



May 2021/21

Welcome to the May 2021 Police Rural Newsletter.

This newsletter covers the period from late last year to June 2021. The time has got away from me and when I went to update it, I realised I had started this in February! I'm surprised at how quickly this year has gone for our team as we have been busy with many other tasks out in the area.

I started this in the height of summer and we have recently experienced the first day of winter.

The team have covered some ground in that time – from Kaikoura to Arapawa Island, with Havelock staff going to D'Urville Island and almost everywhere in between.

We have witnessed the impact of the drought and supported rural folk affected by it, and then the very heavy rains arrived. What a contrast.

I apologise for some of the stories being old and the newsletter long, but as per above this is the first opportunity I have had to share it. I hope that I can get the newsletter out sooner next time.

New member of the Rural Team



We'd like to welcome James MacKenzie to the team. He started in late April with us. Some of you will have already met him as he has been out and about carrying out investigations.

James has been in the Police for 13 years and has experience across a variety of different fields, bringing extra skills to our group.

He is a member of the Armed Offenders Squad. James first joined the Police in Christchurch. He later transferred to Picton, spending some time there before transferring to Blenheim, where he was born and bred.

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.oneyouok.org.nz



Some of the tasks we have been dealing with

In December 2020, ten 50kg lambs were stolen from a Woodbourne farm. The offenders failed in their attempt to herd the lambs into a corner and take them. The lambs broke out from the offenders makeshift yards and fled back into the paddock. They were then slaughtered in various places across the paddock.

There is a description of a vehicle involved which we are monitoring. We have not yet identified the offenders with sufficiency to prosecute at this stage but we are still working on this.

On the 20th of January, Police used a helicopter to take an unwell man to hospital from the Roebuck Hut, in the Richmond ranges.

On Saturday 30th of January Senior Constables Russ Smith and Tim Goodyer worked with other Police staff at the Waihopai Government Base protest. They monitored the activity of approximately 30 protesters on the day. I have worked there for many many years so was glad of the break this year. This year's protest went ahead without any incidents.

Overnight between the 8th and 9th of February 2021, four sheep were stolen from a Hawkesbury property.

Earlier this year an unlawful hunter was identified after trail cameras caught him on a property at Kekerengu. He has been dealt with.

Throughout the first four months of 2021 we pulled a number of cannabis plants from plots in the Waihopai Valley, and in other rural locations in Marlborough.

We continued to recover cannabis throughout the province during the cannabis growing season. It is still illegal to possess, grow or use cannabis. If you know where it is, or has been grown, let us know.

We are still dealing with an unlawful hunter found in the Wakamarina in May. He had hunted with his pig dogs and was found after killing a pig near the property owner's home. He made no effort to contact the landowner. We have seized his hunting gear and he is being put before the court.

Recently a farmer found a gate open in one of his paddocks on a farm property in Kaituna. He found a brand new iPhone lying in the grass. There was nothing stolen and no other activity noticed. Police could not identify any links between the phone and anyone, nobody has claimed it yet and it looks almost brand new, so somebody is out of pocket. It is a mystery as to why the owner of the iPhone would be there. Maybe they don't want to have to explain what they were up to. We are always ready to listen under those circumstances.

In April a window at the Moutere rugby changing rooms was forced to give entry to the area. Nothing was stolen.

The same month, the burglary of a property in Crail Bay was reported. A chainsaw was taken off the back porch of a house while the occupants were absent.

Several sheep were also reported stolen from a paddock next to State Highway 11 in the Clarence area.

Also in April Russ Smith and I assisted with a search warrant on Aranawa Island



Land-owner liability when allowing access to land

There has been some concern and confusion amongst rural landowners that they may be liable under Health and Safety legislation for people whom they allow onto their land for recreational activities.

Basically, unless the land owner employs someone to perform an activity on their land, Health and Safety requirements do not apply. Another way to look at it is, Health and Safety requirements do not apply to recreational activities when a land owner allows someone access to their land for that purpose.

Here is a link to this commentary, type or paste this into a browser for more info:):

<https://duncancotterill.com/publications/recreational-access-to-land-%E2%80%93-how-is-this-affected-by-health-and-safety>

Change of Scene

For a change of scene and to help our fellow officers in other parts of our policing area, some of our team were deployed to Picton and Kaikoura for New Year's Eve celebrations.



The views of the mountains and sunset over the beach weren't half bad at dusk on New Year's Eve in the Kaikoura area.

Senior Constable Sean Jones also worked in Kaikoura on the 6th of January 2021 at the Katchafire concert, again in support of the Kaikoura Police staff.

He said that the concert was well patronised and the crowd enjoyed the entertainment and were well-behaved, with only a few minor incidents occurring during the course of the evening.





Firearms Security

You must be bored with me reiterating the same message **“Make sure your Firearms are secure!”** I can’t apologise because this is about the safety of us all.



I also do this because I am frustrated over the number of times rural properties are the subject of burglary of firearms.

In one burglary the stolen firearm had been left leaning against a wall in an office. It was not adequately secure. The owner of the firearm acknowledges this.

If you live up a long farm lane and think it will be alright because nobody would come up here and break into our house or sheds, think again. Burglaries like this are reported on multiple occasions. In one recent rural burglary two firearms, a drill and cash was stolen. Please ensure your storage is not just adequate, and that it is very secure.

A latch screwed into a wooden wardrobe door is not going to take much effort for a thief to force. In one burglary a fact in point was that the wardrobe was easily entered but the ammunition safe within the wardrobe, which was metal and secured to the floor and wall, was not able to be breached. The owner was left with the bolts of the firearms and the ammunition, but the scopes, suppressors and firearms were stolen.

Please over-engineer your security and review it. If it is in a garage or shed next to cutting gear and tools that would easily facilitate the entry to the firearms safe, reconsider your set-up.

We have recovered some firearms but there are more out there with people that should not have them.

Again, my message is (I know I have said this before but people aren’t getting it) get a purpose-built safe for your firearms and secure it properly to the wall and floor. If it's a key operated safe, store the key away from the safe where it can’t be found.

Don’t tell your house-mates or friends and family, who do not have a firearms licence, where the key is or the combination to the safe. Trust me, we have experienced the complications which result from that.

Flaxbourne Pig Hunt

Sean and Tim went to the weigh-in of the Flaxbourne Pig Hunt on Sunday the 18th of April. They caught up with a lot of people and talked about our continued push against those unlawfully hunting. The event was well attended.

It was great to see so many families there, with parents sharing the experience of the hunt with their children.



Flaxbourne Pig Hunt (continued...)



TTim examines one of the pigs entered into the Flaxbourne competition.



Hunters, their families and onlookers check out the entries in the Flaxbourne Pig Hunting competition.

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





Drought Assistance Day for Farmers - Ward

On the 30th of April an event was held at the Ward Hall, with a view to providing support and assistance to farmers suffering drought conditions. Russ and I attended in support of those affected. The event was organised by Top of the South Rural Support Trust and Federated Farmers. They arranged for a couple of consultants to provide some meaningful information and advice, along with assistance for farmers dealing with drought. The event was very well attended and started at 1pm, finishing at 4.30pm with a barbecue.

Russ and I learnt a lot about Lucerne and Nitrates.

Thank goodness there has been a bit of respite for the Flaxbourne area with some rain, although more is needed.

Duck Shooting Season

The Duck Shooting Season is currently in force, running from the 11th of May to the 25th of July.

If you are duck shooting please check the bag limit and check whether you need a duck hunting licence or permit.

The tradition of having a few tots of rum or drams of whisky while duck shooting, or even just before shooting is not safe. Logically firearms and alcohol are a poor mix. Remember, you are responsible for your own actions with a firearm and you will be held responsible morally and legally if you have a firearms incident and have been drinking.



Please, if using or in possession firearms, carry your firearms licence. Ensure you have permission to shoot on the land you enter and know your firing zone.

Absolutely enjoy the duck shooting, but be safe.

More Stolen Equipment

Pruners - Between the 22nd and 3rd of May a burglary of a vineyard equipment shed took place on Falveys Road in Hawkesbury near Renwick. Offenders have targeted two sets of Electrocoup electric grape pruners which are valued at \$2,500 each. The pruners are kept in plastic boxes complete with battery, charger, and cables.



Burglaries - in early June, tools, electric fencing and food items were stolen from a shed at Conders Bend, while \$7,000 worth of solar panel and associated equipment was stolen from the upper Wairau Valley near Rainbow Valley.





Burglary Wairau Valley

A hut near the Wash Bridge was the site of the theft of several wooden-framed windows and a 5,000 litre water tank some time over the last few months.

The hut hadn't been visited by the owner for a considerable period of time and thieves had taken advantage of the isolated property in the interim. The offenders have gone to some effort to remove the large water tank.

Because access to the property is challenging, it is thought that some sort of truck or flat-deck ute was likely used to carry the stolen items.

Tim and Russ went to visit the scene, where Tim completed a fingerprint examination of the hose pipe that had been attached to the tank.



Marlborough SAR

A 76-year-old took a tumble near Waikawa in Picton while out hunting and suffered a broken arm and dislocated shoulder.

In the course of the hunting trip he had been separated from his hunting partner and was unable to move as a result of the fall, but his cries for help were thankfully heard by some nearby residents.

A five-hour rescue operation followed, with the hunter being recovered from steep and challenging terrain and transported to hospital.

The rescue was heavily reliant on someone hearing him, and this is a valuable reminder to ensure emergency communication is always at hand when you are out-and-about in remote areas.



Marlborough SAR in the bush assisting the injured hunter

LAND SEARCH & RESCUE
New Zealand | Rapa Taiwhenua

landsar.org.nz

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



Left: Some of the SAR and Ambulance team that assisted in the rescue of the hunter.

Safety in the outdoors

New Zealand walking or tramping adventures just became a whole lot safer with the launch of a trip-planning app, Plan My Walk, believed to be a world first.

Plan My Walk – developed by our partners at the Mountain Safety Council (MSC) and supported by Police - takes the guesswork out of the planning phase by bringing together the information needed for a safe and successful walk or tramp.

The easy-to-use app includes more than 11,000 Department of Conservation tracks, MetService weather forecasts and severe weather warnings, track-specific alerts, interactive gear lists and other useful advice.



One unique feature enables users to create a trip plan in which they can add group members, assign an emergency contact, and then share the plan with others.

Seddon Road & Railway Underpass

Progress Report - Now that the graffiti has been painted out and the area cleaned up, Maxine Sweeney, Marlborough Youth Trust's Seddon Youth Worker, and Anita Phillips, the Principal at Seddon School, have engaged with students to develop ideas for the murals in the area of the walkway. The comment has come back that they have some great ideas. Two youths from the Marlborough Youth Trust are working with the children to refine the designs and help with scale etc.



Seddon students creating art for the walkway.



SSharing ideas with the art team from Youth Trust.

D'Urville Island

The officer in charge of Picton Police, Sergeant Phill Black and Senior Constable Nigel Young from Havelock Police recently went to D'Urville Island to attend a community meeting and have a catch up with the locals.

Nigel and his colleague, Spencer Kingi travelled to the area on a later date to support Fisheries officers. They were there to manage a response to a report of poachers on the island in the East Arm of Port Hardy. As a result of the liaison with Fisheries officers, a fishing vessel was intercepted and boarded. The skipper is the subject of an ongoing investigation.

This was a successful collaboration between the D'Urville Island community and the Havelock Police. This positive outcome was the result of prompt, clear information being supplied to the Havelock Police.





East Coast Cricket Match & Family Fun Day

This event was held on the 6th of May and organised by Glenda and Melva Robb of the Marlborough branch of Rural Women NZ, in association with Federated Farmers. It was held at the Flaxbourne A & P Showgrounds, with local Police invited to assemble a team and take part in the cricket match.



The FFlaxbourne cricket team and the local Police cricket team.



Great bowling action with James ready to respond.



SSergeantPPhill Black from Picton swattinggthe ball.



East Coast Cricket Match & Family Fun Day (continued...)

A great day was had by all those who attended. It was an opportunity for the local farmers to get off the farm and we, Federated Farmers and Rural Women are keen for an even bigger turnout next year.

In case you were wondering, the cricket match was won by the Flaxbourne team. We're looking forward to a rematch and hopefully making this an annual thing. We are working on a trophy.

We had Constable Kyle White and his dog Vako put on a small display for those attending. Constable Robbie Malneek was the officer with the arm protection on. Sometimes that protection is not enough and the 'offender' can feel the dogs bite through the protective layers.

We hear that a local fox terrier is being trained like a Police dog – awesome.



Const Kyle White with 'Vako' and Const Robbie Malneek in action.

Drugs Education

While we are talking about the Flaxbourne area, Senior Constable Tim Goodyer addressed the Flaxbourne Settlers Association at a meeting in May to talk to the group about drug trends.

The talk generated some good discussion. They all learnt from the information presented and said it would assist with the fight against drugs appearing in the local community.

Concern was raised over their children leaving the district without the knowledge of what they could be exposed to.

We are in discussion with our Police officer who trains students in the schools with a view that he may be able to deliver an age appropriate package to those needing it.



Woody Pig & Deer Hunt

We were out and about in the build-up to the Woodbourne Pig and Deer Hunting competition, held over the 5th, 6th and 7th of June. Our message was still the same - do the right thing and get permission from the landowner or DoC to hunt the land you enter. As always, we promote safety first with firearms and encourage hunters to respect others.

We spoke to numerous people out and about hunting, starting on their hunting journey or returning from hunting. Almost all were compliant. As usual the good hunters were encouraged by the fact that we were out there. They gave us information about those that aren't following the rules and where they might be, so we concentrated on those places.

The weigh-in was well attended and again it was great to see families participating. We think there were fewer pigs than in previous years and they also seemed a little smaller. I must say there were two big stags entered and they seemed to dwarf all-comers.

NZ Bowhunters Society National Tournament

We went along to check out the Field Archers and Bow Hunters national tournament in Waihopai Valley, also held over Queens Birthday weekend. It was attended by archers from throughout the country.

It was fascinating to watch the archers in action and clearly they were very skilled in their use of the different types of bow. We saw the various targets and challenges set up for the competitors that day and were in awe of the power of some of the bows. I was also surprised at how expensive some of the bows were and the sophistication of the scopes and other equipment they used.



James & I standing with Archers from Whangarei,, Marlborough & north of AAuckland,,all of whom were competing in the tournament.





New Federated Farmers President

Congratulations to Scott Adams who has been appointed as the new President of the Marlborough Federated Farmers. I have liaised with Scott over many years and I know he will continue to be a great advocate for rural Marlborough.

Immediate Past President Phillip Neal was a stalwart for Marlborough Federated Farmers and our community.

We look forward to supporting Scott as the new man at the helm as we did with Phillip.

Congratulations to Geoff Evans of the Waihopai – he has been given life membership of Federated Farmers. Geoff was also a previous President of Federated Farmers in Marlborough and continues to be a great supporter of his rural peers.



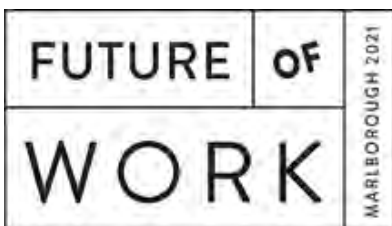
Recruiting



After a period of time Marlborough and the West Coast are open to Police applicants again.

So if you or a family member are interested in joining the Police, go online to Newcops.co.nz for all the latest information.

If you are like I was, you may be able to speed the process by opting for a posting to South Auckland. I did 11 years there before coming back to the mainland. It was a fantastic place to work but it wasn't my first choice as a place to live.



James, Russ, Tim, Sean, Maria (Scene of Crime Officer – Fingerprinting - Photography) and I, attended the Future of Work Conference at Clubs of Marlborough recently. It was an opportunity for employers to share information with students from the colleges and also to give opportunities and training to some of our youth seeking employment.



Maria and James interacting with students.





Future of Work Conference (continued...)

A common response when asked what the students had gained from the day – was guidance on completing CV's and the opportunity to talk directly to the employers.

Future of Work Conference helps young people in our region become 'career ready.' Also it showcased the workplace of tomorrow for them and inspired them to become part of the region's future.

The objective was to open the eyes of our local young people to the incredible opportunities that exist on their doorstep and for all Marlborough youth to discover a purposeful pathway after they finish school.



Left: The Police display at the Future of Work Conference



Students try their hand at forensics - fingerprinting.

The young people attending the conference had keynote speakers sharing stories of inspiring possibilities.

They also had training sessions covering employability skill sets for the future.



Future of Work Conference (continued...)



Senior Constable Sean Jones at the display.



Students taking a look at some of the AOS gear with James



Senior Constables Russ Smith and Timm Goodyer with Virtual Cop interactive Gear.



Sergeant Porter interacting with students.



Timm shows a participant some of the tools of the trade and even had an interactive Virtual Cop display.

There were interactive industry demonstrations and interactive displays highlighting equipment and staff on hand to answer questions about career pathways.

The attendees were able to explore displays in the car park at the front of the Clubs facility, but also attend a variety of seminar and topic subjects in the conference facilities within the Clubs building.

The feedback from the attending youth was very positive, with many of them saying that it was the best opportunity they had experienced in terms of information and variety.

A number of the participants said they hadn't realised there were so many careers on offer within the Marlborough area.



Out and About



Havelock Senior Constable Nigel Young at D'Urville Island Community Hall



Waipapa after the heavy rain that fell earlier in June 2021



Waipapa after the heavy rain that fell earlier in in June 2021



Waihopai

All of us want you all to stay safe through the rest of winter... we also want whichever endeavour you are pursuing to work out well for you.

I will try and get another newsletter out again soon – whoops, said that last time I think, so I will try to put other distractions aside and get it done. In that newsletter my biggest wish is that I don't have to talk about firearms and security again next time.



Final Word

I am an optimist and would rather talk about good news – however I want everyone to be safe so will emphasise the negative when it enhances everybody's safety. I will also strive to look for good news stories.

Take care and have a great week.



Sgt Mike Porter



S/Const Sean Jones



S/Const Russ Smith



Const James MacKenzie



S/Const Tim Goodyer