

Picton Regional Forum held at Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton, on Monday 1 July 2024, at 1.30 pm

Present

Clr Barbara Faulls (Chairperson), Clr Ben Minehan (Marlborough District Council), Clr Allanah Burgess (Marlborough District Council), and Clr Raylene Innes (Marlborough District Council).

Group Representatives

Katie Littlewood (Marlborough District Council), Raewyn Buchanan (Karaka Point & Environs Residents Association), Beryl Bowers (Picton Historical Society), Stuart Eyes (Bike Walk Picton), Brian Henstock (Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust), Pip Macfarlane (Picton Dawn Chorus), Laurie Stevenson (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association), Leith Manson (Tirimoana Anakiwa Residents Association), Renée Love (Te Ātiawa o Te Waka a Māui Trust), and Don Miller (Greater Whatamango Bay Residents Association).

Guest Speakers

Jorgia McMillan (Marlborough District Council), Heather Graham (Marlborough District Council), and Clr Allanah Burgess (Māori Ward Councillor, Marlborough District Council).

Attending

Kirsty Baldwin (Marlborough District Council Secretary)

Welcome

People were welcomed to the meeting by Clr Faulls.

1. Apologies

Dean Heiford (Marlborough District Council), Nicola Neilson (Marlborough District Council), Zeke Hoskings (Marlborough District Council), Monyeen Wedge (Queen Charlotte Sounds Residents Association), Marie-Jeanette van der Wal (Picton Combined Churches Chair), Michelle Campbell (Grey Power), Margaret McHugh (Picton, Marlborough Sounds Tourism), Norm Hyde (Tirimoana & Anakiwa Resident's Association), Bosun Huntley (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association), Valerie Kenny (Picton Museum), and Julie McFadden (Ngakuta Bay Resident's Association).

It was moved that the apologies be accepted, and the motion was carried.

2. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2024 were confirmed as correct. Moved by Clr Faulls and seconded by Brian Henstock.

3. Update on Picton Regional Forum Member, Monyeen Wedge

Monyeen Wedge has resigned from the Picton Regional Forum (PRF) group due to health reasons. She is at the Bethsaida Retirement Village. Cllr Faulks will send her a small gift on behalf of the group.

4. Seagrass Health and its Benefits to the Ecosystem Update (Jorgia McMillan, Marlborough District Council)

- Jorgia McMillan did a presentation which is attached as Appendix A.
- Principal Coastal Scientist, Oliver Wade has started back in the team as of today.
- Going forward, Council wants to educate people through community outreach. This could be undertaken this coming summer with distributing brochures while the coastal team are out on the water.

Questions/Answers

- Cllr Innes stated that based on 5% decline in the seagrass beds internationally in the next 15 years you will be sitting at 50%.
- One of the members stated that several years ago, there was a man named Allan Holland who wanted to help preserve the sea grass. He faced "opposition" to the protection work by MDC. This could have been due to consenting issues.

- How much can you expect the seaward fringe to retreat each year?

Each estuary is different, and the impacts it gets are different due to external factors.

- Is there anything the layman can do to help reinstate it and make it better?

Yes, don't anchor on it. Try not to trample on it. Try not to drag dinghies across it on the shore. Planting on the shore margins is good, as it tries to stop the runoff. In the proposed educational brochures, we plan to have some home-grown ideas for people to implement. A lot of the degradation is due to climate change, etc. There are some proposals for shoreline planting. Cawthron is running a 4-year project and trialling how successful it is to transplant seagrass. Most of the growth is through a root growth system.

5. Aratere Interislander Ferry Grounding Update (Katie Littlewood, Marlborough District Council)

- Katie Littlewood gave a brief update on the recent ferry grounding in Picton Harbour.
- People were mobilised within half an hour of the event occurring and it was a well-executed mobilisation. The Deputy Harbourmaster was on the boat quickly after it happened.
- We were very lucky, environmentally wise, in that it hit a soft place with sandy mud and there was not too much environmental damage, or oil spills.
- There were no people or animals such as cattle onboard at the time.
- The team are conducting a team de-briefing on what went well, what could be done better, etc.

- On Wednesday we are due to head out to do environmental surveys, with an underwater camera being put down, to assess the site to make sure that what we believe to be true is true.

6. Small Townships Program Update (Heather Graham, Marlborough District Council)

- Heather Graham introduced herself and gave a brief explanation of the Small Townships Programme:

The programme operates in two different ways. One is through developing Township Plans, which is linked with a dedicated township budget, with a focus on the development of outdoor spaces that provide good connectivity and develop a community sense of place and their unique identity.
- Another branch of the programme is the Community Project Fund which operates throughout the region, except for Picton and Blenheim. That has a small budget of \$75,000 a year. This fund is open to any community groups who are interested in developing their outdoor public spaces.
- Heather shared some examples of work recently undertaken including streetscape work in Canvastown, footpaths in Spring Creek and Grovetown.
- The programme is currently working with residents in the Ward area supporting them with their heritage facility and community hall, with a green space in the middle that is currently underdeveloped that could be something quite special.
- A key element of the program is the community voice that is brought into those projects. The programme engages with the community to understand what it's like to live in a town. What projects and aspirations they have for the future, including the issues they are dealing with. The next step is to look at the projects we could develop and prioritize.
- The Community Project Fund does the same thing in a way. It is about getting to know the communities and supporting the community to develop the area where they live, work, play and generally love. Dealing with the Sounds communities you are dealing with unique situations.
- The program is managed by a sub-committee of which Cllr Faulks and Cllr Minehan sit, as well as Cllrs Scott Adams and Sally Arbuckle.

Questions/Answers

- What determines a Small Town? Picton has effectively dropped through the crack.

For the purposes of the programme, it is based on rating areas. The name, Small Townships for the program, is really just a label. The areas in which work is undertaken by the programme is based on the rating areas which supports the programme. Blenheim, Picton and Picton Vicinity are not included.
- The program hasn't been around that long, is it a new thing?

It started back in 2016 so it is relatively new. It is hard for all our small townships to win the priority game, based on population and limited use numbers, but that is not to say that the need is not valid. The programme can be a voice for people in smaller towns to support them in navigating Council systems. It is quite heartening to see something beneficial has been done in the small communities.
- For more information contact:

Small Townships Programme
Heather Graham
Heather.graham@marlborough.govt.nz

027 207 8717

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/small-townships-programme>

Update from Community Partnerships

- The community grants opened today and close on 18 August. Council has a set budget for this every year.

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/our-community/grants-and-awards/marlborough-district-council-community-grants>

7. Waikawa Marae Update (Councillor Allanah Burgess, Marlborough District Council)

- Cllr Burgess did a presentation which is attached as Appendix B.
- Cllr Burgess manages the marae on a day-to-day basis. She has spoken with Marie-Jeanette van der Wal from the Picton Anglican Church from an emergency response perspective localised to Picton and what that looks like for the community and how we can help from each end, both the marae and the church.
- The marae has two Whānau Ora navigators, health and wellbeing of people, working at the marae to help people make plans to thrive, along with their families. There is a Kaiāwhina, or support person, who works with the Picton Medical Centre and local pharmacies, identified by community members as being important.
- We support Te Piki Oranga and the Heartland Services in Picton and get to know our community better and identify services that are important to the Picton community needs.
- We are getting bigger, development wise, and reaching out into more places, we would not typically be.
- We aim to be a place of belonging and connectiveness for our whole community.
- Over Covid we became the distribution centre for the Top of the South, including for Tua Marina and the wider Sounds as well. We also became a testing station and a place where we could get food and supplies to people when and where they needed it.
- There are two gardens at the marae now. One that sustains our kitchen when we have visitors to the marae, and the whanau in need in the community.
- The marae was originally a civil defence centre but is now no longer one. That doesn't mean we don't get the support we need when we are in a response. Cllr Burgess and Renée Love are civil defence CIMS trained. The rest of the marae staff are currently going through training.
- Between the Waikawa Marae and the Picton Anglican Church we believe we could keep Picton and Waikawa going for three days. At the marae we can provide all of the facilities in one place. We can sleep up to 120 people at one time. We can feed up to 300 people at one time as we have a commercial kitchen. We also have blankets in case people need to stay in a sheltered place.
- We need to discuss, as a community, what our needs are and what we can cover between ourselves. If we were cut off from Blenheim and the Queen Charlotte Drive, how would we activate and what that would look like, how to work together to ensure the whole community is covered and no one is left behind.
- People are welcome to visit the marae during July between 10.00 am to 2.00 pm Monday to Friday and visit the Matariki Exhibition.

Questions/Answers

- Have you taken over from the Civil Defence and has it been pulled back to the Marae?

Between us and Queen Charlotte College we are now identified as a venue or place of need. Radio training will be undertaken with the current team. When an emergency is identified Civil Defence look at the capabilities within those places and we get activated if needed.

- Do you get funding from Council?

The CIMS training is part of the Council. Two of our staff are in the Council Civil Defence team. The emergency container came from funding from the Rata Foundation. We went through central government, through different funds, to kit it out. The most recent being flood prevention around the container and the driveways to enter and exit safely.

- Do you have enough people to help out if an emergency were to occur? Or are you looking for support from community people to come and train with you?

We are looking for more people to train and be volunteers. We have revamped our phone tree system, which is the best way to get information out and to check on people. That was activated again during Covid. There is a role for everyone, and volunteers would be rostered out as needed. We would also have unskilled volunteers to help with cooking, etc, to do rotational rosters in an emergency that lasted a while.

8. Marlborough Environmental Grants Update (Zeke Hoskings, Marlborough District Council)

- Apologies were received as he went to the wrong location. He will now do his presentation at the September meeting.

9. Actions from the previous meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Katie Littlewood and Jorgia McMillan to present on Seagrass Health and its Benefits to the Ecosystem, as well as Council budget for this, at a future meeting. <i>Completed.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls / Kirsty Baldwin
2. Invite a Youth Council or Head Pupil representative from Queen Charlotte College to attend our meetings. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls / Kirsty Baldwin
3. Invite a representative from King Salmon to attend a meeting. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls
4. Compile a group contact list. <i>Completed.</i>	Kirsty Baldwin

10. General Business

- Picton Museum**

- The museum is hosting an exhibition about HerStory of Women's Rugby that is travelling around New Zealand.
- It is running until August. If your child enters wearing their rugby uniform it is free. Adults are \$5. Open from 10.00 am until 3.00 pm.

- Karaka Point & Environs Residents Association**

- In Port Underwood Road there is a corner which is a problem, most of the time. This time it got fixed, which lasted three days before a truck hit it. It's on the seaward side. It could be a mussel truck or a hoon. Ms Buchanan suggests writing to Steve Murrin to put railway irons on top as well so you will know who has done it. Clr Faulls will email him about this.

- Whatamango Bay Group**

- Don Miller is pleased to say that one of the big slips in Whatamango Bay has been fixed.
- He worries about the safety costs involved as workers seem to be not working very hard.
- He had to stop on the road for a feral pig going in. The ungulate problem is not under control. It could be a good food source for the marae.

- Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust**

- Logging trucks are still pounding through at 3.00 pm when children are leaving school which is dangerous.
- The Community Vehicle Trust have been given an almost new car from Marlborough Lines, which means they now have three almost new cars.
- We pointed out when we were asked for inclusion in the Annual Plan that we don't need any money.

- A brief discussion was held around the opening of another vaping shop and who allowed it. It will be located near Seamus' Irish Bar & Restaurant in Picton.
- **Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association**
 - We are trying to educate the Ministry of Fisheries that there is no difference between the snapper in the Marlborough Sounds and Tasman Bay and Nelson. They are allowed to catch 10. We are allowed to catch three. That is a big bug bear.
 - The member wants to increase the snapper catch from three to six to make it fair to everyone.
 - The member has been writing to the Ministry of Fisheries but has had no response.
 - We need to organise a public meeting in Marlborough with the iwi and Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association (MRFA).
- **Picton Dawn Chorus and Kaipupu Point**
 - Pip Macfarlane is happy to attend and listen in to the PRF group interactions as she is a new member.
 - Local pest numbers are being maintained.
 - They are looking at doing a feasibility study up Essons Valley to address ungulate control.
- **Tirimoana Anakiwa Residents Association**
 - It is almost unanimous that the new pathway at Tirimoana is a good thing.
 - Baxter's Beach is looking great.
- **Bike Walk Picton**
 - The new Wheelie Bin Recycling Program starts tomorrow across Marlborough.
 - The MDC Solid Waste Manager, Mark Lucas, and the Solid Waste Administrator, Georgie Sullivan, will be present to answer any questions around the new recycling process on Thursday 4 July between 10.30 am to 11.30 am at the Company Café at Picton Library and Service Centre.
 - With the increase in vaping shops in Picton this could increase battery vapes and could be a hazard to dispose of in the waste. Vape batteries could be disposed of in wheelie bins and could potentially catch fire. The shops need to get the message out about this. There is a bin for batteries to be recycled at Envirohub.
- **Te Ātiawa o Te Waka a Māui Trust**
 - It is business as usual in the iwi space.
 - It would be good to have an update on restoration projects at some point.

Beryl Bowers exited the meeting at 2.50 pm.

11. Actions from the meeting

	Action	Person Responsible
1.	Distribute the group contact list to the group when finalised. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls / Kirsty Baldwin
2.	Check the compliance and consent of vaping shops in Picton. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls

12. Proposed Future Speakers

- Picton Air Quality Management Update (Dr Sarah Pearson, MDC).
- Marlborough District Council Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy Update (Nicola Neilson, MDC).
- Marlborough Environment Grants Update (Zeke Hosking, MDC)
- National Policy for Freshwater Management Update (Dr Sarah Pearson, MDC).
- Roading Update (Charlotte Campbell-Lamerton, Marlborough Roads).
- Picton Sewerage Update (Stephen Rooney, MDC).
- Marlborough Sounds Fishing Update (Eric Jorgensen, Sustainable Seas).
- Marlborough Conservation Trust Update (James Wilson, Bryn Evans, Picton Dawn Chorus).
- Northwest Waikawa Marina Update (Gavin Beattie, Port Marlborough).
- King Salmon Update (Representative, New Zealand King Salmon)
- Wheelie Bin Recycling Rollout Programme Update (Mark Lucas, MDC).

13. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2024

Picton Regional Forum

- 2 September 2024
- 11 November 2024

The meeting closed at 2.55 pm.

Appendix A – Seagrass Health and its Benefits to the Ecosystem Update



The importance of seagrass on estuary and intertidal health



Seagrass - *Zostera muelleri*



Ecosystem Benefits

- Nursery habitat
- Stabilizes ocean floor
- Nutrient recycling > improving water quality
- Buffer between land and sea
- Nature-based solution to mitigate climate change



Anchoring

Smothering



Dredging

Sea level rise



Sea temperature rise

Stressors

Sedimentation run-off



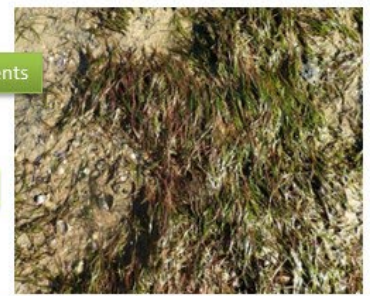
Land developments

Trampling



Extreme storm events

Discharge



Monitoring & Education

- Council's estuary monitoring programme shows seagrass presence in varying abundance and health over our 65 estuaries
- Council's Coastal Science team mapped over 20 estuaries in the 2023/2024 summer
- Recent funding increase
 - > Education
 - > Awareness
 - > Importance of nature-based solutions













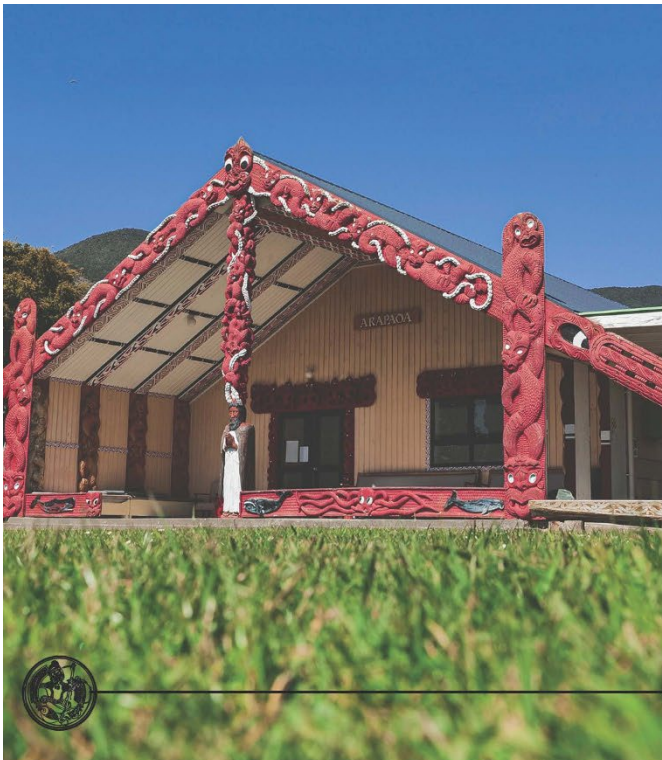
Sparse		Moderate		Dense	Complete
					
1 to <10 %	10 to <30 %	30 to <50 %	50 to <70 %	70 to <90 %	90 to 100 %
					

Fig. 6. Visual rating scale for percentage cover estimates. Macroalgae (top), seagrass (bottom). Modified from FGDC (2012).



Appendix B – Waikawa Marae Update

Ko wai matou?



Waikawa Marae

Mōu, mōku, mō ngā iwi katoa
For you, for me, for everyone.





Whakakotahi

In 1982 the first building was opened, it was the Wharekai or dining room.

It was named 'Whakakotahi' meaning united as one.



Arapaoa

Our Whare Tūpuna is a fully carved meeting house and was completed in the mid-1980s.

It was formally opened on the 24th April 1994 by Hon. Whetu Tirikatene-Sullivan on behalf of iwi katoa.





Waikawa Marae, today...

- Kaimahi
- Trustees
- Development

To continue being a place of belonging and connectedness for our community.



Te Whetu Marama

- Originally our Kōhanga Reo
- Māra
- Small business (Te Kohanga)
- Ora hub and distribution centre
- Wānanga





Emergency Response

- Training
- Facilities
- Kotahitanga
- Ipu (Contents, Purpose)
- Plan

To serve all of our community.



ka mua, ka muri.

Symbolising renewal, reflection, and connections. This exhibition honours our place, our people and our history, looking to the past to inform our future. A space purposefully created for our community to come together to celebrate all we are, all we do, and what we stand for, by acknowledging our past, living in the now, and envisioning our future.

Waikawa Marae
July 2024

Free event open to the public. Open daily (Monday-Friday) from 10am-2pm. More days and times will be posted.

Mōu, mōku, mō ngā iwi katoa

Please follow our facebook posts for more details!

@waikawamarae #mānawatiaamatariki



