

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### 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 were 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/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/conservation-status/threatened-birds/)

### Taylor River weed reduced

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



Dave Fowler on board the soon-to-be-retired River Queen weedcutting boat

Andy White, Council's 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 each day," he said.

Under 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," Mr White said.

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.

### Planning for the protection of Marlborough's past

If you have an interest in protecting and preserving Marlborough's heritage, Council welcomes your input to a new 10-year Marlborough Heritage Strategy at a series of upcoming community workshops.

With the Heritage Marlborough team now under the auspices of Council, Mayor Nadine Taylor said there was a fantastic opportunity to map out the future of the wider heritage sector in Marlborough.

"Council wants to strengthen the region's heritage sector through a coordinated, comprehensive and well communicated approach, supported by this new strategy. We want to support the sector across the region and foster innovative developments that will preserve, celebrate and recognise Marlborough's unique her-it-age," she said.

"We are focussed on the many collections, the stories, the sector requirements and the partnerships that will benefit Marlborough heritage as a whole, including more support of our regional museums in Picton, Renwick, Flaxbourne and Havelock alongside the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre, the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum, and Marlborough Museum, a need which was identified in Council's 2017 Heritage Review," she said.

Five community workshops run by an independent facilitator are taking place during March, designed to garner ideas and seek direction from Marlborough's heritage community. Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager Nicola Neilson, who is leading the review, said the community

workshops were open to anyone with an interest in protecting and preserving Marlborough's heritage.

- 18 March Seddon/Awatere Community Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
- 19 March Blenheim/Te Kahu o Waipuna, 10.30am - 12pm
- 19 March Blenheim/Nativity Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
- 20 March Havelock/Havelock Town Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
- 20 March Picton/Picton Library, 10am - 11.30am

Mayor Taylor said it was important to bring all those interested in preserving and protecting Marlborough's history together, to help shape the strategy.

"Marlborough has a strong and proud heritage sector, full of knowledgeable, passionate people. Council wants everyone's help in bringing together a broad community vision and strategy for Heritage for the next decade," she said.

"We look forward to hearing ideas from the public about how they would like to protect and preserve herit-age across Marlborough. As part of this, we have also set up an Iwi Advisory Panel who we are partnering with on a te ao Māori vision for the strategy."

Registration is essential - please go to: [www.eventbrite.co.nz/o/marlborough-district-council-58556313883](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz/o/marlborough-district-council-58556313883)

For further information please email [nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz) or phone 03 520 7400.

### New pavilion for A & P Park

Nelson firm JTB Architects has been chosen to design the new pavilion for Marlborough's A & P Park in Blenheim.

Discussion with JTB will begin soon to discuss details around the scope of the project including building materials, size, colours and layout including office space, said Parks and Open Spaces Manager Jane Tito.

JTB has completed several commercial buildings locally including the Bragato Research Winery, the New Zealand Wine Centre - Te Pokapū Wāina o Aotearoa and Marlborough Vintners Winery.

Twelve companies submitted proposals with 11 qualifying for initial assessment. Four were then selected for closer review and a preferred company was chosen for the final interview.

"The submissions were well prepared and the architectural companies

had spent time in preparing for their presentation," said Mrs Tito.

The new building will replace the aging pavilion, which is home to Marlborough Football, Marlborough Farmers' Market and the A & P Show.

A report commissioned by Council in 2023 looked at future planning to optimise the park's function-ality and benefits for the community. Council requested a master plan be prepared to consider what facilities should be developed and how they should be configured within the park.

The master plan identified the best area for the new pavilion was near the site of the demolished grandstand, which meant the existing pavilion could be used until the new facility was built.

A new pavilion was first signalled in the 2015-25 Long Term Plan.

### Get out and about on your bike

The Aotearoa Bike Challenge is back. As part of that Council is running Hunt along the Taylor River Reserve in February and March.

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

Families are encouraged to ride both sides of the shared path, from Riverside Quays to the Taylor Dam, collect clues and go into 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 cutouts 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](http://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 every day 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 bike, join a community, learn new skills and win prizes!

For more information and to learn more about the challenge go to: [www.lovetoride.net/nz](http://www.lovetoride.net/nz)

### Pollard Park display bed impressive

Bright red, pink and white bedding begonia ice blocks are greeting visitors to Pollard Park.

The colourful show of annuals is in the spectacular display bed, beside the creek by the Parker Street entrance.

Council gardeners keep this bed varied and interesting by changing the display which requires plenty of thought and initiative as well as careful planning, usually done during the winter months.

The current design is a team effort by Council gardeners.

The white backdrop is achieved with

alysium, while yellow marigolds are used in the flower "stick man." The rest features an assortment of bedding begonias.

Other colourful beds in the park feature red and white geraniums, irises and miniature sunflowers.

February is a busy time for Pollard Park with lots of families visiting as well as visitors from cruise ships.

Staff have been busy with routine maintenance including dead heading roses to ensure a constant show, weeding, tidying perennial borders and the cottage gardens.



Pollard Park's display bed provides a warm welcome to park visitors

### Waihopai River bridge officially opened

A new bridge spanning the Waihopai River, replacing one swept away in the July 2021 storm, has been completed on time and below budget.

Members of the local community celebrated with Mayor Nadine Taylor, councillors, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi representatives, Marlborough Roads staff and contractors earlier this week on site to mark the occasion.

The new single lane structure is 110m long, 4.1m wide and has seven 16m spans which tower nine metres above the river.

It was built by Egypt Ltd, a Nelson based

bridge contractor with the support of consultants.

The project cost was approximately \$4M including design and construction, road realignment, surfacing and drainage, geotechnical investigations, land and consents, coming in \$1.1M under budget.

The project was 95 per cent funded through NZTA's Financial Assistance Rate (FAR).

The local community was provided with a temporary Bailey bridge which provided access to the upper valley from September 2021.



The original Waihopai Bridge



The temporary Bailey bridge

After the July 2021 flood event



The impressive new 110m bridge



# 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.

## A Cuppa with your Councillors

Sounds area councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next one is Wednesday 19 February from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice and help with Council-related issues. Barbara Fauls, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors.

Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

**Where:** Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre

**When:** 10am to midday Wednesday 19 February



## 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)

## Whangamoā Saddle night closures

Overnight resealing and maintenance works are planned for the SH6 Whangamoā Saddle, between Rai Valley and Hira, and SH6 Pelorus Bridge.

From 23 February to 13 March SH6 Whangamoā Saddle will be closed from 8pm until 5.30am, Sunday to Thursday.

The road will be opened once to let traffic through. If travelling overnight, be at the closure points - the weighbridge in Hira, and on the Rai Valley straight at Rai Engineering & Mechanical - by 12.30am.

On 23 February, Pelorus Bridge will close from 8pm until 5.30am for repairs.

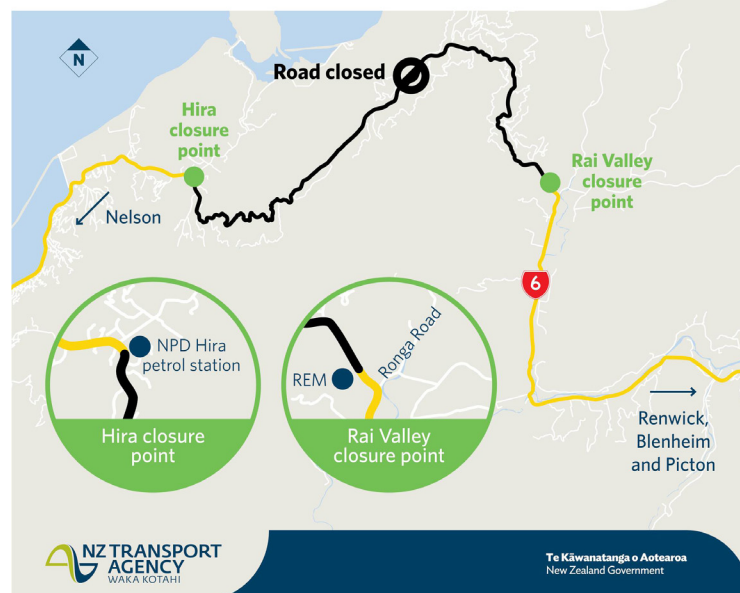
It will open at 12.30am to let queued traffic through.

During the closure the alternate route between Blenheim and Nelson is via State Highway 63 and St Arnaud.

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

### 6 Whangamoā Saddle - night closures

23 February to 13 March 2025, 8pm to 5:30am, Sunday to Thursday nights



## 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 the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



## 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

## Café Create coming up

A new bi-monthly breakfast gathering designed to celebrate Marlborough's unique blend of creativity and community is coming up soon!

Café Create will be held at Kaiaka Café at Westwood in Blenheim from 7.30am to 8.45am on Thursday 27 February. It is designed to foster a vibrant and dynamic environment where professionals, artists, entrepreneurs and innovators can connect, collaborate and inspire each other.

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 pro-moting healing through the power of the arts.

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

Spaces are limited.

## Kenepuru Road recovery drop-in session

The Kenepuru community is invited to attend the Marlborough Roads Recovery drop-in session on Thursday 20 February at Portage Resort from 2pm to 4pm.

The drop-in session will give members of the community the opportunity to speak to the Marlborough Roads Recovery team about the next phase of the Kenepuru road recovery works.

Join Mayor Nadine Taylor, councillors and Marlborough Roads Recovery staff who will be in attendance.

At the meeting handouts on the next phase of works will be available to review and discuss with the recovery team in a face-to-face conversational environment.

Refreshments will be available.