

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



Air New Zealand's new all-electric aircraft will be in the skies over Marlborough from 2026

Marlborough to host first all-electric flights

Air New Zealand's announcement that it has selected Marlborough and Wellington airports for its first all-electric aircraft flights continues our region's proud aviation tradition, says Mayor Nadine Taylor.

Wellington-Marlborough will be the route for commercial demonstrator flights of the all-electric ALIA CTOL from Beta Technologies, which Air New Zealand bought last year.

The cargo-only flights - in partnership with NZ Post - are set to begin in 2026. Wellington Airport will be the home base of the next-generation aircraft while Marlborough Airport will also establish charging infrastructure to power the aircraft for the return journey.

"It's just over 100 years since Euan Dickson, one of the most successful Allied bomber pilots of WW1, made the inaugural flight across the Cook Strait, carrying the country's first

official airmail on his return journey. It is fitting then that Marlborough continues its proud tradition of aviation firsts with this new all-electric technology," Mayor Taylor said.

"Our region is home to some of New Zealand's most innovative and pioneering sectors - wine, viticulture, aquaculture and of course aviation. Marlborough Airport is owned by the ratepayers of Marlborough through Council, and we have worked closely with Air New Zealand for many years. We look forward to that partnership continuing, and are excited to be part of this new all-electric venture."

Air New Zealand's Chief Sustainability Officer Kiri Hannifin said the purpose of the commercial demonstrator is to set the New

Zealand aviation system up for introducing lower emissions aircraft.

"We are incredibly grateful to both Wellington and Marlborough airports for being so willing to take on a leadership role in supporting Air New Zealand to establish next generation aircraft capability in our business."

"Their involvement is critical in supporting the infrastructure required to fly next-generation aircraft, and they'll help lead the way in supporting airports across Aotearoa to make the changes needed for us to fly larger lower-emissions aircraft on our domestic network from 2030."

Two weeks to have your say on LTP

Marlburians have a fortnight to have their say on Council's planned expenditure over the next 10 years.

Submissions to the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 close at 5pm on 13 May.

To find out more or make a submission go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay> or visit one of Council's Customer Service Centres.



Thanks to everyone who attended the LTP drop-in meetings in Blenheim, Rai Valley, Waitaria Bay, Seddon, Linkwater and Picton over the last two weeks. Newshub came along for the meeting at Waitaria Bay



Mediterranean fanworm found in marina

Mediterranean fanworm has been found on the Waikawa Marina infrastructure and seabed.

The four large fanworm (Sabella spallanzanii), between 150mm and 400mm, were discovered during Council's regular autumn surveillance and have been removed and destroyed.

The invasive species poses a threat to the Marlborough Sounds due to its ability to form dense colonies that compete with other marine life.

Council is currently undertaking more dive surveillance work to find the extent of the incursion and eDNA sampling was recently completed with no detections.

Mediterranean fanworm, native to the Mediterranean and Atlantic coast of Europe, was first discovered in Marlborough in 2014 on a boat hull.

It is commonly transferred by attaching itself to hulls, and Marlborough Sounds Marinas are proactive in monitoring this by insisting any vessels coming in from high-risk areas are routinely checked in compliance with marina rules: <https://marlboroughmarinas.co.nz/biosecurity/>

Large cargo vessels and cruise ships are screened at the border to ensure biofouling is being managed with clearance given by Ministry of Primary Industries for a vessel to enter New Zealand waters.

Mediterranean fanworm was first detected in New Zealand in 2008 and is already well established in a number of New Zealand harbours especially in warmer North Island waters.

It is very difficult and expensive to remove and can compete with mussels for food, Council's Senior Biosecurity Officer Liam Falconer said.

"It's already well established in Auckland, the upper North Island and Lyttelton," Liam said. "Fanworm can take hold quickly, if anyone suspects they have seen it, they should contact Council's Biosecurity team immediately."

"Our extensive surveillance programme has indicated we don't have any established populations here and the long-term goal is to keep it that way. It is an offence to knowingly bring Mediterranean fanworm into Marlborough."

For more information go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/45Fz910>



Mediterranean fanworm has been found in Marlborough

Seymour Square flower giveaway

Blenheim locals are invited to take some colour home when Council gardeners dig up annuals in Seymour Square on Monday.

Head along from 8am until 10am on 29 April when gardeners will be on site to help. Amongst the colourful plants seeking new homes are geraniums, salvias, dwarf shasta daisies, rudbeckia and begonias.

Please bring your own fork and containers.

Twice each year, gardeners plant thousands of annuals in the flower beds of Seymour Square. With autumn here, the time has come for them to be removed and the garden beds prepared for winter planting.

If it rains the event will be postponed to Tuesday 30 April.

Locals gather to hear creativity message

An early start did not dampen the enthusiasm of more than 100 people from a wide variety of Marlborough's creative sectors at a recent breakfast gathering in Blenheim.

Hosted by the Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi, the 'All in for Arts: He Waka Toi E Eke Noa 2024' event series was travelling around New Zealand bringing decision-makers, artists and creative champions together to uncover how creativity can propel the sector forward.

It was well received in Blenheim according to Council's Project Lead for Arts, Culture and Heritage, Nicola Neilson.

Five inspiring speakers took the podium at Te Kahu o Waipuna, including Mayor Nadine Taylor, who spoke about the power of art and its ability to connect a community.

Mayor Taylor was joined by Kylie Matthews, cofounder and COO of AWWA Period Care, filmmaker Tyler Redmond, entrepreneur Nick Gerritsen and Briar Grace-Smith, an award-winning writer of plays, feature film screenplays, short fiction and radio and television scripts.

"Mayor Nadine Taylor and I were also delighted to host Creative New Zealand, including CEO Stephen Wainwright, along with The Arts Foundation on a tour of Te Kahu o Waipuna. This gave us an opportunity to delve into the new Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy and discuss how Creative New Zealand can assist Marlborough in its implementation," Mrs Neilson said.



The All in for Arts breakfast brought Marlborough's decision makers, artists, and creative champions together at Te Kahu o Waipuna

Civil Defence long service awards presented

Two hard working members of Marlborough's Emergency Management Team have been presented with long service awards.

Dave Parsons and Gary Spence were given certificates and medals by Mayor Nadine Taylor at April's Assets and Services Committee meeting, acknowledging their contribution to the Marlborough community.

Each has responded to local and national emergencies including Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke's Bay, the Kaikōura earthquake, Pigeon Valley fires and Marlborough storms of 2021 and 2022, committee chair Councillor Jonathan Rosene said.

Dave was a member of the Picton Fire Brigade for many years and joined the Marlborough Emergency Response Team in 2013, quickly working his way up to Senior Responder.

In 2022, he left a long career in teaching and joined the Emergency Management

Team as a Senior Advisor, Community Resilience, going straight into social recovery of communities impacted by the 2022 storm. Dave is currently Squad Leader and trained or qualified in general rescue, rescue at heights, working with helicopters, ropes rescue and mass rescue response.

In recognising Gary's efforts, Councillor Rosene said he joined Council in 2012 as the sole full-time Emergency Management Officer. The following year he established the Marlborough Emergency Response Team which has now become nationally recognised and registered as NZRT-20 with over 25 members.

"It's one of the few volunteer organisations that is always fully staffed which is a credit to Gary's people skills," Councillor Rosene said. "His current role as Advisor, Operational Readiness is key to Marlborough being prepared to respond to any emergency."



Mayor Taylor at the presentation with (from left) Councillor Jonathan Rosene, Dave Parsons, Gary Spence and Councillor Brian Dawson

Free soil health workshops in May

In partnership with NZ Landcare Trust, Te Hoiere farmers are invited to two interactive sessions in Kaituna and Rai Valley, exploring soil health by visual assessments. Morning tea and lunch are provided for this free workshop, so registration is essential at: tehoiere.org.nz or by emailing: wendy.sullivan@landcare.org.nz

- Plant/pasture diversity
- Introduction to soil carbon
- Soil and herbage testing
- Soil biostimulants and fertilisers

Kaituna beef and sheep farm

Monday, 6 May, 10am-2pm, hosts Fred and Nikita Gane, 76 Readers Road

Rai Valley dairy run-off farm

Tuesday, 7 May, 10am-2pm, host Geoff Shearer, Bryants Road

Topics include:

- What is functional soil?

Speakers on the day include Council Soil Scientist Matt Oliver and dairy and dry stock farmer Nick Collins. Nick, also a consultant for Agrisea, will share what he's learnt over the years to build productive and resilient ecosystems.

If you're curious about functional soil and enhancing pasture diversity, join us for one of these free workshops. Thank you to our host farms, without them these events would not be possible.

Sponsored by Te Hoiere Project, Agrisea and NZ Landcare Trust.



Learn more about soil health at May workshops



Initiated in 2019, Te Hoiere Project is a community-led partnership with iwi, Council, Government and other groups to promote landscape-scale restoration across Te Hoiere / Pelorus catchment.

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.

Risk of toxic algae now low

The risk of toxic algae in Marlborough rivers, including Wairau River, Rai Falls and Omaka River, is now low.

Several warnings were issued throughout the summer months due to large amounts of toxic algae present,

and the risk it posed for dogs and small children.

However, river flows during last week's rain event removed enough of the algae that it is no longer a significant risk to recreational users.

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.



Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required.

You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide. This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information.

During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly. In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website. These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps



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 meeting is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Economic, Finance and Community Committee

Tuesday 30 April 2024 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 during this Public Forum session you will need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting on Ph: 03 520 7400. Please note topics are restricted to those agenda items for the meeting or 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.

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

