

News from Marlborough District Council.

The year in review

Mayor's Christmas message



Christmas is a time for celebration and a chance to pause and look back on the year that has been. Here at Council, we are wrapping up a busy 12 months having just had our final meeting for 2024.

Reflecting on the year, we've seen some great milestones achieved for Marlborough, which you can read about here.

While it's nice to pause and reflect on progress, we're already looking ahead to a busy 2025. We have a lot of work to tackle, including the new water reforms.

As we close out 2024, I want to extend my warmest wishes to everyone in our wonderful community for a joyful Christmas and a safe, happy start to 2025.

Whether you're working through, enjoying the great outdoors, relaxing at home, or gathering with loved ones, I hope this season brings you peace, laughter and treasured moments.

Let's make our visitors feel welcome too, sharing the hospitality that makes Marlborough so special.

On behalf of councillors and staff, I wish you, your family and whanau a safe, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and New Year.

Nadine Taylor

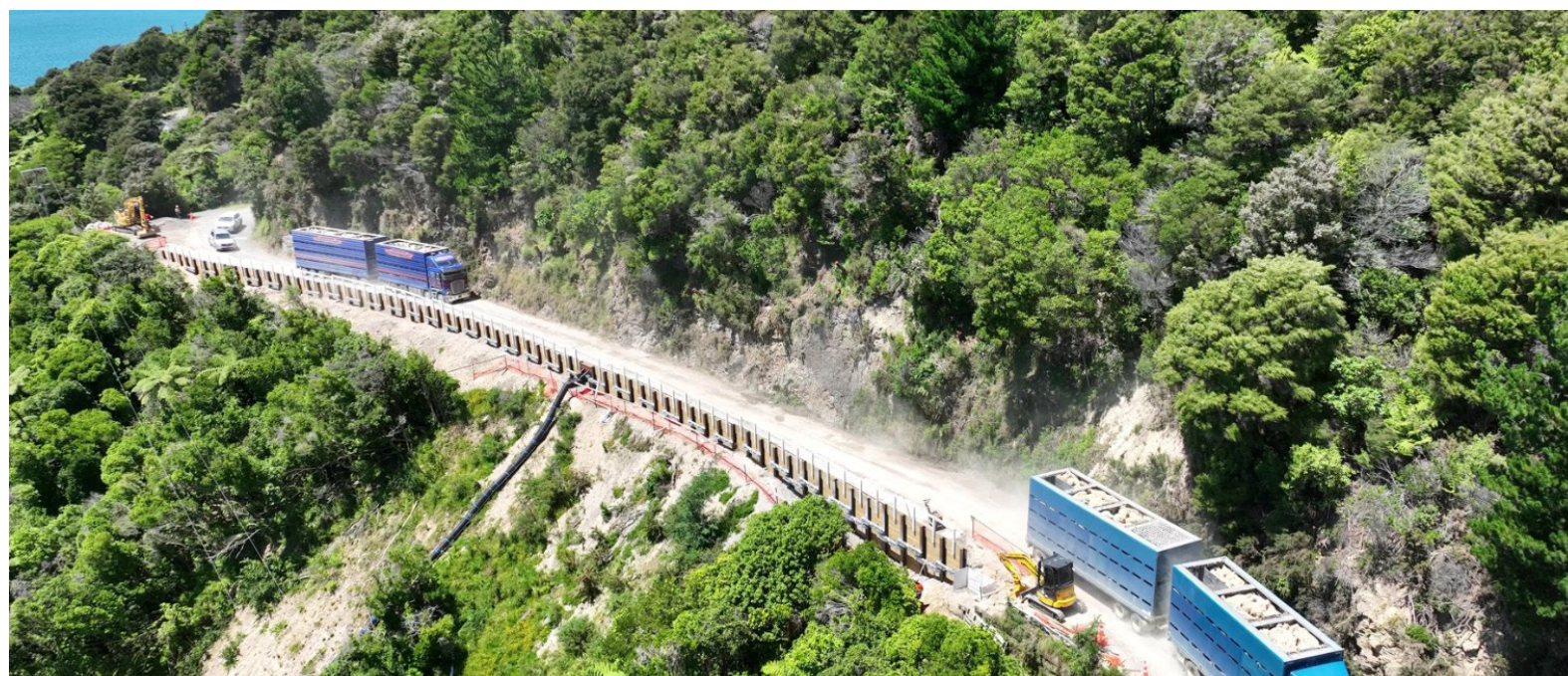
Sounds road repairs pick up speed

Good progress was made repairing storm-damaged roads in the Marlborough Sounds this year.

Restrictions were lifted for Kenepuru Road last week which was great news for residents, farmers and the tourism industry. Visitors can again access all the Sounds by road, including lodges, campsites and baches, for the first time since 2021.

In June this year, after hearing from the public, Council agreed to progress the roading recovery programme with a number of changes made to its proposals in the Long Term Plan. And in September the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) board approved funding for phase three of the repair works, at an assistance rate of 71 per cent.

The work is estimated to cost \$141 million meaning NZTA will contribute \$100 million. This is over and above the \$130 million allocated for phases one and two. The money will fund the repair of the 1,500 remaining faults.



The first stock trucks negotiate Kenepuru Road when it opened recently

Wheelie bins arrive kerbside

Wheelie bins were introduced to Marlborough on July 1.

The new kerbside collection service covers Blenheim, Picton, Grovetown, Havelock, Rarangi, Rai Valley, Renwick, Seddon, Spring Creek, Fairhall, parts of Rapaura (Hammerichs Road) and Tua Marina.

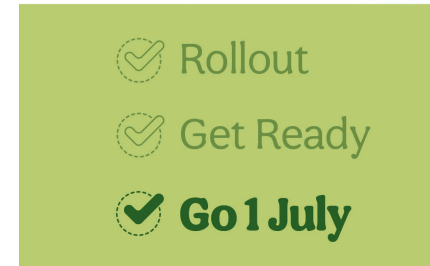
The wheelie bins replaced Council rubbish bags with a red topped wheelie bin for waste, a yellow topped one for recycling (except glass) and a maroon crate for glass.

The yellow top bin can be used for plastic displaying recycling symbols 1, 2 and 5, metal cans and tins, paper including glossies, and cardboard. The maroon crate is for bottles and jars only with lids removed.

Waste and recycling is now collected on alternate weeks, and collection days differ depending on the area you live in.

All information about the service can be found on Council's website www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/recycling-and-waste/kerbside-collections

Black bags are no longer be collected from the kerbside but are accepted at transfer stations.



New wheelie bins are getting Marlborough's waste and recycling 'sorted'

New library and art gallery building wins awards

Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough's new library and art gallery building - attracted accolades during its first 18 months of operation.

In April it won three awards at the Master Builders Association Commercial Project Awards including Value Award Winner in the Commercial Projects \$10M to \$25M Category

At the time Mayor Nadine Taylor said it was a well-deserved win for Robinson Construction, APL Property, Davidson Group, Warren and Mahoney, Council and art gallery teams and the sub-contractors involved in its design and construction.

The awards set the benchmark for commercial construction in New Zealand

and celebrated collaboration and innovation across the building industry, recognising the people behind the project as well as the building.

A few months later Te Kahu o Waipuna won the Public Architecture Category in the Te Kāhū Whaihangā New Zealand Institute of Architects Local Awards.

Designed by architects Warren and Mahoney, the building was described by the judges as a civic building reinvigorating Blenheim's High Street with its bronzed exterior and flexible interior layout.

In September this year, Te Kahu o Waipuna welcomed its 500,000 visitor.



Te Kahu o Waipuna library and art gallery continues to attract admiration and awards Credit: Barry Tobin

Evacuation avoided for Spring Creek

There was relief for the Spring Creek community in April when an evacuation advisory for part of the township was lifted.

Heavy rain in the river's upper catchments had caused Marlborough Civil Defence and Emergency Management to issue the evacuation warning.

Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell was in Marlborough and thanked the teams for their work saying it was better to be safe than sorry.

In August, Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White updated the community at a public

meeting on the state of the stopbanks previously said to be at "catastrophic risk of failure".

Mr White told locals the problem could be fixed and thanks to funding, Council could fix it.

Regional Development Minister Shane Jones confirmed earlier that week Council would receive \$3.6M from Government as well as a further \$2.8M for flood protection for the Wairau.

Mr White said the stopbanks were critical pieces of flood protection infrastructure that became compromised after the Kaikōura earthquake and 2021 and 2022 storms.



Rivers Engineer Andy White (right) explains the challenges to rebuild the stop bank at Peninsula Road, Spring Creek to Minister Mitchell during heavy rain in April

New senior housing complex opens

The George Street senior housing new build in Blenheim welcomed tenants in October marking Council's most significant investment in senior housing in more than 30 years.

The facility, now fully occupied, comprises 12 one-bedroom units, six on the ground and six on the first floor. It is the first in Council's senior housing portfolio to have two storeys, maximising the site which is just a few blocks from the town centre.

Council bought the strategic 800 square metre property next door to its existing senior housing complex at Vevian Place a

number of years ago with a vision to one day develop it. This came to fruition in early October when the complex opened with a dawn blessing led by Rangitāne, Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa.

T&D Construction built the facility based on designs by Palatchie Architecture + Design.

The final part of the development is the lift installation, scheduled before Christmas, and the section next door at 83 George Street is also being landscaped and will include raised vegetable gardens for tenants.



George Street tenant Sue Macdonald and Councillor David Croad enjoy the view from Council's first two storey units completed in October

The year in review

Aratere grounding prompts multi-agency response

Multiple agencies responded at pace when the Aratere ferry ran aground in Picton Harbour on Friday 21 June.

Council's Nautical and Coastal team, led by Harbourmaster Captain Jake Oliver, and Port Marlborough's marine team including pilots and tug operators were on the water during the rescue operation alongside Coastguard and Maritime New Zealand.

They were supported by Marlborough Civil Defence and Emergency Management, FENZ, Police, Hato Hone St John and Council's environmental management and communications teams.

All stepped up to support KiwiRail as part of the response.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said at the time the speed of the response was to be commended with many staying throughout the night to help. "The response was a team effort of professional and capable mariners and emergency responders who achieved a wonderful outcome," she said.

Two 'heroes' of the event were Port Marlborough's tugs - the Maungatea and Monowai - who together with their crew successfully refloated the Aratere at high tide on the Saturday night off the small beach north of Bob's Bay.



The Aratere aground near Bob's Bay in Picton Harbour in June Credit: Skyworks UAS

Turf springs from combined colleges project

In May Hockey Marlborough welcomed its new water turf and pavilion - Puna Wai Hockey Stadium - on Nelson Street at Marlborough Girls' College.

This followed Council surrendering the lease of College Park in 2021, Hockey Marlborough's previous home, to the Ministry of Education. At the time, the plan was for Bohally Intermediate to be rebuilt on College Park as part of the Combined Schools Project – Te Tātoru o Wairau - and a new hockey turf and pavilion constructed near the girls' college.

In January the Combined Schools Project was cancelled by Government but the hockey turf development was already underway. It is now being enjoyed by players of the sport of all ages.

Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Rārua representatives led a dawn blessing with iwi gifting the name Puna Wai (spring of water) to the new building. Waipuna is the area of town in which the turf is located.



Puna Wai Hockey Stadium on Nelson Street at Marlborough Girls' College opened this year

Marlborough to host first all-electric flights

In April, Air New Zealand announced it had selected Marlborough for its first all-electric aircraft flights.

Wellington to Marlborough will be the route for commercial demonstrator flights of the all-electric ALIA CTOL from Beta Technologies, which Air New Zealand bought last year.

The cargo-only flights - in partnership with NZ Post - are set to begin in 2026. Wellington Airport will be the home base of the next-generation aircraft while Marlborough Airport will establish charging infrastructure to power the aircraft for the return journey.

"Our region is home to some of New Zealand's most innovative and pioneering sectors - wine, viticulture, aquaculture and of course aviation," Mayor Nadine Taylor said.

"Marlborough Airport is owned by the ratepayers of Marlborough through Council, and we have worked closely with Air New Zealand for many years. We look forward to that partnership continuing, and are excited to be part of this new all-electric venture."

In a further boost for Marlborough Airport, in November it won the Sustainability Initiative of the Year award along with Wellington Airport for their joint bid.



Air New Zealand's new all-electric aircraft will be in the skies over Marlborough from 2026

Public Notices

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 8.30am - 5pm

Wed 9am - 5pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Sat 10am - 4pm

Sun 1pm - 4pm

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.



Temporary alcohol ban - Marlborough Wine & Food Festival, Renwick 8/9 February 2025

A temporary alcohol ban will be in force over the public areas of High Street, Renwick from the intersection of Anglesea Street to the eastern side of the intersection of Alma Street), Inkerman Street (from the High Street intersection to the driveway of 31 Inkerman Street), Uxbridge Street (from the High Street intersection to the Renwick Fire Station and extending around the skatepark and tennis courts) and Alma Street (from the High Street intersection to the southern boundary of 4 Alma Street), for 24 hours from 6am Saturday 8 February to 6am Sunday 9 February 2025.