



Wow December already!

Not many weekends left in 2017, this year has rushed by.

We are moving into Summer at last and that Nor-Wester will start drying everything out very quickly from now on.

We have started our patrols along the Taylor River again to deter and apprehend people who are lighting fires.

There is a high risk that these fires will get out of control, endanger local houses and burn large areas of grazing land. We've seen what can happen as it has before and are concerned for the safety of those who are inclined to light the fires. We are working closely with the rural and local Fire Service to try and prevent this occurring again.

If you see something suspicious or see a fire report it immediately.

Senior Constable Russel Smith, Leighton MacKenzie and I attended the Marlborough A&P show on 10th and 11th of November at the A&P showgrounds, Blenheim. We caught up with lots of people for a chat and handed out some of our Stop Unlawful Hunting signs and Firearms applications and other Rural Safety information.



Senior Constables Russell Smith and Leighton MacKenzie at the A & P show.



Occurrences: Eyes and ears in the community

29 September - Suspicious vehicle seen in Taylor Pass area.

This occurred at about 7pm at night. It was a Mercedes car with the registration GCE589, or similar. The registration is recorded as belonging to a Mazda. One of the men with the vehicle also had a motorcycle. If you notice any incidents like this please report them to the police immediately on 111. If safe to do so, covertly record what is happening on your cell phone, this may be enough for Police to follow up on the suspects. Safety first always. If it's unsafe to record do not approach. But try this - maybe ring a neighbour either side of you or further along your road. They may be able to detect the direction the suspicious people are going and may they get a better look at the registration number. Another advantage of this is that the suspicious people see more activity in the area and it shows you are alert and care about what is occurring in your rural area. This may prompt them to move on.

12 October - Twelve Merino hoggets stolen from Taylor Pass Paddock.

We believe a vehicle and trailer or light truck was involved in removing the animals. A gate lock was cut from a Taylor Pass property on the Awatere side of the Pass, where we think poachers were accessing the area.

A farmer reported that a cattle beast was shot, it was in a paddock in Taylor Pass. We have increased our patrols in that area and hopefully we will deter or catch somebody soon for this behaviour.

16 October - Another four people have appeared in court for Unlawful Hunting.

All received \$5000 fines and lost their rifles. Two had been caught in the Awatere and two in the Tin line area of Pelorus. Another man has been prosecuted for Unlawful Hunting in the Rai forest, he also received a \$5000 fine and three months disqualification.

As this newsletter goes out we are prosecuting another Marlborough man for Unlawful Hunting and he goes to court soon, he was hunting in the Hundalees area south of Kaikoura.

Since our prevention group has been working the rural areas along with our town and other duties we have dealt with 81 Unlawful Hunting incidents, many of these have resulted in prosecutions.

It is uplifting for the rural community and Police to see that the courts are reacting to this offending by fining these people substantially.

21 Oct - Influx of Boy racers from across the South island – approximately 80.

They were in the Seddon area for a while and Police moved amongst them and spoke with them. Disrupted activity, but we couldn't be with them all night.

We have since dealt with these groups on multiple occasions around our town and in the rural areas. We have been dealing with offences that we can detect.

31 October - Mt Pleasant near Picton - Report of two lambs stolen from paddock next to a house.

2 November - On Kaiuma Bay road near Canvastown, milk was drained from vat on a dairy farm overnight. The vat was by farm sheds in an area where you would think it would be safe to leave your milk as you have done every other day for years. This was a brazen theft and is one of the more unusual. 1200 litres was let go and drained by the offender.

Approximately a month later 3,500ltrs of milk was lost near Kaiuma Bay. The offender seemed to take what they wanted and leave the rest draining out.

Since those reports to police have discovered that last year 10,000 litres was lost in Linkwater, it was not reported until this year. The milk is said to be valued at \$1.20 a litre. So this is a big financial hit to the farmer.

Some offending relates to stealing milk some to just opening taps and letting the contents drain out.

Burglaries: there was also a burglary of a bach in Port Underwood. This is another unusual burglary, the offenders took a Dyson vacuum cleaner – surprisingly just the motor, not the attachments. The criminals came by and left by boat.

A bach was burgled twice in November over a couple of weeks at Whatamongo Bay.

19 November - In Okaramio we attended an accident on a farm property involving a tractor. The victim was trying to jump start a tractor and when the vehicle engaged it ran over the operator. Police and emergency services attended. The victim was flown out to Wellington. We hope they are recovering well. In Penzance Bay area and off the Kaiuma Bay road we are getting reports of poaching activity. Our Havelock staff supported by Blenheim will be increasing patrols in those areas. It is cannabis growing season now and we are starting to get reports of grower activity and the location of cannabis being grown in rural areas – please let us know what you have found or seen and be assured that this information is treated as confidential and your identity won't be revealed.



Last week Senior Constable Russ Smith and I caught up with a lot of people in the Kekrengu and Clarence area. It was one of those hot east coast days, 31 degrees!

We carried out firearms security checks and completed some other enquiries.

Also we handed out more Unlawful Hunting warning signs and Rural Crime Prevention advice guides.

It was a great opportunity to find out how people are getting on a year after the earthquake and discuss the pending road opening.

As you can see (photo left) we experienced rural driving as cattle grazed the **long farm** (the 'long farm' - a phrase I picked up when I was in Africa. I soon learnt '*to be hunting the long farm*' over there, meant the road side).

Cannabis Season again!

We have already been active in recovering cannabis in rural areas. If you want the growers moved on let us know where the cannabis is growing and we will remove it.

You can pass the information to us and not be involved in any court case or follow up. We just want to remove it from your areas.

Report vehicles parked in strange areas and people who look out of place entering the bush or farm land.

Don't wait until you see a Policeman to report the activity, let us know straight away by phone or email. The quicker we respond the better.

The ability is there to also pass drug information via **Crime Stoppers – ring 0800 555 111**.

We have also carried out search warrants on dealers. One dealer in Picton had been selling to school children. Hopefully we have put a stop to her activities for a while.



Sergeant Porter with a haul of cannabis.



On any normal day, we know that living and working rurally can be a challenge.

We also know that sometimes things can get a bit too much. If this is how you are feeling, or you are concerned for a family member or friend, call (0800 787254) for a free, confidential chat.

The purpose of the Top of the South Rural Support Trust is to give coordinated and personal support to rural people in the Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough regions before, during or after adversity on a regional or personal scale.

Our values include being responsive, trusted, collaborative, inclusive, effective, respectful and resourceful.

If more than a cup of tea and a yarn is needed, we can connect with the professionals who can provide further support, including **farming or business advice, financial information, health, mental health and counselling services.**

The trust covers all aspects of rural agribusiness; dry stock, dairy, cropping, horticulture, forestry, poultry, and rural contracting. **We support all rural people** - owners, managers, staff, and contractors.

In a natural disaster, such as a storm or flood, your [local Rural Support Trust](#) is right here alongside you, working with Civil Defence, government and emergency services on behalf of our rural communities.

We can talk over the phone or come to you for a free and confidential chat, anytime, anywhere.

Our services are free and confidential.

Link to info about Post earthquake – managing health and finances.

<http://www.rural-support.org.nz/Portals/3/2016-managing-financial-and-mental-wellbeing.pdf>

SCAMS – A Guide to Keeping Safe

**SCAM
ALERT**

**SCAMS
TARGET YOU
PROTECT YOURSELF**



A scam or a fraud is any scheme designed to con you out of money or steal your personal information. If someone contacts you unexpectedly – whether over the phone, through the post, by email, on a website, in person or on social media – always consider the possibility that it may be a scam.

Scammers target lots of people, often for small amounts of money. Most scams come from overseas but they may pretend to be locally based – from a reputable company, bank or government agency, or even from your friends on social media if your account has been hacked. It is very difficult to get your money back once it is sent overseas.



Common scams

- A common postal or email scam is known as the Nigerian Scam. It is a letter that appears to be from a bank or financial institution in which the writer claims you have a distant relative who has died and left millions in unclaimed wealth. All you need to do is contact the writer to become rich. This scam usually works by convincing the victim to part with various sums of money as 'admin' fees to facilitate the payment of the inheritance. It can sometimes also be about the scammer getting access to bank accounts or committing identity theft (stealing your identity to commit fraud).
- A recent version involves the scammer claiming to be the custodian of wealth from a deceased family who were victims of the Malaysian Airlines missing flight MH370.
- People who have been scammed by a version of the Nigerian Scam are often re-scammed by the same criminals who then send them a letter claiming to be from a United Nations organisation who have funds to reimburse people identified as having been victims of scammers. Again, they just need an admin fee to facilitate the payment of reparation.
- Another common scam at present is a glossy travel brochure sent out, often from somewhere in Asia, claiming to offer all sorts of amazing travel deals at discount prices. Even if you're not tempted to ring for a bargain travel opportunity, they include a couple of 'scratch-and-win' cards. One of these is usually a prize-winner. It is a way for the scammers to encourage you to contact them so they can begin the process of scamming you.
- A common computer scam is a virus delivered to your computer when you click on a link or an attachment in an email you've received. In a recent version of this, you are likely to have a person or organisation in your email address-book who sends you an email. It may look legitimate because you trust the email address, but it will be the virus that has infected their email system which is sending you the email with a link or attachment that is infected. If you click the link or open the attachment the virus silently takes over your email software and sends copies of the email to all your contacts with the same link containing the virus. Some of these viruses encrypt your computer making it unusable and a message on the screen may demand a ransom for the hacker to unlock it.
- The key to avoiding this and other email-based viruses is to be wary of clicking into links or attachments from senders you don't know, & even if you know the sender, check personally with them before opening an attachment or clicking a link they have sent you.
- Another common scam at present is a caller says they are from 'Windows' or 'Microsoft' and claims you have a problem with your computer. They offer to patch the issue or fix the problem. They will give you instructions that allow them to have remote access to your computer.
- Once they have access to your device, they can lock it and require a ransom from you to get access back, they can steal your personal information and/or bank details/passwords etc. from the computer, or they can load software onto it and use it for criminal purposes, including using your email system. Your best defence to this type of scam, is **DO NOT ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION** and hang up straight away. Do this every time you get a call.
- In another scam a caller will say they are from Inland Revenue and you have failed to pay several years of back taxes correctly. They will say that you are liable to arrest or you will be summoned to court unless you pay immediately. They will then offer a payment method, either wanting credit card details or providing money-order payment instructions. No Government Department operates this way. You will never be required to pay immediately and you won't receive any such demand by phone. You should hang up without engaging in conversation if you receive a call like this.
- If you've received an unexpected call lately from an overseas number that you don't recognise, you're not alone. The 'missed call' or Wangiri scam – Japanese for 'one ring and cut' – has been on the increase over the last few weeks. New Zealand targets of the scam report they have received calls from numbers beginning with 0088 or 002, which originate in the African country of Chad, but calls are being made from other countries too. The scammers have usually hacked a legitimate call provider service and if you ring the number back to check who rang, you'll be charged a massive fee to make the return call. The scammers reap the financial benefit. Don't ring back missed international calls unless you recognise the caller.



How to know if you're being scammed:

HAS SOMEONE CONTACTED YOU UNEXPECTEDLY?

Most scams start with an approach through contact you weren't expecting. If someone contacts you out of the blue – whether over the phone, through the post, by email, on a website, in person or on social media – always consider the possibility that it may be a scam.

HAVE THEY PROMISED YOU SOMETHING?

Scammers offer exciting advantages to get you interested. They promise things like easy money, great bargains, inside knowledge or a caring relationship.

HAVE THEY ASKED YOU TO DO SOMETHING?

Scams eventually lead to a request for money or personal information. Scammers ask you to do things like enter details on a website, answer questions in a survey, or pay upfront for what they have promised.



Road between Kaikoura and Blenheim.

This Friday the 15th of December the road opens for periods.

Here is some information that may assist:

Plan your journey – Picton to Christchurch

Depending on **where you're going** and **at what time**, choose what route best suits your needs: SH1 via Kaikoura or the alternate route via Lewis Pass.

Current estimated travel times between Picton and Christchurch:

Alternate route: A minimum of 6½ hours

SH1 from 15 December 2017: A minimum of 5½ hours

Allow plenty of **extra time** in case of unexpected delays. Be prepared with food, water, and a fully charged cell phone.

Real-time travel information between Picton and Christchurch?

The NZ Transport Agency webpage www.nzta.govt.nz/p2c provides the official information for planning a journey from Picton to Christchurch or call **0800 4 HIGHWAYS** (0800 44 44 49).

Check at least **2 hours before** you travel and at **key decision points**.



Opening hours of SH1

SH1
between
Picton and
Christchurch
re-opens on
15 December
2017.

Two sections
closed every
night for safety.
**Open daily
7am-8.30pm**

Night closure areas

North of Kaikoura: 21km
between Clarence and
Mangamaunu

South of Kaikoura: 8km
between Peketa and Goose Bay

Closure points will be
monitored 24/7

Ability to keep SH1 open could be
affected by weather, emergencies or
seismic activity.

Planning to travel on SH1? Consider
road closure hours before undertaking
your journey. Leave enough time to
be clear of closure areas so you can
continue onto your destination.

Who can use SH1



Cars (including vans,
4wd, 2wd cars)



Motorcyclists (take
extra care on unsealed
and uneven surfaces)



**Vehicles towing caravans,
boats and trailers**



Campervans



Trucks (restrictions apply)



Bus/coach



Cyclists (take extra care
on unsealed and uneven
surfaces.) **Cyclists may need
assistance or be escorted in
some areas. Stop at closure
points and follow road crew
instructions on the day.**



Pedestrians



NO CAMPING
(within closure
areas)

FROM 15 DEC - WHEN SH1 REOPENS

- **Two options** for travel around the upper South Island: **SH1** (daytime hours only) and the '**alternate route**' (via state highways 63, 6, 65 and 7, through Lewis Pass) open 24/7
- You need to decide **which route is best**, based on where you're going and the time you're travelling.
- Remember that **two sections of SH1** (north and south of Kaikoura) will be **CLOSED AT NIGHT**
- **Allow plenty of extra time** on both routes: You don't want to miss your flight or ferry because you didn't allow enough time and there will be no option to 'make up time'

Police Rural Hub – information.

As you know we can't always be there to answer your questions but there is a Police resource that may assist when we are unavailable, try this if you have an internet connection: www.police.govt.nz

[Put in the search area 'Rural' – this will give information as exemplified below -](#)

Rural-hub

- Rural crime Prevention
- Stories from the community
- Useful Resources
 - Rural Security Checklist
 - Crime Prevention Booklet
 - AgriHQ.co.nz – Livestock theft
 - Crimestoppers – Nail em
 - Farmprint – stock theft
 - Serial Number Action partnership (SNAP)
 - Rural women NZ



And much more....

On the Police website there are links to further information, including...

- Firearms and Safety

 - Arms Code

 - Trespass Notices

 - Firearms storage

 - Firearms forms and guides

 - Change your address re Firearms license

 - Report a crime

 - Report bad driver behavior

 - Also Frequently Asked Questions – with answers.

**Finally a message from the Crime Prevention Team for Marlborough, at Blenheim Police.
(Mike, Russell, Beau and Leighton)**



Have a great and stress free build up to Christmas and the Festive season – please be safe on the roads and look after each other.



Need to talk?

1737

We're here. Free call or text 1737 any time.

You'll talk to a trained counsellor.

Are you feeling out-of-sorts or depressed?

Are you feeling anxious or just need someone to talk to?

Are you worried about your use of alcohol or other drugs?

**Whatever it is, you can call or
text 1737 any time.**

It's free. It's confidential.

NEED TO TALK?

1737

**free call or text
any time**

 www.1737.org.nz

 www.facebook.com/1737NeedToTalk/



