

SUBMISSION TO ANNUAL PLAN 2023 – 2024

OUR AUDIO VISUAL HISTORY

Since the Wairau was first inhabited by our Tangata Whenua in the 13th century, its human stories have been well recorded, firstly in oral history, then writings and paintings and later photography. Much of this material is now recorded and archived in Iwi records and the District Museums.

Only in the 20th century did moving picture film technology permit the capture of community activities and events in audio visual form. Some early Marlborough stories have been captured in this way, initially by private individuals and later by the government's National Film Unit.

In the past few decades, increasingly available film technology has led to an exponential rise in filmed material from many sources. Although much of this is of family interest only, there is a significant amount of important Marlborough history now recorded on film and video.

But where is it - and how can anyone see it?

There is no formal archive of any sort for the vast majority of Marlborough's filmed history. Some material is in the National Film Archive - Nga Taonga - or the archives of Television New Zealand, but most of it lies hidden and inaccessible.

In May 2021 I wrote to the Marlborough Heritage Trust suggesting it might consider creating a publicly accessible audio visual archive at the Marlborough Museum. This would complement the present excellent archives of our written history held at the Museum. However the Trust currently has other pressing priorities and no response was made.

Since 1990 much of my own documentary work ("*Bytesize Productions*") has covered a wide range of Marlborough stories, current or historical. These include many stories of whaling days, the wine industry, aviation (including the world-famous Kaikoura UFOs), farming, viticulture, the Marlborough Research Centre, local schools, hospice, arts and entertainment, the Sounds, service clubs, wine festival and most recently, the Marlborough migrant story.



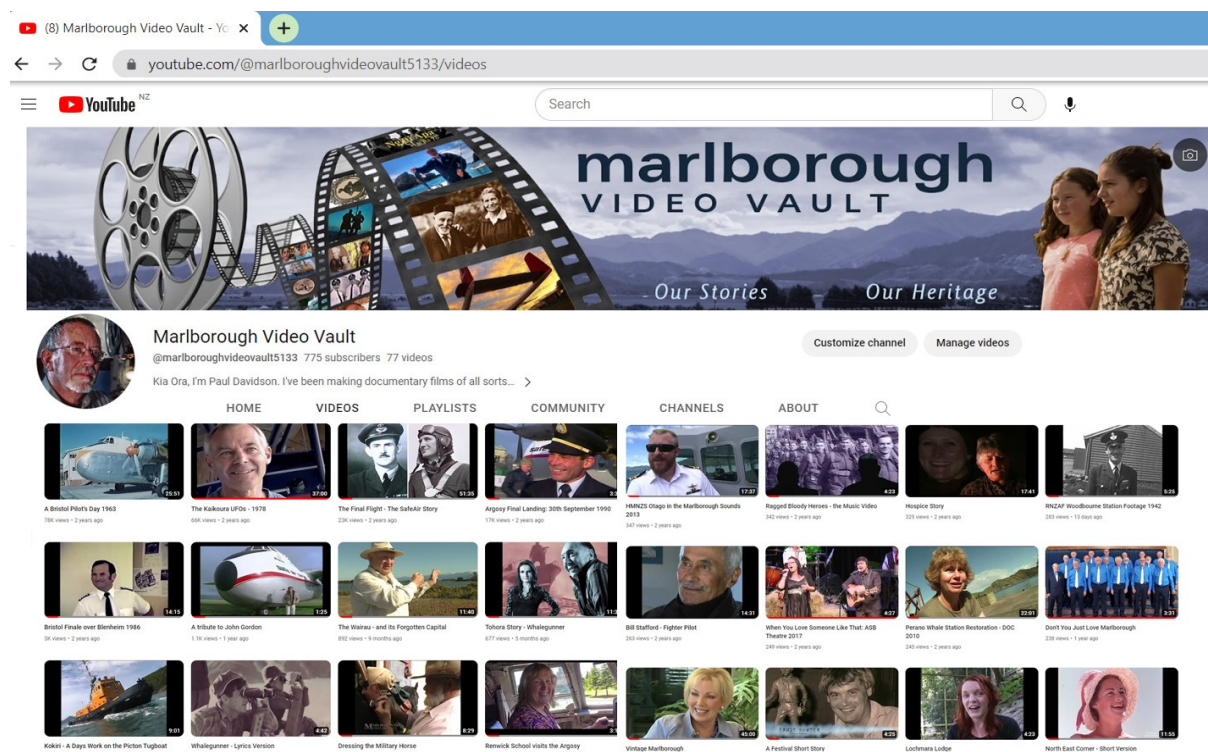
In addition to my own wide-ranging production, much Marlborough film material exists elsewhere including –

- National Archives – Pictorial Parade and National Film Unit productions;*
- Nga Taonga Film Archive – now a part of the National Library;*
- Leo McKendry collection – much material covering his tenure as Mayor;*
- Graeme Cowley – David Herd and the Auntsfield collection;*
- Jane Hunter archive – the early wine industry;*
- Safe Air collection – the history of this unique Marlborough airline;*
- Cuddon collection – quality film of early Marlborough industry by Gorton Cuddon;*
- Gill Family collection of Marlborough life and the construction industry;*
- Ngati Apa productions made for Waitangi Tribunal proceedings;*
- Keelan Walker – talented producer of Rangitane Iwi documentaries;*
- Independent filmmakers from the TOTS (Top of the South) filmmaker Society;*
- Bruce Dale – independent Film Society collector;*
- Maurice Brown of the Garlic Shed cinema;*
- Company and family film collections.*

THE MARLBOROUGH VIDEO VAULT

Two years ago a start was made to collate some of this material into a Youtube channel called “The Marlborough Video Vault”. This is a free and public channel which currently contains some 75 films, much of it from my own Bytesize Productions. The video vault can be accessed instantly from anywhere in the world with a simple click on a link, and offers at least a glimpse of what could be done with a great deal more Marlborough footage.

The present vault can be accessed here - [Marlborough Video Vault](https://www.youtube.com/@marlboroughvideovault5133)



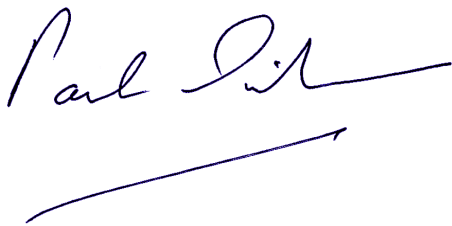
This is a start, but I believe the time has come to consider how the valuable film history of Marlborough might be properly conserved, archived and made available to all.

I therefore respectfully ask that Council:

- 1) Recognises the significance of the audio visual heritage of Marlborough and the absence of any formal means to preserve and maintain this heritage asset;**
- 2) Encourage a partnership between the heritage sector and Screen Marlborough to develop a strategy for collection and protection of the region's film heritage;**
- 3) In consultation with the heritage and filmmaking sectors of the community, develop appropriate strategies and budgets to research, access, collate and preserve all significant audio visual resources relevant to the Marlborough Iwi and community.**

I do wish to speak in support of this submission at the June public hearings and look forward to the opportunity for further debate, discussion and consideration.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Davidson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Davidson

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