



December 2019

*Welcome to the Christmas 2019 edition of the Police Rural Newsletter*

## What's Happened?

It's unbelievable that the festive season is upon us again. It's come around so quickly!

The Marlborough Police Prevention team has had a full-on year with lots happening and in this edition of the Rural Police Newsletter we've provided some snippets of what has been happening in our world, and in the Marlborough rural community since we published the October newsletter.

## Marlborough A&P Show 8th-9th November 2019

Another great show this year. The organisers do so well to pull all the different elements together. We caught up with heaps of rural people again at our Police site and were inundated with children wanting to have a tour of the Mobile Police Station and taking away some of the giveaways we had. Below are some of our young visitors and their pets.



*Leighton with a group of visitors to the Police site at the show.*

One of our officers was seen trying to wrangle a mob of sheep that broke out of the pens in the area near the Police site.

He apparently achieved getting them back in the pens, ably assisted by a group of children at the show!

His short lived shepherding days are over - *or so he says!*

## Emergency contacts

24 hr Police Emergency Ph 111  
24 hr Police Non-Emergency Ph 105  
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](http://www.areyouok.org.nz)



## The People We've Met

From looking at these pictures you'd think that you're never too young or old to be a potential Police recruit!



Two keen young visitors to the Police site at the A & P Show



This lovely lady wanted to try Amy's Police vest on.

She was an attendee in a group that Amy and Russ had just delivered store security and general safety advice to in Kaikoura.

## Vehicle Crash

We assisted with a crash involving a light truck on Dillons Point Road near Blenheim recently.



Fortunately nobody was seriously hurt and despite the truck coming off a little worse for wear and losing its load, the driver was able to walk away.

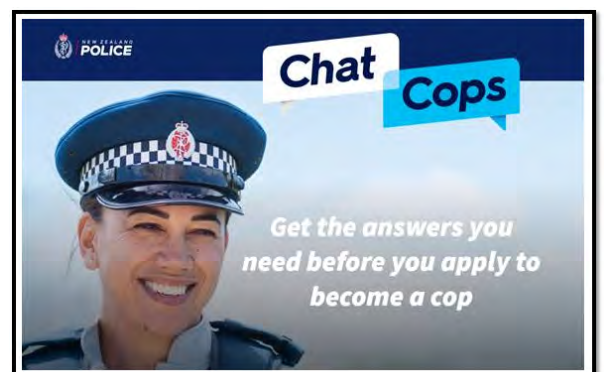
## Stolen Motorcycle Update

Update on the stolen KTM from Grovetown; Our front-line officers are following a positive line of enquiry in relation to this offence.



Thinking about applying for the Police? – go to:

[www.newcops.co.nz](http://www.newcops.co.nz) and get the answers you need at 'Chat Cops' before you apply.





## Burnt Out Vehicle

Our team dealt with a burnt-out vehicle south of Blenheim in late October. The offender had stolen the car from Kaikoura and crashed it into a drainage ditch. It seem that he was unable to get it going and he then apparently decided to set the car on fire, also causing grass along the drain to ignite. The investigation continues as the offender had subsequently stolen another vehicle from a nearby farm. The stolen farm vehicle also contained a firearm. Unfortunately this is another firearm that is now in the possession of criminals.

Again – *PLEASE*, secure your firearms correctly, because the last thing we need are more firearms in the hands of criminals.



## Growing Season

Police have already begun to locate cannabis crops growing in rural areas now that the growing season is upon us – please let us know if you have located some ...



Unfortunately for many land-owners and rural folk, this time of the year means an increase in unwanted visitors to rural properties.

Those who are in the illicit business of growing cannabis often look for a remote, scrubby area where they can plant their crop and it's less likely to be found by others.

These people make big, untaxed profits from the sale of cannabis and this activity contributes to crime and criminal networks within New Zealand.

As an added incentive for you to let Police know when you discover cannabis growing on your land, we know that these criminals will also scope out your valuables while trespassing on your property and there is a significant problem with farm equipment and other valuables being stolen as a result. Call us, we'll remove the cannabis and reduce the risk to your property!



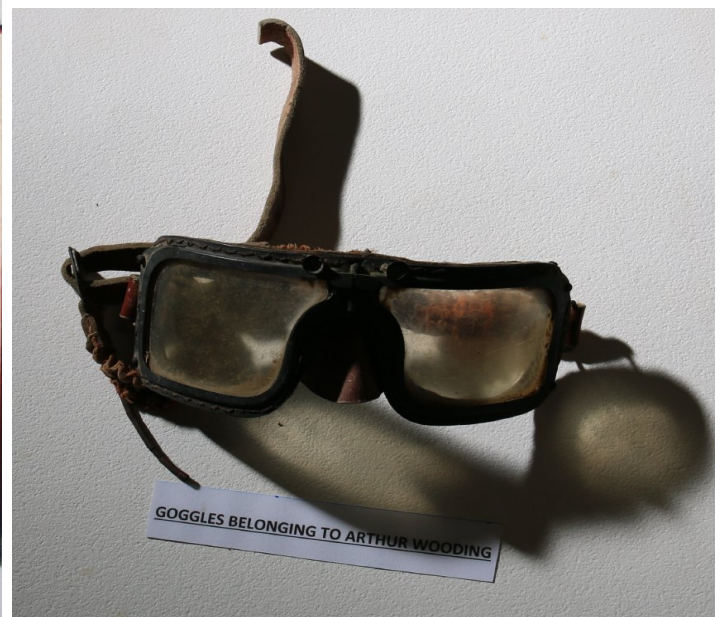
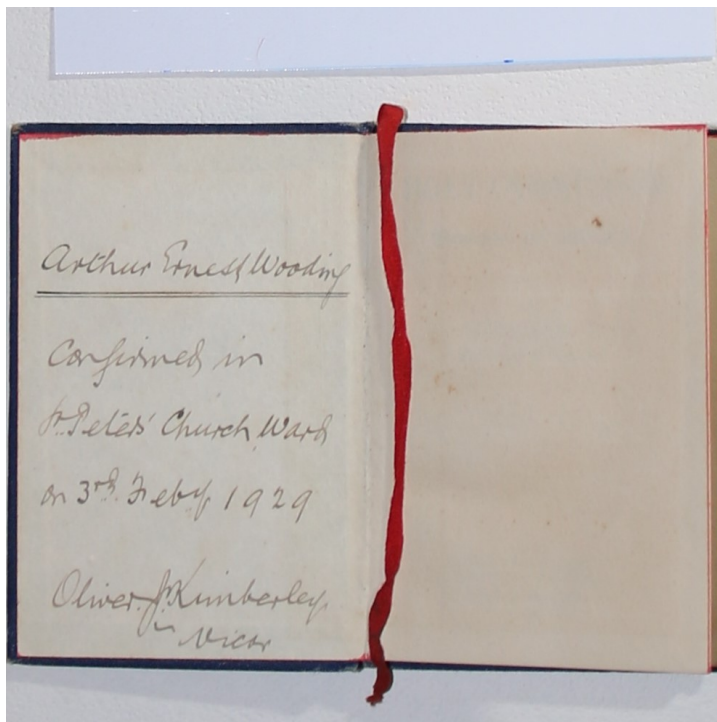
## Burglary to Ward Museum Storage

In late November storage containers at the Ward Museum were broken into.

Medals, a bugle and other historical items were taken.

These items were on loan to the museum by a local family who are understandably devastated by the theft of these irreplaceable heirlooms.

Police would like to hear from anyone who has any information that may assist in locating these valuables. Some of the items are pictured below:



**111**

Emergency

One-One-One (111)

Call triple one (111) when you need an emergency response from Police, Fire or Ambulance.

About 111



**105**

Non-Emergency

Ten Five (105)

Use Ten Five (105) to report things that don't need urgent Police assistance.

Use 105@



**\*555**

Driving Incidents

Star Triple Five (\*555)

Call Star Triple Five (\*555) to report road incidents which are urgent but not life-threatening.

About \*555





## Keeping Rural Visitors Safe

With holidays coming up for some in our rural areas and family or visitors arriving, please make sure that if they are using your farm vehicles, they are doing so safely.

This is especially important if using your 4x4 motorcycle, ATV or Mule.

Many, especially inexperienced users, get their ambition and capability mixed up and this can result in tragedy. Instruct them in safe use and where they can and cannot safely drive.

Don't let young people take charge of these vehicles. The risks are heightened if they are left using these types of vehicles unsupervised and the consequences for both you and them may be severe if you don't take steps to protect them and yourself.



The NZTA web site also has very useful information about ATV use when you can use them on a road and safety information around their use.

[www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/vehicle-types/quad-bikes-and-atvs](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/vehicle-types/quad-bikes-and-atvs)

We want you all to be safe this festive season and every other day you work on your property.

## Firearms Buy Back

Just a reminder – the amnesty is ending soon, the last date is the 20th of December 2019.

If you own a now-prohibited firearm and have yet to either notify online or complete the hand-in, you really need to do so now. Thanks to those of you who have already done this.

## Unlawful Hunting Prosecution

We are currently putting another Marlborough poacher through the court system. We will let you know the result when he is sentenced shortly.



As we have said to as many people that hunt as we can – seek a permit from the Department of Conservation, or have clear permission from the land owner. Do not think it is your right to hunt 'The Long Farm' (the side of the road) or any land you don't have permission to hunt.

If a land owner says no, it means NO!



## Unlawful Hunting (continued...)

If you don't have a firearms licence, don't even think about having possession of a firearm unless under the direct control of a firearms licence-holder.

Direct control means the licensee must be right beside the user so that if necessary, the weapon can be taken control of by the firearms licence-holder. Not as some people think – on the same paddock, same hillside, or same area of bush – it means immediately nearby.

If there is a mistake made or things turn out badly, both are liable for the action that occurs.

## Vineyard Fuel Security

It's a very busy time in the vineyards at the moment, with bud-rubbing finished now the effort is around wire-lifting and leaf plucking.



Remember if you have a fuel tank on your vineyard make sure it is secured. Many vineyards have security cameras and alarms at the site of the tank.

Please carry out proactive steps to help prevent offenders targeting your vineyard for fuel.

We don't want you to become a victim of crime.



## The Things We See...



*Check out the photo to the left, can you spot the odd one out?*



## Out and About

*While checking out spots that were being targeted by poachers, we took a break to have lunch.*



*Leighton having a meal break*

Patrolling a rural forestry block after concerns from locals about unlawful hunters in the area.



A bonus associated with doing Police enquiries in our beautiful rural areas...



*Amy taking in the Awaterre Valley views.*



## Out and About (continued...)

A spectacular view out over the Wairau Valley.



*Better than being cooped up in the office doing paper work. Wairau Valley in the background.*

## Festive Safety

**Here's some advice around drinking & staying safe in the 'silly-season.'**



*The weeks leading up to Christmas are usually a busy time of the year for emergency services because people tend to be invited to pre-Christmas drinks with friends and workmates. With more people taking part in social activities, there is more alcohol consumed. Some of those partaking over-indulge in alcohol and the police, ambulance and fire service are left to clean up the mess.*

*Not too many people would rush off and take a holiday without planning what they are going to do, and yet many of us will go drinking socially at this time of the year without any sort of planning at all. A night on the town is potentially far more risky than the average family holiday.*

*Here are some simple ways to assist you in planning and having a good night out without regretting events the next morning:*

- If you are planning to drink anything alcoholic, don't take your own vehicle to the venue. Have a designated sober driver arranged for your group. If not a friend or workmate, book a bus for your work function or arrange taxis to transport everyone. If it is your responsibility to get yourself home, put some money aside for the taxi.*
- Make sure you are not dehydrated before you start drinking alcohol. It will begin to affect you far more quickly if you haven't had good fluid intake during the day. Have a couple of big drinks of water before you start drinking alcohol and you will hold off the effects for longer. Having water during the evening will also reduce the dehydrating effect of alcohol, which may help prevent a hangover.*
- If you think that there may not be a lot of food at the social event, have something substantial to eat before you go, or during the evening. If you are socialising in town there are a good number of bars, restaurants and takeaways to choose from. Food will slow the progress of alcohol into your bloodstream, allowing your body more time to process what ends up in your blood and therefore reducing the potential for intoxication.*
- Stay with the group of friends or workmates that you are socialising with. A lot of the conflict that police deal with after people have been drinking seems to occur when drink-affected individuals go wandering. You are safer in your own social group and others are more likely to look after you if you become intoxicated. It's also becoming more important to have someone reliable look after your drink if you leave it unattended.*
- Finally, use your own judgement and common sense. If you are starting to feel affected by alcohol, consider having a non-alcohol drink or two so that you don't end up in a police cell or a hospital bed.*





## ***Reduce the Risk of Theft***



There are always a few sad stories that emerge over the Christmas period of families that suffer a house burglary or a theft in which their Christmas presents are stolen. Most thieves are opportunists. This means that they will often be travelling a regular route when they see something that tempts them to take another look. Then while they are snooping around, they may take advantage of an easy target.

To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of theft or burglary around Christmas time:

- ✓ Don't display your presents and gifts so that they are visible to the public
- ✓ Don't leave presents or purchases in plain view in your vehicle while you're away from it
- ✓ Don't leave your vehicle unlocked while unattended
- ✓ Avoid letting the public at large view your house contents (ie; while providing a Christmas light display)
- ✓ Don't leave your house or garage insecure while away from the property
- ✓ Don't advertise the fact that you're on holiday
  - have someone clear mail
  - mow lawns
  - park a car in the drive occasionally
  - don't pull curtains.

## ***Keep Safe while on the Road***



***If you're travelling by vehicle during the Christmas holidays, here are some tips to keep you safe:***

- Start preparation for the trip, including packing, well before hand. This will ensure you're not leaving flustered or in a panic because you're late
- Treating your vehicle to a pre-holiday service with your mechanic makes good sense to reduce the risk of vehicle problems while you're on holiday.

At the very least, make sure your registration & warrant will remain current, wiper blades are in good condition, lights and indicators all work, tyres are legal tread depth and inflated correctly and oil, brake, washer and radiator fluids are all topped up if necessary.

- Sit down and plan your route before you leave, including rest stops about every two hours.
- Allow extra time for the journey to avoid speeding to make up time



### **Keep Safe While on the Road (continued...)**

- Don't drink alcohol for 12 hours before driving
- the driver should ensure that they are well rested before starting the trip and share driving to reduce fatigue
- Maintain the '2 second rule' and make it a 4 second gap in the wet
- When stopping for a rest, have something to eat and drink to keep energy levels up
- Be courteous, pull over when it's safe and let faster traffic past if you're driving at less than the speed limit
- Be patient, it's not worth killing yourself and others just to get past a slower vehicle

## **Festive Wrap-Up**

It has been a productive and busy year – we all wish you a great festive season. Some of our team will be working through the summer period. We are also heading into the time of year when many events are held, with the Wine Festival, annual protests at Waihopai and many other commitments for local Police.

We are also involved in the final day of work operation, the last public work-day before the annual Christmas break, Tuesday the 24th of December. Our team will be supporting the front-line officers in Marlborough, checking the pubs and keeping an eye on end-of-year celebrations and behaviour. This day is traditionally a busy time for emergency services.

However you plan to celebrate in the lead up to the festive season and through the holidays, have a great time but please make good decisions and look after each other.



**Sgt Mike Porter**



**S/Const Sean Jones**



**S/Const Russ Smith**



**S/Const Leighton MacKenzie**



**S/Const Amy Bryant**