

New senior housing complex completed

Council's largest investment in senior housing in decades is completed.

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 in Blenheim, consists of 12 one-bedroom units, six on each level. It was built from permanent materials 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.

Deputy Mayor and Housing for Seniors Sub-Committee Chair Councillor David

Croad, spoke at the dawn blessing led by Rangitāne, Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa.

"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 more than 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.

Council bought the 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," Councillor Croad said.



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

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.

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.

Clever clips stop waste escaping

Marlborough's notorious nor'west winds have started but there is a solution at hand for waste escaping from wheelie bins.

Council has ordered rubber latches which ensure the lid of the wheelie bin stays closed.

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 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.



The rubber latch ensures the lid stays closed, even if blown over

Caution for summer boating season

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

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

A new nationwide biosecurity campaign, Protect Our Paradise, aims to help boaties who are going out in marine areas.

The organisations 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 was vigilance to protect the unique marine ecosystems of the Sounds.

Biosecurity New Zealand Pest Management Director John Walsh said keeping a boat hull and gear clean also extends their life and improves their performance.



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

Welcoming new citizens

Twenty-five candidates from eleven countries are now Marlborough citizens.

The new citizens from India, UK, Philippines, Italy, USA, Tonga, Fiji, Thailand, England, Ireland and South Africa were welcomed at a special ceremony in Council Chambers recently.

Mayor Taylor told the group they would all now enjoy the rights and freedoms of native-born New Zealanders.

"Your decision to apply for citizenship was no doubt made after very careful consideration and is a commitment to your future," she said. "It is not a rejection of your past but in future your first loyalty will be to New Zealand."



Mayor Taylor with Marlborough's new citizens

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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