



New chief executive for Council



New Council Chief Executive John Boswell

Council has appointed a new chief executive after an extensive national advertising campaign and recruitment process.

John Boswell will join the Council on 1 August.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said she was very pleased to welcome John to Council.

“John joins us after a very successful military career, reaching the position of Major General and Chief of Army, the most senior officer in the New Zealand Army. He wants to continue to serve the public in a positive values-based organisation after his impressive career in the Army.”

“John impressed us straight away with his vision, strategic thinking, leadership skills and extensive experience of running a large, complex, people-focused

organisation. He also has a good knowledge of Marlborough’s issues and opportunities and how local government works.”

“He brings a collaborative and empathetic leadership style as well as strong communication skills which I know will work well for Council and the Marlborough community. John and his wife will be moving to Marlborough, a place they have explored as visitors and love.”

John’s previous roles include Director of Army Training, Chief Staff Officer Operational Plans and Head of Strategy Management. He holds master’s degrees in Management, Defence Studies and Philosophy.

Mayor Taylor said 46 applications were received from around New Zealand.

“We had an extraordinarily high calibre of candidates - Council has a great reputation and Marlborough, as we all know, is beautiful, has fantastic public facilities and is just a great place to live. All councillors were involved in the recruitment and appointment process.”

“My sincere thanks to Mark Wheeler who is retiring. Mark has been an outstanding chief executive since 2015, and before that was deputy chief executive and assets and services manager from 1998.”

Picton and Waikawa water restrictions lifted

Water restrictions in Picton and Waikawa have been lifted.

Council’s operations and Maintenance Engineer Stephen Rooney said cooler weather and some rain in the past few weeks have reduced demand. “People are using less water which is common for this time of year as gardening tapers off,” he said.

“We have lifted the restrictions although we still ask Picton and Waikawa residents to conserve water. While we are unable to use Essons Valley due to algae in the dam, the Speeds Road water treatment

plant is meeting demand.” Water restrictions were put in place on 9 January after hot weather, high demand and a reduced water level in the Essons Valley dam pushed the town’s supply to its limit, leaving it reliant on the Speeds Road supply and reservoirs at the Elevation and Victoria Domain.

Before restrictions, the Picton and Waikawa community was using more than 6,000 m3 of water per day; after restrictions this dropped to

4,000 m3.

“We want to acknowledge everyone’s efforts to save water while the restrictions were in place. Thanks for making every drop count,” Mr Rooney said.



Wairau River toxic algae warning

Council is warning the public to watch out for toxic algae in the Wairau River.

Environmental Scientist Steffi Henkel said Council had noted a significant spread of toxic algae in some parts of the river upstream from the SH1 bridge. “The spread of toxic algae is caused by prolonged dry weather which results in consistently low river flows. With so many access points to the Wairau River, it is impossible to put signs up

everywhere, but it is important for the public to be vigilant when walking their dogs along rivers and streams,” Ms Henkel said.

Council is asking people to avoid water with toxic algae as it can pose a significant risk for dogs and small children. The absence of a warning sign does not necessarily mean that toxic algae is not present.

Toxic algae cover in the Rai River has reduced to almost nothing and warning signs will be removed from that site as well as the Omaka River which is now dry.

You can find out more about toxic algae, including how to identify it, on Council’s website: www.marlborough.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-and-boating/toxic-algae

Recycle your containers with Council

Marlborough is now a collection point for the Food and Beverage Carton Recycling Scheme (FBCRS).

Council’s Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said Council’s approval by the Packaging Forum as a collection point is great news for the region. Recycled containers can be dropped at the Hazardous Waste Centre (HWC) in Wither Road, Blenheim or Envirohub in Picton.

“Marlborough can now recycle all manner of food and beverage containers. We currently send an estimated 30 tonnes of these packages to the landfill every year but now we can divert this if we all work together,” Mr Lucas said.

“Once we have sufficient containers - around 600kg - they will be baled and shipped to Hamilton to a company that is turning them into a building product called saveBOARD. One major advantage of this product is that any off-cuts can be reprocessed again,” he said. This nationwide initiative is a voluntary product stewardship scheme supported by the users of these containers. For more information go to: <https://fbcarton.recycling.kiwi.nz/> “Being a product stewardship scheme there is no cost to Council or ratepayers for

the transport of the product, but we get the benefit of the landfill cost savings,” Mr Lucas said.

For the cartons to be accepted they need to be cut open, laid flat and rinsed.

“At the moment we cannot collect these in our new and expanded kerbside collection but there is work in progress to see if we can get that changed. We will be looking to roll this service out to all the transfer stations from 1 July.”

For more information go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/recycling-and-waste/recycling/food-and-beverage-cartons

