

## 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 is 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.



*The iconic GODZONE race will take in Marlborough's spectacular landscapes*

## 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,



*Last year's Rangitāne o Wairau event to celebrate Matariki at the Wairau Bar*

Culture and Heritage Manager Nicola Neilson on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: [nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:nicola.neilson@marlborough.govt.nz)

## 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 emphasise 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 '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 organisation (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)

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## New citizens welcomed

Twenty-six people from 12 countries have been officially welcomed to Marlborough.

The province's newest citizens, from Nauru, Tuvalu, Fiji, USA, United Kingdom, South Africa, Thailand, Taiwan, Philippines, Chile, Latvia and Kiribati, were welcomed at a ceremony at Council chambers recently.

Mayor Nadine Taylor told the group the day was an important milestone in their new lives as citizens of this province and country. In future, they will all enjoy the rights and freedoms of native-born New Zealanders.

Following the Mayor's opening address and the presentation of certificates, Council's waiata group performed for the new citizens and their friends and families.



*Mayor Nadine Taylor with Marlborough's newest citizens*

### Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm  
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm  
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For careers at Council go to:  
[www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/careers](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/careers)