



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.



📷 Councillor Jonathan Rosene (left) with Marlborough Police Sergeant Josh Clauson discuss the campaign to target people in Marlborough who drink and drive

Drinking? Don't drive

It's time to get our heads around it.

New Zealanders continue to get behind the wheel after drinking, with alcohol a major factor contributing to deaths and serious injuries crashes in Marlborough.

According to the Police and NZTA, between 2014 and 2023, alcohol contributed to at least 13 per cent of road deaths and serious injuries in Marlborough. This is higher than Nelson Bays and the West Coast.

In response, Police, NZTA and Council are working together in June to collectively target people in Marlborough who still think it's ok to drink and drive. This is part of a wider campaign in Canterbury, Tasman and Greater Wellington.

Road Safety Action Plan Group Chair Councillor Jonathan Rosene said people would be reminded of the consequences through education and advertising, backed up on the ground by Police vehicle checks, enforcement and driver education.

"As a community we must not tolerate drink driving. Together we need to shift the attitudes and behaviours of our 'drink drivers' so they see themselves the same as 'drunk drivers'," said Councillor Rosene.

"For a long time there has been plenty of information available on how to arrange a safer ride home. There's just no excuse. This June, Council is joining forces with road safety partners to target people who continue to drink and drive and put us all at risk."

Drink driving has a significant impact not only on the driver themselves, but on passengers and people using the road around them. Around 40 per cent of people injured in crashes involving alcohol were not the driver.

"Find out more to keep yourself and others safe, because there's more to lose than your licence," Councillor Rosene said.

For more information go to: www.nzta.govt.nz/drinking-dont-drive

Marlborough Museum on winter hours

Marlborough Museum will operate on reduced hours from 3 June until the end of August.



📷 A wintry scene at Mt Robert Ski Lodge in 1955/56 - the museum is now on winter hours. Photo Credit: MHS Dix Collection, Marlborough Museum 2013.001.0596.

The museum will open Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 3pm as well as Saturday and Sunday between 12pm and 3pm. The archives will continue to operate by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Marlborough Museum Manager Liz Ward said the winter hours would allow

staff to refresh some areas of the museum. "If you would like schedule a tour or school group visit on one of the days we are closed, please contact our staff," Liz said.

To make an appointment or book a tour email marlboroughmuseum@marlborough.govt.nz

Taylor River works

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

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



Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineering Manager Andy White said the work began in 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."

