



Completion date for Kenepuru recovery works closer

Good news was delivered to the Kenepuru Sound community recently with the completion date for repairs to the flood-damaged road now December 2027, two and a half years ahead of schedule.

Representatives from Marlborough Roads gathered with Mayor Nadine Taylor, councillors and Council Chief Executive John Boswell to deliver the update at a drop-in meeting at Portage Hotel.

Mayor Taylor said it was pleasing to let the community know the revised repair timeframe which reflected the commitment of Council and Marlborough Roads to complete the work as soon as was practically possible.

“Of course, we know there are always variables to significant roading projects like this – particularly when weather is at play – so these are target dates and will be refined further when detailed designs are completed and the scope of works is confirmed,” she said.

Kenepuru Road opened to the public last December, restoring access for stock trucks.

While en route to the community meeting, the mayor and councillors visited the Water Tank Slip, one of several complex sites along Kenepuru Road.

A 98m retaining wall, drainage improvements and road reinstatement is nearing completion at this site with pavement preparation currently being worked on and sealing planned before the end of the month, weather permitting.

“Construction here has enabled the road to reopen for farmers, businesses, contractors and visitors as well as residents ahead of the Christmas holidays. On our way into the residents’ meeting, we passed a laden stock truck and trailer heading out and that was very satisfying to see. We know how important this repair has been for our Sounds farming community to allow stock movements by road to resume for the first time in three years,” Mayor Taylor said.

The total number of faults for construction for the Kenepuru Zone in Phase 3 is now 802, with 20 per cent completed following the storms in July 2021 and August 2022.



Mayor Nadine Taylor chats with foreman Sam Terris (left) and Marlborough Roads Recovery Operations Manager Adam Hale at the nearly completed Water Tank Slip site

Celebrating Seaweek

This week the spotlight is on our oceans.

“Seaweek runs from 1 to 9 March and is a fantastic opportunity to connect with the moana” says Council’s Senior Coastal Scientist Katie Littlewood. “Each year, Seaweek partners with groups across Aotearoa to offer accessible opportunities for people to explore and learn about the ocean, inspiring a deeper connection to nature.” “We are lucky to live in a place with such an incredible seascape. The Marlborough Sounds is unique, and we all have a collective responsibility to look after it” she said.

Council is partnered with several projects focussed on restoration. This includes the Tōtaranui Kelp Restoration Project in conjunction with Port Marlborough, the University of Auckland and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui.

Four experimental sites in Tōtaranui were selected to research ways to restore rimurimu/seaweed and kelp, primarily by removing overabundant

kina. Rimurimu forests are missing from over half of the reef area in Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound. Much of these reef areas are now dominated by kina barrens, a tohu or indicator of an ecosystem that is out of balance.



The kelp forests of Tōtaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound are in focus this Seaweek

As part of Seaweek, Port Marlborough is hosting a public webinar tomorrow – Thursday 6 March - at 1pm to hear from Dr Nick Shears from Auckland University about the project.

“Removing kina from sites in

Tōtaranui has encouraged the recovery of many significant rimurimu and kelp species’ said Katie. “However, this research highlights the imbalance occurring in our moana. While removing overpopulated kina helps restore biodiversity, removal on its own is not an efficient long-term restoration tool, as it does not address the underlying issue of the lack of kina predators,” she said. During the webinar, Dr Shears will present on the topic of kina barrens and the effect of reducing kina densities in these areas to restore kelp forests and encourage other associated species to return to the ecosystem.

To join go to: <https://events.humanitix.com/webinar-t-taranui-kelp-restoration-project> For more information on Seaweek go to: www.seaweek.org.nz



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 your rates on time.

Have you considered signing up for a direct debit?

Ratepayers who pay their rates 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: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/rates/sign-up-to-receive-rates-invoices-online

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 Anntenna app to receive rates alerts.