

News from Marlborough District Council.

Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award nominations open

Council is inviting nominations for the next Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure.

The award is open to individuals who have made an extraordinary, inspiring and significant contribution to cultural endeavour in Marlborough throughout their lifetime.

Ideally, they have also shared their knowledge and passion with the community, helping to inspire future generations.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was looking forward to seeing the nominations. "I know there are Marlburians out there who are truly deserving and before this award gives us a special opportunity to acknowledge them publicly for their service," she said.

In 2012, the inaugural recipient of the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award was Peg Moorhouse, Waikawa-based weaver and fibre artist.

Most recently, in 2023, artist Clarry Neame joined the distinguished group.

Throughout the years Marlborough has honoured the contributions of some remarkable living cultural treasures including

kapa haka teacher Nan Kahu Chadwick and composer and choreographer and Kevin Moseley, whose inspiring musical skills have been shared with many.

Others include weaver Kairaranga Kaiako Margaret Bond, ceramic artist Fran Maguire, artists Clem Mellish, Triska Blumenfield and J S Parker, author Dame Joy Cowley and director and producer Duncan Whiting.

"Individually, each one contributed something uniquely special to Marlborough's long and proud cultural and artistic heritage. Together, these individuals represent a legacy of exemplary service across the arts, culture and creative sectors," Mayor Taylor said.

The award was established in 2012 by Marlborough Museum in partnership with Council and the Marlborough Express.

In 2023, the Marlborough Heritage Trust closed its operations and in early 2024 Council agreed to take on guardianship of the award.

"It's important Council safeguards the award, ensuring it continues to honour the remarkable individuals who have been - and will in the future be - named as treasures," Mayor Taylor said.

"Our guardianship aligns strongly with Te Atātū - Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy 2024-2034. As the proverb in the strategy says: "Artistic excellence makes the world sit up and wonder."

"Te Atātū highlights the important role of Council in celebrating the rich tapestry of local creative talent and acknowledging the invaluable contribution our creative people make to our region," she said.

Nominations for the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award close at 5pm on 24 January 2025. The award will be presented at a formal ceremony in April 2025.

For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-living-cultural-treasure-award

Keep off the seagrass this summer

This summer Council is highlighting the importance of rimurehia/seagrass.

Coastal Scientist Jorgia McMillan is leading the summer education campaign with a new brochure and social media awareness.

Signs are planned for specific sites around the Marlborough Sounds.

This coincides with the completion of a seagrass restoration blueprint called Restore the Meadows, released by the Cawthron Institute, a step-by-step guide to seed-based seagrass restoration.

"Our message is simple - don't walk or drive on seagrass - please keep off. This will help us to protect our treasured ocean meadows," Jorgia said. "Sadly, this taonga species has disappeared from many parts of Marlborough and we need to look after what is left."

Seagrass (*Zostera muelleri*) beds are a crucial part and positive indicator of a healthy estuary and intertidal area. They perform several important ecosystem functions including providing habitats for fish and shellfish, trap sediment, stabilise the ocean floor and carry out nutrient recycling which in turn improves coastal water quality.

Seagrass acts as a buffer between land and sea and can minimise the effects of land-based activities on intertidal health.

Rimurehia/seagrass can be found on intertidal flats and some subtidal areas throughout Marlborough. The campaign aims to educate the public and publicise the damage caused by driving over seagrass beds when launching boats or anchoring and dredging on it.

"The Marlborough Sounds has experienced significant climate change impacts such as increased water temperatures in recent years. Seagrass beds act as an incredibly effective carbon sink, therefore providing a powerful nature-based solution to help tackle climate change impacts on our marine life," Jorgia said.

"The moana is important to all of us and we are lucky in Marlborough to be one of the few places in Aotearoa that still has subtidal seagrass. We hope our summer campaign will educate people and make those out on the water this summer more aware of how to minimise their impact," she said.



Coastal Scientist Jorgia McMillan out in the field monitoring rimurehia/seagrass



Keep off the seagrass!

Help us to protect the treasured ocean meadows of the Marlborough Sounds.



marlborough.govt.nz

Generous Lego donation to library

A generous donation of Lego by Blenheim man Russell Hopkins has boosted the Lego collection at Marlborough Libraries.

Collections Librarian Tania Miller oversaw the gift of more than 25 pre-loved kits and her son Leo eagerly put each one together to check they were complete.

"Leo thinks he's the luckiest kid in the world to get to sort all this Lego out," she said.

This is the second donation of its kind - the library initiated the Lego kits and club after a bequest from a generous donor in 2019.

"I think we are the only library in the country (maybe even the world), to have established a Lego collection for our community to use," she said.

"With Lego so expensive we are very lucky to have had such generous donations, and we are very grateful."

A selection of the newly donated kits will be on display in Te Kahu o Waipuna for a short time before being added to the line-up for Lego Club.

Kind benefactor Russell Hopkins, a regular library user, said he bought up Lego in the 1980s for his children when it was reasonably priced. Some were still in their original boxes.

He didn't have the space to keep them and decided they would be well used at the library.

Lego Club happens each Sunday at both Picton and Marlborough Libraries during opening hours. Families can choose a kit to build in a designated space in the library. This is a free activity, with no prior registration required.

Te Kahu o Waipuna recently marked its half-millionth visitor.

Sadly, Russell Hopkins died shortly after this story was written. Our condolences to his family and his generosity is acknowledged.



Leo checks that one of the newly donated Lego kits is complete

Council waits to change proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

On 25 October this year, the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act took effect.

The Act covers several topics, with two having a particular National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM) focus.

The first prevents regional councils from making changes to their regional plans for the purpose of implementing the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) until either the date a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (replacing the NPSFM 2020) is published or 31 December 2025.

The second no longer requires resource consent applications to demonstrate compliance with Te Mana o Te Wai obligations under the NPSFM 2020.

Council has previously said it will not undertake a variation to the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) for the purpose of implementing the NPSFM 2020. It will await the replacement NPSFM, due in 2026, before undertaking changes to the PMEP.

The Government has signalled further freshwater-focused resource management reform, which Council will continue to report on through its Environment & Planning Committee.

Sounds shellfish bed study completed

A case study on considerations for restoring shellfish beds in Tōtaranui/ Queen Charlotte Sound has been completed.

The Marlborough Sounds was selected for one of two regional case studies as part of the Sustainable National Science Challenge. The case study is a collaboration between Council, Sustainable Seas, NIWA, the Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust, Iwi, Fisheries New Zealand, Department of Conservation and community members.

Shellfish play an essential role in nurturing a thriving marine ecosystem Council's Principal Coastal Scientist Oliver Wade told November's Environment and Planning Committee meeting.

"They contribute in many ways - filtering water, recycling nutrients and chemicals, stabilizing sediments, creating complex habitats and enhancing biodiversity. They are also of cultural and economic significance," Mr Wade said.

However, shellfish in the Marlborough Sounds face numerous stressors,

including overharvesting, disruptions to the seafloor, climate change, pollution, nutrient overload, sediment accumulation, invasive species, and diseases.

"The extent of these impacts can differ significantly, from diminishing their future resilience to outright destroying their habitats. When multiple stressors occur simultaneously or over time, their effects can compound, leading to an even greater impact and diminishing the ability of shellfish to withstand future challenges," Mr Wade said.

The report explored the key processes and broader factors involved in starting rehabilitation activities. This includes understanding cultural perspectives, setting and agreeing on goals, assessing risks and benefits, measuring success, and considering legal factors.

The insights gained from this case study promise to guide future marine restoration efforts, inspire community initiatives and help interested parties in launching their own projects.

For more information, go to: www.sustainableseaschallenge.co.nz/



Skips at Recycling Centre to go

The red skip bins at the Blenheim Recycling Centre are being removed due to people abusing them.

From 15 December, anyone who uses the bins to dispose of their black Council rubbish bags can take them to the Blenheim Transfer Station.

Entry is through George Conroy Drive, off Taylor Pass Road.

The black Council bags will still be accepted free of charge there.

The removal of the free skips is to stop abuse, Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said.

"There is no way we can police the red skips and half of what has been going in is non-Council bags," he said.

"Council bags will still be accepted at the weighbridge free of charge, but doing it this way means we can keep an eye on what people are dumping and hopefully, stop the system being abused by the small minority."

Mr Lucas pointed out that all ratepayers wore the cost of the abuse.



The red skip bins are being removed this weekend

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.

Have your say on Council's annual plan

Got a great idea for the future of Marlborough? Council wants to hear your ideas and feedback as part of its annual plan public engagement.

Simply go online on your smart phone or a computer at: links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay and tell us about your big idea or worthwhile project. The engagement closes on 20 January 2025.

Anyone wanting help to provide their ideas online is welcome to call Council's Customer Service Centre on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: lt@marlborough.govt.nz

Sign up for annual and long term plan updates at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-long-term-plan-notifications

Responsible Camping Control Bylaw 2022 Public Notice

In accordance with the resolution of the Marlborough District Council on 31 October 2024, and in accordance with sections 11B(4) of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 (the Act) and section 156(2) of the Local Government Act 2002, public notice is given of the following minor changes to the Marlborough District Council Responsible Camping Control Bylaw 2022.

The minor changes are as follows:

1. Clarifying the definition of 'maximum period of stay' in clause 3 to improve clarity and reflect the original Council resolution of 2 March 2023.

Maximum period of stay means, in regard to Wairau Diversion, Taylor Dam Upper Level, Renwick Domain Car Park, Wynen Streetcar park, Lake Elterwater, Blairich Reserve, Opouri Road (adjacent to Carluke Domain) and Wash Bridge Recreation Reserve, two nights in any four week period, irrespective whether the nights are consecutive or not.

2. Update the definition of 'Certified self-contained' in clause 3 in accordance with the definition from the Act. The definition is as follows:

self-contained has the meaning given in section 4 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

3. Update clause 8 to align with the penalties and references in the Act as follows:

In accordance with section 20 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, every person who responsibly camps in a local authority area in breach of any prohibition or restriction in this Bylaw commits an infringement offence and is liable to a fee of \$400 (or other amount as prescribed by regulations made under that Act).

Sections 20, 20C, 20F and 20G of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 provides for other offences in relation to responsible camping.

4. In Schedule 1 amend the restrictions for the Wairau Diversion, Taylor Dam Upper Level, Renwick Domain Car Park, Wynen Street Car park, Lake Elterwater, Blairich Reserve, Opouri Road (adjacent to Carluke Domain) and Wash Bridge Recreation Reserve responsible camping areas to reflect the clarified definition. The amendment is as follows:

The maximum period of stay anyone can camp in this area is two nights in any four-week period, irrespective whether the nights are consecutive or not.

A copy of the changes may be viewed on the Council's website at www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/public-notices

Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/all-news-notices-and-media-releases

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, Blenheim 7201.

Council

Thursday 12 December at 9am

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary on Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

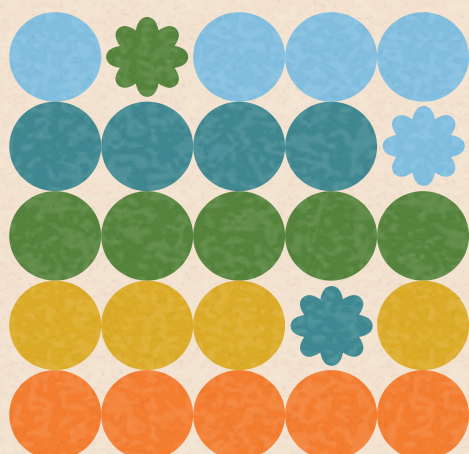
Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

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.



 Marlborough

SUMMER EVENTS

Pick up your copy of the guide from Marlborough District Council

 MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

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