

News from Marlborough District Council.

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.

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.



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

National hydrological conference hosted here

Two hundred professionals, including overseas delegates and a group from the Korean Water Resources Association, converged on Marlborough last week for the New Zealand Hydrological Conference.

The annual gathering, run by the New Zealand Hydrological Society, explored the theme 'Securing Our Water Future' and was held at the Marlborough Events Centre in Blenheim.

In her welcoming address Mayor Nadine Taylor said this was an important overarching theme because "the work on how to secure our water future has never been more important."

"In New Zealand, ongoing extreme weather events, the impacts of climate change and the need to manage our water resources sustainably, including both quantity and quality, highlight the significant complexities in securing our water future. It most certainly will require both adaptation and collaboration," she said.

"Here in Marlborough, we have unfortunately experienced two major rainfall events – in 2021 and 2022 – which left us grappling with the physical impact and financial cost of climate change-fuelled events on our infrastructure, mainly our roading network, but also on property and our Wairau flood protection scheme."

She described the Wairau River as the "lifeblood of Marlborough's Wairau Plain" acknowledging its direct contribution to the livelihood of the province.

"Integrated management of our rivers has never been more important for councils such as ours. We recognise and acknowledge our role and the need for long-term planning for sea level rise, climate change and extreme weather. And we are committed to investing into that planning and research for the good of Marlborough and New Zealand," she said.

Attendees at the conference had the opportunity to digest technical papers and listen to keynote speakers, including some focused on the Wairau River and aquifer system and local water resource management. Participants also enjoyed field trips highlighting some of the collaborative projects underway.



Council staff from left Peter Davidson, Emma Chibnall and Charlotte Tomlinson led organisation of the conference



Hydrological Conference attendees on a field trip at the Wairau River

Don't feed the seagulls

Seagulls are increasingly common in town centres around New Zealand these days, including Blenheim.

Everyone has a responsibility to try to deter gulls and pigeons - café patrons should not leave food unattended. Building owners are responsible for maintaining their properties and many have installed spikes and other protective measures. Council uses an electromagnetic deterrent at Te Kahu o Waipuna library/art gallery and carries out regular footpath cleaning throughout the Blenheim and Picton CBDs.

Council also provides wheelie bins to all CBD businesses which means rubbish bags are no longer left on the street for gulls to get into.

DOC is responsible for native bird protection - red billed and black billed gulls are both nationally 'at risk, declining' species. Please go to: www.doc.govt.nz for further information.

Don't feed the seagulls



GPS plotting at cemeteries

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

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.

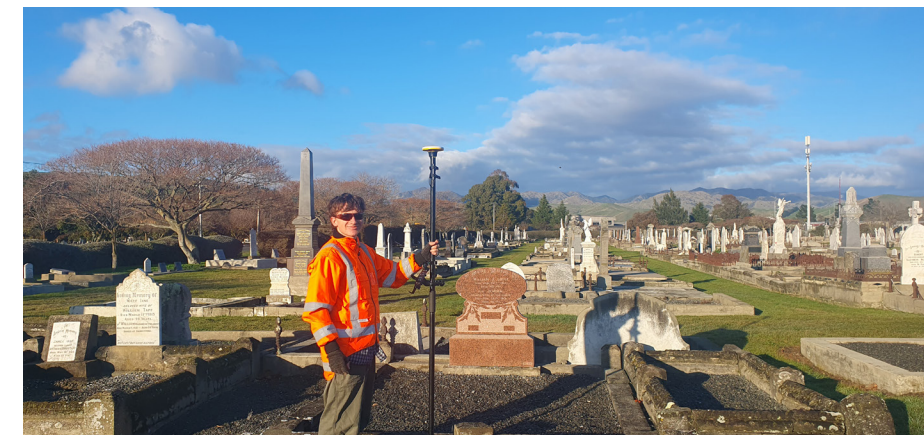
Over the past year a GPS receiver has been used to plot the visible structures within the older areas of Marlborough's cemeteries.

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



Harry Edwards carrying out GPS plotting at Omaka Cemetery

Council's groundwater report released

The latest Groundwater Quantity State of the Environment Report has been released.

As the report's name suggests, it looks at the quantity of groundwater in Marlborough's aquifers, which are described as "generally very good".

Groundwater plays a crucial role in Marlborough, serving as a vital resource for drinking water for communities and stock, as well as crop irrigation and industrial processing.

Groundwater exists beneath most of the river valleys and floodplains of Marlborough where porous sediments naturally store water as aquifers.

Council's Senior Groundwater Environmental Scientist, Peter Davidson, told Council's Environment and Planning Committee the most significant aquifers were associated with the Wairau River floodplain.

"The Wairau Aquifer is the main groundwater system beneath the

plain, providing most of our water and playing an essential role in maintaining environmental balance," he said.

"In early 2024, water levels in this aquifer were the lowest ever recorded. This was mostly due to outside factors, including past flood protection efforts inadvertently narrowing the river and changes in the river's gravel supply. Lower flows from the Wairau were also a contributing factor, exacerbated by the year-long drought in 2023/24."

Council's monitoring network also detected indications of climate change impacts, particularly through evidence of rising sea levels affecting the Rārangī Aquifer.

So far, there has been no confirmed instance of saline water impacting on a private coastal domestic well.

For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/groundwater

Gallery garden growing

Locals will have noticed the transformation of the area where the Millenium Art Gallery previously stood.

When the Marlborough Art Gallery moved to Te Kahu o Waipuna last year, the former gallery building was demolished. This left a clear and level site for grass to be laid, gardens established and paths put in.

In recent months Council's gardens team has enhanced the garden area, next to the Council building.

Three original Eddie's white wonder dogwoods survived the demolition, thanks to careful use of machinery by contractors.

Five new trees have now been planted - two South Island kōwhai, two copper beech and a kānuka. An underplanting of native hebes is planned.

The grassed area provides improved vehicle and pedestrian sight lines at Alfred and Seymour streets' intersection.



Three dogwoods are thriving following the demolition of the former Millenium Art Gallery and Council gardeners are now planting trees and shrubs in the area

Going into bat for pekapeka

Pekapeka, New Zealand's long-tailed bat, may be small but the importance of their survival is weighty when it comes to native species preservation.

This means the gloves are off in the fight to protect the remaining population at Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve with a redoubling of effort and a renewed emphasis on maximising predator control efforts into 2025.

A callout is also being made for more people to join the long-established volunteer predator control programme.

Staff from Forest and Bird, DOC, volunteers and independent ecologists are brainstorming the design of a new trapping grid to enhance protection while still preserving the important part volunteers play in the protection of this population.

This will involve the trial of some new electronic predator control traps.

Along with the short-tailed bat, pekapeka are New Zealand's only endemic land mammal and are high on the national conservation priority list

as well as Te Hoiere Project's predator control and habitat protection and enhancement efforts.

Forest and Bird's Te Hoiere Bat Recovery Project Manager Dr Daria Erastova said unfortunately the remaining populations of pekapeka were declining due to predation and loss of habitat. The population at Pelorus Bridge sadly reflects this nationwide trend.

Pekapeka were first detected at Pelorus Bridge 14 years ago and predator control efforts have been shouldered by volunteers since that time. The team of professional contractors is now heading into its seventh season of bat monitoring.

Thirty-three volunteers are 'on the books' at present travelling from both Marlborough and Nelson to do predator control. "New volunteers are welcome at any time, and we'd love more helpers as we up the effort to protect pekapeka at Pelorus River," Daria said.

For more information or to become a volunteer contact Daria on d.erastova@forestandbird.org.nz



Next year will see a renewed emphasis on efforts at Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve in the fight to protect pekapeka, New Zealand's long-tailed bat



Initiated in 2019, Te Hoiere Project is a community-led partnership with iwi, Council, Government and other groups to promote landscape-scale restoration across Te Hoiere / Pelorus catchment.

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.

Have your say on Council's annual plan

Got a great idea for the future of Marlborough? Council wants to hear your ideas and feedback as part of its annual plan public engagement.

Simply go online on your smart phone or a computer at: links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay and tell us about your big idea or worthwhile project. The engagement closes on 20 January 2025.

Anyone wanting help to provide their ideas online is welcome to call Council's Customer Service Centre on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: lt@marlborough.govt.nz

Sign up for annual and long term plan updates at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-long-term-plan-notifications

Annual Plan
2025 - 2026

Open from
18 Nov 2024 - 20 Jan 2025

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Is your dog microchipped yet?

The Dog Control Act requires dogs classified as dangerous or menacing or those registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 to be microchipped. Only dogs classified as working dogs or dogs that a registered vet has certified as not in a fit condition for microchipping are exempt.

Council and Animal Control are responsible for enforcing these rules. Failure to comply may result in enforcement action such as an infringement notice of \$300.

If your dog is not microchipped Animal Control can do this for you for a fee of \$25 or you can contact your local vet. If you use your local vet, you still need to provide Animal Control with the verification certificate.

The benefits to microchipping include:

- Providing a permanent means of identifying your dog
- Dogs and owners' details are listed on the National Dog Database so your dog can be found anywhere in New Zealand
- A deterrent for people stealing dogs

Microchipping your dog may entitle you to a lower registration fee if your dog is de-sexed and microchipped, provided the dog is not classified as dangerous, and the owner has not had any infringements in the past two years or been prosecuted for dog related offences.

For more information, please contact Animal Control on 520 9033 or email animalcontrol@xtra.co.nz



Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

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

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 7201.

Council

Thursday 12 December at 9am

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary on Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

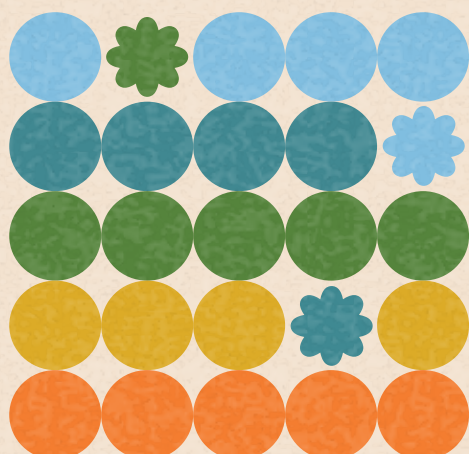
Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

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.



Marlborough

SUMMER EVENTS

Pick up your copy of the guide from Marlborough District Council

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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