

Marlborough



Rural Police

April 2020

Welcome to the Police Rural Newsletter Covid-19 Special edition 2020

Hi once again from Sergeant Mike Porter and the Marlborough Crime Prevention Team.

While many of you rural folk won't have noticed a great deal of difference in your daily routines, life under Covid-19 restrictions has been strange and different for many others, not the least of which us, as members of Police.

As an essential service we have still been out and about dealing with all sorts of Covid-19 related incidents along with many unrelated to the pandemic.



The team having a light-hearted moment while working during the Level 4 Covid-19 restrictions

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

0800 555 111
crimestoppers
speak up, it's anonymous
www.crimestoppers-nz.org

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



Out and About

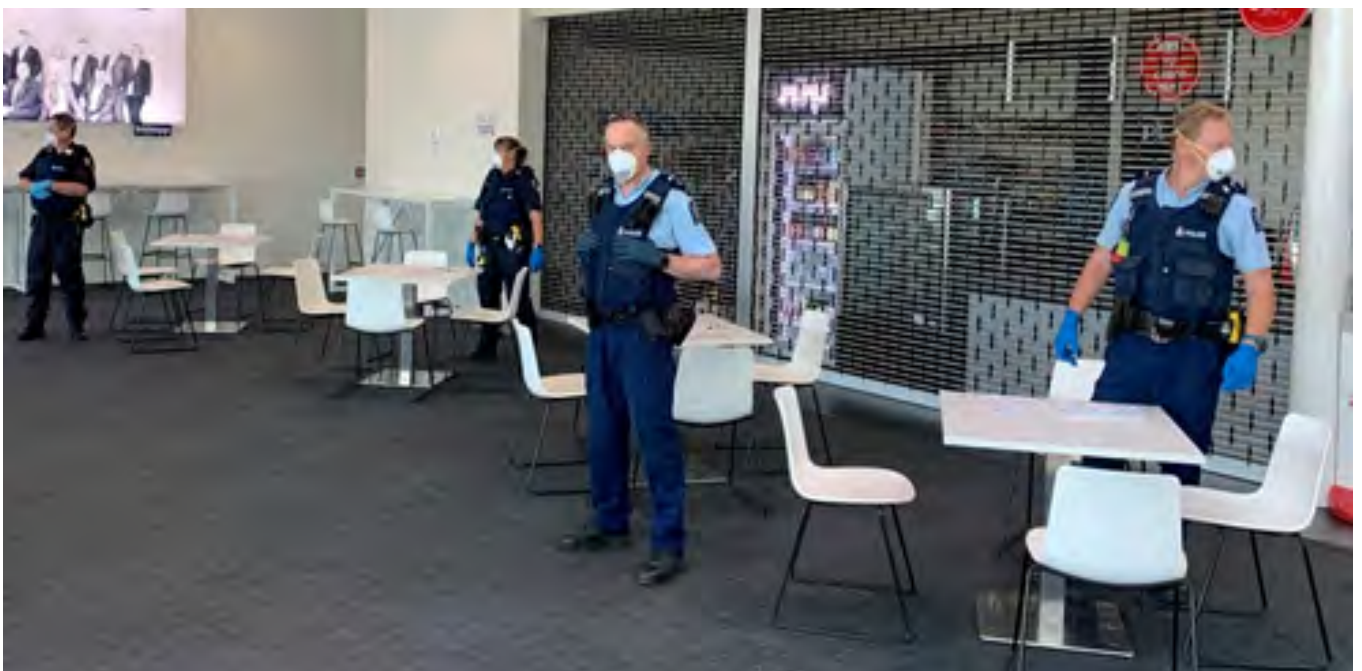
Amongst the raft of other tasks and operational Police work our prevention team has been doing during the Covid-19 Level 4 restrictions, we have assisted other Government agencies in some of their tasks.

Recently we agreed to assist the Department of Conservation in sorting out some signage as their staff were in lock-down.

Local Police were also tasked with meeting a group of Marlborough people at the local airport who had been repatriated after having the misfortune of being overseas when the Covid-19 lock-down commenced. They were all very relieved to have made it back home. After a brief interview, they all travelled to their homes for a period of personal isolation.



Mike Porter changes the status of some access roads on a DoC sign



Russ Smith and Sean Jones (in the foreground) wait to greet passengers being repatriated after the Covid-19 lock-down took effect

The website [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) is the fastest way to find help and advice about the COVID-19 situation in New Zealand.

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If you're not sure what assistance may be available or don't know who to contact for help, call the free government helpline on 0800 779 997 (8am to 10pm, 7 days a week).

For advice, support and general enquiries, please call 0800 22 66 57 (8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 5pm, weekends and public holidays).



Out and About

On their way back from dealing with another matter, the team recently found a lamb that had managed to get caught in fencing wire in the Waihopai Valley. Leighton was able to successfully free the trapped youngster.



One of the tracks we negotiated in an effort to catch up with somebody.



Leighton MacKenzie about to set the previously trapped lamb free

We have been checking sites after information has been received that people were breaching the Covid-19 lock-down. Several freedom campers and others have been dealt with as a result. In most cases we have engaged them with the Civil Defence Emergency Management team or other agencies to ensure they have an approved place to be secure in their 'bubble.'

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19, FLU AND COLD

	DRY COUGH	FEVER	RUNNY NOSE	SORE THROAT	BREATH-LESSNESS	HEADACHE	BODY ACHES	SNEEZE	FATIGUE	DIARRHOEA
COVID -19	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	~	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	~	✓✓	~
FLU	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	✓✓✓	✓✓
COLD	✓	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✗	~	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✗

✓✓✓ FREQUENTLY
✓✓ SOMETIMES
✓ LITTLE
~ RARE
✗ NOT



Stolen Trailer

While the Level 4 Covid-19 lock-down was in force, a trailer similar to the one pictured, was stolen from a property in the Wairau Valley. Please keep an eye out for a trailer like this and report any sightings to Police.



Hunters

We have also been discovering people that think it is still okay to go hunting. In most cases these people have received a formal written warning for breaching the Level 4 restrictions. If they are found breaching the rules a second time, they run the risk of arrest & prosecution.

The Government has announced that the ban on hunting will be lifted under Covid-19 Level 3, but there's a catch. When Level 3 restrictions come into effect at 11.59pm on Monday 27th of April, hunting on public land like DoC reserves and the duck hunting season will be postponed until alert Level 2.

From Tuesday 28th of April hunters can again hunt locally – as long as they have the landholder's permission and stick to the rules. This includes the requirement that hunters stay within their region and stick to their 'bubble.' Hunting will only be permitted on foot and overnight trips are not allowed. Hunting on public conservation land is banned.

The use of quad bikes, off-road bikes, helicopters and other motorised vehicles are prohibited.

The start of the duck hunting season is being postponed from Saturday 2 May to start on the second weekend after that date. This is the date at which it is most likely New Zealand moves to alert level 2. The season will also end later.



New Zealand Covid-19 alert level: 4

Until 11.59pm on Monday 27th of April 2020

- WASH YOUR HANDS
- COUGH/SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW
- STAY HOME

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- MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE
- KEEP SURFACES CLEANED
- LOOK AFTER OTHERS



Policing During Covid-19 Level 4

During the lock-down period we have still had to interact with many people, but Police management has set a series of sensible and practical guidelines for officers to follow during these unprecedented times. We have been following the guidelines and have had no major issues as a result.

A complicating factor has been when we have had to arrest offenders. We dealt with four offenders and one person suffering a psychotic mental health episode in the first weeks of the Level 4 restrictions and one person threatened us with Covid infection. We take the necessary precautions including the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) but when somebody must be physically dealt with, we have no option but to enter their bubble.



Another part of our job has been listening to the interesting excuses we have been given by people breaching the Covid-19 lockdown provisions. Here are a few –

- Overseas tourist in camper van – "I must travel every day to keep the battery charged in my van!"
- Motorcyclist found riding from Blenheim towards Lake Rotoiti – "I'm doing this for my mental well-being and it's such a nice day to ride especially with no traffic on the road."
- Over two weeks into lock-down a man sitting in his vehicle with a local radio station playing (where repeated information about Covid-19 Level 4 restrictions has been passed) – "What do you mean there is a lock-down. When did that start?"
- This next one is actually believable and was accepted by us. A Possum trapper was found coming out of a remote area just after the start of the lock-down and had been in the bush for the past month – "What's a Corona-virus? What's happening? I've got to do what? Oh well, I better go to the supermarket and stock up!"



- While doing a patrol of the Picton ferry terminal, a group of people stopped in the middle of the road were spoken to by our team. When the driver was asked what they were doing, he said - "We have travelled from Christchurch & want to catch the ferry as my sister had a stroke and we are travelling because she is bored!" Further questioning revealed the stroke happened 9 months ago. Understandably they were all formally warned & sent on their way back to Christchurch.



Wrap Up

The team hope all of you are going okay during this time of immense change.

Keep an eye on your family and neighbours.

Please be patient, we are getting closer to the end it's like a game of rugby – you don't give up until the final whistle!



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Russ Smith



S/Const Leighton MacKenzie



S/Const Tim Goodyer

Please remember we are working right through this.

If you have a crime to report ring 105. If it is an emergency ring 111.

KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

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BE KIND TO ONE-ANOTHER