

Marlborough Vineyard Trail officially opened

A bike trail taking in some of Marlborough's most popular wineries, cellar doors and spectacular scenery, has been officially opened by Mayor Nadine Taylor.

"This is a wonderful addition to the recreational biking network in Marlborough and gives fantastic access to wineries around Renwick," she said.

The 20km Marlborough Vineyard Trail boosted the existing cycle infrastructure and improved safety by taking cyclists off busy roads where possible.

Mayor Taylor acknowledged those who had worked hard to see the project to fruition, particularly Steve Hill, chairman of the Renwick Walk Bike group, who had championed the cause to ensure the trail became a reality.

Steve Hill said there were 20 cellar doors within an eight-

kilometre radius of Renwick and 10,000 bike visitors each year.

"Visiting the cellar doors by bike – either self-guided or on an organised trip – is incredibly popular in the area and having this trail fully operational will hopefully boost those numbers," he said.

While some of the trail is near roads, much is on the edge of vineyards and on river stopbanks and its development has only been possible with the help of landowners and wineries who allowed access.

One of the final sections was a 6.5km trail linking Allan Scott Winery in Jacksons Road to Renwick using off-road routes.

Council has invested significantly in the trail which was only possible due to the backing of landowners.



Mayor Nadine Taylor and Steve Hill, chair of the Renwick Walk Bike group, at the opening of the new Marlborough Vineyard Trail

Picton's London Quay development gets green light

An upgrade to Picton's much loved waterfront strip, London Quay, will go ahead this winter. Work is planned to start at the end of May and is expected to take around six months.

Mayor Nadine Taylor, a proponent of the project since 2019, said the upgrade of London Quay was an "investment of confidence" in Picton.

"This waterfront space is such an important part of Picton's identity with its linkages to the foreshore and CBD. It is a high use area with a view loved by everyone who lives in or visits Picton," she said.

"Council's commitment to revitalise Picton is being rolled out in stages with upper High Street and the Picton library precinct already completed. London Quay is an important next step and once that's done, Council will continue planning for improvements to other parts of the CBD."

Council has worked closely with the businesses along London Quay to time the work for the



Picton's waterfront strip is much loved by locals and visitors

winter months to minimise disruption.

The concept, designed by Rough Milne Mitchell Landscape Architects, includes an invigorated streetscape with new landscaping and plantings, expanded and levelled pedestrian and dining areas and a new public seating area to the east.

Council's Project and Contracts Manager Maighan Watson said the upgrade would provide a more seamless and safer connection with better pedestrian crossings.

"We have talked with affected businesses and residents with positive feedback received.

The initial trial to expand the pedestrian area took place in 2014/15 and was positive with the Picton community and businesses, which led to it being retained as a public, licenced area since then," Ms Watson said.

Street lighting will be upgraded and there will be improved water main and stormwater systems. While current road layout and pedestrian areas will remain the same, the development will have a traffic calming effect.

The upgrade is expected to cost about \$2M. Funding for it comes from Council's forestry, land and port income and has no impact on rates.

Keep an eye out for woolly nightshade

The invasive pest plant woolly nightshade has been found in Springlands.

Biosecurity Manager Liam Falconer said Council staff noticed the plant while driving past the property.

"The presence of this plant wasn't entirely surprising, given that woolly nightshade has been spotted in the area previously," he said. "We encourage anyone who thinks they've seen it to contact Council as soon as possible. Our biosecurity staff will visit and work with landowners to arrange for its control at no cost to them."

The distribution of woolly nightshade in Marlborough is fairly limited and its potential environmental impacts are still manageable. However, this isn't

the case in other regions, where it has become a significant environmental weed.

Last winter, Council staff removed more than 10,000 woolly nightshade plants from a site near Croisilles Harbour in the Marlborough Sounds, one of the largest known infestations in the region. Management there is ongoing to reduce its density and lower the risk of spreading to new areas.

Woolly nightshade is an aggressive, fast-growing plant that forms a dense population, crowding out other plants and stopping regeneration of native flora. Dust from leaves and stems can irritate skin, eyes, nose and throat.



Each plant produces thousands of seeds dispersed by birds that consume the berries.

If you think you've seen woolly nightshade, please get in touch with the Council Biosecurity team on Ph: 03 520 7400 or email biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz

New citizens welcomed

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

The province's newest citizens, from the United Kingdom, Philippines, South Africa, Brazil, Nauru, Tuvalu, France, Mexico, USA, Australia, Switzerland and the Netherlands, were welcomed at a ceremony at Council chambers.

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 would 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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