



March 2016

Welcome to our first newsletter for the new year...

Cannabis season in full swing

I know we keep going on about the rural community giving us information about the location of cannabis being grown or suspicious activity that could be linked to cannabis growers. We do this because we know that the cultivation of cannabis and drug use is linked to criminal activity in rural areas.

Our experience is that if we target somebody growing in an area they usually move away from that spot or give up. Part of our strategy in preventing crime in rural areas is the targeting of growers and the removal of plots of cannabis, but we need your help. The information can be given anonymously and you won't have to give evidence in court. You can do this by speaking in confidence to any of us on the Prevention Section (Beau, Russ, Todd or myself), or you can phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Please don't wait until you see us next to do this face to face as we can't get around everywhere and may miss you. We need to



know as soon as you know or suspect the activity. If you have a suspicion, let us know – we don't care if it turns out wrong we would rather check it and there be nothing there, than leave plants in an area with growers causing problems.

Emergency contacts

24 hr Police Emergency Ph 111

Blenheim Station Ph 578 5279

24 hr Women's Refuge (03) 577 9939

24 hr Victim Support 0800 842 846

24 hr Youth Line 0800 376 6333

24 hr Crisis Team (Mental Health) 0800 800 717

Family Violence (9am-11pm) 0800 456 450

Or visit: www.areyouok.org.nz



National Police and Rural Stakeholders Partnership Group

Feedback from across the rural sector, both internal and external, has highlighted a need to align our rural Police staff with the Prevention First strategy and Policing Excellence the Future, and to develop a Rural Prevention Strategy. This is our way of working together to achieve a common goal and meet our commitments to the community.

As a first step, earlier in 2015 the National (Crime) Prevention Centre (NPC) at Police National HQ initiated the formation of a national 'Police and Rural Stakeholders Partnership' group. This group's membership includes key leaders from Federated Farmers, Ministry of Primary Industries, Young Farmers NZ, Rural Women NZ, FMG and Police from diverse rural areas covering every district in the country. I have been seconded to this group, so will be the voice for Rural Policing in the Tasman area (That's Haast to Farewell spit across to Nelson down to Murchison across to Marlborough and down to Kaikoura).

I also attended the Rural Police Crime Prevention workshop, held at the Police College in Porirua last September. 60 other rural Police managers and officers from around the country, including one officer from the Chatham Islands, were there. The objective was to gather the views and feedback from our rural staff. A survey had also been distributed to 220 rural staff, the findings of which will assist in planning for the future. We want to deliver the best service we can with the resources we have to the rural sector.

Common themes emerged from the survey including under-reporting of crime, responding to family violence incidents, rural access to mental health services, poaching, trespass, and the officers' ability to use the new electronic devices in rural areas to complete their reporting and work (it's the modern world we live in now – most if not all Police work is dealt with electronically).

It became apparent at the workshop that there

is some fantastic work being done by our rural staff and we needed to capture, bottle and share it. Many of us were working in isolation but had shared problems and were all trying to address issues that had an effect on the rural community nationally, so why re-invent the wheel if somebody else is already doing it better somewhere else. It was great to see how others are dealing with similar issues, it was also so good to be able to develop networks with rural officers.

From those meetings some things that have since happened or are happening -

The National Prevention Centre has been working with FMG on rural crime prevention. As well as developing the Rural Crime Prevention Advice Guide (It will be sent as an additional email after this newsletter), the group has initiated newspaper and radio advertising focused on FMG high claim areas: Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty. They are also advertising in Otago and Southland.

The NPC, FMG and federated farmers are also planning a series of crime prevention workshops in high claim areas.

I have also shared information with many of the other areas regarding our initiative with the poaching signage. I've given copies of our rural newsletter to other rural Police and received great feedback. They love the idea of us reaching out to the rural community and sharing information and the information that is reported back to us as a result. It was that popular many other Policing areas are developing their own Newsletter using this format.

So things are happening.

In addition I have come up with an idea for a securing device for 4x4 motorbikes. We have quite a few stolen here and many throughout the country. I'm not sure if it is practicable or would work but I will be putting some more work into it and may get back to you soon about this.



Staff using drugs

From time to time we receive information about employees or contractors on farms or other rural properties using or suspected of using drugs. Farmers and employees often have a dilemma with how to deal with this situation. If you contact us we can give you advice. We have many tools at our disposal to help resolve the issue.

If you contact us, we will always deal with the information appropriately and that may mean we don't take direct action with an individual. We can retain the information as intelligence as it may help us fill in gaps to in our knowledge or we can do other things

to assist in changing the behaviour of those causing problems, without implicating the source of the information. Alternatively if it is needed and it is safe to do so, we will carry out direct action against those causing the problem.

As an employer or a person allowing contractors on to your property you have an obligation to ensure everybody is safe. Having knowledge about this sort of activity and not doing something puts you in a very difficult situation. Talk to us and don't bear the burden alone. We will help in whatever way we can. A problem shared.....

Police credit farmer's security for leading to early arrest of fuel thief

Waikato Police investigating the attempted theft of fuel from a rural property near Morrinsville say the prompt arrest of an offender was largely due to the proactive security steps the farmer had taken.

Shift Manager, Senior Sergeant Andrew O'Reilly, of the Waikato District Command Centre said Police were called to a Starkey Rd property shortly after 2.10am.

"The farmer's security system had alerted him to something being amiss and when to investigate.

"He found a man walking around the area of his fuel pumps and when challenged the man claimed his car, a red Holden Commodore, had overheated and broken down. While the farmer went to check his fuel pump and contact Police he noticed a second man who was allegedly helping the first, check the radiator."

Mr O'Reilly said the pair then claimed they had lost their car keys and as Police arrived the offenders attempted to flee on foot.

"An 18-year-old Morrinsville man was arrested and admitted being on the property to steal fuel. He will appear in the Hamilton District Court on

two burglary charges and one of possessing an offensive weapon.

"A Police dog and handler tracked the second offender for some distance but this man, who has been identified, remains at large and staff are currently working to locate him."

Mr O'Reilly said the steps taken by the farmer to protect his property allowed for the quick and accurate relaying of vital information to Police and enabled officers to respond in a timely manner.

"By their very nature farms are an attractive target for opportunistic burglars given their isolation and the likelihood of fuel, tools and vehicles being accessible.

"What we ask is that farmers don't put themselves at risk but, as in the case here they relay information to us as quickly as possible. We ask people to consider securing things like fuel bowsers, install CCTV systems and even gate alarms. It's about layering your defences to make your property a hard target for thieves, don't put yourselves at risk and allow those trained in such things to apprehend the offenders."



Rural Crime Prevention advice

- Report it. Often rural crimes aren't reported. Ring 111 for urgent matters or Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 with information about crimes that you have heard about.
- Ensure boundary fences and gates are secure.
- Consider installing security lighting around implement sheds, milking sheds, farm houses.
- Make sure valuable items such as fuel, chainsaws, firearms and farm vehicles are secured when not in use.
- Make use of your neighbours to keep an eye on each other's property. If going away for the holidays let them know, where possible have someone stay on the property and avoid placing messages on social media on your absence.
- Lock fuel bowsers and tanks to prevent thefts or damage.
- Consider installing gateway alarms or CCTV cameras to record any vehicles entering your property.
- Can you secure stock yards by locking gates on loading ramps?
- Take note of suspicious vehicles and advise the Police. Remember if something doesn't seem right it probably isn't.

Occurrences in Marlborough Rural area

Theft – Leatham Road, Wairau Valley reported 5/1/2016. One tonne polished rock taken from the garden by unknown offender. It has a look of greenstone but isn't. A big effort has been made to remove it – did anybody hear anything about this? Stihl Scrub cutter, one year old, stolen from a building on Arapawa Island. Reported 5/1/2016.

Two sheep taken from a paddock in the Port Underwood area.

Over the Christmas period somebody has stolen 5-6 sheets of roofing iron off the wood shed at the Pine Valley Camp! Who's building up that way? There must be somebody creating a structure in that area. Please let us know.

A Port Underwood holiday home was broken into in January. Alcohol and two flat screen TVs were taken. The offenders smashed glass in a door to gain entry and stole property from within. They also attempted to gain access to a garage but were unsuccessful due to the sturdy locks fitted.

**SHUT THE GATE
ON RURAL CRIME**
TELL CRIMESTOPPERS WHAT YOU KNOW
CALL **0800 555 111**



0800 555 111
crimestoppers
speak up, it's anonymous
www.crimestoppers-nz.org

The Marlborough Crime Prevention Team hopes you have all had a great summer and the outlook for the new year looks promising.

We also hope those who need rain get more than the forecasters have predicted.

Remember, if you see something that looks dodgy your instincts are probably right. Get any details you can and give us a call. Likewise, if you're after advice we're more than happy to help.

Sergeant Mike Porter