

MARLBOROUGH REGIONAL NEWS



A number of positions and programmes related to education, employment and training are waiting to hear if central government funding will be extended beyond 30 June 2023. Across Te Taihū (top of the South Island) there are approximately 18 fulltime equivalent positions within a range of programmes supported by central government funding to support people on the training to employment pathway. These include Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust work brokers, Education-to-employment brokers, Connected employment liaison advisors and others. The funding has been pivotal for the region with many positive outcomes including stronger relationships developed between schools and businesses, better careers support, and upskilling. The RSLG is concerned that without further funding announcements soon, the region will lose not only experienced staff, but also networks, relationships and trust built up over the past few years.

The community has rallied around to support Marlborough Boys' College (MBC) to recruit a dynamic Head of Faculty for Technology. The recruitment campaign features a recruitment video and social media leveraging the #WELOVEITHERE campaign to promote the role. With no Head of Faculty Technology (Hard Materials, Engineering, Design and Visual Communication) for three years, MBC has not been able to strategically plan their recruitment, infrastructure, operations and curriculum. This is an exciting opportunity for MBC to grow both its facilities and staff, as they move towards a new build and co-location with Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau (Marlborough Girls' College), as part of Te Tātoru o Wairau. [Link](#) to the MBC YouTube channel where the recruitment video is hosted. The RSLG is supporting this project which aligns with Ngā tūhononga i waenganui i ngā kura me te ao ahumahi | Connections between schools and industry in the regional workforce plan.

The RSLG sent investment advice for 2024 to the Tertiary Education Commission in April. A summary of the advice and a Regional Workforce Outlook for Marlborough will be published on the RSLG webpage www.mbie.govt.nz/marlborough-rslg in June.

REGIONAL BUSINESS INSIGHTS

The Marlborough Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Marlborough District Council conducted a Regional Business Insights Survey.



85% Confident that their own business will improve (45%) or remain the same (40%) in the next year. Less confident in their own sector, only 28% expect improvement.



25% Businesses confident economic conditions in the region would improve. Much less confidence in the New Zealand economy as a whole, less than 10% believe the economy will improve in the coming year.



The most negative businesses were the ones who had not made any changes to their business.

Source: Marlborough Regional Business Insights Survey Quarter 4 2022

REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLAN FOCUS AREAS

- RSLG representatives attended Ringa Hora's Aeronautical Engineering Industry Hui in Wellington.** The Aeronautical Engineering Industry's current and future workforce needs were assessed at the hui. Ringa Hora (the workforce development council for aviation) will develop an Industry Action plan.
- There is a significant shortfall in building, construction and infrastructure trade workers across the region.** The Workforce Information Platform (WIP) forecasts a regional workforce gap in December 2023 of 2,913 FTEs: 165% of the total current construction and infrastructure workforce in Marlborough. The RSLG recommends Marlborough based ākonga (learners) be able to attend block courses in region and NMIT|Te Pūkenga develop a multi-trade facility across aeronautical engineering, mechanical engineering, automotive engineering and construction trades at their Blenheim campus to enable this.
- The Wine Industry is planning a Wellness Week for 08-12 May.** Under the tagline 'Our industry is only as healthy as our people!' the industry will be running a series of events and wellness initiatives. The wellness week is timed to coincide with the wrap up of the 2023 grape harvest, the industry's most intense time of year, and the move into Winter pruning and preparations for the next growing season.

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITIES & INSIGHTS

- Demand for food parcels was increasing in Marlborough at the same time as it was decreasing in other parts of the country.** The Salvation Army's annual State of the Nation report blames high housing costs, low incomes and cost of living increases for the increasing demand.
- The Marlborough Sounds Future Access Study received a huge response to the public consultation phase.** More than 500 people attended public workshops, and there were 919 survey responses. The information is being used to prepare a business case for funding a safe and resilient transport system in the Sounds which are still recovering from storms in July 2021 and August 2022.
- Techweek is returning to Marlborough after a successful launch in 2022.** A series of events will be held across the region during 13-20 May. Marlborough is on a journey to become Australasia's leading agritech region.
- Business Trust Marlborough is running a new course called 'Mums in Business' to encourage mothers to start businesses.** The course offers a space for mums to learn about setting up and running a business and spend time with other people in the same position in a family friendly environment. The 8-week course is subsidised by the Trust.

THE MARLBOROUGH REGION

Marlborough's accommodation providers and Marlborough Airport have struggled with unexpected demand from passengers left stranded by Cook Strait ferry cancellations. The disruption also caused a backlog of freight which has impacted supply chains.

Some forestry companies have been struggling to keep their logging teams working and meet their supply obligations due to not having road access to their forests on Queen Charlotte Drive.

The Classic Fighters Omaka Airshow returned after a four year absence. Smart + Connected Aerospace promoted career and training opportunities at the event.

Making Marlborough feel like home is the goal of a new initiative, part of the region's Welcoming communities programme.

OUR FOCUS TO THE END OF JUNE 2023:

The focus for the Marlborough RSLG is implementing *Te Mahere Ahumahi ā-Rohe o Te Taihū o Te Waka-a-Māui* | Marlborough Regional Workforce Plan [[Link to Regional Workforce Plan](#)]. A summary of the Year 1 (2022-23) actions for the six focus areas and five focus sectors can be found on the one-page [Marlborough Regional Workforce Plan summary](#).