

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. 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

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 that much 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 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 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)

Horton Park cricket pitch resurfaced for coming season

Horton Park’s No.1 cricket block has been resurfaced ahead of the coming cricket season.

Clay beneath a cricket pitch needs to be replaced at a minimum of every 10 years to keep the pitch in good playing order. As part of the resurfacing, the old block was dug up,

and replaced with 100mm of gravel, 20mm of top course and 110mm of Ward clay.

The pitch is currently in a ‘grow in’ period to allow seed to germinate, and will be managed until the first ball is bowled in the new surface in October.



Horton Park’s No. 1 cricket pitch is getting a facelift

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 Moetapu 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.



Biosecurity staff killing woolly nightshade in Squally Cove recently

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

Opening Hours

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