

## He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.

### Marlborough flies high at airline's mayoral forum

Mayor Nadine Taylor flew Marlborough's flag at the Air New Zealand Mayoral Forum held in Auckland recently.



Mayor Taylor with Nelson Mayor Nick Smith and Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell at the Air New Zealand Mayoral Forum recently

This year the annual get together hosted by New Zealand's national carrier included a panel discussion where Mayor Taylor sat alongside Nelson Mayor Nick Smith and Rotorua Mayor Tania Tapsell.

"The forum gives invited mayors with airports in their province a chance to share key regional issues with the airline's leadership group including CEO Greg Foran and hear updates from Air New Zealand's leadership in return," Mayor Taylor said.

"It was a great platform for me to be able to share the incredible work already being done in the aviation and aerospace sector in Marlborough as well as to speak to the key issues facing our region," she said.

Marlborough Airport Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Council and it is a core piece of regional infrastructure along with Port Marlborough NZ Limited, also 100 per cent owned by Council.

Mayor Taylor said it was critical Council had this strategic stake in the transport connectivity of the region whether it be for the purposes of visiting friends and family, freight, tourism or in emergencies.

Marlborough Airport saw 318,500 passenger movements last year, a bumper year after recovering from three years of fewer travellers due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Mayor Taylor said she was keen to see Marlborough become a centre of excellence for aviation and aerospace.

"Next year, the public will begin to see the tangible investments that Council is making to prepare for the future with a significant runway reseat project," she said.

"And we continue to lead in aviation firsts with our partnership with Air New Zealand and Wellington Airport to trial an electric aircraft to replace its Q300 domestic fleet. Electric is part of Marlborough's aviation future, and we are very excited to be part of this first for New Zealand."

### Council's first quarter rates instalment delayed

If you have been looking out for your next rates instalment, please be assured it is coming but there is a delay.

Council's first rates instalment of the new financial year would usually have been sent out by now but ratepayers may have noticed it has not yet arrived.

Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake said the delay was due to a very complex Long Term Plan (LTP) process with many issues that have needed to be considered along the way, not least of which the Marlborough Sounds roading recovery funding and higher than expected insurance premium cost increases.

"Finalising the LTP, including the required audit, is taking longer than expected due to all these complexities. The length of the delay is not yet known but the draft of the LTP is complete and it is now with the auditors who are well progressed through their work," Mr Blake said.

"Our Council is not the only local authority in the country to find itself in this situation. At this point Council is targeting end of August for the audited LTP to be ready for adoption by full Council but that is not yet confirmed."

As soon as the LTP is adopted Council's rates team will prepare the rates notice which includes the first quarter of rates to be paid.

Ratepayers will have 14 days to pay this once received.

"We hope to send this out to ratepayers in the first half of September but as soon as we have a date we will share this information," Mr Blake said.

Direct debits will continue to be processed at current rates and payments will be offset against future rates. If ratepayers who do not have direct debits wish to make a payment towards their rates, to help them with their cashflow, then this can be done by internet banking or calling into Council's Blenheim or Picton Service Centres.

To view the estimated rates for your property for the 2024-2025 rating year compared to last year go to: <https://data.marlborough.govt.nz/RateReview/RatesProposed>

Enter your property number which you can find on a previous rates invoice. Please note that the data used for this calculation is subject to change once the LTP is adopted by Council.

If you would like to receive your rates notice promptly following Council setting the rates for 2024-25 please sign up to receiving these by email on our website.

Go to: <https://data.marlborough.govt.nz/OnlineSignUp/>

### Only rain goes down the drain - let's keep our waterways clean

Marlborough residents are being reminded that 'only rain goes down the drain' following a series of pollution events in a Springlands waterway.

A concerned member of the public recently wrote to Council to advise they'd observed fish heads in Murphy's Creek, Council Stormwater Lead Jon Cunliffe said.

"Following the fish head observation a second member of the public rang in to report heavy discolouration in the same creek. Council staff confirmed this on inspection and further determined this had occurred on three separate occasions," Jon said.

"While we can't be sure what caused the discolouration, each of these events occurred at around the same time of day, and it's thought that it may have

been from a painter washing out brushes into an outside stormwater receiver at a worksite in the area."

The placement of the fish heads in the creek is likely the result of poor consideration of where to dump waste, or that the culprit or culprits may have been using them for eeling.

"We're asking residents and commercial operators throughout Marlborough to avoid using our waterways as dumping grounds; and to be mindful of what they're putting down our stormwater drains. These lead straight to our waterways and then the sea," Jon said.

"Our waterways are home to many different species, and it's important that we don't jeopardise their habitats with pollutants for the sake of our own benefits."



Fish heads were recently discovered dumped in Murphy's Creek, Springlands



### Enduring environmental gains from Jobs for Nature funding



Hinepango Wetland Restoration group volunteers pictured planting trees and installing plant guards donated by Kūmānu - back from left Blair, Roseanne and Adam Kibblewhite and in the foreground, David Wilson

Environmental runs on the board will endure despite the funding for the Jobs for Nature Restoring and Protecting Flora Project finishing.

Major weed infestations threatening high-value ecosystems at 150 sites across Marlborough, Buller, Nelson and Tasman have been controlled by the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance (KMTT) landscape-scale weed project through the Jobs for Nature funding which finished at the end of May.

In Marlborough 11 sites were targeted as part of the project involving approximately 900 ha.

More than 12,000 pest plants were destroyed over the lifetime of the project, including willows, wilding pines, and wild kiwifruit vines.

"Funds were made available to the Department of Conservation in 2021 as part of the Covid-19 recovery Jobs for Nature initiative for biodiversity gains at the top of the South Island," Council's Rob Simonds, the Operational Support Liaison for the project in Marlborough said.

"DOC signed a funding deed with The Nature Conservancy who were also engaged to project manage on behalf of the KMTT Alliance partners. Our focus was on short term high impact weed control programmes in areas with high biodiversity values. We wanted to focus on those sites that could make a meaningful impact on conservation values in conjunction with community groups so that the environmental gains made will not be lost," he said.

In Marlborough these included supporting the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group, and nearby Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon which is doing restoration work on the south bank of Kelly's Creek.

"The Flora Project collaborated with Council, the Department of Conservation and the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group to help do the heavy lifting and open the Hinepango Wetlands up for planting and ongoing maintenance weed control," Rob said. "This is a great example of Jobs for Nature working with community groups for a single outcome - the restoration and enhancement of a valuable ecological area."

Leticia Dodson from the Hinepango Wetland Restoration Group extended her thanks to the KMTT Alliance, the Kūmānu team and Council.

"The work undertaken by the project team has given us a huge leap forward in terms of controlling old man's beard and willows in the wetland. It is going to be an ongoing battle but already we can see a lot of natural regeneration happening and the previously choked natives beginning to flourish now that the canopy is thinning," she said.

"The weed control work under the project has also opened new areas for our group to control and plant - areas we would not have accessed for several years to come. I believe the Hinepango Wetland will continue to benefit from the contributions of the KMTT Alliance project well into the future."

Hudson Dodd, Project Manager for KMTT, said that the project would not have been possible without the support of DOC Jobs for Nature, the collaboration of the KMTT partners, and the wider community.

"Our vision is to bring everyone together for long-term landscape-scale collaboration, and these last three years have demonstrated that by working together we can achieve major improvements in biodiversity for the Top of the South that will make a difference for so many special remnant native ecosystems and taonga species."

### Calling all artists - it's Chorus cabinet time

A brightly coloured artwork that transformed a grey telecommunications cabinet in Old Renwick Road was a family project say spanning



Mel Price and her granddaughter Lucia Bothwell with their Precious Pollinators artwork

Mel Price's Precious Pollinators, a joint project with her granddaughter Lucia Bothwell, was one of seven murals painted in Marlborough for the Chorus cabinet art initiative last year.

Council is now looking for artists to submit designs for the nine sites confirmed in this year's initiative.

Mel said she submitted the concept design with the intention of turning it into an intergenerational project, that she and her granddaughter, Lucia, could paint together.

"When we discovered that we had won the chance to paint a Chorus cabinet, we were thrilled," she said. "Our design depicts a honey pot and showcases a bee diligently collecting pollen from Manuka flowers."

The pair spent a weekend transforming the cabinet and Mel said it was a great opportunity to teach Lucia new skills.

"She gained confidence in her abilities as we worked side by side," said Mel. "We involved the homeowner where the box was located

who was very complimentary about the new artwork in front of his home."

The Chorus cabinet art initiative began in 2010 with a pilot in Auckland and was so successful it was extended throughout the country with 170 murals on average completed each year.

Councillor Jonathan Rosene said it was a way of reducing vandalism on telecommunication cabinets as well as promoting a sense of community pride.

"This year, we are particularly keen to see designs that have a story to tell and/or show a relationship between the work and the site and the community," he said. "Particularly how it enhances the space or public surroundings and promotes community belonging and identity."

Successful artists are paid for their works.

All information can be found at: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/chorus-cabinet-art-programme>



# Public Notices

## Meet your Council



Mayor Nadine Taylor leads a team of 14 elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that will help shape our province into the future.

Council's vision is that Marlborough is a globally-connected district of smart, progressive, high-value enterprises, known for its economic efficiency, quality lifestyle and wellbeing, caring community, desirable location and healthy natural environment.

For more information or to contact one of your elected representatives, Ph: 03 520 7400 or go to: [marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors](http://marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors)

## A Cuppa with your Councillors

Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next session is on Wednesday 21 August from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice, information and help with Council-related issues.

Barbara Fauls, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors. Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

**Where:** Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre

**When:** 10am to midday Wednesday 21 August



## Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required. You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide.

This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information. During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly.

In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website. These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps)

If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/public-notice](http://links.marlborough.govt.nz/public-notice)

## Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from Council's reticulation network to the Awatere and Dashwood rural areas should be boiled.

It does not currently meet the NZ Drinking Water Standards and may contain bacteria or protozoa that are harmful to human health.

All water used for drinking, food preparation or cleaning teeth should be boiled before use.

Treated water is available at the public taps on Marama Road, outside Seddon School. For further information contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



## Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

[mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)

**Mon - Tues** 8.30am - 4.30pm

**Wed** 8.30am - 12.30pm

1.30pm - 4.30pm

**Thurs - Fri** 8.30am - 4.30pm

## Picton Library & Service Centre

2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220

Ph: 03 520 7493

[pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz)

**Mon - Tues** 8am - 5pm

**Wed** 9am - 5pm

**Thurs - Fri** 8am - 5pm

**Sat** 10am - 4pm

**Sun** 1pm - 4pm

## Council & Committee meetings

The following meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

Copies of the agendas will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

### Environment & Planning Committee

Thursday 22 August 2024 at 9am

### Economic, Finance & Community Committee

Tuesday 3 September 2024 at 9am

### Public Forum

A public forum will be held prior to the Economic, Finance & Community Committee meeting, commencing at 8.30am.

If you wish to address the Committee during this Public Forum session you will need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary the Friday prior to the meeting Ph: 03 520 7400.

Please note topics are restricted to those agenda items for the meeting or within the Committee's delegation.

### Council

Thursday 19 September 2024 at 9am

The times and dates may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

**Council's Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.**

Contact the Harbourmaster's Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough's harbours.

03 520 7400 | [HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ](mailto:HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ)

