



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **July 2018**

General meeting
Wednesday 18th July 2018
7:00 pm Hunting & Fishing
Queen Street, Masterton

General Meeting 18 July 2018

Something different this month. Come along to **Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing, Queen Street Masterton at the earlier time of 7 pm**. This will be a special store opening for Wairarapa NZDA members and their friends, with plenty of bargains on offer. A good opportunity to pick up some more winter clothing at great prices, look at boots and camping equipment, and check out the firearms selection. Hoping for a good turn-out! Supper will be provided.



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

13-15 JULY NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE Wellington. Martin & Tracy Amos will be attending to represent the Branch. More details later in newsletter.

18 JULY GENERAL MEETING Hosted by Hunting & Fishing Masterton starting at 7 pm.

1 AUGUST DEADLINE FOR RETURNING BRANCH TROPHIES PRESENTED IN 2017

Please return cleaned to Tracy Amos.

17 AUGUST OPEN NIGHT Friday night at Parkvale Hall starting 6 pm. Trade displays and venison sandwiches! This will be held in lieu of our August general meeting so **NO** meeting on 15 August. Full details next month. You can also drop off early entries to AH&T and photo competitions.

16 SEPTEMBER BRANCH SHOOTING COMPETITION Gladstone Range.

19 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall, 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed

1 OCTOBER DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IN BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be in the hands of Greg Hamilton (King and Henry), or Joe Hansen (phone 027 6926465), by noon. Photographs to be with Tracy Amos (06 3795454). More details, rules, and entry form later in newsletter.

3 OCTOBER AHT SCORING SESSION in conjunction with October committee meeting. Not open to members.

13 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER & PRIZE-GIVING Put the date in your calendar now. If you have contacts that may be willing to sponsor items for auction/raffle please let a committee member know.



Recent Events

15-17 JUNE SUBSIDISED TARARUA FLY-IN TRIP was cancelled due to weather (again!). Parties of 3 branch members who wish to fly-in before 31 July 2018 are still eligible for \$500 branch subsidy per party. For details phone Martin 027 3671635. Another trip will be scheduled for the spring.

20 JUNE GENERAL MEETING was attended by 21 members who listened to an interesting presentation by Scott Traill on firearm maintenance. Scott is no longer doing general gunsmith work, but he is manufacturing a pretty cool-looking and amazingly light-weight .22 suppressor 3-D printed out of plastic! These are available for about \$85 on the internet.

26 JUNE WARO CONSULTATION MEETING

Held at the Carterton Event Centre. The branch was represented by Aidan Bichan, and branch member Mac McMullen also attended. There was a useful discussion with the DOC representatives, and the Branch has subsequently submitted the following submission:

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Wairarapa Branch) submit the following for consideration in the upcoming review of WARO.

1. The Branch has 120 members, many who hunt in the areas affected by the WARO concessions. We also have partnership arrangements with the Department for several huts in the Tararuas.
2. The Branch accepts that the aerial control of deer, particularly in remote, hard to access locations is a suitable tool to protect biodiversity when recreational hunters are not harvesting enough deer.
3. We support the submissions recorded at the meeting on Tuesday 26th June at the Carterton Events Centre.
4. We request the area including the Remutaka Range and the Holdsworth to the Remutaka Road summit be changed back to a "Not permitted" zone (currently coloured green and yellow), and from

Holdsworth to the Putara road end be zoned "Not permitted". The rationale for this is the high numbers of trampers and hunters accessing this area - many branch members learned to hunt through this zone and are now taking their children and grandchildren here to learn. We note that the High Court found some of these areas were invalidly opened in 2015.

5. We support the concept of having a 2 km "Not permitted" buffer around all Park and Reserve boundaries. This reduces the need for WARO operators to get land owner poison sign off and also excludes the easiest access for the public and hunters.
6. We propose a "Hind only" harvest policy as this will have a real impact on deer population. The current structure encourages operators to harvest stags rather than hinds due to the heavier carcass weight and velvet yield. This leaves the hinds to continue breeding and discourages recreational hunters when stags are hard to find and the big ones have already been harvested.
7. Consider having a single operator licensed for a set area. This will give the operator more certainty and an ability to manage their patch to improve harvest efficiency. It also allows the Department to measure operator performance and reduce the number of licensed operators to improve outcomes for biodiversity and operator profit.
8. WARO concessions should not exceed 3 years. This allows a regular review of operator performance and an on ground assessment of outcomes.
9. We suggest operators provide the Department with live GPS tracking access to allow follow up of any complaints promptly and to monitor compliance.
10. Full track logs be supplied to the Department monthly and a summary of where helicopters have been hunting be published on line. The public data wouldn't need to identify the operator but would show areas being hunted and therefore areas that may be less productive for recreational hunters.
11. We support the extended summer closed period to cover the school holidays.
12. We request that the document that goes to WARO operators be circulated to submitters. If there are any proposed changes after consultation with Operators, these be discussed with submitters before concessions are issued.
13. Has the Te Araroa trail been considered with high numbers of walkers and wilderness experience expectations?

Thank you for the consultation opportunity.

A Bichan
Secretary
NZDA (Wairarapa Branch)

As a result of feedback during the WARO permit consultation, DOC Deputy-Director General Operations Mike Slater has now extended the timeline for feedback until Monday 16th July. If you wish to make a personal submission please email Nicole Sutton nsutton@doc.govt.nz



News

LOCAL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

A local landowner has contacted the branch about reducing deer numbers on his property. This will be done by branch members on supervised (guided by Martin or Pete C) hunts with a cost of \$100 per animal (all reds). Please text Martin on 027 3671635 if you are interested in getting your name on the list for one of these hunts. Dates will be arranged following request from the landowner. These could be weekdays, but we'll aim for weekends. Preference given to those who are new to hunting and involved in branch activities.

PARKVALE HALL

Bookings keep coming in. For more information or to make a booking contact Martin 379 5454 or 027 3671635.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

No call-outs this month. A gear refresher focusing on first aid kits and PLBs will be held on 12 July starting 7 pm at SAR base. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

HUTS

Martin met with Joe Hansen from DOC on 4 July and signed our annual hut agreement, which covers upkeep and maintenance of Sayers, Neill Forks, and Cow Creek huts.

DEER PARK

Paul & Phil have found some hay at a good price. Special thanks to **Masterton Vegetable Seeds** for a donation of maize. There is recent addition to the park herd – “Fred the red” who is an antlerless stag donated to us. Unfortunately due to some rough interactions with the other reds and the keepers, Fred may only be a temporary resident!

Negotiations are continuing with Masterton District Council about installation of security cameras. We are told these have been “escalated to senior management and financial services”.

FIREWOOD

The branch is on the lookout for trees for our next firewood working bee. If you know of any possibilities please contact Martin 027 3671635.

FIREARMS LICENCING

A total of 33 people turned up to the last “old style” course at Parkvale Hall on 13 June. In a follow-up from last month, the branch has offered the police the use of Parkvale Hall for the practical component of the course, instead of the original proposal of the Carterton Fire Station. We are waiting to hear back on this offer.

NATIONAL OFFICE

National conference

The conference is being held in Wellington, 13th to 15th July 2018 with the theme “Growing the Business; the next generation”. At this stage over 30 branches are attending with over 100 persons at the Conference Dinner. The conference will be important to NZDA and it will be very interesting to hear what the Minister has to say and to get a handle on what relations will be like over the term of this government.

Conference remits

The Wairarapa Branch committee discussed conference remits at their July committee meeting. Of particular concern is a motion to increase the capitation (the amount from every membership that goes to National Office) to \$85 per senior member. Along with proposed levies of \$10 per member this would mean the branch would only get \$5 per member from our current senior membership fee of \$100. If this motion passes, we will need

to increase our membership fees. Some branches already have much higher fees. For example, Hutt Valley branch – which has 900+ members – charges \$150 for senior members.

WARO consultation

Involvement by branches has been variable but where branches have engaged the feedback to National Office has been positive. Because the organisation of the program was in the hands of district DOC staff there was a range of consultation opportunities across the country varying from individual branches sending representatives to DOC offices (Thames, Nelson, West Coast etc) to large community meetings (Wanaka etc). Where the meetings were small and access to good maps was available the process may have been more useful than in large meetings with a number of stakeholders represented. The common problem was that number of meetings were held in the week preceding the deadline for written submissions and the shortage of time will have compromised the quality of some of the submissions. As the varied nature of the process became apparent and the deadline approached Natex asked for individual submissions to bolster the branch submissions. Natex is appreciative of the involvement of so many members who took time off work etc to attend consultation meetings.

Tahr, kea and buckshot

In meetings with NZDA DOC has acknowledged that kea are affected by the lead buckshot used on tahr search and destroy operations. There has been a decision to move away from shotguns to rifle and this has been implemented in recent operations.

Tahr and the Minister

Minister Sage has repeatedly spoken about the estimated 35,000 tahr which if accurate would obviously exceed the 10,000 ceiling specified in the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan. If the population is around the 35,000 then to keep that number without increasing the annual harvest would need to be in excess of 7,000. Natex's discussions with GAC, DOC and representatives from Tahr Interest Group have not seriously disputed these figures and the revitalisation of the Control Plan is essential. The Minister is emphatic that there will be more control this year and hunter groups are indicating an awareness that the problem is one to be shared and hunters must get involved. WARO could be the critical tool in increasing the harvest and the obvious benefit of WARO over DOC operations is that animals are not left on the hill to rot.

SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION

New Firearm Licence Testing Process

When the media announced the new process for firearm licence applicants, which comes into effect on 1 July, they seemed to be under the impression that it would make it harder for criminals to get guns. But that is not what it is about, the whole purpose of the licence testing programme is to make all shooters safety conscious and thereby prevent unintentional shooting incidents.

Under the old system new licence applicants studied the arms code and then attended a two hour lecture and test where volunteer instructors went the extra mile to ensure that everyone understood the basic safety rules, no matter whether they had reading or learning difficulties, which resulted in a high pass rate. Under the new system, applicants will learn the Arms Code at their computer and then sit a pass or fail test at an AA or VTNZ test centre. If they pass they can then go on to attend a practical safe handling assessment run by Mountain Safety Council contractors at just 48 main centres. If they fail the theory test then they will have to re-apply and sit the test again. Whether this form of online learning and testing will suit all applicants and result in more failures, or people giving up because it is all too much hassle only time will tell. As for the practical assessment, with planned classes of 20 the instructor will have just 6 minutes to assess the competence of each candidate.

SSANZ is concerned that the significantly reduced number of locations where training is provided will make it more difficult for people living in remote locations to gain a licence and online learning will also be harder for people with learning difficulties or lacking computer skill.

More information is now available on the Police Website: <http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/news-and-updates>

Firearms in vehicles

It was reported in May that a firearm had been found leaning against a car in a hotel car park while the owner was inside celebrating duck opening season. On investigation police found a further 8 firearms in unlocked cars in the same car park. All were seized and the owners face the possibility that their firearm licence may be revoked.

This incident provides a timely reminder that we all have a responsibility to keep our firearms secure. Remember Rules 6 & 7 and take your firearms home and lock them away before socialising at the pub. If you are travelling with firearms in your vehicle, keep them out of sight, secure them to the vehicle with a lockable wire strop, remove the bolt and ammunition, and lock the vehicle. Don't leave the vehicle unattended, but if you must then keep it in sight and your absence as short as possible. Use your common sense!

Shame on them

In May it was reported that, perhaps frustrated by not scoring any ducks, some shooter(s) had been blasting road signs in Tararua District. Whether the person responsible for this wanton act of vandalism was a licensed firearm owner or not, it reflects badly on all shooters and it is totally unacceptable behaviour.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH Antler, Horn & Tusk competitions for year to 30 September 2018 and including Photographic competitions for the same period.

All competitions will be run closely to the Branch Competition rules which have been laminated and displayed in our Parkvale meeting room for the whole competition year. These notes are simply an abbreviation of them.

Key dates this year are:

- Closing date for the taking of heads, jaws and photos is **Sunday 30 September 2018**.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be in the hands of Greg Hamilton (King and Henry), or Joe Hansen (phone 027 692 6465), by **noon Monday 1 October 2018**.
- Photographs to be with Tracy Amos (06 3795454) by **noon Monday 1 October 2018**.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 13 October 2018**.

Extracts from the Rules.

1. Entrants must have been financial members of this branch at the time of shooting the trophy or taking the photograph. Junior members (18 yrs & under) to be noted on Entry forms please.
2. All entries in the Antler-horn-tusk competitions (including the Paid hunting section) must have been taken in unimpeded fair chase. No spotlighting. Paid hunting entries are to be clearly designated on Entry forms.
3. Antler-horn-tusk entries must be on a clean, full skull (or jaw). Foul entries will not be accepted.
4. A Disputes panel will be appointed by the Committee.
5. A competitor may enter more than one head in each competition.
6. Entry forms (both AH&T and photographs) should contain adequate information to illustrate the philosophies within these Competition rules are met.
7. Photos taken in N.Z. Not from a Conveyance. No dead animals or birds. Maximum size for prints is 7" x 5" (175mm x 125mm).
8. Judging will be of four categories. The categories must be designated by the entrant and clearly marked on the Entry form and the back of photo. One fully completed entry form (see note 6 above) for each photo. Members may enter up to three photos in each category.
9. The categories are:
 - a. Game animals in their wild, outdoor state. Not in any form of captivity.
 - b. Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity. The subject matter is to be relevant to hunting, hunting country, and the associated activities of hunters.
 - c. Scenic relative to the sport of hunting. Human activity should be of minor importance.

- d. Other – not covered in other categories. Subject matter is to be relevant to hunting or hunting country. Or the associated activity of hunters.

NOTE: The winning photo of each category will be retained for the Parkvale Hall display board.

Entry form at the end of the newsletter. There must be a separate entry form for each trophy or photo submitted!

NEW SEASONS TAHR AND ROAR BALLOT DATES

All ballots are now applied for online at www.doc.govt.nz . New seasons ballot info will be online from 1st August.

Haast Roar Ballot

Hooker/Landsborough & Adams Wilderness Area Tahr Ballot

Information on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz	1 st August 2018	Information on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz	1 st August 2018
Online Applications open	3 rd September 2018	Online Applications open	1 st October 2018
Applications close 4pm	28 th September 2018	Applications close 4pm	29 th October 2018
Notified by email no later than	10 th October 2018	Notified by email no later than	2 nd November 2018
Confirmations close 4pm	29 th October 2018	Confirmations close 4pm	21 st November 2018
Roar Stage 2 Opens 9am Wed- Closes 9am Friday <i>Unsuccessful applicants online only</i>	9am 7 th Nov - 9am 9 th Nov 2018	Tahr Stage 2 Opens 9am Mon - Closes 9am Wed <i>Unsuccessful applicants online only</i>	9am 26 th Nov- 9am 28 th Nov 2018
Open to all Open to all online 9am	19 th Nov 2018	Open to All Open to all online 9am	30 th Nov 2018

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Hunting Reports

Nothing at all this month! Everybody must have been chasing ducks or huddled up in front of the fire? We want to include your hunting stories and photos in the newsletter too. Stories can be sent to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com

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Buy, Sell, and Swap

If you have hunting or outdoor related items that you want to buy, sell, or swap, then we'll include these in the Newsletter free of charge (better than TradeMe). Send items (with picture if you wish) to wairarapanzda@gmail.com

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

The four club PLBs purchased with a grant application from Trust House Wairarapa are available for hire for \$10 for a weekend or \$20 for 3-14 days. Contact Aidan on 027 432 3410.

Final Thoughts

Be safe be sure.
Assume it is a person not a deer.
No meat is better than no mate.
Identify your target.

A big thank you to the team at Wairarapa Funeral Services for your printing of our monthly newsletter this year – we really have appreciated your assistance.



Hard Copy Newsletter Recipients – if you are receiving this newsletter by post but also use email, please contact the editors at wairarapanzda@gmail.com so your newsletter can be sent electronically.

Disclaimer: The contents of this Newsletter come from various sources, and the opinions or ideas expressed are not necessarily endorsed by this committee or by National Executive, nor may they reflect Branch policy.

Check us out on Facebook:  We have over 1000 likes!!
<https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA>

Thanks to Chris Cherry who keeps the branch website up-to-date. You can even look through previous newsletters! Check it out on: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>

WAIRARAPA BRANCH NZDA



**ALL ENTRIES FOR ANTLER HORN & TUSK
AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS
TO BE ON THIS FORM**



COMPETITION ENTERED FOR

NAME OF ENTRANT

ADDRESS

.....

DATE SHOT/TAKEN **LOCALITY**

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SECURING TROPHY (to be completed by entrant)

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.....

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THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION AND I UNDERSTAND THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.

SIGNATURE

DATE

.....

ANY PERSON FOUND DELIBERATELY CONTRAVENING RULES MAY HAVE ALL THEIR ENTRIES DISQUALIFIED AND MAY BE BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR AS DETERMINED BY THE BRANCH COMMITTEE.

WITNESS: I CERTIFY THAT THE ENTRANT IS A FINANCIAL MEMBER AND WAS, AT THE TIME OF TROPHY TAKING.