



Marlborough's swimming spots in good shape

Water quality at Marlborough coastal and river sites is generally good according to Council's latest Recreational Water Quality update.



📍 Momorangi Bay is one of nine coastal sites around Marlborough where water quality is monitored

Environmental Scientist Steffi Henkel told July's Environment and Planning Committee that Marlborough's most popular beaches and river swimming spots were monitored throughout summer.

Nine coastal sites and 10 rivers had samples taken during the November to March summer period, which were then analysed for indicator bacteria

concentrations.

"Most samples indicated low health risks and coastal sites had no or only one sample with bacteria concentrations indicating an increased health risk," Ms Henkel said.

River sites had a slightly higher number of samples with elevated bacteria levels at Rai Falls, Ohinemahuta River at the Onamalutu Domain and Taylor River

at Henry Street having the highest number of samples with unsafe bacteria concentrations.

Ms Henkel said urban sites such as the Taylor River were always going to have an increased risk of contamination due to the presence of dogs/ducks and occasional breakages in sewage pipes.

All sites carried an elevated risk after heavy rainfall.

"Still the majority of samples at these sites showed a low health risk from waterborne disease," she said.

In 2003, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Health released a document to help assess the risk to swimmers outlining guideline levels for bacteria concentrations and flagging them red (unsafe), amber (increased risk) or green (safe).

Sites were monitored during the warmer months and the collated information is available on the LAWA website www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/marlborough-region

Heritage Marlborough shines light on Women of War

HERITAGE OUT LOUD

24 AUG

STITCHING FOR VICTORY-FAMILIES & WAR

02:00PM | TE KAHU O WAIPUNA | MARLBOROUGH LIBRARY | 15 HIGH ST. BLenheim



As part of the fundraising effort during the Second World War the women of the Clarence Bridge Women's Division of the Farmers Union stitched a signature wall hanging. During this talk, Heritage Marlborough Manager, Dr. Liz Ward, will talk about the wall hanging, and how family history research led to more discoveries about the wall hanging, and the women who made it.

QUESTIONS?

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The roles of Marlborough women during WWII are being put into the spotlight at a series of events hosted by Heritage Marlborough, Council's new heritage team.

The next event, Heritage Out Loud: Stitching for Victory, will be held on 24 August at Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna, at 2pm.

Hosted by Dr Liz Ward, the event will focus on a wall hanging stitched by women of the Clarence Bridge Women's Division of the Farmer's Union during the war.

"The women stitched the signature quilt, which has more than 140 names stitched onto it, as a fundraiser during the Second World War. It features family names from Clarence Bridge, Kēkerengu and Kaikōura," Dr Ward said.

Dr Ward will talk about the history of signature quilts and the ways women used them to raise funds for patriotic causes during both the First and Second World Wars.

The event will be of interest to anyone who is curious about the home front during the Second World War. The history of women's handcrafts and the role that community projects played in the lives of women who were often living on isolated farms will also be discussed, Dr Ward said.

"The talk will delve into how family history research led to further discoveries about the hanging and the women who made it."

As part of its work to preserve the history of Marlborough into the future, Heritage Marlborough will shine a spotlight on the many people and communities who have shaped the region. Women of the War is the first such series hosted by the team. Keep an eye out for further upcoming events covering a wide array of topics.

Taylor River rabbit control starts

Pindone poison, an anticoagulant in bait form, is to be laid at specific areas on the Taylor River Reserve from Monday 12 August.

Increasing numbers of rabbits will be targeted in two key areas – a 49-hectare block running from Doctors Creek through to the boundary of the lifestyle block area on Waters Ave and the second 21-hectare block from Wither Road extension through to Richardson Ave.

The targeted pest control operation was planned to start earlier this month but conditions were unfavourable with too much grass available, Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer Kiri Whiteman said.

"Instead, dummy bait stations were laid with non-poisonous bait to trial whether the rabbits would take the bait or we would need to postpone the operation," she said. "The trial had a 84 per cent success rate so contractors will be laying pindone from early August."

Pindone will be laid in fenced bait stations followed by night shooting to reduce numbers. This will help get rabbit numbers below the required level set in Marlborough's Regional Pest Management Plan.

Pindone is an anti-coagulant poison – commonly used for rabbit control since the 1940s in New Zealand. It is considered relatively safe to both dogs and cats as a large volume would need to be consumed over a number of days to affect them. As a precaution, Council advises people with dogs to avoid the area when signs are in place.

Anyone with any concerns their dog has eaten pindone should contact their vet as there is an antidote available.

All precautions will be taken to ensure only rabbits eat the bait. Bait stations will be fenced to prevent interactions



📍 A bait station on the Taylor River Reserve

with stock, dogs and children and will only be opened at night.

If a bait station appears to have been interfered with, please contact the Parks and Open Spaces team at Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.

Warning signs will be placed in areas where pindone is to be applied.

For further information go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/Rabbit-Control-FAQs>