

News from Marlborough District Council.

Marlborough Airport aims to reduce landfill waste by one-third



Marlborough Airport's Operations Manager Steve Holtum and Sustainability Lead Stephanie Flores sort the recycling

With passengers back at pre-pandemic levels at Marlborough Airport, the piles of waste headed for landfill have returned.

Marlborough Airport recently conducted a waste audit with WM New Zealand to better understand waste streams, recycling rates and areas for improvement.

WM New Zealand has done similar audits across the country, but this was its first in Marlborough.

The airport has set a target to reduce tonnage headed to landfill by at least one-third.

Over the past year, the airport's 312,000 passengers, visitors and tenants generated about 43 tonnes of waste with 75 per cent going to landfill, and 25 per cent for recycling.

"We'd love to flip those numbers, or work with our tenants and partners to remove

waste streams altogether. Most of the waste in our landfill skip was predictable but also preventable," Operations Manager Steve Holtum said.

The airport's waste to landfill over the past year equated to roughly 22 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to Bluegums Landfill's overall emissions. Bluegums is Council's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"We have identified some quick wins with organic waste already, like using the coffee grounds from CPR café on our landscaping," the airport's Sustainability and Communications Lead Stephanie Flores said.

"Our biggest issue at the airport is contamination of recycling. If someone throws

a half-full coffee cup in a terminal recycling bin, it contaminates the whole bin."

The airport's board of directors recently adopted its first comprehensive sustainability policy.

The airport is working on several initiatives across water, waste to landfill and greenhouse gas emissions.

More initiatives underway include an improved bin system for waste inside the terminal, more native plantings and greenspace within the car park, and investigating sustainable options in capital projects.

Most recently, the airport has commissioned a study to investigate the practicality of an on-site solar farm.

Summer swimming at our best spots

Summer has arrived with temperatures soaring into the 30s the first week of December.

If you're looking to cool off, Marlborough has some of the best swimming spots in the country and listed below are some of the most scenic and safe places to swim.

Whites Bay

Arguably Marlborough's favourite beach, it's just under 30 minutes drive from Blenheim. Nestled among native bush, Whites Bay features a lengthy sandy shore with surf lifesavers keeping watch. It's a safe spot for swimming especially for children.

Governors Bay

It's small but secluded - a five minute walk off Queen Charlotte Drive reveals a golden beach with a DOC scenic reserve. The rocky coastline at either end of the beach are great for hunting for crabs and other marine life.

Being in the Sounds means the waters are generally calm and safe for swimming.

Momorangi Bay

Momorangi can be reached by road and boat, and its campground is a favourite holiday spot for Marlburians. It boasts a café, a play area and toilet and shower facilities.

The sheltered bay and shallow beach create a safe environment for swimming and play.

Pelorus Bridge

Pelorus Bridge - famous for its river pools and voracious sandflies! It's a well-known picnic spot and rest stop for people travelling between Marlborough and Nelson. The river flows slowly and there are deep sections for skilled swimmers, while shallower spots are perfect for kids to splash around.

Craiglochart

Deep in the heart of the Waihopai Valley, Craiglochart is a 30-minute drive from Blenheim.

With both deep and shallow pools available, swimmers of all skill levels can find a suitable spot. It's a popular choice for picnics and swimming but please note, there are no toilets or changing facilities on-site.

For all sites

It's best to avoid swimming for at least 24 hours after rain, especially if the water looks dirty, has an unpleasant smell, or shows signs of scum.

Even if the water seems clear, it's wise to steer clear after rain, as there may be hidden harmful microbes present.

It's easy to check the water quality of your favourite spot before you head out.

Head to our webpage for more information: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/swimming-locations



One of Blenheim's favourite swimming spots, Whites Bay

Piano gifted to library

Performers at Te Kahu o Waipuna have a new digital piano thanks to a generous donation from local music identities Tony and Coral Thiel.

The Thiels wanted music in the new library and art gallery, hence their benevolence.

"The art of performance is to get the reaction from others," Tony said. "It's about giving. Music is a great thing, but you have to give. We wanted to slot some music into the overall atmosphere of the new library and art gallery - which feels like it belongs in a city."

Working with Marlborough Libraries' Community Engagement Coordinator, Duncan Mackenzie, the Thiels bought a new Roland FP-30X digital piano locally to be gifted to Te Kahu o Waipuna.

"It's a very generous donation and one which visiting performers will be very grateful to use," Duncan said.

"I recall a visiting group wheeling a piano down the street from St Andrews Church for their short performance in our atrium."

In expressing his gratitude to the library for accepting his donation, Tony paid tribute to the local community that has been his home for the last 24 years.

"The Marlborough community has been so receptive to musical theatre" he said.

The new piano was used for the first time last weekend when a specially curated group of Marlborough performers hosted a sing-along of Christmas carols in the atrium at Te Kahu o Waipuna.



Tony and Coral Thiel and the piano they donated with Duncan Mackenzie (left) and Libraries' Manager Glenn Webster

AA long-term rating for Council's financial management

Marlborough District Council has retained its AA long-term credit rating (negative watch) as well as an A-1+ rating in the short term, confirmed recently by S&P Global, whose credit ratings are based on objective analysis and independent assessment.

The long-term rating was an endorsement of Council's sound financial management despite the negative watch applied when a rating agency identifies risks that could weaken Council's financial strength or credit profile, Mayor Nadine Taylor said.

"The negative watch is due to the as yet unknown borrowing requirement Port Marlborough may need for future interisland ferries' portside infrastructure, as well as S&P's overall view on the NZ local government sector and the infrastructure investment the country as a whole faces," she said.

"There are also a lot of external factors outside our control reflected in this assessment, including inflation and interest rates. Overall though, it's a very pleasing result given the current fiscal environment."

S&P Global noted Council's financial management was a key strength underpinning the AA long term rating.

"We view Marlborough's financial management as a key strength underpinning its ratings. The council has historically recorded strong fiscal outcomes and has one of the lowest gross-debt to operating revenue ratios of all New Zealand councils rated by S&P Global Ratings," the report said.

Mayor Taylor said the rating reflected positively on Council's fiscal processes and governance and provides confidence to Marlborough residents and ratepayers.

"Retaining this rating is beneficial for us as a Council and a region as it affords access to better loan interest rates, which in turn allows us to better utilise our available financial resources," Mayor Taylor said.

The rating covers the Council group of entities, which includes MDC Holdings Ltd, Port Marlborough NZ Ltd and Marlborough Airport Ltd.

Water main upgrades in Francis Street and Lakings Road

As part of Council's continued service upgrades, two sections of water main in Blenheim are to be replaced.

Works to replace the main in Francis Street and Lakings Road are both scheduled to start on Monday 13 January 2025.

The work is to replace ageing infrastructure, 3 Waters Project Engineer Graeme Jackson said.

"The new bigger water main will provide better water flow, ensure future resilience and replace ageing pipes," he said.

"All lateral connections to homeowner tobies will also be upgraded where needed and the contractor will contact homeowners directly."

The \$450,000 contract for the Francis Street upgrade has been awarded to Simcox Construction and work is planned in two phases to reduce disruption.

The initial phase will take five weeks and affects the junction with Scott Street to halfway along Francis Street.

The second phase runs from halfway along Francis Street to the junction with Redwood Street and will also take about five weeks.

The \$600,000 project in Lakings Road has been awarded to Findlater Construction and involves replacement of the main between Battys Road and Boyce Street.

Once again work is planned in two phases each taking nine weeks. The first phase is from the junction with Battys Road to halfway along Lakings Road, and the second from there to Boyce Street.

The aim is to keep disruption to a minimum, but there will be stop/go traffic management including road closures at times. Parking will be restricted in both Francis Street and Lakings Road, however residents and businesses will still have access.

"The key for motorists is to plan ahead so they can avoid traffic issues, and we urge them to find an alternative route while the work is underway," Graeme said.

Watch out for toxic algae

This time of year sees the return of toxic algae in rivers and streams. Summer has started hotter and drier, meaning lower river levels, which creates the right environment for the algae to grow.

Council's Senior Water Quality Scientist Steffi Henkel said algae has been spotted in the Omaka River and it was important to keep an eye out for it, particularly if you have children or dogs.

"Algae toxins can be dangerous, requiring immediate veterinary care for dogs that ingest it, with symptoms appearing within 30 minutes.

People may experience vomiting, diarrhea and skin irritation."

Due to the extensive size of Marlborough's waterways, it's not practical for Council to place warning signs everywhere.

"People need to stay vigilant, check for algae at their favourite river or stream, and if they spot any, find another place to go," says Steffi.

To find out more about toxic algae and how to identify it, please go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/toxic-algae



Toxic algae in Omaka River

Summer boating safety to be promoted

Council has received \$15,000 to support safer boating.

Maritime NZ has announced a total of \$743,000 in funding to support 29 programmes around the country including Marlborough Boating Safety workshops.

These focus on theory and practical boat safety for recreational craft users.

On average 18 people a year die in recreational craft incidents.

"Getting out on the water is a key part of New Zealand life, and the recreational craft sector want people to not only enjoy the water, but be well informed about the risks, understand what can go wrong, and to come home safe," said Maritime NZ Director Kirstie Hewlett.

Through the grant funding, Maritime NZ looks to work with partners who can reach recreational craft users, particularly high risk users, and deliver initiatives that can have a real impact in reducing harm on the water.

A key requirement of the funding is applicants demonstrate how their initiatives delivered the outcomes in the Recreational Craft Strategy, developed by the Safer Boating Forum.

"The recreational sector is broad, from stand-up paddle boards to high-powered motorboats. This funding goes to organisations across the sector who have highly skilled and talented people who want to improve the knowledge of those out in the water," Ms Hewlett said.

Funding will go to a range of different councils as well as national bodies.

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, go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors or Ph: 03 520 7400.

Queen Elizabeth II Award of Music

Notice is given that the committee administering the above fund will give consideration to an award or awards to the Marlborough/Kaikōura candidate (or candidates) 18 years of age or under, who in 2024 passed the Royal School of Music or Trinity College of Music examinations, minimum of Grade VIII instrumental or Grade VI vocal (whether or not the candidate was examined within the Marlborough or Kaikōura districts).

The residency qualifications are a minimum of one year for residents of Marlborough/Kaikōura, though students who happen to be temporarily residing in other areas are eligible.

The awards committee will consider nominations received. It is at their discretion whether or not to make an award.

Nominations must be received in writing addressed to the District Secretary, Marlborough District Council, PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240 on or before Thursday 16 January 2025.

There are no nomination forms, but it would be of assistance for the awards committee to receive background information in support of any nomination lodged, including any examination results.

Any queries should be directed to Tony Quirk at tony.quirk@marlborough.govt.nz

Nadine Taylor

Mayor

Council services - Christmas and New Year

Council's offices are closed from midday on Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 8.30am on Monday 6 January. If you have an urgent issue during this time, please Ph: 03 520 7400.

Waste services

All facilities are closed on Christmas Day. Normal trading hours resume from Boxing Day.

Kerbside collections

There is no kerbside collection on Christmas Day. All collections will be a day after your normal scheduled collection day. Remember 'if in doubt, leave it out.' To download the Wheelie Bin Collection Schedule, go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/collection-day

Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna hours

Tues 24 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Wed 25 and Thurs 26 Dec: Closed
 Fri 27 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Sat 28 and Sun 29 Dec: 10am to 4pm
 Mon 30 and Tues 31 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Wed 1 and Thurs 2 Jan: Closed
 Fri 3 Jan: 9am to 4pm
 Sat 4 and Sun 5 Jan: 10am to 4pm
 Mon 6 Jan: Normal hours resume

Picton Library and Service Centre hours

Tues 24 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Wed 25 and Thurs 26 Dec: Closed
 Fri 27 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Sat 28 Dec: 10am to 4pm
 Sun 29 Dec: 1pm to 4pm
 Mon 30 and Tues 31 Dec: 9am to 4pm
 Wed 1 and Thurs 2 Jan: Closed
 Fri 3 Jan: 9am to 4pm
 Sat 4 Jan: 10am to 4pm
 Sun 5 Jan: 1pm to 4pm
 Mon 6 Jan: Normal hours resume

PLEASE NOTE: Council services are unavailable at Picton Library and Service Centre from noon Tuesday 24 December until 8.30am Monday 6 January.

Bus services

The Blenheim and Picton bus services don't operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Day after New Year's Day. Normal services operate on all other days.

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.

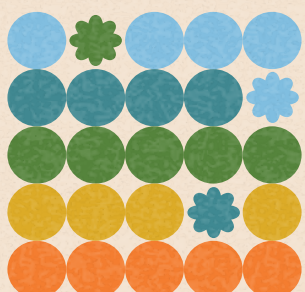


Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/public-notice>

December 2024

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	No collection on Christmas Day. Your bin will be collected the day after your normal collection day.				



Marlborough

SUMMER EVENTS

Pick up your copy of the guide from Marlborough District Council



FOLLOW-ME.CO.NZ

Annual Plan
2025 - 2026



Open from
18 Nov 2024 - 20 Jan 2025

