

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

Wither Hills submissions close soon

Balancing soil conservation and native plantings with recreational use and farming is the aim of the Wither Hills draft management plan, now open for submissions.



Parts of the farm park, which covers 1,029 hectares, were originally bought by the Crown in 1944 to address soil conservation and that role is still the overriding priority for management today.

Council Parks and Open Spaces Planner Linda Craighead said the plan sets out a strategic direction for community comment.

"The review of the existing plan began in 2022 with discussions by Council staff, iwi and

stakeholders and last year the public was invited to provide their thoughts on future management options," she said.

That process resulted in 92 responses from which the draft plan was then developed.

"The farm park is iconic and a highly valued backdrop to Blenheim and the plan includes an overview of the values of importance to the community," Ms Craighead said.

Key issues include providing recreational opportunities for a wide range of participants and activities, restoring native habitat, controlling pests, managing fire risk and protecting the landscape and cultural heritage of the area. Farming is an important management tool as well.

Consultation closes on 9 August - to have your say go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/have-your-say-consultations

Marlborough cultural treasure award lives on

Council has taken guardianship of the Marlborough Living Cultural Treasure Award with the support of the Economic, Finance and Community (EFC) Committee.

The award was established in 2012 by the Friends of Marlborough Museum in partnership with Marlborough Museum and Council. In 2023, the award was suspended. The Friends of the Marlborough Museum group no longer exists but a former member approached Mayor Nadine Taylor earlier this year to find an enduring home for the award.

She agreed to see if it could come within Council, EFC Committee chair Councillor David Croad said.

"This is an important regional award, with a proud history, given to recipients who have demonstrated a lifetime of excellence in cultural endeavour and are a source of community inspiration," Cllr Croad said.

"The request for Council to assume its guardianship will safeguard it and ensure it stays alive for the people of Marlborough."

The inaugural recipient was Peg Moorhouse in 2012 and most recently Clarry Neame in 2023; there have been 11 recipients since its inception. On two occasions, two people shared the award.

Some minor changes to how the award is structured will be made, Council's Project Lead Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson told the committee recently.

"One award will now be presented per mayoral term in line with the Marlborough Civic Awards and we have also considered the diversity of the selection panel to ensure it is broadly representative of our region," Mrs Neilson said.

"New detailed criteria for the award will be designed in consultation with the selection panel before nominations open. These criteria will focus on a nominee's demonstration of an extraordinary, inspiring and significant

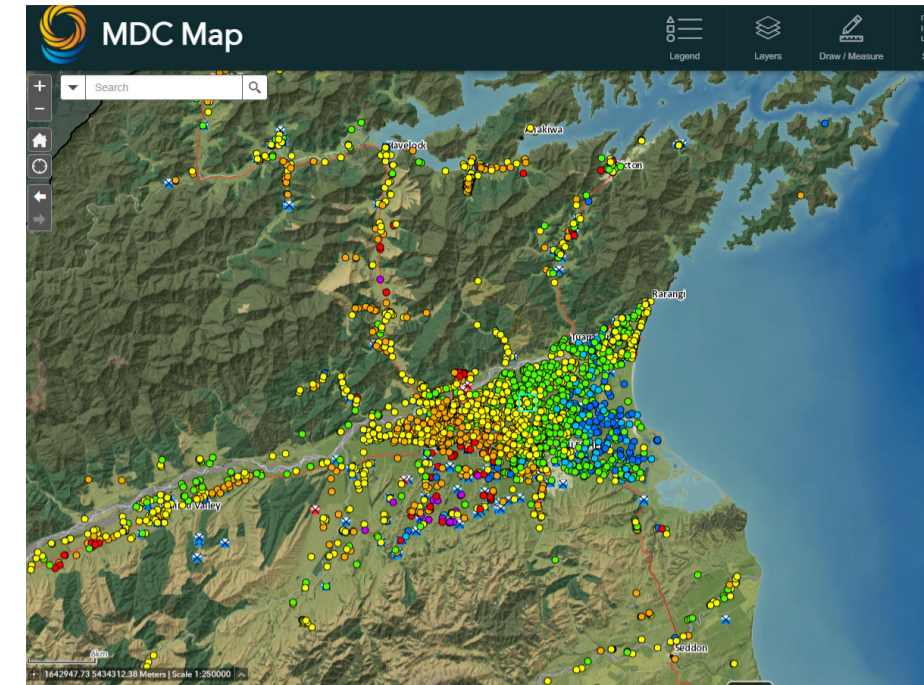
contribution in cultural endeavour over a lifetime, and wherever possible sharing these with the community, including inspiring future generations," she said.

The selection panel will consist of the mayor, one community representative appointed by the mayor, one previous recipient of the award, Libraries' Manager and an iwi representative nominated by Te Tau Ihu chairs.

Nominations will open in November before council elections with the award presented in late March/early April of the election year. The committee decision is subject to the approval of full Council. No additional budget is required.

For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-living-cultural-treasure-award

New mapping layer reveals groundwater levels



Council's new Wells Static Groundwater Level layer in Smart Maps provides a snapshot of groundwater in more than 2,000 wells

A new layer is available on Council's Local and Smart Maps service showing a snapshot in time of groundwater levels across the region.

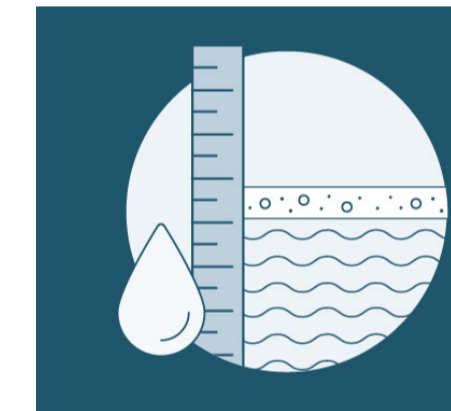
Senior Environmental Scientist for Groundwater Peter Davidson said the new layer called Wells Static Groundwater Level provided information about more than 2,000 wells across Marlborough. It can be accessed via Council's Local Maps and Smart Maps service at: www.marlborough.govt.nz

"The new layer provides a snapshot in time of static water levels in wells across Marlborough based on drill data and using colour coding to show the groundwater level. The levels range from less than 20m to greater than 1m depending on the well," Mr Davidson said.

"This information was not previously available online and people had to make a manual request to Council. Having it accessible via Smart Maps is useful not only for Council staff when looking at infrastructure requirements but also for consultants and the public."

The new layer is possible because of Council's Wells and Geology Database which has charted the location of wells throughout Marlborough. "This new layer is one of several outputs from this we expect to see over the next 18 months," Mr Davidson said.

To access the Wells Static Groundwater Level layer, go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz select Smart Maps then Wells Static Groundwater Level



Students pitch in to replant fire-damaged reserve

Students from Spring Creek and Tua Marina schools got their hands dirty to replant a section of Kahikatea Reserve, destroyed by fire last year.

The initiative was led by Enviroschools, a Council-supported programme that aims to promote environmental education in schools throughout the region and nationally.

Environmental Educator Angela Wentworth said the students planted 450 trees at the Spring Creek reserve, which is a 20-year restoration project of bare pastureland. It is home to rimu, totara, kahikatea, matai, manuka, tarata, lancewood, harakeke, kawakawa, koromiko and a myriad of other natives.

The restoration aims to return the land to a lowland swamp ngahere/forest, dominated by the mighty kahikatea, of which only three semi-mature trees are left standing on the Wairau Plains.

"Unfortunately, a small fire destroyed part of the restoration late last year. The crew of Landscape Marlborough wanted to replant it before weeds took hold and made it too difficult, so the children jumped at the chance to help them," she said.



Students from Spring Creek and Tua Marina schools replanting Kahikatea Reserve (right)

Long service awards for JPs

Two long-serving Marlborough Justices of the Peace have been awarded certificates of appreciation.

In presenting the certificates, Mayor Nadine Taylor said Ramon Sutherland and Jenny Andrews had given exceptional service to both the Justices of the Peace organisation and the Marlborough community.

"Our JPs tend to be people who serve our community in many ways and today is a chance to thank all of you for your service and in particular thank Ramon and Jenny who have completed 50 years and 30 years of service respectively," she said.

In giving Ramon his award she noted more that half of his active adult life had been given in service.

"I congratulate you on achieving 50 years of service," she said. "Without people such as you who volunteer it would be a lengthy and expensive process for community members to visit a lawyer to obtain certified documents."

Ramon, who led Marlborough to its historic Ranfurly Shield rugby win, was sworn in in 1974 after being approached by then MP Ian Brooks.

Former Councillor Jenny Andrews received her warrant from the Governor General in 1993.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mrs Andrews who first worked in the days when people relied on the phone book for contact information.

Being a JP with a surname starting with A meant it was always a busy job!

While the demand hasn't dropped, no longer having a landline helped and the service was far more evenly shared thanks to a JP service now being regularly available at the Marlborough District Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna in Blenheim.

JPs witness signatures on legal documents, certify copies of documents such as birth certificates and passports, and administer statutory declarations.

Two JPs are available at Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 12pm.

Picton Library and Service Centre has two JPs available each Wednesday from 11am to 1pm.



Mayor Nadine Taylor with Marlborough JPs including Jenny Andrews (sixth from right) and Ramon Sutherland (front)

Look out for woolly nightshade

More than 10,000 woolly nightshade plants have been destroyed by Council's biosecurity staff.

Four staff spent five days carrying out the work in Squally Cove, destroying seedlings and young plants after a previous visit.

Biosecurity Manager Liam Falconer said the site, in Croisilles Harbour, is one of the largest of several infestations in Marlborough.

One other large infestation is in Port Hardy on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/d'Urville Island with smaller infestations in Moetaupu Bay, Moenui and Blenheim as well.

Mr Falconer asked anyone seeing woolly nightshade to report the highly invasive pest to Council immediately so it could be destroyed.

"Council will carry out control work at no cost to the landowner," he said. "Sites are visited by biosecurity staff or contractors regularly to ensure infestations are controlled. We are concerned at the increasing number of finds of woolly nightshade in Marlborough."

Woolly nightshade is an aggressive, fast-growing plant that forms dense exclusion colonies crowding out other plants and preventing native plant regeneration.

Dust from the leaves and stems can irritate skin, eyes, nose and throat.

Each plant can produce thousands of seeds which are dispersed by birds that eat the berries.

First recorded in New Zealand in 1883, woolly nightshade is an invasive lowland shrub that can grow to 10 metres.



Biosecurity staff killing woolly nightshade in Squally Cove recently

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, Ph: 03 520 7400 or go to: marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors

Pay your dog registrations now to avoid penalties

Wednesday 31 July is the final date to pay your dog registration.

A late registration penalty of 50 per cent will be applied for every dog over the age of three months that has not been registered on or before 31 July 2024.

It's important to remember that all dogs over the age of three months must be registered. Taking the time to do this now is a lot cheaper than getting a \$300 fine for having an unregistered dog.

Dogs can be registered by internet banking, direct credit, by post or in person at Animal Control, 58 Main Street, Blenheim or the Picton Service Centre, 2 Dublin Street, Picton.

Online dog services are also available on the Council website: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/dogs-and-other-animals/dog-registration/online-dog-services

Please note that credit card is the only online payment option and transaction fees apply.

Please phone Animal Control on Ph: 03 520 9033 or email animalcontrol@xtra.co.nz if you have any queries.



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.



Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required. You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide. This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information.

During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly. In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website. These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps

If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or 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

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Direct to your inbox every Friday, Council's eNewsletter Marlborough Matters covers the latest news and information on Council services and projects. Stay in the know and sign up today.

Visit: bit.ly/MarlCouncilENewsletter to subscribe

Council & Committee meetings

The following 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.

Council

Wednesday 31 July at 9am

Assets & Services Committee

Tuesday 20 August at 9am

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 links.marlborough.govt.nz/public-notice

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

