MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Only Marlborough

Sounds News

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau

Blessing prepares site for ferry terminal redevelopment

On a cold, perfectly clear Saturday morning, a small group representing the Waitohi Picton Ferry Terminal Redevelopment partnership came together to bless the site that will soon be under construction.

Te Hurihanga o te Whenua, or turning of the soil, is a cultural expression of protection, in this case involving the burying of mauri stones.

Led by members of Mana Whenua of Waitohi Picton, Te Atiawa o te Waka a Māui, the ceremony was held before dawn and attended by project partners KiwiRail and Port Marlborough, together with Marlborough District Council.

Te Ātiawa Chair, Rachael Hāte says the event was one of unity and showed collective support for the project. With the hard ground making it necessary for everyone to take a turn on the shovel, she says it was also symbolic of the work ahead.

"What made it special was it allowed others, our partners, to contribute and add their strength and energy to the event. That offers a layer of protection, a safe way forward for those that are going to work from now, and moving into the new parts of the project," Rachael said.

Gavin Beattie, Manager Infrastructure for Port Marlborough said the ceremony marks a significant point in the project. "Te Hurihanga o te Whenua is an important milestone for the soil turning moment prior to construction. The ferry terminal precinct is being redeveloped on what was previously Te Werenga o Waitohi, which holds particular significance for Te Ātiawa o te Waka a Māui. We are grateful to Mana Whenua for bestowing this blessing on the project and all those who will be working on it."

For iReX Programme Director, Stephen O'Keefe, having all the partners involved is not only important, but necessary. "No one team can deliver this project. The success of the project relies on these strong relationships and participation from Mana Whenua, KiwiRail, Port Marlborough, Marlborough District Council and the community."

Deputy Mayor, Nadine Taylor agrees the ceremony was special, with the 'hard digging' not unlike those moments in life when we realise the only thing to do is to "work together."

Saturday's Te Hurihanga o te Whenua blessing clears the way for construction which will get underway later this month. To celebrate, the whole community is invited to an open day and sausage sizzle on Saturday 23 July at the Waitohi Picton Ferry Terminal precinct. All of the project partners will be there along with an information kiosk where people can experience a digital fly-through of the new terminal. See you there!

Locals turn out to celebrate Linkwater Hall upgrade

Linkwater Memorial Hall has had a $630,000 facelift.

Mayor John Leggett and Deputy Mayor Nadine Taylor, helped by local children, cut the ribbon at the opening on Friday, 24 June.

In doing so Mayor Leggett praised locals for their efforts and said such projects required strong community input and involvement.

Coinciding with Matariki was appropriate, according to chair of the Linkwater Hall and Settlers' Association Chris Faulls.

"Matariki, the Māori new year, has themes of reflection, a connection to the environment and of renewal," he said at the opening. "The hall committee believes Matariki is a yearly opportunity for our community to come together to reflect on the past and to look forward."

More than 100 people attended the opening with more turning up for the hangi held afterwards to celebrate Matariki.

The hall was originally a milling company smoko room in Opouri Valley, 25km west of Linkwater and was moved to today's site 100 years ago. Working bees have been regularly held but despite constant community efforts, the hall needed considerable refurbishment.

"The latest improvements will allow the building to function well into the future," Mr Faulls said.

"I am hoping that this hall continues to be well used and is the vehicle for us to become a more connected and resilient community," he said.

Money for the renovation came from Council and Lotteries along with community funds, the Rātā Foundation and Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Emergency volunteers needed

Marlborough has its fair share of emergencies.

When they happen, volunteers respond and play a vital role. Right now, CDEM (Civil Defence and Emergency Management) needs people who are prepared to give their time and energy to help in an emergency event.

Emergency Management Officer Gary Spence says volunteers' dedication and training means the Marlborough community is well equipped to respond to emergencies.

"We have superb volunteers working during an emergency and providing front line response when it's needed," he said. "But we need more people."

Marlborough CDEM is responsible for the delivery of civil defence and emergency management response through the Marlborough region. It is based at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at 4 Wither Road which becomes headquarters in an emergency.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer teams, contact Gary Spence on 021 220 4612 or gary.spence@marlborough.govt.nz

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.

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