

Marlborough



Rural Police

February 2017

*A belated happy new year from the Marlborough
Police Crime Prevention Team....*

My News Year's resolution is to put out more Rural Police newsletters ... I hope I can keep to that promise. So this is the 1st one of the new year and some of the information will be recent some will be dragged up from the end of last year, as you know we were all slightly distracted by the shaking and rolling. **SGT Mike Porter**

During the quakes and after (if they will stop)... I would like to acknowledge all those fantastic people in our community, the rural and urban - the neighbours, friends and strangers that just got on with helping each other and ensuring that we were all alright and if help was needed just did it, but also if help wasn't called for but somebody saw that a person would benefit from it – contacted somebody that could assist, or rolled their sleeves up and sorted things out for them.

To our support and rescue services that were pulled and stretched in about 100 different directions daily – but shone through showing compassion and commitment throughout and at times bore the frustration some of you felt, Thank You!

I would like you to know that as part of one of those teams – we cared deeply how you all were and have not forgotten it is not over for so many. We wanted to do more but at times were limited with time resources and information – but underlying all that was our respect and compassion for those that had suffered.

From our experience we know that now can be a very tough time for those effected by the earthquakes, a lot of support has dissipated, problems with EQC, insurance bad roads, building repairs, it all will build up – so please keep an eye on your neighbours and continue the support.

Recently I have spoken to many in the rural community and have assured them, that I have repeatedly said to people who thought everything centred on Kaikoura when they talk about the Kaikoura Earthquake on the 14th of November – That it is also the Awatere Quake, Ward Quake, Seddon Quake, Flaxbourne Quake, Waipapa Quake and we took hits here in Blenheim as well. We have fought your corner for recognition for the areas people seemed to overlook.

Our Police staff in Blenheim are acutely aware of this as our borders go from Okiwi Bay in the West and D'Urville Island in the North and Cape Campbell in the east to the Conway river in the south, so we were impacted in Marlborough not just Kaikoura.



The area in yellow is our Marlborough Policing District but unlike other countries we are the New Zealand Police, so when it comes to emergencies and crime borders don't matter in the operational sense and we go where we have to go.

We have had staff deployed south as far as we could almost every day on State Highway 1 to Waipapa Bay, we have staff assisting our colleagues in Kaikoura as well.

We have also concentrated patrols on SH 63 Wairau Valley to assist with the huge increase of heavy trucks and flow of traffic.

We are still sending patrols to Waipapa as reassurance and to deal with the rubber neckers.

The good news is there is a partial opening of the Awatere Valley road after some sterling work by roading staff clearing the slip which isolated some of those beyond it.



Introducing Senior Constable Steve Tribe

Steve will be with our team for the next eight months. Steve is a West Coaster. He has worked in rural Canterbury, New Plymouth and Marlborough. He now lives in a rural area and is keen to support and work with the rural community. He was a member of the Armed Offenders Squad for many years and a Police Dog Handler. He has given that all away, which for him is an end to the repeated 'on call' and demands of those roles. He brings many skills and has an empathy towards the rural sector.



Occurrences in Marlborough rural area

Jan 2017 – Burglary of a shed on a property Hammerichs Road, Rapaura. Three chainsaws were taken.

We are still looking for this item stolen last August – A Log Splitter stolen from Maxwell Pass Rd off Taylor Pass. It was under a cover hidden from sight beside the woolshed. The photo below is of a similar Log Splitter but owner had extended the drawbar.



We are also still looking for a Tractor stolen in August last year.





Rural Crime Prevention

- Report it. Often rural crimes aren't reported. Ring 111 for urgent matters. Non Urgent – your local Police or Crime stoppers 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.

Steve Tribe's advice about Health and Safety:

HEALTH and SAFETY at WORK ACT 2015

The majority of the first of regulations to support HSWA have been now finalised and came into force on the 4th April 2016.

Work safe New Zealand have an excellent website that has all the information any persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCUBs) you may need.

There are a number on individual consultants who are able to give advice as well. Have a chat to your neighbours, mates and see who they used.

This Legislation is nothing to be scared of, it's a tool that's there to help businesses and individuals operate safer work places.

Coming from a rural background I'm well aware of some of the Health and Safety issues faced by our rural communities.

I've spoken with a number of friends and family who were at first sceptical of the new legislation. However once they had taken some advice from the right people they have all found it really beneficial.

If you have any queries give me a call I'm happy to have a chat. Senior Constable Steve Tribe.





Fire season

Even with the spells of bad weather and rain, the wind has ensured that the province is extremely dry again and the fire danger is extremely high, hence the continuation of the total fire ban.



Be vigilant and report fires promptly. Have a plan for your safety and evacuation.

We are working hard trying to identify the arsonist in Blenheim. It is extremely concerning that the fires set may

get into the Wither Hills and from there move extremely quickly over the dry cover on the paddocks. Not only will it put people and property at risk there is the harm to stock and the recovery of the paddocks to consider. We actively patrol the Taylor River and environs daily trying to either stop or catch the person setting the fires. But we can't be everywhere at once so still rely strongly on the information given to us by the community.

Back to school

Our rural children are on the move again and using our awesome rural bus services. Remember, when passing a stationary School Bus the speed limit for vehicles passing in either direction is 20kmph. Please be very cautious around our school buses



Horses

Please show consideration when you encounter people riding horses on the road and you are passing them in a vehicle. Remember:

- Slow down.
- Give them space when you pass.
- Reduce engine noise – No horns no over revving.
- No sudden movement.

Horses travelling on rural roads have a right to use the road, however they shouldn't block it or inhibit movement. It's about consideration all around.

Bird Scaring

It's almost that time of year again, if you operate please do so within the council guidelines. If you live near them, and hear them, that is part of living in a rural community, just like chainsaw noise, tractor noise, harvest noise. Please be patient, it will be over soon.

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

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



Boy Racers

We continue to target them as they are organising events where there are up to 100 vehicles from the Nelson-Marlborough area converging on an intersection or similar, then the inevitable occurs – burnouts and damage. Please report this type of behaviour and if you can do it safely film them on your phone. Ring Police either way. We rely on the public information as to where these groups are and what they are doing. As a result of information from the public recently, we confiscated 2 vehicles involved in burnouts and issued multiple tickets.

We've heard the cry for the boy racers to be given a burnout pad, however where this has happened before, at the ratepayer's expense, it is not. This is because there must be rules around its use to ensure the safety of the drivers and the public. This doesn't suit the boy racers as they don't want rules so they don't use the site and continue their behaviour. What we have found by continued low tolerance policing of this group they either grow up or change behaviour. We keep taking offenders' vehicles which results in a lull in their behaviour for a couple of years and then a new group starts and they have to be taught what the community tolerates and the circle begins again. We won't stop trying on your behalf.

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



Cannabis growing season

We need your information about cannabis plots in your area and or activity that is suspicious and could be related. We want to move these people away from your property. We know of some rural people who are scared to use areas of their property this time of year because of cannabis growers using their land or adjacent areas. Our experience is that the more of their plants we remove from these areas the quicker the grower will move on.

So let us know what you know about this and as soon as possible. You can report the growing anonymously, we just need a good description of where the plants are or where the activity is.

Coming Events

- Flaxbourne Dog Trials, Ward – The 10th 11th of February.
- Marlborough Wine Festival - 11th of February.
- Rai Valley A & P - Show 4th March.
- Children's Day - Brayshaw Park Blenheim, 5th of March.
- Mussel Festival Havelock - 18th of March.
- Grape Ride - 8th April.
- Classic Fighters - Omaka Aerodrome 14th to 16th April.
- St Clair Half Marathon - 13th May.



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