



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association  
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for June 2020

**General Meeting Wednesday 17 June**  
**7:30 pm Parkvale Hall**  
**Covid catch-up**

General meeting Wednesday 17 June 7:30 pm

Now we're back in Level 1 we can all meet again at the Hall. So 'Prepare' for a post-lockdown catch-up, watch some videos and stay on for supper.

**New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels**

Unite against COVID-19

**Level 1 - Prepare**

**Disease is contained**

### Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

20 JUNE HALL WORKING BEE Starting from 9:30 am

27-28 JUNE WANGANUI FALLOW HUNT Full

15 JULY GENERAL MEETING We are hoping to repeat last year's very successful **small-bore shooting night**. Timing to be confirmed.

25-26 JULY NATIONAL CONFERENCE This will be via videoconference. Final date for entries to National AHT competition is **30 June** and Photographic competition is **3 July**. See later in newsletter for details

19 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING Speaker to be confirmed.

20 SEPTEMBER BRANCH COMPETITION SHOOT Gladstone range.



## Recent Events

### 5-7 JUNE WANGANUI FALLOW HUNT

The 10 members that missed out on the April trip had a great time, with plenty of deer by all accounts. Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organising this. Hoping to see some stories and photos next month .....

## News

### ALFREDTON HUNTS

Contact Martin on 027 367 1635 to book.

### NATIONAL OFFICE

#### Committee Discussion

Sue (NatEx) rang Martin and agreed with a number of his points about membership costs and operational challenges.

Martin then spoke to Tim Watson (LNI executive member) pointing out we only get \$9 per member after capitation. The Wellington building is not being funded from capitation as funded by grants. New CEO responsible with increasing income from non-member sources. He suggested we invite member of senior exec to a meeting. Committee agreed to invite Tim to our next committee meeting.

Look to invite Exec member later in year to general meeting to discuss why we should stay in the NZDA.

#### National conference and competitions

The annual Deerstalkers' Conference is to be held on the 25th and 26th of July. The format will be an online Zoom meeting. The Natex board will host this from the Deerstalkers' House in Wellington.

The national competitions are still going ahead. Please get your entries in as soon as possible. The forms and rulebook can be found at:

<https://portal.deerstalkers.org.nz/docs/pub/426cf6f8911fa6a4c304c0522cd718ab/default/?&>

#### New CEO

NZDA executive and members warmly welcome **Gwyn Thurlow** as the associations new CEO. Gwyn brings a wealth of experience to our organisation, ranging from extensive hunting experience on game animals throughout New Zealand, executive office holding at a branch level, a driving force in the establishment of the National Heritage Trust and the new building, writing and presenting submissions to government on firearms and many years working for law firm Chapman/Tripp.

#### Lockdown photo competition

Congratulations to **Richard and Peter O'Driscoll** for their results. Richard Highly Commended in section A and Peter 2nd in Kids Section B and 1st in Kids Section C. Peter's prize-winning fantail 'shot' in Featherston is on the next page.



### PARKVALE HALL

There is a **hall working bee on Saturday 20 June starting at 9:30 am**. Andrew identified a young guy who was skidding up the carpark and broke railing, followed him home and had arranged for him to repair damage. Payments for damage repair are being monitored. For hall bookings contact Martin on 027 3671635.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Training evening 11 June, AGM 25 June. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

### HUTS

No reports.

### DEER PARK

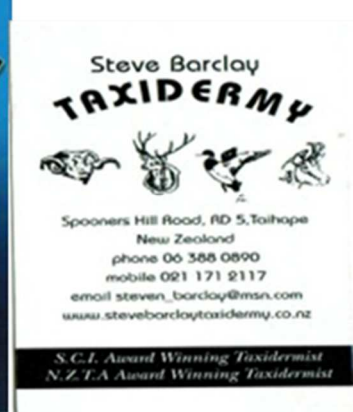
Six surplus fallow removed and sold. One buck and 4 does left. Hay and balage delivered last weekend. Masterton District Council invoiced for share of deer park feed for \$1670.

### FINANCIALS

Closing balance \$5,794 plus \$15,191 in term deposits.

## RANGE & SHOOTING

Gladstone range is available for the use of members on weekends when not in use. If you want to sight a rife before the roar the best opportunity is Wednesday afternoons between 3 pm and 5 pm as there is nothing else on. Competition shoot 20 September 2020.



## 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)**

This week we have a story from our Treasurer Sean Roberts

### **A right royal adventure or two by Sean Roberts**

As with all adventure stories, you have highs and lows. And this story is no different.

We were approaching the end of level 4 lockdown and it was announced hunting could resume, but on private land only. There goes my overnighter to Sayers.

So that X & Y are not tapped on the shoulder by every member to take them out on private land, I am not naming them, which I am sure you will understand.

So, back to the level 3 changes that now allowed private land hunting. Member Y called. He had sorted out a hunt for me on a farm. So we met up at a pre-arranged spot maintaining our distance as you did in those times, and headed off to the farm. It was blowing pretty hard up the top, but very sheltered on the leeward side. Unfortunately there was nothing in this gully despite a bloody good look, so we headed back up to the utes. Despite any rumour you may hear, I was stopping to glass on my way back up the hill, not to catch my breath. We drove round to a slip, and moved in hoping to catch something feeding on the slip edge. With nothing there Y was glassing back to where we were, probably 2 km away across a gully, there was a hind out in the open feeding. Bugger. A decision made that because of the wind we would not approach from the other way and climb up - it was bloody steep. But thanks to Y for taking me out. I am sure the hind will still be there next time.

A week later member X called me up to say he had now sorted a hunt for us to cull a stag or two that were eating a farmer's crops. So off to the farm we went maintaining our distance as you do, with us circling right around the back to get the wind right. We stalked round a hill and down into a gully full of Manuka to check out a wallow. There were some fresh prints around but not much else.

We headed uphill beside a fence, slowly as you do, until we finally reached a gate beside a pine block. We slowly crept around the spur glassing as we went. Suddenly X dropped, with me following. A stag was feeding

down in the gully, blending into the scrub. We inched forward until we were in a good spot, and X very kindly gave me the go. I slid a bullet into the chamber and closed the bolt. He started to feed forward, lifting his head occasionally. He had nice headwear on and definitely a taker. 12 even points. Much longer and he would be hidden by the scrub. I lined up on the front crease, and squeezed off.

The suppressor must have confused him. He jumped up and ran towards us before veering to his right downhill, looking for the safety of the pines. X attempted a neck shot to drop him, but missed. I took a second shot getting his flank and he fell. While this was happening a second stag shot up that we had not seen, so I called out to X as he had not seen him at this stage. I aimed for the shoulder of the second stag as he quartered to us and ran down into the gully but sadly my shot missed. Off he scarpered into the pines never to be seen by us again. We searched for a blood trail but could not see anything. We were happy he wasn't out there injured.

The requisite pictures taken, the Rhino was called upon to drag the stag out so we could get him ready for the trip home. Thanks again to X. I had a great time, and the freezer is stocked up, as well as the freezers of a couple of friends. (shout out to Sam at the Big Apple - I have some great feedback on the sausages).

I am still in the process of cleaning up the skull, but I have a place sorted at home where he can gaze over his new Kingdom. Given the events of the last few months, it is appropriate he be named **King Covid The Royal**. I am sure I will be telling the grandkids about this one day.



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Great stag Sean! A couple of the other committee members also managed to get out and support local business by putting a couple of rippers on the deck.



## 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.



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The website is at: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>. Thanks to **Nick Perkins** who has taken over as website administrator!