



Crime prevention advice

Pruning the grapes has started in earnest in Marlborough.

Many of you will have people on your property working who you have never met before. Most will be okay, but don't give the opportunist thief the chance to steal from you. Secure your four-wheelers, your equipment sheds and fuel bowsers. While the workers may not take from you we know some are eagle-eyed and will tell others about insecure chainsaws, vehicles or other vulnerable parts of your property.

Don't become a victim – be proactive against those who may see you as an easy target.



Looking after RSE workers

Workers who come to Marlborough as part of the Recognised Seasonal Employment scheme are a great boost to our local economy. Their employment here is also vital to the livelihood of their families back home. They are generally reliable, hard-working and well managed. However, some of these people are unfamiliar with local laws and rules. They can be overwhelmed by traffic volumes and vehicle speed, and naïve when it comes to criminals and their activity making them vulnerable to

becoming victims. It is important that as a community we help to keep these people safe during their time in Marlborough.

To reduce the risks to RSE workers, the Police in Marlborough have an officer assigned to RSE liaison. His job is to have regular contact with the Immigration staff at MBIE who work with the RSE scheme, growers and contractors through their representative bodies, and contractors and workers at their inductions.

The Police liaison officer delivers safety briefings to RSE workers each new season, ensuring that they are aware of laws, rules, risks, crime problems and trends that affect them. This helps to keep them safer.

Where there is an issue amongst the workers, the Police liaison officer will often meet with employers or contractors and workers to find solutions.





Winter woes

It feels like winter is here already and the shortest day - the 21st of June is so close! Most of you will have noticed the changes in the paddocks and hills, not to mention the temperature. With the change of the weather and conditions that go with that, we want you to be safe out there – you will know better than us that your farm tracks have changed, there are new slips from earthquakes and rain and driving conditions on the roads are different. We can anticipate frost now so please make sure you don't drive with fogged up windscreens.



It's timely reminder for those considering crossing creeks by foot or vehicle – if there is any doubt don't do it.

Have a well consider plan for the river crossing. Think of this old Police adage

“Time spent in reconnaissance is never wasted”!

Remember rivers change frequently. That is not only the water level but channels and holes



move or appear - trapping the unwary. Crossing a river when you cannot see the

bottom or know what has changed is just risky. Be patient, sit it out or look for an alternative route. Your life is precious and so are those of the rescuers as well, so consider the impacts of your actions on everyone's safety. We all want to get home at night.

Our search and rescue teams have enough to do without dealing with those who have been reckless or didn't consider the rules of the river.

Methamphetamine in Marlborough

Methamphetamine, commonly known as 'P' has become the drug of choice for many illicit drug users in New Zealand. Police estimate between 250 and 300 people in Marlborough are regularly using P.

This drug is cheap to manufacture, most of the chemicals used to make it are easy to get and the profits made from selling it are massive, meaning the gangs are heavily involved in this business.

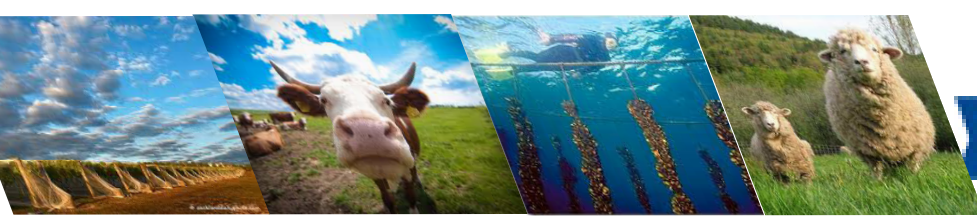
P is extremely addictive and the user develops a tolerance, meaning increasing quantities are needed as the addiction progresses. This means there is a growing cost for the addiction. Users commonly run out of funds and resort to crime to pay for the addiction.

The end result is the type of crime that occurred at the O-TU vineyard, with the offenders stealing anything they could get their hands on to sell off as a source of funds.

P is not only extremely dangerous to the user over time, but wherever it is manufactured the by-products left behind on surfaces are also dangerous poisons. If they are breathed in or absorbed through the skin, they can cause organ damage, severe health issues and they are recognised carcinogens (cancer-causing).

P is usually sold in tiny zip-lock plastic bags called 'point-bags.' The appearance of P is commonly a fine crystal or ice-like compound, often like a coarse sugar-grain.





More about meth

What to look out for and what to do:

'P' is sold in 'point-bags,' small zip-lock bags that contain around a 'point' or a tenth of a gram of meth. They are very small and easily concealed. Finding one or more of these or finding a 'P' pipe in a property suggests that the resident may be using 'P.'

If you find something that makes you suspicious or have information that you think will help the Police, ring your local station or ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



A clan-lab (secret laboratory) can be set up almost anywhere to manufacture 'P.' It will have the look of chemistry with glass beakers, heating mantles, chemical smells and a variety of processes going on. There may be gas bottles and pressure containers with valves mounted on them.

Signs that a property has been used for 'P' manufacture can include:

- Strong chemical odours, with the smell anything from sweet to bitter, ammonia to solvent (including acetone, like fingernail polish remover).

O:TU Vineyard burglary

We have done several search warrants on rural and urban properties over recent months and have recovered a considerable amount of the stolen property. Two men, one from Seddon and another from Blenheim, are facing charges in relation to this offending and other matters discovered during the search warrants.

The Seddon man is currently in custody and is facing 12 charges. The Blenheim man is now

- Quantities of products like cold medicines, antifreeze, drain cleaner, coffee filters, batteries, duct tape, chemistry beakers or their wrappers

- Green/yellow/orange/red stains tops of walls, on ceiling, around open windows or onto soffit outside window

- Acid-type burns on bench top or metal sink

- Baking dishes with white crystalline substance baked on

- Used coffee filters with white or red-brown paste in them

- Containers with various coloured fluids, including 2-layer

liquids

If you think you've come across a clan-lab:

- Leave the area immediately

- Never touch, taste or smell fluids, chemicals or equipment

- Don't stop a chemical reaction, don't turn water or power on or off

- Don't smoke in that environment

- Don't use tools, radios, cellphones, torches or devices that produce sparks or friction

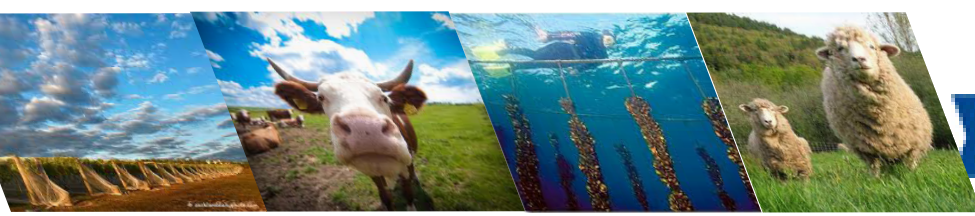
- CONTACT THE NZ POLICE ON 111

in prison sentenced on other matters and in relation to the O:TU offence.

We would still be interested if anybody had more information in relation to that burglary.

One thing we can assure you is that we have not stopped investigating those who were involved in the rural burglary and we are seeking more evidence for other offences we uncovered.

Watch this space ...

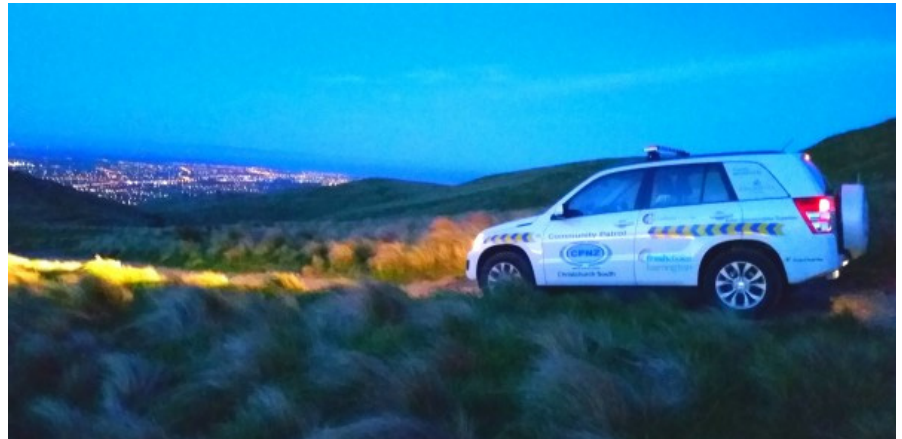


Eyes and ears in the community

Community Patrols NZ has a new patrol group up and running in Marlborough.

This patrol group, made up of trained volunteers, act as eyes and ears for the Police, helping to keep the community safer by providing more coverage because the Police can't be everywhere at once.

Much of their work is centred on Blenheim where there is a demand late on Saturday night and into the small hours of Sunday morning. If there are issues or problems occurring in rural areas, the Community Patrol



may be directed to target these areas. A Police officer from Prevention Section at Blenheim Police Station is their liaison person and keeps them informed of current issues.

Hunting



We were generally pleased with the behaviour of hunters during the recent 'Roar'. We

had less reckless behaviour to deal with than in the past, which is great news.



With duck shooting under way, please remember **no grog with**

guns, no exceptions! No hot toddies in the maimai, no shots, except for those from a firearm. Think about where you are shooting for ducks, where will your pellets fall, are you using the right ones have you complied with the restriction on the amount of shot gun shells in your weapon. Are you carrying your firearms licence. Is your maimai licensed?

Queen's Birthday competition

There is a Pig and Deer Hunting competition coming up over Queen's Birthday weekend. There is a teen category – 10 to 17 years.



Pig, goat, hare, rabbit, possum. This is a great opportunity to take your kids hunting. It's a fantastic shared experience. We have seen the excitement and enthusiasm from the children going out with their parents, although the early starts seemed bewildering to some of the kids. I'm sure they perked up once they got on the hills.

If you are hunting seek permission from the land owner or DOC.

If you are told no access – no means no! I make no apologies for continuing to repeat this mantra as some people still don't get it and as we all know, most likely never will.

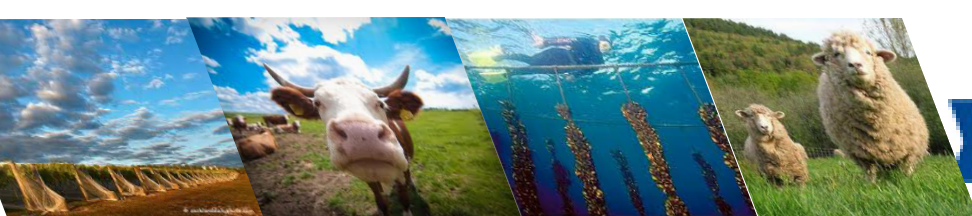
I can assure those thinking of not respecting the land owner or the safety of those in our hunting areas – expect us any place any time.

If you are caught unlawfully hunting we will take your vehicle and all hunting equipment.

You can then expect us to seek to have your firearms licence revoked as well. So don't say you haven't been warned.

The rural community along with us have drawn a line in the sand re unlawful hunting.

If you see people you believe may be hunting unlawfully, get a vehicle registration and take photos on your cell phone if you can do so safely, then contact Police.



Farmer's tip off pays dividends

We recently dealt with a person who has been poaching and stealing firewood from a forestry block in the Northbank.

Police responded to information from a local farmer and forestry management. Due to the timely and accurate information passed to police a man was intercepted in a forestry block. He had a load of stolen firewood on board.

He has been trespassed from the area and will be appearing in the Blenheim District Court shortly. The firewood was recovered.

The chopped up firewood on the offender's trailer was deposited by the offender under direction of Police and Forestry to another site. One good thing will come out of this – someone else will benefit from his offending by getting a load of firewood!



Counting sheep

A lot of stock are being put in and around vineyards now. Every year we have a few going missing from those areas. Please regularly check the condition and number of your stock in the vineyard. When we hear that you have lost stock and the last time you counted them was when they were put in and the first realisation some are missing is when you remove them months later, it obviously makes it difficult to narrow down the offence time when we follow up on the theft of the animal.

Be proactive, your stock is a big investment – please change the habits of a life-time – don't make it easy for those that will steal from you. Consider a padlock on the gate or a camera. Also check the fences and ensure they aren't getting out on to the road.

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

Marlborough Police Crime Prevention Group Sergeant Mike Porter
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