



December 2018

Welcome to our end-of-year festive newsletter

Cannabis season in full swing

I know we keep going on about the rural community giving us information about the location of cannabis being grown or suspicious activity that could be linked to cannabis growers. We do this because we know that the cultivation of cannabis and drug use is linked to criminal activity in rural areas.

Our experience is that if we target somebody growing in an area they usually move away from that spot or give up. Part of our strategy in preventing crime in rural areas is the targeting of growers and the removal of plots of cannabis, but we need your help. The information can be given anonymously and you won't have to give evidence in court. You can do this by speaking in confidence to any of us on the Prevention Section (Beau, Russ, Todd or myself), or you can phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Please don't wait until you see us next to do this face to face as we can't get around everywhere and may miss you. We need to



know as soon as you know or suspect the activity. If you have a suspicion, let us know – we don't care if it turns out wrong we would rather check it and there be nothing there, than leave plants in an area with growers causing problems.

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



New Staff Member Joins the Prevention Team

Constable Amy Bryant started with us in mid-November. Amy has come back to Marlborough, having been raised here and as many young people do, lived away from Marlborough for many years. She joined the Police and was most recently working as a Detective in Napier. She has 10 years Police service and experience to bring to our team.

Mrs Bev Pitts from Gladstone Downs farm was on the panel and contributed strongly in the selection process for the position that Amy attained within our team.

Amy has already been out there doing it and is learning the area. She was brought up on a dairy farm so is getting back into the swing of things. There was some competition within our team recently to see who would drive a recovered stolen tractor (see later in this article for more info) between her and Leighton – I think paper rock scissors was resorted to!

What We Have Been Up To:

Blenheim A & P Show

We had a presence at the A&P show again, Russell and I got soaked setting up our site. Wandering around on the Friday it was obvious we weren't the only ones suffering in the rain. Some of the jumping events in the horse arena were impacted, some of the horses were not able to cope with the wet approaches and landing areas. However some of the animals were unfazed and completed their rounds. The weather certainly put a dampener on the day and less people were there, however Saturday was a great day weather-wise and the show was well patronised. Leighton and Sean copped the sun on the Saturday and moaned about the sunburn!

Seddon & Ward School Sports Day

Seddon and Ward School sports day was again attended by our staff, Sean, Russ and Amy. It was a great afternoon arranged by Tania Pringle and her team at the Seddon School. We set up part of the Police – Physical Competency Test (PCT) as usual and the students all seemed to enjoy the experience.

I hear the children were disappointed that the Police weren't involved in the relay this year (apparently too busy packing up gear to hear the call for the race – yeah right) – don't worry, I have spoken to our team and they realise the error of their ways and will compete next time – the kids need the entertainment!





Waihopai Valley

We have been managing a dispute up the Waihopai Valley in relation to people entering land and upsetting the owners.

We have also been dealing with a threat made to a person that resides in the Waihopai. The offender has dealt with and was charged. He has been to court and was fined \$300 for his behaviour.

Liquor Licensing

A rural publican has recently been breached after serving two underage youths – He received a sentence in which his licence was suspended for 28 days, meaning he can't be a manager for that period and the pub was closed for 48 hours.

Hunting & Bushcraft Seminar

We are always trying to get positive and helpful messages out there in different ways to reach our target audience. We thought about issues in the rural community like unlawful hunting and people getting into strife in the bush, so we held our first Firearms and Outdoor Safety seminar at Marlborough Boys College. We wanted to educate young hunters and young people likely to enter the bush or use the great outdoors recreationally.

Our idea was to promote safety with firearms, respect for landowners and spread the word about the impact on landowners and the consequences of getting it wrong. We were supported by Denis Parsons of Nelson Forests and Steven Tribe from hunting and Fishing Blenheim.

Our objective was to encourage them to develop good hunting and bush habits early on and continue those good skills throughout their lives. It was held during the college lunch-hour and was optional for the boys to attend.

Denis Parsons spoke about how you could get a permit to hunt in their forests, when and why they are closed, and the impact of risky hunting practices on their staff and to their forests.

Steve Tribe from Hunting and Fishing spoke about Tramping and Hunting safety gear. He also talked about being a land owner and the impact of Unlawful Hunting on the owner. Hunting and Fishing Blenheim also donated some spot prizes.

We also answered questions, shared information and had an array of pamphlets for them to take.



Leighton speaking to the boys at Marlborough Boys College.



Rural Advisory Group

Russ attended a Rural Advisory group meeting recently at council chambers and gave an update on our recent activity.

Search Warrants

We have executed a couple of search warrants lately, one was in Renwick where we recovered multiple cannabis plants and firearms that were insecure. We are going through the revocation of the firearms licence of the occupant at the moment.

Another search warrant was carried out up the Northbank Road. Here we found another insecure firearm, over a 1000 cannabis seeds and a stolen tractor. The tractor had been stolen from a Taylor Pass property in 2016. Once we got the tractor running we removed it from the farm and Leighton, who won the paper, rock, scissors challenge - drove it for about 15kms. He was certainly ready to get out of it and back into the Police 4x4 vehicle after that. He claims he was nearly deafened by the noise of the machine.



Russell, Amy and Leighton sorting out the Tractor so it could be driven.



Tractor & Police support vehicle heading out of the Northbank

We carried out another search warrant at a Waikakaho Valley property. The team removed 4 Firearms, a Slug Gun and ammunition from a person who had unlawful possession of them. That person is currently going through the court process.

Stolen Vehicle

The Prevention team were also involved in the search for a stolen vehicle from Christchurch recently. The vehicle was seen in Blenheim where the occupants were attempting to steal fuel. They were pursued to the Pelorus bridge area. The occupants fled from the vehicle up a hill face and into the scrub. The area was searched by a Police dog handler and you can see the result from the photo, two offenders from Christchurch apprehended a while later. The third was apprehended after we shared information with the locals who reported the suspicious behaviour of the outstanding bloke. All three have been charged with offences relating to this event and crimes committed on their way north to this area.

This is a great example of the rural community reacting to the information passed to locals by Police during the search phase and later reporting sightings of the wanted man to us in a timely manner.





I make no apologies for the tone of this segment of the newsletter – I think you will understand our frustration...

- *Firearm safety - Do not leave it until tomorrow, don't hesitate, check your Firearms security!*
- *Are they all put away!*
- *Are the bolts and rifle separate, if it is a rifle that enables that?*
- *If it is a shotgun lock it up!*
- *Is the ammunition stored separately!*
- *If you don't have a firearms licence, you better not have firearms!*

You will notice a theme emerging from some of the previous stories above and will understand why I am about to rant on about firearms!

So often we attend burglaries where the security of firearms has been inadequate or non-existent. It is extremely frustrating for Police to repeatedly see this. Those that steal the firearms are dangerous people and should never have access to firearms. However some firearms licence holders are making it so easy for the thieves to steal the weapons. You can imagine where they end up after being stolen. Everybody's safety is compromised by the few irresponsible firearm owners that don't seem to care about the security of their weapons.

One burglary we dealt with in Omaka the other week was for a firearm. It had been left in a shed insecure. It was burgled by one offender from Christchurch and two from Nelson. The next day the three were seen acting suspiciously in Renwick near a vehicle that they were trying to break into. When they were disturbed by a passing motorist, they fled to the Renwick Domain where they were arrested by Police. A search warrant of the address the two Nelson men lived at revealed they had a large cannabis grow and the stolen firearm from Omaka was found.

Of concern was the fact that the vehicle they were disturbed breaking into also contained a firearm and hunting gear. The firearm had the bolt and ammunition with it and the owner was nowhere near it.

Those incidents I have alluded to in this Newsletter have all occurred in a period of about 6 weeks in Marlborough. Can you imagine what the Police are facing everyday nationally!

If you know of somebody that is not taking the security of their firearms seriously – speak to them or if they won't listen let us know we will get their attention! But if they are in possession of Firearms Unlawfully – please contact your local Police straight away.



Mark Your Tools & Other Equipment

Our Scene of Crimes Officer went to a farm recently and noticed there were chain saws and tools laying around the buildings. All were insecure and the buildings were close to the road. Unfortunately this is not an isolated case, the "It won't happen to me," attitude and "I come in and out of here all the time so I don't lock it," excuse is used.

We most likely will never change that reasoning, but we try.

The other thing we do is ask you all to mark your tools and expensive equipment with your driver's licence number, using an engraving tool. We have an engraving tool donated by Bunnings in our office and are willing to come and mark equipment. However we would find it difficult to get around everyone. If your tools and equipment are engraved and subsequently stolen, when we do a search warrant we can immediately link recovered property to the victim of the crime. Photographing your tools and other expensive items is also very helpful to Police and insurance companies in the event that it is stolen.

Other Matters

*We carried out an enquiry into unlawful hunting in the Kekerengu Valley, we are working on resolving the issue and have identified those involved.

*The Prevention team are investigating four men in two vehicles Unlawfully Hunting in the upper Awatere Valley over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of December. One vehicle is registered to Blenheim the other to Renwick.

*We were involved in arresting a man living in Wharenui. He has been recalled to Prison.

*A 15 year-old boy went missing after leaving the Black Birch Bivouac in the Awatere Valley with his mother and younger brother. They all did the right thing by reporting the incident early and the young boy who had been reported missing made his way to the Black Birch Stream and followed the stream-bed to make his way out. He was found by a Police officer walking in to the area via the stream. Great result.

Marlborough Sounds

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know there are multiple bays with the
same name and many bays and coves
given names by the locals but not officially
recognised accept to a few in the bay.
Help us to help you.



Out & About



Sergeant Richard Van Asch of Picton Police, in the news. Richard on the left was captured by Stuff's Farming pages attending the NZ Agricultural Show in Christchurch, exhibiting his South Devon.



Stock providing security on our vehicle. You would be surprised where we take our Commodores!



Police work takes us everywhere - Sgt Mike Porter above Wairau Valley at Mt Patriarch carpark.



Sgt Richard Van Asch wrangling stock found at the rear of a house in Picton.



The animal being led away into custody for the night with Police tape in lieu of rope!



Wrap Up

The busy season continues for us, but now with Amy in the team there are five of us to spread the work load. Thank-goodness as there don't seem to be enough hours in the day at times. The Marlborough Crime Prevention team hope you all have an awesome summer and festive season, please look after each other.

From the Crime Prevention Team – Marlborough.



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Leighton MacKenzie



S/Const Russ Smith



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Amy Bryant

