



# Head along to WINEPRO

The inaugural WinePRO Aotearoa international trade show and conference is coming to Blenheim from 25 to 27 June.

New Zealand is the world's sixth largest wine exporter by value and Marlborough dominates production with more than 80 per cent of wine coming from here.

"The growth of our wine industry over the past 50 years is nothing short of astonishing," Mayor Nadine Taylor said.

"WinePRO offers an opportunity for everyone to

learn about the latest wine industry developments, particularly in agritech and automation. The trade show is free to attend and I encourage people to head along to see the latest innovations."

Register to find out more at: <https://winepro.co.nz/>

**Mayor Nadine Taylor at the new Plant and Food Research Experimental Future Vineyard in Budge Street, Blenheim.**



## Marlborough triumphs at Hi-Tech Awards



As Marlborough readies to celebrate innovation at the inaugural WinePRO Aotearoa international trade show and conference, two standout Marlborough companies have distinguished themselves at the recent 2024 Hi-Tech Awards.

Southern Water Engineering and Smart Machines were both finalists in the agritech section of the prestigious awards, with Smart Machines clinching the NZTE Most Innovative Hi-Tech Agritech Solution with their revolutionary autonomous tractor (pictured above).

Council's Economic Development Portfolio Manager Dorien Vermaas said both companies exemplified the cutting-edge advancements emerging from Marlborough. "Council is delighted to celebrate the recent successes of our local agritech industry, which has once again proven to be a cornerstone of innovation and economic growth in our region," Ms Vermaas said. "The achievements of Southern Water Engineering and Smart Machines serve as an inspiration and a catalyst for further advancements within our local agritech sector. These successes attract attention and investment from beyond our region, fuelling further economic development."

"Council remains committed to supporting and nurturing the agritech industry through strategic initiatives and partnerships. We believe that by continuing to invest in innovation, sustainability, and community collaboration, we can achieve the goals set out in the Marlborough Economic Wellbeing Strategy and solidify our position as a leading agritech region," Ms Vermaas said.

## Whale Trail helps restore local taonga

Planting 1000 native trees, shrubs and grasses at the Blue Hole in Koromiko was a wonderful opportunity for all those connected with the Whale Trail to help restore a local taonga.

The Blue Hole is an important spring in the Speeds Road section of the Para Swamp and flows almost continuously, feeding into the Para Swamp and then the Tuamarino River.

Helping the Whale Trail was a committed team of local volunteers including landowners, Kerry and Ivan Fearn whose family have been farming in the Koromiko Valley for four generations. The Fearn family were delighted to have the willows and weeds cleared from the Blue Hole and fencing in place. Keen riders themselves, the Fearn family are looking forward to seeing the plantings give pleasure to the many future trail users.

Also helping were volunteers from Te Ātiawa o Waka-a-Māui and Te Rūnanga ā Rangitāne o Wairau. Historically, the Para Valley was an important area rich in resources

for iwi, as well as being an important thoroughfare between Wairau and Waitohi. Te Rūnanga ā Rangitāne o Wairau Trustee Peter Meihana said the Whale Trail planting event gave them a chance to physically connect as kaitiaki, collaborate with the community and share their mātauranga.



**Rico Nicklin, (Rangitāne, Ngati Kuia), Peter Meihana, Trustee a Rūnanga ā Rangitāne o Wairau, Kristie Pakipaki - Pou Taiao (Environmental Manager) Te Ātiawa o te Waka-a-Māui, Renée Love, Kaitohutohu Taiao (Environmental Kaitiaki) Te Ātiawa o te Waka-a-Māui**

The planting day was supported by Fonterra, Council, Wild about Natives and Morgans Nursery as well as Marlborough Boys' College agriculture course students, Marlborough Sounds Adventure Company and the Picton Cycle Group.

## Renwick water treatment plant completed

Renwick's water treatment plant in Terrace Road is now operational.

Mason Engineers, who were contracted to install treatment equipment and controls, completed eight weeks of extensive commissioning work late last month and connected the plant to Renwick's water supply on Wednesday. "With that work now complete, Renwick households have a water supply that is safe, secure and meets national drinking water standards," Council Water Treatment Plant Operator Robin Millard said.

Masons had been on site for the plant fit out since late last year, following the completion of civil and structural works by Simcox Construction in September. Following the fit out, both wet and dry commissioning was undertaken to ensure the necessary systems were working correctly.



Treated water from the plant goes to all properties within the urban Renwick area.

"Before now, Renwick's water supply was not passed through a filtration system, so users may notice their water

is now clearer and better tasting," Robin said.

Before the fit out, Simcox Construction undertook civil and construction works including underground services, building foundations and pipelines, while subcontractors CMT Group did most of the building work onsite.

Renwick's water upgrades have also included the construction of a new reservoir in 2020, the installation of water meters from July 2021, and the drilling and development of new wells at Conders Bend Road.

A new water pipeline from the wells to the reservoir and water treatment plant site was installed in 2022.

A celebration of the plant's opening is planned for the spring - the date will be confirmed.