

News from Marlborough District Council.

Waitohi garden growing community spirit

A community garden project in Waitohi Picton is cultivating the seeds of community spirit.



Community Garden Project Manager Amy Healey with Clarke's Drainage and Developments owner Mana Clarke who transferred the mulch for free; drivers James Ivamy (left) and Runa Waihape are in the back-ground

Set on Huia Street Reserve, between Huia and Ranui streets, the garden is part of the larger Victoria Domain Reserve and is for the use of the local community.

For the past three years, Envirohub Marlborough has been working closely with Council to bring the vision to fruition, Community Garden Project Manager Amy Healey said.

"From the beginning, Council has been a key supporter, generously offering the Huia Street site - a location steeped in history as a former market garden - making its transformation back to its original purpose all the more meaningful," she said.

Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas, along with staff member and Picton local Joe Larrington, worked with WM New Zealand and Clarke's Drainage and Developments to donate and deliver a truckload of mulch.

"This is a great example of how Council works with the community to support a project that will benefit people in so many ways. It also demonstrates the circularity we can achieve with waste for a great cause," Mr Lucas said.

Amy said the combined efforts from the teams at Clarke's, Council and WM meant the community garden had truly benefited.

"Other local businesses, clubs and individuals have also donated resources and volunteer time. This really shows what is possible when a community works together for a common purpose and we're thrilled to be a part of it."

The seeds of the community garden concept were first sown in 2018 as part of the Long-Term Plan when Council granted funding for the project at Beach Road Reserve. That site did not eventuate but in late 2021 the project was reignited at the Huia Street Reserve.

On Wednesday 23 April from 10am there is a working bee at the Waitohi Picton Community Garden - all welcome. For more information go to: www.facebook.com/pictongarden

Annual report shows a year of recovery and achievement

Council's annual report for the 2023/24 financial year highlights major progress across key projects.



The annual report dealt with many issues including damaged roads like this

Mayor Nadine Taylor said the year saw excellent progress on the Marlborough Sounds roading recovery, with the Sounds Future Access Study concluding a successful public engagement.

The successful rollout of the new kerbside waste and recycling seive marked a milestone with wheelie bins replacing rubbish bags, and five new remote transfer stations built.

Water infrastructure remained a focus, with new treatment plants in Renwick and Wairau Valley. Additionally, efforts continued to enhance flood protection in Spring Creek, incorporating community feedback into planning and implementation.

A coastal inundation assessment provided valuable insights into Marlborough's vulnerability to sea level rise over the next century, informing Council's future climate change mitigation strategies.

"Te Kahu o Waipuna, Marlborough's state-of-the-art library and art gallery, earned three prestigious awards," Mayor Taylor

said. "Further demonstrating Marlborough's leadership on the national stage, the inaugural WinePRO trade fair, hosted in Blenheim, attracted 1,700 attendees."

Mayor Taylor said Council's dedication to public services was reflected in the continued rise of resident satisfaction, now at 68%, above the national benchmark of 54%.

"Marlborough continues to do well - despite the challenging national and global economic environment - thanks to the dedication of councillors and staff and the important input of Marlburians and the many partner organisations Council works with every day."

The financial statements show that Council came in 'on budget' and net debt was \$88M, which is significantly lower than Council's debt cap of \$230M. Net assets increased to \$2.24 billion from \$2.11 billion in 2023.

The annual report is available on Council's website, go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-report

Double celebration at Ward

Hundreds of people attended the opening of the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre last Friday.

The beautiful new museum demonstrates the commitment and strength of the Ward community and its bounce back from adversity.

Ward suffered severely in the 2013 and 2016 earthquakes, losing its pub, church, museum and water storage, with considerable damage to homes, roading and farmland. The new heritage centre is a tribute to the locals who have worked tirelessly to bring the project to fruition and make it a reality.

The centre showcases a wide range of memorabilia detailing the rich depth of the area's history - including first arrivals and Māori settlement, moa hunters, shipwrecks and the Cape Campbell lighthouse.

The day also heralded the opening of the Flaxbourne section of the Whale Trail, running from Te Ruakanakana/Lake Elterwater to the new centre.

The 10km round trip section has lovely views and is another marker on the trail that will eventually connect the communities between Picton and Kaikōura.



Proposed Building Act fees consultation now open

Council invites public submissions on proposed Building Act fees to be charged by Building Control from 1 July 2025.

Building Control Manager Dhyanom Gala said the Building Control group reviewed its fees and charges every year to ensure they remained fair and reflected the cost of providing the service.

"This review allows us to adjust fees to reflect changes in service costs, ensuring they are up-to-date and reasonable. It also helps us collect fees for any new processes or costs, in line with Council policy," Mr Gala said.

For 2025-2026, an increase of 2.2 per cent is proposed to fees and charges and swimming pool inspection general rates to adjust for inflation, along with several targeted amendments to better align fees with costs, which includes:

- A new charge for processing alternative plans and specifications for consent applications
- A new officer charge-out rate for Certificate of Public Use application processing
- An increase in charges for lapsing

consent applications and extension of time to commence/complete building work under a building consent

- A new flat fee classification for major works with value between \$1M to \$4M for schedule 1-exemption 2 applications
- A new fee for change of use application assessment and extension of specified life of building assessment
- A new charge for sign-off of building consents older than five years.

"Consultation gives the public an opportunity to make a submission and provide feedback on the proposed fee changes. Once the submission period closes, hearings will be conducted if people indicate they want to speak in support of their submission," Mr Gala said.

The 'Statement of Proposal - Revision of Building Act Fees and Charges' is available on Council's website or by visiting the Customer Service Centre in Blenheim or libraries in Blenheim and Picton. Submissions close at 5pm on Wednesday 14 May 2025.

For further information or for a copy of the proposal, please email: buildingconsents@marlborough.govt.nz

Help us support Marlborough's newcomers

Council is asking the Marlborough community to share their thoughts on what should be included in the region's welcoming plan.

The survey, which is open until 30 April, asks people to share their ideas about activities, resources and events that have the potential to make newcomers feel welcome and create a sense of belonging in Marlborough.

Those who fill in the survey will go into the draw to win one of two shopping vouchers. The survey can be found at: links.marlborough.govt.nz/WS25.

People are also invited to have their say at one of two drop-in sessions:

Te Kahu o Waipuna, Blenheim - Tuesday, 29 April from 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Picton Library - Wednesday, 30 April from 10:30am to 11:30am

The Welcoming Communities - Te Waharoa ki ngā Hāpori programme rolls out the welcome mat for all newcomers to the region.

It provides a framework for Marlborough to become even more welcoming and attractive to newcomers - a place where people want to come, stay and make their home.



Fungal finds in Havelock

The Fungal Network of New Zealand's (FUNNZ) foray to Marlborough last year resulted in some notable species being recorded.

FUNNZ is an independent non for profit society that aims to educate, stimulate research and share knowledge on fungi.

It catalogues fungi to promote their conservation - many are in storage at the national herbarium/fungarium at Landcare, enabling current and future generations of scientists to study them.

Last May the group visited Marlborough, searching Council land and reserves in Havelock and Spring Creek, finding 77 fungi and lichen, including a mixture of indigenous and exotic species.

In the Havelock area, collecting took place in forested walkways and valleys with the walkway at the back of Havelock

near the waterfall proving particularly productive.

A very rare exotic fungi tricholoma scalpturatum was recorded at Spring Creek's Kahikatea Reserve - only the fifth such observation in New Zealand.

What was thought to be the first record of an Australian cortinariarius (webcap) fungi, a purple and yellow species associated with eucalyptus, was spotted near the Havelock waste transfer station.

DNA testing showed that this species had been recorded in the Nelson-Marlborough area before, but without the yellow colouring.

For a full list of the fungi found and for more information go to: www.inaturalist.nz/projects/nz-fungal-foray or www.funnz.org.nz/



A purple and yellow Australian Cortinariarius fungi, found near the Havelock transfer station

Public Notices

Meet your Council



Mayor Nadine Taylor leads a team of 14 elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that will help shape our province into the future.

Council's vision is that Marlborough is a globally-connected district of smart, progressive, high-value enterprises, known for its economic efficiency, quality lifestyle and wellbeing, caring community, desirable location and healthy natural environment.

For more information or to contact one of your elected representatives, go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors or Ph: 03 520 7400.

Council services on Anzac Day

Council's Blenheim office will be closed next Friday 25 April for Anzac Day. If you have an urgent issue during this time, please phone 03 520 7400.

Waste Services

All Council waste facilities including Transfer Stations, Recycling Centre, Hazardous Waste Centre and Dump Shop will be closed until 1pm.

Landfill

The Bluegums landfill will operate from 12 noon to 5pm.

Kerbside collections

There will be no kerbside collection on Anzac Day. If your collection day is Friday, please place your wheelie bin out for a 7am Saturday collection. To download the Wheelie Bin Collection Schedule, go to: links.marlborough.govt.nz/collection-day

Marlborough District Libraries

Marlborough Library (Blenheim) and Picton Library and Service Centre will be closed.

Bus services

Bus services will not operate on Anzac Day.

Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from Council's reticulation network to the Awatere and Dashwood rural areas should be boiled.

It does not currently meet the NZ Drinking Water Standards and may contain bacteria or protozoa that are harmful to human health. All water used for drinking, food preparation or cleaning teeth should be boiled before use.

Treated water is available at the public taps on Marama Road, outside Seddon School. For further information contact the Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201
Ph: 03 520 7400
mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Tues	8.30am - 4.30pm
Wed	8.30am - 12.30pm 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Thurs - Fri	8.30am - 4.30pm

Picton Library & Service Centre

2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220
Ph: 03 520 7493
pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Tues	8.30am - 5pm
Wed	9am - 5pm
Thurs - Fri	8.30am - 5pm
Sat	10am - 4pm
Sun	1pm - 4pm

Council & Committee Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agendas will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim.

Economic, Finance and Community Committee

Tuesday 29 April at 9am

Public Forum

A public forum will be held prior to the Economic, Finance and Community Committee, starting at 8.30am. If you wish to address the committee you need to confirm your attendance and speaking time with the Committee Secretary on the Friday prior. Please note topics are restricted to the agenda items or those within the Committee's delegation.

Council

Thursday 8 May at 9am

Times and dates may be subject to change; please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/public-notices

Upper Wairau Cemetery Board of Trustees

Notice is given that the Marlborough District Council at its meeting held on 3 April 2025 acting under delegation appointed Sharon Evans as trustee of the Upper Wairau Cemetery Board of Trustees, pursuant to Section 24 of the Burial and Cremations Act 1964.

Anzac Day Services

Thursday 24 April

2:00pm Ward War Memorial

Friday 25 April

6:00am Picton War Memorial

6:30am Seddon War Memorial

9:00am Renwick War Memorial

9:30am Spring Creek Spring Creek Hall

10:00am Havelock Town Hall

10:00am French Pass War Memorial (followed by light refreshments in the Memorial Hall, please bring a small plate to share)

11:00am Rai Valley War Memorial

12:00pm Blenheim Cenotaph, Seymour Square

12:00pm Mary's Bay Homewood Memorial

12:00pm Wairau Valley Community Hall



Contact the Marlborough RSA for the most up to date information.