

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### Runway reseal takes off at Marlborough Airport

Construction is set to begin on Marlborough Airport's largest maintenance project to date, which includes re-paving the runway and adjacent aviation surfaces, as well as improvements to the short-term car park.



The airport's largest maintenance project to date includes a re-paving of the runway, taxiway and apron, as well as improvements to the short-term car park

Investments in maintaining and improving airport infrastructure are important to ensure the safety and efficiency of air travel in Marlborough, said Dean Heiford, chief executive of Marlborough Airport Ltd (MAL).

"Runways are the highest risk for any airport and safety is the top priority for aircraft and travellers visiting Marlborough. This investment in infrastructure is once every 15 years, so we are also taking this opportunity to improve aviation lighting, airside access for emergency vehicles and capabilities for electric aircraft arriving in 2026," Mr Heiford said.

"The project also includes improvements to the older car park near the terminal, where we're adding nearly 1,000 native plants and a new outdoor seating area, while we re-pave and improve its layout."

This \$10.7M investment in infrastructure is funded through airport operations, with most of the airside construction at night to minimise disruption to scheduled flights and the public.

A brief disruption is planned in the short-term car park later this year.

"There are 35 nightshifts planned to lay 70,500 square metres of pavement across the airport's runway, taxiway and apron. There are no planned disruptions to flights, as this work will be done in sections and at night," Mr Heiford said. "The short-term car park will be closed for a brief period after the runway reseal, so that we can improve the layout and drainage, as well as reseal the car park surface."

TDZ Projects is leading the project delivery, alongside design engineers Beca and recently appointed contractor Fulton Hogan. In 2024, a rigorous closed tender process was carried out and specialist contractors were invited to bid on this project, based on previous airport experience in high-risk projects.

"We received a strong response to the tender process, which was chosen due to the specialist nature and high risks involved with the project," Mr Heiford said.

"It was highly competitive, not only in price but also risk management and the calibre of people with previous airport experience."

For the first time in the airport's procurement process, sustainability initiatives accounted for 10 per cent of the tender. This has resulted in the project millings, or crushed bits of old pavement, to be saved and re-used in future projects in Marlborough.

MAL is a Council-controlled organisation, 100 per cent owned by MDC Holdings, which is a Council controlled trading organisation established to act as a holding company for its commercial entities, such as MAL, as well as Port Marlborough NZ Ltd and its subsidiaries.

In addition to commercial flights and delivering dividends to Council, the airport is a lifeline under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

For updates on this project, visit the airport website at [marlboroughairport.co.nz](http://marlboroughairport.co.nz).

### New café concept blends creatives and community

An idea has been brewing for a while to bring together Marlborough's creative community.

The product is Café Create - a new bi-monthly breakfast gathering designed to celebrate Marlborough's unique blend of creativity and community. The first get-together will be held at Karaka Café from 7.30am to 8.45am on Thursday 27 February.

"As part of our commitment to Te Atātū - Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategic Plan 2024 - 2034, we are thrilled to launch this new café concept, which brings together creativity and community," Mrs Neilson said.

"Café Create is designed to foster a vibrant and dynamic environment where professionals, artists, entrepreneurs and innovators can connect, collaborate and inspire each other," she said.

"The event will be a hub for creative minds to exchange ideas, share experiences and

build meaningful relationships across various industries."

Each café catch-up will feature light refreshments, a guest speaker, Q&A session and networking. Future dates are 27 February, 1 May, 26 June, 28 August and 30 October.

Guest speakers at the inaugural meeting will be Creative at Heart Programme Coordinator Aimee Preston and Art Therapist Emma Toy. Join them to discover how Creative at Heart is building connections and promoting healing through the power of the arts.

Previously called Creative Kids, Creative at Heart is a local non-profit dedicated to enriching the community through diverse artistic and music therapy programmes designed for adults and children alike. The pair will discuss the transformative benefits of

therapeutic arts, provide insights into their services, and highlight the positive impact these offerings have on individuals and families.

Mrs Neilson said Café Create would build on connections made during the 2023 community workshops.

"We aim to create a dynamic space where people can kōrero with fellow creatives, learn about their mahi, learn from guest speakers, and share how our initiatives can support and elevate your artistic practice. It's a fantastic opportunity to network, socialise and connect with others in our creative community," she said.

To register go to: [www.eventbrite.com/d/new-zealand--blenheim](http://www.eventbrite.com/d/new-zealand--blenheim) and search 'Café Create'. Spaces are limited.

### Heritage Marlborough helping digitise region's history

Some of Marlborough's many historical treasures have come to light as part of an initiative by Council's Heritage Marlborough team to help digitise local collections.

Heritage Marlborough have partnered with staff at the region's small museums to use eHive, a web-based collection cataloguing system. Archivist Wendy Harnett has been working with Picton Museum to assist with uploading photos and archives into the system.

"Picton Museum has a large photo collection, which includes some real treasures. I have been working with research assistant Odelia van Leeuwen to upload these to eHive while I've been digitising some of their archives for them," Wendy said.

The museum's archives include items such as the original plans of Marlborough

World War II military camps, original plans and aerial photos of Marlborough Sounds WWII defence installations including gun emplacements, Waikawa and Picton Tribal Committee minute books from the 1940s to the 1960s and a Railways Department Picton School train service register from 1945 to 1959.

"By helping to upload some of their collection, Picton Museum now has examples they can use of how to add more themselves," Wendy said.

"eHive is a great web-based system that allows local museums to create good quality documentation of their collections and, of course, find everything easily and make their collections more accessible to the general public," Wendy said.

For more information go to: <https://ehive.com/explore>



Heritage Marlborough Archivist Wendy Harnett is working with Picton Museum's Odelia van Leeuwen to digitise the museum's collection

### When it rains it'll change

Planning a trip to the beach or river for a swim this summer? If it's been raining recently, it's probably not safe to swim.

Over Christmas, Marlborough saw some large thunderstorms roll through the region with the MetService issuing warnings for two particularly nasty ones.

Council's Water Quality Scientist Steffi Henkel said these heavy rainfall events could lead to contamination from runoff.

"The water after heavy rain will contain higher levels of pathogens, bacteria and viruses," she said. "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."

This time of year also sees the return of toxic algae in rivers and streams.

Steffi said algae had already been spotted in the Omaka River, and it was crucial to keep an eye out, 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. Humans may experience vomiting, diarrhoea, and skin irritation."

Due to the vastness of Marlborough's waterways, it's not feasible to place warning signs everywhere.

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

To find out more about toxic algae and how you can identify it, go to [www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/toxic-algae](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/toxic-algae)



When it rains it'll change - Council is reminding people to avoid swimming spots for at least 24 hours after heavy rain

### Do you qualify for a rates rebate?

If you are a ratepayer on a low income, you may qualify for a rates rebate of up to \$790.

To qualify, you need to be paying the rates on the home you live in, your name must be on the rates invoice and your home cannot be used principally for farming or business purposes.

How much the rebate will be depends on the amount of your rates, your total household income and the number of dependants living with you.

To see if you qualify go to: [www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/rates-rebate-calculator](http://www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/rates-rebate-calculator)

Apply in person at Council's Customer Service Centre in Blenheim or at the Picton Library or go to Council's website and apply online at: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates/rates-rebate/rates-rebate-application-form?ed-step=1](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates/rates-rebate/rates-rebate-application-form?ed-step=1)

You'll need your income details for the year ended 31 March 2024 to apply.

Applications for this rating year close on 30 June 2025; no late applications will be accepted. Please note, if visiting the Blenheim office, there are two car parks for mobility permit holders located at the rear of the building for your convenience.

For more information or to check if you have already applied for this rating year, call Council's Customer Services on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)



### Weld Pass night closures and SH1 roundabout works

State Highway 1 Weld Pass is the first big resurfacing job in Marlborough this year as the NZTA/Waka Kotahi state highway summer maintenance season continues.

Night works on Weld Pass are planned from 29 January to 13 February between 7pm and 5am.

Allowances will be made for the Waitangi Day holiday. Contractors will stop work at 5am on 5 February and won't resume work until 7pm on 7 February.

NZTA Regional Manager Wellington/Top of the South Mark Owen said Weld Pass must be closed to all traffic while structural asphalt to strengthen the road surface on a 500m section of Weld Pass was completed.

"Weld Pass is a narrow road with very limited space. Resurfacing and laying asphalt requires large machinery that occupies a lot of space. It simply isn't possible to allow traffic through the site while work is underway."

During the SH1 Weld Pass night closure, when there's less traffic travelling through Blenheim to and from the Picton ferry, contractors will also lay new asphalt on the SH1/SH6 Nelson Street roundabout and the SH1 Main Street roundabout. Each roundabout will be closed while this work is completed.

For more information go to: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

### Koromiko caravan park access to get easier and safer

NZTA/Waka Kotahi is building a new right turn bay at the Freeths Road/State Highway 1 intersection.

The turning bay is required as part of consent conditions for a new campground NZ Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) is establishing on Freeths Road. NZTA/Waka Kotahi has been working with the NZMCA on the project.

With SH1 Picton to Tuamarina carrying over 6,000 vehicles daily, the new turning bay will make it safer for turning traffic to enter Freeths Road.

Road crews will be on-site for around eight weeks from 27 January to 28 March - weather permitting.

To assist with the overall safety of the construction site, access to Freeths Road will be restricted to residents only, and as such, the Collins Memorial Reserve picnic area and public toilet facility will be closed for the duration of the project.

The construction of the right turn bay will see the southbound lane of SH1 widened between Picton Golf Course and 100m south of Freeths Road. A flush median will extend from the right turn bay to Picton Golf Club.

The work will predominantly be at night from Sunday to Thursday between 7pm and 6am under stop/go traffic management.

Drivers can expect delays of approximately five minutes when driving through Koromiko while this project is completed. Road users, especially those with ferry connections in Picton, should allow extra time for their journeys.

Residents close to the work site may experience some noise, lights, and vibration while the work is being undertaken. Our contractors will do their best to minimise disruption where possible.

For more information go to: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)



# 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](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors) or Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Creative Communities fund now open

Are you involved in a creative community project that benefits the people of Marlborough? Do you need funding help?

If so, now's the time to get your application in for funding through the Marlborough District Council Creative Communities NZ Scheme.

The purpose of the scheme is to support and encourage local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in arts activities.

The fund is now open and closes at 8am 3 March.

For more information go to: [www.creativenz.govt.nz/funding-and-support/all-opportunities/creative-communities-scheme](http://www.creativenz.govt.nz/funding-and-support/all-opportunities/creative-communities-scheme)

For further information please contact Nicola Neilson, Project Lead - Arts, Culture and Heritage, on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz)



## Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund open now

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund - for young people needing help with transport costs - is now open.

Funding is available to rural sport clubs and rural school teams with young people aged five to 18 needing subsidies to help with transport costs to regular local sporting competitions in Marlborough.

Guidelines and the application form are available at: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/sport-nz-rural-travel-fund](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/sport-nz-rural-travel-fund)

Applications close at 8am on 7 March 2025.

For further information please contact Natalie Lawler, Events and Community Partnerships Officer at: [natalie.lawler@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:natalie.lawler@marlborough.govt.nz) or Ph: 03 520 7400.



## 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.



**Council's Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.**

Contact the Harbourmaster's Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough's harbours.

03 520 7400 | [HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ](mailto:HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ)



## Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

[mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Economic, Finance and Community

Tuesday 11 February at 9am

### Public Forum

A public forum will be held prior to the Economic, Finance and Community Committee meeting, starting at 8.30am. If you wish to address the Committee you will need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary the Friday prior to the meeting. Please note topics are restricted to the agenda items or those within the Committee's delegation.

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

## Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/public-notice](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/public-notice)