



Ice rink event Get Your Skates On

Information Package
Strategy & Community Partnerships
12 March 2026

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Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Report – February 2026

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Heritage Marlborough

Regional Museum Support

- A local museum meeting was held on 5 February at Te Kahu o Waipuna. We had a productive discussion about visitor numbers over the summer period. Staff also delivered a presentation on free graphic design tools. Ideas were shared about creating flyers, exhibition designs, and promotional material.
- Staff are supporting the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre in its plans to celebrate the 100th Flaxbourne A&P Show. Advice has been provided on selecting images for a commemorative booklet and developing an accompanying exhibition.
- Staff visited the following museums in January:
 - Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre
 - Flaxbourne Heritage Centre
 - Blenheim Family History Group
 - Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum
 - Vintage Farm Machinery Museum

These visits were primarily to provide support with Heritage Festival listings, but they also provided an opportunity to connect with groups and discuss how we can support them over the coming year.

Strategy/Stock take

- Assessment of Marlborough's built heritage is progressing. Methodologies have been developed to determine how many buildings in Marlborough are over 100 years old. Using this data, the team will be able to identify any gaps in how we safeguard our built heritage.
- Methods for measuring how people engage with heritage in Marlborough have been investigated and evaluated. A structured approach has now been developed, and data collection is currently underway to better understand patterns of awareness, participation, and interaction with heritage across the district.

Digitization Project

- Staff have been exploring ways for museums to reduce the size of images uploaded to eHive. This has involved working with eHive and local museums to identify a free, user-friendly solution suitable for volunteers. As eHive costs are based on storage usage, minimising image file sizes is important to manage ongoing expenses.
- Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre has submitted a project request for assistance with eHive. The project has been assessed, and staff will work with Omaka over the coming months to provide support.
- Four local museums are now actively participating in the digitisation project:
 - Havelock Museum
 - Flaxbourne Heritage Centre
 - Renwick Museum
 - Omaka Aviation Museum

One additional museum, which has more complex issues to address, is preparing to join.

Public Engagement

- The Heritage Festival programme has been finalised. The programme has expanded significantly from last year and includes 28 events over ten days, with at least one event scheduled for each day of the festival.



Image: The branding for this year's heritage festival

- Stage one of the National Library's oral history training programme was held in mid-February. Nine community participants attended, including local museum volunteers, iwi nominees, and other community members. Stage two will be held in mid-March. Following completion of the training, the goal is to establish an oral history volunteer team and project planning will commence.



Image: National Library's oral history training in Marlborough

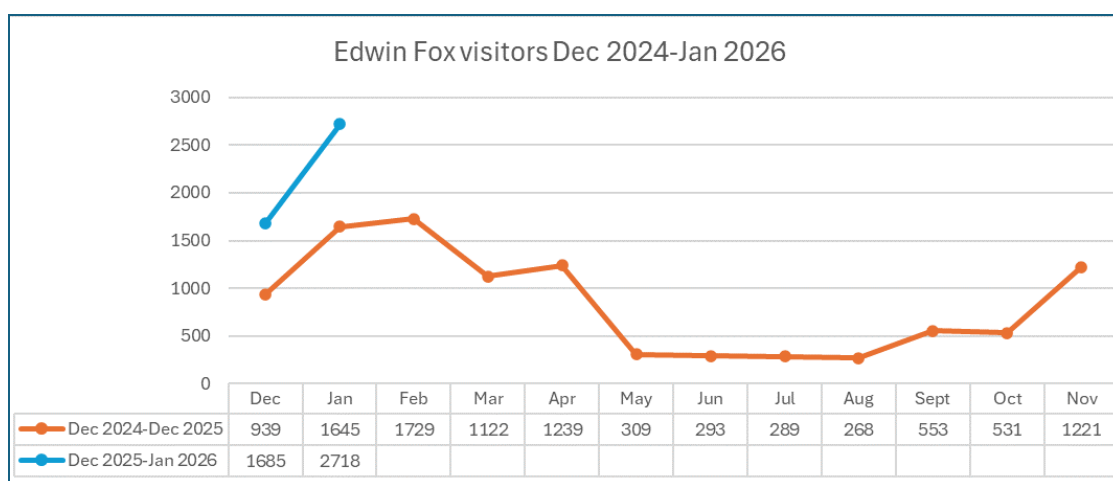
Edwin Fox Maritime Museum

Daily running of the museum

- The voucher partnerships referrals as of 31 January, were:
 - i-SITE: 58
 - Picton Museum: 38
 - Interislander terminal: 13
- The Edwin Fox team is working with Destination Marlborough to represent the Museum at TRENZ, New Zealand's largest international tourism trade event. This forms part of longer-term planning to attract international visitors for the 2027–2028 and 2028–2029 tourism seasons.
- One weekend visitor host has resigned. The recruitment process to fill this position is underway.

Visitor activity

- Visitor numbers continued to be strong in January. Variable weather conditions contributed to the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum being an attractive option for visitors to the region.



- The museum appears to be experiencing increased visitor numbers during school holiday periods. An analysis was undertaken to determine whether this trend was coincidental or reflected higher family visitation during school holidays. Using point-of-sale data, a comparison was made between visitor numbers from 1 September to 31 October and the two weeks of the September school holidays.
- The analysis found:
 - Of the 99 children who visited during the study period, 76 attended during the two weeks of the school holidays.
 - This represents approximately 77% of child visitors during the holiday period.
 - Of the total adult visitors recorded over the nine-week period, 33% attended during the two weeks of the school holidays.
- These results indicate that the museum is perceived as an attractive option for families during school holidays. Monitoring of this trend will continue, and targeted marketing opportunities will be considered to further strengthen this pattern.

Public engagement

- Two Pirate School events were held on 14 and 15 January. On these days, the Museum provided free entry for children along with pirate-themed activities. Both events were well attended.
- Traditionally, gold coin entry has been offered during the Picton Maritime Festival. This year, free entry was trialled during the Festival, with donations appreciated. This approach responded to two factors:

- Picton Museum was offering free entry.
- Visitor numbers during the Maritime Festival have declined in recent years.
- The trial was successful. The Museum recorded 473 visitors, and total revenue exceeded that of the previous gold coin entry day held on Marlborough Anniversary Day. Staff also reported a broad range of visitors, particularly families. Consideration is now being given to replacing gold coin entry days with donation-based entry for future special events.
- The Picton OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) holiday programme visited the *Edwin Fox* in two groups on 27 and 29 January. Students received a short guided tour and completed a self-directed activity. Feedback from participants was positive, and the visits provided valuable outreach within the Picton community.



Above left: Families enjoying pirate school on 14 January. Above right: Feedback from the OSCAR visit on 27 January

Preservation Project

- The team continues to work with Abel Ships to identify a contractor willing to undertake the work required to improve the stability of the ship.
- A health and safety assessment has been undertaken prior to contractual work commencing in the dry dock.
- As demolition associated with the Waitohi Wharf redevelopment gets underway, Port Marlborough has agreed to maintain regular communication regarding activities in the dry dock to manage potential vibration impacts on contractors and operations.
- Dust monitors have been reinstalled on the ship to mitigate risks from concrete cutting during demolition works. This will help ensure dust drift from the redevelopment site does not compromise the vessel's structure.
- Following the staff presentation at the 29 January 2026 Strategic and Community Partnerships Committee, the Council Communications team issued a media statement regarding the preservation project. This was subsequently picked up by several local and national media organisations.

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Picton dry-dock supporting 172-year-old ship at risk of failing

PH Jan 30

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An expert panel reviewing the future of the Edwin Fox maritime museum in Picton says its dry dock needs urgent repairs, and recommends a new purpose-built dry dock be built in the long term.

UFC

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Arts

Public Art Maintenance

- The **Grant Williams Seedling Sculpture** located on the Taylor River adjacent to the ASB Theatre is currently undergoing maintenance. Signs of stress were identified in the petal joints, and these components were removed as a precautionary measure to ensure public safety. Staff are working in consultation with the artist to develop an appropriate maintenance plan, undertake necessary repairs, and assess requirements for repainting.



Image: Seedling Sculpture undergoing maintenance

- The Whale Carving at Powerhouse Reserve in Picton is exhibiting significant rot and insect infestation. An assessment report from the Parks and Open Spaces arborist is pending; however, preliminary indications suggest that removal and disposal may be required.



Image: Powerhouse whale carving showing significant rot and insect infestation

Space Create

- Following the completion of the six **Summer Sounds in the CBD** music activations, staff surveyed town centre businesses for feedback. Based on early responses, performance times were moved earlier to better align with peak foot traffic. It became clear that while the activations did not significantly extend people's time in the town centre, they greatly enhanced the overall atmosphere. Comments included:

"We are rapt that there is something happening, bringing vibrancy, culture and people into the CBD. Anything that improves the CBD, we are on board with. Great to line up the times with our market after the first week."

"I am new to the area and am loving the communication and commitment to the community this council has. Keep up the great work team."

"Just from my observation, people may have lingered longer if there was more seating. Great to see more people in this area."

- The ice rink event **Get Your Skates On** was delivered over three days at the end of January. Due to weather constraints, the planned town centre location at Liz Davidson Place was relocated indoors to the Marlborough Events Centre. Despite the change in venue, the event attracted strong attendance, with over 1,000 participants and their families attending.
- Entry was intentionally kept affordable at \$2 per skate to ensure accessibility for the community. All proceeds were donated to the Blenheim Scout Group in recognition of their volunteer support with event set-up and pack-down.
- Ice Tour Company has advised that the event has potential for further development, including the addition of disco skate evenings and curling sessions, which would broaden the appeal to adults and older community members.





Images: Get Your Skates on at Marlborough Events Centre

- Staff are currently negotiating seven new Space Create activations, six in Blenheim and one in Picton, scheduled for delivery throughout 2026. These include culturally engaging construction fencing as part of the Market Street refresh, accompanied by a related exhibition to enhance public interest and activation during the works period.

Music promotion

- As part of efforts to increase utilisation of the Anderson Theatre and attract a broader range of contemporary live music to the region, staff have been working with ASB Theatre Marlborough and national promoters to position Blenheim within national touring circuits. This initiative resulted in a performance by The Bats on Saturday 21 February, promoted by Banished Music.
- The Anderson Theatre is well suited to contemporary live music, and ASB Theatre Marlborough is supportive of expanding use of the space. Staff are continuing discussions with Auckland-based promoters to include Blenheim in future national tour schedules.



Image: The Bats performing in the Anderson Theatre

Report from Marlborough Art Gallery

(Cressida Bishop, Director)

We have had a very busy visitor season at Marlborough Art Gallery. New Zealand and international visitors viewed our exhibitions along with repeat local visitors. This summer, we have seen increased levels of international tourists.

Recent Exhibitions

- **Robin White: Tuituia | Something is Happening Here**
6 December 2025 – 8 February 2026

Over summer we presented a very special touring exhibition in our Osborne Gallery developed and toured by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. *Robin White: Tuituia | Something is Happening Here* is a selection of artworks from the much-loved and acclaimed 2022 retrospective exhibition that celebrated this contemporary Aotearoa artist, presented by Te Papa and Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki. Dame Robin White (born in Te Puke, 1946, Ngāti Awa and Pākehā) is one of New Zealand's leading artists.

- The touring exhibition brought together iconic works from the collections of Te Papa and Auckland Art Gallery, spanning White's 50-year career, and is travelling to regional venues around Aotearoa over two years. Visitors explored her celebrated portraits and Aotearoa landscapes from the 1970s but also the ambitious collaborative works White has made with artists from across the Pacific and New Zealand in recent years. Robin White visited Marlborough and gave a talk with her exhibition on Saturday 24 January. 227 people either attended the talk or visited during the morning Robin was at the Gallery.



Image: Dame Robin White with her exhibition, *Tuituia/ Something is Happening Here* at Marlborough Art Gallery and Robin White, *Fish and Chips, Maketu*, 1973, oil on canvas, TMP-039977, Collection of Auckland Art Gallery.

- At this talk Robin made a special announcement. She and Dame Gaylene Preston offered to come to Blenheim to host a film screening as a fundraiser for Marlborough Art Gallery. *GRACE: A PRAYER FOR PEACE*, a portrait of one of Aotearoa's greatest living artists, Dame Robin White. Directed by one of New Zealand's greatest documentary directors, Dame Gaylene Preston. The screening of *GRACE* will take place in May (date to be advised) and accompanied by a Q and A with Dame Gaylene and Dame Robin. <https://www.nzonscreen.com/title/grace-prayer-for-peace-2025>

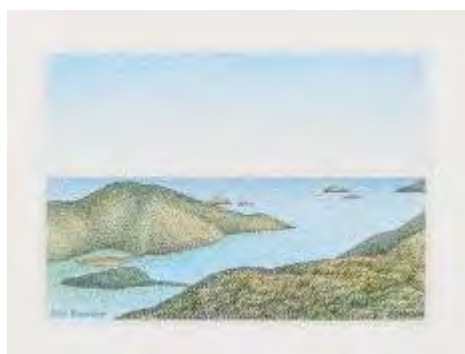


Image: Don Binney (1940-2012), *Croiselles Harbour III*, colour pencil on paper, 2012, Marlborough Art Gallery Collection.

- **On Paper**

6 December 2025 – 8 February 2026

While *Robin White: Tuituia | Something is Happening Here* was on show, we presented an exhibition of works on paper in our collection gallery (*On Paper*) from the Marlborough Art Gallery and Marlborough District Council's art collections. The artists shown had connections to Robin White. This was one for six collection-based exhibitions we curated in the past year.

Current Exhibitions



- **Ian Scott: Painting New Zealand**

14 February – 12 April

Presenting previously unseen or rarely seen works (from the Scott family collection), this exhibition brings together a selection of Ian Scott's work from the last three decades of his life. It highlights Scott's interest in the story of New Zealand painting and painters and expands the perception of his practice beyond his most widely known and exhibited 'lattices' series. In these works, Scott (1945 – 2013) brought together what are normally separate approaches to painting - blending portraiture, landscape, text, reproduction and abstraction. Portraits of mid-century New Zealand artists, or their artworks, literally bustle and vie for attention against New Zealand iconography and scenery.

- Painted soon after the death of his friend and mentor Colin McCahon in May 1987, and Ian Scott's first battle with cancer in 1988, the works in this exhibition wrangle with questions of meaning and legacy. McCahon's legacy and impact is contrasted with the tradition kept alive by Sir Henry Kelliher and the artists he patronised, as Scott was interestingly a Kelliher award winner in his teens. Such contrasts are emblematic of Scott's fascination with the characters and issues embroiled in the fight over what qualified as 'serious painting' in this period, and most of all what could constitute a 'New Zealand Painting'. Toured by The New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata.

Upcoming Exhibitions

- Our programme for the next two years is varied and busy with a mixture of exhibitions curated by the Gallery Director and local collaborations; plus a selection of touring exhibitions such as the national Adam Portraiture Award finalists' exhibition. Favourite regular local exhibitions include the biennial *Folio* Youth Art exhibition in collaboration with Marlborough Youth Council and Marlborough Colleges

and Matariki exhibitions. Exhibitions featuring public art collections are also very popular. Locals have their favourite works and like to come and visit them.

- All exhibitions include education programmes and free DIY activities for children. Below is a family using stencils to make tapa cloth patterns inspired by Robin White's work. Art Hunt activities are offered with all exhibitions (right).



Collection

- Current collection projects including rehousing items into conservation-friendly boxes and entering art collection-related reference material into the E-Hive electronic collection management database. Below is a box containing part of a glass work by nationally celebrated, Marlborough-born glass artist, Lindsay Patterson (1959 – 2023).



Above: Lindsay Patterson, *Acclimatisation*, hand blown and etched glass, 2019, Marlborough Art Gallery Collection

Security

- As a result of a review of Marlborough Art Gallery's security procedures, we have several new systems in place at Te Kahu o Waipuna.

Report from ASB Theatre

(Joseph Casalme, CEO)

Summary for November 2025 to January 2026



Image: Garden Marlborough event.

- November and December normally represent a very busy period for ASB Theatre Marlborough. The season opened with **Garden Marlborough**, held on 6–7 November, attracting more than 480 attendees to the Theatre as part of the region's renowned garden festival programme. The event once again demonstrated the venue's role in supporting Marlborough's signature tourism and lifestyle events.
- On 10 November, the **RISE Academy Showcase** brought 100 patrons together in the Anderson Theatre. It was the academy's recitals held at the intimate block box theatre and was fully subsidised under the Theatre's Creative Arts Access Programme supported by the Rātā Foundation.
- The **New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM)** dinner function was hosted on 12 November, welcoming more than 120 attendees. The dinner was part of the NZARM Conference for the year held at the Marlborough Events Centre.
- From 21–23 November, **Marlborough Academy of Dance (MAD)** presented **Nutcracker – All Jazz'd Up**, drawing a strong audience of more than 1,560 patrons across its season. This vibrant reimagining of the festive classic showcased the depth of local youth talent and was a significant highlight of the pre-Christmas calendar.
- During November, the Theatre hosted several governance and sector-focused functions, including two annual general meetings with approximately 80 and 10 attendees respectively. A community funding function welcomed 95 guests to recognise local initiatives, alongside a small private corporate function held in one of the venue's boutique spaces. These events reflect the Theatre's versatility and continued role in providing a venue for industry and community events across the region.



Image: Te Taihu Performing Arts Studio's production of Madagascar Jr .

- December began with the **Te Taihu Performing Arts Studio's production of Madagascar Jr.**, staged from 5-7 December and attracting approximately 1,340 patrons. The lively family musical showcased young performers and delivered strong pre-Christmas attendance.
- On 16 and 17 December, **Blenheim School and Bohally School's end-of-year ceremonies** were held at the Theatre, welcoming approximately 150 and 1,000 attendees respectively and marking significant milestones for students and their families.
- On 19 December, the **Taylor Swift Tribute – A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift** – entertained more than 200 patrons. The show delivered a high-energy tribute show of the global pop icon's music and concluded the year's public performances on a festive note.
- The new year commenced on 16 January with the **RISE Academy's production of Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.**, welcoming more than 500 attendees. The performance provided young musicians and performers with a professional platform and signalled a strong start to the 2026 events calendar.



Image: RISE Academy's production of Disney's Dare to Dream Jr.

Sounds Advisory Group

The appendices in the minutes will be available via the following link once confirmed at the subsequent Council meeting. <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/community-involvement/sounds-advisory-group>

File Ref: C230-001-M02
Record No: 25249655



Minutes of the Sounds Advisory Group Meeting held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council, Monday, 17 November 2025 commencing at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr Faulis, Cllr Innes, Cllr Taylor (via Teams), Steve Murrin, Wayne Oldfield and Fern McCaw (Marlborough Roads), Ross Withell (Kenepuru & Central Sounds), Fraenzi Furiga (French Pass Residents Association), Carey Virtue (Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui), Wayne Boustridge (Te Whanganui/Port Underwood), Kevin Bright (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association - MRFA), Dean Baigent (Elaine Bay Residents Association), Vic Koller (Moetapu Bay) and Raymond Smith (Ngāti Kuia)

With guests Heli Wade and Dr Shane Orchard (University of Canterbury), Anouk Euzéby (General Manager Marinas & Property, Port Marlborough) and Connie Smith (General Manager Communications & Engagement).

Via teams: Vikki Ambrose and Anthony Brett (MPI on Teams from 1.00 pm), Tim Greenhough (Okiwi Bay) and Nicola Russell (Marine Farming Association).

MDC Staff Attending: Alan Johnson (Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager), Heather Graham (Small Townships Projects Coordinator), Rachel Russell (Te Holere Project Manager), Jake Oliver (Harbourmaster), Richard Coningham (Assets and Infrastructure Manager) and in attendance Bernadette Brooklands (Secretary).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Faulis welcomed attendees and new members Raymond Smith from Ngāti Kuia and Cllr Taylor who introduced themselves to the group.

Raymond performed the opening karakia.

2. Apologies

Kaja Mazzotti-Vetter (Senior Advisor – Welfare and Planning), Matt Kerr (Emergency Services Manager), Richard Barker (Cissy Bay), Alex Kroch (MPI), Janice and Paul Turner (Kaiuma Bay Residents Association), John Cretney (Cissy Bay – Richard Barker attended on his behalf), Liam Falconer (Biosecurity Manager), Cllr Burgess, Tracey Currie (Moetapu Bay), Jorgia McMillan (Coastal Scientist) and Dave Hayes (DOC), George Shallorass (Top of the South Wood Council), Beryl Archer (Penzance/Tuna Bay Residents Association), James Oliver (Deputy Harbourmaster) and Tracey Gibbs (Secretary of the D'Urville Association - DIRRA).

Apologies accepted by Cllr Faulis / Seconded Cllr Innes.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes – 25 August 2025

The previous minutes will be put forward to the next Environment and Planning Committee meeting on 20 November and then be ratified at Full Council. Draft minutes (minus attachments) were emailed to members prior to the meeting. A copy of the full minutes will be added to the website and ShareFile once approved by full Council. A printed copy will be available on the day of the meeting.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/community-involvement/sounds-advisory-group>

<https://marlboroughdistrictcouncil.sharefile.com/home/shared/f0325568-7f53-4363-85c0-eb89ebfaca15>

Two minor amendments to be corrected on page 9.

Cllr Faulis moved / Richard Barker – carried.

4. Actions from the previous meeting

	Action	Person Responsible	Outcome
1	Agenda item for 17 November hui: Invite Chris Duckworth from the Rural Youth and Adult Literacy Trust (RYALT).	Clr Faulis / Bernadette	Unable to connect. Remove from agenda going forward.
2	Invite Jamie Sigmund (Strategic Planner -Implementation & Review) to the August hui to speak on climate change response and readiness.	Bernadette to add to the agenda for November	Defer to 2026 as information is not available to the public as yet.
3	Invite Rachel Russell to give a Te Hoiere Project update at the 17 November hui.	Bernadette to add to the November agenda	Completed. Rachel attended today – see item 10.
4	Invite Heli Wade to speak on her Tau ki Ākau Ridge to Reef Programme climate change PHD thesis	Bernadette to add to the November agenda	Completed. Heli attended today – see item 8.
5	Invite Jake Oliver (Harbourmaster) and James Oliver (Deputy Harbourmaster), to give a Harbours update	Bernadette to add to the November agenda	Completed and attended today -see item 7.
6	Invite Kaja Mazzotti-Vetter (Senior Advisor – Welfare and Planning) and Matt Kerr (Emergency Services Manager) to the November hui to give an update on the Alpine Fault Roadshow.	Bernadette to add to the November agenda	Ongoing. Due to a clash of meetings all EMOC staff are unavailable on 17 November. Defer to March meeting.
7	Invite Alex from fisheries to the November hui. Update: Alex is on leave, however Anthony Brett attending via Teams from Dunedin	Bernadette	Completed. See item 9.
8	The Cissy Bay speed buoy went for maintenance and has not been returned by Harbours. Clr Faulis to follow up with Harbours.	Clr Faulis	Completed. The buoy has been reinstated
10	Port Underwood community would like to see clearer communications on the works for Port Underwood Road. Clrs Faulis, Minehan and Innes are attending the Assets and Service meeting on 26 August to put the communities' frustrations forward to the Council.	Clr Faulis / Clr Innes / Clr Minehan	Completed. Councillors attended this meeting. Marlborough Roads & Richard Coningham will be attending today.

	Action	Person Responsible	Outcome
			The Startec Report will be released after the meeting tomorrow.
11	Speak to Gina Ferguson and Savannah about how the Kenepuru community group can be notified of forestry applications for resource consent in the areas.	Clr Faulis	Completed. Ms Ferguson noted that the team do try to get all information out.
12	Fuel issue concerns for Penzance and Tuna Bays. Clr Faulis to ask Dean Heiford if Council are looking at partly funding fuel installation into the bay.	Clr Faulis	Completed. There is no knowledge of this.
13	Oyster farm in Kaiuma Bay is causing issues with people using the sea water. It needs more navigation lights on it. Janice to send info to the compliance email for them to follow up.	Janice Turner	Ongoing as Janice an apology today The Harbourmaster advised that the boat abandoned in this area will be removed shortly.
14	Kaiuma Bay would like to apply for a community grant for community picnic area. Heather will make contact with Janice. Updated: Heather has made contact with Kaiuma Bay, and they were trying to work through opening a bank account for their association. She will go back to them with a workaround if they are still finding this a limiting factor ie Small Townships can pay suppliers directly.	Janice Turner / Heather Graham	Completed
15	Fern will find out and report back on when the next round of inspections will occur in Kenepuru.	Fern McGaw	Ongoing. Fern will supply this information

5. Marlborough Roads Update

(Steve Murrin, Manager Marlborough Roads and Wayne Oldfield Marlborough Roads System Manager and Fern McGaw and Richard Coningham) - See **Appendix 1**

- Steve, Fern and Wayne presented the Marlborough Roads PowerPoint on the latest roading updates and answered questions that were emailed to them prior to the hui from community members. See the slides in Appendix one.
- Fern to email the fish passage report to be shared with the group. **Action point.**

Email road maintenance issues to admin@marlboroughroads.com or email Fern if you do not get a prompt response: Fern.McGaw@nzta.govt.nz

There is a road cone hotline to report road cones left behind by contractors. Please see this link to the digital hotline managed by WorkSafe. Marlborough Roads can check who the contractor was at the time and get them to collect the cones. <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/notifications/road-cones/>

To read the full update from NZTA and see photographs of the ongoing repairs see their website <https://nzta-marlboroughroadsrecovery/>

Note: All updates are posted on the Antenna app. See the Antenna app for weekly roading updates. The Antenna app is free and can be downloaded on both Apple and Android smartphones.

[Download Antenna from the App Store here](#)

[Download Antenna from Google Play here](#)

Read further details here - <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenna>

Attendance:

1017 am Heather Graham and Richard Coningham joined the hui.

1030 am Harboursmaster joined the hui.

1040 am Port Marlborough joined the hui.

1050am Rachel Russell joined the hui.

Questions/Answers

Kevin and Nicky Bright from the Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association emailed the following to the MDC Secretary who forwarded to Marlborough Roads to answer

1. Mixed messaging and the failure of the Antenna system regarding residents along the Kenepuru Road.
 - o To enable most of the repair works to be completed on the narrow winding Sounds roads it requires road closures. Unfortunately, the section of Kenepuru Road from Moetapu Bay to Portage is going to require ongoing closures for the duration of the project. Hard closures will open at lunchtime from 12 noon to 12.30 pm on the Kenepuru Road. The road will not be open all the way through at the same time. No work will be undertaken from 20 December to 12 January. Stop/go closures only 12 January to 9 February. Hard closures to commence again from 9 February.
 - o Steve advised that he is happy to have a conversation with Kevin Bright along with Richard Coningham outside of this forum. Richard Coningham noted that the Antenna app is not just for roading, it is an information platform for other notifications to the community.
2. Closure of Waitara Bay Jetty & Boat Ramp. Concerns regarding the effect on residents and visitors to the Kenepuru area, specifically Waitara Bay over the summer season.
 - o The Waitara Bay Jetty will be demolished and replaced with a new timber jetty. This work will require closure of the existing gravel boat ramp to all users from 12 November 2025 until the end of January 2026. Started on site 12 November. Pile driving commences 17 November. Contractors are living in caravans at DOC Camp at the Heads so that they are not held up with road closures and can put long hours in on site. If all goes to plan will have jetty usable by Christmas. If not, temporary facilities will be put in place. Will have finishing work to tidy up in January.

3. Wayne Boustridge from Port Underwood asked the following questions:
 1. Any planned maintenance task list for the next quarter.
 2. A schedule of planned (recovery) works over the next quarter.
 3. A brief on the Port Underwood Hill assessment, release of the assessment report and the remediation tasks and timeline for completion.
 - Retreat at Whatamango Bay is completed.
 - Port Underwood Road and Tumbledown Bay Road suffered 266 new faults over the winter of 2025.
 - Have a number of minor repairs under construction
 - Design services for complex repair sites are currently being procured.
4. Fraenzi Furgio from French Pass asked the following questions:
 1. Issues on Ronga-Croiselles-French Pass Road with contractors not removing their redundant equipment and materials. When doing road work, especially culverts, how is Marlborough Roads working together with MDC Environment and Biodiversity teams and DOC for work taking place in areas of special ecological interest or in areas where threatened species are present? Is there consultation done beforehand to prevent/mitigate disturbances (e.g. creation of fish barriers), and is the work checked by relevant parties after completion?
 2. Fraenzi also emailed photographs of road cones taken by Mr Wells and a list of further questions which were forwarded to Marlborough Roads. There are comments below from Marlborough Roads.

Works Overview

- Most activity in the Sounds is low-impact maintenance. For upgrades or sensitive sites, we follow stricter environmental protocols.

Environmental Process

- Consult with MDC, DOC, and iwi before works.
- Include ecological and cultural safeguards in plans.
- Follow Accidental Discovery and RMA protocols.
- Review outcomes in sensitive areas.

Site Cleanliness

- We've reminded all teams to:
 - Remove cones, signs, and spoil
 - Check culverts and water tables
 - Leave sites tidy before demobilising
- We are also tightening clean-up checks before final payments.

Attendance: 11/11 am Marlborough Roads and Richard Coningham withdrew from the hū.

6. Havelock Marina Update

(Anouk Euzeby, General Manager Marinas & Property, Port Marlborough and Connie Smith, General Manager Communications & Engagement). See **Appendix 2**.

- Anouk presented her PowerPoint presentation to the group and explained the planned upgrade to the Havelock marina.
- Approx. 60 thousand cubic metres of sediment will be removed.

- **Action Points**

- a) Email the Marlborough environment field day flyer to members. This was completed by Bernadette on the day of Sounds Advisory Group hui
- b) Raymond asked what amount of sediment will be moved further up the sound to Mahau? Connie and Anouk to ask their environmental team and report back.
- c) Provide the survey plan

Attendance: 11:45 am Port Marlborough staff withdrew from the hui

7. Harbourmaster Update

(Jake Oliver, Harbourmaster)

- The Harbourmaster spoke to the new Bylaws as per the media release below. Also see links below to read the full Bylaws on the Council website.
- The boat naming will allow a twelve-month leeway to allow boat owners to have time to get their boat name on their trailer registration and carry a copy of their trailer registration onboard their vessel. This includes jet ski's and dinghies.
- The patrol boat will be out more in the Pelorus and outer sounds this summer with the help of funding from Maritime Safety.
- The boat in the Mahakipawa Arm will be removed from the bay in the next few weeks.
- **Action Point:** Harbourmaster advised that it would be useful if members emailed Bernadette areas of concern in the Sounds for jet ski, water skiers, etc specifically for their area. Bernadette can then pass this information to Harbours who will get signage made for launching areas to educate people.

Contact Harbours Team 24/7

The Harbourmaster's Office is always available

Phone: Duty Harbourmaster 03 520 7400

Email: Harbours@marlborough.govt.nz

VHF

You can use VHF to pass a message to the Harbourmaster stations available.

- Pictou Harbour Radio on VHF 18
- Marlborough Marine Radio on VHF 01,05,63,65

Incident reporting

Use the Cruise Guide to easily report an incident or concern direct to the Harbourmaster. This can be done via the app or the website. [Report an Incident on the Cruise Guide website](#)

You can access the Bylaw here –

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/harbours/navigation-bylaw>

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/bylaws/navigation-bylaw-2025-and-navigation-vessel-speed-bylaw-2025>

Media release New Navigation Bylaw now in place

Council's new Navigation Bylaw, which sets out rules and requirements to ensure safe navigation within Marlborough's waterways, is now in place.

The Bylaw was passed at October's full Council meeting and applies to all vessels operating within the Marlborough region, including commercial, recreational and support craft.

It replaces the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2023.

The new Bylaw introduces updated provisions to reflect current safety practices, technological developments and local operational needs, Harbourmaster Jake Oliver said.

"It also brings us into alignment with Tasman and Canterbury," he said. "The Bylaw aims to balance safety and operational practicality for all users. Key features include general navigation safety requirements such as speed limits, lifejacket rules and vessel identification and communication equipment standards."

There are also controls on activities including water skiing, diving and swimming near wharves. Jake Oliver pointed out there had previously been a disconnect between some items in the Marlborough Bylaw compared to those in other areas which particularly affected people who visited or holidayed in the Marlborough Sounds.

The Bylaw was developed following a lengthy review, consultation with Maritime New Zealand and the calling for public submissions. A hearings panel was set up to consider submissions and make recommendations aimed at ensuring the Bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing navigation safety issues.

Concerns raised by submitters were addressed including a continuation of the requirement for all commercial vessels to carry Class B AIS (automatic identification system) which was rejected.

The new Bylaw states that as well as those vessels of 300 gross tonnage or a tug or barge exceeding 40m in length, and large ships previously required to carry and transmit an accurate AIS signal. All commercial vessels over 18m in length and vessels surveyed for 12 or more passengers or any passenger vessel operating at night or in restricted visibility are required to carry and transmit an accurate AIS signal.

The lifejacket requirement caused mixed reactions from submitters with some opposing mandatory life jacket use arguing for skipper freedom, while others supported the requirements.

The new Bylaw states that people on all vessels under six metres of length must wear a lifejacket while boats more than six metres must carry one for each person on board.

Vessels are also required to be identified and carry two forms of communications.

The Harbourmaster's team will be on the water this summer providing support and education to boaties about the new rules.

Attendance: 12.15 pm Harbourmaster withdrew from the hui.

A break was taken for lunch with the hui recommencing at 12.25 pm.

8. **Tau ki Ākau | Ridge to Reef Programme climate change PHD thesis**

(Heli Wade and Dr Shane Orchard – University of Canterbury) – see Appendix 3

- Dr Shane Orchard and Heli Wade (previous Te Hoiere Project Manager) introduced themselves and the project. Dr Shane Orchard is from the University of Canterbury and Heli is completing her PHD thesis at the University of Canterbury.
- Heli and Shane spoke to the group on the new five-year MBIE funded research project which assesses ways to enhance the long-term viability of coastal reef systems. This project is now two years in. Dr Orchard will be the contact point for MDC in this project alongside Principal Coastal Scientist, Oliver Wade.
- Dr Orchard also outlined other areas of work including the catchment river mouth study using remote data analysis. It was noted that this would be an asset to the Kaituna and Linkwater catchment areas.
- This study will not only be on rocky reefs but also sedimentary areas.
- The timeline for the thesis is three years once Heli has submitted her proposal to the University. The core idea is to work around private landowners predominantly rather than just Crown owned land.
- Dr Orchard spoke on the idea of building artificial reefs out of wood and perhaps forestry slash could be utilised for this in a positive manner.
- Social ecological networks. Reach out to your community about the project and encourage them to attend workshops and complete surveys so Heli can collect all the information and can also educate about the value of the saltgrass and seagrass etc in the coastal ecosystems.
- Heli is planning two community wide workshops for specific areas in the Sounds and then for Marlborough wide. This will ensure that local values will be heard, including Rangitāne. These workshops will be a full day.
- Shane will also have a workshop on the red list of ecosystems and the green status of ecosystems which he feels would be best held in Marlborough due to the Sounds and also our rivers and estuaries.

- Clr Faulls thanked Shane and Heli for their time and asked them how the Sounds Advisory Group can assist them in arranging distribution of surveys etc. Heli and Shane will compile a list and advise Clr Faulls and/or Alan Johnson.

Attendance: 1.29 pm Heli and Shane withdrew from the hui.

9. Fisheries New Zealand Update

(Vikki Ambrose and Anthony Brett via TEAMS)

- Anthony spoke to the feedback received on FNZ's proposed actions to secure sustainable blue cod fishery in the Marlborough Sounds and how the FNZ Advisory Group might best communicate with the residents of the Marlborough Sounds.
See his presentation in **Appendix 4**.

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/marlborough-sounds-blue-cod-review-measures-to-reduce-fishing-pressure-and-improve-fishery-health/>

[Marlborough Sounds blue cod – responsible fishing guidelines](#)

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/review-of-sustainability-measures-for-fisheries-october-2025-round/>

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/fisheries-reform-proposed-amendments-to-the-fisheries-act-1996/>

[Summary of the latest Government decisions on proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996](#)

[Fisheries reforms support economic growth – Beehive](#)

www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/51409-Proposed-Fisheries-Research-Services-for-202526/

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0141113625002284?via%3Dihub>

Please email Alex if you have any questions Alex.Kroch@mpi.govt.nz or Anthony Brett Anthony.Brett@mpi.govt.nz

Questions/Answers

- Clr Innes asked if MPI will be around the marinas over the summer to engage with the community about the blue cod fishery.
 - Anthony advised that there will be fishery officers out on the water over summer however funding for staff to be at the marinas is not possible. The flyer and information has been sent to the Marinas to distribute and add to their newsletter. Kevin Bright advised Anthony that this has not been done as yet. Anthony will follow up.
- Clr Innes noted that this blue cod information should be given to the boating clubs as well (such as Waikawa boating club, Pelorus boating club and the Mana boating club).
 - Anthony advised that an education programme will be out prior to Christmas.

Attendance: 1.58 pm Clr Innes withdrew from the hui and returned at 3.00 pm.

Attendance: 2.00 pm MPI staff withdrew from the hui.

10. Te Hoiere Project

(Rachel Russell, Project Manager)

- Rachel explained the role of the Te Hoiere Project and the excellent mahi that has been completed. See her PowerPoint in appendix 4.
The Te Hoiere Project will feature in MDC's State of the Environment Report as a case study. This report was last published in 2015.

Annual Report completed for the AGM, it is now available on our website here

<https://www.tehoiere.org.nz/about/trust>

To read further about this exemplary mahi see here

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/te-hoiere-pelorus-catchment-restoration-project>

<https://www.tehoiere.org.nz/>

Attendance: 2.30 pm Carey Virtue withdrew from the hui.

11. DOC Update

Dave Hayes an apology today however provided the following update.

Department of Conservation Activities and Issues of Interest.

Heritage and Visitors

- Three new bridges are now completed on Queen Charlotte Track. These replaced culverts or were an upgrade on bridges that were in need of replacement. This will make these crossings more resilient in big weather events.
- A business case has been prepared for work to rectify some steep sections of the Queen Charlotte Track. If accepted this will result in realigning parts of the track onto better contours which will enhance the visitor experience. Work is not likely to start until after the summer period.
- Pre-season maintenance on the QCT is still underway. This has already included weed spraying and the upgrade of a section of track by dressing up the surface with a digger to aid water run off before it causes damage.
- Inspections by engineers of Cowshed Bay toilet wastewater has shown that we can revive the system that we have had closed. Work will be undertaken later in the year with an intent to have the lower toilet block operating.
- Camp hosts are starting to arrive for the season. We have had two hosts out at Nydia Lodge. Other sites for this season will be Camp Bay, Cowshed Bay and Kenepuru Heads campsites. These are volunteers who receive free camping in return for servicing the sites.

Biodiversity.

- Moawhiti Lake on O'Urville Island has been treated with alum to capture the Phosphorus that was causing algal blooms. This is a significant step toward returning the lake to a healthy ecosystem. The lake will now be monitored closely to check if the operation has been a success.
- Colin Giddy was farewelled as Biodiversity Supervisor. His retirement brought a close to just under 46 years of public service in The NZ Forest Service and DOC.
- New Rangers have been stationed on Takapourewa/Stephens Island. Tim and Abi Quinnell are job sharing for at least the next 16 months and have extensive biodiversity experience.
- There is still no sign of any more stoats on Oruawairua/Blumine Island and we can now conclude that the stoat caught originally was the one that was seen on the trail camera.
- There was a stranding of Common Dolphins in and near to Elaine Bay in late October. Nine were refloated by locals and eight were confirmed dead. These are very infrequent events in the Sounds and biopsies have been sent to Massey University for further analysis to attempt to identify a cause.

Community

- The annual schools visits to Te Pakeka/Maud Island have been completed. Five schools from within the Pelorus catchment get to send a limited number for an overnight visit and to witness unique wildlife in their own backyard.
- Sams Creek Mining have started their exploration for minerals in a band of land that stretches between Endeavour Inlet and Titirangi. They received a Minimum Impact Activity permit. The area also covers the old Antimony mining sites which are heritage sites where there are contamination issues to be managed by DOC.
- There is a push on at the moment to address the last outstanding Sounds Foreshore Reserve permit renewal. About 60 applications will be looked at over the next few months.
- Staff assisted with a school's outdoor environmental event at Pelorus Bridge. This was run by Ngāi Kuia in association with the Te Hoiere Project. Another event is planned for the Havelock estuary in mid-November.
- A large military exercise was held in the Elaine Bay/Nydia/Kaiuma area in October. This involved all forces following a scenario.

- DOC are building a movement using the Always Be Naturing platform as the visual unifier <https://www.doc.govt.nz/always-be-naturing/>. The more momentum we can get behind the concept, the more people notice and want to get involved – in whatever way works for them. The more joined up we are, the more nature can benefit from the momentum. Check out our website.

12. Sounds Representatives Updates

Ongoing issues discussed:

1. Roading
2. Culvert maintenance
3. Waste management (including green waste)
4. Resource consent fees
5. Ungulate and Pest control

General:

- Tim advised that the locals have shot over 100 goats in and around Okwi Bay in the past year.
- Carey from Queen Charlotte Sound advised that the community are concerned about the mining and continuing rubbish. Continuing the expansion of the trapping lines. Thanks to Council for assisting with funding for this. **Action Point:** for Alan Johnson and Dave Hayes (DOC) to do an update at the next meeting on the arsenic levels in streams near Endeavour Inlet and invite Alan's contaminated land team to attend and speak on this matter.
- Dean from Elaine Bay reported that a pod of dolphins were stranded and died in the bay. Also see further in the DOC update. No further updates on the fuel situation. Issues on keeping up with maintenance of bay infrastructure and lack of funds.
- Vic from Moetapu Bay advised the MCA have a \$5K fund for residents to purchase discounted traps. There was a good take up from the residents. The amount of \$30K was spent on deer control via a chopper. Going forward this will be land based only. Thanks to Marlborough Roads for the amazing work on Moetapu Bay Road.
- Kevin (Marlborough Fisheries Association) advised he can send out fishery group details to Bernadette as it becomes available and then Bernadette can forward to members via email.
- Clr Faulis advised members to submit to the annual plan if they want their voices heard on roading issues etc. The link was sent to members after the hui by Bernadette.
- Fraenzi from French Pass advised that the community hall had an electrician out and a hall report was completed in July. He suggested they submit to the annual plan. Fraenzi has copies of the local school and hall plans. Heather advised that she will get Liz from the Heritage team to connect with her.
 - Heather emailed Fraenzi the following details after the hui.

French Pass Association – Historical documents

Your key contact is our Heritage Manager Lizz Ward - liz.ward@marlborough.govt.nz

Jetty maintenance

Small Townships often discusses with rural Sounds communities the challenges of maintaining community assets and we have occasionally supported this through funding contributions for repairs and maintenance. I've heard that traditional "donation boxes" are becoming outdated as few people carry cash these days and I've been wondering if there's a better system to replace them. For example, the Link Pathway has installed signage along the track with a QR code linking to their Givealittle page. While they have not raised a large amount, every contribution helps.

This is the link to their page: [Link Pathway](#) Use the green Donations tab in the top left to access their Givealittle page. I believe you can also generate a QR code directly from the Givealittle site. Would this be something worth considering for our community assets?

[Explore - Givealittle](#)
- Raymond (Ngāti Kuia) noted that a track is being developed and should be finished so you can get to the top of Arapapa Island. Exploration mining is a concern from his community.

- Nicola – MFA will be making an educational video on fishing around the mussel farms and Nicola will share once done **Action point** noted.

13. General Business

- Marine debris in Clova Bay
 Cllr Faulls asked Nicola from MFA to thank Ned Wells for his fast approach to have this mess cleaned up. Ten different companies turned up to assist with the clean-up. Nicola thanked the residents for advising them and apologised for this occurring.
- Resignation of Tim Greenhough (Okiwi Bay)
 Cllr Faulls thanked Tim for his mahi on the Sounds Advisory Group and to his community over the past 25 years. Tim is also retiring from the community association and confirmed that his replacement is Geoff Hall. Geoff will attend the first hui in March 2026.
- Members received the Invasive Species Emerging Threats to Marlborough booklet from Biosecurity.
- Media releases on the Navigation Bylaw and the Annual Plan were printed for members as per the Harbourmasters update.
- Hui dates for 2026 – Committee Room, MDC from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
 - Monday, 16 March
 - Monday, 15 June
 - Monday, 24 August
 - Monday, 16 November

Please add these dates to your calendars and email Bernadette if you would like to suggest an agenda item.

There being no further general business, the hui closed at 3.20 pm with the closing karakia performed by Raymond.

14. Matters Arising

	Action	Person Responsible
1	Oyster farm in Kaiuma Bay is causing issues with people using the sea near it. It needs more navigation lights on it. Janice to send info to the compliance email for them to follow up. As Janice an apology today, follow up with her at the March hui.	Janice Turner
2	Invite Kaja Mazzotti-Vetter (Senior Advisor – Welfare and Planning) and Matt Kerr (Emergency Services Manager) to the March hui to give an update on the Alpine Fault Roadshow.	Bernadette
3	Invite Jamie Sigmund (Strategic Planner -Implementation & Review) to the March hui to speak on climate change response and readiness.	Bernadette
4	Get update from DOC on the arsenic levels in the Endeavour Inlet where mining exploration is occurring. This is a contaminated land site. Invite Alan's contaminated land team to the next meeting in 2026.	Alan Johnson / Dave Hayes
5	Fern to email the fish passage report to be shared with the group.	Bernadette
6	Harbourmaster advised that it would be useful if members emailed Bernadette areas of concern in the Sounds for jet ski, water skiers etc specifically for their area. Bernadette can then pass this information to Harbours who will get signage made for launching areas to educate people.	All

	Action	Person Responsible
7	Floating jetty in portage bay has materials submerged. Ctr Faulis to ask Gina Ferguson what the consenting process is for this.	All
8	Ask Mark Lucas to give update at March meeting if the rural refuse sites are now all on camera and can they see from the surveillance that the sites are a getting full and to have a truck sent out to clear the bins.	Ctr Faulis
9	Port Marlborough Raymond asked what amount of sediment will be moved further up the sound to Mahau? Connie and Anouk to ask their environmental team and report back and also provide the survey plan so Bernadette can email out to members.	Anouk Euzeby and Connie Smith
10	MFA will be making an educational video on fishing around the mussel farms and will share once done.	Nicola Russell

Record No: 2645449