

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### Chlorination plans on track

Design has begun for chlorinating Blenheim's water supply.

National water regulator Taumata Arowai requires a residual disinfectant, typically provided by chlorine, to be added to water supplies by 31 December this year. That deadline won't be met, but systems should be in place by mid-2025.

Council's Planning and Development Engineer Stuart Donaldson said Taumata Arowai had reinforced the need for Blenheim's water supply to be chlorinated to ensure it met the Water Services Act and the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

While Blenheim's water, which delivers water to 10,700 households, is currently treated for protozoa and bacteria, there is no chlorine dosing.

Taumata Arowai has outlined that the Water Services Act 2021 requires suppliers to use a multi-barrier approach to managing risks to protect drinking water from contamination.

Mr Donaldson said a permanent chlorination plant would be built, for which design was already underway.

Chlorine is a safe, simple and inexpensive way to disinfect drinking water, capable of killing most common bacteria including campylobacter and norovirus. It's generally used alongside other processes such as protozoa barriers which remove or inactivate single-celled parasites such as cryptosporidium and giardia. Supplies in Renwick, Picton, Havelock, Wairau Valley, Seddon and Rural Awatere are chlorinated.

Budget has been set aside in the Council's Long Term Plan for chlorinating the supply.

For more information, see the frequently asked questions on Council's website at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/Chlorination-FAQs](https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/Chlorination-FAQs)



Renwick's new water treatment plant which became operational in June already supplies treated chlorinated water to all properties in urban Renwick

### Council team has gardens in great shape

With Garden Marlborough underway, spare a thought for Council's garden team who work tirelessly to ensure our parks look amazing for the event.

Thousands of visitors flock to the province for garden workshops, tours and the garden fête and often praise the Council-maintained gardens, including Seymour Square and Pollard Park.

Tour buses leave from Seymour Square so gardeners have plenty of time to look at the annual beds and perennial border.

Sunday's garden fête is held in Churchill Glade in Pollard Park which features manicured lawns, rose beds, perennial borders and cottage gardens, all expertly tended by Council's garden team.

"In the two weeks leading up to Garden Marlborough they are doing exactly what all gardeners do - pulling weeds, tying plants up, planting gardens, planting to fill spaces, graveling pathways, washing structures down and cleaning seats," Council's Garden Manager Brad Molony said.

Churchill Glade, site of Sunday's garden fête, is mown regularly, weeds dealt with and trees pruned so it is at its best for the popular event.

Council has often provided sites and designed and built gardens for workshops. Garden staff have also provided raw materials for workshops.

Council has also provided staff to help manage the bus tours, workshops and act as guides.



Tidying up the annual beds in Seymour Square to make sure they are at their peak for Garden Marlborough

### National water reform work ramps up

Work is underway on one of the most significant reforms faced by councils around New Zealand in recent times - Central Government's Local Water Done Well legislation.

At last week's full Council meeting, the mayor and councillors gave approval for staff to work with neighbouring Tasman and Buller District Councils to investigate water service delivery options. This work will allow each council to make the decision on whether to combine resources into a single water entity or to go it alone as individual councils. Nelson City Council has already voted to go it alone under their existing service model.

The new water services delivery and infrastructure model replaces the previous government's Three Waters legislation and, as part of the reforms, a Water Services Delivery Plan must be provided to the Department of Internal Affairs by September next year. The plan must show a commitment to delivering water services to meet regulatory quality standards, be financially sustainable, meet drinking water quality standards and support housing growth and urban development.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said this was a significant piece of work which every council around the country was having to deal with.

"Today sets our roadmap forward but it is of course not the final decision," she said.

Local Water Done Well will be implemented in three stages each with its own piece of legislation. Plans are required for all three waters networks - water, wastewater and stormwater.

Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake said Council had \$545,000 in existing budgets to put towards the preparatory planning work required, including \$295,000 from unspent Three Waters funding and \$240,000 relocated from Government's Better Off funding. "We will need to consult with our community on the future structure of water service delivery for Marlborough in July next year. This work will require resources and expertise," he said.

"One of the key messages we are getting is that scale brings benefits. It is yet to be proven that this would be the case for Marlborough, but it will form part of our investigation and assessment," Mr Blake said.

High level options following the scoping exercise with benefits and costs will be presented to Council's Assets and Services Committee at the end of January 2025 and regular updates on progress will be provided.

### Students work to control oxygen weed with harakeke

Marlborough Girls' College students teamed up with Council staff recently to collaborate on a trial to control oxygen weed.

Year 13 students Grace Allen and Mackenzie Goodall led the project for two years, taking inspiration from a field trip. The aim was to try and control the growth of oxygen weed in Fulton Creek, which runs along the college's boundary, using weed mats.

The pair designed two different mats - a traditional, black synthetic mat, and a hand-woven, natural harakeke, or flax one.

The students approached Mayor Nadine Taylor and Council Stormwater Lead Jon Cunliffe to ensure routine spraying near the creek was suspended while weed mats were in place. They asked year 10 student Celia Spencer to weave the harakeke mat with science teacher Melynda Bentley noting the importance of having the mat woven by someone with knowledge of tikanga, or Māori custom.

"My mum and Nan have been weaving for ages, so I sort of just picked it up while I was growing up," Celia said.

Having obtained the support of Council and commissioned the harakeke mat, Grace and Mackenzie were able to complete their trial, and results were presented at the Marlborough secondary schools' Scitec Science and Technology Fair on 24 September.

"The black, traditional weed mat helped, but over time it started breaking down, polluting the creek, which isn't great. The harakeke mat also worked well, but because of the small holes in the weave, light was getting in, which allowed some oxygen weed to grow through the mat," Grace said.

Springlands Stormwater Governance Group was also involved with the project and had the opportunity to visit the trial site and hear about the project alongside iwi representatives, Councillors and staff.

"We were very impressed with what we saw during our visit," Mr Cunliffe said.

The trial sparked many questions, which Grace and Mackenzie will leave for future students to explore. The pair would like to acknowledge their work with students Lucy Heath in 2023 and Myjl Yukoya in 2024.



Marlborough Girls' College students trialed harakeke mats to control the growth of oxygen weed in Fulton Creek

### Cruise season starts in Marlborough

The first cruise ship of summer marked the beginning of a strong season for cruise tourism in Marlborough.

The Crown Princess's arrival into Picton was celebrated with a formal ceremony, where Mayor Nadine Taylor and members of Port Marlborough's Port and Marine team presented the ship's captain with a locally made plaque and a gift of Marlborough wine.

Port Marlborough Chief Executive Rhys Welbourn said the Crown Princess's maiden visit was a wonderful way to open the season. "We are honoured to have welcomed the captain and crew to Picton for the first time," he said. "Our region is ready for another strong cruise season, with both local businesses and the wider community set to benefit. The economic impact of cruise tourism is undeniable, and it is great to see Marlborough once again thriving as a key destination."

"Environmental sustainability is a key focus for Port Marlborough, and we are working closely with the cruise industry to balance economic benefits with environmental and community outcomes. This includes working with other agencies to ensure that all visiting ships adhere to the highest international maritime environmental standards."

Port Marlborough continues to invest in the region's long-term infrastructure. Alongside cruise-specific improvements, the port has introduced a new \$11.5m tugboat, Kaiana, to boost resilience and environmental efficiency.

Other projects include sealing the Shakespeare Bay log yard and installing a water truck for dust suppression, an investment aimed at improving environmental outcomes. Upgrades to the wharf fendering system on Waimahara Wharf, valued at \$2M, are also underway to enhance resilience and capacity.

With 48 total berthside calls, including nine maiden visits scheduled for the season, Port Marlborough expects that Picton will maintain its position as a preferred destination for international cruise tourism.



Mayor Nadine Taylor presented Captain Christopher Lye with a plaque during the ship's recent visit to Picton



The arrival of the Crown Princess late last month marked the start of the cruise season

### 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 Senior's Expo 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 communities to help them find out more about services and activities for seniors.

Council's libraries 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 stallholders with 35 stands signed up. There will be performances, homemade scones from Marina Cove with complimentary tea and coffee and entry is free," Mrs Griffiths said.



Calling all Picton seniors - come along to the upcoming expo



# 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 applications close soon

Applications must be received by Friday 15 November 2024 for the renewed annual Student Sister City Exchange to Tendo and Otari in Japan.

Students who will be in years nine to 12 in 2025 can take part. 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 but this will be discussed with the selected group.

It's estimated that the exchange will cost no less than \$5,000, however, some funding assistance from the Sister City budget will be made. Fundraising is also encouraged.

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.

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

Public feedback is welcome 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 by 15 November at: [links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

There is also a public engagement opportunity by webinar on 13 November from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Go to: [www.microsoft.com/en-nz/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting](http://www.microsoft.com/en-nz/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)  
Enter Meeting ID: 422 038 627 479 and  
Passcode: UBxvPN

The Destination Marlborough Trust was established by Council as Marlborough's regional tourism organisation responsible for tourism marketing and management in October 1997.

The Future Path Project was set up to rescope and redesign the future role, purpose, functions, structure and resourcing of Destination Marlborough so it can contribute to Marlborough's future success.

Destination Marlborough continues for the immediate future as part of Council - within its existing funding structure - to ensure Marlborough's tourism marketing continues while its function and structure is reviewed.

## 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)

## Queen Charlotte Track Mountain Bike Access Trial feedback reminder

To have your say on the Queen Charlotte Track Mountain Bike Access Trial email [feedback@qctrack.nz](mailto:feedback@qctrack.nz) by 15 November 2024.

Last summer's trial allowing cyclists on a section of the Queen Charlotte Track 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.

Further feedback is now being sought from all stakeholders before a final decision is made on the trial by Council, DOC and the QCTLC.

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

## 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.

## 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.

**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](mailto:HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ)

