



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **December 2021**

No general meeting this month

## No General Meeting

There is no general meeting in December or in January. However we do have a number of firewood working bees coming up over the summer (see details below).

It has been another year disrupted by Covid but a busy one for the Branch with lots of activities, successful hunts, and new members. Wishing everybody a safe and happy holiday season. Next newsletter will be in February 2022 ahead of our General Meeting on 16 February.



## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**NO JANUARY COMMITTEE OR GENERAL MEETINGS.**

**8 DECEMBER FIREWOOD WORKING BEE (RINGING)** Wednesday from 5:15 pm at Dave Mackay's place 1360 Te Whiti Road, Gladstone. We will be ringing only (not splitting). Please bring chainsaw and all personal protective gear including hearing protection.

**15 DECEMBER FIREWOOD WORKING BEE (RINGING)** Wednesday from 5:15 pm at Dave Mackay's place 1360 Te Whiti Road, Gladstone. To finish ringing (again no splitting). Please bring chainsaw and all personal protective gear including hearing protection.

**30 JANUARY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE (SPLITTING)** Sunday from 8 am at Dave Mackay's place 1360 Te Whiti Road, Gladstone. Splitting session. Members participating in one or more of the working bee can purchase wood at 50 per m<sup>3</sup>. Bring a trailer. If you have a splitter, please bring it along. You will need hearing protection.

**2 FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**16 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Our first meeting for 2022. Speaker Ollie Walker-Cudby from Free Range Hunting at Te Awaite.

**26-27 FEBRUARY SIKI SHOW** Postponed from 20-21 November due to Covid restrictions

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

**4-7 MARCH KAWEKA FLY-IN TRIP** Still places available.

**22 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall, 7:30 pm. Note that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month rather than our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.



## Recent Events

### 17 NOVEMBER SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

22 members attended. The new Branch constitution was approved (in 5 minutes!). This is now available online on the Incorporated Societies website: <https://is-register.companiesoffice.govt.nz/>

Followed by a talk by Derrick Field, president of the Tararua, Aorangi, & Remutaka Huts & Tracks Committee. Derrick gave a really interesting account of his adventures culling and working for Forest Service and DOC and showed some photos of huts past and present.

### 20-21 NOVEMBER WANGANUI SPRING FALLOW HUNT

Fourteen members enjoyed some gorgeous spring weather and great hunting. A total of 25 deer were harvested. Congratulations to Callum Dennes (age 8) getting his first deer. New member Adam Hodgson enjoyed some success too. Another dozen members are up there again this weekend (4-5 December) stocking up on some prime spring venison.

Photos over the page are by Peter O'Driscoll.





## 28 NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS BARBECUE

Fantastic turn-out with 45 people including kids showing up. The weather was warm and the rain stayed away. The day started with some target and gong shooting, but with a large gallery watching there were more spectators than shooters! Plenty of sausages and some tasty venison steak were given the barbecue treatment. Thanks to Dave Mackay for hosting this event. More photos from Peter O'Driscoll over the page.





## News

### HUNTING TRIPS

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

### PARKVALE HALL

Gary Warren has cleaned up water tank and filter and replaced cracked toilet cistern. Regular hall bookings are coming through. Heat pump installation still due. Committee is getting quotes for painting hall. **PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.**

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Pete Cunningham had an adventure on the recent SAREX involving some unplanned pack floating. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.



## RANGE & SHOOTING

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

No recent reports. We are still planning renovations on Sayers Hut.

## DEER PARK

The excess stock (3 reds and 4 fallow) have been sold. Murry Clark shot 15 rabbits out of the pens. One of the pregnant hinds took her frustrations out on one of the corpses!



## FINANCIALS

Bank balance \$12,815.57 + \$15,843.15 in term deposits.

## MEMBERSHIPS

We welcome Brenton Hodgson back to the Branch. Committee set the membership fees for next year (from 1 March 2022). These are:

- Senior \$120
- Family \$10 per member
- Superannuants \$60
- Students \$60
- Associate \$60
- Junior (under 18) \$30
- Affiliate \$10 (must be full member of another NZDA Branch)

## FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

Dave Bashford has dropped off log ends at David MacKay's that we will process during working bees in December and January. More trees have been sourced.

Wood prices for 2022:

- \$50 per m<sup>3</sup> for members who participate in working bees
- \$75 per m<sup>3</sup> for members not involved in working bees
- \$100 per m<sup>3</sup> for non-members



## 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. Recently Swazi gifted the all new HUNTS team and warranted HUNTS Instructors with NZDA embroidered jackets to keep them looking sharp and functioning on the job. Swazi's sponsorship of the HUNTS instructor jackets is a \$40,000 package that spans the next few years.

How to get Pro Deal access:

1. Head to the Swazi website [www.swazi.co.nz](http://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.



## Firearms on Air NZ

We have been notified by Air New Zealand's Dangerous Goods team that there are changes to their firearms carriage requirements. Changes are effective on and from 17 November 2021.

All passengers traveling with firearms from that date will be required to undergo two 'Ownership Verification Checks'. Details are here: <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/resources/publications/news/test-news-page-20/>

## Proposed aerial possum control – Hutt Water Collection Area and Kaitoke Regional Park

Greater Wellington and Wellington Water Ltd. are proposing an aerial operation to target possums in the Hutt Water Collection Area (HWCA) and the Kaitoke Regional Park. Originally, this operation was proposed for winter 2021. However, it has been rescheduled to winter 2022, with the exact timing depending on suitable weather conditions. If you wish to make any comment regarding this proposal, please forward them to [Graeme.Butcher@gw.govt.nz](mailto:Graeme.Butcher@gw.govt.nz) by 21 December 2021.



Here is a map of the operational area:



**Proposed Operational Area**

## COLFO

The new Police firearms unit announced by Police Minister Hon Poto Williams is a far cry from the solution originally promised, and fails victims of the Christchurch terror attack, firearm license holders, and all New Zealanders, says COLFO.

The Government had promised in 2020 to create an independent firearms authority in the wake of a mass shooting enabled by Police who incorrectly granted a firearms license to the future terrorist. The announcement by press release last Friday afternoon was instead that administration would now just be arranged under a newly minted Police organizational division.

COLFO spokesperson Hugh Devereux-Mack says the decision let down everyone. "The Government promised to make the public safer, but they've just allowed the Police to rebadge its existing paperwork system.

"The new unit is currently only a name and a newly appointed leader in a press release. We have not been given information about staffing, detailed roles or purpose. There's nothing to give confidence that mistakes, delays and administrative over-reach won't happen again.

"Those issues are continuing, with the licenses of gang members recently only revoked after a long delay."

Devereux-Mack says the new unit is "the exact opposite" of what the Government previously said it would establish: an independent firearms authority, separated from the Police and Government, with a dedicated regulations structure outside of enforcement.

"An independent regulations authority would have had the advantage of purpose-built resources, separation from the distractions and resource-diverting demands of enforcement, and fresh methods to keep guns out of the wrong hands and allowing them to stay in the right ones" said Devereux-Mack.



## Hunting Reports

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](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com).

This month's contribution from **Aaron Loder**.

### The Legend of Limpy

Both of my sons have had the opportunity to work on a farm out the back of Eketahuna. The owners allowed myself and my youngest the chance to have a hunt and we did this on a wet Sunday morning recently. The farm has QE2 covenant's over some bush areas, but the deer are where you find them.

It was a pre-dawn start as we wanted to get up there just before it got light enough to see. We hadn't gone 500m down a back country road, when Sam spotted the first deer. I'm blaming the fact that it still was wasn't light enough for my aging eyes, but that is about 10-1 in favour of the younger eyes finding deer in all conditions first. Then he was out of the Ute and over the fence, and starting to put the creep on. I could now see the deer as they started to mill about, and got the binos out to have a closer look. Range was probably about the 500-600m away. He closed the gap to approximately 300m before setting up and loading the rifle. A boom

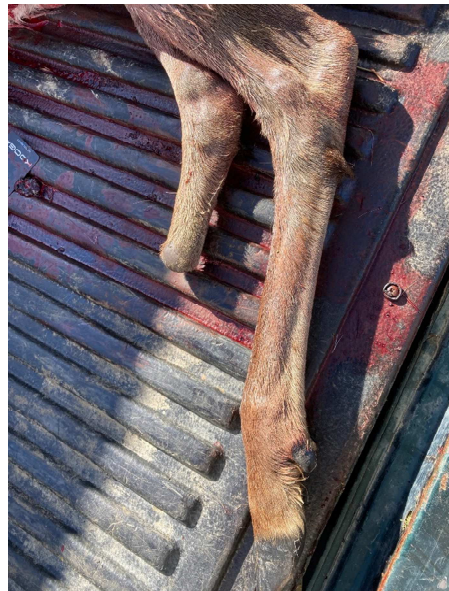


and they all took off along the face towards a pine block, instead of heading back to the bush at the top of the gully. I counted nine heading off at speed.

Sam came back to the ute as it was going to be quicker to use that, than chasing on foot over open ground. There was one deer which was limping, so we assumed that was the chosen one. Sam crept in again to a range of about 75m and flattened it. He returned to the Ute and said that we could get really close to it using a farm track, so off we went. He then got the Ute stuck so called for back-up while I went to sort the deer out. I took the rifle as we were stuck on one edge of the forestry block the deer had run into. Wind was blowing my scent through the block ahead of me, but I kept a lookout anyway. I soon caught a movement out of the corner of my eye and saw the deer making an escape along the ridgeline above. Range was only 150m or so but I couldn't take the shot for obvious reasons. By the time I had reached the ridge top the buggers had completely disappeared. After another good look around I went and located the downed deer.

It was a yearling hind in good condition. Only one hole in it so the first shot was a clean miss. It was missing the bottom 150-200mm of lower right rear leg. It must have lost the leg as a small fawn, because it had completely healed over and was in the process of growing a pad on the bottom of the stump. The hardness of deer amaze me!

Talking to another hunting mate of mine, the conversation turned to deer shot that had recovered from previous injuries. He had shot a few that were in that category. Do any of you guys/gals have any photos or stories of deer like that?



## 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)

### 2013 HONDA 500 QUAD

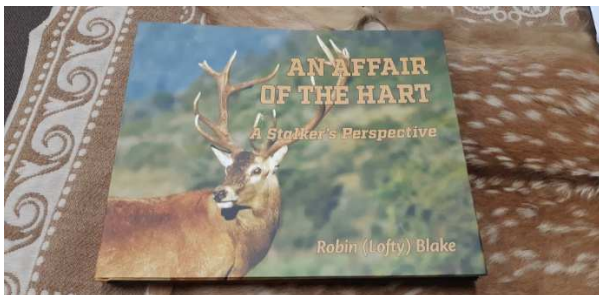
Power steering and new rubber. Contact Murry Clark on 027 451 5195.

### 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. Would make a great Christmas present. Email [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase a copy.



### NZDA MERCHANDISE

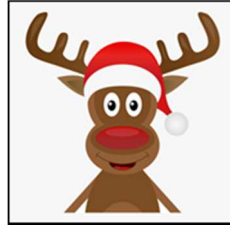
<https://nzda.shop/collections/all>





## Final Thoughts

Wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday season. Be safe and 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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The website is at: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>. Thanks to **Nick Perkins** our website administrator.