



Rural Police

August 2020

Welcome to the August 2020 edition of the Police Rural Newsletter

The Marlborough Police Crime Prevention Team hope you're all safe and well, and your winter is going well.

We have had a very varied and interesting start to the year. I say start, but we are in the 8th month already, that's how quickly time has flown for us and I am sure others.

After our commitments to other tasks during the Covid-19 period we have been back out there and trying to catch up. Things may change again for us depending on how this latest move to Covid-19 level 3 in Auckland, and level 2 for the rest of us plays out.

This newsletter contains a snapshot of rural incidents of interest and some of the things we have been doing in recent months.

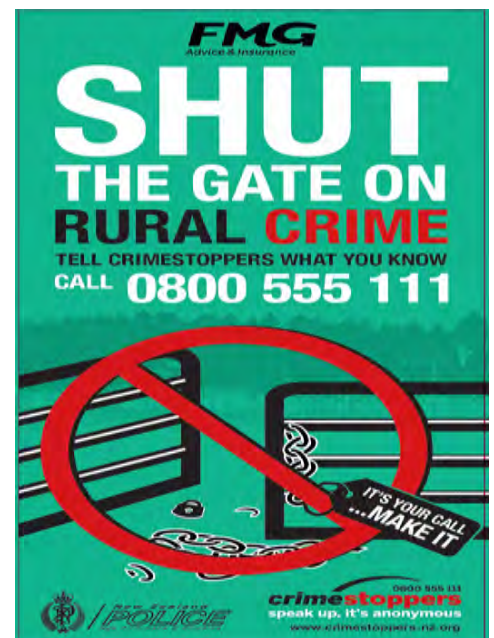
Happenings on Our Beat

Kaituna Track – A sheep was shot while in a roadside paddock. It was wounded but alive and left to suffer. The animal was discovered the following day and had to be put down. We believe a .22 rifle was used by the shooter.

Grovetown - Property, including fishing gear, was reported as stolen from a boat parked on the roadside.

Please ensure you remove and insecure valuables from your vehicle or boat to reduce the opportunity presented to a thief. If you are able to park your boat and trailer in a private place please try and ensure it is not visible from the road.

Boating accessories are expensive. They are attractive to thieves and are often targeted for quick financial gain.



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

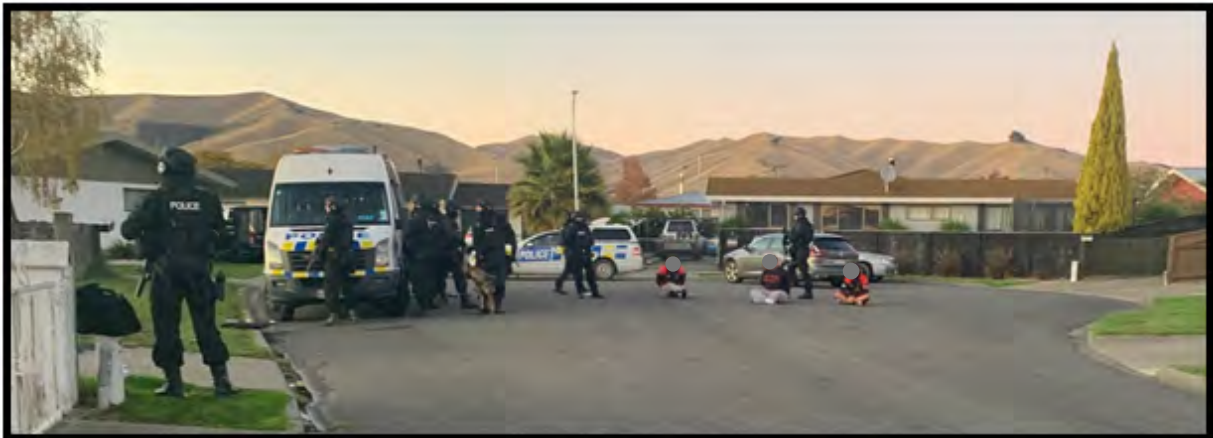
24 hr Youth Line 0800 376 6333
24 hr Crisis Team (Mental Health) 0800 800 717
Family Violence (9am-11pm) 0800 456 450
Or visit: www.areyouok.org.nz



Happenings on Our Beat (continued...)

Search Warrants - We have been involved in executing multiple search warrants around Marlborough – the common denominator is drugs. They are the driving force for much of the crime we have in our area.

In each instance Police seized Methamphetamine, cannabis and paraphernalia for drug use, slowing down the supply and use of illicit drugs in our community. Another concerning trend has been the increasing frequency with which illegal firearms have been found at these addresses.



Police execute a search warrant at a gang address in Blenheim, May 2020.

Lake Grassmere - Assist Firemen with a cattle truck on fire with cattle on board. All cattle were able to be offloaded successfully.

Awatere Valley –Residents reported hearing numerous gunshots from the roadside near an address. Two Nelson men are being dealt with by Police in relation to their involvement.

Marlborough Rural - *Police staff have attended several tragic fatal crashes recently. Some of those involved were rural men from our community.*

Please be safe on our roads. Any fatal crash has far reaching consequences for family and community.

Ward – We have had the theft of a Stock Wand (Stick Data Reader) reported. It is a Datamars Tru Test brand. It is valued at about \$2500. It was taken out of a storage shed on the property.



Leighton gaining access to a shed during a search warrant.





Emerging Trend

A current trend in some other rural areas in New Zealand involves the theft of farms gates and fence posts. If you are offered a cheap gate or posts, be wary.

Please let us know if you have any knowledge of it occurring in your area.



Community Donation

Recently the Marlborough Creative Fibre Guild fashioned dozens of individual Teddy Bears. Many of these were gifted to the Blenheim Police to be given out to children who are coping with difficult incidents or challenging family situations.

Some of the Teddy Bears have been given new homes. We really appreciate the effort the ladies of the Guild have put into this valuable cause.



Pictured are Senior Constables Tim Goodyer and Russ Smith with Pam Neal from the Guild.

Unlawful Hunting

Police conducted an operation in July as part of a response to a series of complaints about unlawful hunting incidents in Marlborough recently.

Farmers and residents in some remote Marlborough rural areas have been reporting brazen incidents where hunters have gone onto their properties in the late evening or early morning without permission and shone spotlights around, fired shots near dwellings and hunted deer and pigs.



Unlawful Hunting (continued...)

One Saturday evening a Police patrol, working as part of the operation, located a deer stalker who had recently shot an animal and was preparing to leave the Black Birch area.



He was found to have been hunting in a Department of Conservation reserve without a DoC permit to hunt. Police have investigated this incident and have taken appropriate action.

Police worked at all hours throughout that period patrolling known hunting areas and stopping vehicles that were heading into these areas.

Checks were done on firearms licences and hunters were asked where they were heading to hunt and whether they had permits or permission to hunt those areas. Dozens of hunters were spoken to during the Police operation.

Waihopai Valley – A cattle beast was shot in the neck by a person with a .270 Rifle recently and then left in the paddock. This shows a total lack of respect for the farmer, the animal and hunting laws. We have stepped up our patrolling in that area and will continue to try and identify the shooter.

There are two worrying aspects to this: either the hunter failed to identify his target, or it was an attempt to steal the animal for meat, but may have been disturbed by somebody in the valley.

Both are totally unacceptable. This is why we are continuing to keep the pressure on these hunters. We encourage good, lawful hunters, they have nothing to worry about. Those hunters who break the law do!

We have dealt with 118 Unlawful Hunters in the last few years. Most have been prosecuted. We will continue to keep the pressure on those that repeatedly flout the law and endanger our rural community.

If you are having issues with Unlawful Hunters consider installing cameras. The community should work together to identify unlawful hunters. Do this safely and pass the information and any evidence like photographs to Police in a timely manner.

On that point - We are also following up on two hunters Unlawfully Hunting in Waitaria Bay area Kenepuru, where they were disturbed by the owner while they hunted for pigs on his property.





Unlawful Hunting (continued...)

Please remember, if you're intending to go hunting, have landowner permission or a DoC permit before you depart. A DoC permit is easy to apply for online.

Leave a copy visible in your parked vehicle before you begin walking into the hunting area.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

If using a firearm, have your firearms licence with you. Handle firearms safely and always positively identify your target before shooting.

If your dogs go onto land you don't have permission to hunt, see the landowner before retrieving them or advise that landowner that you went on their land to retrieve dogs before you leave the area to avoid accusations of unlawful hunting. Clearly know the boundaries of your permitted hunting area and if a property owner says no, that means NO!

The fines and consequences are harsh if you are prosecuted.

Woodbourne Tavern Deer & Pig Hunt

Woodbourne Tavern Deer and Pig Hunting Competition was again held over the three days of 10th to 12th of July 2020. We were generally very pleased with hunter behaviour and only dealt with one Unlawful Hunter over this period.



The weigh-in

The weigh-in at the Woodbourne Tavern on Sunday saw a good turn-out with a good selection of trophy deer, pigs, goats and other game animals. There was something of a family theme to the event, with many young people proudly displaying the possums, hares, goats and rabbits they had hunted with their families.



Woodbourne Tavern Pig & Deer Hunt (continued...)



Sergeant Mike Porter and Senior Constable Sean Jones talk to people at the weigh in.
Photos courtesy of the Woodbourne Tavern Facebook page.

Rural & Urban Burglar

A burglar who had been breaking into our rural and urban businesses, and that our team targeted, plead guilty to 12 burglary charges, conversation of a motor vehicle, unlawful possession of a pistol (cut down rifle) and other charges in the Blenheim court recently.



111

Emergency

One-One-One (111)

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

If you have difficulty hearing or talking on the phone you can [register here](#) for the 111 TXT service.

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





Something Completely Different

Nearly 3 months ago we heard from a Port Underwood resident about an Emu that escaped from his property.

The owner of the Emu reported recently that after several adventures chasing him up and down hills and trying to herd him along the Port Underwood Road he has finally been recaptured. He is now back in his field and surrounded by strengthened and extended fencing.



Drones

Sergeant Porter recently attended a Federated Farmers meeting and the subject of drones was raised due to their frequent use these days.

He was asked to pass on information about their use, and restrictions on their use. The information below is an extract from the Civil Aviation Authority website:

<https://www.aviation.govt.nz/drones/>

Before you fly

Aircraft must NOT exceed 25kg and must always be safe to operate and well maintained.

You must take steps to minimize hazards to people, property and other aircraft.

Only fly during daylight, unless you are doing a shielded operation.

Give way to all crewed aircraft e.g. planes, helicopters, hang gliders, and paragliders. Land your aircraft immediately if another aircraft approaches.

You must be able to see your unmanned aircraft with your own eyes at all times. Don't watch it through binoculars, a monitor or smart-phone. Do not fly it behind objects or through or above fog and cloud.

Fly below 120 metres (400 feet) above ground level.

Get consent before flying over people and property.

There are several no-fly zones – check for any airspace restrictions in your area before you fly.



Drones (continued...)

Where can you fly?

You may be able to fly in controlled airspace by obtaining air traffic control clearance from Airways. You can request this authorisation through AirShare using the My Flights tool - <https://www.airshare.co.nz/my-flights/plan-a-flight>

You don't need authorisation from air traffic control if you can conduct your flight as a shielded operation.

Stay 4km's away from all aerodromes - unless you've got clearance from the aerodrome operator. See Aerodromes section for other conditions.

Do not fly in special use airspace without the permission of the administering authority. For example, military operating areas or restricted areas.

It's safer NOT to fly over people. If you need to, only fly above people if you have asked for their consent.

Get consent of the property owner or person in charge of the land you want to fly over.

Check with your local council or the Department of Conservation before flying in public places like parks and reserves. Your regional council's website for example will have information about drone use in your area. You must apply for a permit from the Department of Conservation to fly over conservation land. – *I have checked with Marlborough District Council and have been told they don't have regulations around the use of Drones.*





Out and About



Police Crime Prevention staff driving through Leatham Valley on a cold morning in July.

The reality of Rural policing..... for those that think we don't get out of the office or vehicle!

Recently Sean and Leighton followed up on the discovery of a 4x4 quad bike that has crashed into a deep gully in the Awatere Valley.

It was found by chance when the farmer was checking out that area. He was astounded as clearly somebody had been on his property without him knowing. It was fortunate that there was nobody discovered with the vehicle, as it had been so badly damaged and had clearly tumbled about 150 metres from a track to the stream bed.

We are working on identifying the owner of this vehicle.

This is another clear reason why we don't want people going onto farmers land without notifying the owner.





Wrap Up

Hopefully the worst of the winter weather is behind us and we will soon have spring to look forward to. Here's hoping it will be a spring free of Covid-19 restrictions!

We still have a lot of commitments going forward, however we will take every opportunity to get out and about and catch up with the good folk in the rural community.

We are developing a plan to hold the next rural community 'Wool-shed Meeting' in the Waihopai Valley for the people of the Avon and Waihopai Valleys. People in those areas will get more information as we get closer to the date.

Stay safe out there and look after each other.



Thought you might like to guess what our colleague Sean is up to in this photo.

Is he looking for something, or was the tramp into the steep gully with the crashed quad-bike a bit much for the poor old fella!?



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Russ Smith



S/Const Leighton MacKenzie



S/Const Tim Goodyer