

Council welcomes new wilding conifer funding for Molesworth

Efforts to tackle the wilding conifers infestation have been supported by \$400,000 from the Government's \$30M International Visitor Levy fund.

Council's Environment and Planning Committee Chair Gerald Hope expressed appreciation for this funding but said increased and ongoing funding was essential to stop and reduce the spread of wilding conifers.

"This investment is a recognition of the importance of our ongoing battle against wilding conifers. We estimate total funding of \$7M annually to restore the Molesworth to its original state. Our programme has funding for \$1.37M this year, which is helping us slow the spread, but we cannot afford to let the problem escalate."

Councillor Hope said the invasive pines had broader implications that will affect Marlborough's environment and economy.

"If left unchecked, wilding conifers seriously threaten local biodiversity. These invasive trees can significantly decrease water flow at the headwaters of the Wairau, Clarence and Awatere catchments, as they consume large

amounts of water. This will inevitably impact our vineyards and agricultural productivity.

"Molesworth holds immense value as an iconic part of New Zealand's high country landscape, benefiting tourism. Controlling wilding conifers will pave the way for the return of critically endangered native species, enhancing our natural heritage. I'm impressed by the Government's investment in this vital programme, and I encourage it to work with Council through long-term funding to restore the Molesworth high country."

Wilding conifers - often called wilding pines or pest conifers - are invasive trees that have proliferated from seed spread in past years. They were originally planted to prevent soil erosion, provide wind protection or for unmanaged forestry purposes. Council remains committed to addressing this pressing environmental challenge with continued community and government support.

For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity/a-z-of-pests/pests-nassella-tussock-to-yellow-flag-iris/wilding-pines



Wilding pine seedlings popping up on Tardale, Molesworth

Last day to pay rates reminder

This is a reminder that the final payment for the third rates instalment is Tuesday 11 March.

Late payments attract a 10 per cent penalty which can be avoided by paying rates on time.

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Ratepayers who pay by direct debit never have to worry about missing a rates payment and never incur penalties. It is the easiest and most flexible way to pay. You choose how often you pay and what day of the week the payment comes out of your account.

It is also a great idea to go paperless and get your rate invoices by email

the day they are sent, instead of waiting for the post to arrive. Sign up for online invoices here: <https://data.marlborough.govt.nz/OnlineSignUp/>



If you would like to know more about paying rates by direct debit go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates/ways-to-pay/direct-debit

For more information call Council's Customer Support Officers on 03 520 7400, go to www.marlborough.govt.nz You can also find more information here about the Anntenno app to receive rates alerts.

Keeping the past alive

Burial records dating from the 1880s have been preserved for the future thanks to a collaboration between Council's Heritage Marlborough and Parks and Open Spaces teams.

Four old leather-bound cemetery burial and plot registers have been professionally scanned to ensure their longevity.

One register came from Omaka, one from Havelock and two from Picton.

Due to their age and significance, this was the best option to ensure the valuable information within was safeguarded for the future, Council's Archivist Wendy Harnett said.

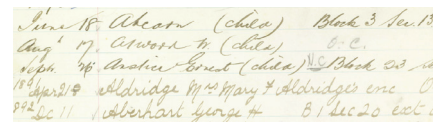
"After obtaining quotes and considering the best options, the registers were couriered to Crown Records Management where they were carefully deconstructed so the pages could be scanned to an archival quality," she said.

"They were then returned to Council with a PDF document of each now held in our digital filing system."

Given the success of this project, the Council's Heritage team is investigating



Council's Cemetery Administrator Carolyn Jones (left) and Archivist Wendy Harnett with one of the registers that has been scanned



A page from the scanned burial register dating back to 1890

whether other cemetery records should be scanned.

"With a growing demand from those researching their genealogy, we are hoping to make these records available on our website in the near future," she said.



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