

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### Have your say on the future path of Destination Marlborough

Council is inviting public feedback on the future of visitor industry support services via an online survey as part of the Destination Marlborough Future Path Project.

You can complete the survey and read the engagement document at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

Deputy Mayor David Croad said the Destination Marlborough Trust was established by Council as Marlborough's regional tourism organisation responsible for tourism marketing and management in October 1997.

Following the collective resignation of the chair and board of Destination Marlborough in September 2023, Council appointed four commissioners - Councillors Croad and Barbara Faulis, tourism consultant Tracy Johnston and tourism provider Trevor Hook. "We were tasked with taking a closer look at the organisation including considering the immediate future. It became clear during this process that change was needed to ensure Marlborough's promotion and visitor management efforts could continue," Councillor Croad said.

In June 2024 the Trust was disestablished and its functions brought under the management of Council for the short term, while longer term options were considered. Tracey Green was appointed as Interim General Manager.

"The purpose of the Future Path Project is to rescop and redesign the future role, purpose, functions, structure and resourcing of Destination Marlborough so it can contribute to Marlborough's future success," Councillor Croad said.

"We decided to embark on an Investment Logic Mapping (ILM) process to help us understand the problem faced by the organisation, its impacts and the desired benefits before we began looking at the solutions. Now we want to evaluate the key outcomes of the ILM with stakeholders, seeking feedback and suggestions," Councillor Croad said.

Destination Marlborough continues for the immediate future as part of Council - within

its existing funding structure - to ensure the tourism marketing of Marlborough continues while its function and structure is reviewed.

Come along to a public meeting at:

**Blenheim:**  
6 November  
10am - 12pm  
Scenic Hotel Marlborough (Chart Room)

**Picton:**  
5 November  
2pm - 4pm  
Queen Charlotte Yacht Club (downstairs space)

**Seddon:**  
7 November  
10am - 12pm  
The Train Station

**Havelock:**  
8 November  
10am - 12pm  
Havelock Sports Pavilion



Have your say on the future of Marlborough's visitor industry support services as part of the Destination Marlborough Future Path Project



### Queen Charlotte Track Mountain Bike Access Trial 'positive'

Last summer's trial allowing cyclists on a section of the Queen Charlotte Track (QCT) not previously accessible at that time of year has been mostly positive.

Undertaken by Council and DOC with the support of the Queen Charlotte Track Landowners Cooperative (QCTLC), the Queen Charlotte Track Mountain Bike Access Trial saw the opening of the Meretoto/Ship Cove to Camp Bay section to bikers from 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

QCT Track Manager Tracey Green said the trial enabled the full length of the track to be accessible to all users during the peak period, offering a truly shared pathway for both cyclists and walkers.

"The aim was to foster an environment where all users could fully appreciate the breathtaking beauty of the track and to enhance the year-round experience for track riders as well as create far-reaching economic benefits for Marlborough," Ms Green said.

Five submissions were received about the trial - two in opposition and three outlining concerns but not opposed.

"The feedback from operators involved with the track has been overwhelmingly positive and QCTLC were also satisfied with the trial," Ms Green said.

The amount of negative feedback received was very low compared with the positive outcomes and comments generated given the total number of track users involved, she said.

DOC statistics show track riders on the Meretoto/Ship Cove to Furneaux Lodge section of the track during the trial period made up four per cent of total user traffic.

During the trial period, commercial operators enforced an 8am water taxi departure rule from Picton to allow track riders to start ahead of walkers.

Cyclists, along with walkers, also continued to be encouraged to travel north to south from Meretoto/Ship Cove to Anakiwa and DOC installed new signage in areas where there are high levels of pedestrian activities.



A trial to allow cyclists on all sections of the Queen Charlotte Track year-round has proved successful

"The removal of barriers to track riders to create a more inclusive year-round experience for all trail users is seen as positive. However, the concerns of those who took the time to submit is noted and further feedback is now being sought from all stakeholders before a final decision is made," Ms Green said.

The track will be open for cyclists while this feedback process is completed.

To have your say, please email [feedback@gctrack.nz](mailto:feedback@gctrack.nz) by 15 November 2024 after which a final decision will be made by Council, DOC and the QCTLC.

### Sniffing out Chilean needle grass

A Chilean needle grass detector dog was in Marlborough recently on the hunt for the highly invasive weed.

Environment Canterbury biosecurity officer Lauren Picket and dog Archie visited five agricultural properties where infestations had previously been found. They were successful in sniffing out a small number of new plants.

Council's Biosecurity team is working hard to combat the long-term threat from Chilean needle grass, with 2,615 hectares now affected in the region.

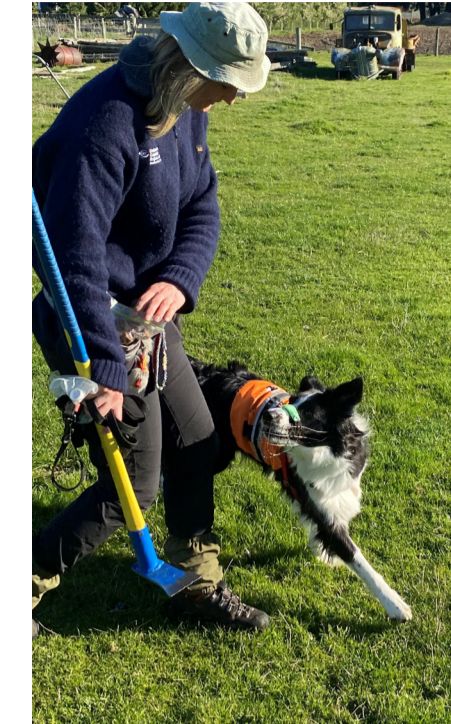
Senior Biosecurity Officer Hayden Nott urged people to be on the lookout with Chilean needle grass starting to produce seed. "It will be more visible from early November," he said.

In July, a rust fungus that affects Chilean needle grass was approved for release to help contain the grass.

"We hope the rust will become well established in Marlborough, slowing the growth and seeding ability of Chilean needle grass and reducing harm to livestock and loss of production," Mr Nott said.

Chilean needle grass was first recorded in Marlborough in the 1940s in the Blind River area.

Anyone seeing Chilean needle grass is urged to contact Council's Biosecurity team as soon as possible.



Lauren Picket and Archie the detector dog searching for Chilean needle grass

### Weekend's weather causes road closures

Labour Weekend was a seriously wet one for Marlborough with the deluge bringing flooding and landslides.

Marlborough Roads Manager Steve Murrin said crews worked hard to clear slips and get roads open.

During the peak of the rain many Marlborough roads were closed.

The Wairau River peaked at 3500 cumecs just after midnight but there were no failures or issues with the flood protection network.

Taylor River remained high for several days with some sections expected to be underwater until the weekend, as normal after significant rainfall.

Residents are encouraged to email [rivers@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:rivers@marlborough.govt.nz) if they have concerns or queries about either the flood protection or drainage networks.

For local roading alerts, keep an eye on Council's website or Facebook page, or download the Antenna alerting app - go to [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenna](https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenna)



Parts of Morgans Road were completely underwater at the height of the flooding

### Rabbit cull successful

A night count of rabbits on the Taylor River Reserve has shown a significant drop in numbers following September's poisoning operation.

Only 22 rabbits were seen within a 10 kilometre range and the area is now compliant with Marlborough's Regional Pest Management Plan rules.

Last year rabbit counts showed the population to be around 139 while at its peak, in 2021, numbers were up to 220.

Council's Parks and Open Spaces team targeted two key areas during the cull - a 49-hectare block running from Doctors Creek through to the boundary of the lifestyle block area on Waters Avenue, and a 21-hectare block from Wither Road extension to Richardson Avenue.

Pindone poison, an anticoagulant in bait form, was laid in fenced bait stations in specific areas on the reserve. Night shooting will ensure numbers remain manageable.

### Summer maintenance means smoother and safer journeys

Top of the South drivers can expect plenty of activity this summer as NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi invests in resurfacing and rebuilding the region's highways.

Regional Manager Top of the South Mark Owen said it was critical state highways were maintained to a reliable standard. "This work is about ensuring everyone can use them efficiently, quickly and safely," he said.

"It means drivers will see more road crews and work sites when travelling over the next few months. We will do as much work as possible between now and mid-December, which will mean less impact on holiday travel over the summer break."

This year's summer maintenance programme will renew around 150 lane kilometres on local state highways across

the Top of the South. Most of the work will be done during night closures to minimise disruption and reduce cost.

Work will also be done at several other smaller sites under stop/go traffic management. The public will receive further information before the projects begin.

"There are also other ongoing safety improvements like the new roundabout at Marlborough Airport," Mr Owen said. He said with so much work planned, drivers need to check road conditions before they travel.

"Planning ahead and knowing what's happening on the network can save you time and hassle."

Mr Owen said roadworks occurred more frequently during spring and summer when weather conditions were better.

Marlborough summer maintenance schedule:

Location	Month	Duration of work	Type of work
SH63 The Wash, Marlborough	In progress	8 weeks of daytime stop/go	Resilience
SH6 Rai Saddle, Marlborough	14 October - 22 November	24/7 stop/go	Resilience
SH1 Weld Pass, Marlborough	20 - 23 October	4-night closures	Drainage
SH6 Canvastown, Marlborough	November	3 weeks of stop/go	Rebuilding
SH6 Pelorus, Marlborough	December	4 weeks of stop/go	Rebuilding
SH1 Main Street roundabout, Blenheim	January/February	1 week of night closures	Resurfacing
SH1 Grovetown, Marlborough	February	3 weeks including night closures and stop/go	Rebuilding
SH6 Whangamoa	February	2 to 3 weeks of night closures	Resurfacing, drainage, other general maintenance i.e. guardrails, signage
SH6 Havelock, Marlborough	February	1 week of night closures or stop/go at the same time as the SH6 Whangamoa night closure to maximise efficiency	Resurfacing
SH1 Weld Pass, Marlborough	February	2 weeks of night closures	Resurfacing and other general maintenance i.e. guardrails, signage
SH1 South of Riverlands/Co-op Drain	February	2 weeks of stop/go	Rebuilding
SH1 South of Seddon/Taimate	February/March	3 weeks of stop/go	Rebuilding

Note: The works in the table above may change due to weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

For the full Top of the South maintenance programme go to: [www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/summer-maintenance-means-smoother-and-safer-journeys-for-top-of-the-south-island-drivers](https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/summer-maintenance-means-smoother-and-safer-journeys-for-top-of-the-south-island-drivers)

# 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](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors) or Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Sister City Exchange 2025 closes soon

Applications close in two weeks for students who will be in years 9 to 12 in 2025 to take part in the renewed annual Student Sister City Exchange to Tendo and Otari in Japan.

This is the first sister city exchange post-Covid.

Any practising and registered pre-school, primary or secondary teacher is also invited to apply to accompany the students.

The three-week exchange will take place over the July school holiday period but leaving a few days before term two ends and arriving home a few days into term three. Alternative timing is the September school holiday period but this will be discussed with the selected group. It is estimated that the exchange will cost no less than \$5,000, however, some funding assistance from the Sister City budget will be made. Fundraising as a group is also encouraged.

Written applications must be received by Friday 15 November 2024 and state:

- Why you want to go on the exchange
- What you would hope to gain from it
- How you can best represent Marlborough

Students do not have to be studying Japanese but if selected must be willing to learn some basic words and phrases.

Applications should be made in writing to:

Mike Porter  
Marlborough District Council  
PO Box 443  
Blenheim 7240

Email: [mike.porter@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mike.porter@marlborough.govt.nz)

Any queries should be directed to Mike Porter  
Ph: 03 520 7400.

## 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 the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



## Council services on Marlborough Anniversary Day

Council's Blenheim office will be closed from 4.30pm on Friday 1 November until 8.30am on Tuesday 5 November.

Opening times for the Waste Sorting Centre (Blenheim Transfer Station), transfer stations, Reuse Shop, Resource Recovery Centre and E-waste facility on Marlborough Anniversary, Monday 4 November, are below.

### Marlborough waste services

Marlborough waste services are fully operational including kerbside collection.

Please make sure your wheelie bin and maroon crate are out on the kerb by 7am. All transfer stations, the Resource Recovery Centre and the Reuse Shop are open normal hours.

### Marlborough District Libraries

Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna and Picton Library and Service Centre will be open as usual over the weekend but will be closed on Monday 4 November.

### Marlborough bus services

Bus services will not operate on Monday 4 November. Normal services resume on Tuesday 5 November.

## Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

[mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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 committee meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agendas will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

### Assets & Services

Tuesday 12 November at 9am

### Environment & Planning

Thursday 14 November at 9am

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

## Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

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

**Council's Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.**

Contact the Harbourmaster's Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough's harbours.

03 520 7400 |

