Why Marlborough:

Blenheim is a proven venue with a proven record for contest organisation – remember 2018.

Marlborough's geography, excellent venue, and genuine enthusiasm offers an excellent opportunity for a well attended friendly contest in an ideal situation:

- Centrally located in New Zealand with excellent road, air, and ferry access.
- Five quality performance venues within the adjacent buildings of Whitehaven Theatre and Marlborough Events Centre.
- A range of quality accommodation both within the town and in Picton just 20 minutes drive away. Picton is closer than many city suburbs.
- High level of support from the community, Marlborough District Council, Destination Marlborough, and Marlborough District Brass Band executive, members and supporters.

Performance Venues:
Whitehaven Theatre & Marlborough Events Centre


Whitehaven Theatre & Marlborough Events Centre

All events would be in the Whitehaven Theatre and Marlborough Events Centre, which provide fully equipped modern quality performance and social areas, and are situated together right on the edge of Blenheim CBD.

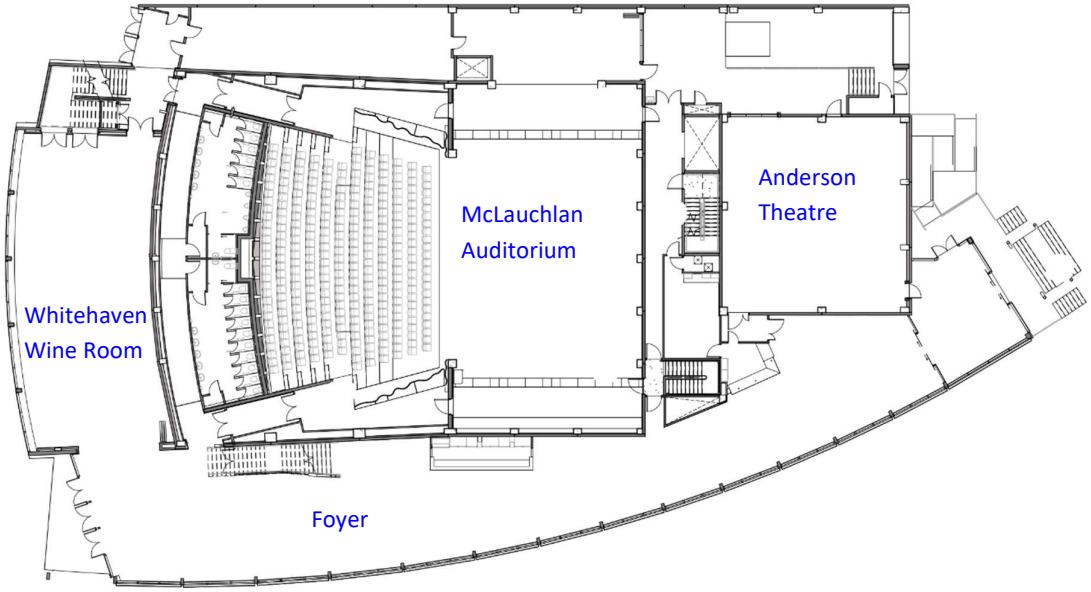
Whitehaven Theatre Marlborough (formerly ASB Theatre) is Blenheim's premier venue for events and performances. Opened in 2016, this modern facility boasts a 700-seat auditorium, a scenic function room, a flexible black box theatre, and an open foyer that connects all three spaces.

The Marlborough Events Centre offers three large, multi-purpose spaces that can be opened to make one Grand Hall with seating for up to 400 guests theatre style. Also available is the spacious 'trades' hall which is suitable as a band warm up area.

Both venues have comfortable and modern foyer areas with bars and seating and full Wi-Fi facilities.

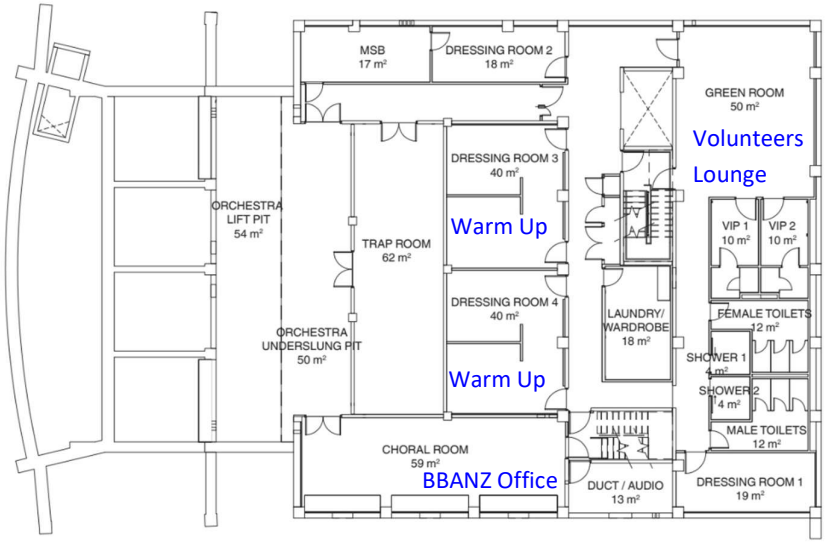
Above the Events Centre is the new Marlborough Wine and Food Experience and Oak & Ivy Restaurant. Other food and beverage providers are available within just a few minutes walking distance.

Whitehaven Theatre



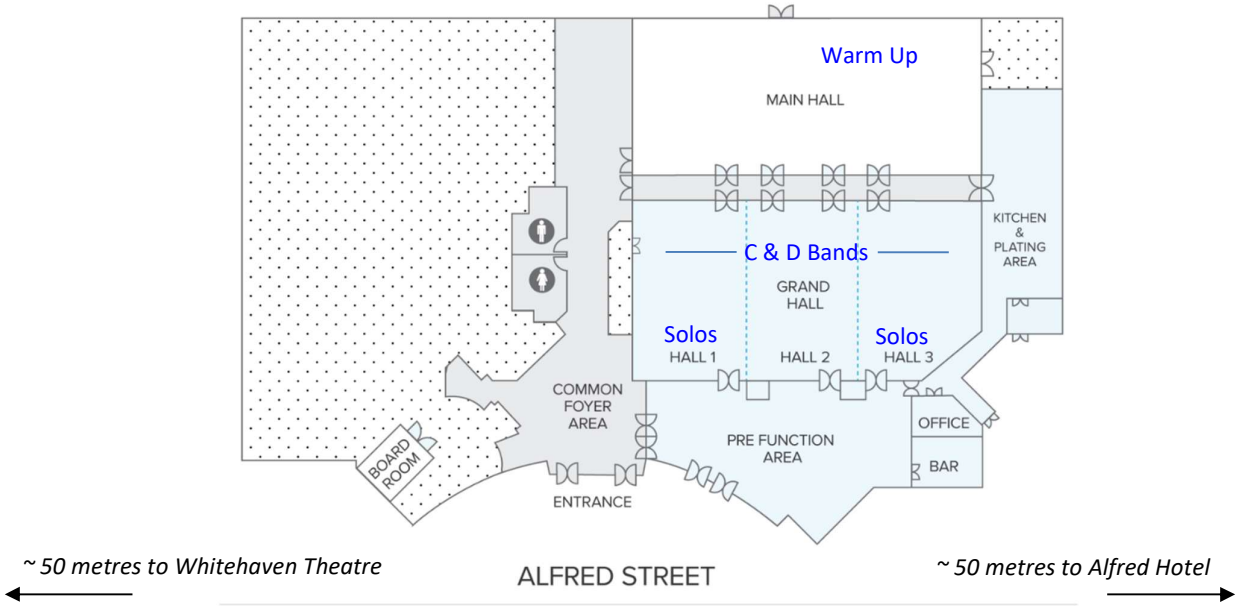
Hutchison Street

Whitehaven Theatre - Downstairs



Hutchison Street

Marlborough Events Centre



McLauchlan Family Auditorium

The McLauchlan Family Auditorium is the premier venue within the Whitehaven Theatre complex. It offers impressive acoustics with easy stage access and generous warm up and green rooms. The split level auditorium provides seating for up to 700 audience.

The McLauchlan Family Auditorium would host solos as well as the A & B Grade bands, Champion of Champions, and Invitation Slow Melody events.


McLauchlan Family Auditorium

Anderson Theatre

The Anderson Theatre is designed for adaptability. This boutique black box studio theatre within the Whitehaven Theatre complex is specifically designed with adaptability and versatility in mind. The intimate space lends itself ideally to solo and ensemble events, without having to compromise on quality, production, and presentation options. Audience capacity up to 80.

The Anderson Theatre is ideal for solo and or ensemble events.

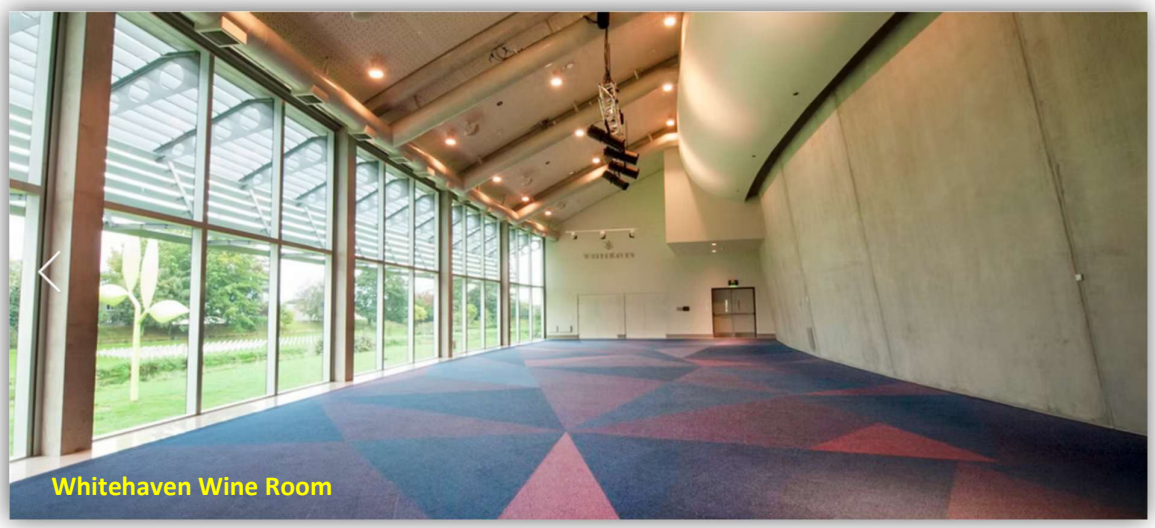

Anderson Theatre

Whitehaven Wine Room

The Whitehaven Wine Room is an elegant space within the Whitehaven Theatre complex, that offers views overlooking the Taylor River and a magnificent Grant Williams kinetic sculpture.

This space can be a standalone room seating 120 audience, or seamlessly integrated with the main foyer to provide a spacious social gathering area.

The Whitehaven Wine Room would be used for solos / ensemble events on Wednesday and Thursday, and would be transformed into a social / café room for Friday and Saturday with live stream, trade stands, and social space.


Whitehaven Wine Room

Marlborough Events Centre

The Marlborough Events Centre is located adjacent to the Whitehaven Theatre, and features three multi-purpose spaces that can be opened to seamlessly create one large space.

Just as we did in 2018, we would use two rooms for solos / ensemble events on Wednesday and Thursday, each with up to 150 audience capacity, and open up the full venue into the Grand Hall with a low stage and seating around 400 audience for Friday and Saturday C & D grade band events.

Soloists would use the attached green room for warm-up, whilst bands would use the adjacent main hall for waiting and warm up. Both are sound isolated from the performance halls.



A solo / ensemble performance space in Marlborough Events Centre



The Grand Hall in Marlborough Events Centre

Parking:

- Directly across the road from Whitehaven Theatre is a covered car parking building providing adequate parking for cars. Parking is free after 5:30pm weekdays and all weekend.
- There is adequate parking for buses and trucks near the railway station and in the Wynan Street carpark, just a few minutes walk from the Theatre.

Rehearsal Venues:

- Within easy reach of the Theatre and CBD are a number of church and school facilities, and other halls which individual bands may negotiate for rehearsal rooms.
- A list of some of the facilities and contacts is attached as Appendix “B”.

Street March:

We are currently exploring a number of options for the street march, but we foresee no problems with road closures beyond normal traffic management requirements.

Accommodation:

Marlborough offers quality accommodation with over 1,000 beds within ten minutes walk of the Whitehaven Theatre. Within the region, in excess of 2,000 people can be accommodated with high standard amenities and comfort.



Artists impression of the Alfred Hotel adjacent to the Marlborough Events Centre

A new 4/5 star 123 room hotel is currently under construction adjacent to the Marlborough Events Centre and will be open in 2027. Just a few minutes walk from the Whitehaven Theatre are three hotels that can host the largest numbers. The Scenic Hotel Marlborough features 54 guest rooms, the Quality Hotel features 30 well appointed rooms and Carnmore Chateau Marlborough offers 45 suites and apartments, many recently refurbished.

Motel accommodation is plentiful within the CBD and nearby Springlands, with cheaper accommodation options available at the motorcamp and other easily accessible nearby locations.

A list of the main accommodation facilities is attached as Appendix "C"

Travel:

Air New Zealand, Sounds Air, and Originair all fly into Marlborough Airport, which is 15 minutes drive from Blenheim CBD.

Bluebridge and Interislander Cook Strait ferries run between Wellington city and Picton, which is 20 minutes drive from Blenheim.

The drive from Christchurch to Blenheim is an easy 4 hour trip.

Financial:

Marlborough District Council have indicated that they will support the championships through their Commercial Activities Fund, and sponsorship of each event will be sought from local and national businesses. Grant funding from Pub Charity, Lion Foundation, Redwood Trust, and possibly others will be sought.

Our proposed conservative budget using figures either known or estimated at this very early stage is attached as appendix "D". The budget will be continually updated as costs and income become clearer.

In line with BBANZ rules, all profits from the contest will be split 60/40 between BBANZ and Marlborough District Brass Band Inc.

Organising Committee:

The committee will be led by Brian Nicholas who has experience managing the 2018 National Contest in Blenheim, as well as at least five provincial contests over 30 years. As a past NMC member Brian has a good understanding of BBANZ requirements and expectations with regard to contest operation and outcomes.

Brian will be assisted by John White who has significant management experience in large enterprise environments, many valuable local contacts, and is a past brass bandsman having attended many national and service band contests.

The balance of the committee will comprise local people with appropriate and specific skills, and will be recruited after contest application approval.

Operational Personnel:

Marlborough District Brass has many local contacts and we do not anticipate any difficulty recruiting enough volunteers to assist.

Blenheim has a strong service club sector from which to draw operational personnel, and Whitehaven Theatre has a large pool of volunteers who assist with ticketing and door duties.

Marlborough District Brass Band Inc Executive at time of application are:

Chairman:	John White
Treasurer:	Christine Moseley
Secretary:	Cory Clemett
Executive Officer:	Brian Nicholas
Musical Director:	Robin Randall

Letter of support is attached as appendix "F" from:

✓ Mayor of Marlborough

"Our vision is to provide a memorable, friendly environment were musical excellence and quality brass bandsmanship will be experienced by competing musicians and appreciative audiences".

About Marlborough:



Located at the top of the South Island, Marlborough enjoys high sunshine hours and a temperate climate so that visitors can experience all of Marlborough's diversity through the seasons. No matter what time of year, there is always something going on in Marlborough.

Adventurers young and old will find a great choice of activities on land and on water and even in the air. Hiking, sea kayaking, sailing, cruising, mountain biking, rafting, scenic flights, fishing, diving, horse trekking, or just relaxing and enjoying the views: from laid back to full adrenaline rush, there is an experience waiting for you in Marlborough.

Guests of Marlborough can choose from a range of accommodation options, all of which come with a warm welcome and plenty of local hospitality. There are many hotels, motels and guest houses in the townships of Picton, Blenheim and Havelock convenient to local amenities, travel and tour operators.



Marlborough is an area rich in history and culture, and is home to many artists and artisan craftspeople that draw their inspiration from the region's diverse landscapes. You can get to know Marlborough with a visit to one of its many historical landmarks, or there is the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre with World War One and Two aircraft and scenes brought to life by Weta Workshops. You can also follow the popular art and craft trail exploring local paintings, pottery and other crafts and creations.

Marlborough is New Zealand's largest wine growing region. Producing many internationally acclaimed award winning wines. Many wineries have tasting rooms and restaurants within their vineyards providing quality wines or locally brewed beer pared a deliciously diverse range of wild foods and local produce.



Appendix “B” - Rehearsal Venues:

Some of Blenheim’s Rehearsal Halls – August 2026

Hall	Km from CBD
Masonic Lodge Hall	0.30
St Andrews Church Hall	0.50
Methodist Church, Wesley Centre	0.50
Nativity Anglican Church Hall	0.50
Salvation Army Blenheim	0.50
Blenheim School Hall	0.50
St Mary's Catholic Chuirch	0.50
Senior Citizens Club	0.70
Mayfield School Hall	1.00
Marlborough Boy's Coillege	1.00
Marlborough Girls' College	1.10
Whitney Street School	1.20
The Guides Marlborough Regional Hall	1.20
Bright Centre	1.50
Central Rugby Football Club	1.50
Baptiist Church (Connect)	1.70
Springlands School Hall	2.10
St Christophers Church	3.00
St Ninians Church	3.00
Riverlands Hall	3.20

Appendix “C” - Accommodation:

Some of Marlborough’s Accommodation – August 2026

Accommodation	Location	Type	Km from CBD
Hotel d'Urville	Blenheim	Hotel	0.1
14th Lane Urban Hotel	Blenheim	Hotel	0.3
Carnmore Chateau Marlborough	Blenheim	Hotel	0.3
Bings Motel	Blenheim	Budget Motel	0.5
Ashleigh Court Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.6
Blenheim Spa Motor Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	0.6
Colonial Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.6
Ellena Court	Blenheim	Motel	0.6
Waterfront Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.6
Aston Court	Blenheim	Motel	0.7
Bella Vista Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.7
Blenheim Palms	Blenheim	Motel	0.7
Centre Court Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.7
Lugano Motor Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	0.7
Montana Lodge Motel	Blenheim	Motel	0.8
Scenic Hotel	Blenheim	Hotel	0.8
171 on High	Blenheim	Motel	1.0
Aorangi Manor Motel	Blenheim	Motel	1.0
Raymar Motor Inn	Blenheim	Motel	1.0
Riverside Hotel	Blenheim	Hotel	1.0
193 Aorangi	Blenheim	Motel	1.2
Two Tree Motel & Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	1.2
Blenheim Bridges Holiday Park	Blenheim	Budget Motel	1.5
Grove Park Motor Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	1.5
Cherylea Motels	Blenheim	Motel	1.8
Knightsbridge Court Motor Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	2.1
Sundowner Motel	Blenheim	Motel	2.2
Middle park Motel	Blenheim	Motel	2.3
Admirals Motor Lodge	Blenheim	Motel	2.5
Asure Phoenix Motor Inn	Blenheim	Motel	2.7
Commodore Court Motel	Blenheim	Motel	2.7
The Marlborough	Rapaura	Hotel	6.5
Woodbourne Motels	Renwick	Motel	12.0
Vintners Retreat	Rapaura	Motel	14.6
Bay Vista Waterfront Motel	Picton	Motel	28.0
Picton Beachcomber	Picton	Hotel	28.0
Broadway Motel	Picton	Motel	28.0
Gateway Motel	Picton	Motel	28.0
Harbour View Motel	Picton	Motel	28.0
Jasmine Court	Picton	Motel	28.0
Picton Beachcomber Inn	Picton	Hotel	28.0

Appendix “E” - Letter of Support:

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SEYMOUR SQUARE
PO BOX 443
BLENHEIM 7240
NEW ZEALAND
TELEPHONE (0064) 3 520 7400
FACSIMILE (0064) 3 520 7494
EMAIL mayor@marlborough.govt.nz
WEB www.marlborough.govt.nz

20 August 2026

Record No: 26171779
File Ref: C500-007-004-02
Ask For: Mayor Taylor

To whom it may concern
Marlborough District Brass Band

Tēnā koe

Support for National Brass Band Championships Marlborough 2029

As Mayor of Marlborough I am very pleased to be able to support this application to host the National Brass Band Championships, here in Blenheim, in July 2029.

Council’s connection with the band dates back to 1962 when the band left its military roots to become the Blenheim Municipal Band. It’s now very much Marlborough’s brass band and is part of our community. The band fulfils a number of civic duties at commemorative services, formal events and street parades, as well as providing very popular entertainment to local audiences.

In both 2018 and 2025, the Marlborough District Brass Band hosted the National Brass Band Championships – events which were exceptionally well organised and attended. In 2018 there were 28 bands in attendance, and over 1200 visitors for the five days of the contest. The Whitehaven Theatre and its co-location with the Marlborough Events Centre lends itself to hosting large format events and I am confident the facilities would again meet the requirements of the national event. It would be an honour for the region to host the National Championships again in July 2029.

I have every confidence in the capable people associated with the Marlborough District Brass Band, and I can assure you they will receive excellent support from our Council Events and Community Partnerships Manager. I hope you are able to look favourably upon the Marlborough District Brass Band’s application.

Ngā mihi

NADINE TAYLOR
MAYOR