

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

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 Fauls, 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 rescope 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)

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

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 Piket and dog Archie visited five agricultural properties where infestations had been found. They were successful in sniffing out a number of new plants.

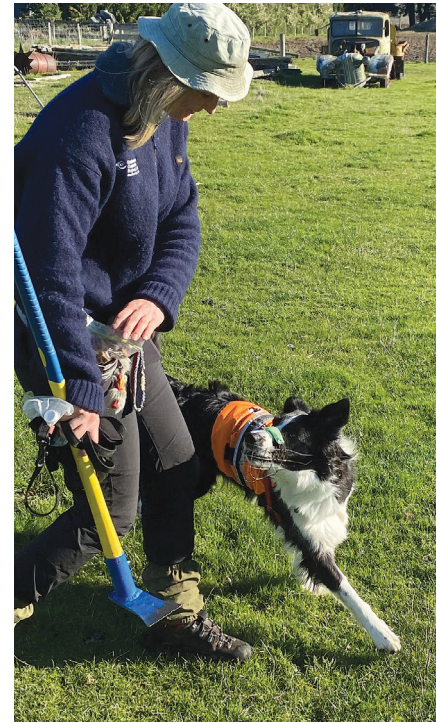
Council's Biosecurity team is working hard to combat the long-term threat from Chilean needle grass, with 2,615 hectares now affected in the region.

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.



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

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

Calling all Picton seniors

Nau mai, haere mai – welcome to the inaugural Picton Seniors' Expo.

Building on the success of the annual Blenheim-based event, Council's Community Partnerships team are bringing the seniors' expo format to Picton's Port Marlborough Endeavour Park Pavilion for the first time on Tuesday 12 November.

Community Partnerships Advisor Jodie Griffiths said the Picton event, from 10.30am to 12.30pm, was aimed at older people in the Picton and Sounds community to help them find out more about services and activities for seniors.

Council's library and customer services staff will also be on hand as well as the Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust, Picton Flower Ladies, Churchill Trust, Age Concern Marlborough, Grey Power Marlborough, Marlborough Community Law, Hone Hato St John and more.

"It's a trial run for us in Picton and we are really pleased with the support from stall holders with around thirty-five different stands signed up for the expo. There will be performance, homemade scones from Marina Cove with complimentary tea and coffee and entry is free," Ms Griffiths said.



Calling all Picton seniors – you are invited to come along to an upcoming expo based on the successful Blenheim-based annual event

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
03 520 7400 | mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

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