

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.

Let's get it sorted



Rollout
 Get Ready
 Go 1 July

Rolling out the region's remote transfer stations

Marlborough's first remote transfer stations are about to be built as part of improvements to the way Council manages waste and recycling.

Council will provide Marlborough's rural communities with 10 revamped remote transfer stations to improve facilities and replace existing coin operated skips and community recycling bins, under a new contract with WM LTD (formerly Waste Management).

The sites are Awatere Valley Road, Ohingarua Quarry, Port Underwood, Portage, Rai Valley, Linkwater, Titirangi, Waihopai Valley, Waitaria Bay and Ward.

Council hopes to have all the sites operational by Christmas, Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said.

"Council will remove all coin operated skips by 30 June 2024 and provide a stand in transfer station until the new remote transfer stations are built, serviced by Council's contractor."

Mr Lucas said the new sites had been designed with an emphasis on aesthetics, practicality, ability to contain the waste and ease of keeping clean.

The design includes several recyclable products, including repurposed vineyard posts and mussel ropes.

All the sites have been designed so people with reduced mobility will be able to use them and they will have 24/7 CCTV surveillance.

"The new remote transfer stations will include larger wheelie bins for all recycling and waste. People will be required to sort their recycling and waste into the appropriate bins and all glass will be placed in a large skip and sorted by colour," Mr Lucas said.

"Current rural community recycling bins will be replaced by a combination of the expanded kerbside service and the remote transfer stations. This includes the current bins in the Awatere Valley and Ward."

Following community consultation and the letting of a contract to WM LTD, Council approved changes to Marlborough's waste services including expanding and changing

the kerbside collection, including the introduction of wheelie bins, and installing 10 remote transfer stations.

Wheelie bins are being rolled out now across the region to Blenheim, Picton, Grovetown, Havelock, Rarangi, Rai Valley, Renwick, Seddon, Spring Creek and Tua Marina.



An artist's impression of the new remote transfer stations

Freshwater Farm Plans on hold

Freshwater Farm Plan start dates are on hold while the Government investigates the system further. A statement from Chris Bishop, Minister for RMA Reform, said planned changes to Freshwater Farm Plans were likely to make it more cost-effective and practical.

But what those changes look like for Marlborough is still unknown, Council's Regional Catchment Facilitator Nic Dann said.

"Are Are Creek was the first catchment to be rolled out in Marlborough and was due to start on 1 July 2024 - that date has now been paused."

"At this stage we will be pausing all catchments' turn on dates while we wait for more clarity on the regulatory requirements," she said.

"Information on Freshwater Farm Plans will continue to be shared on the Marlborough Rural Hub web pages at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub.

Introduced as part of the Government's Essential Freshwater package, Freshwater Farm Plans are aimed at identifying risks to

freshwater from farm activities and look at what farmers can do to manage and mitigate those risks.

A series of workshops held around Marlborough this year were related to the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023, integrated with Council's own catchment restoration programme and focused on providing rural communities with information about the process.

Resources have already been developed by Council to provide information to affected landowners.

"Our goal is to help rural landowners through support, resources and updated information," Nic said.

Are Are Creek catchment - which was the first to be switched on - is still part of the At

Risk Catchments programme and funding is available for landowners towards freshwater improvement outcomes such as riparian fencing and planting until end of June 2025.

Assistance and funding are also available for landowners in other catchments including Te Hoiere, Tua Marina and Flaxbourne.

The Hill Country Erosion Fund provides advice and financial support to landowners wanting to plant trees and retire eroding, marginal land.

Contact Council if you are interested in accessing these subsidies.

Library card competition launched to replace rocket

Marlborough Libraries are looking for a new design for the Marlborough Libraries Children's Membership Card which currently features a rocket ship.

A competition to design the next children's library card has now been 'launched' and is open to all primary and intermediate children aged 5 to 13 years.

"After more than 10 years, it's time for our beloved rocket to blast off on a new adventure and that means we need a new design for our children's membership card," Libraries' Manager Glenn Webster said. "Who better to help us create a new design than the children who will use it. We are excited to see what our rangatahi come up with."

Completed entries must be received by Marlborough Library (Blenheim) or Picton Library and Service Centre by 5pm on Tuesday 4 June. Designs can be created as an art project in class but a parent/guardian needs to complete the consent form for the entry to be valid. The judges will include a representative from Council, Marlborough Libraries and the Marlborough Art Gallery.

Entry forms are available at both Marlborough Library (Blenheim) at Te Kahu o Waipuna and Picton Library and Service Centre or download here: <https://www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz/about-the-library/news?item=id:2pz0trsmx17q9sre2ylo>



Children's Librarian Tracey McKean with the current children's library card which needs a redesign



Rocket ready to blast off... the current Marlborough Libraries Children's Membership Card

Marine themed Havelock playground a winner with locals

Havelock Domain's new playground is a finalist at the Recreation Aotearoa Green Pavlova 2024 Parks Awards.

The playground, a finalist in the Playspace of the Year under \$500,000 category, opened in March and features a uniquely 'Havelock' flavour which has been a winner with locals.

The goal of the new design, which replaced the former run-down playground, was to create a space catering to people of all ages and abilities, Parks and Open Spaces Officer Kiri Whiteman said.

"The old playground was tired and with only one green space in Havelock, we wanted to make sure it could be enjoyed by all," she said.

"Because we live in the Greenshell Mussel capital of the world, we also wanted to pay tribute to our unique claim to fame, which we have done through boat and mussel-themed play equipment."

The playground was designed and built by Playco Playgrounds, who made smart use of the small area available to make it user-friendly for all, including wheelchair users and those using walking frames.

Generous spacing between equipment and soft matting underfoot makes the area kinder for those with disabilities.

A final piece of the playground which is yet to arrive is a bilingual communication board - a sheet of symbols and pictures a person can point to, helping them to communicate with others around them.

They are useful for people with autism, those recovering from stroke or brain injury and people with ALS and learning disabilities.

The whole playground is fully fenced and has new shade sails. It also features a handball court and cornhole board, with beanbags made by the Red Cross Refuge sewing circle using recycled street banners.

When planning the playground, the Parks and Open Spaces team visited students at Havelock School, who put together a wish list that formed the basis for the project brief.

"The kids are loving their new playground - we've had some amazing feedback from them so far," Kiri said.

Category winners will be announced at the Recreation Aotearoa awards evening on 31 May.



The new playground at Havelock Domain has been thoughtfully planned to cater to people of all ages and abilities

Blenheim pianist recipient of Queen Elizabeth II Music Award 2024

Sixteen-year-old Sophia Jones from Blenheim is the recipient of this year's Queen Elizabeth II Music Award.

Nominated by her sister Kimberly Mena - co-winner of the QEII Award in 2014 - Sophia has been recognised for her efforts and achievements both as a pianist and piano teacher.

Kimberly said in her nomination that Sophia was hard-working and dedicated to excellence in everything she did. "She is responsible and goal oriented and is already looking at working towards her ATCL exams in both teaching and performance. She is also saving up for a better piano to help her continue to progress."

Mayor Nadine Taylor congratulated Sophia acknowledging her achievements, saying the accolade was well deserved.

"It's wonderful to be able to celebrate one of Marlborough's talented young people," she said. "It's clear that musical talent most definitely runs in the family."

In November 2023, Sophia sat her Grade 8 Trinity Piano exam and passed with distinction. The examiner noted that Sophia's performance was assured and that she transitioned smoothly between the pieces - which varied from classical to ragtime.

The examiner further noted that Sophia showed a well-developed and convincing level of personal commitment, Mayor Taylor said.

The QEII Music Award was established in 1963 following a visit to New Zealand by Queen Elizabeth II. The Kaikōura and Marlborough District Councils' support and administer the award which helps recipients continue musical training.



Mayor Taylor with Queen Elizabeth II Music Award 2024 recipient pianist Sophia Jones

Marlborough District Brass Band scoops awards in Australia

Mayor Nadine Taylor presented Marlborough District Brass Band Musical Director Robin Randall with the citation for exceptional achievements at the 2024 Yamaha Australian National Brass Band Championships.

The band took away the Champion B Grade Brass Band of Australia 2024 and was also awarded Champion Marching Band of Australia 2024.



Edwin Fox awarded silver Qualmark rating

The Edwin Fox is now a Qualmark Silver Sustainable Tourism Business.

Manager Karen McLeod, who led the evaluation process for the Edwin Fox, said Qualmark was a certification which helped travellers identify quality tourism experiences around New Zealand. "A Qualmark rating is the final seal of approval that signifies the experience they are paying for is one of the most high quality, safe and sustainable experiences New Zealand has to offer," Mrs McLeod said.

"We pride ourselves on our customer service and are thrilled to have received a silver award. Our team are committed to ensuring our visitors have a fulfilling quality experience at the Edwin Fox Museum," she said.

Council's Project Lead - Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson said it was a great achievement for the Edwin Fox to be awarded a higher rating in just its second assessment - moving from bronze to silver.

"The assessor made mention of the benefit of Council's increased support and expertise and how this will help the museum navigate the years ahead. They also noted that the improvements due to the new ownership structure under Council were transparently evident," Mrs Neilson said. "This is a great result and very deserved for Karen and the dedicated team delivering the Edwin Fox experience to the public."



The Edwin Fox has received a silver Qualmark rating for the first time

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 or Ph: 03 520 7400.

A Cuppa with your Councillors

Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next session is on Wednesday 22 May from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice, information and help with Council-related issues.

Barbara Faulds, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors. Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

Where: Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre

When: 10am to midday Wednesday 22 May



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/all-news-notice-and-media-releases

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.



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Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

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

Mon - Tues 8am - 5pm

Wed 9am - 5pm

Thurs - Fri 8am - 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.

Special Hearings Committee

Monday 10 June to Friday 21 June

Council

Monday 24 June at 9am

Economic, Finance and Community Committee

Tuesday 25 June at 9am

Public Forum

A public forum will be held prior to the Economic, Finance and Community Committee meeting, commencing at 8.30am. If you wish to address the Committee you need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Topics are restricted to those agenda items for the meeting or within the Committee's delegation.

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

Council's Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.

Contact the Harbourmaster's Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough's harbours.

03 520 7400 | HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ

