

3. Police Report

Reporting officer Carolyne Brindle (Senior Meeting Co-ordinator)

Date 20 December 2011

The attached report has been received from Inspector Paul Dimery, Area Commander for Whangarei/Kaipara.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

Attachment

[Police Report](#)

WHANGAREI POLICE**REPORT TO THE WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL****DECEMBER 2011****INTRODUCTION**

Firstly let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and an extremely Happy New Year on behalf of the Whangarei Police. We believe that this Council has contributed strongly to a safer Whangarei with a number of the initiatives supported by Council. The extension of the Liquor Bans into Kamo, Otangarei, Tikipunga, Onerahi and Otaika can only be a good thing. Police do not intend to use this tool as a punishment, but as a means to prevent crime. There are more than enough licensed premises available in Whangarei, without the necessity for us to consume alcohol on the streets.

The City Safe team has done an awesome job and I look forward to the Summer Holiday Carpark initiative being as successful this year as it was last.

A huge thank you to all of Whangarei and Kaipara for the absolutely outstanding result addressing the carnage on our roads. One person lost their life on our roads in the last 12 months. To her family go my heartfelt sympathy and to the rest of you, my thanks. We have managed to address the abhorrent culture that had us featuring in the Lonely Planet as the "killing fields" for the deaths on the Ruakaka Straights. This was a culmination of education, engineering and enforcement carried out by a community that truly does care about each other. The number of families spared the anguish of losing a loved one is down to one and this alone is something that Whangarei should be extremely proud.

I intend operating Operation Rudolph for the fourth consecutive year. You will know that this means that in the days coming up to Christmas day, you will be stopped by Police. My sincere hope that this is a positive interaction which does not result in any Infringement Notices. I know that everyone has better things to do with their money than give it to the Government, so - *Wear your Seatbelts - Don't Drink and Drive - Don't Speed* and most of all *Stay on the Left Hand Side of the Road*.

STATISTICS:

The Whangarei Patrol Group carried out the following for the month of **November**:

214 Arrests made compared with 229 in October.

1188 Infringement Notices issued compared with 787 in October.

109 Traffic Offence Notices issued compared with 67 in October.

22 Excess Breath Alcohol offences compared with 11 in October .

52 DNA samples taken compared with 28 in October.

33 Burglaries attended compared with 28 in October.

25 Motor Vehicle accidents attended compared with 17 in October.

108 Domestic Violence incidents attended compared with 148 in October.



CRIME TRENDS:

Family Violence - It is that time of the year where we all celebrate. In our culture this usually means we have a few drinks. Some of us stop at a few drinks; some of us don't. Some of us handle alcohol; some of us don't. Some of us go home and have a great night with their families; some of us go home and beat our partners and children. Alcohol is the excuse. I implore you to celebrate safely and to look after your loved ones. Remember, just because they love you, doesn't give you the right to beat them.

The last month has seen a concerning rise in **Aggravated Robberies**. These are offences where violence or threats of violence, usually with a weapon, are carried out. They place the victims in a precarious position where they can suffer severe trauma, both physically and mentally. Firearms have been used to hold up the Onerahi Tavern and the same offenders did a home invasion where they seriously injured a sole male occupant, as well as two similar offences in Auckland where children and elderly people were terrorised and bound.

On the 8th of October the Onerahi Tavern was robbed by three males, two carrying shotguns and one carrying a steel bar; four victims were made to lie facedown with the shotguns in their faces while the offenders gained access to the safe.

On the 13th of October, two victims were asleep in their beds in Auckland. They were awoken after midnight to find two males armed with a shotgun and a steel bar. They had valuables stolen and were then locked in a bedroom cupboard.

That same morning, three males broke into an East Tamaki address, again armed with shotguns. A large amount of property was stolen.

Three males have been apprehended.

There have been three Aggravated Robberies of Service Stations. All of the offenders have been apprehended and in due course will be carrying out lengthy jail sentences.

A Chinese student carrying out his normal activities at Northtech was seriously assaulted (including a broken jaw) by two thugs. These two are before the Court and with any luck will also be facing incarceration.

Burglaries, particularly of dwelling houses, are again on the rise. I urge all of the people of Whangarei to take care when they leave home to take some basic crime prevention steps. Lock your doors; make sure your windows are closed and secure; tell your neighbours that you may be away. Arrange for junk mail to be uplifted by someone you trust; do not leave it in your mailbox for thieves to notice. Do not tell anyone on Facebook that you'll be away; for some reason this seems to get around quite quickly. Arrange for timers on your lights to give the impression there is someone home. Do not leave your curtain drawn; again offenders notice these things.



Receiving - A national operation codenamed 'Pearl' targeting Receivers has been underway and includes Whangarei. All second-hand dealers and scrap metal dealers are being checked. Stolen property, including a large number of stolen motor vehicles, have been located. The principal behind this type of operation is that - **If you don't have anyone to sell your property to, there is little point in stealing it.**

Youth

There has been a concerning number of street type Robberies involving persons under 17. One of the more concerning offences was a group of three girls in Central Whangarei who were set upon by another group of girls who got out of a car and seriously assaulted the victims. One of these girls was taken unconscious to Whangarei Hospital. There is clearly little regard for others in this growing offending. The offenders are selfish, self-absorbed, have no regard for authority or indeed any other person, and clearly have no boundaries. They take no regard for other people's rights but have no hesitation on insisting that they are to be dealt with pursuant to the New Zealand Bill of Rights and the Children and Young Persons Act. I am in total agreement that they should be dealt with legally, but wonder where they get their accountability from. They are taught their Rights, yet they have no regard for the rights of others.

The apathy that allows a group of girls to be set upon and no one rings the Police or steps in to assist really concerns me. The public demand a Police force which is vigilant and a Council that has a strong stance, however they can stand back and let offending take place because they "don't want to be involved". If we are really serious about a safe Whangarei, it is about time the public stood up and were counted. **You don't have to physically become involved if you are not confident, but it's not difficult to pick up the phone and dial 111.**

If we don't make your youth accountable, offending and violence will escalate. If you get away with something, it's easier the next time.

Alcohol

We are now right into the 'Silly Season' and I wonder how seriously we take our drinking laws. Whangarei continues to have two premises with an entertainment licence. This allows them to carry on selling alcohol on Christmas Day, Easter Friday and Anzac morning. One of these premises licence has actually expired and yet continues to trade with the existing hours. This means two premises have a monopoly on alcohol sales from midnight on Christmas Eve. This will create problems for the Police and the public, and I have no doubt will result in Assaults on a day that should be family orientated.

Organised Crime

Our gangs continue to tax each other. Drug payments that go unpaid result in home invasions. This ultimately creates more work for the Police and a neighbourhood in constant fear. The guise of running sporting events (usually boxing tournaments), is a thinly disguised recruiting tool. To those communities who allow them to ingratiate themselves by offering boxing lessons at your local halls, I can only offer my sincere sympathies for your gullibility. Gangs offer



nothing but misery to your children. They offer Cannabis, Methamphetamine and Violence. If you truly want that for your children, invite these people into your community. If you don't, Police are here to assist and give advice.

Holiday Policing

You will notice more Police on the streets and at our beaches over the next few weeks. We have allocated extra staff to our holiday destinations at Ruakaka, Oakura, Whananaki, Ngunguru and ensured we have a high visibility on our roads. Don't do anything that may attract unwanted attention from the Police. If you don't ruin your own holiday or anyone else's, we will not bother you.

SUMMARY:

2011 has been a very good year for the people of Whangarei. Crime is down, crashes are down, fatals are down and community involvement is up. Council and Police relations are at an all time high and we are achieving some outstanding results. To each and every one of you I wish you a Merry Christmas and an outstanding New Year. Look after yourselves and your families, and enjoy your break.

To the Whangarei people I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday period. Look after each other, and look after yourselves. Make every contact with a Policeman an enjoyable one.

*Paul Dimery
Inspector
Area Commander for Whangarei / Kaipara
December 2011*

