



# Graham Norton awarded Marlborough Grape Ambassador role

Mayor Nadine Taylor hosted broadcaster Graham Norton in Marlborough last week, who was here with his colleagues from Invivo Wines.

Mayor Taylor said it was a great pleasure to meet Graham and award him the honorary title of 'Official Marlborough Grape Ambassador'.

"Graham is not only a legend and high-profile broadcaster and author, he is a strong advocate of Marlborough sauvignon blanc. In fact, our sauvignon blanc is quite a lot like Graham himself - vibrant, refreshing and fun, with razor-sharp acidity!"

She said Graham's visit would do wonders for Marlborough's profile in overseas media and keep New Zealand's premium wine on the international radar.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon also joined them at Harvest restaurant near Blenheim for a seasonal meal featuring top Marlborough food producers including Mills Bay mussels, NZ King salmon, Pinoli pine nuts and Cranky Goat cheese.



Mayor Nadine Taylor recently hosted broadcaster Graham Norton to Marlborough. He was here with colleagues from Invivo Wines.

## Flaxbourne Heritage Centre opening

A full programme of activities is planned for the grand opening of the new Flaxbourne Heritage Centre this Friday 11 April.

The celebrations kick off at 10am followed by a Ward School kapa haka, speeches, ribbon cutting, kai blessing and food.

After lunch festivities continue with old Ward School bus rides, a Whale Trail treasure hunt, school tug of war, a rugby game and the museum opening to visitors.

A wide range of artefacts and memorabilia detailing the area's history of Māori settlement, moa hunters, shipwrecks, early farmers, war history and landscapes will be on show.

Local historian Sally Peter, one of several industrious workers behind the new facility, said the museum is filled with personal reflections and memories.

"It's been a real community effort and it's exciting to get it to this stage," she said.

Museum designer Sally Papps who designed the space has worked tirelessly with her

team alongside locals to get the collection installed and displayed.

One of the most spectacular is the original glass Fresnel lens from the Cape Campbell lighthouse, which featured in the 2016 movie Light Between Oceans. It had to be dismantled and moved piece by piece from the lighthouse to its new home where it takes pride of place. The Flaxbourne section of the Whale Trail opens on the same day. It runs from Te Ruakanakana/Lake Elterwater to the Whale Trail shelter, built by Blenheim Rotary South, opposite the new Heritage Centre.

Project Manager of the Whale Trail Nigel Muir said finalising the trail design and finishing earthworks along the Flaxbourne section was a significant milestone.



Hardworking trustees John Hickman, Kevin Loe and Sally Peter have been integral in getting the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre up and running

"We are incredibly proud to collaborate with the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre to celebrate these two Ward community assets and grateful to all of our supporters and partners who have made it possible," he said. The centre creates a village hub for the Flaxbourne community and has been years in planning after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake destroyed the old museum and damaged the community hall.

## Chlorination moves a step closer

A contract has been awarded for the upgrade of Blenheim's water treatment plants to enable chlorination disinfection.

Mason Engineers will begin work in early April, and the plants are expected to be up and running by October.

The upgrade is needed to ensure Blenheim's water supply complies with the Government's Water Services Act and Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules. National water regulator Taumata Arowai requires a residual disinfectant - typically chlorine - to be added to reticulated water supplies in New Zealand.

Blenheim's water, which is delivered to 10,700 households, is currently treated for protozoa and bacteria, but has no chlorine dosing.

Chlorine is a simple and effective way of ensuring Blenheim's water supply is fully disinfected and safe for drinking, says Taumata Arowai. It is used worldwide to purify water supplies as it can kill most common bacteria including campylobacter and norovirus.

It's used alongside other processes such as protozoa barriers which remove or inactivate single-celled parasites including cryptosporidium and giardia. Water supplies in Renwick, Picton, Havelock, Wairau Valley, Seddon and rural Awatere are already chlorinated.

Chlorine has been used to help disinfect community drinking water supplies for

more than 120 years and performs multiple functions. It can be a primary form of treatment for bacteria and viruses and a secondary or residual disinfectant after primary treatment is completed, to ensure that water stays safe as it is distributed to consumers through pipe networks.

World Health Organisation studies confirm that the small amount of chlorine needed to treat drinking water is safe. The chlorine levels used in drinking water are too low to be a risk to health.

For more information go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/utilities/water-supplies/water-supplies-faqs/chlorination-faqs](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/utilities/water-supplies/water-supplies-faqs/chlorination-faqs)



## Dog registration starts soon

The dog registration year runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

All dogs over three months old must be registered with Animal Control. Forms for the 2025/26 dog registration year will be sent to the owner's last known address by the beginning of June.

**You must notify Animal Control if:**

- ownership of your dog changes
- your dog leaves the district
- you have a change of address
- your dog dies

Contact Animal Control, 58 Main Street, Blenheim, Ph (03) 520 9033 or email [animalcontrol@maataawaka.co.nz](mailto:animalcontrol@maataawaka.co.nz)

This notice is in accordance with Section 37(6) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

**Dates to remember:**

- end of May/early June - registration renewal forms sent out
- 30 June - registration expires for 2024/25
- 1 July - payment due for 2025/26 year
- 1 August - penalty of 50 per cent added to registrations not paid
- 1 September - unregistered dogs liable for penalties, infringements and seizure

Get your dog registration via email from Council at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/dog](mailto:links.marlborough.govt.nz/dog) and get notifications via Antenno at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/Antenno](mailto:links.marlborough.govt.nz/Antenno)