

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.



Spot the difference - the corner of High Street and Symons Street in Blenheim's CBD in 2009 (left) and today (right)

Checking the health of our town centres

A spot check of the health of our town centres is the focus of Council's 'Marlborough Town Centre Health Check', the findings from which were presented at this month's Economic, Finance and Community committee meeting.

Every two years since 2011, Council has produced a report on the health of the Blenheim and Picton town centres. Statistics such as the composition of the town centre, state of the environment and the results of a pedestrian survey are all included.

Economic Development manager Neil Henry says there is now a reliable body of evidence that provides a comparative study to identify trends and changes over time. "This is one of the benefits of doing this survey regularly so we can see how our CBDs have changed."

"Since 2011 there has been a noticeable change with a lot more cafés and restaurants and less retail in Blenheim. This shows the changing nature of how people are spending, with more online shopping and leisure activities in town centres," Mr Henry said.

Data for the new study was collected in December from 297 people. Some of the key findings were:

Blenheim

- Spend in the Central Business District: \$296.8M (\$10M more than in 2022)
- Fewer vacancies in Queen Street
- Reduction in retail shops from 92 to 84
- Increase in vacancies from 20 to 27
- Sixty four per cent visit the CBD for cafés and restaurants

Mr Henry said the reduction in retail shops likely showed the impact of online shopping and e-commerce.

"This is an international trend. However, the town centre continues to perform well across most measured categories including transport, pedestrian route quality, state of the environment and street vitality."

Picton

- CBD spend: \$94.3M (\$15M more than in 2022)
- Strong return of visitors, both domestic and international
- Vacancies similar to 2022 at 7 per cent
- Food and entertainment the most common drawcard (23 per cent)
- Seventy five per cent visit the CBD for cafés/restaurants

"Overall, Picton CBD is performing well. The state of the environment, street vitality, pedestrian routes and transport options all continue to be maintained at a desirable level. We've seen a strong return of international visitors and transaction rates have gone up," Mr Henry said.

The report will be published on Council's website.

National mountain bike event riding into Picton

Mountain bikers from around New Zealand will converge on Picton this Sunday 18 February for Round Four of the Mountain Bike New Zealand National Cross Country Series 2024.

The Marlborough Mountain Bike Club is hosting the event which was due to take place in Blenheim but has relocated to Picton due to the closure of the Wither Hills Farm Park because of fire risk.

"It's always fantastic to see a national event like this come to Marlborough and the change of venue gives us a great opportunity to showcase Picton," Council Parks and Open Spaces Officer Kiri Whiteman said.

Mountain Bike New Zealand (MTBNZ), together with Cycling New Zealand, collaborates with affiliated clubs and venues throughout New Zealand to run the national downhill series and cross country events around the country from January to March.

Several walking and biking tracks in and around Victoria Domain will close to the public from 7am to 5pm on the day of the event.

"The track closures are just for the day and are for the safety of the riders and the recreational

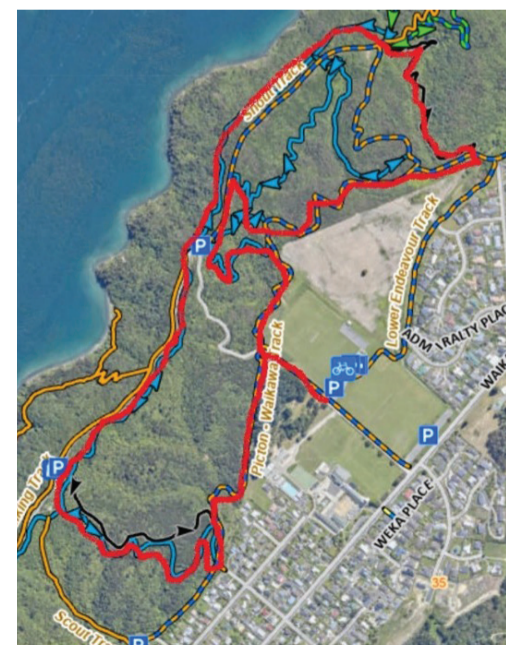
users of Victoria Domain. We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate the public's support and cooperation to allow us to host this important national event," Kiri says.

The tracks closed are:

- Picton - Waikawa Track from Leicester Street to Ranui Street
- Leicester New
- Ridgeline
- Westside
- Kanuka Trail
- Granddads
- Annex
- Sues
- The Doctor

The Victoria Domain Road will also close for the duration of the event.

Right: Picton's Victoria Domain will host a national mountain bike event this Sunday 18 February with several tracks closed to the public for the day



Seniors' Expo next month

Are you interested in activities or advice targeting the over 65s?

The Marlborough Seniors' Expo, on Tuesday 5 March, is a day designed for the whole community to help create awareness of services and activities available for older people.

While aimed at the over 65s, the Expo is open to everyone. It's a perfect opportunity to get vital information for whānau and family members. Whether it's helping them to maintain an active lifestyle or meeting other people in a bid to reduce loneliness, the Expo can help. Even if it's just wanting to know where to

access advice and support, the Expo is a valuable starting point.

There will be health information available, plus mini health checks and representatives from support and health organisations will be on hand.

The Expo runs from 9am to 1pm at the Marlborough Events Centre, next to the ASB Theatre, and is free to all. More than 50 stallholders will attend and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Council Ph: 03 520 7400.



Learn more about what's on offer for older people - Marlborough Library (Blenheim) Community Learning and Engagement Coordinator Duncan Mackenzie at the last Seniors' Expo

Energy efficiency funding scheme suspended

Council's energy efficiency and clean heating loan scheme will be suspended for any new loans from 29 February.

Council's loan scheme was set up in 2010 to assist Marlborough ratepayers to take advantage of government subsidies for insulation and clean heating. It meant ratepayers could take out loans to insulate or heat their homes, to a maximum of \$15,000, which was added to their rates.

A changing regulatory environment is the impetus for the change, Council's Chief Financial Officer Geoff Blake says. "There are now other options available to ratepayers with the large banks providing top up mortgages for energy efficiency

upgrades at a better rate than Council offers," Mr Blake said.

"The suspension of the scheme will not affect ratepayers who have an existing loan with us - it will only apply to new loans."

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority has had various schemes to provide grants for insulation and heating - the current one is called Warmer Kiwi Homes.

For more information go to: www.eeca.govt.nz/co-funding-and-support/products/warmer-kiwi-homes-programme/

Upcoming Rita Angus exhibition

Marlborough Art Gallery is to host a touring exhibition, Rita Angus: New Zealand Modernist, from 17 February to 14 April.

The exhibition brings together works by one of New Zealand's most iconic artists. Rita Angus (1908 - 1970) was fundamental to the establishment of a distinctive, modern school of art in New Zealand. Over a period of 40 years, Angus produced a remarkable body of work.

The works on display span Angus' life and career as an artist, drawing out themes of pacifism, feminism, and nature, which shaped much of her work. The exhibition includes many of Angus' most important works, including Rutu (1951), Cleopatra (1938) and Central Otago (1953-56/1969). It was developed and is presented by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

Rita Angus, Detail of Cleopatra, 1938, oil on canvas. Purchased 1998 with New Zealand Lottery Grants Board funds. © Reproduced courtesy of the Estate of Rita Angus. Te Papa (1998-0028-2)



Pollard Park in full bloom

Summer is a busy time in Pollard Park for both visitors and garden staff.

Locals and busloads of visitors have all enjoyed the wonderful flower displays with many making positive comments to staff.

The centre bed at Pollard Park is filled with flowers for butterflies including blue salvia, white and pink alyssum and a yellow and red swan plant.



With summer planting finished, Council staff are working on routine maintenance including weeding, trimming and dead heading.

While the Wither Hills Farm Park is closed, Pollard Park makes a great alternative.

Queen Charlotte Drive closures restart

Planned daytime construction closures on Queen Charlotte Drive, near Cullen Point, Mahakipawa Hill restarted on Tuesday and will last for two to three weeks.

The road will be closed approximately 1.8km from the SH6/Havelock turnoff, on weekdays from 9am until 3pm with hourly openings, on the hour, to let waiting traffic through.

The closures are planned for the first phase of the construction of a mechanically stabilised earth wall, along with associated drainage upgrades.

Outside of the closure period, the site will remain under stop/go traffic management.

Multiple other recovery works sites are operating on Queen Charlotte Drive, between Cullen Point and Shakespeare Bay, under stop/go traffic management, and delays are expected.

Sealing works are also planned from Friday 23 February to Wednesday 28 February, excluding Sunday 25 February.

Road users are warned of increased truck movements and encouraged to plan ahead for delays or to use the SH1/SH6 inland route during this period, where possible.

Every drop counts

Picton and Waikawa residents can now use sprinklers on alternate days.

Hand held hoses, flushing of boat motors and light boat washing are allowed too.

- A property with an even numbered street address may use a sprinkler on even numbered calendar days
- A property with an odd numbered street address can use a sprinkler on odd numbered calendar days

The water play area on the Foreshore will be open on weekends and public holidays.



Wither Hills Farm Park remains closed

The Wither Hills Farm Park remains closed due to the hot and dry conditions.

Council made the decision following discussion with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) in the interest of public safety.

Due to the mixture of dry grass, steep slopes and warm and windy conditions, a fire would spread very quickly, placing people at extreme risk.

Council is also warning people to be very careful when walking or biking in the

Taylor River reserve, especially between the Burleigh Bridge and Taylor Dam.

The vegetation is super dry and a spark could cause a quick-spreading fire. Reserve users should think carefully about their route and ensure they have a plan to exit the reserve quickly in case of fire.

Early morning and late evening walks are recommended when the danger level is lower.

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.

The 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.

Commercial Events Fund open now

Round 2 of Council's 2023/2024 Commercial Events Fund is now open for applications.

This Fund was established to help create economic benefit to Marlborough by attracting new events and helping to build on existing ones. Council's Commercial Events Fund sub-committee considers the applications and there is up to \$100,000 available for allocation for 2023/2024.

To be eligible, commercial events must be held within the Marlborough District Council boundaries. Community events, conferences, conventions, trade shows and exhibitions are not eligible. Funding is granted on an annual basis but it does not mean that all funds must be

distributed each year. Past applicants who have been unsuccessful may re-apply.

Key dates:

- Applications close: 5pm Monday 11 March 2024
- Funding decision by: 5pm Friday 5 April 2024

Applications must be completed via Council's website www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/events/commercial-events-fund

Any enquiries can be directed to Council's Regional Events Advisor, Samantha Young, Ph: 03 520 7400 or email: events@marlborough.govt.nz

Notification of Weight and Speed Limits on Bridges

Notice is hereby given that under Regulation 11(3) of the Heavy Vehicle Regulations 1974, Marlborough District Council has fixed the following maximum weight and speed limit for heavy motor vehicles and combinations, including a heavy motor vehicle, on:

- Daltons Bridge, Kaiuma Road: a heavy vehicle speed limit of 10km/h

For speed restrictions and weight limits on Marlborough's bridges go to:

www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/public-notice

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 - Fri 8am - 5pm

Sat - Sun 10am - 4pm

Council Meetings

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

Council

Monday 26 February at 9am

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

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Council's Harbours team - working to ensure our waterways are safe for everyone to enjoy.

Contact the Harbourmaster's Office if you need advice or information about Marlborough's harbours.

03 520 7400 | HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ

