

New chief executive for Council

Council has appointed a new chief executive after an extensive national advertising campaign and thorough recruitment process.

John Boswell will join the Council on 1 August.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was very pleased to welcome John to Council.

“John joins us after a very successful military career, reaching the position of Major General and Chief of Army, the most senior officer in the New Zealand Army. He wants to continue to serve the public in a positive values-based organisation after his impressive career in the Army.”

“John impressed us straight away with his vision, strategic thinking, leadership skills and extensive experience of running a large, complex, people-focused organisation. He also has a good knowledge of Marlborough’s issues and opportunities and how local government works.”

“He brings a collaborative and empathetic leadership style as well as strong communication

skills which I know will work well for Council and the Marlborough community. John and his wife will be moving to Marlborough, a place they have explored as visitors, and love.”

John’s previous roles include Director of Army Training, Chief Staff Officer Operational Plans and Head of Strategy Management. He holds master’s degrees in Management, Defence Studies and Philosophy.

Mayor Taylor said 46 applications were received from around New Zealand.

“We had an extraordinarily high calibre of candidates - Council has a great reputation and Marlborough, as we all know, is beautiful, has fantastic public facilities and is just a great place to live. All councillors were involved in the recruitment and appointment process.”

“My sincere thanks to Mark Wheeler who is retiring. Mark has been an outstanding chief executive since 2015, and before that was deputy chief executive and assets and services manager from 1998.”



New Council Chief Executive John Boswell



Native bush surrounding Whangarae Estuary helps keep it natural and in good health. Photo credit: Salt Ecology

Estuary gets clean bill of health

Whangarae Estuary is a great example of a Marlborough river mouth in good health, Council’s Environment and Planning Committee has heard.

Senior Coastal Scientist Katie Littlewood said a report showed the Croiselles Harbour estuary, one of many in the province being observed, benefitted from its remoteness.

“The limited human pressure and lack of development in this catchment make it one of the most natural estuaries in Marlborough,” she said. “Being a regenerating native catchment means there are not a lot of land use effects

compared to many of our other estuaries.”

The Marlborough coastal marine environment includes more than 60 estuaries and intertidal areas which are biodiversity hotspots providing habitat and nursery grounds for many species, with numerous ecosystem functions.

The 125-hectare estuary is dominated by regenerating native forest, has well flushed tidal flats with prolific shellfish beds and seagrass.

“Estuaries are an important biogenic habitat providing a nursery ground for juvenile fish

species,” Katie said. “Monitoring is critical as they are an interface between the land and sea and are strongly impacted by land use practices.”

Whangarae Estuary is an important reference to compare with other estuaries that are impacted by human activities.

“Estuary and intertidal monitoring includes broad and fine scale mapping and seagrass and sediment monitoring which gives Council robust information about the changing state of each estuary,” she said. “This report shows everything here is tracking quite beautifully.”

Picton foreshore looking smart

Picton’s foreshore has been described as a “marvellous asset” by users.

Council staff received feedback from people who took family members to play there and commented on what a lovely child-friendly area it was.

All picnic tables, benches and whanau seats on the foreshore reserve have just been repainted, along with the children’s playground pirate ship.

Repairs and improvements were also made on the water play equipment which should be back up and running soon after being turned off during the summer water restrictions.



Picton foreshore and the pirate ship – a “marvellous asset”

Arborists have trimmed and lifted the large Phoenix palms, elms and other specimen trees across the reserve and have worked on the three large notable trees at the cruise ship shuttle bus

passenger waiting area.

New colour lighting has also been installed in the Pohutukawa tree near the museum and memorial steps.

Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao grants open

The 2024/25 Working for Nature/Mahi mō te Taiao grant scheme is now open for online applications.

Now in its fifth year, \$120,000 is available for projects ranging from pest control to restoring wetlands on public, private or Māori-owned land in Marlborough.

Funding is awarded under three categories:

- Habitat Marlborough - for restoring native habitats, improving biodiversity and freshwater quality
- Protecting Marlborough - for animal and plant pest control
- Environmental Advocacy - a new category for initiatives

that promote environmental awareness

The scheme provides the opportunity for groups and individuals to protect and enhance the environment. The maximum cap on a Habitat Marlborough project is \$10,000; Protecting Marlborough is \$15,000 and Environmental Advocacy is \$2,000.

Community groups or community trusts operating multi-year projects are invited to apply for multi-year funding through the grant, up to the designated category maximum per year.

To be eligible, the trust or group must have a proven history of successfully undertaking environmentally beneficial biodiversity projects.

More information can be found on Council’s website - online applications can be made at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/working-for-naturemahimo-te-taiao

Please note paper applications will not be accepted. Applications close at 5pm on 30 April, with all applicants notified of outcomes by July 2024.

Opening Hours

Mon to Fri: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Closed Wed 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
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