



Strategy & Community Partnerships (combined with Infrastructure & Community Facilities)



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Sport & Recreation Community Activity Fund

Report & Minutes of Meeting of
SPORT & RECREATION COMMUNITY ACTIVITY FUND
DECISION-MAKING PANEL
2025/2026

Wednesday 20 May 2026, commencing at 11:30am
Marlborough District Council (Pukeko Room), 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim

Present:

Events & Community Partnerships Manager (ECPM) Ms S Young; Parks & Open Spaces Manager Ms J Tito

Apologies:

Clr B Dawson (Chair)

Background:

The Sport & Recreation Community Activity Fund is open to event organisers or local clubs / organisations to help create small sport and community activities that are of low cost and encourage participation and physical activity. Council allocates \$30,000 per annum for this fund. There is one funding round per annum.

Meeting Report & Minutes:

All applications and associated paperwork were sent to panel members in advance of the meeting.

Clr Dawson was unable to attend meeting in person. Following the meeting recommendations were sent through to Clr Dawson for comment and approval.

Summary of Decisions Made:

\$37,931.33 of funding was requested with \$21,085 approved - a summary of all decisions is shown below.

Application & Event Name	Funding Decision & Conditions
Arapawa Boxing Gym 'Arapawa Fight Night'	Funding Requested: \$1,000 - venue hire (\$500) and doctor's fees (\$500) Event/Activity: - Picton-based boxing event attracting participants from around NZ Funding Decision: - Approved \$500 for doctor's fees + venue hire costs (see conditions below) Funding Conditions: Queen Charlotte College to invoice Council directly for venue hire
Havelock Vision 2020 'Ebb & Flow'	Funding Requested: \$510 - venue hire & tutor fees Event/Activity: - Weekly one-hour activity classes for older community members. Held at Havelock Pavilion Funding Decision: - Approved \$510 for venue hire and tutor fees Funding Conditions: N/A

Marlborough Bridge Club 'Teaching Bridge'	Funding Requested: • \$4,000 - purchase of dual-purpose whiteboard/digital screen for teaching, time-keeping and tournaments Event/Activity: • N/A Funding Decision: • Declined • Does not meet fund criteria – screen will not have direct impact on encouraging people to participate • Recommend applying to Community Grants Funding Conditions: N/A
Marlborough Orienteering Club 'MOC Autumn Muster 2026'	Conflict of Interest: Ms S Young did not make recommendations/decisions on this application Funding Requested: • \$1,575 - portaloos, map printing and event management/course planning Event/Activity: • Annual rogaine event for approx. 220 participants Funding Decision: • Approved \$1,575 for: - Portaloos (\$598) - Map printing (\$450) - Event management/course planning (\$527) Funding Conditions: N/A
Marlborough Performing Arts Competitions Society 'Marlborough Performing Arts Competitions 2026'	Funding Requested: • \$16,945.25 - venue hire Event/Activity: • Six-day event attracting approx. 1,000 competitors aged 4 to 18 years (30% from Marlborough). Held at Whitehaven Theatre Funding Decision: • Approved \$10,000 towards hire of Whitehaven Theatre Funding Conditions: Final year of support for event through this fund. Refer to Commercial Events Fund for any future funding requests - timing of event did not allow for this for 2026

Moetapu Bay Community Association 'Moetapu Fun Day 2027'	Funding Requested: • \$350 - lollies & prizes Event/Activity: • Free family fun day for residents and bach owners along Moetapu Bay Road Funding Decision: • Declined • Does not meet criteria of fund – event is not open to the wider Marlborough community and only attracts the residents and bach owners along Moetapu Bay Road Funding Conditions: N/A
Nopera Bay Golf Course 'Battle of the Bays Golf Tournament'	Funding Requested: • \$1,000 - water taxi transport Event/Activity: • Annual friendly 18-hole golf competition Funding Decision: • Approved \$1,000 towards water taxi transport to help encourage participants impacted by current logistical barriers within the Sounds Funding Conditions: N/A
Rapaura Tennis Club 'RTC Sunday Doubles League 2026'	Funding Requested: • \$3,620 for: - Membership subsidy: \$500 - Rackets/equipment: \$1,000 - Balls: \$520 - Seating, sunshades, sunscreen: \$1,500 - Admin (promo, flyers, scoresheets): \$100 Event/Activity: • Weekly tournament providing introduction to tennis Funding Decision: • Approved \$500 to support subsidised membership enabling those with financial constraints to participate Funding Conditions: N/A
Shorinji Kempo NZ Blenheim Branch 'Equipment Upgrade'	Funding Requested: • \$1,931.08 - purchase of new martial art equipment Event/Activity: • N/A Funding Decision: • Declined • Does not meet fund criteria - equipment upgrade will not have direct impact on encouraging people to participate • Recommend applying to Community Grants Funding Conditions: N/A

Special Olympics Marlborough 'Fitness & Cardio Program'	Conflict of Interest: Ms S Young did not make recommendations/decisions on this application Funding Requested: • \$6,000 - to increase coordinator hours Event/Activity: • Twice-weekly program to help improve fitness and overall wellness of Special Olympics Marlborough athletes (those with intellectual disabilities) Funding Decision: • Approved \$6,000 for coordinator hours to be able to extend the program Funding Conditions: N/A
Top of the South Rock 'n' Roll 'Rock 'n' Roll Dance – Elvis Hop'	Funding Requested: • \$1,000 - band and venue hire Event/Activity: • Rock 'n' roll dance for approx. 80 to 90 participants. Held at Renwick Community Hall Funding Decision: • Approved \$1,000 for band and venue hire Funding Conditions: N/A

The meeting closed at 12:30pm.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Report – July 2026

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Heritage Marlborough

Regional Heritage Support

- A local museums meeting was held on 2 June. Shae Trewin from Te Papa's Te Paerangi/National Services was the guest speaker and gave a presentation on the new firearms legislation and its implications for museums. Most importantly if a museum manages, oversees and controls the display and possession of arms items in their collection they must apply for a Firearms Dealer Licence.
- The team has been advised that Te Papa has restructured Te Paerangi/National Services. From 1 July 2026, the number of Museum Development Advisors will be reduced, with the one remaining advisor based in the North Island. This will significantly reduce already limited regional support and further constrain Te Papa's legislated responsibility to provide nationwide museum development assistance.
- Several team members participated in Picton Museum's strategic planning workshop. It provided a valuable opportunity to hear the Picton community's aspirations for the museum and its development over the next 30 years.
- Staff worked with representatives of Rangitāne o Wairau to produce content for the Ngā wai e rima, The 5 Waters exhibition which opened in the Rangitāne House foyer. The exhibition supports the artwork that will be shown on the building screens for the Market Street refresh.

Education Programme

- The new Arts, Culture and Heritage Education Coordinator has commenced, with an early initiative delivered in partnership with Havelock School. Year 6–8 class participated in a two-part education programme focused on Te Pokohiwi. During the first session, students learned why tangata whenua settled at Te Pokohiwi, with a particular focus on the rich natural resources of the Wairau. In the second session, students visited the wreck of the Waverley, gaining first-hand experience of the Wairau Lagoons. They also learned the Māori names of Marlborough landmarks and the histories associated with them.



Image: Havelock School learning about Māori names for local landmarks

Digitisation Project

- The Renwick object catalogue is now uploaded and available on eHive. This marks a major milestone, as there are almost 2,000 items in this catalogue.
<https://ehive.com/collections/3062/renwick-museum-and-watson-memorial-library>
- There are now 3,316 items from the Marlborough area listed on eHive.
<https://ehive.com/communities/1230/heritage-marlborough>

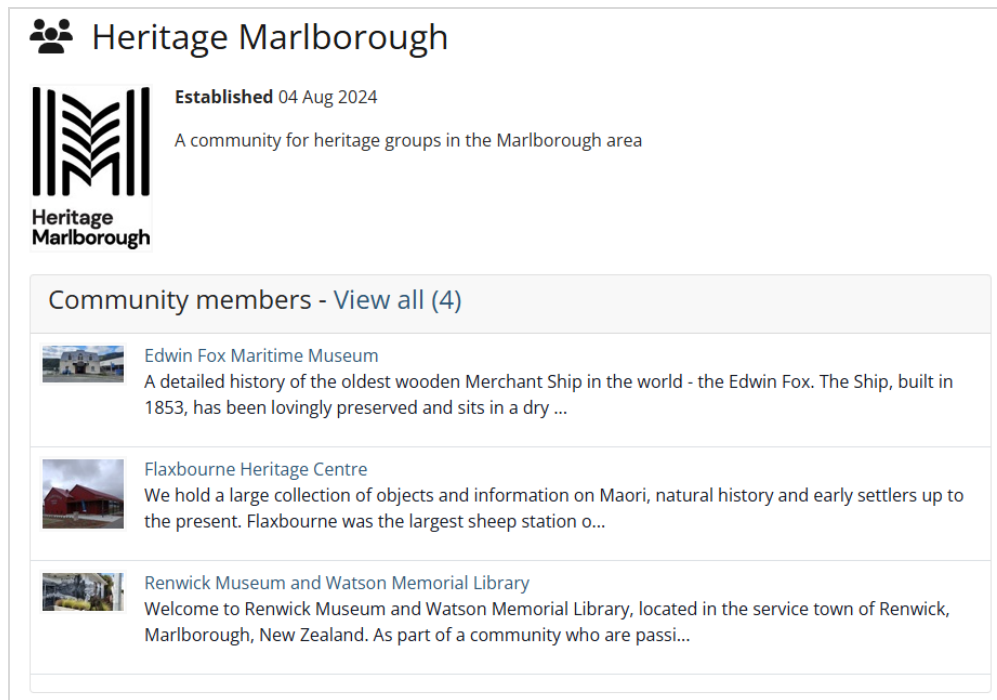


Image: Marlborough collections on eHive. The fourth museum, Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum, has not yet been made public on the platform.

Public Engagement – Marlborough Heritage Festival

- The 2026 Marlborough Heritage Festival reached audiences across the entire region, with strong engagement in both urban and rural areas.
- More than 600 people participated in events held from 15–24 May, exploring stories that have shaped Marlborough and Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The festival provided an opportunity to celebrate and promote regional heritage and deepen public understanding of local history.
- Festival highlights:
 - Rural history was explored in Blenheim and Ward through a presentation by Dr Annette O'Sullivan on wool bale stencils, branding, and woolshed history. The Ward Town Hall event provided a relevant setting, with its connection to the nearby Flaxbourne Heritage Centre and local woolshed heritage.
 - Walking tours, cemetery visits, and “walking through the past” experiences continued to attract strong attendance and community interest.
 - Ngā Kōrero o Motuweka in Havelock, led by Ruihana Smith, explored Māori history in the area, highlighting the significance of places and resources over time.



Image: Ruihana Smith leads an exploration of Māori history in the Havelock area during Ngā Kōrero o Motuweka

- Special exhibitions were held across the district, including boatbuilding history at the Waitohi Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum and an 1874 Renwick life exhibition at the Renwick Museum.
- Children's "Meet the Archaeologist" sessions at the Edwin Fox proved highly popular, resulting in an additional session being scheduled.
- The Marlborough Museum textiles team presented on the history behind the exhibition The Bag, showcasing the evolution of this accessory.
- "From Grave Robbers to Collaborators" at Small Town Winery explored the evolving relationship between archaeologists and Rangitāne. Presenters Dr Monica Tromp and Dr Amber Aranui highlighted the use of new technologies to better understand taonga and insights into past ways of life.



Image: Presenters discuss how archaeologists are helping Rangitāne to understand the lives of pre-contact Māori.

- The team has debriefed from the festival and noted some changes to programming for next year. The family-oriented activities held on Saturdays were not well attended, suggesting that Saturday is not an ideal day for these events.

Edwin Fox Maritime Museum

Daily running of the museum

- The voucher partnerships referrals for May 2026, were:
 - Picton iSite: 2
 - Picton Museum: 6
 - Interislander: 0
- The team has been using the quieter period to plan maintenance and refresh the exhibition. The original designer of the exhibition space visited in May, providing the team with valuable insight into how the display was constructed and how changes could be made with minimal cost.
- New shelving has been installed in the storage area, and toxic chemicals that were stored under the museum floor have been removed.
- Port Marlborough has notified the Edwin Fox team that temporary office spaces for the Port Redevelopment Project will be placed on the old aquarium site. The team has been working with the Port to ensure that the Edwin Fox is considered in the planning and construction of the offices. Any preservation work will need to be carefully coordinated with the office site works.

Visitor activity

- May visitor numbers increased compared with last year, with the Heritage Festival giving the museum's profile a boost.



Public engagement

- During the Heritage Festival a staff member gave a public talk in the early evening. The topic was 'The Edwin Fox and Marlborough'. Twenty people attended, which filled the space.



Image: The audience listens to the Heritage Festival talk 'The Edwin Fox and Marlborough'

Preservation Project

- The team has reviewed the quotations for the ship stabilisation options and consulted with a member of the expert panel to determine the preferred approach. The three quotes received were quite different and advice was needed on which one would best suit the project plans.

Arts

Creative New Zealand

- As outlined in our last report, Creative New Zealand has been reviewing the future of its regional arts funding model. This review has important implications for how funding decisions are made and whether Marlborough continues to have a strong local voice in shaping arts and cultural investment.
- At the time, Marlborough District Council was actively engaging with Creative New Zealand to advocate for funding and decision-making to remain closely connected to Marlborough, reflecting our distinct creative identity and locally informed priorities. In partnership with Kaikōura District Council, we also submitted a Registration of Interest to become a regional partner under the Tuku Rauemi: Regional Partnerships model, proposing a Marlborough–Kaikōura Arts Council to build on existing governance and funding expertise and ensure continued local leadership for arts investment across both districts.
- We have now been advised that Marlborough was not shortlisted and we are disappointed with this outcome, given the strength of the proposal and its alignment with Marlborough's Te Ātātū Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy 2024–2034. The decision also reflects a shift toward a broader regional approach than originally anticipated.
- Mayor Nadine Taylor has written to MP Stuart Smith to express her disappointment and to seek support in raising concerns with the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage and Creative New Zealand.

- Marlborough District Council will continue to work constructively with Creative New Zealand and the successful regional partner to ensure Marlborough's arts sector is appropriately supported and that local artists and organisations continue to benefit from funding and development opportunities.

Café Create

- Café Create was successfully trialled in a new evening format, moving away from its traditional breakfast session to make the event more accessible to a wider range of creatives and to test a different style of networking opportunity.
- The event, held at Small Town Winery and featuring Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough Manager Loreen Domijan as guest speaker, sold out in advance, with attendees enjoying networking, refreshments, a Q&A session and insights from Loreen's extensive international career in the performing arts and events sector.

Space Create

- A Space Create exhibition (Ngā wai e rima, The 5 Waters) was launched at Rangitāne House to accompany the installation of contemporary Māori artwork by Keelan Walker on the fencing surrounding the Blenheim town centre refresh works. The exhibition provides cultural and historical context for the artwork, highlighting the significance of the region's five waterways and the traditional names of local rivers and streams.

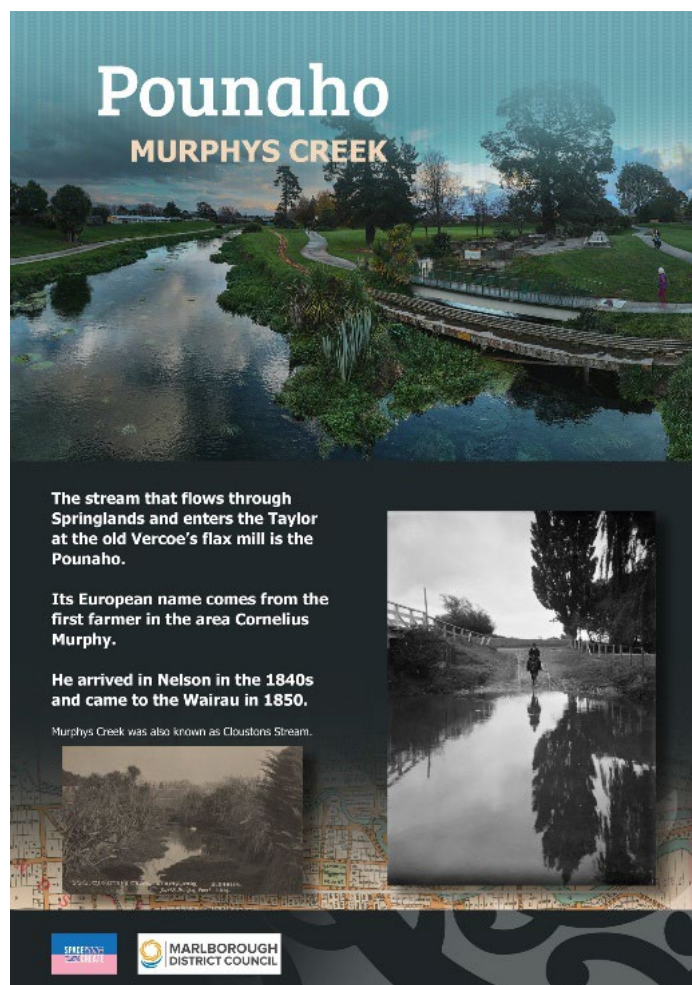


Image: A panel from the *Ngā wai e rima* exhibition

- The exhibition was officially opened at a launch attended by the Mayor, representatives of Rangitāne, project partners and the community, celebrating the collaboration between artists, iwi and Council and recognising the role of public art in telling Marlborough's stories.



Image: Exhibition launch at Rangitāne House

- Four additional Space Create activations are in development, with venues being confirmed and planning processes underway.

Matariki

- A Marlborough Matariki events guide was produced, showcasing a full programme of activities across the region to mark Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki (Matariki Public Holiday) on 10 July. The guide highlighted opportunities for people to participate in reflection, remembrance and celebration under this year's theme, Matariki Herenga Waka: For Everyone.
- The programme outlined events taking place from 30 June to 24 July, including dawn ceremonies at Rārangi and Wairau Bar, a night-time light trail at Te Hoiere (Pelorus Bridge), a light show at Omaka Marae, and activities at Marlborough District Libraries.
- The guide features initiatives supported through Council's Mānawatia te Kāhui o Matariki/Marlborough Matariki Event Fund, which supported six successful applicants delivering community-led celebrations of Matariki.



Report from Marlborough Art Gallery

(Cressida Bishop, Director)

Current Exhibition

- 13 June – 9 August 2026
Kathy Reilly - Peregrination: A Sub Antarctic Odyssey
He Kura Toi Tangata: 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal



At 10am on Saturday 13 June 2026, *He Kura Toi Tangata: 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal*, opened at Marlborough Art Gallery. We have timed the exhibition to coincide with 17 June, the local anniversary of the signing of the Treaty (17 June 1840), the Wairau Affray (17 June 1843) and Matariki 2026. *He Kura Toi Tangata: 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal* is a curated photographic exhibition that documents the Tribunal's significant milestones, landmark events, and the ongoing journey toward justice for Māori communities from 1975 to 2025. The exhibition is presented at Marlborough Art Gallery in partnership with the Waitangi Tribunal, guided by local iwi. Schools are using the current exhibitions as an education resource.

- 13 June – 9 August 2026
The Right of Deciding



Image: Keelan Walker, *Wairau Lagoon*, photograph, 2026

The Right of Deciding is an exhibition that explores the struggle to retain authority over land, identity, memory, and historical meaning in Te Taihū. The title reflects the enduring assertion by Rangitāne o Wairau that they possessed the right to determine their own relationships to whenua, occupation, and political authority, despite colonial attempts to diminish or erase those rights.

Opening in June 2026 at Te Kahu o Waipuna, the exhibition coincides with the anniversary of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi at Port Underwood on 17 June 1840, where Ihāia Kaikōura signed on behalf of Rangitāne. Through images of landscapes, waterways, and places marked by memory, encounter, and survival, the exhibition asks viewers to consider who has held the power to decide — and how those decisions continue to shape the present.

Presented alongside *He Kura Toi Tangata: 50 Years of the Waitangi Tribunal*, the exhibition situates local histories within wider national conversations about Te Tiriti, justice, and historical redress. Drawing attention to the persistence of Rangitāne presence and memory within the landscape, *The Right of Deciding* invites reflection on the ongoing significance of history in shaping contemporary understandings of authority, belonging, and place.

Next Exhibitions

- **Matariki @ Te Kahu o Waipuna**
5pm Wednesday 1 July 2026

We are hosting this year's Te Kahu o Waipuna, Marlborough Library and Marlborough Art Gallery Matariki celebration on Wednesday 1 July. There will be Kapa Haka, Exhibition tours, Matariki story time, kai and more. Free for all the whānau.



- **15 August – 4 October 2026**
Folio: Marlborough Youth Art Exhibition 2026

Folio is the 2026 Marlborough Youth Art Exhibition. An initiative of the Marlborough Youth Council and a partnership between the Marlborough Art Gallery, Marlborough colleges and the Marlborough District Council; it's a major presentation of NCEA folio artwork by Marlborough students. The gallery will be full of glorious youth folios.

Gallery news

- **Marlborough Boys' College Student Community Service Day**
Marlborough Boys' College (MBC) holds an annual Service Day in May. On this day, regular classes are suspended so students can complete four hours of volunteer work to give back to the Blenheim community. This year, Year 13 Head of Wairau House, George Adams, volunteered his time at Te Kahu o Waipuna and cleaned out the ground gutters surrounding the building which was very helpful.



Image: Marlborough Boys College student during Service Day

Collection

- The final stage of photographing the regional art collections is being completed.



Image: Council's Duke of Marlborough painting being photographed by Collection Officer Danny Knox

Report from Whitehaven Theatre

(Joseph Casalme, CEO)

Summary for June 2026

The month of June was a very busy month for the Whitehaven Theatre.

- **Fiafia Night**, held on 12 June, is an annual celebration of Pasifika culture, identity, and community through music, dance, storytelling, and cultural performance from youth from the community. The event provided an opportunity for local Pasifika communities to showcase their heritage while strengthening cultural connections and promoting diversity within Marlborough. The evening attracted more than 500 attendees comprised of families, community groups, and supporters from across the region.



Image: Fiafia Night

- The **Blenheim Dancing Society** held their annual competition from 5-7 June with dozens of young people participating in the different competition categories and attended by more than 600 attendees to watch the event.
- The **Nelson Marlborough West Coast Brass Band Provincial Contest 2026**, held on 13-14 June, brought together brass bands and musicians from throughout the upper South Island. The contest featured competitive performances, adjudication, and public concerts, providing valuable development opportunities for musicians while promoting excellence in community music-making.
- The **Hilarious Comedy Hypnosis Show**, held on 20 June, featured internationally touring comedy hypnotist Haiming Jiang (Chinese Hypnotist). Combining hypnosis, audience participation, and comedy, the performance provided an entertaining and interactive experience to more than 480 patrons.

- On 18 June, the Anderson Theatre hosted concert pianist Nikolai Saratovsky as part of the **Mulled Wine Concerts** programme produced by Mary Gow. Saratovsky, an internationally acclaimed Russian pianist, delivered a world-class classical music performance for the sold event.
- **Voices Unbound: A Pride Wairau Creative Showcase** was held on 19 June again at the Anderson Theatre as part of the Pride Wairau Festival. The event featured award-winning Chinese-Kiwi playwright and spoken word artist Nathan Joe, alongside a screening of the short film Fearlessli by director Lee Li and producer Tyler Redmond. Through spoken word, film, and audience discussions, the showcase explored themes of identity, belonging, resilience, and creative expression.
- **Grape Days**, held on 22 June, is a significant annual wine industry event delivered through New Zealand Winegrowers and the Bragato Research Institute. The Marlborough programme brought together more than 300 vineyard managers, winegrowers, researchers, and industry professionals to discuss current research, innovation, sustainability, and production challenges facing the viticulture sector.
- The **Marlborough Community and Volunteer Awards**, held on 24 June, recognised the contributions of volunteers who support community organisations, events, social services, arts groups, sporting organisations, and charitable initiatives throughout Marlborough. The awards highlighted the essential role volunteers play in strengthening community resilience, social cohesion, and local wellbeing. The event provided an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the volunteers whose service contributes significantly to the region.



- **Rockquest**, held on 26 June, is the regional competition of Smokefree Rockquest. The regional event was featured students from our local schools to develop performance skills, gain industry experience, and build confidence through live performance. This year, they also included TOI, the wearable arts competition. The event had more than 430 audience attendees and results will be posted on the competition website and social media channels.
- **School Notes – An Exercise in Music Appreciation** by the Marlborough Civic Orchestra Concert



Infrastructure & Community Facilities



"Clinkers" - boats with a Viking technique hull visiting the CBD in May 2026

Local Road Asset Management Report – July 2026

(Information prepared by Damian Ford)

R800-007-02

Summary

The IDC and the Professional Services contract have both been agreed by all parties concerned and contract documents will be signed ready for the 1 July 2026 start date.

The Marlborough Sounds Maintenance Contracts have all been agreed by the various parties and contract documents signed ready for the 1 July start date.



Other Business:

During the two recent weather events, in May and June, there were multiple road closures due to slips and flooding etc., which crews attended to ensure that the roads were safe and reopened as soon as possible.

The change in weather has a direct impact on the works which can be undertaken and as such there is a natural slowdown in work during the winter months. Notwithstanding this, contracts have been awarded for the refresh of multiple school crossings including the upgrade of Kea Crossings.

Works were undertaken on D'Urville Island, which included metalling and grading works, vegetation clearance and culvert replacement. The work was undertaken in partnership with Department of Conservation and therefore provided some cost savings to both.

Performance Reporting

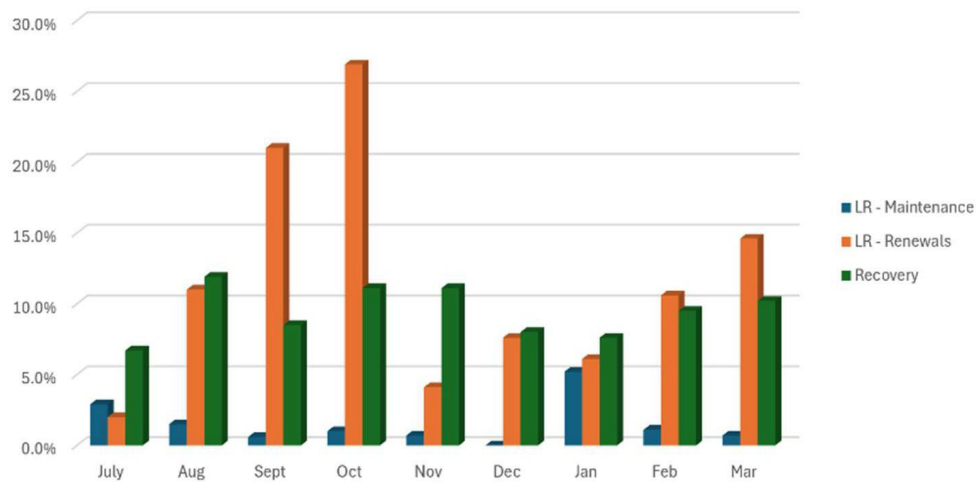
Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) and pothole reporting are quarterly based, with the last reporting period ending in March 2026. Updated information indicates that the average TTM percentage of costs are:

- 13.7% for Local Roads Maintenance
- 11.5% for Local Roads Renewals
- 9.4% for Recovery

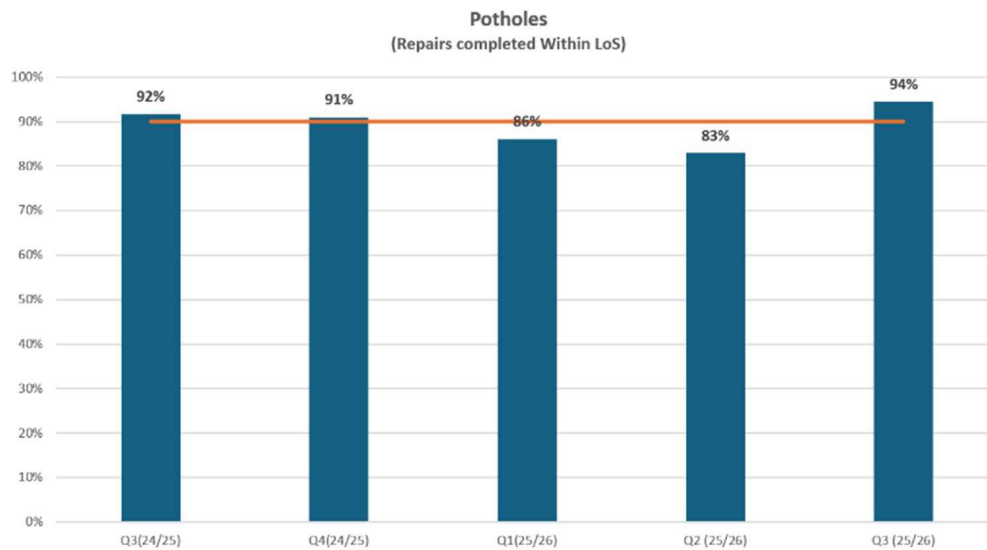
This is compared to an average of circa 10% for State Highway works.

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

Temporary Traffic Management Proportion of Year to Date Expenditure



For Local Roads the target is to repair 90% of potholes within 48 hours. For Quarter 3 and 4 in 2024/25 this level was exceeded, as shown below. For State Highways the target is to repair 100% of potholes within 24 hours, and this has been achieved every quarter since reporting started.



The final amounts achieved during the 2025/26 Programme for Surfacing, Unsealed Road and Drainage Renewals is summarised below.

	State Highway (lane km)			Local Road (lane km)		
	Proposed	Amended	Completed (This Report)	Proposed	Amended	Completed (This Report)
Chipseal	32.91	33.83	33.83 (100%)	109.34	90.19	88.08 (97.7%)
TAC/SAC	1.98	1.98	1.98 (100%)	1.83	1.93	1.93 (100%)
AWPT	9.84	12.51	12.51 (100%)	3.23	4.95	4.95 (100%)
All Renewals	44.72	48.32	48.32 (100%)	114.40	97.07	94.97 (97.8%)

Overall, the renewal programme has been very successful, with 100% of State Highway works completed and 97.8% of Local Roads works. This is a slight change from previous reporting to reflect the final distances provided.

Marlborough Roads Activities

Maintenance and Operations

Weather Event

The May and June weather events resulted in multiple road closures as a result of flooding and minor slips, and resulted in remedial scouring, tree removal and culvert clearance works, as well as slip removal and under slip repairs.

May Weather Event	June Weather Event
Maungatapu Road	Archers Road, Tennyson Inlet
Northbank Road	Bothams Bend Road
Tinline Road	Port Underwood Road near Karaka Point
Kenepuru Road	Wairau Bar Road
Kaiuma Bay Road	Awatere Valley Road, 10.5km from the Jordan Bridge
Kotuku road	SH6 between Canvastown and Pelorus Bridge
Long Valley Road	Jones Road
Te Hoiere Road	Northbank Road
Cat Creek Road	Ronga Road
Tapps Road	Opouri Road
Tunakino Valley Road	Te Hoiere Road
Wakamarina Road	Bulford Road
Douslins Gully Road	Kaituna-Tuamarina Road
Hills Road	Waikakaho Road
Bulford Road	Kaiuma Bay Road at Daltons Bridge and Te Hoiere Road
Opouri Road	Daltons Road
Port Underwood Road	Leatham Road
Bartletts Road	Top Valley Road

The cost of the works as a result of the May event is currently estimated at just under \$400,000, with the cost of the June event works to be confirmed. At present the costs of these works are being covered by the Minor Events budget, but should the opportunity arise Emergency Funding will be applied for.

General Works

A contract has been awarded to undertake improvement works on Kenningtons Road, which will result in the last 2km of road coming under Council maintenance. The process will include two areas where it is intended for a land swap to take place, which would formalise an existing diversion around a residential property and straighten a section to improve visibility and to also make it easier for larger vehicles to transit though. It is intended that works will be started and completed during the course of June 2026, albeit weather dependent.

The tactile paving at the Seymour Street zebra crossing has been renewed and the street furniture on High Street, Picton has also been repaired. The shared surface at Seventh Lane has also been repaired.



Seymour Street - zebra crossing repairs



High Street, Picton – repairs to street furniture



Seventh Lane – repairs to shared surface



Repairs to the footpath, kerb and channel along Manor Place, caused by tree root damage, has been repaired. A number of trees were removed from Milton Terrace, Picton. Damage caused by tree roots to the footpath were repaired along Glover Crescent.



Milton Terrace, Picton – tree removal



Glover Crescent – tree root damage repairs





Manor Place – footpath repairs

During the last reporting period, grading works have been undertaken along multiple roads across the region, along with spot metalling works.

New road marking installations have been completed as listed below:

Where	What	Why
Rene Street Westwood Blenheim	Broken Yellows	Parking reducing road to one lane
Ruesink Street Westwood Blenheim	Broken yellows	Parking in the turning head
Parker Street Blenheim	Broken Yellows	Car's parking across parks access.
Market Street Blenheim	NP in yellow	Parking Officer request - markings to reinforce the no parking message
Queen Street Blenheim	Loading Zone in yellow	Parking Officer request - markings to reinforce the proposed usage
Sheffield Street, Bristol Street And Liverpool Street	Broken Yellows	HGV's having difficulty accessing premises
Waikawa Road Picton Tasman Holiday Park	Bus Stop Markings	Reserving a space for buses.
Durham Street Picton	Broken Yellows	parking obstructing access to driveway
Newgate Street Picton	Broken yellows	parking obstructing access to driveways
Wither Road Blenheim Recycling Centre	Broken yellows	Waste Management having difficulty with obstructive parking
Auckland Street / Hutcheson Street Blenheim	Give Way Line	Reinforce the give way message.
John Street / Hutcheson Street Blenheim	Give Way Line	Reinforce the give way message
Alfred Street / Leith Terrace Blenheim	Dragons' teeth markings	Highlighting the raised table crossing
Kinross Street Blenheim	Parking limit lines	Cars parking closer than 1m to crossing
SH1 Main Street	Parking limit lines	Cars parking closer than 1m to crossing
Weld Street	Parking limit lines	school related parking issues

Port Underwood Road Safety Improvements

Short Term - Vegetation cut was undertaken in April. The more extensive cut of vegetation is still being reviewed, and it is expected that these works will be completed by Q4 of this financial year.

Medium Term - The engineering cost estimates have been prepared for the next phases of work and are now being compared to Recovery Work costs to establish where savings could be made to enable more work to be delivered. Working towards a Council Briefing in Quarter 1 of 2026/27.

Queen Charlotte Drive Safety Improvements

Short Term - new signs have been installed.

Medium Term - The engineering cost estimates have been prepared for the next phases of work and are now being compared to Recovery Work costs to establish where savings could be made to enable more work to be delivered. Working towards a Council Briefing in Quarter 1 of 2026/27.



Queen Charlotte Drive – new signage

Tumbledown Road

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

Infrastructure

A contract for raising Rarangi Road at Woolleys Crossing has been tendered and received tenders currently being reviewed. The intent is to lift the road level to reduce the risk of flooding in future weather events. Woolleys Crossing road itself may also be raised as part of these works. These works will be undertaken through the Low Cost Low Risk budget.

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

Ongoing Projects

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

	Design	Tender	Delivery	Contractor	Comment
Kenningtons Road	✓	✓		Edridge	Works planned for June and July 2027
School Crossings	✓	✓		CMT	Works planned for June 2027
Rarangi Road	✓	⌚			Raising road
New Renwick Road (Drainage)	✓	✓	⌚	Crafar Crouch	Works commenced on 9 June
Port Underwood Road	✓				Safety improvement works
Queen Charlotte Drive	✓				Safety improvement works
Hammerichs Road (Drainage)	⌚				
Seddon (Drainage)	⌚				
Ben Morvan Road Drainage	✓	✓		Simcox	Resident contribution issue delaying delivery

Planning

Work continues on the day-to-day processing of resource consents for Council, including ensuring that new developments and subdivisions meet Council standards.

Regional Land Transport Plan

The third Regional Land Transport Plan workshop was held on 21 May 2026. The workshop confirmed the Vision Statement, Objectives, Investment Logic Map and 10-year priorities.

These matters are scheduled to be ratified by the Regional Transport Committee on 3 July 2026. Once ratified, they will be included in Transport Investment Online in accordance with NZTA requirements.

Speed Management

A Speed Committee has been established to make decisions on speed limits within Marlborough. Under the Setting of Speed Limits Rule, variable speed limits are required around school gates. The Committee is refining the details of these changes before making a recommendation to Council ahead of implementation.

No consultation is required for the school variable speed limits; however, schools will be notified of the legislative changes. The Speed Committee will then consider other speed change requests and make recommendations to Council as required.

NZTA State Highway Speed Reviews

Separately, NZTA is progressing variable speed limits on state highways and consulting on permanent speed reductions on SH1 between Spring Creek and Blenheim, and between Riverlands and Blenheim.

Multi Modal

Following feedback following the changes to the Eltham Road cycle scheme, works are planned to make minor changes around the Maxwell Road interchange, to direct vehicles away from the cycle path. A contractor has been appointed and subject to issue of contract the works will be undertaken during June.

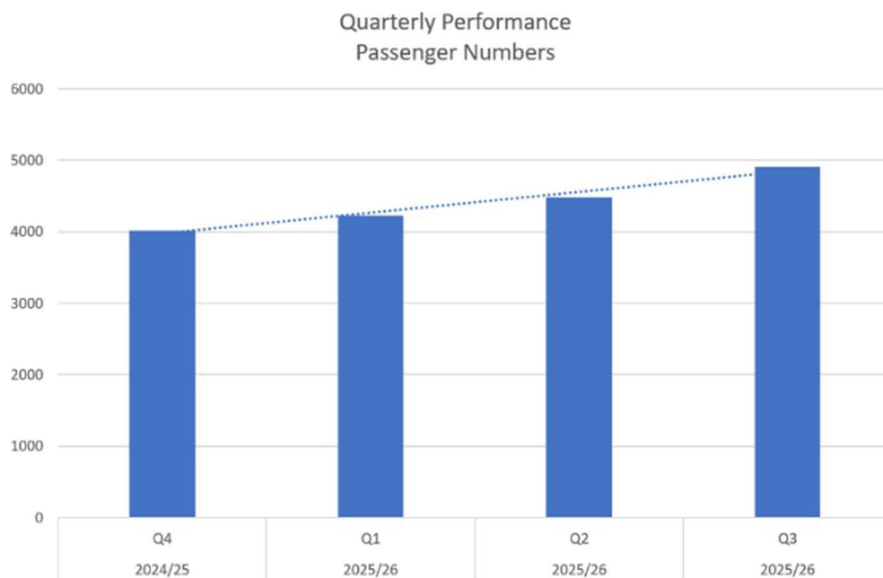
A contract has been issued to undertake the works at the school crossings on Maxwell Road, Colemans Road, Hutcheson Street and Hammerichs Road. In addition, improvements to the bus stop markings at Wairau Valley School will also be undertaken.

The work to provide the 'Missing Link' footpath at Westwood has been completed, as illustrated below.



Missing Link Footpath at Westwood

Up to the end of April there have been a total of 15,156 passengers across the three bus services. Over the last year (four quarters) there has been a steady increase in passenger numbers as illustrated below.



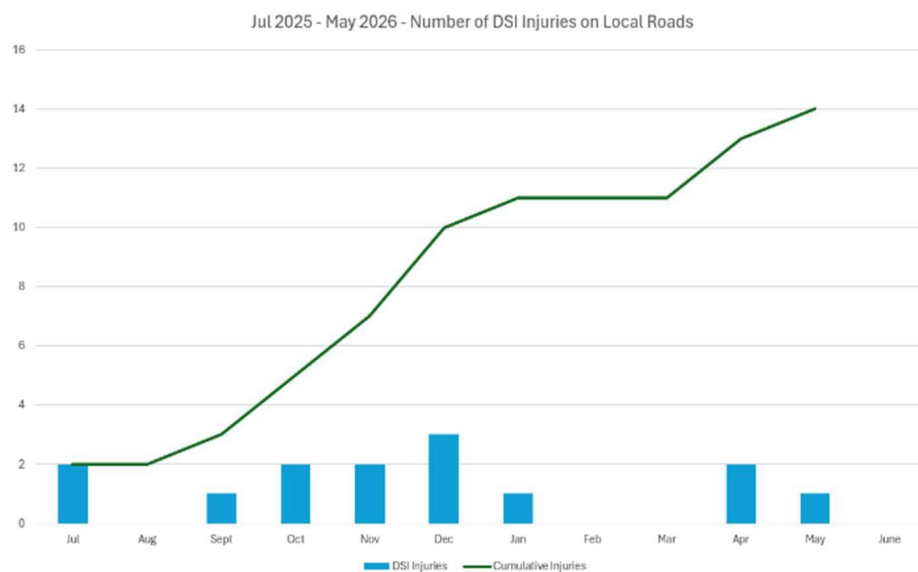
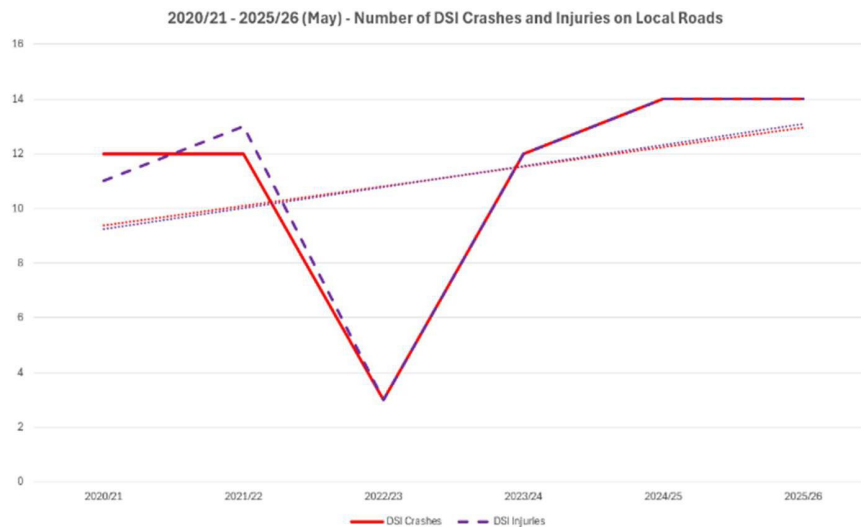
Across the three services, overall reliability was 99.7%, with punctuality at 99.8%.

During Q3, passenger numbers increased by 2.2% compared with the same period last year. This exceeded the national trend of a 1.9% increase and was considerably stronger than the 10.2% reduction recorded in other small public transport regions.

For the year to date, passenger numbers have decreased by 0.6% compared with last year. This is broadly comparable with the national trend of a 0.2% reduction and is noticeably better than the 8.6% reduction recorded in small public transport regions.

Road Crash Summary

The total number of DSI (Deaths and Serious Injuries) crashes and resulting injuries on Local Roads have seen a minor increase over the last six years, as illustrated below.



While any crash and resulting injury are unwelcome, the overall trends shown above suggest that local roads within the District are generally operating safely. The limited number of crashes occurring overall reflects the continued efforts made through road safety improvement works.

Marlborough Roads Recovery May 2026 Project Report

Overall Status

The May 2026 MRRT monthly report shows continued progress across design, construction, commercial management, handover, and stakeholder communications despite disruptive weather and winter delivery constraints.

Health and safety performance remained strong, with no Life Saving Rule Breaches, no injuries, and no first aid treatments reported.

Construction is advancing across key zones, with Kenepuru, French Pass, Awatere, Queen Charlotte Drive, Northbank, Port Underwood and Waihopai all reporting good progress. The programme remains forecast to complete Phase 3 works by December 2027, although increased scope from resilience and weather-related works will require ongoing management.

Health & Safety

For this period there were no Life Saving Rule Breaches, injuries or first aid treatments.

12 Critical Risk Conversations were had with subcontractors. The target of 14.

Environmental & Sustainability

Environmental education of subcontractors continued, with focus on erosion and sediment controls through winter.

Fish salvage was successfully undertaken during the Ronga River diversion, Moncrieff Reserve ecological assessment was completed, and the Queen Charlotte Drive foreshore resource consent was granted

Design

One complex site and three simple sites were completed during the month, while one complex and one simple site were added.

Seven complex sites and sixteen simple sites remain. Simple site memo delivery slowed due to competing priorities and site complexity

Construction

Kenepuru construction works progressed strongly, with KS3, KS2 Package 1 and KS9 complete and five active sites underway.

French Pass works advanced across Croisilles, Te Towaka/Cissy Bay, Tennyson Inlet and Ronga River packages.

Upper Awatere Valley culverts and the Awapiri Retreat are complete



Figure 1- Drilling Anchors Kenepuru Road

Commercial

The commercial position remains positive. Phase 2 is tracking with approximately \$1.23M contingency.

Phase 3 continues to show positive results, with an additional contingency position reported and a large portion of potential contingency and escalation currently being held for control purposes.

May construction spend was concentrated mainly in Kenepuru, French Pass, Queen Charlotte Drive, Awatere and Northbank.

Tender activity continued across French Pass Village, Kenepuru KS2 Package 2, Anakiwa Road and several resilience and Portage packages, with a number of awards still to be confirmed.

Programme

The programme remains on track for the current forecast completion date of 03 December 2027, with the critical path running through Kenepuru KS5 works.

However, several zone completion dates have slipped between the April and May programme updates, including French Pass, Queen Charlotte Drive, Picton/Port Underwood and multiple Kenepuru sections. This is mainly due to weather events.

KS7 is stable, while KS8 and KS9 are complete. Design delivery is not currently identified as a programme issue overall, but final scope definition and tender returns remain important to confirming durations and maintaining confidence in the completion forecast.

Key Risks and Issues

Winter construction conditions: Sealing is increasingly difficult due to falling temperatures and high pavement saturation. Several sites may require sacrificial sealing, closer monitoring and resealing next season.

Design and scope pressure: Some consultant deliverables have slipped, and several remaining simple sites may affect construction sequencing, including Grove Track sites and, Moncrieff Reserve.

Programme risk: Additional resilience and weather-related sites are being integrated into the existing programme. Completion by December 2027 remains the forecast, but increased scope may eventually extend beyond that date if not actively managed.

Environmental compliance: Environmental risks are not yet consistently included in daily risk control planning, requiring continued coaching, audits and practical site guidance.

Public access and traffic management: Road closures, multiple contractors operating in constrained road corridors, and public access through work zones remain key operational risks.

Handover completeness: RAMM asset information, photos, PCPs, QAs and completed documentation require continued coordination with Zone Managers to maintain closeout momentum.



Figure 2- Recent dropout Awatere Valley Road



Figure 3- Drop out Awatere Valley

Customer & Stakeholder

Recovery e-newsletter

In May 2026, the weekly recovery newsletters included information on planned construction closures across the Awatere, Kenepuru, Tennyson Inlet, Northbank and Port Underwood. Works completed under the closures included excavation, retention wall construction and drainage improvement works.

Information on works being undertaken at various other locations, included works on Queen Charlotte Drive, Anakiwa Road, Moetapu Bay Road, Tara Bay Road, Croisilles-French Pass Road, French Pass and Waihopai Valley along with information provided on future works across the network.

Information regarding no recovery works over King's Birthday weekend was also included.

Over May 2026, the e-newsletter was sent to a subscriber list of 413 contacts, with an average opening rate of 55.7%. All recovery newsletters continue to be shared via the NZTA website, the Marlborough District Council (MDC) website and Antenno app, and are promoted by community groups.

Customer interactions

In May 2026 there were 36 customer interactions, a 6% increase compared with May 2025. Twelve (33%) of these enquiries were for the Kenepuru Zone, with approximately half of them requesting construction closure information.

The second highest zone was the French Pass with ten (28%), the majority of which were also around closure information, in this case for Tennyson Inlet.

There were six fault/repair reports ranging from possible faulty traffic lights, request for repairs to drains and curbing, and advice about fallen rocks on the road.

There were seven requests for special access through closures for essential travel, across all Zones.

Interactions were resolved within an average of 1.17 days.

Permits

There were two permits issued in May.

Stakeholder and Customer Notification

Six road closure notifications or updates to closures were sent in May for closures on Tennyson Inlet, Tara Bay, Anakiwa and Croisilles-French Pass roads. Closures continue to be conveyed using a range of mediums including letter box drops, MDC website alerts, Antenno, and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Map. VMS boards, MDC media release and social media are also used when practicable. Closure information continues to be provided to emergency services and affected stakeholders.

Publication

A story was published in the MDC weekly pages in the Weekend Express and Blenheim Sun in the first week of May on Kenepuru Road closures returning to extended hours. The story also included recent milestones on Kenepuru Road, and the Blenheim Sun included an image of a recently completed retaining wall.

Compliments

The MRRT received a compliment from a Moenui Road resident in May thanking us for the drainage improvements completed to control the storm water efficiently.

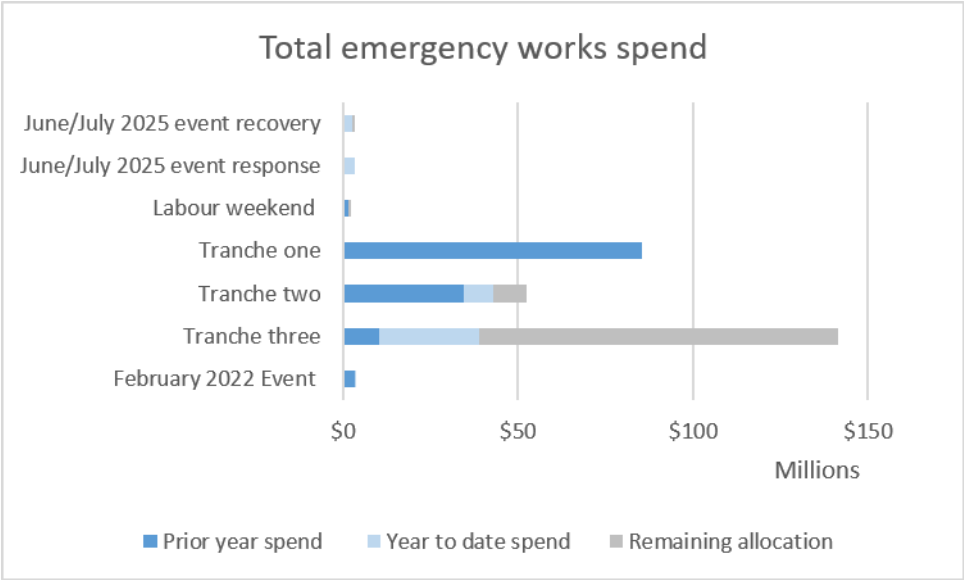
People & Culture

- The team is continuing to work well, with the last workshop at the end of May, being a download of everything possible before we lost two of our long-term engineering staff. Their replacements are currently onboarding with some additional resource options to cover the additional delivery requirements of the resilience scopes being integrated into the programme of works.
- Staff retention plan is in development with the adaption of similar plans on other long-term projects being tweaked to suit this team & their circumstances. These are predominantly based around career

development upskilling & training as an incentive as the end is in sight for some people whilst others are keen to remain with the project through to completion.

Financial
Roading emergency works - financial update to 31 May 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 82% utilised. There is \$9.6M 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 27% utilised. A split per zone is completed below in this report. There is \$102.7M in approved funding remaining.

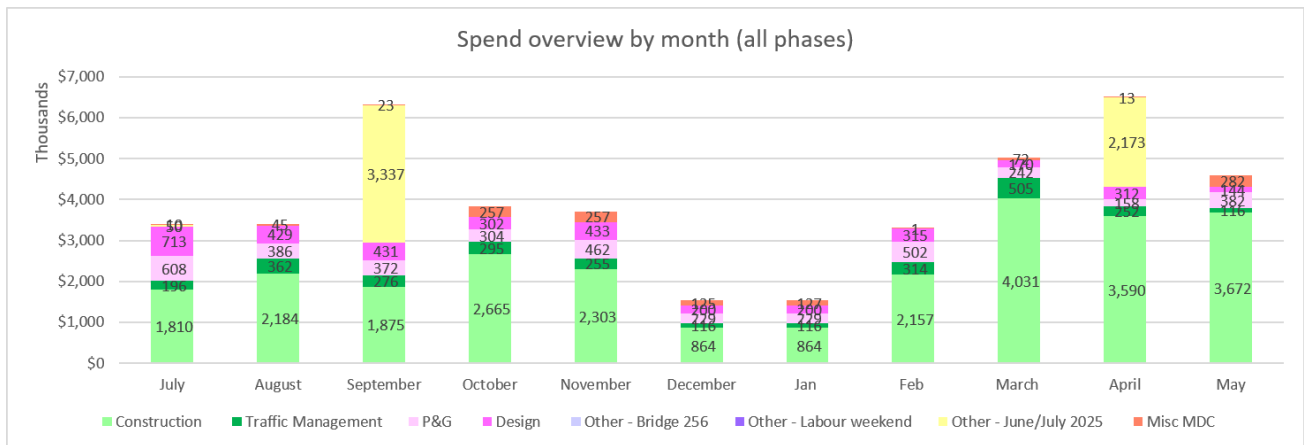
The emergency works for the February 2022 event funding allocation of \$3.5M are complete with the funding allocation being 100% utilised.

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 27% utilised. There is \$7.2M in approved funding remaining.

In total there is \$120.5M in approved funding remaining for the program of works.

Current year expenditure by type

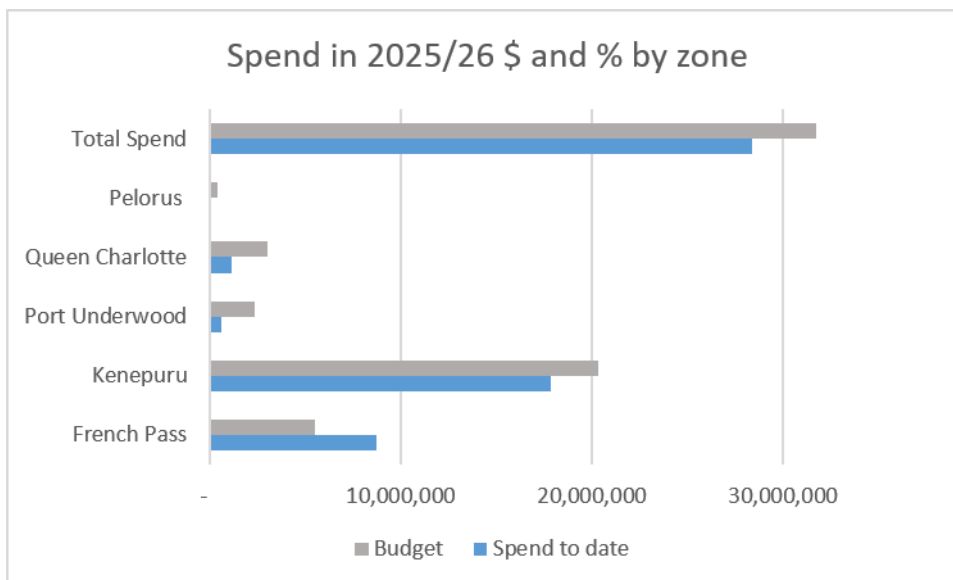


December/January spending has been evenly split as the reporting does not differentiate between months.

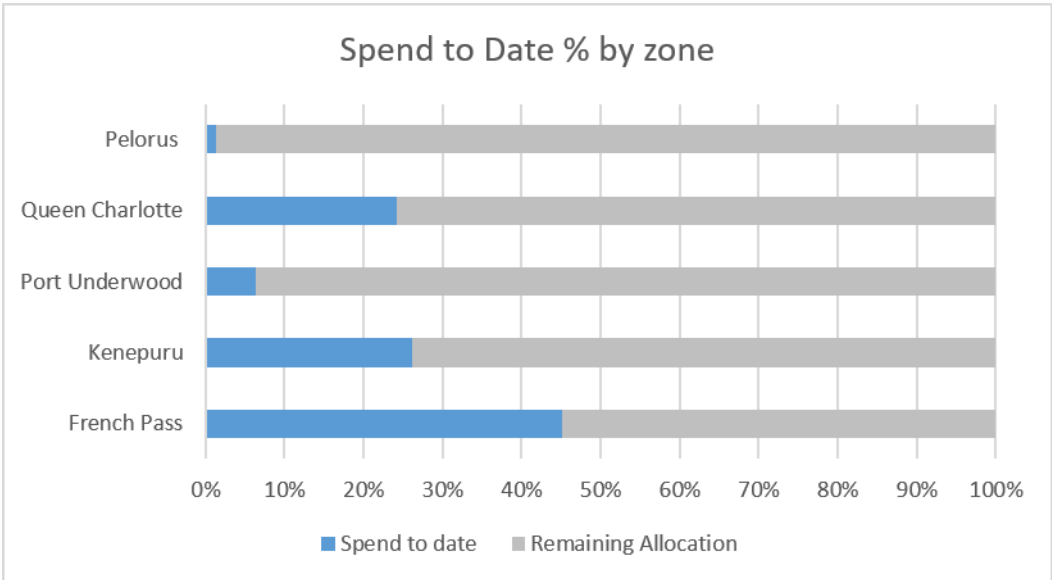
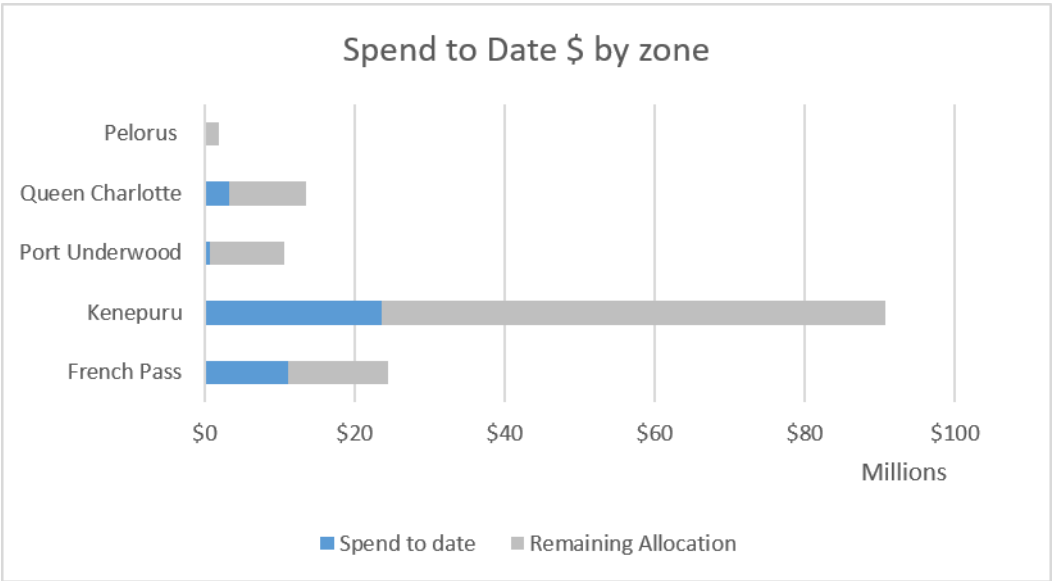
Phase three zone analysis

	Spend to date	Budget	Remaining Allocation
French Pass	11,074	24,531	13,457
Kenepuru	23,694	90,800	67,106
Port Underwood	684	10,630	9,946
Queen Charlotte	3,264	13,520	10,256
Pelorus	26	1,930	1,904
Total Spend	38,742	141,411	102,669

Phase three – current year expenditure compared to current year allocation



Phase three – total expenditure compared to total allocation



Marlborough District Libraries Activity Report

(Cllr 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 service.

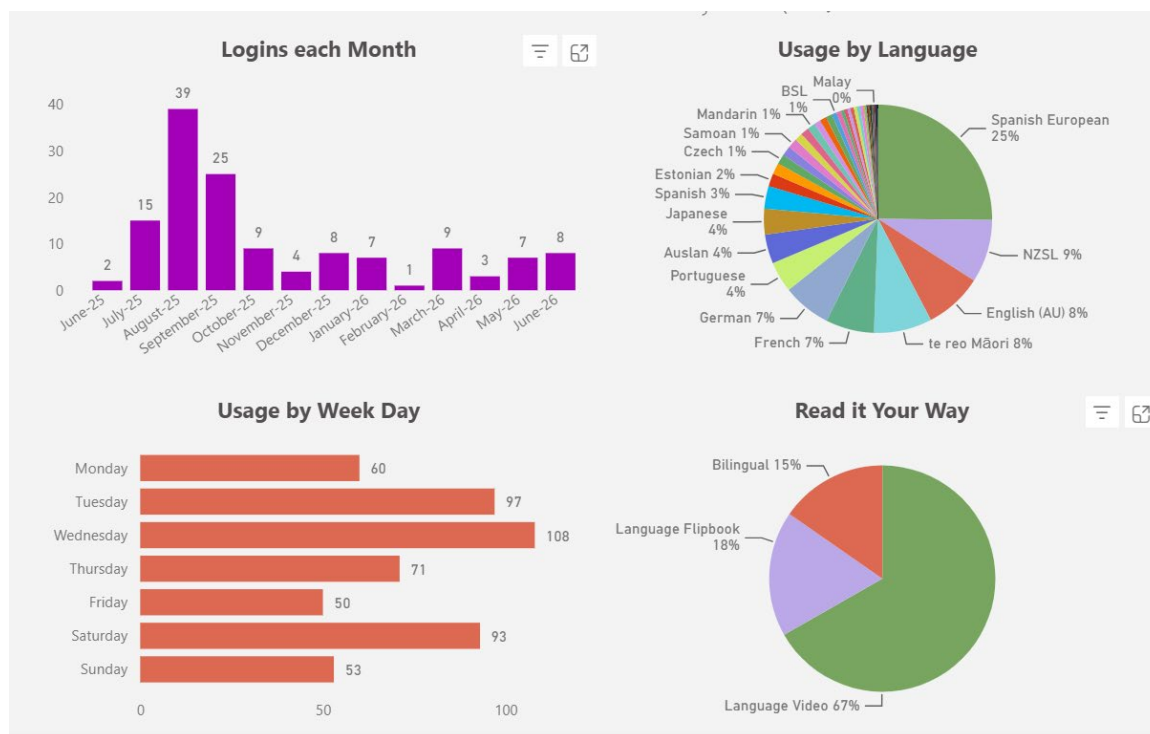
Subscription Databases

Marlborough District Libraries subscribe to a number of databases that are free to use via your membership card. Three of these databases are:



LOTE4Kids is a digital library of audio-picture books for children in 100+ world languages, narrated by professional native speakers. Children and families read stories in their home language, build English skills, or explore a new language – with bilingual books available to support both.

Usage Statistics



Marlborough District Libraries have several databases relating to family history and genealogy. Due to licensing restrictions these databases can only be accessed within the libraries.



Ancestry.com provides access to the world's largest collection of online family history records, from archives in New Zealand, Australia and around the world.

Find my Past is the largest online collection of UK and Irish genealogy records and newspaper archives.

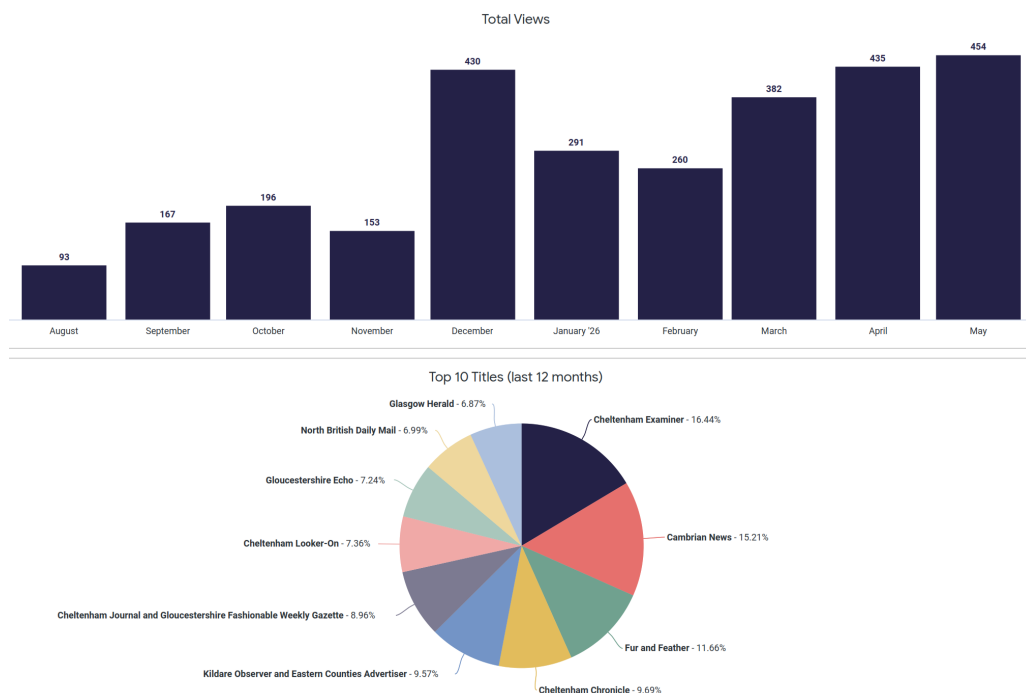


The British Newspaper Archive

The British Newspaper Archive is an online newspaper archive created by the partnership between Findmypast and the British Library.

The British Library's collection of historical newspapers contains newspapers from the 1600s to the present day from Britain, Ireland and further afield. There are over 600,000 bound volumes of newspapers (occupying 32 kilometres, or 20 miles, of shelving) and over 300,000 reels of microfilm (occupying a further 13 kilometres, or 8 miles, of shelving). Findmypast has spent over ten years working with the British Library to digitise their vast newspaper collection and create an easy-to-use online search experience.

Usage Statistics



Home Energy Audit Toolkits (HEAT)

As part of the library's Techkit collection, two Home Energy Audit Toolkits are now available for loan.

The kits include:

- A thermometer/hygrometer for measuring air temperature and moisture levels in different parts of the home.
- An infrared thermometer for finding hot spots or cold spots and identifying areas of poor insulation or air leaks
- A moisture meter for measuring the level of moisture in firewood
- A stopwatch for checking your shower flow rate
- A power meter for checking the energy use and running costs of major appliances like your fridge or freezer
- A thermometer for measuring water temperature

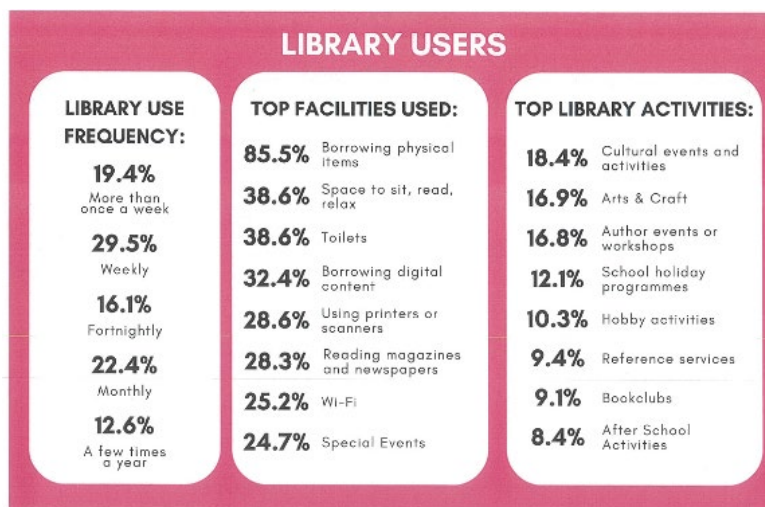


Community Impact Report

As trusted community hubs, libraries in New Zealand continue to evolve in response to the changing needs of the people they serve.

For the second year, Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) have completed a Community Impact Survey to provide insights into how libraries are used and the differences they are making in the lives of New Zealanders – socially, economically, culturally and environmentally. A total of 14,089 responses were collected, including 228 from Marlborough.

The survey began by asking people how they use their library. As expected, borrowing physical items remains the core service, with the highest reported use (85.5%). This was followed by using the library space to sit, relax or read (38.6%) confirming that access to the library as a third space remains central to communities.



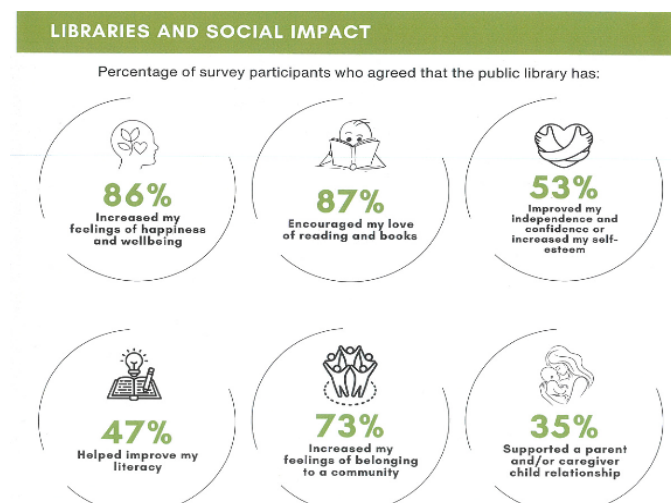
However, libraries are now equally recognised as providers of essential digital and community services.

For example:

- 32.4% of respondents borrowed digital content
- 28.5% of respondents used printing or scanning services
- 25.2% of respondents accessed free Wi-Fi.

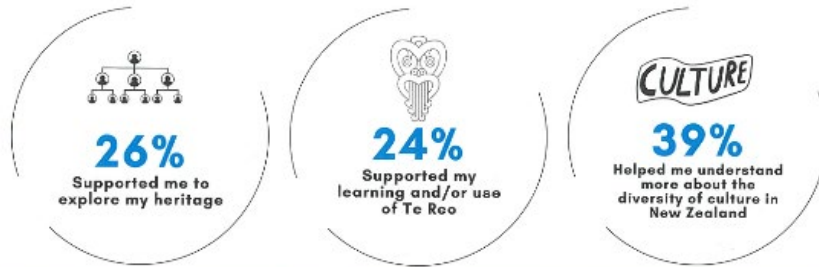
Community Impact Areas

Survey recipients agreed with the following statements:



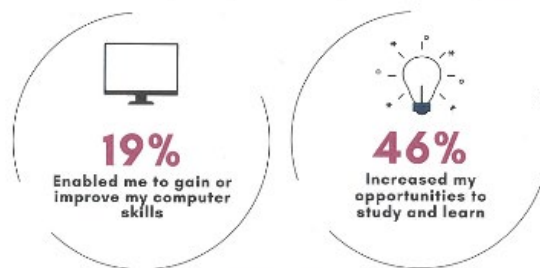
LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL IMPACT

Percentage of survey participants who agreed that the public library has:



LIBRARIES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Percentage of survey participants who agreed that the public library has:



LIBRARIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Percentage of survey participants who agreed that the public library has:



These findings reaffirm that libraries are far more than places to borrow books. They are dynamic, adaptable institutions that:

- Strengthen wellbeing and community connection
- Enable lifelong learning and digital inclusion
- Support cultural identity and equity
- Promote environmental responsibility

As data continues to inform decision making, the message is clear: libraries are delivering measurable, meaningful impact and with sustained investment, will remain essential to thriving, connected and resilient communities.

Staff News

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

Marlborough Libraries Usage Statistics

Membership

New Members

- 1 May – 31 May 2026

TOTAL 158

Renewed Memberships

- 1 May – 31 May 2026

TOTAL 219



Visitor Numbers (Door Count)

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

2026 Visitor Numbers	2025 Visitor Numbers
1 May – 31 May 2026	1 May – 31 May 2025
24,933	27,752

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

2026 Visitor Numbers	2025 Visitor Numbers
1 May – 31 May 2026	1 May – 31 May 2025
6,768	6,814

Both facilities recorded fewer visitors than in 2025.

Average Daily Visitors Numbers: 1 – 31 May 2026

		Te Kahu o Waipuna		Picton Library and Service Centre
Weekday Visitors		827		250
Saturday Visitors		805		185
Sunday Visitors		706		116

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

Checkouts and Renewals		May 2026		May 2025		Variance
Marlborough Library		32,587		35,267		-2,680
Picton Library		4,652		5,527		- 875
E-Resources		5,229		4,427		+802
TOTAL		42,468		45,221		- 2,753
Check-ins						
Marlborough Library		28,580		31,009		- 2,429
Picton Library		4,103		4,970		- 867
TOTAL		32,683		35,979		- 3,296

Fewer visitors in May, compared with the same month last year, resulted in a decrease in both checkouts and check-ins. Digital issues however were higher than 2025.

Room Bookings

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

May Room Bookings		Community / Library Use		Commercial Use		TOTAL Use
Te Kahu o Waipuna		346		5		351
Picton Library		96		0		96
TOTAL		442		5		447

Holds (Items Reserved)

The number of holds placed on items in May 2026 was: **4,964**



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

The following usage statistics were recorded in May 2026

	In-Library Computer Sessions	Wi-Fi (using their own device)
Marlborough Library	1,481	6,327
Picton Library	784	2,670
TOTAL	2,265	8,997

Services and Operations

Education Report – Term 2, 2026

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

Marlborough District Council develops and delivers environmental education programmes supporting schools, kindergartens and early childhood centres to take positive action for our environment. These include area like reducing waste, awareness of waterways and water use, improving landscapes and biodiversity, climate change knowledge and energy use

Marlborough District Council has an education strategy with a goal of “Behaviours and actions that lead to positive environmental change.” This informs the work undertaken by the education team.

The environmental education programme has four areas of delivery including working with schools and ECE centres, supporting Enviroschools, providing opportunities and engaging with community.

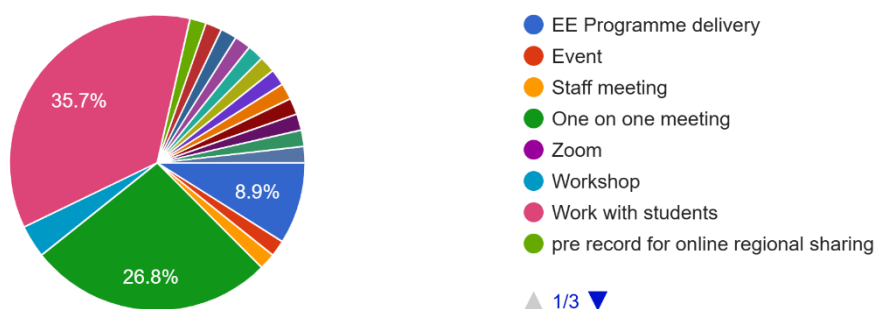
This term our part time education team of three have worked directly with 16 schools and kindergartens, held two workshops for teachers, two events for students and collaborated with LandCare on a tree planting celebrating World Environment Day

A selection of term stories from the work with schools, kindergartens and working with community collaborators are shared in our latest Greenchat term 2, July 2026 linked below. These stories are on the Local Enviroschools website including an energy project with Kindergartens, maths and nature, Envirogroups and World Environment day and the recent teacher workshop with Harko Brown on traditional Māori games [GREENchat - Marlborough District Council](#)

The tables below show examples of how the team is delivering the education programme and the topics that were delivered for term 2.

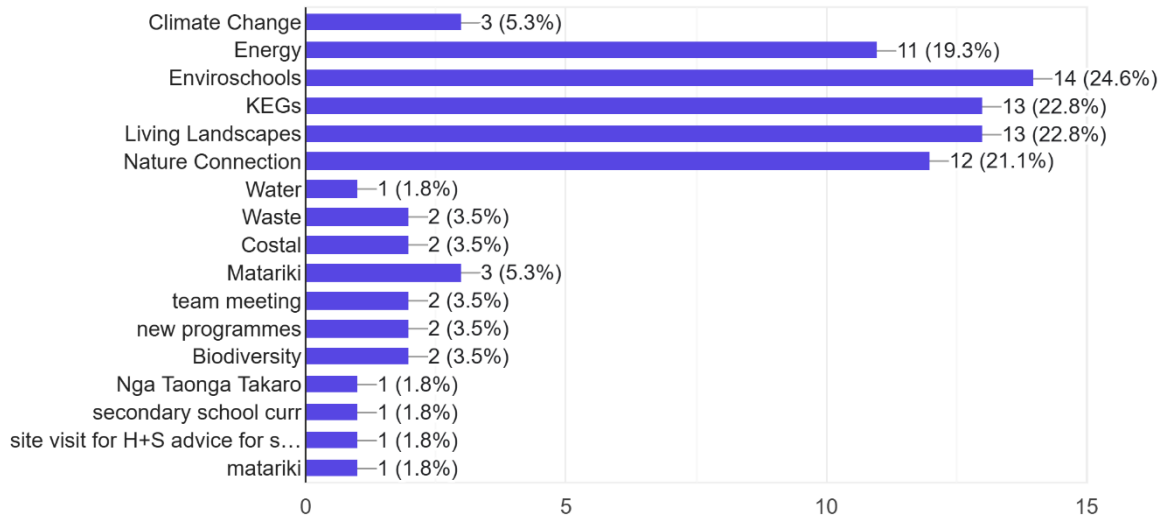
Purpose

56 responses



Topic

57 responses



Parks and Open Spaces Activity Report

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

Blenheim Parks

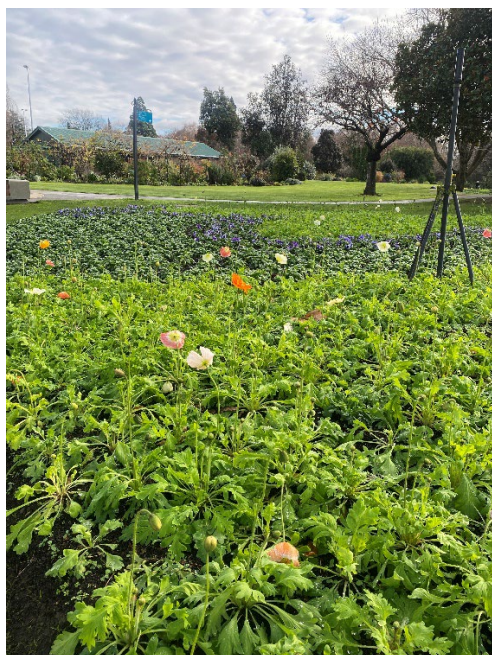
Pollard Park

Staff have completed all annual planting for the spring displays, including underplanting selected areas with tulip bulbs to provide a vibrant seasonal feature.

Work is now focused on maintaining the annual beds, with regular weeding and hoeing underway. While weed growth has begun to slow, ongoing maintenance remains essential to keep new growth under control.

The team has also been concentrating on key areas such as the front gate, cottage garden and perennial borders. This work has included cutting back perennials and thorough weeding to maintain presentation standards.

Rose pruning demonstrations are scheduled to be advertised over the coming weeks, with sessions planned for July.



Annuals beginning to flower



Apprentice, Michelle, doing some winter pruning

Seymour Square

All annual beds at Seymour Square have been planted for the spring display, with selected areas also enhanced by tulip bulb plantings to add additional colour.

The new plants are beginning to establish well and are starting to flower. Displays are expected to continue improving over the coming weeks.

Staff have recently undertaken a full tidy-up of Seymour Square in preparation for the Prime Minister's visit. This included cleaning and maintaining perennial borders, hoeing annual beds and edging to ensure a well-presented appearance.

Lansdowne Hub

Betty Woodham Top of the South Netball Tournament

The Betty Woodham Top of the South Representative Netball Tournament brought together representative teams from across the wider Top of the South region for a full day of competition.

Teams travelled from Nelson, Motueka, Selwyn and Buller to take part, with players competing at a high standard across all grades. The event was well received by visiting teams and organisers and ran smoothly throughout the day.

From a Lansdowne Hub perspective, the facility was well utilised throughout the event, with visiting teams making use of the changing rooms and function room for team meetings, preparation and recovery between games. The layout and available spaces supported the flow of the tournament and provided a comfortable base for teams during the day.

Overall, the tournament was a success in both participation and delivery, reinforcing the role of regional facilities such as Lansdowne Hub in supporting representative sport and hosting visiting teams from across the South Island.



Marlborough Boys College vs Nelson College Rugby Fixtures

Lansdowne Park hosted a full day of school rugby featuring fixtures between Marlborough Boys College and Nelson College across the U14, U15, 2nd XV and 1st XV grades.

Nelson College came away with victories in the U14, U15 and 1st XV fixtures, including a hard-fought contest in the top grade, while Marlborough Boys College secured a strong win in the 2nd XV match. Played in favourable conditions, the day showcased a high standard of school rugby and continued the strong rivalry between the two schools, delivering an engaging event for players, families, and supporters. Overall, the fixtures contributed to another successful day of activity at Lansdowne Park.



Riverside Park, Blenheim



"Clinkers" - boats with a Viking technique hull visiting the CBD in May 2026

The Crinoline footbridge has been returned to the Riverside Park on the Taylor River Reserve. The footbridge was removed late last year to make way for a new purpose-built amphibious excavator – nicknamed Swampy – used for the first time to remove a build-up of sediment in the river between the Alfred Street bridge and the SH1/rail bridge.

The dredging works to remove the sediment, caused by several weather events in recent years, were required to improve the flood carrying capacity of the Taylor River.

Lingering high-water levels had delayed the planned return of the bridge and the replacement of the boardwalk in the area. Once conditions are stable, work will resume on replacing the boards but this will be done in stages to minimise disruption to the public.

The Crinoline footbridge has already been refurbished and redecked with new non-slip boards.



Wither Hills Mountain Bike Park

On Sunday 14 June, a small group from the Fiji Marlborough Community Charitable Trust generously volunteered their time to carry out a clean-up campaign in the Mountain Bike Park. Staff are very appreciative of the hard work and effort contributed by this group. Feedback indicated it was an enjoyable morning, with volunteers reaching some of the more difficult-to-access areas that are often missed. The group has expressed a strong interest in continuing their efforts in other parts of Marlborough



Awatere and Flaxbourne Parks

Seddon Parks

Tree management works have also been undertaken where trees adjoin or overhang private property boundaries. These works are aimed at reducing the risk of tree or branch failure and ensuring the safety of public accessways, picnic areas and designated responsible camping locations such as Blairich Reserve.

Awatere Memorial Hall and Seddon Berms

Difficult-to-maintain road berm areas are being progressively planted, and new plants are being added to the Memorial Hall amenity gardens to replace those that have not survived.

Seddon Domain – playground renewal

Community stakeholder consultation and a preliminary design to renew the playground at the domain is underway.

Picton Parks

Victoria Domain - vegetation biodiversity enhancement

Tree and shrub planting to re-vegetate the area near the Sussex Street entrance of Victoria Domain is progressing well. The site, where a large stand of Western Red Cedar once stood, has seen approximately 5,000 plants established over the past year.

This biodiversity enhancement project is one of the key ongoing management actions identified in the Victoria Domain Reserves Management Plan.

Victoria Domain - Picton Dawn Chorus – Ngahere (Tree) Group

Staff have also been working alongside the Picton Dawn Chorus - Ngahere Group to plant other areas that are currently difficult and resource-intensive to maintain. This has included a number of areas adjacent to the Marina to Marina track, Lincoln Street wetland and layby areas along the domain loop road.

Re-establishing these areas as native bushland will help eliminate maintenance requirements while providing significant ecological and amenity benefit.

The Ngahere group is also supported by local school students, who occasionally assist with planting activities and contribute to the ongoing restoration effort while gaining knowledge and understanding about the natural environment.

Victoria Domain - invasive wood weed control

Staff have also been working alongside specialist council contractors across the Domain to control invasive woody shrubs, trees and vines that continue to threaten the area's biodiversity.

Over the recent period, more than 150 wilding pines have been removed, along with numerous phoenix palms, honeysuckle, passionfruit vine, old man's beard, sycamore, wattle and Tasmanian blackwood, all of which have been targeted with appropriate control measures.

Port Marlborough Pavilion

Ferry Consultation

Marlborough District Council hosted a public consultation event on the future of inter-island ferry services, giving residents the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from Council, Ferry Holdings and Port Marlborough, ask questions and share feedback on proposed developments. The event helped attendees

better understand the issues and opportunities associated with future ferry services and their importance to the Marlborough region.



Environmental Stewardship and Conservation Seminar

Marlborough District Council, in partnership with the Department of Conservation, hosted a community seminar focused on environmental stewardship, QEII covenants and restoration initiatives across the region. Attendees heard from a range of speakers who shared insights into conservation projects, land management practices and the development of cultural and environmental knowledge within Marlborough. The seminar gave community members an opportunity to learn more about local environmental initiatives and connect with others involved in conservation efforts.

Transpower Community Information Day

Transpower hosted a community information day to provide updates on the planned renewal of New Zealand's High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between the North and South Islands. The event gave community members the chance to learn more about the project, discuss potential impacts with Transpower representatives and provide feedback on the proposed infrastructure works. Attendees also gained a greater understanding of the significance of the HVDC Link and the role it plays in New Zealand's electricity network.



Northern Marlborough/Sounds

Ferry Bridge Picnic Area Carpark was once again under water at the beginning of June, with contractors called in to remove layers of silt once the floodwater had receded.



Damage to the seal of the carpark due to floodwater

District Cemeteries

Fairhall Cemetery

Construction of two new ashes gardens and two new tree ashes gardens at Fairhall Cemetery have now been completed, as previously outlined in the earlier information pack. The gardens have been planted with a mix of native species, helping to establish a respectful and attractive environment for interments. This development provides much-needed additional capacity, reflecting the growing popularity of ashes interment options within the cemetery.



There have been several instances of vehicles driving on the grassed areas of the cemetery, resulting in damage to the turf and, unfortunately, to some headstones. Under the cemetery bylaw, only authorised vehicles—such as maintenance vehicles and hearses—are permitted to access these areas. As there has previously been no signage in place, it is possible that this restriction has not been widely understood. Signage has now been installed to clearly communicate this requirement, enabling staff to follow up with those who continue to disregard the rules.



Trees

Council is consulting with residents of the Morrington Terrace Reserve neighbourhood regarding the future of trees at Morrington Terrace Reserve (Reserve) in Witherlea, Blenheim. Council received tree removal requests for gum trees in the Reserve that may have some effect on other nearby properties and causing concerns with leaf litter, branches falling and root infiltration throughout the grounds.

The Reserve sits either side of Weld Street, with many of the gum trees around 100 years old and also listed on the Notable Tree Register and in the Marlborough Environment Plan.

Depending on the outcome of the consultation process, some trees could be removed, Council will then plant more suitable tree species to enhance the existing gardens within the Reserve.



Playgrounds

Awarua

The long-awaited new playground at Awarua Park has been completed with reports that it has been well-used and enjoyed during home rugby games.



Tirimoana (Anakiwa)

An initial concept featuring a swing and tower/slide combination was explored; however, the space required to meet fall height safety standards meant the equipment could not be located in the area preferred by the community.

Staff are now working on a more creative solution that fits within the available footprint and budget. The revised approach will also make use of on-site soil spoil, helping to reduce costs by avoiding the need to transport material. Importantly, the design aims to cater to a wider range of ages, including the significant number of retirees in the area who have expressed interest in exercise equipment. This can be incorporated through bespoke elements that double as play features while also supporting gentle exercise.

Play Advocate

Continuing to build an understanding of play across departments is ongoing and critical to encouraging a system-wide impact. The barriers identified by children - safety, access, connection and engagement - are consistent with views of the community and others. Two recent internal workshops reflect this:

- Parks and Open Spaces Workshop of a scenario in Picton/Waikawa using insights from 150 tamariki, whānau and educators. One aspect of the workshop identified barriers that may affect children walking from the local school to the Waikawa Bay Reserve. The workshop identified possible ways to mitigate children attempting to navigate obstacles like boat trailers over pathways and an earlier access to the road reserve along the beach.
- Waters Infrastructure team workshop in exploring how play design thinking can reduce frustration and improve communication and understanding around mains upgrades

Play design thinking to strengthen work currently underway, like

- The Play Design Strategy, now in final draft, looks to aligns play design with current and proposed Council outcomes and long-term planning.
- Current work includes a walking play trail with Marlborough Roads and Mayfield School to support safer school travel and address absenteeism challenges, alongside ongoing professional development examining how children move through and experience our city.
- Work underway includes a draft guide with Marlborough Roads to integrate play into footpath infrastructure, unlocking how this infrastructure is utilised.
- Activation concepts for the Motuweka Pathway with Council, iwi partners, and others and exploratory pilots for recycling and river sites to increase engagement and use are under review.

In collaboration with Small Townships, staff are working on the Renwick Skate Park with youth co-designing a space to make it more welcoming.

Policy and planning

Grovetown Lagoon

The Te Whānau Hou Grovetown Lagoon Management Plan hearing was held on 16 and 18 June 2026 with 34 submissions and eight submitters speaking at the hearing. The main issue raised by submissions was game bird hunting at the lagoon (for and against).

Districtwide halls and cemeteries management plan

Further work is being undertaken on drafting policy direction for Council involvement in community halls following an elected member briefing to progress this piece of work. A draft Cemeteries Management Plan will be reported to this committee for consultation, as a potential replacement for the current cemetery policy and bylaw.

Rangers' Report

The Ranger team have been busy monitoring the river and reserve areas in Marlborough with a high number of illegal wood felling being carried out. Rangers have managed to trespass a number of people, some of which are known by the police and show signs of aggression.

The trees being removed in most locations are a significant part of slowing floodwaters hitting the stop banks at speed and the increased removals are a concern.



The freedom camping numbers have reduced significantly and many of the people found on reserves tend to be homeless. The Rangers are in regular contact with social services to support people found on the reserves.

There have been some issues with recidivist visitors to some Marlborough Sounds areas where there is a regular need to have the police involved to help move these people on. This is a national issue with many homeless requiring services to support their next steps.

Access & Mobility Forum

(Information prepared by Jane Tito)

C230-001-A01

Minutes attached

Access and Mobility

Committee Room, Marlborough District Council

26 May 2026, 2.00pm

Attendees: Cllr Thelma Sowman

Sarah Carpenter
Leigh Walker
Damian Ford
Karyn Delves
Carla Taylor
Honor Hocquard
Rebekah Lowe
Robyn Blackburn
David Clode

MDC: Jane Tito, Parks and Open Spaces
Jodie Griffiths, Community Partnerships Advisor
Brendon Robertson, Consents and Compliance

1) Cllr Sowman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2) **Apologies from:** Lyn McKay
Lisa Wheeler
Wendy Humpherys
Dianne Gibbs

3) **Guest Speaker – Sarah Carpenter from St John**
Presentation attached – Appendix 1
Action – Statistics on types of falls to be provided – Sarah Carpenter

4) Confirmation of previous minutes (17 March 2026) - moved by David/seconded by Brendon

5) Matters arising from the last meeting

1	Robyn to contact Brendon to present to Grey Power on changes to Granny Flat Legislation Done – information session has been arranged	Robyn
2	Email from Lisa Wheeler re access with Crinoline Bridge being closed. The bridge is now open	Jane
3	Ken to report back on footpath defects report provided by Wendy Contract is going out, 6 – 7 sites recently made safe, ongoing working	Ken
4	Cllr Sowman to discuss with Dean Airport Terminal Access Thelma has been referred to Steve at the airport; they will soon meet.	Cllr Sowman

4) **General Business**

Marlborough Roads – Ken Gordon

- Emergency repairs being carried out.
- Road pavement resurfacing renewal works for 2025/2026 has been completed and have hit targets on state highways and local roads.
- Line marking is nearing completion. This also includes some additional crossing works – Maxwell Road, Eltham Road, Colemans Road and by Rapaura School within the next few weeks.
This is the start of a new five-year programme.
- Footpath extension at Westwood is now complete
- General drainage work across the region included the Sounds
- Bus stop improvement works now being carried out with two or three bus stops being improved. If there are issues with bus stops please let Marlborough Roads know for next year's plans.
- Monroe Street pedestrian crossing and Eltham Street cycle lane removal has been completed. If anyone has any comments regarding the new layout Marlborough Roads are happy to hear.

Building Control, Brendon Robertson

Not much to report – just keeping a close eye on standards reviewing the Standard 4121, the standard for mobility in the built environment. As soon as anything to report, Brendon will bring to the meeting.

Parks and Open Spaces – Jane Tito

- **Overhanging growth around the district**
Nearing the end of OVGs
625 OVGs in all, with 151 left to complete (now at 44)
- **Tree removals**
There are tree removals planned for the Queen Street streetscape with the Liquidambar to be removed over the next five years with the first 3 removals now completed. The replacement trees will be consistent with the upcoming Market Street revitalisation project.
- **Riverside project**
The project has stalled due to water levels (at the time). Council have put the Riverside boardwalk back into public use.
The project will start again with phases of the boardwalk to be done, with the least amount of disruption to the community's use of the boardwalk.
- **A&P Park Pavilion**
The building is still looking at a November 2026 opening and ready for the A&P Show
Some challenges with supply of materials from offshore.

Grey Power – Robyn Blackburn

- Yvette Cattermole from CCS Disability Action recently contacted Council as one of their members had issues with parking wardens not understanding how vehicles displaying a Mobility Parking Permit were entitled to parking concessions.
- Marlborough Roads (who manage the parking contract) have been advised of issue. Conversations have been had with Maighan Watson (Property and community Facilities) and Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton (Multi-Model advisor) as they are keen to develop information that is easily accessible and understandable by community/staff/contractors and can be updated easily and efficiently.
- Grey Power has collated the results from a Survey to all its members asking if Grey Power should advocate to Council for a safe crossing point across Main Street (SH1) at Stuart Street. A total of 234 responses were received from members with 94.4% Yes, 3.4% No and 2.1% Other. We have also asked our members to tell us about any other crossing points that concern our members with a view to raise at this meeting and/or direct with Marlborough Roads.
- Grey Power has invited Brendon from Building Control to present the changes to the Granny Flat legislation to our members. The presentation will be held in the Community meeting room on Alfred St (opposite Grey Power office) on Thursday 1 June from 10.00am to 11.00am. Everyone is welcome whether you are a Grey Power member or not.
- Grey Power Federation recently extended their support, in the form of a submission, to the National Access and Mobility groups opposition to legalising young people under 13 being able to ride bikes on footpaths. Some discussion was held at the Grey Power meeting about this

because the issue is so complex and involves several safety issues for all road users. We are keen to hear comments from this group and how we might navigate the changes if they are implemented.

- Notice regarding people parking in disability spaces without disability parking permit. Robyn will bring some to the next meeting.

Community Partnerships – Jodie Griffiths

- Thank you Sarah for sharing your presentation.
- Taylah not here today but through her role at iLead the showcase for Youth with Disabilities is coming to Blenheim in June. Taylah is also working iDrive – a Disability focussed project on how to get your driver's licence.

5) Any Other Business

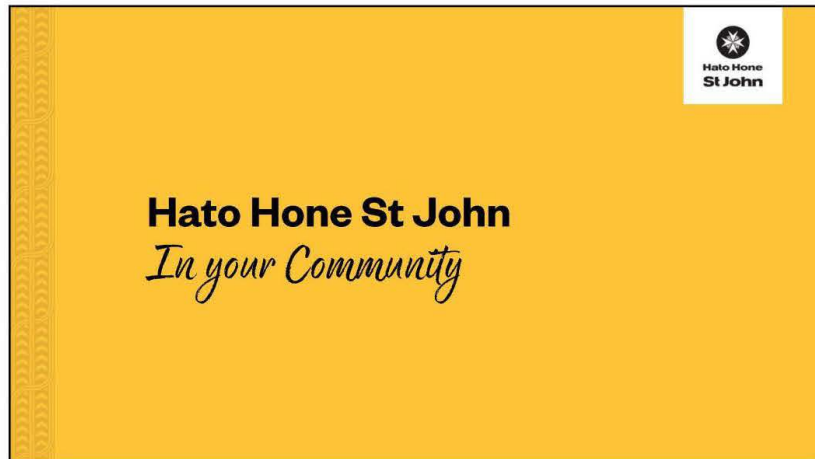
Brendan -The Government runs a scheme where they provide funding to organisations or startups that provide services for accessibility. They have just announced that they are providing six companies with funding, one of which may be of interest – Access Beast – a mobile app designed to help with planning accessible journeys. Other examples included an AI driven smart doorstep assistant. Brendon will provide a full list of the recipients.

David thanked Thelma and the team for their time provided in organising these meetings.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 22 September 2026

Action Points from the Meeting

1	Falls statistics from St John	Sarah Carpenter
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What we do

Ambulance Service

- 111 Emergency Response
- Major Incident Support Team
- Events Health Services
- Patient Transfer Service

Community Health

- Health Education
- Health Access
- Health Monitoring



Our shared goals

Cardiac Arrest Survival

- In Aotearoa New Zealand only 11% of people who experience cardiac arrest in the community survive.
- From increasing community awareness and growing bystander CPR and defibrillator use to rapid response and clinical excellence, we can play our part in helping more New Zealanders survive.



Our shared goals

Falls Prevention and Response

- Falls are a leading cause of injury and loss of independence, especially for older people.
- Around 50,000 New Zealanders a year – nearly 10% of calls we respond to – are falls-related.
- Together we can reduce harm from falls by combining prevention and response – supporting people to stay safe, well and active in the community through health education, access and monitoring and ensuring they get the right care if they do fall.



Community Health Services *Prevention and Wellness*

Waka Ora Health Shuttle

- For all health and wellbeing appointments.
- Koha based service run by trained volunteers
- Our shuttle transports people from as far as Linkwater, Picton and Seddon to their appointments and returns them home.
- Wheelchair hoist



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

Caring Caller

- A free service where our friendly volunteers make regular calls to individuals who are isolated or feel lonely.
- Caring Callers offer companionship, support, and reassurance for their clients.



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

Medical Alarms

- Hato Hone St John medical alarms are the only alarms to direct users straight to our 111 call centre.
- Alarms for home and away to enable independence and peace of mind.
- Self-referred or referred through GP



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

Ambulance Membership

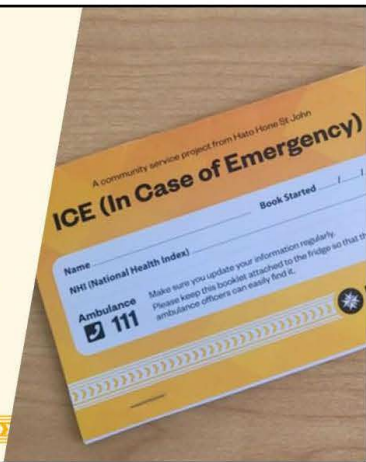
- Covers the cost of ambulance call outs for medical emergencies.
- Annual membership fee
 - Individual - \$70
 - Joint - \$96
 - Household - \$115
(covers 3+ people at same address)



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

I.C.E Booklets

- Designed to be kept in an accessible place at home.
- Booklet stores all the critical medical and emergency contact information first responders and healthcare providers need.
- Ideal for seniors, individuals with chronic conditions, or anyone who wants to be prepared.



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

3 Steps for Life

- Build confidence and lifesaving skills.
- Learn how to save a life in the event of a cardiac arrest.
- Free, one-hour session for groups.
 1. Call 111
 2. Start CPR
 3. Use an AED



Community Health Services
Prevention and Wellness

What else do we do?

- Area Committee
- St John Retail Store
- Fellowship Group
- St John Youth Programme
- St John in Schools
- First Aid Training
- First Aid Kits & Defibrillators (AEDs)
- Check your AED and Save Lives Campaign



