

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

Farewell from outgoing Council Chief Executive Mark Wheeler

It is time for a fresh face to lead the Council staff team but I wanted to take this opportunity to say that it has been a great privilege to have had the opportunity to be CE at Council these past eight and a half years.



Mark Wheeler

Council is a 'people business' and you, the people of Marlborough are amazing. You rightly expect quality services, respectful interactions, professionalism and cost efficiency.

The CE role has given me many extremely satisfying times. All of them were team efforts. That collective comprises my wonderful staff, three superb mayors, supportive councillors and a positive community.

My experience with Council staff is that they are very motivated and passionate about their community.

I am incredibly grateful for their hard work, professionalism and support.

I will miss the constant positive challenges and interactions and the completion of many excellent projects and work streams.

There have been so many highlights, whether that be developing a new sewerage treatment scheme, our stunning new theatre and library, working with Port Marlborough, helping staff or dealing with a variety of emergencies.

In the most recent Aratere grounding 36 Council staff plus the Mayor and Councillors worked through Friday night and over the weekend.

Council's day to day work can sometimes go unnoticed but it is fundamental to our economy, environment, and way of life.

There are big challenges ahead for our nation, this wonderful province and our tangata whenua. We must work together to weather the storms and keep progressing.

To all our iwi, our tangata whenua, I admire your tenacity and passion for improving outcomes for your people.

My wife Cathy has been wonderfully supportive, ever patient, and tolerant throughout my career. It is time to repay this - our new caravan, mountain bikes and golf clubs will trip around this wonderful country.

My elderly parents, three sons and daughters-in-law and six grandchildren will see a lot more of me.

I have seen my role as CE as being a facilitator - supporting staff to achieve good outcomes for Council and the community.

I am a bit like the rugby halfback - the linkman - the organiser of resources.

At times I have had to drop back to full back - hopefully, I've been safe under the high ball.

Nō reira e ki ana te Whakatauki

Mā mua ka kite a muri,

Mā muri ka ora a mua

Those who lead give sight to those who follow. Those who follow give life to those who lead.

Council yesterday welcomed its new Chief Executive John Boswell

Heritage Minister has Edwin Fox history lesson

Mayor Nadine Taylor shared the history of Marlborough's Edwin Fox with the Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage Paul Goldsmith (pictured right) when he visited last week, accompanied by Marlborough MP Stuart Smith (left).

"It was a good chance to shine a spotlight on what a maritime treasure the Edwin Fox is, how lucky we are to have her and to discuss the funding and expert help that is needed to secure her future," Mayor Taylor said.

Mayor Taylor also presented Minister Goldsmith with a copy of the recently released book 'The Edwin Fox - How an Ordinary Sailing Ship Connected the World in the Age of Globalization, 1850-1914' by Boyd Cothran and Adrian Shubert.



Minister sees rivers work at first hand

River protection work was on the agenda when Regional Development Associate Minister Mark Patterson visited Marlborough last week.

Council's Rivers Team took him to Condors Bend where he was shown the new stop bank and groynes works that have been successfully completed through a four-year co-investment partnership between Council and central government.

Mayor Nadine Taylor joined the Minister to visit Peninsula Road, Spring Creek where Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White outlined the work happening there.

Sediment is currently being taken from the inside of the river bend to ease pressure on the township's stop bank ahead of rock armouring work due to start in late 2025.



Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White outlines work to (from left) Senior Rivers Engineer Frank Westergard, Minister Mark Patterson and Mayor Nadine Taylor

Heritage Marlborough shines light on Women of the War

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 handicrafts 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 their 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 next Friday 9 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 where necessary to prevent interactions 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.marlbrough.govt.nz/Rabbit-Control-FAQs>



A bait station on the Taylor River Reserve

Exciting programme for Garden Marlborough

Garden Marlborough launched its programme for the 7-10 November event at a function last week.

Mayor Nadine Taylor spoke, acknowledging the hard work put in by current and previous committee members as well as hundreds of volunteers who had helped the event be successful for more than 30 years.

Glenn Dick, director of Bayleys Marlborough, this year's principal sponsor, said he was delighted to be involved with an event which was a highlight of the year in the province.

Committee member Rachel Jackson-Hoare said the team had worked hard to present a refreshed programme with some exciting new gardens and workshops.



Garden Marlborough committee member Rachel Jackson-Hoare and Glenn Dick from Bayleys with Mayor Nadine Taylor

Dublin Street on track for opening late August

Work continues in Waitohi Picton with KiwiRail focused on getting the Dublin Street level crossing barrier arms and signals reinstalled, ready for the road to reopen by the end of August.

"We know Dublin Street is a key connector for the community," KiwiRail Programme Manager Doug Carter said. "We're keen to get the work done as soon as possible so that Picton residents and visitors can again move easily between their town centre and port side of the town. Opening Dublin Street also enables us to reopen Broadway, so we are working on opening Broadway up to traffic at the same time."

The work involved in getting the roads ready for reopening is expected to be finished by the end of August.

Currently, contractors are working in the Dublin Street area to lay asphalt, kerbs and install a pedestrian path over the rail level crossing. This includes weekday and weekend work.

There will be extended working hours with the crew working through the night this Sunday 4 August and on 11 and 18 August as needed, to undertake work inside the rail corridor. This requires the complete closure of the railway line so it will be done overnight when there is less rail traffic.

"We know this has been a disruptive time for the community and appreciate your patience. As soon as the work is complete and we have the all-clear to open the roads back up, we'll be sure to confirm the dates for opening both Dublin Street and Broadway," Doug said.



KiwiRail is focused on getting the Dublin Street level crossing barrier arms and signals reinstalled ready for reopening at the end of this month

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.



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

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Council & Committee meetings

The following meeting is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Assets & Services Committee

Tuesday 20 August at 9am

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

