

He kōrero nā te Kaunihera o Wairau. News from Marlborough District Council.

Evacuation avoided for Spring Creek community

There was relief for the Spring Creek community last Friday when Marlborough Civil and Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) lifted the evacuation advisory for part of the township.



Mayor Taylor and Minister Mitchell, where the Wairau River meets the Diversion, near Spring Creek



Rivers Engineer Andy White (right) explains the challenges to rebuild the stop bank at Peninsula Road, Spring Creek to Minister Mitchell

The Wairau River was running lower than the weather models had suggested after sustained rain in the river's upper catchments.

Emergency Management Minister Mark Mitchell was in Marlborough and thanked the teams for their work. He said it was far better to be safe than sorry and commended the teams for their early warning to the community saying, "we should always plan for the worst."

Mayor Nadine Taylor and the Minister discussed future funding for repairs to the Spring Creek stop banks. The works have been submitted to the Government as part of the 'Before the Deluge' business case for co-investment. If successful, the project could receive a 60 per cent contribution to its \$8.7M cost.

The flood protection works to ensure Spring Creek is protected from future flooding is scheduled in Council's Long Term Plan.

Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineer Andy White said the stop banks were critical pieces of flood protection infrastructure that became compromised after the Kaikōura earthquake and 2021 and 2022 storms.

Where faults have been revealed they have been repaired, however a picture is emerging that the stop bank is vulnerable along its entire length, he said.

"Action is required with some urgency to upgrade the stop banks," he said.

"Until the work is undertaken, they remain at an elevated risk of failing before reaching their design limits, compromising the safety of Spring Creek township during a flood event."

Initial estimates suggest up to 35,000 tonnes of rock is needed, most of which could come from the nearby Pukaka Quarry. Post-event analysis of the July 2021 flood event has also highlighted a need to increase the flood capacity safety margin.

Mayor Taylor has suggested a meeting be held with the Spring Creek community so that the Rivers team can explain the complexity of the stop bank issues and hear from locals.

Taylor River volunteers help relocate fish

As expected after the heavy rain last Friday, a large amount of weed moved down the Taylor River, with some getting lodged at the Beaver Road and High Street bridges.

A long reach excavator was quickly on hand to remove it, placing it on the river bank. Council then put out a call for volunteers to help relocate the eels, koura (freshwater crayfish) and juvenile fish stuck in the weed back into the river.

There was a great turnout from the public including Rangitāne o Wairau iwi members, and lots of fish and other creatures were returned to the water. Curious children came along too, eager to help and learn.

Council's Rivers and Drainage Engineer Andy White said it was a good result.

"Many thanks to all the people who gave a hand at short notice. It was obvious to see just how much life there is in the river now. Retaining the vegetation through the breeding season means we're seeing a healthier ecosystem, as fish and other creatures reproduce over the summer months.

Also, the benefit of Friday's natural 'weed raft' means that very little cutting is now required along this part of the river."

Weed cutting downstream from Hutcheson Street bridge is on schedule to start from 1 May, under the Marlborough Environment Plan rules, he said



A call from Council to the community to help rescue eels, koura and juvenile fish stranded following last week's weather event drew a great turnout

The greener approach to managing the river was paying dividends for aquatic wildlife, although some people did not appreciate the wilder look of the river.

"The Taylor River Reserve is a special place for a lot of locals, particularly for recreation. Whilst residents will have observed flooded footpaths alongside the river, this was within the floodway zone and at no time presented a threat to property or life."

"Council will always prioritise flood protection - within the confines of the primary stop banks - and that remains unchanged."

He said the river bed is higher than it used to be through aggradation (sedimentation) and that is something the Council will address over the next two years through sediment removal.

The remaining weed will be removed over the next few days.

Long Term Plan open for public consultation



Marlburians are now encouraged to make a submission on the Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034.

Mayor Nadine Taylor said at Council's meeting to adopt the LTP the biggest challenge was how to fund the local share of the Marlborough Sounds road repairs, which were damaged by storms in 2021 and 2022.

"This is one of the most significant decisions facing us in Marlborough: 'who pays what' towards rebuilding the transport network in the Sounds over the next decade and beyond," Mayor Taylor said. "The good news is that NZTA is planning to contribute 71 per cent of the cost of the repairs and 51 per cent of the road improvements. But that still leaves Marlborough ratepayers needing to find \$104 million dollars, the local share of the repair bill."

Five options are outlined in the LTP Consultation Document, alongside a range of other items for public feedback. They include increased general roading maintenance funding of \$27.5M over the next three years, flood protection improvements for Spring Creek and funding for a sports pavilion at A&P Park in Blenheim.

"Council's preferred option is to split the Sounds roading repair bill across five Sounds zones with the rest of Marlborough contributing via a uniform annual charge.

This would mean non-Sounds ratepayers would contribute about 70 per cent of the cost of repairs," Mayor Taylor said.

The proposed rates increase this year is below the average across the country at 12.58 per cent, not including Sounds roading repairs. If the repairs go ahead as proposed, an additional 0.37 per cent will apply, bringing this year's increase to 12.95 per cent.

The LTP continues Council's strong capital expenditure programme with a focus on core infrastructure and public services - pipes in the ground, water treatment facilities and road maintenance with Council proposing to invest \$1 billion over the next 10 years, \$277 million more than the previous ten-year plan.

To make a submission go to links. marlborough.govt.nz/haveyoursay Copies of the Consultation Document are available at Council's customer service centres.

The Marlborough Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-2027 is also available for public feedback over the same period via Council's website.

Full complement of iwi representatives on Council committees



New iwi representatives welcomed at Council from left are Ruihana Smith, Dawn McConnell and RaNae Niven, with Mayor Nadine Taylor (second right)

The appointment of iwi representatives to all Council's standing committees continues a long-standing Council commitment to have local iwi at the table.

Welcoming the appointees at a mihi prior to last week's Council meeting, Mayor Nadine Taylor said iwi positions on committees had been in place for more than 30 years however the positions had not always been filled.

"For many years the mahi was ably undertaken by Richard Hunter and Raymond Smith but their departure after years of dedicated service left us without iwi representation. I am very pleased we now have all three voting positions filled on our committees," Mayor Taylor said.

The new iwi representatives are:
RaNae Niven - Rangitāne o Wairau, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Apa ki Te Rā To

Dawn McConnell - Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Koata

Ruihana Smith - Ngāti Kuia, Ngāti Apa ki Te Rā To and Ngai Tahu

"Our new appointees between them have broad iwi affiliations, professional qualifications and a wide range of skills and experience. We warmly welcome them to the table and look forward to their valuable contribution," Mayor Taylor said.

The appointments are:

RaNae Niven
Economic, Finance and Community Committee

Dawn McConnell
Assets and Services Committee

Ruihana Smith
Environment and Planning Committee



Anzac Day Services

Wednesday 24 April

2:00pm Ward War Memorial

10:00am Havelock Town Hall

10:00am French Pass War Memorial (light refreshments in the Memorial Hall, please bring a small plate to share)

Thursday 25 April

6:00am Picton War Memorial

11:00am Rai Valley War Memorial

6:30am Seddon War Memorial

12:00pm Blenheim Cenotaph, Seymour Square

6:30am Kaikōura Cenotaph, Memorial Gardens

12:00pm Mary's Bay Homewood Memorial

9:00am Renwick War Memorial

2:00pm Wairau Valley Peace Memorial Hall

9:30am Spring Creek Spring Creek Hall

9:30am Linkwater Memorial Hall

Service at Torea Bay to be confirmed. Contact the Marlborough RSA for the most up to date information.

Lest we forget



Marlborough returned service men and women put in a team effort to prepare the tribute to the fallen in Seymour Square in the lead up to Anzac Day

As crosses are placed in the soil at Seymour Square, we will remember Marlborough's fallen soldiers.

The Returned Services Association (RSA) Marlborough branch coordinate the visual tribute every year with Council support in the lead up to Anzac Day on 25 April.

This year 760 crosses, all cleaned by air force cadets at RNZAF Base Woodbourne where the crosses are stored while not in use, have been placed

in situ with a "team effort" from local returned service men and women, said Marlborough RSA's Rod Shoemark.

The crosses are a poignant reminder of the region's loss, with each featuring the name and rank of a Marlborough soldier who lost their life.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

Public Notices

Council services on Anzac Day – Thursday 25 April

Council's Blenheim office will be closed from 4.30pm on Wednesday 24 April and reopen on Friday 26 April at 8.30am.

Opening times for transfer stations, the Resource Recovery Centre, the Re-use Centre, Greenwaste Acceptance Facility and the landfill on Anzac Day are:

Transfer stations

Blenheim
Thursday 25 April - 1pm to 4.30pm

Picton
Thursday 25 April - 1pm to 4pm

Havelock
Thursday 25 April - 1pm to 2pm

Seddon
Thursday 25 April - 1pm to 4pm

Rai Valley and Wairau Valley transfer stations will be closed on Thursday 25 April.

Resource Recovery Centre and Greenwaste Acceptance Facility
Thursday 25 April - 1pm to 4.30pm

Landfill
Thursday 25 April - closed

Kerbside rubbish bag and recycling collections
Rubbish bags and recycling crates normally collected on Thursday will be collected on Friday 26 April.

Please make sure your bag and crate is out on the kerb by 7.30am.

Marlborough District Libraries
Marlborough Library (Blenheim) and the Picton Library and Service Centre will be closed on Anzac Day - Thursday 25 April.

Bus services

Bus services will not operate on Thursday 25 April. Normal services resume on Friday 26 April.

Control of aquatic weeds in rivers and watercourses

Council's rivers injection programme for controlling aquatic weeds in rivers and watercourses is being applied from 19 April 2024. Injection will take place in Council maintained rivers and watercourses on the Lower Wairau Plains and include portions of Spring Creek, Opawa River, Taylor River, Tuamarina River and Murphys Creek.

The spray operation is in accordance with the Marlborough Environment Plan Vol 2 (section 2.16.11).

If you use water from drains or watercourses in the area for irrigation, stock or harvesting watercress, please check in with Council's contractor, Downer on Ph: 03 577 5807.

Any enquiries should be directed to Gregor Punzel at Council's office, Ph: 03 520 7400

A Cuppa with your Councillors

Sounds-based councillors are available for a drop-in chat each month.

The Cuppa with your Councillors sessions are held at Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre - the next session is on Wednesday 24 April from 10am until midday.

Councillors can provide advice, information and help with Council-related issues.

Barbara Faulls, Raylene Innes and Ben Minehan are Sounds Ward councillors. Allanah Burgess is the Māori Ward councillor for Marlborough, based in Picton.

Where: Waitohi Whare Mātauranga/Picton Library and Service Centre

When: 10am to midday Wednesday 24 April

Awatere and Dashwood rural boil water notice

Water from Council's reticulation network to the Awatere and Dashwood rural areas should be boiled.

It does not currently meet the NZ Drinking Water Standards and may contain bacteria or protozoa that are harmful to human health.

All water used for drinking, food preparation or cleaning teeth should be boiled before use.

Treated water is available at the public taps on Marama Road, outside Seddon School. For further information contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



Blenheim Customer Service Centre

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim 7201

Ph: 03 520 7400
mdc@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Tues 8.30am - 4.30pm

Wed - 8.30am - 12.30pm / 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Thurs - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

Picton Library & Service Centre

2 Dublin Street, Picton 7220

Ph: 03 520 7493
pictonlibrary@marlborough.govt.nz

Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm

Sat - Sun 10am - 4pm

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Council & Committee meetings

The following meeting is open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available online and at Council's Office, 15 Seymour Street.

Council

Thursday 16 May at 9am

The time and date may be subject to change, please contact the Committee Secretary, Ph: 03 520 7400 for confirmation.

Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

For the latest public notices, please go to marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/latest-news-notices-and-media-releases/all-news-notices-and-media-releases

FOLIO, the 2024 Marlborough Youth Art Exhibition, starts tomorrow Saturday 20 April.

The exhibition is an initiative of the Marlborough Youth Council and is a partnership between the Marlborough Art Gallery, Marlborough colleges and Council. It is a major presentation of NCEA folio artwork by Marlborough students created throughout the year.

FOLIO runs from Saturday 20 April to Sunday 9 June. For times and more details go to: www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/folio-2024-youth-art-exhibition/blenheim

