



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **July 2019**

General Meeting
Thursday 18 July
7:30 pm Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, 10 Cole Street

Smallbore indoor rifle shooting

General Meeting Thursday 18 July 7:30 pm

Note that this is on **THURSDAY** night (not the usual Wednesday) 7:30 pm at Masterton Miniature Rifle Club on 10 Cole Street. Come along for an evening of smallbore indoor rifle shooting. Rifles, ammo, and targets provided for \$10 per card. It is school holidays so bring the kids along (if you aren't afraid they'll show you up!). Tea and coffee facilities available. And find out more about the Alfredton hunting opportunity.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

20 JULY 2019 FIREWOOD WORKING BEE Starting 8:30 am at The Amos residence 548 Belvedere Road. We have buyers for most of the wood, but just need to finish ringing and splitting. A good turnout will have this knocked off in a couple of hours. Personal protective gear (including ear muffs) is absolutely essential!

26 JULY 2019 ENTRIES CLOSE NZDA NATIONAL COMPETITIONS More details further on ...

7 AUGUST 2019 RETURN BRANCH TROPHIES Trophy winners from 2018 please return trophies (cleaned) to 548 Belvedere Road. If nobody home please leave in the office.

16-17 AUGUST NATIONAL CONFERENCE Now in Wellington (not Porirua). Branch representation still to be determined.

21 AUGUST 2019 GENERAL MEETING Starting at the earlier time of 6:30 pm at Hunting & Fishing Queen Street Masterton. Shop will be open especially for us with some great deals.



11-15 SEPTEMBER NELSON LAKES HUNT Leaving Wednesday afternoon returning Sunday. To Sabine and D'Urville huts, Lake Rotoroa, about 2.5-3 hours' drive from Picton Ferry. There will be a maximum of 4 people, 2 people per hut, nice flat ground or sidle around Mt Misery face. Names to Martin Amos 027 3671635 Approximate costs \$340.00. Deposits will be required upon verbal confirmation of your attendance. Ferry sailings will be booked after seats have been filled.

15 SEPTEMBER BRANCH SHOOTING COMPETITIONS Gladstone Range. Details to follow.

18 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall, 7:30 pm. Speaker TBC. A great opportunity to drop off those AHT and photo entries for the Branch competition.

30 SEPTEMBER ENTRIES CLOSE BRANCH COMPETITIONS See details and entry form later in the newsletter.

19 OCTOBER ANNUAL DINNER & PRIZE-GIVING Put it on your calendar now. Starting 6:30 pm at Parkvale Hall. Fully catered. This is the Branch social event of the year so hoping to get a great turn-out

Recent Events

19 JUNE 2019 GENERAL MEETING A good turn-out of 23 people heard Sam Milligan talk about the history of Wairarapa Search & Rescue. The Branch has agreed to sponsor a "wander-track" pendant (cost \$290) to be donated to SAR.

23 JUNE 2019 HEAD-SCORING TRAINING COURSE Eight members attended with 5 doing part 1 of the course and the others part 2. Big thank you to Bob Badland and Steve for coming on a not so nice day to teach some of our members about head-scoring. We had a shared lunch thanks to all bringing a plate along. Cheers Sharon and Liz for doing kitchen duties. The new heaters sure came in handy!





News

LOCAL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

The Branch has arranged exclusive access to an 800 acre property near Alfredton. This will be used to provide hunting opportunities for our members under a permit system. Permits will cost \$50 for two people and allow you to take one animal (all reds). All permit holders will need to attend an orientation session at the property before hunting. To find out more and apply for a permit, you **need to attend and sign up at a General Meeting**. This is a deliberate attempt to encourage people to come along to meetings! If you want to take up the hunting opportunities, then you need to get involved with the Branch!

SUBSIDISED HELICOPTER TRIPS

The next window for subsidised helicopter trips will be September-October 2019. Branch members can arrange their own parties to fly into the Tararuas with Amalgamated Helicopters and the Branch will contribute \$500 per trip. Offer is valid September-October 2019 with Amalgamated Helicopters only. All members of the party must belong to the Wairarapa branch, and there is a limit of one subsidised trip per member. Contact Martin on 027 3671635 to arrange your \$500 subsidy.

PARKVALE HALL

For hall bookings contact Martin on 027 3671635.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

A huge effort by SAR, including several branch members in the search for Darren Myers. A sad conclusion with the finding of a body, but closure for the family. If you're interested in joining SAR contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

HUTS

No reports.

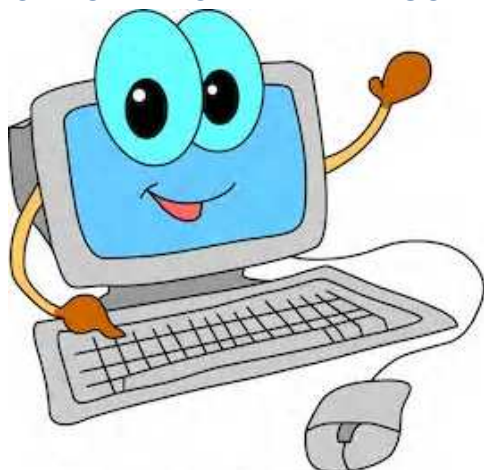
DEER PARK

We have 25 bales of baleage for winter feed ready to stack up at the Park.

RANGE AND SHOOTING

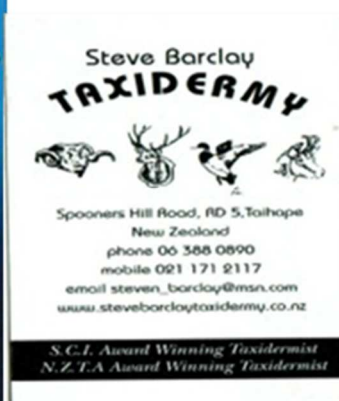
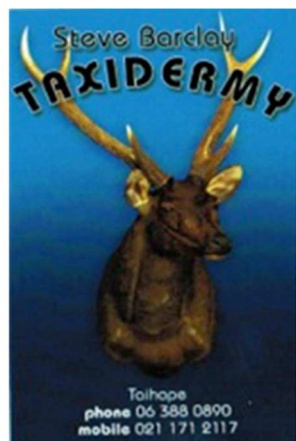
When you visit the WPSSC range at Gladstone from now on can you please make sure that you carry your firearms licence and NZDA membership card with you. Please do not be offended if a member asks to see it. Measures are now being taken to check ALL non-members and visitors. If anybody has any questions regarding the range please contact Alex on 027435921. Our annual shooting competition is tentatively scheduled for 15 September.

WEBSITE UPDATES – WE NEED YOU



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Since our previous website coordinator Chris Cherry stepped down we have struggled to find somebody to keep the Branch website up to date. Your committee are all IT dinosaurs, so one of you younger guys/gals who know your URL from your WWW, please put up your hand to help us out. It is not an onerous job. Just involves uploading the newsletter and calendar dates every month. Please contact Martin on 027 3671635 or wairarapanzda@gmail.com if you can do this.



WAIRARAPA BRANCH Antler, Horn & Tusk competitions for year to 30 September 2019 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 **Monday 30 September 2019**.

- 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 Tuesday 1 October 2019**.
- Photographs to be with Tracy Amos (06 3795454) by **noon Tuesday 1 October 2019**.
- Entries can also be dropped off at the General Meeting 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall **18 September 2019**
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 19 October 2019**.

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!

NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

National Competition Entries

National Antler, Horn & Tusk and Photographic competitions are now open. Entry forms, Douglas Score sheets, photographs and payment must be at the National Office no later than 5 pm on Friday 26 July 2019. Entry forms are available by e-mailing wairarapanzda@gmail.com. Bearing in mind the membership problems, NZDA will honour membership for 19/20. This means that any renewing member who has paid and is still waiting for a membership card – your membership will be honoured from the date of your 19/20 invoice payment.

FIREARMS MODIFICATIONS & BUYBACK

Police are currently designing the process for engaging gunsmiths approved to undertake this work, in accordance with the new firearm regulations. As it stands, Police have not approved gunsmiths under this scheme. Once the appropriate process has been finalised, Police will release the details for gunsmiths to apply to be approved for the purposes of this scheme.

Continue to store firearms safely as we work through this process. Police have spoken to several gunsmiths who are receiving firearms for modifications, even though they are not currently approved, which is causing issues for them. There is no guarantee that firearm owners will be reimbursed for modifications that have been completed before the details of this process have been announced.

We are well aware of the impacts of this and we are working to address this issue as quickly as possible. You will appreciate how important it is that we get this process right. Police would like to thank the firearms community for their patience as we work to get this process in place.

Many thanks,
Inspector Morgan Gray

COLFO ON FIREARMS LAW CHANGES

Many licensed owners are now aware of the value placed on the Prohibited Firearms and Magazine that you own and the process for handing them in. If not visit the Police website where you will find the details: <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/firearms-and-safety/changes-firearms-law-prohibited-firearms>

For some of you the prices offered are fair and reasonable, for others they are far below what one should expect. For parts you only get 70% of their value even if brand new. There is no compensation for now redundant ammunition, reloading tools, accessories, security, safes and so on which is a gross injustice. Further, if you wish to retain any of the newly prohibited items you are required to apply for a NEW endorsement at a cost of \$204.

COLFO is planning to take legal action, likely to be by way of a class action and will be seeking financial assistance from all licensed firearms owners. Legal action requires careful planning and cannot be rushed. There are more legislation changes on the horizon and we would be foolish to act now before the full portrait is complete and on show. There is a possibility that with enough funding, we can take up multiple issues through the justice system. We will be requesting contributions soon, we are in the process of setting up the best way to receive funds for our legal fights. This will be set up so that it benefits the majority of firearm owners rather than individual organisations. We need hundreds of thousands of dollars for the litigation ahead and we need it from you, our community. It is so vitally important that we all come together on this and we all back each other through this process.

A reminder that while your emotions are being tested, please be cautious in what you do and what you say, especially on social media. Some comments are inviting the attention of police and media when rashly stating they may take unlawful action. The Amnesty has 6 months to run until 20 December, there is time to take what steps you deem necessary.

We are concerned that the first collection event in Christchurch on 13 July may become a media circus. Attending this event could pose risks for both your emotional and physical wellbeing and by being identified potentially put your future security at risk. You have 3 other options for handing in your firearms.

Many in our community are feeling stressed, first by the sudden new legislation, then by the loss of their hobby or sport and now by the confiscation of their property through no fault of their own and compensation falling short of being fair. Look out for your mates and talk the issues through with friends who understand. It is important that we unite as one and that means backing each other up and being there to support friends and families. Utilise others in your community for help if you need to.

Please forward this to you shooting mates, clubs and associations.

Kind regards
Nicole McKee
Secretary Council of Licenced Firearms Owners Inc.

LOWER NORTH ISLAND RED DEER FOUNDATION

We have had a mostly constructive year in terms of the long running Ruahine Deer Plan process and an at times busy year in regard to the still going 2018 WARO (Wild Animal Recovery Operations) review.

The Ruahine Deer Plan was into the meaty issues of resource allocation and alternative control regimes, additional monitoring and indicators to allow fair assessment of deer impacts and identify if and where additional control is needed. Everyone is still talking and want to push on. In the meantime the old status quo closure and restriction regime remains. Resourcing issues for DoC have caused there to be some confusion as to future progress so currently (mid-June) we are uncertain where it will head.

That the 2018 WARO review has been farcical is about the kindest I can be. Set appalling timings the local DoC offices and hunters did their best only to be stabbed in the back by a faceless national team trying to open nearly everything. We await the outcome of the Feb submission process. The Foundations lawyers at our request have put DoC on notice that we will take them back to court should they continue to ignore the courts decision in regard to some local areas.

I became involved in the Tahr issue in September last year as a co-opted member of the Tahr Foundation. Our small group thanks in large part to the help of the Duley's and their production team and all the guys who moved our material via facebook and all those who donated (\$200K) managed to get the attention of the Government and the minister. Her extremist plan to all but wipe out the tahr was knocked back by people power to something more reasonable. The control plans are still evolving and no one should be under any illusion that the tahr are safe.

Interesting to note that the worst approaches to consultation (WARO, Tahr, Firearms) about changes is from a government which marketed itself is being for increased consultation and giving the people a say. Talk is cheap.

We have had a range of other issues to contend with including Firearms legislative changes, OIR system review, various regional policy reviews and so on. No doubt there will be more firearms law change proposals in the near future. One thing that adds some light to the end of the tunnel is a recent decision by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (a Ministry of Primary Industries committee) to note that best practice for aerial 1080 operations would be to include deer repellent. This makes 1080 operations without deer repellent easier to challenge. Well done Gary H.

Gordon George, President,

BETTER UNDERSTANDING THE KEY TO RECREATIONAL ACCESS

WorkSafe NZs recent policy clarification regarding the Health and Safety at Work Act and the current Walking Access Act Review are timely initiatives that will help preserve New Zealanders access to recreational opportunities, according to Game Animal Council Chair Don Hammond.

“The ability to responsibly access public conservation land and other recreational assets is a key part of what make New Zealand a haven for outdoor enthusiasts,” says Hammond.

“Unfortunately, over recent years we have seen this access threatened as visitor numbers have increased, public behaviour has at times not lived up to expectations and uncertainty has existed over the responsibility provisions within the 2015 Health and Safety at Work Act.”

The Walking Access Act Review gives hunters and other outdoor recreationists the perfect opportunity to identify barriers to access as well as giving landowners the opportunity to explain the challenges they face providing for access in certain circumstances.

“It is our hope that this process will lead to better understanding of the issue from both sides of the fence and it is therefore very important that as many hunters as possible take part in the Review. The Game Animal Council will also be submitting on behalf of the sector.”

The Game Animal Council is extremely encouraged by the recent policy clarification that has come out of WorkSafe NZ regarding how the Health and Safety at Work Act should be applied to recreational access. “The clarification quite clearly removes the uncertainty that has led to the erosion of public access to recreational opportunities in a number of locations around New Zealand.”

WorkSafe has found that the Health and Safety at Work Act only applies to recreational access when that is affected by workplace activities or is part of a workplace. This means a landowner whose property is being accessed for recreation is only responsible for risks arising from the work or workplace, and is not responsible for the risks associated with the recreational activities.

“The clarification is very clear that landowners, including farmers are not expected to manage the risks from recreational activity on their land.”

“The Game Animal Council is grateful to those organisations that sought this clarification and we look forward to a better understanding of responsibilities and the enhancement of public access as a result. The Game Animal Council also encourages both landowners and users to advise each other of any hazards as safety is not just driven by legislation, but is ultimately everyone’s responsibility,” says Hammond.

The Walking Access Act Review’s public submission process closes on 2 July and is available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legislation/walkingaccessreview/>.

The NZ Game Animal Council is a statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation.

Contact:

Don Hammond, Chair

Phone 0274885940

don.hammond@nzgac.org.nz



Hunting Reports

A great report this month from Brad Gardiner. Stories and photos can be sent to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com

A couple of good ones from the 2019 roar

By Brad Gardiner

For the 2019 roar there was a bit more pressure on me than usual as I was going to be short on time and the property that I have been hunting for the last ten years had been sold so wanted to make the most of it while I could.

It is a place that I could hunt as I liked and mostly had to myself so could manage the herd. When I started there was only a handful on the place and most of them where young stags and bugger all hinds. By leaving

them alone and only taking rubbish type stags out I have been surprised how quickly the herd has built up and with a bit of age on them produced some respectable heads. But that has all changed now as it has fallen into the government loophole of overseas investors buying up our farming land to plant into trees.

I had been watching a good sized mob of stags during velvet time on a scrubby face growing out so knew there was two reasonably good ones amongst a lot of younger ones. There was also a fallow buck hanging with them from time to time which was unusual as there is next to no fallow around this area.

The start of April rolled around and I started heading over there scouting it out for a good one but only bumping into hinds and young stags. On the first weekend of April a mate Damian and I were up there for a look and a listen when we heard our first roar. It wasn't where we intended to hunt so left it to it and headed out the back. When we got out there all was quiet and we only had seen one hind and its fawn so were thinking we had made a bad move. I let out my first roar for the season and listened and waited. Nothing. Maybe a couple of minutes passed then I happened to look down the hill and there was that fallow buck sneaking up to us for a look. A quick whisper between us had me make my mind up that I was going to take him. A front on shot and down he went kicking out and sliding down the hill. We had a look around the face with our binos in case the shot spooked out a hiding stag but nothing showed. Down to the buck we went and I was pleased with our decision. A nice respectable animal.



A respectable bonus buck from an area not known for fallow

A couple of days later I headed back for an evening hunt to try and catch up with that stag we had heard. I headed up the gully and headed straight to where a wallow was and as I expected it had been used. I let out a roar and got an instant answer. He was on the ridge above and to my left. He was instantly on the move but doubling around behind me. I was worried he would come back and down and cut my sent so shot back as quickly as I could to cut him off. I got there well before him and it gave me time to get set up in a good position and let out a little moan to direct him to me. It worked and he came zigzagging down the face stopping to roar a couple of times as he went. I had borrowed a mate's 6.5 creedmoor to have a play with so wanted the stag to get reasonably close to take the shot as I was unfamiliar with the rifle. It also gave me a good chance to assess the stag to see if it was a shooter. I also have my gopro on in these situations and have caught some good footage over the years. I let him get to about thirty meters and by then I had made my mind up I was going to take him so took a shoulder shot. The shot was good and down he went but after thirty seconds or so he was trying to get up but ended up sliding down the hill towards me which made an easy follow up shot into the neck to seal the deal (I always stay for a minute or two where I am with rifle ready for such situations like this. Particularly with roaring stags as they can take a bit to keep down). So it ended up being a good couple of days hunting with a couple of heads and plenty of meat to deal with.



An even 12 scored two days after the fallow with the Kimber 6.5 Creedmoor – a nice lightweight rifle

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 Fax: 06 379-6689
 Email: ross@outdoorsupplies.co.nz
 Web site: www.outdoorsupplies.co.nz

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 – we really appreciate 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>

The website is at: <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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**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.