Surveillance solutions make rat catching easier

THERE are many ways to catch a rat, but Mi5 offers you the most cost effective, reliable and effective of all.

Now, before you think "oh no, another one", let me assure you that these surveillance solutions are unlike any other.

For starters, they offer an unmatched battery performance, lasting up to five months on the standard internal battery (RedEye unit). You can also add an inbuilt solar panel to ensure continuous battery for those hard-to-get-to locations.

Another unique feature is the way these cameras capture and store images – it's just brilliant. With a standard 2GB SD-card inside the unit, this little beauty can hold up to 65000 security grade images.

A comparative CCTV security system would require over 50 times more storage to record the same period. And even when the memory card is full, it keeps on saving images from the beginning, overwriting the oldest pictures automatically for you.

But that's not all - because the images are saved as standard JPG files, you can simply place the card into any SD-card reader (included with camera) and your PC or Mac will read them instantly, with no special cables, software or technical knowledge required.

This rat picture was taken by a government enforcement agency using one of the night vision cameras, set to take still images as soon as motion was detected.

This RedEye camera would have continued to take a sequence of images until the motion stopped, which apparently wasn't too long. The RedEye is one of several models in this Eye Series range of products.

Effective . . . this image was captured by a government enforcement agency using the Mi5 camera.

This model is designed to handle all types of weather conditions (the housing is IP65 approved – which basically means it's weather proof) and comes as either a colour (daytime) or monochrome (day/night with infra-red) camera, and even has optional inbuilt solar panel and inbuilt GSM modem so you can send your images straight to your computer/mobile phone without ever having to touch the camera again.

The basic RedEye kit comes with a day-time or day/night camera, five-month rechargeable battery, remote control (which you can optionally use), 2GB SD-card and SD-card reader (to plug into your computer) and setup software. After the initial setup, you simply switch it on, fix it into place, and leave it to catch the rat.

These cameras are being used extensively throughout the farming and forestry sectors in New Zealand for remote surveillance and access monitoring of valuable equipment, machinery and fuel storage.

Anywhere that cabling is difficult and/or expensive, these cameras are the answer.

These portable, wire-free, security grade cameras have so many unique selling points that can't be listed in such a brief article, so please contact Mi5 Ltd for a demo or more information. It will be worth your time, I'm sure. You can also find full details at www.mi5.co.nz

— Scott Wattie, director, Mi5 Ltd

Rural security more important than ever

IT wasn't too long ago that many communities felt locking their front door was unnecessary, but times have changed. The first place to turn in preventing crime is in your own home.

Today's reality is that you just can't leave your door unlocked or your keys in the ignition of the ute. With the influx of urban people into provincial and rural areas comes greater interest from criminals in what they can see as "easy pickings".

Know your neighbour

Your neighbour may no longer be a farmer like you – they may be commuting to their workplace in town or the city, and so are not at home during the day. This can make it harder to get to know them, and it also makes their unoccupied property an attractive target for opportunistic thieves.

The value of household contents has increased greatly over recent years with the popularity of large TVs, entertainment systems and other electronic goodies. And on larger farms with more houses, thieves can potentially achieve a much larger haul in a fairly short space of time.

It's worth reviewing your contents insurance to make sure you're adequately covered should you need to make a claim.

Avoid being a victim of crime

- Make a point of getting to know your neighbours, exchange contact phone numbers and keep those numbers handy.
- Let neighbours know when you are going on holiday or not at home for a night; ask them to keep an eye on your property when you're away – and return the favour.
- Start or get involved in a rural neighbourhood support group in your area, and display Neighbourhood Watch signs on your property to deter would-be thieves.
- Get to know your local police officers – they are there to help you.
- If you have a local police rural liaison officer, they will welcome (and keep confidential) any information regarding suspicious vehicles or people in the area.
- Never rent a property to someone without meeting all tenants; insist on references and set clear rules around sub-letting.
- Install security devices such as cameras and sensors on your property – battery powered devices have come a long way and systems are now available that use a pager or text message to your phone to alert you of a security breach.
- Make sure your house is safely locked when you're not home and at night, and lock vehicles with keys removed and stored safely elsewhere.
- Fit quality locks to doors and windows and your houses, sheds and garages, and use good quality chains and padlocks to secure gates and doors without locks.
- Install a peephole in your front door.
- Apply for a RAPID number from your local council. As part of the process, a GPS reading is taken and a plate provided for your farm gate so that emergency services can correctly identify your property in an emergency.
- Download a copy of Staying Safe in Rural New Zealand from http://www.police.govt.nz/safety/rural.html

New Zealand's leading rural insurer FMG recommends farmers make every effort possible to deter criminal activity, by reducing the attractiveness of their property as an easy target and by building and maintaining strong neighbour relationships and community networks. For a more proactive look at your insurance needs, call FMG on 0800 366 466.