

## News from Marlborough District Council.

### Making playful use of public spaces

Encouraging people to be more playful and giving public spaces more playability is Lesley McIntosh's responsibility.



Be more playful in public spaces says Play Advocate Lesley McIntosh

She is Council's new Play Advocate, a role funded by Sport New Zealand for two years, to make play a possibility everywhere.

She is one of 18 play advocates around the country.

Play encourages the whole community to participate, improves social and cultural connectivity, creates economic opportunities and increases environmental awareness.

"We're talking about not isolating play to small areas or playgrounds," said Lesley.

"This is about making more spaces playable - for example if we're redesigning a footpath outside a school or upgrading a streetscape let's look for the accessibility and play opportunities. It may be something as simple as a seat that can be utilised for play or a picnic table that you can play ping pong on."

"Increasing playability could involve talking to the landscaping team and making use of trees they are cutting down or planting grassy areas with wildflowers. The possibilities are only limited by our imagination."

Lesley said play was a right for all children but was inter-generational and making it an opportunity in open spaces served the whole community.

"I'll be advocating for play in the wider aspects and looking at how it links - it's about thinking outside the square," she said.

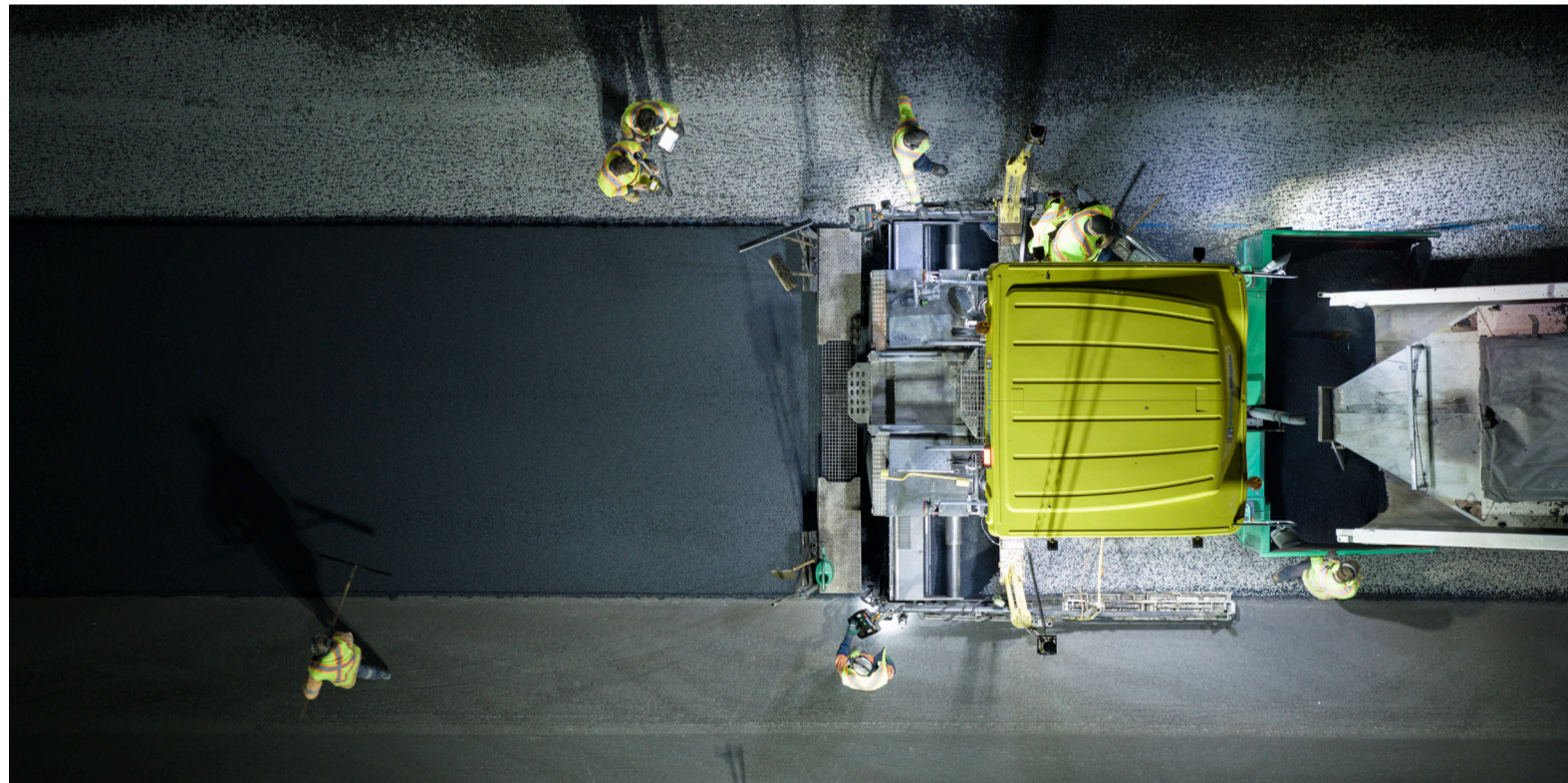
Lesley will look at areas in Marlborough that could benefit from having play incorporated including waterways, streets and parks while acknowledging those areas which already have play facilities.

"I'll be ensuring the lens is put on everything to see how the whole community can benefit," she said. "Play is an emotional currency and there is a knock-on impact on our wellbeing."

Lesley was previously General Manager at Sport Tasman.

### Temporary car park closure for Marlborough Airport

The last stage of construction begins soon for Marlborough Airport's largest maintenance project, which includes re-paving the short-term car park near the terminal.



Fulton Hogan has been working night shifts since February to re-pave Marlborough Airport's runway and aviation surfaces

The car park will close in early April, and works will start after Easter. Airport users are asked to use the long-term car park until the renovated car park reopens in June, weather permitting.

"We appreciate the public's patience while the car park is closed. We're also investing in better drainage, improving the layout for safety, planting 1,000 natives," Marlborough Airport Chief Executive Dean Heiford said.

The car park is the final stage in a \$10.7 million investment in airport infrastructure, most of which is for repaving the runway and aviation surfaces. The project is funded from airport operations, through landing and parking fees.

Runway repaving happens about once every 15 years, so this was an opportunity to also improve aviation lighting and access for emergency

vehicles, as well as add charging capability for the airport's first electric vehicle used for safety on the airfield.

TDZ Projects is leading the project delivery, alongside design engineers Becca and contractors Fulton Hogan for the major infrastructure work.

From February, the team has been working night shifts, with minimal disruptions to flights, to lay more than 70,500 square metres of new pavement across the airport's taxiway, runway and apron.

While most of the car park improvements will be done during the day, Fulton Hogan will undertake work to the footpaths in front of the terminal at night to minimise disruption to airport users.

For updates on this project, please go to: [www.marlboroughairport.co.nz](http://www.marlboroughairport.co.nz)

### Celebrating Our People, Our Past this May

The Marlborough Heritage Festival promises a four-day celebration of the people, places and stories that have shaped our region.

Events take place from 15 to 18 May providing an opportunity for communities to connect with their heritage in meaningful ways, Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Manager Nicola Neilson said.

"From guided walks, cemetery tours, museum exhibitions and thought-provoking talks by guest speakers, the festival will showcase a diverse range of experiences. It finishes on International Museum Day giving the perfect chance for people to visit one of Marlborough's museums to uncover the treasures in their collections," she said.

Participating museums include the Flaxbourne Heritage Centre which opens in April, Edwin Fox Museum, Havelock Museum, Picton Heritage and Whaling Museum, Renwick Museum, Te Kahu o Waipuna, Vintage Car Club, Marlborough Museum and the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre.

The festival events are organised by community groups and heritage organisations with coordination provided by Heritage Marlborough. It includes a Heritage Marlborough Children's Scavenger Hunt in Blenheim's CBD all weekend, from 16 to 18 May.

Marlborough's museums and heritage organisations were mostly volunteer led so the Marlborough Heritage Festival was a great chance to show appreciation for the passionate and dedicated volunteers who preserve our history and help keep it alive, Museum Coordinator Sophie Wool said.

"We hope it will be a great success, and that people will make the most of the diverse programme that has been put together. Our vision is for the festival to continue growing, offering a wide range of events that engage people from all corners of the region. Mark it in your calendar now and be part of this journey through Marlborough's history," she said.

A full schedule of events will be published soon. Register here [www.eventfinda.co.nz/user/heritage18x/events](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/user/heritage18x/events)



### High standards in Marlborough Environment Awards

People making an extraordinary impact on the environment will be recognised at the 2024/25 Port Marlborough - Marlborough Environment Awards.

Winners will be announced on 16 April at the awards event at ASB Theatre.

Individuals, businesses and community groups will be recognised for their dedication to sustainability, innovation and environmental stewardship of Marlborough's land and sea resources.

This year's awards have generated much interest, with 30 standout submissions across eight categories.

Judges have visited each project with entries showcasing groundbreaking environmental initiatives from innovative farming practices to cutting-edge energy-efficient technologies.

Wendy Sullivan, judging co-ordinator, is thrilled by the calibre of this year's entries.

"The quality of nominees is exceptional and it's clear that the winners will be leaders in driving positive environmental change," she said.

In addition to a cash prize, winners will receive a professionally produced video of their project, courtesy of Stu Cam Video Production, with support from Pub Charity and Craigmore Sustainables.

The 2024/25 Port Marlborough - Marlborough Environment Awards are managed by a charitable trust and supported by Port Marlborough, Council, DOC and a host of local sponsors.

For more information about the Awards, visit [www.me-a-nz.com](http://www.me-a-nz.com)

### International author visiting Picton Library

Australian author Isobelle Carmody is visiting Picton Library next Monday.

The successful and popular writer of science fiction, fantasy, children's and young adult books will host "A Conversation with Isobelle Carmody" on 31 March at 12.30pm.

The relaxed and informal session is free with all ages welcome.

Carmody's most recent novel, Comes the Night, is set in near-future Canberra and is a thrilling standalone novel from the queen of young adult fantasy.

It follows a reluctant 16-year-old hero on an epic quest through a mysterious alternative dream-landscape, filled with secrets and danger at every turn.

Comes the Night is available from Marlborough District Libraries.



Young adult fantasy writer Isobelle Carmody is at Picton Library this month

### Tendo exchange students in town

Four students and a teacher from Marlborough's Japanese sister city enjoyed the sights of Marlborough over seven days in March.

The group was hosted by families from Marlborough Boys' and Girls' Colleges and spent time at school, visited the Marlborough Sounds with the Marlborough Tour Company, got up close to sheep at Meadowbank farm and tasted chocolate treats at Makana Confections. A welcome dinner at Dodson Street beer garden capped off some fun times.

Council's Democratic Services Manager Mike Porter said the visit was likely the last by an exchange group to Marlborough due to rising costs although Tendo was keen for the programme to continue online.

Tendo is in Yamagata prefecture in the northern part of the main island of Japan. Marlborough's Sister City agreement with the city was signed in 1989.

"Since that date there have been many exchange visits, including both city governments for the signing of the Sister Agreement as well as social groups and by special interest groups such as farming and fruit growing co-operatives," Mr Porter said. The Japanese style garden in Harling Park, which opened in 2005, was initiated and designed by an architect from Tendo.

"Over the years very generous gifts of money from Tendo have helped fund the garden as well as countless hours by local volunteers and reserve funds from the Sister City account," he said.



The recent exchange group from Marlborough's sister city Tendo pictured with Mayor Nadine Taylor and Councillor Sally Arbuckle (far right), Councillor Jonathan Rosene (second from left) and Marlborough Boys' College interpreter Leon Edsall

### New chapter for women in construction

The launch of the Top of the South chapter of National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is an exciting development for all women working in construction in both regions.

Mayor Nadine Taylor spoke at the launch event, held concurrently with Nelson/Tasman, recently at Astrolabe Wines.

"It's great to see how the representation of women in construction has grown and today they are hard at work in just about every job - quantity surveyors, project managers, suppliers, planners, designers, architects, engineers, tradespeople, students, apprentices, health and safety managers and lawyers, to name just a few," she said.

"The work of NAWIC with its values to 'include, respect and inspire' is integral to ensuring women feel supported and inspired to push forward in the

profession. Together we - the new Te Tau Ihu/Marlborough/Nelson/Tasman chapter - look forward to supporting your work and that of all women in the sector."

She made special mention of Marlborough's leadership in this area with women already successfully engaged in both construction and the businesses who provide services to the sector.

"Our wonderful award-winning library and art gallery building - Te Kahu o Waipuna - is a stellar example of this with a number of women involved in its construction, ranging from on-site roles, administration, design and consenting through to project management, environmental engineering and governance."

For more information, go to: [www.nawic.org.nz](http://www.nawic.org.nz)



A new chapter for women in construction will help them continue to break through glass ceilings and concrete floors, Mayor Taylor told launch attendees



# 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](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors) or Ph: 03 520 7400.

## Annual Plan update

Ninety suggestions from the public were received through Council's new annual plan engagement process.

Last year, under increasing cost pressures and to create efficiencies and deliver savings, Council established a new annual plan process to encourage early engagement with an option provided to the community to submit ideas and suggestions.

Council's Economic, Finance and Community committee has considered a summary of the ideas. Decisions were made on eight submissions under the annual plan process which will now go to the full Council meeting on

3 April to be ratified. Nineteen will be addressed through the Long Term Plan Working Group. Twenty-four were outside the scope of Council's responsibilities.

Council will engage again with the community as part of its preparation for the next annual plan in 2026-27 and the next Long Term Plan.

Sign up for annual and long term plan updates at: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-long-term-plan-notifications](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/long-term-and-annual-plans-policies-and-reports/annual-long-term-plan-notifications)

## Wither Hills Farm Park is open

Autumn's arrival along with some rain and cooler temperatures mean the Wither Hills Farm Park is now open.

Council closed the park on 27 February in the interest of public safety following talks with Fire and Emergency (FENZ) due to ongoing hot and dry conditions and has been monitoring the situation daily.

The risk has now eased and therefore the park has been reopened.

Council still strongly advises farm park users to stay to the lower tracks, do not visit during the heat of the day and avoid the farm park altogether if temperatures rise again.

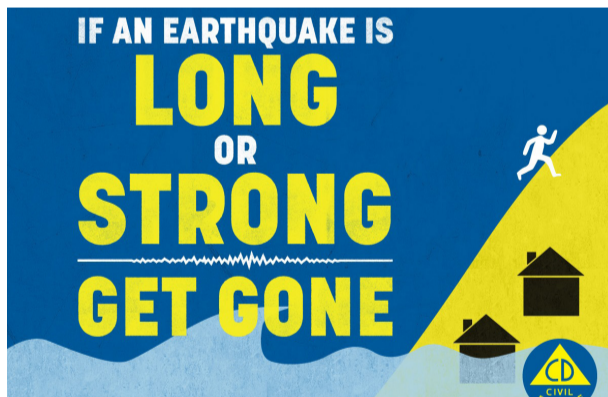
## Calling all radio operators

Marlborough Amateur Radio Club is running training sessions for people keen to gain their amateur radio license on 10 and 11 May.

Marlborough Emergency Management encourages people to take up this opportunity, particularly those in remote communities or those interested in supporting emergency responses as a volunteer.

Radio is a resilient method of communication, especially if other methods are impacted through loss of power or damage to infrastructure.

For more information or to register, please email [marchbranch22@gmail.com](mailto:marchbranch22@gmail.com) or call Neville on 027 276 7682 or Greg on 027 568 9729.



## Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to: [www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/all-news-notice-and-media-releases](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notice-and-media-releases/all-news-notice-and-media-releases)

## Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400

[mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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 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, 7201 Blenheim.

### Council

Thursday 3 April at 9am

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

## 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 Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.

**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](mailto:HARBOURS@MARLBOROUGH.GOV.T.NZ)

