



Marlborough Rural Police

Welcome ...

To the last issue of our newsletter for 2021. This issue covers our rural policing activity to December. COVID-19 has again been a large theme throughout the last quarter with the whole of the South Island entering 'Orange' under the Traffic Light System. Members of our team have been assisting with the checkpoints in the North Island – Senior Constable Russ Smith took the rather eerie photo on the right of the night shift on the Mercer border checkpoint. Due to a number of factors, we know that during the Summer months that theft and burglary incidents rise. There are several simple things we can do to ensure the safety of our property in our rural areas so in this issue we've included a checklist for you to check you're as secure as you can be.



Please get in touch with any of the team if you have any questions, information or if you would like to see a particular topic covered off in upcoming newsletters. On behalf of the Marlborough Rural Prevention Team, we wish our rural communities a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police Emergency:
Dial 111

Police Non-Emergency:
Dial 105

Blenheim Police:
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.areyouok.org.nz

Rural Policing Activity - September to December 2021

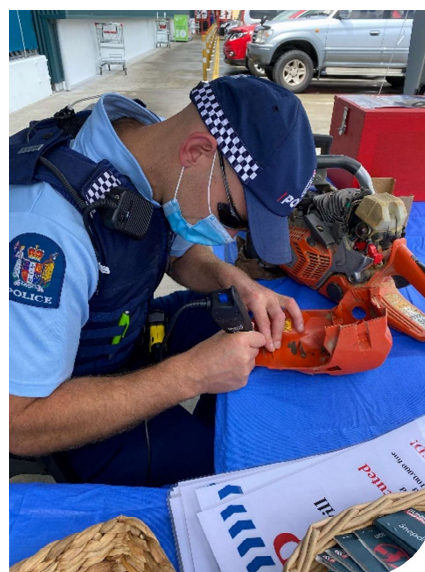
Between 120-150 sheep were taken from a Marlborough farm recently so please keep your eye out for any suspicious activity including stock transport vehicles that don't seem quite right i.e. strange timing, or unfamiliar to the area. In an unrelated incident, on 9 November a Holden Rodeo Ute was stolen from Spring Creek and dumped the following day in Fairhall.

Still with burglaries, this time at a property near Lake Argyle. The property was unfortunately struck twice in a week during November. The offenders made off with mostly food and clothing. Our team spent time giving the property owners crime prevention advice designed to reduce the risk of further victimisation.

On 24 November, Police were notified of a number of boy racers doing burnouts and racing in the Awatere Valley. There are ongoing issues in our region with boy racers, especially in rural areas. The best way you can help is to get video evidence of them when they are doing it. However, your safety is important - so don't ever put yourself in a position when you might compromise this.

On 13 November, Marlborough Rural Police attended the Bunnings Crime Prevention Week event. Our team were kept busy engraving identifying features onto tools for the public and providing advice on crime prevention. We also had our colleagues from Community Patrol in attendance who were installing anti-theft screws into vehicle registration plates. Great event and a good opportunity to engage with our community about what they can do to keep their valuable equipment and tools safe.

A burglary at a Chaytors Road property occurred between 1 November and 5 December while the owner was away for an extended amount of time. The property was occupied by another tenant at the time, who mentioned hearing noise but didn't think anything of it and did not investigate. The offenders accessed the garage at the front of the house which was left unlocked and the property was not alarmed. The offenders jimmied open cupboards in the garage and removed car stereo equipment, a welder - as well as Christmas presents. This is a good reminder to always secure your out-buildings such as sheds and garages. Burglars will come onto properties if they see an opportunity – even if someone is home. See our security checklist further on in the newsletter to do a quick safety review.



Cannabis is still illegal, and we know it's being grown in our rural areas. In our experience, cannabis growers move on if it's removed. So we'd like to hear from you if you have found cannabis on or near your property, or if you have any information that you think could be related to cannabis growing. This could include suspicious vehicles or activity. Please don't wait to tell us, we can do more if we get the information early and it can also be treated anonymously.

A quick reminder that you call 111 in an emergency or, if the event has already happened and there is no immediate need for assistance, call 105 to report your incident. While the team are happy for you to call us directly, please remember if we are off duty, we may not pick up your message in time to take the quickest course of action. Outside of office hours, the best point of contact is via 111 for emergencies or 105 for anything else.

Rural Tenancy Leases – What You Need to Know

Recently the Police have received several approaches from rural landowners and people leasing rural land, who have unruly tenants that they are having trouble removing from their land.

This issue is often complicated by the fact that they have casually allowed the people concerned to take up residence on their property without going through the correct legal process under the Residential Tenancies Act. This includes having a written tenancy agreement and completing the paperwork and registration with the Tenancy Tribunal.

If the correct process is not followed when the tenant begins their tenancy, and the arrangement is simply a verbal agreement, there is little protection for the landlord if the relationship sours, or if rent is unpaid. It can also be difficult to get the tenant to leave. All the information you need to sign a tenant up correctly is on the Tenancy Tribunal website at: www.tenancy.govt.nz

Kaikōura Earthquake – Five Years On

Sunday 14 November marked the fifth anniversary of the Kaikōura earthquake. Described as the most complex earthquake ever studied, the 7.8 earthquake happened two minutes after midnight and lasted for two terrifying minutes – demolishing houses, destroying roads and railways, causing massive landslides and claiming the lives of two people.

Sergeant Mike Porter – Marlborough Rural Police

Sergeant Mike Porter was a first responder in the Christchurch earthquakes and involved in the recovery work on the CTV and PGG building. Because of this experience, Mike said he was expecting the worst. *"I definitely had that 'here we go again' feeling."*

Having worked the Canterbury earthquakes, Mike says that even though he could anticipate what 'might' have occurred in Kaikōura, seeing it first-hand he was still surprised at the scale of the damage.

In terms of the response, Mike says one of his first recollections was all the urgent calls about getting SH1 up and running, from people who hadn't seen the damage. *"We were on the ground looking at the scale and extent of it – and we knew the calls for any quick fixes were completely naïve."*



Mike and staff from Marlborough took to the air in support of their Police whānau in Kaikōura. The extent of the damage was again realised by Mike when flying reassurance patrols over the area to check on the remote and rural areas. **Continued next page.**

Can you help us find: Teddy Ewart

Marlborough Police are seeking the public's help in locating 43-year-old Edward Ewart, also known as Ted or Teddy. The court has issued a warrant for his arrest and Police would also like to speak to him about a number of other matters. He is likely to be staying with people in the Blenheim area, who appear to be supporting his activities.

Ewart has a distinctive tattoo on his forehead and is described as being about 175cm tall and of medium build. Police are reminding people at this time to make sure they keep cars and doors to their houses locked and keep an eye out for any suspicious behaviour. If you have information about Ewart call 111 or Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting file number 211110/7284.



Kaikōura Earthquake – Five Years On continued

“Vehicle access was impossible because of the many landslips – from the air we could see the new tarns and lakes created by these slips. And when we were on the ground doing welfare checks, where once you looked down on a paddock, you now looked up – the land had moved that much.”

Mike says that unsurprisingly the earthquake has had lasting impacts – especially on Marlborough’s rural community who faced a colossal task recovering in the years following. *“Even two months ago a slip that originated from the quake was brought down again in heavy rain, completely blocking access to the Awatere Valley.”*

But for Mike the event also has silver linings. *“Seeing our people band together, the resilience of our rural communities and the many selfless acts was simply amazing.”*

Sergeant Matt Boyce – Kaikōura Police

When asked about his initial reflection of the Kaikōura quakes after five years, Sergeant Matt Boyce’s recollection is how impressed he was with the national support he and his small team received.

“From our National and District Police colleagues, the Defence Force with their frigates, all the emergency response agencies, to the air support that arrived from absolutely everywhere - the community and our team here felt well and truly supported.”

As the adrenaline wore off and the extent of the quake realised, the community moved into support mode which Matt says was characterised by everyone looking out for each other. *“There was a phrase that the community really hooked into ‘it ain’t hard to be kind’ - there were t-shirts and everything. It really resonated with the community at the time.”*



Over the past five years, Kaikōura has worked hard to rebuild and recover from the events of 14 November 2016. And while he would never wish another event like that on anywhere or anyone, Matt highlights that the region has benefited in some ways. *“After being a national focus, it’s kind of put Kaikōura on the map.”*

The many workers working on the rebuild have also provided a much-needed financial injection over this time. *“At any time we can have up to 1200 extra people living here,”* says Matt. *“This has helped our local businesses immensely.”*

Matt also highlights the investment in new roading which has improved the reliability of the coastal highway. *“That’s been amazing - we’ve basically had a billion dollars spent in our backyard. As a result, we’re called out less and our roads are safer.”*

Rural Security Checklist

We know that many of our rural community know what to do to keep yourselves and your property safe. With the year about to come to an end, it's useful to stop and take stock of your security especially if you've added new buildings or structures to your property. We also know the summer months are busier for our burglars and thieves, so here's a quick checklist to run through:

1. Is your property number or RAPID displayed at the front of your premises?
2. Are your boundary fences and gates in good condition and secure?
3. Are trees and vegetation cut back to reduce opportunities for offenders to be unseen?
4. Is there sufficient exterior lighting around your farm buildings and outbuildings?
5. Are keys for building and agricultural equipment secured out of view?
6. Is your machinery and property uniquely identified?
7. Are your firearms secured and compliant with the Arms Act?
8. Are your sheds, storage areas and outbuildings regularly secured?
9. Do you maintain records of your livestock including sales, purchases, earmarks and tags?
10. Are your fuel tanks dipped, secured and locked to restrict tampering and theft?



Please also ensure you exchange phone numbers with your neighbours and have a chat about how you can alert and help other if needed.

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
Seconded

