

Community Safety Report – October 2014

The City Safe programme continues to work well, with the Call Centre recording 241 reported activities for the period, compared with 233 for the last period. There has been a continuation of low levels of truancy and anti-social behaviour in, and around the city over this period, apart from a slight increase in skateboards and graffiti vandalism, particularly over the school holiday period.

The majority of City Safe calls continue to be for Council maintenance reporting, mainly in graffiti removal, roading and waste issues. The busiest days have been Tuesday, Wednesday and Monday, respectively. The busiest times have been after 11 am through to 3 pm, when the majority of our maintenance jobs have been reported by our City Safe Community Officers and contractors.

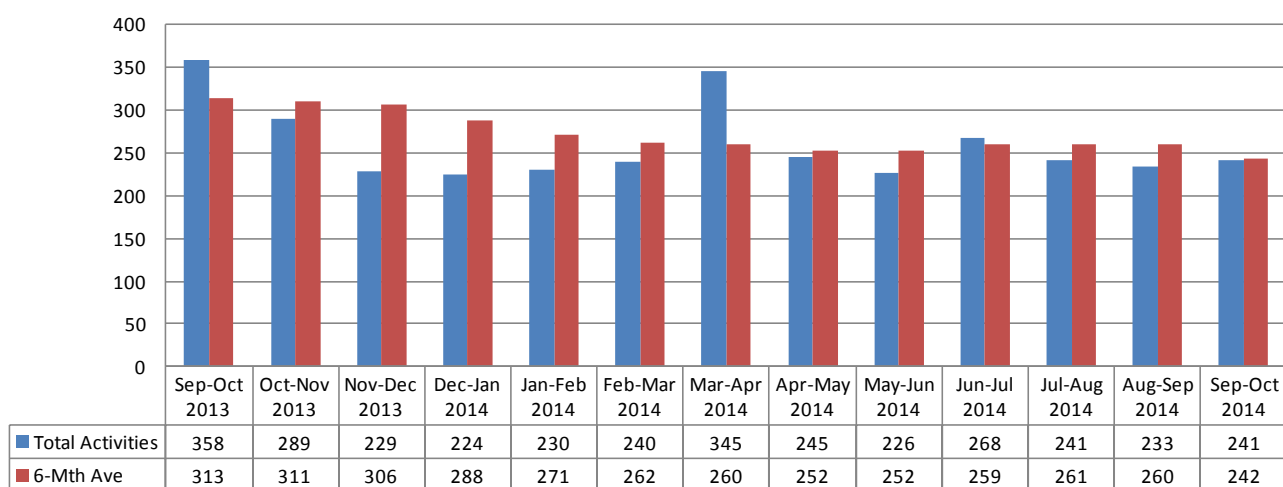
The Community Officers have reported 84 activities in total, compared with 77 for the last period. The Community Officers continue to promote Whangarei as a safe and friendly city and they continue to get thanked from members of the public. One lady wrote to Council this month to thank the Community Officers for assisting her elderly grandmother, who had left her purse behind in a shop at the other end of the CBD, which was immediately retrieved by one of the Community Officers.

Other instances of positive feedback from the reporting period have been from two young people well known to the Community Officers. One was excited to tell the Community Officers that he now had a job and the other approached our Community Officers to advise them that he had recently completed his course at People Potential and had earned his “white Belt” from the Lion’s Den. It has been through mentoring at the Lion’s Den and the Youth Space that this youth has begun making positive/constructive choices.

The Community Officers continue to monitor the intersection of Bank St and Cameron St to ensure the safety of students crossing the road and to report errant motorist to the Police by way of Community Road Watch reports. They advise that they are regularly reporting between 15-20 motorist running red lights each school day.

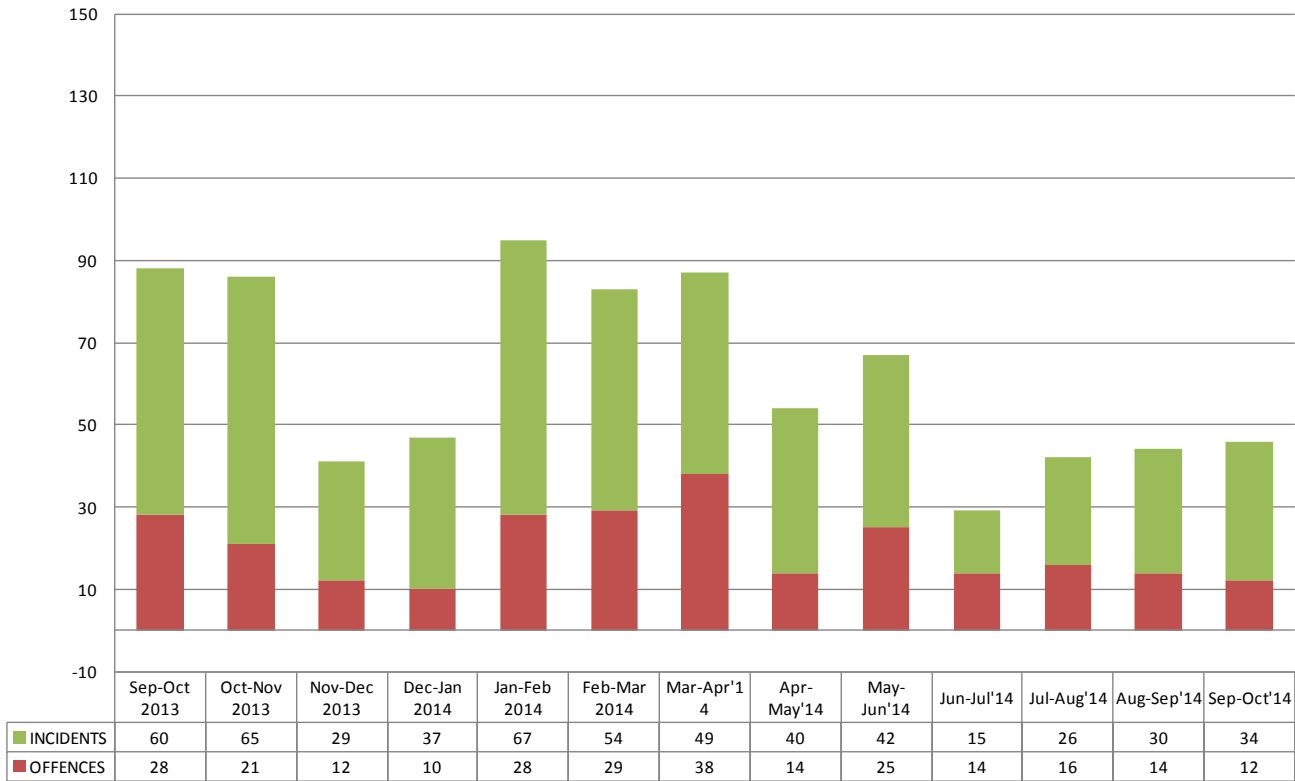
Other diverse activities attended by the Community Officer have been: caring for a gentleman having a seizure in the Mall and calling an ambulance; assisting retailers and the Police with shoplifters; ensuring public safety during a fight between youths outside the Rose St Bus Stop in the Vine Street Carpark; calling for police assistance for a young child left alone in a locked car; assisting a stranded motorist at the traffic lights who had run out of petrol; handing over found property to the Police; and reporting food scraps, urine and vomit left if shop doorways from early hour revellers that required to be cleaned up. Additionally, the Community Officers have received training for the new Public Places Bylaw, specifically in regards to buskers, skateboards and bikes.

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

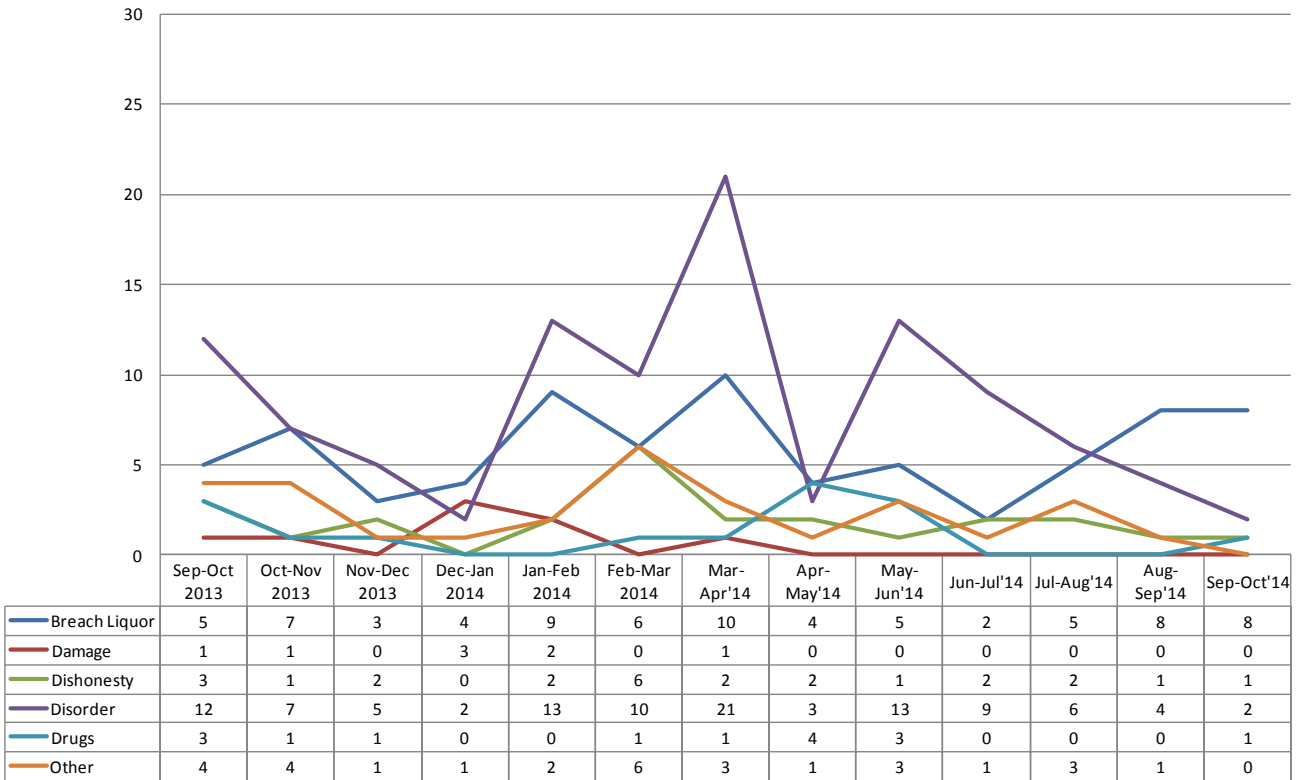


This period has seen another relatively quiet month for the CCTV volunteers monitoring the CBD and Town Basin network, particularly over the school holiday period where only 1 offence and 9 incidents were reported during the day. The monthly trend has seen a slight increase in incidents, occurring after the school holiday period, where one young man was persistently riding his skateboard board through the mall over a two-day period before he was eventually able to be stopped by the Community Officer. There was a slight decline in reported offences, except breach of liquor ban offending, which remained at the same level, with the majority of this offending occurring between 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday evenings. Training with the volunteers is also being undertaken at the end of this period, in regards to the new Public Places Bylaw, where it is anticipated that there will

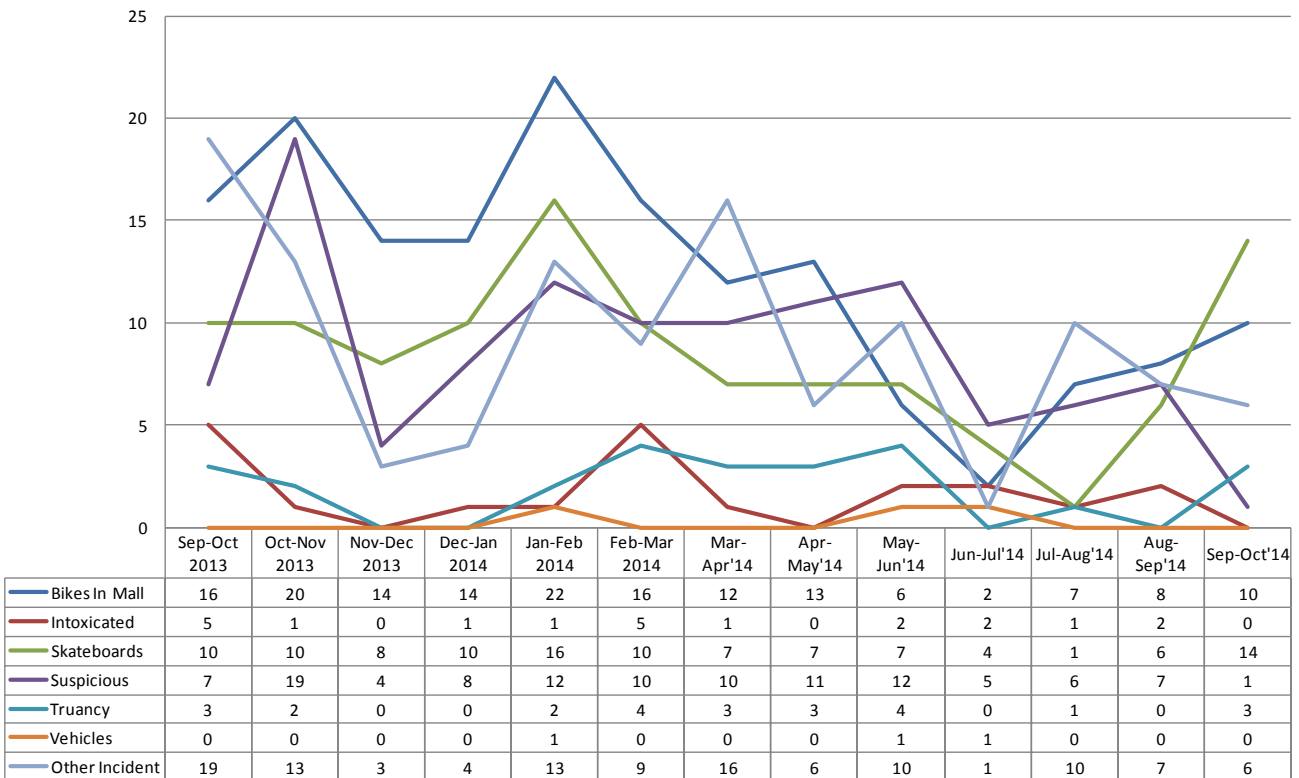
Total CCTV Activity - Incidents & Offences: Sep-Oct 2013 to Sep-Oct'14



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



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



The Stop Tags graffiti database, for this period, has recorded 591 jobs attended and 4,081 tags removed. Although there has been a decrease in jobs attended, there has been a significant increase in the number of tags being removed compared to the last period, where 679 jobs were attended and 3,590 tags removed.

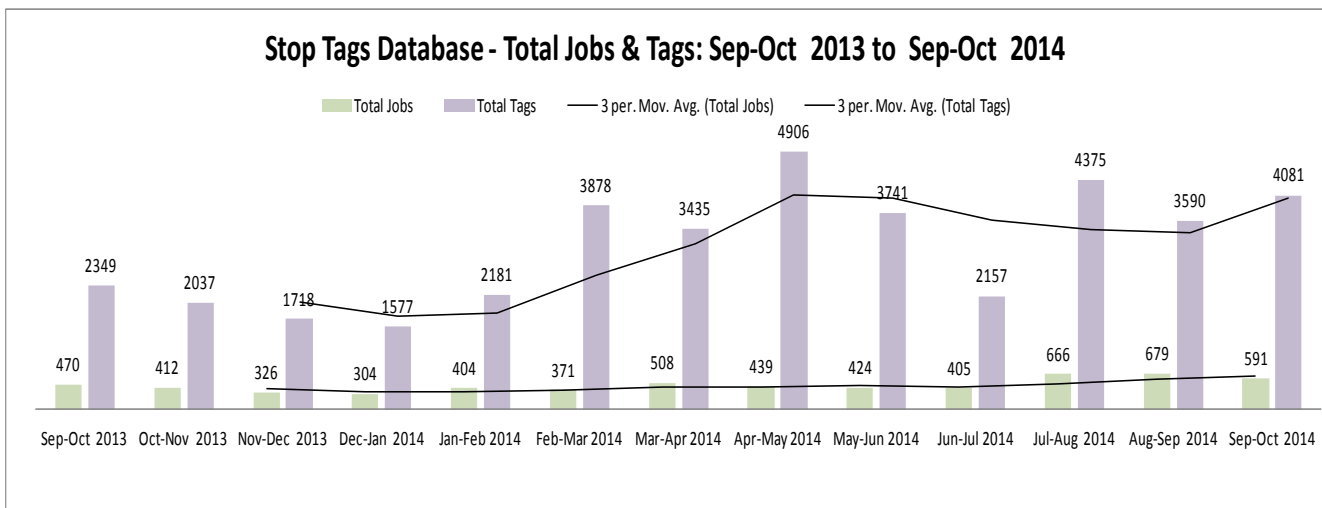
- D'Tag, the primary graffiti removal contractor for Council, has attended 336 jobs, of which, 145 were requests for service, and they have removed 2,571 tags.

- The Supervised Work Programme for youth offenders and the Community Probation Community Work Programme removed 572 and 237 tags respectively, compared with 264 and 395 for the last period.

Improved weather over this period, coupled with the school holidays, has seen an increase in the total amount of tagging, but, the fine weather has also assisted contractors and partner agencies to be able to quickly remove the additional graffiti vandalism. Graffiti trends for this period continue to be the use of spray paint as the main tag medium type, which is used for 73% of tags removed, followed by felt pens at 19% of tags removed. Paint and stickers were the other mediums used for tagging, at 3% respectively.

There has been less “high density” tagging in the CBD; however, there has been a lot of roof- top tagging in the CBD, which takes our contractor longer to remove. The highest area for graffiti vandalism/removal has shifted to Otangarei, which has overtaken the CBD. The other graffiti affected areas after Otangarei, are respectively, the CBD, Tikipunga, Avenues, Raumanga, Kamo, Parihaka, Kensington and Whau Valley.

Graffiti murals have been the topic of conversation in the media recently, resulting in the Whangarei Youth Space holding a hui where a diverse group of youths and interested parties attended to discuss graffiti vandalism in the community. After a presentation by Council Community Services staff about the adverse effects of graffiti vandalism to the community and the pro’s and con’s of graffiti walls, the youth broke up into groups and held a brain-storm session whereby they identified the positives and negatives of graffiti, reasons why graffiti vandalism occurred and contributed ideas to combat graffiti vandalism. Council has yet to receive formal recommendations from the Youth Space arising from this hui. The Police have advised that they had apprehended 6 youths for graffiti vandalism for the calendar month of September, being 4 boys ranging from 14 – 18 years of age, and 2 girls aged 14 & 15 years old.



The Ministry of Justice funded Community Crime Prevention Initiatives, consisting of the CCTV Activate Programme and the Supervised Work Programme, continues to benefit the District.

The CCTV Activate Programme has reviewed 56 jobs and reported 20 persons for various instances of dishonesty, disorder and graffiti vandalism. These instances include the tagging of the Rose St Bus Stop, tagging in the Central City Carpark building, breaking into cars at Abbey Caves, assisting Police with several instances of disorder in the CBD, as well as the other Council camera assets being used to assist Police with their enquiries with Operation Aviator, being the homicide that occurred on the 5th October in Second Avenue.

The supervised Work Programme is working well; with one of the benefits of the programme being the referral of youths to the Te Ora Hou ‘Whai Ake’ youth programme that operated over the first week of the school holiday period. This engagement by the youth meant that some of the youths had to catch up with their community hours over the second week of the holidays. For this period, there were 8 youths on the programme (7 boys & 1 girl) who removed 572 tags, with one of the youths completing all of his hours. the Supervised Work Programme continues to

build positive relationships with the youths through the free Lion's Den grappling programme, referral to Te ora hou Whai Ake programme and the Whangarei Youth Space.