

Make the most of Havelock this summer

Havelock - New Zealand's Mussel Capital is now home to a wonderful new playground and outdoor space for all to enjoy.

The new playground at Havelock War Memorial Park was designed with the whole family in mind - offering a fenced-off play area for kids of all ages as well as the likes of corn-hole and foursquare for the older kids and adults.

With a barbecue, pump track, netball and tennis courts and, of course, a large grass playing field, it's the perfect spot to base your family for a day out this summer.

Once there, park up for the day or check out some of the stunning walking and cycling tracks in the area, like the picturesque Waterfall Bay.

A more challenging adventure is situated alongside Queen Charlotte Drive from the Motuweka Pathway. The Link Pathway offers a range of gradients and stunning views throughout - choose a small section to tackle or challenge yourself to complete the entire track from Havelock to Picton - all 42km!

This is not a path to conquer on a whim - if you're going to go the whole way, ensure you pack plenty of food and water, take time to rest and arrange for someone to pick you up in Picton. Training is recommended before taking the trail on in one go.

If walking or cycling isn't your thing, relax on one of the many charter boats and sample some of the area's world-famous mussels.



*Havelock is a wonderful destination for a day out this summer
Credit: Jim Tannock Photography.*

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 in the top of the South Island.

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/media-releases/state-highway-1-blenheim-roundabout-resurfacing-to-begin-next-month/ and www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/state-highway-1-weld-pass-night-works-planned-for-late-january/

Wither Hills Management Plan approved

Council has approved the Wither Hills Management Plan, which sets out the direction for both the day-to-day and longer-term management of the park.

The Wither Hills are an iconic and highly valued backdrop to Blenheim and consists of 1029 hectares of land, most of which is run as a farm but includes a 42 ha QEII National Trust protective covenant.

Since the original purchase of land on the Wither Hills in the 1940s to address soil conservation issues, various agencies, including the former Marlborough Catchment Board and former Blenheim Borough Council, have worked hard to stabilise the hills to protect Blenheim.

Today the park's role as a soil conservation reserve is as important as ever. While this remains the primary purpose, the park also provides many different experiences for locals and visitors including mountain biking, walking and running, views of the surrounding landscape and areas of habitat restoration.

Effective fire risk management has also become particularly important given it is

critical to achieve soil conservation goals and protect the public.

Developing the new management plan has included a review of the former 2003 management plan for the Wither Hills, pre-consultation with iwi and key stakeholders, receiving feedback on issues and then formal submissions on a draft plan.

Eighteen submissions were received on the draft plan and a two-day hearing was held in November with five submitters appearing.

The final approved plan provides strategic direction for effective management of the park. This is supported by actions in the plan that are required to achieve both the primary soil conservation outcome along with secondary outcomes such as fire risk management, recreational opportunities and habitat restoration.

To read the new Wither Hills Management Plan go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-open-spaces-plans-and-reports/plans/wither-hills-management-plan

Have your say on Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve Management Plan

Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve, on the eastern side of Waikawa Bay near Picton, is of great significance for Te Ātiawa and is a popular place for picnicking, swimming and launching boats.

The Council is required to develop a reserve management plan under the Reserves Act. This will enable a mix of uses and values in the area. The plan will also establish a policy to guide the day-to-day management of the Reserve.

In accordance with Section 41(6) (a) of the Reserves Act 1977 submissions are invited on any aspect of the draft Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve Management Plan. Submissions can be lodged via an online form at links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay. Public submissions should be made by 7 March 2025.

A Hearings Panel consisting of Assets and Services Committee Chair Councillor Brian Dawson, Councillor Scott Adams and up to

two independent commissioners with expertise in tikanga Māori and the Reserves Act will be set up to hear submissions and make recommendations to Council.

The draft management plan can be viewed online at www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/parks-and-open-spaces/parks-and-open-spaces-plans-and-reports/plans/waikawa-bay-foreshore-reserve-management-plan or you can pick up a copy from Council's Customer Service Centres in Blenheim or Picton. You can also email waikawabay.rmp@marlborough.govt.nz to lodge a submission.



Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
03 520 7400 | mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201, New Zealand
PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240, New Zealand

For careers at Council go to:
www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/careers



marlborough.govt.nz