

All in a flap

If you work in Blenheim's CBD, you may have noticed a lively colony of seagulls has taken up residence on top of the buildings around High Street.

They've been causing a bit of a flap, leaving a mess and being very vocal about it while they're at it.

Marlborough Roads' CBD cleaning team has been working to mitigate the effects of the gulls' presence.

Cleaning efforts are being intensified, with a sweeper unit, water cart and water blaster used from 2am from Monday to Wednesday to remove the mess from the pavement. The success of the new cleaning initiative will be monitored and adjustments made if required.

Council's Catchment Care Advisor Amy-Grace McIlraith said while it's understandable that many people view seagulls as a nuisance, they are a protected species.

"These red-billed gulls, or Kākāhu, are native to New

Zealand and are considered a taonga (treasure)," she said.

"Unfortunately, their numbers are declining and they are classified with the same threat status as the little blue penguin."

"So, while their nesting in town can be inconvenient for us, from an ecological point of view it's positive to see them breeding successfully."

The breeding season runs from November to February. As this season concludes, they will be winging it elsewhere in search of food. This means their stay in town is temporary, and patience should reward us with a return to normal and quieter times.

Café patrons should not leave food unattended - please remember to put your rubbish into one of the street rubbish bins.

DOC is responsible for native bird protection. If you want to find out more, please go to: www.doc.govt.nz/nature/conservation-status/threatened-birds/



Riders asked to respect road closures

Council's Multi Modal Advisor Transport Services Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton says it's important cyclists respect closed routes around Marlborough this summer.

"Closures are there to keep you safe as well as the contractors involved in any works. If there's signage detailing a closed route, it is with good reason," she said.

Taylor Pass Road near Blenheim is closed to all vehicles - including cyclists - from Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm until the middle of 2026. "There is ongoing logging extraction taking place during the working week, which means that Taylor Pass is closed for safety reasons," Ms Campbell-Lamerton said.

The Wairau River access track running between State Highways 6 and 63 also has some full access closures in place for riverbank repairs. "Cyclists should not enter works sites where heavy machinery is being used. If it says it is closed - it is," she said.

"While it's great to see so many people out on bikes getting to and from work, school and sport, remember to follow the road code and use appropriate cycling etiquette, especially in locations with shared users. Even in summer it's still important that you wear high viz garments to enhance your visibility to pedestrians as well as vehicle drivers."

To keep up to date with road closures and updates please



If a road says it is closed, it's for good reason and for your safety this summer

download Council's Antenna app. For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenna

Taylor River weed reduced

Good progress has been made removing exotic river weed and dredging the Taylor River in central Blenheim.

Andy White, Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager, said the summer control programme was progressing well.

"The river level has dropped as a direct result of our efforts. Boat skipper Dave Fowler has been cutting and removing up to 20 tonnes of weed daily."

Under the rules in the Marlborough Environment Plan, river works are not permitted in the Taylor and

Ōpaoa rivers from 1 February to 30 April to avoid the whitebait spawning season.

"Construction of Council's new weed cutter boat is now complete with trials underway in Christchurch ahead of her delivery next month. Cutting of the Ōpaoa Loop will commence upon her arrival, ensuring the team can be focussed from 1 May on removing weed from the Taylor and Ōpaoa rivers"

"We will also be planting the reshaped river banks with native plants in April, improving both bank stability and shading out the invasive pest weeds."

Mr White noted that sediment

in the river had built up by about a metre over the last 10 years, due to a mixture of seismic activity and more frequent heavy rain. Additional capital and operational budget was approved in the Long Term Plan last year to improve the hydraulics of the two rivers through targeted dredging and replacement of Council's weedcutter boat.

"We're also developing a comprehensive Taylor and Ōpaoa rivers management plan, working with Council's Environmental Science and Parks' teams," Mr White said.

The budget for sediment removal is \$150,000 this year and \$650,000 for 2025/26.

New citizens welcomed

Twenty-six people from 12 countries have been officially welcomed to Marlborough.

The province's newest citizens, from Scotland, England, Canada, Philippines, India, Germany, Japan, South Africa, USA, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Czech Republic, were welcomed at a ceremony at Council chambers.

Mayor Nadine Taylor told the group the day was an important milestone in their new lives as citizens of this province and country.

In future they would all enjoy the rights and freedoms of native-born New Zealanders.

Following the Mayor's opening address and the presentation of certificates, Council's waiata group performed for the new citizens and their friends and families.



Mayor Nadine Taylor with Marlborough's newest citizens

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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