



New guide shines light on MATARIKI events in Marlborough

A new event programme showcasing the celebration of Matariki in Marlborough is now available.

Council's Project Lead for Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson said Council decided to produce the new guide due to the growing number of Matariki events.

"It is wonderful to see Marlborough embracing Matariki with more events every year. They provide a special chance to come together as a community to learn, reflect on and celebrate the Māori New Year, and immerse oneself in te ao Māori," Mrs Neilson said.

Events this year range from traditional dawn ceremonies to night light shows.

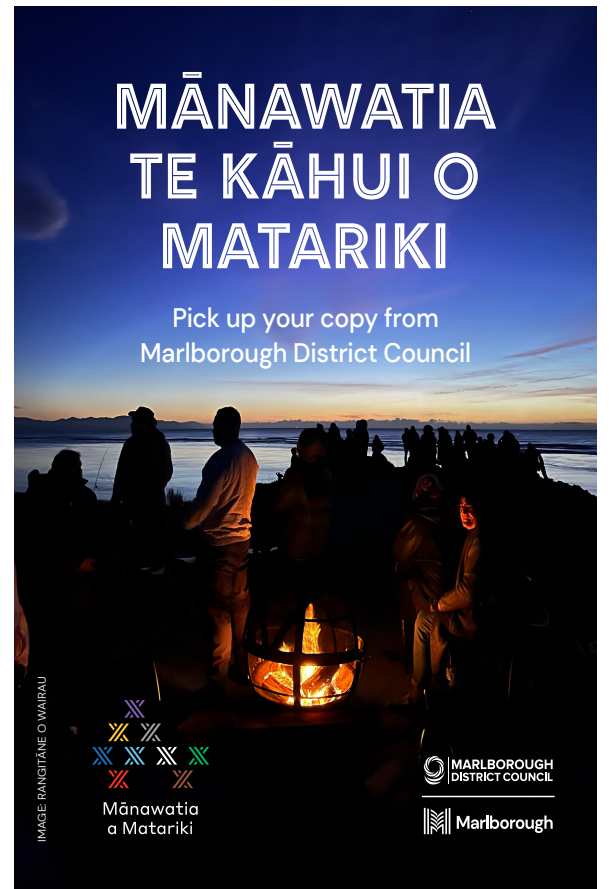
"The events all celebrate the three major principles of Matariki: remembrance - honouring those who have died since the last rising of Matariki; the present - gathering together with family and friends; and the future - looking forward to the promise of a new year," she said.

Nine applicants were successful in receiving support from Council's Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki/Marlborough Matariki Event Fund.

The fund was established in 2023 and celebrates and supports the regeneration of mātauranga associated with Te Kāhui o Matariki. The contestable fund aims to support the community in hosting events that recognise not only Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki, the public holiday, but also the wider kaupapa and principles of Matariki.

Matariki is the star cluster also known as Pleiades. It's part of a larger constellation called Taurus and is one of the earliest recorded groups of stars in human history, with a record that dates back some 17,000 years. For Māori, the rising of Matariki signals te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year. In 2022 Matariki became an official public holiday in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The guide is available from Marlborough District Libraries, the Marlborough Art Gallery and Council's Customer Service Centres, and online at www.marlborough.govt.nz and www.follow-me.co.nz



Have you got your wheelie bin?

Nearly 33,000 wheelie bins have been delivered to Marlborough households as part of the new expanded kerbside service.

From 1 July wheelie bins will replace the black plastic bags. Each eligible household should have received two wheelie bins – a red top one for waste and a yellow top one for recycling. More than 2,000 maroon crates have also been delivered to households new to the service. These are currently used for general recycling but after 1 July will be used for glass recycling only, Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said.

"Rubbish bags won't be collected kerbside after 1 July," Mr Lucas said. "The new wheelie bin service provides improved capacity and efficiency, saving 750,000 bags going to landfill every year."

If you haven't received your bin yet call Council on 03 520 7400 or email mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Remember the new bins will not be collected until 1 July - if you notice your neighbour has put one out, remind them the service doesn't start until then.

After 1 July, bins should be placed on the kerb edge by 7am, facing the

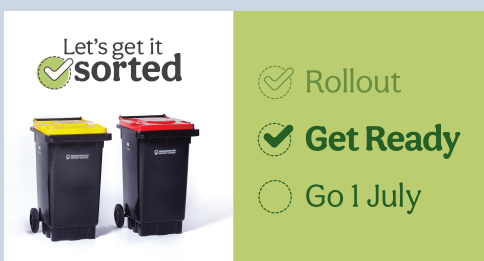
road and away from obstacles and overhanging trees. They need to be half a metre apart to allow trucks to lift them.

Any households still holding rubbish bag vouchers can redeem them at Council offices or get a rebate up until 30 June. From 1 July, rubbish bags will not be collected from the kerbside; however they will be accepted at transfer stations, the Waste Sorting Centre or the Resource Recovery Centre.

To make sure you are up to date with kerbside collection days and other specific information be sure to download the Antenna app.

If you are unsure how to do this, get a family member to help or contact Council on 03 520 7400.

To find out more, including a calendar showing collection days, go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/kerbside-collections



Budget funding for tugboat study welcomed by councils

Funding for a feasibility study into acquiring an ocean-going tugboat has been welcomed by Greater Wellington Regional Council and Marlborough District Council.

Budget 2024 allocated \$600,000 for the study, following the recent breakdowns of a Cook Strait ferry and a container ship in central New Zealand waters.

Greater Wellington chair Daran Ponter and Marlborough Mayor Nadine Taylor say they are pleased the government will assess the potential of an ocean-going tugboat to prevent disaster.

"Loss of life or an oil spill could be avoided. Major maritime rescue

missions could be mounted with a tug designed to salvage large vessels adrift on the open sea," Mr Ponter said. "With replacements for the Cook Strait ferries not on the horizon, and more service being pressed from the aged ferry fleet – we can no longer rely on luck to stave off disaster."

Mayor Taylor said an ocean-going tugboat could be used for more than emergencies.

"A vessel with the power and

range to mount rescue missions in New Zealand waters could be put to good use when not needed in a crisis," Mayor Taylor said. "The study needs to scope the wider utility of ocean-going tugs as well as their ability to save stricken ferries. It's heartening when maritime safety advice from the two councils who oversee one of the world's most beautiful, yet treacherous shipping channels is heard."

Demolition of Picton ferry terminal set for June

The landscape of Picton's port waterfront is about to change, with the demolition of the Picton ferry terminal, scheduled to start in mid-June.

The building's demolition follows the cancellation of the iReX project, which had originally made provision for the terminal's replacement.

Constructed in the 1960s to support the passenger and freight service for New Zealand's first rail-enabled ferry, Aramoana, the terminal building has seen the passage of millions of travellers between the North and South islands during its lifetime, Port Marlborough CEO Rhys Welbourn said.

"Despite changes in the area, inter-island ferries will continue to operate from their usual berths, ensuring minimal disruption to passengers," he said.

A new temporary terminal building and passenger walkway has been established for the Interislander to handle passenger and luggage services in the medium term and KiwiRail has reported that it is working well since it opened in June 2023. StraitNZ Bluebridge services remain unaffected.

In recent years the Picton ferry terminal building has not been maintained to usual high standards, due to its anticipated demolition under the iReX project. "The demolition of the terminal building will now clear the site

for future port operations and Port Marlborough continues to work closely with government agencies on the next steps for development. The works are being managed carefully to ensure continued service efficiency and safety for our busy port," Mr Welbourn said.

