



Strategy & Community Partnerships



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Arts, Culture and Heritage Activity Report – August 2026

(Clr Burgess) (Report prepared by Nicola Neilson)

Heritage Marlborough

Regional Heritage Support

- The team has been developing an oral history framework to guide the collection, storage, management and access of oral histories across Marlborough. The purpose of the framework is to provide a consistent and ethical approach to recording local stories, safeguarding community knowledge and supporting long-term access for researchers, museums, heritage groups and the wider community. The framework will sit alongside the Heritage Strategy and help support its implementation. It is now ready for feedback from the informal oral history group, museums and heritage organisations.
- Preparation for uploading the Renwick photograph catalogue to eHive is complete. The team is now undertaking a final review of the records to check accuracy, consistency and completeness before the catalogue is uploaded. This will help ensure the photographs are clearly documented and accessible through eHive for future research and public engagement.
- In August, a team member attended the Te Taihu Museums meeting in Motueka, which brought together museum representatives from across Te Taihu (the Top of the South). Discussions focused on strengthening emergency preparedness across the region and identifying opportunities for greater collaboration and resource sharing. A guest speaker who had supported a local museum following the Canterbury earthquakes shared practical lessons from that experience and outlined steps museums can take to improve their readiness and resilience. The programme concluded with a visit to Motueka Museum, providing an opportunity to view the operation and interpretation of a well-presented local museum. The emergency preparedness workshop will inform the team's work to develop a coordinated approach for local museums to support one another during emergency situations.



Image: The Te Taihu Museums meeting

Education Programme

- On 31 August, the Ministry of Education announced a further one-year extension of the Enriched Local Curriculum contracts, formerly known as Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom. This funding previously supported the Marlborough Heritage Trust's education programme, but the Trust was not awarded a contract in 2022. The next Request for Proposals is now expected to be issued in early 2027, with new contracts commencing in January 2028. As a result, Marlborough will not have had a funded Enriched Local Curriculum provider during the five-year period from 2023 to 2027.
- The Arts, Culture and Heritage Education Co-ordinator delivered a series of education programmes for Years 0–3 students at Springlands School. The sessions built on work undertaken at Witherlea School earlier in the term and used the same 'Then and Now' programme.



Image: Springlands School children taking part in the Then and Now programme

- The Arts, Culture and Heritage Education Co-ordinator facilitated a half-day visit to Picton for Tuamarina School. Following discussions with the classroom teacher about the students' maritime-themed learning, a programme was developed that included visits to Picton Museum and the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum. A planned exploration of the Picton foreshore was cancelled due to the weather. Instead, students used the activity space at Picton Library to explore raranga harakeke (flax weaving). The programme made effective use of Picton's facilities and enabled the school to connect with several local organisations.

Public Engagement

- As part of the Market Street refresh, the Heritage Team is reviewing the three-sided history boards located at each end of Market Street. The existing boards were in poor condition and some of the information was out of date. Replacement panels are being developed to provide updated interpretation and present a broader account of Blenheim's history. Iwi consultation and image research has begun. This will inform the content and ensure the panels reflect relevant local perspectives, stories and historical material.



Image: The Market Street/Main Street corner in 1987 – one of the images being considered for the Market Street panel replacement. Marlborough - Blenheim Publicity Caption: Blenheim Chief Post Office. Photographer: T. Hann. Archives New Zealand R24825179

- The team has been working with the Blenheim i-SITE to review and update a Blenheim heritage walk developed around ten years ago. A preliminary route has been mapped to highlight key heritage sites and stories within the town centre. Iwi consultation is underway to help ensure the planned walks reflect an accurate and inclusive account of Blenheim's history.

Heritage Strategy and Insights

- The draft Heritage Strategy and supporting Heritage Insights document have been completed and are ready for presentation to Council on 8 October, seeking approval to proceed to the public consultation phase.

Edwin Fox Maritime Museum

Daily running of the museum

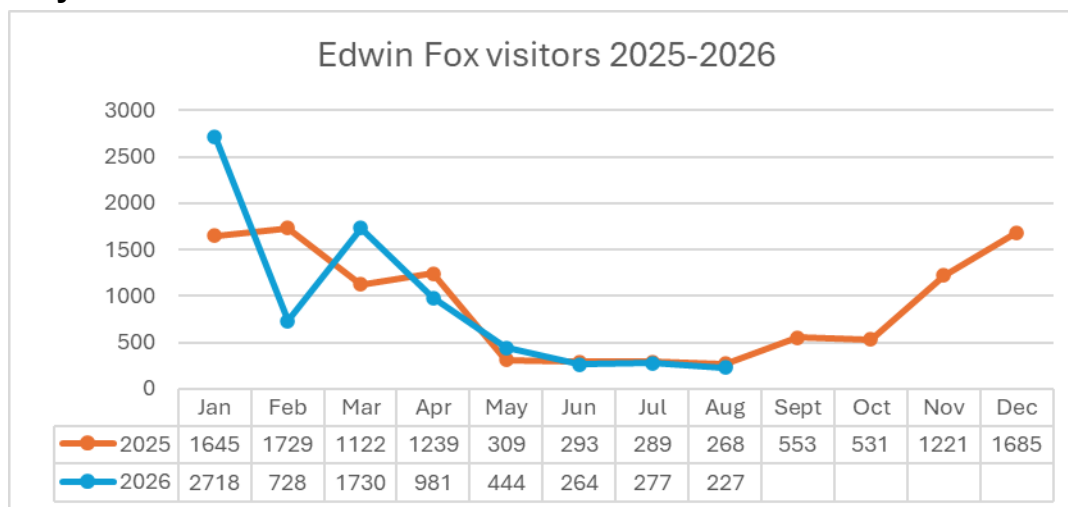
- Work is continuing on the HEB offices being built on the former aquarium site next to the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum. A crane is currently operating from the rental car park to lift material onto the site, which is disrupting access to the museum from the foreshore as the footpath is closed during lifting operations. A stop/go system is in place to manage pedestrian movements. However, the construction activity is expected to affect visitor access and may contribute to reduced visitor numbers during this period.



Image: The Stop/Go on the footpath by the Museum

- A member of the Edwin Fox team participated in the Marlborough Showcase in Auckland which was organised by Destination Marlborough. The event raised the profile of the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum among tour operators who may consider including it in future itineraries. Discussions were held with approximately 20 operators and generated positive interest. The event also provided a valuable opportunity to connect with other Marlborough tourism operators.

Visitor activity



- Visitor numbers remain slightly below the same period last year, indicating a modest softening in overall visitations. Despite this, financial performance has remained steady, with monthly turnover

comparable to 2025. This suggests that visitors are spending more on average during their visit, which is helping to offset the lower visitor numbers.

- The voucher partnerships referrals for August 2026, were:

	August
Picton I-site	2
Picton Museum	2
Interislander terminal	0

- Edwin Fox Maritime Museum participated in Destination Marlborough's Spring Deal campaign, which promoted local visitor experiences during the spring period. The museum is offering a pass discount as part of the campaign. Participation provided an opportunity to increase the visibility of the Edwin Fox through Destination Marlborough's promotional channels and encourage visitation during a traditionally quieter period



Up to 30% off Discovery Pass

Edwin Fox Maritime Museum: a discount of up to 30% applies with our \$35 discovery pass for families (2 adults and up to 4 children). Each family also receives a FREE Edwin Fox souvenir magnet. Explore one of the world's oldest surviving merchant ships. Valid 15th August to October 31st.

Edwin Fox Spring Discovery Family Pass



Image: The Edwin Fox Maritime Museum advertisement on the Destination Marlborough Spring Deal page

- The Museum has been using paid social media advertising since April. A recent review recorded increased impressions and an average cost of 19 cents per visit, which is consistent with recommended benchmarks. Paid advertising will continue on Facebook and Google throughout the season, using general campaigns targeted at visitors to the Marlborough region.

Public engagement

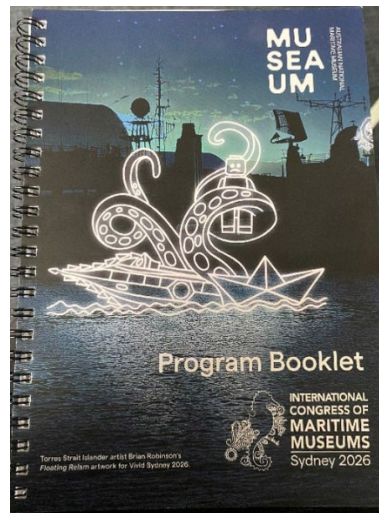


Image: ICMM Congress programme booklet

- The International Congress of Maritime Museums (ICMM) Congress was held in Sydney in September 2026 and a staff member self-funded their attendance. The conference covered a range of issues relevant to the management of maritime museums, including the care of historic vessels, collections management, community engagement, governance and future sustainability. Attendance provided an opportunity to gain knowledge of current international approaches and consider their relevance to the ongoing management and development of the Edwin Fox Maritime Museum.

Preservation Project

- Progress continues on the interim stabilisation and short-term preservation work for the vessel. The plans required by the naval architect have now been accessed and scanned, providing the technical information needed to progress the preservation project. The architect is reviewing the plans and working with the preferred contractor to assess the proposed approach and identify any further information required. A site visit with the architect and contractor is scheduled for early October to inspect the vessel, confirm the scope of work and support the next stage of project planning.

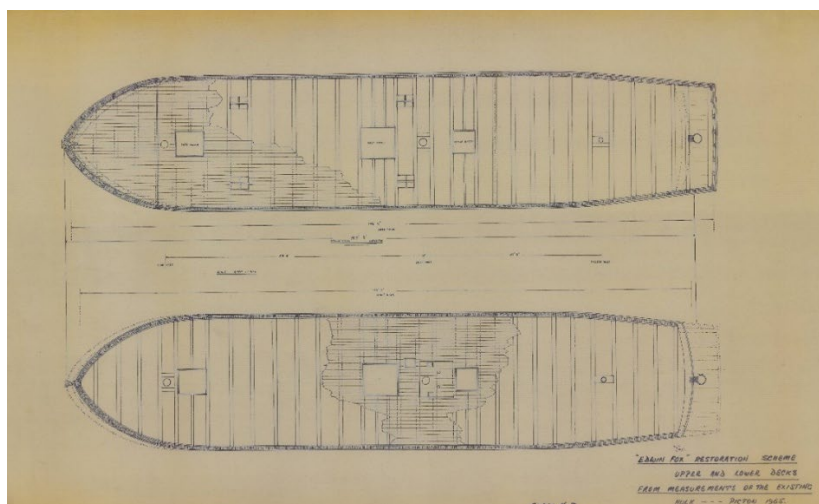


Image: One of the plans of the *Edwin Fox* being used by the naval architect.

Creative Marlborough

Creative Marlborough website

- The Creative Marlborough website is a key action arising from the implementation plan for Te Atatū Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy 2024 -2034. It aims to strengthen the visibility, connection and development of Marlborough's creative sector by providing a central platform for artists, creatives, organisations and the wider community to discover creative activity, access resources, connect with opportunities and learn more about Marlborough's creative identity.
- The new Creative Marlborough website has been soft launched ahead of the wider public launch and media campaign planned for late October. It is currently being reviewed by the Arts Leadership Group and key Council staff, with some final refinements underway. The website provides a comprehensive central online platform to promote, connect and support Marlborough's creative sector. www.creativemarlborough.nz
- The website includes:
 - A Creative Directory showcasing local artists, creatives, organisations and creative businesses.
 - The Create Toolkit, providing practical resources, guidance and templates for artists, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.
 - Information about Marlborough's public art collection and artworks in public spaces.
 - Information about the creative sector, its development and the people and stories that shape it.
 - A showcase of current and completed creative projects and initiatives.
 - Information about the Space Create project, including creative activations and opportunities to use temporary spaces in Marlborough's town centres.
 - A News section that provides a platform to share creative opportunities, events, initiatives and sector information.



Image: Screenshot of the CreativeMarlborough.nz home page.

Space Create

- The Space Create initiative 'Words I Haven't Told You' by local artist Raffaella Dragani, concluded at Herb + Olive Café in Blenheim with great success. The community embraced the interactive installation, with many thoughtful notes contributed. QR codes were provided on each table explaining how people could take part. Raffaella is now creating the artwork from the community's contributions, which will be revealed at a celebration event in October.

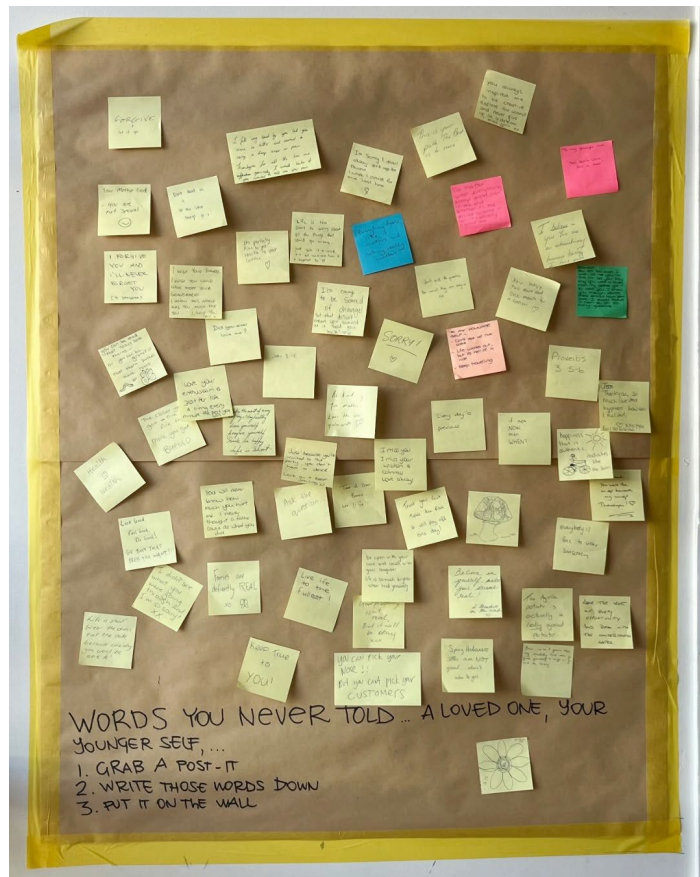


Image: A sample of the many notes left by members of the public.



Image: Artist Raffaella Dragani with her artworks in Herb & Olive Cafe.

- Planning is now underway with The Blue Door for 'Fashion Your Way – Seeing Possibilities', a four-part sustainable style workshop series supported by Space Create. Led by local fashion designer Tess Landon-Lane, the workshops will begin in October and encourage participants to rethink how they dress, shop and value clothing through practical activities exploring personal style, colour, fit, styling, alterations and more sustainable purchasing choices.

Café Create

- Another evening Café Create session was held at Small Town Winery, featuring guest speaker Tegan Renwick-Foster from Marlborough Community Potters. Tegan shared the history of one of Marlborough's longest-standing creative organisations, its role in fostering creativity and community over nearly 50 years, and an update on its new building project and fundraising efforts. The session coincided with the launch of The Patrons Collection 2026, an auction showcasing eighteen works by Marlborough's most accomplished potters, displayed in the window of Thomas's to help raise funds for the rebuild.



Public Art

- After a long wait, artist Grant Williams has visited Marlborough and, together with a local engineer, assessed the damage to the Spring Seedling sculpture. A comprehensive plan for a permanent structural repair has been developed, with work commencing shortly by local suppliers.

Funding

- The Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) Round 1 2026–27 and Arts and Heritage Partnership Grant rounds closed on Monday 21 September, receiving 12 applications to CCS and 17 applications to the Arts and Heritage Partnership Grant.
- Significant communication was undertaken to ensure the sector understood the new funding structure, including the separation of arts and heritage funding from the Community Grants scheme. This has proved successful, with minimal confusion and only two Community Grant applications redirected to the Arts and Heritage Partnership Grant.
- Applications are now being prepared for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Sub-Committee to review ahead of its deliberations on 22 October.

Report from Marlborough Art Gallery

(Cressida Bishop, Director)

Current Exhibition

- We have had a lot of fun working with local college artists and Marlborough Youth Council members to install, launch and promote their 2026 exhibition, Folio etc. and our Spring event and visitor season is underway.
- **15 August – 4 October 2026**
Folio etc.: Marlborough Youth Art Exhibition 2026

Folio etc. 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 Year 11, 12 and 13 art by Marlborough college students. This year, a selection of Folio images is also be part of a Space Create, Blenheim CBD project. Space Create is an urban regeneration initiative by the Marlborough District Council designed to revitalize the Blenheim and Picton CBDs. Below: 2026 Marlborough Youth Council and student artists assisting to install this year's exhibition, an image of the recent family event for *Folio etc.* and the Space Create *Folio etc.* project in the window of Thomas's department store.
- "This year, as part of Council's Space Create initiative, we have decided to expand the exhibition beyond the Marlborough Art Gallery into Blenheim's town centre. The *FOLIO Trail – Bringing Art into Town* will feature selected student artworks displayed in local business windows and spaces, creating a vibrant, walkable arts experience that celebrates our young creatives and enliven the town centre," Nicola Neilson, MDC, Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager.





Image: Students at the opening of Folio etc.

- **10 October – 22 November 2026**
Joanna Dudson – Scott
Solo exhibition of new work

Marlborough-based artist, Joanna Dudson Scott, majored in painting at the Otago School of Fine Arts in the 1980s and has developed a distinctive style of landscape painting that continues to evolve.

Recently, Joanna has been exploring and working in the Marlborough landscape and studying South Island rivers. Joanna works out of her Dudson Scott studio/ gallery on State Highway 6, Renwick, Marlborough. She has been working on this major exhibition of paintings, two-dimensional sculptures and studies for several years.



Image: JDS, Rakaia Interior

Recent events

- We were delighted to support the annual Marlborough Alzheimer's Arts Trail again this year by selling tickets for the event, which raises funds for Alzheimer's Marlborough while showcasing the region's creative talent. The trail featured more than 50 Marlborough artists, with visitors invited to explore studios and galleries across the region and enjoy a weekend celebrating creativity, connection and community.



Events at Te Kahu o Waipuna

- **The Creation Voyages | NZ String Quartet, Saturday, 19th September, 2026**

The Creation Voyages, from New Zealand Poet Laureate Robert Sullivan's award-winning children's book *Weaving Earth & Sky* is an exciting new performance from the New Zealand String Quartet – Te Rōpū Tūrū o Aotearoa. Through music and storytelling, with imagery by Gavin Bishop, the NZSQ vividly reimagined Aotearoa's creation myths in an engaging, whānau-friendly performance. Held in the foyer of Te Kahu o Waipuna, we were very fortunate to be the only province to present this amazing, free event. Marlborough Library and Marlborough Art Gallery hold books and art work by Gavin Bishop in their collections.



Image: Image by Gavin Bishop that accompanied the New Zealand String Quartet playing in the foyer of Te Kahu o Waipuna

Report from Whitehaven Theatre

(Joseph Casalme, CEO)

Summary for August and September 2026



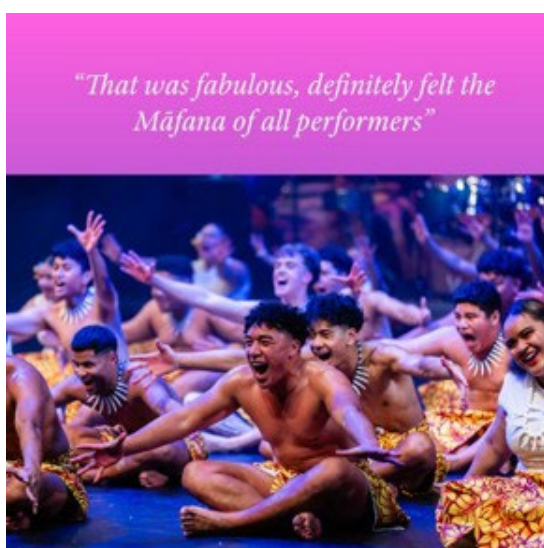
Image: Marlborough Boys perform at the Southern Jam Youth Festival

- The **Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival** was held from 4–8 August, celebrating its 21st year and bringing more than 200 secondary school musicians from across the South Island to Marlborough. Organised by Katrina Lange-Cairns and Rachael Kenyon of Pure Events, nineteen bands representing 13 schools participated, with performances held at approximately 20 venues, restaurants, cafes and pubs across the region alongside competition sessions, workshops and masterclasses with experienced musicians.
- The festival culminated in the Finale Gala Concert at Whitehaven Theatre on 8 August, showcasing participating schools, competition winners and the All Stars Band, including two new works commissioned specifically for Southern Jam. The Gala saw almost 400 patrons and continued to combine youth development with community engagement, providing young musicians with professional performance and mentoring opportunities.
- Participating schools included Marlborough Boys' College, Christchurch Boys' High School, Middleton Grange School, St Margaret's College, Christ's College, Wakatipu High School, Cashmere High School, Otago Girls' and Boys' High Schools, Shirley Boys' High School, Kaiapoi High School, Rangi Ruru Girls' School, and Rangiora High School.

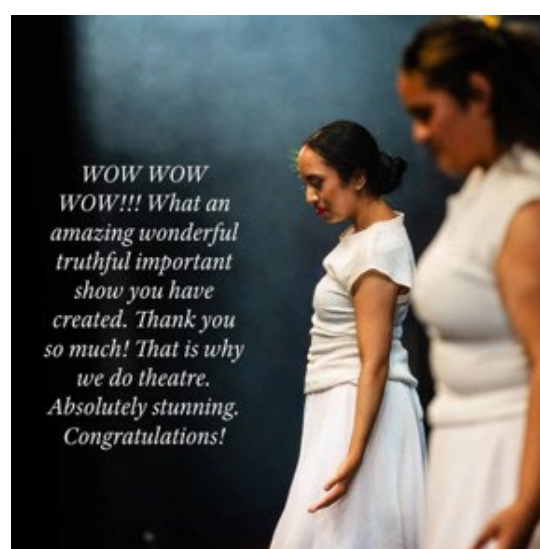


Image: Southern Jam Youth Festival

- On 14 August, Fua Creative presented **Māfana**, a Pacific contemporary dance theatre production featuring 65 rangatahi from secondary schools across Marlborough, Nelson and Tasman. Directed by Vita Vaka and attended by more than 300 patrons, the production brought Pacific and Māori stories with 80% of participants having never previously taken part in a dance theatre production or performed in a professional theatre. The project provided paid opportunities for seven local and six guest artists and creatives, while developing Fua Creative's capability in delivering a large-scale production with choreography, staging, lighting and sound. Accessible ticket pricing and sponsorship supported participation and audience development, while providing rangatahi with professional performance experience and opportunities to build confidence, teamwork and connection to culture.



"That was fabulous, definitely felt the Māfana of all performers"



*WOW WOW
WOW!!! What an
amazing wonderful
truthful important
show you have
created. Thank you
so much! That is why
we do theatre.
Absolutely stunning.
Congratulations!*

- The Great Kiwi Circus** brought its 90-minute live circus production to Marlborough on 23 August as part of its programme touring regional towns and cities across New Zealand. MCTT sponsored the venue hire, while the event producer secured support from local businesses, enabling children and families who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to attend to experience the circus free of charge. Hosted by a Ringmaster and featuring a variety of circus acts, the event welcomed more than 300 attendees and provided an accessible afternoon of entertainment in support of a strong community-focused cause.

- Also held that afternoon was **Celebrating Spring**, a fundraising concert by Samuel Lee and Barbara Song in support of the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust. The piano and violin duet was presented in the Whitehaven Wine Room and attracted more than 100 guests and patrons, providing an intimate afternoon of live music while raising funds for the Trust.
- Blenheim Choral presented Bizet's **Carmen** on 5–6 September, bringing one of the world's best-known operas to a local stage. Led by musical director Robert Tucker, the performance is the annual event of the choir to present a large-scale classical production while giving Marlborough audiences access to opera within their own community. It was attended by more than 660 patrons.



- The **Primary School Music Festival** returned to the theatre on 9 September with **A Night at the Movies**. The major regional event saw more than 500 primary school students take to the stage across two performances, welcoming more than 1,100 patrons and guests.



- September also featured one of the Marlborough District Brass Band's annual events, **Classics and Cannon**, which attracted more than 340 patrons.
- The month's community programme at Whitehaven Theatre will continue with the **Blenheim School Art Exhibition** on 22 September, followed by the annual **Marlborough Performing Arts Competitions** from 25 September onwards.

Sounds Advisory Group Minutes

The appendices to the minutes will be available via the following link once the minutes have been 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: 26190578



Minutes of the Sounds Advisory Group Meeting held in the Committee Room, Marlborough District Council, Monday, 24 August 2026 commenced at 10.00 am

Present: Cllr Innes, Cllr Taylor, Steve Murrin and Damian Ford (Marlborough Roads), Fraenzi Furigo (French Pass Residents Association), Tracey Currie (Moetapu Bay), Janice and Paul Turner (Kaiuma Bay Residents Association), Richard Barker (Cissy Bay), Noel Curr (Okiwi Bay), Beryl Archer (Penzance/Tuna Bay Residents Association), Mike Mandeno (Marine Farming Association) and George Shallcrass (Top of the South Wood Council) with Mark Woods (MPI from 11.45 am)

Via teams: Ross Withell (Kenepuru & Central Sounds), Anthony Brett (Fisheries), Sian Hodgkins and Rachel Rait (DOC), Tracey Gibbs (DIRRA), Renée Love (Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui – until 11.49 am)

MDC Staff Attending: Alan Johnson (Environmental Science & Monitoring Manager), Heather Graham (Small Townships Projects Coordinator), Liam Falconer (Biosecurity Manager), Julia Andrews (Senior Biosecurity Advisor / Engagement), Mike Aviss (Biodiversity Coordinator), Zeke Hoskins (Biodiversity Officer) and in attendance Bernadette Brooklands (Secretary).

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Innes as Chair welcomed attendees and members introduced themselves. Renée performed the opening karakia.

2. Apologies

Cllr Faulls, Braden Moleta (Pelorus/Kenepuru), Dean Baigent (Elaine Bay Residents Association), Vic Koller (Moetapu Bay), John Cretney (Cissy Bay), Carey Virtue (Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui), Wayne Boustridge (Te Whanganui/Port Underwood), Dave Hayes (DOC). Recreational Fishers Marlborough Association (RFMA) are in the process of finding a new replacement for Kevin Bright.

Apologies accepted by Cllr Innes.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes – 16 March 2026

Confirmation of 15 June 2026 minutes. The previous minutes will be heard at the Strategy & Community Partnerships Committee on 27 August. Minutes were emailed to members prior to the meeting. A copy of the full minutes will be added to the website once approved.
<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/coastal/community-involvement/sounds-advisory-group>

Cllr Innes moved / Cllr Taylor – carried.

4. Actions from the previous meeting

	Action	Person Responsible	Outcome
1	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. <i>Update: Connie is waiting for report to be sent to her and will then forward to secretary.</i>	Connie and Anouk	Ongoing Invite to the November hui
2	Email information on a floating pontoon located in Beatrix Bay. Owner's unknown.	Mike Mandeno (MFA)	Completed
3	Invite Sian Hodgkins from DOC back to the August hui (via Teams) once the arsenic levels in Endeavour Inlet results have been published in July. <i>Update: Ongoing - The report was available for the today; however, Sian will provide an update at the November hui via Teams.</i>	Bernadette	Ongoing See Item 7
4	Invite Transpower to August meeting regarding the Cook Strait cable. <i>Update: Transpower has been contacted for a written update on the roading issues raised by the Port Underwood community. Awaiting a response.</i>	Alan	Ongoing
5	Invite Mark Woods, MPI On Farm Support to the August hui to explain his role. <i>Update: Email invitation sent by Bernadette and Mark attended today.</i>	Kaja Mazzotti - Vetter	Completed See Item 8
6	Add rates capping to August hui. Invite Geoff Blake to explain complexities.	Clr Faults	Defer to the November hui.
8	Email speed review consultation documents once completed. This will be dealt with by Clr Innes as Clr Faults is on the committee	Clr Faults/Bernadette	Ongoing Add Clr Innes and remove Clr Faults
9	Provide Braden with feedlot information for the sounds farming group. <i>Update: Alan provided an update and noted that Council has not received an application for resource consent (if required). Remove from agenda going forward.</i>	Clr Faults	Completed
10	Can the Council support a camera by the Kenepuru Road and Linkwater turn off? Ask Heather Graeme if the KSCRA and Moetapu Bay Community Associations can apply to the Small Townships contestable fund. <i>Update: The KCSRA have applied for funding via community grants and are awaiting the outcome. Remove from agenda going forward.</i>	Clr Faults	Completed

5. Marlborough Roads Update

(Steve Murrin, Manager Marlborough Roads and Damian Ford, Network Manager) - See [Appendix 1](#).

Marlborough Roads provided an update on the new Sounds maintenance contracts, which commenced on 1 July. The previous outcome-based contract model provided price certainty but did not always deliver the desired levels of service. The new output-based model enables Council to pay contractors for completed work, providing greater control over the work programme while remaining subject to current budget constraints. Council also retains the ability to withhold payment where work is not completed to the required standard or timeframe.

It was noted that Meet the Contractors events had recently been held across four locations and were well supported. Appreciation was expressed for Councillor Innes' support at the events, with the intention that these sessions become an annual engagement opportunity.

The role of the maintenance contractors was outlined, including their responsibility for cyclic maintenance activity across the network. During July, the contractors focused on becoming familiar with their networks and commencing find-and-fix activity and early vegetation work. Contractors have also been working with the Maintenance Team to identify future vegetation and grading priorities.

The contractors responded to the effects of the weather event during their first week in place, including blocked culverts, flooded roads, and several slips. Most roads were reopened quickly, although sections of Port Underwood and Queen Charlotte took longer to make safe. Further assessment is being undertaken to determine the wider works required and to secure funding for the Recovery Team to deliver the next stages.

Kaiuma Bay Road has been audited, and several issues were identified. These are being packaged with a view to instructing the contractor to repair or replace sight rails and edge marker posts and complete drainage improvements.

Looking ahead, the three contractors are continuing to develop the forward works programme for September and October. The main focus is expected to include maintenance spraying, Type 3 and Type 4 mowing, grading, re-sheeting, pre-seal works where required, and pavement works. This will sit alongside ongoing find-and-fix activity, including pothole repairs and water channel clearance, across all three areas.

Key updates

- Recovery status: 2,840 faults completed, 67 under construction, 740 not started, and 690 requiring no action.
- Major works are complete in Tennyson Inlet and Moetapu Bay. Remaining complex works are progressing in French Pass, Portage Bay, Queen Charlotte Drive and Kenepuru.
- Phase 3 is tracking at least \$40m under budget, including an \$11m saving to Council.
- Full recovery remains targeted for December 2027; additional storm repairs are still being quantified.
- New output-based Sounds maintenance contracts commenced 1 July 2026, giving Council greater control over work, quality and expenditure.
- July activity covered inspections, minor repairs, drainage clearance, vegetation and grading planning, and emergency weather response.

Actions and follow-ups

- Contractors to provide the September–October forward works programme.
- Package Kaiuma Bay Road defects and instruct repairs.
- Recovery Team to scope wider storm repairs and secure funding.
- From September, contractors will focus on spraying, mowing, grading, re-sheeting, pre-seal and pavement works while continuing routine fault repairs.

Recovery is progressing, with significant works completed and favourable budget performance, while storm-related scope, funding and future maintenance priorities remain active items.

Damian provided a handout on the roles of the Sounds roading maintenance contractors which was also emailed to members after the hui and is also in [Appendix 1](#).

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 Antenno app. See the Antenno app for weekly roading updates. The Antenno app is free and can be downloaded on both Apple and Android smartphones.

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

[Download Antenno from Google Play here](#)

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

Attendance: 10.58 am Damian Ford and Steve Murrin withdrew from the hui.

6. Bird Flu Update

(Liam Falconer, Biosecurity Manager and Julia Andrews, Senior Biosecurity Advisor / Engagement)

Liam introduced the new Senior Biosecurity Advisor, Julia Andrews who presented her PowerPoint the bird flu update. [Appendix 2](#).

Bird flu (H5 bird flu) was expected to reach New Zealand in July 2026 via migratory routes, with the main burden falling on native biodiversity and poultry sectors rather than human health. A three-tier national–regional–local response is in place, and the immediate public ask is simple: do not feed wild birds, do not handle sick ones, and report clusters of three or more sick or dead birds to MPI on their 24-hour hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or online at report.mpi.govt.nz. As of 24 August, there are now three cases of bird flu confirmed in New Zealand.

Bird flu is a viral disease circulating globally, spread by migratory wild birds via saliva, mucus, or droppings. Signs in birds include sudden death, weakness or paralysis, breathing difficulty, lack of coordination, blindness, and diarrhoea. Risk to humans is low and there is no food safety risk.

MPI are the initial responders and investigators, confirming any presence of bird flu. Commercial poultry operators are advised to contact their vet. More information about H5 bird flu and the work New Zealand is doing to prepare is available at mpi.govt.nz/hpai

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-in-nz/dont-let-bird-flu-take-flight>

Spread and arrival in NZ

- Global progression: 2020 Northern Hemisphere → 2023 Southern Hemisphere → June 2026 Australia → July 2026 New Zealand.
- New Zealand sits on several migratory flight paths, with particular risk from Antarctica.
- DOC is vaccinating core breeding birds such as kākāpō, takahē, shore plover, black stilt, and kākārīki.

Expected impacts

- Native biodiversity across New Zealand.
- Commercial poultry and egg production and related sectors.
- Rural and lifestyle farming, backyard aviaries, and pet bird owners.
- Community effects — human health concerns, public access closures, and public risk.

Response structure

- National: MPI, DOC, Ministry of Health.
- Regional: Marlborough District Council Biosecurity.
- Local: Marlborough District Council, Marlborough Roads, local DOC offices, and landowners.

The various fact sheets on different birds and scenarios can be found here

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-in-nz/dont-let-bird-flu-take-flight>

Questions/Answers

- It is not on DOC's list to vaccinate the King Shag as yet.
- The regional pest management plan will be reviewed in 2027.

Action Point: Have Julia Andrews attend community meetings to discuss her role as Senior Biosecurity Advisor / Engagement and how she can assist communities with issues over pest plants etc. Julia.Andrews@marlborough.govt.nz

Attendance: 11.30 am Liam Falconer and Julia Andrews withdrew from the hui.

7. Update on the old antimony mine in Endeavour Inlet

(Sian Hodgkins and Rachel Rait, DOC- via Teams) from 11.35am

Sian and Rachel presented an update with their powerpoint on the Endeavour Inlet detailed site investigation (DSI) into former mining contamination. See [Appendix 3](#)

Progress: Site walkovers and four water-sampling visits were completed between February and July 2026, alongside Stage 1 and supplementary field investigations.

Soil and sediment: Soil samples were collected across the mine track, accessible adits, ore-processing and magazine areas, and waste stockpiles. Marine and foreshore sediments were also sampled.

Ecology: Freshwater surveys covered seven of nine planned sites, including habitat, water quality, macroinvertebrate, fish and eel-tissue sampling. Marine and terrestrial ecological assessments were also completed.

Further work: Cultural assessment, additional water monitoring, possible Stage 2 investigation, remedial-options assessment and a site management plan will follow, with several dates still to be confirmed.

Action Point: The draft DSI report and Ecological AEE are due in early October 2026. Sian and Rachel will attend the November 2026 and March 2027 hui to provide updates.

Attendance: 11.45 am Sian Hodgkins and Rachel Rait, DOC withdrew from the hui.

8. Ministry of Primary Industry on Farm Support

(Mark Woods)

Mark Woods introduced himself to members and outlined his role as Marlborough Regional Adviser with MPI On Farm Support. The service is provided free of charge and is intended to support farmers, growers and the wider primary sector through ongoing change.

Key areas of support

- Working alongside farmers and growers to provide practical advice and guidance.
- Supporting catchment groups and local farmer networks.
- Connecting farmers with science, research and technical support.
- Providing information on Farm Support science scholarships.
- Linking the primary sector with advisory services and relevant MPI programmes.

National direction and sector resilience

Mark noted that MPI's national direction includes helping protect New Zealand from unwanted pests and diseases. He also spoke about the importance of supporting the primary sector to adapt to constant change, including the impacts of climate change, by strengthening connections between farmers, growers, scientists and advisory services.

Contact Mark Woods, Marlborough Regional Adviser.
Agriculture & Investment Services - Tapuwae Ahuwhenua | On Farm Support Services
Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua.
Mobile: 0225077204 | Email: Mark.Woods@mpi.govt.nz

Read further here <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/agriculture/farm-management-the-environment-and-land-use/on-farm-support>

Attendance: 12.09 pm Mark Woods withdrew from the hui.

9. Fisheries New Zealand Update

(Anthony Brett, Fisheries Analyst - Inshore South Fisheries Management, Tini a Tangaroa – Fisheries New Zealand | Ministry for Primary Industries - Manatū Ahu Matua via Teams)

Anthony presented his powerpoint on the latest updates. See [Appendix 4](#).

Anthony outlined the October 2026 sustainability review, including possible catch reductions for several species including Butterfish, Terakihi and Pāua.

The scallop survey is complete and will undergo scientific review on 10 September; this is not a management review.

The blue cod closed season runs from 1 September 2026 to 10 January 2027, supported by an education campaign.

Science working group is a science review and will be held online on 10 September 2026 from 9:30am to 11:30 am. Please email Anthony and he will send out a Teams link for people to join the group. This is a science review.

Concerns were raised about blue cod release mortality; further research and fisher participation are required. Fisheries would like the communities in other areas such as Elaine Bay and French Pass to participate in the blue cod survey. The survey can also be completed in the closed season. Earth Sciences do require participants to write their name and email address of the paper forms to ensure that the forms are not being fraudulent.

How to participate in the blue cod release mortality survey. Details from the Earth Sciences website:

Fishers in the Marlborough Sounds Area are asked to record simple details about the blue cod they catch, whether the fish is kept or released. This includes information such as fish length, capture depth, hook location, whether the fish was bleeding, whether it floated, swam away on release, or was eaten by a shag (or other predators). There are two ways to record the data. [The Citizen Science App](#). The app is free and easy to use and works without mobile coverage. Data can be entered at sea and submitted once back at the ramp or at home. Fishers can use the app on multiple trips, with no need to manage paper forms or returns. Secondly, waterproof paper forms will be available at Waikawa, Picton and Havelock boat ramps when staff are present. Measuring mats and clipboards will be provided, and staff can also show fishers how to download and use the app if they're interested. Completed forms can be returned by photo, email, or dropped into collection boxes at the ramps. Staff will be working on good weather fishing days at the boat ramps, mainly in the mornings when most fishing trips begin. Alternatively, fishers can contact Niki Davey at Earth Sciences New Zealand to arrange access to the form or app and a measuring mat: niki.davey@earthsciences.nz. <https://earthsciences.nz/news/blue-cod-researchers-need-fishers-help-in-marlborough-sounds>

Further information can be found here <https://fs.fish.govt.nz>

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

Action Point: Invite Anthony to the November hui for an update on catch limits.

Attendance: 12.30 pm Anthony withdrew from the hui.

10. Update on Significant Natural Areas Programme

(Mike Aviss, Biodiversity Coordinator)

Mike Aviss gave an update on the Significant Natural Areas Programme and a provided attendees with a copy of the August edition of the Significant Natural Areas newsletter. See [Appendix 5](#).

Survey Programme

- Nine new SNAs identified across six properties, adding 1,241 ha.
- Register now totals 974 SNAs covering 140,389 ha.
- Individual site sizes range from 0.5 ha to 2,537 ha.

Landowner Assistance Fund

- \$196K invested through the SNA fund to improve site condition.
- Leveraged a further \$257K from landowners and partner organisations — better than a 1:1 match on public money.

Monitoring Programme

- Forty assisted sites and 41 un-assisted sites monitored.
- Key finding: assisted sites are generally in good condition, while un-assisted sites frequently require intervention — supporting continued investment in the assistance fund.

Programme Milestone — 25 Years (2001–2026)

- The programme reaches its twenty fifth year, and was pioneering as a voluntary, non-regulatory model working with willing landowners.
- That voluntary approach is credited as the main driver of its success.

Ecological Highlights

A site tour illustrated the diversity of Marlborough's SNAs — coastal and sound sites (Taipare Bay, Cape Lambert, Port Gore, Waitaria Bay, Needles Point), wetlands (Para Swamp, Lake Elterwater, Marlborough's largest lake at 66 ha, ephemeral and important for waterfowl), inland and alpine sites (Mt Lookout, Rai Valley, Grey River in the Awatere), and east coast dune systems (Cape Campbell spinifex, Marfell's Beach). Notable species featured: Marlborough green gecko, Marlborough and northern pink broom, katipō spider, and banded dotterel. Active restoration work noted, including totara seed collection and One Billion Trees plantings at Mussel Point. The programme finished its twenty fifth year with steady growth in area protected, strong co-funding leverage from landowners, and monitoring evidence that the assistance model is working.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity/significant-natural-areas-project>

To view past newsletters, see here

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/environment/biodiversity/biodiversity-publications-and-reports/significant-natural-areas-project-newsletters>

Contact Mike Aviss mike.aviss@marlborough.govt.nz

11. Update on Working for Nature Grants (Zeke Hoskins, Biodiversity Officer)

Zeke Hoskins presented the Mahi mō te Taiao / Working for Nature Grant, supporting community-led biodiversity and habitat projects across Marlborough for the past seven years. See [Appendix 6](#).

The Working for Nature grant funds community, iwi and organisational projects that protect and restore Marlborough's native habitats and species. Activities include pest and weed control, native planting, habitat enhancement and environmental advocacy. This year's successful grants totalling \$142,400 were outlined, primarily for predator control, alongside planting, weed control and habitat restoration. Examples included Arapaoa Kiwi, Project TRAP, Wild Waikawa Restoration and Waitata Reach.

To find out more about the grant and eligibility see here <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/working-for-naturemahi-mo-te-taiao>

Contact Zeke Hoskins Zeke.Hoskins@marlborough.govt.nz

Attendance: 2.07 pm Mike Avis and Zeke Hoskins withdrew from the hui.

12. DOC Update

Dave Hayes made an apology today so no update was provided.

13. Sounds Representatives Updates

Ongoing issues discussed:

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

6.1 Tracey Gibbs DIRRA

After the loss of the previous barge service for Durville, Tracey advised that Johnsons and another barge are now operating. Maximum load is a small vehicle and a trailer. It is an on-demand service at \$550 for a returned trip. Jan at French Pass is the contact. **Action Point:** Tracey to email the contact details to Bernadette who will share the information with members.

6.2 Braden Moleta - Pelorus/Kenepuru

Braden an apology today, however emailed the following update.

Road meetings: Braden reported that feedback from the road meetings was largely positive. The new contractor, Taylors, has been active in the area, undertaking pothole repairs, clearing water tables and becoming familiar with the district.

Refuse stations: Views varied, with some support for multiple refuse station locations, some support for one location at the heads, and others preferring the status quo. Braden suggested that consultation could be undertaken through Antenno, with several options presented for community feedback and promoted through the Kenepuru community Facebook group.

Electricity: Braden noted that the area was without power for 24 hours following the severe winds on Saturday night. He asked whether there had been any progress on the proposed assisted move to off-grid power for the outer Sounds.

Action Point: Invite Nikki Hannan, Advisor Community Resilience at the Marlborough Emergency Center to November team to discuss communities concern when being cut off for days with no power after weather events.

6.3 Fraenzi Furigo - Elaine Bay:

Advised that two blue passion flowers were located in the Elaine Bay area.

Action Point: Fraenzi will discuss with Heather Graham the delay with the French Pass Hall wiring outside of this forum.

6.4 Noel Kerr - Okiwi Bay

Noel Kerr advised that the Okiwi Bay community was without connectivity for three days following the recent high winds. A Fire Station open day will be held on Saturday of Labour Weekend from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm, including a free sausage sizzle. A new defibrillator has also been installed on the outside of the hall.

6.5 Mike Mendano – MFA

Mike advised that pens have been installed at Blue Endeavour and that the fish are progressing well. Blue shell mussels are being used to provide shelter for fish on the seabed as part of research being led by the University of Auckland. Mike advised that he is available to speak with community groups.

6.6 Tracey Currie – Moetapu Bay

Tracey advised that the community appreciated the recent cleaning of road signs and is applying for further trapping funding. She attended a community meeting and also participated in the online presentation by Heli Wade on her PhD. Heli previously presented to the Sounds Advisory Group on 17 November 2025 on her thesis, *Building a sustainable future for coastal ecosystems from ridge to reef*. Further information is available at <https://taukiakau.org/>

6.7 Janice and Paul Turner - Kaiuma Bay.

Janice noted planting scheme around the jetty area and planned summer social events commence in October. The section of gorse is still an ongoing issue with DOC. With the change of staff at DOC, members noted difficulty to contact local DOC Staff. **Action point:** For Dave Hayes to provide a list of current staff at DOC and contact details.

A discussion was held on the Oyster farm at Kaiuma Bay lacking in lights and the safety concerns for people using the water around this site.

Action Point: Mike Mandeno from MFA to clarify the lighting requirements for the Oyster Farm in Kaiuma Bay.

Update: On the 25 – 26 August, Mike Mandeno provided the following information which the Secretary emailed to Janice and Paul Turner: The coastal permit for the sites, which stipulate three marine farms lights in the Decision Document U240342. This document is a public document and can be viewed on Councils website here: [Property Files Online - Marlborough District Council](#) The consent holder, Plan Sea Limited is an MFA member. Mike advised that he would contact the company directors for further information.

14. General Business

- a. Okiwi Bay –
Noel Curr raised concerns regarding the chopper landing pad at Okiwi Bay. **Action Point:** Noel to speak with Clr Faulls outside of this forum and Clr Taylor to report to Okiwi Bay Residents Association.

Noel also noted that the community want the recycling bin back in the bay. **Action Point:** Clr Innes to speak with Mark Lucas and for Mark to contact the Okiwi Bay Residents Association regarding this.
- b. The final hui will be held on Monday, 16 November in the Committee Room, MDC from 10.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Please add this date 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 3.05 pm.

15. Matters Arising

	Action	Person Responsible
1	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. Update: Connie is waiting for report to be sent to her and will then forward to secretary. Invite to the November hui.	Connie and Anouk
2	Invite Sian Hodgkins from DOC to report on the Endeavour Inlet results. Update: The draft DSI report and Ecological AEE are due in early October 2026. Sian and Rachel will attend the November 2026 and March 2027 hui to provide updates.	Bernadette
3	Invite Transpower to August meeting regarding the Cook Strait cable. Update: Transpower has been contacted for a written update on the roading issues raised by the Port Underwood community.	Alan Johnson
4	Add rates capping to November hui. Invite Geoff Blake to explain complexities.	Clr Faulls
5	Email speed review consultation documents once completed. This will be dealt with by Clr Innes and Clr Faulls is on the committee.	Clr Innes/Bernadette
6	Provide Bernadette with the contact details of new barge operator.	Tracey Gibbs (DIRRA),

7	Provide update on fisheries and the new catch limits for the November hui.	Anthony Brett
8	Provide a list of current staff at DOC and contact details.	Dave Hayes
9	Invite Jeremy Green from Top of the Wood Council for a general forestry update for November.	Bernadette
10	Invite Nikki Hannan, Advisor Community Resilience at the Marlborough Emergency Center to November team to discuss communities concern when being cut off for days with no power after weather events	Bernadette
11	Community want a recycling bin back in Okiwi Bay. Follow up with Mark Lucas.	Clr Iness
12	Discuss the issues of the chopper landing pad in Okiwi Bay and report back to the Okiwi Bay Residents Association.	Noel Clrs Fauls and Taylor
13	Clarify the lighting requirements for the Oyster Farm in Kaiuma Bay. <u>Update:</u> Completed on the 25 August, Mike Mandeno provided the following information which was emailed to Janice and Paul Turner by Bernadette. The coastal permit for the sites, which stipulate three marine farms lights in the Decision Document U240342. This document is a public document and can be viewed on Councils website here: Property Files Online - Marlborough District Council The consent holder, Plan Sea Ltd is an MFA member. Mike advised that he would contact the company directors for further information.	Mike Mendano
14	Have Julia Andrews attend community meetings to discuss her role as Senior Biosecurity Advisor / Engagement and how she can assist communities with issues over pest plants etc.	All
15	Discuss with Heather Graham the delay with the French Pass Hall wiring.	Fraenzi Furigo / Heather Graham

Record No: 26208983