



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **April 2022**

No General Meeting in April

Next meeting 18 May at Hunting & Fishing Wairarapa

No meeting in April

With school holidays and many of our members out in the hills, we will not be holding a general meeting in April.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 18 May** when we have been invited by our friends at Hunting & Fishing Wairarapa to join them at their new store at 319 Ngaumutawa Road. Time and details will be confirmed in the May newsletter. Until then, get amongst it and stay safe in the hills and maimais!



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

NO GENERAL MEETING in APRIL Gone hunting

4 MAY COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

7-8 MAY DUCKSHOOTING OPENING WEEKEND

18 MAY GENERAL MEETING Hunting and Fishing 319 Ngaumutawa Road, Masterton. Time to be confirmed

21-22 MAY WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Full

1 JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

15 JUNE GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker is new branch member **Miles Cranston** from **Feel Alive Coaching** on getting fit for the hills

6 JULY COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

~20 JULY GENERAL MEETING We are trying to arrange a smallbore shooting evening again.

29–31 JULY NZDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WAIKATO

15 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER Parkvale Hall. Put this date in your calendars now!

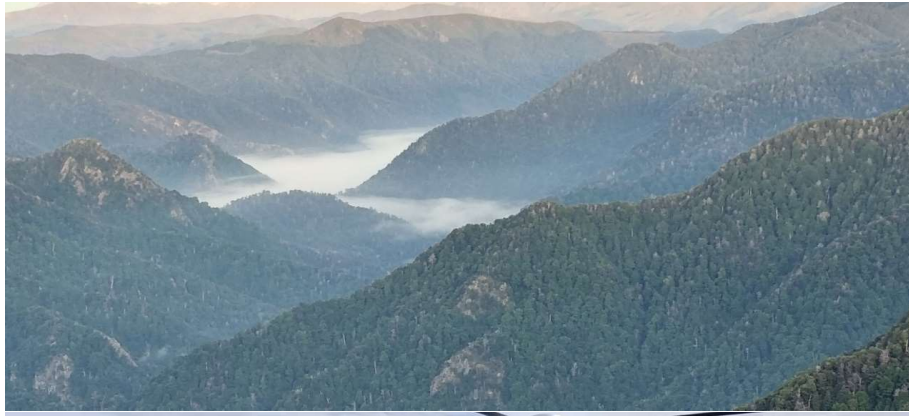
29–30 OCTOBER SIKASHOW Mystery Creek Events Centre Hamilton. For more details see www.sikashow.co.nz



Recent Events

4-7 MARCH KAWEKA SIKASHOW FLY-IN HUNT Five members went into Back Ridge Bivvy and Venison Tops. A total of 28 sika deer were seen and four shot. Thanks to Lloyd Rayner for organising this branch trip and to Lloyd and Hamish Graham for photos below and over the page. This was a final trip with East Kaweka Helicopters with Chris Crosse retiring.





23 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Present: 23 branch members. Andrew Dennes presided. The President welcomed members and Life member Pete Cunningham to the Annual General Meeting. He acknowledged Hunting and Fishing Wairarapa and King and Henry as the evening sponsors and for providing product for the door prizes.

President's report

Andrew Dennes presented his 2021/22 annual report. He covered the many branch events, hunts, shoots, working bees, fundraisers and social activities. He acknowledged the great committee support that was behind the many events along with input from branch members. Life member Pete Cunningham was thanked for printing and delivery of the hard copies of the newsletter and for donating two cups for the smallbore competition. The Newsletter continues to be the mouthpiece for the branch and he acknowledged Richard for producing an informative and timely publication. He mentioned Alex for organising the shooting competition and clay shoot and for being our range officer and Derrick for assisting at the shoots; Phil, Aidan, Ray, Paul and Tony for managing the deer park; Phil and Liz for SAR support; Lloyd, Andrew W, Hamish and Derrick for arranging hunting trips; and Murry for liaising with DOC and helping paint the hall. For firewood fundraising thanks to Dave Bashford, Dave McKay and the many members who worked hard supplying, processing and delivering wood. Great support for maintaining, repairing and improving the hall was covered with Valley Plumbing and Quality builders acknowledged for their kind sponsorship of the heat pump, spouting and building repairs, also Guthrie Bowron for the donation of paint. Membership growth, hut maintenance, hay carting and range officer training were also mentioned. The report closed with Aidan being thanked for his time as Branch secretary and Sean for this role as Treasurer/Vice President and for facilitating the new constitution and progressing the Hall land ownership.

Financial report

Sean Roberts presented his report and spoke to the financial accounts. The Financial Statements were circulated, total income: \$12,931, expenditure: \$8,460, Total Society Funds: \$120,629 Working cap: \$29,869. The number of members has increased in 2021/22 - 74 Senior, 22 Superannuitants, 4 Life, 51 family, 5 Associate and 3 Affiliate totalling 159, up 15 from the previous year. The meeting confirmed Bill Duncan as financial reviewer for the 2022/23 year.

Annual subscriptions were reported based on the Committee decision in November 2021.

Appointment of Officers

As there had been no other nominations received the following with declared elected: President: Andrew Dennes; Vice-President: Gary Warren; Treasurer: Sean Roberts; Secretary: Liz Nicholson; Committee: Phil Gray, Alex Beesley, Pete Cunningham, Lloyd Rayner, Derrick Foley, Aidan Bichan, Richard O'Driscoll, Shane Lehmsteade, Derek Williams, Shane Dougan, Hamish Graham, Murray Clark and Luke Johnson.

General Business:

Dave McKay asked if members were aware of the 1080 drop planned for the Aorangi's in May/June. The Committee will follow up and report to members (see later in the newsletter).

Guest Speaker:

Joe Hansen presented a range of photos spanning his 50 years working for DOC and previous organisations. These included his time in the South Wairarapa and the West Coast and covered historical photos, track and hut building, hunting results and some stunning scenery. He also showed photos from his time in Fiordland that were familiar to a number of members.

2 APRIL BRANCH CLAY-TARGET SHOOT

Not a big turn-out for this one – perhaps not that surprising for a fine Saturday in the roar and with a Wanganui trip on too. Congratulations to Hamish Graham, who arrived late, borrowed a gun, then pipped Dave McKay to win by one with a score of 22/30. Thanks to Greg Hamilton for acting as range officer, and to Murry for offering to do the BBQ.

Top 5 shooters in order were: Hamish (22), Dave (21), Greg (20), Regan (20), & Richard (10).



2-3 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT

Eleven members including four first-timers enjoyed a weekend of fine weather with 17 fallow shot. Apparently the bucks were already starting to croak. Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson and Paul Sayer for organising and 'guiding' the newcomers. Next trip in May is already full.





News

MEMBERSHIPS

We have had 7 new senior members and 2 associate members join us since March. Please make the new faces welcome at meetings and club events. A total of 69% of 2021/22 members renewed by 31 March and are eligible for NZDA Promo draw. Remember memberships expire 31 May. Email membership@deerstalkers.org if you have not received your invoice.

PARKVALE HALL

Regular hall bookings continue to come through. We have just secured a regular booking for dance classes on Mon-Wed nights from 3:30–6:30 pm. We will soon get the locks change and new keys cut. The transfer of land is still bouncing back and forwards between Incorporated Societies and the lawyers. **PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.**

SEARCH AND RESCUE

There was a BBQ on 7 April. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

RANGE & SHOOTING

A report on the Branch clay target shoot is above. Remember, Gladstone range is available for the use of members on weekends when not in use. Branch members get 6 free visits a year. **The branch needs more range officers.** If you are interested in doing range officer training please contact Alex on 027 4359216.

HUTS

Planning is continuing towards renovations and re-cladding on Sayers Hut. A couple of members are scheduled to fly into Neill Forks during the roar and will report back on the state of the hut.

DOC LIAISON

Murry Clark is looking to book Waiuku Lodge (northern Haurangis) for a club trip.

DEER PARK

The red stag has started to fire up and warning signs will be put up. We are in discussions with Masterton District Council about extending the deer pens.

FINANCIALS

Bank balance \$12,896.93 + \$15,926.57 in term deposits. We will transfer another \$5,000 to a term deposit. The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00 but please note this is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.

FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

The wood split in January and February has already been sold. More trees have been sourced. A group of members also spent a couple of afternoon sessions stacking hay bales in March with proceeds going to the club.



Changes to Shooting Club and Ranges Regulations | Police Open Consultation

NZ Police is once again seeking to restrict shooting activities, impose unreasonable costs and compliance obligations on clubs, and further restricting licensed firearms owners' ability to shoot and be part of a club.

NZ Police has announced on the 23rd of March that it is seeking submissions on a raft of proposed amendments to the Arms Regulations 1992, seeking to introduce regulations to support mandatory shooting range and club registration and certification and associated fees.

NZDA had no hand in drafting the proposed clubs certification regime or range activity operating restrictions - these NZ Police drafted proposals were not vetted by, or pre-shared with, NZDA nor any shooting community clubs. A particularly alarming proposal is a ban on under 16's from shooting on ranges and banning all family members and unlicensed people from being part of any hunting or shooting clubs activities including helping out on their committees.

Submissions are due Wednesday, 4th of May. <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/what-do-i-need-know/new-firearms-laws-and-what-they-mean/consultation-shooting-clubs-ranges-regulations>

It is vital that licenced firearms owners are heard, seen and our combined voices respected by NZ Police, especially in an era where we are forced to fight for our right to hunt, and especially now when even access to safe ranges and shooting clubs becomes a fight in itself.

What can you do? Tell people. Make a submission. Email your local MPs. Email the Minister of Police, Poto Williams and tell her your feelings in a clear and respectful way – poto.williams@parliament.govt.nz

The options put forward by NZ Police in the consultation document are far from set in stone nor are they the only options available. The discussion document invites you to choose from their options 1 or 2, etc., however, as it is a consultation document you can fully reject an option, propose alternatives or suggest changes.

Please, we urge all members to have their say on this via the submission process. If we do nothing, the proposed regulations by NZ Police will see the mass closure of ranges and in some situations shooting clubs will dissolve. This is not only bad for the firearms community but also for a safer New Zealand. We need strong clubs with safe ranges, delivering training to firearms users because firearms are part of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage and are used by 240,000 New Zealanders for work, sport, and food gathering.

It's also worth noting that NZ Police themselves access and use many of our community operated ranges, including NZDA ranges, to practice their shooting.

Firearms licence renewals

With more uncertainty and likely impacts due to COVID-19 Omicron in the community, all holders with licences due to expire at any time in 2022 are advised to apply for a licence renewal now.

Applying for a new licence now will allow Police to plan ahead and effectively resource processing timeframes to help counter any Omicron impacts, including physical movement restrictions, sickness, or isolation requirements affecting both Police staff and licence holders. Police continues to have longer processing times for firearms licence applications. Renewal applications are currently being prioritised, then first time applications when the licence is for work purposes, followed by first time applications.

Licence holders are reminded if you intend on participating in your sport, hunting or food gathering activities that involve firearms you need to ensure your licence is current. If at any point during the application renewal process your existing licence expires before you have received your new licence, you will not be able to lawfully possess or use your firearms and ammunition (unless you are under the immediate supervision of a valid firearms licence holder). During this time, you should give your firearms and ammunition to a current firearms licence holder to store appropriately on your behalf, until your firearms licence renewal application is approved.

Applying for your renewal now will improve the likelihood that your licence will be processed on time. The link to Police's website is here: <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/what-do-i-need-know/news-and-updates>



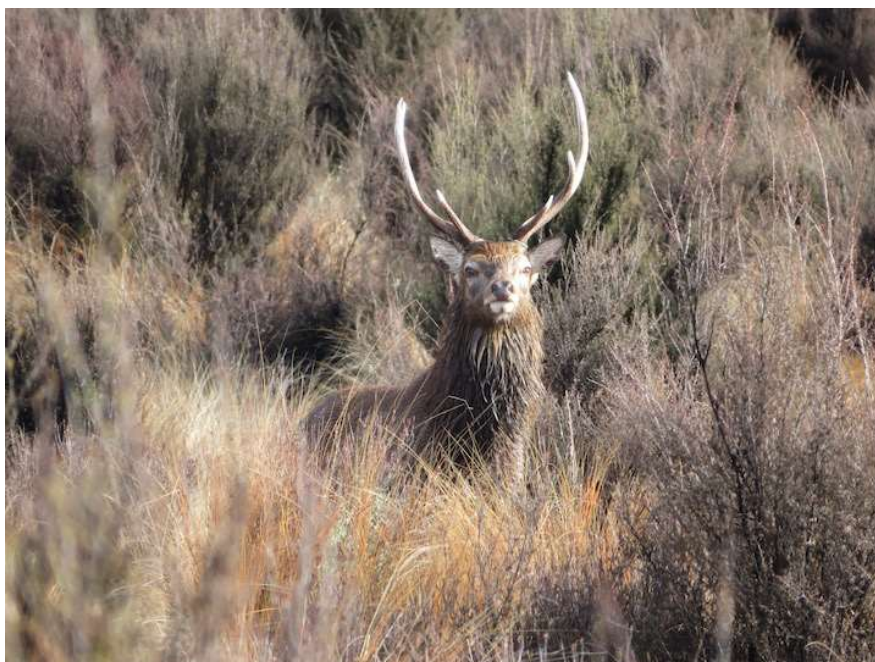
ROAR SAFETY

Looking after your mates means making sure that everyone in your hunting party is well-prepared:

- Before you go, keep an eye on the weather forecast – particularly for any rain and snow that could lead to a rise in river levels – and make your plans accordingly.
- Make sure everyone has the right clothing, food and equipment for all possible conditions.
- Take into account the experience and fitness of everyone in your party when planning your trip.
- Know where you are going, make sure you carry a map, know how to read it and leave detailed intentions with friends and whanau.
- Carry an emergency communication device such as a distress beacon or satellite phone.

When out on the hill you can look after your mates by:

- Involving your whole party in the decision-making and making sure everyone is comfortable with the plans being made.
- Taking firearm safety seriously, because even if you are hunting alone it is highly likely that other hunters will be around.
- Positively identifying your target. It is not good enough to 'think' what you are looking at it is a big stag, you need to 'know' it is.
- Treating every firearm as loaded and if you are sharing a firearm, make sure the person carrying the firearm maintains responsibility for checking it is in the appropriate state of load.
- If you are hunting, NZDA recommends everyone in the party to wear blaze.



Swazi Pro deals

NZDA members get access to Swazi Pro Deals Swazi TRADE PRICES are now available to all NZDA members purchasing Swazi products from their online store or retail shop in Levin. NZDA has been fortunate to have Swazi as a long time sponsor. They have provided prizes for all major kids events with a particular focus on shooting competitions.

How to get Pro Deal access:

1. Head to the Swazi website www.swazi.co.nz
2. Click the “Farm-Trade & Pro Deal Members” button on the top right of your screen.
3. Fill out the application form quoting your own NZDA membership number.

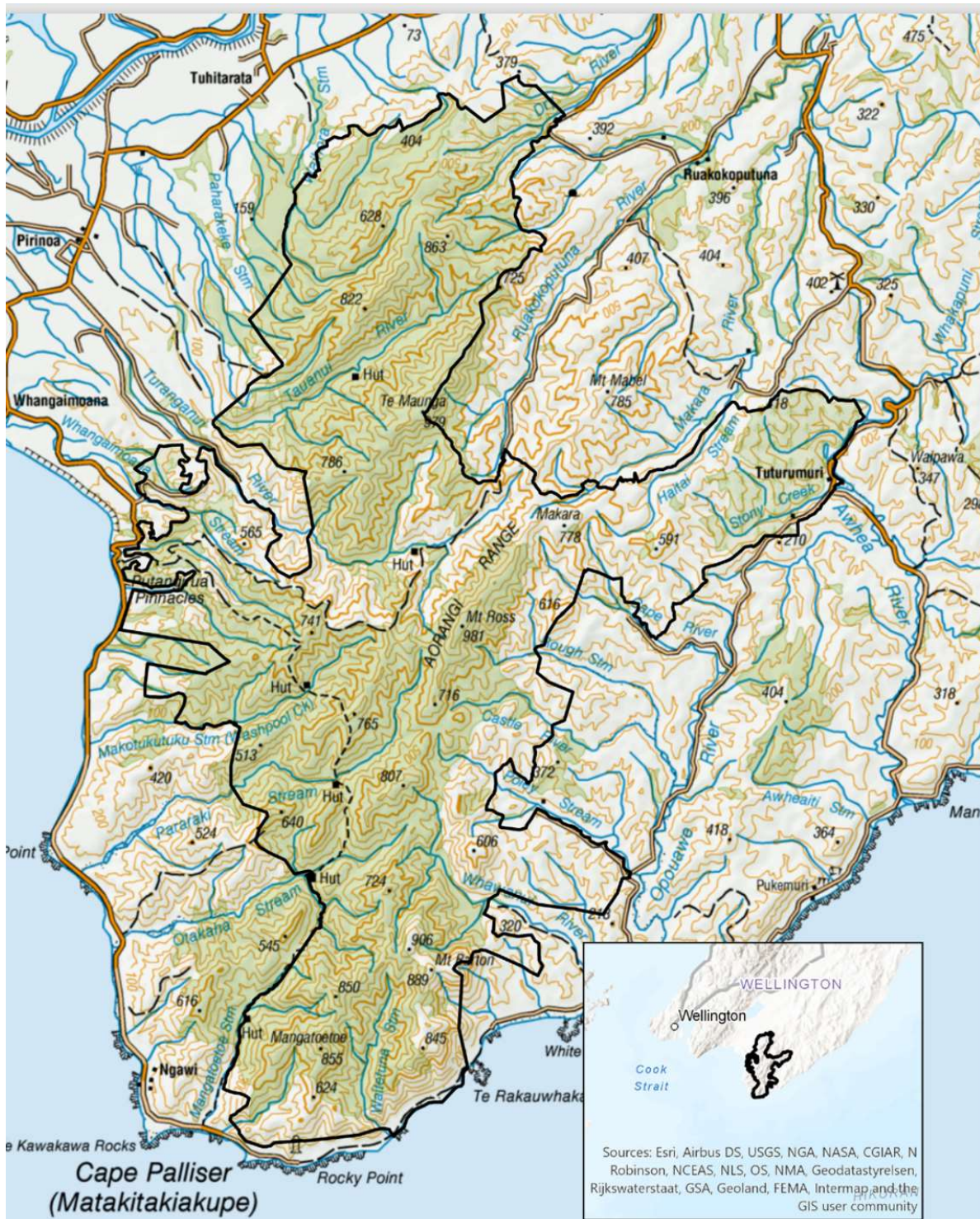


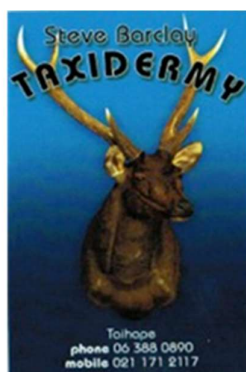
Aerial possum Control Operations

OSPRI, the Department of Conservation (DOC), Aorangi Recreational Hunters Group and the Aorangi Restoration Trust (ART) are teaming up again for the next phase of Project Aorangi. The 10-year project aims to provide a “triple hit” on pests by reducing the number of possums, stoats and rats over approximately 36,000 hectares of the Aorangi Forest Park and surrounding private farmland. The next stage involves a repeat of the 2014 and 2017 aerial 1080 operation in May–June 2022.

A contractor will be doing the work on behalf of OSPRI’s TBfree programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. They will discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to dogs and livestock. Consents from the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Health are required for this operation. Affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts, notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.

We have been told that deer repellent will be used again in 2022. The area of operation is shown on the next page.





Hunting Reports

No contributions again this month. Hopefully there will be some great stories coming in when everybody gets back from their annual roar trips! There is a **prize of \$50 for the best newsletter story** from October 2021 to September 2022. Open to all members, so please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com.



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.

Book: An Affair of the Hart.

Fourteen copies available for \$60 each. Pick up from the hall, or postage extra. Email wairarapanzda@gmail.com if you would like to purchase a copy.

NZDA MERCHANDISE

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

CHILLER

For sale \$6000 I replaced the chiller unit about 3 years ago go well I have built a larger one.
Dimensions 2200 / 1150 outside; 2000 / 940 inside
Phone Dave Mckay 0274395034




Final Thoughts

Be safe be sure.
Assume it is a person not a deer.
No meat is better than no mate.
Identify your target.

Hard Copy Newsletter Recipients – if you are receiving this newsletter by post but also use email, please contact the editors at 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 Branch now has a Closed Facebook Group (open only to members). You can apply to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/798600664354866> Great for sharing all those photos you don't want to make public!



The website is at: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>. Thanks to **Nick Perkins** our website administrator.

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