

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



John Boswell appointed chief executive

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

John Boswell will join 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. He 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 masters' 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 - Marlborough District 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."

Investing in the future of Marlborough's past

A digitisation project for the Marlborough Museum and Edwin Fox Maritime Museum is seen as an important investment to protect Marlborough's past records and make them more accessible.

The \$196,000 boost in funding for heritage is proposed in Council's Long Term Plan.

"Digitisation at the Marlborough Museum is many years behind comparable museums and this needs attention. We believe it is important that Marlborough's heritage becomes more accessible to the public," Council's Project Lead - Arts, Culture and Heritage Nicola Neilson said.

"The digitisation project will encompass other museums around Marlborough too and software options will be explored to make a Marlborough-wide online site, particularly for photographs.

We plan to start with the Marlborough Express negative collection which is an amazing record of Marlborough life."

"Digitisation will allow the public to see images that are normally only available by a visit to the archives or an email enquiry. People all around New Zealand and the world would then be able to access Marlborough's heritage," she said.

The project would start with a new website and branding for both the Edwin Fox and the Marlborough Museum.

"Both facilities have established branding and social media channels however, they were produced on a limited budget," Mrs Neilson said.

The museum and the Edwin Fox's IT systems also need upgrading to enable connection to Council's systems which is included in the funding proposed.

In July 2023 Council took over the functions of the Marlborough Heritage Trust which includes the day to day running of the Marlborough Museum and Edwin Fox.

Public consultation begins soon on Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034.



The start of the women's wheelbarrow derby in Picton from the Marlborough Express 23 March 1964. Miss P Key is on the left and Miss I Black on the right. From the Marlborough Express negative collection, Stuff Ltd

Chilean needle grass on increase

Council's Biosecurity team is working hard to combat the long-term threat from Chilean needle grass with 2,615 hectares now affected in Marlborough.

Intensive search and destroy operations over the seeding season supported landowners' year-round efforts, Council's Senior Biosecurity Officer Liam Falconer told Council's March Environment and Planning committee meeting.

A priority programme targeted containment of the high threat pest with the aim of early intervention and put pressure on lightly infested properties.

"There is a huge amount to lose if we button off - we need to keep going hard on this," Mr Falconer said.

Ten new Chilean needle grass infestations were discovered this past season including a first detection in an urban setting within Blenheim. The invasive pest was also found on new properties near existing known areas in Ben Morven Road, Taylor Pass and Marfells Beach Road.

The affected land area has increased by 22 hectares from last season.

"Even with an enhanced level of effort by Council there continues to be new infestations discovered and ongoing difficulties preventing low to moderate infestations escalating to becoming more troublesome," Mr Falconer said.

Chilean needle grass was first recorded in Marlborough in the 1940s in the Blind River area.

While its distribution is somewhat confined, the long-term impacts should it build to high densities across Marlborough would be severe, Mr Falconer said.

Anyone seeing suspected Chilean needle grass is urged to contact Council's Biosecurity team on ph; 03 5207400 as soon as possible.



A new Chilean needle grass infestation in urban Blenheim

Rolling out the bins

Seven thousand bins down, 29,000 to go!

The team from WM New Zealand (formerly Waste Management NZ) is working hard across Marlborough to deliver wheelie bins as part of Council's new and expanded kerbside collection service which starts 1 July.

Bins are on their way if you live in Blenheim, Grovetown, Havelock, Picton, Rai Valley, Rarangi, Renwick, Seddon, Spring Creek or Tua Marina.

WM New Zealand Branch Manager Marlborough Paul Withers said a newly recruited team for the rollout would be working hard until the end of June when Marlborough residents have their new wheelie bins. "The rollout is a huge logistical exercise as it takes at least one week to deliver bins to an area that takes just half a day for a truck to service," Mr Withers said.

The bins are being delivered in the safest place closest to the property, in a manner so as not to cause congestion, nuisance or danger to the public.

"After 1 July when the collection service starts, bins must be positioned on the kerb or verge at the edge of the road, with the Marlborough logo facing the

road and away from obstacles and overhanging bushes or structures at least half a metre apart.

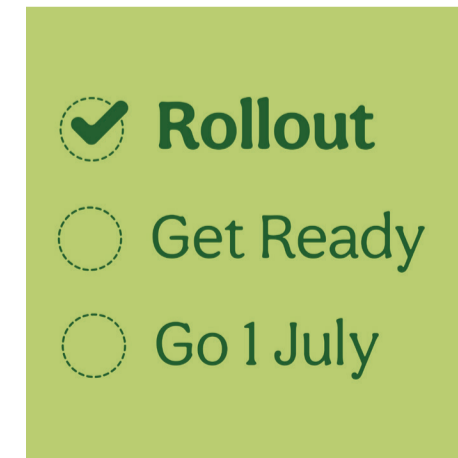
This allows the collection truck's lifting mechanism to lift the bin," he said.

Council's Solid Waste Manager Mark Lucas said residents included in the collection service should have one red general waste bin, instead of single-use rubbish bags, and a yellow recycling bin by the end of June.

The old maroon recycling crates will be retained and used to collect glass.

"Keep your existing maroon crate if you have one. A crate will be delivered with your wheelie bins if you are new to the kerbside collection service. Rubbish bags won't be collected kerbside after 1 July. The new service provides improved capacity and efficiency, saving 750,000 bags going to landfill every year," he said.

To find out if your property is included in the service go to: <https://links.marlborough.govt.nz/kerbside> or if you have any questions contact Council on Ph: 03 520 7400.



Coming soon to a street near you... the team from WM New Zealand is rolling out wheelie bins to properties included in the expanded service



Energising Marlborough for 100 years

Marlborough Lines' upcoming Marlborough Energised event will be a fitting celebration for a company that has brought 'power to the people' for the past century.

Chief Executive Tim Cosgrove said from humble beginnings in 1923 to becoming a vital pillar of the community, Marlborough Lines has witnessed tremendous growth, evolution and transformation. "To celebrate our 100 year milestone and the company's ongoing commitment to the Marlborough community, we are excited to bring a spectacular light and visual event, Marlborough Energised, to Blenheim for the first time," he said.

The interactive lighting display from Illuminate has 20 installations and will be held at Pollard Park over three nights

from 12 to 14 April, from 5pm to 9.30pm each day. Entry is free and the event promises a festival of colour, light and fun for the whole family and includes a food court, interactive zone and 'silent' disco.

On the same weekend, Marlborough Lines' Generation Museum on the corner of Thomsons Ford and Old Renwick Roads will be open from 9am to 3pm for the public to view the company's new museum area and a vintage Paxman engine in operation. The 68-tonne Paxman diesel engine, capable of producing 430kW, was installed in 1930 to generate back-up power and is the only working engine of its kind in the world.

For more information on both events go to: www.follow-me.co.nz



Good news for Marlborough's economy

Leading economist Brad Olsen said Marlborough's strong primary sector was helping it through some tough economic times.

Brad and colleague Nick Brunson from Infometrics spoke at Council's Economic, Finance and Community Committee meeting last week providing an in-depth snapshot of the region's economic profile.

"You'd be one of the only economies across the country that's seen an actual improvement in agriculture, forestry and fishing GDP (gross domestic product)," Brad said. "A large part of that is because of your viticulture focus."

Brad said there were challenging economic times ahead with inflation the chief concern.

High national immigration of 146,000 over the last year had created the strongest population growth New Zealand had seen since 1946 which was putting pressure on services and infrastructure nationally.

"On one hand migration has provided a lot of people and resources to do work in the economy, but they require a whole bunch of services," he said.

Brad didn't expect any easing of interest rates any time soon. "That's a slow burn," he said.

Nick Brunson said Marlborough's population of 52,000 was one of the strongest around the country in terms of consumer spending.

"We're seeing considerable cost of living pressures on households and while people are leaving the shop with slightly fewer bags, here in Marlborough spending grew 6.3 per cent compared with 4.3 per cent nationally," he said.

"That puts Marlborough among one of the highest growth regions in the country which suggests a strong degree of consumer confidence."

There was good news in the construction sector too with non-residential building consents at \$96M in the year up to December 2023.

House prices in Marlborough were still some of the most affordable in the country.

"Marlborough has always been relatively affordable and having house prices come back a bit has improved that further," Nick said.

Infometrics provides a detailed annual economic profile of the district and quarterly economic reports which are available on Council's website.



Mayor Nadine Taylor with Brad Olsen from Infometrics

Public Notices

Meet your Council



Mayor Nadine Taylor leads a team of 14 elected councillors. They are responsible for making decisions and developing policies that will help shape our province into the future.

Council's vision is that Marlborough is a globally-connected district of smart, progressive, high-value enterprises, known for its economic efficiency, quality lifestyle and wellbeing, caring community, desirable location and healthy natural environment.

For more information or to contact one of your elected representatives, go to: www.marlborough.govt.nz/your-council/councillors or Ph: 03 520 7400.

Council services over Easter

Council's Blenheim office will be closed from 3pm Thursday 28 March and will reopen on Tuesday 2 April at 8.30am.

All transfer stations, the Resource Recovery Centre, the Re-use Centre, Greenwaste Acceptance Facility and the landfill will all be closed on Good Friday 29 March.

Transfer stations

Blenheim

Saturday 30 March - 10am to 4pm
Easter Sunday 31 March - 10am to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - 8am to 4.30pm

Picton

Saturday 30 March - 8am to midday
Easter Sunday 31 March - midday to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - 8am to 4pm

Havelock

Saturday 30 March - midday to 4pm
Easter Sunday 31 March - midday to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - 8am to 2pm

Rai Valley

Saturday 30 March - closed
Easter Sunday 31 March - 1pm to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - closed

Seddon

Saturday 30 March - closed
Easter Sunday 31 March - 10am to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - closed

Wairau Valley

Saturday 30 March - midday to 4pm
Easter Sunday 31 March - closed
Easter Monday 1 April - closed



Proposed road closures, navigation warnings and alcohol licensing

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

Marlborough Roads recovery updates

To keep up to date with works by the Marlborough Roads Recovery Team including road closure notifications you can sign up to a weekly newsletter by emailing recovery@marlboroughroads.com

The damage caused to Marlborough roads by weather events in 2021 and 2022 was substantial.

Resource Recovery Centre and Greenwaste Acceptance Facility

Saturday 30 March - 10am to 4pm
Easter Sunday 31 March - 10am to 4pm
Easter Monday 1 April - 10am to 4.30pm

Kerbside rubbish bag and recycling collections

Good Friday

Rubbish bags and recycling crates will be collected on Thursday 28 March instead of Friday 29 March.

Easter Monday

Rubbish bags and recycling crates will be collected on Tuesday 2 April instead of Monday 1 April.

Please make sure your bags and crates are out on the kerb by 7.30am.

Marlborough District Libraries

Marlborough Library (Blenheim) and Picton Library and Service Centre will be closed for the Easter public holidays - Friday 29 March, Sunday 31 March and Monday 1 April.

The libraries will be open on Saturday 30 March from 10am to 4pm.

Bus services

During Easter weekend, the bus services will not operate on Friday 29 March or Monday 1 April.

Normal services will operate on Saturday 30 March and Tuesday 2 April.

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

Council & Committee Meetings

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

Council

Thursday 4 April at 9am

Assets and Services Committee

Tuesday 16 April at 9am

Environment and Planning Committee

Thursday 18 April at 9am

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

Antenno keeps you in the loop

Council's mobile app Antenno is a great way to keep up to date with important Council alerts.

Free to install, Antenno is available on Apple and Android smartphones and no personal information or login details are required. You simply save the locations you want to be informed about, such as your home address, workplace or school.

When Council posts an update relevant to your chosen locations, you receive a notification.

While most posts are specific to your location, some notifications like sports ground closures are published district-wide. This means no matter where a team is playing, they'll have the relevant information.

During rainfall and flooding events, road closure information changes quickly. In these instances, Antenno updates link to information on Council's website. These notifications are sent out district-wide to ensure they reach as many people as quickly as possible.

To learn more about Antenno including how to download the app visit: www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/apps