



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **June 2021**

General meeting Wednesday 16 June
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall
Moose hunting video

General meeting 16 June

After a really good turn-out last month, we hope to see the hall fill up again for our June meeting. Shane Dougan has promised to arrange a video of moose hunting Followed by a cuppa and supper. Photo below is of Rick Maddigan (one of my old salmon fishing buddies from Canada) with his Newfoundland moose October 2019



Branch has a NEW PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings and as a general club contact. This was kindly donated by Hamish Graham. Phone is to go on a \$10/month rollover plan with 2 degrees.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

11-13 JUNE NATEX ANNUAL CONFERENCE Queenstown. Our branch will be represented by Racheal Dean (a club member who was already attending for Game Animal Council). Club will pay her registration

fee and meals. The committee has also provided Racheal with voting directions on the motions being considered.

16 JUNE GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Moose hunting video

7 JULY COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

15 JULY GENERAL MEETING Smallbore shooting. **Note that this is a Thursday night and is a week earlier than advertised last month.** Details to be confirmed next month.

4 AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

18 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed. Bring along entries for AHT and photo competitions.

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

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

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.

Recent Events

15-16 MAY WANGANUI FALLOW HUNT

Eleven senior members and two juniors enjoyed a great weekend. The weather was mild after a bit of rain overnight Friday, and a total of 19 deer were shot. Everybody got all the animals they were after. Does, yearlings, and spikers were all on the menu. The 'no bucks' policy on the property is already paying dividends with some nice mature animals sighted. Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for another well organised trip. Photo below by Steve Playle



19 MAY GENERAL MEETING

NZ Police on Firearms licensing - Nick and Damian went through the process and talked about the background for the changes. 34 members attended.



News

HUNTING TRIPS

A discussion on trip subsidies planned for the committee meeting on 2 June was deferred until more committee members are in attendance.

PARKVALE HALL

NEW PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings. Hall title is awaiting Incorporated Societies Registrar to reinstate PVHS – nothing more we can do at this stage. Shane L and Garry W have gone over the hall and made a list of work. We will turn this into a maintenance schedule. A quote was received for a heat pump. A timer will be installed to ensure it can operate for no more than 2 hours at a time. Fundraising options will be explored for a kitchen & bathroom upgrade.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

SAR AGM 20 June. 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, but **range is shut 19-20 June**— members cannot access range on these days. 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

Here is a link to the Tararua Aorangi Remutaka Huts Committee website: <https://tarhc.org.nz/>

DOC LIAISON

DOC Wairarapa News and Views newsletter is at:

https://mcusercontent.com/3d341b87565ba2d2ee3ecd9cb/files/d87625f7-317c-445a-8df2-f27aec6c19b4/NL_8_Autumu_2021_Wair_Vollie.pdf?utm_source=Email+Newsletter&utm_campaign=5b6f8eb7d8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_05_10_49_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_57d72da3b9-5b6f8eb7d8-136472487

DEER PARK

Baleage invoice has been paid.

FINANCIALS

Bank balance \$11,656.87 + \$15,613.97 in term deposits.

MEMBERSHIPS

We are trying to speed up the approval process for new members by trialling an email approval system through the committee. The branch gmail account has been tidied up to reconcile with the latest membership list.

FIREWOOD

Contact Andrew Dennes on 027 2749064 if you want to buy wood. Rates \$70 m³ for members who don't go to the working bee and \$100 per m³ for general public. If not sold Lloyd happy to store it in shed for sale in mid-winter.



CLOSING DATE FOR BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS NOW 31 AUGUST

We have moved this forward a month to allow more time for scoring and engraving of trophies before the Annual Dinner in October. 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 Shield)
- 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)

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 Greg Hamilton (King and Henry), or Joe Hansen (phone 027 692 6465), by **5 pm Tuesday 31 August.**

- Photographs to be emailed to Richard O'Driscoll at 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. 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

Two great stories and some photos this month. Hope you enjoy reading these as much as I did. To encourage more contributions we are offering a **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.

Ticking off the public land stag

By Brad Gardiner

With the covid drama last year putting a stop to any public land roar hunting I was chomping to get out and do a few days back in the Tararua's. Andrew had asked if I was keen to go into the Hurangis with him and Luke for the roar to a hut on the south end but leading up to the roar it fell through with the farmer. Andrew had talked about this old hut that he had been put onto by one of the old guys that built it and had done a lot of hunting up and around that area but had got to long in the tooth to do it now. So that was to be our plan B roar trip. I had hunted around this area a couple of times a few years earlier and knew of the flats and some of the terraces that looked worthwhile. So with a week booked off work we headed in on Easter Monday with a good weather window and the hope that all the weekend hunters where on their way out. We bumped into a few trampers heading out and a couple of Dutch brothers that went racing past us on their way in for an overnight hunt. The sweat was running and we were puffing pretty hard with heavy packs so it took us five hours to get to the doc hut so pulled pin on carrying up to our intended hut. But we did hear a couple of roars from the other side of the river up high on the way in.

It was about an hour or so till dark and was starting to drizzle so we just rested up when we got to the hut and got tea ready. Just on dark we heard two shots not far from the hut and about half an hour later the two Dutch boys turned up with a small six pointer. They had heard a stag roaring well up the river so things were looking good.

We made plans to head up the ridge we had heard the stags on the walk in while the other two were going to head up the ridge on the opposite side of the creek to a wallow they knew about.

Half way up our intended ridge the following morning we started to see more and more sign as well as fresh rubbings. I started letting out the odd roar and soon after that we heard our first roar. It was still a fair bit up from us so we got a move on to close the gap. The country it was in was a nice terrace with reasonably open bush and by the time we got up to his area we could hear three stags going at each other. We decided to go for the closest one and let Luke sneak in and Andrew and I would stay back and maybe let out a roar or two. It seemed to take forever but then the roaring stopped and there was no shot. The wind was moving around a bit so figured he must have smelt us. At the same time the other stags had moved off and where only letting out the odd roar. We eventually caught up with Luke who told us he had managed to see his head and antlers moving up and down a ridge before it disappeared. He thought it looked to be a young six pointer.

The day was getting on so we headed back to the hut for some lunch and to get packed up to head to our next hut. The Dutch boys turned up not long after us and hadn't had much luck either.

We headed off after lunch with heavy packs on again heading for our next destination which took us about a hour up river.

Once we had found the hut after crossing the river we were horrified at the state of it. Andrew had been there about a year or so before but the door had rotted off and the wind and rats had be at it with all the building paper falling off the roof and shit everywhere. We ripped all the paper out and gave it a tidy up so we could sleep in it the night. We shot out for an evening hunt to look at a slip face and saw a hind but failed to catch up with any stags. After a long night sleep due to the noisey river we got up early and had breakfast. The sun was just hitting the opposite face when a couple of stags let out a roar each. That got us keen to get out for a hunt. Luke crossed the river to have a go at those ones while I stayed on our side and hunted around the face. I had covered a bit of ground with nothing happening to my roars but then that all changed.

About fifty metres in front of me a stag let out a roar. I was up above him and the little bit of wind was perfect for a go at him. We started to roar at each other with him coming in to about twenty metres or so before backing off again. I was just letting out small roars to not intimidate him to much but when he backed off I thought he was probably a young stag. So I had to try to stalk in to him. I slid down the bank and roared again and could

hear him in a thick bit of bush not far away then soon after he roared and was further away again. So I moved in towards him again and let out another little roar. I got to a little ridge and looked over with my rifle ready to go and there he was. Walking down a little ridge maybe twenty metres away. He stopped and I could only see bits of antler and a head so had to wait for a clear shot at him. He took two more steps then I had my shot through the trees at his chest. At the shot he did the big downhill bolt so I knew I had a good hit on him. As I saw him bolt past I realised he was a lot bigger than I had thought. I sat there for a minute or two before going to where I last had seen him and followed the big skid marks he had made heading down the hill. There was also spots of blood so knew he shouldn't have gone too far. About thirty odd metres I found him stone dead and couldn't believe my eyes at the size of both his body and antlers. He was a old boy with two missing front teeth and no eye teeth left in him. After butchering him up and getting it down to the river I headed back to camp to catch up with the boys and pack up for the walk back to the other hut. We had a look around on the flats and checked a few areas out for a future hunt while walking back. We spent the last night back at the doc hut resting ready for another big walk out the next day. The boys went for a quick hunt the next day checking out a new area and hearing a stag close by but not catching up with it. The rest of the day was spent slogging it back out to the Ute with still heavy packs and a set of antlers as well to contend with. We even managed to see a hind and weaner just off the track on the walk out. We were all shattered by the time we got out but it was all worth it.



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A story about my new binos

By Liz Nicholson

Part 1

It's always great to be lucky enough to win a raffle prize, better still a flash new pair of binoculars. Also, great to have an 8-day hunt already booked starting the Saturday after the raffle win.

Saturday 20 March was an early start; up at 4.30am and on the road by 10 to 5 heading for our first stop at Waipukurau. Bacon and eggs for breakfast at Roger's. We load up with Roger, Andrew and Ross's gear plus Gus the dog. Golly these guys have packed heaps! Twice as much as us.

We arrived at Helisika 1.5 hours before our scheduled flight. (always best to be early) Wow 'organised chaos', 2 pilots for 30 flights and no admin person. So, we pitched in and helped. Controlling the eager hunters while the pilots were away flying groups in and out. We did catch up with friends from Whangarei who we last saw same place same time last year. Again, we promised to catch up proper! How do you get the stars to align for a road trip to Northland and the business to tick over as normal?

It was a good flight in-the big squirrel 550 smoothed out the bumpy bit through the saddle. We touch down at Gold Creek hut just in time for lunch. We all made a concerted effort on Fiona's baking as Roger needed the containers empty for venison at the end of the week. Yum-great fruit cake, date jumble and shortbread.

Dave and I headed off at 1pm to the camp site in cloudy cool conditions with a keen wind, you guessed it, following us. Heard one whistle as we crossed a gully so 'they are here'. After an early tea we set out for a look. Windy by a hind and young one; 'Wow what big white bums you have.' It was a freezing cold wind so early bed. It drizzled on and off from the middle of the night. Woke to clagged in conditions with drizzle. A lazy start to Sunday with breakfast in bed (thanks Liz). During our second cuppa at morning tea five shots from neighbours' block sounding very close, "Are they in our block?" A little while later a helicopter came over to pick up a group in that block. Guess someone was just emptying their mag and scaring the deer away!

We head out for a hunt, headlight just in case, lots of glassing with the new binos. They are definitely an upgrade on the old ones and I like the keepers in the back of the holder so the chest strap on the day pack takes the weight of the neck. Lots of glassing, plenty of likely spots, fresh sign, lovely trout spied in Gold Creek pool. Walked and glassed for 3-4 hours travelling up a gully over to glass the area we saw deer last year. Saw five on bald knob behind hut, they were out feeding at 2pm! Will check them out later in the week.

On the home stretch half a km from camp 6.30ish Dave spies a hind and fawn 1 km away. We closed the gap by stealth and a helpful shadow from the hill to 375 yards. Plenty of comment about !*#!** glasses fogging up and 'Where is she!' Bang.....thud, got her! High fives all round. Well done. Ok let's whip across and gut her, leave her for the night and come back in the morning. Off down the slope goes Dave, he is at the creek already.....ka splash! Dave's in the creek up to his thighs. Sounded like he might need a snorkel! Off we go again, I step over the creek, up up up hill, found her. Fawn arrived back just as we were leaving, too flighty to get a shot away. We are back at camp in fading light. How quick your luck can change.



It was a chilly night and we woke to frozen fog on the tent. Dave's trousers, socks and boots frozen solid after their dunking last evening. We butchered a lovely lot of meat (set well!). We put the meat bag in the creek in the shade to act as a chiller. Back at camp for a cuppa on the cosy side of the terrace. Looking across to the other guys camp 1.5kms away perched on a hill top in the scrubby bush (now named 'The Bird's Nest'), it looks like laundry day. They must have had heaps of condensation overnight. We pack up again, heading off to follow the main stream. Hot and light winds, lovely.

Back at camp for an early tea and radio check in with the others. Ross says there are two deer below the manuka knobs. Its 6.30pm, off we go. Liz glassing a spiker, Dave off higher up for a better shot. We have news Andrew has rolled his ankle up on the highest ridge in the block. It's all happening. Whistles from deer in the tussock, the spiker looks around. Bang! Spiker takes off he's not hit. I stand up after a bit to 'meerkat' the area. Dave way ahead charging through the tussock. I sit down again. Bang! Dave's off in pursuit again. This time I stay standing to see what's up. Off I go to catch up to Dave. Another nice hind, gutted and left to set overnight. It feels like a frost is on the way. Back to camp and into bed by 8.30pm. The half-moon makes a good light for the night time wee wee in the small hours. Looks like it's starting to cloud over. No frost hopefully.

Tuesday morning dawns cloudy and milder. After a quick breakfast we are off to butcher the deer. We check in with the others to find out how Andrew is. Roger is calling in emergency services for Andrew, he can't put weight on the ankle and had to take the boot off in the night. Great essential kit these PLBs. Within the hour of Roger activating his PLB, Andrew and his pack (what a bonus) are helicoptered out by Helisika and back at their base. Waiting for a very anxious Mum to pick him up and cart him off to Hasting base hospital emergency. He is diagnosed with a sprained ligament, fitted with a moon boot and sent on his way home with paperwork for the rehab at home in Waipukurau. Roger will meet up with Ross and head back to their main camp. We check in at midday and Roger and Ross are back safe. Another handy bit of kit-2-way hand held radios for everyone.

To be continued. The deers' luck only gets worse!

Some roar photos By Hamish Graham

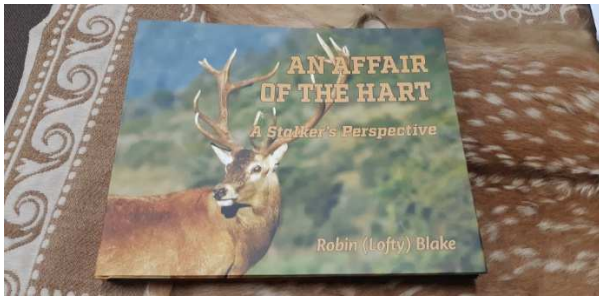


Buy, Sell, and Swap

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

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 if you would like to purchase a copy.

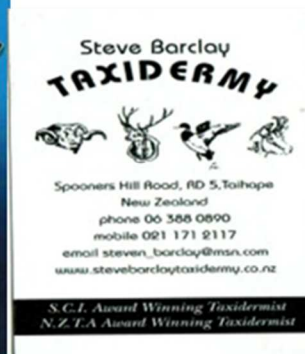


PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

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.

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 – we really appreciate your assistance.



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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** 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

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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.