



# Marlborough Rural Police

## Welcome ...

To the latest Marlborough Rural Police Newsletter. This issue covers policing activity and updates from June through to September. It's been a busy time which has taken us into Spring and all the activity that has brought to our area. The severe flooding in July continues to impact our rural community and the impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns have been felt right across the country. While we have a bit more freedom under Alert Level 2, the recent outbreaks in the North Island are a good reminder that we are all still living with COVID and need to follow the guidelines at all levels.

As we move into the last quarter of 2021, we're sure everyone has appreciated the Spring weather and the prospects of more warm weather to come with the Summer months not too far off. Before we get into this newsletter, a quick update on our Rural Prevention Team. Sergeant Mike Porter has been temporarily seconded to the Blenheim Police Station Rebuild Project team. Mike will be working on the project for a number of months, with Acting Sergeant James MacKenzie leading the team in the interim. We introduced James to you in the last newsletter and he is available to assist along with the rest of the rural team - as always.

Please get in touch with any member of the team if you have any questions, information or if you would like to see a particular topic covered off in upcoming newsletters.

### Emergency Contacts

**Police emergency**  
Dial 111

**Police non-emergency**  
Dial 105

**Blenheim Station**  
03 578 5279

**24/7 Youth Line**  
0800 376 6333

**24/7 Mental Health Crisis Team**  
0800 800 717

**24/7 Women's Refuge**  
03 577 9939

**Family Violence:**  
0800 456 450 (9AM-11PM)

**Victim Support**  
0800 842 846 or visit  
[www.oneyouok.org.nz](http://www.oneyouok.org.nz)

### Rural Policing Activity – June to September 2021

Over the past months, we have been attending to a higher number of burglaries than usual which also have noticeable patterns of behaviour. Some of these incidents have involved the targeting of vineyards, in particular wind machines, batteries and fuel in the Seddon, Conders Bend and Rapaura areas. Another dominant theme we are seeing is the targeting of tools and easily removable gear from sheds, unsecured building sites and unlocked vehicles. This is a good reminder to take the time to secure valuable items around your property and keep us informed of any suspicious activity.

Information received from you helps to prevent crime and catch thieves in the act. Case in point were recent search warrants executed in Riversdale off the back of information received by Police. Over \$20,000 worth of tools and fishing gear were recovered and returned to owners. While the property was seized in town, much of the stolen property came from rural locations. In addition, the Police also seized a quantity of drugs. Remember - if you see any suspicious activity call 111 when it's happening – we want to catch these offenders in the act.

The team has been out patrolling the valleys and remote areas to ensure the community is safe during the COVID-19 lockdowns and into the lower Alert Levels. This included checking that the public are complying with the rules. While many follow the rules, we did find that some people ignore the guidance and head into rural areas from town. Most of those found out and about during the lockdown were warned and educated around the rules at the time. But some were doing activities they knew they shouldn't - like hunting and moto-cross. A recidivist dirt bike rider in the Taylor River Reserve was subsequently charged and sent to Court.

Here's a great story about how close-knit communities can resolve issues themselves. One of our rural communities recently solved a case of a missing water tank with the application of a little local 'pressure'. The 12,000-litre tank went AWOL from a property in Bay of Many Coves with the owners quickly making enquiries with neighbours as to its possible whereabouts. Turns out the tank was uplifted by a friend of a neighbour who was 'gifted' it. Quick actions and questions soon resulted in the tank returning to its rightful owners. A case of mistaken tank identity perhaps?



A break-in occurred in Kauima Bay and was reported on 29 July by the neighbours of the targeted property. This incident was at the time of the severe flooding in July and the owner of the property had been cut off from the property by a slip. The opportunist nature of this incident and the timing, has us thinking they will have had to have local knowledge. The break-in is thought to have occurred between 9:00am and 2:00pm with the offenders kicking in a steel garage door to get in. It's believed the thieves were interrupted in the act, leaving fuel and tools scattered along the driveway.

***More detail about our activity over the period is provided further on in the newsletter.***

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## **Illegal Hunting and Poaching**

Poaching is not only a safety issue, it also ruins hunting for those that do so lawfully. Our team always have illegal hunting as a focus. Please contact us if you know anything about the incidents below or have observed poaching in and around private property, or areas where it is not allowed:

- We have a matter before the Courts regarding a Blenheim man pig hunting in the Richmond Forest in Nelson in June.
- An Oaro man who was pig hunting in Goose Bay in July was arrested and is also now before the Courts. Contact the team in Kaikōura if you have more information.
- A pig hunter was found on a Wakamarina property by the owner and was hunting unlawfully. This matter is now before the Courts. Contact **Senior Constable Nigel Young** of Havelock Police if you any further information regarding this incident.
- In July we investigated two groups of unlawful hunters in the Wairau Valley. While in different groups, they were located on the same property at different times. Both groups have been captured on trail cameras with one group fleeing the property when confronted by the landowner. One of these matters is being prosecuted while the other was dealt with by way of formal warning. This is a good example of landowners acting proactively by installing cameras and then contacting Police when they located the offenders on their land.
- A search warrant was executed at a Blenheim address in relation to three people poaching in the Wairau Valley. Police recovered a quad-bike and trailer plus a vehicle. Cannabis was also found along with white powder which was later identified as a cutting agent that is added to Methamphetamine. Stolen tools were also located and are in the process of being returned to owners. We continue to investigate this matter.

### Weather Bomb Hits Hard

In July, widespread flooding caused by a heavy rain event caused significant damage to our rural communities and resulted in a State of Emergency for the region. The total amount of water flowing down waterways was higher than in the 1983 floods which took out large parts of Renwick, Tua Marina and Blenheim.



Maori Ford bridge – Waihopai Valley



Old Renwick Road ford

The State of Emergency was in place for 11 days with many of our rural communities cut off or isolated by the multiple slips, road closures and washed out bridges. The region continues to wear the impacts of the flood and recovery will take some time. During the flooding and as the region has been recovering, our team have been undertaking reassurance patrols across our rural community and on our rural roads.



Rural roads are hit hard by the severe flooding in July resulting in multiple closures and bridge washouts

### Noise Control and Liquor Licensing

Police and Marlborough District Council staff are following up with the organisers of a music event held in the Wairau Valley in early 2021. Police believe some of the behaviour was unacceptable and will be combining with the Council to address these issues with both the organisers and landowners. Just a quick reminder that the Council have jurisdiction for Noise Control not the Police. If you have issues with excessive noise, they are the ones to seek help from. They have a 24-hour Noise Control phone line 03 520 7400 or visit [www.marlborough.govt.nz](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz) for more information.

## When Country Comes to Town!

Our team were in place to observe and ensure the Groundswell protests were undertaken safely on our roads. The large number of tractors, trucks and other farming vehicles on the streets in town was a sight to behold. We were pleased that the protest was organised well and proceeded without incident for other road users.



## Rural Policing Activity – June to September 2021 continued

We responded to a report of burglary to a farm shed in Fairhall. A small truck and motorcycle were taken but were recovered soon after in Blenheim. The team have also recovered tools that were stolen from a local farrier in Blenheim in a separate incident. The team are working to locate additional items stolen including portable forge anvils and a trailer that were stolen from his shed. A fruit and vegetable stall was broken into in Hammerichs Road in Rapaura on 30 July. The metal money box was smashed open overnight with noises heard around 4 in the morning.

We recently caught a driver under the influence who was travelling a mere one kilometre to get home in a rural settlement and blew over 800 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath (the limit is 250 if you are 20 years and over). Our roads continue to be a priority focus for all our team. We know rural people die on rural roads and these tragic events are mostly always preventable. Make plans to get home safely. This could include getting a ride with a sober driver, staying at the place you are drinking, or taking a safe route to walk home.

Newsletter distributed far and wide – We're receiving good feedback from the recipients of our newsletter with one reader sending it on to a further 200 people in the Nelson Lakes Area. *"I do a weekly email out to 200+, which also includes holiday homeowners who are scattered all over New Zealand, I've had some awesome feedback about your newsletter."* We know that the newsletter also reaches our communities across Blenheim, Marlborough Sounds, Kaikōura, Havelock and Awatere and further afield. It's great that this information is getting out and about in our communities – the more information we share about what's happening out there, and what to look out for, the safer we all are.

Rural Policing in Pictures



Flooding @ Wairau Bar Road



Rush hour @ Bartlett's Creek



Sunset @ Wairau Valley



River crossing @ Waipapa Valley



Snr Constable Sean Jones joins the Maritime Unit



Monitoring burn off @ Taylor's Pass

We're here to help!

Please get in touch with the Marlborough Rural Prevention Team if you have information about what we've covered in this issue, any questions or would like to see a topic covered.



James MacKenzie



Sean Jones



Russ Smith



Tim Goodyer



Mike Porter  
Temporarily Secinded

We welcome your suggestions and questions:  
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