

TOP REGIONAL IMPACTS



Credit: 5Tapped Ltd

Hospitality has been hard hit by staff shortages due to COVID-19. Staff who are unwell or isolating have forced businesses, many of which were already short staffed, to shorten their hours or close temporarily. The Marlborough Express ran a story about a [76 year-old grandmother volunteering](#) to help keep a local café open. A lack of customers is also effecting many hospitality businesses, as many people chose to self-isolate to avoid the risk of infection. Total spend was down \$1.1M in March compared to the same month last year, with 'cafés, bars and restaurants' and 'accommodation' the hardest hit. Picton was the most affected sub-region with spending down 14 percent, while Blenheim Central spend was down 6.8 percent according to electronic transaction data.

Māori medium education has returned to Bohally Intermediate school after a 10-year absence. Teacher Pera Wills saw a need for Māori tamariki to be taught in a way that incorporated tikanga while working as a relief teacher at Bohally Intermediate. She approached principal Nicky Cameron-Dunn, who wholeheartedly supported the proposal. *"We all have a responsibility to revitalise te reo in schools and this provides an entry point for many of our tamariki and whānau who are looking for an education that truly embeds tikanga practices."* Bohally Intermediate's bilingual class closed in 2012 after 17-years due to falling roll numbers.

Aviation engineering in the region is to be strengthened. As the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) continues a new agreement has been signed between the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and Te Pūkenga. This will support continuity of training and education at Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) Aviation Engineering at RNZAF Base Woodbourne. NZDF personnel complete more than 4,000 vocational qualifications annually, making them the largest user of vocational qualifications. NMIT provides the only publicly available aircraft engineering qualifications in New Zealand.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE SCHEME SURVEY

Earlier this year we surveyed young people in Marlborough (aged 15-24) to help understand their career and study plans. We offered Young Enterprise Scheme participants \$150 starting capital to answer some quick questions.



90% Have considered the type of job or career they would like to pursue in future.



75% Know of companies or employers that require this type of job or career in Marlborough.



50% Not sure if the education or training they need is offered in the Marlborough region.



30% Studying or training at Marlborough education or training providers appeals to them.

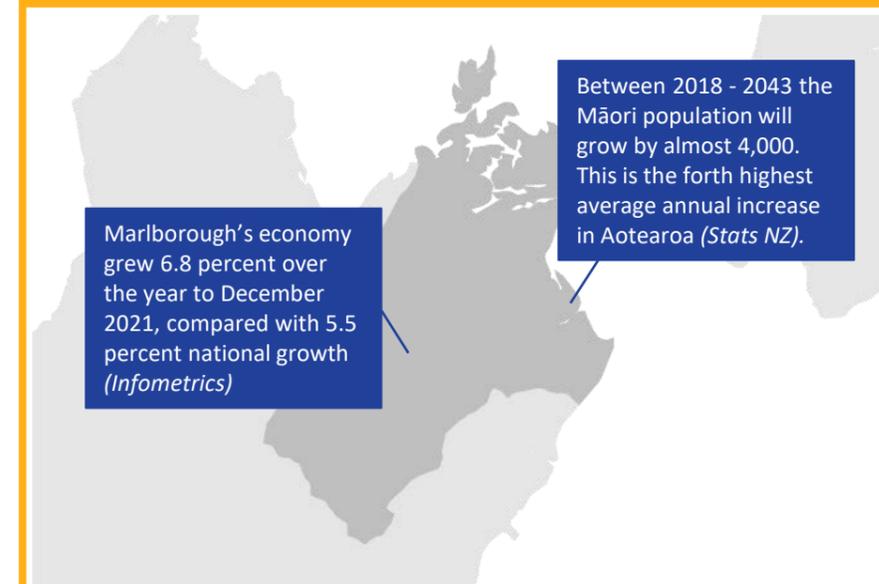
TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. An Economic Wellbeing Strategy is in development to enhance Marlborough's economic future.** Marlborough District Council is drafting the strategy to provide a vision and guidance towards the future. It has a focus on improving economic wellbeing and productivity in Marlborough over the next 10 years.
- 2. Establishment of medicinal cannabis industry to be fast-tracked.** Puro, New Zealand's largest grower of organic medicinal cannabis, received a \$13M government grant to fast-track the industry's establishment in New Zealand. Based in Marlborough, with two growing sites, this will bring scale to the new industry and provide economic diversification and export opportunities. The project will create professional job opportunities in research and development; cultivation; business development; construction and facilities management; and is likely to attract more people to the region.
- 3. Wine Marlborough is looking to the future with development of a Workforce Action Plan.** It will be a collaborative and consultative process with the Marlborough wine sector and wider stakeholders. The plan will investigate developing the permanent workforce; creating a sector where people thrive; problem-solving seasonal challenges; attracting and retaining awesome people; and shaping training and education.

TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- 1. Staff absences due to Omicron are being felt across the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board (NMDHB).** NMDHB is already impacted by significant staff vacancies, and continues to focus resources on recruitment to fill vacancies. In February 2022 the DHB posted 87 positions, and although this was lower than January's 100 adverts, the overall trend is still upward. The DHB filled 97 positions in February 2022, the second highest total of monthly placements over the last year, but this also continues an upward trend. A shortage of some specialised roles and the impact of COVID-19 means it is taking longer than usual to fill these roles.
- 2. Demand for services at the Marlborough Community Foodbank has hit record levels.** Before COVID-19 the Foodbank was seeing a decline in people's need - now requests for help come from a cross-section of society, often working families with jobs. The Salvation Army said accommodation issues were a major problem in Marlborough, along with reduced working hours due to the impact of COVID-19.
- 3. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract qualified Technology Teachers.** A national shortage of Technology teachers has seen Marlborough Boys' College (MBC) start Term 2 short of staff to teach some areas of the curriculum. In March, MBC had teacher vacancies in Food Technology, Engineering, Graphics and Hospitality, and put out a call for help.

THE MARLBOROUGH REGION



OUR FOCUS UNTIL
30 JUNE 2022:

Producing the first Marlborough regional workforce plan.