



# Reduced services at Marlborough District Libraries

Due to a planned system outage Marlborough District Libraries - Blenheim and Picton will be offering limited services tomorrow, Thursday 16 May.

Affecting many libraries across the country, the Kōtui Library Management System server is undergoing maintenance, which means from 8pm on Wednesday 15 to early Friday morning access to library systems is limited.

For the customer, this means a library card must be presented to borrow a book from the one counter in each library set

up to manage this. The library app, and other digital resources that require library sign in, will be unavailable including catalogue searches.

“Although our key library services are limited, our physical libraries have chosen to remain open in order to accommodate all the other services our libraries offer,” Libraries’ Manager Glenn Webster said.

“For example, the APNK computer and WIFI will still be available and those groups with bookings in our meeting rooms will be honoured including our regular Thursday events like the JP Service in Blenheim and Company Café in Picton.” Borrowers are asked to limit their returns if possible. Due dates, holds and membership dates will automatically

extend, so no extra fines or expiries will be incurred.

Marlborough Art Gallery and CBD Café in the library at Te Kahu o Waipuna will not be affected by the outage. Council’s services and enquiries at Picton Library and Service Centre also remain unaffected. For more information on the outage go to: [www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz)

## Former Millennium site going green

The former Millennium Art Gallery site, on the corner of Seymour and Alfred Street, is to be turned into public green space.

The Millennium Art Gallery was demolished in December 2023 when the gallery moved to its new home in Te Kahu o Waipuna, Blenheim’s library. Council’s Property and Contracts manager Maighan Watson told April’s Economic, Finance and Community Committee meeting that, following the demolition, a traffic safety assessment was undertaken which concluded there had been significant improvements to pedestrian and vehicle sight lines.

A preliminary vehicle tracking analysis determined that any physical changes to the road corner could result in increased vehicle speeds however minor improvements to increase safety in the area would be completed separately.

If ratified by full Council, the area will be developed into a public grassed area with the existing dogwood trees on the southern side retained and the area developed as a low-maintenance public green space maintained by Council’s garden team.

## Dam safety regulations coming into force

Do you have a dam on your property and if so, does it meet safety regulations?

The new Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022 will come into force on 13 May 2024 impacting dams of a certain height and volume threshold.

All dams will need a potential impact classification (PIC) to assess what impact dam failure could have on the community, historical or cultural places, critical or major infrastructure and the natural environment.

The regulations have been made to increase dam resilience and safety to protect people, property and the environment, Council’s Building Control Group Manager Dhyanom Gala said.

The regulations also provide a nationally consistent risk-based approach to dam safety.

“The Government has recently made a change to the thresholds to reduce the number of dams that need to be classified,” said Mr Gala.

It was important that specialist engineering resources were focussed on dams that represented the greatest risk to people and property downstream, and that owners of classifiable dams could meet their obligations under the regulations, he said. Under the revised regulation, dams only need to be classified if they are four or more metres in height and store 20,000 or more cubic metres. Regulations no longer apply to dams less than four metres high, regardless of their storage volume.

Implementation timeframes for submitting documentation are not changing.

The regulations came into force on 13 May 2024 and dam owners must provide their dam’s potential impact classification certificate to their regional authority by 13 August 2024.

Information and resources are available on Council’s website or MBIE’s building performance website and include a detailed guidance document and resources to help dam owners calculate the height and volume of their dam, to see if it is impacted by the regulations.

For more information visit [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/building-services/dam-safety](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/building-services/dam-safety) or email [damsafety@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:damsafety@marlborough.govt.nz)



**Do you still need to give a dam?**

Changes to the dam safety regulations mean smaller dams may no longer need to comply.

Check if yours is still impacted  
[building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/dam-safety](http://building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/dam-safety)




## Picton youth input into revamped skate park and youth space



Young people in Picton have helped Council with ideas to revitalise the Picton skate park and youth space at Auckland Street Reserve (pictured).

Council Parks and Open Spaces Officer Grahame Smail said consultation with local iwi and schools, including Queen Charlotte College student leaders, provided improvement ideas. The area has been enlarged slightly to include a grassed social volleyball space and a new three-on-three basketball court and back board goal, new drinking fountain and spectator seating. The multi-goal area was revamped, and a new

colourful shade umbrella and two areas with shade sails and picnic tables were added, Mr Smail said.

“Improvement of the skating aspects will be undertaken later in the year if funding is approved, and local iwi are working on some decorative panels. The whole space continues to be well used and was popular over the summer period.”