

# Heritage





Mayor and councillors arriving to open Riverside Park

## HERITAGE

Knowledge of the past helps us understand where we have come from and what makes us special. Places of cultural heritage have lasting value and teach us about the past and the culture of those who came before us. They provide variety and contrast in the modern world and also visible evidence of the continuity between past, present and future. However, heritage resources are often fragile and may be adversely affected by activities, development or lack of care and maintenance. The challenge is for us to manage change, recognising the need to allow communities to alter and grow, whilst ensuring that significant heritage resources are retained for both present and future generations.

## HERITAGE STRATEGY

The draft heritage strategy referred to in the 2002/2003 Update report has now been formally adopted by the Council. The main outcome sought from the strategy is that “Marlborough’s heritage resources will be acknowledged, valued and enjoyed by present and future generations”.

The various roles of the Council in managing Marlborough’s heritage resources are acknowledged in the strategy. While these roles have a strong statutory basis (e.g. Historic Places Act 1993, Resource Management Act 1991), the strategy promotes a broader view of the importance of maintaining Marlborough’s heritage. This includes that:

- heritage is essential to the health and well-being of the community and should be accessible to all;
- Marlborough’s heritage is a central feature of its character and identity and provides a sense of place; and
- heritage enriches the lives of people and creates opportunities for enterprise and employment.

Taking these broader views and blending them with the statutory responsibilities, the Council becomes:

- a *custodian and manager* of Marlborough’s heritage resources and assets;
- an *architect and planner* of Marlborough’s physical form;
- a *provider* of information and resources that promote heritage opportunities and facilities;
- an *enabler, facilitator, supporter and partner* of groups and individuals actively involved in the management of heritage in Marlborough;
- an *advocate* for heritage and for Marlborough’s heritage custodians; and
- a *promoter* of Marlborough’s heritage resources to its communities and to its visitors.

Beside central and local government, many groups and individuals are actively involved in helping to preserve Marlborough’s heritage. These include

Celebrating the opening of Riverside Park



community organisations, iwi, societies and companies. Collectively these groups carry out an enormous amount of work and the Council acknowledges that without this it would be very difficult to sustainably manage Marlborough's heritage.

*Opening of Riverside Park*



With preparation of the strategy having been completed, the Council is now looking to put into place, its objectives and policies. Three specific projects will be worked on in the initial stages, which as they develop, will actually work towards achieving the strategy's objectives. This initial work includes progressing an inventory of Marlborough's heritage resources, establishing and consolidating relationships with heritage partners, and promoting the sustainable use and enjoyment of Marlborough's heritage resources.

The first two projects, progressing an inventory and building relationships, have been identified as priority tasks with funding being made available to carry out this work. The overall promotion aspect of sustainably using and enjoying Marlborough's heritage resources will not be directly worked on until further funding is available, however through working on the first two projects, there will still be some indirect benefit to this strand of work.

## INVENTORY OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

The 2002/3003 Update reported on three projects aimed at gathering information on the scope and state of Marlborough's heritage resources. This included research

on archaeological sites, assessments of the health and condition of heritage trees listed in the resource management plans and identification of additional trees to be added, and thirdly, the review and updating of information in the plans on heritage buildings and places. This work is still ongoing.

Having up-to-date information allows the Council to respond to legislative imperatives such as the changes to the Resource Management Act, which have made the protection of historic heritage a matter of national importance. Additionally, to be able to capitalise on heritage assets, the community needs information about those very assets. This work is considered a necessary cornerstone to successful implementation of the strategy, and an important lever in securing the commitment of other organisations to the strategy.

*Facade of Oxleys Hotel - Picton  
(Class A heritage building)*





## ESTABLISH AND CONSOLIDATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH HERITAGE PARTNERS

While the Council already works with some organisations and groups, it will be looking to strengthen these relationships, particularly where those groups already receive Council funding. One specific aim is to link different groups together using the strategy as a common point, so that the greatest use can be made of the scarce resources available.

Building these partnerships is seen as crucial to the success of the inventory, since the information that is held by organisations around the district will form the major part of the inventory.

*Band rotunda*

## PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF MARLBOROUGH'S HERITAGE RESOURCES

The promotion of heritage resources completes the circle of implementation. By raising the profile of, and celebrating these resources, their value to the Marlborough community will become more obvious, and in turn begin to return value to the community.

Whilst the inventory and the partnership strands are about securing the ability to preserve and protect our heritage, promotion is aimed at ensuring this work generates immediate benefits to present generations.

*Historic brick wall at A & P Park*

