MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Only Marlborough

He kōrero nō te Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Wairau

YOUR LOCAL NEWS FROM THE MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Opening Hours
Mon to Fri: 8.00 am - 5.00 pm

All enquiries 24 hours

Phone: 03 520 7400
Fax: 03 520 7496
Email: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
Website: www.marlborough.govt.nz

Street Address:
15 Seymour Street
Blenheim 7201
New Zealand

Postal Address:
Marlborough District Council
PO Box 443, Blenheim 7240
New Zealand

Debris flow study indicates landslide risk

Council recently commissioned University of Canterbury researchers to map the North Marlborough area for river and stream catchments that may be susceptible to debris flows or debris floods, to improve the Council's understanding of landslide hazards. The research became possible after the capture of large areas of LiDAR (light detection and ranging) data that delivered precise, three-dimensional information about the area's land surface characteristics.

Environmental Scientist Matt Oliver told the Council's Environment Committee last week that the study was a useful indicator of potential landslide and flood susceptibility.

"This report has produced tools which can be used to inform landowners, forest managers or prospective land developers on the potential susceptibility of downslope land to debris flows and floods."

He noted the report's data layer was not intended to be used as a regulatory tool or for use on property land information memoranda (LIMs).

"But it is useful information that can prompt further geotechnical investigation of a particular site."

Mr Oliver said Marlborough had a lot of steep land that was susceptible to erosion.

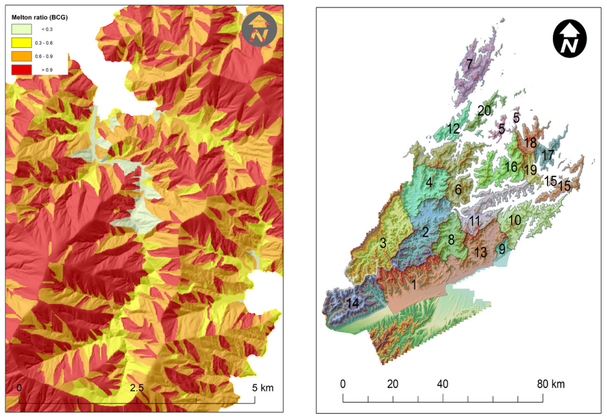
"In particular, the Marlborough Sounds are prone to heavy rainfall and various forms of landslides. We have a history of local damage to infrastructure such as roads and houses, including as recently as July 2021. Landslides also deliver large amounts of sediment to sensitive receiving environments such as rivers and estuaries."

"Fortunately, debris flows only occur occasionally in any given catchment, perhaps just once every few decades or centuries."

"Our report comes with a clear proviso that the maps from the report can only be used as a screening layer; they are not a definitive geotechnical categorisation of a catchment," he said.

The total mapped area covers 344,873 hectares. A new Smart Maps Pro webmap will now be developed for use by trained land management professionals such as forest managers and surveyors. Further development of the webmap would include GIS layers of natural and built receiving environments and infrastructure below susceptible catchments to assist users in developing risk assessments.

The report is available on Council's website via the following link: https://bit.ly/3w31yQB



Images from the Estimation of Catchment Susceptibility to Debris Flows and Debris Floods - North Marlborough report

World Water Day celebrates groundwater

World Water Day was held on 22 March and this year scientists drew attention to the precious resource of freshwater stored under the ground, as part of a global effort to raise awareness of groundwater.

The Council has produced two videos featuring Marlborough's Groundwater Hydrologist Peter Davidson (pictured) talking about the groundwater springs around Blenheim.

"Groundwater is recharged by rainfall or rivers, and how long it's been underground varies from just a few hours if it's just rained, to hundreds of thousands of years in some big aquifers in Australia."

"While we don't have that scale in New Zealand, we do have some very old water - some of the water beneath us here in Blenheim is 40,000 years old!"

"Most of New Zealand's freshwater is groundwater and we use it as a source of drinking water, for food production, and it contributes over three-quarters of the water in our rivers and streams."

The new videos have been posted on Council's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Groundwater samples taken by Council staff are tested for a range of indicators. The results help scientists and decision-makers evaluate the state of groundwater quality and trends over time.

This data is available on the Land, Air and Water (LAWA) website for people to explore at www.lawa.org.nz/explore-data/groundwater-quality

30 km/h speed limit in Blenheim CBD extended

In an effort to reduce crash rates around town the 30 km/h speed limit in Blenheim's CBD has recently been extended to include Seymour, Alfred and Hutcheson Streets.

Road Safety Co-ordinator Robyn Blackburn says the change had been set by Waka Kotahi and implemented by Council because some speed limits are no longer fit for purpose.

"Unfortunately crash numbers and near misses have become too high. We need to set speeds that will keep everyone safe no matter how they travel," Ms Blackburn said.

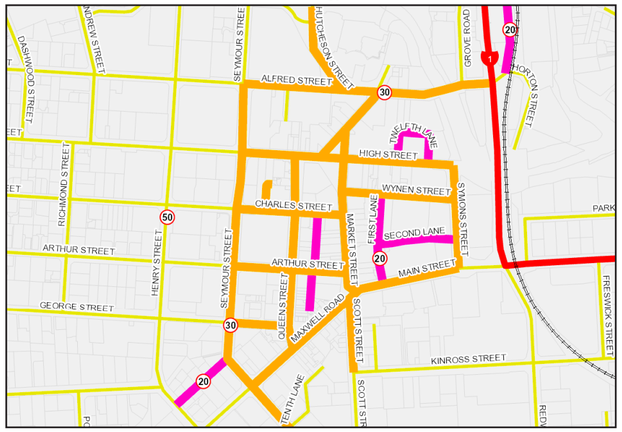
Throughout April Police will carry out a compliance monitoring campaign to ensure drivers are adhering to the new speed limit.

Ms Blackburn says Seymour Street verges on the CBD and is used by many different road users. It has a number of pedestrian crossings and intersections where road users access the CBD. "Unfortunately it also has a high crash rate and lowering the speed limit will go some way towards reducing the seriousness of incidents on this stretch of road in future," she said.

Marlborough Police Sergeant Josh Clauson says the Police want to work with the community to ensure drivers know about, and comply with, the extended 30 km/h limit.

"It's important that when we make changes to speed limits we take the community with us," Sergeant Clauson said. "That means that during April people can expect to see more patrols in town," he said.

The change comes as road safety partners aim to reduce death and serious injury crash rates in line with the National Road to Zero strategy.



The lines in orange show the areas in Blenheim's CBD that now have a speed limit of 30 km/h

Extra Mayoral Relief Fund for primary sector hit by February flooding

As the Marlborough Roads recovery effort rolls on, more assistance is available to help the rural community following two recent weather events.

Marlborough was hit by two storm events in early February: the first over Waitangi Weekend and the other, ex-Cyclone Dovi, the following weekend. These events caused further damage to the roading network with clean up and recovery works still ongoing.

At the beginning of March, the Ministry for Primary Industries contributed a further $20,000 to the July Storm Mayoral Relief Fund tagged for farmers and primary sector businesses affected by these most recent flooding events. The funding was made available after the flooding was classified as a medium-scale adverse event.

An application form can be obtained via the Rural Support Trust or by contacting Jodie Griffiths on jodie.griffiths@marlborough.govt.nz or Ph. 03 520 7400. The closing date for applications is Monday 4 April.

Once applications are received, an allocations committee will meet to discuss and allocate funding, with consideration given to farm size and the level of damage sustained.

Farmers looking for someone to talk with are encouraged to contact the Top of the South Rural Support Trust. They offer free and confidential support at any time. Call 0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254) or go to www.rural-support.org.nz

Council meetings

The following meetings are open to the public. Copies of the agendas will be available online and at Council's office, 15 Seymour Street.

Planning, Finance & Community Committee

- Thursday 24 March at 9.00 am

Council

- Thursday 7 April 2022 at 9.00 am

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

Trust creates stable base for Te Hoiere restoration

This month's signing of a trust deed represents a new era for Te Hoiere Restoration Project.

Rising cases of Covid in Marlborough and Nelson meant plans for a celebratory signing at Te Hora Marae at Canvastown were cancelled. Instead, the document was signed at the Marlborough Mayoral Office and then couriered to the Ngāti Kuia office in Nelson.

Mayor John Leggett and Chief Executive Mark Wheeler signed on behalf of Council and Ngāti Kuia General Manager Dave Johnston and Chair Waihaere Mason for the iwi.

Mr Mason, who also co-Chairs the Te Hoiere Project governance group, says forming Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust will cement the project's credibility.

"A willing community, funding and a well-defined audit and risk profile will be the pillars of success. We now have a stable base to work from, clear direction and a legal obligation to ensure funded work is done," he said.

Mr Mason is inspired by the way communities with different needs, diverse individuals and local industries are melding into a collective unit to restore Te Hoiere/Pelorus catchments ki uta ki tai (from the mountains to the sea).

"Forest and Bird for example have a different kaupapa to dairy farmers but are working together towards a common goal," he said.

Mayor Leggett says formalising the trust cements leadership, creates accountability, and ensures the longevity of what he hopes will be an intergenerational project.

"This is a robust partnership between Council, iwi and the community," he said.

Governance group co-Chair and Sounds Ward Councillor Barbara Faulls was at Te Hora Marae two years ago when then Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage announced Government funding for the Project.

"It's been a long path for stakeholders but aims and aspirations remain true," Mrs Faulls said. "With kaitiakitanga and guardianship from the Trust, Te Hoiere catchments and communities will benefit," she said.

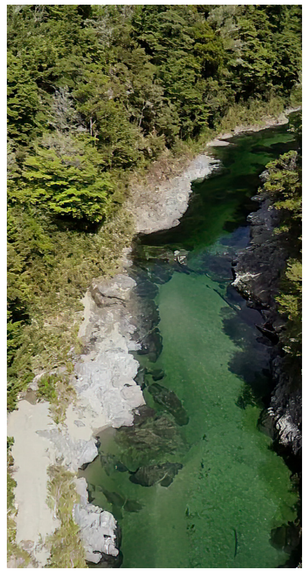
Council, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne o Wairau and the community are represented on Te Hoiere Kaitiaki Charitable Trust.

The project is also supported by DOC, New Zealand Landcare Trust, Fonterra, Forest and Bird, Marlborough Forest Industry Association, Waka Kotahi, Marlborough Roads, OneFortyOne, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

It aligns with Kotahitanga mō te Taiao which promotes collective action towards enhancing and protecting biodiversity in Te Tauihu, the top of the South Island.

Mayor John Leggett signs the Te Hoiere Trust Deed backed by governance group co-Chair and Sounds Ward councillor Barbara Faulls, and Chief Executive Mark Wheeler

Ngāti Kuia chair Waihaere Mason (left) and General Manager Dave Johnston sign on behalf of the iwi



An aerial view of Te Hoiere catchment near the Emerald Pools at Pelorus Bridge
Photo Credit: Wayne Stronach

Marlborough Events

www.follow-me.co.nz

Please note, during these times of uncertainty events are subject to change at short notice. Please contact organisers directly for the latest information.

Repair Café Blenheim

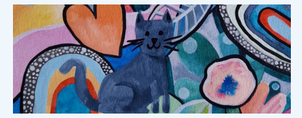
Blenheim community initiative from Nativity Church. Head along for some assistance from volunteer experts who offer free small repairs - sewing, bikes, toys, small furniture, electronics and more.

Sat 26 March: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
John's Kitchen,
2 Redwood Street, Blenheim

Freeform Gouache & Watercolour with Sarah Higgins

Gather your friends and family for an enjoyable afternoon painting in a freeform style with gouache and watercolour. Suitable for children from 8 years old, and adults.

Sun 27 March: 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
The Marlborough Art Society,
204 High Street, Blenheim



Marlborough Farmers' Market

Head along to this ever-popular weekly market and enjoy local, fresh and seasonal produce and products directly from those that pick, grow, farm, fish and make them.

Sun 27 March: 9.00 am - 12.00 pm
Marlborough A & P Park, Blenheim

AUTUMN

Check out all the amazing events taking place in Marlborough this Autumn at **follow-me.co.nz**

FOLLOW ME
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Current Covid restrictions may prevent some larger events going ahead, but there is still lots going on around the region to keep you entertained over the next few months. Check out the new digital Marlborough Autumn Events Guide for all the details:
https://v3au.zone-secure.net/drive/5063/.FMAutumn2022/

Temporary road closure - Marlborough Car Club Rally Sprint

On Sunday 27 March 2022 between 7.30 am and 5.00 pm the following road is to be closed to ordinary vehicle traffic for the Marlborough Car Club Rally Sprint.

The roads involved are:

- Kaituna-Tuamarina Road - 6 km from the SH6 intersection to the Waikakaho Valley intersection

During the proposed period of closure, ordinary vehicle traffic may use the road being closed between events under the supervision and authority of an Officer of the New Zealand Police (Traffic Safety Branch).

It will be an offence under the above regulations for any person other than under the authority of an authorised permit to use the road for ordinary vehicle traffic during the period of closure.

This notice is given pursuant to the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.

Any enquiries should be addressed to Dean Hawkey, Marlborough Roads, Ph: 021 923 536.

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 the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.