

News from Marlborough District Council.

Caution for summer boating season

There's a heads-up for boaties around New Zealand as summer approaches.



Councillor Barbara Faulls; the Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister of Biosecurity, and Rhys Welbourn, Port Marlborough Chief Executive spoke at the launch of the new Protect Our Paradise campaign

Marlborough District Council, Marlborough Sounds Marinas and Biosecurity New Zealand hosted an event in Picton this week to mark the beginning of the summer boating season.

Sounds Ward Councillor Barbara Faulls said that with warmer weather and Labour Weekend coming up, boaties start to get out on the water more.

"The Sounds is a very popular boating area. We have a lot to protect here including tourism, aquaculture and our unique environment that we all want to continue to enjoy."

The three organisations are calling for boaties to undertake good biosecurity practices this summer to avoid accidentally spreading invasive weeds or pests.

The three have worked together over the past decade to keep the fouling pest Mediterranean fanworm from establishing in Marlborough waters. Fanworm forms dense colonies that exclude any other life and out-competes other species for food.

Marlborough Sounds Marinas Manager Anouk Euzebey said the key to keeping out harmful species is vigilance to protect the unique marine ecosystems of the Sounds.

"We ensure all vessels requesting a marina berth are screened and informed of biosecurity protocols. This proactive approach is vital for managing risks posed by incoming vessels from areas of the country, where pests are already established."

Biosecurity New Zealand Pest Management Director John Walsh said keeping a boat hull



and gear clean also extends their life and improves their performance. A new nationwide biosecurity campaign, Protect Our Paradise, aims to help boaties who are going out in marine areas.

Three types of marine biosecurity cleaning are being promoted:

- For all types of boats: check and clean off gear and anchor before you move during a trip
- For trailer boats: drain the bilge and clean when you get home
- For moored boats: keep your hull clean and maintain antifouling

Information about Protect Our Paradise can be found at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/boaties

New senior housing complex completed

Council's largest investment in senior housing in decades is complete with tenants now in residence at a new Blenheim complex.

Council Project and Contracts Manager Maighan Watson said the new units represented Council's most significant housing project in more than 30 years. "This new complex increases our senior housing stock with fit-for-purpose, centralised housing for seniors," she said.

The facility at 85 George Street comprises 12 one-bedroom residential units, six on the ground and six on the first floor. It was built from permanent materials based off existing floor plans and designed to 5-Star Lifemark accessibility standards. The build is the first in Council's senior housing portfolio to have two storeys, maximising the site located just a few blocks from the town centre.

Deputy Mayor and Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee Chair Councillor David Croad, speaking at a dawn blessing led by Rangitāne, Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa on 3 October, said it was a special day.

"It's a special moment for our seniors who will make their new homes here. This complex reflects our commitment to maintaining and modernising our housing stock for over 190 tenants and the wider Marlborough community. It's an exceptional asset and one I hope will be enjoyed by its tenants long into the future," he said.

Councillor Croad acknowledged Council's current Housing for Seniors committee members as well as previous council and committee leadership, noting that the project had spanned multiple terms.

Council purchased the strategic site next door to its existing Senior Housing complex at Vevian Place a number of years ago. "The long-held vision was to develop the 800 square metre plot and in late 2020 after careful consideration and planning, Council agreed to progress this to fruition," Councillor Croad said.

Construction started last year, based on designs by Palatchie Architecture + Design.

Councillor Croad thanked some of those who had played a key role including T & D Construction along with the trade sub-contractors.

"The list of consultants and sub-contractors who have worked on this project is extensive - I won't name them, but they have played an integral part - well done to all of you," he said.



New 85 George Street tenant Sue Macdonald and Councillor David Croad enjoy the view from Council's first two storey units recently completed

Good Drills training underway for staff

Council is partnering with like-minded organisations to develop a programme to support customer facing staff who are dealing with increasing levels of animosity.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Senior Advisor Anthea Merwood said 'Good Drills' is a collaboratively designed programme to enhance the wellbeing of those staff.

In an effort to pool resources and share costs, knowledge and experience, contractor Q-Risk has been working to redevelop and refine their Good Drills programme to make it suitable and fit for purpose for Marlborough District, Nelson City and Tasman District councils.

"At its core, Good Drills is about resilience, awareness and the ability to de-escalate situations. We're working to build a consistent approach across the region to ensure our people are prepared and supported. The programme includes layers of training, practical tools and leadership practices to keep safety top of mind," Anthea said.

Incidences of abuse toward customer facing staff are being more regularly reported by Council service centres and libraries, particularly since the onset of Covid-19.



Marlborough District Libraries staff undergo training as part of the Good Drills programme aimed at strengthening de-escalation skills

Sister City Exchange 2025

Applications are invited from students who will be in years nine 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'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.

"Several factors could be contributing to these increases," Council Service and Operations Delivery Manager Marianne Aitken said.

"Ongoing stresses from global events, like the pandemic or economic uncertainties, have left many people feeling frustrated and anxious, and unfortunately, some of that tension may be spilling over into their interactions with our front-line teams."

Those teams strive to provide a high level of service and support to visitors and callers, acknowledging challenges and working on strategies and solutions that ensure everyone is treated with respect.

"The Good Drills programme is about safety and security culture as opposed to moment in time training. It is designed to further empower our teams to set clear boundaries and confidently manage difficult situations, ensuring their safety alongside the continued support from Council leadership," Anthea said.

Teams in both Council service centres and libraries will be the first to participate in the programme, which utilises a sustainable train-the-trainer model.

It will be rolled out to other Council teams in 2025.

Clever clips stop waste escaping

Marlborough's notorious nor'west winds have started and for those worried about their wheelie bins being blown over, there is a solution.

Council has ordered rubber latches which are easy to use and ensure the lid of the wheelie bin stays closed if it does blow over.

The weight of the waste or recycling will cause the lid to pop open once it is tipped upside down by contractor WM when they collect the bins, leaving the latch firmly attached to the lid.

The latches are already used in other places including Dunedin and Christchurch.

Anyone wishing to pick up a free latch can pop into Council offices in Blenheim



A wheelie bin with the rubber latch which ensures the lid stays closed

Shake things up on 24 October

New Zealand ShakeOut is our national earthquake drill and tsunami hiki on Thursday 24 October.

Marlborough Emergency Management's Senior Advisor Community Resilience Dave Parsons said ShakeOut provided an opportunity to think about preparedness in our homes, workplaces, schools and the places in our community which were important to us.

"We have had a spate of smaller earthquakes recently and these are a timely reminder that Marlborough sits on the Wairau fault system which connects to the Alpine Fault. Consequently, we are always at risk of a major earthquake in our region. ShakeOut is the perfect opportunity to remind us of the right action to take in the event of an earthquake or tsunami," Mr Parsons said.

"As an individual, business, school or community organisation, this is a great opportunity to shake things up. ShakeOut is a self-run drill so you can do it in whatever way works for you. All you need to do is 'Drop, Cover and Hold' for 60 seconds and practice your evacuation if you are in a tsunami evacuation zone."

or Picton. The sample wheelie bin in the Blenheim offices has a latch attached to it so users can see how it works.

There is also a video available: www.safewaste.global/installation

Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said Marlborough residents had embraced the wheelie bin rollout and thanked people for their support of the scheme.

He reminded people to familiarise themselves with the recycling options but said overall there had been little contamination due to wrong items being put in recycling bins.

"WM are tagging anything that shouldn't be there and people are learning from their mistakes," he said.

For more information on how you can get prepared and take part in New Zealand ShakeOut go to: www.getready.govt.nz/involved/shakeout/how-to-shakeout



SH1 Weld Pass night closures from Sunday

Plan ahead for State Highway 1 Weld Pass night closures from 20 - 23 October (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) between 7pm and 5am.

Following feedback from the freight industry and local community, NZTA has adjusted the closure times by one hour, compared to previous closures.

There will be one opening at midnight to let queued traffic through.

During the closure contractors will carry out culvert replacements, drainage, guardrail and pre-seal repairs and stabilisation work.

They will also install raised line markings. This work has been timed to avoid the upcoming public holiday weekends and the Christmas holiday season.

For more information go to: www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/state-highway-1-weld-pass-night-works-planned-for-october/