

Inaugural Café Create Breakfast at Kaiaka Café

Information Package Economic, Finance & Community 18 March 2025

Contents

Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – February2025 1			
Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Report – March 20257			

Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – February2025

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

L300-018-001-02

Purpose

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

Summer Reading Programme

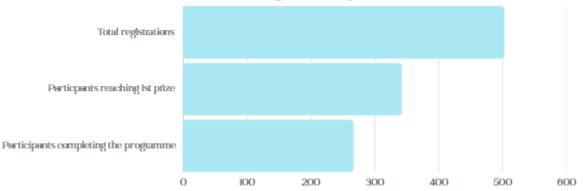
This year's Summer Reading theme was "Pirate Adventure". The programme was designed to support and encourage children's love of reading over the summer holidays.

Both libraries promoted the annual reading programme on social media, newspaper and in the libraries. Some schools were visited to ensure students who might not use the library regularly were informed. Children aged between 5 and 12 were invited to register.



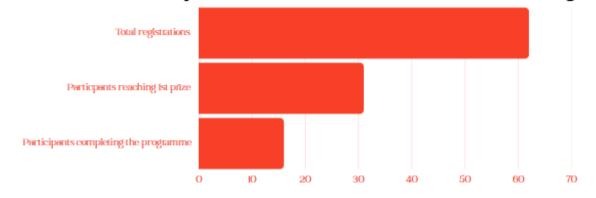
Registrations were steady, with added interest from children visiting the District keen to take part in the programme.

- 565 children registered for the programme across the District.
- 357 (63%) children reached the first prize stage
- 282 (50%) children completed the programme.



Totals for Marlborough Library (Blenheim)

Totals for Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga



Each participant received a booklet to record the books they read over the summer, along with optional activities and challenges.

The programme was designed to include the concept of gamification of reading, whereby children were asked to record the time they spent reading, in 15-minute chunks. Participants were then able to earn treasure for their pirate treasure chests in the centre of their reading folders.

Multiple studies have shown the connection between time spent reading daily and positive reading growth

Children completed the programme by reading four books and participating in two activities that required visits to the library.

Prizes this year were:

- An ice block
- A book prize selected by the participant

Pirate themed Drop-in crafts were popular as were the LEGO in a cup sessions.

A highlight of the programme was a day out at the Edwin Fox Museum. The event included:

- A free bus ride from Blenheim for families dressed in pirate attire
- Gold coin entry into the Museum
- Story reading by Rina Rinker, sharing her own story, "Captain Carrrrrla and her magnificent, magical leg"
- The star of the show Carla, talking about her prosthetic leg with the children a great opportunity to normalise disability with children
- Fabulous pirate crafts supplied by the Museum staff
- 'Eat like a pirate' experience offered by the Museum

Library staff were very pleased to be able to collaborate with the Museum Team with this very successful event.

The most valued aspect to the reading programme from the evaluation form feedback was: 'Motivation to read'.

Many noted the friendly, engaging librarians offering encouragement to the children as a motivator.

Comments included:

"My child really enjoyed the programme and it has really kick started his reading journey which has been amazing as before he wasn't a keen reader!"

"The programme encourages learning over the holidays."

"The programme is a good reminder of what is available at the Library."

"The librarians are so kind, helpful and friendly. They give great suggestions for books to try."

"We hope the programme keeps going for years to come."



Teen Reading Challenge

The Teen Summer Reading Challenge was offered at both libraries. 126 students registered.

There were two aspects to the programme:

- A booklet that listed twelve challenges which encouraged the participant to read and explore outside of their reading comfort zone, along with several tasks that required interaction with Library staff.
- A booklet to record six books read by the participant over the summer break.

There were three reward stages to the programme.

- 75 participants completed to receive a drinks voucher
- 61 participants completed to receive the Prize Draw entry
- 55 participants completed the entire programme to claim their \$20 book voucher.

Feedback about the value of the programme included:

"Daughter encouraged to broaden her reading which was great."

"He's a pretty keen reader but it was a good opportunity for him to branch out of what he usually reads."

"Librarian's awesome help recommending new series for our teen. Great motivation for teens to continue through new prizes."

Tweens

A variety of activities were organised for Tweens including:

- A Collaborative art project now displayed in the Teens area.
- A draw your own comic strip art session
- An outdoor fun and DIY ice-cream sundae afternoon.

Feedback received was very positive.

Regular Programming and Activities

Regular programming and events recommenced at both libraries in February. This included:

Library Events

- Book Chat second Wednesday of the month
- Book Club monthly 6.30pm 8.00pm (last Thursday Marlborough Library) First Thursday (Picton Library)
- Fiero Code Club 3.30 4.30pm (Tuesday Picton Library) (Thursday Marlborough Library)
- LEGO Sundays every Sunday
- Play + Learn (Marlborough Library) Fridays 9.00am 12noon
- Digital Drop-In (Marlborough Library) Wednesdays 10.00am 12noon

Community Run Events

- JP Services
- Spinners and Knitters (Picton Library)
- Company Cafe (Picton Library)
- Art Group (Picton Library)
- Writers of Picton (Picton Library)
- Kit and Natter (Marlborough Library)
- Cheeky Monkies under fives (Marlborough Library)
- Family History
- Hakakeke Hub (Marlborough Library)



Marlborough Libraries Usage Statistics

Membership

New Members

• 1 February – 28 February 2025

176

Renewed Memberships

• 1 February – 28 February 2025

TOTAL 213

TOTAL



Visitor Numbers (Door Count)

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

2025 Visitor Numbers	2024 Visitor Numbers
1 February –	1 February –
28 February 2025	28 February 2024
23,584	26,163

Te Kahu o Waipuna visitor numbers, while remaining strong have plateaued since the first opening.

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

2025 Visitor Numbers	2024 Visitor Numbers
1 February –	1 February –
28 February 2025	28 February 2024
7,626	8,208

Average Daily Visitors Numbers 1 February – 28 February 2025

	Te Kahu o Waipuna	Picton Library and Service Centre
Week Day Visitors	949	327
Saturday Visitors	754	227
Sunday Visitors	636	125

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

Checkouts and Renewals	February 2025	February 2024	Variance
Marlborough Library	29,859	31,945	-2,086
Picton Library	4,754	4,669	+ 85
E-Resources	5,219	4,699	+ 520
TOTAL	39,832	41,313	-1,481
Check-ins			
Marlborough Library	25,702	28,749	- 3,047
Picton Library	4,022	4,473	- 451
TOTAL	29,724	33,222	- 3,498

Room Bookings

The number of rooms booked by groups and individuals in February 2025 was:

February Room Bookings	Community / Library Use	Commercial Use	TOTAL Use
Te Kahu o Waipuna	268	7	275
Picton Library	61	2	63
TOTAL	329	9	338

Holds (Items Reserved)

The number of holds placed on items in February 2025 was: 4,135



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

The following usage statistics were recorded in February 2025

	In-Library Computer Sessions
Marlborough Library	1,943
Picton Library	599
TOTAL	2,542

Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Report – March 2025

(Mayor Nadine Taylor) (Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Heritage Marlborough

Archives

Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum

 With the support of the Heritage team, the entire Picton Museum archive collection has been successfully uploaded to eHive. The collection now comprises 56 archive entries, including 32 boxes and 24 additional items, primarily registers.

Collaboration with Marlborough Girls' College

• Work is ongoing at Marlborough Girls' College, with significant progress being made in their archive room. The MDC archivist has completed approximately 40% of the first stage of this project.

MDC Records

• The MDC Archivist is collaborating with the records team on the Marlborough District Council archives, which are housed across multiple storage locations. Her work involves reviewing stored materials, identifying items that may have been loaned or gifted to other entities, and assessing whether any corporate records were inadvertently gifted during the implementation of the 2005 Records Act.

Regional Museum Support & Digitization Project

Havelock Museum

- Staff met with the Havelock Museum Committee members to provide guidance and support in
 establishing their digital collection management system and online presence. The objective of this
 project is to enhance the museum's ability to track its objects more effectively while increasing
 public accessibility by making the collection available online.
- Progress has been impacted by the lack of internet access at Havelock Museum. As eHive is a cloud-based platform, internet connectivity is required for its use. Alternative solutions are being explored to address this challenge.

Picton Heritage and Whaling Centre

Management met Picton Museum staff to discuss areas of support for the upcoming year. It was
agreed that efforts will be focused on the museum's textile collection, as a dedicated volunteer has
expressed interest in this area. Staff have begun collaborating with the volunteer to assist with the
project.

Renwick Museum

 Management met with the Renwick committee to discuss their goals for the year ahead and develop a plan for transitioning their records from PastPerfect to eHive. A project plan has been finalised, and a volunteer has been appointed as the primary liaison with Council staff to support the implementation process.

Flaxbourne Heritage Centre

- Management has engaged with the Trustees of the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre and staff are providing additional support in preparation for the centre's opening. This initiative includes assistance with exhibition installation and the establishment of operational systems.
- Staff met with representatives of the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre to discuss the transition of their collection to eHive and identify opportunities to support the team with inventory management. The preparation of the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre's data for upload to eHive has been prioritised, with the goal of making the collection publicly accessible by the scheduled opening on 11 April.



Above: Megan Ross (Flaxbourne staff member) and Sophie Wool (MDC Museums Coordinator)

Collection Management

- A donation has been received of a cribbage board made using teak from the *Edwin Fox*, along with a painting of the *Edwin Fox* discovered in a second-hand shop. A report will be prepared for the Collections Committee regarding these acquisitions.
- Planning has commenced for an audit of the Council collection housed in the DAB. This process will involve assessing paintings, objects, and photographs to determine which items should be archived and which should be retained as part of the art collection.

Public Engagement

• The Marlborough Heritage Festival: Our People, Our Past is scheduled for 15–18 May. The Heritage team has been actively planning this event, which will feature various activities across Marlborough to celebrate the people and stories that have shaped the region. The new branding has been developed in collaboration with the Council's design team, and the full programme is set for release next month.



- Staff are collaborating with local heritage organisations to highlight lesser-known stories of Marlborough through the Heritage Marlborough social media pages. Social media engagement continues to grow, with Facebook page views increasing from 2,200 to 3,300. Engagement on Instagram has also seen positive momentum.
- Staff have collaborated with the Small Townships Programme on the Renwick heritage signage project. The Heritage team conducted research, reviewed the text, and sourced relevant images to support the initiative.
- The Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager has partnered with the Small Townships Manager to provide a supporting role in the development of the Port Underwood Road Lookout to Horahora Kākahu Island. The lookout will be located at Port Underwood, near the historic Horahora Kākahu Island, the site the Te Tiriti o Waitangi signing in 1840. The lookout will provide visitors with information on the historical significance of Horahora Kākahu Island. The civil works which will be funded by Small Townships, and we are collaborating with lwi to source additional funding.

Strategy and Stock take

- A meeting with the lwi Advisory Panel was held on 10 February. While the terms of reference are still being developed, an agreement has been reached to contract specific strategic work to a consultant selected by the lwi group.
- Five community workshops, run by an independent facilitator, will take place over the month of March, designed to garner ideas and seek direction from Marlborough's heritage community.



Edwin Fox Maritime Museum

Daily running of the museum

Visitor activity

- The past month has been particularly busy, with 13 cruise ships arriving between 23 January and 26 February.
- Visitor numbers as at 23 Jan-25 Feb 2025: 2,806

Facility maintenance & improvements

- The painting of the windows and building cleaning have been completed.
- A new exit gate (below) with a push bar has been installed, allowing visitors to exit from the spit onto the footpath outside the museum. This upgrade improves the evacuation process by

eliminating the need for staff to manually unlock the previously padlocked gate. In an emergency, visitors can now exit more efficiently and proceed directly to the designated assembly point.



• New signage has been installed above the main entrance incorporating the new branding (below).



Operational updates

- A review of the procedural manual is currently underway.
- The museum is now fully connected to the MDC IT Network.
- A full pest treatment has been carried out, and rodent traps are now in place.
- The dock area has been swept to clear drainage holes.

Public engagement initiatives

- A social media plan and content calendar is being implemented in order to raise the standard of content.
- Trigger Digital Ltd has been contracted to design and develop a new website. A discovery meeting has been held to outline key requirements and features for the site. Richard Briggs Photography

has been contracted to provide a new image library for the website and general promotional activities.

Planning continues for the Descendant's Muster event over King's Birthday weekend.



Preservation Project

- Dr. Kurt Bennet has been contracted to manage the Edwin Fox preservation project. Dr Bennet is a Maritime Archaeologist based in New Zealand. Among the sites he has surveyed in New Zealand: the first New Zealand European shipwreck, Endeavour in Fiordland in Dusky Sound; Cook's landing at Pickersgill Harbour; and researching the ship's graveyard on Rangitoto Island.
- This long-term project will potentially involve specialists from several disciplines to address the scope of the restoration project. There are three main aspects that need to be considered in conjunction with each other, these are:
 - 1. The dry dock
 - 2. The ship supports
 - 3. The timber and structure of the ship

Arts

Café Create

- The inaugural Café Create breakfast was held at the end of February, selling out and bringing together Marlborough's vibrant creative and business communities. Held at Kaiaka Café, the networking event provides a space where artists, entrepreneurs and innovators can connect, be inspired and plan initiatives for the creative sector in Marlborough.
- Guest speakers included Aimee Preston, Creative at Heart Programme Coordinator, art therapist Emma Toy (a former Council staff member) and music therapist Anna Moore. They shared insights into the power of the arts in building connections and promoting healing, with a special focus on their new initiative, *Caring for the Carer*. This programme aims to support care partners in prioritising their own well-being, reducing stress, and finding more joy in their roles through arts therapy.
- The discussion also covered the upcoming Creative Marlborough website, which the Council is developing in collaboration with the Creative Marlborough steering group. The website will act as a central hub for the region's creative sector.



Left: Emma Toy speaking at Café Create



Right: Café Create networking session

Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award

• The Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award panel convened to select the 2025 award recipient. Following a thorough and engaging discussion, the panel reached a consensus on a worthy recipient, whose identity will be announced at the award ceremony in April.

Funding

- Round 2 of the **Creative Communities Scheme 2024–25**, funded by **Creative NZ** and administered by **Council**, closed on **Monday**, **3 March**. A record number of **applications** have been received, requesting **\$86,848** in funding, with **\$21,708 available for distribution**. The applications are currently being processed in preparation for deliberations by the **Grants Committee**.
- Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki Fund celebrates and supports the regeneration of mātauranga associated with Te Kāhui o Matariki. The contestable fund aims to support the community in hosting events that recognise not only Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki, the public holiday, but also the wider Kaupapa and principles of Matariki. The fund opened on Friday, 7 March, and will close on 14 April, with \$25,000 allocated for distribution.

Regional sector support

- Staff have held several meetings with the trustees of Marlborough Community Potters to provide guidance through the council processes for their building upgrade.
- A Special General Meeting of the Picton Seaport Trust took place, during which six new Trustees were elected, and a revised constitution was approved, outlining a new purpose:

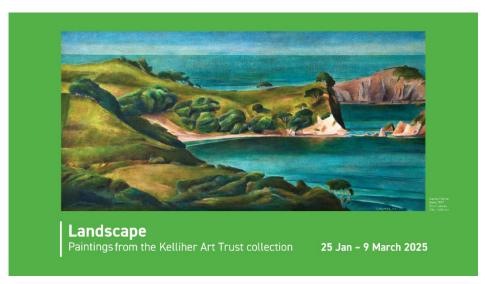
The Society is established and maintained exclusively for charitable purposes, namely:

- To develop and promote the concept of an arts and environment-themed working village, fostering creativity, collaboration, and environmental stewardship. This development is intended to attract visitors, enhance the amenities available to the public, and provide an inclusive, educational environment focused on the arts and sustainable living.
- Staff are holding their annual one-on-one meetings with sector groups (e.g., Marlborough Brass Band, Blenheim Musical Theatre, etc.) to assess their support needs, discuss their goals, and involve them in the strategy implementation process.

Report from Marlborough Art Gallery (Cressida Bishop, Director)



• For the first time since pre-Covid 19, we are seeing a large number of tourists visiting the Gallery. The current exhibitions are very popular, with some locals visiting them several times. 157 people visited the first afternoon they were open.



• Currently we have two exhibitions of New Zealand landscape paintings on show. Their content is widely appealing. Landscape paintings from the Kelliher Art Trust Collection, curated by Christopher Johnstone and Landscape Paintings from Marlborough Collections curated by me. Sir Henry Kelliher was a longstanding patron of the arts and in 1956 he established the Kelliher Art Competition "to capture the grandeur of the New Zealand scene in all its changes through the seasons", as he described it. The objective of the competition was to encourage realistic portrayals of New Zealand's landscapes and the ways of life of its people for the entire world to see.

- The Kelliher Art Competition, later called the Kelliher Art Award, was held almost annually until 1977 by which time it had widened its scope to include portrait and genre painting. The Kelliher Art Trust's collection largely comprises prizewinning and award-winning paintings from the Competition. In recent years occasional purchases of landscape paintings by more recent established artists have updated the collection. From 2015 the Trust has annually commissioned a painting by an emerging landscape painter as a way of honouring Sir Henry's original objective to encourage the painting of New Zealand landscape.
- The Kelliher Art Trust is based in Auckland and is curated by Christopher Johnstone. A former director of the Auckland Art Gallery, Christopher Johnstone is the author of the best-selling *Landscape Paintings of New Zealand: A Journey from North to South*. The Trust sponsored this exhibition for Marlborough. Christopher Johnstone gave a public talk with the exhibition at 10.30am on Saturday 1 February. This was attended by 83 people. 2346 people visited the exhibition in its first three weeks (open 30 hours per week plus extended hours for events).
- Landscape Paintings from Marlborough Collections features a selection of historical and contemporary landscape paintings from Marlborough Collections: the Marlborough Art Gallery Collection; Marlborough District Council Collection, and the Badcock Family Collection.



Above: Part of the crowd at the Kelliher Curator's talk, 1 February 2025.

• An article in The Blenheim Sun, 5 February 2025.

Badcock paintings feature at landscape exhibitions

By Chris Valli

New Zealand landscape the tions currently on show at site local connections. Is a solution of the solution of the short connections is a solution of the er Art Trust Collection is our and by Christopher Johnstone Ke Landscape Paintings from lar orough Collections is currated Joi fiborough ArtGalkry Direcsolution of the solution of the solution with Bollogy and Bollogy and Solution of the solut

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nal 1959, third in the 1962. (son of Dougl en first place in 1965 with his go 'Head of Lake Wakatipu', collection gallery, alongside ape works from the Martland painterwal and ph Art Gallery and Council ions, are two paintings (Sky-- The Ned, and Cloudscape et Iúlis A jorn the Jacat He specialises in painting " site" and his richly coloured c vases capture the Marlborou environment. Brian is part of Marlborough Artists with oj studios group. His Brian Bade Gallery is located at 22 Leitt Street, Blenheim. The exhibitions run from Janu

Economic, Finance & Community - Information Package - 18 March 2025 - Page 14

- Alongside exhibitions and public programmes, gallery staff are undertaking collection management projects. We have been photographing works to update electronic collection records for the Marlborough Art Gallery and Marlborough District Council art collections. Staff are contributing to the MDC Arts and Creativity Strategy steering group, the Marlborough small museums group, Te Kahu o Waipuna events and MDC Event Managers' group.
- Part time staff member Danny Knox has completed the Post-Graduate Diploma in Museum Studies via Massey University (distance learning) and is undertaking training in collection management.
- We have farewelled four volunteers who have moved out of the region to be closer to family and trained new volunteers. Our front of house volunteer positions are in high demand we have a waiting list.
- This month we received an exciting donation to the Gallery's collection. Twenty-five water colour illustrations by Peter Campbell (below) were delivered to Marlborough Art Gallery by his daughter Jane. Peter Campbell, illustrated for the NZ School Journal back in the 1950s and 60s before moving to England where, in the 1970s, he was a founder of the London Review of Books, and produced covers for the LBR. An exhibition of his of art was shown at the Wellington City Gallery in 2012-3 (then the Gus Fisher in Auckland and the Sarjeant in Whanganui).



• Artist, Writer and Curator, Gregory O'Brien wrote about Peter in *A Nest of Singing Birds: One Hundred Years of the New Zealand School Journal.* Works of his were recently acquired by the British Library and the British Museum. The Campbell family gifted suites of works to the Marlborough Art Gallery as we have a holding of Juliet Peter's work (she was his boss) and work by other illustrators including Roy Cowan, Gavin Bishop, Graham Percy, and EM Taylor. The works we received are New Zealand-related, childhood focused etc.) Along with these works, Gregory O'Brien gave the Gallery a substantial collection of New Zealand School Journals that feature work by significant New Zealand artists such as Rita Angus – some with covers by Peter Campbell. <u>http://petercampbell.org.uk/</u>

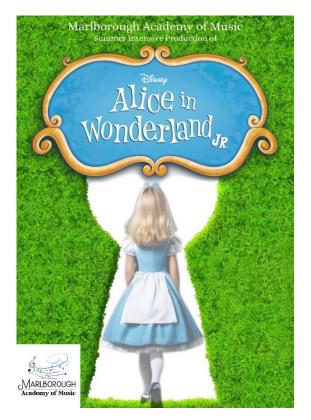
Report from ASB Theatre

(Joseph Casalme, CEO)



Summary for January 2025

- The ASB Theatre remained closed for the holidays, reopening in mid-January. Following our involvement in providing AV services for the **Picton Maritime Festival**, the team welcomed **Alice in Wonderland Jr.**, a vibrant production by the Marlborough Academy of Music. The show moved into the theatre for rehearsals during the week of 20 January, with more than 100 visit counts and culminating in a weekend run that attracted nearly 500 patrons.
- Closing out the month, we hosted **Piritahi Kāhui Ako**, a large-scale conference that brought together over 600 educators, parents, whānau, community members, iwi representatives, and employers to strengthen educational partnerships.
- Alongside event bookings, the team has also begun its **annual theatre and technical maintenance period.** This extensive process includes inspecting and servicing the lighting and sound systems, rigging and fly system, stage and flooring, electrical and power systems, as well as reviewing inventory, backstage areas and storage. The maintenance period is scheduled to run through the month of February.
- For the month, we provided nearly \$13,000 in community subsidies and sponsorships, as support to local arts, educational, and community initiatives.



Record No: 2554178