

Skips at Blenheim Recycling Centre to go

The red skip bins at the Blenheim Recycling Centre are being removed due to people abusing them.

From 15 December, anyone who uses the bins to dispose of their black Council rubbish bags can take them to the Blenheim Transfer Station.

Entry is through George Conroy Drive, off Taylor Pass Road.

The black Council bags will still be accepted free of charge there.

The removal of the free skips was to stop abuse, Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said.

"There is no way we can police the red skips and half of what has been going in is non-Council bags," he said.

"Council bags will still be accepted at the weighbridge free of charge, but doing it this way means we can keep an eye on what people are dumping and hopefully, stop the system being abused by the small minority."

Mr Lucas pointed out that all ratepayers wore the cost of the abuse.



The red skip bins are being removed next weekend

Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award nominations open

Council is inviting nominations for the next Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure.

The award is open to individuals who have made an extraordinary, inspiring and significant contribution to cultural endeavour in Marlborough throughout their lifetime. Ideally, they have also shared their knowledge and passion with the community, helping to inspire future generations.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was looking forward to seeing the nominations. "I know there are Marlburians out there who are truly deserving," she said.

In 2012, the inaugural recipient of the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award was Peg Moorhouse, Waikawa-based weaver and fibre artist. Most recently, in 2023, artist Clarry Neame joined the distinguished group.

Throughout the years Marlborough has honoured the contributions of some remarkable living cultural treasures including kapa haka teacher Nan Kahu Chadwick, composer and choreographer Kevin Moseley, weaver Kairaranga Kaiako Margaret Bond, ceramic artist Fran Maguire, artists Clem Mellish, Triska Blumenfield and J S Parker, author Dame Joy Cowley and director and producer Duncan Whiting.

"Together, these individuals represent a legacy of exemplary service across the arts, culture and creative sectors," Mayor Taylor said.

The award was established in 2012 by Marlborough Museum in partnership with Council and the Marlborough Express. In 2023, the Marlborough Heritage Trust closed its operations and in early 2024 Council agreed to take on guardianship of the award.

"Our guardianship aligns strongly with Te Atatū – Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy 2024-2034. As the proverb in the strategy says: "Artistic excellence makes the world sit up and wonder."

"Te Atatū highlights the important role of Council in celebrating the rich tapestry of local creative talent and acknowledging the invaluable contribution our creative people make to our region," Mayor Taylor said.

Nominations for the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award close at 5pm on 24 January 2025. The award will be presented at a formal ceremony in April 2025.

For more information go to www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-living-cultural-treasure-award

Keep off the seagrass this summer

This summer Council is diving in to highlight the importance of rimurehia/seagrass.

Coastal Scientist Jorgia McMillan is leading the summer education campaign with a new brochure and social media posts. Awareness signs are planned for specific sites around the Marlborough Sounds.

"Our message is simple - don't walk or drive on seagrass – please keep off. This will help us to protect these treasured ocean meadows," Jorgia said.

Seagrass (*Zostera muelleri*) beds are a crucial part and positive indicator of a healthy estuary and intertidal area. It carries out several important ecosystem functions including providing habitat for fish, shellfish and other marine species.

The beds trap sediment and stabilise the


ocean floor and carry out nutrient recycling which in turn improves coastal water quality. Seagrass acts as a buffer between land and sea and can minimise the effects of land-based activities on intertidal health.

"Sadly, this taonga species has disappeared from many parts of Marlborough and we need to look after what is left," Jorgia said.

The campaign aims to publicise the damage caused by driving over seagrass beds when launching boats or anchoring and dredging on it.

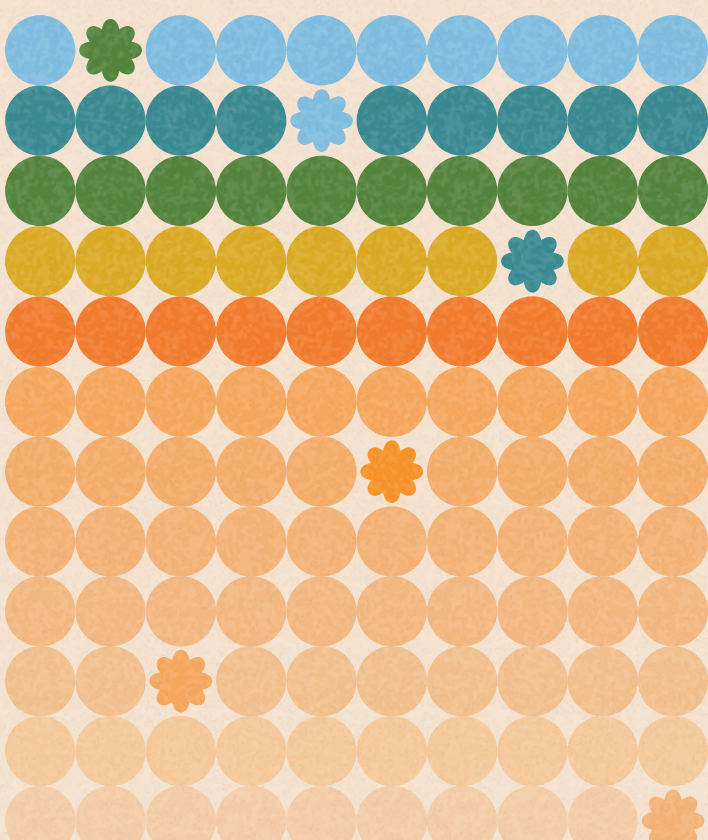
"The moana is important to all of us and we are lucky in Marlborough to be one of the few places in Aotearoa that still has subtidal seagrass. We hope our summer campaign will educate people and make those out on the water this summer more aware of how to minimise their impact," Jorgia said.






SUMMER EVENTS

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