



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **June 2019**

General Meeting
Wednesday 19 June
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

Speaker: Sam Milligan

General Meeting Wednesday 19 June 7:30 pm

This month we welcome Sam Milligan who will talk about Wairarapa Search & Rescue. A timely topic given the recent large search involving a number of Branch members in the Tararua's. It will be an interesting presentation. Followed by supper. Please make an effort to come out and support the club and the speaker.



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

19 JUNE 2019 GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall, 7:30 pm. See details above

18 JULY 2019 GENERAL MEETING on **THURSDAY** night (not the usual Wednesday) 7:30 pm at Smallbore Masterton on 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.

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

16-17 AUGUST NATIONAL CONFERENCE Porirua.

21 AUGUST 2019 GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker TBC.

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 0273671635 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.

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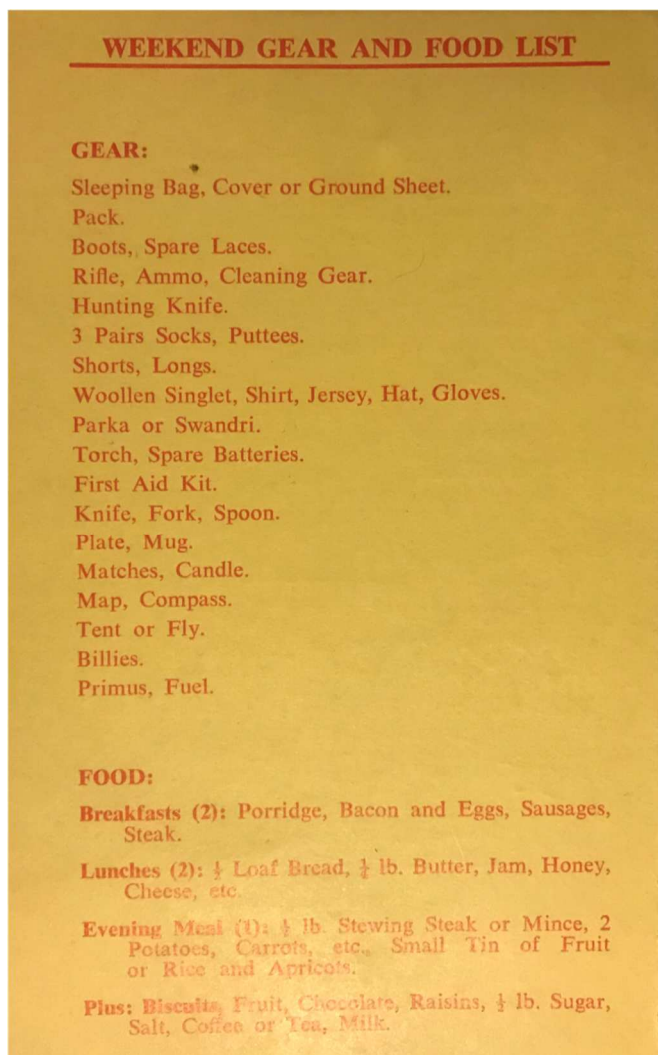
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Recent Events

11 MAY 2019 WORKING BEE Parkvale Hall. About 6 volunteers turned up and weed-eated, mowed, pruned, vacuumed, and repaired flashing around the hall. Thanks to all those who came along.

15 MAY 2019 GENERAL MEETING Speaker Lee McKinstry gave a really interesting presentation on branch history, along with insights about how things have changed, and how things have stayed the same. The 15 members present all really enjoyed this presentation, and shame there weren't a few more along. Lee left us with his notebook of club activities from the 1970s. I found the gear list below as useful today as it was 40+ years ago – except no GPS, PLBs, UHF radios, or backcountry meals in those days!



23-26 MAY 2019 NELSON LAKES HUNT Sean Roberts gave the committee an entertaining account of his long weekend with the Amos's. Beautiful country, cold frosty mornings, numerous trampers, a couple of deer spooked, and a chamois sighted in the distance. Sounded like a good trip

14 APRIL 2019 ANNUAL WAIRARAPA NZDA CLAY SHOOT Scores from the shoot (out of 40 targets) can now be released – after the passage of time has helped heal the embarrassment felt by some

37	Phil	23	Simon	17	Regan
33	Tim	19	Rob	15	Richard
28	Libby	17	Peter	10	Benno

News

FIREWOOD

Still wood for sale. Prices are: \$50/cubic metre to branch members, \$75/m³ to non-members plus \$10 delivery. Wood orders to Martin 027 3671635.

LOCAL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

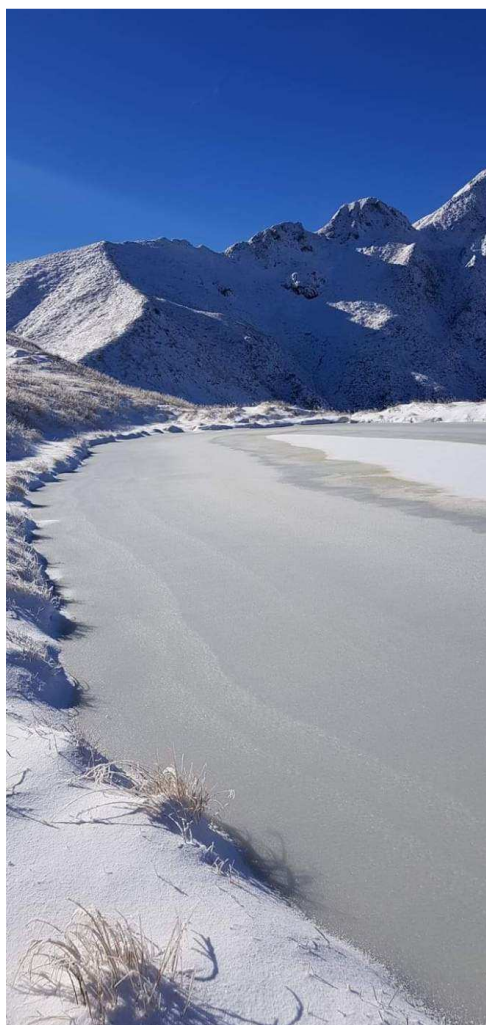
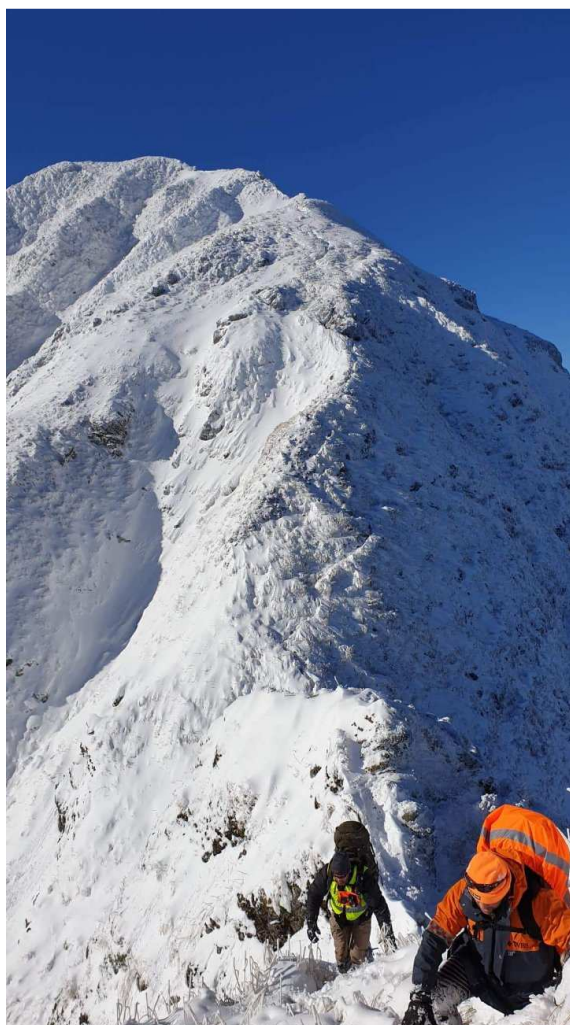
Please text Martin on 027 3671635 if you are interested in getting your name down for one of the Alfredton hunts. Cost of \$100 per animal (all reds). Dates will be arranged following request from the landowner. These could be weekdays, but we'll aim for weekends. Preference given to those who are new to hunting and involved in branch activities.

PARKVALE HALL

Working bee held on 11 May. For hall bookings contact Martin on 027 3671635.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Several branch members were involved in the search for a missing trumper over Queen's Birthday weekend. Photos below are from Brad Gardiner. This search is ongoing with all still hoping to achieve a result for the family. If you're interested in joining SAR, come along to hear Sam Milligan at our June meeting or contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.



HUTS

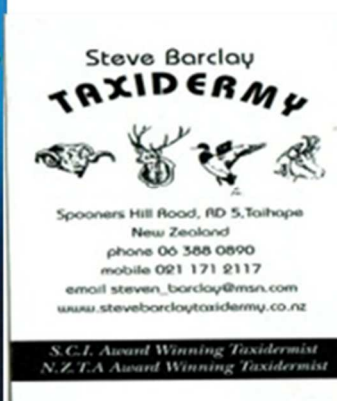
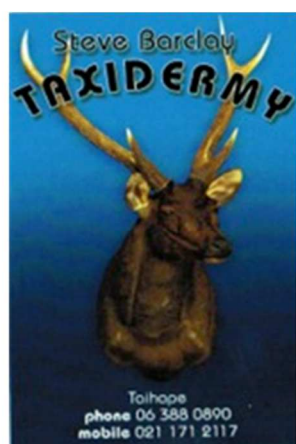
No reports.

DEER PARK

The stumpy stag yielded 79 kg of meat which has been turned into small-goods. Remaining stock are healthy.

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.



NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS

2019/20 Membership Renewals

We have received a letter of apology from National Office about the state of memberships following a “software glitch”. Currently our club is showing as only having 20 financial members – which is clearly not even close

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.

WALKING ACCESS CONSULTATIONS

The Ministry for Primary Industries is reviewing the Walking Access Act 2008.

“We want to hear from you and people in your networks interested in access to the outdoors, so we get the best possible results from the review. The Act is about increasing free access to tracks, trails and other areas for all sorts of recreation associated with walking - biking, horse riding, four wheel driving, access by Māori to sites of significance, surfing, hunting and fishing. Tracks, trails or areas can be in, close to or far from towns and cities.

One way that you or people in your networks can contribute feedback to this review is by attending one of the three public meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings to find out more about the review, ask

questions and share their views. Feedback will be captured and analysed along with the written feedback we receive.”

The closest meeting is **17 June 2019** in Wellington at the Ministry for Primary Industries, Charles Fergusson Building, 34-38 Bowen Street, 6 pm to 8 pm.

FIREARMS LAW CHANGES

As you know, on 12 April 2019 new provisions in the Arms Act 1983 came into force prohibiting most semi-automatic firearms and some pump action shotguns; and certain large capacity magazines. It also signalled an amnesty and buy-back scheme.

The implementation of these requirements are underway. An amnesty is already in place during which possession offences do not apply for newly-prohibited items and also allows for any type of firearm to be handed in to Police. The buy-back pricing schedule and supporting regulations have not been confirmed to date.

The POL67S is an interim form, designed to enable Police to receive and receipt firearms from the public, when they have been brought into the station. The level of detail on the form is limited and purely designed to trace the movements of the firearm and to record the intention of the owner (Amnesty / Buy-back / Endorsement seeker). As you know, Police have been encouraging licence holders to securely store their firearms in the interim rather than bringing them into Police stations.

Endorsements; If someone who handed in their firearm to Police while they await the outcome of their endorsements application is advised that their endorsement is not approved, that firearm may still be eligible for buy-back depending on the criteria when they are finalised. The fact that police already have the firearm in their possession does not prevent the owner from applying for compensation.

Our key message to people remains the same. For those who hold a newly-prohibited firearm (or any firearm), to continue to store them safely and securely while the details for buy-back are being confirmed by Government.

I'd appreciate it if you could advise your networks that at this stage, we are waiting on an announcement from Government on when the buy-back scheme will take effect. We appreciate that many firearms licence holders are waiting for this announcement.

In the meantime, I'd also appreciate it if you could remind your networks to spread the word about completing the online notification form – which enables people to inform Police of their intent to hand in their firearm/s during the amnesty and buy-back period.

Thanks again for your support as we work through this process.
Inspector Morgan Gray morgangray@Police.govt.nz

Changes to Import Permit Requirements

All parts of A cat firearms now require a permit to import. This has been confirmed by Police who have the following to say in a post on their website “More types of parts (including for standard firearms) require permits to import than previously.” AND “A permit to import is now also required for all parts of a standard firearm (not just the action).” We understand that police AOs are now rushed off their feet dealing with import permits because of this change to the legislation. An unintended consequence of the rushed legislation perhaps?

Check your firearms

A lot of firearm owners still don't realise how many firearms are affected by the new legislation. For example, my grandfather's old bolt-action Stevens .22 is now illegal because its tubular magazine holds more than 10 shots!

Have you checked all your firearms, magazines and parts to see if you hold any now prohibited items? You will need to make a list of make, model, calibre and serial number and we suggest value of all affected items for when you need to report them to Police, or apply for an exemption or transfer to your collector's endorsement. It is easy to forget about the odd magazine or part, so it pays to be thorough. Remember some firearms, while not prohibited in themselves become so as a result of their magazine capacity.



Hunting Reports

This week we have something a bit different from Bob Burgess. Stories and photos can be sent to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com

Always a good day in the Aorangi

Bob Burgess, Project Manager, Aorangi Restoration Trust

Despite the deluge a month ago, the forest floor was typical for beech forest on dry slopes – a covering of fallen leaves (and branches and tree trunks); but with a green sprinkling of tiny beech seedlings. It's mid-May.



As we climbed, we found more variety, with more and more podocarps and broadleaf trees. Big trees. Matai, miro, rimu, rata, hinau. Four metres around the miro trunk.

10 of us. The five Hutt Valley branch deerstalkers pulled the average age down from 70.

After an hour and a bit (Joe had said about 35 minutes), we rediscovered the exclosure plot, an experimental area, established by the Forest Service (actually by Joe) in October 1984 to exclude browsing animals and assess the recovery of vegetation. A 20 x 20 m fence, 1.8 m high.

Joe reckoned that his colleague Sean Husheer would have been the last to visit and record the vegetation. That was 2004, 15 years ago.



We found the fence smashed by a fallen tree and the roots of a large rata growing out under the fence over the last 35 years had lifted the wire mesh off the ground. Both would have allowed browsing animals to get into the exclosure, although there was no obvious evidence of pig rooting.

Is there a gate, Joe? Naah, just climb over in the corner. Fence battens forming the ladder were nailed into the posts.

At a glance, the undergrowth was very sparse. Inside the plot were three 1.4 m tall mahoe seedlings, which we didn't see outside the fence. Otherwise, little difference inside the exclosure and outside – where we also rediscovered markers for the control area, a second 20 x 20 m unfenced plot with trees tagged (numbered) for re-measuring diameter a breast height.

Clive disappeared to collect seeds. He's been propagating native tree seedlings for years – notably local rata. On nearby Rata Ridge, he's established a trap-line.

Joe, Mike and I marked out and re-identified the 9 intersects at 5 m spacing within the exclosure – finding most of the 35-year-old aluminium pegs, numbered on orange permolat. We busied ourselves recording all plants within a shortish string length (1.14 m long) from each marker peg. We checked these with what Joe had found in 1984.

Meanwhile the hunters and Roger were off in the distance chattering about the broken fence.

After good hour and a half Clive ambled back with a sack full of seeds and the three botanisers needed a drink.



We gathered around the smashed fence. It was whole!

Gary had hand-sawed through the fallen trunk. They'd hefted it out of the way, using it to block holes under the wire mesh. Paul was winding a fence batten around the slack top wire to tighten it up. Neil had a hammer. So did Brock and they were hammering a new batten across the break in the smashed one. They needed Ted's shoulder to provide stability. Roger was overseeing.

The big rata inside the exclosure is now 109 cm in diameter, an increase of 18.5 cm over 35 years.



A great day. Thanks Joe. Yeah, he said, always a good day in the Aorangi

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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 – we really appreciate your assistance.



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