



Give sustainably this Christmas



With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to source sustainable gifts and decorations.

The team at JBL Environmental Ltd, which runs the Re-use Shop on behalf of Council, has been busy digging out their collection of Christmas trees and decorations ahead of the big day.

"We have Christmas and festive decorations, including some brand new Christmas trees," Project Manager Nic Fairbrother said.

While the shop already had a wide range of quality items for gifting, Nic encourages people to have a 'spring clear out' before the Christmas break and donate any quality items they no longer need.

"Many people do visit the shop to find a gift for their loved ones in the days leading up to Christmas. It would be great to have some new quality items on offer, particularly for those children who may not get a lot otherwise."

Donating items, and buying second hand, was a good way to reduce one's impact on the planet, Nic said.

"We know Christmas is all about giving, but we'd love for people to think a bit more about the impact their purchases will have on the environment in the long run. We'd love them to first think 'does this person need this?', and then, if they do, 'could I find a quality second-hand version instead of buying it new?'" he said.

"There are so many treasures here at the Re-use Shop, and often they're better quality than the more mass-produced versions found in some stores now."

Some of the quality items currently on offer at bargain prices include wetsuits, skis, sleeping bags, artwork and clothing for all ages.



📷 If you are short of Christmas inspiration, head to the Re-use Shop to find games, toys and more

The Re-use Shop is at 3 Wither Road and open seven days a week from 8am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 10am - 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Foreshore fun this summer



📷 The Foreshore Reserve, including the playground and water play area, is the jewel in Picton's crown

Picton's water play area looks set to be in hot demand again this summer as temperatures soar.

Council Parks and Open Spaces Officer Grahame Smail said the Foreshore Reserve was a must when visiting Picton and the playground and water play area were particularly popular.

"On the odd occasion due to maintenance or unforeseen requirements, the water play area may not be going. However, keeping it fully operational is always a priority for Council because we know how popular it is - many families take the trip from Blenheim and surrounds just to enjoy it," Mr Smail said.

The water play area is open during the summer daylight saving period from 9am to 9pm and during the winter daylight saving period from 9am to 5pm.

Any changes to these operating times will be posted to Council's website.

For more information go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/picton-foreshore

GPS plotting at cemeteries

Finding a loved one's grave may be easier in future thanks to the help of modern technology.



📷 Harry Edwards carrying out GPS plotting at Omaka Cemetery

One of the ongoing projects for Council's cemetery administrator is correcting the information and sometimes the position of graves on the Cemeteries Smart Map.

"This is important because we want to present accurate information to the descendants of those buried in our cemeteries," Council's Parks and Open Spaces Officer Kiri Whiteman said.

There are many unmarked graves in Marlborough cemeteries and often family members want to arrange a plaque or headstone, sometimes many decades after burial, so accurate maps are key.

Over the past year a GPS receiver has been used to plot the visible structures within the older areas of Marlborough's cemeteries.

This information is available on Council's internal field maps, along with photos to help in checking accuracy.

"We have done some plotting in seven of the eight Council-administered cemeteries," Kiri said. "Fairhall was not included as it did not require any plot adjustments due to it being so new - it was developed in the 1980s. We used the GPS receiver, which is accurate within centimetres, rather than metres - accuracy necessary for plotting a cemetery."

This information is available at links.marlborough.govt.nz/CemeteriesGPS