pm Wed 10 April Waikawa Bay Boating Club



Come along to Waikawa Boating Club and have your say on our lovely Waikawa Bay. Business will include election of officers as well as a proposal to consider a new meeting schedule for 2024.

For more information email [wrrassn@gmail.com](mailto:wrrassn@gmail.com).

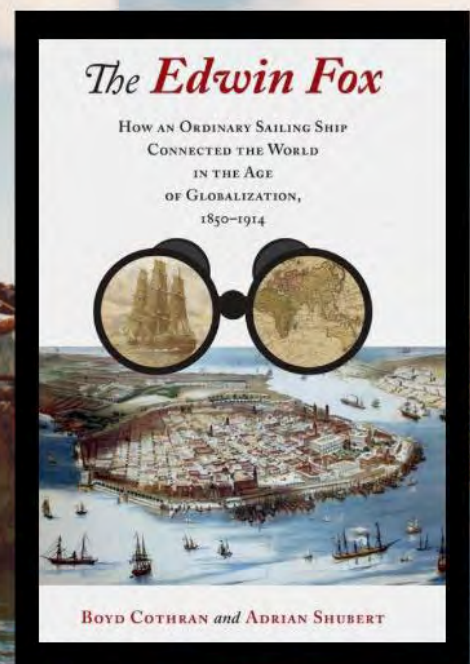
Vessel	Arrival	Departure	Berth	PAX
Ovation of the Seas	Wed, 10 Apr 2024, 04:30	Wed, 10 Apr 2024, 17:00	Waimahara	4500
Majestic Princess	Sun, 14 Apr 2024, 05:30	Sun, 14 Apr 2024, 18:00	Waimahara	4000

NB. Schedules do change, for the most up to date and accurate information visit <https://www.portmarlborough.co.nz/cruise-ship-schedule/>

## BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHORS BOYD COTHRAN & ADRIAN SHUBERT

SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2024, 2:00PM

Picton Library and Service Centre |  
Waitohi Whare Mātauranga  
2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220



RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6cx558>

Questions? Please email:  
[marlboroughmuseum@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:marlboroughmuseum@marlborough.govt.nz)

# Picton Little Theatre



## Sonic Delusion



**Wednesday 17 April 7:30pm - 9.30pm**  
**Tickets: [Eventfinda](https://www.eventfinda.co.nz) \$25 + \$2.62 fees or cash sales at Summit Real Estate Picton**

Groovy indie folky funk... or is it funky folk?

Dive into the heart of indie pop with "Sonic Delusion" as they electrify the South Island with their innovative shows. Known for their distinctive blend of music created on a loop station and the vibrant energy of a 3-piece band, they offer an immersive live experience that stands out in the indie music scene. Each performance is a showcase of creativity and musical craftsmanship, where spontaneous loops intertwine with meticulously crafted indie pop melodies. "Sonic Delusion" brings a unique atmosphere to their shows, making each concert an intimate yet expansive celebration of sound. Their tour across the South Island is a journey through the essence of indie pop, delivered through the innovative lens of their loop station magic and the cohesive harmony

of their live band. Don't miss the opportunity to be captivated by "Sonic Delusion," where every performance is a testament to the power of music to connect and inspire. Join them for a series of unforgettable shows where the music takes center stage.

Check out Sonic Delusion online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8cL6rocNF8>

<https://www.facebook.com/sonicdelusion/videos/1088255494716186/r> each session to:

### Membership of Picton Little Theatre

Incorporated Society supports our community theatre promote the live performing arts and bring culture to our town. It also enables you to vote at our AGM on April 9 2024. \$25 incl GST for a year's membership.

<https://www.pictonlittletheatre.com/membership.html>

### Picton Little Theatre AGM April 9 at 7pm

All current and prospective members are invited to join the committee at our AGM. Note, only current members can vote.

Refreshments provided after the meeting, please stay to mingle and socialise.

### Bucket List Movie group

Relaxed Sunday movie sessions a Picton Little Theatre

Dates for 2024: 14 April / 12 May / 9 June / 11 August / 8 Sept / 13 October / 10 November / 8 December

\$10 membership fee, first session FREE. Then entry by koha/donation – we suggest \$10 per session. BYO refreshments. RSVP for each session to: [Nicky.Wagner@outlook.com](mailto:Nicky.Wagner@outlook.com)

**Picton Little Theatre | 9 Dublin Street, Picton**

[www.pictonlittletheatre.com](http://www.pictonlittletheatre.com)

Port Marlborough Pavilion presents

 **freshchoice picton**  
**Rainbow Run**  
**Sunday 7th April**  
**2024**

**Where : Port Marlborough Pavilion**

**Registrations : Opens at 11am**

**Start time : 11:30am**

**Price : Adult \$10**

**Child - \$5**

**Family- \$25(2 Adults, 3 Children)**



**Picton Wine Club**

**AGM**

**In House Tasting**  
**Erabus Wines plus**  
**Nibbles**

Picton Little Theatre  
Friday 5 April 5.50pm  
\$15.00 Members | Non-members \$20

There will be the normal prize draw, raffle and options wine.

All welcome but bookings are essential.

E: [pictonwineclubbookings@gmail.com](mailto:pictonwineclubbookings@gmail.com) or contact Bruce on 027 346 2130

*Free family event, live music, craft market and more*



**SUNDAY 21 APRIL**

**10AM - 3PM**

**POLLARD PARK**

**BLenheim**



**[WWW.ENVIROHUB.CO.NZ](http://WWW.ENVIROHUB.CO.NZ) | [WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG](http://WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG)**

Brought to you by:



# Picton Foodbank 2024

## New beginnings

By Jim Howie

From the beginning of 2024 the Picton Foodbank is now a stand alone entity, still run by a small group of dedicated volunteers who will carry on as before, assisting those in need in our community .

The main change is in the financial side, previously we relied on the Anglican Church's status as a charitable trust. People donating money could claim rebates on their tax return. Now that Picton Foodbank is not registered as a Charitable trust we will still issue receipts on request but they are not tax rebatable. We would encourage our regular donors to continue to donate to the Picton Foodbank to ensure the appreciative good work.

Our new bank account is ASB 12 3167 0251147 00.

We would like to acknowledge the help and donations given to the Foodbank over the years

from our wonderful community and the many business and organisations, notably Picton Fresh Choice and St Vincent St Paul for their on going support along with Picton Volunteer Fire Brigade and Picton Lions.

Please help us by donating food at the Foodbank bin outside Picton Fresh Choice and by donating money into our new account.

Many thanks on behalf of the Picton Foodbank 2024 committee.



Picton Foodbank

Tel: 022 010 5591



## Craft Circle

...and So Much More!

Bring any crafts you're working on, or use the mindfulness colouring books provided

~ Wednesday 6th March ~  
~ Wednesday 3rd April ~  
~ Wednesday 1st May ~

~12.30pm - 2.30pm~  
**Waikawa Boating Club**  
(Behind Jolly Roger restaurant)  
**Beach Rd, Waikawa**

Tea/Coffee provided (BYO mug)  
Please bring something small to share for afternoon tea

Mo- 021 274 5914



**PICTON QUILTERS**  
NEW ZEALAND Since 1978

Join us at

# parallel 41

## Quilt Exhibition

+  
Nostalgia Challenge & Display  
Queen Charlotte Yacht Club  
Picton Marina

<b>Quilt Exhibition</b>	Friday 3rd May 10am - 4.00pm Saturday 4th May 10am - 4.00pm
<b>Market Stall of New Goods with proceeds to St John Ambulance</b>	& Sunday 5th May 10am - 3.00pm 2024
<b>Merchant Stands</b>	\$5 entry fee Includes Morning & Afternoon Tea



Picton  
Dawn  
Chorus



KAIPŪPŪ  
Sanctuary

# GONDOLA HILL WALK FUNDRAISER

Come and enjoy the beautiful view from the top of Mt Collins



## WALK DETAILS

-  A steep scenic walk
-  Elevation gain 370m
-  4.4km return
-  Solid track

**Date:** Sunday 12th May 2024

**Postponement Date:** Sunday 19th May 2024

**Time:** Registrations from 10 until 11 am.

We aim to be down by 2pm

**Price:** \$20 for non members or \$15 for members.

**Children under 12 walk for free.**

CASH  
**BBQ**  
AT THE TOP



## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR FULL DETAILS

Come into **Picton Environment Centre**, 14 Auckland St

Find the event on **Eventfinda** and **Facebook**

## OR TURN UP AND PAY ON THE DAY

**Check in desk will be located at the end of Fantail Heights**, Endeavour Park Estate. Please be mindful of residents when parking. Parking also available at the lower Pavilion carpark. A 5 minute walk from start of track.



# Picton Heritage & Whaling Museum

## April update

By Mary Cooper

I have used a well-known Scottish phrase recently - the nights are fair drawing in. Hopefully you all know that I mean that it is becoming dark at an earlier time in the evening, because autumn or winter is approaching.

It was good to see that the NZ Remembrance Army were in Picton in January to care for the graves of servicemen buried there. Have a look at this video they posted on their Facebook page:

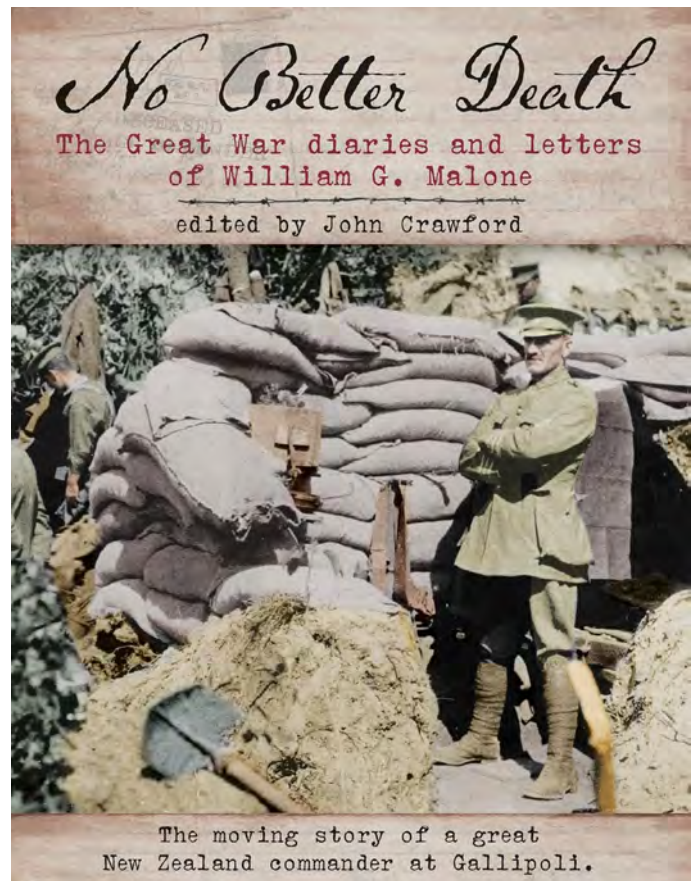
<https://www.facebook.com/NZRemembranceArmy/videos/3662419904013735>

I sent them photographs of a couple of interesting graves I had noted - see below - and how the "Army" have brightened and cleaned them up and added the poppy. A great job done by these volunteers working with the NZ Remembrance Army.



Another interesting article on the Sounds Soldiers' Memorial at Torea Bay appeared in the Marlborough Express recently. I had not been aware there was such a substantial memorial there and will now endeavour to visit it.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nz-news/350194806/makeover-restores-names-torea-bay-war-memorial>

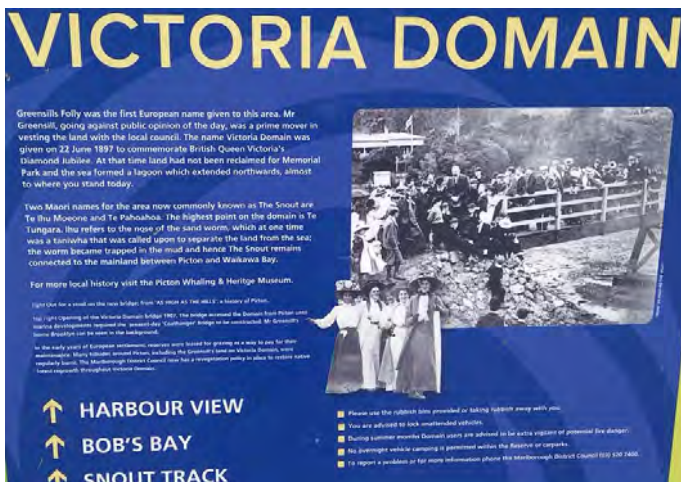


Recommended read: "No Better Death. The Great War Diary and Letters of William G. Malone" edited by John Crawford.

On ANZAC Day we will remember them.

How many of you know where Greensill's Folly is? I came across information on this on one of my regular walks. This was the first European name given to what we know as the Victoria Domain. Mr Greensill was the Mayor of Picton in 1884 and in 1896 pushed for parts of the area to be vested in the Council as Domain Board. There was a lack of

public support for his idea and so the area became known as Greensill's Folly. In 1897 it was named Victoria Domain for Queen Victoria's Jubilee.



Another interesting feature can be found at the top of the Tirohanga Track. I wondered what its history was and what I discovered was an interesting story. Jamie Westwater told me he called it the wishing circle when it was on the Foreshore as he had stood in the circle a number of times over a 20-year period and made wishes.



Whilst working on the Foreshore to prepare it for the Māori Battalion Memorial he had to dismantle the blocks and as there was no plans for them, he decided to save the circle and reassemble it somewhere special. He had walked the Tirohanga many times as he lived nearby and so carried the blocks to the top and hid them in the bushes until September 2022 when he and a workmate took water, tools, sand and cement and set the Wishing Circle in place. As they finished a couple of tourists arrived and were told the story of the circle being a Wishing Circle, so they made a wish and the idea was set in concrete, so to speak. (Photos courtesy of Jamie).

Museum and art galleries, where applicable, will turn-off their outside lighting from April 15-25 as part of the Keep the Lights on for Museums and Galleries' campaign to highlight funding difficulties.



**Picton Heritage & Whaling Museum**  
**9 London Quay, Picton**  
**Open daily 10am - 3pm**  
[www.pictonmuseum-newzealand.com](http://www.pictonmuseum-newzealand.com)

# Picton Golf Club



## Dewar Open/Marlborough Stroke



### Division 2:

1st Hayden Gaudin (Picton) 156

2nd Jack Evans (Picton) 161

3rd Rodger Jones (Picton) 162

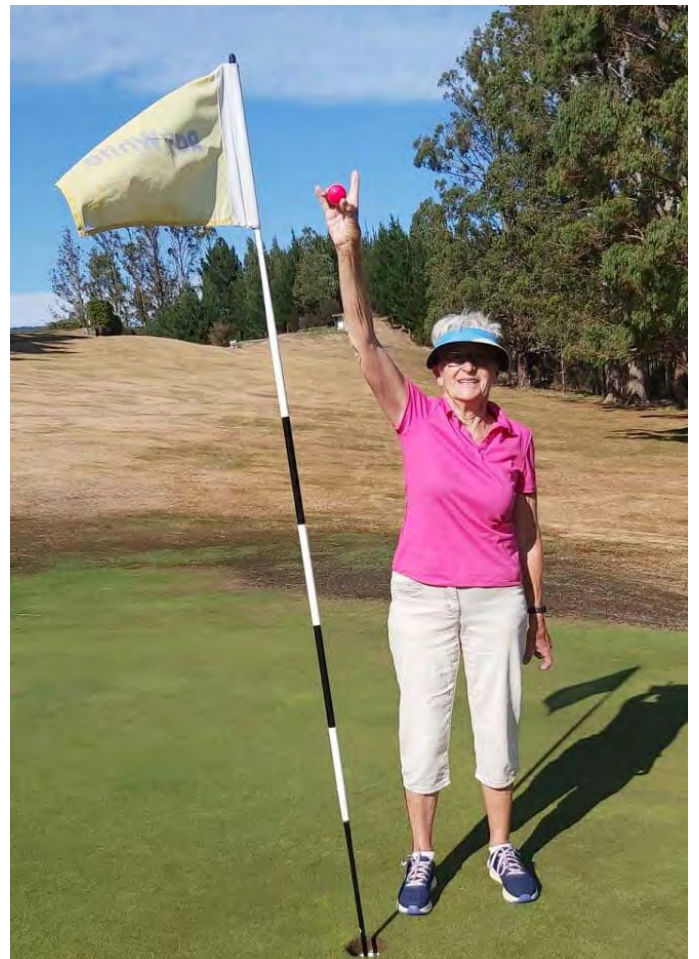
### Division 3:

1st N Bosca (Awatere) 179 c/b

2nd R Avery (Picton) 179

3rd M Ivamy (Picton) 187

## Hole in One



Above: Joyce McClelland

Recently a long time member of the Picton Golf Club, Joyce McClelland achieved her first hole in one at our course.

We celebrated with a lovely lunch to honour Joyce, after golf with all our ladies. A fantastic achievement.

Our club recently hosted the 85th Dewar Open/ Marlborough Stroke Tournament for men. It is possibly one of Picton's longest running events, held over two days. There were more than 50 men in the field which was a big jump up on numbers for the last few years.

The weather was fantastic, with the club having very dry fairways although the watered greens were said to be playing very well. Visitors came from across the Tasman area and local members supported this event well, as they do every year.

### 2024 results

#### Dewar Cup (Best Nett over the field, 2 rounds)

1st Haydin Gaudin (Picton) 130

2nd Richard Avery (Picton) 133

3rd Sam Rainbird (Rarangi) 136

#### Marlborough Stroke (Best Gross, 2 rounds in divisions)

##### Division 1:

1st Chase Craig (PGA NZ) 138

2nd Ryan MacDonald (Rarangi) 141

3rd Paul Silke (Rarangi) 143



Ngā ratonga ki te manawa o te whenua  
Heartland Services



Proudly provided by:

**Te Piki Oranga**  
MĀORI WELLNESS SERVICES



#for the love of our  
**WHAKAPAPA**

## Heartland Services – access to government and community services for rural whānau

Te Piki Oranga is a provider of Heartland Services for whānau in the rural and remote regions of Marlborough, including:

**Waikawa • Waitohi / Picton • Tōtaranui / Marlborough Sounds**



### Drop in for a kōrero with our friendly local team

#### We can help with:

- Technology: internet, email, printing, scanning, phones and more
- Government and community service forms, applications and websites
- Meet with government and community service staff from Inland Revenue (IRD), Workbridge, Justices of the Peace (JPs), Whānau Ora, Suicide Prevention and more
- Join a diabetes support group, facilitated by Te Piki Oranga
- Join a cancer information group, facilitated by Te Piki Oranga and the Cancer Society

See our website for the most up to date information: [tpo.org.nz/heartland](http://tpo.org.nz/heartland)

**22 High St, Waitohi / Picton**  
Open Mon–Fri, 9am to 4.30pm

**03 577 5806**

0800 672 642 | [heartland@tpo.org.nz](mailto:heartland@tpo.org.nz)

# Picton Rail and Sail

## March round up

By **Brian Morris**

Our crew have been refurbishing one of our model yachts which, as a result of its overhaul, will have many more years of sailing on (hopefully) calm waters – even in Wellington! Although the city's harbour is reasonably well-sheltered, its surrounding coastlines, and especially Cook Strait, are noted for rough seas, extreme tides and strong currents. Let's not even start on the potential tsunami risk in the event of a big earthquake nearby!

Here in Picton, near the bottom of Queen Charlotte Sound, we're not totally immune from sea upheavals, although a tsunami coming in from Cook Strait would hopefully have its tremendous energy dissipated somewhat by the twists and turns of the Sound before it reached us. And even more lucky for us, we're not likely to experience one of mariners' worst nightmares – the rogue, freak or killer wave on the high seas.

Rogue, freak, or killer waves have been part of marine folklore for centuries, but have only been accepted as real by scientists over the past few decades. Rogues, called 'extreme storm waves' by scientists, are those waves which are greater than twice the size of surrounding waves, are very unpredictable, and often come unexpectedly from directions other than prevailing wind and waves. Most reports of extreme storm waves say they look like "walls of water." They are often steep-sided with unusually deep troughs.

Rogue waves do not spring from sailors' imaginations or guesstimates, but are accurately measured by sensors on oil rigs and confirmed by overhead satellites. In 2006 wind gusts of 150kph on the North Sea whipped up freak waves with a 'significant wave height' of 18 metres.

Freak or rogue waves can be notified every 2-3 years. They come in three categories: The Rogue Wave is high, travels fast, and does not follow the normal direction of the sea swell. Three Sisters are a sequence of three high waves which come grouped together. The White Wall is a steep, crested wave with a frothy top. All three can be terrifying!



In 1861 an enormous wave crashed into the Irish western coast at Eagle Island (above). The substantial stone lighthouse there stood on top of a 40-metre precipice. But the windows and lighthouse reflectors which stood 26 metres higher than that were smashed by the freak wave that day - 11 March 1861 – close to 163 years ago.

**Picton Society of Model Engineers Incorporated  
(Picton Rail and Sail Society)**



World-famous on the



Picton foreshore



**After spending a great day visiting  
all of Picton's many attractions,  
what better place to have a picnic  
and relax at Rail and Sail? Call us to  
arrange train rides, yacht sailing  
and club room use for your group!**



railsailsailpicton@gmail.com Call for a booking! Bob Metcalf 027 733 1355

**Picton Rail and Sail  
railsailsailpicton@gmail.com**

# Volunteer in Picton

## Trade Aid Picton

Retail Assistant wanted: We need people to join our team to sell our beautiful Fair Trade products. We also tell our customers who made them and how. Training is provided as needed. Email [picton@tradeaid.org.nz](mailto:picton@tradeaid.org.nz)

[www.tradeaid.org.nz](http://www.tradeaid.org.nz)

## Conservation Kids NZ

Volunteer at our kid's events: We are seeking assistance with our Save Our Species programme. This programme is an out of school, independent programme for families (not just kids!) usually run once a month throughout the year. Email Volunteer Marlborough at [vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz](mailto:vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz)

[www.envirohub.co.nz/conservation-kids-nz](http://www.envirohub.co.nz/conservation-kids-nz)

## Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary

Pest control, biodiversity surveys, maintenance and staffing the information shop. Our volunteers are guided by our Biodiversity Manager and enthusiastic team leaders. Volunteers have vehicle access to reach Kaipupu. Email [admin@kaipupusanctuary.nz](mailto:admin@kaipupusanctuary.nz).

[www.kaipupusanctuary.nz](http://www.kaipupusanctuary.nz)

## Picton Heritage & Whaling Museum

We are looking for volunteers to help for one session of three hours per month. Help to present our history. Telephone 03 573 8283 or call in at 9 London Quay.

[www.pictonmuseum-newzealand.com](http://www.pictonmuseum-newzealand.com)

## Picton Dawn Chorus

Trap Line Volunteers needed: If you enjoy long walks in native bush then this role is perfect for you. We rely on a large team of volunteers to check the rat, stoat and possum traps placed out on the town's reserves every weekend. If you can do one weekend day a month or one a week we would love to hear from you. Induction and training is given and you will become part of a very passionate group of volunteers. Contact: Jen at Picton Dawn Chorus, tel 03 928 4957 ext 1 or email [volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz](mailto:volunteering@pictondawnchorus.nz)

[www.pictondawnchorus.nz](http://www.pictondawnchorus.nz)

## Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust

Drivers (Picton to Nelson return): Volunteer drivers take people from Picton (or nearby) to Nelson and back for medical appointments. Volunteers will need to be available for most of a day as they will wait in Nelson for the patient. Email Volunteer Marlborough at [vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz](mailto:vm@volunteermarlborough.org.nz)

[www.marlboroughvehicletrust.org.nz](http://www.marlboroughvehicletrust.org.nz)

## Picton Rail and Sail

Picton Rail and Sail operate model trains and yachts on the Picton Foreshore. This family facility and Picton treasure can only work with the help of volunteers who work on a roster system of three hour shifts. If you think you can help please email at [railandsailpicton@gmail.com](mailto:railandsailpicton@gmail.com).



## John Boswell appointed chief executive

Marlborough District Council has appointed a new chief executive after an extensive national advertising campaign and thorough recruitment process.

John Boswell will join the Council on 1 August.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was very pleased to welcome John to Council.

“John joins us after a very successful military career, reaching the position of Major General and Chief of Army, the most senior officer in the New Zealand Army. John wants to continue to serve the public in a positive values-based organisation after his impressive career in the Army.”

“John impressed us straight away with his vision, strategic thinking, leadership skills and extensive experience of running a large, complex, people-focused organisation. He also has a good knowledge of Marlborough’s issues and

opportunities and how local government works.”

“He brings a collaborative and empathetic leadership style as well as strong communication skills which I know will work well for Council and the Marlborough community. He and his wife will be moving to Marlborough, a place they have explored as visitors, and love.”

John’s previous roles include Director of Army Training, Chief Staff Officer Operational Plans and Head of Strategy Management. He holds masters’ degrees in Management, Defence Studies and Philosophy.

Mayor Taylor said 46 applications were received from around New Zealand.

“We had an extraordinarily high calibre of candidates - Marlborough District Council has a great reputation and Marlborough, as we all know, is beautiful, has fantastic public facilities and is just

a great place to live. All councillors were involved in the recruitment and appointment process.”

“My sincere thanks to Mark Wheeler who is retiring. Mark has been an outstanding chief executive

since 2015, and prior to that was deputy chief executive and assets and services manager from 1998.”

## Long Term Plan community consultation meeting dates

People will soon get the chance to find out more about Council’s planned expenditure in its Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034. Submissions open from 4 April to 6 May.

The LTP proposes an average rates increase of 12.65 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year, not including Marlborough Sounds roading repairs. The biggest challenge in the ten year plan is how

to fund the \$106M local share of the Sounds’ roads \$234M repair and improvement bill, damaged by storms in 2021 and 2022.

There are a number of ways in which this could be funded, which will be explained in Council’s LTP Consultation Document and at the community drop-in meetings and webinar. These are:

Date	Time	Location	Meeting style
Monday 15 April	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Blenheim Lansdowne Hub 6B Lansdowne Street, Mayfield,	Community drop-in
Tuesday 16 April	2pm – 4pm	Rai Valley The Millers Rest	Community drop-in
Wednesday 17 April	12.30pm – 2.30pm	Waitaria Bay Waitaria Bay Hall	Community drop-in
Thursday 18 April	5.30pm – 7pm	Online webinar	Via Zoom: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88384985861">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88384985861</a>
Friday 19 April	12pm – 2pm	Seddon Awatere Memorial Hall 1C Foster Street	Community drop-in
Monday 22 April	2pm – 4pm	Linkwater Linkwater Settlers and Memorial Hall 1351 Queen Charlotte Drive	Community drop-in
Tuesday 23 April	5.30pm – 7.30pm	Picton Port Marlborough Pavilion, Endeavour Park Waikawa Road	Community drop-in

## Picton and Waikawa water restrictions lifted

Water restrictions in Picton and Waikawa have now been lifted.

Council’s Operations and Maintenance Engineer Stephen Rooney says cooler weather, evenings drawing in and heavy dews along with a few scattered showers in the past few weeks have reduced demand. “People are using less water which is common for this time of year as gardening tapers off,” he said.

“We are now able to lift the restrictions although we do still ask Picton and Waikawa residents to conserve water. While we are still unable to use Essons Valley due to algae in the dam, the Speeds Road water treatment plant is meeting demand,” Mr Rooney said.

Water restrictions were put in place on 9 January after hot weather, high demand and a reduced water level in the Essons Valley dam pushed the



town's supply to its limit, leaving it reliant on the Speeds Road supply and reservoirs at the Elevation and Victoria Domain.

Prior to the restrictions, the Picton and Waikawa community was using more than 6000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per day; after restrictions took effect this dropped to 4000 m<sup>3</sup>, Mr Rooney said. "We want to thank the everyone for their efforts to save water while the restrictions were in place. Thanks for making every drop count," Mr Rooney said.

Council had long planned to install waters meters in the town, beginning this year or next, he said. "The introduction of water meters will help Council and the community to reduce demand - water meters encourage people to conserve water and reduce leaks significantly."

After meters were installed in Renwick, Seddon, Wairau Valley and Havelock demand dropped in those townships by up to 35 per cent. Wasteful leaks have also been eliminated through the metering programme.

"There are no cheap or easy solutions for sourcing more fresh water for Picton so metering is by far the best and most cost effective solution for reducing future demand. Council proposes to bring the metering project forward and start talking with the community about it over the next 12 months," said Mr Rooney.

These were the first major water restrictions in Picton since the summer of 2000/01.

## Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao grants open

The 2024/25 Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao grant scheme opens for online applications on Monday, 1 April.

In its fifth year of funding, \$120,000 is available for projects ranging from pest control to restoring wetland areas on public, private or Māori-owned land in Marlborough.

Funding is awarded under three categories:

Habitat Marlborough – for restoring native habitats, improving biodiversity and freshwater quality

Protecting Marlborough – for animal and plant pest control

Environmental Advocacy – a new category for initiatives that promote environmental awareness

The scheme provides the opportunity for groups and individuals to protect and enhance the

environment. The maximum cap on a Habitat Marlborough project is \$10,000; Protecting Marlborough is \$15,000 and Environmental Advocacy is \$2,000.

Community groups or community trusts operating multi-year projects are invited to apply for multi-year funding through the grant, up to the designated category maximum per year.

To be eligible, the trust or group must have a proven history of successfully undertaking environmentally beneficial biodiversity projects.

More information can be found on Council's website via the link below. Applications close at 5pm on Sunday 30 April, with all applicants notified of outcomes by July 2024.

Paper applications will not be accepted. All online applications should be made at: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/working-for-naturemahimo-te-taiao](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/working-for-naturemahimo-te-taiao)

## *A Cuppa with your Councillors*

Council's Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month. Come along to the Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre, from 10.00 am until midday (dates below).

**24 Apr**  
**22 May**

**19 June**  
**24 July**

**21 Aug**  
**18 Sept**

**23 Oct**  
**20 Nov**

**18 Dec**

# Picton Weekly Events

## MONDAY

Picton Walking Group: 9.20am, RSA car park  
Te Reo Māori: 10am-12pm, Lib  
Writers of Picton: 1.30pm, 1st Monday, Lib  
Senior Citizens: 1pm, RSA  
Scrabble: 1pm-4pm, Lib  
Picton Bridge Club (Beginners): 1pm, Pav, *starting 29/4*  
Girl Guides: 6pm-8pm, SJS  
Picton Bridge Club (Beginners): 7pm, Pav  
Arapawa BoxFit Class: 6.30p-7.30pm, Scout Hall  
Sounds Orchestral Ukelele Players: 6.30pm-8.30pm, WBC  
Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Martina: 6.30pm to 7.30pm, Pav

## TUESDAY

Pilates: 8am-9am, Pav  
Plunket: 9.30am-10.30am, Lib  
Table Tennis Club: 10am-Noon, PLT  
Line Dancing: 10am, Anglican Church Hall  
Picton Newcomers Network: 10am-11.00am, 1st Tues, Seabreeze Café  
Ladies 18 Holes: 10am-2pm, PGC  
Spinners and Knitters: 10.30am-2pm, Lib  
Indoor Bowls: 12.45pm-3pm, Pav, *starting 19/3*  
Steady As You Go: 1.30pm-2.30pm, Union Parish Centre  
Picton Writers Club: 1.30pm 1st Tues of month, Lib  
FDF Hip Hop with Fleur: 3:30pm - 6pm, Pav  
Picton Sea Swim: 6.00pm, Picton or Waikawa (seasonal)  
Taekwon-do: 6.00pm-7.30pm, Picton School  
Arapawa Boxing: 6.30pm-7.30pm, Scout Hall

## WEDNESDAY

St. Joseph's Catholic Church: Mass 9.30am  
Picton Men's Shed: 9am-4pm, Men's Shed  
Mixed 9 Holes: 9.30am-12pm, PGC  
Tai Chi with Manu: 10am-11am, Pav  
The Waitohi Social Club: 10am, 3rd Weds, Lib  
Book Chat: 10.30am-11.30am, 2nd Weds, Lib  
Picton Poets: 10.30am-12pm, 4th Weds, Lib  
Justice of the Peace Drop-in Clinic: 11am-1pm, Lib  
Mahjong: 1.00pm, MCCR  
After School Fun: 3.30pm-4.30pm, Lib  
Junior Badminton: 4.45pm-6pm, QCCG *starting 28/2*  
Senior Badminton: 6.30pm-8.30pm, QCCG *starting 28/2*  
Picton Quilters: 6.30pm, 2nd Weds, Pav  
Waikawa Ratepayers Assoc: 5.30pm, 2nd Weds, WBC  
Arapawa Boxing: 5.30pm-6.15pm, Picton Scout Hall  
Picton Trails Club Rides: 6pm, Pav carpark  
Picton Lions (Team): 6.30pm, 1st Weds, The Crow  
Arapawa BoxFit Class: 6.30pm-7.30pm, Scout Hall  
A Cappella Belles: 7pm, Holy Trinity Church  
Quiz Night: 7pm, Picton RSA  
Picton Lions (Business): 7.30pm, 3rd Weds, Pav  
Sounds Accordionaires: 7.30pm-8.30pm, 62 Moana View Rd

## THURSDAY

Picton Playcentre: 9.30am-Noon, 5 Waitohi Place

The Chat Room: 9.30am-11.30am, 2nd & 4th Thurs, Holy Trinity Church

Table Tennis Club: 10am-12pm, Pav

The Company Cafe: 10.30am-11.30am term time, Lib

Mens18 Holes: 11.00am-3pm, PGC

Euchre: 12.30pm-3pm, Lib

Alzhiemers Marlborough Afternoon Tea: 1pm-2pm, 4th Thurs, Lib

Pilates: 4pm-5pm, Pav

Pasifika Beats Fitness with Susana: 5:45pm-6:45pm, Pav

Yurt Yoga at Mount Pleasant: 6pm-7.30pm, Yoga Yurt

Taekwon-do: 6pm-7.30pm, QCCG

Bookworm Bookclub: 6.30pm, 1st Thurs, Lib

Bridge Club: 7pm-10pm, Pav

Bingo: 7pm, WBC

## FRIDAY

Yoga with Picton Yoga Collective: 9.15am-10.30am, Pav

Mixed Stableford 9 Holes: 9.30am-12pm, PGC

Picton Amateur Art Group: 10am-2pm, Lib

Tea @ Ten: 10am, 2nd & 4th Fri, MCCR

Under 5's Stories & Craft: 10am-11am, Lib

Welcome In: 11am, 1st Fri, Scoozis Café

Picton Newcomers Network (Sundowners): 5pm-6pm, Cafe Cortado

Picton Wine Club: 6.15pm, 1st Fri, PLT

## SATURDAY

Junior Football, Rugby & Cricket: 9am onwards, Pav

Men's Shed: 9am-12pm, Men's Shed

Men's Shed Garage Sale: 9am-12pm, last Sat

Mixed 18 Holes: 11.30am-3.00pm, PGC

Picton Bowling Club: 12.45pm, 25 Kent St

Schnauzer Schmooze: 3pm 1st Sat, Picton Dog Park

St. Joseph's Catholic Church: Mass 5pm (Summer) 4pm (Winter), alternate weekends

## SUNDAY

Family worship & communion: 10am, Anglican Church

St. Joseph's Catholic Church: 9am Word & Communion Service, alternate weekends

Sunday Service: 10am, Union Parish of Picton

Picton Sunday Service: 10am, Baptist Church (zoom available)

Buddhism for Daily Life (Marlborough Group): 10am, 1st Sun, 8 Moana View Rd

Rail and Sail: 11am-3pm, Picton Foreshore

Christian Life Centre Service: 11.30am, 40 Broadway

Schnauzer Schmooze: 3pm, 3rd Sun, Picton Dog Park

Pav: [Port Marlborough Pavilion](#)

PLT: [Picton Little Theatre](#)

Lib: [Picton Library](#)

WBC: [Waikawa Boating Club](#)

PGC: [Picton Golf Club](#)

QCCG: [Queen Charlotte College Gym](#)

MCCR: [Marina Cove Club Room](#)

SJS: [St. Joseph's School](#)