

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

New Council chief executive starts

Council has a new chief executive, John Boswell.



Mayor Nadine Taylor with new Council chief executive John Boswell

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was very pleased to welcome Mr Boswell to Council.

"John joins us after a highly successful military career, reaching the position of Major General and Chief of Army, the most senior officer in the New Zealand Army. John wants to continue to serve the public in a positive values-based organisation after his impressive career in the Army," Mayor Taylor said.

"He brings a collaborative leadership style as well as strong strategic management and communication skills which I know will work well for Council and the Marlborough community."

Mr Boswell said he was incredibly honoured to have the opportunity to take on a senior leadership role with Council.

"I'm really looking forward to supporting the delivery of the core services of Council, effectively and efficiently, whilst always looking to be better in all we do and keeping an eye on how to position the district to benefit from future opportunities," Mr Boswell said.

"Marlborough is an area that offers so much - it has huge potential - and it is a region my wife Vicky and I are looking forward to calling home."

Outgoing CE Mark Wheeler wished Mr Boswell well in the role, saying it had been a great privilege to be the CE at Council for the past eight and a half years.

"Council is a 'people business' and the people of Marlborough are amazing. They rightly expect quality services, respectful interactions, professionalism and cost efficiency," Mr Wheeler said. "The CE role has given me many extremely satisfying times, all of which were team efforts."

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr Wheeler sincerely for his 26 years of service to Council and said this service was not only to Council but to the people of Marlborough. Mr Wheeler has been chief executive since 2015, and prior to that was deputy chief executive and assets and services manager from 1998.

"We as a Council, province and community have been very lucky to have Mark at the helm as our CE and lead public servant," Mayor Taylor said. "We wish Mark and wife Cathy a wonderful retirement."

Celebrating te reo in Whakamarino

New gateway signs for Canvastown celebrate the area's cultural and environmental significance.



The signs feature dramatic photographs of the Pelorus River and Te Hora Marae's waharoa, with one using the te reo word Whakamarino.

During consultation with iwi and the community, it was discovered Whakamarino was more than just a name for the area.

Ruihana Lewis Smith, kaiwhakahaere Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia Trust, said the translation of Whakamarino was to "make calm".

The area was given the name by Ngāti Kuia ancestors who used the waters for traditional ritual cleansing.

"We are proud that the name of our awa and its environs will be visible in our community on the signs that welcome people as they enter the area," he said. "I think it's important we bring everyone - locals and visitors alike - on this journey to understand the meaning of our place names so that together we can better understand the history."

Whakamarino has significant historical meaning to Ngāti Kuia.

Sounds Ward Councillor Barbara Fauls said the discussions about the signs recognised the environment drew people to the area hence its use in the photographs.

"There was a desire to use beautiful images celebrating nature, hence the wording 'where nature meets community,'" she said. "Working alongside both the Canvastown Community Association and local iwi, Ngāti Kuia, it was agreed that using the te reo name of Whakamarino would be a very positive move."

The name Canvastown acknowledges the many pitched tents that dotted the area in the 1860s.



The new gateway signs for Canvastown/Whakamarino

Marlborough's grassroots projects awarded funds for nature

Now in its fifth year, the Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao fund has awarded environment grants to 21 projects across Marlborough.

The project aims to protect and restore native habitats and increase environmental education. Community projects range from protecting pekapeka (long-tailed bats) at Pelorus Bridge to rewilding a stream in the Marlborough Sounds.

In April, Council received 28 applications for the annual grant scheme with nearly \$260,000 of funding requested from community groups, almost double the \$138,000 available. In the end, 21 projects were awarded funding, including nine awarded the full requests.

"The \$138,000 on offer from Council was increased from \$111,500 last year," Council's Biodiversity Officer Zeke Hoskins, who administers the fund, said.

"We've seen more interest each year from grassroots community groups. Some of these groups received initial funding for their projects in previous years and are now applying for the next phases or expansions of their projects."

Applicants can opt for three categories to protect native flora and fauna against pests and predators, restore native habitats, or environmental advocacy. Applications are assessed by a sub-committee of Council's Environment and Planning committee, with each based on its own merits. Councillors look at benefits to a healthy environment, project viability, level of collaboration from outside sources, and ongoing maintenance of the project. Projects that have part-funding from other sources are also looked upon favourably.

Fifteen recipients received about 75 per cent of the funds to control pests and predators, as well as invasive weeds.

"Most of the funding this year supported the Protecting Marlborough category," Zeke said. "This shows that Marlborough's community is passionate towards the reduction of pests across the region to help achieve a predator-free New Zealand."

The next round of funding for the 2025-2026 grants will open on 1 April 2025. Go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz for a full list of this year's grant recipients.



Hinepango Wetland Restoration largely runs on volunteers and has received multiple rounds of funding for various stages of protecting and enhancing this significant wetland

Council ratifies Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan

Marlborough's Regional Transport Committee (RTC) has approved the Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-2034 which was ratified by full Council last week.

The RLTP underpins Marlborough's transport planning and confirms the region's investment priorities for both state highways and local roads.

It is required under the Land Transport Management Act and is prepared by Marlborough Roads with NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) input.

Major Marlborough Sounds road repairs, increased road maintenance and improving freight efficiencies are Council's key focus in the plan.

"This RLTP is dominated by the Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study and the repairs and resilience work that the study identified as needing to be done due to the storm damage. This will require significant investment over the coming years," RTC chair Councillor Scott Adams said.

Four written submissions were received followed by hearings on 18 and 21 June with the RTC meeting on 26 June for deliberations. No major changes were made and the committee approved the final plan on 30 July.

The RLTP was submitted to NZTA by 1 August.

For full details go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/roads-and-transport/regional-land-transport-plan/regional-land-transport-plan-2024-34

Spring Creek residents' meeting

Spring Creek residents are invited to an update from Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Team about the proposed Peninsula Road stop bank repair and upgrade project.

The meeting is at the Spring Creek Community Hall on Wednesday 14 August at 7pm. Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White said the update would cover the following key areas:

- Results of the geotechnical assessment
- Update on the design work

- Overview of the earthmoving works and their purpose
- Update on overall construction programme
- Update on funding
- Update on overall risk rating
- Update on emergency response

There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

For further information email: rivers@marlborough.govt.nz

Be on the rook out - but don't shoot

Once eradicated in Marlborough, rooks have been spotted a number of times by local farmers and contractors over the past few years.

Council's Biosecurity Manager Liam Falconer urges the public to report any sightings of this pest to prevent them establishing here.

"These introduced birds are intelligent, but destructive. They are capable of stripping crops and ripping up paddocks. If you see a glossy black bird similar in size to a magpie, with a slight purple tint, let us know immediately," he said

If you do see a rook, do not shoot at it as it can reduce the chances of successfully controlling them, he said.

"Rooks are smart birds and learn very quickly to avoid control methods. They become very wary of any shooting.

Therefore, controlling rooks is a specialised activity which Council will undertake," he said.

The last active rookery in Marlborough was eradicated in 2006. Individual rooks have occasionally arrived in Marlborough with the latest arrival in July this year.

They continue to be an ongoing problem in the North Island and can fly here, Liam said.

"They have a distinctive 'kaak' call and are particularly noisy during the spring breeding season. Their favoured nesting spot is the top of tall pine and gum trees," he said.

If birds were looking to make their way here, then they would likely do so in spring when they want to nest, Liam said. If you think you've seen a rook, contact Council's biosecurity team at biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz or Ph: 03 520 7400.



Don't shoot at rooks - it can make them harder to control

New category for Environment Awards

The Marlborough Environment Awards has a new Electrification and Energy Efficiency category announced in time for the 2024/2025 awards round.

The awards recognise and celebrate individuals, organisations and initiatives that demonstrate environmental best practice in Marlborough.

"We are thrilled to partner with Marlborough Lines for this new category," Jo Grigg, Awards Chair said. "Their support helps us highlight those who are making great efforts to reduce their reliance on non-renewable energy."

The new category will look at energy-efficient technologies and management, and the use of electricity to displace fossil fuels. Examples could include energy-efficient buildings and fleet transition to low-emission alternatives.

By sponsoring regional environmental projects, Marlborough Lines can actively contribute to the current and future

sustainability and environmental well-being of the Marlborough community.

The Marlborough Environment Awards, which launch this month, are held every two years to showcase businesses or community projects that are good for the environment.

Other categories include Marine, Forestry, Wine, Business Innovation, Landscape and Habitat, Community Innovation and Farming. They are open to any businesses, community group or individual working in Marlborough.

Judges are looking for entrants who protect and enhance the environment and use resources and energy efficiently.

The awards are run by a charitable trust and are supported by Council, Department of Conservation and local sponsors.

For more information go to: www.cmea.org.nz



Marlborough Lines' Seaview solar site under construction

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

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.



Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/public-notice

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

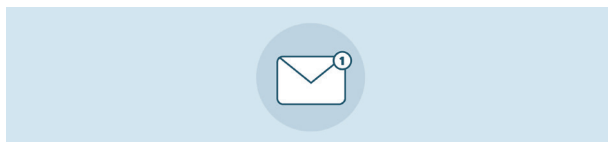
If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



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Visit: <https://bit.ly/MarlCouncilENewsletter> to subscribe.



Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

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

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

