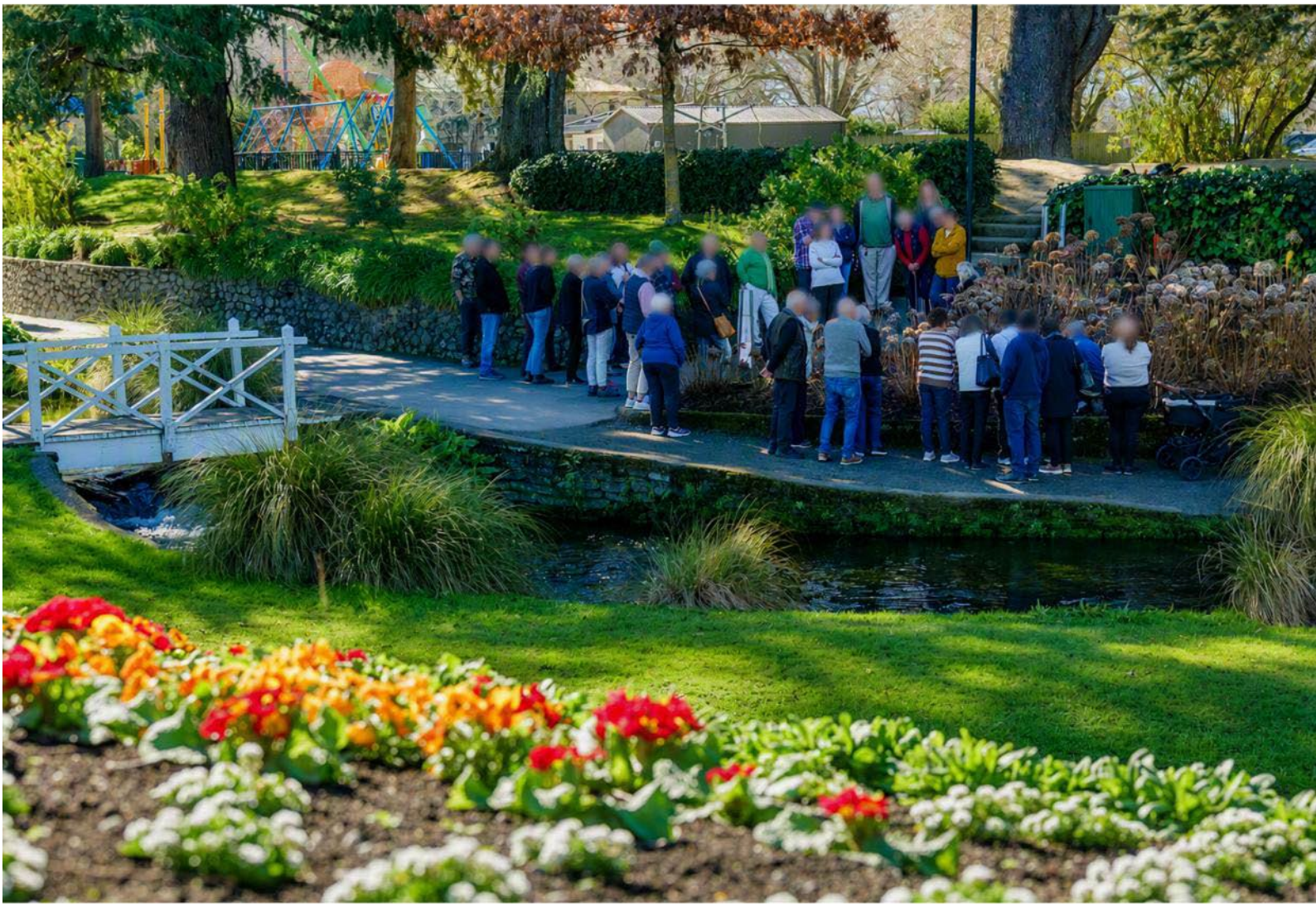
INFORMATION PACKAGE **24 SEPTEMBER 2026**

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Infrastructure & Community Facilities



Pollard Park - Rose and hydrangea pruning demonstrations

Contents

Marlborough Roads **1**
Local Road Asset Management Report – September 2026 1
Marlborough Roads Activities 3
Marlborough Roads Recovery July 2026 Project Report 11
Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – August 2026 ..... **18**
Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report **22**
Blenheim Parks 22
Lansdowne Hub 25
Picton Parks 27
Trees 29

Local Road Asset Management Report – September 2026

(Information prepared by Damian Ford) **R800-007-02**

Summary

The IDC and Sounds contracts are settling in well and the new Marlborough Roads staffing structure is now in place.

A series of 'Meet the Contractor' events were held in August across four locations in the Sounds, where local residents were able to meet and engage with their local contractor and members of Marlborough Roads. Councillor Innes supported and attended the events which was greatly appreciated.

Following the July Weather Event and to enable the necessary works to be undertaken a recovery funding bid has been submitted, with the works required estimated at $8.069m.

Other Business

In addition to the regular and ongoing BAU works undertaken, the pre-seal works required ahead of the upcoming renewals season has started and will continue over the coming weeks. All the planned school crossing works have been completed, as well as changes to the parking arrangements at Springlands School.

Focus Area

Following the change to the IDC contract the cleaning of the CBDs is now considered a priority. Following discussions with the contractor a greater focus is now being placed on the cleaning regime to ensure that the Level of Service provided is to the standard required. This has included regular walkovers with the JVs Operations Manager.

This has resulted in additional staff being allocated to the Cleaning Teams and a greater focus on auditing the work. In the short term this has seen an uplift in the Level of Service and the focus is now on maintaining this going forward. The JV will be undertaking regular internal inspections and checks, while there will be weekly audits by Marlborough Roads and a joint monthly walkover to pick up any deficiencies.



Example of Before 'Focus Area' Action



Example of After 'Focus Area;' Action

Performance Reporting

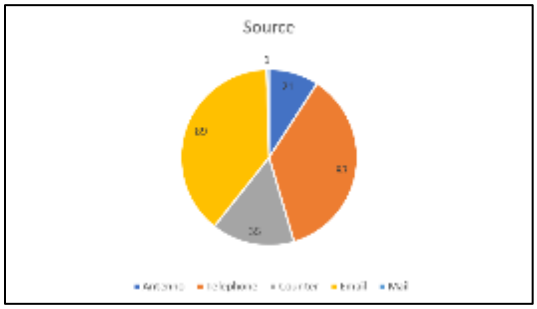
Customer Services

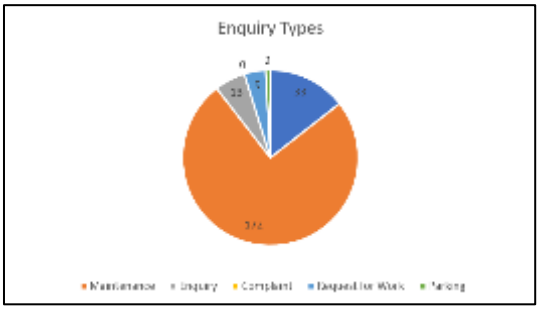
Since the start of the new IDC and Sounds contracts all customer enquiries are now fielded by Marlborough Roads. This sees all emails and phone calls etc. being handled initially by the Customer Services Team, who then pass to the relevant team to respond to and / or action accordingly.

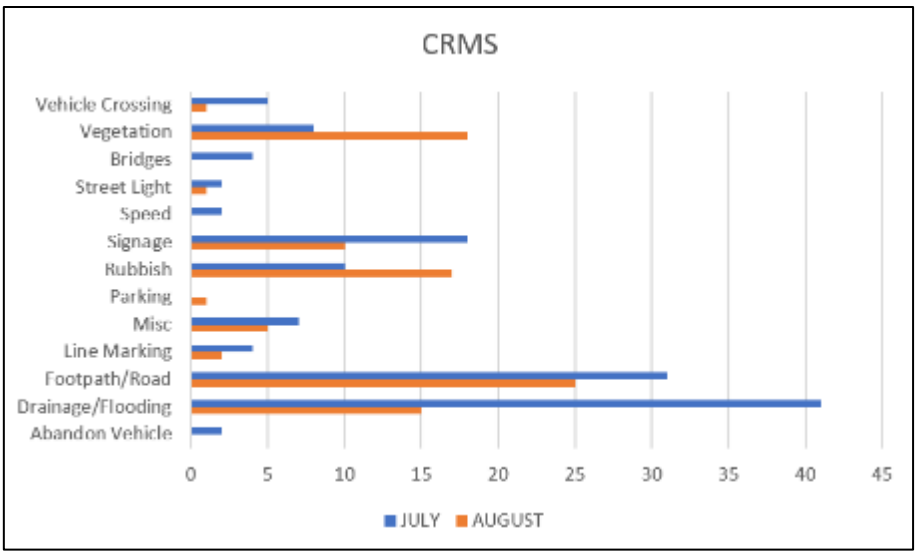
Customer Contacts

The number of customer contacts, type of contact and enquiry type are shown below.

	Month		Total
	Jul	Aug	
Total Number of Enquiries	134	95	229
Via MDC Customer Services	44 (32.8%)	42 (44.2%)	86 (37.6%)

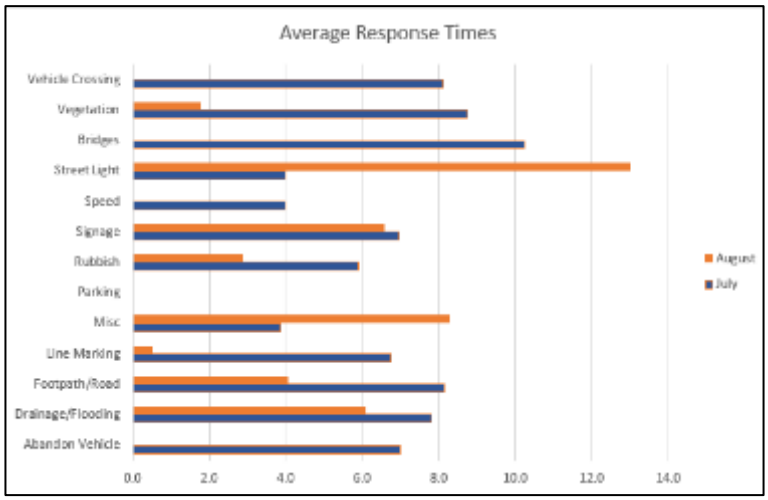






Response Times

There is a requirement to respond to customer enquiries within 15 working days and the average response times for enquiries is shown below.



Going forward the intent is to maintain or improve the average response time.

Temporary Traffic Management

Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) reporting is quarterly based, with the last reporting period ending in June 2026, which was relayed in the last report. The next reporting period runs until the end of September with an update provided in October.

During the last financial year the average TTM percentage of costs were just under 10%. During the current financial year we will seek to maintain or improve on this.

Pothole Repairs

Pothole reporting is quarterly based, with the last reporting period ending in June 2026, which was relayed in the last report. The next reporting period runs until the end of September with an update provided in October.

For Local Roads the target is to repair 90% of potholes within 48 hours. During the last financial year there were 1,749 potholes reported, with 86.3% being fixed within the targeted timescale.

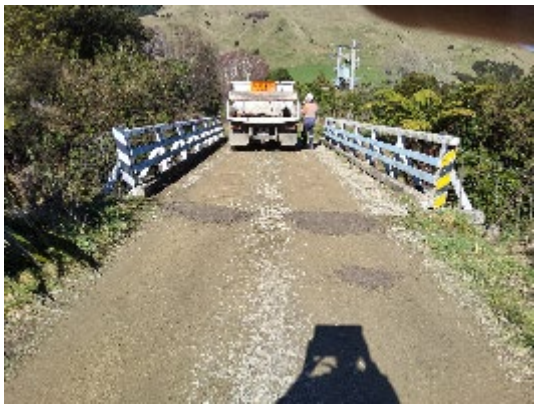
Marlborough Roads Activities

Maintenance and Operations

Weather Event
Emergency funding has been applied for in relation to the July weather event. Responding to the immediate effects incurred costs of circa $1.41m. The cost estimate for the required works is estimated at $6.665m.

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

- Find and fix cyclic crew works
- Grading works across numerous roads
- Channel maintenance works
- Sign fixing and / or replacements
- Kerb and channel replacement works on Second Lane
- Replacement of bridging plates at a crossing
- Bollard repairs on High Street, Picton
- New line markings on Park Terrace
- Revised car parking layout at Springlands School
- Completion of footpath maintenance work along Taylor Pass Road

Clova Bay Road – Pothole Repairs




Manaroa Bridge Cleaning




Kenepuru Road – Sight Rail Works




Revised car parking layout on Aston Street at Springlands School




Bridging Plate Replacement – Hutchinson Street




Footpath maintenance works along Taylor Pass Road




Bollard Repair – High Street, Picton




Water Channel Maintenance – Taylor Pass Road

The change in speed limits around all schools in the District has been progressed and at the time of writing the works to install is about to go to tender. The intent is that the works will be undertaken around the October school holidays, in part to minimise impact around the schools while works are being undertaken.

Contractor Innovation

Mike Edridge Contracting undertook clearing of a section of concrete lined and grassed channels along Tennyson Road using a new piece of equipment, a wheeled excavator with a broom attachment. This allows material to be brushed into the closed lane and removed using a skid steer. A sweeper then followed the activity to clear the road.




Pre-works and during works

Over a day 650 lane metres were cleared along with other minor faults (high shoulders and culvert inlets).

This methodology led to good production, limited staff on the ground, decreased delays for road users and allowed several other tasks to be undertaken as the works progressed. An unexpected result was the debris directly above the channels was able to be easily removed using the excavator. This decreased the amount of debris that could potentially fall into the channel during the next rain or wind event. The process worked well for both concrete and grassed water channels.



During works and after works

Port Underwood Road & Queen Charlotte Drive Safety Improvements

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

Medium Term – The potential works have been reviewed and assessed, initially by vegetation works / engineering work (road widening, bank benching, cutbacks etc.), and then by those which could be delivered relatively easily and those which would require more extensive and / or complex works. The initial cost estimates are currently being worked through and will be presented in due course, but the works will be included within the RLTP Improvement Projects.

Infrastructure

The raising of Rarangi Road and Woolleys Crossing to lift the road level to reduce the risk of flooding in future weather events were delivered during the course of August.



Rārangi Road Works

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 Rd drainage		✓	✓	✓	Crafar Crouch	Works completed June '26
Swansdown Bridge deck		✓	✓	✓	Fulton Hogan	Works completed June '26
Ben Morvan Rd drainage		✓	✓	✓	Simcox	Works completed July '26
School Crossings		✓	✓	✓	CMT	Works completed August '26
Rarangi Road raising		✓	✓	✓	TC Nicholls	Works completed August '26
Kenningtons Road		✓	✓	🕒	Edridge	On hold and with MDC Legal
Kenningtons Road Bridge		✓	✓	🕒	Egypt	
Waitaria Bridge No.1		✓	✓	🕒		Replacement bridge – start Dec '26 compete end of January '27
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	✓					
School Speed Signs	✓	✓			-	Update signage to revised speeds
Kaiuma Bay Road	✓	🕒			-	Safety Review
Hammerichs Road	🕒				-	Drainage works
Marama Road, Seddon	🕒				-	Drainage works
Picton Signage	🕒				-	Review of signage
High Street Bridge	🕒				-	Replacement of bridge
Morgans Road Bridge No.2	🕒					Options for replacement
Hodder Bridge	🕒					Deck replacement
Clifford Street, Seddon	🕒					Review stormwater issues

Strategy

With regards to the Regional Land Transport Plan the Vision Statement, and at the time of writing, Workshop 4: Optioneering is to be held on 10 September with the intent that options be identified / confirmed and to establish Councillors' prioritisation of these options. The TAG will then refine the projects and prioritisation methodology. At the subsequent RTC Workshop the intent will be to confirm the projects which will be entered into TIO for the initial submission, which is required in October.

The Activity Management Plan (AMP) is being developed and will be presented as part of the wider Budget Review in October.

Planning

Work continues with the day-to-day processing of resource consents for MDC and ensuring new developments and subdivisions meet Council standards, as well as resource consent conditions sign-off.

A proactive approach is being pursued where developers are being encouraged to engage early on an informal basis to discuss potential development sites, with the view to identifying any potential issues so that the developers can make informed decisions prior to incurring significant costs when promoting a site.

Multi Modal

Walking & Cycling
Work is continuing on the Walking and Cycling Strategy Review with the next stage being to work with MDC Parks & Open Spaces team to develop a holistic joined up approach.

The last of the new Bike Stations are being installed close to the Library in Blenheim during the first week of September and at the Picton Library in late September / early October, so all four stations are in place ahead of the Sounds to Sounds and the Te Araroa cycling events.

The new Kea Crossings work at Hammerich Road, Hutchinson Street, Colemans Road and Maxwell Road has been completed. As has the works at Wairau School, in relation to improved markings for the school bus.



Colemans Road Kea Crossing



Wairau Valley School bus stop and car park markings

Changes to the Eltham Road cycle facilities, at the Maxwell Road intersection, have also been completed following concerns raised regarding cars mounting the footpath.

Total Mobility
Following the change in subsidy at the start of July there has been a slight reduction in the number of client trips, which equates to less than 4%, but has resulted in a 34.6% increase in fares.

Public Transport
There has been a mixed start to the financial year, with a 10.3% (150) increase in passenger numbers in the first month followed by a 12.6% (167) decrease in the second month when compared to last year. Passenger numbers are tracking in line with last year's trends.

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	**Total**
2026-27	1,605	1,136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,741**
2025-26	1,455	1,300	1,469	1,396	1,387	1,701	1,591	1,563	1,752	1,542	1,524	1,391	**18,071**

Fare increases, of 7%, will be implemented across bus services as of 1 September 2026. It is envisaged that passenger numbers should remain similar to last year, as seen in the Total Mobility client numbers since the change in subsidy.

Road Crash Summary

There were no Death or Serious Injury (DSI) crashes on the Local Roads during July and August. The below compares the number of DSI crashes and injuries on Local Roads during the course of 2026-27 against last year's data.

		Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2026-27	Crashes	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Injuries	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2025-26	Crashes	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	3
	Injuries	2	0	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	2	1	3

As part of the Road Safety works provided by WSP, an initial review has been undertaken of the last five years data which established that there were in total 881 crashes. The location of these crashes were assessed to determine which intersections have had ten or more crashes, and these are summarised below.

Intersection	No. of Crashes
Redwood Street / Kinross Street	15
Seymour Street / Maxwell Street	14
Seymour Street / High Street	13
Alabama Road / Weld Street	12
Alabama Road / Redwood Street	11
Seymour Street / Henry Street	10

A review of these intersections will be undertaken to determine what improvement works could be undertaken to reduce the number of crashes at these locations.

Marlborough Roads Recovery July 2026 Project Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a concise summary of Marlborough Roads Recovery Team's performance, delivery progress, financial position, key risks, and forward priorities for the July 2026 reporting period.

Executive Summary

The Marlborough Roads Recovery Programme continues to make good overall progress across design, construction, stakeholder management, and commercial control. Delivery remains constrained by winter weather, added resilience scope, and resource pressure within the Design Hub; however, the programme is still achieving delivery milestones across Queen Charlotte Drive, Kenepuru, French Pass, Northbank, Waihopai, Port Underwood, and Awatere.

Health and safety performance remains generally well controlled, with no Life Saving Rule Breaches recorded in the month. One Lost Time Injury and one First Aid injury were reported, alongside traffic management near misses and a vehicle impact incident.

Environmental risks were actively managed, including successful freshwater controls and fish relocation at the Waikakaho River site, also a hydraulic oil leak occurred and was contained and remediated effectively.

Commercially, the programme remains in a favourable position. Phase 2 is tracking with a small positive contingency, while Phase 3 continues to forecast a significant contingency due largely to successful procurement and negotiated contract outcomes.

The programme update indicates that completion date forecasts have improved, although additional resilience and weather-related scope is likely to extend activity beyond the previous late-2027 finish if these works are to be delivered under the current Recovery Team.



Figure 1- Realigned Road Kenepuru

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Performance Snapshot

Area	Status	Board summary
Health & Safety	Monitor	No Life Saving Rule Breaches. One LTI, one First Aid injury, four traffic management breaches and one vehicle damage incident reported.
Environmental	Monitor	Freshwater controls were effective at Waikakaho, with fish relocation completed. One hydraulic oil incident was contained and cleaned up.
Design	Monitor	Design is progressing but stretched by resilience scope and resourcing changes. Ten Complex and twelve Simple sites remain.
Construction	On track with constraints	Progress remains strong where weather allows. Several key packages completed or underway, including QCD wall, Anakiwa, Portage Walls, Kenepuru packages, French Pass works and Waikakaho river scour.
Commercial	Favourable	Phase 2 forecast remains positive with approximately $177k contingency. Phase 3 continues to forecast approximately $22.1m contingency.
Programme	Monitor	Forecast completion position has improved, but additional resilience and weather-related scope may extend activity beyond late 2027.
Stakeholders	Stable	Thirty-two customer interactions were recorded in July, mostly related to French Pass and Kenepuru closures.



Figure 2- Culvert and Gabion Wall under Construction Moetapu

Health, Safety and Environment

Health and Safety: July recorded zero Life Saving Rule Breaches and no at-risk controls identified through Critical Risk Conversations. The rolling 12-month TRIFR was 7.73 based on 129,359 hours, with 11,580.24 hours worked during the month. Thirteen Critical Risk Conversations were completed against an adjusted target of fourteen, reflecting personnel availability and onboarding demands.

The main safety concern is the pattern of traffic management breaches, particularly in the French Pass area. The project is responding through continued traffic management auditing, daily toolbox reminders, public communications before summer, and coordination between zone managers and contractors.

Environment: Environmental management was effective overall. River works at Waikakaho were well controlled, including diversion works and de-fishing that relocated three eels and forty-three native fish. The main lowlight was a hydraulic oil spill at Waikakaho, which was contained, cleaned up and remediated. Resource consent work is progressing for three potential fill sites in the Kenepuru Heads area.

Delivery Progress

Design: Design remains active across all phases. All Phase 2 Complex sites are substantially complete, except close-out risk assessment work for RP 17.5 Northbank Bluff. Phase 3 design is progressing, with one new Complex site and one new Simple site added during the month. The Design Hub is under pressure from resilience work, construction support, drilling activities and resourcing changes; however, the team continues to prioritise activities that could affect construction sequencing.

Construction: Construction progress remains positive where winter weather allows. On Queen Charlotte Drive, contractors have completed the Retaining Wall at Ngakuta as well as the retaining wall and pavement works on Anakiwa Road. Four of thirty-four resilience culvert upgrades were completed.

Kenepuru remains the highest activity area, with KS2 Package 2 ready to commence, Portage Walls underway, Portage Stormwater about to start, and KS6/KS7 simple sites progressing.

In French Pass, the final Complex site at French Pass Village is underway, Tennyson Inlet block wall works are complete, Ronga River rock armour is complete, and Carluke Bridge rock-bag works remain dependent on river levels. Awatere works were substantially complete, but recent storms have created new significant sites, including Cam Corner.

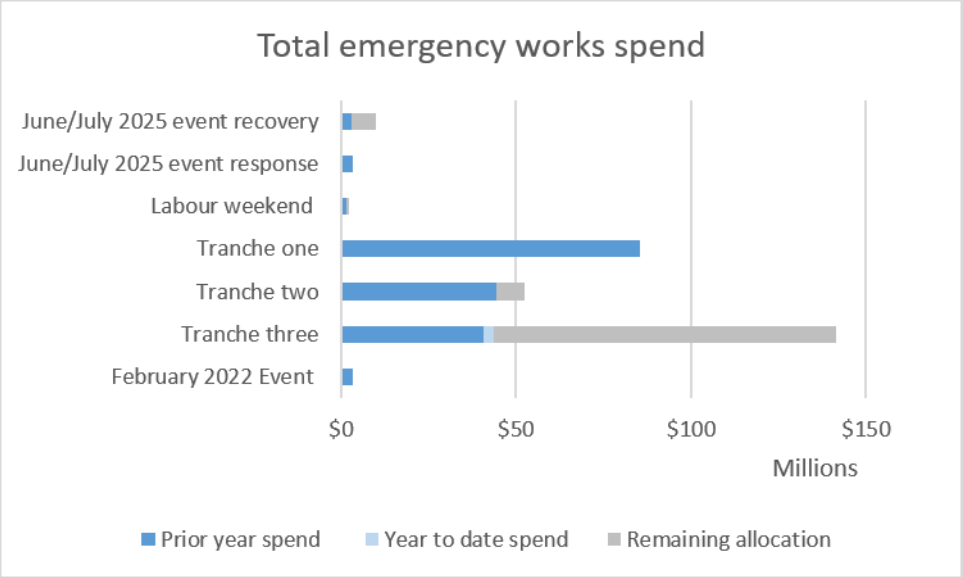
Handover and BAU transition: Handover remains an important control as sites are completed. The programme continues to emphasise timely RAMM updates, clear residual risk identification, and confirmation of risk ownership before assets transfer back to business-as-usual management.



Figure 3- Drilling Pile Holes French Pass

Roading emergency works - financial update to 31 July 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 31% utilised. A split per zone is completed below in this report. There is $97.4M 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.

A winter 2026 event funding allocation request is currently awaiting approval.

In total there is $113.7M in approved funding remaining for the program of works.

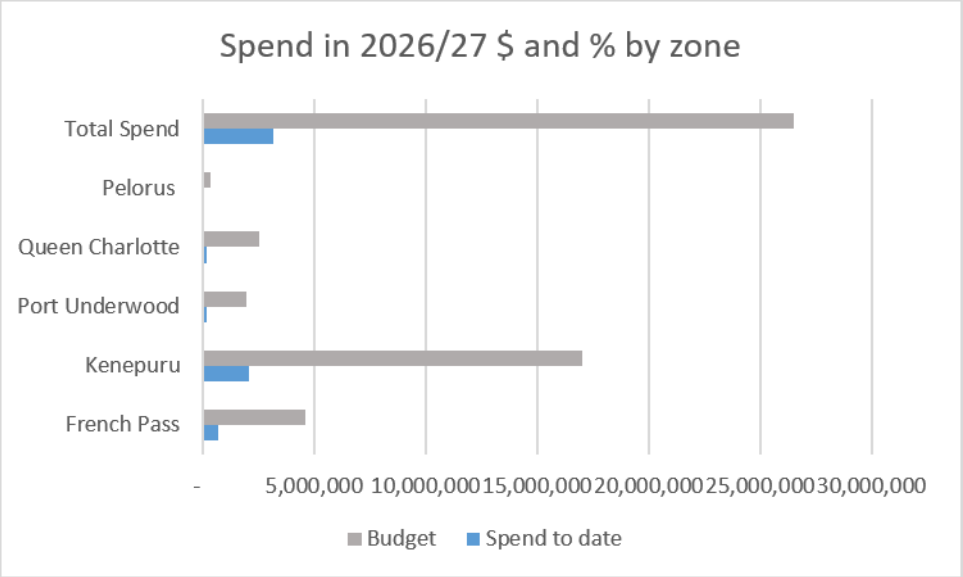
Current year expenditure by type

This graph is not available this report.

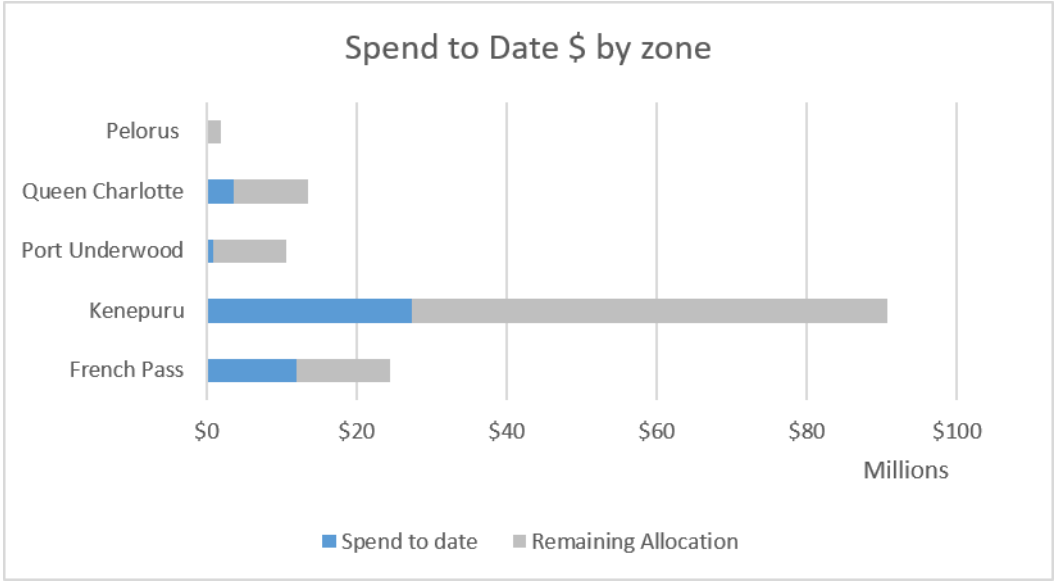
Phase three zone analysis

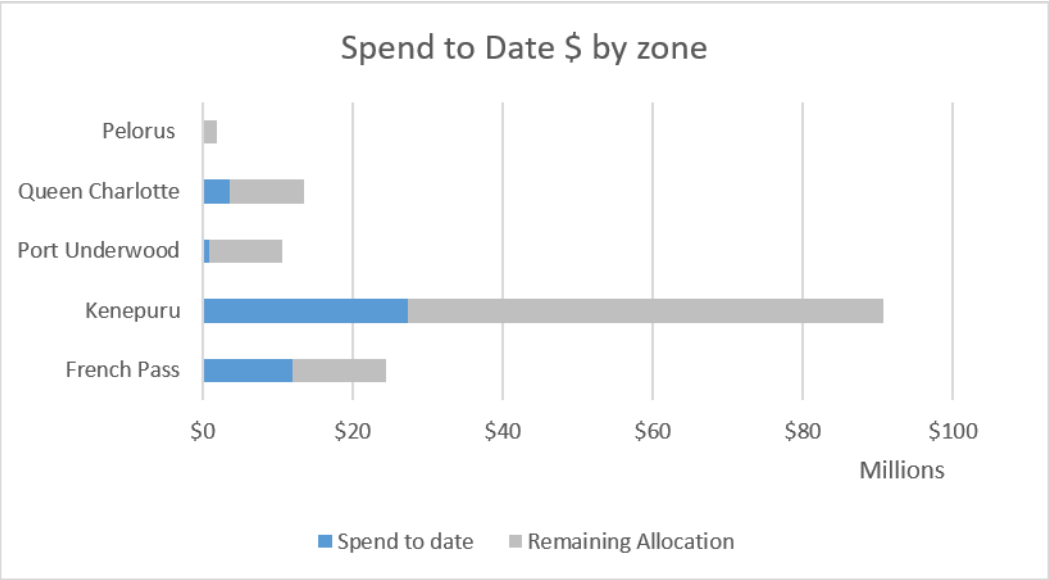
	Spend to date	Budget	Remaining Allocation
French Pass	12,060	24,531	12,471
Kenepuru	27,358	90,800	63,442
Port Underwood	884	10,630	9,746
Queen Charlotte	3,692	13,520	9,828
Pelorus	28	1,930	1,902
Total Spend	**44,021**	**141,411**	**97,390**

Phase three – current year expenditure compared to current year allocation



Phase three – total expenditure compared to total allocation





Key Risks

Risk / Issue	Current mitigation	Client attention
Design progress and resourcing pressure	Active management through Design Manager reviews, prioritisation of client inputs, and use of Design Hub and consultant resources.	Monitor capacity against resilience and recovery scope.
Contractor-led solutions and residual asset risk	Risk registers, handover controls, and confirmation of residual risk owners.	Ensure risk ownership is explicit before BAU transfer.
Traffic management and public access risk	Audits, proactive public communication, daily toolbox reminders and active site supervision.	Maintain visibility before summer access demand increases.
Additional weather-related scope	Resource review and integration into programming where possible.	Funding and delivery implications may require future decision.
Environmental discharge risk	Site-specific environmental controls, spill kits, monitoring and consent close-out processes.	Continue monitoring high-risk river and fill-site activities.

Matters for noting: Continued positive construction and commercial performance, ongoing safety and traffic management focus, the resource pressure created by added resilience and new storm damage sites being added to the scope, may require separate programme and funding treatment.



Figure 4- New Retaining wall at Ngakuta

Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report – August 2026

(Clr Dalliessi) (Report prepared by Glenn Webster) **L300-018-001-02**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the operations of the Library services.

School Visits

- Both libraries have welcomed visits from local schools, providing students with opportunities to explore library resources, develop literacy skills and engage with learning activities. Visits to Te Kahu o Waipuna have included visiting the Folio Exhibition – a major presentation of Years 11, 12 and 13 artwork.

National Poetry Day in Aotearoa New Zealand – Friday 28 August

- Picton Library celebrated National Poetry Day with two special events leading up to Friday 28 August. Participants at Messy Craft, which is held every Tuesday after school, created Blackout Poetry pieces. At Company Café, held every Thursday from 10.30am to 11.30am, members of the Picton Poets and Picton Writers groups came together to present and read selections of their original writing.

Fine-Free

- Following confirmation of the Committee minutes at the full Council meeting on Thursday 6 August, and the completion of the required administrative processes, the Fine-Free policy was introduced on Thursday 13 August. Members were reminded that email reminders will continue to be sent three days before items are due and that returning items promptly helps ensure library materials remain available for others to borrow and enjoy.

Family History Month

- Two successful Family History Month events were held at Te Kahu o Waipuna on Tuesday 11 August and Thursday 27 August. Many of those who attended were connected to the Blenheim Family History Group who offer free regular drop-in sessions at Te Kahu o Waipuna and Picton Library and Service Centre. The Family History sessions were presented by Reference Librarian, Sandra Parker and Library Assistant, Lindsey Jackson. Databases and topics discussed included:

    - FamilySearch.org
    - Papers Past
    - British Newspaper Archives
    - Wilson Collection
    - Howison Archives
    - AI Hallucinations

  Twenty-eight people attended the event, with overall participant feedback rating it between *very good* and *excellent*. Attendees also indicated an interest in more frequent interactive genealogy workshops in the future.

Staff News

- Congratulations to Anna Crowe, Collections Support Librarian, on being awarded the 2026 LIANZA student awards.
  Anna thanked the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) not only for her award but for funding her studies through a LIANZA – SLANZA (School Library Association New Zealand Aotearoa) Tertiary Grant in 2022, when she was working at Marlborough Girls College Library.

  Anna joined Marlborough District Libraries in November 2025.

Marlborough Libraries Usage Statistics

Membership



New Members

- 1 August – 31 August 2026

TOTAL 140

Renewed Memberships

- 1 August – 31 August 2026

TOTAL 193

Visitor Numbers (Door Count)

The number of people who visited **Te Kahu o Waipuna**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, were:

2026 Visitor Numbers
1 August – 31 August 2026
25,643

2025 Visitor Numbers
1 August – 31 August 2025
26,883

The number of people who visited **Picton Library and Service Centre Waitohi Whare Mātauranga**, recorded via the RFID entrance gates, were:

2026 Visitor Numbers
1 August – 31 August 2026
6,935

2025 Visitor Numbers
1 August – 31 August 2025
6,696

Average Daily Visitor Numbers: 1 – 31 August 2026

		Te Kahu o Waipuna		Picton Library and Service Centre		
Weekday Visitors		854		263		
Saturday Visitors		798		170		
Sunday Visitors		742		109		

Items Checked Out (Issued) and Checked In (Returned)

Checkouts and Renewals	August 2026	August 2025	Variance
Marlborough Library	33,150	34,062	**-912**
Picton Library	4,773	4,944	**- 171**
E-Resources	7,835	6,043	**+1,792**
TOTAL	**45,758**	**45,049**	**+709**
Check-ins			
Marlborough Library	29,863	30,745	**- 882**
Picton Library	4,447	4,511	**- 64**
TOTAL	**34,310**	**35,256**	**- 946**

Compared with August last year, visitor numbers were lower, resulting in decreases in both checkouts and check-ins. In contrast, digital issues continue to increase each month, reflecting ongoing growth in digital borrowing.

Room Bookings

The number of rooms booked by groups and individuals in August 2026 was:

August Room Bookings	Community / Library Use	Commercial Use	TOTAL Use
Te Kahu o Waipuna	469	7	476
Picton Library	103	0	103
TOTAL	**572**	**7**	**579**

Holds (Items Reserved)

The number of holds placed on items in August 2026 was: **5,079**



Internet Usage Sessions – Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK)

The following usage statistics were recorded in August 2026

	In-Library Computer Sessions	Wi-Fi (using their own device)
Marlborough Library	1,166	7,219
Picton Library	765	2,565
TOTAL	**1,931**	**9,784**

Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report

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

Blenheim Parks

Pollard Park

Maintenance continues to be the primary focus at Pollard Park, with staff actively working across all areas of the park. During the reporting period, all rose gardens were weeded, the rose plants were fertilised, and mulch was applied throughout the garden beds to support plant health and presentation.



Following this work, attention shifted to the ongoing weeding and deadheading of the annual beds, along with maintenance of the rhododendron dell and remaining border areas. The annual beds are now beginning to flower, providing an attractive spring display.



Pruning Demonstrations

Council staff provided rose and hydrangea pruning demonstrations to the public in the Park. This well advertised activity is a favourite among the community and this year drew more attendees than normal.



Weather Event

Recent strong winds have caused damage to several trees throughout the park and across the golf course.

While most fallen branches were relatively small, a number of large limbs either fell or cracked, requiring assessment and remedial work by arborist crews. As a result of the storm damage, three trees were removed for safety reasons.

Staff met on site with members of the Blenheim Golf Club to discuss the trees and organise assessments and in some cases removals of trees.

Seymour Square

Several trees within Seymour Square, particularly along the western side, sustained damage during recent periods of strong wind. Staff have responded by removing numerous broken branches and carrying out pruning work on affected trees to ensure the area remains safe and well maintained.

Routine maintenance has been completed across all annual beds, and the perennial border has been thoroughly weeded. In addition, mulch has been applied to all border areas to improve soil moisture retention, suppress weed growth, and enhance the overall appearance of the gardens.

College Park

Marlborough Hockey played host for the Tier 4 South Island Girls Jenny McDonald Cup in the first week of September, with 16 teams playing at College Park and Puna Wai.

McKendry Park
More than 20 heritage fruit trees, including plums, apples and pears have been planted in the park to bolster the heritage plums and daffodils growing there.

Rema Reserve
There have been six Heritage fruit trees planted at the park as replacements for the Eucalyptus that was removed. Conditions of the resource consent were that a combination of native trees and fruit trees would be planted on this reserve.

Riverside Park Boardwalk Project
The Taylor River water levels at the Riverside Reserve continue to be sufficiently low 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 is almost complete. Electrical work for the boardwalk light replacement has begun, starting with a new controller being installed in the nearby pump shed.

Wairau Diversion
With the gate open and full vehicle access now available, lots of visitors are now enjoying the Wairau Diversion mouth and day stay area.



Work on upgrading this area continues with fencing, tree pruning, entry way and day stay area landscaping underway.

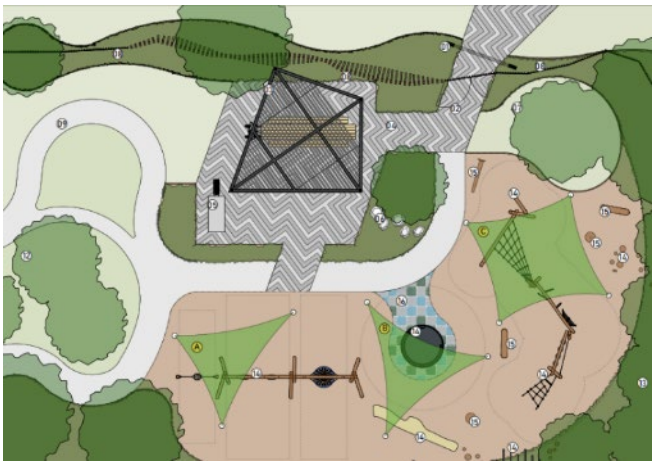
The area has had an increase in the number of users enjoying the coast. Council had installed large blocks to direct the public to the main day area instead of along the stop bank accessway. Driving along the accessway has been troublesome for some individuals and locals.

Council is moving ahead with the consent to develop the sites into a freedom camping area, with a hearing expected in the next 3 to 6 months.

Grovetown Reserve

Work has started on the development of a playground at the reserve with the gardens, paths and tracks areas have now been scraped off in preparation for boxing and framing.

The playground development has a waharoa to mark the entrance to the park and piazza paving laid in a Papatūānuku pattern, there will also be a bike track, other play equipment and a picnic space along with native plantings and landscaping. It is expected to be completed in the next few months.





Lansdowne Hub

Festival Day Celebrates Junior Netball Season

Lansdowne Hub was full of colour, energy and plenty of smiles for Festival Day 2026, as young netballers came together to finish their season with a day of fun and celebration.

Despite a chilly day, the weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm, with tamariki taking to the courts for a full day of netball, friendship and activities. The festival provided a great opportunity for players to enjoy the final day of the junior season in a relaxed and positive environment, with families and whānau there to support them.

The success of the day was made possible through the support of local businesses and community sponsors, along with the many coaches, managers, volunteers and whānau who give their time throughout the season.



Festival Day was a great celebration of junior netball in Marlborough and the strong community support behind getting young people involved in sport, active and connected.

Marlborough Netball Awards Night

Lansdowne Hub hosted the Marlborough Netball Awards, bringing together athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials and supporters to celebrate another successful season of netball in Marlborough.

The evening provided an opportunity to recognise and acknowledge the achievements of athletes, as well as the many volunteers and officials who give their time throughout the season to support the sport.

There were plenty of opportunities for people involved in netball to catch up and celebrate, the awards night was a great way to finish the season.

Hosting events such as the Marlborough Netball Awards highlights the role Lansdowne Hub plays in providing a welcoming space for local sporting organisations to come together, celebrate their achievements and recognise the people who make community sport possible.

Mako Double Header Draws Big Crowd to Lansdowne Park

Lansdowne Park was buzzing on Saturday as the Tasman Mako hosted a special double header, with both the Mako women and men taking to the field in front of a good sized local crowd.

The afternoon began with the Mako women taking on the Hawke’s Bay Tui in the Farah Palmer Cup. The home side put up a strong fight, leading 15-14 at halftime before Hawke’s Bay pulled away in the second half to secure a 36-22 victory.

The crowd stayed on for the main event, with the Mako men facing the Wellington Lions in the NPC. In an entertaining contest, Tasman came away with an impressive 42-28 win, giving the home supporters plenty to celebrate.

With both teams playing on the same day, the double header created a great atmosphere around Lansdowne Park, bringing families, rugby supporters and local clubs together for an afternoon and evening of provincial rugby.

The strong turnout once again demonstrated the appetite for high-level rugby in Marlborough and the important role Lansdowne Park plays in providing a venue where the wider community can come together to support local and provincial sport.

The event was also a great opportunity for the Lansdowne Hub to support the Mako and provide a central base for the day's activities, helping make the double header a memorable occasion for players, supporters and the wider Marlborough community.



Eastern and South Marlborough Parks

Staff and contractors have continued scheduled business-as-usual maintenance across parks and open spaces.

Seddon Open Spaces

Parks contractor Kūmānu will shortly establish some small amenity planting areas as part of the landscaping and completion works for the bowling club carpark upgrade and short section of Newcome Street.

Picton Parks

Victoria Domain — biodiversity planting and invasive weed control

Excellent progress has been made across key areas of the Domain over winter, supported by both community volunteers and specialist contractors.

Picton Foreshore Reserve

Minor maintenance of built assets, turf, and amenity planting has continued over the past period. Annual turf spraying for such as Onehunga weed will be carried out before summer, as weather allows.

Shade sails and umbrellas have been checked, tightened, and cleaned where needed.

Picton Port Redevelopment

Foreshore reserve visitors will notice significant activity at the former aquarium site over the next few months as construction begins on the port redevelopment project and support services office building. Small delays to vehicle access in to the reserve carpark may occur.

2026-27 Cruise Ship Season

The upcoming cruise ship schedule is now available on the Port Marlborough website. This season has fewer visits, with 32 vessels berthing in Picton and five anchoring at Ships Cove. Of the berthing vessels, 13 have capacity for more than 3,000 passengers, eight have capacity for 1,500–3,000 passengers, and 16 have capacity for fewer than 1,500 passengers.

Waikawa Bay Foreshore Reserve

Council staff are working with Te Ātiawa and the Waikawa Residents and Ratepayers Association to develop a long-term development plan for the reserve. This is an action from the reserves management plan adopted in 2025 and will guide future development or redevelopment of the reserve.

The development plan will also assist the delivery of other action items and ensure the protection, care, and use of this small but significant public open space remains balanced, achievable, and enduring.

Port Marlborough Pavilion

Senior A Rugby Finals Bring Community Together in Picton

Endeavour Park was at the centre of Marlborough rugby action this season, hosting a Senior A semi-final and the championship final, attracting strong crowds and creating a fantastic atmosphere for players, supporters and the wider community.

The Senior A Final between Waitohi and Moutere drew more than 500 spectators to Picton, with supporters lining the field to watch a thrilling contest that saw Waitohi retain the championship title with a dramatic 34-32 victory.

The large crowd reflected the growing interest in local rugby, with strong support evident throughout the final's series. Players and officials commented on the resurgence of community rugby in Marlborough, with local clubs enjoying increased attendance and engagement.

The finals series was about more than just the action on the field. Following both the semi-final and final, teams, supporters and volunteers gathered for after-match functions, providing an opportunity to celebrate the finals, acknowledge achievements and strengthen connections between clubs and communities.



Futsal Coming to Picton in Term 4

The Port Marlborough Pavilion will be running futsal sessions in Picton during Term 4, using the Queen Charlotte College Hall.

The programme will provide primary and secondary-aged children from Picton and the Sounds area with an opportunity to get involved in futsal in a fun, social and welcoming environment.

The aim is to give local young people another opportunity to be active, learn new skills and meet other children through sport. The sessions will have a strong focus on enjoyment and participation, rather than competition, making futsal accessible to young people of different ages and abilities.

We see this as a great opportunity to bring more sport opportunities to the Picton and Sounds community and hopefully encourage more young people to get involved and stay active.

District Public Conveniences

A procurement tender process was completed recently for the cleaning and minor maintenance services of Council's public toilet facilities. OCS Ltd, the incumbent provider, was successful in being awarded the contract.

Trees

Endeavour Heights Subdivision

As identified in the August 2025 Assets and Services information pack, staff undertook a second tree survey of residents in the Endeavour Heights subdivision.

Of the 81 residents surveyed, Council received 18 responses (19 in 2025). While the data showed a preference for the trees to be removed, 12 of the 18, (13 in 2025), were in favour of removal, there were 63 residents who did not respond. There is insufficient data to satisfy Council that a complete change in the streetscape of the subdivision is favoured.

Recent high winds have played havoc with trees across the district, with two of the Parks & Open Spaces long-term staff saying that this year has been one of the windiest years experienced.

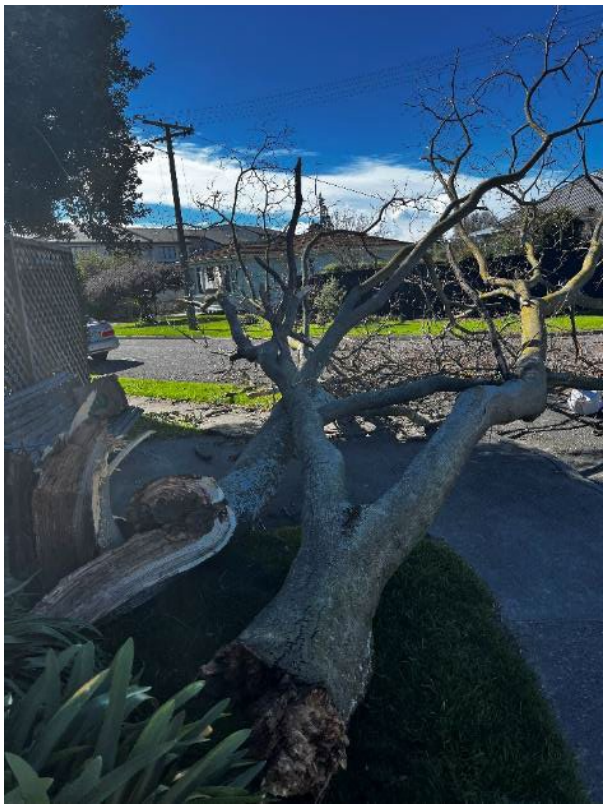
The table below is a snapshot of recent wind events in our streets and reserves during a particularly windy 7-day period. This does not cover the smaller branches picked up by our greenspace contractors, or the trees removed by Marlborough Roads or other Council teams.

Date	Location	Details
28/08/2026	Taylor River Reserve	Large hanging branch in tree – removed by contractor
30/08/2026	Elmwood Avenue	Tree fell completely and blocked road, contractor called out and removed tree
31/08/2026	Taylor Pass Road	Snapped out large branch – rest of tree later removed
31/08/2026	Weld Street	Large branch from tree broke and was hanging from tree – removed by contractor
31/08/2026	Elmwood Avenue	Tree reported as swaying – removed by contractor before it fell
31/08/2026	Carr Street / Beaver Road	Tree fell across berm and onto road – removed by contractor
31/08/2026	Burleigh Park	Tree fell onto empty land next to reserve – slight damage to small fence
31/08/2026	Ashwood Drive	Tree reported as being of concern in wind – found to be on a lean and unstable and was removed by contractor
31/08/2026	Wither Road	**PRIVATE** tree on boundary fallen against another tree and in danger of falling onto road – cleared by contractor
31/08/2026	George Powell Reserve	Tree fell across pathway – cleared by contractor

Date	Location	Details
31/08/2026	Lansdowne Park	Large branch of tree fell into garden area and this and remainder of tree was cleared by contractor
31/08/2026	Amara Reserve	Large branch fell onto grass of reserve and was cleared by contractor
31/08/2026	Pollard Park	Broken branch overhanging footpath was removed by contractor
31/08/2026	Horton Park	Branches broken off trees and cleared by contractor
31/08/2026	Bomford Street	Large part of tree fell, hitting car, and was cleared by contractor. Remainder of tree to be removed.
31/08/2026	Redwood Street	**PRIVATE** tree on boundary fallen across footpath – cleared by contractor
31/08/2026	Safe Street	**PRIVATE** tree broken branch in tree over road – cleared by tree owner
01/09/2026	Advised of trees fallen over lower Wither Hills cycle track	Cleared by contractor
01/09/2026	Athletic Park	Various tree branches needed collection
04/09/2026	Springlands Green	Large branch fallen onto Reserve – cleared by contractor
04/09/2026	Pollard Park	Various branches fallen and tree fallen by 7th hole on golf course











Play Advocate

Play Strategy – Final Draft: A workshop held with two councillors provided good insight for staff in developing the strategy and before seeking adoption at the next Council meeting.

- This strategy starts with a simple idea: How do we get greater value from the places and infrastructure we're already investing in?
- At its heart, this strategy recognises that the experience of tamariki is crucial in the decisions we make. Because when a place works well for a child, there's a very good chance it works well for the wider community too.
- This strategy uses play as a lens providing outcomes that are much broader.
- An implementation plan has been created to support the roll out of this strategy.

Play During and Beyond a Crisis Ongoing: Ongoing conversations with relevant Emergency service staff around *Play During and Beyond a Crisis*, a nationwide initiative involving councils and regional sports trusts. This work explores how play supports wellbeing, connection, and recovery during and following natural disasters or other crises, reinforcing play as an essential tool for people of all ages during times of disruption and recovery, especially our children.

The initiative looks at providing intergenerational playful packs to support wellbeing, at community centres. Currently insights are being gathered from tamariki to help inform a funding application (low cost) which can be applied via the regional sports trust.

What children can tell us about safety, access and belonging in Picton (ongoing)

- The Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) is a nationally recognised approach developed through Sport NZ and ARUP, and utilised by Council Play Advocates, Regional Sports Trusts and partner organisations across New Zealand. More than 50 NPS reports have been completed nationwide.
- Locally, insights have been gathered from two Picton schools to understand how neighbourhood systems support, enable, or hinder the everyday experiences of tamariki and whānau.
- The NPS uses the lived experiences of tamariki to identify practical actions that strengthen everyday play, access, and connections in neighbourhoods, complementing existing Council projects and reinforcing that play is for all. Currently engaging with both Marlborough Roads and KiwiRail around child safety around transport corridors.
- The NPS is not a standalone play report. It is a neighbourhood report viewed through the eyes of children.
- Across New Zealand, NPS findings consistently show that issues identified by tamariki, including safety, accessibility, connectivity, belonging, vibrancy and wellbeing, often reflect the experiences of the wider community.
- The findings from the Picton NPS have potential relevance across MDC's community outcomes and may provide valuable context for future planning, investment, Annual Plan and Long Term Plan discussions.

Neighbourhood Play System (NPS) Workshop: Will be open to all staff and Councillors. Thursday 8th October, 11am. Duration 90mins. (mix of insights and practical)

Given the breadth of the findings, representatives from reserves and facilities, transport, planning, community partnerships and strategy teams are encouraged to be curious and attend. The NPS often identifies opportunities that sit across multiple areas of council rather than within a single team.

Motuweka Walkway developments (ongoing)

Working to incorporate low-cost elements into the walkway that sparks curiosity into both the environment and cultural history. Consultation has also been conducted with Ngāti Kuia, to gain their insights and matauranga/knowledge.

Open Space Policy Suggestions

There is an opportunity to embed some principles that align to the Play Design Strategy which aim to strengthen the policy's existing themes via four recommendations.

These recommendations have been submitted to the Parks and Open Spaces team Manager and cover:

1. Accessibility and inclusion (who can participate).
2. Play outcomes (what gets delivered).
3. Children and youth voice (how decisions are informed).
4. Nature-based learning and connection to place (how open spaces can create richer experiences).

National Play Week is coming up. Monday, 19 -25 October 2026

Sport New Zealand's Play Week 2026 is 'Whānau play where whānau are'. This annual initiative by Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa highlights how crucial play is for the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual development of children (*tamariki*) and young people (*rangatahi*).

I am liaising with several departments to see if we can incorporate some very low – to no cost ideas that spark joy. This includes the gardens team, and the heritage team play a couple more potentially. Watch this space.

Policy and Planning

The Draft Cemeteries Management Plan was approved for consultation on 13 August 2026. The consultation period will run from 18 September to 16 October 2026.

The Hearing Panel Decision Report on submissions to the Draft Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan will be presented to this committee on 24 September, with a recommendation that the final plan be adopted.

Staff continue to work on the Halls Review and are currently preparing for a second Councillor workshop.

Record No: 26197443