



**MARLBOROUGH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Library - New Zealand String Quartet

**Information Package**  
**Economic, Finance & Community**  
**25 June 2024**



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# Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – May 2024

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(Clr S Arbuckle ) (Report prepared by Glenn Webster)

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the operations of the Library service.

## Te Kahu o Waipuna

The soft opening of the Marlborough Library was held on Friday 12 May 2023 at 12noon.

The Marlborough Art Gallery opened the following week.

The recorded visitor numbers for the first year (12 May 2023 – 12 May 2024) = **380,995**.

## Children's Library Card



Due to the dwindling stock of the Children's Library Card, it was decided that it was time for a change from the iconic "Books & Beyond Rocket" and who better to design a new card but the children who it is for.

A competition to design the next Children's Library card was launched in May and was open to all primary and intermediate children aged between 5 – 13 years.

The competition closed on Tuesday 4 June, with the winner being announced on 24 June 2024.

## Reduced Library Services

Marlborough District Libraries is a member of a New Zealand-wide consortium of public libraries called Kōtui, which is managed by the National Library of New Zealand. Kōtui was making changes to the system, planned over the previous three years, that would temporarily affect the use of libraries catalogues, customer records and a variety of other library services.

Marlborough District Libraries – Blenheim and Picton planned to offer limited services on Thursday 16 May while the migration took place.

The migration commenced at 8pm on Wednesday 15 May and staff were advised at 8.00am the next morning, just after Picton Library and Service Centre opened, that following the successful and earlier-than-expected completion of the migration process, the various systems were back up and running for all libraries, with the exception of Returns that had to wait until later that day.

Most of the planning that had been undertaken was not needed and library customers were able to use the library as normal, which was a great result.

## Te Kahu o Waipuna – New Zealand Commercial Projects Award

Te Kahu o Waipuna recently won three awards at the Master Builders Association Commercial Project Awards held in Wellington.

Te Kahu o Waipuna won:

- Gold Award Winner and Category Winner in the Tourism and Leisure Category
- Value Award Winner in the Commercial Projects \$10M to \$25M Category.





## New Zealand String Quartet

A collaborative effort between the New Zealand String Quartet and Marlborough District Libraries ensured a visit to Marlborough with four performances. Approximately 140 people attended the free concert on the Atrium stairs at Te Kahu o Waipuna on Saturday 18 May at 11.30am.

The group also performed at Picton’s Little Theatre, the ASB Theatre and the Waikawa Marae.

## St John Therapy Pets

St John Therapy Pets is one of the St John Community Care Programmes. It was set up in the winter of 2022 with the first recruits beginning volunteering a few months later.

Therapy pets are visiting Picton Library and Service Centre and Te Kahu o Waipuna fortnightly where residents of all ages, as well as visitors to our region, can pat, chat, or read to these furry visitors.



## Marlborough Libraries Usage Statistics

### Membership

#### New Members

- 12 May 2023 – 31 May 2024  
**TOTAL 4,513**

#### Renewed Memberships

- 12 May 2023 – 31 May 2024  
**TOTAL 4,873**



### Visitor Numbers (Door Count)

The number of people who visited **Te Kahu o Waipuna**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, was:

Visitor Numbers	Total Visitor Numbers
1 May 2024 – 31 May 2024	12 May 2023 – 31 May 2024
<b>29,405</b>	<b>399,309</b>

*12 May 2022 – 31 May 2023 comparison (Marlborough District Library) = 188,332 visitors*

The number of people who visited **Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, was:

Visitor Numbers	Total Visitor Numbers
1 May 2024 – 31 May 2024	12 May 2023 - 31 May 2024
<b>7,115</b>	<b>97,118</b>

*12 May 2022 – 31 May 2023 comparison = 89,996 visitors*

### Items Checked Out (Issued) and Checked In (Returned)

Checkouts and Renewals	May 2024	May 2023	Variance
Marlborough Library	34,625	34,013	+612
Picton Library	4,594	5,733	-1,139
E-Resources	5,390	4,225	+ 1,165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,609</b>	<b>43,971</b>	<b>+ 638</b>
<b>Check-ins</b>			
Marlborough Library	30,856	29,960	+ 896
Picton Library	4,581	5,048	- 467
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35,437</b>	<b>35,008</b>	<b>+ 429</b>

### Room Bookings

The number of rooms booked by groups and individuals in May 2024 was:

May Room Bookings	Community Use	Commercial Use	TOTAL Use
Te Kahu o Waipuna	259	35	294
Picton Library	87	1	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>382</b>

## Holds (Items Reserved)

The number of holds placed on items in May 2024 was: **3,708**

## Internet Usage Sessions – Aotearoa People’s Network Kaharoa (APNK)

The following usage statistics were recorded in May 2024:

	In-Library Computer Sessions	Wi-Fi Sessions
<b>Marlborough Library</b>	1,542	6,852
<b>Picton Library</b>	638	1,977
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>8,829</b>



## Marlborough Art Gallery

We are very proud to have achieved an exceptional first year at Te Kahu o Waipuna. The co-located Marlborough Art Gallery and Marlborough Library has received significant recognition locally and nationally. We have enjoyed a very busy Autumn. From late February to early April, we hosted the much-anticipated exhibition, *Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist*. This Te Papa touring exhibition featured famous New Zealand paintings by renowned artist, Rita Angus (1908 – 1970). We booked the exhibition several years ago in anticipation of having a gallery space suitable to present it. Rita Angus is one of the country’s most iconic artists and she created a unique image of 20<sup>th</sup> century Aotearoa. This exhibition was popular with all ages. More than over 8,000 people visited the exhibition and 148 attended our latest free public book and art event on 16 March with writer and Rita Angus Curator, Lizzie Bisley.

Alongside the *Rita Angus* exhibition was *Contemporaries*. A selection of works from the Gallery’s collection by artists who had connections with Rita Angus. We then presented the biennial *Folio* exhibition. *Folio* is an initiative of the Marlborough Youth Council and a partnership between the Marlborough Art Gallery, colleges, and Marlborough District Council. *Folio* was a great multi-layered collaboration, and its special viewing event (attended by 223) was a highlight of Youth Week 2024. Youth Councillors and artists helped to install and host the exhibition and visited with their classes. With *Folio* we showed works on paper from our collection by local art teachers and former students. We are currently installing *Te Heke Whakangā - Ngāti Rārua’s Journey – looking back, moving forward*. This tells the story of the people and events surrounding Ngāti Rārua’s Treaty of Waitangi settlement. This exhibition, curated by Dr Lorraine Eade, will be on show during the anniversary of the local signing of the Treaty of Waitangi and Wairau Incident (17 June 1840 and 1843) and Matariki 2024. There is a high level of schools’ curriculum material in this exhibition and school groups have booked visits.

All our projects are collaborative, especially with our Marlborough Library neighbours. Performances in the building’s foyer have been very well-supported and we are excited to be hosting a community Matariki celebration here on the evening of Wednesday 26 June. Other local collaborators include our museum and Council colleagues. On 3 April the Arts Foundation’s *All in for Arts 2024* roadshow came to Blenheim for the first-time and was hosted with the support of Creative New Zealand at Te Kahu o Waipuna. We contributed to the development of Marlborough District Council’s new Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy 2024-2034 and look forward to supporting its implementation. The Gallery’s management of the region’s public art collections is continuing positively through regular exhibitions, works on display at the Council offices and maintenance of the eHive Collection Management database. eHive is an affordable, innovative web-based system that enables museums to catalogue, organise and share their collections in a simple and secure way. Next week we will be working with Marlborough museums at an eHive workshop. We look forward to developing and participating in many more cultural heritage projects for Marlborough.

Thank you.  
Cressida Bishop, Director

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