



Havelock Mussel & Seafood Festival 2027

Stallholder Information Sheet

Saturday 13 March 2027, 11am–7pm · Applications close 4 December 2026

What's changed for this year in 2027

- Festival hours are now **11am–7pm** (up from 10am–6pm) — to work around the morning fog and capture the dinner crowd. Pack-in/vehicle-clearance and access times below have shifted an hour later to match.
- **Stall fees:**
 - Community Group \$65 incl GST
 - Commercial Stall \$225 incl GST
 - Sponsor stalls (per your sponsorship agreement) don't pay a site fee, but power and wristbands are still charged.
 - Power: Saturday only \$30 incl GST, or Friday night + Saturday \$60 incl GST.
- EnviroWaste will be on site running waste stations, including a plate scheme you can opt into on your application form.

Food and drink stalls

To assist with the overall co-ordination of exhibitors and the festival programme, it is important that you clearly state an accurate list of food/beverages/products which you will be selling. If for any reason this changes before the festival, please contact the stall organisers ASAP. Any stall selling products on the day without the approval of the stall organisers risks being closed down.

The last couple of festivals have seen several food stalls, particularly those selling seafood dishes, run out of product. Please ensure you bring sufficient product with you to avoid crowd disappointment — we'll advise you the Monday before the festival on how ticket sales are trending. The most common complaint of the festival has been how early some stalls sell out.

There are some Marlborough District Council (MDC) conditions that all stallholders must adhere to:

- We encourage and request all food and beverage stallholders to sell sugar-free drinks — water, fruit drinks with no added sugar, unsweetened milk and sugar-free soft drinks.
- Trays or protections must be laid down by food stalls to prevent grease, fat or other harmful materials damaging the grounds.
- All sites selling food and/or beverages must have a food stall licence from the council — this is your responsibility, and it must be clearly displayed at your site.
- All food packaging and drink vessels must be disposable and non-breakable. No glass or hard breakable plastic is allowed on the domain — EnviroWaste will have compostable/recyclable-friendly waste stations on site, and you can opt into their plate scheme on your application form.

- All stallholders must only have inspected meat products for sale. Mussels or fish for sale must have been procured through registered fish receivers, or supplied through the official festival supplier (community groups only, subject to availability).
- All sites selling water must sell it packaged and sealed. No tap water is to be supplied other than by the organisers.
- All food and/or drink stalls are to bring a table and chairs for patrons.

Licence forms can be downloaded from marlborough.govt.nz, or phone 03 520 7400. Please allow plenty of time — these go to MDC directly, not to the festival committee or contractor. MDC will inspect stalls for compliance on the day; stalls without their permit on display, or not complying with its conditions, may be closed down.

Site structure

Sites are 5m x 5m. Please ensure all your equipment, including your vehicle (where relevant), is contained within this area — this space is not negotiable, and if you take up more room on the day we'll need to ask you to move your goods and/or marquee. When advising the size of your stall, include the overall length and width, including drawbar, and whether your vehicle is part of your stall.

All sites are bare and un-powered unless otherwise booked on your application form. You'll need to provide your own protection from the elements, gas-powered cooking equipment, and food storage/presentation areas — keep on-site food preparation to a minimum where possible.

For additional equipment hire: Continental 0800 252 555, McKendrick Event Hire 021 504 074

Set up

- **Friday 12 March:** site open for setting up 3pm–6pm (you'll need to leave by 6.30pm).
- **Saturday 13 March:** site reopens from 7am. Sites must be fully set up and ready to go by 11am — all vehicles not remaining within your 5m x 5m site must be off the domain by 10.30am, and won't be let back on until after the event finishes (approx. 7.15pm).
- There's no site access outside these windows — please plan around them.
- Stallholder access is via Peel Street (off Cook Street) entrance only.
- Stallholders must wear their wristbands at all times — security will check at the gate and re-issue if not secured properly. **No wristband, no entry, no exceptions.** Arrange your own parking outside the festival boundary.
- Sites must remain set up until the entertainment finishes, approx. 7pm.

Alcohol stalls

Only stalls designated by the organisers may sell alcohol. All alcohol stalls must apply for and hold their own special liquor licence at their own cost (captured on your application form), provide at least **one person with a current bar manager's certificate on site at all times**, and display their licence to trade for the specific date.

Alcohol sales must end at 6.30pm.

Alcohol stallholders are responsible for checking ID for anyone appearing under 25 and monitoring intoxicated customers — contact onsite police or roving security if you need help. Any fines from irresponsible management of alcohol sales are the stallholder's responsibility.

There are alcohol checkpoints operated by police at departure points from the festival. No bottle sales or alcohol in glass containers — remember this is held on a children's playing field. Non-compliance risks your future involvement in the festival.

Health & safety

All sites must have their own Health & Safety policy that complies with H&S legislation, and familiarise themselves with the festival's Health & Safety Plan on havelockmussselfestival.co.nz.

All sites operating gas or electrics must have a fire extinguisher on site (advice of Marlborough Fire Safety), to protect both your own site and neighbouring ones — make sure your staff know where it is and how to use it. Small extinguishers can be hired through Fire Safety Systems, 0508 352 637. Food stalls will be inspected for these. If operating gas, keep a bottle of soapy water on hand to check for leaks — a fire safety officer requirement.

Stallholders may close early and carry equipment off site, but tents/marquees etc. cannot be removed until the festival ends. Absolutely no cars are to be driven around the site between 10.30am and 7pm — this is for public safety.

Rubbish & waste

You're responsible for removing your own rubbish from your site throughout the day and during pack-up. The festival provides wheelie bins and skips for public use — please don't fill these with stallholder rubbish; it's your responsibility to take it away with you.

EnviroWaste will be on site running dedicated **waste stations, plus a plate scheme** you can opt into via your application form. This is in addition to, not instead of, your own responsibility for keeping your site tidy.

Judging

Take pride in setting up your stall — stalls are judged early in the day, with winners announced on the day and displayed on the festival website. Categories are:

- Best Commercial Stall Holder
- Best Community Stall Holder
- Best Seafood Creation
- Best Mussel Dish of the Festival

You can opt in (and choose which categories) on your application form.

Wristbands

Every stall is allocated three wristbands. If you need more, note this on your application form — you're entitled to a maximum of five additional wristbands at \$20 + GST each. Security won't admit anyone without a stallholder or sponsor wristband before 11am, so plan your set-up crew accordingly (helpers with a general admission ticket also won't be let in before 11am).

Currency

There's no "Festival" currency — please bring plenty of change for your own stall. You're responsible for your own cash takings on the day; there's no festival bank facility to deposit money or get more change. We highly recommend an EFTPOS option, ideally contactless.

Site security

Security is on site in the fenced-off area overnight on Friday. The main site is ring-fenced from Friday morning, with access only via the Peel Street entrance. Even though the area is patrolled, we recommend removing valuable items overnight where possible — security is all-care, no-responsibility. The festival isn't responsible for loss or damage to stallholders' products or equipment.

Power requirements

Include any power requirements on your application form and state what appliance the power is for. No personal generators allowed.

- Saturday only – \$30 incl GST
- Friday night + Saturday – \$60 incl GST (Friday-night power sites are grouped together in one block for the weekend)

You're required to provide your own extension cords and leads.

Cancellations & refunds

Cancel before 28 February 2027: full refund. Cancel from 28 February 2027 onward: 50% of your stall site fee is refunded, plus 100% of any power and wristband fees paid.

Additional information

- A water tap is available on the seaward side of the domain, for everyone's use — permanent hoses must not be connected to it.
- Any stallholder responsible for damage to the festival site requiring maintenance (e.g. burnt grass, water damage) will be liable for costs and/or repair, handled by MDC rather than the organisers. Leave your site as you found it.
- Absolutely no dogs allowed at the festival.

Please see website for Health & Safety Documents:

- Site Plan
- HMF Health and Safety Plan as relates to stallholders

Contact details

Havelock Mussel & Seafood Festival

Email: stalls@havelockmusselfestival.co.nz