



New library art gallery building takes out awards

Te Kahu o Waipuna - Marlborough's new library and art gallery building - won three awards at the Master Builders Association Commercial Project Awards held in Wellington recently.

📷 Luke van Velthooven, APL Property; Mayor Nadine Taylor; Mark Watson and Phil Robinson, Robinson Construction and Maighan Watson, Project Manager, Marlborough District Council, celebrate at the awards night



Te Kahu o Waipuna won:
- Gold Award Winner and Category Winner in the Tourism and Leisure Category
- Value Award Winner in the Commercial Projects \$10M to \$25M Category

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was proud of the people and teams who contributed to the building project.

"It was an honour to be at the awards night representing Marlborough - it goes to show we have exceptionally talented people here who can go up against the best in New Zealand - and win!"

"This is a well-deserved accolade for Robinson Construction, APL Property, Davidson Group, Warren and Mahoney, the Council and art gallery teams and the sub-contractors involved in designing and constructing the building."

The Master Builders Association awards set the benchmark for commercial construction in New Zealand and celebrate collaboration and innovation across the building industry. The awards recognise the people behind the construction project as well as the building itself.

Wither Hills draft management plan ready

The future management of the Wither Hills Farm Park goes out for public consultation next month.

Last week Council approved the Draft Wither Hills Management Plan which replaces the current one from 2003.

The plan sets out a strategic direction which the community will have the opportunity to comment on from 10 June, Council's Parks and Open Spaces Planner Linda Craighead said.

"The review of the existing plan began in 2022 with discussions by Council staff, iwi and key stakeholders, and last year the public was invited to provide their thoughts on future management options. That process resulted in 92 responses with many useful suggestions and insights which

were considered as part of the plan development process," she said. "The Farm Park is an iconic and highly valued backdrop to Blenheim and the plan includes an overview of the key values of importance to the community and issues identified through the consultation process."

Parts of the 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, Ms Craighead said.

Other key issues include providing recreational opportunities for a wide range of participants

and activities, restoring native habitats, controlling pests, managing fire risk, protecting the landscape and cultural heritage of the area. Farming is an important management tool.

Three iwi - Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāti Rārua and Ngāti Toa Rangatira - participated in the review while Council staff, DOC, FENZ, the farm park lessee and representatives from the QEII National Trust provided valuable input, Ms Craighead said.

A hearings panel of councillors Brian Dawson, David Croad and Scott Adams has been appointed to consider submissions later in the year.

Bumper Winter Events Guide OUT NOW

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If you want to know what's on in Marlborough this winter, look no further than the Winter Events Guide.

Regional Events Advisor Samantha Young said the guide was now available, showcasing Marlborough events from 1 June to 31 August. "This is the biggest Winter Events Guide ever, which is heartening considering the tough time many of our events have had these past few years," Mrs Young said.

"Our events sector has shown a lot of determination and creativity in the face of challenges," she said.

"You only need look to the inaugural Pride Wairau Festival this June as a great example of a new event and Marlborough's celebration of Matariki also continues to grow with an array of events and a programme due out

soon as well."

"We also have long-standing favourites like the Marlborough Book Festival bringing top contemporary authors to Blenheim. One of Council's community events - the Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival - will have live performances at venues around the region."

"Our bumper guide shows it's a great time to support these fantastic events on offer."

Printed copies of the guide are available from Council offices, libraries, iSITEs and the ASB Theatre. An online version is also available, promoted via social media and Stuff.

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