



Rural Police

December 2020

Welcome to the December 2020 Police Rural Newsletter.

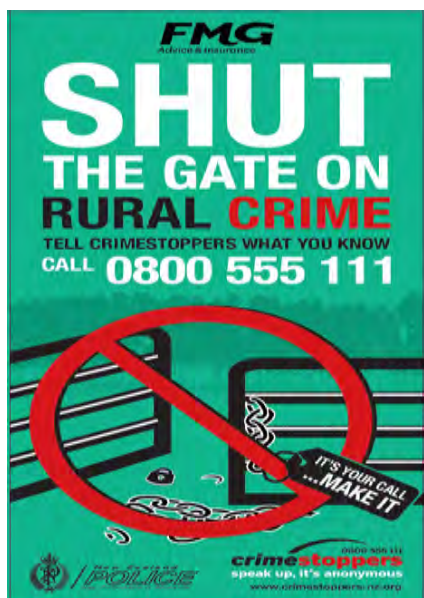
When I began putting thoughts and information together for the latest Newsletter, I was scratching around to get enough to fill it and share with you.

Wow – I should have known and that is the nature of our job – so much has happened since as you will see from the photos and stories. Now I'm having to leave things out.

Following on from the dry winter it looks like things are improving with quite a bit of rain lately. Hopefully enough to have an impact on the water tables.

Here's hoping we get the rain that is required to see us through the predicted long hot summer. On the subject of long hot summers - We will be continuing our mobile patrols along the Taylor river and Wither Hills which have been hit by arsonists in the past. This year in addition to the area being covered by us in a 4x4, we have had Sean and Russ out there on Bikes patrolling the river and lower hills.

What's Happening



Trees Cut Down Unlawfully

The Reserve Rangers at the Marlborough District Council report incidents of people cutting trees on the Wairau Riverbank. These trees are there to help protect from flooding and to protect the riverbanks. It is unlawful to cut these trees down and the council will consider prosecuting the offenders.

Trailer Theft Trend

The theft of a tandem axle trailer has been reported from a farm on the Northbank near Bartlett's Creek. It is described as having a plywood deck that is painted red and a red tow ball. It was taken overnight between the 26th and 27th of October. The offenders must have been keen as they had to empty and remove a water tank that was on the trailer at the time. The tracks from the scene lead out of the Bartlett's Creek Road towards Northbank Road.

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



What's Happening (continued...)

In addition to this, several trailers have been stolen from various places around Marlborough in recent months. Please secure your trailers with a strong chain or similar to an immovable object. Use a wheel-clamp or other effective methods to immobilise the trailer. If possible, ensure the trailer is parked out of sight of public places so potential thieves aren't tempted.

Here are some ways you can help Police to be more effective in locating your trailer if it is stolen: Have a photo of the trailer, ensuring you photograph the distinctive parts of the trailer that would help identify it. Consider welding your registration number or some other distinctive mark on it. It is hard to find a trailer when we have no photograph or distinctive markings to separate it from all the other similar trailers! The offenders will remove the number plate straight away, so we need more to help us identify it and get it back to you.

Theft of Farm Gate

A 'Cyclone' farm gate was stolen from a paddock in the Bartlett's Creek area in September 2020.

Cannabis Season is Here Again

Our staff deployed to an area in the bush near the Wairau river on the Northbank and recovered some of the first cannabis plants being grown this year.

Please be alert to growing activity again this year and let us know as soon as you can. We will remove it and put the pressure on the growers.

Search Warrants

A search warrant was executed recently by Police at a Seddon address in relation to burglaries reported around Blenheim. A 42 year-old man is facing five charges of burglary and multiple fraud offences. Some of the property taken in the burglaries was recovered.

Police also arrested a 36 year-old man at a Renwick address after conducting a search warrant in relation to unlawful possession of firearms and possession of Methamphetamine. Police also recovered a stolen van and a trailer from the address. The firearms and trailer were taken recently in a burglary to a rural business. Police are still seeking a .270 rifle and a .22 Hornet rifle. Again, we cannot stress the importance of properly securing firearms to stop them from ending up in the hands of criminals.

Suspicious Behaviour

Mills and Ford Road, Blenheim at about 2am 19th Nov 2020. Known drug offenders lurking in the area. Be conscious of your security in the rural areas, ensure your security cameras, alarms and lighting are up to scratch and report suspicious behaviour.

Methamphetamine addiction will drive these people to commit offences, with habits that cost some up to a \$1000 a day. So imagine what they need to do to support that addiction. They are not working and will target vulnerable properties.

Sheep Dog Trials

On the 19th and 20th of September we went along to the Nelson Marlborough Tux Sheep Dog Trials at Richmond Brook Station.

We caught up with a lot of people and watched the





Sheep Dog Trials (...continued)

amazing display put on by well-trained and talented dogs and trialists... well, some anyway! There were threats to leave some dogs tied to fences after dismal performances by the dogs... or was it the trialist or flighty, spooked sheep? You'll be pleased to know that no dogs were reported abandoned at the event!



Another great event run at 'Richmond Brook'.

Woolshed Meeting

We held our 2nd Woolshed meeting, this time in the Avon Valley.

We were fortunate enough to get access to 'The Guardian' farm in Avon Valley. Our hosts were Steve and Sandra Pilcher.

We were joined in the presentations and question time by John Leggett Marlborough Mayor, Steve Murrin and two of his team from Marlborough Roads, Katrina Flynn, a Mental Health worker from Marlborough Public Health Organisation, Ailsa Carey from REAP, Sarah White from Rural Support, and Scott Adams representing Federated Farmers. Inspector Simon Feltham and Senior Sergeant Peter Payne represented Police.



The entrance to 'The Guardian' Woolshed



Sgt Mike Porter and Mayor John Leggett speak to the audience

We covered subjects including farm safety and promoted the use of alert equipment that is GPS linked, like EPIRP's or 'inReach' devices. We also encouraged engraving and photographing of valuables like tools and farm machinery.



Woolshed Meeting (continued...)

Russell covered information about methamphetamine, Cannabis and reporting crime.
Leighton covered Unlawful hunting and trail cameras.



Tim let people know how important it is to engrave tools and other high value items with your driver's licence number so Police can link property to the victim of the crime more efficiently. Sean and I contributed on all the topics. I frequently had a story to relate to different things that were covered, apparently my team were nervous each time I started with, "Well, interestingly enough, I have a story that relates to that!"

There was great discussion and we shared pamphlets and information.

Interestingly while I was preparing for this, I asked how much Police service each of the officers in my team had, and the grand total came to 137 years!!!

It was a worthwhile 'catch up' in our rural community.

New Zealand Police want your attention for Fraud Awareness Week.

Fraud Awareness Week is an opportunity for organisations and individuals to discuss the impacts of fraud and how to protect themselves.

"New Zealanders continue to lose significant amounts of money to scammers every year. It's an issue that not only affects people from all walks of life but takes many forms," says Detective Superintendent Iain Chapman, National Manager, Financial Crime Group.

"It doesn't matter who you are, or where you are from, anyone is likely to be approached by a scammer - it's more common than you think."

NZ Police's Financial Intelligence Unit estimates New Zealanders lose \$20-30 million annually to scams. In the United States, the estimated annual losses are \$US650 million.

"Many people who have been scammed are too proud to make a complaint, as they may feel embarrassed or silly about getting 'sucked in'," says Detective Superintendent Chapman.

"As a result, a significant number of these scams are grossly under-reported. It's believed millions are lost each year and never reported."





Scam Alert (continued...)

"Police, along with our partner agencies, continue to encourage you to take the time to stop and think for a minute when you're confronted with a possible scam situation - especially when you are contacted unexpectedly and asked for your personal information."

"It doesn't have to be something as clichéd as a prince or princess in a foreign country offering to deposit money into your account - it can be more subtle and clever and anyone can get caught out."

"Sadly, scammers are getting smarter and their scams are becoming more sophisticated."

"They are preying on people's insecurities, and in some instances, appealing to people's desire for some 'easy' financial gain - for example, by promising cash for helping the scammer do something."

"What you need to ask yourself is: 'Is this for real? Why would you want to give me money? There must be a catch?'"

"There usually is," says Detective Superintendent Chapman.

"The catch is you getting scammed."

HOW TO AVOID A SCAM:

A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you to ask for your PIN, password or to move money to another account.

- Never click on a link in an unexpected email or text – you could be giving access to your personal and financial details.
- Always question uninvited approaches in case it is a scam. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.
- Don't assume an email or phone call is authentic – just because someone knows your basic details (name and address, or mother's maiden name) it doesn't mean they are genuine.
- Don't be rushed into making a decision or financial transaction on the spot – a genuine bank or trusted organisation would never do this.
- Listen to your instincts – if something feels wrong then it generally is.

If you believe you are the victim of a scam you can contact Police and report the matter via 105.

Visit scamwatch.govt.nz for more information on how you can prevent yourself, family and friends from being scammed.

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 →
--	--	--





Unlawful Hunting Signage

We have all been out and about putting up poaching signs and have also given a bunch of them to DoC whose staff have used their networks to distribute them - this is helping to further get the message out there.



Tim putting up more signs



Department of Conservation (DoC) and Police have a long standing relationship. We work with them and seek their advice as the experts in their field when we or they encounter breaches of behaviour on DoC land. We will actively support and assist them when required.

We want to make the public land safe and also the land adjacent to public land, for all users. Recently DoC staff have also started distributing the unlawful hunting signs as we continue to work on changing the behaviour of errant hunters.

In a recent combined visit with a DoC staff member, we spoke to a group of hunters who had been seen in a DoC reserve area spotlighting at night. After they explained their activity they were given advice to ensure they were hunting lawfully and to ensure the safety of others using the area.



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





Truck Crash

On the 28th of October a heavy hauler truck slipped off an access road and rolled about 60m over a bank in the Awatere. At the time the driver was bringing a 25-tonne excavator down the hill on a low loader.



Helicopter crew hoist the driver to their machine in preparation for the flight to hospital.

Luckily there was a pilot vehicle with it and a person working in the vineyard below who heard and saw the truck rolling, so was able to combine with the vehicle pilot, logging crew and Marlborough Lines staff to reach the driver, who was still trapped in the cab of the truck.

There was limited access to the site due to the steep bank and dense vegetation. It's a terrible thing to happen but luckily assistance was able to be initially provided by logging staff and Marlborough Lines staff.





Truck Crash (continued...)

All these people did a great job activating the emergency services to the driver. Well done those men.

A fantastic job was also done by the Seddon Fire crew, Ambulance crew and also the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter.



One of the Seddon Fire crew climbs back up the bank from the truck.

Searches Using Technology

We participated in Search Warrants south of Seddon.

Sean and Tim are pictured using metal detectors during the search.





SAR - Search and Rescue

A Search in the Clarence Valley for missing person Melissa EWINGS was begun in September 2020.

The volunteers of the Marlborough Search and rescue team and Police officers were involved including members of our team.



Left: Leighton taking a break from a search of the beach while using a 4x4 Quad bike.

**LAND SEARCH
& RESCUE**
New Zealand | Rapa Taiwhenua

landsar.org.nz

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



Emergency Services

Police, ambulance, FENZ and the local community combined to recover victims and make the scene safe after a tragic helicopter crash at Kekerengu on the 15th of December. Police were very impressed with locals and visitors at the Kekerengu Store and camp ground, who immediately responded when they saw a helicopter crash on the foreshore in the early afternoon. Police and Air Accident Investigators are continuing to investigate the cause of the crash.



We also attended another incident at Marfell's Beach on the 17th of December. Again, Police worked closely with ambulance and the rescue helicopter to provide care and later extract an ill woman from the car park at the beach. She was later flown to Wairau Hospital. We would like to thank the caretaker at the beach campsite for his assistance. We would also like to thank the campers for giving emergency services the space to work and for respecting the woman's privacy.



LAMBS SLAUGHTERED & STOLEN

Our team are investigating the killing of 10 lambs in a paddock at Woodbourne overnight 05/12/2020. The offenders corralled the lambs into the corner of a paddock to slaughter them. It appears they broke out and some were killed in multiple locations as a result.

QUAD BIKES TAKEN

Two 4x4 quad bikes were taken recently. One was from a Ward property. This was taken from a carport on the farm property. It is a Honda TRX500 coloured red.

The other one was taken from a Taylor Pass property. The person was seen taking it and rode back into the farm when disturbed. The quad bike was recovered the next day on SHW 1 in the Weld Pass area having run out of petrol. It had clearly been rolled. It had been dumped there about 2am and had been stolen about 6.30pm the previous morning. The person seen riding it is described as a fat male with a beard.

Please consider removing the keys to your vehicles and stashing them somewhere they are not easily found.



Always remove & put the vehicle keys somewhere safe when you park it up.



The stolen bike recovered near Weld Pass.

KEEPING OUR RURAL WORKFORCE SAFE

Our Prevention team member Russ also holds the portfolio of RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employment) Liaison Officer. The RSE scheme is a Government initiative that provides valuable employment in New Zealand for Pacific Island nationals in a number of industries, mainly vineyard and orchard work. The scheme benefits both NZ and Pacific nations as the workers carry out employment that is difficult to fill from within NZ and workers lives are enhanced because of the financial benefit to their family, village and nation.

Russ has rapport with the workers, employers, and government agencies that oversee the scheme, assisting with training, safety initiatives and providing advice and assistance when issues are raised.

The Samoan RSE workers attended a meeting recently in Blenheim around safety initiatives. Speakers attending the meeting included (l to r) Alistair Mitchell - Manager of Thornhill Marl, David O'Shea - MBIE RSE Labour Inspector, Oiko Mauaiaivao-Chan Tung - MBIE RSE Relationship Manager, and Russ. The lei's presented to them by the Samoan workers contained chocolate and lollies. Russ said he was concerned that he might have had chocolate melting down his neck during the presentation!





THE FINAL WORD

2020 has been a challenging year for many of us and for a whole lot of reasons. We've all been busy and we've had to adapt and move forward. Let's all look forward in a positive way to 2021.

We hope you have a happy festive season and that you get some time out, look after yourselves and others, and come back to 2021 refreshed and ready to go.

We look forward to once again having great rapport in 2021 with our rural community. We may catch up with some of you as we work through the Christmas and New Year period. We will be policing at some events and will continue our business as usual.

Like you, we will work at looking after ourselves, and once the festive season is over, most of us will try and take a break and have some productive 'down-time.'

Please be safe during the holiday season, and remember, criminals are like rust, they never sleep. They won't take a break but they will take any opportunities you leave for them so lock up your valuables and safeguard your property.



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Russ Smith



S/Const Leighton MacKenzie



S/Const Tim Goodyer