



MAKING MARLBOROUGH

The Immigrants' Story

SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL 2021

We are all immigrants to Marlborough - or the children of immigrants. As its name suggests, Marlborough outwardly retains much of the characteristics and culture of the European settlers who arrived in the nineteenth century. But it has always been a surprisingly diverse region where people of different cultures and beliefs have lived together in safety and harmony.

The first of those immigrants arrived just 900 years ago, when the Polynesian ancestors of today's **Rangitāne o Wairau** settled at the Wairau Boulder Bank.

The contribution of the two Treaty partners to the special nature of the Marlborough community has since been enriched by waves of other immigrants. Imagine Marlborough today without the influence of:

- *Lebanese and Croatian winemakers who from very early days saw potential here;*
- *Italian whalers, fishermen and chefs like the Perano family and Rocco brothers;*
- *Indian, Chinese, Thai, Turkish, Swiss and South American cuisine;*
- *The energy of the Dutch - Verstappens, Van Velthovens, Wagenvoorts etc;*
- *William Brownlee and the foresters of the hills and Sounds;*
- *The diverse seamen and aviators who bridged Cook Strait via river, sea and air;*
- *The English, Scottish and Scandinavian farmers who built our agricultural industry;*
- *The visionary people from afar – Ivan Yukich, Ernie Hunter, Daniel Le Brun, Edel Everling and many others - who created a world-famous wine region;*
- *The more recent waves of immigrants from the Middle East, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Pacific Islands bringing their rich culture and heritage with them.*

They are all part of our Marlborough Story – and we want to tell that story.

The Marlborough Heritage Trust is working with filmmaker Paul Davidson and Marlborough Museum Chief Executive Steve Austin to tell our immigrant stories in a contemporary manner for a twenty-first century audience.

"Many people have made a brave and often painful decision to make a new life here. Marlborough is a small but increasingly diverse community, and a film like "Making Marlborough" will be a great help in building a stronger, inclusive and connected community. The Marlborough Multicultural Centre is eager to assist with making the film, and I invite all Marlburians to do the same."

Margaret Western
Manager, Marlborough Multicultural Centre



"I have been very pleased to support the work of the Heritage Trust. Capturing our Marlborough Story is such important work and this would be an incredibly valuable resource for all schools in our region. A number of our students have contributed to the work so far and we are very enthusiastic in our support of continuing this work to a full documentary."

Simon Heath
Principal, Renwick School

PREVIEW TRAILER

At this stage funding from Marlborough District Council has enabled the production of a short preview of the proposed documentary, which can be seen here –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHPj2ZviUEI>

Completion of the full 48 minute documentary will require some six months of research, planning, filming, post-production and release, with a premiere planned for Marlborough Anniversary Weekend, November 2021.

The required production budget is \$32,000 (excluding GST) plus significant voluntary contribution from local historians, authors, iwi, families and community groups.

It is also noted that **Screen Marlborough** will this year become a local office with increased funding to support film-making in Marlborough. The completion of "Making Marlborough" would be an excellent launch project for Screen Marlborough to support as a high-profile and unique community-centred production.

We are also delighted that filmmaker **Keelan Walker** has secured funding and is busy telling little-known heritage stories of the various Iwi who settled the Wairau. The contribution of many other immigrant groups that make Marlborough such a diverse place should similarly be recorded and celebrated.

IN SUMMARY: the Marlborough Heritage Trust is currently seeking financial support to complete this film from funding bodies (including Council), corporate sponsorship and private donations. We invite Council to join us.