



Marlborough Rural Police

Welcome to the latest Rural Newsletter and the last one for 2022. What a change from the previous two years in which COVID was a major driver of what was happening across New Zealand.

Now, with the borders open and no travel restrictions we're looking to a more normal summer season with plenty of people either visiting our region or passing through on their way to somewhere else. We will continue to have some of our roads impacted by work to fix damage done by historic and recent flooding events.

In addition, not everyone is used to driving rural roading, so we urge all of you to keep alert to your own behaviour on the roads as well as others. And of course, staying safe this summer on our roads is also about staying sober when you're driving, wearing your seatbelt, and always driving to the conditions.

Please have a quick read of what's been happening from a Policing perspective in our region. Also, we've included some tips to help keep your family, property and business safe over the summer. From the Marlborough Rural Policing team we wish you a safe and happy 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.oneyouok.org.nz

Rural Policing Activity – August to December 2022

Burglary is once again a major driver of incidents in our rural communities. You may have seen something or have information that relates to a current investigation. Even if it's a small detail, please contact one of the team if you recall or see anything suspicious. In August a property on Lower Wairau Road was relieved of batteries from three vehicles in an enclosed yard. The batteries were removed from a loader and two trucks. Around the same day, a vehicle was stolen from a Giffords Road property.

Recently we've had reports of people pulling gates off their hinges to access to forestry land up the Taylor Pass. We are unsure why - but it's probably fair to say it's not for legitimate reasons! If you do notice any gates that have been tampered with, please let us know as soon as you can.

The Rural Policing team assisted in the execution of several search warrants in Blenheim and Spring Creek recently, resulting in the arrest of three men on kidnapping and aggravated robbery charges. The warrants formed part of Operation Cobalt activity which is a nationwide effort to disrupt unlawful gang activity in the community.

We have had reports of electric fence units and solar units going missing. If you have solar panels or a fence unit, consider placing them in a position where they can't be seen easily. The incidents we have attended have been close to roads and visible to the public.

Trailers have been a popular item of choice to steal lately, especially larger tandem axle car transporters. Check your trailers have a serial number and if not consider putting an identifier in a discreet location. A good identifier is your drivers licence number, which can be linked back to you quickly.



Speaking of matching your driving to suit the conditions, the rural team assisted a driver recover his car after it rolled down bank near Blenheim. The driver was shaken but fortunately unharmed.

Preventing Rural Crime

As we enter the warmer months, we will see an increase in the number of people travelling through our region. While most of our visitors are here for a good time, rather than to commit crime - there is a bigger risk of your property being targeted by opportunistic thieves. Below are some top tips for you to keep yourself, your family, your business, and your property safe this summer:

- **Clearly tag animals and keep accurate stock and produce records.** Lock all rural buildings, houses and sheds. You should have a detailed inventory of all personal valuables and household and business equipment, including model and serial numbers, inscriptions, and other identifying features.
- **Report all instances of crime even when a police response is not necessary.** Police need to know the pattern of crime in an area. You can help us by reporting all instances of suspicious behaviour or crime. It also helps us to decide if the rest of the community should be alerted too.
- **Be organised. Discuss and prepare.** Rural New Zealand has a reputation for tight-knit, supportive communities. You can help to keep safe by knowing your neighbours, exchanging contact phone numbers and keeping those numbers handy. It's also a good idea to let neighbours know if you're going on holiday or leaving your home overnight.
- **Reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime by taking precautions.** If you live on a farm and are leaving the house to investigate something untoward, ensure someone knows where you're going, as much as possible about what you're checking, and how long you expect it to take. This could involve phoning the police or your neighbour, waiting for a neighbour to join you, and taking a mobile phone or handheld radio with you.
- **Reduce risk by taking notice of who is out and about and talking to them** (particularly if they aren't locals), locking your house, removing keys, closing access gates (particularly to your driveway/house), and keeping an eye on each others' property.
- **Police will respond to rural crime.** Keep in mind police may need to travel longer distances to get to you. Call 111 when you need immediate help with a life-threatening or time-critical emergency. For non-urgent situations, call 105 or visit your local police station. If you can't decide if it's a real emergency and you're still worried, call 111 and ask us. We'll help you work out what to do.

Rural Thefts

A trailer containing a 1,000 litre diesel fuel tank, filled with some 500 litres of fuel was stolen from Tuamarina in June 2022. In late July the stolen tanker trailer was located damaged and dumped off the roadside down a bank in the Port Underwood area, minus the fuel. Members of the Prevention team had already investigated a number of other dishonesty offences and had charged a local man with these, when further investigation resulted in him being charged with the theft of this tanker trailer.



Since then, there have been a series of rural and urban thefts of trailers and other suspicious behaviour. In one case, a number of people entered onto a rural property in the Leatham Valley area, in what appeared to be an attempt to steal old, disused vehicles.

In another incident between late November and early December, a unique trailer containing a portaloos was stolen from a Wairau Valley vineyard development. The portaloos was recovered dumped by the Wye Bridge, the trailer was not. It is believed that the trailer could easily be converted and its appearance changed.



Police experience shows that when a trailer is stolen, the thief will usually alter the appearance of the trailer, including re-registering it with new number plates.

If you have a trailer, and it is stamped with a manufacturers serial number, know where the number is located on the trailer, and have a record of this in case the trailer is stolen. This can be a valuable investigative tool for police.

No serial number? Consider having a unique number stamped, engraved or welded onto the frame of the trailer. Your drivers licence number is an excellent choice for this as it can be easily traced back to you by police.

Serial numbers can be very effective as the prevention team were recently able to trace the owners of several stolen chainsaws located during a search warrant. One of these had not even been reported stolen by the owner, who thought there was no hope of ever recovering it.

Rural Policing in Pictures



This quad has seen better days! Was likely washed away in the winter floods



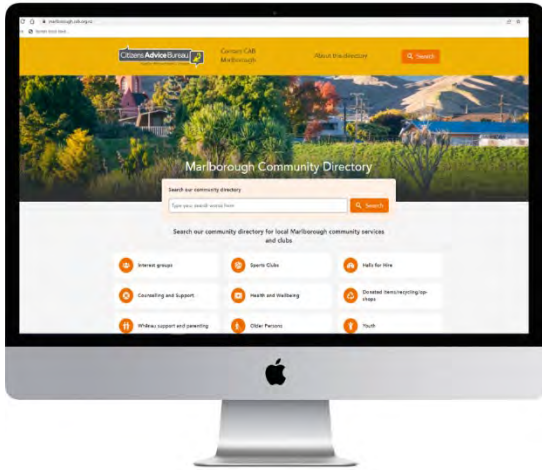
Sean in the snow while out on patrol.



The rural team check out a car wreck on Altimarlock



Winters day in Kaikoura



NEW! Marlborough Community Directory

The Citizen's Advice Bureau has launched a new online community directory for local Marlborough community services and clubs.

It's a great resource which offers listings for Sports Clubs, Counselling and Support, Youth, Health and Wellbeing and much more. Check it out at:

Marlborough.cab.org.nz

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*

THE PREVENTION TEAM WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON

