



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **May 2020**

No General Meeting this month

Because of uncertainty about what Covid-19 rules we will be operating under, there will be **no general meeting on 20 May**.

After a challenging six weeks, we are hopeful we will all be able to head for the hills under Level 2 soon. For those lucky enough to have access to private land, you may already have chance to re-stock the freezer under Level 3. For everybody else, let's hope the deer have dropped their caution levels a bit after being unmolested during the roar.

This month's newsletter is a bit light, but we have a great hunting story from a previous roar, and some news and views from around the country.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

17 MAY DEER PARK WORKING BEE Depending on COVID status. If it goes ahead, details will be emailed.

20 MAY GENERAL MEETING No general meeting.

17 JUNE GENERAL MEETING We hope to be able to resume meetings in June. Details in June newsletter

25-26 JULY NATIONAL CONFERENCE This will now be done via videoconference. Branch committees were sent the Conference papers 1 & 2 by email recently. The requested due date for remits, motions and branch reports is 15 May 2020.

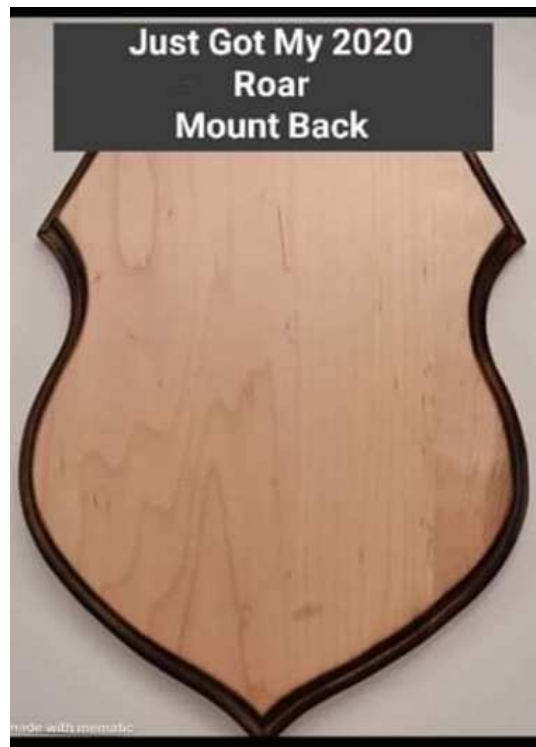
20 SEPTEMBER BRANCH COMPETITION SHOOT Gladstone range.

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MANAGER
LOCKSMITHS • SECURITY SPECIALISTS

Recent Events

For obvious reasons a big blank this month Sean Roberts summed it up:



News

ALFREDTON HUNTS

Martin has been out to the property under Level 3 and reports that there is still at least one (lucky) stag there! Contact Martin on 027 367 1635 to book.

NATIONAL OFFICE

Membership Renewal

Finally! Most of us should now have received our invoices for the 2020-21 financial year. There was a nasty surprise as subscriptions were higher than what the branch had understood they would be, with levies on top of capitation. We are following this up.

Resignation of National Secretary

I have received and accepted a letter of resignation from our National Secretary **Chaz Forsyth**. It is with sadness that I accept but understand his reasons for doing so. He will now be able to put all his energies into completing his Ph.D studies to achieve his doctorate.

Here is a brief outline of some of his achievements:

- Joined Otago branch NZDA in 1967
- Joined National Shooting Committee in 1975
- Warranted Firearms Officer with MSC from 1976 to 2015
- Otago branch Secretary 1977
- Author of "Firearms in NZ" 1978
- NZDA rep. on MSC committee 1979
- Revised "Firearms in NZ" 1985
- Foundation President NZPSI - 1983
- Elected President SSANZ 1990
- NZDA COLFO rep. 1996
- Author of "NZ Firearms" 2013
- Vice President SSANZ 2010 to 2020
- Appointed National Secretary 2013 to 2020

This is truly an outstanding contribution to not only NZDA but also other Firearms/Shooting organisations. At all times, he has remained a true professional. Chaz - on behalf of NZDA, I thank you for your selfless contribution these past 53 years.

Trevor Chappell
National President - NZ Deerstalkers' Assn

Lockdown photo competition

There are three competition sections, each related to 'hunting around your home'. There are two categories of entry for each section:

1. Adult
2. Kids (under 15 years of age)

NZDA members are resilient, proactive and creative and this photographic competition will appeal to many of you and your families. Our phones have excellent photographic capability so this competition does not require fancy cameras or other equipment to allow you to participate. What it requires is just some imagination.

Sections

A. Hunting related activities – use your imagination, but this could include setting up a pup tent in your backyard, kids cooking sausages over a burner, sharpening a knife or cleaning a rifle.

B. Humorous/human interest – an opportunity to use your imagination to create funny situations, incidents and activities that bring a smile to our faces.

C. Flora and Fauna – birds, plants, flowers, insects, etc



Prizes by Hamills

Hamills has kindly sponsored \$1300 of prizes. In particular we need to thank the following Hamills shops located in Tauranga (Stacey Whiteman), Taupo (Sarun Tepavac), Rotorua (Brad Hills) and Te Awamutu (Dave Hudson - an NZDA Executive Member), who have pledged to donate prizes valued \$1300.

Entrant	Section A	Section B	Section C
Adult 1st place	1st - Hunting knife	1st - Hunting knife	1st - Led Lenser MH5 re-chargeable head lamp
Kids 1st place for each Section	1st - Led Lenser MH5 re-chargeable head lamp		
Adults & Kids 2nd and 3rd	2nd - \$70 Hamills voucher 3rd - Sol Sport utility blanket		

Terms and conditions

1. Send entries to competition@deerstalkers.org.nz, stating your Full Name, Branch and, if possible, NZDA Membership Number.
2. Each member can submit one photo per section, and you must state at the time of entry which section(s) they are entering. Parents can submit kids' entries for them.
3. The competition commences on the date of this email and closes at **5:00pm, Friday 15th May**.
4. Photos taken must have been taken following the Government's COVID-19 lockdown rules applicable at the time and must be taken in the spirit of usual NZDA competition rules and ethics.
5. All entries may be used in NZDA publications and the entrant grants the NZDA all applicable rights (but the photographer maintains copyright of their image).
6. Judges will select the top three entries for each category and those will be posted on NZDA Facebook so members and public can vote. Entries will be judged not necessarily on technical standards but on subject matter, content, composition, and x-factor.
7. Entrants must be current 'financial members' of NZDA.
8. The submission of an entry will be deemed as acceptance of these rules.
9. National Photographic Competitions will be held in July as usual, and these photos can be entered into that competition.
10. By submitting a photo you confirm you agree with, and consent to, the terms of this competition.

Hunters pleased with rules for level 2

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, Game Animal Council and New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association are pleased that the rules around COVID-19 Alert Level 2 will allow hunters to access public conservation land and travel to their favourite hunting spots.

“The fact that public conservation land is open again is great news for the tens of thousands of Kiwi hunters that rely on public land to go hunting,” says New Zealand Deerstalkers Association President Trevor Chappell. “Most Kiwi hunters don't have access to hunting on private land so have had to bide their time during the peak of the hunting year.”

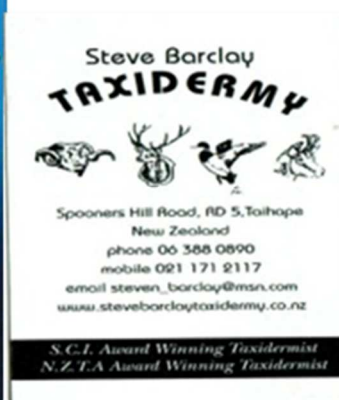
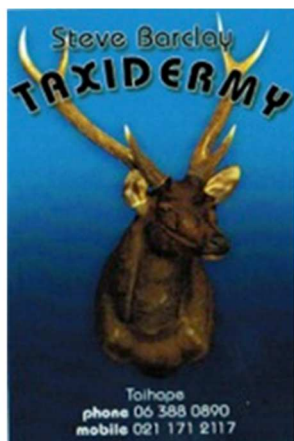
“The hunting sector is also pleased that inter-regional domestic travel is to be allowed,” says Game Animal Council General Manager Tim Gale. “For the many hunters that live in our major centres, this means they can travel to their favourite locations and target tahr, red stags, sika and the other species that provide such fantastic late-autumn and winter hunting.”

“The return of domestic travel and the opening of conservation land is really important to hunting guides, game

estates and others within the commercial hunting sector,” says NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association President James Cagney. “Of course, the domestic market can never replace our international clientele but the lifting of restrictions does give the opportunity for some Kiwi hunting businesses to get back up and running.”

“From what we understand the Department of Conservation are planning to reinstate the online hunting permit system before level 2 and we are still working with them on a fair resolution to the issue of ballots,” say Chappell and Gale. “We also expect to receive guidance on the status of facilities such as backcountry huts.”

New Zealand is still at COVID-19 Alert Level 3 and the Government has not yet announced when Level 2 will begin. For information on current restrictions and guidance go to <https://covid19.govt.nz>.



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**

A great story from a roar when we were allowed to hunt (i.e., not this year)

8 Pointer each by Mark Wellington

I'd been invited to a private farm to do some hunting in the South Island. The farm boundary was with DOC land and I'd been told there was a good number of deer in the area.

My son, Brad, came over from Townsville for Easter, so we planned a three day trip for the week after Easter. Together we flew to Dunedin and got a rental car to drive to the farm where we were met by our hosts, Alan & Sue.

We got up early and Alan had made us bacon and eggs. We scoffed that down and before daylight Alan drove us up the road to his son's farm. Brad asked Alan what we were allowed to shoot, Alan's reply was simply "an eight pointer each"

We met, George, Alan's son. Transferred our gear into his truck and he took us out to the back of his farm. Arriving at the back paddock, George jumped out of the Toyota..... Hurdled the fence and proceeded to spot deer. A couple were roaring, some were with hinds and they were all heading back into the bush. We probably saw eight just on day break. George showed us the boundaries and left us to it, He said he'd back on dark and if we shot anything earlier to walk back to his house and make ourselves at home.

As it got lighter the day was looking alright, pretty much blue skies with a few clouds about. We sorted our shit out and headed through the scatted bush heading for the gorge where there had been a stag consistently

roaring. We found a spot that looked across the gorge and settled in with the binoculars hoping we would get him to come out into a clearing. It was 300 meters across to where the stag was going off.... Smashing antlers with another stag. We could here deep roaring and branches breaking and every now and then it sounded like a bulldozer going through the bush with the blade down pushing everything in its path into a pile.

If it went quiet I'd give a couple of roars, but he never replied to me. As soon as someone with antlers roared he was away again. We decided he didn't understand what I was saying as I was using my North Island accent. There must have been six or seven other stags in this big valley and they kept each other going until it all went quite at about ten am. All the other deer we'd seen were on the trot.... Roaring and too far away.

We headed back to the chilly bin where we had been dropped off, had a drink and had some pickle and corned venison sandwiches without bread, yes... Alan forgot to put the bread in. We might have had a little sleep in the sun too. I went looking for a way around the top of the gorge to see if we could get closer to where these deer were. Too easy!! There was a 4X4 track cutting through the creek and across the other side, it would take us to above where we last heard our stag roaring.



I went back and woke Brad, we packed up and planned to walk right round the top to a spot above where we thought the stag was. There was a big ferny face that went to the bush edge 120 meters away from him. A couple of hours later we got to our spot, lay down in to the fern and waited and glassed hoping that something would give its hiding place away by letting out a roar. About 1pm, way down the gorge a spiker let out what I called a squeak.... that was it.... They all started off and our stag had given his position away. I knew where we had to get to now, but the wind had done a 180 on us and to get on the downwind side it would mean a big detour.

We'd lived overseas for most of Brad's life and at 19 years old Brad's experience was limited. He had only been out shooting with me three times previously and he'd shot one deer, so I gave him my rifle (suppressed X-bolt, 7mm08) and a bit of a prep talk. Stuff like watching where every foot step went, moving at a quarter of the speed we were stalking at and making sure he sees the deer before the deer sees him..... Yeah... no pressure son.

There's nothing else we could do but walk for two hours in the opposite direction to get closer. This detour put us down wind on a bulldozed fence line 400 meters away from where the noise was last heard. Brad headed off in front of me as ready as can be. It probably took an hour for us to cover the last 150 meters of the track. This stag was still being kept entertained by other roars down the valley. Every now and then it would go quiet for a while, Brad and I would look at each other and without using words ask each other if the stag was still there, had it moved off?

About 40 meters away from the roars the bush opened up so we followed our ears and headed in. Unfortunately we came in to a big wall of supplejack and there was no way we would get through without making a heap of noise. We had to back track onto the bulldozed track and went a bit further along. There was a well-used game trail with heaps of prints on it, this had to be where they were coming and going so I motioned Brad to drop down and follow the tracks.

This stag is still replying to the other roars every couple of minutes and we are only 25 meters away. Brad had the rifle cocked and up ready to shoot, I tried to get a bit closer to the action and I stood and a small twig that broke, Brads head spun around and without any words I got severely reprimanded as he could see the stag.

It's now 4.30pm and there's a fair bit of noise going on. Brads pointing to tell me he can see its back end.... then he's got the rifle up... the safety is off. I see the stag walking 15 meters in front of Brad, it's roaring as he walks past.....Then boom and crash, crash, crash. I push my way past as the bloody deer heads of downhill. Then it goes all quiet. 40 meters from where he fired the shot Brad says here it is.

I ran over and grab its antlers, turn its head and start counting. Oops, there's more than eight points.



We are both stoked, Brad's second deer is a nice even twelve pointer and has a huge body that we now have to carry back up the hill. We break it down into manageable pieces and start the climb back up the ferny face we were sitting on earlier. As we get everything to the top it's starting to get dark, then we hear the Toyota coming over the next ridge. Alan & George drive right up the track I'd found and drive to where we have dropped the deer. We load everything on the truck and head home. The first Speights didn't even touch the sides, neither did the second one.

The next day we cleaned up the head, boned everything out and packed our gear ready for the drive back to Dunedin. We didn't shoot an eight pointer each and I apologized to Alan for Brad shooting a twelve pointer. But as we thanked everyone for their awesome southern hospitality Alan said we were welcome back any time to shoot a six pointer each.

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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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