NZ Police Crime prevention note.

Good afternoon,

As most of you will be aware rural areas in New Zealand are increasingly becoming 'attractive pickings' for criminals.  Marlborough is no exception.  Police continue to encourage anyone living and working in rural Marlborough to be secure with their property, keep valuables under lock and key, leave buildings and storage sheds secure when you're away from them and if you have attractive items stored in easy to access places, move them to more secure places.

A huge factor in changing the offenders belief that your area is an easy target for them, is the way in which you behave when you see or detect suspicious activity.  Calling Police at the time of an incident and passing on vehicle registration details and descriptions of suspicious people and vehicles is a great deterrent to the bad guys, especially if your timely 111 call results in Police catching up with the suspect(s).

Unfortunately this time of the year criminals are active in rural areas because they are setting up for the cannabis growing season.  Commonly they will select rural land where they think they are unlikely to be disturbed or discovered, find a suitable area to plant out their cannabis seedlings.  Often they will not have permission of the land owner to be on this land. They may gain access to remote areas using a motorbike or 4-wheeler, and will often steal or acquire fencing materials, shade cloth, water containers, water pipes or hose, fertiliser, potting mix and other items used to set up their 'grow.'

Police are very interested in hearing from you if you have seen or heard anything suspicious or you become aware of activity connected with cannabis growing.  This could be anything from hearing information from others, to coming across an active cannabis plot.

I have attached a copy of a 'drug information form' that you can save to your computer or device.  If you have any information to pass to Police, you can complete the boxes on the form as required, and email the form as an attachment to the police email address shown on the form. If you prefer, you can fill the form out, print it and mail the printed copy to the mailing address shown on the form.

Police rely heavily on the public to be the eyes and ears of the community.  If you play your part and help the Police with information about illicit drug cultivation, you'll help make our rural community safer and you'll send a firm message to the drug growers that the community doesn't tolerate them.

Regards,

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|  | **Acting Sergeant Russ Smith**  **BLENHEIM CRIME PREVENTION GROUP** | New Zealand Police **P**   03 578 5279    |  Extn: 38837 or 38830    |   **E**   [marlb.rural@police.govt.nz](mailto:marlb.rural@police.govt.nz" \t "_blank) |