



Council's first quarter rates instalment and rebates 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.

"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. Council is targeting end of August for the audited LTP to be ready for adoption by full Council but that is not yet confirmed."

Once adopted Council's rates team will prepare the rates notice which includes the first quarter of rates to be paid, hopefully in the first half of September. Ratepayers will have 14 days to pay this once received.

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 this can be done by internet banking or calling into Council's Blenheim or Picton Service Centres.

Rates rebate applications are also delayed. These are based on income for the tax period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Once dates are confirmed an update will be provided. Anyone who received the rates rebate in the last financial year will also be notified when applications open. If you have any questions phone Council on 03 520 7400.

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/>

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 spanning generations.

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 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



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

the space or public surroundings and promotes community belonging and identity."

Successful artists are paid for their works.

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

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



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

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 had 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."



Mayor Nadine Taylor with Marlborough's newest citizens and their supporters

New citizens welcomed to Marlborough

Twenty-six people from eight different countries have become Marlborough citizens.

The new citizens - from Germany, Samoa, Taiwan, South Africa, India, United Kingdom, China and Brunei Darussalam - were welcomed at a special ceremony in Council Chambers. Mayor Nadine Taylor told the group the

day was an important milestone in their new lives as citizens of this province and country.

In future they would all enjoy the rights and freedoms of native-born New Zealanders.