

Marlborough



Rural Police

July 2013

Welcome to the first edition of the Marlborough Police Rural Newsletter. Thanks to all of you who have already been in touch with suggestions and queries. What we're seeing already is that community spirit is alive and well in rural Marlborough and a lot of you are keen to do your bit to ensure you and your neighbours are safe.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who hasn't already signed up and don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions or issues.

Meet the team



Beau Webster

Beau has been a Rural Police Officer in Marlborough for about 13 years. His commitments stretch right across our province from Robin Hood Bay to Kekerengu, Molesworth and Rainbow Valleys.. Beau started his Policing career in South Auckland, but has found that he really much prefers the rural policing role here in Marlborough. Has been a long term member of Police Search and Rescue. Beau left school intending to become a stock agent. He then decided to become a shearer and has travelled the world shearing. He spent

nearly four years working in Africa as a security manager for an international school in Bophuthatswana (now integrated into North-West South Africa) where his wife was teaching just prior to joining the Police. His role was keeping a school of about 25 acres, with about 350 students - mostly from ex-pat families, safe. The six foot perimeter fence proved inadequate and Beau added razor wire before finally electrifying it.

It's probably fair to say that rural policing in Marlborough is a world away from that.

Paul McKenzie

Paul has Search and Rescue experience as well as Coast Guard. He was based in Picton for extended period before taking up the second position as Rural Officer for Marlborough in 2011. Paul has 25 years policing, but no shearing experience.



Shutting the gate on rural crime in Marlborough



Paul McKenzie continued...

He has worked most of his career in rural areas, starting out in Canterbury where he was based at Lyttelton. The position covered Banks Peninsula and he was 2 I/C at Akaroa Station for four years before moving to the Queenstown Lakes District policing the western Wakatipu, Glenorchy and Arrowtown areas. He moved to Marlborough in 2000 working out of Picton Station as Community Constable for the Picton area and the Sounds. Paul's Area covers Port Underwood, Rarangi Tuamarina, Northbank and Wairau Valley through to the Rainbow Valley. Paul has been a member of the Marlborough Police SAR squad for 13 years.

"I love living and working in the Marlborough District. I'm pleased to say we have one of the safest communities I've ever worked in.

"The area, like Beau's, has the usual assortment of rural issues. The top issue for farmers is often poachers. I'm pleased to report that over the last year a number of poachers have been prosecuted in the Nelson forest blocks on the Northbank.

"I have liaised closely with the Department of Conservation targeting spotlighting activities on DOC land in the Branch and Leatham catchments."

Your feedback

Thanks for your feedback from our questionnaire.

The issues raised most often were:

- **Poaching**
- **Crime trends**
- **Wanted or suspicious people**
- **Stock theft**
- **General safety**

Mike Porter

Mike has 31 years experience in policing ... and is still hoping to learn how to shear a sheep! He has a broad base of Policing experience.

As Crime Prevention Sergeant for

Marlborough Mike has the two Rural Officers and six other staff reporting to him.

Since taking responsibility for the Rural Officers, Mike has become acutely aware of the huge workloads they both have and is hoping the improved communication with you all will be of some assistance. Mike is a Cantabrian with strong links to Mid Canterbury (Methven) and Portobello in Otago. He started his Policing career in South Auckland and spent 10 years there before coming to Marlborough. He has done two overseas deployments with NZ Police - one to Namibia for a year and one to East Timor for six months.

He has spent time working in Criminal Intelligence Sections and attached to Crime Control and Team Policing units in Auckland.

He is an Intelligence Analyst qualified to advanced level and also a trained SOCO, or Scene of Crime Officer.

He has been involved in the annual cannabis recovery operation for many years.



Contact us

marlb.rural@police.govt.nz

Beau Webster Ph 021 1915526

Paul McKenzie Ph 021 1915562

Mike Porter Ph 021 1916127

Blenheim Police Station Ph 5785279



Poachers in Waihopai Valley

Beau Webster responding to information about possible poachers in the Waihopai Valley on the 4th of July discovered two men with six pig dogs.

They tried to deceive Beau by saying there was a third person responsible for everything who was still in the bush. Beau was having none of this. They eventually admitted it was just the two of them and that they had driven there. Both were disqualified drivers. With the help of other staff, more inquiries were made and the area was searched by Dog Handler Steve Triibe and Police Dog Segar. Here's Beau's story ...

On the 4th of July, a local farm manager located a 4wd vehicle parked just off the road in the upper Waihopai Valley area. Two men from the Nelson area were located. They had six pig dogs with them, but we didn't locate any firearms.

We discovered that both were wanted so we arrested them on Warrants and for Driving while Disqualified. Their vehicle was impounded and their hunting equipment seized.

After some more inquiries we discovered that overnight they also entered Timbergro Forestry, which is probably better known locally as Tordaroch. They drove around all the roads spotlighting for pigs and then came out of Timbergro and drove further up the valley where they were located unlawfully hunting on another property. They will now be facing further charges of Unlawful Hunting and Trespass.

These two were not the most desirable people to have in the valley and it would not have been wise for locals to approach them to try and sort the matter out themselves.

Well done to the farm manger who reported them. The tactic of observing and reporting to the Police was the right one.

Police would like to acknowledge the assistance given by a number of locals in the area at the time. I for one am very grateful as without their assistance these offenders may not have been caught.

These two poachers are the 7th and 8th people we have found unlawfully hunting in the Waihopai and Avon Valley area in the last four months. All have, or will be, prosecuted and all will have to explain to the Area Commander why they should retain their firearms licence if they had one. Most are likely to lose their Firearms Licence.

The last four poachers apprehended in the Waihopai were all from Nelson.

The latest two go to court on the 22nd of July and 12th of August respectively. One of this pair is facing prosecution for the second time poaching so faces a \$1000 fine. The other faces a \$500. They have been served six Trespass Notices for properties in the area.

Poaching - did you know?

- In the last year Police dealt with 16 poachers in Marlborough.
- There is no power of arrest by Police, for Illegal Hunting under the Wild Animal control Act, however,
- Police can arrest if a person illegally hunts and then fails to provide their particulars or gives false particulars.
- Offenders must be summonsed for court.
- All wild animals remain the property of the Crown until they are lawfully killed.
- Police can seize vehicles equipment and dogs used in the commission of the offending.



Wairau Valley Golf Club

In the early hours of the 8th of June 2013 a person or persons drove on to the Wairau Valley golf course. The vehicle, believed to be a four wheel drive, tore up the main fairway and did wheel spins on the greens. The estimated damage was around \$5000. The money aside, this act was just plain senseless vandalism of a well used community asset. It was the mindlessness of a few that have spoilt it for other community users. We are currently speaking to some persons of interest in relation to this but your help is still needed. Someone has talked or seen something...If anyone has any information that can be of assistance please, contact Paul McKenzie at Blenheim.

Other news

Several other inquiries into unlawful hunting activities are currently being carried out by S/Const Paul McKenzie.

Paul is also helping cover the Havelock area and outer Sounds while one of the officers from there is on leave. Beau will also contribute there when required.

Remember, when we aren't working there are the shift staff available to respond.

To do our job well we need the help and support of the community. Like it says on the back of our cars "Safer Communities Together". It is that community partnership with the police that will ensure we live in a good honest community where people are held to account.

We are currently planning the overhaul of the bus shelter at Onamalutu. We are in talks with the locals

and the manufacturer 'Total Span' of the shed. We have some plans to safe guard this valuable asset for the future. This again is community owned and a lot of work went into its placement and construction. Total Span do this at their own cost (approximately \$5000). We want to make it better than before. If you have any information on those responsible for its damage, again let us know.

We have one of the largest rural areas in the country serviced by two constables. If you need advice don't hesitate to contact us. We are only too happy to hear what may be of concern to you all out there and it doesn't have to be crime related - we get to hear a few good stories too.

We can't guarantee to solve all problems or issues but if it can be done we will do our best.

Marlborough Rural Police



