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Woman charged over rape complaint

A 17-year-old Christchurch woman who was embarrassed about a drunken sexual encounter with two men in a Nelson park has been charged with making a false statement to police, after claiming she was raped.

Six detectives were assigned to the case after the young woman told police she had been gagged and raped by two men at Centennial Park in Tahunanui early on Thursday morning.

She claimed she was attacked by the men, who were aged between 15 and 25, after she went to relieve herself in a bush. She had earlier seen them riding “double” on a mountainbike.

She admitted she had been drinking.

Detective Senior Sergeant Wayne McCoy of Nelson CIB said the young woman had been charged with making a false statement, after police investigations into her complaint.

“Inquiries made with neighbours revealed the victim had not told us the whole truth about the incident,” he said.

“Further inquiries revealed she had actually met these guys earlier on in the evening.”

Mr McCoy said the woman had been at a campground with the men earlier that night, and alcohol was a significant factor in her actions.

“She was embarrassed about the whole thing afterwards. Her friends found out and she had nowhere to go, basically.

“she was in a hard place because her friends wanted to make a complaint to police, and she went along with it.”

The woman was interviewed again yesterday after extensive police inquiries, including forensic testing, and information from the public.
``She admitted she made a false statement to us,” Mr McCoy said.

Police still want to talk to the owner of the mountainbike, which was left behind in the park, and the two men involved. Mr McCoy said they would not be charged but could help the police finish their inquiries.

The incident was a timely reminder for people over the New Year holiday, Mr McCoy said.

He urged young people not to go off alone, or allow friends to wander off, when drinking. "Please look after your mates."