



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for July 2020

**General Meeting Thursday 16 July  
7:15 pm Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, 10 Cole St  
Indoor smallbore shooting**

## General meeting Thursday 16 July 7:15 pm Smallbore rifle shooting

Back by popular demand. Note that this is on THURSDAY night (not the usual Wednesday) **7:15 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 \$13 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. We had a great turn-out last year so hoping to see you again.



## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**16 JULY GENERAL MEETING** Smallbore shooting. See details above.

**25-26 JULY NATIONAL CONFERENCE** This will be via videoconference. Committee members will participate in all votes

**31 JULY** Last date for 2020-21 memberships to be paid if you want to be eligible for club competitions. See details later in newsletter.

**19 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING** Open night at **King & Henry in Masterton starting 6:30 pm**. Bargains, spot prizes and food.

**15 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall starting 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Drop off heads and photos for Branch competitions.

**27 SEPTEMBER BRANCH COMPETITION SHOOT** Gladstone range. Note that this is a week later than advertised previously

**27 SEPTEMBER** Final date for entries in Branch AHT and Photographic competitions. Entry forms and details in this newsletter.

**17 OCTOBER BANCH ANNUAL DINNER** Parkvale Hall. This is a Saturday night. Put it on your calendar now. Fully catered. This is the Branch social event of the year so hoping to get a great turn-out. More details (including pricing) next month



## Recent Events

### 20 JUNE HALL WORKING BEE

A very disappointing turn-out, but a couple of stalwarts got a few jobs done. There will be another Working Bee scheduled before the dinner.

### 27-28 JUNE WANGANUI FALLOW HUNT

Thirteen members had a great weekend. Fine and dry Saturday, wet Sunday. We were restricted to shooting does, spikers, and inferior bucks, but 13 deer were shot and all were in great condition. Luca and Francois shot their first deer, and Davor and Andrew whipped up a super feed Saturday night. There are a bunch more converts to eating goat after a delicious roast! Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organising these club hunts. Next Wanganui hunt will be after lambing (probably late October).



## 27 JUNE VISIT FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TO PARKVALE HALL

### **Present:**

**Branch members:** Sean Roberts (Chair), Phil Gray, Andrew Dennes, Brad Gardiner, Aidan Bichan, Sean Roberts, Derrick Foley, Gary and Liz Warren, Steve Playle, Martin Amos (phone)

**National Executive:** Gwyn Thurlow (CE), Rob Howey (Nat Treasurer) and Tim Watson (LNI rep)

**Apologies:** Richard O'Driscoll, Alex Beesley, Lloyd Rayner, Tracy Amos

The meeting began with a cuppa and everyone introducing themselves. Sean welcomed everyone and gave an introduction to the Branch including who we are, what we do and why we were keen to meet the National Executive team. He noted that there were many rumours floating around about the state of the NZDA finances and the number of branches pulling away from the National body.

The executive members introduced themselves including how they became involved in the National organisation. It was noted that both Tim and Rob are standing down as they have burnt out due to the constant negativity.

Gwyn addressed the group before answering specific questions. He noted that the whole of the NZDA involved layers of democracy with both branches and the central body being Incorporated Societies. At all levels there is opportunity for discussion and debate with decisions made by voting. Some branches are better at this than others.

He encouraged the branch to read the conference handbook, discuss this at committee level before opening it up to the membership to decide on how to vote. We then need to attend via the Zoom call or lodge a proxy with someone we trust.

**Capitation:** The main reason for the increase was the employment of the CE. This was agreed to at conference and was seen as the way to drive the NZDA forward while fixing many of the underlying challenges i.e. membership system, financial management and direction.

Sean raised a number of specific questions relating to the accounts and finances, these were answered well.

**National Office funding.** The ownership structure of the National Office was discussed and a detailed explanation given.

Sean asked for clarification of the investment into Mandatory Convertible Notes, the structure, and parties involved. Gwyn explained NatEx invested \$250k in limited partnership with Wgtn branch into a property investment. Wgtn branch having \$750k invested. NZDA is not the only investor. The underlying security being warehouses and a mall, financed 50% by a Kiwibank mortgage. The tenants rents, and carried forward tax losses through various entities, providing the 9% investment return. Gwyn confirmed it was an allowable investment under the constitution. Post balance date the investment reduced to \$200k. The interest received to date has repaid the initial outlay. When the properties are sold the notes convert to equity with NatEx receiving the appropriate share of capital gain.

**Liquidity:** Sean asked about NatEx solvency noting the companies act did not apply. Rob and Gwyn both confirmed there was a significant surplus of cash assets to meet expected expenses in the next few months. The direct question about liquidity was answered with a categorical "Yes" they are now and have been all along. The pattern of income (subscriptions) means most income arrives early in the year and is then spent over the balance of the year.

**GST outstanding.** With regard to \$9,000 of GST - the return could not be filed in good faith and the National accountant is in discussion with IRD, they do not expect any penalties.

**Insurance** costs were discussed. Around \$12,000 is paid in premiums and works out at about \$1.50 per member. This ensures cover for all members and committees and in many cases allows access to private land - particularly forests.

**Branches pulling out.** When asked how many branches have de-affiliated from the NZDA the answer was none. There have been rumours - including about Wairarapa Branch but none have.

**Communications** between NatEx and branches is being revamped and we can expect significant changes to the way information etc is communicated with members. In many cases this will be more directly with members rather than relying on individual committees.

**Membership woes.** Gwyn has taken ownership of this and is committed to turning this around. Staff now deal with membership inquiries as a priority every day. The challenge of updating from a 1980's system to get something that is fit for purpose has taken far too long. He presented a table outlining current membership of the branch and that there were 7 new members waiting for branch approval.

**Moving forward:** We were challenged on what we needed to do to attract and retain more members - particularly younger people. The use of social media, interesting speakers (to young people) and a positive, can do culture would all help. An organisation is only as strong as its parts. We were complemented on the range of branch activities.

Attending and participating in the National Conference should be a priority. Read the candidate profiles and vote for the positive, forward looking people, not those dwelling on the past challenges and personalities.

**Round the room feedback** points:

- Very pleased to have hosted the NatEx team and for the honest discussion.
- Membership woes make it hard to retain members - particularly the less "keen" ones who won't actively pursue invoices.
- Acknowledgement of the work done by Rob and Tim on our behalf.
- Support for Gwyn and his role going forward, good to have a passionate hunter and shooter at the helm.
- Concern about the rumour mongering and the negative impact on the wider organisation.
- The lobbying on our behalf is valued strongly.

Sean thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the discussion and wished everyone a safe trip home. The meeting closed and was followed by a drink and informal conversation.

At its meeting on 1 July the committee reflected on the points raised in this meeting. We were reassured by the information provided by the National Executive. We agreed that there is **no intention for the Wairarapa Branch to break away from NZDA**. We will work together to try and ensure increasing capitation costs are not passed on to members. We remind members to **pay 2020-21 subscriptions which are now overdue**. We were provided with a bunch of invoices for members for whom the National Office did not have a current email address. Tracy will get these out to people this month.

## News

### ALFREDTON HUNTS

Contact Martin on 027 367 1635 to book. There are still plenty of deer and they don't disappear in winter!

### PARKVALE HALL

We have had a regular booking for line dancing! For hall bookings contact Martin on 027 3671635.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

A busy couple of weeks with call-outs to Mt Cone, Kiriwhakapapa, and to an injured hunter in the Haurangis (Washpool). If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.



## HUTS

Martin is still trying to meet with DOC about planned work at Sayers

## DEER PARK

There are now five fallow (buck and 4 does), and 5 reds (stag, 3 hinds, and a fawn) in residence. Masterton District Council contributed \$1670 for deer park feed.

## FINANCIALS

Closing balance \$6,310 plus \$15,191 in term deposits. Members have been invoiced for March fly-in.

## RANGE & SHOOTING

Gladstone range is available for the use of members on weekends when not in use. If you want to sight a rifle the best opportunity is Wednesday afternoons between 3 pm and 5 pm as there is nothing else on. Competition shoot **27 September 2020**. Note that this is a week later than originally scheduled.

## NATIONAL OFFICE

### Tahr Control Plan

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc (NZDA) were disappointed to receive a final Himalayan tahr control operational plan from the Department of Conservation (DOC) for the coming 2020/21 operational period that ignores any advice and input from NZDA as the voice of recreational hunters.

NZDA Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow says "I have received many calls and emails from hunters, not just our members, expressing their outrage and disbelief at the government's decision to take a course of action that flies in the face of its overarching objective of listening, being compassionate, and caring about our people and communities. "There is no doubt that New Zealand hunters, a minority group, are being brushed aside by government and treated with a complete lack of due process and consultation.

"The NZDA reinforces its call for DOC to come back to those stakeholders with an interest in our special tahr herd and offer to undertake further consultation in order to allow DOC to fully understand and consider the impact of the tahr control implementation plan. DOC has it within its power to agree a plan that works for everyone. If DOC extends an olive branch it will bring an end to costly legal action too. The Department is spending public money to unnecessarily fight a plan not supported by its stakeholders, and DOC are forcing those same stakeholders to seek public donations to fund legal action against DOC – all this just be heard by DOC", says Gwyn Thurlow.

NZDA believes all stakeholders can achieve a "win-win" regarding tahr management, where we work collaboratively to reduce tahr numbers in order to achieve the desired ecological outcomes all while having a sustainable tahr herd.

Gwyn Thurlow says "DOC's final plan is extreme and any economic or cultural downsides are being ignored,

without any substantiated or scientifically backed upside. During the past two years NZDA have supported a reduction in tahr numbers by up to 18,000 tahr. DOC estimated there were 35,000 in 2018. During 2019 only nannies and juveniles were culled meaning that, using DOC's own figures, there are only 5,000 nannies remaining in 2020. This means presently the impact on the environment has already been mitigated."

So far 28,100 people have signed the petition requesting DOC to halt the 2020-21 tahr cull and review the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1993. NZDA's 8,500 strong membership supports the petition meaning in 3 days over 36,600 people have effectively asked DOC to come back to the table and consult fully.

The petition can be found at <https://www.change.org/p/department-of-conservation-request-doc-halt-the-2020-21-tahr-cull-and-review-the-himalayan-tahr-control-plan>

## Arms Bill

You will have seen that the Arms Legislation Bill may soon be back before the House for its third reading. If it passes then it will become law. The NZDA delivered, and maintains, a strong message of opposition to the proposed Bill and its provisions. We submitted a detailed written document and presented our views in person before the Select Committee.

NZDA's key points are:

- the Arms Legislation Bill, as it presently stands, cannot be supported by the NZDA.
- there are parts which are unreasonable, illogical, punitive and overly bureaucratic. Worse, there are worrying inclusions which are ill-defined, undemocratic, breach human rights and hand police too much power without proper oversight or appeal.
- the Bill focusses heavily on enforcing the compliance of law-abiding licenced hunters and firearms owners and their organisations yet does relatively little to address the illegal use and possession of firearms by criminals.
- the Bill fails to recognise or acknowledge the social, cultural, economic and conservation benefits that come from hunting and responsible firearm use.
- the above concerns must be addressed and the offending clauses removed or modified to ensure New Zealanders' civil liberties are properly acknowledged and protected, then the NZDA could support the majority of the new law's objectives.
- NZDA believes that in the wake of the first round of changes to arms laws in early 2019 in response to the Christchurch massacres, any further changes should have waited until the Royal Commission into the tragedy had finished its work and reported back. This would have allowed a more considered, fully informed and properly measured response.
- NZDA believes a better law will result from proper consultation with firearm owners, hunters and the wider community. This will provide a cooperative environment in which informed decisions can be made, united in a common purpose. Unfortunately, this has not happened and the opportunity to have a law which enjoys the support and cooperation of firearm owners has been squandered.
- NZDA is of the view that a good law encourages and assists compliance, rather than oppressing, alienating and unreasonably regulating significant parts of the community. Unfortunately, the overall punitive nature of the Arms Legislation Bill as it is presently worded appears designed to specifically target the law abiding by dramatically increasing the bureaucracy and cost of getting and holding a firearms licence while introducing new barriers all with no demonstrable improvement in public safety.
- Section 6 is particularly onerous for shooting clubs and will impact all our Branches and members negatively. A good law should help firearm owners join a club so they can learn safe firearm handling and practice their skills in a controlled and disciplined environment. Instead, this Bill seeks to impose heavy and costly controls on clubs, and indeed anyone who allows a person to practice with their rifle or allow it to be sighted in on their property. It undermines the efforts of shooting clubs, like NZDA Branches, to train people in safe firearm handling to ensure their and public safety.

COLFO, which all NZDA members are an affiliated member of, are voicing their concerns.

## Programme to feed needy families

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) is delighted to support an initiative to feed needy families with tonnes of prime wild venison harvested in Fiordland.

The meat comes from hundreds of deer culled in Fiordland National Park as part of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation's highly successful management of the Wapiti Area within the park. The Wapiti Foundation, Game Animal Council, NZDA, DoC and commercial helicopter hunters have joined forces to process and transport the wild venison to New Zealanders in need.

NZDA Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow says the initiative will see around 18 tonnes of meat donated to needy families around the country. "The Covid emergency has cost people jobs and left families struggling to make ends meet. Hunters have recognised the tough times their fellow kiwis are facing and have got stuck in to provide them with high quality venison," Gwyn Thurlow says.

Mr Thurlow says the meat is a top quality, sustainably harvested product which would normally not be made available to Kiwi families and could be a way forward in the future. "Hunters know the value of game herds and the virtues of our wild venison. In this case the deer are being professionally processed through a certified export standard processing facility and packed into one kilogram parcels of mincemeat. "One pack will feed a family of four and they are being distributed to foodbanks and other needy people throughout the country," he says.

Gwyn Thurlow says many NZDA branches in the North Island and South Island are helping pay for the distribution. "I am enormously proud of our branches who have responded to the call to help get this venison to the people who need it. Our NZDA members are generously footing the bill to transport tonnes of meat to their regions and give it to foodbanks," he says. "Not only is this fantastic initiative feeding families in need, it is keeping dozens of people in jobs, including helicopter crews, meat processors and transport and logistics staff. This generosity and willingness to step up and lend a helping hand is a great example of the New Zealand spirit."



## WAIRARAPA BRANCH Antler, Horn & Tusk competitions for year to 30 September 2020 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 **Saturday 26 September 2020**.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) in the hands of Greg Hamilton (King and Henry), or Joe Hansen (phone 027 692 6465), by **5 pm Sunday 27 September**.
- Photographs to be with Tracy Amos (06 3795454) by **5 pm Sunday 27 September**.
- Entries can also be dropped off at the General Meeting 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall **15 September 2020**

- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 17 October 2020.**

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. **Because of the Covid disruptions in 2020, the committee have agreed that entries will be accepted as long as members have paid their 2020-21 subscription before 31 July 2020.**
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!

A reminder about the categories:

- Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
- Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup)
- Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield)
- Best goat head (Crawford Cameron shield)
- Best head where a trophy fee is paid (Playle trophy)
- Best pig jaw –undrawn tusks (Harvie Morrow shield)
- Best pig jaw – Drawn Tusks (N. Tilsey Sheild)
- Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
- Best head other species
- Best trophy head 'under 20'
- Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

Photographic categories are:

- Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)
- Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)
- Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)
- Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)
- Junior photograph (Amos Cup)



## 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)**

No stories this month, but some photos have come through.



William Hornsbrough's first fallow buck



Liz Warren with a couple of trophies from a South Island hunt post-lockdown

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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](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 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](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!

**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.