



Temporary car park closure for Marlborough Airport

The last stage of construction begins soon for Marlborough Airport's largest maintenance project, which includes re-paving the short-term car park near the terminal.

The car park will close in early April, and works will start after Easter. Airport users are asked to use the long-term car park until the renovated car park reopens in June, weather permitting.

"We appreciate the public's patience while the car park is closed. We're also investing in better drainage, improving the layout for safety, planting 1,000 natives, widening the pedestrian paths and adding a new outdoor seating area," Marlborough Airport Chief Executive Dean Heiford said.

The car park is the final stage in a \$10.7 million investment in airport infrastructure, most of which is for re-paving the runway and aviation surfaces. The project is funded from airport operations, through landing and parking fees.

Runway re-paving happens about once every 15 years, so this was an opportunity to also improve

aviation lighting and access for emergency vehicles, as well as add charging capability for the airport's first electric vehicle used for safety on the airfield.

TDZ Projects is leading the project delivery, alongside design engineers Beca and contractors Fulton Hogan for the major infrastructure work.

From February, the team has been working night shifts, with minimal disruptions to flights, to lay more than 70,500 square metres of new pavement across the airport's taxiway, runway and apron. While most of the car park improvements will be done during the day, Fulton Hogan will undertake work to the footpaths in front of the terminal at night to minimise disruption to airport users.

For updates on this project, please go to: www.marlboroughairport.co.nz



Fulton Hogan has been working night shifts since February to re-pave Marlborough Airport's runway and aviation surfaces

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



Be more playful in public spaces says Play Advocate Lesley McIntosh

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.

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