



Marlborough Rural Police

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022. As we enter the cooler months of Autumn, the region is buzzing with harvest season in the vineyards.

It's also been a busy time for our Rural Prevention Team. One recent theme we're noting is that rising fuel prices is driving an increase in theft of fuel from rural properties. Over 1400 litres was recently taken from a property in Northbank. It's annoying enough to have fuel stolen, but it's also safe to assume that thieves won't always leave it at just taking fuel. Please ensure you check security in and around fuel storage and large machinery.

Members of our team have been out engaging with our rural communities, most recently visiting residents in the Kekerengu and Ure Valleys. It's important to stay connected - so if you have a community event which we can attend or want to discuss any matters with us as a community group, please let us know. It's great to build these relationships and keep the communication going.

In this issue we do our usual wrap of rural policing activity from the first quarter of 2022 and provide some updates on bigger operations across our province. With the Roar season getting started at the end of this month, we've also provided a quick reminder and resources on firearm safety while hunting.

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 – January to March 2022

Late last year the team successfully apprehended a Kekerengu man who was wanted for serious offences across Canterbury and Marlborough. After attempting to flee Police in a vehicle the offender's car was spiked. The offender then escaped on foot into the countryside. Officers caught up with him in Riverlands, safely apprehended him and he is now facing multiple charges. Meanwhile in Picton, another offender took flight from Police onto a rural property near Tuamarina and, along with his partner, entered an address and attempted to take a vehicle from the property. Police were not far behind, and the duo were subsequently arrested.

An important reminder on how treacherous some of our remote roads can be with two serious incidents on the French Pass Road over the quarter. In December, a vehicle rolled off a bank which tragically resulted in one person losing their life. In March another vehicle rolled down a bank with the driver being airlifted to Wairau Hospital. A disproportionately large number of deaths and serious injuries happen on our rural roads – please ensure you take extra care and always drive to the conditions.

Still on our roads, a two-vehicle crash in March in the Awatere Valley involving two adults and six children demonstrated how seatbelts can absolutely save lives. The accident was attended by Police, Ambulance, and the Seddon Volunteer Fire Service – a great job by the crews that attended to look after the victims and clear the accident quickly for other road users. Thanks to the use of seatbelts and airbags - serious injury was avoided but a close call by all accounts.



We appreciated the patience of the public in the Momorangi Bay area where a standoff took place between a man and Police while on a yacht in December. This played out for hours as the man had made firearm threats. The man was eventually arrested after the vessel was secured by the Armed Offenders Squad. Because of the location of the incident, the road between Ngakuta and Linkwater had restricted movement and was closed for a period between Ngakuta and Momorangi. This meant that some people had to make long detours to the other side by going through Tuamarina. The locals brought out cold drinks for staff on these cordons and shared information with the public. The staff at the Momorangi Campground also did a fantastic job looking after those displaced by the man on the yacht. What a brilliant community we've got!

The same event had Queen Charlotte College use some creative thinking to get students from Anakiwa. Our team helped out by making some enquiries with the crew of the Police Launch, the Lady Liz, that had come across from Wellington to assist with the incident, as well as the Harbourmaster. We were able to get clearance for a boat from Anakiwa to come and transport the students. Great way to get home!



New Whale Trail gets underway

The 210 km biking and walking trail, The Whale Trail, is being created from Picton to Kaikōura and is now underway. A section near Nursery Lane in Seddon has been completed – this links up with the road underpass which the students from Seddon School have started to add artwork to.



This is the area the Rural Police Team and Yealands staff painted and cleared out rubbish from last year. It is also proposed that there will be access across the old road rail bridge at Awatere River. A clip-on Cycle/Walk bridge on the bridge across the Wairau River between Spring Creek and Tuamarina is also being developed. This Project will present unique opportunities for the community as it progresses. Keep informed with progress at thewhaletrail.nz.

Cannabis recovery operation

Police are committed to reducing the demand for cannabis and disrupting the supply chain. Each year Police target the people who grow and supply cannabis, through aerial searches throughout New Zealand. Crops are seized and destroyed. Police can also seize assets and cash that have been obtained through the supply of cannabis.

In mid-March, we were involved in the recovery of illegal Cannabis growing in Marlborough. We have found it grown on public land and private properties. Please let us know if you discover any or know or suspect where it is being grown.



Rural Policing Activity – January to March 2022 continued

We have had reports of motorcycles near the new track at the bottom of Nursery Lane and the Awatere River - which is not permitted on the track. If you observe this or see any unlawful behaviour, please report it by calling 111 as it is happening.

Great work by a Ward resident who followed her instincts in early February. This observant local has been able to stop further crimes being committed at an address in Ward when she interrupted a burglary at a neighbour's address where the offender tried to steal a motorcycle. She did this safely, taking photos of the vehicle and the people involved. She then immediately reported the incident to Police. Police have subsequently located the offender who has been charged with burglary as well as other charges.

A recent discharge of a firearm in the Wairau Valley saw a bullet pass through a shed, punching straight through and disappearing out the far side. Thankfully no-one was in its pathway. Please bear in mind the [Seven Firearms Safety Rules](#).

Outboard Motor Thefts

There has been a spate of outboard motor thefts from boats parked up on trailers in the Picton and Marlborough Sounds areas. Police are encouraging boat owners to secure their boats out of view of public places where possible, and either remove and store outboards behind locked doors, or add security to the motor while it's on the boat so it is not easy to remove.

In March we attended a roll-over of a spray trailer being towed by a tractor (pictured right). This occurred on SHW1 near Alabama Road in Blenheim. The accident was caused by the weight in the trailer being carried too high. This caused it to topple when the driver moved out of the way of another vehicle. Most of the liquid was in the top storage area with little to no liquid lower down in the other part of the spray unit. Please make a note to check the weight distribution within your agricultural vehicles to avoid a similar incident happening to you.



Recent burglaries and thefts in our rural areas have included a generator and compressor taken from a container on a property in the Rai Valley on either the 14th or 15th of February. A television and computer were stolen from a Pelorus residence in February. A gold-coloured Ford Courier ute was taken from the corner of Wratts and Rapaura Roads in February. This has since been recovered and an offender charged.

A burglary of a locked and secure shed on an Awatere Valley Road vineyard occurred on 26 January. This involved the theft of a CCTV system hard drive, a quad bike, hunting equipment and worryingly, two shotguns with ammunition. The firearms were stolen from a secured gun cabinet. If you have any information about this, or the property involved, please contact one of the team and quote file number 220126/3518.

In mid-January, unlawful hunting was reported on several farms in the Ure Valley. From the information provided, it appears the people were hunting with thermal/night vision gear. Anyone seeing similar activity on private properties is encouraged to contact 111. It's important you put your safety ahead of approaching any suspected unlawful hunters. Record as much information as possible, as safely as you can, and turn it over to Police to follow up on.

Ensure the safety of you and others this Roar



As we head into Roar season, hunters are reminded of looking after the safety of themselves and their mates, and always be well prepared for each hunt.

Both the [Mountain Safety Council](#) and the [Game Animal Council](#) have guidance to help ensure the safety of you and your mates while enjoying the hunt and everyone coming home safely.

Be well prepared:

- Assess the weather forecast – particularly for any rain and snow that could lead to a rise in river levels – and make your plans accordingly.
- Make sure everyone has the right clothing, food and equipment for all possible conditions. *Continued over page.*

- Take into account the experience and fitness of everyone in your party when planning your trip.
- Know where you are going, make sure you carry a map, know how to read it and leave detailed intentions with friends and whanau.
- Carry an emergency communication device such as a distress beacon or satellite phone. Personal locator beacons are available for hire, visit the Mountain Safety Council website for details: <https://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/learn/skills/communications/plb-hire/>

While out hunting:

- Involve your whole party in the decision-making and making sure everyone is comfortable with the plans being made.
- Take firearm safety seriously, because even if you are hunting alone, it is highly likely that other hunters will be around.
- Identify your target beyond all doubt.
- Treat every firearm as loaded and if you are sharing a firearm, make sure the person carrying the firearm maintains responsibility for checking it is in the appropriate state of load.
- Wearing blaze if bush hunting.
- Also, don't forget to check the [Seven Firearms Safety Rules](#).

Rural Policing in Pictures



Marlborough Rural Police patrolling the Kekerengu & Ure Valleys

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.



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Sean Jones



Russ Smith



Tim Goodyer



Mike Porter
*Temporarily
Seconded*