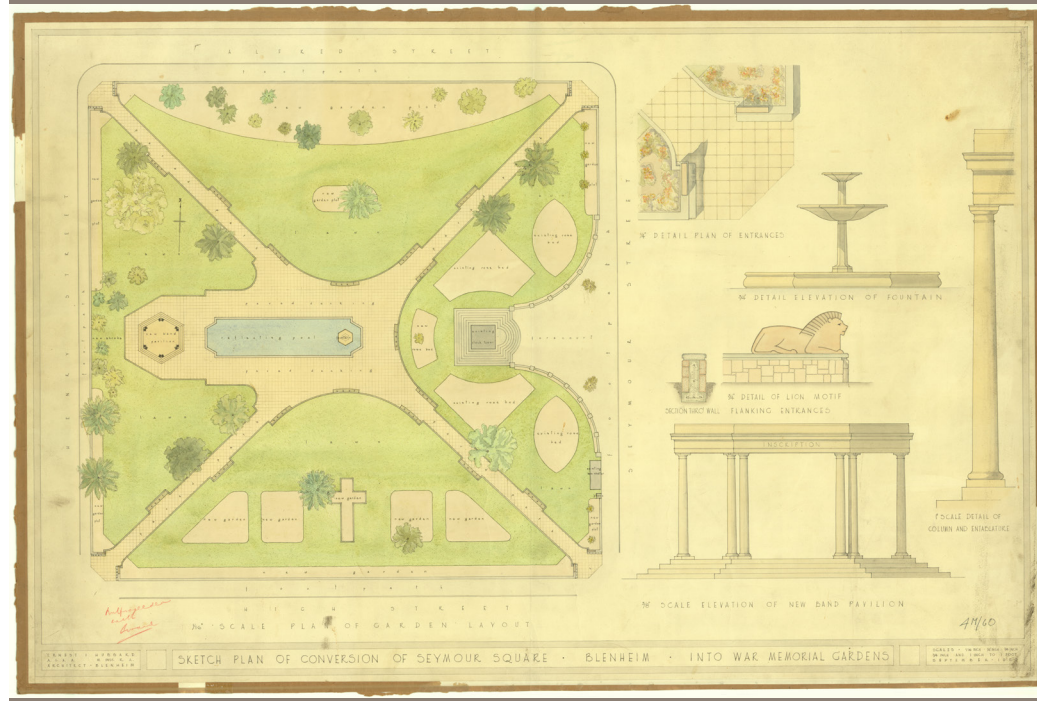


News from Marlborough District Council.

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.



The original plans for Seymour Square, circa 1950

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 idea of 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.

New Zealand Garden Trust's vision is that visitors interact with New Zealand's distinctive gardens and are inspired to celebrate and appreciate the valuable contribution they play in the lives and wellbeing of local communities.

Seymour Square continues to do that, 75 years on from the first plans created for it.

Decision pending on Waitaria Bay jetty

Marlborough District Councillors will await the outcome of geotechnical investigations to decide whether the Waitaria Bay jetty in Kenepuru Sound can be safely rebuilt on the same site.

The jetty was damaged during the August 2022 storm as it sits within a landslide which lifted the section closest to land and shunted the seaward portion of the jetty forward. The jetty was closed to the public on 16 January after a routine inspection found some of its structural components had deteriorated since its last inspection in mid-2023.

Marlborough Roads Transport Recovery Manager Steve Murrin told last week's Assets and Services Committee that it was important to get a report from geotechnical engineers before making any further decisions to ensure the site and a replacement jetty was resilient for the future.

"Our engineers have already carried out a

detailed structural inspection of the existing jetty, this has determined the jetty is unsafe in its current state. Before a replacement jetty can be constructed, further work needs to be done to ensure a jetty can be built at this site that is resilient to further land movement," Mr Murrin said.

"There are also some concerns around siltation in the bay as at low tide it's a struggle to get boats into the jetty. We'll undertake a seabed survey to determine the length of a new jetty. If it needs to be longer, additional funding will be needed," he said.

The replacement cost for a "like for like" jetty is estimated at around \$650,000. "With the insurance settlement for the damage and

carryovers in Council's jetties maintenance budget we can progress a replacement," Mr Murrin said.

An option was put to the committee to do temporary repairs to the jetty to allow it to be reopened to the public at a cost of \$40,000. Councillors opted to wait for the outcome of the geotech report before committing to any funding.

A resource consent is already underway for a replacement with submissions currently being worked through. Once the geotechnical investigations have been completed a decision will be made on the jetty location and a programme for the replacement will be confirmed.



Waitaria Bay jetty at low tide

From A to D: Marlborough's lakes' health revealed

Council's recent water quality testing of lakes in the region has revealed a mixed picture of lake health, with some pristine bodies of water and others facing challenges.

Five lakes are currently monitored: Grovetown Lagoon, Lake Elterwater, Lake Chalice, Bowscale Tarn and Lake McRae.

The lakes are evaluated for various water quality indicators, including chemical, physical, bacterial, and ecological factors, in accordance with the 2020 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM).

The framework categorises conditions from A (good) to D (poor).

"Among the monitored lakes, Lake Elterwater was identified as having the poorest health," says the report's writer, Senior Environmental Scientist Steffi Henkel.

A local catchment group is working on improving its condition to eventually see the return of species such as freshwater mussels and bittern.

"Grovetown Lagoon presents a concerning case with total phosphorus concentrations nearing the D-band.

The lagoon's submerged plant life falls within the D-band, primarily due to the prevalence of invasive species like oxygen weed.

"On a more positive note, the three lakes in remote areas generally show good health. Lake McRae stands out with an A grading, indicating excellent water quality. Bowscale Tarn and Lake Chalice show minor impacts, with Lake Chalice getting a D for native submerged plants. However, this may be a natural phenomenon," says Steffi.

Monitoring and reporting on lakes is crucial for improving understanding of regional natural resources and is a requirement under the NPS-FM.

Council is considering broadening its monitoring efforts to include Argyle Pond, a top recreational area Lake Grassmere/Kapara Te Hau, the region's largest lake, which was initially excluded due to its significant marine influence.

As Marlborough continues to assess and manage its lake resources, the monitoring programme will play a vital role in improving the health of these critical ecosystems for future generations.



Bowscale Tarn in the Molesworth is in good health

Heritage Uncovered - The Life of Olive Blick

Heritage Marlborough has partnered with organisations across the region to launch a new series, **Heritage Uncovered**. This initiative delves into lesser-known stories that have shaped Marlborough's history.

During the Second World War, women across New Zealand were called upon to join the Land Army to help fill the gaps left by enlisted men. The agricultural industry was particularly short of labour, leading to the creation of the Women's Land Service. Sally Peter from the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre shared an interview she conducted in 2005 with former land girl Olive Blick (nee Rutland).

Olive worked a farm on Cape Campbell in South Marlborough during the war, cutting scrub by hand with an axe, putting 4,400 sheep through the dip, driving sheep to Seddon, and many other farm activities. She recalled one difficult day when leading a draught horse across the lake to Seddon - her horse got stuck and she had to spend hours digging it out of the mud. These jobs were taxing on the girls due to the combination of long hours, labour shortages and fewer resources because of wartime rationing.

Despite its challenges Olive found being a land girl an exciting opportunity to participate in the work-force and contribute to the war effort.

During the interview, Olive mentioned she really loved the work and was excited to receive her land army uniform and work clothes. Her story reflects an important piece of New Zealand history and marked a starting point of change for women in the workforce.

Follow the Heritage Marlborough Facebook and Instagram pages as the team uncovers remarkable people, places, and events that have contributed to Marlborough's rich heritage. They would love you to share your own heritage stories.

Contact: heritage@marlborough.govt.nz and be a part of preserving Marlborough's history.



Olive Blick (nee Rutland) working on the farm, 1940 Credit: Flaxbourne Heritage Centre

Picton Marina achieves 'Superyacht Ready' accreditation

Port Marlborough and Marlborough Sounds Marinas announced recently that Picton Marina had achieved 'Superyacht Ready' accreditation and 'Gold Anchor' status from the Marina Industry Association (MIA Australia).

The accreditation highlights Marlborough Sounds Marinas' dedication to providing world-class facilities and exceptional service for superyacht guests, captains and crew. This follows the 'International Clean Marinas' certification for environmental excellence, received last July through MIA and ICOMIA - the International Council of Marine Industry Associations.

The accreditation is designed to assist superyacht captains and owners to identify marinas equipped with the necessary infrastructure, security measures and services to safely and adequately berth superyachts. To be eligible, Picton Marina first participated in MIA's Global Gold Anchor programme and met specific criteria related to

infrastructure, accessibility, security and service availability.

Marlborough Sounds Marinas Manager Anouk Euzebey highlighted the importance of the accreditation, saying the achievement strengthened Port Marlborough's ability to position Marlborough as a premier destination for superyachts in the Southern Hemisphere.

"With world-class infrastructure, secure facilities and exceptional marina support services, combined with our location in the heart of some of New Zealand's most stunning scenery and renowned attractions, Marlborough is a must visit for superyachts. We have already welcomed several prestigious vessels this year, and with this new accreditation, our team looks forward to hosting even more in the future."

Picton Marina has developed a comprehensive guide, offering detailed information about the marina's facilities and promoting the Marlborough region.

Prisoners roll up sleeves for Te Hoiere Project

Thousands of plants now in the ground as part of Te Hoiere Project have originated from Rolleston Prison near Christchurch.

The Corrections Facility houses lower-security prisoners and the nursery, established in 2000 as a horticultural training nursery, is one of several initiatives on site to upskill prisoners and provide employment.

Te Hoiere Project Catchment Care Coordinator Aubrey Tai said there was a Rolleston plant in nearly every part of the catchment.

"Over the past three years, plants from Rolleston had gone on to 17 properties in Te Hoiere catchment. They have really been instrumental in supporting the project and we appreciate everything those involved have done. It is a great fit for us," Aubrey said. "The plants Rolleston supplied have also been eco-sourced locally."

Rolleston Prison Corrections staff Wayne McDonald and Christine Franks visited the catchment late last year to see the prisoners' handiwork firsthand. This included the Havelock Causeway/Motuweka which has 48,300 plants planted over the last two and a half years, with Rolleston providing around 10 per cent, primarily flax and carex.

Aubrey said it was great to host Wayne and Christine and show them some of the sites that have benefited from plants from the Rolleston nursery, and have them meet some of the landowners involved with the project.

The relationship between Te Hoiere Project and Rolleston Prison's nursery began in 2021, although the nursery has worked with Council since 2018 to supply plants for other projects around the district including combatting hillside erosion.

Wayne, who is Principal Instructor for Rolleston Horticulture, said the facility currently had 18 workers who have the opportunity to achieve the NZ Certificate in Primary Industries Skills Horticulture (Level 2) and the NZ Certificate in Horticulture Nursery Production (Level 3).

"All our workers complete workplace health and safety unit standards along with workplace on the job training and they gain valuable life skills and work ethics. It's been a pleasure supplying the Te Hoiere Project with plants and the prisoners have been greatly encouraged seeing photos of the plantings," Wayne said.



Plants from Rolleston Prison's nursery are now in nearly every part of Te Hoiere catchment



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.

Commercial Events Fund opening soon

Round two of Council's 2024/2025 Commercial Events Fund opens on Monday 10 February.

This contestable fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. Council's Commercial Events Fund sub-committee considers the applications and there is a budget of \$130,000 available for allocation this year.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within the Marlborough District Council boundaries. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible. Funding is granted on an annual basis but it does not mean that all funds must be distributed each year.

Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may re-apply.

Key dates:

- Applications close: 5pm Monday 10 March 2025
- Funding decision by: 5pm Friday 4 April 2025

Further information and the online application form can be found on Council's website - www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/commercial-events-fund

Any enquiries can be directed to Events & Community Partnerships Manager, Samantha Young, Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: events@marlborough.govt.nz

Protect our paradise - keep your boats clean

If you're planning to explore our coastal waters this summer, now is the time to prepare your vessel and gear to protect our paradise from biosecurity risks.

Unwanted marine pests and weeds, such as Mediterranean fanworm and Caulerpa, can wreak havoc on our natural ecosystems and pose a threat to Marlborough's local aquaculture industry.

Keep your hull, gear and anchor clean to help stop invasive marine pests and weeds from spreading - and ruining the places you love.

Any boat could spread an invasive marine pest when it moves, so remember:

- for all boats - check and clean the gear and anchor and manage on-board water as you go during a trip
- for a trailer boat - clean when you get home
- for a moored boat - maintain antifouling.



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.



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.

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

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

