

Drainlayer keeps licence



A Christchurch drainlayer was sentenced to 200 hours' community work for drink-driving.

██████████, 50, admitted the charge of drink-driving, third or subsequent, when he appeared in Blenheim District Court before Judge Stephen Harrop yesterday.

Police prosecutor Sergeant Graham Single said ██████ was stopped on Tainui St, in Greymouth and was found to have 684 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath. The legal limit is 400mcg.

██████ was stopped by police about 5.15pm on October 24, 2010.

██████'s lawyer, Patrick Winkler, of Auckland, asked the judge not to disqualify ██████ because he was needed to rebuild Christchurch. It would be difficult to work without his licence, Mr Winkler said.

Judge Harrop expressed his disappointment that the case hadn't been dealt with sooner, but told ██████ he was impressed with how he had used his time since being stopped.

"While I accept that the other two offences were a long time ago, it's (drink-driving, third and subsequent) a charge that carries two years' imprisonment, and I am taking that into consideration.

"It's unsatisfactory that it has taken this time to resolve, but you have used your time effectively Mr ██████, travelling to Auckland for courses and completing the advanced driving skills course, approved by the AA – and that weighs heavily in your favour."

Mr Harrop said he accepted there was greater benefit in keeping ██████'s licence active, and agreed not to impose a disqualification.

"However, I have to set down a penalty that balances out the disqualification fairly."

██████ was sentenced to 200 hours' community work.

Other drink-drivers dealt with yesterday:

██████████, 18, of Blenheim, 277 milligrams of alcohol per litre of blood [legal limit for under-20s is zero]; fined \$250, ordered to pay court costs and disqualified for three

months.

[REDACTED], 20, a shop assistant from Blenheim, 725 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath [limit 400mcg]; will be sentenced on April 2.

[REDACTED], 28, a fisherman of Waikawa, 627mcg; fined \$1000, ordered to pay court costs and disqualified for nine months.

[REDACTED], 31, unemployed of Blenheim, 165mg [legal limit is 80mg]; will be sentenced on April 2.

[REDACTED], 28, a Blenheim food processor, 852mcg; will be sentenced on April 2.

The Marlborough Express