

MARLBOROUGH RURAL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

You may be rural or remote, but you are not forgotten!

OUT OF THE OFFICE

Above Lake Chalice – Mt Richmond Forest Park.



SNIPPET OF OCCURENCES (not all)

7/10/2018

People in the Kekerengu Valley have reported activity around their property – a pet deer was shot and the head of the animal was left dumped near a pit used to attract pigs to the area. A security camera in the area was also interfered with. We are following up this incident.

9/10/2018

Abandoned vehicle found on a track near the Lake Chalice carpark. It's in a bush area and has had the windows smashed out. The Isuzu Mu vehicle is registered to an Auckland address. Our enquiries are continuing.

People are continuing to access some forestry areas unlawfully. This has been most prevalent in the Havelock area. Gates that are locked have been damaged. We are working with the forestry companies to identify the people doing this.

15/10/2018

Report of animal carcasses dumped at Wharenui.

A strong smell alerted a person camping overnight to the remains of at least one large animal being dumped. The lady that discovered them wasn't sure what animal they came from as there was no head, legs, hooves or skin to identify them. There were two other rib cages from animals dumped a lot earlier than the one discovered.

NUMBER PLATES

On 8 September this year we supported the Blenheim Community Patrol while they replaced the standard screws on people's number plates for the non-tampering type.



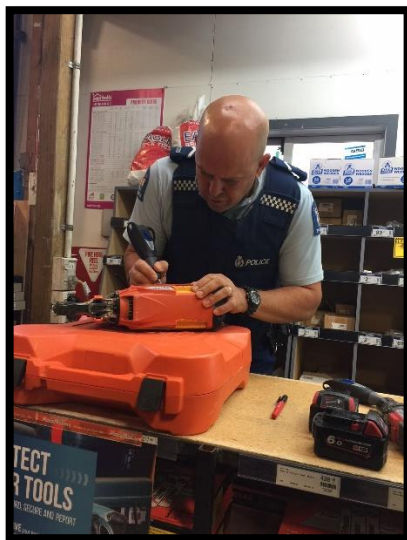
This was very successful and we ran out of room and time. So in conjunction with the Crime prevention week being held at Bunnings in Blenheim, we are going to be doing this again. It will occur between **10am and 2pm on Saturday 3 November.**

All they ask for is a gold coin donation to Community Patrols.

Three of the Prevention Team will also be engraving tools and other items either brought to us there or purchased at the store. We engrave your Driver Licence number on the item.

So often we go to search warrants and find tools and other items, people have put a stripe of paint on the item or given it a number or initials. However, when we check them in our Police system we can't link them – so having your driver licence engraved on the item means when we check, it comes back to the owner personally. Then we can look at prosecuting the offender and returning the items to the victim.

Senior Constable Leighton MacKenzie and I went to an event at Placemakers earlier this year and engraved builders' tools on site.



PREVENTION TEAM VACANCY

We have been able to gain permission to have another officer in our group. At the moment, and it has been this way for a couple of years, we have had a Sergeant and three Constables.

So we recently advertised for another Constable and have started the process for selection. As part of that process we usually invite a community partner to help us with the selection of the officer for that position.

A well respected and competent member of the Rural Advisory Group has agreed to be part of the process.

Hopefully, soon our office will have a Sergeant and four staff to handle the demand around Rural and Urban Prevention Team activities.

We will keep you updated if we make a selection and introduce them to you.



TIRED DRIVING

Just going that extra few kilometres before getting home when you are tired can result in this.

Please take a break if you feel tired – stop the vehicle, go for a short walk in the fresh air, stretch or drink a coffee or tea. Or consider swapping drivers.

Break up your journey.

We want people who use our rural roads to be safe!

GREAT CRIME SCENE ANALYSIS

In 2013, one of our officers went to the burglary of a yacht and other crimes in Picton. He obtained DNA and fingerprints from the scene of the crime. Due to the quality of these, he was very hopeful the criminals would be identified and prosecuted for their offending quickly.



However, five years passed and still nobody was identified. This was perplexing but it happens from time to time. 'Next minute' – a woman who has not been arrested by the Police before, is arrested and charged with an offence in another South Island town. Her fingerprints and DNA are taken for the first time.

A while later her DNA and fingerprints are matched to the 2013 crime in Picton.

Fantastic, we could now progress the investigation and as it was clear she had not carried out the offending in Picton alone, Police wanted to know who was with her. A good interview revealed the identity of another offender whose fingerprints were also checked after her arrest, they also confirmed her as being there. This individual nominated a third person as an accomplice.

None of these people were in the Police database prior to this.

The accomplice was found and interviewed. He denied any involvement in any crime and wouldn't admit to being at the Picton offending we were investigating. He refused to give his fingerprints and DNA voluntarily so that we could verify if, as he said, he was not involved.

He was arrested and charged on the information gained from the previous forensic interviews, from the other offenders. He still refused to be fingerprinted and supply DNA as is required by law. He was held in custody until he relented. Upon giving his DNA and fingerprints Police were able to conclusively link him to the Picton offending and multiple other offences in Nelson.

This all started with great crime scene examination and persistent follow up.



STOLEN

Stolen Runabout from Picton – taken from Picton sometime between the end of September and early October 2018.

It's a 4.5m (15ft) Glasscraft vessel, with a Yamaha 90hp outboard motor. It was named 'Sir Echo'.

Please let us know if you know where it is or anything that may help in returning it to the owner.

OUT AND ABOUT



Senior
Constable
Russ Smith -
Kekerengu
Valley.

On the evening of 16 October, the Police Prevention team was invited to speak at the Wairau Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association (WVRRRA) AGM at the Wairau Valley Township hall. Sergeant Mike Porter and Senior Constable Russ Smith attended the meeting

and learned that the WVRRA actively promote their patch, which covers the Wairau Valley Township, the area between there and the Wash Bridge and includes the Waihopai Valley.

They work to raise concerns around issues like dangerous spraying practices, promoting beautification and provision of amenities like the public rest area and toilet block upgrade after earthquake damage. They have also been helping to facilitate the ongoing work on the Loop Walking Track running from Church Lane along the river reserve to Keith Coleman Lane and back along the highway to the township. WVRRA also works closely with the Rural Advisory Group, with effective information exchanges and actions occurring between the two groups.



Mike and Russ gave the meeting an overview of the Police Prevention group and its commitment to the rural community, along with some commentary about the more common crimes committed in rural areas and advice on keeping safe from crime. The need for timeliness in reporting crime was also discussed.

The group also heard that Police will shortly be changing its telephone systems after frustration from all sides that the current system (for general non-urgent calls) is often ineffective. It is hoped that the new system will ensure that anyone ringing the Police routinely will receive good, prompt service, avoiding the risk of unanswered calls. As always, any call for urgent Police service should be made via 111.

[UPCOMING EVENT](#)



Where – Marlborough A & P Show Grounds Maxwell Road, Blenheim – 22 to 23 March 2019.

Check out the Facebook page for more information about this event “101 ways with Wool”.

FACEBOOK

Did you know we have a Facebook page for top of the south and West Coast general information – search on Facebook for Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast Police ...

LAST WORDS

As we move towards the heat of summer, and we’ve experienced some of it so far, we will continue our Taylor River bank patrols to either deter or locate the person responsible for the fires there and on the Wither Hills.

Don’t forget about the Marlborough A&P show on 9 and 10 of November this year. Hopefully we will see you at the A&P show. We’ll be there and have the Mobile Police Station set up.

Have a great month and please look after each other.

From the Crime Prevention Team – Marlborough.



Sgt Mike PORTER



S/Const Russ
SMITH



S/Const Leighton
MackENZIE



S/Const Sean
JONES