



We have been very active in the rural areas and have some great results to share in this issue ...

Sergeant Michael Porter, Crime Prevention Group, Blenheim

Firearms Incident

We responded to an armed incident on D'Urville Island recently and were assisted by the Police launch Lady Elizabeth IV from Wellington. The Armed Offenders Squad were deployed into Catherine Cove where shots were being fired.

A 46 year old man was subsequently arrested for Unlawful Possession of Firearms and ammunition among other charges.

What we learnt from this, is that people knew that this man was in possession of firearms for a long time but did not tell Police about it until it became a critical incident.

We need to know before things escalate and before they start using the firearms or as soon as you become aware somebody has them that shouldn't. For the public, the offender and Police's safety it is so important to let us know about suspicious firearms activity as soon as you know.

This incident turned out well in the end but could have easily gone the other way.



AOS staff disembarking 'Lady Liz' at French Pass after dealing with the incident on D'Urville Island.

Drugs and stolen property

Recently we went to a remote property in Crail Bay, Marlborough Sounds, and executed a search warrant. The property is quite remote with mainly boat only access.



While searching the property we found Methamphetamine, Cannabis a firearm and stolen property.

A man is now facing six charges relating to Receiving Stolen Property, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Methamphetamine and Cultivating Cannabis.

it doesn't matter how remote you are or where you are, if you are offending we'll not be far away...

We also found a stolen, very large industrial generator, large diesel fuel tank, a 5m boat, and trailers. We had to work hard to recover the generator and other large items – the pictures tell the story. A great result for our victims who had the property stolen from them.



Continuing our pressure on drug offending

Two search warrants were executed in Seddon recently with the help of the Armed Offenders Squad. We were targeting suspected drug offences. Enquiries are continuing in relation to this matter.

To date, a Seddon man has been convicted in the Blenheim District Court for Possession of Methamphetamine and Cannabis.

Unlawful Hunting

It's that time again – The Roar

Remember, if you're out hunting, don't get carried away when you see an animal. - think about it. If you get it wrong you will have to explain yourself to the judge!

Make sure you ...

- check first that you are allowed to hunt where you find the animal.
- check your firing zone is safe and there are no buildings, houses or workers in the vicinity.

We have been responding to reports of spot-lighting activity around the province which is common at this time of year as we continue our - *Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere* - approach. To date our team has dealt with about 83 unlawful hunters and are encouraged by the large fines of up to \$5000 and loss of all hunting gear for several offenders – this will hopefully act as a deterrent.



If you are Hunting Unlawfully you will likely lose your vehicle, firearms, firearms licence and all hunting equipment – we will be checking.



This hunter was checked. He had all the right documentation and he was hunting lawfully – no problem.

Nelson Forests Ltd have opened to Permitted Public Hunting

Please check you have the authority to enter, permit applications are available from the FluidX building in Riverlands.

Once you get a permit, ensure you hunt responsibly in the area allocated to you, a map will be provided with the permit. Respect the boundaries and rules associated with the permit - no night hunting in the forests is permitted.

You must enter the forest after first light and you must be out before dark.

Remember it is an absolute privilege to be permitted to hunt in the Nelson Forests, don't muck it up for yourself or others. Both Police and Nelson Forest staff will be checking hunters in the forests and you must carry your permit with you.

We have a good working relationship with our forestry companies and support them around investigating unlawful activity in their forests.



Rental property advice

We are often approached for advice or help in relation to rural properties that have been rented.

We've heard it all ...

- I thought they would be ok
- I wanted to give them a chance, they're family
- I didn't listen to what others had said about them
- They were only meant to be there a couple of months
- They said they would pay the rent in a month
- I rented to one person, now there are others in my house
- They said they would work for me instead of rent, now they do nothing and don't pay me.



And so the list goes. The biggest problem arises when people are 'casually allowed' to take up residence without going through the correct legal process. The correct process under the Residential Tenancies Act includes, having a written tenancy agreement and completing the paperwork and registration with the Tenancy Tribunal. If you do this it protects both the Landlord and the Tennant.

Unfortunately we can't evict people or give you background information on a person who wants to rent your property, but we do suggest you do your own research, its surprising what a quick Google search uncovers. It's also a good idea to get, and check references, and speak to the previous Landlord. There are rules that protect the Landlord and the Tennant.

Police can't act in relation to a civil matter between a Landlord and Tennant.

If you are renting land or a cottage or house to somebody – get it right before they move in.

Here are some handy hints (the list is not exhaustive)...

- Get advice from the Tenancy tribunal website - www.tenancy.govt.nz
- Google the Residential Tenancies Act.
- Check out who you are renting to – References, listen to advice if they are deemed to be a risk.
- Photograph your property before they take over and note any pre-existing damage.
- Be clear about your rules and restrictions – make sure your contract reflects this.
- Know your obligations as a Landlord – know what you have to do to terminate tenancy. It is not as easy as you think.
- Arrange direct debit for rent.
- Follow up on errant behaviour early.
- Record your interactions with the tenant – keep a notebook – Time. Date. Place. Who.
- Consider employing a property manager.
- Get a good contract. Get a good contract. Get a good contract!

It's really important you do things properly because if things don't work, you need the support of a good contract and registration with the Tenancy Tribunal to fix the problem.

Consider contacting the Blenheim Community Law Centre for more information - communitylaw.org.nz/centre/Blenheim or Citizens Advice Bureau - www.cab.org.nz Info.

Rural Crime Prevention

I picked up the following information from a colleague who has been sharing prevention tips with our rural community;

- Thieves don't like noise or being seen, so good security lighting is a must...along with a high decibel siren attached to any alarm.
- Consider a day-night sensor for security lighting rather than motion operated.
- Always lock your sheds/workshops where possible.
- Lock and secure all farm vehicles - even tractors get stolen.
- If possible block your quad in with a larger implement.
- High tensile chain is another option to slow thieves down.
- (Bike) Locking style devices are available to secure the front brake lever in the 'On' position (check online for make/model that best suits your needs - just google Grip lock for quads, made in NZ).
- Make sure all quads/ farm bikes/tractors and other implements are clearly marked as yours...use engravers/welders to mark them in at least two places.
- Consider CCTV at the farm gate or a concealed camera that captures vehicles/people coming and going from your property.
- Move dog kennels close to implement sheds and/or fuel tanks.
- Check the Police website on farm/orchard security, www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/security-checklist-new-zealand-rural-properties.
- Make sure you have photographed your Quads/Tractors/ trailers/ chainsaws etc. Including serial numbers/chassis numbers etc.
- Please report all incidents of suspicious activity and rural crime. It's important for us to know what's occurring, even the smallest piece of information may assist us in solving a bigger crime trend.



Please engrave your farm tools or other items with your driver licence number – then when we find it in the hands of the wrong people we can link it to the owner straight away – oh and yes please photograph it!

Pictured: Senior Constable Leighton MacKenzie and Sergeant Michael Porter engraving builder's tools at a Police and Placemakers promotion around security of tools on work sites.



Seddon Youth Group



Crime Prevention Officers went to the Seddon Youth Group recently and spoke to them about Firearms safety and Unlawful Hunting.

What a great group of youth they have going to the meetings!

They also have very good leaders running the group and planning activities for them. We had a lot of fun kicking the sports balls around in the hall beforehand with the group.



Recent activity around the rural areas

Over the last few weeks farmers have found multiple farm gates left open along a stretch of road where stock could have wandered out onto the road.

This isn't being done by the farmers or their staff, we think it's being done by people moving through the area and are doing it out of; nuisance value, laziness or deliberately to inconvenience the farmer, or encourage stock onto the road.

This has occurred along Marfells Beach road and in the Ure river area.

Other activity has seen:

- Containers belonging to contractors working on the roads near Tirihonga being broken into.
- A Portaloo was stolen from the Ward Hall area.
- A property near the Tirohanga straight had the killing shed on the property entered and an axe and meat hooks taken.
- Around 11/12 January 2018, at the Lake Argyle Power Station, two containers were broken into and electrical items stolen.
- Spot-lighters have been seen in the Kaiuma Bay area. This follows an incident of Unlawful Hunting on a Kaiuma Bay property where two cattle were shot. One died where it stood, the other was wounded and had to be put down the next day. Havelock Police are investigating the involvement of several Nelson men found hunting in the area soon afterwards.
- Diesel was stolen from a storage container in Fairhall.
- Theft from a vineyard in the Waihopai area of equipment that runs a wind machine. I think those that have them know how expensive it is to replace these items. Please ensure they are locked to deter theft.

Please check the security of your farm or vineyard fuel tanks. We had a spate of fuel thefts a while ago and we managed to prosecute those involved. Do what you can to ensure the security around yours is up to scratch.

We want to prevent it happening, we want to talk to you as a member of the rural community not as a victim.



Stock

It's that time of year that the 'store lambs' are placed into vineyards for grazing over winter. Please, please, please check the vineyards you put them into are securely fenced.

Every year we receive reports of 'missing lambs' ... usually it starts off as they are all stolen ... but many are found in neighbouring properties or miles away on river banks and other adjoining land, after simply walking off to greener pastures.

Ensure fences are up to scratch and check on them frequently. Remember if they get out onto the road and a car hits them, you could be liable for the crash. There are also cases where sheep are stolen this time of year as they are moved closer to urban areas and thieves take advantage of this.



The Internet

We are often asked about internet safety, so instead of recycling information already out there, please check out the netsafe website. Netsafe have great information and advice. Please check them out and don't be scammed by those trying to access your information via the internet.

Netsafe provides up to date advice on:

- Common online scams
- Event ticket scams
- Email phishing scams
- Shopping online safely
- Social media advice for parents
- Sharing photos safely
- Cyber bullying, abuse and more...

And try their easy to use guides!

Every week we see many people that have given money to those they don't know on the net. In most cases we cannot recover the money as the offenders (using multiple false identities) are based overseas. Best defence – don't be taken in and scammed. If it seems too good to be true it is! Follow your instincts.

Breaking News ...

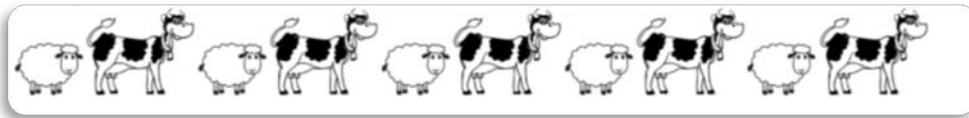
16 slaughtered cattle beasts, 12 sheep and 10 pig carcasses have been found dumped on logging skid site at Rai Valley by forestry contractors. It looks as though the animals were butchered professionally and their carcasses dumped. Police are investigating. If you have any information you can contact Havelock or Picton Police, MBIE, the SPCA or anonymously via Crimestoppers. There were also two burnt out vehicles nearby.

Finally

As we move into winter we hope the change of season and the up and coming pruning, stock, aquaculture and forestry work is done safely and the coming farming season is prosperous.

This has been a snapshot of what has been done and what has happened in the rural area.

If you have any suggestions for the Rural Newsletter please contact me - Sergeant Michael Porter, Crime Prevention Group, Blenheim.



FMG
Advice & Insurance

SHUT THE GATE ON RURAL CRIME

TELL CRIMESTOPPERS WHAT YOU KNOW
CALL **0800 555 111**

**IT'S YOUR CALL
... MAKE IT**

New Zealand POLICE
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri o Aotearoa

crimestoppers
0800 555 131
speak up, it's anonymous
www.crimestoppers-nz.org