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

Prime Minister visits Marlborough

(L-R) Council Chief Executive, Mark Wheeler, Marlborough Mayor John Leggett and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speak with Transport Minister Michael Wood

Prime Minister Jacinda Arden and Transport Minister Michael Wood visited Marlborough last Thursday to see first-hand the damage to our region following the recent weather event. Joining them was Emergency Management Minister, Kieran McAnulty, on what was his third visit to Marlborough.

Marlborough Mayor John Leggett and Marlborough District Council Chief Executive, Mark Wheeler, met Prime Minister Ardern, Minister McAnulty and Minister Wood in Blenheim before accompanying them on a visit to Rai Valley.

The group was also flown over areas of the Marlborough Sounds that were impacted by last month's severe weather event.

Marlborough Mayor, John Leggett, thanked the Prime Minister and Ministers for taking the time to visit Marlborough to see first-hand the damage our region has sustained.

"During her visit the Prime Minister was able to get a true sense of the long and complex road to recovery for our region, and that is extremely important," Mayor Leggett said.

"While there are other areas of Marlborough that have been affected by the flooding, we were able to provide the Prime Minister with a birds-eye-view of the Marlborough Sounds including the damage to the roading network," he said.

Mayor John Leggett and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern survey the damage from the air

Mayor Leggett also thanked the government for the additional $100,000 contribution to the Mayoral Relief Fund which now brings the total to over $265,000.

Inaugural inter-agency recovery meeting

Agencies working together following Marlborough's recent weather event came together last week to discuss the region's plan for recovery.

Marlborough's Recovery Manager, Dean Heiford, said for the majority of Marlborough's population life has returned to normal after the recent weather event. "However, the communities of Rai Valley, Canvastown, Kenepuru, Okiwi Bay, French Pass, d'Urville Island, Port Underwood and Queen Charlotte Drive remain without, or with very limited, road access."

"These residents and communities face a long journey back to normality. In some places, in particular in the Marlborough Sounds, the roads as we knew them will never be the same due to the extent of the damage caused in July last year, and then again a couple of weeks ago," Mr Heiford said. "We recognise the increased pressure and stress this event has had on residents living in affected areas and the disruption it has brought to their daily lives."

"This year our inter-agency recovery plan follows a format established by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). It focuses on the immediate recovery and also incorporates the longer term recovery work that is being led by Council's Chief Executive, Mark Wheeler, and Council's Manager for Strategic Planning and Economic Development, Neil Henry. We will be working closely with our iwi partners as we carry out this important recovery mahi," Mr Heiford said.

"The immediate recovery plan focusses on the Social, Built, Natural and Economic aspects and will see experts in these fields taking the lead in these areas. This allows our experts to set priorities for their areas of recovery, ensuring efficiencies and creating their own mini-networks," he said.

Marlborough Mayor John Leggett said it is great to see this inter-agency team pull together to ensure a connected, cohesive approach to Marlborough's recovery.

"The team has been quick to recognise the long term implications of this event and the importance of bringing people together early as we embark on the recovery journey," Mayor Leggett said.

COMMUNITY AWARDS - NOMINATIONS OPEN

There are some amazing groups doing great things in the Marlborough community.

If you know any, or participate in one yourself, it's time to nominate them for the annual Marlborough Community Awards.

Run in collaboration with Volunteer Marlborough, the awards recognise volunteer groups making valuable contributions in the community or partnering with other groups for the same benefit.

Community Partnerships Support, Natalie Lawler, said any not-for-profit group or organisation working in the interests of the community can be nominated.

"The awards aim to recognise the achievements of groups and the key role their volunteers play in a well-functioning community," she said.

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

The judging panel will consider the effectiveness of activities, programmes and services offered by the nominated group, as well as the impact it makes within the community. Volunteer input (hours and numbers) and the number of people who benefit are other factors considered.

Nominations are now open and close on Monday 3 October. 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

With local body elections approaching, it's time to meet the candidates so you can make an informed decision on who to vote for.

A number of community groups are holding "meet the candidate" sessions in the lead up to the elections.

Greypower held several meetings last week. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER
7.00 pm
Rapaura Hall
Hosted by Federated Farmers

TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
7.00 pm
Awatere Memorial Hall
Hosted by Awatere Valley Community Trust

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
6.30 pm
Port Marlborough Pavilion,
Endeavour Park, Picton
Hosted by the Pavilion Committee

THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER
7.15 pm
Renwick Community Hall
Hosted by Renwick Smart + Connected

Voting for local body elections runs from 16 September until 8 October. For more information visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/elections/2022-council-election