



Plan Your Ride with new Whale Trail web page

You can keep up to date with construction progress of the Whale Trail, thanks to a new web page.



A sign at Awatere Bridge guides walkers and riders on the Whale Trail

Steady progress is being made on the walking and cycling trail, which will eventually link Waitohi Picton and Kaikōura, at around 200 km in length. The new Plan Your Ride page enables users to keep track of progress on all eight sections of the trail, and up to date with any warnings or temporary closures. From the page, users can navigate to more detailed information about each section of the track. With each of the stages in varying levels of completion, creating a Plan Your Ride page was an important step to keep the public up to date, Project Lead Nigel Muir said. "Currently, the 17.8 km Awatere section of the track is open, while the Waitohi, Wairau and Kaikōura sections are under construction."

"Planning is underway for the remaining four sections - Flaxbourne, Kēkerengū, Waiau Toa and Puhipuhi." "A lot of work has been underway near Kaikōura and Picton in recent months, as well as in Tua Marina, and it's exciting to see those sections coming together," Nigel said. "We know there are a lot of very keen cyclists ready to enjoy the Whale Trail. It's still very much a work in progress and we hope that by having a frequently updated web page for each section, users can safely know what sections are open and can follow our progress on the construction journey." The next section of trail to be worked on will be south of Seddon, with construction expected to begin next month. Go to: www.thewhaletrail.nz

Commercial Events Fund closes 14 October

Round 1 of Council's 2024/2025 Commercial Events Fund closes on Monday 14 October.

This contestable fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. Council's Commercial Events Fund Sub-committee considers applications and there is a budget of \$130,000 available for allocation this year.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within the Marlborough district boundaries. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible. Funding is granted on an annual basis but it does not mean that all funds must be distributed each year. Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may re-apply.

Key dates:

- Applications close: 5pm Monday 14 October 2024
- Funding decision by: 5pm Friday 1 November 2024

Further information and the online application form can be found on Council's website: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/commercial-events-fund

Any enquiries can be directed to Regional Events Advisor, Samantha Young, Ph: 03 520 7400 or email events@marlborough.govt.nz

Get on board the Saturday bus

A Council promotion in partnership with Marlborough Roads to encourage the community to 'get on board' the new Saturday bus service between Blenheim and Picton is underway.

With school holidays here, the timing is perfect to encourage more usage of the service between the two towns to have a 'picnic in Picton or brunch in Blenheim'.

It's also a fantastic opportunity to support local businesses at the same time particularly hospitality in the Picton and Blenheim CBDs.

The bus is just \$8 return for adults; \$4 return for school children and under-fives and SuperGold card holders are free. It's fun, affordable and a great day out. Why not get on board and leave the car at home?



Travellers can leave Blenheim at 10am and be at the Picton site by 10.45am – return time is 1.13pm which provides time for a 'picnic in Picton' experience and a visit to the shops.

Alternatively, people can depart from Waikawa Bay at 9am with pickups in Picton to arrive in Blenheim at Seymour Street at 9.45am. Departure from Blenheim is 2pm which gives ample time for 'brunch in Blenheim' or a visit to Stadium 2000 and Te Kahu o Waipuna.

For more details on the Blenheim-Picton Saturday bus route and timetable go to: www.links.marlborough.govt.nz/BusRoute3



FANCY A
**Picnic in Picton or
Brunch in Blenheim**

SATURDAYS - RETURN

UNDER 5 Free	5-18 YRS \$4	ADULT \$8
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SUPERGOLD (9AM - 3PM)
Free

