



MARLBOROUGH
CHAMBER^{OT}
COMMERCE

ANNUAL RECAP 2026

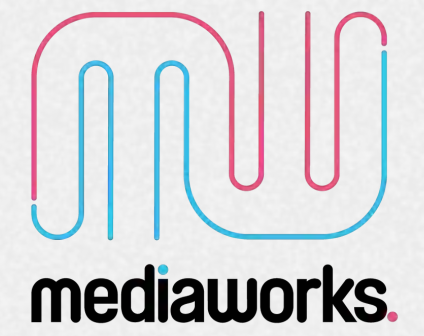
1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2026

Thank You

CHAMBER PARTNERS



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CHAIR COMMENT

As I reflect on the past year, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together. From delivering major events and strengthening business connections, to advocating for our members and creating new opportunities for growth, this has been a year of momentum. None of it would have been possible without the support of our members, sponsors, partners, Board and the many people who contribute to the success of our business community. This document captures just some of the highlights from the year. Thank you for being part of the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce and for helping us grow a stronger, more connected business community.



KYLIE CORNELIUS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CARO GATLEY

BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to share this snapshot of another successful year for the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce. The achievements highlighted throughout these pages reflect a strong and purposeful organisation that continues to deliver real value for our members and the wider business community. I would like to thank our Executive Officer and team for their commitment and professionalism, along with our members, sponsors and partners who make this work possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected and more prosperous Marlborough, and I look forward to what we can achieve in the year ahead.

**MARLBOROUGH
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**



**MARLBOROUGH
CHAMBER^{ON}
COMMERCE**

NEW STRATEGY

This year, the Board refreshed the Chamber's strategic direction, simplifying our focus into a clear purpose supported by four key pillars. Together, these pillars guide everything we do, ensuring our work remains focused on delivering meaningful value for our members while supporting a strong, connected and prosperous Marlborough business community.



GROW

SUPPORTING
BUSINESSES TO
THRIVE

Through capability building, insights, education and opportunities that drive sustainable success.



CONNECT

CREATING
MEANINGFUL
RELATIONSHIPS

By bringing businesses, leaders and decision-makers together to share knowledge, collaborate and strengthen networks.



ADVOCATE

REPRESENTING
THE VOICE OF
MARLBOROUGH
BUSINESS

With influence and integrity, ensuring local perspectives are heard at regional and national levels.



CELEBRATE

CHAMPIONING
SUCCESS

By recognising achievements, telling our region's story and promoting the people and businesses that make Marlborough exceptional.



GROW





MARLBOROUGH
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COMMERCE

MEMBERSHIP

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. This year, the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce proudly represented 320 member organisations across a diverse range of industries, while regularly engaging with more than 1,500 businesses and stakeholders throughout the region.

To keep our business community informed and connected, we established a consistent communications rhythm with our monthly e-Voice newsletter on the first Thursday of each month, complemented by Kylie's Friday Chamber Update, a weekly update highlighting the latest news, events and opportunities. Together, these regular touchpoints help ensure members stay connected, informed and engaged with the Chamber and the wider Marlborough business community.



NEW MEMBER APP

This year, we launched the Business Chamber Partners App, giving members a digital membership card and a simple way to access the many benefits of Chamber membership. By presenting the app, members can unlock exclusive discounts and offers from both our national Alliance Partners and a growing network of local member businesses.

The app provides access to valuable savings through our national partners, including 2degrees, Noel Leeming, Z Business, Air New Zealand, OfficeMax and Bunnings Trade, while also showcasing offers from local providers. Together, these partnerships continue to deliver practical value to businesses across Marlborough.



Your card is
now an App!



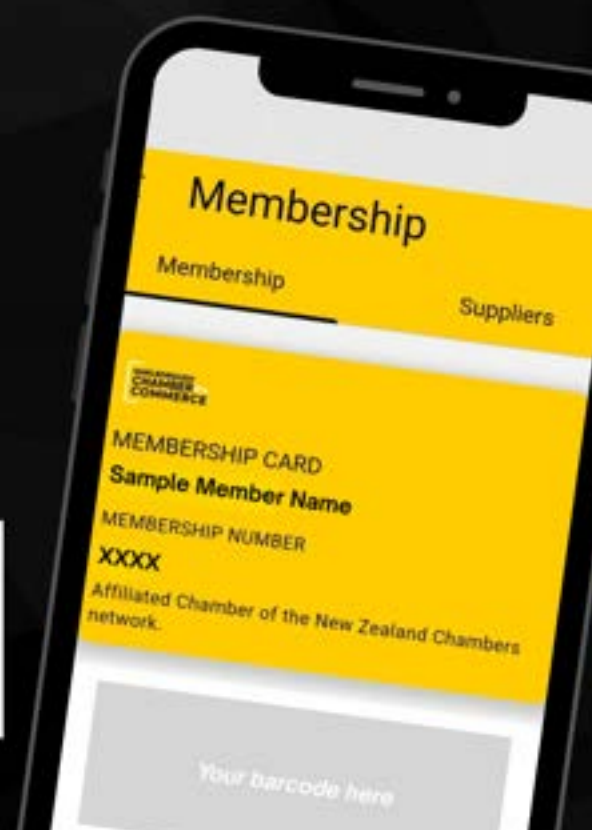
Download the
NEW Business
Chamber Partners
app and SAVE!



Apple



Android



TRAINING

Training continues to be a growing area of focus for the Marlborough Chamber as we respond to the changing needs of our members. Throughout the year, we expanded our programme by listening to what businesses told us they needed, both in the topics covered and the way training is delivered. By working alongside trusted partners and subject matter experts, we have been able to offer practical, relevant learning opportunities that deliver real value. From leadership and business capability through to emerging issues such as artificial intelligence and cyber security, our training programme continues to evolve, helping local businesses build skills and confidence for the future.

HEALTH & SAFETY	11/08/2025	XERO TIPS & TRICKS	09/09/2025	HUMAN BY DESIGN	18/11/2025	AI LEADERSHIP	22/05/2026	PRIDE PLEDGE	15/06/2026	CYBER SECURITY	18/06/2026
											



INSIGHTS

Providing members with access to timely information and expert perspectives is an important part of the Chamber's role. Throughout the year, we welcomed a range of respected speakers who shared insights on the issues shaping the business environment, both here in Marlborough and across New Zealand. From leading bank economists discussing the economic outlook to political leaders outlining government priorities and policy, these events gave members the opportunity to hear directly from influential voices, ask questions and gain valuable knowledge.

By connecting our business community with current information and informed perspectives, we help members make confident decisions in an ever-changing business environment.

MEET WITH HON. JAMES MEAGER 02/09/2025



LUNCH WITH HON. DAVID SEYMOUR 02/10/2025



FERRY REPLACEMENT UPDATE 26/02/2026



INFOMETRICS 12/03/2026



AGRI ECONOMIST OVERVIEW 06/05/2026



CHAMBERWORKS

ChamberWorks has quickly become a valuable addition to the services we provide our members, helping local employers connect with practical workforce solutions. Delivered in partnership with New Zealand Chambers of Commerce and the Ministry of Social Development, the programme gives businesses access to pre-screened job candidates, recruitment support and free training opportunities designed to strengthen both existing teams and new employees.

Throughout the year, we worked to raise awareness of ChamberWorks across the Marlborough business community, encouraging employers to explore the practical support available through the programme. By connecting members with ChamberWorks, businesses have been able to access free recruitment assistance, training opportunities and workforce resources that strengthen their teams and support long term growth. Best of all, the programme is provided at no cost to employers, making it an accessible and valuable resource for businesses of all sizes.

As labour market challenges continue to evolve, ChamberWorks provides another practical way the Chamber supports members, reducing barriers to recruitment, building workforce capability and helping businesses access the people and skills they need to grow with confidence.



EXPORT

CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

This year, New Zealand Chambers of Commerce enhanced the ChamberDocs platform by bringing all export certification into one convenient system. Exporters can now apply for both standard Certificates of Origin and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) certificates through the same easy-to-use platform, creating a more seamless experience from start to finish.

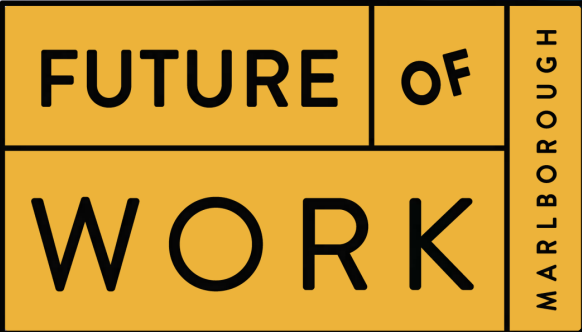
The enhancement simplifies the application process, making it easier for businesses to navigate export documentation while maintaining the high level of service they expect. This continued investment in digital services helps ensure Marlborough exporters can access efficient, reliable export certification to support their international trade.



Future of Work 2026 saw the Chamber take on the delivery of this important regional event. Delivered in collaboration with Marlborough District Council, Marlborough Boys' College and Marlborough Girls' College, the event brought together education, industry and the wider business community to showcase the diverse career pathways available across our region.

Welcoming more than 2,000 students and members of the public, alongside a record 81 exhibitors, Future of Work provided an inspiring and interactive experience for the next generation of Marlborough's workforce. The event highlighted the strength of collaboration between local businesses and educators, helping young people connect with opportunities, understand the possibilities available locally and see the exciting future that awaits them in Marlborough.

FUTURE OF WORK





CONNECT



EVENTS

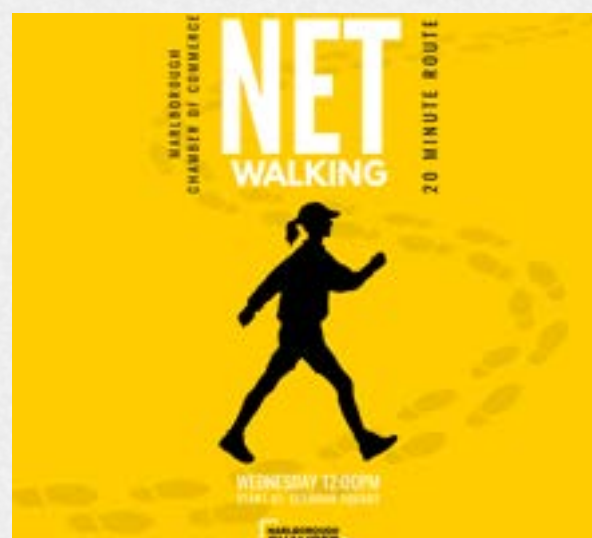
Creating opportunities for businesses to connect remains at the heart of what we do. Throughout the year, our regular networking programme, including Coffee & Catch Up, Business After 5 and our new Netwalking events, brought members together to build relationships, exchange ideas and strengthen connections across Marlborough's business community.

Alongside these regular events, we hosted a range of business briefings and guest speakers, providing members with opportunities to stay informed, share experiences and expand their professional networks. The strong attendance and ongoing engagement throughout the year reflects the value our members place on connecting with one another and being part of a vibrant, supportive business community.

BUSINESS AFTER 5



NETWALKING



COFFEE & CATCH UP



BUSINESS WOMEN'S GROUP



YOUNG CHAMBER



YOUNG CHAMBER



Reinvigorated this year, Young Chamber continues to grow as a dedicated network for people under 35 in business and the wider workforce. Led by James Johnson, Executive Assistant at the Chamber, the programme brings together emerging professionals and future business leaders every two months to connect, build relationships and expand their networks in an informal and welcoming environment.

Throughout the year, Young Chamber hosted events at Small Town Winery, FROMM Winery, Blenheim Indoor Sports, Woodbourne Tavern and Fidelio Café & Wine Bar. The strong response from participants reflects the demand for opportunities that support the next generation of Marlborough's workforce, while fostering meaningful connections across a wide range of industries.



BUSINESS *Women's* NETWORKING GROUP

Launched in February, our Business Women's Networking Group has quickly become a popular addition to the Chamber's event programme, with consistently strong attendance from women across Marlborough's business community. Combining networking with inspiring guest speakers, each event provides an opportunity to make new connections, hear different perspectives and learn from the experiences of successful women in business.

The programme has featured speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds, each sharing their own leadership journeys, challenges and practical insights. The positive response from members reflects the value of creating regular opportunities for women to connect, build lasting business relationships and grow their networks. We look forward to continuing to build on the success of this initiative in the year ahead.

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MARLBOROUGH
CHAMBER 
COMMERCE



ADVOCATE



LOCAL ADVOCACY



Advocacy is a core part of the Chamber's role, ensuring the voice of Marlborough business is represented where decisions are made. Throughout the year, we maintained regular engagement with the Mayor, our local MP, the Regional Commissioner for Public Service and the Economic Development team from Marlborough District Council, while also working closely with industry organisations including Wine Marlborough, Marine Farming Association, Ministry for Primary Industries, Top of the South Forestry and Marlborough Federated Farmers.

We encouraged members to participate in Marlborough District Council consultations, recognising that business input helps shape better outcomes for our region. The Chamber also contributed to the refresh of Marlborough's Economic Development Strategy, ensuring the priorities and aspirations of the business community were reflected in the region's long term economic vision.

Key advocacy initiatives included supporting the funding model for the Waitohi Ferry Redevelopment Project and continuing to advocate for improved regional air connectivity. Throughout the year, we highlighted the importance of reliable transport links for local businesses, workforce attraction, tourism and economic growth, ensuring Marlborough's voice was heard on issues that matter most to our members.



While our focus is firmly on Marlborough, many of the issues affecting local businesses are shaped by national policy. Through our partnership with New Zealand Chambers of Commerce, we contributed to advocacy on a range of issues impacting businesses across the country, including the Credit Card Surcharge Bill, the Crimes Act Amendment Bill and a submission on the Planning Bill and the Natural Environment Bill, addressing persistent issues with the Resource Management Act (RMA).

We also remained actively engaged in national networks by attending both the Economic Development New Zealand (EDNZ) Conference and the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Conference. These opportunities enabled us to share Marlborough's perspective, learn from other regions and bring back new ideas, insights and best practice to benefit our members. By combining local knowledge with national collaboration, we continue to ensure Marlborough businesses have a voice in shaping the policies and initiatives that influence New Zealand's business environment.

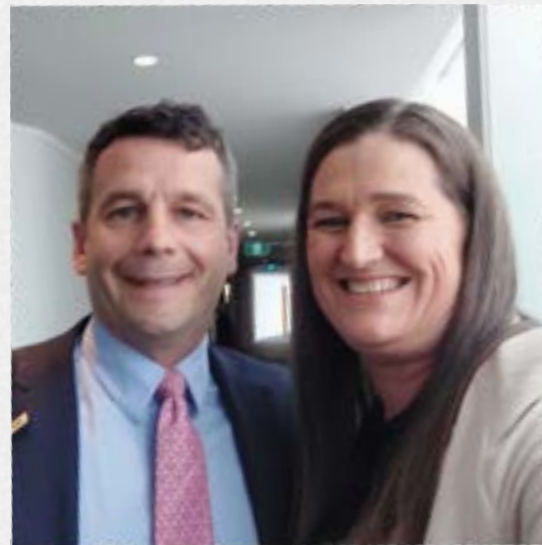
NATIONAL ADVOCACY





The Marlborough Chamber of Commerce is proudly politically neutral. We welcome opportunities to meet with elected representatives from across the political spectrum, providing them with firsthand insight into the opportunities and challenges facing businesses in our region.

These conversations ensure Marlborough's business community is represented, local perspectives are heard and decision makers leave with a stronger understanding of the issues that matter most to our members.



POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT



CELEBRATE.



BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The 2degrees Marlborough Business Excellence Awards once again celebrated the outstanding businesses and individuals contributing to our region's success. The 2025 awards attracted a record 91 entries, reflecting the depth and diversity of Marlborough's business community and the high calibre of businesses operating across the region.

The Gala Awards Dinner welcomed 250 guests to a sold out Marlborough Events Centre, bringing together finalists, sponsors, supporters and the wider business community to recognise excellence and celebrate achievement. Community engagement was also stronger than ever, with more than 1,800 votes cast across the public voting categories.

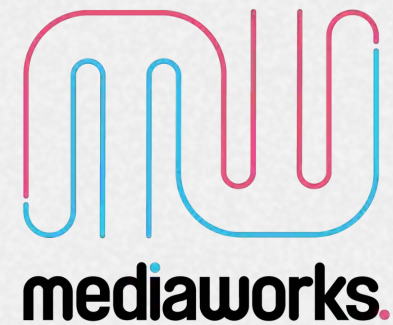
Held every two years, the Business Excellence Awards continue to recognise and celebrate the businesses, organisations and people helping shape a thriving Marlborough economy.



CHAMBER PARTNERS 2026/27

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