



Rural Police

March 2020

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 edition of the Police Rural Newsletter

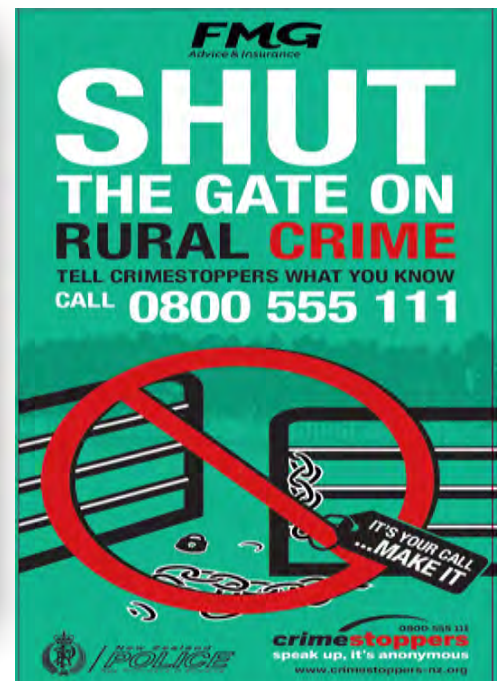
Greetings from Sergeant Mike Porter and the Marlborough Crime Prevention Team.

Well, I've said this before but I've got to say it again – wow – this year is flying by. We have been so busy lately. In fact it all started for our team back in November with a search warrant on a Blenheim address where we recovered stolen property and a stolen 4-wheel-drive.

When that same place was again searched by us, the address was found to have an active clandestine Methamphetamine lab operating. Due to the risk of having been contaminated two of the occupants of the address had to be decontaminated along with me and three other Police staff. Two people are facing criminal charges in relation to these warrants.



Decontamination after exposure to a Methamphetamine Clan-Lab



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



Search and Rescue

The commentary that follows clearly demonstrates the value of having a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) while in the bush or out in the back blocks:

A tramping in a remote area of the Molesworth and on the side of a mountain injured his knee. He tried to struggle on but the pain was that intense that he began vomiting. Realising he was in trouble and unable to venture any further, he made two very good decisions:

1. He stayed put.
2. He then activated his beacon.

Within an hour the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter was overhead. He was then extracted and taken to Wairau Hospital.



This is a timely reminder of the value of a Personal Locator Beacon. Have you got one in your farm vehicle or on your belt?

If not consider it now – don't wait. Enhance your chance of rescue or survival and make it easier for those looking for you to find you.

A personal locator beacon is a small electronic device that, on activation, broadcasts a signal to a satellite. This signal alerts the New Zealand Rescue Co-Ordination Centre that you are in distress. NZ Police recommends you take a Registered 406MHz beacon with you when are in the outdoors in areas where you may not have cell phone coverage or other means of communication readily available. You should also consider hiring a mountain radio if tramping or hunting and using a marine VHF radio if boating.

NB: Only 406MHz distress beacons are monitored by satellite. 121.5MHz and 243MHz frequencies are no longer monitored and should be disposed of properly - NOT thrown away. You can hand them into your nearest Police station or outdoors retailer. Beacons may be purchased or hired.

There are many types of Beacon. Check out then LandSAR website – www.nzsar.govt.nz for more information about Beacons.





Unlawful Hunters

We followed up on reports of unlawful hunting in the Wairau Valley. We worked with the local land owners to help identify and deter those going onto their land and hunting.



Leighton above Wairau Valley.

Often it's all about how timely the reporting of an incident is, and how clearly the information is passed to Police. Quick, thorough reporting can make a massive difference as to how effective the Police response may be, and what the end result of the investigation may be.



Patrolling a forestry block that had been frequented by unlawful Hunters.

Great work from land owners in the Awatere Valley with reporting an incident and giving clear information about what had occurred. Two men from Blenheim were charged with unlawful hunting. They have both been fined and the equipment used is to be forfeited to the crown. We have also started the firearms revocation process.

A hunter was unintentionally shot in leg near Black Birch DOC block in January by another hunter – The shooter has been to court and the prosecution is still in process.

I can't go into the detail of this case but whenever somebody is hurt or killed in a hunting incident it's a reminder for all firearms licence holders and users to ensure that handling firearms in all circumstances is done safely. The consequences of unsafe handling can be life changing.

With the 'roar' starting, our team will be out and about checking on those heading into the hills to hunt deer. We will check that they have their firearms licence, firearms in the appropriate state of safety and that the property they are intending to visit is one they have been given permission to hunt.

Our experience is that during the roar some hunters lose their heads and all common sense goes out the window. Remember it is only a deer. A hunter needs to consider whether it is worth ending up in court, having all your hunting equipment, firearms and vehicle confiscated, and losing your firearms licence. You may spend a lifetime regretting a poor decision if you unintentionally shoot someone. Do the right things –

- Hunt safely

- Identify your target clearly – if in doubt don't shoot.

- Only hunt land you are authorised to hunt. Spotlighting and hunting from a public road is not lawful as you can see from the following circumstances:

An excuse recently given to Police by two men charged with unlawful hunting was that they thought it was okay to hunt from a 'paper road' onto a farm property they had no permission to be hunting.



Unlawful Hunters (continued...)

Well that is not correct – if you are shooting from a paper road, more correctly known as an unformed legal road (which is a public road by definition) and onto private land, you have no permission to hunt. You are hunting unlawfully.

If you get it wrong and act unlawfully, Police will prosecute. We will also take steps to revoke your firearms licence.



Police will seize everything used in the act of unlawful hunting. We can and have also taken the vehicle used. We will seek that everything that is seized, is destroyed or forfeited.

Fire Risk

We continue to patrol the Taylor River and Wither Hills in Blenheim to provide public reassurance and help deter the arsons that have occurred in the past. As you can see from the photo of the Police ute below, the Taylor River is very dry above the Burleigh Bridge.



Patrolling the Taylor River and reserve for suspected arsonists



Fire near Taylor Dam in February

A suspicious fire burnt through scrub, trees and grassland near Taylor Dam recently. If it hadn't been for the quick reaction of the farmer and his staff and the excellent work of Rural Fire, this had the potential to cause far more damage than it did.



Wine Festival 2020



Once again we had staff at the Wine festival in February. For the first time we were able to deploy the Tasman Police District's new Mobile Police Station, seen above parked behind the Prison Van.

The festival crowd was generally well behaved, with only a few people getting their ambitions and their capabilities mixed-up around drinking alcohol.

Two were apprehended for fighting, one for theft and another for detoxification. Overall a good result.

Search Warrants

Due to a spate of burglaries in Blenheim and the rural outskirts, our team began an operation that eventually led to the identity of two groups committing burglaries and other offending.

We used DNA, CCTV, analysis of the way in which they operated and many other skills the Prevention Team have accumulated over their considerable Policing experience. Multiple search warrants and in-depth investigation allowed us to identify the offenders.

One man is facing 11 Burglary charges. He also faces a charge of unlawful possession of a pistol (sawn off rifle) and charges related to Methamphetamine . He is currently remanded in custody.



S/Const Sean Jones uses a metal detector to search for exhibits during a search warrant.



Search Warrants (continued...)

Another man and his girlfriend were targeting properties where they could steal tools. They also had a vehicle stolen from the North Island in their possession. The male was charged with 18 offences including unlawful possession of explosives (Power Gel), possession of Methamphetamine, receiving stolen property and he is also remanded in custody. His girlfriend was charged with offences relating to Methamphetamine and burglary. This woman was stopped again by Police in Motueka a short time after we dealt with her and is now facing additional charges of unlawful possession of a pistol (sawn off rifle) and unlawful possession of a rifle.

Armed Offender Squad

The group of specialist Police officers who make up the Armed Offenders Squad (AOS) in our policing district are drawn from sworn Police in the Marlborough, Nelson and West Coast police areas. Their role is as a tactical team that is called on to take over from front-line Police when they find themselves dealing with an armed offender situation.



Our AOS team receive specialist training in tactics, negotiation, and techniques for dealing with people who choose to use firearms or other weapons unlawfully, often presenting as a threat to others.

The squad is supported by Police dogs and their handlers who also receive specialist training so that they are able to mesh with the rest of the squad and provide another valuable skill-set to the team.

While the AOS are armed and trained to use force to stop an armed offender from harming others, their primary aim is always to seek a peaceful outcome for any incident that they are deployed to deal with.

A trained negotiator is usually deployed with the team and will often initiate contact with the armed offender, talking to them and offering a raft of options with the aim of having the situation end without injury or further incident.

Maori Warden Training

Senior Sergeant Peter Payne and Sergeant Mike Porter were invited to participate in the training being delivered to a group of trainee Maori Wardens for Marlborough. Their focus was around sharing experiences about liquor licensing and how we deal with licensed premises in Marlborough. Peter and Mike share the liquor licensing portfolio for the Marlborough Police and work closely with Marlborough District Council and Nelson Marlborough District Health Board representatives.



Sgt Mike Porter delivering training



Operation Tuia 250

Tuia Encounters 250 was a commemoration in 2019, marking 250 years since the first encounters between Māori and Pākehā in 1769.

Marlborough Police Prevention team members Amy, Sean and Mike were seconded to the National Operation for the period that the vessels were in the Marlborough Sounds.



The HMS Endeavour replica in Queen Charlotte Sound.

The weather conditions for the commemorations were ideal, with calm water and a slight overcast at the start of the day, clearing to fine, sunny weather.



Sgt Mike Porter on an inflatable near the Endeavour in the outer Marlborough Sounds.



Police launch Lady Elizabeth IV - 'Lady Liz' Queen Charlotte Sound – with Fisheries Inspection vessel alongside.



Const Amy Bryant at helm of Police vessel Lady Liz



Const Amy Bryant on the Inflatable from Lady Liz in the outer sounds.



Const Sean Jones on the stern of the Police vessel Lady Liz



Amy is Moving On

On a sad note – Constable Amy Bryant is leaving the Prevention Team and is returning to a role in CIB. She recently applied for a vacancy in the Blenheim CIB team. She is a qualified Detective so resumes that work now.

I will certainly miss her on our team. Not only does she have a great sense of humour but she has great skills and brought a different dynamic to the group. She was brought up on a dairy farm and had that experience to call on.

Here are a few images of Amy at work –



Thank you for your contribution Amy and good luck in your new role.



Wrap Up

We have a replacement for Amy coming soon. Senior Constable Tim Goodyer is currently based in Picton and will join us in April 2020.

He has been in the Police for about 22 Years and based in Picton for the last 16 Years. He was a commercial fisherman before joining the Police and ran his own business. He is also a qualified pilot.

Tim still spends time in the Sounds and sails as a crew member on another colleague's yacht on a weekly basis. He has years of experience dealing with people in the Sounds and remote areas of Marlborough. We look forward to his experience enhancing our team.



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Russ Smith



S/Const Leighton MacKenzie



S/Const Tim Goodyer

We hope the grape harvest goes well for everyone. We know that some of your staff will work 12 hour shifts through the harvest. Please ensure your employees or work colleagues are not too tired to drive home from their shift. We have had occasions in the past where staff working long shifts through the harvest have gone to sleep at the wheel of their vehicle as they drive home. We want everybody to be safe.

We also hope the disruption in the forestry industry and other primary industries as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic stabilises as well. Have a great autumn.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DUE TO THE COVID-19 THREAT LEVEL WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE NON-ESSENTIAL VISITS UNTIL THE THREAT LEVEL IS REDUCED - however Police will still be attending to all calls for essential service. Phone the Police using 105 or use the Police web page to discuss any matter you are unsure about.