

Picton Regional Forum held at Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton, on Monday 6 May 2024, at 1.30 pm

Present

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

Group Representatives

Raewyn Buchanan (Karakā Point & Environs Residents Association), Beryl Bowers (Picton Historical Society), Michelle Campbell (Grey Power), Stuart Eyes (Bike Walk Picton), Nicola Neilson (Marlborough District Council), Margaret McHugh (Picton, Marlborough Sounds Tourism), Don Miller (Greater Whatamango Bay Residents Association), Marie Jeanette van der Wal (Picton Anglican Holy Trinity Church, Picton Combined Churches Chair), Norm Hyde (Tirimoana Anakiwa Resident's Association), Valerie Kenny (Picton Museum), Brian Henstock (Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust) and Jorgia McMillan (Marlborough District Council).

Guest Speakers

Katie Littlewood (Marlborough District Council), Ailsa Carey (Harakeke Steering Group), and Gary Spence (Blenheim Civil Defence).

Attending

Kirsty Baldwin (Marlborough District Council Secretary)

Welcome

People were welcomed to the meeting by Clr Innes on behalf of Clr Faulls.

1. Apologies

Dean Heiford (Marlborough District Council), Pip Macfarlane (Picton Dawn Chorus), Laurie Stevenson (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association), Chris Davies (Waikawa Ratepayers Association), Monyeen Wedge (Queen Charlotte Sounds Residents Association), Janette Howard (Greater Whatamango Bay Residents Association), Bosun Huntley (Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association), and Connie Smith (Port Marlborough).

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 4 March 2024 were confirmed as correct. Moved by Margaret McHugh and seconded by Don Miller.

3. Temperature Trends in Marlborough Sounds Report Update (Katie Littlewood, Marlborough District Council)

- Katie Littlewood did a presentation which is attached as Appendix A.

Questions/Answers

- Is the salinity increasing dramatically?
The salinity has not been assessed in this study. It is a huge amount of work to do each parameter.
- Are temperature checks done at Port Underwood?
No, water quality data is not taken there.
- So why is the monitoring boat, the Storm Chaser in the Port Underwood area?
That is a NIWA survey boat. We don't believe they are collecting data. A lot of their research is very different information from what we collect and collate.
- The aqua activity, if it were put into Cook Strait, is it not colder there than the Outer Reaches?
Yes, it is. The temperatures are above what Cook Strait should be, what the average is, but they are still lower than our water temperatures in the Marlborough Sounds.
- You talk about the .7 degrees temperature in the data. What is the air temperature? Is it the same comparison, when you say that it is up or down?
To summarise, they are two very different sciences. Monitoring air is quite different and separate to monitoring sea temperatures.
- What is the Council budget for this, within your department?
It is very minimal. It could be in the Long-Term Plan Summary. It's a tiny part of Council budget. It is \$315,000 per year.
- Katie was thanked for her presentation and was asked how this rise in temperature could be mitigated? How effective will this be? What can we do?
Every little thing counts. Every person is responsible and can do something in a small way to help the situation, in their own backyard.

From a community perspective it is important to protect estuaries and intertidal areas and provide stability for ecosystems. A lot of these issues can be reduced by land use. Try to keep a low environmental impact. Manage your personal impact better. Reduce your impact.

- If we anchor a boat, how does that affect the temperature? What can we do to mitigate it?

Even where you choose to anchor your vessel, if the seabed looks nice underneath, it is recommended to anchor somewhere else.

It would be a good idea to promote some educational pamphlets for boaties, etc, via the Boat Clubs in Picton and Waikawa.

- There are issues in Kaikoura with seals dying due to running out of food because of the sea temperature rising. A lot of birds are starving to death along the East Coast. Are these real impacts on what is happening all the way through?

Yes, they are. Primary production is underpinned by water temperature.

- Mussel farmers are saying they can't get their mussels fat, is that all part of it?

Yes. Also, shellfish are struggling too with biotoxins affecting them.

- Comment was made on a study done in Denmark about five years ago and why we are different to them. They have different temperatures to us, a lot cooler. They also harvest different species.

- Fifty to 100 years ago what were the monitoring like then? We didn't have the studies. People say the same things were occurring, is that correct?

Yes, you are right. The world goes through continuous climate changes. Since the industrial revolution the use of oil and gas has increased, and we are seeing the fastest rate of warming in history. We are seeing intense storms, weather events, rain events. It is not just about things getting hotter. The weather events are now happening at a much closer time rate.

- All fish have a thermal level they can comfortably survive in. Salmon has a particular temperature threshold and because of the warming temperatures, particularly in Pelorus, they are struggling to maintain a good environment.

4. Harakeke Project Update (Ailsa Carey, Harakeke Steering Group)

- Ms Carey did a presentation, and her Hub poster is attached as Appendix B.
- Her background is that she was born and bred in Picton and has come home. She has had 25 years as a secondary teacher and 20 years at Marlborough REAP as a community education organiser running adult community courses, including down the Sounds and in rural areas.
- She joined a committee in Blenheim called Marlborough Rural Advisory Group, a joint venture between Council, farmers and people with rural interests. Everyone learns from each other. She is now Chair of that group.
- She is also involved with the Harakeke Project. She is there representing the rural community. The aim of that group is to connect people who are new to Marlborough, or who have lived here for a long time and are socially isolated. This is done through community hubs. We have four hubs currently operating. The Picton Library holds a community Company Cafe get together on a Thursday. It is also to promote the Marlborough Community Directory. It is done via the Citizens Advice Bureau. The Community Directory is a good source of local information about various hobby groups available.

- On a monthly basis on Tuesday mornings, there is one in the Blenheim Library, which is a smaller group. Having free tea and coffee is a good drawcard. There is a group called Good Bitches Baking who provide morning tea to the Blenheim Library Hub group.
- There is a hub happening in Havelock on a regular basis.
- Crossroads, in Blenheim, have their own internal hub.
- The facilitator wants to encourage people to go along to an existing hub, or if you are in a rural area and want to set up your own hub, the steering hub will help you set up and will support you.
- Wairau Valley and Seddon are communities that want to set up hubs in future.
- Age Concern, Ngāti Rāua, Public Health Service, Te Whata Ora, Crossroads, Blenheim Library, Picton Library, Marlborough Migrant Centre, Welcoming Committees, Marlborough Rural Advisory Group, Citizens Advice, Volunteer Marlborough, Marlborough Youth Trust and Supporting Families are on the steering committee and see value in these projects.
- Hosts are encouraged for the meetings, to set up the cups of tea, etc, and to be a welcoming face. "Sign poster's" roles are to encourage people to use the Community Directory and to connect with the hubs.
- Information and/or training sessions can be run by the Harakeke Steering Group.
- We are keen to promote the existing groups.
- We are trying to encourage people to join something and to perhaps pick up a new interest.
- In Picton there is a Heartlands Service Centre, as well as connections through the Marae. Cllr Allanah Burgess and the Marae to be future speakers at a Picton Regional Forum meeting.

Questions/Answers

- The Farmers Market on a Sunday could be a good place to offer a volunteer stall to promote the Harakeke Group?

Yes, that is a good idea.
- Cool Cat Chat could be a good link for young people to connect, who are moving to Blenheim who might be lonely?

Yes, Harakeke Project can promote themselves to that group.
- There could be a need for young NMIT students, who are new to town and don't know anybody, to create one of these groups to connect?

They are exploring new avenues to promote it where there is a need. They could also hold a hub occasionally at the colleges, to promote the Marlborough Community Directory.

It is about reaching all age groups, and possibly combining age groups.

Numbers are growing for people to find out information about these groups. What they are doing is vital as a lot of community groups are closing.

- The Picton Anglican Church run a fortnightly café called The Chat Room on Thursdays to support parents and caregivers. How can it be brought to the Community Directory?

The Minister was advised to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau and it would be added to their list.

- The Waitohi Social Club is run in Picton to help connect people as a lot of the local community groups have been disestablished.

Katie Littlewood and Jorgia McMillan exited the meeting at 2.40 pm.

5. Picton Maritime Emergency Management Update (Gary Spence, Blenheim Civil Defence)

- Gary Spence did a presentation which is attached as Appendix C.
- Every four years a Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan booklet is required to identify and mitigate hazards and how we will respond to them.
- Community Emergency Response Centres in Picton are located at the Port Marlborough Pavilion at Endeavour Park, the Fire Station and the Waikawa Marae.

Questions/Answers

- How many volunteers are there in Marlborough?

About 60 people are in the Incident Management Team (IMT) and 30 in the Emergency Response Team (ERT).

- How would Civil Defence communicate an emergency to groups or communities?

Through local mainstream media radio, Council web page, Facebook, Antenno, Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) emergency alert on cell phones and people doing physical door knocking if there is time.

- Do you hold educational discussions at schools? Is there enough personal responsibility?

Civil Defence try and give people public education. We don't go to schools unless we are invited. It is personal responsibility. We don't have the resources for a full-time public education team.

- Do Civil Defence get involved with forestry slash?

No.

- A few years ago, a group was set up in Picton. Is that still going?

No. We are looking at a local hub, with Fire and Police, and looking at developing a community hub. Getting volunteers together who can be trained to work a radio.

- How many people would you say you could call on?

The target is 100 for IMT responders. The first group of responders would be for the first 12-hour shift, and then you would need backup for the second shift. In the past events we have had to request staff from outside of the district, as we can't get enough trained staff here in Marlborough.

- How do you manage 30,000 dead bodies in dead body bags (based on the AF8 modelling of the Hikurangi Subduction Trench), is there a master plan?

Health agencies would oversee that, followed by the Police. We would get a lot of support internationally if that were required.

- Are we better equipped now to deal with a major event such as a Cyclone Gabrielle event or a cruise ship sinking-type disaster?

No, we are not. In a cruise ship incident, there is a large national plan in place for that kind of thing. Blenheim has a plan from a local perspective. In a large event such as Cyclone Gabrielle we would struggle with resources.

We have a plan for a casualty exodus in Picton. How do we fly them out? Most of them could be foreigners, tourists. Some of them could have no passports. Woodbourne is a good facility, as it could house a lot of people, temporarily.

New Zealand Red Cross could also offer emotional support but that would need to come from outside of the district.

- At Whatamango Bay there is a potential disaster with forest logging behind the settlement and if there was a big storm it could all come down.

Civil Defence are aware of that now.

Clr Allanah Burgess exited the meeting at 3.40 pm.

Brian Henstock exited the meeting at 3.40 pm.

Marie-Jeanette van der Wal exited the meeting at 3.45 pm.

6. Actions from the previous meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Forward a link to some other forestry studies. <i>Completed.</i>	Kirsty Baldwin / Angela Mackenzie
2. Distribute a media statement to invite new community member groups to attend the Picton Regional Forum meetings via the <i>Picton Happenings</i> and <i>Marlborough Matters</i> . <i>Completed.</i>	Nicola Neilson
3. Investigate the legalities of whether corporate groups could have different motivations and could attend the Picton Regional Forum meetings under the Terms of Reference document. <i>Completed – update by Clr Faulls.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls
4. Discuss and draft a new Terms of Reference document to be voted on. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls / Nicola Neilson
5. Enquire into the London Quay architect plan proposals and timeline. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Ben Minehan / Clr Barbara Faulls
6. Investigate how quickly the Dublin Street rail barrier arms can be reinstated. <i>Completed.</i>	Clr Barbara Faulls

Action	Person Responsible
7. Enquire into getting road signs to access walking to Picton town centre. <i>Pending.</i>	Clr Ben Minehan / Clr Barbara Faulls

7. General Business

- Nil.

8. Actions from the meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Katie Littlewood and Jorgia McMillan may present on Seagrass Health and its Benefits to the Ecosystem, as well as Council budget for this, at a future meeting. <i>Pending.</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>Pending.</i>	Kirsty Baldwin

9. Proposed Future Speakers

- iReX Update (Doug Carter, KiwiRail and/or Rose Prendeville, Port Marlborough).
- Importance of Seagrass Species on Estuary Health Update (Kate Littlewood and Jorgia McMillan, Coastal Scientist, MDC).
- National Policy for Freshwater Management Update (Sarah Pearson, MDC).
- Marlborough District Council Arts, Culture & Creativity Strategy (Nicola Neilson, 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 Williams, Picton Dawn Chorus).
- Small Townships Program Update (Heather Graham, MDC).
- Waikawa Marae Update (Councillor Allanah Burgess, Waikawa Marae and MDC).
- Northwest Waikawa Marina Update (Gavin Beattie, Port Marlborough).
- Wheelie Bin Recycling Rollout Programme Update (Mark Lucas, MDC).

10. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2024

Picton Regional Forum

- 1 July 2024
- 2 September 2024
- 11 November 2024

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.

Appendix A – Temperature Trends in Marlborough Sounds Report Update



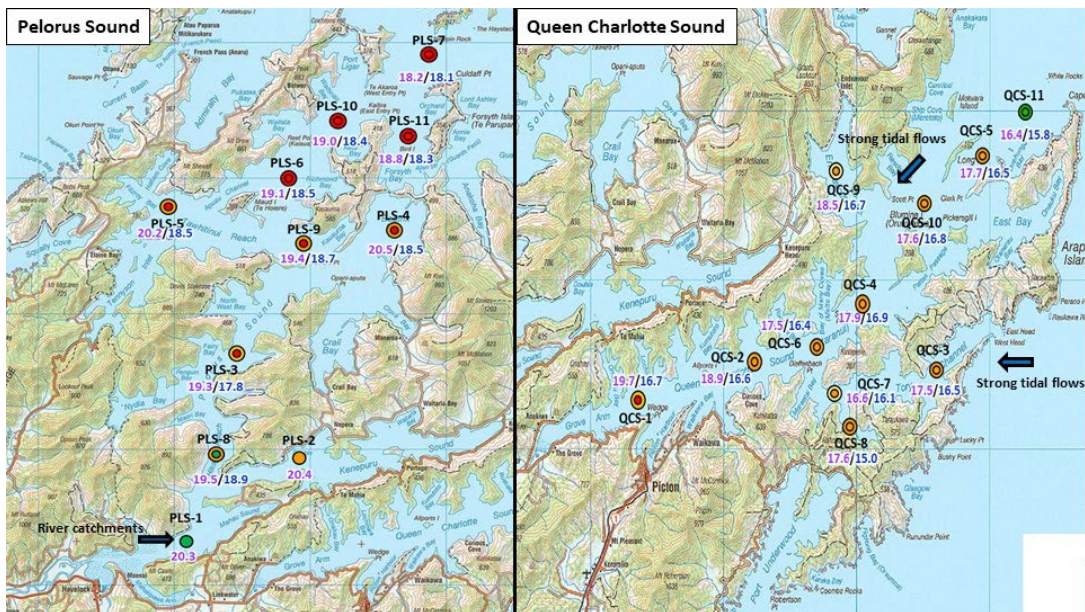
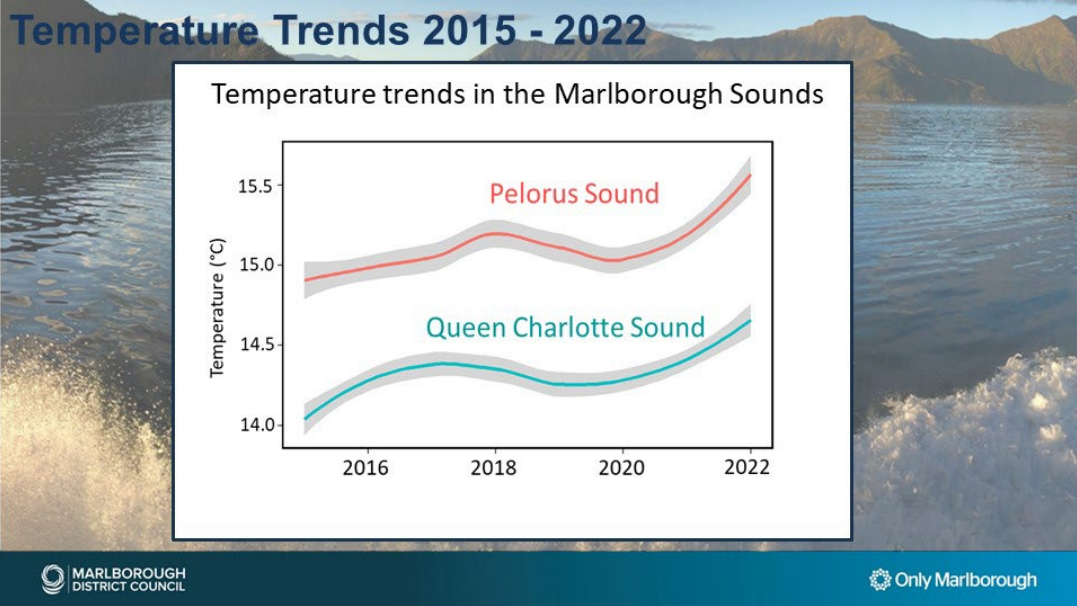
Coastal Water Quality - Monitoring

SOE - TEMPERATURE TRENDS 

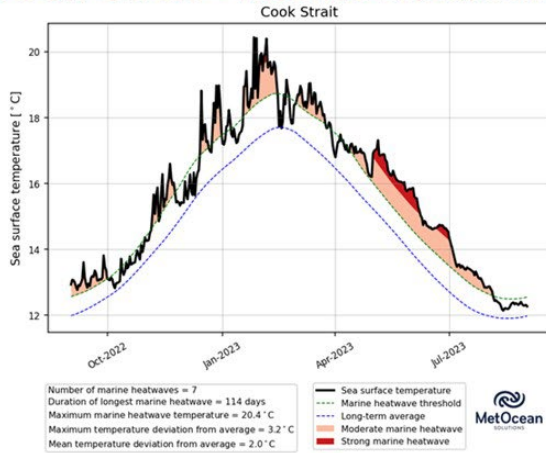
What is MDC doing?

- Monitor 22 sites across QCS and PLS
- Long term monitoring since 2011
- Measures several biological and physical parameters
- Important for measuring changes overtime



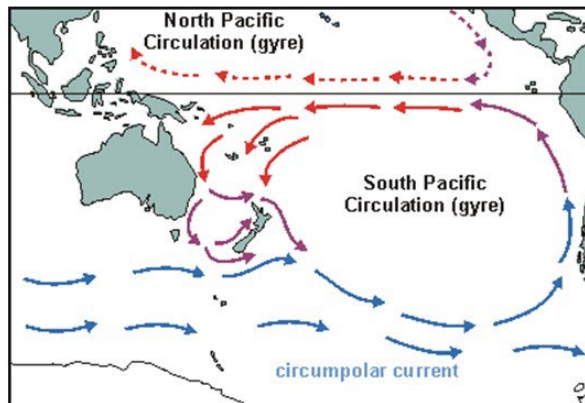


Cook Strait - Marine Heatwave



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Ocean Currents and El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



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biogenic habitat

Productivity

Loss of biodiversity

Range distributions

Pathogens

Pressures

Aquaculture

Mortality rates

Ocean Acidification

loss of Kelp species

Invasive species

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What can we do?

"The best way to enable coastal ecosystems to respond to climate change is to reduce human pressures" – MfE National Adaptation Plan

- Continued long term monitoring

Restoration

MEP Policies

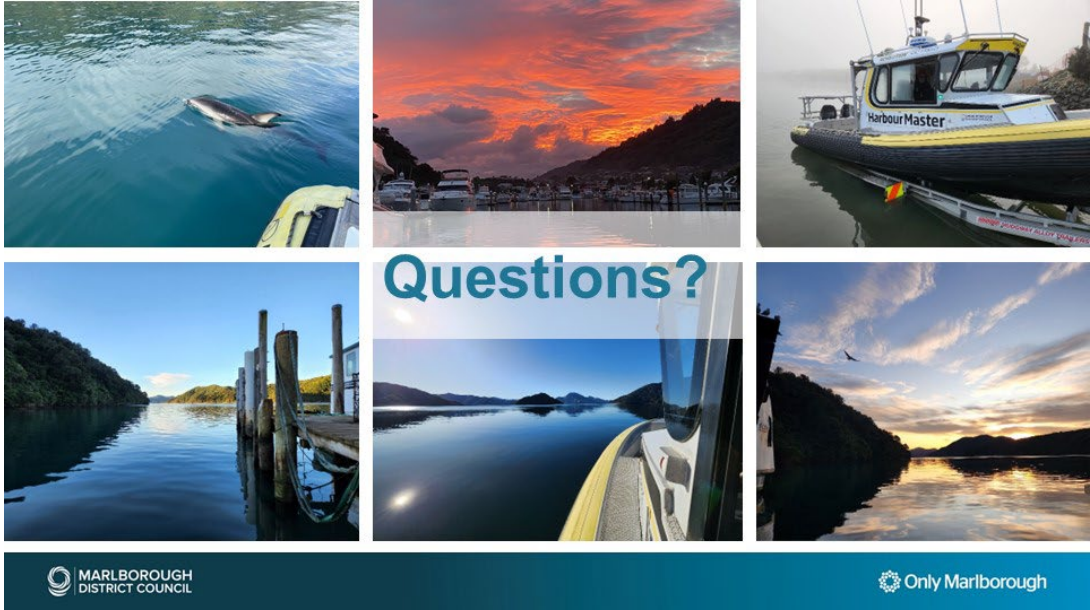
Land Management

Improve understanding

"A resilient natural environment can buffer the impacts of climate change for human and natural systems" – MfE National Adaptation Plan

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Appendix B – Community Connectedness Harakeke Hubs Project Update



FREE COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS HARAKEKE HUBS



HAVE A CUPPA, CHAT, & MEET NEW PEOPLE

DISCOVER GROUPS & SERVICES

Pelorus Community Lounge
(Behind Havelock Takeaways on Main Road)
Second Tuesday of the month
3:00pm – 4:30pm

Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library
(15 High Street, Blenheim)
Tuesday 21 May 24
2.00pm to 3.30pm

Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library
(15 High Street, Blenheim)
Tuesday 18 June 24
10.30am to 12.00 noon

Te Kahu o Waipuna Blenheim Library
(15 High Street, Blenheim)
Tuesday 16 July 24
10.30am to 12.00 noon

More info?
harakekehubs@gmail.com



EVERYONE WELCOME

Appendix C – Picton Maritime Emergency Management Update



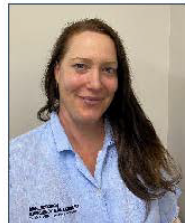
Gary Spence
Emergency Management Officer



Marlborough Emergency Management team



Brian Paton
Group Manager.



Kaja Mazzotti-Vetter
Group Welfare Manager.



Nikki Hannan
Admin Support



Gary Spence
Emergency Management Officer.



Dave Parsons
Senior Advisor, Community Resilience.

Why do we have an Emergency Management Group

It is a statutory requirement for Councils to :

“ plan for, respond to and recover from an emergency event in their area “

Under the CDEM Act 2002

- 1) A local authority must plan and provide for civil defence emergency management response within its district and provide suitably trained and competent personnel
- 2) A local authority must ensure that it is able to function to the fullest possible extent, even though this may be at a reduced level, during and after an emergency.
- 3) A Local Authority must, if requested, assist other Groups / Areas in an emergency response, if they are able to. Before responding consideration needs to be given to the effects that event is having within their own area first.



Areas we work in

Incident Management Team



Community Support



Response Teams





Emergency Management's role in an emergency may be to act as the Lead Agency, or act as a support agency to the Lead Agency



An Emergency by CDEM (Civil Defence Emergency Management) Act definition

Is the result of any happening, whether natural or otherwise, including, without limitation any :

- Explosion
- Eruption
- Land movement
- Storm
- Cyclone
- Infestation
- Plague
- Leakage or spillage of any dangerous gas or substance
- Failure or disruption to an emergency service or a lifeline utility
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Flood
- Tornado
- Serious fire
- Technological failure
- Epidemic
- Actual or imminent attack or warlike act



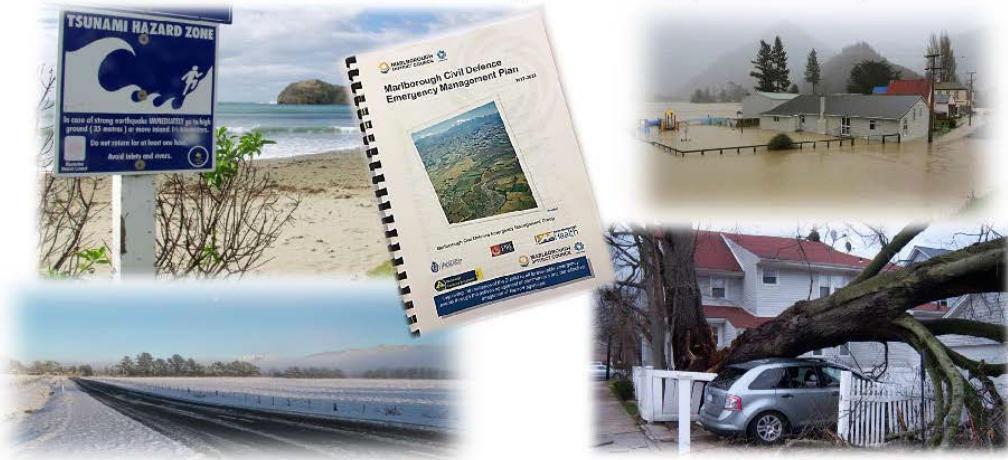
(A) Causes or may cause loss of life or injury or illness or distress or in any way endangers the safety of the public or property in any part of New Zealand;

(B) Cannot be dealt with by emergency services, or otherwise requires a significant and coordinated response under the CDEM Act 2002.



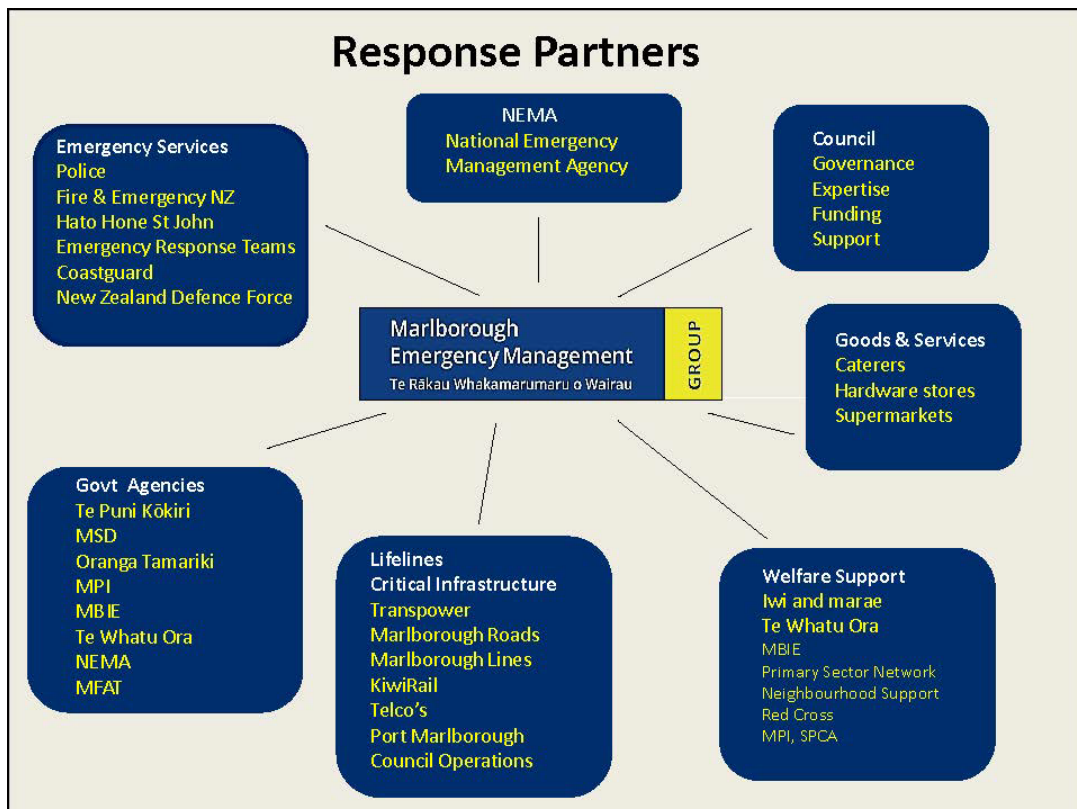
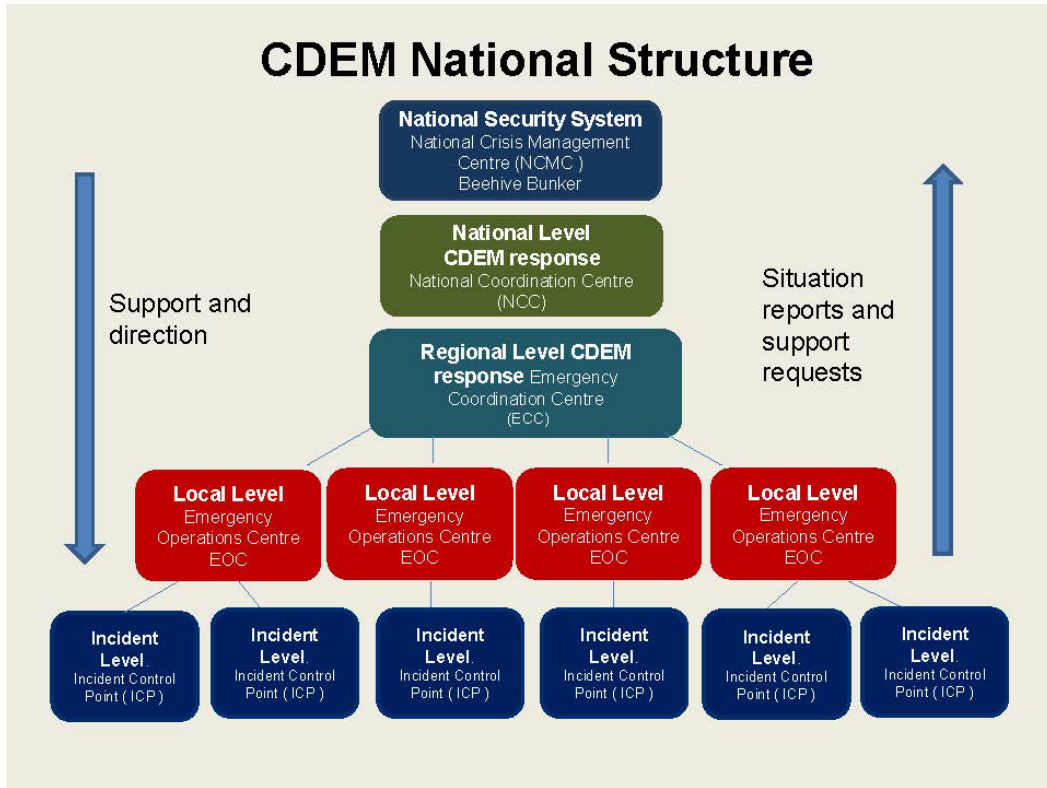


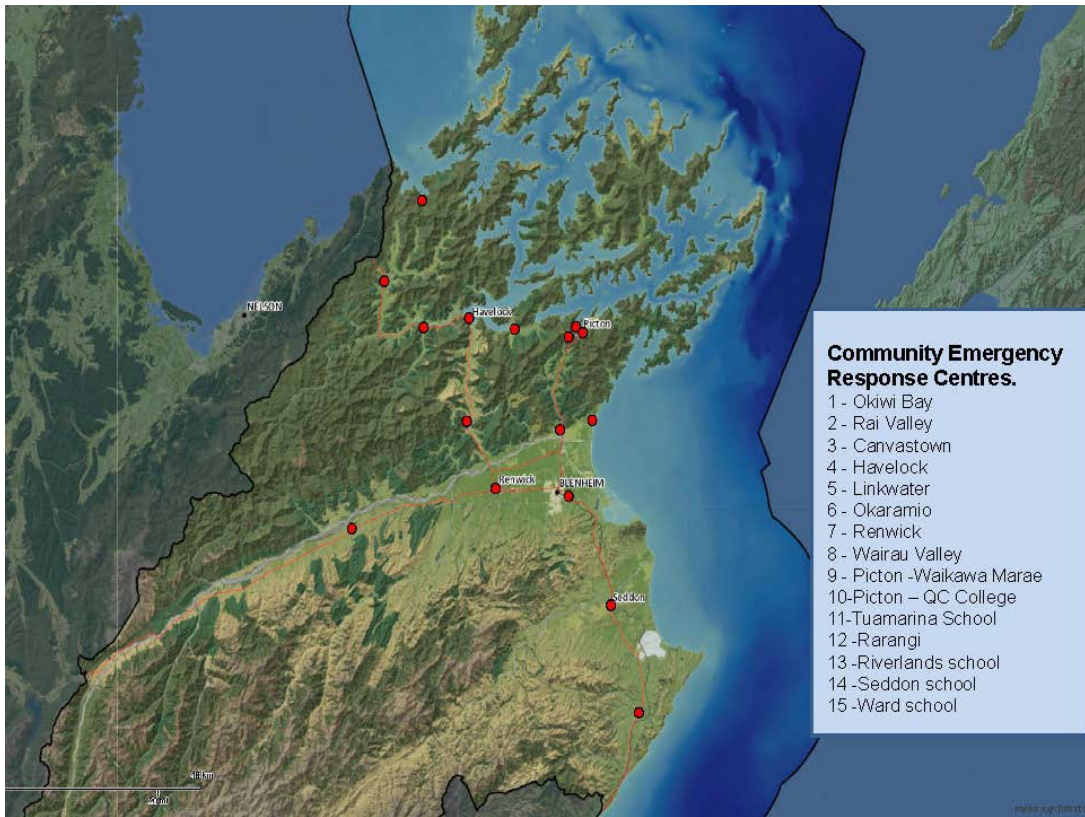
We plan and train to better respond to emergencies in our region or in other regions



But there are also other hazards ?







So how do we respond ?



Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS)



Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) is a nationally recognised response structure. It defines protocols, roles and responsibilities for response agencies

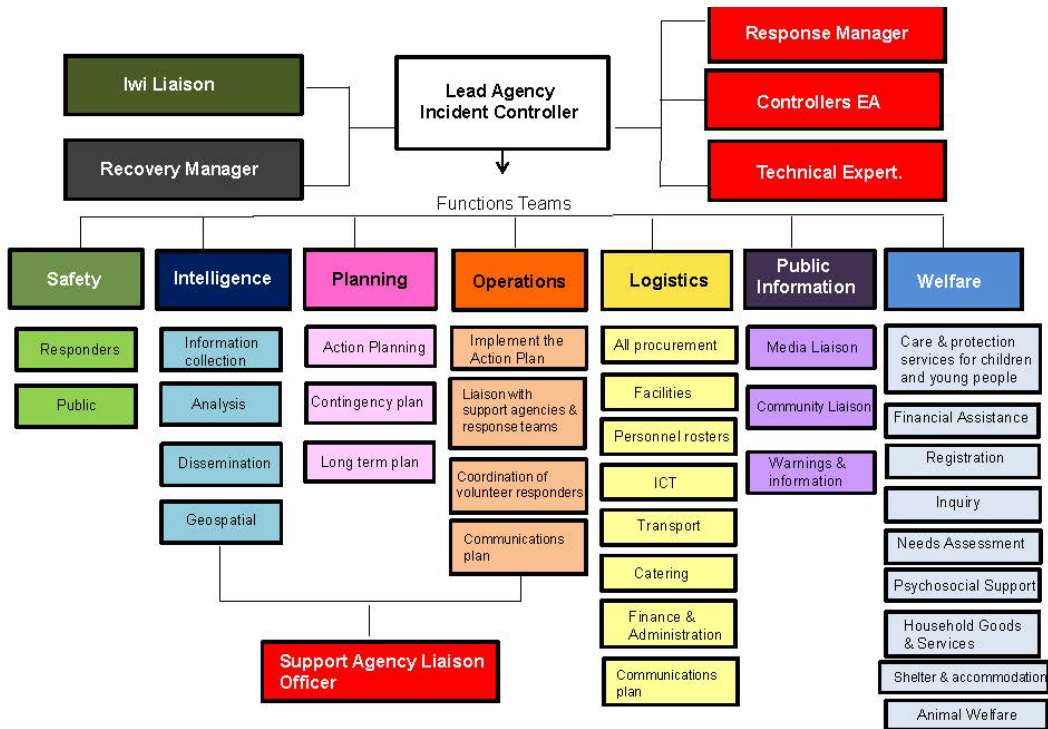
The Incident Management Team (IMT)

In an emergency, the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), may be activated, at which time available trained personnel would respond to assist. The volunteers are trained to carry out various tasks as part of the CIMS response structure. Each function has a nationally recognised colour as below.



Intelligence
Gather information about the incident, analyse it and disseminate it to other responding agencies. Continue to revise and update information
Planning
Creates the initial action plan, contingency plan and transition to recovery plan.
Logistic
Source all resources required for the response as well as personnel.
Operations
Implement the agreed plan utilising the resources on hand
Safety
Ensure the actions taken are not hazardous to the responders or the public
Public information (PIM)
Liaise with media for all releases of information to the public. They also host visiting dignitaries such as Mayors and Politicians
Welfare
Take care of people and animals that are affected by the emergency event. They also establish and manage the Civil Defence Centres if they are required.





NZ-RT20 Marlborough Emergency Response Team. Training pathway



The Response Team train weekly. While members are not expected to train every week, there is a minimum requirement for training hours

Coordination Centres



(NMC) located in the Beehive Bunker and is a multi agency facility

NCC (National Co-ordination Centre) will work out of the National Crisis Management Centre



ECC / EOC (Regional or local level)
A location, static or mobile where overall direction, control, inter-agency coordination and resource management can be directed from.



ICP (Incident Control Point)
A facility closest to the incident where on site coordination can be monitored from. A checkpoint for arriving or departing response teams.



Incident Controller's Powers Declared State of Emergency

- Declaration is a "tool" which allocates additional powers within the CDEM act to the Incident Controller, if it is determine that the response needed, is outside of the resources on hand.
- Do not need to have a declaration for considerable coordination and support to be provided such as assistance from various agencies or from neighbouring districts if they are able to.
- Declaration is made by elected officials
(Mayor, Deputy Mayor or selected council officials)

Examples of Declaration powers

- Conservation of food, water, fuel, essential supplies
- Prohibit or control land, water and air travel
- Entry of premises
- Force evacuations
- Removal of aircraft, vessels or vehicles
- Powers of requisition
- Undertake measures for the disposal of dead persons or animals
- Apply cordons and temporary speed restrictions and road control



So.....what do we do when there are no emergencies ?



Our business as usual

We plan, train and work with our communities to create resilience. This allows us to identify our hazards and to reduce the effect they may have on us.



Recent Responses

2019 - Nelson Pigeon Valley Fires

2020 - COVID 19

2020 - Westcoast severe weather events

2021 & 2022 - Marlborough severe weather events

2023 - Auckland floods

2023 - Cyclone Gabrielle

2024 - Westcoast Haast / Franz Joseph severe weather event



Thank you for the invitation and your time