



Infrastructure & Community Facilities



Retaining wall under construction Queen Charlotte Drive

Contents

Marlborough Roads	1
Local Road Asset Management Report – August 2026.....	1
Marlborough Roads Recovery June 2026 Project Report	8
Rivers and Drainage Section – Activity Report.....	20
River Management.....	20
River Projects and Assets	20
Marlborough District Libraries – Looking Back at the Year Ended 30 June 2026	25
Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report	38
Blenheim Parks	38
Renwick Parks	41
Picton Parks	41
District Cemeteries	43
Walking and Cycling.....	44
Trees	45
Playgrounds	45
Policy and Planning.....	47
Rangers’ Report	48

Local Road Asset Management Report – August 2026

(Information prepared by Damian Ford)

R800-007-02

Summary

The IDC and the Professional Services contract both commenced on 1 July 2026, as did the Marlborough Sounds Maintenance Contracts.

Other Business:

During the July weather event there were multiple road closures due to flooding and slips, which crews attended to ensure that the roads were safe and reopened as soon as possible.

The weather event and also the change in contracts has had a direct impact on work being undertaken, combined with the natural slowdown during the winter months. Notwithstanding this, the refresh of multiple school crossings, including the upgrade of Kea Crossings, has been undertaken, as well as ongoing improvements to footways and the installation of new cycle stations.

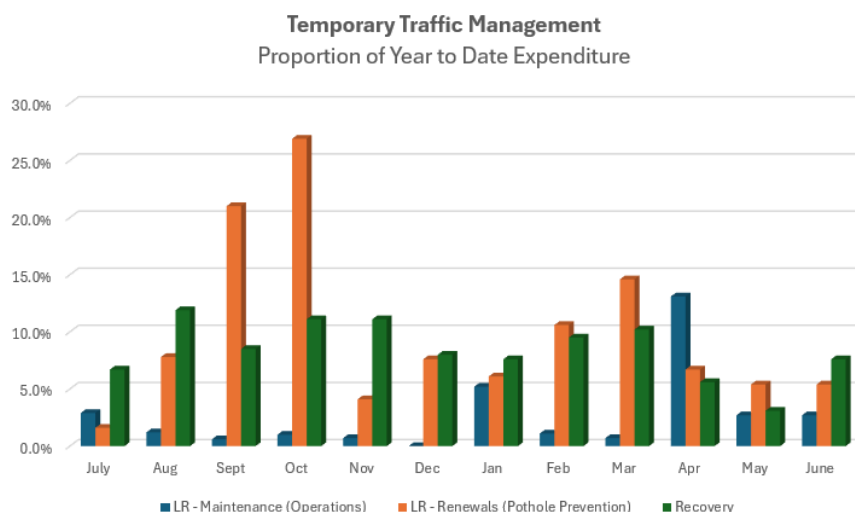
Performance Reporting

Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) and pothole reporting are quarterly based, with the last reporting period ending in June 2026. Updated information indicates that the average TTM percentage of costs are:

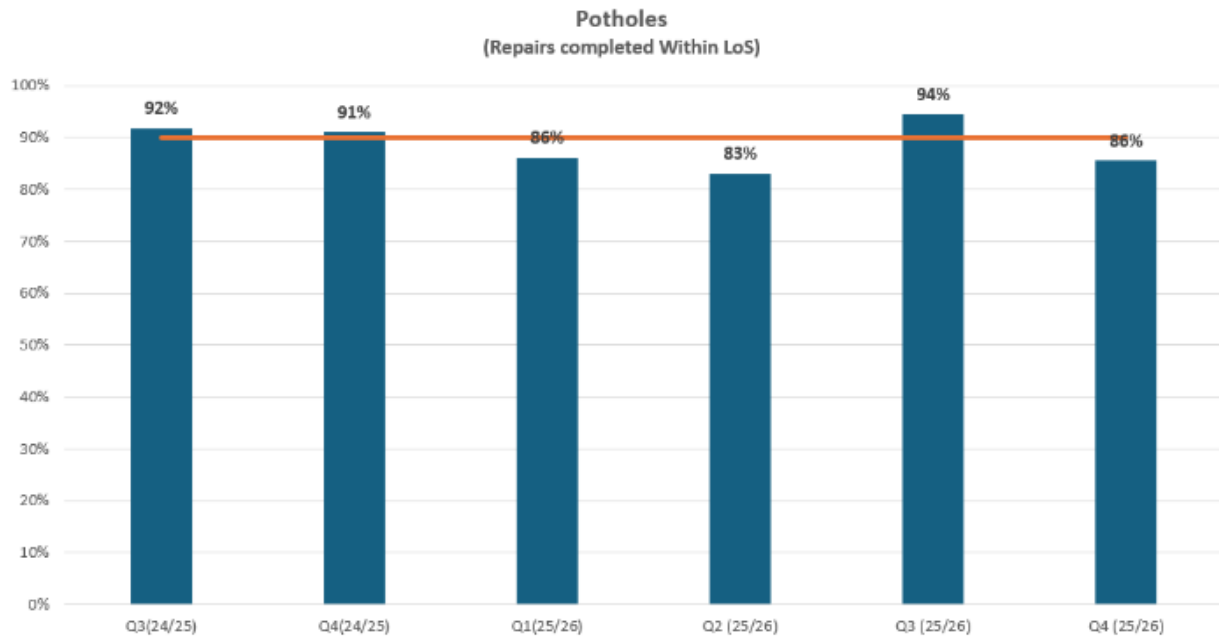
- 2.7% for Local Roads Maintenance (Operations)
- 9.8% for Local Roads Renewals (Pothole Prevention)
- 8.4% for Recovery

This is compared to an average of circa 10% for State Highway works.

From the data reviewed, there appears to be greater cost savings on works which have a high value or are over an extended period of time, as the TTM costs are generally fixed so become disproportionate for smaller pieces of work.



For Local Roads the target is to repair 90% of potholes within 48 hours. Over the last 18 months the Level of Service (LoS) has fluctuated above and below the 90% target level, for varying reasons.



For State Highways the target is to repair 100% of potholes within 24 hours, and this has been achieved every quarter since reporting started.

Marlborough Roads Activities

Maintenance and Operations

Weather Event

The July weather event resulted in multiple road closures as a result of flooding and slips, along with scouring, tree removal, culvert clearance works and a bank failure at the Tyntesfield Road bridge. The effects of the heavy rain resulted in a noticeable increase in road closures than seen during the May and June events.

May Weather Event	June Weather Event	July Weather Event
Maungatapu Road Northbank Road Tinline Road Kenepuru Road Kaiuma Bay Road Kotuku Road Long Valley Road Te Hoiere Road Cat Creek Road Tapps Road Tunakino Valley Road Wakamarina Road Douslins Gully Road Hills Road Bulford Road Opouri Road Port Underwood Road Bartlett's Road	Archers Road, Tennyson Inlet Bothams Bend Road Port Underwood Road near Karaka Point Wairau Bar Road Awatere Valley Road (from Jordan Bridge) SH6 between Canvastown and Pelorus Bridge Jones Road Northbank Road Ronga Road Opouri Road Te Hoiere Road Bulford Road Kaituna-Tuamarina Road Waikakaho Road Kaiuma Bay Road at Daltons Bridge and Te Hoiere Road Daltons Road Leatham Road Top Valley Road	Awatere Valley Road (SH1 to Jordan Bridge and onto Limestone) Medway Road Northbank Road (from Fabians Valley Road) Old Renwick Road Port Underwood Road (Karaka to Whatamango Bay) Anakiwa Road Bothams Bend Road Canterbury Street, Picton Chaytors Road Fosters Street, Seddon Hammerichs Road Jacksons Road Kaituna - Tuamarina Road Kenepuru Road Morgans Road New Renwick Road (Bells Road and Paynters Road) Omaka Ford Para Road Reserves Road Ford Queen Charlotte Drive (Havelock to Grove Jetty) SH1 (Ward to Kaikoura)

May Weather Event	June Weather Event	July Weather Event
		SH6 Nelson Street SH63 (Hawksbury Road and St Arnaud) Speeds Road Tapps Road Thomsons Ford Road Tytesfield Road Vickermans Street Waikakaho Road Wairau Bar Road Wakamarina Road Ward Beach Road

Emergency funding is being applied for in relation to the July weather event, this is being progressed at the time of writing.

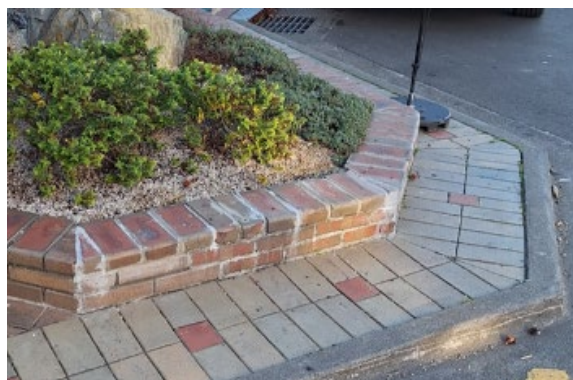
General Works

Work which has been undertaken includes, but is not limited to:

- Paving repairs for loose and rocking blocks along Seventh Lane
- Planter repairs along Queen Street
- Paving repairs due to root damage on Queen Street
- Footpath repairs along Taylor Pass Road, between Forest Park Drive and Grigg Drive
- Bollard repairs in High Street, Picton at Mariners Centre
- New bridge deck on Hardings Road
- Removal of Pinus tree vegetation along Rarangi Beach Road
- Clearing of water channel along Ben Morvan Road
- Weld Street footpath repairs



Seventh Lane repair works



Queen Street repair works



Taylor Pass Road footpath repairs



New bridge deck - Hardings Road



Post tree removal in Rarangi



Ben Morvan Road water channel clearance works



Happy customers on Weld Street following footpath repairs

Port Underwood Road Safety Improvements

Short Term – All short-term works completed and will continue with regular ongoing vegetation maintenance.

Medium Term - Working towards a Council Briefing for costs relating to next possible tranche of works.

Queen Charlotte Drive Safety Improvements

Short Term - All short-term works completed and will continue with regular ongoing vegetation maintenance.

Medium Term - Working towards a Council Briefing for costs relating to next possible tranche of works.

Tumbledown Road

All planned vegetation cut was undertaken in April, while drainage and re-sheeting works were undertaken in April and May.

Infrastructure

The contract for raising Rarangi Road at Woolleys Crossing to lift the road level to reduce the risk of flooding in future weather events has been awarded. Woolleys Crossing road itself may also be raised as part of these works. These works will be undertaken through the Low Cost Low Risk budget.

The contract to install replacement bridges at Kenningtons Road and Waitaria No.1 has been awarded. The Kenningtons Road bridge will replace the existing bridge which has weight restrictions in place and forms part of the wider improvement works proposed along the road to enable the road to become a legally formed road, which the Council will then maintain going forward. These works will be funded within the 2024/27 programme, although part funding from NZTA has been applied for.

Ongoing Projects

The table below summarises the position of a number of projects which are currently being worked through, with a view of delivering during the 2024/27 programme.

	Scoping	Design	Tender	Delivery	Contractor	Comment
New Renwick Road (Drainage)		✓	✓	✓	Crafar Crouch	Works completed June '26
Ben Morvan Road Drainage		✓	✓	✓	Simcox	Water channel works completed July '26
Swansdown Bridge		✓	✓	✓	Fulton Hogan	Deck replacement
Kenningtons Road		✓	✓	⌚	Edridge	Works planned for June and July 2027
Kenningtons Road Bridge		✓	✓	⌚	Egypt	Replacement bridge
School Crossings		✓	✓	⌚	CMT	Works planner for July / August 2026
Rarangi Road		✓	✓	⌚	TC Nicholls	Raising road
Waitaria Bridge No.1		✓	✓	⌚		Replacement bridge
Port Underwood Road – Short Term		✓	✓	✓	-	Safety improvement works
Port Underwood Road – Medium Term	⌚					
Queen Charlotte Drive – Short Term		✓	✓	✓	-	Safety improvement works
Queen Charlotte Drive – Medium Term	⌚					
Hammerichs Road	⌚				-	Drainage works
Seddon	⌚				-	Drainage works
Picton Signage	⌚				-	Review of signage to reduce street clutter
School Speed Signs	✓	⌚			-	Update signage to revised speed limits
High Street Bridge	⌚				-	Replacement of bridge
Kaiuma Bay Road	✓	⌚			-	Safety Review
Parking Review	⌚	⌚ (Ctrl) ✓			-	Review / update of parking restrictions
Morgans Road Bridge No.2	⌚					Options assessment for replacement
Hodder Bridge	⌚					Deck replacement

Planning

Work continues with the day-to-day processing of resource consents for MDC and ensuring new developments and subdivisions meet Council standards.

With regards to the Regional Land Transport Plan the Vision Statement, Objectives and the 10-year priorities were ratified at the Regional Transport Committee held on 2 July. Now ratified, these will be included on Transport Investment Online in accordance with NZTA requirements.

The proposed Speed Limits around schools were approved at the Regional Transport Committee held on 2 July. The location of existing signs and where new signs are required has been worked through and contractors will be appointed shortly to install the new overlays/signs. The intent is to have all new speed limits signs in place by the end of September.

Multi Modal

Walking & Cycling

Work has continued on the Walking and Cycling Strategy Review as well as reviewing the data generated by the annual cordon count.

Bike Stations currently being installed, with one station being located at Blenheim Airport and two within Blenheim CBD (iSite by the Railway Station and opposite the library), ahead of the Sounds to Sounds and the Te Araroa cycling events.

At the time of writing new Kea Crossings have been or are being installed at Wither Road (replacing a damaged one), Hammerich Road, Hutchinson Street, Colemans Road and Maxwell Road. In addition, works at Wairau School, in relation to improved markings for the school bus, will be undertaken. Changes to the Eltham Road cycle facilities, at the Maxwell Road intersection, are also being undertaken to address concerns raised with cars mounting the footpath.



New Kea Crossing on Hutchinson Street

Currently working with the Police on delivering pilot days to schools focussed on road and bicycle safety. Seeking to identify organisations who can either apply for safety funding for these pilot days or potentially sponsor them. The Police would like to be able to assess the children's bicycles for safety and to hand out lights and/or adequate helmets if the children don't have them, potentially along with high viz clothing that can be easily worn.

Total Mobility

There has been a 14% increase in registered users over the year, although it is anticipated that numbers using the scheme may reduce following the subsidy reduction on 1 July.

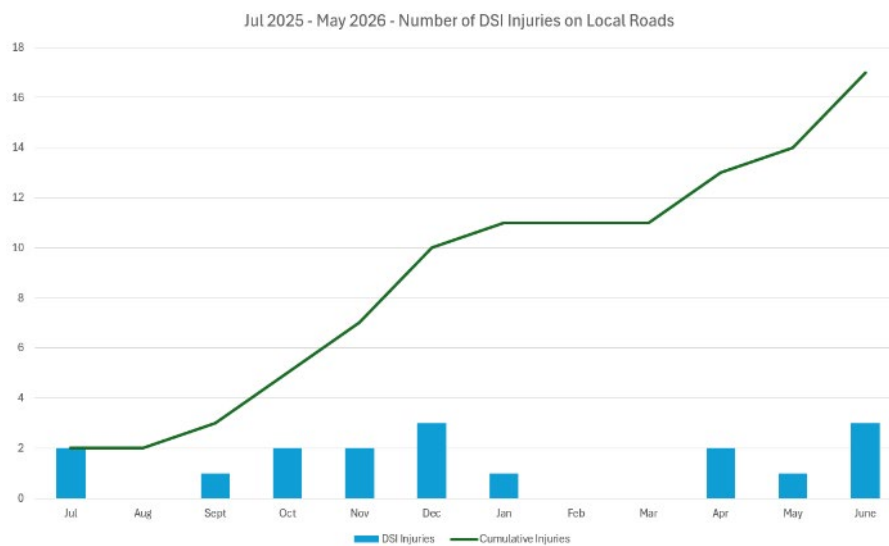
Public Transport

During the course of 2025-26 financial year there were 18,071 boardings, resulting in fare revenues of \$17,818, which is a 19.4% increase on the previous year. In addition, commercial revenue increased to \$10,568, up from circa \$8,000 the previous year. These combined resulted in annual revenue increasing by 52%. Investigation are now being undertaken into identifying alternative sources for revenue generation away from advertising just on the buses themselves.

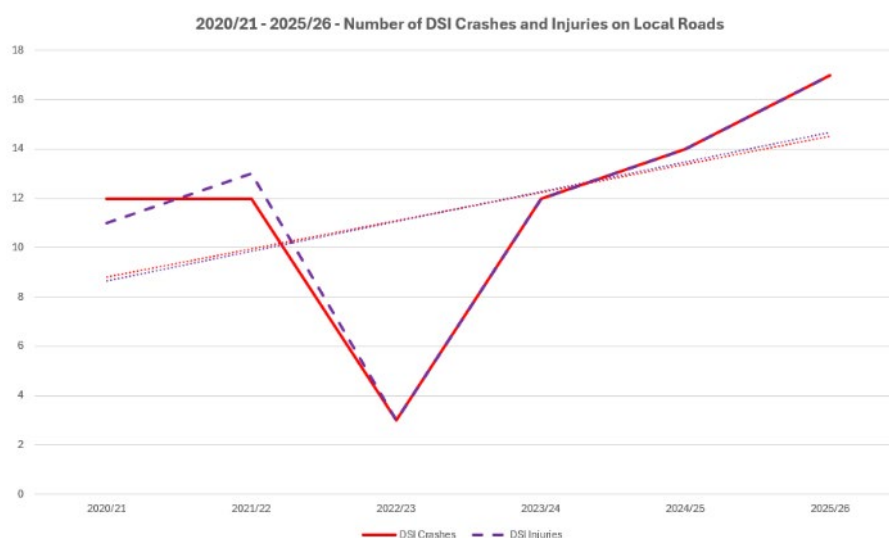
Road Crash Summary

The below summarises the number of DSI crashes and injuries during the course of 2025-26.

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
DSI Crashes	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	3
DSI Injuries	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	3



Across the course of the year there were 17 DSI crashes, resulting in 17 injuries, which is an average of 1.4 crashes and injuries a month.



From 2020/21 to 2024/25 there had been on average 11 DSI crashes and injuries a year, as such the total number of crashes and injuries during 2025/26 represents a 54.5% increase. From the data available there does not appear to any clear trend in terms of location and time of day.

Marlborough Roads Recovery June 2026 Project Report

Summary

The Recovery programme continued to make steady progress through June despite disruptive winter weather, difficult sealing conditions, and ongoing scope pressure from new resilience and storm-related sites.

The month was characterised by strong operational delivery across several work fronts, continued safe performance, and ongoing design progression across both Complex and Simple sites.

Health and safety results remained strong, with no injuries, no first aid treatments, no Life Saving Rule breaches. One high-potential incident was recorded involving the partial overturn of a heavy trailer; this has reinforced the need to maintain strong controls around plant movement, haulage operations, spreading activities and work in constrained rural road environments.

Construction activity progressed across French Pass, Kenepuru, Queen Charlotte Drive, Northbank, Waihopai and Awatere, with several packages completed and others moving into active delivery or readiness to commence in July.

Commercially, the programme remains in a positive position, with Phase 2 tracking with a small contingency and Phase 3 retaining a substantial forecast contingency. The key focus currently is to protect delivery momentum through winter, close out critical handover requirements, manage new scope created by weather events, and maintain confidence in programme, cost and risk controls.

Overall programme performance is considered stable, with several positive indicators. Safety performance continues to provide a strong foundation for delivery, customer enquiries are being managed through proactive communications, and design completion is enabling construction planning and confirmation of cost to complete. However, winter conditions are increasing delivery risk, especially where pavement moisture, sealing temperatures, access constraints and river levels affect completion. The programme is also seeing additional pressure from new resilience works being added to the programme and faults from recent weather events that may extend beyond the current completion date if not integrated early with clear funding, resource and prioritisation decisions.



Figure 1-Rock protection works Ronga Road

Key Metrics Dashboard

Metric	Current status	Comment
Health & Safety	TRIFR: 0 Severity rate: 0 Life Saving Rule breaches: 0	No injuries or first aid treatments recorded. One high-potential incident was reported involving a partial heavy trailer overturn.
Hours worked	11,129.44 hours for the month 130,498.9 rolling 12-month hours	Rolling 12-month calculation period: 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.
Critical Risk Conversations	12 completed against adjusted target of 12	Target was adjusted to reflect staff leave, onboarding and access changes.
Design progress	2 Complex sites and 8 Simple sites completed	3 Simple sites escalated to Complex and 6 Simple sites added to the programme.
Design remaining	9 Complex sites and 13 Simple sites remaining	Design Hub resourcing has been reviewed and retained to support ongoing delivery.
Commercial position	Phase 2: small forecast contingency Phase 3: \$22.7M forecast contingency	Positive position supported by contract negotiations below initial ending projections.
Monthly claim	\$3.9675M	May 2026 claim value.
Customer interactions	44 interactions	Most enquiries related to French Pass closures and Kenepuru works.

The key metrics show a programme that is continuing to perform well in safety and commercial control while managing delivery pressure in design, construction and stakeholder communications. The strongest indicators are the zero injury performance, full completion of the adjusted Critical Risk Conversation target, and the positive forecast contingency position across Phase 2 and Phase 3. The main areas requiring active management are design carry-over, new scope entering the programme, winter-related construction disruption, clean fill capacity, and the need to keep handover documentation moving alongside physical works.

The customer and stakeholder metric also remains important. The 44 customer interactions recorded for June were concentrated around French Pass closures and Kenepuru works, reflecting the practical impact of access restrictions and traffic management on communities and road users. Closure notifications, oversize permits and coordinated global closures remain important controls for maintaining public confidence, improving value for money, and reducing disruption where multiple sites are being delivered in the same corridor.



Figure 2- Concreting Piles French Pass

Programme Risks

The risk profile remains manageable but is shifting as winter delivery conditions impact, new storm-related faults and resilience scope increase pressure on programme certainty.

The most immediate operational risks are winter sealing, road-user access, and clean fill disposal availability. Medium-term programme risks relate to completion timing for Phase 3, additional scope integration, design escalation from Simple to Complex, and the availability of the right project engineering, finance and design support. These risks should be reviewed alongside the programme forecast so that decisions on resourcing, funding and construction packaging can be made before they affect delivery windows.



Figure 3- Completed Retaining Wall Tennyson Hill

Delivery Progress by Workstream

Design: Design delivery continued across Complex and Simple sites, with two Complex sites and eight Simple sites completed during the month. Three Simple sites were escalated to Complex and six Simple sites were added to the programme, leaving nine Complex and thirteen Simple sites remaining. Design Hub resourcing has been reviewed, with key capability retained to support construction monitoring, remaining deliverables and design decisions required to keep construction sequencing on track.

Construction: Construction activity progressed across multiple zones. QCD wall at Ngākuta advanced through anchors, piles and partial backfill. Kenepuru packages KS2, KS3 and KS9 were completed, with further work underway or scheduled.

French Pass activity included commencement of the final Complex site at French Pass Village, near completion of Tennyson Inlet hill block wall works, completion of Ronga River rock armour, and ongoing planning for remaining culvert and rock-bag works when river levels allow.

Waihopai pavement works were completed, with sealing now likely to be deferred until spring due to temperature and weather constraints.

Commercial: The programme remains commercially positive. Phase 2 is forecast to retain a small contingency, while Phase 3 continues to show approximately \$22.7M in forecast contingency. This position reflects favourable contract negotiation outcomes and continued cost control. The June 2026 claim totalled

\$3.45M. The main commercial watchpoint is ensuring that newly identified resilience and storm-related scope is clearly costed, prioritised, funded and integrated into programme reporting.

Handover: Handover activity continued across M-Files, RAMM/AWM, GIS and Assurance Team processes. The focus remains on closing outstanding documentation, assets, snags, QA items, safety inspections and post-construction records.



Figure 4- Completed Road Retreat Kenepuru Road

Priority Actions

Priority	Action	Purpose
1	Confirm treatment pathway for winter sealing and pavement protection.	Reduce rework risk and maintain safe public access through wet and cold conditions.
2	Progress consent and planning for additional Kenepuru Heads clean fill capacity.	Prevent material disposal constraints from delaying construction delivery.
3	Integrate new resilience and storm-related scope into the programme forecast.	Provide clearer visibility of cost, timing, resource and completion impacts.
4	Maintain Design Hub focus on remaining Complex and Simple site deliverables.	Protect construction sequencing and avoid avoidable delays to upcoming packages.
Figure 5- Q C Drive Wall under Construction	Continue handover close-out across RAMM/AWM, GIS, QA and Assurance Team requirements.	Ensure completed works can be transitioned cleanly into asset and maintenance systems.
6	Keep customer communications active around French Pass, Kenepuru and other restricted access areas.	Maintain public confidence and reduce disruption from closures, permits and changing access conditions.



Figure 6-Retaining Wall under Construction Q C Drive

July 2026 Weather Event

(Report prepared by Steve Murrin)

R800-006-002-02

The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on the extent of storm damage across the Marlborough roading network resulting from the weather event of 7 July 2026.

Marlborough was impacted by a substantial weather event in early July. This event closed a number of roads and caused damage across the network.

Response works are underway and all roads, other than Awatere Valley Road at the time of agenda publication, are now open to the public.

Staff are maintaining records of damage assessments, emergency response activities and cost estimates to support future funding applications and audit requirements. An assessment report will be brought to the Committee meeting of 24 September 2026.

Metservice issued a Red Rainfall Warning for the Kaikoura District and the southern part of Marlborough for 7 July.

Marlborough Roads contractors implemented planned response measures and maintained network access where conditions allowed. The weather event affected the entire district; however, the most severely impacted areas were south of the Wairau River.

As a result of the event numerous roads across the district were closed, including SH1 south of the Marlborough Boundary, Awatere Valley Road, Medway Road, Tyntesfield Road, Ward Beach Road, and all the roads on the Wairau Plains that have fords such as Old Renwick Road and Jacksons Road.

Queen Charlotte Drive and Kaiuma Bay Roads were the only roads closed within the Marlborough Sounds. Kaiuma Bay Roads closure was due to flooding and Queen Charlotte Drive was closed due to overslips.

A number of roads sustained storm damage while remaining open to traffic.

The areas of the most severe damage were Tyntesfield Road where the approach to the bridge washed out, and Awatere Valley Road at Camden Station, where substantial underslip and overslip failures occurred. There was also significant damage to Medway Road.



Figure 7 - Tyntesfield Bridge



Figure 8 - Camden Station Corner

Awatere Valley Road at Camden Corner remains the only road currently closed to unrestricted public access. An access has been created to get locals through at certain times.

Access has been restored on Tyntesfield Bridge, with finishing works still to be completed.

Clearing slips and reinstating drainage infrastructure continues across the network.



Figure 9 - Approach Reinstated at Tyntesfield Bridge

Network inspections have been completed and collated into a database of faults. Approximately 184 storm-related faults have been identified comprising 154 minor (no design input), 27 simple (design hub input) and 3 complex defects (engineering consultant design required).

Preliminary cost estimating is underway, with current indications suggesting total recovery costs may be between \$5 million and \$10 million.

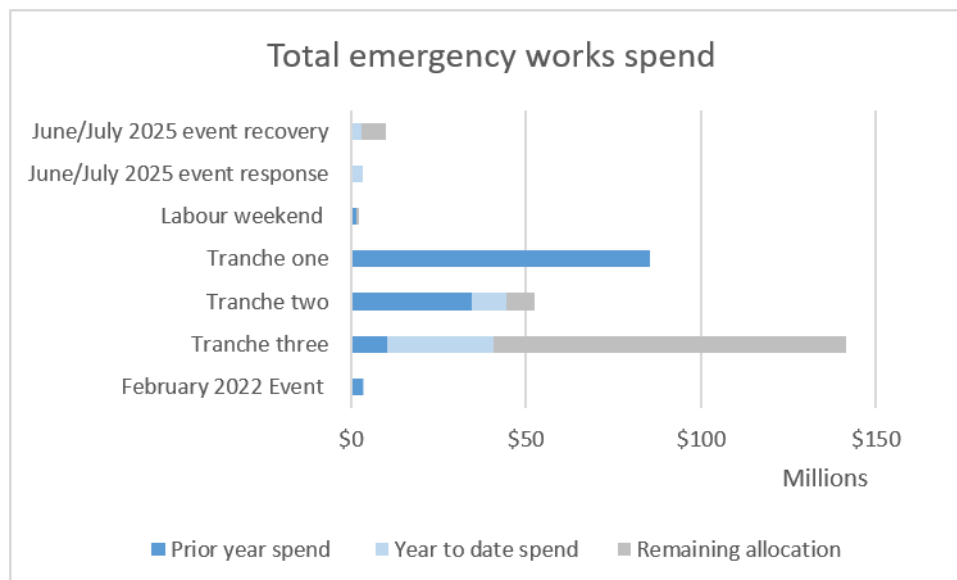
Once damage assessments and preliminary cost estimates are confirmed, Marlborough Roads will submit an application to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi for consideration under applicable emergency works funding provisions. Any funding assistance remains subject to NZTA assessment and approval processes. The final level of financial assistance available is not yet known.

Any expenditure requiring Council approval or changes to approved budgets will be reported back to the Committee for consideration.

Marlborough Roads will provide an update at the next Committee meeting in September.

Roading emergency works - financial update to 30 June 2026

Overview



The emergency works for the phase one funding allocation of \$85.3M are complete.

The emergency works for the phase two funding allocation of \$52.4M are underway with the allocation being 84% utilised. There is \$8.1M in approved funding remaining, with \$5.0M of this being returned to NZTA.

The emergency works for the phase three funding allocation of \$141.4M are underway with the allocation being 29% utilised. A split per zone is completed below in this report. There is \$100.6M in approved funding remaining, with \$40.0M of this being returned to NZTA.

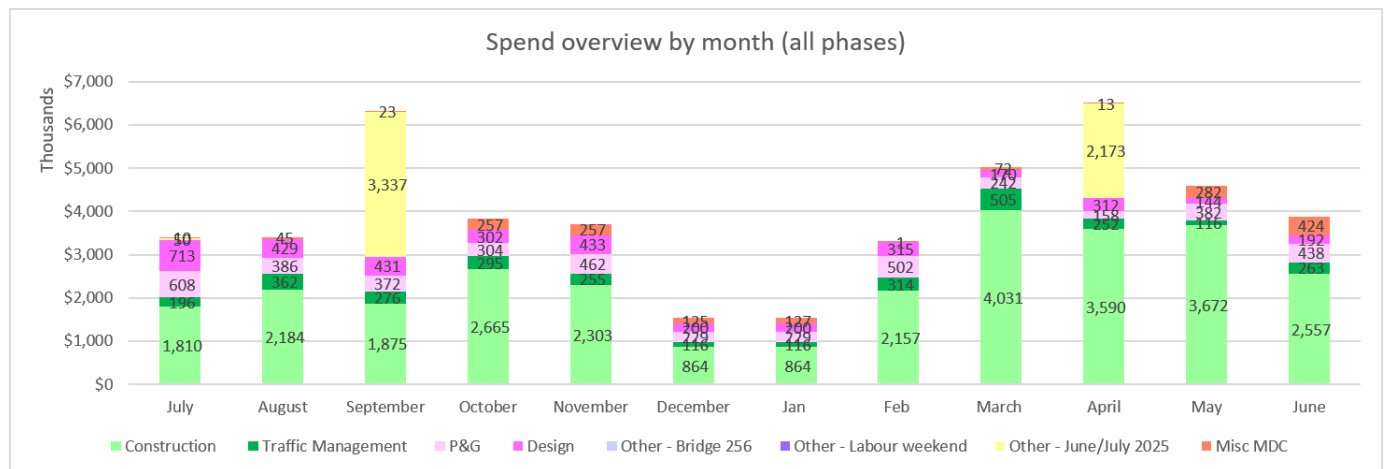
The emergency works for the February 2022 event funding allocation of \$3.5M are complete with the funding allocation being 100% utilised.

The Labour weekend 2024 event has an approved funding allocation of \$2.4M with the allocation being 61% utilised. There is \$0.9M in approved funding remaining, which is being returned to NZTA as the remaining sites were further damaged under the June/July 2025 event so will be completed as part of that allocation.

The June/July 2025 event has a response approved funding allocation of \$3.4M with the allocation being 100% utilised. Further approval of \$9.9M has been given for repair costs with the allocation being 30% utilised. There is \$7.0M in approved funding remaining.

In total there is \$116.6M in approved funding remaining for the programme of works.

Current year expenditure by type

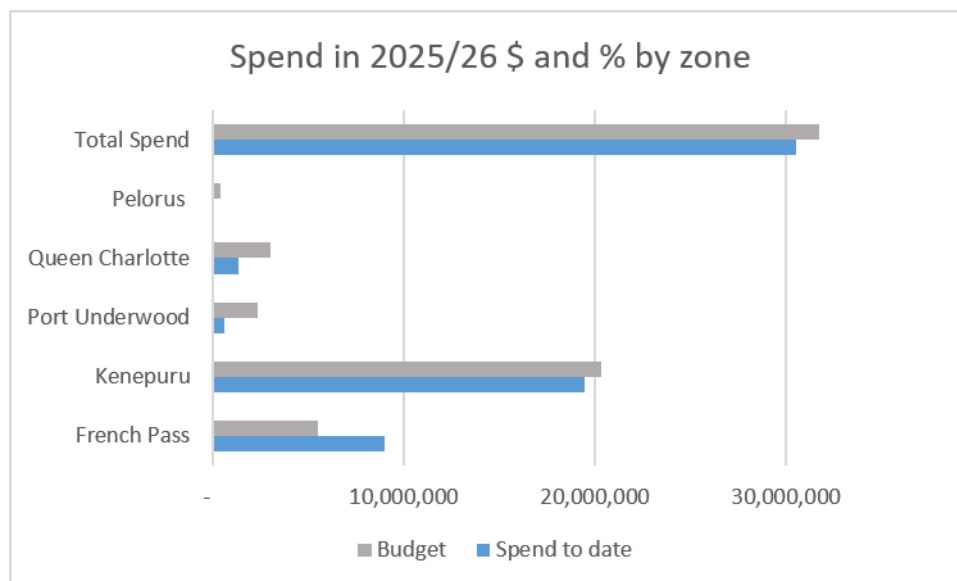


December/January spending has been evenly split as the reporting does not differentiate between months.

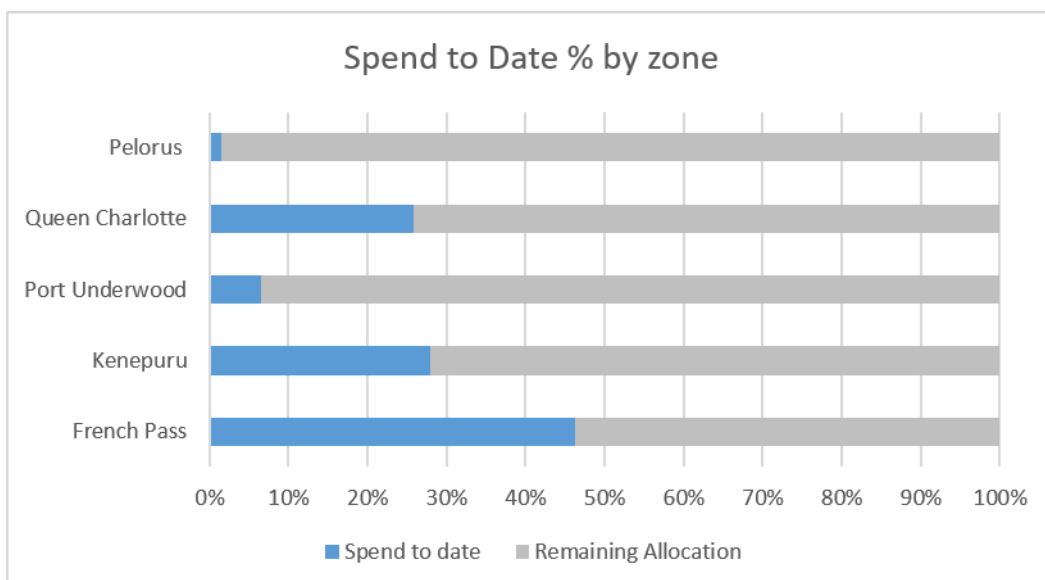
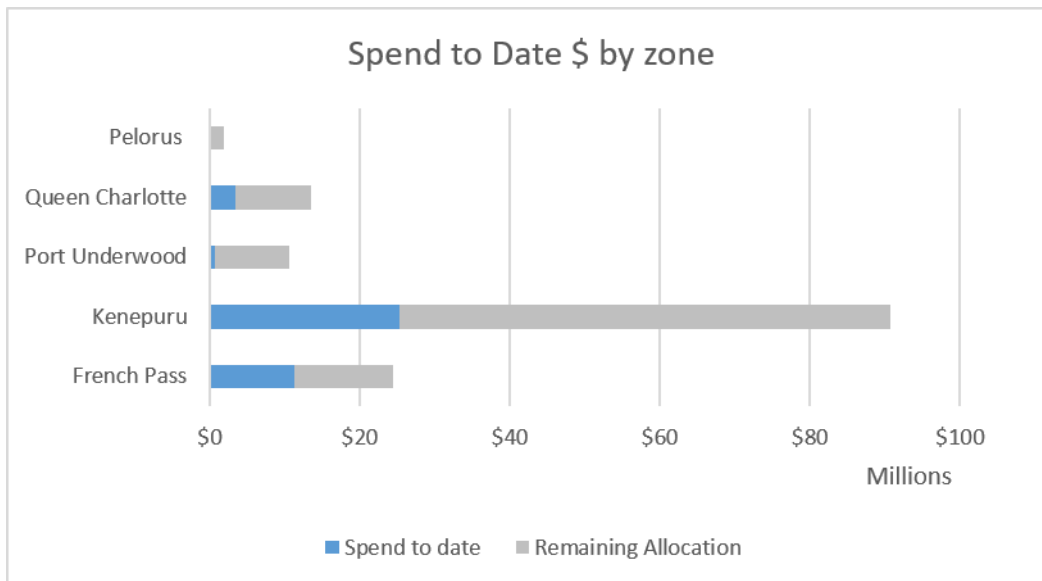
Phase three zone analysis

	Spend to date	Budget	Remaining Allocation
French Pass	11,343	24,531	13,188
Kenepuru	25,299	90,800	65,501
Port Underwood	688	10,630	9,942
Queen Charlotte	3,484	13,520	10,036
Pelorus	28	1,930	1,902
Total Spend	40,843	141,411	100,568

Phase three – current year expenditure compared to current year allocation



Phase three – total expenditure compared to total allocation



Communications & Engagement

Recovery e-newsletter

In June 2026, the weekly recovery newsletters included information on planned construction closures across Kenepuru, Tennyson Inlet, Anakiwa, Croisilles French Pass at French Pass Village and Tara Bay. Works completed included Gillespie's Bridge, a retaining wall on Port Underwood Road, road reinstatement at Awapiri and bund construction on Croisilles Road.

Information on works being undertaken at various other locations, included sites on Awatere Valley, Northbank, Port Underwood, Tennyson Inlet, Moetapu Bay, Bulwer, Lawrence and Te Towaka Port Ligar roads.

Oversize vehicle information was included regarding the restriction on Tennyson Inlet Road, as well as the usual information about permit requirements for oversize vehicles on Kenepuru Road.

Over June 2026, the e-newsletter was sent to a subscriber list of 417 contacts, with an average opening rate of 55.7%. All recovery newsletters continue to be shared via the NZTA website, the Marlborough District Council (MDC) website and Antenno app, and are promoted by community groups.

Customer interactions

In June 2026 there were 44 customer interactions, a 10% increase compared with June 2025. Twenty (43%) of these enquiries were for the French Pass Zone, with thirteen regarding construction closure information.

The second highest zone was Kenepuru with eighteen (41%), with just under half regarding construction closure information. This is the first time, that Kenepuru was not the zone that received the highest amount of enquiries.

There were eight fault/repair reports ranging from reporting slips and faded parking lines to a possible faulty VMS.

There were six requests for special access through closures for essential travel, split evenly between French Pass and Kenepuru.

Interactions were resolved within an average of 1.11 days.

Permits

There were three permits issued in June.

Stakeholder and Customer Notification

An extension to 24 July for Tennyson Inlet Road closure was notified in June including an email to 95 recipients. Changes to existing closures at French Pass Village, Tennyson Inlet, Kenepuru Road, Tara Bay Road and Lawrence Road were notified throughout the month. Closures continue to be conveyed using a range of mediums including letter box drops, MDC website alerts, Antenno, and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Map. VMS boards, MDC media release and social media are also used when practicable. Closure information continues to be provided to emergency services and affected stakeholders.

Rivers and Drainage Section – Activity Report

(Information prepared by Andy White, Gregor Punzel, James Mills-Kelly, Anne Bruce, Geoff Dick, Lucie Klimkova, Bruce Foster R700-014-01)

River Management

Flood Response 7 July 2026

The Rivers team responded to the June and July 2026 flood events by maintaining a continuous operational response throughout the duration of the event. Staff monitored river levels, stopbanks and flood protection assets, while coordinating contractors and responding to requests for assistance from the public.

Flood control pump stations operated continuously over several days to manage stormwater and minimise localised flooding. Pump station performance was monitored throughout the event to ensure continued operation.

Regular inspections of stopbanks and river control structures were undertaken to identify any emerging issues requiring immediate attention. Site visits were also carried out in response to requests from private landowners, providing advice and guidance on river related concerns and flood damage.

Following the flood peaks, the focus shifted to recovery activities. Initial works included clearing debris and blockages from river channels and structures, reinstating access, and undertaking priority repair works, including at the Waihopai River and Wairau River confluence.

A comprehensive flood damage assessment is underway across the district's river network to identify and prioritise recovery works. Assessments have been undertaken on the Wairau, Waihopai, Taylor, Ōpaoa, Omaka and Fairhall Rivers, together with a number of smaller waterways and flood protection assets. The information gathered is being used to develop the recovery programme and support funding applications where applicable.

River Projects and Assets

2025 Flood Recovery Programme

Package F – Wairau River Giffords and Boyces Road

Construction of the river edge armouring works, required following the June 2025 flood damage, commenced in early June 2026. Progress was delayed by the June and July 2026 flood events, which disrupted the original 40-day construction programme. The contractor returned to site the following week and re-established survey marks affected by the flooding.

At Giffords Road (Site C25), the full volume of rock has been delivered, with approximately 50% of the rock armouring completed. Rock cartage to Boyces Road (Site C21) is currently underway, with construction to commence following completion of works at Site C25.

Approximately 40% of the contract value has been claimed to date.



Giffords Road project progress 28/07/26

Package G – Diversion edge repairs

Package G involves river edge protection works on the true right bank immediately downstream of the Diversion, requiring approximately 10,000 tonnes of rock.

The package is being re-tendered following changes to site conditions resulting from the June 2026 flood events. Additional contractor interest has also been received since the original tender process.

The tender is scheduled for release in August 2026, with construction anticipated to commence during Quarter 3.

Kanoa Tranche 1 Delivery

Kanoa is the government-established Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit, which provides financial support for Flood Resilience in Marlborough, among other initiatives. Currently, there are two ongoing projects with planned completion before July 2027.

Lower Wairau Flood Capacity Upgrade

Taylor's Contracting Co Ltd (appointed November 2025) have continued to progress works on the two primary sections of stopbanks along Peninsula Road near the township of Spring Creek that were damaged in the 2016 Kaikōura earthquake and 2021 and 2022 floods.

Since the last report (up to end April 2026), progress to date includes:

- In-water rock protection to Wairau River true right bank from Goulard Road to Ferry Road Bridge
- Removal of a 1920's stopbank located in front of the current stopbank
- Ground preparation for constructing the upper no-rip-rap reach of the new stopbank
- Stockpiling AP65 (gravels) for the year 2 works to re-construct the stopbank

Works will continue through the winter period and flow straight into the year 2 operations in order to protect the programmed completion date of June 2027

Year 2 construction period will run from October 2026 until June 2027 and consists of replacing the existing stop bank with a new one appx 1.5 m higher, giving robust protection to Spring Creek township and SH1.

Monitoring, Surveillance, Quality Assurance and Construction Management activities continue to be undertaken by Beca consultants on behalf of MDC.

The material continues to be sourced from both Pukaka (Council owned, operated by Gills Construction Ltd) and Barracks (owned and run by Simcox Construction Ltd, part of the Issac's group). With the continued supply of material through winter, it is anticipated quarry operations and carting material to site will be completed by February 2027.

The project budget remains unchanged at \$26.3m plus a \$1m allowance for increased fuel costs, as approved by Council on 1 April 2026.

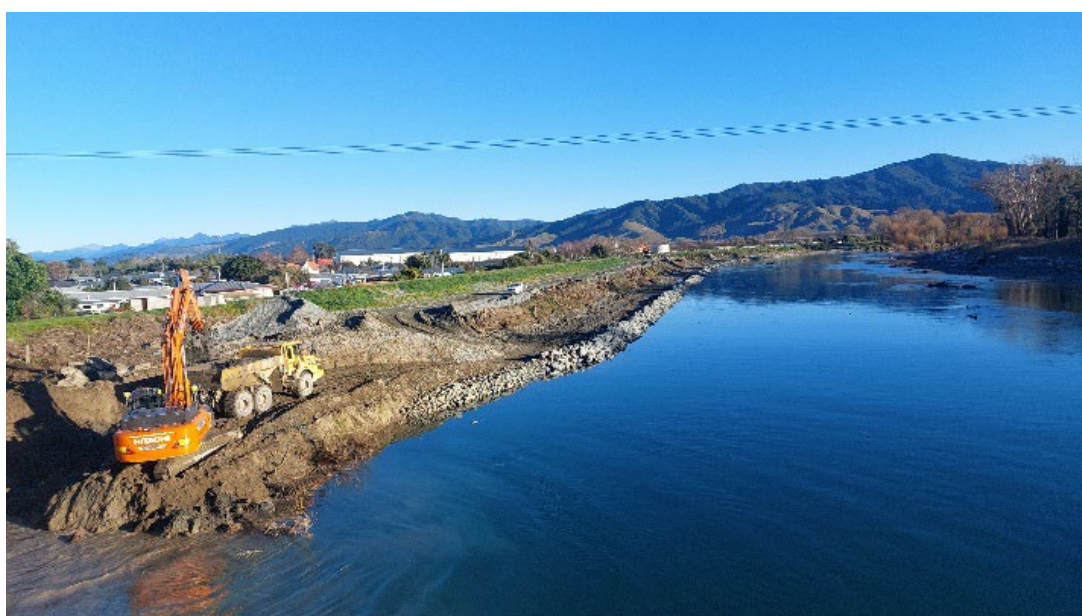
Overall, the project continues to be on track with completion by 30 June 2027 and within budget.



Laydown Area



Upper section : no-rip rap reach



Rock Protection along Spring Creek & Wairau River to Ferry Road Bridge

Wairau River Flood Protection Scheme

Waihopai Stopbank Realignment

The Waihopai Stopbank Realignment project involves the placement of approximately 20,000 tonnes of rock and the upgrade of the existing stopbank alignment.

Information required to support the resource consent application is currently being compiled, while an options assessment is being undertaken to ensure all feasible alignments have been considered prior to engaging with the current leaseholder.

Negotiations with the existing lessee will be required before construction can proceed. Tendered rates will also be reviewed with the preferred contractor to account for changes in site conditions following the June 2026 flood event.

The construction programme remains subject to completion of the resource consent process, land access negotiations and confirmation of construction costs.

Marlborough District Libraries – Looking Back at the Year Ended 30 June 2026

(Cllr Dalliessi) (Report prepared by Glenn Webster)

L300-018-001-02

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Library services for the year ending 30 June 2026.

The following is a record of events, programmes and happenings in the libraries July 2025 – June 2026.

a) Change in Opening Hours

Monday 21 July 2025, the Marlborough Library began operating under its newly revised hours, closing at 5.00 pm on weekdays. The new hours are:

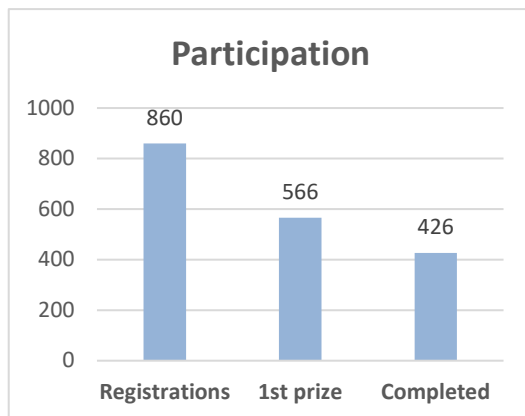
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday and Sunday	10.00 am – 4.00 pm

b) LibStaffer – Automated Staff Rostering System

In July the Marlborough Library introduced an automated staff rostering system called “LibStaffer” for its 29 staff, replacing a very time-consuming, manual system.

LibStaffer by **SpringShare** is purpose-built for libraries, addressing the unique challenges of library service points and staff rostering.

c) Summer Reading Programme – “Summer Book Bingo 2025/26”



Summer 2025/26 reading programme, “Summer Book Bingo” was very successful!

Across the two libraries, 860 young people registered for the programme.

Of these, 566 participants reached their first prize milestone, while 426 went on to successfully complete the programme.

There is typically strong initial interest in the programme as participants approach the end of the school year, but many do not continue as other holiday commitments take precedence.

Those who reach the first prize are significantly more likely to complete the programme. In 25/26, 75 percent of participants who achieved the first prize went on to finish the full programme.

The summer Book Bingo programme provided three entry levels:

- **Read together** for those just beginning their reading journey or readers less enthusiastic about reading. This allowed for participants to complete the programme with family reading.
- **Independent readers** for those reading on their own with great enthusiasm.
- **Teen readers** for readers reading predominantly from the Teen or Adult collections.

The programme consisted of sixteen bingo challenges for younger participants to complete, with a mix of reading and activity challenges. Teen readers had nine bingo challenges, to allow for the longer books that they would likely be reading.

The bingo challenges for younger readers included:

- Completing two library activities (these could include craft, Lego, scavenger hunts, therapy dog visits, etc)
- Reading a biography
- Reading a non-fiction book
- Reading a Māori myth or legend
- Reading from a series
- Reading a book because you love the cover
- Reading from a different format - audiobook or graphic novel
- Learning how to make or do something from a book
- Reading a book about another country or culture
- Reading a book written by your favourite author
- Reading aloud in a funny voice or telling a joke
- Making a cosy reading spot
- Reading to a favourite toy or pet

Completion of four challenges in a row earned the participant their first prize of an ice block. Completion of all 16 challenges enabled the participant to select a book to keep from the prize book trolley.



A very happy reading programme finisher with their book prize and certificate.



Completed Book Bingo challenges and book reviews.

The key aim of the Book Bingo programme was to encourage participants to read from a wider selection of material than they might normally do and explore other types of library resources, such as biographies, non-fiction and audiobooks.

Participants were able to pick their own books to meet the challenges. Most parents were very keen to encourage their children to broaden their reading preferences as reflected in their feedback from the evaluation forms (*a selection of comments below*).

"It was great having such a range of activities and book formats to read. Great idea having Māori myth/legend and biography's etc. Thank you!"

"Loved that it encouraged them to read outside their comfort zones."

"The children really loved engaging in all the different books and challenges."

Parents and Care Givers were asked to complete an evaluation form as they progressed through the programme. 157 responses were received.

The table below shows the ratings:

Rating	1 (Unsatisfactory)	2 (Neutral)	3 (Satisfactory)	4 (Very Good)	5 (Excellent)	Not stated
	0	0	0	26	127	4

Some of the feedback received included:

"Amazing experience - staff were great and kids kept asking to come back!"

"The librarians were extremely helpful throughout the whole process."

"This was a fantastic reading programme to encourage reading. Thank you."

"It was nice, simple and fun this year. Easy to understand and a nice mix of challenges she could do or we did together."

It is very pleasing to see that numbers registering for the programme this year exceeded our previous reading programmes and that engagement with our libraries is still an important part of summer for families in our region.

Below are the registration numbers comparisons 2023 - 2025:

- 565 registrations for the Pirate Adventure reading programme 2024/25.
- 634 registrations for the Pizza Fiesta programme in 2023/24.
- 860 registrations for the Summer Book Bingo programme in 2025/26.

From the library team's perspective, the reading programmes delivered each year provide valuable opportunities to build lasting relationships with young people and their families across the district.

The programme encompasses and promotes the value of reading for our young people. These include:

- Literacy and communication
- Learning and curiosity
- Empathy and understanding
- Confidence and communication
- Imagination and creativity
- Identity and belonging
- Lifelong learning



Alongside the reading programme, the Children's teams delivered a full range of activities that kept young people busy throughout the holidays. These included:

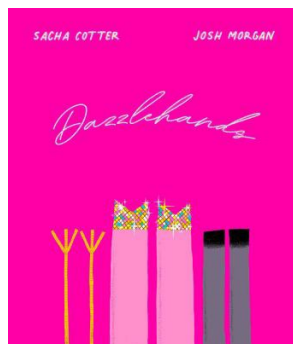


- Drop-in craft
- Lego sessions
- Visits from the St. John Therapy dogs
- Family movies
- Tween craft sessions
- Scavenger hunts

While it is difficult to put an exact number on the attendees to these sessions, it is estimated we had over 1,400 activity activations for the twenty drop-in craft sessions we offered.

Lego sessions were very popular with an estimated 400 children attending the eight sessions. We had 645 entries overall for the four scavenger hunts. These scavenger hunts were designed to encourage learnings around the library space and collections.

d) 'Dazzlehands'



The Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB) toured a children's Ballet 'Dazzlehands' around the South Island in the first half of 2026. It was based on a children's picture book of the same title about a dancing pig written by Wellington based author, Sacha Cotter and illustrated by her partner, Josh Morgan.

To raise the profile of the production the RNZB education unit conducted Dazzlehands workshops at kindergartens and early childhood centres. Two workshops were negotiated to take place at both libraries on Tuesday 24 February. These included the reading of the book, followed by an interactive session teaching dance moves to the children (and a few parents as well). Both proved to be enjoyable and well supported.

e) 'Pirates of the CariBlenheim'

The morning of Saturday, 28 February, was celebrated in Blenheim's CBD with an interactive, pirate-themed treasure hunt featuring "mischievous" characters Captain Monkey D. Vishy and Captain Clay Sparrow, aka Real Estate Agents, Vish Prasad and Clayton Knowles.

According to the event lore, the captains had escaped Davy Jones and hid their treasure in the heart of Blenheim's CBD, scattering map pieces across participating local shops.

Once all the map pieces were collected and put together, the final destination of where the 'treasure' could be found was identified as Te Kahu o Waipuna. This event brought many children and families into the facility to claim their 'treasure' - attracting strong participation.

f) Libby Reads

A recent introduction to the Libby New Zealand e-platform service was a monthly online book club, “Libby Reads”, where monthly, on the last Wednesday from 7.30pm – 8.30pm, Libby users could register to join a discussion with a recently published New Zealand author.



Libby Reads with Jacqueline Bublitz is a new monthly book club for **New Zealand** that features national authors and titles each month. The featured title can be borrowed for free and with no wait from your participating local library in Libby. Then, register to join the free virtual event on Zoom hosted by author Jacqueline Bublitz for a discussion with the featured title's author each month.



g) Picton Library and Service Centre – Community Service

Picton Library and Service Centre offer a Kai bin which is stocked by donations from the community and then taken anonymously by those in need. With the growing number of transient and local people living with homelessness the Kai bin is well used.

The library acts as a conduit between the various agencies in the area; staff attend the monthly Heartlands hui. This is a gathering of Picton agencies and organisations and includes Jodie Griffiths from MDC and Barbara Faulls (Sounds Councillor).

Picton Library is open 7 days a week – when someone is in need and stranded in Picton the Library is often the place they come to – it is safe, has free wi-fi and is warm in the colder months. Staff can often connect them to assistance through our network via Vinnies and Piwaka Lodge.



During the colder months we offer a tea/coffee trolley in the mornings for anyone who may need a hot drink first thing.

Our weekly Company Café acts as a third space for the isolated members of the community. Often, staff are told that this event is the only time they have a conversation with anyone in their week.

h) Picton Library and Service Centre Maintenance

During April, scheduled maintenance was completed which included, the re-staining of the building exterior. Indoor spaces also benefited from touch-up painting, and furniture was re-upholstered providing a timely and much-needed refresh ahead of winter.

i) Regular Programmes

Regular weekly community programmes at both Libraries were offered as featured below:

 MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT LIBRARIES						
REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT OUR LIBRARIES						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Justice of the Peace Service 10am - 12pm	Cheeky Monkeys* 10am & 11am	Justice of the Peace Service 10am - 12pm	Justice of the Peace Service 10am - 12pm	Play and Learn* 9am - 12pm	Justice of the Peace Service 10am - 12pm	Lego Club 10am - 4pm
	Knitters & Spinners 10.30am - 2pm	Digital Drop-In 10am - 11am	Knit & Natter 10am - 12pm	Picton Art Group 10am - 2pm		Lego Club 1pm - 4pm
	Messy Craft 3.30pm-4.30pm	Justice of the Peace Service 11am - 1pm	Company Café 10.30am-11.30am			
		Cribbage* 1pm - 3pm	Fiero Code Club* 3.30pm-4.30pm			
		Genealogy Drop-In 1pm - 3pm				
		Fiero Code Club* 3.30pm-4.30pm				
		Book Chat 2nd Weds of Month 10.30am-11.30am	Book Club 1st Thurs of Month 6.30pm - 8pm		French Conversation 1st Sat of Month 11am	
		Book Chat 2nd Weds of Month 10.30am-11.30am	Book Club Last Thurs of Month 5.30pm - 7pm	Family History Every first & third Friday 1.30pm - 3.30pm	La Hora del Cuento 1st Sat of Month 2pm - 3pm	

* Term Time Only

See www.marlboroughlibraries.govt.nz for full details, or ask a staff member at either Library

j) Marlborough Book Festival 18 - 20 July 2025

As a Festival Sponsor, both Library facilities hosted events as part of the 2025 Marlborough Book Festival, held on 18 – 20 July.



Saturday 19 July

Marlborough Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna hosted:

10.30 am “Worlds of Her Own” with author Nalini Singh
3.00 pm “The Last Secret Agent” with author Jude Dobson

Picton Library Waitohi Whare Mātauranga hosted:

4.30 pm “Sam the Trapman” with author Sam Gibson in conversation with Anna Polson

Sunday 20 July

Marlborough Library at Te Kahu o Waipuna hosted:

1.00 pm “Small Cats, Big Big Journeys” Young readers session with author Stacy Gregg

All sessions were well attended.

k) Resident Satisfaction Survey

Respondents of the Resident Satisfaction Survey rated Library Services as the top performing Council provided service with a rating YTD of 89% in Q3 results in June 2026.

l) Staff News

Jane Robinson, Blenheim Librarian, transferred to Council to take up a Digital role.

Student Library Assistants at Picton Library and Marlborough Library resigned to commence university studies.

Senior Library Assistant, Nikki Howard, Children and Teen Services, resigned to take up a position at Marlborough Boys College Library.

Adela Krckova joined the Children and Teen Services Team as a Library Assistant on 16 March.

Amanda Wilson-Davis and Lizzie Nott were both appointed Library Services Team Leaders on 28 April.

Ella Thomson joined the Children and Teen Services Team as a Library Assistant on Tuesday. 2 June.

m) Digital Advice Sessions Statistics: July 2025 – June 2026

Digital Drop-in sessions were held at the Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna, every Wednesday morning from 10.00 am – 12 noon.

Book A Librarian (one-on-one sessions) we offered at both libraries on request.

Customer feedback was very positive with most giving the service a 5-star rating, with the lowest being 3 stars.

The combined libraries statistics are as follows:

MONTH	Book A Librarian	Digital Drop-In	TOTAL ATTENDEES	5 STAR	4 STAR	3 STAR	Not Stated / Completed
July 25	2	28	30	27	3		
August	5	14	19	16			3
September	4	11	15	10	4		1
October	2	4	6	4			2
November	1	10	11	9		1	1
December	0	9	9	8		1	
January 26	2	34	36	32	3	1	
February	2	30	32	23	6	1	2
March	7	29	36	25	3		8
April	5	30	35	25	6		4
May	4	26	30	27			3
June	3	26	29	24			5

Predominantly customers want help with their phones, tablets and laptops, and downloading and using apps.

n) Matariki Celebrations

Both Libraries held early evening events to celebrate Matariki. Picton Library and Service Centre held their event on Tuesday 30 June, with the Marlborough Library and Art Gallery, Te Kahu o Waipuna's event being held the following evening.

In Picton, waiata groups from Picton School (led by Huriana Ormsby) and Queen Charlotte College (led by David Collins) performed with the mihi whakatau led by Matua Neville Watson-Tahuaroa.

At Te Kahu o Waipuna waiata groups performed from Redwoodtown School (led by Tim Ferguson) and Whitney Street School (led by Whaea Connie Pinker), with the mihi whakatau led by Ronnie Pinker-Meihana of Marlborough Boys College. Tamara Acott presented the Te Reo storytime.

Both events included story and craft activities for the children.

It was wonderful to see families enjoying the event which concluded with kai serviced by the Marlborough Youth Council.



o) Lost items

The following chart shows the total number of books declared lost over the last nine years and their dollar value. Members who don't return their items receive an invoice for the replacement cost and their membership is BLOCKED, stopping them from accessing library services. Outstanding debts over a determined value are referred to Council's Collection Agency to follow up.

Number of Items identified as LOST									
Marlborough Library					Picton Library				
Year	Count	Value (\$)	Total Count	Percentage	Year	Count	Value (\$)	Total Count	Percentage
2018	182	\$4,112.02	406,808	0.045%	2018	20	\$592.45	70,265	0.028%
2019	165	\$3,679.89	406,801	0.041%	2019	42	\$1,152.20	72,318	0.058%
2020	105	\$1,968.90	339,076	0.031%	2020	22	\$551.95	61,507	0.036%
2021	107	\$1,343.70	382,623	0.028%	2021	31	\$319.10	68,147	0.045%
2022	66	\$1,508.80	373,465	0.018%	2022	10	\$238.00	63,531	0.016%
2023	262	\$6,765.30	420,600	0.062%	2023	21	\$612.00	60,704	0.035%
2024	210	\$5,390.90	409,471	0.051%	2024	10	\$249.50	57,101	0.018%
2025	173	\$4,053.10	396,452	0.044%	2025	20	\$497.10	60,227	0.033%
TOTALS	1270	\$28,822.61	3,135,296	0.041%		176	\$4,212.30	513,800	0.034%

p) One-millionth visitor – Te Kahu o Waipuna

On Friday 12 June 2026, Te Kahu o Waipuna reached a significant milestone, welcoming its one-millionth visitor to the facility.

q) Community Engagement

The facilities provide spaces for individuals to meet, share experiences, learn, enjoy activities and actively participate in community life. These included:

Community groups using Meeting Spaces

- Greypower
- U3A
- Probus
- MS and Parkinsons support
- Marlborough Stroke Association
- Marlborough Pacific Trust
- Rangitane o Wairau
- Marlborough Youth Trust
- St Marks
- Marlborough Migrant Centre
- English Language Partners
- Marlborough Forest and Bird
- Marlborough Chinese Community
- Marlborough Korean Community
- Marlborough Latino Community
- Marlborough Community Housing Trust
- Japanese Children's Music club
- NZ Landcare Trust
- Wairau Garden Club
- Wheelie Good Music
- NZ Red Cross
- Box on Boxing
- Life Education Trust
- Knit and Natter
- Picton Art Group
- Spinners and Knitters
- Cribbage
- Wither Road Group
- Writers of Picton
- French Conversation
- Picton Poets

One-off or annual events/performances (Atrium Stairs Te Kahu o Waipuna)

- Royal New Zealand Ballet
- Southern Jam Jazz Festival
- New Zealand String Quartet
- Blenheim Choral Society
- Blenheim Musical Theatre
- Matariki celebrations



- Violinist Samuel Lee with pianist Barbara Song
- Rātā Foundation Grants Function
- Nairobi Trio
- Chinese Tai Chi masters
- Argentinian folk music duo
- Marlborough Book Festival

One off or annual events (Library meeting spaces)

- Children of Courage Awards ceremony
- Pirates of the Cariblenheim CBD treasure hunt
- Marlborough Book Festival
- Garden Marlborough

Regular events/performances (Atrium Stairs and Picton)

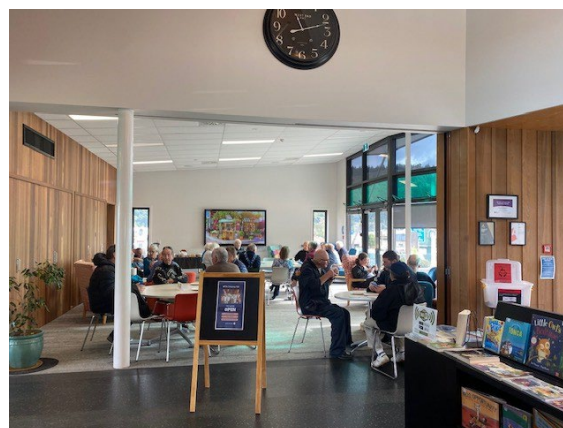
- Pianists Tony Thiel, Merel Rieu, Matthew Hall plus visitors
- St John and Canine Friends therapy pet visits

Regular programming

- BookChat
- Fiero Code Club
- Cheeky Monkeys
- Play + Learn
- Book Club
- Digital Drop-In
- Book-A-Librarian
- LEGO Club
- School Holiday programmes
- Company Café
- Messy Craft

Hosted Service

- Justice of the Peace
- Family History Group
- Plunket
- Cuppa with a Councillor



Statistical Summary for the 2025 / 2026 Year

a) Book Stock and Other Materials

At 30 June 2026, the total number of items was:

Marlborough District Library	70,833
Picton Library	<u>18,652</u>
TOTAL	89,485

b) Membership

The total number of active members (those who have used their cards in the last two years) were:

Marlborough Library	14,244
Picton Library	<u>2,415</u>
TOTAL	16,659

32% of the District's population (**50,800**) are active library members.

Often one card is used by the entire family. Membership and use of community libraries facilities is not included.

c) Loans (Issues) Statistics

Annual Loans	2024/2025	2025/2026
Marlborough Library	406,217	384,246
Picton Library	59,708	58,093
PHYSICAL LOANS	465,925	442,339
E-Resources	65,821	78,059
TOTAL LOANS	531,746	520,398

d) Econtent Use – Bolinda Borrowbox and OverDrive (Libby)



The libraries subscribe to two Econtent platforms – BorrowBox and Libby (OverDrive) that can both be accessed through a library membership.

BorrowBox is Australian based while OverDrive is an American product.

Members can download eBook, eAudio and eMagazine resources onto their own device.

Total e-resources (eAudio, eBook and eMagazines) loaned on both platforms was 78,059 – up from 65,821. (18.5% increase)

e) Transaction per Capita

The transaction per capita is **10 items** annually

Total issues (**520,398**) ÷ Population (**50,800**) = 10 items borrowed per capita

f) Transaction per Active Member

The transaction per member is **31 items** annually

Total issues (**520,398**) ÷ Membership (**16,659**) = 31 items borrowed per member

g) Physical Collection Turnover Rate

On average the turnover rate of the physical collection is **4.9 times** annually.

Total Annual Physical Issues **442,399**
 Divided by Total Items ÷ **89,485**
 Equals Circulation = **4.9 times annually**



h) Holds (Requests for books available in the libraries collections)

	2025/2026
At Library	9,792
via Enterprise (Catalogue)	26,133
via Library App	17,109
via Self-Issue Kiosk	4,237
TOTAL	57,271 (+ 3,580 on 2024/ 2025)

i) Number of People Entering the Facilities

Door counters at both libraries collected the following data:

	2025/2026	Monthly Average Visitors 2025/2026
Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna	292,858	24,404
Picton Library	89,686	7,473
TOTAL	382,544	31,877

j) Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK) Use

The following statistics show APNK Computer sessions and Wi-Fi connections:

In-house Computer Sessions

	2025/2026	Monthly Usage 2025/2026
Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna	17,485	1,457
Picton Library	7,992	666
TOTAL	25,477	2,123

Wi-Fi Sessions

	2025/2026	Monthly Usage 2025/2026
Marlborough Library, Te Kahu o Waipuna	77,335	6,444
Picton Library	39,290	3,274
TOTAL	116,510	9,718

k) Meeting Rooms

Over the past year, a wide range of community and business groups have made use of the meeting spaces at both facilities. The meeting rooms and spaces also support library and gallery programmes. As community hubs for people of all ages and backgrounds, the meeting rooms play a key role in advancing local initiatives, promoting civic engagement, and nurturing lifelong learning. This has significantly enhanced the libraries connection with the community.

The following statistics record the Room bookings at Te Kahu o Waipuna and Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga.

\$14,243 was generated in Room Booking charges.

Room Bookings	Te Kahu o Waipuna			Picton Library and Service Centre		
	Community and Library	Commercial	Charges	Community and Library	Commercial	Charges
1 June 2025 – 30 June 2026	3360	62	\$10,253	1169	11	\$3,990



*“The only thing that you absolutely have to know,
is the location of the library.”*

Quote by Albert Einstein

Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report

(Information prepared by Jane Tito, Brad Molony, Grahame Smail, James Gilmour, Kiri Whiteman, Carolyn Jones, Lesley McIntosh, Regan Russell, Robert Hutchinson, Ross Laybourn, John Clark, Josh Clamp, Hamish Westwater) R510-009-000-01, R510-006-02, R510-005-04-02, R800-005-03

Blenheim Parks

Pollard Park

Scala penetrometer testing has recently been completed at Pollard Park as part of planning for the replacement of three bridges that have reached the end of their useful life.

Working alongside Marlborough Roads' Structures Engineer, Council staff gathered important information about ground conditions at each site. The data collected will help inform the design of the replacement bridges and ensure they are suited to the park environment.

With the testing now complete, the project can move into the design phase, marking another step towards renewing key infrastructure and maintaining safe access throughout Pollard Park for residents and visitors.



Marshall Place Reserve

Members of Forest & Bird, the Marlborough Leos, and students from Marlborough Boys' College recently came together for a volunteer working bee at Marshall Place Reserve to help control invasive weed species.

The Reserve has been progressively developed and enhanced over a number of years through the efforts of these dedicated volunteers. Regular volunteer days are held to remove pest plants, undertake planting, and carry out general conservation work aimed at improving the ecological values of the reserve.

The ongoing commitment from these groups continues to make a significant contribution to the health and restoration of the reserve, and their support is greatly appreciated.



Lansdowne Park

Storm damage to the Softball Diamond

The softball diamond and playing area at Lansdowne Park Field 4, located over the bank, was developed in 2011 and had not experienced flooding of this scale until the recent July storm event.



Fortunately, the floodwater receded within 24 hours leaving, a significant volume of silt deposited across the field. This has required substantial effort to remove.

Damage to the Grandstand

The grandstand sustained broken glass during the strong weather event with glass dropping out of the southern end.

The glass was repaired in time for club rugby however there was some damage to the framing which also needed repairs to be undertaken.



Lansdowne Hub

Tasman Mako vs Canterbury Pre-Season Match

Lansdowne Park hosted the Tasman Mako's final pre-season fixture on 24 July, with the team taking on long-time rivals Canterbury ahead of the start of the 2026 NPC season.



Despite the 1.00 pm Friday afternoon kick-off, the match attracted a strong crowd of local rugby supporters, demonstrating the continued support for the Mako throughout the region. The fixture provided an important opportunity for players and coaching staff to fine-tune preparations and build momentum heading into the upcoming season.

In the lead-up to the match, supporters were invited to attend an open captain's run, providing a chance to watch the squad train and interact with players. Following the session, fans had the opportunity to meet members of the team, collect autographs and take photographs, helping strengthen connections between the Mako and the wider community.

Marlborough Kindergarten Association Teachers Only Day

The Lansdowne Hub hosted the Marlborough Kindergarten Association's Teachers Only Day on 17 July, welcoming Kaiako from across the region for a full day of professional learning and development.

Taking advantage of a beautiful Marlborough winter day, educators gathered to participate in a programme focused on building knowledge, developing new skills and sharing best practice. The day provided valuable opportunities for professional growth, collaboration and networking among early childhood education staff.

A range of guest presenters contributed to the programme, sharing their expertise and experiences to support the ongoing development of local educators. The event highlighted the importance of investing in professional learning to ensure high-quality outcomes for Tamariki and their whānau.

The Lansdowne Hub hosted the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Marlborough Farming for Profit Mid-Winter Dinner on 21 July, welcoming members of the Marlborough farming community for an evening of connection, discussion and celebration.



Beef + Lamb New Zealand Marlborough Farming for Profit Mid-Winter Dinner



The event provided an opportunity for farmers and industry representatives from across the region to come together after another busy year on farm, catch up with colleagues and share experiences. Attendees enjoyed a meal prepared by Kaiaka and an evening of conversation focused on the challenges and opportunities facing the rural sector. The dinner was well attended and created a positive atmosphere, with strong support from local sponsors and the Marlborough Farming for Profit Committee. Events such as this play an important role in strengthening community connections, supporting the local agricultural sector and providing opportunities for learning and networking.

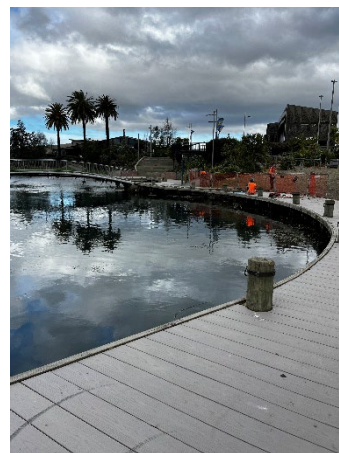
Riverside Reserve

Boardwalk Project

The Taylor River water levels at the Riverside Reserve around the amphitheatre area have been low enough for the boardwalk replacement project to continue. The project is continuing with sections of the boardwalk being replaced to allow full public access in and around the area.

While this staged process does stretch out the project timeline, the project is running to budget and does allow continued use of the area.

Staff will continue to monitor the water levels and access around the site.



Wairau Diversion

The gate is open and full vehicle access has now been restored to the Wairau Diversion mouth and day stay area. Work in upgrading this area continues with fencing, and parking formation to be completed.

Renwick Parks

Lions Reserve

Recent weather has caused some erosion along the edge of the Omaka River at Lions Reserve, with parts of the riverbank washing away.

Fortunately, no park assets or infrastructure were affected. The damage is limited to the river edge, and the reserve remains unaffected for users.

The area has been reported to the Rivers Team, who will add the repair work to their programme for future works.



Picton Parks

Port Marlborough Pavilion

Port Marlborough Team Breakfast & Values Awards

On 25 June, the Endeavour Park Sports Pavilion hosted Port Marlborough's annual Team Breakfast and Values Awards Ceremony.

The Pavilion was pleased to host this important occasion, which celebrates the people whose efforts contribute to the ongoing success of Port Marlborough.



Picton Waitohi Sports Club Day

The annual Picton Waitohi Combined Sports Club Day was held on 27 June, with football, netball and rugby teams all hosting home fixtures across Endeavour Park. Despite cold winter conditions, the event attracted a strong turnout of players, supporters and volunteers from across the region.

Many local teams wearing the iconic black and yellow colours secured hard-fought victories over visiting opposition. The day highlighted the strong community spirit that exists within Picton sport, with families and supporters gathering throughout the grounds while club volunteers operated bake sales, sausage sizzles and raffles to raise valuable funds for their respective clubs.

Club Day remains one of the highlights of the local sporting calendar, bringing together the wider sporting community to host visiting teams, strengthen club connections and celebrate grassroots sport.



Queen Charlotte College First Aid Course

On 29 and 30 June, Queen Charlotte College utilised the Pavilion to deliver a two-day First Aid course for senior students. The programme provided participants with practical first aid knowledge and nationally recognised qualifications, equipping them with valuable life skills as they prepare to transition from secondary school into further education, employment and the wider community.



District Cemeteries

Picton Cemetery

The recent weather event caused damage in the upper section of the newer area at Picton Cemetery, with parts of the accessway being undermined and washed out.



Fortunately, there are currently no interments in this section of the cemetery, and no graves or cemetery infrastructure were affected.

Remedial work has been completed to reinstate the affected accessway, with more permanent repairs required to be done.

Walking and Cycling

Marlborough Vineyard Trail

The Vineyard Trail once again sustained damage during the recent adverse weather event, including in areas that had only recently been repaired.

The repeated impact of these significant weather events highlights the ongoing challenge of maintaining the trail in its current form. Given the increasing frequency of major storm events, it may be necessary to accept that some sections will require regular repair and maintenance, potentially to a lower service level than has previously been provided.

As part of future planning, consideration may also need to be given to alternative route options that are less vulnerable to weather-related damage and disruption.



Marlborough Vineyard Trail

Kotuku Track

Pigs have recently caused significant damage to the Kotuku Track. With the wet weather, they appear to have sought out higher and drier ground and unfortunately chose the track itself, rooting up approximately 200 metres of the trail.

There have been reports of up to six pigs living in the area around the wastewater ponds. To address the problem and prevent further damage, a suitably qualified contractor has been engaged to undertake pig control operations in the area.

Repairs to the affected section of track will be carried out once the pig activity has been addressed.

Trees

Storm event

The July weather event brought a combination of strong southerly winds and flooding, resulting in damage to several trees across streetscapes and reserves. The direction, duration, and intensity of wind exposure can significantly influence how individual trees respond during storm events, particularly where trees have developed structural load patterns based on prevailing wind conditions. As a result, the unusual southerly direction may have contributed to the extent and type of damage observed.

With wind speeds reaching approximately 75 kph, Council staff arranged inspections of heritage, notable, and other high-value trees to assess any potential risk to public safety. The inspections confirmed that the assessed trees had withstood the event well, with no immediate public safety risks identified.

There were five trees that did succumb to the wind, and these were dealt with very quickly by the contractor.



Playgrounds

Mark Smith Reserve

At Mark Smith Reserve, in southwestern Blenheim three shade sails have been installed over the play equipment that double as seating. The shade sails are a welcome addition to this reserve, providing excellent shade for the community.



Grovetown Reserve

Contractors, Green by Nature, have started development of the new reserve with a playground in Grovetown. With the current global environment some of the key play pieces have been delayed, it is however expected the pieces will arrive by November, and the project completed and ready for Christmas.

Awarua Park

The playground area at Awarua Park in Spring Creek has had had three shade sails installed over the recently completed playground installation at the park.

The sails and some of the play equipment are colour black and white which pays homage to the black and white hoops of Moutere Rugby Football Club.

Two new floodlights were installed at Awarua Park tennis courts, replacing the very old and damaged poles.



Policy and Planning

The Hearing Panel for deliberations on the Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan met on 16 and 18 June 2026. Recommendations from the Hearing Panel will be reported to the relevant committee in September 2026 for approval of the final management plan.

Development of a Council Halls Policy to manage and support community halls is underway and will be presented to Councillors via a workshop within the next 2-3 months.

Public Access Provision

Purpose and legislative context

Maintaining and enhancing public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers is recognised as a matter of national importance under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Council helps give effect to this requirement through the resource consent process by securing esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips. Esplanades may also be taken for conservation purposes.

Policy framework

The RMA and Marlborough Environment Plan (MEP) set out when and where these mechanisms are applied, including whether compensation may be required. Policies 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 of the MEP identify high-priority areas for public access, as well as other locations where enhancing access is considered appropriate.

Long-term approach

This work is long-term and often reactive. Esplanade strips may be secured over time in locations that do not yet connect directly with one another but are associated with high-priority waterways. The long-term objective is to progressively build connected public access networks and improve linkages over time.

In some cases, these strips do not create an immediate management obligation, similar to paper roads. Their primary purpose is to preserve the opportunity for future public access.

Public information and mapping

Council is required to make information about the location of esplanade reserves, esplanade strips, and access strips available to the public. This information is provided through Smart Maps, Esplanade Reserves map. Over recent months, staff have reviewed and updated the mapping information, adding or amending more than 500 strips and reserves to bring Council's system up to date.



An example of an access strip and an esplanade strip providing access to the Wairau River at Te Whānau Hou/Grovetown Lagoon.

Rangers' Report

The significant amount of wood being illegally harvested along the riverbanks has continued, particularly along the Wairau River. There were 19 separate incidents of illegal harvesting of trees on the river banks in the month of June alone. Several of these incidents are the same groups of people, **where** wood harvesting is possibly viewed as an easy source of income.

The Rangers have had three successful trespass orders issued with the support of the Blenheim Police with one person to appear in court in August.

Along with encountering people illegally harvesting in these areas, significant damage is often caused to access points, resulting in costly repairs where concrete blocks and heavy wire fencing have been removed or damaged.

Rangers continue to come across homeless people on the reserves and contact is made with the community services to support the people they find. One person who had recently been staying longer term at a reserve has left the site, with the help of the Blenheim Police.



Record No: 26162156