

Community Safety Report – November 2014

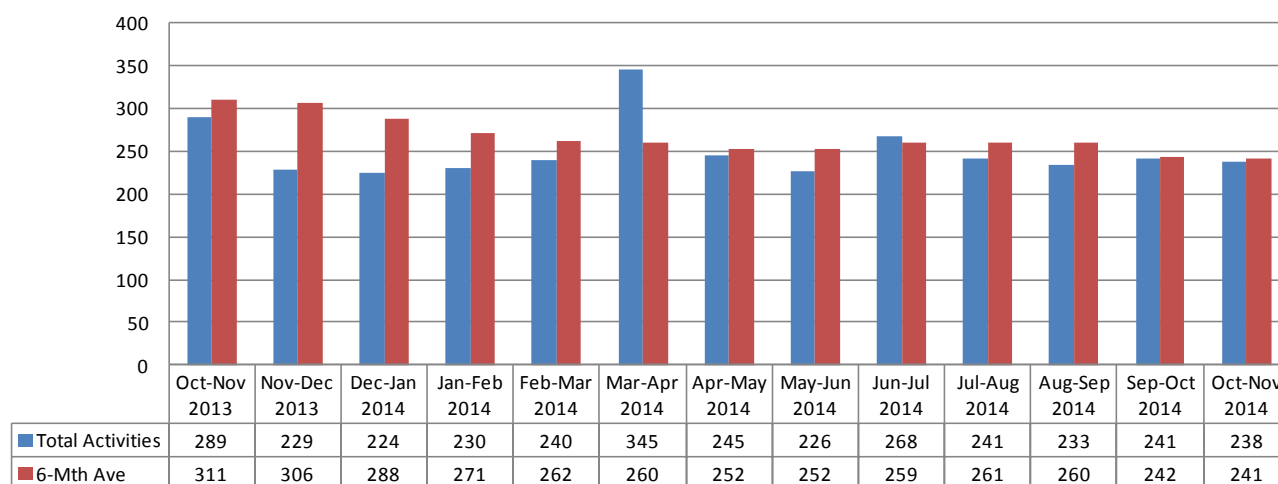
The City Safe programme continues to work well, with the Call Centre recording 238 reported activities for the period, similar to 241 for the last period. The majority of City Safe calls continue to be for Council maintenance, particularly in graffiti removal and roading and waste issues. Other activities, such as, begging, bikes in the mall, buskers, and skateboards continue to remain at relatively low levels.

There has been a decrease in antisocial behaviour in and around Cafler Park (activities reported for First Ave, Rust Ave and Water St), for which graffiti and alcohol related incidents were the predominant activities.

Weekday activities for the City Safe Community Officers have been evenly spread out, with no particular day standing out over the other. Reported activities for Saturdays were half of the daily activities for a week-day, and Sundays being one-quarter. The Community Officers are now working an additional hour longer on Friday and Saturday afternoons, thanks to the generous contribution from Dr Shane Reti, Member of Parliament for Whangarei, which has been matched by Northland Districts Security. For this period the Community Officers have reported 120 activities in total, compared with 80 for the last period, with the predominant reported activity being for graffiti vandalism. The second highest reported activity was for vehicles running red lights, which received media attention and has now been escalated to the Police for enforcement action.

The Community Officers continue to act as ambassadors in the CBD area and have assisted with a diverse range of activities this last month, such as: assisting retailers and Police with shoplifters, attending to reported liquor ban breaches, fights and disorder (particularly around Cafler Park), lost property, putting out a fire in a rubbish bin, and reporting offensive matter to be cleaned up. They have also been encouraging youths by complimenting positive changes in their behaviour, particularly those whom they have previously dealt with. One such youth was given a compliment for going to the aid of an elderly gentleman who had fallen in the street, and another for his positive change in attitude and who is now regularly attending school.

City Safe Call Centre Totals V's 6-Month Average



Reported activities from the CCTV Network have been rising slowly over the past 3 months since the wet winter months; however, they are still significantly down compared to this time last year. This has been due to several factors: the first being the ban on the sale of psychoactive substances in May 2014, followed by the wetter winter months, and there is currently a shortage of volunteers to monitor the cameras at the Police Station. Since August/September this year

The Police volunteers (Blue Club) have been low on numbers and they recently called for more volunteers through an article in the local newspaper, as well as, through the Whangarei Volunteers Centre. They are now waiting for around 10 new members to be cleared by the Police and this will then allow the new volunteers to access the Police Station CCTV suite. Once this happens, the existing gaps in monitoring the CBD and Town Basin cameras will be filled.

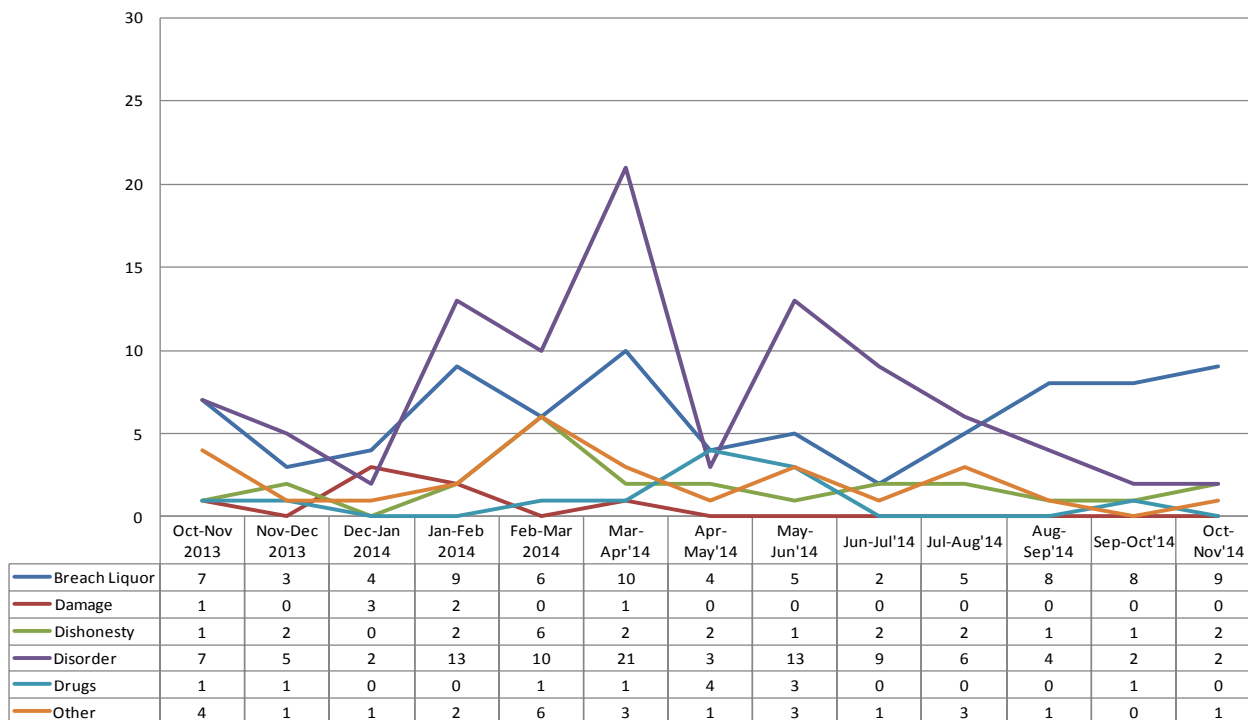
During the end of this period, three new cameras have been installed along the Hatea Loop Walkway between the Kotuitui Whitinga walk bridge and the Te Matau a Pohe bridge, with an additional camera to be installed in the Laurie Hall Carpark, that will monitor the new District War Memorial that is being built in the park, as well as monitoring the adjacent playground, reserve and carpark. It is expected that with this new camera coming online this month at Laurie Hall Park, that this will have a positive impact on preventing antisocial behaviour at this location.

The current volunteers continue to work well with the City Safe Community Officers, Police and security within the CBD, reporting suspicious behaviour, keeping an eye out for a missing child, reporting a smouldering rubbish bin to the City Safe Officer that was successfully extinguished, reporting fighting in Laurie Hall Park, and reporting a shoplifter stealing from a retail store. The monthly trend has seen a continued low level of reported offences, which are predominantly occurring late Friday evenings and early Saturday mornings for liquor ban breaches and disorder; and Friday and Saturday afternoons for dishonesty offending. There has been a slight rise in reported incidents, which have occurred during week days between 11am and 1pm, such as bikes in the Mall, skateboards and suspicious behaviour, with the predominant days being Wednesday and Fridays.

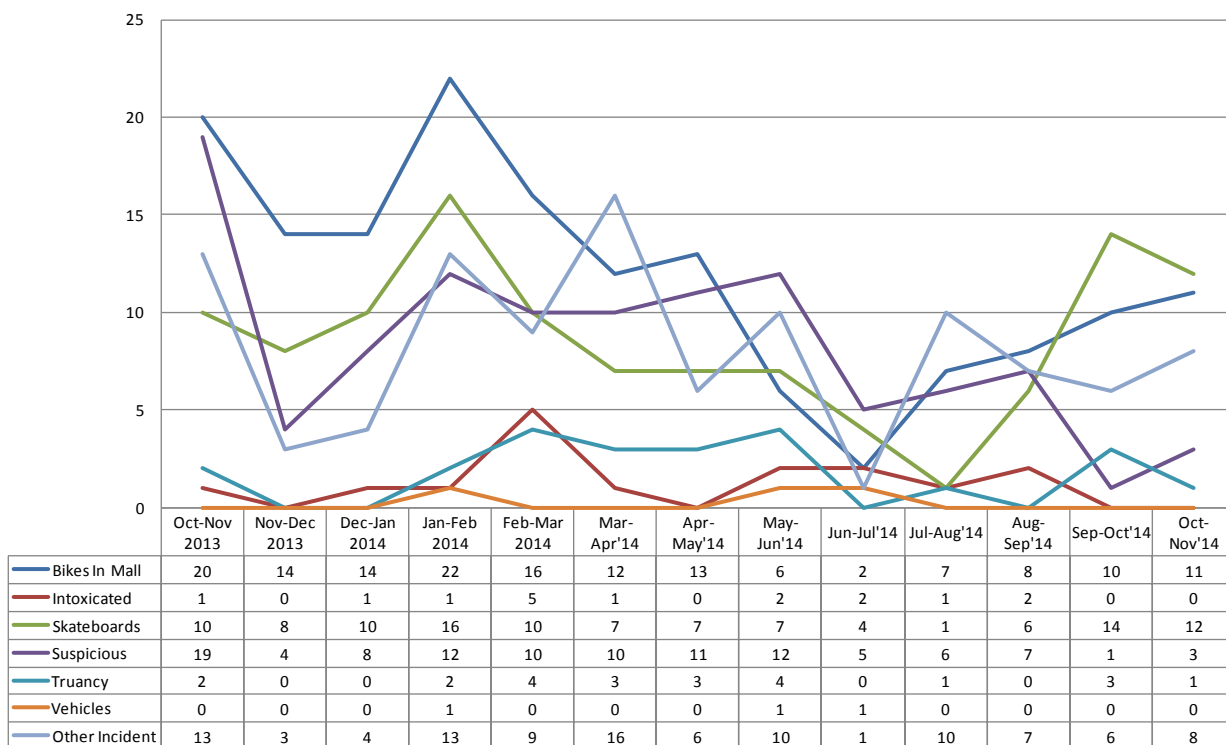
Total CCTV Activity - Incidents & Offences: Oct-Nov 2013 to Oct-Nov'14



Total CCTV Offences: Oct-Nov 2013 to Oct-Nov'14



Total CCTV Incidents: Oct-Nov 2013 to Oct-Nov'14

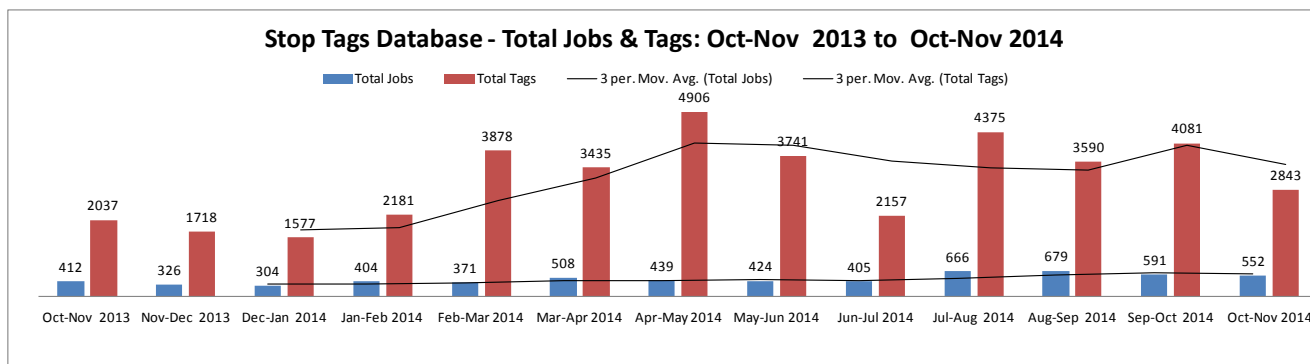


There has been a dramatic decrease in graffiti vandalism for this period, with the Stop Tags database recording 552 jobs attended and 2,843 tags removed. There has been a steady decrease in jobs attended, but a significant decrease in tags removed since the last period, where there were 591 jobs attended and 4,081 tags removed.

D'Tag, the primary graffiti removal contractor for Council, has attended 368 jobs, of which, 122 were requests for service through the Council and City Safe Call Centres and they have removed 2,155 tags. The Supervised Work

Programme for youth offenders and the Community Probation Community Work Programme removed 178 and 62 tags respectively, compared with 264 and 395 for the last period.

Graffiti trends for this period have seen less “high density” tagging in the CBD, being 17% down in jobs attended, but 60% down on tags that were removed from the April-May period, when removal of graffiti vandalism was at its highest levels. The CBD is, again, the highest area for graffiti vandalism, followed by the Tikipunga, Avenues and Raumanga suburbs, then the Kamo, Onerahi, Morningside, and Otangarei suburbs. The “high density” tagging, mentioned above, continues to be attributed to the same group of taggers. Police have apprehended 7 youths for graffiti vandalism offending for the month of October, being: 5 boys aged between 10-19 years and 2 girls, aged 14 and 15 years. Council has also reported two of the youths to Police for damaging two panels on the canopy bridge windbreak. One of these youths is currently going through the youth justice process and, although his total amount of tagging has decreased, he hasn’t yet ceased his offending. Spray cans continue to be the preferred method for taggers at 67%, followed by felt pens at 27%. D’Tag also spent two full days removing graffiti vandalism from around the Hatea Loop Walkway, after being the subject of vandalism reported after the Lion’s Club ‘Guy Fawkes’ display held at the toll stadium in early November.



The Ministry of Justice funded Community Crime Prevention Initiatives, consisting of the CCTV Activate Programme, the Supervised Work Programme and the Summer Safe Carparks Programme, continue to benefit the District. The CCTV Activate Programme has reviewed 56 jobs and reported 50 persons for 25 incidents. Through this programme, our contractor was able to identify one of our prolific taggers vandalising the Rose St Bus Stop and the windbreaks on the Victoria Canopy Bridge, as well as successfully identifying a prolific offender who was breaking into cars at the Abbey Caves and A H Reed carparks. The latter received media coverage and a stern warning from the Courts due to the detrimental effect that this type of offending has on the tourism industry for Northland. Other additional benefits of this programme have been identifying youths drinking at Cafler Park, reporting dishonesty and disorder offenders in and around the CBD and damage done to the Central City Carpark.

The Tiki Pride community have partnered with City Safe by arranging for a local retailer at the Denby Shopping Centre to house CCTV cameras, which will be able to be used by CCTV Active Programme and is intended to reduce antisocial behaviour occurring at this busy community shopping centre. The Supervised Work Programme has been hampered by youths not turning up to do their community hours over Labour Weekend and by adverse weather over another weekend. For this period, the programme had 5 youths on the programme, with 1 completing the programme for the period. This has consisted of 4 boys and 1 girl, contributing a total of 37 community hours, and removal of 178 tags from attending 8 jobs. The youths also were engaged with the Smeatons Drive community, by helping to repaint the accessway between Smeatons and State Highway One. This was part of NZTA Smeatons Gateway project that is beautifying the entrances to Whangarei along the State Highway.

The Summer Safe Carparks Programme has begun the planning phase for briefing and equipping the community volunteers, who will act as ambassadors over weekends and statutory holidays, from the first weekend in December, through to Easter Monday in 2015. Ambassadors will be present in 8 carparks this summer, with ambassadors at Whale Bay, Whangarei Falls, A H Reed, Parihaka, Abbey Caves, Ocean Beach, Ruakaka and Waipu.