



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **August 2021**

General meeting Wednesday 18 August  
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall  
Oliver Walker-Cudby from Free Range Hunting

## General meeting 18 August

Our August meeting promises to be a good one with **Ollie from Free Range Hunting NZ** based at Te Awaiti giving a talk. Check out Gary and Liz Warren's story in the July newsletter which described a hunt with Ollie. This is also a great chance to **drop off entries for branch antler horn and tusk (AHT) competitions**. Entries closes on 31 August with entry form and details in this newsletter.



**PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings and as a general club contact.**

## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**18 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Hunting Guide - Ollie from Free Range Hunting Te Awaiti. Bring along entries for AHT and photo competitions.

**31 AUGUST AHT & PHOTO ENTRIES CLOSE** See competition categories and rules later in newsletter.

**1 SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**10-12 SEPTEMBER SIKA HUNT CLMENTS MILL ROAD** Dates now confirmed. Staying at the Sika Lodge at the beginning of Clements Mill Rd (cost will be subsidised by branch). Everyone attending would have to sort their own DOC permit. Still places available. Anyone interested please ring Derrick Foley 027 2314846 before 31 August.

**15 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.

**19 SEPTEMBER BRANCH COMPETITION SHOOT** Sunday starting 10 am at Gladstone range.

**6 OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**16 OCTOBER ANNUAL DINNER & PRIZE-GIVING** Date has now been confirmed with caterers so put it on your calendar now. On Saturday night in Parkvale Hall. No general meeting in October.



## Recent Events

### 15 JULY SMALLBORE SHOOTING

A great night as usual with over 20 senior and junior members attending. Some good and not so good shooting with one particularly dodgy rifle taking the blame for three of the lowest scores! We will have a trophy for this event next year and we are planning on making this an annual event.

Senior scores in order:

Hamish G 92.0/83.1, Kerriann R 90.4, Dyson B 90.2/90.2, Sean R 90.0/82.0, Kerry F 89.1, Glenn R 87.1/83.0, Richard O 85.2/25.0, Aaron L 84, Shane L 83.1/65.0, Derrick W 82/61.0, Alan A 79.1/16.0, Derrick F 73.0/71.0, Paul S 67.1, Lloyd R 65.0\

Juniors in order:

Peter O 89.1/87.2, Liam D 72.1/67.0, Callum D 44.0/18.0



## News

### HUNTING TRIPS

**Weekend sika hunt at Clements Mill Rd** 10-12 September. See details on previous page.

**Kaweka fly-in sika hunt** 4-7 March 2022: Tira Lodge (Venison Tops), Studholme Saddle Hut, and Back Ridge Biv booked, about \$475 pp for 10-12 members. Contact Lloyd Rayner on 027 6080325.

**Wanganui fallow spring hunts** Two planned for after lambing. Dates will likely be in Nov-Dec. Watch this space.

### PARKVALE HALL

**PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.** PVHS, no further progress, still waiting on their lawyer. Heat pump due to be installed before the end of August.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Two recent call-outs in Tararua both had successful outcomes with the missing people being found or walking out themselves. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

### RANGE & SHOOTING

Annual competition shoot Sunday 19 September starting 10 am at Gladstone range. Gladstone range is available for the use of members on weekends when not in use. Branch members get 6 free visits a year. If you want to sight a rifle the best opportunity is Wednesday afternoons between 3 pm and dark as there is nothing else on.

### HUTS

We have received our annual hut maintenance agreement from DOC for Neill Forks and Sayers Huts and will sign this.

### DOC LIAISON

Nothing to report

### DEER PARK

Deer are being given lots of treats by members of the public. Murray to have another look at controlling the numerous rabbits.

### FINANCIALS

Bank balance \$14,197.08 + \$15,613.97 in term deposits. Hall insurance bill is due.

### MEMBERSHIPS

Four new members recently approved.

### FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

All firewood has been sold. Dave Bashford has log ends available and these will be dropped off at David MacKay's for future working bees. Dates to be advised.



## CLOSING DATE FOR BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS IS 31 AUGUST

Categories are as follows:

- 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 by a junior
- 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)

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 **Tuesday 31 August 2021.**
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) in the hands of Andrew Dennes (027 274 9064) or Joe Hansen (027 692 6465), by **5 pm Tuesday 31 August.**
- **Photographs to be emailed** to Richard O'Driscoll at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) by **5 pm Tuesday 31 August.**
- Entries can also be dropped off at the General Meeting 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall **18 August 2021**
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 16 October 2021.**

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 years & under) to be noted on Entry forms please.
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. **No mounted heads 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. **This year all entries will be submitted digitally rather than as prints.** Please email high resolution .jpg images to [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com). Make sure you put "Photo entry" in subject. Images can also be provided on USB to Richard O'Driscoll (021 1411472). You will still need to complete an entry form for each photo entered.
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 printed and 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!



## Hunting Reports

No stories came through this month, so your editor has entered one of his own. Only one month left to get your story in to be eligible for the **prize of \$50 for the best newsletter story** from October 2020 to September 2021. Open to all members, so please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com).

### Westland chamois hunt Richard O'Driscoll

Covid-19 made 2020 a challenging year. With no hunting on offer during lock-down, I spent quite a bit of time planning for hunting. This meant we hit the hills hard from June on and I was able to shoot sika, red, and fallow deer. But one animal that had always intrigued me was chamois. I'd only ever seen three chamois 'in the wild' (on a trout fishing trip near Murchison years ago) and the closest I'd come to hunting them was following some fresh tracks while on a club tahr hunt.

Jed is from Nelson. He and I worked together on a fishing boat in 2017 and we quickly established that we were both keen hunters and that we both had similar-age sons who were also keen. We talked about trying to put together a father-son trip one day when the boys were a bit older. But life got in the way. Until 2020, when we both talked during lockdown and decided to make it happen. Jed is an experienced alpine hunter and, following his suggestions, maps were exchanged and plans developed over the next few months.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, Peter & I got on the ferry and drove south to Reefton to meet Jed and his 14-year old son Guyon. We were due to fly into the Victoria Range that evening, but it was too cloudy to fly with recent snow



dusting the ranges. We stayed at Reefton Motor Camp (great value at \$38/night!) and Jed elected to drive down from Nelson on Saturday. Peter and I went fishing (unsuccessfully) in a flooded Inangahua River the next morning and we met Jed at the local sports' shop at lunchtime. We visited the pilot (Alan Rosanowski of AirWest Helicopters) and discussed locations then went fishing again in the afternoon. Again no trout but we saw a few. After staying another night in Reefton, we awoke to another cloudy day so back out fishing again in the morning. This time Peter got 3 and Guyon one. We kept the biggest one for tea.



We finally got the call from Alan that there was a window to fly about 3:30 pm and we were in the chopper and underway. Jumped in the 500 while the engine was running, jammed in among the packs, and 10 minutes later we were on the tops in a small basin looking out to the east towards the Maruia River. A rush to put up the tents, a quick tea of fried trout and noodles, then a steep climb out over a saddle to the west to overlook a bush basin. Spent the evening glassing and saw 9 distant chamois, 2 goats, and 3 slightly closer deer – including a spiker that might have been tempting later in the trip. Walked down by torchlight and in bed by 10 pm to dream of the next four days.



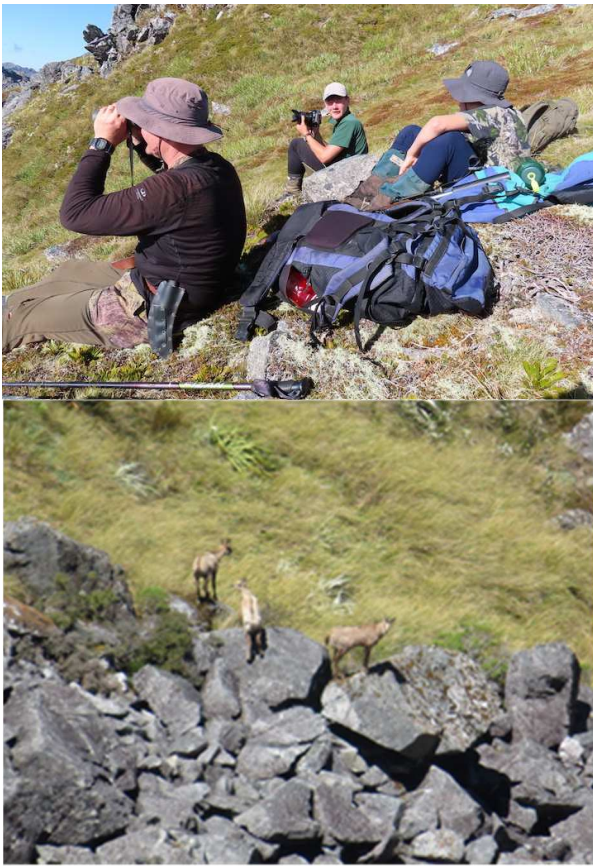
Up at dawn to a nice day with fog in the valleys. Porridge for breakfast then we climbed out of the fog over the saddle to the south towards where we saw a solitary buck chamois the previous evening.

We glassed from the saddle and saw 5 chamois on the skyline. Climbed down to a tarn then up towards the bluffs and far peak (1730 m elevation!). Glassed over the ridge to the south and Jed got a glimpse of the buck at 300 m but it quickly moved off out of sight. Had lunch after negotiating a tricky bluff section and saw a group of about 7-10 nanny & kids on a distant south-facing slope and a much closer group sheltering below us in the shade of a bluff.

We headed down the ridge towards the sheltering group and saw a lone barren doe further down the valley. She stopped at 300 m and I got settled-in, dialed-up, and comfortable. Nailed her through the shoulder on a shot recorded on video and I had my first chamois! Several others spooked at the shot, including a nanny and



twin kids that we got good footage of, and a couple of others that posed at 300+m. Steep climb down to retrieve the nanny and an even steeper climb up and out of the gully after the butchery session.



Felt like a long way back with a rock scramble and scrub bash round the tarn to get back to camp about 3.5 hours later. Tents were a welcome sight and we enjoyed a meal of chamois heart, tenderloin, and backsteak with pasta before bed.

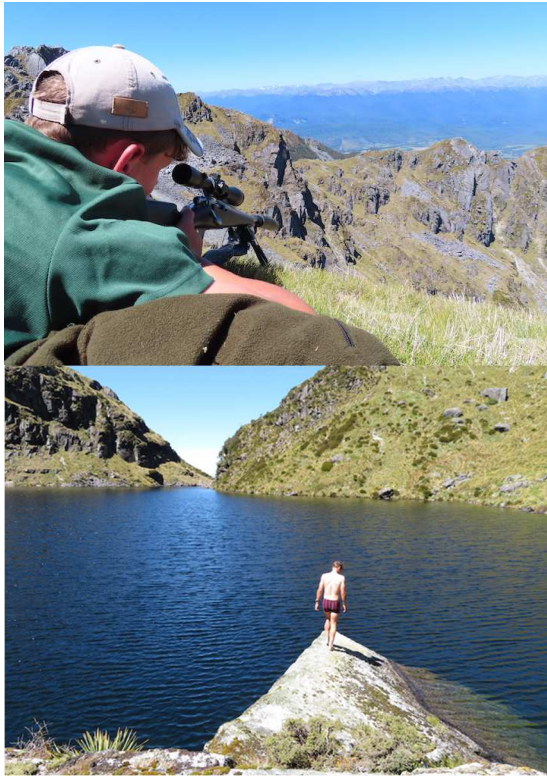
The next day we made a plan to pack up camp and climb up out of our basin to camp in the bush basin to west. Pushed up to the saddle and then settled-in for a long day of glassing. Only 3 distant chamois were sighted in the bluffs, but we saw 5 different deer including a yearling that cooled herself in a wallow. The bush basin suddenly didn't seem so appealing animal-wise so we opted to camp back down at original site.

About 2 pm Jed went further along the ridge to the south and spotted a buck chamois at 350 m. It lay down bum-on and Peter got dialed-in and settled behind the rifle. He stayed that way for 70 minutes before the chamois got up and moved, but it just didn't present a broadside shot. Played cat-and-mouse for another 30 minutes with no chance before the chamois moved out of sight at 400 m. Peter was sunburnt, had a sore eye, and was very disappointed.

Jed & Guyon headed down to stalk a yearling red, but she too grazed out of sight so we retreated back to the 'home' basin, put up the tents, and had a curry for dinner. A long day.

Day 4 had us heading back towards the tarn basin after breakfast. We had just got up onto the saddle, and we were glassing towards the east where we saw the chamois on the ridge-line on day 2, when I got a glimpse of a buck cresting a much closer ridge. Mad scramble for rifles! Jed got to his first, so Peter set-up and used Jed's 7mm 08 to shoot the young buck cleanly through the chest at 140 m. It collapsed at the shot and rolled down the hill. Nice to get an 'easy' one after the day before. We gutted him and dragged him down to a rock bivy to take a full skin and hang up the meat in the shade.





Jed & Guyon had continued up to the top of the hill and we caught up with them about 11 am. We did the steep (dodgy!) sidle again and arranged to meet at the knob that I'd shot my chamois from for lunch. Peter & Guyon were ahead with Jed & me about 200 m further up the hill when a shot rang out. Peter had seen some chamois sheltering under a bluff and set Guyon up to shoot his first chamois (a yearling buck) at 70 m with my .270.

They were both pretty happy and us Dads were proud too. Big hole through both shoulders meant it didn't go far. Had a late lunch then up and over to the tarn where the boys had a swim then back to pick up Peter's buck. Unfortunately flies had blown the backsteak, but heart, shoulders, and hindquarters were unscathed. A long walk back and we dragged into camp about 7 pm. Boys shared the carrying of Guyon's pack with the meat from their two chamois.

When we got back we saw a big (10"? ) buck on the face opposite camp. He was accessible but Jed talked himself out of a stalk (and later regretted it). I was too tired and sore and just focused on getting dinner. We watched the buck until dark with plans to attack tomorrow.

Up at 5:20 am to Jed saying "there he is". He'd spotted the same buck feeding up and over into a much less accessible location.

After breakfast I opted to stay back and direct the stalk via radio from the knob below camp while Jed and the boys sidled round below where buck had disappeared. They had only gone 200 m out of sight before there was a shot. Jed had spotted another nice buck below the bluffs and Peter won the game of paper-scissors-rocks with Guyon for the shot. He secured a very nice trophy with a good heart shot at 220 m. A few others scattered and a doe and kid came between me & tent, within 30 m of where I was hiding!

I radioed up then went back to camp to pick up an empty pack before scrambling down to join the photo session. Peter & I butchered the animal and had just got back to the tents at 10 am when there was a shot. Guyon had shot a yearling doe that they initially mistook for the big buck as it ran. A nice eater all the same.





Very hot afternoon spent head-skinning and sheltering under a tarpaulin for a lazy way to finish the trip. No animals spotted in the evening glass from tents after another backcountry meal.

Our pick-up was scheduled for 10 am but we awoke to drizzly rain and cloud right round the tents. We packed up and cloud lifted enough for boys to shoot rocks out to 600 yards. Had an In-reach exchange with pilot via home and we were eventually collected at 12:30 pm. Back to civilization for a pie then another night in Reefton to clean-up before spending a weekend in Nelson and then back on ferry on 21<sup>st</sup> December A very successful trip and we are already planning the next one. Tahr maybe .....

<p><b>CARTERTON MEAT PROCESSORS</b></p> <p><b>WE SPECIALISE IN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bacon &amp; Ham Curing</li> <li>• Small Goods &amp; Salami</li> <li>• Wild Game</li> <li>• Beef &amp; Sheep Processing</li> </ul> <p><b>The Square, Carterton • Phone 06 379 8181</b>  <b>Craig &amp; Ursula • Fax 06 379 8182</b></p> 	<p><b>HUNTING &amp; OUTDOOR SUPPLIES</b>  <i>Retail shop &amp; mail order supplies of firearm &amp; outdoor equipment</i></p> <p><b>COLLINGS &amp; BRADEY</b></p> <p><b>Ross Collings</b>  <i>Owner/Gunsmith</i></p> <p>62 Costley Street,          Carterton, Wairarapa,          New Zealand.          Phone: 0664 6 379-6690          Fax: 06 379-6689          Email: ross@outdoorsupplies.co.nz          Web site: www.outdoorsupplies.co.nz</p> 
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## Buy, Sell, and Swap

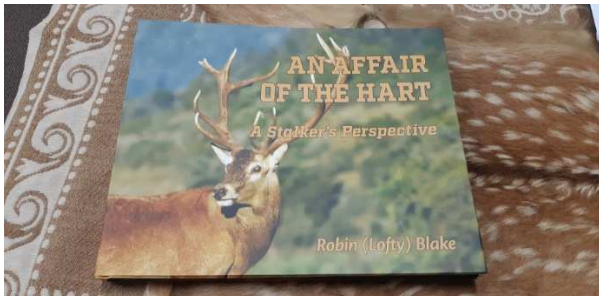
If you have hunting or outdoor related items that you want to buy, sell, or swap, then we'll include these in the Newsletter free of charge (better than TradeMe). Send items (with picture if you wish) to [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com)

## 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.

## Book: An Affair of the Hart.

Fourteen copies available for \$60 each. That's a bargain for a hardback coffee table book. Pick up from the hall, or postage extra. Email [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase a copy.



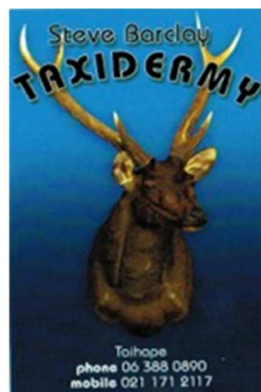
## SHOTGUNS

Two 12-gauge shotguns for claybird shooting one is down-the-line gun the other one's for skeet shooting The owner of the guns is Alistair Fenwick a very good shooter. Still good guns - one just needs a bit of a tidy up and some other bits for reloading. 📱 Neil 0210736162



## NZDA MERCHANDISE

<https://nzda.shop/collections/all>





## 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



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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** our 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.