

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for February 2022

General Meeting 16 February
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall
Speaker: Oliver Walker-Cudby from Free Range Hunting

General Meeting 16 February

After being postponed due to the Covid lockdown in August Ollie from Free Range Hunting NZ based at Te Awaiti is our February speaker. Check out Gary and Liz Warren's story in the July 2021 newsletter which described a hunt with Ollie. Under "Red" restrictions for us to hold this meeting all participants will need to scan or sign in at the door and show a vaccine pass.



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

16 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. See details above.

23 FEBRUARY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE Wednesday night from 5:15 pm at Dave McKay's place 1360 Te Whiti Road, Gladstone. We will be ringing and splitting. Please bring chainsaw (or just a pair of hands) and all personal protective gear including hearing protection.

26-27 FEBRUARY SIKA SHOW Postponed again until 29-30 October 2022

2 MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

4-7 MARCH KAWEKA FLY-IN TRIP Places available for a limited time only. See details under Hunting Trips.

23 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall, 7:30 pm. Note that this is the 4^{th} Wednesday of the month rather than our usual 3rd Wednesday (and not the 22^{nd} as incorrectly noted in December newsletter).

6 APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.





Recent Events

4-5 DECEMBER WANGANUI SPRING FALLOW HUNT #2

A total of 34 deer shot by 15 members and they were "fat as"! Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organising our Wanganui trips. Watch out for details of 2022 trips in upcoming newsletters.





FIREWOOD WORKING BEES

Two working bees were held at Dave McKay's place: ringing on 8 December and splitting on 30 January. With a great turn-out for both we got through a pile of wood – much of which has already been sold to members.

There will be another working bee on 23 February (ringing & splitting). This is a Wednesday evening. Please bring all PPE. Thanks to Dave Bashford for supplying wood and Dave McKay for use of land.







Remember to show your membership card at H&F.

Not only will you get a discount, but the record of what we spend helps make a case for sponsorship.

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 for 10-12 members. Still a few spots available. Contact Lloyd Rayner on 027 6080325.

PARKVALE HALL

The new heat pump has been installed and was given a good workout at the February committee meeting. The transfer of land from Parkvale Hall Society is still with the lawyers. The hall painting needs to be completed to finalise insurance claim. Regular hall bookings are coming through and we have decided to add a \$100 bond on all bookings to cover cost of cleaning if hall is not left tidy. **PHONE 022 323 6993 for hall bookings**.



SEARCH AND RESCUE

A fairly quiet start to the year. There is a helicopter training day coming up. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

RANGE & SHOOTING

We are investigating dates for Branch clay target shoot and these will be advised in next month's newsletter. 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 rife the best opportunity is Wednesday afternoons between 3 pm and dark as there is nothing else on. Take advantage of daylight saving! **The branch needs more range officers.** If you are interested in doing range officer training please contact Alex on 027 4359216.

HUTS

We have been awarded a grant of \$18,500 from Backcountry trust for renovations and re-cladding on Sayers Hut. Materials will be purchased and pre-fabricated then flown in with work to be completed post-roar.

DOC LIAISON

The Branch is working with DOC and the Heritage Trust about the work on Sayers Hut. There is an opportunity for members to receive DOC Chainsaw Training. If you are interested please contact Derrick Field on 027 6358994.

DEER PARK

We are in discussions with Masterton District Council about extending the deer pens.

FINANCIALS

Bank balance \$12,921.25 + \$15,738.44 in term deposits. The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00 but please not this is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.

FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

Most of the wood split in January has been sold. Andrew Dennes will send out invoices to be paid to bank account above (no cash payments please). Next working bee 23 February. More trees have been sourced.

Wood prices for 2022:

- \$50 per m³ for members who participate in working bees
- \$75 per m³ for members not involved in working bees
- \$100 per m³ for non-members

MEMBERSHIPS

Centralised membership renewal invoices will be emailed and posted out to all members on the 1st of March. It's important to remember to the following:

- Wait for your invoice before making payment,
- Disable automatic payments.
- Make payment to National branch account not Wairarapa Branch

Paying without an invoice number as reference will only delay getting a membership card out to you, this is because we have to manually locate your payment and load this to your account.

Automatic payments will most likely be an incorrect amount, further delaying the membership cards.





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.



New Firearms Laws from 1 February

Don't get caught out by the law when you next travel to the range or your favourite hunting place.

New regulations have just been published that tighten up the rules around carrying firearms in your vehicle. Full details are here:

https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0434/latest/LMS618568.html?fbclid=IwAR35CA9Z3pb9SsDKKk5VPVfnIvxeFlowLTyGV22bUQ9yRZOwgrZTKpYnVng#LMS618566

NZDA believes the key changes you need to be aware of that affect every licensed firearm owner are:

- Tighter and new storage security precautions, with a key change being ammunition must be stored separately from firearms by 'reasonable steps' (as defined in the regulations)
- More prescriptive, onerous and restrictive transport requirements in different scenarios private vehicle, ferry, motor home or farm vehicle, etc.
- When making a journey, i.e. to and from the rifle range or hunting grounds, firearms or ammunition can only be left unattended in vehicles for 60 minutes.

COLFO: The real story behind 'firearms misinformation'

The public is in fear of firearm violence because of deliberate misinformation, but the real story is that the 2021 statistics on firearms violence are no different to the previous three years.

President of the NZ Police Association Chris Cahill has claimed that 'gang tensions and rising gun violence are contributing to homicide rates'. The real story is that homicide rates are the lowest in four years, and that firearms violence is not rising and is currently on par with the previous three years.

COLFO spokesperson Hugh Devereux-Mack says the public is being deliberately misinformed by people who should know better. "Firearms violence did not escalate in 2021, which shows that Mr Cahill and others are stoking firearms panic for their own ends, such as promoting general Police arming." But Devereux-Mack

says the fact that firearm violence has not changed at all is concrete evidence that the government gun buyback did nothing to increase the safety of New Zealanders.

Cahill has also falsely claimed that "we've never had a gun register since the 1980's". "We've had a register for restricted firearms since 1920, which includes handguns and military style firearms. Yet this failed to stop gang members using pistols during a shootout in November last year"

Devereux-Mack takes issue with Cahill's claim that gun violence is a daily occurrence for police, as it gives the impression that criminals are pointing guns at police every day."Over the course of June 2020 to July 2021, Police only had guns presented at them 24 times. Contrast this with the 388 times Police presented firearms at members of the public in 2021, and Mr Cahill is presenting a very warped picture" says Devereux-Mack. "Police aim firearms at citizens 16 times more than they have firearms aimed at them." "Additionally, quite often when Police encounter a firearm it turns out to be fake. Every time Police point a firearm at someone it's real."

Devereux-Mack says it is vital that we put a stop to the spread of firearms misinformation. He says policy or Police action influenced by such claims would be a disaster. "Misinformation on such a serious matter is bad enough, yet it is made even worse because the false claims about the nature of firearms violence in New Zealand are being made by those in positions of influence. If these claims were to inform policy decisions or the uptake of general Police arming it would be a disaster for the safety of New Zealanders" he says. "Police on the streets with newly-acquired firearms, expecting to use them for protection and offense, would place all New Zealanders in danger."

Collaborative deer management project for Fiordland

A deer management project jointly developed by the Department of Conservation, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) and the Game Animal Council is about to get underway in Fiordland National Park. Designed to supplement existing management programmes, such as that annually undertaken by the FWF, this new project is intended to partially address the gap left by the reduction in wild animal recovery operations (WARO) due to depressed wild venison prices.

"Management will occur at locations to the west of the Murchison Mountains and south of the established wapiti range," says DOC's George Ledgard. "Monitoring in these areas indicates that with less WARO in recent years, work is needed to reduce deer numbers and protect sensitive alpine species such as the mountain buttercup and Fiordland mountain daisy." "Importantly the project will help maintain the high conservation values of both the Murchison Mountains, home of the takahē, and Secretary Island, Fiordland's largest deer free island, which is within swimming distance of the mainland."

"The buffer control work, which will also protect the wapiti area from incursion by red deer, is being partially funded by the FWF and it is hoped that some of the deer close to the wapiti boundaries will be recovered," says FWF President Roy Sloan. "Specifically targeting around 300 females – the breeding animals, the project will also support the local helicopter industry that has been heavily hit by both the downturn in tourism and wild venison prices."

The nearly 20-year partnership between DOC and the FWF, that includes game animal management and pest control programmes, has helped protect vulnerable native species while achieving a lower-density, high-quality wapiti herd prized by recreational hunters. "The development of this programme and the ongoing collaboration between the hunting sector and DOC in Fiordland is a model for progressive game animal management in New Zealand," says the Game Animal Council's Tim Gale. "It is also an illustration of how well-planned management benefits both conservation and hunting with the reward being better hunting in an improved ecosystem."

The programme is due to get underway during the next period of stable weather and will run over the next few months.

Aerial possum Control Operations

Southern Remutaka

This is to advise that OSPRI New Zealand is planning an aerial operation to target possums in your area during May or June of 2022. This operation will help reduce the possum population to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB).

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums eat the forest canopy and prey on native birdlife, including eggs and chicks. The Aerial is also effective at controlling other introduced predators such as ship rats and stoats.

Over the coming months we will be conducting an extensive consultation process with landowners, the local community, and other interested parties. Following this consultation, final operational plans will be prepared, and permission will be sought from all consenting authorities. These will include affected landowners, Medical Officer of Health, and Department of Conservation. The operation is scheduled to begin in May 2022, but timing will be weather-dependent. Please find enclosed an operational fact sheet that includes a map of the proposed operational area; alternatively, please refer to the factsheet

online:www.ospri.co.nz/operational-status. We kindly request you read this carefully, as it contains vital information about the operation.

EcoFX Ltd will be undertaking the aerial operation in the Remutaka-Hutt TB management Area (TMA). Please see our TMA notices at: www.ospri.co.nz/tb-management-areas

We have identified that you might be an affected party by this operation and the contractor may contact you to discuss the implementation of the planned operation. Their contact details are:

Contact Person	Phone	Email
Kevin Pearse	(07) 873 8130	admin@ecofx.co.nz
lan Cutler	(07) 873 8130	admin@ecofx.co.nz
Robert Allen	(07) 873 8130	admin@ecofx.co.nz

We plan to hold information evenings where OSPRI staff will be able to provide further information on this operation and the wider OSPRI New Zealand programme, in the new year, and will be in contact closer to that time to advise of dates and times. If you wish to make comment, please send an email to <u>Vector.SNI@ospri.co.nz</u>.

If you are no longer the landowner/occupier at this address, please let us know so that we can update our records. For further details on this operation or OSPRI New Zealand programme, please contact us on 06 353 2710, or email Vector.SNI@ospri.co.nz. Yours sincerely



Tessa ApplebyManager, field services central & lower north



Northern Tararua Ranges (Western) - Project Kaka

Epro Limited (Epro) has been contracted by TBfree New Zealand Limited and the Department of Conservation to undertake possum control in the Northern Tararua Ranges in the Project Kaka (Western) aera.

Epro wishes to re-notify you of our intention to apply sodium fluoroacetate (1080) impregnated cereal pellet baits by helicopter and by hand. We also intend to apply encapsulated potassium cyanide (Feratox) baits by hand.

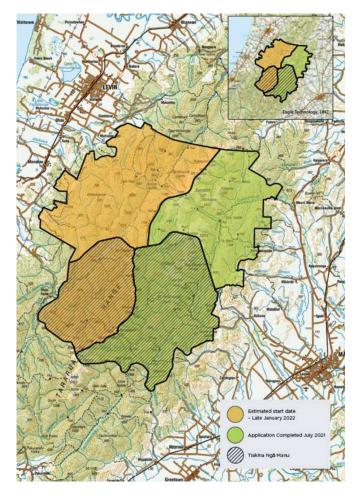
The bait will be in the form of pellets and will be dyed green in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 and the Hazardous Substances (Hazardous Property Controls) Notice 2017.

This operation will commence as soon as practicable after 1 February 2022. This remains dependant on weather and operational constraints.

Toxin warning signs will be erected at all normal points of entry to the area prior to toxic bait being applied.

Please feel free to contact Epro if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully, Mike Reid Operational Controller)





"How to know you have a deer problem" Andrew Wilkinson





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.

This month your editor reports on a successful Stewart Island trip.

Rakiura adventure By Richard O'Driscoll

"Look for the broadleaf". "Get up off the ground". "Sit out until it is properly dark". With these and other words of wisdom from local whitetail expert Chris Johnstone ringing in our eyes, son Peter and I boarded the flight to Invercargill mid-January.

It was my second time hunting Stewart Island. The first time, 25 years ago, was a bucket-list trip for my grandfather – organised while I was at student in Dunedin. On that trip I was 'white-flagged' a couple of times

and had a close encounter with a kiwi, but nobody shot a deer. I was hoping that I was a (much) better hunter now and up to the challenge.

Two of our party – Michel & Pete G from Turangi – were on the same flight as us and we checked in a mountain of gear at Wellington airport. Leaving behind a week of 30 degree weather in Wairarapa we were pleasantly surprised it was equally sunny and only a few degrees cooler in Invercargill. After a whistle-stop tour to pick up pre-ordered groceries, a hire outboard, fuel, gas, liquid refreshments, and all the other goodies we couldn't take on the plane, we were on the ferry and across to Oban on as flat a day as you ever experience in Foveaux Strait.

Once on the Island, we checked into the Backpackers. A bit of a stuff-up meant we only had 3 beds booked. No vacancies so Peter had to spend the night on the lawn in the tent! Takeaway blue cod and chips for tea. During the 45-minute wait for food, Peter went for a swim and the rest of us for beer.



After dinner Peter and I walked up to Observation Point then back down through the village. We headed down the road towards Horseshoe Bay and were on our way back about 9 pm when Peter said "deer, deer, deer," and there was a whitetail on the edge of the road only 60 m away! We both got photos before he galloped off into the vegetation. High fives with a deer seen on the first day!



I got up at 6:30 am and found Peter already up after a sleepless night in the tent so we headed 'downtown' and found coffee and breakfast. Rakiura from Ulva Island Water Taxi arrived at 9:30 am and went off with Pete G

in his truck to pick up gear left at ferry terminal. Then we collected (most of) our other stuff from the Backpackers and walked over hill to Golden Bay. Rakiura rowed our hire dinghy (a 4-m Frewza) around, and after dropping a couple of tour groups at Ulva Island he loaded us up and we were off.





We arrived on our block about 11:30 am on another gorgeous fine day. Half-tide meant we got a bit wet unloading gear. The little hut was nice and tidy with 6 bunks. The huts are a standard Rakiura Hunters Camp Trust design and situated on blocks throughout the Island. All built by volunteers, many from local Deerstalkers' branches. There were deer prints on the beach and the hut book had some reported sightings from the hut! Less promising, the two previous parties had not managed to shoot a deer.

While unpacking we discovered we had no veggies and eventually recalled these had been left under the bench at the Backpackers! Michel and Pete G went out in boat and got a message off to our two remaining party members – Gaetano and Dave - to collect these when they arrived later that afternoon.

After a minimal lunch Peter and I headed off for a walk to the west of hut. We headed up a steep face through the supplejack and crown fern. At the top there was a milk bottle hanging in tree marking a nice little clearing with a bit of broadleaf so we set up a trail cam there. Continuing on up the ridge, we found a nice spot overlooking a ferny gully for a potential evening sit. About 100 m above this the bush opened out. I was going super slow and was stopped when an animal crashed off 50 m to my right. We were happy to have seen one and only carried on another 50 m before retreating not wanting to scent up the area.

We returned to hut just as "the boys" (Gaetano & David) arrived 4:30 pm. Helped them stow their gear and our missing food, then Pete G made sausages & onions for tea but not enough to feed a hungry 15-year old!

Peter and I headed back up our trail at 7 pm and he sat with a radio watching the gully while I climbed up to the clearing where we spooked the deer. I got up a tree but not very high or very comfortable. I sat until 10 pm and then came back down to meet Peter. I had a kiwi sidestep me on the trail and Peter also had a kiwi close-encounter. He reported that he had been eaten by mosquitoes through his long-johns. We both saw another kiwi heading down to the beach but it was too quick for photos. Michel went for evening hunt up east of hut and picked up a neat 4-point cast antler.

Next morning's alarm was at 5:40 am. Peter and I took the boat and headed over to check out the eastern end of block. Saw some tracks where a doe and fawn had walked along the beach overnight. We tried to walk up a creek but were repelled by the bush lawyer. We then climbed up where there was an old track marked on the map. This was also rough, but we found a little clearing covered in fresh sign.

On the way down we surprised a sealion on the bush edge. Photographed this then, heading back along the beach at 7:30 am, Peter spotted three deer right out at the water's edge on the northern end about 600 m away. He took a photo then we sneaked through grass to get closer. The deer frolicked on the sand and chased each other before returning to bush edge. Got to 400 m but they were safe as they were in a prohibited hunting zone on the adjacent reserve. Eventually they all fed back into the bush at 7:45 am.

We got back at 8 am for bacon and eggs. The others then headed out fishing and diving while we went back up ridge east of the hut where Michel went previous night. A little bit of sign down low but little up higher and bush very dry and crunchy. Peter was starving and very relieved when boys arrived back with 11 cod and an octopus. Quickly converted 4 cod into panko-fried fillets to take the edge off Peter's teenage appetite.

The forecast was settled so we packed our tent and overnight gear and were dropped off at the eastern end of the block about 5:30 pm. We headed up an old hunters' track we had seen that morning. The gully we were originally intending to hunt looked rough so we carried on up a leading ridge to the southwest. About 7 pm this opened up nicely and there was a nice-looking sitting tree with 360-degree views. We clambered up there and sat for an hour, but were both very uncomfortable and we agreed we wouldn't last until 10 pm so came down, made backcountry roast chicken dinner, and got dressed more appropriately for a wait.



Up in the tree again at 8:30 pm and set up back-to-back with Peter watching to east from sitting position and me standing in a fork looking west. About 9:30 pm a twig broke and a few seconds later Peter shot. Crash, crash, then silence. Peter assured me he had taken a good shot. He had seen a buck come round from his left up the ridge. It bounded a couple of paces when he lifted the little .243, but stopped behind a tree and he was able to cock the rifle and shoot it as it stepped out. I left Peter up in the tree and he directed me to where the deer was standing when he shot – just 13 metres from our tree. Already too dark to see blood, I followed the direction it ran through the fern and there it was lying dead in a small clearing only 5 m away.

Peter came down and we shared a very happy and proud father-son moment as we were both delighted to have achieved the goal of the trip so early. Better still it was a big mature buck and an incredibly pretty animal. We struggled to get photos in poor light then hung the buck in a tree and set up camp on the other side of our tree.

We were too excited (and hot) to sleep and about 10:30 am a deer nearly walked through camp. Heard it move, then stop, then move again not far away from the tent.

Next morning we were up at 7 am and packed up camp before taking down the buck for more photos. As we loaded Peter up with deer, we heard a kiwi and I got a couple of photos but he didn't like it when I put my head down to look at him under the fern.



We crashed through 350 m of rough bush on a direct line to the beach. Got detoured by following a creek that went the wrong direction, but eventually came out directly above our pick-up point about 8:30 am and had to back-track to get down the last cliff. Michel came to collect us as scheduled at 9 am and two very happy hunters returned to the hut.

Weather still very hot and calm and boys agreed to take meat and fish back to Oban in the dinghy. They all headed out for a fish/dive and Peter and I had steak sandwiches from last night's tea for brunch and then skinned and butchered the deer. Others came back about 1 pm with a haul of cod. Gaetano and Dave then set off about 4 pm with meat, head, and fish and were back at 7 pm just in time for dinner after a calm run across the Inlet.

Over the next two days Peter and I explored the bush during the day and sat in the evenings. It was so dry that stalking quietly was impossible, even in the sections without the head-high crown fern and supplejack to content with. The only hunting success was when we caught the camp possum.

The weather broke with heavy rain overnight on Tuesday. This eased about 8 am and at 9:30 am the sun was trying to break through, so we all headed off for a hunt. Peter and I used the boat to take ourselves back to the area he shot his buck. Heading up the same ridge, I had only just loaded the .270 and got into stalk mode when I saw a flick of movement 25 metres away. Bit of a double take when I recognised this as a deer's head reaching up to browse a branch. Shut the bolt and when head came up above the fern again I shot him where skull joined the neck. The spiker dropped on the spot and I could see it flicking on the ground and called Peter up who was unsighted. He reckoned I was wobbling all over the place but both very happy with the result.

Back at camp only an hour after leaving at 10:30 am and Pete G wondered what we forgotten! About 11 am we heard a shot which sounded very close to the hut and we thought it was Michel. About 15 minutes later there was another shot which sounded much further away and we thought Gaetano must have scored too. But at 1 pm Gaetano and David rolled in with a 4-point buck. Gaetano saw it on opposite side of gully and shot it in the neck his .308. It dropped then got up and they had to trail blood for 200 m before finding it. The second shot was a finisher.

That night we toasted our success with red wine and barbecued octopus.





The remaining four days went in a blur. With two deer hanging in a shady tree and Peter's buck in a freezer in Oban, we didn't hunt as hard or as seriously as the first part of the week. But we had daily walks and (briefly) encountered another 5 deer. We also enjoyed some of the seafood the Island is famous for. Peter speared his first fish, and discovered he could catch cod on a toby from the rocks by the hut. The boys provided cod, butterfish, moki, and paua, and while hunting for scallops in a bay near the salmon farms they picked up a freshly dead 4 kg salmon! After an autopsy this was declared suitable for consumption an was delicious sashimi.



All too soon it was time for our pick-up and the return journey to civilization. The first thing we heard on getting back to Oban was the NZ was moving to the red alert level for Covid – something we'd been able to ignore for the past week. It was a great trip - thanks Chris for all the good advice!



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.

SCOPES

These are for sale, all are in great condition....Happy to bring them to next meeting or for someone to call...they will be sold at a very fair price...Original owner is American, and relocating away from the Wairarapa.... Regards Vic Jacobson: Mobile 021 229 49 29; Office 06 379 8066.



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



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 <u>big</u> thank you to the team at Wairarapa Funeral Services for your printing of our monthly newsletter



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