

Name That Dog

By Callum Blair, Owner/Director of Campus Security New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand



Snoop Dog - "Mabi"

Campus Security New Zealand is a private security provider to educational institutions throughout New Zealand. I am the firm's co-founder and current owner/director and a former New Zealand police officer. I was stationed at one of the country's leading universities, where I was affectionately (I

think) known in the community as the "campus cop."

My 30 years' experience in the police and private sector security services for educational institutions gave me a unique insight into the operational aspects required for a cooperative approach between private security providers and sworn officers working within the educational sector.

A recent example of this cooperative approach between the local police, Campus Security NZ, and numerous schools was the introduction of a Drug-Free Campus program. This includes K9 Campus Security Detector Dog Teams that screen the campus as a proactive measure to keep drugs off campus.

Rangitoto College, New Zealand's largest high school and a feeder to many of New Zealand's universities, embraced the program with open arms. Principal David Hodge said the school was sending a strong message to its 3,163 students that drugs were not tolerated in society or school. "You have to be fairly naive to think there are not drugs in the community and one of the functions of the school is to make sure those drugs don't come here," Hodge said.

The laws in New Zealand allow Drug Detector Dog Teams to screen the physical environs of a school, but they cannot approach a student directly. The delicate balance of providing an effective service and not infringing on an individual's rights is a universal challenge that requires a unique approach.

Campus Security NZ is well versed in innovation. To support the program and to get buy-in from the students, Campus Security NZ introduced a Puppy in Training at the school.

Campus Security NZ K9 handler Chris Rogers introduced the young English Springer Spaniel at the school assembly at

the beginning of the term June 20, 2016. The students were asked to forward names to give to their new "drug dog," who would be on duty in six months, beginning in January 2017.

Not surprisingly the students named the puppy—Snoop Dog!

However, Campus Security NZ decided to translate Snoop into "te reo Maori," which is the native language of the indigenous people of New Zealand. This transformed Snoop's name to "Mahi huna," which was then shortened to Mahi, meaning "work."

Mahi achieved great things by bringing all sectors of the campus community together to achieve a common goal.

Although Mahi underwent his target odor training off campus at our "detector dog training center," we were able to partner with an academic program called Gateway. This program is designed to provide senior students with opportunities to access structured workplace learning.

Subsequently, several schools provided students thinking about a career path in K9 services. Under the guidance of our senior dog trainer Guus Knopers, these students carried out the environment aspect of Mahi's training. This entailed the student walking Mahi throughout the schools and introducing him to the sights, sounds, and physical elements he would expect to encounter when he went operational. These students, with Mahi in tow, interacted with the school community and further integrated the drug-free campus message to the campus users.

The local community newspaper saw this as a unique and good news story and ran a story about the introduction of a "drug dog" into the schools. It received very favorable comments from readers, and overall the introduction of Mahi into the schools as a puppy has been an enormous success. Mahi is now operational and screening numerous campus sites through the North island of New Zealand. 🐾



Mabi and students