



## Get on board the Picton bus

Marlburians are encouraged to get on board a new Saturday Picton/Blenheim bus service.

Council has approved the trial of a Saturday bus service for 12 months, funded from existing budgets. There have been a number of enquiries about such a service from the Picton community, particularly to visit the new Marlborough Library and Art Gallery at Te Kahu o Waipuna in Blenheim. The trial will also enable Picton residents to make use of the facilities at Marlborough Lines Stadium 2000 and allow Blenheim residents to visit Picton for the day. It costs \$4 each way to travel (adult) and \$2 for under-18s.

Bike-Walk and Public Transport portfolio holder Councillor Jonathan Rosene said there was existing budget to conduct the trial. "We encourage people to get on board and make use of the opportunities



it will provide for travel in both directions. This is good for both road safety and the environment."

The trial is budgeted at \$27,500 and started on Saturday. It will be assessed after 12 months to consider the volumes compared to the weekday service and the information will be presented to Council to consider. The Picton bus service started in June 2023 and currently has 390 passengers per week, and is operated by contractor Ritchies.

For further information go to: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/busroutes](https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/busroutes)

## Puna Wai springs from Te Tātoru o Wairau

The aspirations of hockey in Marlborough rose like water from the ground with the recent dawn blessing and opening of a new water turf and pavilion – Puna Wai Hockey Stadium – on Nelson Street at Marlborough Girls' College.

The opening of the new facility follows Council surrendering the lease of College Park, Hockey Marlborough's current home, in 2021, to the Ministry of Education. At the time it was planned that Bohally Intermediate would be reconstructed on College Park as part of the Combined Schools Project – Te Tātoru o Wairau - and a new hockey turf and pavilion would be built near the Marlborough Girls' College. In January 2024 the Combined Schools Project was cancelled by the Government but the hockey turf development was already underway.

Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Rārua representatives led the blessing attended by Mayor Nadine Taylor, Marlborough Girls' College acting principal Emily Stenhouse and board member Brian Roughan, Hockey Marlborough chair Jodie Lawson, many of those involved in the new facility's design and construction, community members and students of both the girls' and boys' colleges.



Marlborough's new Puna Wai Hockey Stadium on Nelson Street at Marlborough Girls' College

Iwi gifted the name Puna Wai (spring of water), described by Mayor Taylor as a "true taonga", to the new building. Waipuna is the area of town in which the turf is located.

The turf was designed by Hugh Barnes Consultants and built by Findlater Construction. Cuddons, Callahan Martella, TC Nicholls and Tiger Turf were also involved. The 590m2 two-storey hockey pavilion was designed by Arthouse Architects and built by Robinson Construction with local sub-contractors. It comprises changing rooms and showers, a meeting room, kitchen, large community area and an external deck.



Dignitaries gather at the dawn blessing from left Peter Meihana (Rangitāne O Wairau Iwi Representative Te Tātoru O Wairau); Hockey Marlborough's Jodie Lawson (chair) and Andy Rowe; MGC board member Brian Roughan; Mayor Nadine Taylor; MGC acting principal Emily Stenhouse; MBC principal John Kendall; Michelle Lavender (Ngāti Rārua Iwi Representative Te Tātoru O Wairau); Johnny Joseph (Ngāti Toa Rangatira Iwi Representative Te Tātoru O Wairau); Elaine Wilson (Ngāti Kuia trustee); Tania Alesana (Ngāti Kuia co-chair) and Carol Tipene (Ngāti Kuia trustee).

## Rabbit control on Taylor River Reserve starts in July

Increasing numbers of rabbits on the Taylor River Reserve area are to be controlled.

Two areas are being targeted, both on the western side of the river.

The first 49-hectare block runs from Doctors Creek through to the boundary of the lifestyle block area on Waters Avenue and the second 21-hectare block runs from the Wither Road extension through to Richardson Avenue.

The pest control operation is planned to start in July and reserve users are advised to avoid walking dogs in the area. Those who still want to exercise their dog are asked to ensure they are on a leash.

Council will use pindone poison laid in fenced bait stations followed by night shooting to reduce numbers. This will help get rabbit numbers below the required level set in Marlborough's Regional Pest Management Plan.

The Park and Open Spaces team advised councillors that the rabbit population in the Taylor River Reserve

was high and needed to be brought under control as rabbits damaged the reserve and its vegetation.

In 2021, Council undertook a rabbit control operation using calicivirus, but current counts show numbers are high again.

Pindone is an anti-coagulant poison, commonly used for rabbit control in New Zealand since the 1940s. It is considered relatively safe to both dogs and cats as a large volume would need to be consumed over a number of days to affect them.

Anyone with any concerns their dog has eaten pindone should contact their vet as there is an antidote available. All precautions will be taken to ensure only rabbits eat the bait. Bait stations will be fenced where necessary to prevent interactions with stock, dogs and children, and will only be opened at night. Warning signs will be placed in the two areas.

If a bait station appears to have been interfered with, please contact the Parks and Open Spaces Team at Council; Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Taylor River works

Improvement works are continuing on the Taylor River either side of the Hutcheson Street bridge.

Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White said the work began at the beginning of May to improve the channel capacity in the river.

His team had been planning this edging work ahead of a larger programme due to start later this year, subject to Council

approval in the Long Term Plan.

"The work involves the removal of sediment and gravels that have gradually accumulated in recent years, resulting in higher water levels," he said.

"With the sediment removed, the team is finishing the works over the next fortnight by placing rock as an edge protection to prevent future bank erosion."



A digger works on removing sediment from the Taylor River in front of the ASB Theatre

### Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm  
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm  
03 520 7400 | [mhc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mhc@marlborough.govt.nz)

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