



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **April 2020**

**No General Meeting this month**



For obvious reasons there is **no general meeting on 15 April.**

It is a tough time for all of us, with the roar in full swing and no opportunity to get out on the hills. On behalf of the Committee we ask all our Members to stay safe and well and follow government guidelines.

The Game Animal Council and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association are urging all hunters to **do the right thing and stay at home while New Zealand is at COVID-19 Alert Level Four.**

NZDA President Trevor Chappell says that while he is incredibly disappointed, staying home is the right thing to do. "It is heart-breaking as a hunter to be stuck at home during the roar, but as hunters we also have our part to play to beat COVID-19," Chappell says. "The better we all comply with the restrictions the sooner we will get this virus under control and we can go hunting again."

"It is also really important that we help each other out during this difficult time. So much about hunting is doing it with your family and your mates, so make sure you keep in touch with each other and perhaps spend the time planning that next epic trip you will do together."

Please keep up-to-date with all the most recent guidance around COVID19 at <https://covid19.govt.nz/>.

This month's newsletter is a bumper edition with plenty to read about while you're stuck at home, including three recent hunting reports. Unlike the New Zealand Listener, Woman's Day, New Zealand Woman's Weekly, and North and South magazines, we will continue to publish during the pandemic!

Finally, a big shout out to all the essential workers out there in the health, police, supermarket, and transportation sectors, and those keeping our primary industries running. Kia kaha!

## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**4-5 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT** Cancelled

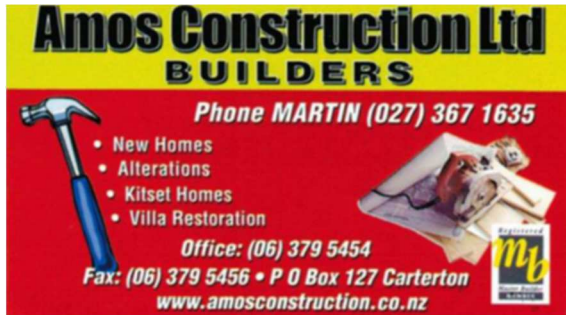
**15 APRIL GENERAL MEETING** Cancelled.

**17 MAY DEER PARK WORKING BEE** Depending on COVID-status. Details in May newsletter.

20 MAY GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall from 7:30 pm. To be confirmed in May newsletter.

25-26 JULY NATIONAL CONFERENCE Waikato.

20 SEPTEMBER BRANCH COMPETITION SHOOT Gladstone range.



## Recent Events

18 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was attended by 24 members. Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing generously sponsored the evening by donating a Hunters Element jacket worth \$499 as a door prize. Pete Cunningham the lucky winner (and no he didn't do the draw!).



## President's address

President Martin Amos touched on some of the highlights of the past year including:

- **Hunting opportunities** at Wanganui and through the Alfredton property lease, as well as a trip to Nelson Lakes. Nobody took up offer of self-organised subsidised Tararua fly-in trips, so we have gone back to organised weekends.
- **Health & Safety** – increased need for compliance. Reminder about availability of club PLBs for hire and need to stay safe in the roar.
- **Range & Shooting** - special thanks to Alex Beesley, for organising various shooting competitions throughout the year, including recent clay target shoot. Reminder that members are entitled to free use of Gladstone Range up to 6 times per year.
- **Memberships** – frustration with ongoing issues around centralized membership from NATEX and situation where nobody has received invoices for 2020-21 yet. Currently 126 branch members.
- **Deer Park** requires ongoing work with working bee scheduled for May. Security cameras installed during the year. Thanks to Ray Wallace and Phil Gray for all their efforts.
- **Huts** – Just signed annual maintenance agreement with DOC. Trying to arrange helicopter time for maintenance work.
- **Firewood Working Bees** – Sporadic, but still the club's major fundraiser. Thanks to Aidan Bichan for arranging trees.
- **Committee** – Thanks to committee. Looking for a couple of new committee members this year.

## Treasurer's report

Sean Roberts presented the club's accounts. The financial statement was prepared by Bill Duncan Financial Services. Total society funds were \$112,881 made up of \$90,978 of assets, term deposits of \$15,192, and a cheque account balance of \$6,712. Total income for 2019/20 was \$8,936 which was made up mainly from firewood sales (\$3,508), memberships (\$1,106), and the annual dinner and auction (\$3,549). Annual expenditure was \$8,444 which included hall costs (insurance, rates, power etc) of \$3,585 and costs associated with the dinner (\$3,149). The net profit from annual dinner was only \$400 – less than previous years because many auction items had to be purchased rather than being donated. Income from memberships has also greatly decreased because of an increase in capitation from National Office.

The full financial statement will soon be available at [www.societies.govt.nz](http://www.societies.govt.nz). Click on “search for a society” under online services and enter the organization number 216621.

Bill Duncan was re-appointed as auditor for 2020/21.

Subscription fees for 2020/21 were set. Capitation from National Office has continued to increase and will be \$111 for each senior member (up from \$38 a few years ago). However the AGM voted to keep the annual subscription for senior members at \$120 for year starting 1 March 2021. This means the Branch only receives \$9 for each senior member!! Superannuant memberships were raised from \$55 to \$60 to prevent the Branch making a loss (as capitation will be \$58). All other classes of membership to remain at same rates as 2020/21.

## Election of officers for 2020/21

President: Martin Amos

Vice-president: Andrew Dennes

Secretary: Aidan Bichan

Treasurer: Sean Roberts

Committee:

Tracy Amos

Phil Gray

Alex Beesley

Pete Cunningham

Brad Gardiner

Lloyd Rayner

Richard O'Driscoll

Derek Foley

Welcome to new committee member Derek Foley!

Please support your committee and others with designated responsibilities. A successful club is one where all the members pitch in!

### General business

Led by the South Waikato Branch, several branches have discussed calling a Special General Meeting to have the current National Executive (National President, National Vice President and National Treasurer) removed from office and their positions within the NZDA National Executive. A number of branches voted for a special AGM, which was postponed because of COVID-19.

Although there is a strong feeling of unease amongst members about handling of National Office premises in Wellington and finances, branch position is to watch developments, with likely discussion at National Conference.

Request to provide material for newsletter and reminder about \$50 prize for best story.

**20-22 MARCH ORGANISED TARARUA FLY-IN TRIP** Two parties flew in Friday and finally got out just before lockdown on Tuesday 24 March. No deer shot, but still waiting for trip reports ....



### News

#### FROM WAIRARAPA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

As you're aware New Zealand is in lockdown to eliminate COVID-19. That means everyone needs to stay at home. The number one priority is stopping the spread of the virus.

Every person who doesn't play their part risks the lockdown being in place longer than the initial four weeks. Everyone needs to stay home and stop all interactions with others outside of your bubble, unless you are part of an essential service. As key stakeholders in our local response, we will touch base with you about a coordinated volunteer/welfare effort across the region.

We understand there are lots of people eager to help. Our priority is making sure volunteers are not contributing to the spread of the virus. Any volunteer effort needs to be targeted, coordinated, safe and utilised in the appropriate manner.

The best thing people can do at the moment is phone their friends and family and touch base with their neighbours to make sure they are supported with getting supplies. In the meantime, the Welfare Desk within the Wairarapa Emergency Operations Centre is your contact: [wai.welfare@wrem.nz](mailto:wai.welfare@wrem.nz)

During this time, we are encouraging volunteer groups to ensure their own contact lists are up to date with current phone, email and social media information. They could also look at how they could provide support from their homes, for example, setting up a community telephone tree.

#### ALFREDTON HUNTS

Parties have continued to have success with over 20 animals being taken off the property (see story in Hunting Reports). Access closed until after NZ moves off Level-4, but contact Martin on 027 367 1635 to book.



## NATIONAL OFFICE

### Membership Renewal

Invoices have still not come out yet, so none of us are actually financial members!

### Appointment of CEO

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association has appointed keen hunter and highly experienced lawyer **Gwyn Thurlow** as the organisation's Chief Executive and General Counsel.

An enthusiastic and active hunter, Gwyn Thurlow joined the NZDA in 2003. He is currently a member of the Wellington NZDA branch, where he is the treasurer and vice president. He is also secretary of the NZDA National Heritage Trust and on the committee overseeing construction of the National Hunting Museum and Deerstalkers House in Wellington.

Professionally, Gwyn has extensive experience in the private sector and corporate legal world and holds both a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Management and Marketing. He is currently practising at the top-tier national legal firm Chapman Tripp in its banking and finance team. He has previously worked for the major international accounting firm KPMG.

NZDA President Trevor Chappell says Gwyn Thurlow's appointment is a significant step forward for the organisation. "We are living in challenging times and it is vital that we have an energetic, highly skilled and passionate advocate to take our organisation forward", Mr Chappell said. "Delegates at last year's national conference recognised this and made it clear that the NZDA needs to have a highly skilled and astute Chief Executive who can put it on the firm footing necessary to grow," Trevor Chappell says. "The National Executive has taken that sentiment on board and conducted a robust and thorough recruitment process. "While that process has been lengthy, we were determined to find the right person to implement and manage modern systems, advocate for our members and all recreational hunters and bring a professional skillset and business acumen to the table. "We have found that person in Gwyn Thurlow and our National Executive is pleased to be able to appoint someone of his capability and experience

Trevor Chappell says Mr Thurlow is a hands-on member and is not afraid of getting stuck in. "Gwyn helped organise the NZDA's last two annual conferences in Wellington, as well as rewriting our constitution to make it fit for the modern world. "He also co-presented the NZDA's submission on the Arms Legislation Bill to the Select Committee, so we have seen how he operates and the skills he brings to bear", Trevor Chappell says. "This will stand the NZDA in good stead for the coming years. "The National Executive has full confidence Gwyn will hit the ground running, ready to tackle the many challenges we as an organisation face," he says. "These include growing membership, retaining hunters' social licence to operate and implementing the systems necessary to make the NZDA as efficient and cost effective as possible."

Gwyn Thurlow said he was excited by the challenge and as a keen hunter and proud NZDA member understood the expectation that comes with the role. "I'm looking forward to leading the NZDA and helping it and the wider hunting community face the significant and very real challenges which already exist, or are developing," Mr Thurlow says. "It is a big job but I look forward to rising to that challenge on behalf of our members and all recreational hunters."

Gwyn Thurlow will officially start in his new roles as Chief Executive and in-house legal counsel on 1 June 2020.

Regards,  
Trevor Chappell  
National President - NZ Deerstalkers' Assn

## NZDA - A Perspective by Richard Wells (Vice President Nelson Branch)

### Check Behind then Go Forward

It has been a pretty bumpy few years in terms of feeling secure in our sports of hunting and shooting. Outrageous and brutal terrorism in our country understandably escalating public fear of firearm ownership, an increased budget and focus on aerial pesticide use to reduce effect of introduced predators on native wildlife, the plan to eradicate Tb from Molesworth which went badly awry in terms of bykill on the recently rejuvenated deer herd, uncertainty in tenure review and land sale processes and of course “Tahr-mageddon”.



Churchill famously said “never has so much been owed by so many to so few” after the young fighter pilots from many countries prevented enemy forces from dominating England airspace and thus certain invasion. The few for the many.

NZDA is a small organisation of less than 10,000 members which in the context of hunters and firearms owners (240,000+) in the country is a very small %. But...and it's a big but.....NZDA remains the accepted outward face of the hunting and shooting fraternity of New Zealand. Why is that? Easy...brand and credibility. But you don't invent a brand, it's earned and NZDA's consistent presence, in Wellington and the regions, with a reasoned and facts based approach has done that. It's credibility based on knowledge with regard firearms safety, game animal and recreational hunting value, management and importance, hunter training and many other matters means it is NZDA that get asked to comment, engage or be part of discussions that affect all hunters and shooters.

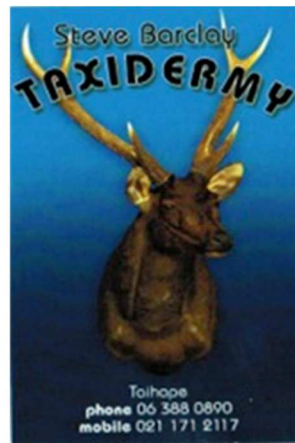
Of late it may be fair to say that we are still getting a tough deal from Government agencies...but to that I say...”what deal would we have been given if we were not there at all!”

As an organisation we must do better, administratively, politically and in communicating with ourselves, potential new members and the community at large. That need is recognised...delivering on it harder than we like, will take longer than we like and cost more than we like. But it must and will be done.

But there is one certainty.....without members NZDA is nothing, without NZDA hunters and shooters are reliant on webgroups and blogs to vent their feelings and frustrations....but there will be no peak body in Wellington (where the policy and decision makers that hold our sport in their hands, operate) and where we need to be day in day out.

Here endeth the lesson..if it sounds like a call to arms that's cos it is.....we must stay the course for our and our future hunters' sake.

Cheers  
Richard



## Hunting Reports

To try and attract more content, the **Club is giving \$50 prize for the best newsletter story in 2020.** Open to all members, so **please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com)**

Three great stories this month. Please keep these coming. However, we will not be printing stories about hunting taking place during the Level-4 lockdown. If you have deer on the back of your property then good for you, but the rest of us don't want to have our noses rubbed in it! Stories and photos from before the lockdown, and even from years gone by all welcome ☺

### Solo trip by Lloyd Rayner

I was lucky enough to get away before the lockdown for a few days. I went hunting for chamois and tahr on the West Coast. I ended up going on my own as my hunting mate had work commitments. After the ferry and a 6 hour drive, I pulled up at the Whataroa River for the ride in the kerosene taxi.

4 days tenting at altitude, what could go wrong?

Landing in my favourite West Coast hunting spot (the only place I've hunted on the West Coast), setup my base camp and got my overnight pack sorted. Time to find out if I had done enough up hill training. 30 minutes later, NO I hadn't, but after two and half more hours I was at my chosen over night spot with 4 more hours of day light.

I carried on to the saddle to have a look into the next catchment and immediately spotted 6 chamois; stalking in to about 150 m. I took some photos as there were 3 does and kids, after watching them for a few minutes I carried on around the ridge heading north stopping to glass.





As I went I soon spotted a buck feeding on its own 500m away. So I dropped out of sight and closed the gap down to 209 m close enough for the 7 mm Rem mag.



One down and still 2 hours of day light to go. I spent the rest of the day watching chamois and 1 nice bull tahr in the scrub, but not for long enough to close the gap and have a shot.

Day 1 down, day 2 started with me shooting a tahr nanny from my sleeping bag only to watch it stumble and fall off a bluff. Bugger.

I spent the morning watching chamois, then heading back to my main camp before the forecast rain hit. After a long downhill walk and the loss of even more sweat, I got back to camp and sat down for some much needed rest, only to spot 4 more chamois straight opposite camp, in a waterfall we call the staircase.

I watched them feed for about an hour before they walked out of sight only to come back out, just above the river. To tempting for me not to gather some more meat. I only had to walk 150 m to close the range to 230 m. The Sako A7 rang out three time and 3 chamois lay down for the last time. An easy recovery and back to base before the rain.





When it rains on the coast, it rains. 24 hours of torrential rain in a small tent, not too much fun. I haven't spent that much time on my back since the wife was trying to get me pregnant. Just like that, the rain stopped but by this stage, I had had enough of my own company and made the call to come out the next day. Next morning was spent packing and sitting around waiting for the chopper, only to spot a chamois buck about 600 m from base but as I didn't know how long the chopper would be I just watched him.

All in all a successful trip and something to look back on while sitting around in lockdown, here's hoping we can get out soon for some more hunting.

### **Alfredton ABC by Richard O'Driscoll**

A chance to visit the club's hunting lease at Alfredton. Promises of 'mobs' of deer on the property, with other groups from the club having recent success. Nobody had been there for 3 weeks and there was a great weather forecast so our hopes were high. Peter and I met Martin & Rhys at the Amos residence just after 5 am on 14 March, delivering a fresh snapper from our successful Friday night fishing mission to Makara.

Hit the road, with a quick detour for a service station breakfast, and got to the property just after 6 am, with a ground fog providing cover for both us and the deer.

Unloaded the Rhino and headed up towards the crop paddocks. Parked up 500 m away and sneaked through the pines to find ..... cows, lots of cows, and no crop. No deer either as the fog lifted enough to glass the whole area. "Never seen stock here before" says Martin. The deer were clearly not keen to share breakfast with their bovine brethren, so we switched to Plan B.



Across the road and up a very steep track along the fenceline to the first lookout. Fog filled the valley, but lifted enough to see .... sheep, lots of sheep! We sat it out for 30 minutes waiting for fog to lift, but with no sign of this occurring, Martin suggested Peter and I should skirt round the top of the bush

looking down into the trees. We did this and got above the fog and out into the heat of the morning. I glimpsed a couple of animals across the gully in the scrub and convinced myself that it was two deer, but after a bit of sneaking and lots of watching, only sheep came out of the scrub.

By now it was 9:30 am and we headed back towards the frantically waving Martin and Rhys (wearing his best sheep camouflage with his white tee-shirt). Turns out they had seen a yearling 500 m distant come down a grass ridge and disappear into a small patch of scrub.

Plan C was formulated which involved a deer drive. Peter and I set up a snipers' nest while Martin and Rhys went down round and through the 'deer-filled' small patch of scrub. As soon as they got close animals started to move. Ten minutes later Martin and Rhys emerged with 20 romneys scattering in front of them.

Hot hike up to the Rhino in a now cloudless 25 degree day. Luckily I had some water in my day-bag. The smaller O'Driscoll had left his back in the truck!



Time for plan D which involved looking into more small gullys. We got the history – “Pete C shot one there, Steve got one there, I’ve shot a couple there”, but all we saw were sheep, cows, and a couple of goats.

11:30 am now and desperate times – plan E – which involved Peter and I bush-hunting a small block while Martin and Rhys minimized the noise by retreating to the woolshed for lunch and a coffee.

Bush was dry and crunchy, but 5 minutes in we spotted an animal – of a type starting with C. Then two minutes later a couple of goats. Bush was open, but some dry stinging nettle still packed a punch.

An hour later, literally 100 m from the end of our hunt, with the final ridge in sight, Peter froze in front, slowly lifted his rifle, and leaned forward into a conveniently placed forked branch. I stayed back and watch him cock the single shot .243. At the sound of the shot there was movement and a step forward revealed a hoof kicking in the air. Great shot on his first bush-stalked deer and second-ever red. I was now alongside him, when a puzzled looking hind appeared. Peter still had his rifle broken, but remembering the promise of meat for a friend if we were lucky enough to get a couple, I got a round into the .270 and let off a hurried standing shot. The deer ran uphill, but didn’t go far with a heart shot.

We dragged the two of them together for a photo, then radioed Martin who had heard only one shot

(I must get a suppressor one day).



Martin & Rhys drove up and after a few shouts to echo-locate each other joined us for the gutting and carrying. Peter did his deer, but Martin took over from me after I knifed myself in the knee. Only a nick, but I didn't get the knife back off Martin as he expertly rendered the hind into portable bits. After the epic (100 m) carry we were back at the Rhino. Ten minutes later we were on our way home and by 2:30 pm we were hanging the still twitching venison in the relative cool of the shed.

No mobs of deer, but a successful hunt, and further proof that it is worth working on those bush hunting skills!

#### **Martin's luck prior to lock down by Martin Amos**

I was lucky enough to get out last Wednesday for a roar hunt and shot 2 stags and Rhys took pictures of an impressive 15 pointer that we left for next roar as he was holding approx 15 hinds.





The 2 we were lucky to shoot were a 9 and a 10 pointer.



They still had a nice layer of fat over their rump so one was boned out thoroughly and the other was able to be carried to a small farm track (nearly killed me) and picked up by 4x4 and butchered a couple of days later. Thanks to Jack and Rhys for your help on the hill.

**CARTERTON MEAT PROCESSORS**

**WE SPECIALISE IN:**

- Bacon & Ham Curing
- Small Goods & Salami
- Wild Game
- Beef & Sheep Processing

**The Square, Carterton • Phone 06 379 8181**  
**Craig & Ursulla • Fax 06 379 8182**



**HUNTING & OUTDOOR SUPPLIES**  
*Retail shop & mail order supplies of firearm & outdoor equipment*

**COLLINGS & BRADEY**



**Ross Collings**  
*Owner/Gunsmith*

62 Costley Street,  
 Carterton, Wairarapa,  
 New Zealand.  
 Phone: 0064 6 379-6690  
 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](mailto: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 kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable.**

**Make a difference by:**

- checking-in on any elderly or vulnerable people you know
- dropping supplies to those at home sick

Find out more at  
**Covid19.govt.nz**

Govt of New Zealand

**Unite  
 against  
 COVID-19**

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](mailto: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/>. Thanks to **Nick Perkins** who has taken over as website administrator!