



Get out and about on your bike

The Aotearoa Bike Challenge is back.

As part of that Council is running its Biking Treasure Hunt along the Taylor River Reserve in February and March.

This event is in its third year and is free to enter.

Families are encouraged to ride both sides of the Taylor River shared path, from Riverside Quays to the Taylor Dam to collect clues and go in the draw to win some great treasure gift baskets.

It's a bit like orienteering on a bike, said RideOn Coordinator Sandy Large.

"There are hidden clues along the riverbanks as well as five kiwi cut outs hidden along the way for bonus spot prizes," she said.

To register go to www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/cycling-and-walking/cycling/biking-treasure-hunt-2025



The Aotearoa Bike Challenge is great for well-being. It doesn't matter if you ride everyday or haven't been on a bike in years, you can ride anywhere anytime in February to take part.

There are prizes to win for riding and encouraging your friends and colleagues to ride too. Hop on your bikes, join a community, learn new bike skills, and win prizes!

For more information and to learn more details about the challenge go to www.lovetoride.net/nz

Seymour Square's original plans revealed

Council holds many local history gems in its local authority archive including minutes, registers, maps, plans and photographs, with some dating back to the 1860s.

With the recent spotlight on Seymour Square, after the New Zealand Gardens Trust awarded the immaculately maintained gardens four stars, Council's Parks and Open Spaces and Heritage Marlborough teams have unearthed the original plans for the space.

Heritage Marlborough Manager Liz Ward said after the Second World War rather than building more memorials the government encouraged communities to remember the war in the form of community spaces.

"There was a fund available for building memorials that provided cultural and recreation spaces. This could be why Council looked at converting Seymour Square into a war memorial garden at the time," she said.

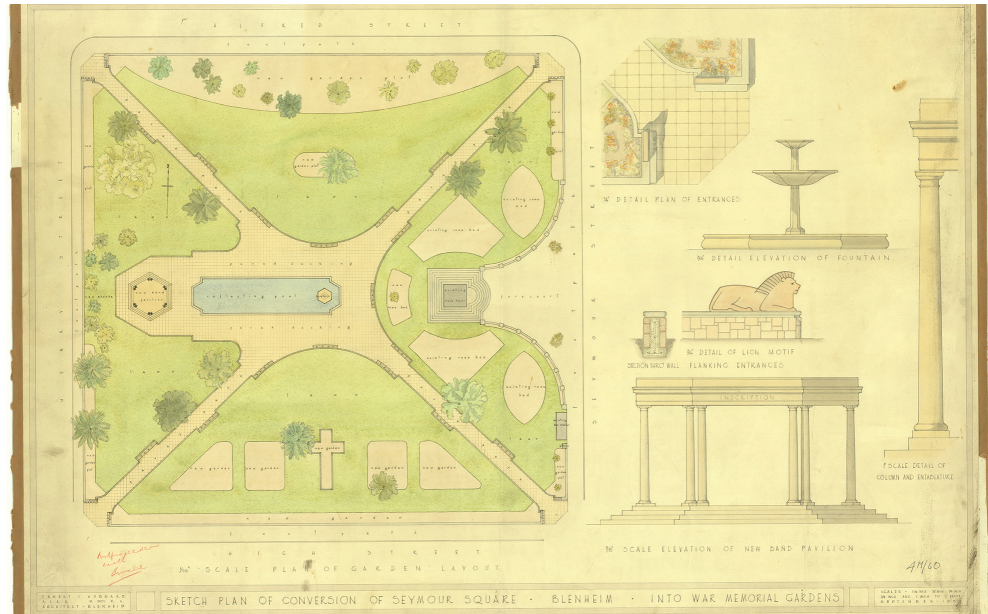
The original plans included a reflecting pool and new band rotunda as seen in the 1950 plan by Ernest Hubbard.

"These plans never came to fruition and instead the existing band rotunda was demolished, and the current fountain was built as a memorial to those from Marlborough who served in the war," Mrs Ward said.

"The fact the band rotunda was abandoned also says something about changing leisure habits of the time. With widespread radio ownership no one needed to go to a park to listen to music as it was available at home."

Council's Parks and Open Spaces Manager Jane Tito said the one-hectare area now known as Seymour Square was set aside in 1857 and initially used for rugby and cricket.

"Today Seymour Square is a much-loved park of which we can all be very proud. The New Zealand Garden Trust's four-star rating is wonderful recognition for the garden team, led by Brad Moloney, who spend many hours to ensure all Council parks and gardens are in great shape for locals and visitors," she said.



The original plans included a reflecting pool and new band rotunda as seen in the 1950 plan by Ernest Hubbard

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund open now



SPORT NEW ZEALAND IHI AOTEAROA

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

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 or Ph: 03 520 7400.

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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