

News from Marlborough District Council.

New bridge spans Waihopai River

A new bridge is nearing completion in the Waihopai Valley.



The nearly completed new bridge from the air

The previous structure was washed away in the July 2021 storm and locals have made do with a temporary Bailey bridge servicing the upper valley since September that year.

Councillor Scott Adams, who chairs Marlborough's Regional Transport Committee, visited the construction site last week and said he was impressed.

"The new single-lane bridge is 110 metres long with seven spans. It towers nine metres above the river on piles that were sunk 10 metres into the river bed. It's a very impressive sight and a big improvement on the old bridge infrastructure."

The new bridge's location was confirmed in 2022, and land purchase and geotechnical investigations concluded in mid-2023. It was designed and built by top of the south firm Egypt Ltd.

Marlborough Roads Manager Steve Murrin said the bridge should be finished early in the new year, if good weather continued.

"The construction has gone smoothly so far, starting in June this year. The reinforced concrete bridge beams - each weighing 24 tonnes - were precast in Nelson and then delivered on a low-loader and placed by crane from the river bed."

"We're also building 500 metres of new road downstream of the bridge, which is located higher up on the terrace to protect it from possible flooding in future. Gravel from the river was crushed on site for roading aggregate by a local subcontractor."

He said the new bridge would be suitable for logging trucks with all drivers required to use the priority/give way system on its single lane.

The cost of the project was \$4 million, which was 95 per cent funded via New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) Financial Assistance Rate following the 2021 storm.



Councillor Scott Adams (left) and Steve Murrin at the bridge in the Waihopai Valley

Have your say on long term plan from 18 November

Council is changing the way it develops its annual and long term plans in an effort to get early community input.

"We want to hear your feedback and ideas, particularly on the projects and services proposed for the next financial year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026," Mayor Nadine Taylor said.

"The new process means we are engaging with the public earlier, providing more time for focused analysis of costed activities and outcomes."

The online engagement opens 18 November and closes 20 January.

To have your say, go to <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay>

All feedback will be analysed and presented to Council's budget meeting in April 2025.

Council is not considering any major variation to its Annual Plan 2025-26 and is not proposing formal consultation or public hearings next year.

The next full public consultation process will be carried out for the LTP 2027-37, with a public engagement process expected to begin in November 2026.

"Council is currently under some financial constraint due to the impacts of inflation, contract price increases, rising insurance premiums and the cost of the Sounds roading recovery," Mayor Taylor said.

"We want to contain our expenditure for the next two years and in that time explore opportunities to be more efficient in service delivery, including working to reduce next year's proposed rates increase."

Council will continue to consult the community on specific matters, such as the Water Services Delivery Plan.

Anyone wanting assistance to provide their ideas and feedback online is welcome to call Council's Customer Service Centre; Ph: 03 520 7400 or email ltf@marlborough.govt.nz

Wairau River flood damage repairs ramp up

Three areas of stop bank repair work on the Wairau River, relating to 2021 flood damage, are underway.

The main work site is a major rock line rebuild on the Wairau River diversion near Rārangi. Stockpiling of rock on site has started with construction due to start at the end of the whitebait season in December.

Access to the main freedom camping area at the diversion will be restricted during the construction period.

More than 3,800 tonnes of locally-sourced rock has been placed at various stopbank repair sites on the Wairau River over the past few months.

The rock has been used to rebuild flood-damaged groynes which are used to divert high velocity water from the bank and prevent erosion.

A further 14,000 tonnes are scheduled to be in place by June 2025.



Completed groyne repairs on the Wairau River

Councillor Arbuckle farewelled

Councillor Jamie Arbuckle, who served as a Marlborough District Councillor from 2010, has resigned to focus on his role as a New Zealand First MP in Parliament.

Mayor Nadine Taylor thanked him for his dedicated service at the full Council meeting on 31 October.

Mr Arbuckle served as chair of the Animal Control Sub-committee from 2013 and was chair of the Economic, Finance and Community Committee from 2022 to 2023.

He gave a valedictory speech which is available to view on the video recording of the meeting at www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/meetings



Departing Councillor Jamie Arbuckle with Mayor Nadine Taylor

Why your dog should be microchipped

Did you know some dogs have to be microchipped?

The Dog Control Act requires dogs classified as dangerous or menacing or those registered for the first time on or after 1 July 2006 to be microchipped.

Only dogs classified as working dogs or dogs that a registered vet has certified as not in a fit condition for microchipping are exempt. Council and Animal Control are responsible for enforcing these rules.

Animal Control Contract Manager James Clark said Marlborough currently had 8,467 microchipped dogs, with a further 511 requiring one.

"Besides complying with legislation, there are several benefits of microchipping including having a permanent means of identification and providing a deterrent for anyone stealing your dog. Microchipping may entitle you to a lower dog registration fee," Mr Clark said.

"If your dog is found injured and taken to a vet or the SPCA, or Animal Control finds your dog, you can be traced and reunited with your animal. In a disaster or emergency we can reunite you with your dog," he said.

Dogs can be microchipped at any local vet. You will need to supply Animal Control with the verification certificate as all dogs and owners' details must be uploaded on to the National Dog Database so if a dog is found anywhere in New Zealand it can be reunited with the registered owner.

Failure to microchip your dog or to notify Animal Control that your dog has been microchipped can result in an infringement notice of \$300.

For further information please contact Animal Control. Ph: 03 520 9033 or email animalcontrol@extra.co.nz



Take a walk at Grovetown lagoon

Restoration work continues at Grovetown Lagoon with weed spraying, native plantings and trapping of pests.

Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Co-ordinator Justine Johnson told Council's Environment and Planning Committee that tens of thousands of natives had been planted since the project began, with 1,879 planted in the 2023 season.

"The project began in the late 1990s when the degradation of the lagoon became obvious to Council who partnered with Iwi, DOC and the community," she said. "In 2002 Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Inc was formed to enhance lagoon plantings, eradicate weeds and control predators."

In the past year a drone has been used to spray willows in the wetland area and a poisoning programme for crack willow and old man's beard was completed.

"Native Restoration donated a day's labour of six staff to control old man's beard, convolvulus, wild grapevines and climbing rose on Otamawaho/Māori Island," she said.

The society began a predator control programme in 2017 and today there are 80 traps at the lagoon, monitored by volunteers.

Rats are the main pest with 674 trapped since 2017, and hedgehogs, rabbits, weasels and stoats also caught.

The area is a popular walking area with the lagoon track counter recording 15,471 visitors in 2023.

This year the society has worked closely with Landcare Trust on several community and educational events at the lagoon with plans for a shaded seated area to encourage group visits and talks.

In addition to Council funding, the habitat restoration is supported by sponsors including the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, Simcox Construction, who undertook \$15,000 of track work recently, and Dog Point Vineyard.

A new management plan is currently being prepared to ensure the lagoon's protection into the future.



The walking track at Grovetown Lagoon, a popular spot with locals and visitors

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.

A Cuppa with your Councillors

Sounds area councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next one is Wednesday 20 November from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice and help with Council-related issues.

Barbara Faulds, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors. Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

Where: Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre

When: 10am to midday Wednesday 20 November



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

Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required.

You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide.

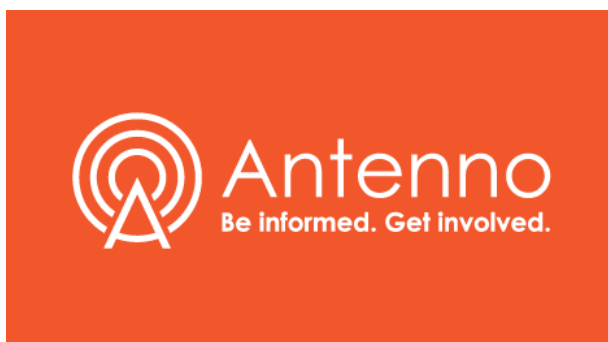
This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information.

During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly. In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website.

These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps

If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



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

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.

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Direct to your inbox every Friday, Council's eNewsletter Marlborough Matters covers the latest news and information on Council services and projects. Stay in the know and sign up today.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/MarlCouncilENewsletter> to subscribe.



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 | HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ

