

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### Iconic GODZONE adventure race coming to Marlborough

GODZONE, New Zealand's largest multi-day adventure race, is coming to Marlborough later this year.

Considered one of the world's most challenging team races, One NZ Godzone Chapter 12 will run from November 27 to December 5, 2025 through Marlborough's spectacular and rugged landscapes.

Mayor Nadine Taylor is delighted Marlborough will host the prestigious race which brings huge economic and promotional benefits to the region.

"We're super excited the race is coming here and look forward to hosting competitors and their supporters," she said. "I'm sure everyone will have an amazing time in our region."

Council's Events and Community Partnerships Manager Samantha Young said being the hosting partner for the unique adventure race

was an exciting opportunity for the region.

"Marlborough offers something for everyone including participants, crew, volunteers and media," she said.

"We've breathtaking landscapes, the stunning Marlborough Sounds, wonderful arts, heritage and culture, award-winning wines and delicious fresh produce."

Acting General Manager of Destination Marlborough, Tracey Green said Marlborough was an ideal destination for adventure activity seekers.

"We are excited to highlight the incredible diversity of Marlborough and showcase our landscapes," she said. "We look forward to

welcoming participants to the region and hope they take the opportunity to explore and immerse themselves in the beauty of our surroundings and everything the region offers visitors."

The race was scheduled to be held here early last year but was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Chapter 12 is the first under the direction of the newly formed PACT organisation and chair Rob Nichol said organisers were incredibly grateful to Council and Destination Marlborough for their continued support in hosting the event.

The 550km plus course route remains a secret until the event starts.



Marlborough's spectacular land and sea scapes have attracted the GODZONE race to the province

### Tech hub open for business

Marlborough's new technology and innovation hub Te Au Pūngao, was officially opened by the Associate Minister for Regional Development Mark Patterson last week.



Minister Mark Patterson cuts the ribbon watched by (from left) deputy mayor David Croad and Marlborough MPs Stuart Smith and Jamie Arbuckle

The co-working space gives innovation and startups in Marlborough a home as well as a point of reference for entrepreneurs to collaborate and build business.

Minister Patterson said Te Au Pūngao was a key regional development milestone providing a much-needed space for entrepreneurs to develop opportunities.

Deputy Mayor David Croad, said Te Au Pūngao was the new home for innovation and technology in Marlborough welcoming entrepreneurs, founders, startups, innovators, investors and mentors.

"It will be used to innovate and to continue to grow the next stage and next generation of

innovation and firsts for Marlborough," he said. "By providing the right spaces, resources and networks, the hub supports collaborative work that enhances problem-solving for industries to ultimately increase their productivity.

"Through this startup ecosystem, the hub creates new business solutions, investment opportunities and long-term prosperity for our region."

Shane Graham Pouwhakahaere of Ngāti Rarua, explained the meaning of the name Te Au Pūngao - Te Au which translated to a stream or current and Pūngao which was vibrant energy.

Tech hub manager Louisa Murray said the

new space provided meeting rooms for the community plus co-working space.

"This is a place for conversation, bold ideas and trying things out," she said.

Council first backed a regional Tech and Innovation Programme in the long-term plan in 2021. The programme enabled the region to actively attract tech entrepreneurs and take Marlborough's innovation stories to the world.

The tech hub was supported by the Government's Kānoa fund which helped with fit-out costs including a co-working space, a prototyping room for product development and shared meeting rooms. Council contributed \$635,000 to the project.

### Wither Hills Farm Park closed

Ongoing hot and dry conditions have caused a full closure of the Wither Hills Farm Park.

Council closed the park last Thursday in the interest of public safety following talks with Fire and Emergency (FENZ).

Parks and Open Spaces Manager Jane Tito said FENZ had been reviewing the fire danger status daily over summer and, given the extreme dry conditions in February, had recommended closing the park.

"There is lots of dry grass in the park and with more hot weather and winds forecast, fire would spread quickly placing anyone in the park at extreme risk," she said. "FENZ have recommended a full closure."

This means all tracks and trails will close, including those in the lower areas of the park.

FENZ Group Manager for Marlborough Chris Hayles said with no significant rain in the forecast and fire risk increasing daily, his recommendation was for a full closure.



The Wither Hills Farm Park is now closed until further notice due to fire risk

### Council progresses Local Water Done Well proposals

Work is progressing towards achieving the Government's water reform programme, Local Water Done Well.

The reforms aim to address New Zealand's water infrastructure challenges and place emphasis on financial sustainability, appropriate regulation of water services and ensuring flexibility for communities and councils in determining how their services - water supply, wastewater and stormwater - are delivered.

A report presented at last Thursday's full Council meeting summarised the analysis of a potential Marlborough standalone water utility. Analysis of a multi-council option - with Tasman and Buller district councils - will be presented to Council on 3 April.

Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake said consultants Beca and Martin Jenkins had provided extensive analysis of the Council's current projected water services' financial information, based on its 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

"Currently debt repayments for our water infrastructure investment are supported by income received each year from Port Marlborough and river land rental income.

However using this type of income does not meet the Government's new

"Going off current indices, a fire in the Wither Hills Farm Park would readily ignite, be extremely fast-spreading, difficult to control and have extreme fire intensity," he said.

"Fire risk is intensified because of the slope. For every 10 degrees of slope, fire doubles its speed. Some of those slopes are incredibly steep and there is no escape."

The occasional grey day and even some overnight rain had done nothing to reduce the fire risk.

"We can't be fooled by an overcast grey cooler day," he said. "With more warm weather ahead the huge fire risk remains."

Council staff and FENZ will monitor the situation on a daily basis.

There is currently a total fire ban in the Marlborough south area due to the extreme fire danger and very high fuel loadings throughout the district.

Park users can access other recreational areas in Marlborough including Pollard Park pathways, the Taylor River Reserve and Picton's tracks and trails.

'ringfencing' rules, whereby our new water utility must be financially separate from Council's other functions and activities."

Mr Blake said the Government had originally provided councils with five water service delivery options, including a modified status quo (in-house council department), a single council controlled or-ganisation (CCO), a joint CCO with other councils, and two types of trusts.

"Work is continuing to identify and understand the benefits of a multi-council CCO as well as a standalone Marlborough CCO for the decision-making process on a preferred option to take to public consultation in April," he said.

Marlborough District Council provides 16,789 properties with drinking water; 14,229 have a wastewater connection and 9,591 have a stormwater connection.

Further information, including a Viability and Sustainability Assessment by consultants Beca and Martin Jenkins, is available at [www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/utilities/local-water-done-well](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/utilities/local-water-done-well)

For the media release in full go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/all-news-notices-and-media-releases?itemid:2badrd4d17q9sszqzh](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/all-news-notices-and-media-releases?itemid:2badrd4d17q9sszqzh)

### New bylaw proposed to sort Marlborough's waste

A proposed waste bylaw for Marlborough is an important next step in getting the region's waste sorted.

Last week Council approved a special consultative process to progress the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025. This will replace the Waste Bylaw 2017 which has been superseded by legislative changes and the new kerbside collection service.

Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas says the new draft bylaw provides a mechanism for managing and minimising waste now and into the future.

"Marlborough is currently producing 1330kg of waste per person per year; the national average is 740kg. We cannot keep kicking this recyclable can down the road - as a region we can do more. Based on these figures we are not doing as well as we could be," he said.

"The changes to the bylaw are designed to give Council better control of the minority who are exploiting the system. The cost of their activities is borne by the

community, most of whom are doing the right thing."

Amongst a raft of initiatives, the new bylaw identifies remote transfer stations as waste facilities, increase Council's ability to deal with non-compliance at transfer stations and allow new rules to address problems caused by litter including around donation boxes for clothing and household goods. "Education will be our primary focus, not punitive action," Mr Lucas told councillors.

There are also new requirements for waste management plans for all commercial demolition and construction activities over \$2M in value and a change in the threshold for events with this set at 500 people to better capture major events, not smaller work or family celebrations.

Consultation on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2025 starts on 10 March and closes on 17 April. Hearings will be held on 14 May if they are required.



Diverting recyclable items from landfill such as large plastic piping (pictured) is a priority for Council

### Have your say on Grovetown Lagoon

Te Whānau Hou/Grovetown Lagoon draft management plan is now available for public feedback.

The lagoon sits four kilometres northeast of Blenheim and has become a popular walking, biking, picnicking, kayaking and birdwatching spot. This is as a result of continuing restoration efforts of Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Society over recent decades.

A management plan was developed in 2003 and has guided the society's restoration efforts since.

The society has worked with iwi, the local community, school children and volunteers to restore Grovetown Lagoon

for fish and bird life. Numerous native plantings have been established with boardwalks and bridges extending around the lagoon's outer edge.

Consultation with the society and the wider community has helped shape a new management plan to continue with the restoration efforts. Council is now seeking feedback on this plan and submissions will be received until 8 May.

If you would like to discuss the new plan please contact James Gilmour or Justine Johnson on Ph: 03 520 7400.

To make a submission go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay>



# Public Notices

## Meet your Council



Mayor Nadine Taylor leads a team of 14 elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that will help shape our province into the future.

Council's vision is that Marlborough is a globally-connected district of smart, progressive, high-value enterprises, known for its economic efficiency, quality lifestyle and wellbeing, caring community, desirable location and healthy natural environment.

For more information or to contact one of your elected representatives, go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors) or Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Marlborough Matariki Event Fund now open for applications

Are you part of an organisation planning to hold an event to recognise Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki?

Council is seeking applications for the Mānawatia te Kahui o Matariki/Marlborough Matariki Event Fund which celebrates and supports the regeneration and sustainability of mātauranga Māori associated with Te Kāhui o Matariki.

The contestable fund aims to support events that recognise not only Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki, the public holiday, but also the wider kaupapa and principles of Matariki. The event must take place within Marlborough and be free or low cost, family-friendly and accessible to all.

Priority will be given to events that can demonstrate documented support from iwi and must demonstrate how funding would advance and promote one or more of the three major principles of Matariki.

Applications for the 2025 funding round are now open and close 5pm 14 April. To apply go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/manawatia-te-kahui-o-matariki-fund-marlborough-matariki-community-event-fund](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/manawatia-te-kahui-o-matariki-fund-marlborough-matariki-community-event-fund)

If you have any enquiries about the fund please contact Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager Nicola Neilson on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz)

## Last day to pay rates reminder

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

Late payments attract a 10 per cent penalty. Avoid this by always 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: <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](http://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](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz). You can also find more information here about the Anntenno app to receive rates alerts.



## Commercial Events Fund closes Monday

Round 2 of Council's 2024/2025 Commercial Events Fund closes next Monday 10 March.

This contestable fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. Council's Commercial Events Fund sub-committee considers the applications and there is a budget of \$130,000 available for allocation for 2024/2025.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within the Marlborough District Council boundaries. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible. Funding is granted on an annual basis but it does not mean that all funds must be distributed each year.

Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may re-apply.

Key dates:

- Applications close: 5pm Monday 10 March 2025
- Funding decision by: 5pm Friday 4 April 2025

Further information and the online application form can be found on Council's website - <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/commercial-events-fund>

Any enquiries can be directed to Council's Events & Community Partnerships Manager, Samantha Young, Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [events@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:events@marlborough.govt.nz)

## Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from Council's reticulation network to the Awatere and Dashwood rural areas should be boiled.

It does not currently meet the NZ Drinking Water Standards and may contain bacteria or protozoa that are harmful to human health.

All water used for drinking, food preparation or cleaning teeth should be boiled before use.

Treated water is available at the public taps on Marama Road, outside Seddon School. For further information contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



## Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

[mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)

Mon - Tues 8.30am - 4.30pm

Wed 8.30am - 12.30pm  
1.30pm - 4.30pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

## Picton Library & Service Centre

2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220

Ph: 03 520 7493

[pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz)

Mon - Tues 8.30am - 5pm

Wed 9am - 5pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Sat 10am - 4pm

Sun 1pm - 4pm

## Council & Committee Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agendas will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

### Assets & Services Committee

Tuesday 11 March at 9am

### Environment & Planning Committee

Thursday 13 March at 9am

### Economic, Finance & Community Committee

Tuesday 18 March at 9am

A public forum will be held prior to the Economic, Finance & Community Committee meeting, starting at 8.30am. If you wish to address the committee please confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary on the Friday prior to the meeting. Topics are restricted to the agenda items or those within the Committee's delegation.

The times and dates may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

## Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/public-notice](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/public-notice)