



Making playful use of public spaces

Encouraging people to be more playful and giving public spaces more playability is Lesley McIntosh's responsibility.

She is Council's Play Advocate, a new role funded by Sport New Zealand for two years, to make play a possibility everywhere. She is one of 18 play advocates around the country.

Play encourages the whole community to participate, improves social and cultural connectivity, creates economic opportunities and increases environmental awareness.

"We're talking about not isolating play to small areas or playgrounds," said Lesley.

"This is about making more spaces playable - for example if we're redesigning a footpath outside a school or upgrading a streetscape let's look for the accessibility and play opportunities. It may be something as simple as a seat that can be utilised for play or a picnic table that you can play ping pong on."

"Increasing playability

could involve talking to the landscaping team and making use of trees they are cutting down or planting grassy areas with wildflowers. The possibilities are only limited by our imagination."

Lesley said play was a right for all children but was inter-generational and making it an opportunity in open spaces served the whole community.

"I'll be advocating for play in the wider aspects and looking at how it links - it's about thinking outside the square," she said.

Lesley will look at areas in Marlborough that could benefit from having play incorporated including waterways, streets and parks while acknowledging those areas which already have play facilities.

"I'll be ensuring the lens is put on everything to see how the whole community can benefit," she said. "Play is an emotional currency and there is a knock-on impact on our wellbeing."

Lesley was previously General Manager at Sport Tasman.



Be more playful in public spaces says Play Advocate Lesley McIntosh

Celebrating Our People, Our Past this May

The Marlborough Heritage Festival promises a four-day celebration of the people, places and stories that have shaped our region.

Events take place from 15 to 18 May providing an opportunity for communities to connect with their heritage in meaningful ways, Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager Nicola Neilson said.

"From guided walks, cemetery tours, museum exhibitions and thought-provoking talks by guest speakers, the festival will showcase a diverse range of experiences. It finishes on International Museum Day giving the perfect chance for people to visit one of Marlborough's museums to uncover the treasures in their collections," she said.

Participating museums include the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre

which opens in April, Edwin Fox Museum, Havelock Museum, Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum, Renwick Museum, Te Kahu o Waipuna, Vintage Car Club, Marlborough Museum and the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre.

The festival events are organised by community groups and heritage organisations with coordination provided by Heritage Marlborough. It includes a Heritage Marlborough Children's Scavenger Hunt in Blenheim's CBD all weekend, from 16 to 18 May.

Marlborough's museums and heritage organisations were mostly volunteer led so the Marlborough Heritage Festival was a great chance to show appreciation for the passionate and dedicated volunteers who preserve our history and



help keep it alive, Museum Coordinator Sophie Wool said.

"We hope it will be a great success, and that people will make the most of the diverse programme that has been put together. Our vision is for the festival to continue growing, offering a wide range of events that engage people from all corners of the region. Mark it in your calendar now and be part of this journey through Marlborough's history," she said.

A full schedule of events will be published soon. Register here www.eventfinda.co.nz/user/heritagel8x/events

Tendo exchange students in town

Four students and a teacher from Marlborough's Japanese sister city enjoyed the sights of Marlborough over seven days in March.

The group was hosted by families from Marlborough Boys' and Girls' Colleges and spent time at school, visited the Marlborough Sounds with the Marlborough Tour Company, got up close to sheep at Meadowbank farm and tasted chocolate treats at Makana Confections. A welcome dinner at Dodson Street beer garden capped off some fun times.

Council's Democratic Services Manager Mike Porter said the visit was likely the last by an exchange group to Marlborough due to rising costs although Tendo was keen for the programme to continue online.

Tendo is in Yamagata prefecture



The recent exchange group from Marlborough's sister city Tendo pictured with Mayor Nadine Taylor and Councillor Sally Arbuckle (far right), Councillor Jonathan Rosene (second from left) and Marlborough Boys' College interpreter Leon Edsall

in the northern part of the main island of Japan. Marlborough's Sister City agreement with the city was signed in 1989.

"Since that date there have been many exchange visits, including both city governments for the signing of the Sister Agreement as well as social groups and by special interest groups such as farming and fruit growing

co-operatives," Mr Porter said.

The Japanese style garden in Harling Park, which opened in 2005, was initiated and designed by an architect from Tendo.

"Over the years very generous gifts of money from Tendo have helped fund the garden as well as countless hours by local volunteers and reserve funds from the Sister City account," he said.

New cycleway to close briefly

Part of Renwick's bike trail closes tomorrow until 11 April.

The closure is needed so river maintenance work can be carried out.

The part of the cycleway affected runs between the garlic factory at Old Renwick Road and the start of the Upper Ōpaoa stopbank.

As the path runs close to the river and borders private property,

there is no safe detour available so a full closure is needed.

One of the final sections to be completed was a 6.5km trail linking Allan Scott Winery in Jacksons Rd to Renwick using off-road routes and it is that part which will be closed.

The bike trail was officially opened by Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor last month.

The 20km trail around Renwick takes in some of Marlborough's most popular wineries and cellar doors and improved safety by taking cyclists off busy roads.

While some of the trail is near roads, much is on the edge of vineyards and on river stopbanks and its development was possible with the help of landowners and wineries.

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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