



Welcome to the third edition of Sounds Advice, a Marlborough District Council (Council) newsletter to keep in touch with what’s happening to help protect and enhance the Sounds environment. Good water quality is crucial for aquaculture, farming, fishing, tourism and recreation and what happens on the land has a direct impact on that. This newsletter provides a snapshot of activities and services that Council is involved with in your community.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Sounds Advisory Group (SAG) is an important link to the Sounds community and stakeholders, which meets regularly to discuss issues important to Sounds residents. These include, for example, coastal water quality, biodiversity, moorings, roading, reserves, waste and general resource management issues. Chairman and Sounds Councillor Trevor Hook, says the group allows for connectivity between the community and Council, helping parties to better understand the issues and provide a forum where we can all seek balanced resolutions to complex matters. Members of SAG are the eyes and ears of the Sounds - please contact your local representative if you have an issue for Council.

SEABED MARVELS REVEALED IN MAPPINGS

The mapping of the seabed in Queen Charlotte Sound/Totaranui has revealed a underwater landscape that has been hidden until now.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA) was contracted in October 2016 by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to undertake hydrographic surveying services for the Queen Charlotte Sound/Totaranui and Tory Channel/Kura Te Au Hydrographic Survey.

This work was commissioned by a partnership between LINZ and the Council. It found many features that were unknown or different to previously thought, including four notable features.

One of these is a “sill” in outer Queen Charlotte Sound/Totaranui that separates the relatively calm inner Sound from the tidally dominated deeper Cook Strait. There was also a seafloor depression or scour that occurs throughout Tory Channel/Kura Te Au and is flanked by shallow bays; as well as extensive rocky ridges extending into Cook Strait, and the extensive flat areas of seafloor plains. The mapping also shows the marginal bays and inlets of Queen Charlotte Sound/Totaranui, that, while shoaling at their heads, are similar depths to those of central Sound. In contrast, the marginal bays of Tory Channel/Kura Te Au are shallower than the central channel..

The mapping provides a wealth of information that will underpin future management of the survey area, for example, with marine farms, helping Council staff and others understand the relationship between the farms and marine landscapes such as rocky reefs.

The seafloor mapping campaign took 280 days on the water, taking soundings on 224 days from two vessels. This survey has gathered more than 30 terabytes of digital information, with an estimated 5,549,300,000 depth-data points collected by the multibeam systems across a coverage of 433 km².



NIWA Blue Water Chart Series showing bathymetry over 43,000 hectares of Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and Tory Channel / Kura Te Au.

APP KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WITH COUNCIL

Antenno is a free mobile app that sends you notifications and alerts about places you care about.

Antenno is simple and easy to use and no personal information or log on details are required. Antenno sends information directly to you.

Initially Antenno will alert you to: irrigation updates; changes to rubbish and recycling collections; road closures; water and wastewater outages and shutdowns; and emergency event updates, but more types of updates will be added.

Antenno can also be used to immediately tell Council about things that need fixing, or give us feedback, direct through the app’s ‘your reports’ menu.

Antenno is available on both Apple and Android smartphones and it’s free. For more information visit Council’s website: <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps/antenno>



CIVIL DEFENCE REMINDER

It's two years since the Kaikoura earthquake hit, but it is still a good reminder of how vulnerable we are in Marlborough, where so many fault lines run. Not only is there a risk of the Alpine Fault shifting, the Hikurangi Subduction Zone also threatens Marlborough if it moves.

In the Sounds, we are at risk not just of the earth moving, but also of the sea if a sharp earthquake causes a tsunami. The Council has inundation maps on its website, and residents are encouraged to look at these and work out their escape plans in the event of an emergency.

The effects of the tsunami are likely to be made worse by the narrow Sounds and the water could reach higher than you might expect.

In the event of a severe earthquake, it may take some time for help to arrive, particularly if you are in an isolated area. Make sure you have supplies of food, water, and fuel, and get to know your neighbours so that you can help each other in times of need.

Remember: if the earthquake is long or strong, be gone - get to high ground.

<https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smaps/?map=61a36a29276b4d4888306321f4448b83>

HARBOURMASTER MESSAGE

Speed is going to be the focus of the Harbourmaster's Office this summer, with staff out using "marine speed cameras" to ensure boaties keep to speed limits. Harbourmaster Luke Grogan says there will be zero tolerance for any vessels breaching the marked five knot speed restrictions in the Marlborough Sounds.

Those stretches of water - such as the one by Picton Marina - are supposed to create safer corridors for kayaks and people swimming, he says.

Another area the Harbours staff will be looking at closely is ski lanes around the Sounds.

Luke says the ski lane at Ngakuta Bay has been moved, with the angle of it and its markings changed to try to create more space.

He says the plan is to keep the ski lane activities away from other activities in the Bay.

Harbours staff now have a jet ski to help them get out quickly on patrol to police the ski lanes.

"We'll also be encouraging and taking jet skis away from the ski lanes as that space isn't for jet skis."



CAMPING RANGER ON CALL 24/7

The new toilet facilities paid for by Government funding will be in place for the summer, and the Council is gearing up for a busy summer with freedom campers.

Council Reserves Manager, Jane Tito, says rangers will be available 24/7 to enforce camping rules, and if anyone sees a problem, they can alert the ranger through the Council's Call Centre on 03 520 7400, which is staffed all the time.

She encourages people to ring the Council to alert the rangers to any issues as that helps the Council collect information on what is happening in the Sounds.

The upgraded toilet facilities include Torea Bay, Okiwi Bay, Anakiwa, Double Bay, Havelock, Rai Valley, and the Picton Foreshore.

ESTUARY HEALTH BEING MONITORED

Land use change is threatening the health of some estuaries in the Marlborough Sounds.

The Council has had 10 estuaries surveyed earlier this year to characterise habitats, condition and risk.

Most are in good condition with a range of risks identified, but the Kenepuru estuary is in poor ecological health, reflecting the large sediment inputs into Kenepuru Sound from Te Hoiere/Pelorus River and surrounding catchment disturbance.

The estuaries that are in good condition are largely in areas with intact, relatively stable and/or small catchments, such as Tennyson Inlet, Grove Arm, Whatamango Bay and Greville Harbour/Wharariki. Relatively large areas of

seagrass, saltmarsh and sand/cobble/gravel substrate reflect relatively low sediment supply from stable catchments.

The land uses in these catchments are predominantly native forest, often with small pastoral farming areas and/or small settlements in close proximity. However, some such as Tuna Bay estuary in Tennyson Inlet and Okiwa Bay at the head of the Grove Arm are at risk from a significant change in surrounding land uses in the near future.

Council is to review the aims and objectives of the estuary monitoring programme early next year. The outcome of this review will contribute to a refresh of the 2012 Coastal Monitoring Strategy.



KING SHAG MONITORING STARTED

The first-ever banding of NZ King shags as part of a new scientific research initiative saw 11 fledglings and one adult successfully banded during winter. To date all are reportedly doing well.

The King Shag working group involves DOC, Ministry for Primary Industries, the Marine Farming Association (MFA) and members, community members and Wildlife Management International. Banding took place at Tawhitinui Bay in outer Pelorus Sound/Te Hoiere after months of preparation. Each nesting bird was banded with a metal ring and numbered plastic ring to allow Sounds users to report sightings. MFA President Jonathan Large says as users of public water space, marine farmers have a responsibility to the environment and the science that supported it.

“We don’t know what’s causing any possible decline in King shag numbers. To date we’ve only had some snapshot science. That’s why we are supporting this research project on an ongoing basis.”

More king shags will be banded next year and the public are asked to report a sighted bird’s number and location to info@marinefarming.co.nz or MFA hotline 0800 433 2747.



Nikki McArthur from Wildlife International Limited nestles a King Shag for banding

PROTECTING SIGNIFICANT SITES

The fourth annual monitoring of ecologically significant marine sites in the Marlborough Sounds has been endorsed by the Significant Marine Site Expert Panel.

The monitoring found five new significant sites, including a rare rhodolith (calcified algae bed) in Woodlands Bay, and reefs in Tuhitarata Bay and Ouokaha Island, a new elephantfish spawning site and a tubeworm bed both in Tennyson Inlet, and a new current swept community in Waitata Reach.

The Significant Marine Site Expert Panel endorsed the Monitoring Report’s identification of Tennyson Inlet as a significant site. “What makes Tennyson Inlet special are ... the marine habitats of Tennyson Inlet represent an area in a relatively natural, pre-human “natural” state.”

The expert panel notes that commercial dredging and trawling is excluded from Tennyson Inlet, and recommends that recreational dredging be excluded as well.

The report will be passed to Council’s Environmental Policy Unit for inclusion in any future plan change in the Marlborough Environment Plan.

https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Environment/Coastal/Significant%20Marine%20Sites%20Monitoring%20Update%20List/Significant_Marine_Sites_Monitoring_Report_2018.pdf

PROPOSED MARLBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT PLAN UPDATE

Hearings are continuing on the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan, which will become the district’s main planning document.

More than 1,300 submissions were received, with more than 17,000 separate submission points. So far, 19 of the 22 topics raised in submissions have been heard by the Hearings Panel, with the most recently heard blocks of hearings on forestry and allocation of public space within the coastal marine area. The hearings are expected to be completed in February.

You can find out more information on the hearings via the Council’s website:

<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/resource-management-policy-and-plans/proposed-marlborough-environment-plan>

TREES AND POWER LINES A RISK

About 20 per cent of all power outages are caused by trees around power lines - that’s one in five.

Dry conditions also lead to increased fire risk.

With warmer, drier weather approaching, now is a good time to check the trees around your property.

Marlborough Lines spends about \$2.2 million a year cutting back trees from power lines, most of that in the Marlborough Sounds, Managing Director Ken Forrest says. The company uses people on the ground, helicopters and drones to check out lines, but Ken encourages anyone who sees potential problems to contact Marlborough Lines.

For more information, visit: <https://www.marlboroughlines.co.nz/Safety/Tree-and-Powerlines.aspx>

SOUNDS WASTE MANAGEMENT

Community and Visitor Update Summer 2018/19

The map below shows the location of waste and recycling facilities that service the Marlborough Sounds area.

Opening hours:

(Picton (all year) Monday to Friday - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday - 8.00 am to midday Sunday - midday to 4.00 pm

Picton (January) Monday to Friday - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm
Saturday & Sunday - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Havelock (all year) Monday to Friday - 8.00 am to 2.00 pm
Saturday & Sunday - midday to 4.00 pm

Havelock (January) Monday to Friday - 8.00 am to 2.00 pm
Saturday & Sunday - 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Rai Valley (all year) Monday & Friday - 9.00 am to midday
Sunday - 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Rai Valley (January) Mon, Tues, Fri - 9.00 am to midday
Saturday - 9.00 am to 3.00 pm Sunday - 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Rural community recycling containers:

These containers accept cans, glass, card/paper and plastics (1-7). No charges apply.

Transfer stations: These sites accept rubbish (charges apply) and recycling (no charges apply).

Coin skips: These skips are coin operated (\$3) and accept rubbish.

Picton Marina: Accepts bagged, compactable rubbish from residents and visitors returning from Marlborough Sounds accommodation by boat (no charges apply).

KEY

(R) - Rural community recycling bin 24/7 opening

(C) - Coin skip 24/7 opening

(O) - Picton Marina 24/7 opening (boat access only)

(T) - Transfer stations



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE....

It seems a little strange to be talking about water when we're surrounded by the glorious Marlborough Sounds. Many of us who live or holiday in the Sounds rely on shared water supplies, rainwater tanks or springwater. These are all vulnerable in an emergency.

Your water supply can be affected by weather or an earthquake, so take the time to think about how you would manage if that happened. Can you get water from somewhere else? How would you treat the water to make it safe to drink?

It might not be a 'natural disaster', but contaminated drinking water can certainly make for a disastrous holiday! Whether you are on a shared supply or have access to your own water source, it's worth taking the time to get your drinking water tested to ensure it's safe for you, your family and other visitors.

Testing is easy and inexpensive. For more information about testing, take a look at <https://www.hill-laboratories.com/testing/water-testing/drinking-water/>

SUMMER WATER MONITORING

The Council will be monitoring the most popular swimming sites around Marlborough during the summer season again this year.

Ten coastal and seven river sites are being monitored each week, with the results of the sampling to be found on the Land and Water Aotearoa NZ website: <https://www.lawa.org.nz/>

If sampling shows E.Coli levels are above the guidelines, Council will place signs at the site informing the public. Monitoring will continue until the end of March 2019.

Coastal Beaches

- Whites Bay
- Robin Hood Bay - East
- Anakiwa
- Picton Foreshore
- Waikawa Bay
- Momorangi Bay
- Ngakuta Bay
- Governors Bay
- Mistletoe Bay
- Okiwi Bay

River Sites

- Te Hoiere/Pelorus River at Totara Flat
- Te Hoiere/Pelorus River at Pelorus Bridge
- Ohinemahuta River at Onamalutu Domain
- Wairau River at Ferry Bridge
- Wairau River at Blenheim Rowing Club
- Taylor River at Riverside
- Waihopai River at Craiglochart #2



250 YEARS SINCE COOK MET IWI

The spotlight will be on the Marlborough Sounds next year, as 2019 marks 250 years since Captain James Cook made his first voyage to New Zealand.

The marking of this is being called Tuia 250 First Encounters, and it starts in Gisborne in September, marking Cook’s first arrival in New Zealand at Young Nick’s Head.

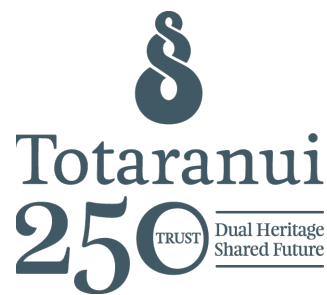
Cook arrived in Ship Cove/Meretoto on January 15, 1770 and came back four times during his three visits to New Zealand. Three-quarters of his time in New Zealand was spent in the Sounds, and it is understood that the Sounds were his most favourite place in the Pacific.

In Marlborough, the commemorations are focussed on our dual heritage and shared futures. There will be a community commemoration of the first encounters between Māori and Europeans and the common threads between them - voyaging, discovery and connection to nature.

Marlborough Mayor John Leggett says this commemoration is an important event for Marlborough, and he hopes many people will get involved in the projects around the event, especially residents of the Sounds.

Work is underway to develop a public programme that will be free for all to participate in. This includes an event in Picton, and curating and creating local stories to strengthen our sense of identity; Marlborough is an important place of first encounters between Māori and Europeans.

For further information please follow the project on Facebook and at <https://www.totaranui250.co.nz/>



PROTECTING AGAINST RURAL WILDFIRE – EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

Fire in our landscape is everyone’s responsibility – make sure you are up to date with the latest on fire permits and how to protect yourself and your property from the threat of rural wildfire.

For more information visit: <http://www.mkrfa.com>



PEST MANAGEMENT TO TARGET FANWORM

A new Regional Pest Management Plan is in place now, and includes the marine pest Mediterranean fanworm.

Due to the increase in finds of Mediterranean fanworm in Picton Marina in the past year, Biosecurity staff have developed a more in-depth operational programme for this year and those to come. More effort will be concentrated in the Picton Marina to search and remove fanworm that may be present and additional sites in Endeavour Inlet, Meretoto/Ship Cove, Duncan Bay and Elaine Bay have been added to the programme, where surveillance will be carried out in December and April.

Biosecurity staff are also developing a monitoring programme on the seafloor outside the Picton Marina.

The Regional Pest Management Plan 2018 focuses on pests that are a threat to biosecurity. As well as including programmes for the management of well-known pests such as nassella tussock, rabbits, and Chilean needle grass, the plan covers a range of pests that pose a risk to our region, including excluding wallabies and Mediterranean fanworm.

Plan Hearings Chair Councillor Cynthia Brooks says the new programme for Mediterranean fanworm is the first time this Council has addressed a marine pest threat in a pest management plan. "It is here in relatively low numbers so the programme aims to get ahead of it now under an exclusion programme."

Councillor Brooks said it is important to emphasise the difference between the risks covered by the Plan, as opposed to the number of submissions that were heard on pests with a biodiversity risk, for example old man's beard. In instances such as these the Panel recommended that they go back to Council staff and be included in a biodiversity strategy.



Biosecurity Officer David Webb inspecting a hull for fanworm

YOUR SOUNDS ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

Rick Osbourne	Industry Assn
Eric Jorgensen	
Debbie Stone	
Judy Hellstrom	
Ken Roush	
Linda Booth	
Lynley Perkins	Te Hoiere
Monyeen Wedge	
Poneke Rene	Residents Assn
Rachel Drake	
Rob Schuckard	Assn
Dave Hayes	Conservation
Ross Withell	Sounds
Tim Greenhough	
Victor Koller	(Mahau Sound)
Nadine Taylor	
David Oddie	
Trevor Hook	

TAKING ACTION TO PROTECT ISLANDS

The pest-free islands of the Marlborough Sounds are vital in conservation of our rarest native animal and plant species. Without pest-free islands providing safe havens, many more species would now be extinct. Blumine and Motuara Islands are home to a number of endangered species such as kakariki, robin, saddleback, mohua and kiwi. They are open to the public to enjoy, however your help is essential in ensuring they remain pest-free:

- Rats and mice can hide away on boats and get onto islands, even if they are moored off the island. Lay rat poison or set traps on your boat and check regularly
- Check all bags, containers and gear to ensure they do not harbour insects or weed seeds
- Scrub your footwear and check socks and pockets for weed seeds
- Leave your dog (or cat!) on the boat
- Do not light any fires
- Take all rubbish away with you.



MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

15 Seymour Street
PO Box 443
Blenheim 7240
NEW ZEALAND

Ph: +64 3 520 7400
Fax: +64 3 520 7496
Email: mdc@marlborough.govt.nz
www.marlborough.govt.nz