



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Only Marlborough



Cravens Road

**Information Update
Assets & Services, Property and Community
Facilities Department
11 July 2023**

Contents

Marlborough Roads	1
Marlborough Roads Recovery Team Update – May 2023	1
Rivers and Drainage Section – Activity Report	9
Wairau River	9
Wairau Floodplain and Tributaries	15
Drainage.....	17
Floodway Reserves.....	18
Picton, Sounds and Awatere.....	18
Investigation and Miscellaneous	18
Gravel Extraction.....	19
Quarries	19
Services and Operations	20
Education Report	20
Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Update (2023)	21
Emergency Management Activity Report	23
Welfare and Planning.....	23
Community Resilience and Recovery	24
Operational Readiness.....	24
Group Manager	25
Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report	28
Blenheim Parks	28
Renwick Parks	33
Picton Parks	34
Northern Marlborough/Sounds.....	37
District Public Conveniences	37
District Cemeteries.....	37
District Memorials.....	40
Swimming pools	40
Walking and cycling	40
Trees	40
Playgrounds	41
Policy and planning	41
Rangers' Report	43
Road Safety Coordinator Update.....	43
Property and Community Facilities Project Report	45

Marlborough Roads Recovery Team Update – May 2023

Executive Summary

We continue to progress quietly, which is appropriate with regards to the season but is not as planned. A consecutive \$1.3m claim was submitted for May confirming our current workload level is low. The physical works continue to be delivered safely.

We received an early, verbal indication that the Phase 2 was approved which was well received. This has mitigated two key risks regarding continuity of work and retention of resources.

Construction issue designs have started to be released. This will allow a formal procurement process to be undertaken prior to the next construction season. This will provide greater cost surety as the work will be competitively tendered and will also contractually secure resource for delivery.

With funding approved and completed designs beginning to be issued, increasing the design output should still be the primary focus. Certainty of cost and programme requires clarity of scope which the designs provide, therefore, there is obvious benefit to all if these can be progressed.

A procurement review has been undertaken by the Client that is looking at the overall contract model and how the deliverables are being procured. Once complete, any agreed improvements will be implemented.

Key Achievements for the month

All zones have full public access excluding Kenepuru Rd.

- Winter resilience sites works undertaken on Opouri Rd, Archers Rd & Duncan Bay;
- Kenepuru Culverts 50% complete;
- Bridge 256 geotechnical investigation 50% complete;
- Havelock Causeway concrete footpath works 90% complete;
- Handover list 9, 10 and 11 presented for review to BAU, outstanding faults within the handover lists have been approved for repair;
- Ronga Rd debris flow site completed and approved by landowner;
- A number of minor requests / complaint sites completed as required;
- Reduction in out-of-town traffic management & resource.

Key Risks

The verbal notification of Phase 2 funding approval has directly mitigated two key risks, primarily the project's ability to continue without disruption and, secondly, providing certainty to internal and external resources of forward work. The Cyclone Gabriel recovery still presents a risk to future resource availability but the certainty of funding should secure locally based resource.

This now confirms design progress as a key risk that requires on-going focus, ensuring that the funding, and overhead structure, is efficiently.

RRT Team

The culture in the team is still strong. We're lucky to have a positive and productive team who focus on the job at hand and ensuring their responsibilities are met.

Next month will see the departure of Stuart Falloon, our Commercial Manager. Stu has been an integral part of our Team since November 2021. Stu is leaving to take on the role of Canterbury Region Commercial Manager, Fulton Hogan's largest, by value, New Zealand region.

No recruitment is planned at this stage. Our current Finance Manager, John Gommers, will take on the Commercial Manager position while retaining his current responsibilities. A portion of the Commercial

Manager's current function is being delegated to other team members so that John's workload is manageable.

Health And Safety

Subcontractors

In the month of May we completed 1 inspection which maintained our subcontractor inspection schedule for Marlborough Roads Recovery. The inspection showed a high level of risk management with suitable controls implemented to manage relevant risks.

We completed plant inspections on subcontractor's plant and provided inductions to new workers as required. We also reviewed the level of risk control and worker competency was appropriate for the works being undertaken.

Injuries

There were no injuries recorded in the month of May for the Recovery project.

Incidents

During May there was one incident. This is still under investigation.

Safety Highlights / Low Lights

Highlights:

- Continued decrease of reported incidents while consistent near misses and observations reported
- Site inspections and visits demonstrate good risk management and suitable controls implemented on both BAU and subcontractor sites

Lowlights:

- One High Rated Incident

Leadership Safety Actions

Leadership Actions are a good way of demonstrating that we're having meaningful conversations and engagement with workers on the ground.

In the month of May, we had 43 leadership actions logged, with a target of 27, which is a great example of the dedication and commitment our supervisors, managers and engineers have towards the Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental considerations for workers in the field. This is a good sign that while our works on the recovery are not at peak there are still consistent and effect safety conversations being had on site. This is a positive reflection of a good safety culture within the Marlborough Roads Recovery team.



Environmental

Resource Consent Application Progress

All five original zonal consents have still not been completed to the draft conditions stage. Council were communicated with during May but indicated they have been dealing with a large volume of more urgent work. Draft conditions were indicated as close to being ready for issue, however, no draft conditions were received by the end of the month. The five consents have been sitting in the Council's system for over 200 days. The two new Zonal Consent Applications of Port Underwood and Croisilles-French Pass from the August 2022 are also being worked on but no draft conditions received as yet.

Busheys Clean Fill has had the conditions reviewed by MRJV but we are awaiting issuing of consent.

Pudneys Barge Ramp application is now being processed and Council have indicated that it can proceed without notification and draft conditions have been received. These are currently being reviewed.

Fish Bay Barge Ramp Consent Application is currently on hold but MRJV received communication at the end of the month that the submitters who opposed the application are now willing to remove their objections as the waste bins have been removed and the area is now tidy. The application should now be able to proceed further.

Quotes have been submitted by WSP planners for completing the retrospective consent applications for the Branch River and Wash Bridge diversions and the Limestone Revetment work.

A tender process has also begun for the consenting requirements for the new bridge needed in the Waihopai Valley – Bridge 256.

Environmental Highlights / Low Lights

- Highlights:
 - Civil Defence transition period extended until 4:30pm on 30th June 2023 at this stage, unclear how many more renewals will be undertaken.
 - The Queen Charlotte Drive scour repair adjacent to, and crossing the Kaituna estuary, was completed by Simcox this month and no environmental incidents were reported which was an excellent result due to the sensitive marine environment being right in the work zone.
 - The Ronga Road 'House Slip' was completed by Edridge Contracting during May, again with no environmental incidents reported and the landowner very pleased with the outcome. This site has also been reviewed with MDC Consents team and it was agreed that no resource consent would be required.
 - RJ Civil were audited during their culvert replacement works in Kenepuru and were seen to be conducting themselves well from both a safety and environmental point of view.
 - Draft conditions received for the Pudney's Barge Ramp consent which is showing swift progress.
- Lowlights:
 - The ongoing delay in receiving draft conditions for the Zonal consent applications – still not received at the time of writing.
 - Titirangi Clean Fill has reached capacity (slightly over) under the current consent allowance so a variation will look to be worked on and submitted to obtain more clean fill volume at the site.



RJ Civil undertaking culvert replacements on Kenepuru Road – image taken 30 May 2023



Scour repair completed on Queen Charlotte Drive causeway at Kaituna Estuary – image taken 31 May 2023

Financial

The month of May has been similar to the rest of Q2 2023 with operations running at a minimal level while we await designs suitable for construction during the winter period. Pleasingly the next round of funding has been approved which give the team confidence we will have a busy construction season ahead, provided designs progress.

In the month we have completed the Limestone underslip revetment, commenced work on the Havelock Causeway repairs and Kenepuru culvert replacements and nearly reached IFC on the Cullen's Point design. Additionally, a number of IFC drawings for sites across QCD and French Pass have been provided and procurement of these sites is getting underway in June. The option exists to attempt to construct these sites in Winter or wait until more favourable conditions in spring.

The Cullen's Point design has been released to Taylors to commence their repricing of the works, it is hoped we will receive their updated pricing in mid-June and will assess and come back with an updated costing and recommendation once that is received. Depending upon price it may be a site we proceed with in winter or if the winter works premium is too high it may wait until spring.

The handover process is ongoing with list 12 provided and listings 13 and 14 being prepared. Pricing has been requested from local contractors to begin closing out the outstanding items contained within these listings.

With the phase 2 funding now confirmed an exercise is underway to confirm what sites require design, which can be contractor led and a general re-estimate of the cost of the remaining works. Initial numbers suggest there is approximately 300 sites to complete, and the physical works costs will be in the order of \$25m to \$30m, predominating relating to the phase 1 works on QCD.

Design spend continues to run at a high level with more than 20 sites or packages underway currently. Generally, consultant performance is a concern and an increasing risk to construction delivery with the majority of packages running behind programme for delivery. Initial efforts to reverse this trend have not shown any marked improvement but importantly the number of sites requiring design in phase 2 is low so should be achievable even with current performance levels.

Finally with my departure from the project at the end of June, John Gommers will be taking over the role of Commercial Manager on the project with a number of tasks distributed around the team.

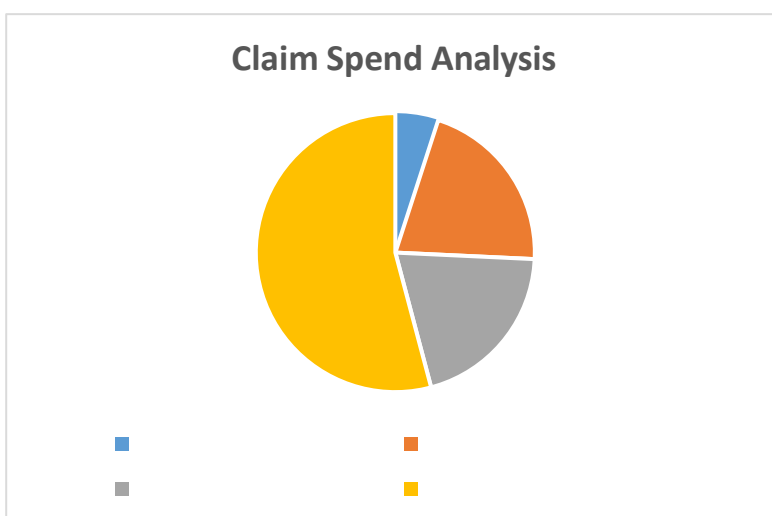
Cost Summary

The claim for the month was \$1.34m, the areas of spend can be seen in the pie chart below. Spend is following the pattern of the last few months with operational spend decreasing as a percentage which reflects the catch up of operations to design.

In the month we have had spend completing the Limestone revetment, Havelock Causeway and the Kenepuru Culvert replacement programme as well as incidental works around the region. In June we would expect to see a further drop in operations as we will only be completing the Havelock Causeway and continuing the culvert replacement programme.

Additionally in the month we have incurred the cost for the purchase of the 5x sets of traffic lights approved in February, these are now out on the network replacing hired sets.

The high-level analysis of the May claim is below:



Financial Forecast

With the phase 2 funding now confirmed the programme as a whole has approximately \$67.8m of budget remaining to cover both physical repairs, design, client-side costs etc. note this total does not include any client- side cost spend for May so the actual value will be slightly less.

The exact scope of phase 2 is being developed but initial numbers from the PMO team indicates there is around 300 sites to complete. The expected cost of these works, as well as items like design, risk, client-side costs etc comes to \$53m to \$58m which is \$14m to \$10m less than the currently available budget.

Moving forward care needs to be exercised that scope creep does not arise at a rapid pace as it has done in the past which may consume this float.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

The weekly roading recovery e-newsletters continue to form the base of the regular MRRT communications, supported by roading alerts on the Council's website and Antenno. A summary of key information is also included fortnightly in the Marlborough District Council's (MDC) recovery update on their website.

In May, the e-newsletters included information regarding the winter resilience works, Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study updates including upcoming community engagement, and weather warnings, in addition to updates on works being undertaken.

Customer interactions have decreased this month with 12 enquiries in May, compared to 21 in April. These customer interactions have been recorded to be imported into the MDC system.

Of the 12 enquiries, a majority were regarding the Kenepuru Zone with 8 or 67% of enquiries. Five of these enquiries were regarding access for themselves or an essential service provider, particularly due to the road closures on Kenepuru Road for culverts installation. Three further enquiries were requesting water tables and drainage to be assessed.

French Pass interactions made up of four out of the 12 interactions or 33%. Two were around concerns over silt and clay on Ronga Road near the house slip site, one was around concerns over heavy trucks on the road and one further enquiry was around road closures at Fitzroy Bay, due to emergency work being carried out at this location.

This month three positive media stories were published in two media outlets including Stuff and Scoop. Two stories which included 'The new \$2m bridge to last 100 years for Waihopai Valley' and 'Marlborough MDC landing on emerging preferred options for Sounds Roads' were the two favourable articles published during May.

A media release is being prepared in conjunction with Waka Kotahi to go out via MDC regarding the \$52.39M of funds recently approved by the Waka Kotahi board.

In May, a content creator for Waka Kotahi spent two full days in the region with the recovery team capturing content for Waka Kotahi channels on the project. Seven or more stories will come from the visit, with the first three on Ronga Road, Noel's Bridge and Havelock Causeway planned to be released in the first half of June.

The Communications Manager attended multiple Marlborough Sounds Future Access communications planning meetings for the upcoming community events in June.

In May, a review of the CDEM map was undertaken which resulted in most roads highlighted as public access being removed and those roads with restrictions tidied up to ensure consistent messaging.

The Communication Manager and Recovery Navigator met in May to review trends in customer interactions, discuss the process for entering CRMs and highlight any areas of concern.

Progress Photos





Rivers and Drainage Section – Activity Report

(Information prepared by Geoff Dick, Andy White, Steve Bezar, Jan Dimmendaal, Duc Nuygen, Gregor Punzel, Frank Westergard R700-014-01

Wairau River

Flooding May 2023

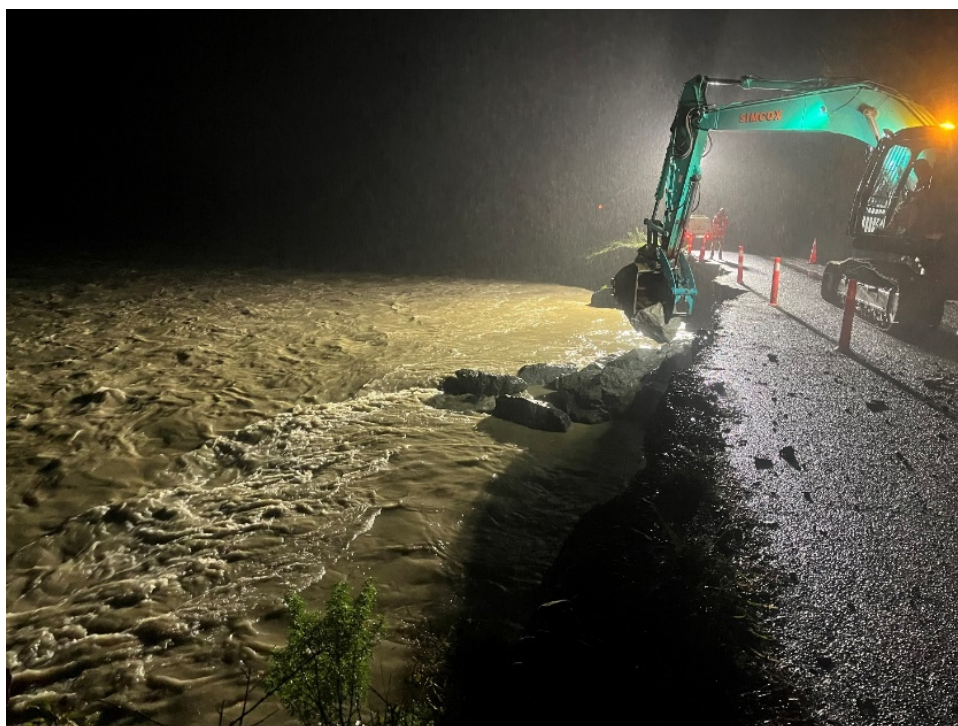
In early May two annual flood events occurred in the Wairau River about one week apart. The peak flows of these two events were approx. 2000 and 2200 cumecs respectively. The Waihopai River recorded similar flood events with the larger recorded at 320 cumecs. These flood events caused additional erosion damage to both Council, roading and privately managed river frontages.

Following the subsiding of the water levels, the Rivers Section conducted an aerial assessment by helicopter of the lower Waihopai River and the Wairau River up to the Branch River confluence. This was to identify problem areas that required immediately repairs. These include;

Northbank Road – west of Fabions Valley Road

Marlborough Roads requested Rivers to arrange emergency repairs to a section of Northbank Road that was in danger of being lost completely during the evening of 9 May. This involved placement of several rock groynes into the night while the river was still in flood and then full reconstruction and armouring of a single lane carriageway over the next two days.

During the first night of emergency work the outcome of protecting the remaining road carriageway was uncertain but the team demonstrated remarkable proficiency and successfully managed to safeguard the road until the following day when water levels had receded away from the road.





Wratts Road

The second of the May floods also caused the complete failure of a 140m section of rock lining scheduled for a major top up following the very large winter 2020 and 2021 flood events. The job was the next priority on the July 2021 flood damage schedule to proceed as soon as rock became available.

Unfortunately, immediately behind the rock lining was a section of river bank composed of very erodible sandy silts and a training bank that limits flooding of the downstream floodway land. The training bank works were constructed by the former Marlborough Catchment Board.

Emergency works comprising a flood channel diversion on the north side of the river, carting and placement of 8500m³ of gravel and construction of seven temporary rock groynes (1500 tonne carted and placed) were required to make a reasonably secure interim repair. Final repairs will occur as soon as an additional 2000 tonne becomes available.





Downstream of Rock Ferry

Additional protection work was carried out below Rock Ferry to safeguard the stopbank and that protects the adjacent lifestyle block development. Approximately 500 tons of rock were strategically positioned to reinforce the old catchment Board protection works. The old under strength rock wall is gradually being beefed up with new heavy rock work.



Cravens Road

The existing temporary works were repaired and beefed up to maintain berm integrity. Permanent works are planned as soon as we start getting armour grade rock out of the Pukaka Quarry extension.



Edge repairs downstream of Southern Valleys intake

Below the SVIS Intake, an aggressive crossover of the Wairau River resulted in further erosion between the recently completed strong head groynes. Existing intermediate works were reconstructed and strengthened to limit further buffer zone loss.



Waihopai River

Additional river shaping works were required in the Waihopai River both upstream and downstream of SH63 to limit further erosion into adjacent vineyards and reinstate flow into the Gibson's Creek intake.

July 2021 and August 2022 Flood damage repairs

We are approaching the end of the second year of the three-year flood recovery project. Overall we are tracking behind programme with major works still required in the Diversion and significant rock top up and strengthening in the SH1 to Waihopai reach of the Wairau.

The main constraints on completing the remaining scheduled repairs work are availability of rock with the Pukaka Quarry extension not yet producing armour grade rock and no availability of rock from the Clifford Brookby Road quarry over the last 12 months. Regular river inspections and temporary holding works to minimise risk of further damage are being undertaken.

Main scheme stopbank, berm and access track repairs are essentially complete. Also well advanced is the additional tributary work approved as part of the August 2022 flood report.

A more detailed flood repair progress report with recommendations for the Diversion repair below Neal Road is planned for the Committee's August meeting.

Capital Works

Lower Wairau Flood Capacity Upgrade Programme

Lower Macdonalds Reach

Upgrade of the Lower Macdonalds reach of primary stopbank was completed ahead of programme and on budget in April 2023. This is another significant milestone in the Lower Wairau Flood Capacity Upgrade Programme, delivering a further 1200m of upgraded stopbank to the network. Grass strike is now complete with the bank fully functional.



Ngāti Rāua Reach

Practical completion of the upgraded and realigned stopbank was achieved at the end of June 2023, with fencing due for completion by mid-July. Despite anticipated challenges with ground conditions and potential archaeology, the project team have remained committed to delivering a high-quality asset in collaboration with landowners, tangata whenua, and mana whenua.

The project is expected to come in under budget and is fully functional as flood protection asset.



Wairau River Protection Works

Groyne 20

Construction of Groyne 20 commenced in late April 2023, with approximately 3000t of the total 9800t of rock required, already delivered to site. The back-to-back 2000+ cumec floods that occurred in May, opened a new braid through the worksite, rendering it impossible to continue work until the water levels dropped. Works have now been postponed until later this year, with resources being redirected into developing Pukaka quarry over the winter.



Wairau Floodplain and Tributaries

Upper Ōpaoa - Behind Lansdowne Park to Waipuna Street

The clearing of willow blockages over an approximately 700-metre stretch of the Upper Ōpaoa River, just north of Lansdowne Park, has been successfully completed. A new shear device mounted on the end of a 21-ton digger's boom proved to be a cost-efficient solution for this task. Burn piles resulting from the cleared willow have been stacked on higher grounds along the paddocks and will be burnt or similarly disposed of later this year.

Ruakanakana Stream

Following the rain events in May 2023, adjustments were made to the Waihopai Intake. Debris fences at the intakes were cleaned, and accumulated silt within the intake channel was removed to enhance water flow capacity.

Emergency channel clearing works in the identified reaches of Ruakanakana Stream, primarily throughout Renwick, have been finalised. Vegetation and sediments were removed from the creek and transported to our Conders cleanfill site. This clearance allows for increased water flow through the opened-up parts of the creek, reducing flood risk to adjacent properties.



Fairhall

Investigations are currently underway regarding a drainage pipe located underneath the Fairhall, parallel to the Middle Renwick Road bridge. A significant blockage has been identified and clearing it poses a complex task. Contractors have been approached to address the sediment build-up within the pipe.

Omaka River

A maintenance run was carried out from Tyntesfield Road downstream to the confluence with the Ōpaoa River. This involved tree clearing, beeching, and shaping activities in dry conditions.

Taylor River/Lower Ōpaoa River

On 30 April, weed cutting operations commenced in the Taylor River using a weed boat that traversed up to the Crinoline footbridge and down to the saline reach in the Lower Ōpaoa where aquatic weed growth largely stops.

Following a long summer of extensive weed growth, the weedboat had to be assisted by a super long reach (18m reach) excavator to remove the bulk of the cut weed and associated debris accumulation.

The full weed cut took about a month to complete and return water levels in town close to normal for this time of the year. Follow-up silt dredging work has been identified and will be scheduled during a drier period later in the year.



Havelock

Downers have completed a stream maintenance run along the main northern stream that runs through Havelock. The work consists of vegetation control and debris removal to maintain flood capacity and bank stability.

Drainage

Ōpaoa Loop

A new ramp has been constructed at the end of Lane Street to enable safer launching and retrieval of the weed cutter and barge. The existing access ramp off Dillons Point Road was dangerous to enter and operate from due to traffic volumes.

A large amount of work removing fallen trees in the Ōpaoa Loop has been completed and highlights the issue of responsibilities for large trees in an urban environment.



Stormwater Pumping Stations

Spare parts for the MacEwans flood pumps have been ordered. The parts are pump body components that are not held in stock and are cast by the foundry as required.

The electric motors at the Thomas Road pump station have been upgraded and Eckfords have overhauled Pump 5 at the Dillons Point pump station.

During the rain event in early May the outlet flap gate at the Roberts Pump station on Wairau Bar Road was blown off due to a weakness at the gate hinge. The fibreglass gate was repaired but the intention is to replace the gate with a cast iron gate which is more robust. During the rain event and period afterwards, there were a number of pump faults and screen blockages with weed at some of the pump stations. The pump faults were commonly due to eels.

Drainage network maintenance

- Drain D Grovetown excavated 410 metres
- Large Alder tree removed from Tuamarina Lagoon
- Neals Drain, Dillons Point surveyed for excavation options
- Revised autumn drain spraying scheduled completed on 30 June
- Control weirs at Pembers Drain and Marukoko/Roberts Drain confluence adjusted to winter settings
- Annual inspection of flood-gated culverts has commenced

Town Branch Drain Upgrade

Pre-implementation work continues on the Connor and CMT section including:

- The legalisation process for property purchased is ongoing
- Development of tender documents for planned 2023/24 construction works

Floodway Reserves

- Annual Pine nut harvest due to start on 2 small Wairau Floodway blocks
- A small area of grass at the Blenheim Rowing Club has been fenced off to stop cars skidding around on the grass
- Large iron pipe gates damaged from vandalism at Gibsons Rd and Morrins Hollow are being repaired and reinstalled
- Large tree/debris pile at SH1 was recently burnt. This was material removed from the adjacent bridge piers following the recent Wairau River floods
- A car stolen from Blenheim Airport and burnt out on the Wairau floodway at Cravens Road was removed to the car rental agency in Picton who owned/leased the vehicle
- A number of plants have been ordered for winter planting in various river sites to aid environmental enhancement and enjoyment

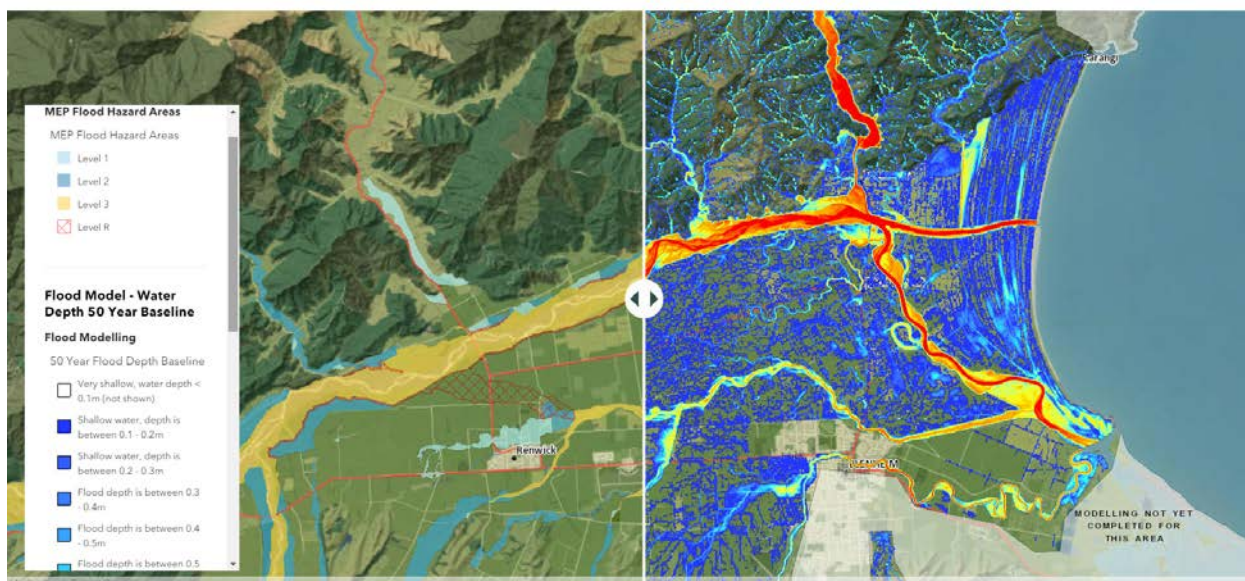
Picton, Sounds and Awatere

Waikawa and Waitohi Rivers

Considerable time and effort is being put into the KiwiRail lease of the Waitohi Domain to ensure flood security of existing stopbanks through the IREX project and limit the loss of flood detention storage.

Investigation and Miscellaneous

- A GIS based app for Flood Hazard Areas has been developed for Marlborough. This app displays the latest results of flood modelling investigations undertaken by Marlborough District Council. The model results represent a prediction of what may happen during flood events of a given rainstorm magnitude with considerations of today's land use, climate and regional flood control schemes.
- At this stage, flood maps are only available for selected areas of the region and for a design event of one in 50 years flood. Updated flood information of one in 100 years flood event has still under development.



MEP Flood Hazard Areas versus Flood Depth 50 Year Baseline.

Gravel Extraction

- The overall gravel extraction allocation total in the Wairau from the Waihopai confluence to SH1 will remain at 90,000m³ for 2023/24. Planned riverbed survey work will determine the quantity to be allocated for the following year.
- Contractors are preparing to start gravel extraction for the 2023/24 year. Fulton Hogan will be extracting from a beach on the Northbank downstream from the SH6 bridge starting early July.

Quarries

Pukaka

There has been minimal sales activity at the quarry through May and June with small quantities of clay material and face rubble being loaded out.

Development work on the quarry extension has been continuing as weather permits. Work consists of stripping/constructing the first three mid-height benches, a new dumper turning area and access road. The excavated clay and weathered rock material is being stockpiled to be used for future stopbank repair and erosion control works.

We are yet to start producing armour grade rock although some rock is expected when the lower of the three new benches is shot. Rock and rubble from Pukaka will be critical for the planned Wairau diversion repair works this coming summer.

Services and Operations

Education Report

(Information prepared by Annie McDonald on behalf of the education team of Annie McDonald, Angela Wentworth and Ramona Millen) E340-001-001-01

Highlights from kindergartens and schools can be found in our term 2 Greenchat [GREENchat - Marlborough District Council](#) sent out to schools at the end of each term.

We keep teachers up to date with related content on our Facebook page - Search EnviroSchools Marlborough and through our local EnviroSchools Marlborough website we share stories through our blog [Blog and Stories - EnviroSchools Marlborough](#)

We also like to share examples of what is happening in our region with the National EnviroSchools team each term through their website [EnviroSchools | Marlborough](#).

This term our first coffee and cake session was on EnviroSchools and the NZ histories curriculum. It gave us an opportunity to share with teachers some interesting local history facts and EnviroSchools activities that tie in with the local curriculum and our environment.

A coffee and cake afternoon was held for the pilot early childhood group at Montessori. It was exciting to see the sustainability work they are building on at their centre.

In conjunction with REAP Marlborough, two teacher workshops were held with guest presenter Celia Hogan in May. Celia presented to 36 early childhood teachers on Wednesday evening sharing the benefits of nature play and how this can build a connection and respect for nature. On Thursday 14 people attended a one-day teacher workshop looking at how children learn from a young age and how experiences in nature can lead to improved learning. She shared examples of how to set up nature activities and how important this was to experience these on a regular basis. She also showed ways to include respect for diversity and cultures through nature connection. Feedback on the workshop from our evaluation forms was very positive with everyone ranking it a 4 or 5 out of 5.

Next steps are to pilot a nature connection programme with a school and early childhood centre using the workshop materials and collaboratively developing a programme and share the resources via our padlet library with teachers.

A few comments from the workshop...

"The information and times to discuss were relevant and helpful" "Working with risks. We have so many rules. Adults to children ratio etc. Working out how to get children outside experiences - efficiently, having fun" "Loved the videos of children in action" "Really well run and set out"

Many visits have been made to schools and early childhood centres this term by our team and support has been given to schools working on inquiry programmes. Here are a few examples. 5 classes from Redwoodtown School did tours of the recycling centre with Annie and learnt about how much waste we produce in our region each year and how much is recycled, where those products go and what they are recycled into. Students found it interesting that their polar fleeces could have been made from plastic bottles! Angela then supported students to make beeswax wraps to reduce packaging in lunch boxes. Students got to choose from some cool material prints they covered in wax and can be reused many times over.

Students from Waikawa School are planning a planting project alongside their school creek and their Envirogroup worked with Angela to look at what plants would be best and how they could attract birds and insects with the plants they choose.

Ramona and Annie ran a reflection with Renwick Kindergarten who reflection at Beyond Green Gold. Renwick Kindergarten then presented at a national early years zoom to share all of the sustainable and caring actions they have taken since achieving green gold. They also worked on creating a new aspirational

vision that gave us all inspiration. It is one really worth sharing and we are excited to see what they do next and support them in this process.

“At Renwick Kindergarten, we are committed to creating a thriving community that embraces sustainability and environmental stewardship. We strive for excellence in all that we do, with a focus on intergenerational impact and empowerment. Our goal is to be a leader in sustainability, not just in our immediate community, but also at a national and global level, alongside mana whenua.

We believe that true sustainability is more than just reducing our carbon footprint. It is about creating a culture of respect, inclusion, and practices which are mana-enhancing for people, places, and things. We are proud to be a community hub where whānau feel welcome, empowered and inspired to make a difference. Our approach is forward-thinking, visionary, and critical.

At Renwick Kindergarten, sustainability is intrinsic to our kaupapa; it is how we think, breathe, and feel. We are dedicated to shaping and growing courageous and visionary thinkers for a future where sustainability is at the forefront of our collective consciousness. Together, we can create a better world for ourselves and future generations. “

Angela with support from Annie hosted a zoom for student Envirogroups on the EnviroSchools Guiding principle Respect for the Diversity of People and Cultures. It was great to be joined by students who took part in learning about the different ways other cultures celebrate Matariki and students shared via our interactive Jamboards ways their schools support this principle with actions in their school. Zooms are a good way to connect to schools who might not have the time to travel in to Envirogroup workshops in person like Linkwater who took part in this one.

Our team have been involved in meetings and professional development related to our roles. Angela attended the Climate Business workshop to make connections that could help schools. Ramona and Angela met with DOC to look at options for Nature connection spaces in our region. Angela and Annie met with representatives from Tasman Bay Guardians who have funds to extend fresh water programmes in the Marlborough area. Annie and Angela met with Forest and Bird to look at options to support student actions with growing and planting natives. We have also attended regular EnviroSchools zooms related to the area of work we are doing.

Next term plans are in place for a coffee and cake session sharing our EnviroSchools resource kits with teachers and we are offering a coffee and cake session on one of our Kids Edible garden topics of seed raising.

Our team are looking forward to taking part in a one-day workshop /training in our region with the new EnviroSchools Kaikōkiri Māori Advisor, Arihia Latham. EnviroSchools is changing the focus of one of its guiding principles- Māori Perspectives to Te Ao Māori so this is a chance for us to learn about these changes and how to incorporate them into our work.

Kids Edible Garden facilitators met at the beginning of this term to look at the term plan for Autumn. You can see in our Greenchat some examples of what schools do in the Kids Edible Garden programme.

Angela and Annie met with the new top of the south Garden to Table Coordinator to see if there were options to look at ways both programmes could support each other. MDC already supports funding for facilitators to work in schools and a coordinator to train and support facilitators. We have thirty plus lesson plans developed for teachers and some schools run a cooking side to the programme although this is not an expectation. Our programme has been operating successfully for 18 years, starting with 6 schools and has grown to 24 schools over a 15-year time frame. Garden to Table funds a regional coordinator but schools need to find funding for a garden and cooking facilitators. It will be interesting to see if any schools in our region want to move to this option which we can support in principle but not financially as we are already delivering a programme in this space.

Waste Management and Minimisation Plan Update (2023)

(Information prepared by Alec McNeil)

W300-006-008-12

The current waste management and minimisation plan 2021-27 (WMMP) was adopted by Council in May 2021. The plan contains four targets which have been updated.

The ***investigate beneficial use of landfill gas by December 2021*** target has been achieved. A report was provided by Tonkin and Taylor during 2021 that set out a number of possible uses for the landfill gas. The uses included introducing a secondary flare to improve gas capture at the landfill, supplying the gas to the hospital as a fuel or using the gas at the landfill for energy generation. Work was undertaken with the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board that concluded that the gas supply to the hospital was not an option that they wished to pursue. Council then ran a procurement process seeking market responses for the beneficial use of landfill gas. The procurement process concluded with a contract award to LMS Energy Limited who has an expertise in operating Biogas plants fuelled from landfill gas. LMS are now monitoring the Bluegums Landfill gas collection system and will report back in the first half of 2024 on the Biogas plant potential.

The ***investigate a regional solution for organic material including green, animal and food wastes by December 2022*** target has not been progressed at this time. The Government released a new waste strategy in March 2023. The new waste strategy includes a focus on reducing the organic loading sent to landfill. In the Marlborough context the majority of organic material is derived from primary industry. Organic processing solutions are currently being trialled by the commercial sector with a report due back by the first quarter of 2024. Once the outcome of these trials is known council will be able to determine its next steps in diverting organic loading from landfill. The target will therefore be extended to December 2024.

The ***retender the waste management and minimisation services and award contracts by November 2023*** target has been achieved. The timeline has changed to provide alignment with Council annual approval processes whilst retaining a minimum 12-month lead in time for the relevant contractors. The procurement process concluded with a Contract award to Waste Management (NZ) Limited. The revised Contract start date is 1 July 2024.

The ***implement, monitor and review the contracts awarded across the period 2024 to 2027*** target is being actioned. Suitable contract performance measurement criteria are being developed in conjunction with the Contractor. This work will be completed by the Contract start date of 1 July 2024.

Emergency Management Activity Report

(Information prepared by Brian Paton)

E200-001-003-04, E200-002-006-03

Welfare and Planning

Tsunami response plan and rapid relief planning

Catherine has developed a draft tsunami response plan and a background document for the provision of rapid relief in a catastrophic disaster. Both items were discussed at the Readiness and Response Committee meeting on 30 May, with a view to ensuring that both documents can be used operationally, and each agency's responsibility is understood and agreed.

Community planning

Catherine and Dave are engaged in helping several communities develop emergency preparedness and response plans. These include Te Whanganui Port Underwood and the communities surrounding Te Aumiti French Pass (including Cissy Bay and Elaine Bay). They also met with Picton representatives on 30 May, to discuss ways in which we can increase community resilience (including emergency preparedness) in that community. Catherine is currently finalising the Rarangi Community Emergency Response Plan and the Wairau Valley plan is being finalised by community members. Catherine will also work towards revising the Havelock plan this year.

Earth Day

Marlborough Emergency Management was invited to have a display at EarthDay (30 April) Picnic in Pollard Park. Dave and Catherine took the opportunity to present a display including tips on emergency preparedness, the Alpine Fault Science Roadshow and NZ-RT20 (Response Team) as well as resources from Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) about how to reduce fire risk through native plantings. This was another great opportunity to have a community presence and attracted considerable interest and discussion from a wide range of people attending the event.

Alpine Fault Science Roadshow

The Alpine Fault Science Roadshow was held from 24-26 May, in Seddon, Linkwater and at Waikawa Marae. The public sessions were well-attended, and it was noticeable from the questions being asked, that people are developing an increased understanding of the issues they could face in such an emergency, as well as a real interest in the science underlying our current and emerging knowledge. Current research suggests that the Wairau Fault may have a history of being triggered by an Alpine Fault rupture, with large earthquakes on the Wairau Fault occurring within a 10-year period of such an event. It is hoped that Jamie Howarth, from Victoria University, who conducted this research can present his findings at the CEG meeting in September.

For those who are interested in finding out more about the Alpine Fault, take a look at the recently completed StoryMap on the AF8 website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/424c14ec8d5a4c32829d21fde9244818>

The AF8 Roadshow team also held workshops with children from years 5-8 at Seddon, Linkwater and Waikawa Bay school prior to the evening sessions. These workshops proved popular with students and reinforced the very real benefits from holding these events in our smaller communities.

Welfare Coordination Group

The Welfare Coordination Group held a forum on 19 April with representatives from a range of community agencies, looking at ways in which we might use existing and new methods to increase emergency preparedness across our communities. This was a lively and interesting session, raising innovative and exciting possibilities, including the use of short videos that can be used in a range of settings (e.g. waiting rooms) to increase public awareness.

Marlborough Primary Sector Network

Catherine is working with the Ministry for Primary Industries to reinvigorate the Marlborough Primary Sector Network. A new term of reference has been developed, a new Chair is being considered and membership of the group has been reviewed to ensure a better representation of primary industries across the region.

Community Resilience and Recovery

Social Recovery

We now have one navigator responding to requests for help and advice from residents affected by the 2021 & 2022 storm events. Jess's work has been primarily centred around supporting insurance claims, working with the MDC building team and co-ordinating psycho/social support initiatives within affected Sounds communities. Both Dave and Jess have been working with the Stantec/MDC team involved in the MSFAS (Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study) project and have participated in the planning discussions related to the study and the work required to successfully share the information to communities. Both will be attending the stand-up community meetings being held in June and are arranging to have psycho/social support from Te Whatu Ora at the meetings to assist and support impacted people.

The Social Recovery hui are continuing to be the primary method to achieve cross organisation contact and briefing in the psycho/social and recovery field. These meetings are held approximately every two months and are an important way of knowing what each organisation is doing. Jess and Dave also meet regularly with Marianne (Alternate Group Recovery Manager) as a means of keeping her updated of what is happening in social recovery.

Resilience & Readiness

Work is continuing with Toa Consultancy to evaluate and analyse the extent of Marlborough's resilience to emergency events. Dave, as the Marlborough Emergency Management (MEM) co-ordinator of this project, is involving all the team in the decision-making process. Sector, individual and group interviews have just about concluded which will help identify gaps in resilience and ultimately help us identify development needs and provide us with information for us to draft a resilience development plan. Work has been done to develop a design brief to produce short video clips to use as public education tools. Toa is due to complete this project in September.

Operational Readiness

IMT (Incident Management Team) Volunteers

Some of the initial reviews following cyclone Gabrielle highlighted shortages of trained staff that were assigned to work in coordination centres. This is something that we need to avoid happening in Marlborough. Our aim is to create a robust and extensive pool of trained volunteers.

An abundant resource for this is MDC staff who would normally not respond as part of their role in Council. With assistance from Council we are contacting every new staff member to undertake inductions into Emergency Management and progress with further training to build up our response capability.

Satellite Communications

The existing portable BGAN satellite communication system is out of date technology, slow, unable to manage the level of data required and has unreliable signal consistency. We are hoping to move into a faster, more reliable, and mobile system such as Starlink. NEMA have offered two units on loan to us for testing.

VHF Radio Network

A key point from the North Island events was the lack of communications. The provision of Starlink systems was an effective solution to this issue, with the South Island's West Coast region alone, providing nineteen

units to the impacted regions. As we currently do not have this technology in Marlborough, we undertook a review of the current VHF radio network. The first draft of the review has been completed and circulated to MEM staff for feedback and discussion. Once finalised we will engage with the relevant districts and present the recommendations. As well as VHF, we have taken part in talks with the other South Island Groups around the viability of HF radio as a viable network.

Marlborough Response Team (NZ-RT20)

The team have been invited to take part in a full-scale exercise in Canterbury involving all South Island teams.

The team was deployed for seven days to the weather events in the North Island. A team of 6 travelling to Auckland and a team of 8 to Hawkes Bay.

There are currently twenty-two members with another five going through the recruitment and induction process at the time of this report.

CIMS (Coordinated Incident Management System) & ITF (Integrated Training Framework)

We have started to deliver the ITF model for Incident Management Team (IMT) training. ITF is the CIMS syllabus but focussed more inside an EOC context. ITF Foundation is aligned to CIMS version 3 introduction and is an online course. ITF Intermediate is more aligned to CIMS 4 and is a face-to-face two-day course. This qualification would be the minimum standard for people wanting to be trained as part of the Incident Management Team. Following on from this we also offer specific training in each of the CIMS functions. Toa Consulting have been engaged to deliver some of these courses which can be funded through the NEMA TEC training fund.

Rapid Disaster Assessment

In any event the collection of information and situation awareness is paramount to launching an effective response. We have identified various organisations and groups (e.g. Department of Conservation) who would have the resources and infrastructure to undertake this task and will soon make contact to offer the necessary training.

EOC Operations Room upgrade.

The MDC IT team are to soon replace and upgrade the existing computer network in the EOC operations room. This will offer a more flexible and adaptable system especially around accommodating liaison staff from other responding agencies.

Controller Course

A two-day Controllers course was hosted at the EOC. Our Group Controller, five alternates were invited. The course was also attended by Response Managers from the Marlborough Incident Management Team, two Iwi representatives and two Emergency Management staff from the West Coast. This enabled them to be up skilled in the ITF syllabus which would allow for consistency of the Controllers role and responsibilities. The course was delivered by Jim Tetlow from Toa Consulting.

Group Manager

The Emergency Management Bill has been introduced into the House on 29 June. This new legislation has significant implications for Lifeline Utilities (named Critical Infrastructure in the Bill) having to demonstrate a high level of preparedness and recognises the roles of iwi in the emergency management space. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) CE will have the ability to develop rules and regulations that Groups will be required to comply with however we will not know what these are until after the Bill comes into law. The Select Committee process is expected to take up to six months so there will be plenty of time for Council to provide comments on the Bill which is expected to be enacted in the third quarter of 2024.

Groups are finding it a challenging to fund the AF8 Programme. South Island Group Manager's met with the NEMA Executive Leadership Team to discuss the possibility of national funding being an option. NEMA have not received any increase in funding for 2023-24 and the organisation has very little discretionary budget. The solution has been to invite the AF8 Programme to bid for \$200,000 per annum from NEMA's Resilience

Fund for the next three years (this seems likely to put Marlborough's current \$150,000 Resilience Fund bid for tsunami modelling in the Sounds in jeopardy). Groups have committed to increase their annual contributions to 15 cents per person which equates to \$182,000 for the South Island or \$7,650 for Marlborough. Rather than reduce the CDEM budget by 3% it has been decided to retain the existing 2022-23 funding but pay for the increased AF8 contribution out of the CDEM budget from now on.

The Waka Kotahi top of the south Senior Leadership Team attended an AF8 briefing in the EOC in May. This was followed by a robust discussion around team welfare and business continuity planning. There will be benefits in having these discussions with other CDEM Groups and we have made the offer to continue to provide expertise where we can to ensure Waka Kotahi are more prepared.

The well-practised initial response was put into practise for a severe weather event on 6 May. Two multi-agency briefings were held prior to the weathers arrival and all the attendees had thorough plans in place to deal with the event. The only outcome of any significance was the closing of SH6 around Canvastown for about four hours during the middle of the day. Sounds roads stood up remarkably well during the deluge.

A presentation/induction was given to the Joint Committee (Councils Assets & Services Committee are the 'Group' under the CDEM Act) by NEMA and MEM. Topics covered included the local governance and operational structures of the Group, the makeup of the Group Office, legislative mandates including functions and powers of the Group, the Marlborough Group Plan, the duty officer system, and elected officials' roles before, during and after an emergency.

On Friday 19 May a national warning was received from the MAR (Monitoring, Alerting & Reporting Centre) of a 7.7M (38km deep) earthquake 400 km off the Loyalty Islands causing a tsunami. Prior to the MAR sending out an impact assessment map the Harbour Master and Council's Comms Manager were alerted. As it turned out the assessment indicated strong currents and less than a 0.3m wave on the West Coast of the South Island. No further action was therefore required. The following day another national warning was received for a 7.1M (36km deep) close to the previous quake. This one was quite rapidly assessed as posing no threat to New Zealand.

Rather than develop three separate catastrophic plans for the Hikurangi subduction zone, the Alpine Fault and Taranaki Maunga the NEMA Planning Team have decided to develop one hazard agnostic National CAT Plan. This will be in the form of a Handbook and is due to be completed by September 2024. This will involve all the NEMA Planning Team and will require significant input from all Group Office's. As a result, the NEMA Regional Planners will no longer be focussed on providing support to Groups to develop hazard specific regional plans such as the AF8 work. It is therefore unclear at this point how AF8 planning will proceed, particularly regarding the SAFER Framework which is due for a substantial review/rewrite.

NEMA are looking to increase the number of individuals who are capable of carrying out the National Controller role. They are inviting Group Managers to express interest in the role and are hoping to recruit 2-3 to the role. Paton is not putting his hand up.

The Alternate National Crisis Management Centre project is gaining further traction with about 400 public servants in Auckland being identified as potentially available to assist in operating the centre during an emergency. These folk will come from agencies such as StatsNZ, IRD, Customs and the Serious Fraud Office. NEMA are now looking at how these staff can be trained and kept current in their NCMC roles.

Post the Auckland severe weather event and ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle there are a number of After-Action Reviews in the pipeline. These will include one carried out by the NEMA, and a Ministerial Review. The initial Auckland Flood Response Review has been completed by Bush International Consulting and a full copy can be found here: https://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/media/je3potln/auckland-flood-response-review_january-27-29-2023.pdf

Auckland Flood Response Review

The summary and key finding were:

As reviewers, we were tasked by the Mayor of Auckland to undertake an independent, 'rapid review' of four dimensions of Auckland Council's emergency management response over the first 48-hours of this event.

System Deficiency

We note here, in summary, several high-level findings that cut across all four areas, including:

- Auckland Council's emergency management system, its operating model and the relevant plans, policies, and procedures, was not prepared for an event of this magnitude and speed.
- Gaps in preparedness, including for flood and superstorm emergencies, were known to key Council decision makers in advance, but, at the time of this flood event, they remained works in progress.
- Relationship and communication protocols between the key players at Auckland Council with CDEM roles - including the Mayor, Chair of the Council's CDEM Committee, Chief Executive, and emergency management staff - were not sufficiently inclusive in the critical early stages of the event.
- Senior leaders underestimated the importance of their visible leadership roles. This had adverse impacts on communications and public confidence.
- The Council's emergency management team appeared to lack the command, crisis leadership skills and operational experience to deal with an event of this complexity, particularly in driving mission clarity and taskings during the initial response.
- Critical Council emergency management roles and delegations were unclear, both within the Council and to partner response agencies.
- The crisis exposed weaknesses in the Council's emergency management systems, tools and agency/community/tangata whenua relationships, which slowed the response, reduced situational awareness, and led to inadequate early intelligence to support public safety information and decision making.
- The move to supercity planning for emergencies seems to have contributed to an optimism bias that Auckland Council's size and systems could handle anything; and
- Rather than a model based on central planning and localised delivery, the Council's emergency response was premised largely on centralised coordination and delivery of response. In the event, this weakened the localised intelligence flows that could have supported better targeted community responses.

Lessons Learnt

In this report, we suggest a number of specific areas in which the operating model for Auckland emergency management can be improved.

- Most importantly however, the issues of leadership exposed by this crisis must be addressed.
- Key leaders in Auckland City failed to appreciate the vital importance of visible leadership and frequent public communication during a time of crisis.
- Effective leadership in a crisis goes directly to public confidence in elected leaders, and thus to the overall health of our democratic institutions.
- Within Auckland Council, there was opportunity for better advice and support to the Mayor's office both before and during the event – by the Chief Executive and his officials about how to provide leadership, information, and assurance to the public during emergencies.
- During the weather emergency, the Mayor and his team should also have been more active in demanding information and asking questions of the Chief Executive, his officials, and the emergency management team.

All those in key roles needed to view and react to the developing emergency through both a strategic leadership and a tactical response lens (and noting the differing roles that applied prior to and after the emergency being declared). Doing so may well have resulted in an earlier declaration of emergency.

As the night of Friday 27 January unfolded, Aucklanders expected and needed clear and regular messaging, delivered with empathy via multiple channels, to understand the seriousness of the event, to know where to go and how to get help, and to gain assurance that the crisis was being actively managed by their elected and professional leaders.

Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report

(Information prepared by Jane Tito, Brad Molony, Carolyn Jones, Grahame Smail, Kiri Whiteman, Linda Craighead, Mike Lawson, Murray Morgan, Rachel Hutchinson, Rebecca Moorhouse, Regan Russell, Robert Hutchinson, Robyn Blackburn, Ross Laybourn)

R510-009-000-01, R510-006-02, R510-005-04-02, R800-005-03

Blenheim Parks

Pollard Park

Staff have finished the last of the annual plantings for the spring flower season in all the gardens at Pollard Park and finished planting the bulbs amongst them. There were 18,000 annuals planted and about 6,000 bulbs.

Currently we are cutting down the perennials and weeding through the perennial border, also doing normal maintenance in the rest of the gardens.

Within the last couple of weeks, we have replaced around 30 rose bushes as they had become diseased and needed to be removed. This is an ongoing programme we have in place to keep the rose gardens healthy and up to date. In approximately two weeks' time we will be carrying out our annual winter prune of the rose beds, including advertised time slots for public demonstrations.

With the amount of rain recently it has become increasingly difficult to get mowers and vehicles into the park to do work. This makes doing jobs more difficult, and slower.

Seymour Square

Staff have completed the planting of the annuals in the main flower beds at Seymour. Planting has been a little slower than normal, with wet weather and slow seedling growth taking longer to get the plants large enough for planting out to ensure a higher survival rate.

Between planting times staff have been doing normal maintenance on the rest of the park. We have planted a selection of new trees, mainly the flowering cherry on the back side of Henry Street.

Staff purchased about 75 trees for Pollard Park and Seymour Square, with a planting plan for Seymour Square and the remainder into Pollard Park and the Blenheim Golf Course.



Seymour Square/Henry Street boundary

Athletic Park

A housing development along Brewer Street that borders Athletic Park is affecting the parking availability for users of the sports park. Council is reviewing the impact on the users and looking for a practical solution. The users of the park will be further impacted with another Kāinga Ora development now underway on Stratford Street.

Lansdowne Park

Council successfully applied to the Better Off Fund for funding a report on the costs of changing the main light on the number 1 field to LED technology. An electrical engineer has been engaged to undertake this investigative work.



After discussions with the Tasman rugby teams in Nelson and Blenheim, the media tower at Lansdowne Park is to be painted scarlet, Marlborough colours.

The uncovered wooden seating on the east grandstand has had a makeover; some timber has been replaced and seating painted and re numbered.

Lansdowne Hub

Opawa Rugby Reunion

The Opawa Rugby Reunion was held at Lansdowne Hub over King's Birthday weekend, with former players, administrators and supporters having the chance to share memories and catch up with old acquaintances.

In 1994, Opawa officials elected to combine with two other Blenheim clubs, Old Boys and Redwood, to form the Harlequins club, their headquarters are based at Lansdowne Park. In recognition of the reunion and this amalgamation of clubs, the Harlequins Senior A team played in the Opawa rugby strip on the Saturday of the reunion, where they did the old players proud with a win over a good Awatere side, 38-13.



One School Global

Carrying on from last year's inaugural multi school sports event, children traveling from Greymouth, Westport, Nelson and Marlborough all congregated at Lansdowne for a fun day of sport, utilising the rugby fields, netball courts, volleyball courts and the Hub on 15 June. This year, after seeing the great facilities the Hub had to offer, One School Global hired the whole complex and were able to utilise the changing rooms, toilets, main function room and kitchen where they were able to cook and serve lunch for the children attending the event.



Riverside Park

Contractors have been working hard to open the boardwalk around the river's edge. Large amounts of silt have been removed and sections of rotting timber have been replaced. Due to the length of time the timber boardwalk has been underwater the boards are saturated and will take some time to dry. This will mean that sections of boardwalk are slippery and will remain so for some time. Once all clearing and cleaning works are completed, frost grit will be spread on the boardwalk to help reduce the slips hazards on the boardwalk.



Brian Soper Reserve, BPOT

A recent unfortunate incident along the Brian Soper Reserve (Boulevard Park on Taylor development) where a potential well-meaning local made a decision to overdose the green space with round up (Glyphosate). The results of this action will now be an extra cost to the rate payer for Council to manage the repair of the grounds. Incidents like these do not differ from other vandalism that we see in many of our open space areas.



Ferry Bridge Reserve

A newly installed naming sign was damaged at the reserve. The story the tyre tracks tell is the existing access spaces weren't big enough to get a bike through so the perpetrator made the space bigger to get a vehicle through.



Taylor River Reserve

The disc golf course along the Taylor River was vandalised with three tee pads and a basket damaged. Fortunately, the damage was on the minor scale and a contractor had already been engaged to complete the covering of the nine remaining tee pads to complete the course.



Grovetown Reserve

A new playground is planned for the open space area at Grovetown Reserve. Staff are working with local resident Dr Lorraine Ede (who has Iwi affiliations to Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Rārua, Rangitane, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Koata, Te Atiawa and Ngai Tahu) on the consultation and concept planning. Lorraine has kindly offered to consult with local iwi and Grovetown School to progress this development.

Renwick Parks

Ongoing amenity improvements are being carried out across berms, banks and parks and open space sites in and around the Renwick Township and environs. This work, for the most part, involves planting of trees and shrubs particularly around boundary margins or at sites that are difficult or 'ground hog' waste type task areas to maintain.

Such plantings have the advantage of reducing ongoing forever maintenance and improve the general look and feel (amenity values) of the given sites.

Picton Parks

Tirohanga Foot Bridge

Due to the 2021 and 2022 rain events, the footings for the footbridge at the Garden Terrace end of the Tirohanga Track had gradually eroded and have been undermined. Following an engineering inspection, it was determined that re-piling of the posts would be required, with additional bracing for longevity. During the work, the handrails were also made compliant to current standards.

Davidson Engineering designed the new piles and TGS Earthworks were contracted to undertake the works.



Picton Dawn Chorus

PDC have submitted their quarterly report for the period January to March 2023. Since the PDC have been trapping on MDC land, the total number of predators caught is 223. The table below is for the period January to March 2023.

Area	Traps	Rats	Possums	Stoats	Weasels	Hedgehogs	Mice
Essons Valley	Pukeko	14	11	1			5
	Kotuku	4	3				2
Victoria Domain	Kakariki	3	1			1	4
	Tara		2				1

Area	Traplines	Rats	Possums	Stoats	Weasels	Hedgehogs	Mice
	Pipwharuroa	2					4
	Induction						1
	Korimako	2	1				1
	Kaka		1				2
	Ruru	3	1			1	7
	Tui	2				1	1
	Takapu Terrace	1	1				
	Riroriro	1	3				
	Korora	43					
	Kiwi	1	1				6
	Kokako	3	2				2
	Kotare	2					1
	Kakaruwai	3					8
	Torrea Terrace	5	1				
	Tieke						
	Kereru	3				1	15
	Weka	2	1				10
	Upper Huia	7					
	Lower Huia	2	2				
	Hoiho	3	2				3
	Piwakawaka	4					2
Picton West	Tarapunga						
Totals		110	33	1	0	4	75

Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve

A log type bench seat has been placed on the top of the breakwater and has a bait cutting board and rod holders attached to the bench for people fishing at this site to use. If this is well received a second such bench can be placed.

Some top-up rock work to the breakwater is programmed as is ongoing woody weed control (gorse, broom, rouge oaks and the like) along the southern roadside bank margin of the reserve and esplanade strip.

Port Marlborough Pavilion

South Island Masters Rowing Championship

The South Island Masters Rowing Championships were staged in Picton Harbour over King's Birthday weekend, with over 250 rowers representing 17 different clubs. Teams came from as far afield as Invercargill and Cambridge. The Port Marlborough Pavilion hosted the prizegiving dinner, which was a great celebration for all involved.



Marlborough Team Challenge

The Marlborough Team Challenge continues the legacy of other events like the Marlborough Mount Everest Challenge in encouraging Marlborough residents to get active in a social environment. Each team in the challenge will aim to complete the virtual course from Marlborough to Milford Sound over the course of the challenge. That's a staggering 997km in just six weeks. Walking, running and cycling are all encouraged and participants can either enter their activity manually or sync with Fitbit, Garmin Connect, Apple Health and Google Fit. An activity conversion chart also allows participants to convert their elliptical training, dancing, tennis, wheeling on a wheelchair and other exercise activities into steps.

There will be medals awarded to teams and individuals for the following categories:

- **Teams:** Total Distance. Sorted by the total distance per team over the 6 weeks. 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- **Teams:** Average Distance. Sorted by the average distance per team member over the 6 weeks. 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- **Teams:** Fastest to complete challenge. Sorted by the team that completes the virtual route in the fastest time. 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- **Teams:** Best team photo.
- **Individual:** Total Distance. Sorted by the total distance per participant. 1st, 2nd and 3rd
- **Individual:** Best selfie.



Northern Marlborough/Sounds

Work on wayfinding signage and interpretation panels in Havelock has entered its second phase with Ngati Kuia and the Havelock Community Association to provide their feedback on the proposed locations and accompanying stories. This project has been part funded by the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

District Public Conveniences

Renewal renovations and upgrades:

Seddon Township – new inserted in-wall to paper dispenser roll holders to reduce vandalism.

Shelly Beach Reserve – new roof roto vent to improve cubicle ventilation and ongoing issues with mechanical fans.

Rifle Range - new inserted in-wall to paper dispenser roll holders to reduce vandalism.

Seddon Township - new inserted in-wall to paper dispenser roll holders to reduce likelihood of vandalism are programmed for install at this main through route public toilet.

Blenheim Railway Station - internal renovations and modernisation of this highly used (especially by visitors) public toilet is programmed.

Picton Foreshore Reserve (under museum) - internal renovations and some modernisation of this highly used (especially by visitors) public toilet is programmed. Improvement to the internal ventilation is part of this work.

Brayshaw Park – internal renovations and modernisation of the visitor's toilet block (circa 1960's) underway.

Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve - new inserted in-wall to paper dispenser roll holders to reduce likelihood of vandalism is programmed.

Bobs Bay – install of a small cleaners cupboard to assist with routine cleaning of this remote site toilet facility, install of a small water capture tank with 'hidden tap' (inside the cleaner's cupboard) to provide water for cleaners, new toilet pan shoot and seat to improve safety.

Toilet Facility Vandalism

Sadly, there have been numerous ongoing occurrences of often very destructive and challenging vandalism over the past period. This causes inconvenience to everyday community use and is often difficult to deal with for the maintenance contractors. Repairs to public toilet facilities is very much time sensitive and every effort is applied to the remedial actions required to limit any disruption.

Staff and contractors continually review what measures are possible to curb vandalism to fixtures, fittings, surfaces, doors and door mechanisms but, in most cases, the options are limited and the nature of the damage can be expensive to repair.

District Cemeteries

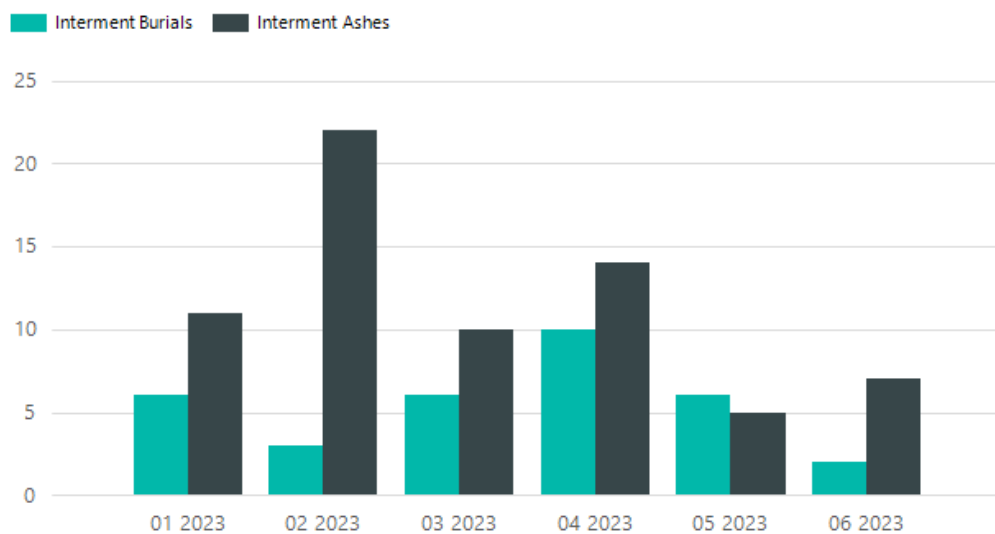
Interment Summary Chart - January 2023 to June 2023

Cemetery	Burial Month	Burial	Ashes	Cemetery	Burial Month	Burial	Ashes
Fairhall	January	5	5	Picton	January	0	1
	February	2	15		February	0	3
	March	5	8		March	1	1
	April	4	6		April	0	2
	May	5	5		June	0	1
	June	2	4	Rai Valley	April	1	1
Havelock	February	0	1	Seddon	January	1	1

Cemetery	Burial Month	Burial	Ashes	Cemetery	Burial Month	Burial	Ashes
	March	0	1		April	0	1
	April	1	0		June	0	1
Omaka	January	0	2	Ward	January	0	2
	February	1	3		April	1	0
	April	3	4				
	May	1	0				
	June	0	1				

Totals: Burials = 33, Ashes = 69

Interment Summary (Monthly)



Natural Burials – There were 2 interments in the Natural Burial area at Fairhall during this period.

Cemetery staff representatives attended the biennial *NZ Cemeteries and Crematoria Collective* conference in Wellington in early May 2023. This was particularly worthwhile as it gave us the opportunity to listen to a wide range of speakers on their specialist subjects, as well as a chance to discuss ideas and ask questions of cemetery staff from other Councils. We found this especially helpful with regards to our Natural Burial area at Fairhall Cemetery which was established in 2015. Since that time there have been 20 burials in this area.

Our intention is to offer a range of options for interments and remembrance across our cemeteries and including natural burials is part of this mindset. Some reasons that people opt for a natural burial include: a more meaningful connection with nature, the wish to have as little environmental impact as possible or a desire to be laid to rest in a bush or park-like area rather than a traditional cemetery.

The Natural Burial area at Fairhall has been certified as such by Natural Burials NZ.

Some aspects of a natural burial are:

- Bodies are not embalmed.
- Coffins or shrouds are to be made of non-treated material.
- Burial takes place within the active soil layer, which is not as deep as usual burials.
- No artificial artefacts to be interred with the body and natural clothing fibres encouraged.
- Grave marking is by way of a temporary, non-treated wooden marker. This is not replaced when it breaks down.
- The placement of artificial memorials or commemorative artefacts on the site is not permitted. Graves can be located in future, if necessary, by using the recorded GPS coordinates.

- A tree is selected by the family to be planted on, or near, the gravesite.

The last day of the Wellington conference included a field trip to the first certified Natural Burial area in NZ, at Makara Cemetery. There have been over 300 burials in this area since 2009. With what we learned from this trip, we were able to review and update our list of trees that families may choose, now including a wider range of native shrubs, as well as small or medium-sized trees. The MDC Natural Burial brochure has since been updated and includes this list alongside photos of each plant. Our vision for this site is to see it become a tranquil area for families, friends and whanau to visit and remember their loved ones, whilst enjoying the natural bush and birdlife. Seating and a walkway near the river are included in the future plans for this area.



Cemetery Improvements and Renovations

Good progress is being made across a number of the cemetery sites to 'repair' heritage grave structures where no family descendants are involved in caring for such. Care of the historic nature of the cemetery heritage burial structures has the added advantage of improving the overall look and feel of the cemetery and reduces often tricky maintenance areas. Staff and contractors (working at the cemeteries) have received very good feedback from the public regarding this improvement and care work.

Cemetery Plans

The cemetery plans (for Councils 8 administered and managed cemeteries), originally completed in mid-2018, are currently being scheduled for a refresh. Given the evolving nature of cemetery sites it is important to ensure these planning documents retain relevancy and as many of the original development or improvement outcomes have been achieved.

Once completed the intention will be to bring such back to council and ultimately make the plans available on council's web site to compliment other cemetery related documents and information.

District Memorials

In conjunction with the refresh of the cemetery plans, an omnibus memorial plan is being developed for the key war memorials and other miscellaneous significant memorial sites. A key focus of these plans is to ensure key information related to each of the memorial is readily available in one source (similar to that of the cemetery plans) and that these significant community memorial sites are provided good practice care over the longer term. This work is progressing.

Seddon War Memorial Hall – minor work to improve the internal main hall lower wall covering is planned.

Swimming pools

Seddon Pool – minor work to the pool plant room is planned to improve internal ventilation to the plant room and chemical store.

Walking and cycling

A short section of the popular Marina to Marina track that passes the area where the stand of western red cedar has been removed, has been re-gravelled and new water culvert installed.

Within the Wither Hills Mountain Bike Park, a walker or cyclist has left a gate open allowing cows grazing in the adjacent area to access the bike park. Unfortunately, due to the tracks being wet they caused a lot of damage. Work to remediate this will occur in the coming weeks. This is the nature of operating recreational activities adjacent to farming activities.



Trees

Ongoing amenity improvements are being carried out across various berms, banks, parks and open space sites around Waitohi/Picton and Waikawa. This, for the most part, involves planting of trees and shrubs particularly at sites that are difficult or 'ground hog' waste type task areas to maintain.

Such plantings have the advantage of reducing ongoing forever maintenance and improve the general look and feel (amenity values) of the given sites.

Victoria Domain

Removal of a stand of western red cedar as one of the Victoria Domain Reserve management plan, actions was completed during the past period and the area monitored for woody weed regrowth. Some native replanting is planned in conjunction with Picton Dawn Chorus and any other interested groups and will be progressively undertaken over the next year or two as the area reverts to native bush land. While the area looks to some a bit raw at present, in the near future some regrowth will make it look much better.

Queen Charlotte Lookout

Clearance of some woody weed Prunus trees and other rouge shrubs was cleared from over the bank to ensure the outstanding panoramic views at this site are retained for all to enjoy. The large flagpole is to get a structure inspection and renewal of some of the wire stays.

Playgrounds

Scotland Street Reserve - a refresh of the play equipment, removal of bark and replacement with rubber matting safety surfacing, provision of shade and other visitor/user amenities such as seating and or picnic tables was completed.

Picton Foreshore Reserve - the six large triangular shade sails have been taken down to be hot wash cleaned. These sails have given no issues and proven very robust and fit for purpose. Once cleaned and reinstalled they will look as good as new and will be able to be up for another six years.

Havelock – a new playground is programmed for Havelock Memorial reserve. Havelock school children are currently working on their wish list for the new playground.

Anakiwa/Tirimoana – a new playground is also programmed for Tirimoana Reserve. The community will be consulted on the type and location of the playground within the reserve. The options are a modular type located near the pétanque court or a nature play style further up in the reserve, complimenting nature path Small Townships are installing.

Policy and planning

Resource consents

Resource consents are in preparation to enable freedom camping at five sites where camping is provided for in the Council's Responsible Camping Control Bylaw 2022. This includes consents for four new sites at Opouri Road (Carluke Domain), Alfred Stream, Renwick Dog Park and the Wash Bridge Recreation Reserve. The fifth resource consent is for the Wairau Diversion.

A consent had been applied for some time ago and efforts to resolve concerns of submitters through the consent had not been successful. As a consequence, the consent is being redrafted to try and deal with submitters concerns. It is anticipated that the consents will be lodged within the next couple of weeks.

Marlborough Environment Plan improvements

A number of improvements are being proposed to the Marlborough Environment Plan insofar as they affect the operations of the Parks and Open Spaces section. The Environment and Planning Committee has approved reviewing notable tree provisions and various rezonings and Parks and Open Spaces staff will work with the Policy team to prepare a variation to the MEP for consideration by the Committee. A third matter for review (relating to signage) has yet to be considered by the Environment and Planning Committee.

Notable trees

The permitted activity rules for maintenance/pruning of notable trees are limiting in some circumstances. When resource consents are required for maintenance/pruning the main condition imposed requires adherence to arborists advice and supervision. If the advice through provision of a qualified arborist report and then supervision of the pruning can be dealt with as permitted activity standards, then this would obviate the need for a resource consent.

Additionally, the rules for activities within the Tree Protection Zone need reconsideration. The extent of the zone is extensive meaning in some cases an activity on the opposite side of a street from the tree may require consent.

Zoning

A review of some zonings for land administered by the Parks and Open Spaces team is proposed. The reasons for the changes include where:

- through the subdivision process the Council has acquired new reserves or additions to existing reserves and a change is needed from Urban Residential to an Open Space zone;
- the current zoning in the PMEP is no longer appropriate to manage the activities that take place on the land; and
- potential zoning errors that may require amending.

Signs

A change to the rules regarding the number of signs per site on Open Space Zones is necessary. Currently the rule provides for **only one sign per site** as a permitted activity.

Most parks would have more than one sign, particularly where there are different entry and exit points. Clearly this rule has a significant impact for our parks and reserves and cemeteries. Therefore, a change needs to be made to the rule.

Wither Hills Farm Park Management Plan Review

In total, the Council received 94 submissions by the close of the feedback period. The information contained in the feedback was very thoughtful and has provided the Council with a range of suggestions and views to consider. A summary of the feedback has been prepared and will be circulated to submitters and be made available on the website. A full copy of the feedback will also be available on the website.

Our consultant, who has been contracted to assist in the review, will be considering the submissions over the next few months and working towards developing a draft plan.

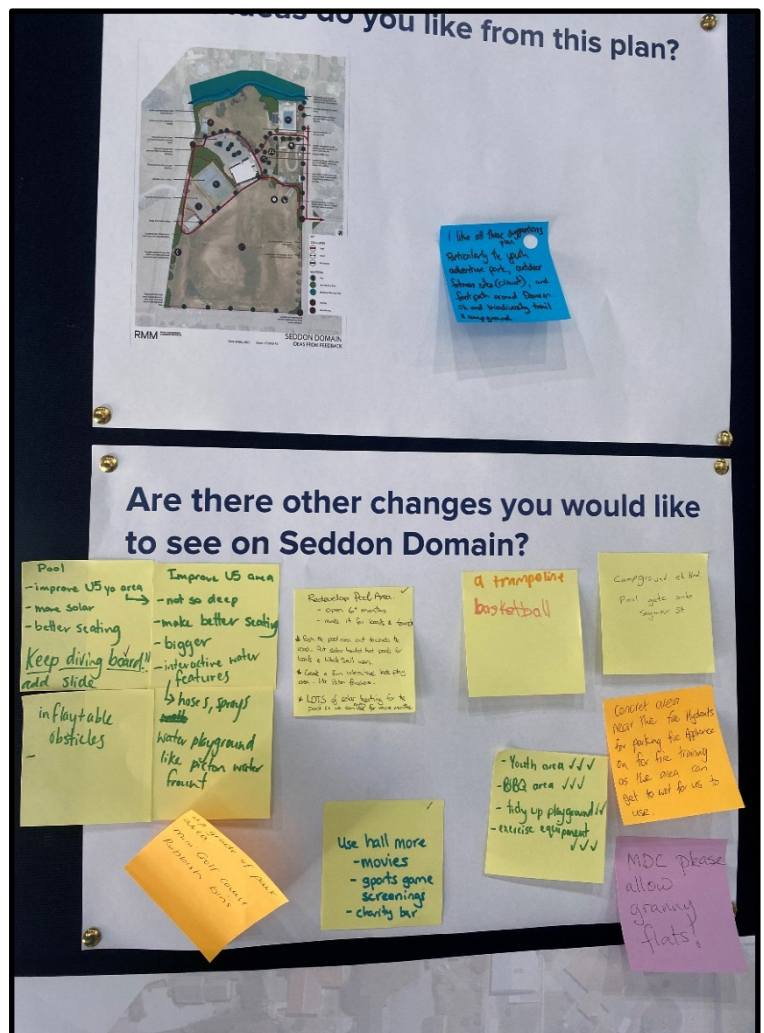
Seddon Domain RMP

A review of the very old reserve management plan for Seddon Domain has been underway for some time but due to other work commitments the review has not progressed to a draft plan as yet. With the Small Townships Programme getting underway in Seddon, a decision was made to reinvigorate the consultation process for the reserve management plan.

An early round of consultation on the management plan review occurred a couple of years ago and this highlighted a number of improvements and/or suggestions for how the Domain could be used. The feedback had been compiled in the form of a plan of the Domain with a range of the suggestions included.

A copy of this plan was used for the purposes of a recent consultation at Seddon on 14 May. A display was set up at the Village Green café but on the day there was a very low turnout from the local community. A decision was then made to shift the display to the information centre providing locals with another couple of weeks to provide some feedback.

The ideas shown on the plan and the feedback received since, will help to inform development of the draft reserve management plan. It is hoped that a draft plan will be able to be workshopped with Councillors later in the second half of the year.



Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Reserve Management Plan

Drafting is nearly complete of this management plan. Further discussions with the Te Whanau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Society on the draft will occur prior to the documents being workshopped with Councillors.

Rangers' Report

The reserve rangers have been kept busy over the last three months with a large amount of illegal dumping. While the small amounts of litter such as bottles and general rubbish have caused the usual issues for the Rangers, things such as whiteware dumped in the Wairau Awa have proved more tricky to remove.

Given the chilly weather, it's not unexpected there has been a rise in illegal tree removal and wood cutting on Council land.

A recent successful conviction in the Blenheim Court for breaching a trespass notice for illegal wood harvesting on Council land has hopefully deterred other illegal wood harvesters from taking wood from river reserves, particularly flood protection reserves.

Ranger staff will continue to monitor the operations on the river reserves.

Road Safety Coordinator Update

Winter Driving Road Safety

A recent campaign warning drivers of how winter driving conditions can mean a need to keep windscreens clear was carried out over Road Safety week in May. Both Picton and Blenheim offices had winter packs to give out as part of the promotion

Young Driver Safety

Supporting Families has been successful in being one of the nominated Marlborough MSD driver licence programme providers, however not for the numbers we were hoping for. Supporting Families will be contracted to support 10 people through the Restricted Licence test and 10 people through the full licence test.

Cycle Safety

There have been several students out learning roundabout use skills as part of their on-road Ride-on training. The uptake for Ride-on in the schools has been high this year and we will be able to confirm numbers in the next information pack. Subsidised E-bike training is being offered on a regular basis in Marlborough.

We are increasing the number of cyclists who have on-road training. Now we need to provide the cycling routes that provide safe access for cyclists to get where they need to go and then we can achieve our aim to have more people using active transport.



Images of our Treasure Hunt winners in April

Child Car Seat Restraints



Our community group is working well together to decide on what would suit our community best.

Eight people from partner agencies have just completed their first Child Restraint Technician training session on their way to be certified. This means agencies will be able to work with their own whanau to ensure tamariki are kept safe in vehicles on the road.

Council and Road Safety budgets covered the cost of the training and agencies involved include Police, Plunket, Te Piki, and Pacific Trust.

Older Road Users



Hariata Hema – National Staying Safe Course Coordinator (Age Concern) delivered a course herself in Picton on Wednesday 10 May. Normally the local Age Concern office would deliver courses in their region.

Hariata contacted the Road Safety Coordinator the week before the scheduled event to advise of the workshop and an invitation to attend. Hariata was disappointed that only six drivers had registered at that stage but was keen to get the workshop delivered in Picton. She apologised for the late notice to Council.

We asked the local Grey Power office to distribute information about the workshop through their member e-mail system which they happily did on the Friday before the event. By the following Tuesday Hariata had 30 people registered and had to turn people away. Obviously Hariata was thrilled with the response.

While staying Safe is for drivers there is also a segment about Life Without a Car and support people can find in the community.

Property and Community Facilities Project Report

(Information prepared by Maighan Watson)

Blenheim Streetscape Upgrade – High, Wynen and Symons Street

The immediate area around MLAG is now complete and open to the public. Following King's Birthday weekend, subcontractor Fulton Hogan moved the TMP to High Street west (Farmers entrance to Bento), to begin the next stage of construction. As well as paving and new street furniture, High Street west also includes the refurb of two vehicle crossings, lifting the existing bricks and replacing these with reinforced exposed aggregate concrete (Fig 5 & 6). Following this stage, Fulton Hogan will move to the Raupo entranceway, back to Wynen Street to finish the storm water renewal, before resurfacing the High Street car park. Project completion is programmed for August 2023.



Fig 1: Streetscape upgrade, The Quays



Fig 2: Streetscape upgrade, MLAG



Fig 3: Streetscape upgrade, High Street



Fig 4: Streetscape upgrade, High Street toilet



Fig 5: Streetscape upgrade, High Street west

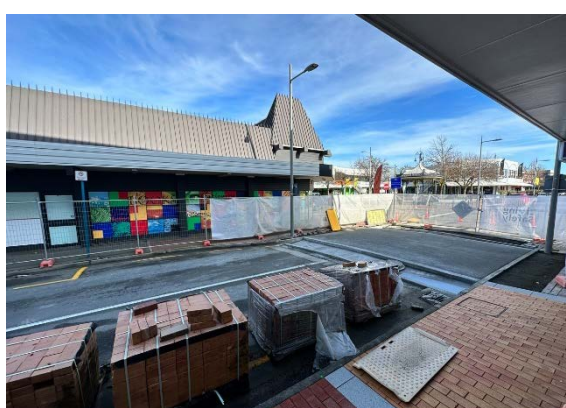


Fig 6: Streetscape upgrade, High Street west

The Marlborough Mile – Blenheim Business Association

'The Last of the Stragglers' sculpture, designed and fabricated by local artist Tony Matthews, has been installed in The Forum. With the help of Downers, Mr Matthews transported the completed sculptures to town, lifting the pieces via hiab onto pre-constructed concrete plinths. Mr Matthews then proceeded to reinforce the sculptures, filling each with concrete and firmly setting each of the rebar's.

The focus for the Marlborough Mile in the coming months will be the story boards for each site. Council has engaged Juliet Gibbons, previously an MDC Communications Advisor, who will be working closely with local stakeholders and the Council design team to finalise the background and industry stories for each of the 4 completed sites: Heritage, Climate, Aviation and Agriculture.



Fig 7: Marlborough Mile, 'The Last of the Stragglers' sculpture



Fig 8: Marlborough Mile, 'The Last of the Stragglers' sculpture

London Quay Precinct Upgrade, Picton

Planning and design is underway to rejuvenate London Quay in Picton. Led by the Parks & Open Spaces team, three themes for the redevelopment were identified; Improved connection from the port, foreshore to the town centre, improving and creating attractive places to eat and walk, and improving the pedestrian and vehicle experience in a share space. Over the next two months staff, and the RMMLA design team will touching base with previously consulted parties to revisit the London Quay design. The design has moved away from the previously consulted plan to a more pedestrian focused design, with soft landscaping traffic calming and flexible public-use spaces.



Fig 9: London Quay redevelopment



Fig 10: London Quay redevelopment, 3D artist render

Senior Housing development - 85 George Street, Blenheim

Work is tracking well for the 12-unit Senior Housing development, with contractor T & D Construction now moving onto the second storey. Work is currently focused on the southern end of the development, with the first six units underway. Fibre is also ongoing, with the lift connection now installed and existing services undergrounded. The development requires an electrical network upgrade, for which Marlborough Lines have provided a design proposal for and is expected to be completed in July 2023.



Fig 11: 85 George Street development, second storey framing going up



Fig 12: 85 George Street development, 3D Render



Fig 13: 85 George Street development



Fig 14: 85 George Street development

Marlborough Hockey Turf – Marlborough Girls’ College, Nelson Street

The tender process for the Hockey Turf project concluded in late May and the 6 month contract was awarded to local civil contractor Findlater Construction. Findlaters are tasked with both the construction of the new Hockey Turf and the associated car park. Site possession occurred on the 12th June 2023. In the first few weeks Findlaters have constructed the new temporary fence around the construction site, demarcating the site from the college (Fig 16). The contractor has also demolished existing MOE out-buildings, completed the site set-out, cleared vegetation and completed the construction of the new vehicle crossing and site entry point off Nelson Street (SH 6).



Fig 15: Hockey Turf project, approximate site outline on Nelson Street (SH6)



Fig 16: Hockey Turf project, site fencing installed and awaiting scrim

Record No. 23135315