



Spring Creek stop bank gets funding

Council has welcomed a \$3.6M injection from the government to help get Spring Creek's stop bank rebuilt.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said confirmation the Beyond the Deluge river protection works will be grant funded was fantastic news.

"It means we can now proceed with confidence with the Spring Creek Peninsular Road stop bank works for which \$8.7M has been budgeted for in the Long Term Plan 2024-2034," she said.

"This is very positive news for the Spring Creek community and it also means Council's other flood protection rebuild plans can be accelerated. The Government's commitment to this co-investment in flood protection will benefit projects around the country like ours. It is very welcome and much needed."

Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White said at a public meeting at Spring Creek the contribution from central government was significant.

"The \$3.6M will help offset the overall cost of the project and is warmly welcomed

after years of lobbying," he said. Recent geotechnical assessments in the area verified the extent of cracking through the stop bank, which occurred during the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake and were further damaged in the 2021 and 2022 floods.

"The assessment has confirmed the stop bank needs to be reconstructed using a raft foundation to ensure future seismic stability – we cannot simply raise the stop bank without resolving the underlying foundation," he said.

Phase one of the physical work started in May and is nearly complete. It involved removing a bar formed on the true left of the river to reduce pressure on the true right of the river which was causing undermining and erosion of the stop bank. "We have reduced the risk of damage to



the stop bank while we prepare for the longer-term solution of rock armouring," Andy said.

Excavated material has been stockpiled higher up in the floodplain to be shaped and seeded.

Regional Development Minister Shane Jones confirmed the Spring Creek funding, and a further \$2.8M for flood protection

work on the Wairau, at a Nelson Regional Infrastructure Fund summit last week.

"This funding will allow physical work to begin in the 2024/25 summer season, if not sooner," he said. "Investment in flood resilience provides security for local landowners and communities and is an investment in our future."

Renwick bike trail beautified

Children from Renwick School dug in to help plant natives on Renwick's new cycle trail last month.

The 6.5km section, which links Allan Scott Winery in Jacksons Road to Renwick using off-road routes, is part of a proposed trail that will eventually complete an entire trail around Renwick benefitting locals and tourists.

Once finished, it will be known as the Marlborough Vineyard Trail. There are 20 cellar doors within an eight-kilometre radius of Renwick and 10,000 bike visitors

each year. Visiting the cellar doors by bike – either self-guided or on an organised trip – is popular in the area.

Steve Hill, chairman of the Renwick Walk Bike group, said the new trail was a few months away from completion.

"It's planned to have it up and running in time for the busy summer season," he said.

The area the children helped plant

out will eventually feature picnic tables and provide a spot for cyclists to take a break, eat their lunch and enjoy the surroundings. Pernod Ricard donated 250 natives while Tasman Crop Protection gave plant guards and Fruitfed came up with fertilizer.

Council has invested significantly in the trail which was complex and



Renwick School pupils and volunteers help plant hundreds of natives on the new Renwick cycle trail

only possible due to the backing of landowners, including corporates, who gave easements through their properties to allow cyclists to get off the busy roads and cycle through vineyards.

Marlborough Librarian helps students find answers

Sandra Parker certainly has many answers.

The Marlborough District Libraries Reference Librarian has, for the past four years, researched regional resources for the ManyAnswers website alongside her regular duties at the library.

AnyQuestions/ManyAnswers is a platform funded by the Ministry of Education, managed by the National Library of New Zealand and staffed by librarians around New Zealand.

It is designed to help school students researching a variety of topics. Informally known as 'homework help', the idea is not to give students the answers, but to show them how to find the information they need from reliable authoritative sources.

Sandra joined a team of reference librarians

from across the motu in 2020 to develop content for the Regional Resources section of the ManyAnswers website, providing research support for students that aligns with the Aotearoa New Zealand histories curriculum.

Her impressive package of work, focussing on Marlborough/Te Taihū-o-te-waka, began as New Zealand was coming out of Covid lockdowns and working in 'bubbles'. Starting with brainstorming content and ensuring alignment to the curriculum, Sandra looked at many websites, ebooks, databases and physical books to verify content and work out which section the information related to.

A shortlist of places, events and people was grown before the website was developed, edited and finally published in May this year.

"My advice when researching historical places or events would be to remember that places and events have changed their names over time. If you are looking up something such as The Wairau Affray, you should also try using 'Wairau Massacre', 'Wairau Incident' and 'Tuamarina' as keywords to find relevant material," Sandra said.

Marlborough/Te Taihū-o-te-waka has a unique story involving a variety of people, places and events. Users can find the best websites and books to use to explore this history and find out what has happened in Marlborough in the past. <https://anyquestions.govt.nz/many-answers/regional-resources/marlborough>

Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga Change of Hours

From 1 September 2024, Picton Library and Service Centre will open at 8.30am each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The opening time each Wednesday remains 9am.

This later opening time will allow staff to set up and prepare for the day and aligns with the opening hours of the Marlborough District Council Service Centre in Blenheim. Books can still be returned via the afterhours return chute.

Picton Library and Service Centre New Hours:

Mon, Tues,	
Thurs, Friday	8.30am - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Saturday	10am - 4pm
Sunday	1pm - 4pm

The hours at Marlborough Library in Blenheim have not changed.