MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
Only Marlborough
He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau
Your local news from the Marlborough District Council

Farewell to retiring councillors

Last Thursday marked the final meeting for this electoral term, and with that several councillors who are not standing for re-election were farewelled.

Along with Mayor John Leggett, mayor since 2016 and a councillor since 2010, six councillors have decided to hang up their hats - Jenny Andrews, Cynthia Brooks, Michael Fitzpatrick, Francis Maher, David Oddie, and Mark Peters. These councillors have a combined total of 75 years of service to Marlborough.

Family and friends attended last week's Council meeting to celebrate the contribution Councillors have made and to listen to their valedictory speeches.

Mayor Leggett thanked Councillors for their service, hard work, tenacity and contribution to the Marlborough community.

Ross Beech, Council's Rural Representative for the last four terms and Richard Hunter, Council's Iwi Representative since 1998, both of whom are standing down, were also acknowledged for their valuable service to Council.

(Left to right) farewell to Mayor John Leggett, Clr David Oddie, Rural Representative Ross Beech, Clr Mark Peters, Clr Francis Maher, Iwi Representative Richard Hunter, Clr Jenny Andrews, Clr Michael Fitzpatrick and Clr Cynthia Brooks

Retiring Councillors reflected on their highlights and achievements over the years noting key projects including the upgrade of community spaces and halls, the new library/art gallery, the Picton Library and Service Centre, the Lansdowne Park Sportshub, the George Street senior housing units, the Marlborough Environment Plan and the work of The Economic Action Marlborough (TEAM) group.

Mayor Leggett noted his time as Mayor and Councillor has been a privilege and an absolute pleasure.

During his time as Mayor Council faced many challenges including the Kaikōura earthquake just after the 2016 election, Covid-19 and closed borders, two significant storm events and the occupation of council reserves by protestors. "We responded throughout with clear planning and direction. I am proud to have played my part," Mayor Leggett said.

The first Council meeting of the next electoral term will be held on Thursday 27 October when the new Mayor and Councillors will be sworn in.

Volunteers a lifeline

Charnay van Rooyen, Amanda Smith and Genevieve MacDonald from Life Education Trust with mascot Harold

"It's pretty special to be recognised for what we do."

That's how Tasha Knox from Life Education Trust describes winning the Child/Youth Development section of last year's Marlborough Community Awards.

Online nominations for this year's awards opened on 1 September and close on Monday 3 October.

Categories include Arts, Culture and Heritage; Environment and Conservation; Sport and Recreation; Child/Youth Development and Community Social Services.

Mrs Knox said being recognised for the work Life Education did with Marlborough tamariki was "really special."

"It helps validate that we do an incredible job which other people see - not just the schools we work with," she said. "We are a wonderful team and we're all passionate about helping young people - the award meant a lot to us."

Mrs Knox said there were lots of groups in the Marlborough community doing great things and the Marlborough Community Awards were a fantastic way to recognise that.

Life Education relied on grants, fundraising and sponsorship, and volunteers were key in planning and executing fundraising initiatives and community events, she said.

The group's aim is to inspire tamariki and rangatahi to make positive choices and empower children with the knowledge and confidences to make healthy decisions.

If you know a group, or participate in one yourself, that does amazing things in the Marlborough community then now is the time to nominate them.

Nominations must be completed online at: www.marlborough.govt.nz/community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-community-awards

For more information please email Community Partnerships Support, Natalie Lawler at: Natalie.lawler@marlborough.govt.nz

Ticketless car parking at Marlborough Airport

Marlborough Airport has introduced a new licence plate recognition system so people parking at the airport no longer need to use paper tickets to pay as they leave.

The new and improved ticketless car parking system at Marlborough Airport

Marlborough Airport Operations and Safety Manager, Steve Holtum, says the old ticket-based system was expensive and prone to error with people often losing or damaging their tickets.

"The new licence plate system, introduced last week, is a lot more user-friendly and provides a better experience for people parking at the airport," he said.

"As people enter the carpark the new system will read the vehicle licence plate and the gate will open. At the completion of their stay, prior to leaving the carpark, drivers simply enter their license plate number into one of the parking machines and pay for their stay using cash or card. When leaving the carpark, the exit gate will recognise payment has been made and the barrier will lift automatically."

"If customers forget to pay at one of the machines there is also an option to pay at the exit gate using paywave or credit card however no receipt will be issued," he said.

Mr Holtum said while parking fees remain the same the new system also allows for 15 minutes free parking in the main carpark and part-day charging which will result in savings for some people.

MARLBOROUGH'S Small Townships PROGRAMME
LOVE where you LIVE

Small towns time to shine

Rarangi, Grovetown and Seddon have been added to Council's Small Townships Programme.

With a focus on "love where you live", the Small Township Programme's kaupapa is about the design of a liveable and attractive central space that allows freedom of movement, connectivity, and accessibility.

Outgoing Small Townships Chair, Clr Cynthia Brooks, said it was time for the communities of Rarangi, Grovetown and Seddon to have their time in the sun.

"We want to strengthen the sense of place and identity of our smaller communities and enhance the use and enjoyment of the outdoor public spaces within them, working from the grassroots up," she said. "People know their own places and needs best, and Council is there to guide processes and deliver outcomes for those who live, work and play there now and into the future."

Projects successfully carried out by the Small Townships Programme, with funding from Council, include the Renwick village green and pocket park.

Others, including the Rai Valley village green and Havelock's Neil Street upgrades, saw the Small Township Programme work in with other Council departments and budgets.

The programme aims to hold community consultation as its foundation, Council's Project Manager, Heather Graham said.

"I look forward to making contact with Rarangi, Grovetown and Seddon communities as we begin to explore what this opportunity may look like for their towns," she said.

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