

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.



Blenheim's Pollard Park is primed and ready for the influx of visitors for Garden Marlborough

Spring has sprung in Marlborough's premier parks

It's a wonderful time to be out and about in Marlborough.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said the region was blessed with some of the highest sunshine hours in the country, good soils and excellent growing conditions for a wide variety of trees, shrubs and flowers.

"Council's gardens team do an excellent job looking after our parks and reserves. Pollard Park in Blenheim is looking particularly magnificent right now - the annual beds are stunning with the tulips flowering. The rose gardens have been weeded, fertilised and mulched. The camellia gardens, cottage garden and perennial border are all looking great too with spring growth," she said.

In Seymour Square, staff have just finished working through the annual beds weeding and dead heading. The border and rose gardens have also been given a tidy up and a layer of mulch added to help retain moisture over summer.

A recent visitor to the province wrote to Council to say the annual beds at both Seymour Square and Pollard Park were nothing short of magnificent. "Best I've ever seen and I have been involved in parks and horticulture for a couple of decades," the visitor said. "Your gardeners are doing an amazing job! Please pass on my thanks."

This bodes well as both gardens are the backdrop to one of Marlborough's biggest events in early November - Garden Marlborough.

"Now in its 31st year, the event brings in thousands of visitors and generates over \$1 million in economic benefit. Last year more than 6,000 people attended the Garden Fête in Pollard Park and 4,000 tickets were sold for events and workshops," Mayor Taylor said.

She thanked the Garden Marlborough committee and sponsors Bayleys and extended a special acknowledgement to the original committee members for their vision all those years ago: Carolyn Ferraby, Jeremy Jones, David Robinson, Keren Mitchell, Tim Crawford, Puddi Shields, Richard MacFarlane and Ralph Ballinger. "They had an idea for a garden show like no other - a long weekend of tours and workshops culminating in a fête, showing off everything and anything to do with gardening."

"I am particularly proud of the support that Council provides to Garden Marlborough, primarily by our gardens team who ensure our parks look their absolute best. My thanks to that team for their professional gardening excellence - here's to another successful Garden Marlborough," she said.

Marlborough's Significant Natural Areas in good shape

Thirteen new Significant Natural Area (SNA) sites were added to the programme during the past year bringing the Marlborough total to 782.

The SNA project began in 2000 and involves Council collecting information about natural areas on private land and working in partnership with landowners to help protect them.

Sites in Marlborough include notable trees, tracts of indigenous forest and areas home to endangered or protected flora or fauna.

Biodiversity coordinator Mike Avis outlined to Council's Environment and Planning Committee the importance of the programme in controlling weeds and pests.

He noted 30,000 seedlings had been planted on the East Coast in the past three years to restore indigenous biodiversity along the coast.

"We've got to a situation on the coast where ngaio are poking their heads above the marram grass which will eventually be shaded out by forest," he said. "The spinifex plantings we did are now starting to help build a sand dune. It's very encouraging."

Mike's visits to SNAs this year have resulted in some surprising sights including green geckos in the Marlborough Sounds.

Council's landowner assistance programme helped landowners to protect and restore SNA

sites and there are currently 32 projects active with \$232,550 of Council funding spent on managing them during 2023/24.

The programme visited 38 sites, 24 managed and 14 unmanaged.



Volunteers helping plant Marlborough's east coast

"As expected, managed sites were in better condition - the most obvious threat to sites in the north are possums while in the south, old man's beard is a real issue," Mike said.

Community grants fund in high demand

Some difficult decisions will be needed for this year's Council Community Grants fund with a record number of applications received.

A total of just under \$700,000 has been requested through the fund which has \$280,000 available for annual distribution.

Community Partnerships Advisor Jodie Griffiths said there was an extremely high demand for the limited funds available.

"Council's grants committee meet to consider the applications and their recommendations will be considered by full Council on 31 October," she said.

"Community grants are Council's way of acknowledging the contribution of not-for-profit organisations in providing essential services. Council's role is to add value to the ability of the volunteer sector to thrive and respond to community needs by providing funding assistance. Projects must be of direct benefit to people of the Marlborough district," Mrs Griffiths said.

"Council is aware funding is becoming a real challenge for many community groups with other funding sources narrowing their criteria and demand far exceeding the funding available."

All applicants will be advised of outcomes after 31 October.

Havelock isite not returning this summer

Destination Marlborough's Havelock isite will be closed indefinitely.

Acting General Manager Tracey Green said Marlborough's visitor numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. "The domestic market remains sluggish and consumer habits have continued to evolve. These factors, combined with reduced product offerings, rising operational costs and the disestablishment of the Destination Marlborough Trust in June, have underscored the need to reassess our operations," she said.

Now ring-fenced under Council's management, Destination Marlborough has maintained its funding for the 2024/2025 season.

"However, like all businesses, we are not immune to cost increases.

Our Havelock isite has operated as a satellite site since 2016, open only during the summer season. Last summer, due to resource and budget constraints, the centre was only open three days a week," Ms Green said.

"In addition to the ongoing challenges, we also need to relocate the isite due to its current location going on the market."

Ms Green said it hadn't been an easy decision.

"We are exploring options to have some form of visitor centre presence in Havelock in the future, but this will not be in 2024/25. The Blenheim and Picton isites will continue to provide Havelock and Te Hoiere/Pelorus information and operator bookings to visitors to Marlborough."

Students launch My Voice, My Culture

Marlborough students have had their stories published in a collaborative book called My Voice, My Culture.

Working with one of nine language mentors, 31 students from Bohally Intermediate and Richmond View schools each worked on a story for the book in their native language, as well as in English.

Mayor Nadine Taylor attended the launch earlier this month, where students were able to share their work with their

peers and family members. The book features 16 different languages from around the world.

The initiative was organised by REAP Marlborough and Welcoming Communities Marlborough, as a way to provide students with an opportunity to write a published piece of writing and connect and share their language and culture. The launch followed a series of celebrations held for Welcoming Week 2024.



Lynn Liu, Mayor Taylor, Alice Zhang, Zoey She and Samvrittha Reddy Vangala at the recent launch of My Voice, My Culture

Work to be done to keep children safe on the road

More than 70 per cent of car seats assessed at child car restraint fitting clinics in Marlborough during the past year were incorrectly installed.

Child restraint technician Emma Barnett, who coordinates the clinics on behalf of Council, said many common errors had been observed in the past year, with just 27 per cent correctly installed.

"In those instances, caregivers were provided with advice about the next stage of car seat requirements for their child and had the opportunity to ask questions.

"In the other cases, caregivers were given advice about where they had gone wrong with the install, and we were usually able to fit their seat correctly for them, providing tips and advice throughout the process," Emma said.

In some cases, the seat was incompatible with the vehicle, and needed to be replaced with a suitable alternative.

Other common errors included the use of expired seats, weight limits being exceeded, tether straps not being used or used incorrectly, turning the child to face the front too early, not using a booster seat in instances where it was advised, not following the manual for the seat correctly, or having the seat or capsule at the wrong angle, which can restrict breathing in infants.

The purpose of the workshops was to provide parents with the information needed to make safe decisions for their children, Emma said.

"At the clinic people can get advice, check and correct seats where required, help install new seats and provide advice that enables parents or caregivers to do it correctly in future, and to help them to find solutions," she said.

Alongside the clinic, there are online groups that provide sound car seat advice, and Automotive Solutions in Blenheim are experts when it comes to fitting anchor points, Emma said.

She encouraged everyone to do their research to ensure their children are safe.

"Having a correctly fitted, age-appropriate car seat that is easy for parents, grandparents and guardians to use is important to keep tamariki safe on our roads and reduce injury in a crash. The best seat isn't often the most expensive one, either. Opt for one that fits the child, the car and the family well," she said.

The clinic is held at Redwoodtown Plunket Rooms every second Tuesday. Bookings are preferred, you can make an appointment by phoning Emma on 027 390 0767.



Child restraint technician Emma Barnett checks the fit on daughter Olivia's car seat

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 or Ph: 03 520 7400.

Stop/go daytime works at SH63 Wash Bridge

Plan ahead for 10-minute delays on State Highway 63 near the Wash Bridge from 7 October to 6 December, 7.30am to 5pm.

A temporary speed limit of 30 km/h will be in place. There is no work on weekends or public holidays.

One lane will remain open under stop/go traffic management as contractors work to raise the height of the road by 1.5m to improve resilience and prevent future flooding. The road will reopen to two lanes outside of work hours.

Further information:
www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/regions/wellington

Creative Communities fund closes soon

Are you involved in a creative community project and need funding?

If so, now's the time to get your application in through Council's Creative Communities NZ Scheme. Applications to the fund close at 8am on 14 October.

The scheme supports and encourages local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in arts activities within their region.

The scheme awards funding to support art and cultural activities that increase participation.

For all you need to know about the fund and to apply online go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-creative-communities-scheme

For further information please contact Project Lead - Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz



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.



Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201
Ph: 03 520 7400

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

Mon - Tues 8am - 5pm

Wed 9am - 5pm

Thurs - Fri 8am - 5pm

Sat 10am - 4pm

Sun 1pm - 4pm

Council & Committee Meetings

The following meeting is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. A copy of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Economic, Finance & Community Committee

Tuesday 15 October at 9am

Public Forum

A public forum is held prior to the Economic, Finance & Community Committee meeting at 8.30am. If you wish to address the committee you will need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary by the Friday prior. Please note topics are restricted to those agenda items for the meeting or within the Committee's delegation.

Times and dates may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

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

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

