



Marlborough Rural Police

Welcome to the winter edition. It's been a wet one so far across the country, particularly in Marlborough.

While we haven't experienced the level of flooding that occurred this time last year, it has still been a very wet month. This can mean more risk on our rural roads with surface flooding and slips. Unsealed rural roads are particularly treacherous so, as always, we encourage you to drive to the conditions and look after other road users by reporting damage to roads that you see.

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the increase in fuel thefts. This seems to be linked to the increased cost of living including the higher price of fuel. This trend has continued through the winter months as you will see in our activity report for the quarter. We've included some tips to help keep fuel safe from theft on rural properties.

We've also been experiencing more firearms theft. This is a real concern given that they can end up in the hands of criminals which presents a risk to the public and Police. Please have a read of the article regarding firearms storage and compliance further on.

You will read about several incidents involving quad bikes in this issue - both in terms of recent burglaries and the recent recovery and return of some of these. We've also got a great offer for our rural community that will help to keep our quad bike users safe in a different way. Check out the cashback offer from ACC in their 'Control the Roll' campaign.

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 – April to July 2022

We've received several reports from the community and property owners about properties being entered or broken into. A holiday home on Pipitea Drive was targeted in April which has resulted in damage to all three entry points to the property.

A Wharenui property was also the target of unwanted entry with several dwellings being entered even though the property was left locked and secured. No property was removed but damage was reported to the outdoor shed which contained a shower.

Another report from a Blenheim property detailed an intruder who fled down the driveway when the property owner investigated following alerts from his dog. An elderly male has also been reported on two rural properties in Dog Point Road and Fairhall recently claiming to be looking for an owner of a Citroën.

We'd also like to highlight a suspicious vehicle that has been spotted around Marfells Beach and Seddon recently. The vehicle is a black Toyota RAV 4 with no registration plates fitted – please contact our team if you sight this vehicle.

Quad bikes have featured heavily in our Rural Policing activity during the quarter with quad bikes being stolen from both commercial and residential properties. Two bikes were stolen from Marlborough Motorcycles in March and other bikes were removed from properties in recent months in Grovetown, Awatere Valley, Picton and Tuamarina.

In good news, we've recovered several bikes following the execution of search warrants in Picton and Blenheim this month. Another bike was recovered in Wharenuai in May and returned to its owner. We will continue to look for the outstanding bikes and hold these offenders to account.



Sean Jones and Russ Smith examine recovered stolen quad-bikes




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

Control the Roll – Cashback Offer from ACC

Accidental quad bike roll-overs continue to cause serious injuries and fatalities on our farms. ACC, along with Worksafe and Safer Farms strongly recommend a crush protection device being installed on all quad bikes. To encourage our farming communities to do this, ACC are offering \$180 cashback* on selected crush protection devices that are used for farming, hunting and trapping.

The cashback offer can be applied to two selected CPDs for those that meet the eligibility criteria. For information on this and the terms and conditions for the cashback offer, please visit:

<https://www.acc.co.nz/for-business/workplace-health-safety/control-the-roll>

 <p>QUADBAR ORIGINAL</p>	 <p>QUADBAR FLEXI</p>	 <p>TRAX LIFEQUAD</p>
<p>Quadbar Original</p> <p>The original Quadbar is a small unobtrusive, hairpin shaped hoop mounted on the quad bike behind the rider.</p>	<p>Quadbar Flexi</p> <p>Quadbar Flexi has a flexible joint that allows the bar to flex rearwards if there is contact with an overhead obstacle.</p>	<p>ATV LifeGuard</p> <p>The ATV Lifeguard is a flexible arc that absorbs the impact during a rollover.</p>

* Terms & Conditions apply, please visit the website above for details.

Keep your firearms safe

We are urging firearms owners to ensure that their firearms are properly secured after two firearms were stolen from out of a vehicle parked at a rural property on State Highway 6 between Havelock and Renwick overnight on 8-9 May 2022.

The stolen rifles were a bolt-action Browning X bolt 7mm magnum with black stock and magazine, and a Remington model seven .243 with scope and Gunworks suppressor. Both weapons had been left on the back seat of the vehicle and out of sight underneath other items. The offenders also rummaged through the glove box stealing bolts for these and another rifle, as well as a 'Guide' brand thermal scope from under a seat. The total value of the stolen items is around \$8,500.

Police are always concerned when firearms are stolen as this puts them in the hands of criminals. This creates a risk for the public at large and the Police. All firearms licences are subject to conditions that require the licensee to store their firearms safely and securely. Failure to do so can result in the firearms licence being cancelled and the licensee's right to own and use firearms rescinded.

The adage of "If it's not in a safe, it's not safe," is a good mantra for firearms licensees to live by. Any firearm that is, for the time being, not secured in the locked gun safe must remain in the immediate control of the licensee to minimise the risk of theft, or access by children.

The last thing our community needs is more firearms in the hands of criminals or a tragedy because children have had unsupervised access to firearms. To avoid a whole lot of grief, when you are not using them, keep your firearms in a safe that is locked and securely fastened to the floor and or wall.

If a firearm licensee fails to secure a firearm as required, Police can advise them that the Firearms Licensing Compliance team will review the incident and decide on an outcome they deem fitting. Some compliance outcomes that may be used (depending on the magnitude of the occurrence and other factors) are:

- Provide information and educational material to firearms licence applicants.
- Issue warning letters.
- Issue an improvement notice requiring corrective action if the licence holder is failing, has failed or likely to fail to comply with a provision of the Arms Act 1983, or regulations made under this Act, or any conditions on a licence, an endorsement, or a permit.
- Prescribe conditions on a dealer's or firearms licence.
- Issue a notice of temporary suspension or notice of consideration of revocation of a firearms licence.
- Revoke a firearms or dealer's licence, or an endorsement.

The New Zealand Police website has a comprehensive guide on firearms security. Please visit police.govt.nz for more information.



Rural Policing Activity – April to July 2022 continued

A property in David Street, Blenheim, was recently relieved of two chainsaws and a water blaster. The thieves made off with the valuable equipment after cutting the lock on a shed. Meanwhile on Raupara Road, a Mule and a vehicle were stolen, and thieves also made off with 500 litres of petrol from a vineyard on Brancott Road in late June. The Four Square in Spring Creek was also broken into on 29 June in the early hours of the morning with thieves targeting the cigarette locker.



While searching for the culprits of stolen property and fuel in Riverlands and in Picton, the team uncovered an indoor grow of cannabis, bulk cannabis, methamphetamine and other stolen items from the rural community. A substantial cannabis seizure was also made in the outer Kenepuru Sound with 5.3kg of high-quality cannabis heads and over 300 drying plants located (pictured left). This is a major seizure that has put a significant dent in the operation of a local growing network.

In other activity over the quarter, the team investigated a report of youths throwing rocks over the Seddon Rail Overpass. This is an incredibly dangerous activity for road users and could cause a serious accident.

If you see anything suspicious around that area, or evidence of things being thrown at vehicles, please note as much detail as possible and let one of the team know.

Just a reminder that rural fire hydrants should not be used for anything else but fire or council use. In June we received reports of people using this water supply for their own supply or to wash vehicles. Use of the rural fire hydrant can lead to air locks in the pipes if not used or shut off properly, making them unusable during a fire and this endangers all. The Marlborough District Council is considering installing cameras to detect users.

Be vigilant for fuel thieves!

You can make it harder for thieves to target your fuel (and other equipment) by doing some simple things:

- Undertake a review of your current security measures and access.
- Consider installing motion activated lighting.
- Add or update your locking system on your fuel tanks – always use high quality, strong and water-resistant padlocks.
- Install a security camera – a good quality camera that can record at night is optimal.
- Monitor your fuel levels so you know when and how much is missing.
- Share any innovative ideas with your community on how to keep tanks safe.
- Report any suspicious activity or behaviour on your property or others to Police.



Recovered Stolen Tanker Trailer

A fuel tanker trailer was recovered from the Port Underwood area recently, after it had been reported stolen in mid-June. At the time of publishing this newsletter, police had just returned the tanker trailer to the owner, who was very pleased to have it back.

Police enquiries into the burglary that included the theft of this trailer are continuing.



Rural Policing in Pictures



Snow on the ground at Altmarloch



Flooded ford on Taylor Pass Road



The Rural Policing Team talk with Marlborough students at the Graeme Dingle Future of Work Expo



We're here to help!

Please contact us if you have information about things covered in this issue, questions or wish to see a topic covered.



James MacKenzie



Sean Jones



Russ Smith



Tim Goodyer



Mike Porter
Temporarily
Seconded

We welcome your suggestions and questions:
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