



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **November 2022**

General Meeting Wednesday 16 November
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

General Meeting 16 November

We were not able to organise the buy/sell/swap meeting we were planning for November so this has been postponed until next year. We will gather at the hall for a yarn, followed by a video and cuppa, or a 'field trip' to the Gladstone Pub! Come along and get the report from the Wanganui club trip.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

NO NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

12-13 NOVEMBER WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Full.

16 NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

3-4 DECEMBER WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Full.

7 DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS BARBECUE Date and venue still to be confirmed. Details next month.

10 DECEMBER 4x4 FUNDRAISER We have an opportunity to earn \$2,500 by providing 30 marshalls (aged 15+) at a local 4x4 event at Pirinoa. We need to be there by 7am, lunch is provided, concluding about 4pm. Our main role will be to stand by the flags (pegs) to ensure the trucks don't touch them. So nothing strenuous. If you want to see what marshalls do, check out www.nz4wd.co.nz and the TV3 show CRC Motorsport for the Suzuki Extreme 4x4 Challenge here <https://www.threenow.co.nz/shows/crc---suzuki-extreme-4x4-challenge/S2813-888> or similar on Youtube. We still need a few more volunteers so if you haven't signed up already please contact Sean Roberts on 021 822 802.

1-2 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Full.

Recent Events

15 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

Over 100 members and friends attended. As always it was a great night with plenty of good food. Many of you will have attended in person, but for those that couldn't make it I'll let the pictures from Peter O'Driscoll do the talking!





Competition winners

Antler, Horn & Tusk

Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield) – **Peter O'Driscoll**

Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup) – **Paul Hodgins**

Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield) – **Paul Hodgins**

Best goat head (Crawford Cameron shield) – not awarded

Best head where a trophy fee is paid (Playle trophy) – not awarded

Best pig jaw –undrawn tusks (Harvie Morrow shield) – **Craig Hansen**

Best pig jaw – Drawn Tusks (N. Tilsey Shield) – **Paul Hodgins**

Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield) – **Craig Hansen**

Best head other species – **Craig Hansen**

Best trophy head by a woman – **Clair Hodgins**

Best trophy head 'under 20' – **Jack Fitzgerald**

Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer) – not awarded

Judges' commendation for best presented head – **Peter O'Driscoll**

Photography

Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)

1st - **Peter O'Driscoll** – Skyline spiker

2nd - Peter O'Driscoll – A couple of bucks

3rd - Richard O'Driscoll – Remutaka billies

Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)

1st - **Peter O'Driscoll** – Female tomtit

2nd - Peter O'Driscoll – Stewart Island tui

3rd - Morag O'Driscoll – Predatory praying mantis

Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)

1st - **Aaron Loder** – Making a plan

2nd - Peter O'Driscoll – Wairarapa Moana morning

3rd - Peter O'Driscoll – Tops glassing

Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)

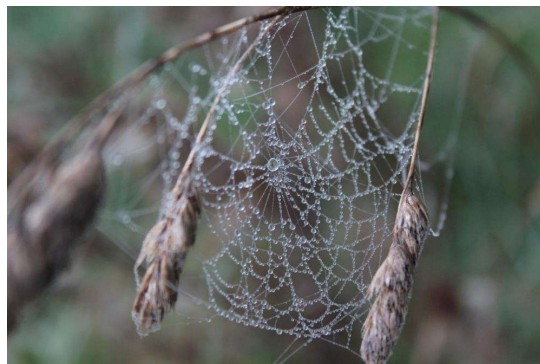
1st - **Clair Hodgins** – Cobweb dew

2nd - Clair Hodgins – Micro fungus

3rd - Morag O'Driscoll – Fungi two

Best overall and best junior (Amos Cup)

Peter O'Driscoll – Female tomtit



Shooting

Senior Centrefire		Centrefire Cup
1 st	Alex Beesley	115
2 nd	Richard O'Driscoll	100
3 rd	Andrew Dennes	94
4 th	Derrick Foley	76

Senior Rimfire		Smallbore Cup
1 st	Andrew Dennes	122
2 nd	Alex Beesley	121
3 rd	Francois Lategan	105
4 th	Derrick Foley	101
5 th	Richard O'Driscoll	98

Open aggregate		Neilson Cup
1 st	Alex Beesley	236
2 nd	Andrew Dennes	216
3 rd	Richard O'Driscoll	198
4 th	Derrick Foley	177

Ladies aggregate
1st **Alex Beesley** Cup
236

Military
1st **Alex Beesley** Brass shell
81
2nd Philip Fletcher 36
3rd Andrew Dennes 14
4th Paul Sayer 13
4th Derrick Foley 13

Senior F class
1st **Andrew Dennes** Trophy
96
2nd Derrick Foley 94
3rd Richard O'Driscoll 92
4th Alex Beesley 91
5th Francois Lategan 85
6th Paul Sayer 77

Junior Rimfire
1st **Liam Dennes** Hunting & Fishing Cup
66
2nd Callum Dennes 9

Junior Swazi
1st **Liam Dennes** Swazi sponsored clothing
44
2nd Callum Dennes 9

Junior F class
1st **Liam Dennes** Shield
88
2nd Callum Dennes 79

Indoor shooting
Senior **J Cooper** Cunningham trophy
Junior **Peter O'Driscoll** Spooner trophy

Claybird
Hamish Graham Graeme Hamilton Memorial Trophy

Other

Hard luck **Joe Hansen**

Literary award best newsletter story
1st Rakiura adventure **Richard O'Driscoll**
2nd A personal best Liam Dennes
3rd A romantic week away Lloyd Rayner



Raffle winners

Lotto	Jill Martel
Boots	Jim Farley
Pack	Neil Rutherford
Rifle	Colin Bailey
Ham	Paul Hodgins

29–30 OCTOBER SIKA SHOW No reports in from Members who attended but looked like a good event.



News

MEMBERSHIPS

We continue to welcome new members, with more member applications this month. Please introduce yourself to the new faces at club events.

PARKVALE HALL

Regular hall bookings continue to come through. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 4740717.

DEER PARK

Nothing to report. We will schedule a working bee to tidy up in the Deer Park. Details to come.

FINANCIALS

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.

RANGE & SHOOTING

Gladstone range is available for the use of members on Wednesday afternoons and on weekends and when not in use. Branch members get 6 free visits a year.

DOC LIAISON

Nothing this month

FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

We have a big pile of logs (gum) waiting in a paddock. These will be transferred to a suitable location for ringing and splitting as soon as it dries out, then we will arrange some working bees ...

We will earn \$2,500 by providing 30 marshalls (aged 15+) at a local 4x4 event at Pirinoa on 10 December. See details earlier in newsletter.

WEBSITE

Nick Perkins, who administers the website on behalf of the branch, has made a number of updates including loading recent newsletters.

HUTS

A huge Labour weekend effort on Sayer's hut by club members Sean, Paul, & Kerre, as well as Longspur Contracting. New woodshed built, water tankstand built, new porch step installed, new porch seating built, rear window sanded and repainted, and more new clearlite installed above the door. A fadge of metal offcuts was flown out, plus 2 fadges of rubbish - this included sleeping bags and packs. Lastly they also cut a heap of wood and stacked it in the woodshed. Sean has promised a longer report to come.



Mike Thrupp will represent the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings (formerly Tararua Aorangi Remutaka Huts Committee, see <https://tarhc.org.nz/>).



New firearms legislation will relieve stress on hunters

New legislation that will enable firearm licence holders to continue to lawfully possess and use firearms, while their application for a licence is being processed, will go a long way to relieving the stress on the hunting community caused by the current application backlog, says Game Animal Council General Manager Tim Gale.

“The delays in processing licence applications have not only meant that many hunters have been unable to partake in their chosen sport, but has created unnecessary stress as renewal applicants scramble to find someone else who can lawfully store their firearms and ammunition. Delays in renewals are often stretching out for several months and we have heard stories from some hunters of the process taking well over a year,” says Gale.

The new legislation, once passed, means that if the holder of a firearms licence applies for a new licence before the expiry of their current licence, their current licence will continue to be in force until they are notified of the outcome of their application.


“This change will provide hunters and other firearms users with confidence that as long as they submit their application in advance of their licence expiring, they will still be able to possess and use their firearms. I am glad the Police and Government have listened to the advice of the GAC and other firearms user groups on this issue.”

The Bill also provides that if the renewal of a dealer’s licence is issued after the expiry of the licence, the renewal takes effect from the date of its issue and not from the expiry of the previous licence. “Again, this is a sensible and necessary amendment,” says Gale.

The GAC welcomes the Government’s desire to address these issues and encourages the swift passage of the legislation.



Southern Remutaka Pest Control



19 October 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Southern Remutaka: Aerial Pest Control Operation

EcoFX & OSPRI New Zealand wish to provide you an update regarding the Southern Remutaka aerial possum control operation which has experienced delays due to unsuitable weather conditions.

It is now planned to recommence the aerial operation from late October 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.

Please refer to the factsheet online: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/pest-control-regions/aerial-operations/> for more in depth information and a map of the area that will be treated. We kindly request you read this carefully, as it contains vital information about the operation.

Phases to the programme:

- Non-toxic prefeed cereal baits will be sown over the treatment blocks at an average rate of 1 kg per ha.
- Approximately 7 days later toxic 1080 baits will be sown over the treatment area at an average rate of 2 kg per ha.

Both phases are weather dependant requiring 2-3 fine nights with minimal rainfall after application.

EcoFX has obtained the required consents from the relevant agencies to carry out the work.

As part of public notification, EcoFX has placed advertisements in local and regional papers circulating in the wider area to inform the public of the operation and the associated risks.

In addition, EcoFX will be erecting signage at all key public access points such as walking and cycle tracks, roadways and public amenity areas. A reminder to please check for signage if you are in the area. And;


- **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from the area (this also applies to buffer zones around the treatment area)
- Poison bait or carcasses are **DEADLY to DOGS**.

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may be present in baits or animals.

When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you require further information, please contact us on the number or email listed below.

Kind Regards,



Ian Cutler
Operational Controller

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NEW ZEALAND
Telephone: 07 873 8130
Facsimile: 07 873 6904
Email: admin@ecofx.co.nz
www.ecofx.co.nz

EcoFX - Protecting Your Natural Heritage

WANTED

Goat sightings in the Ruahine Forest Park



The Department of Conservation currently has limited information on goat numbers and spread in the Ruahine Forest Park.

We need your help to prevent new populations establishing in the Park, especially in high value biodiversity areas

Each year, DOC contractors conduct goat control in the north eastern and southern Ruahine Forest Park to prevent goats from spreading into and establishing in the area known as Northern Ruahine. This area, which runs from Ikawetea Forks Hut in the north to Maropea Forks Hut in the south, is the most ecologically significant area in the park.

Please phone (06) 3509700 or email manawatu@doc.govt.nz to report locations of goat sightings or kills.



www.doc.govt.nz



Grant Langlands

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Hunting Reports

Our newsletter story competition is on again from October 2022 to September 2023 with a **prize of \$50 for the best newsletter story**. Open to all members, so please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com. A great report this month from the winner of our 2021 dinner raffle.

What do you get for five dollars? By Peter Doornebosch

At the Wairarapa annual dinner last year. As my wife and I filed into the hall we got relieved of cash on the way for raffle tickets, I wasn't even sure what I had bought but in the spirit of the club it really didn't matter. The meal and company were a bonus as it was and a good time was had by all. I didn't think I could eat that much either!

The food coma had hit and there were a few speeches and bugger me the raffle was drawn and I won a prize, as I said little notice was taken of what I had bought in the raffle so up I went not really knowing what I was in for and showed the ticket and then it was explained to me Martin and Tracey Amos had donated access to their lease block south of Poronui. By the way you have to write a story about it so here it is.

I contacted Martin a few weeks later and found out it was a shared lease of 14000 acres with two huts on the block. The plan was to head in February/March 2022 with Martin for three or four days and have a crack at some Sika.

As 2022 hit we made contact and tried to make dates to go in, in the end Martin texted when can you go and graciously agreed to make it happen start of March.

A quick meeting was had the week before the trip lists were handed out and we were to drive up and fly in with Helisika at 2.30 pm. As with all good trips they start with a helicopter flight which was 10 to 15 minutes long, quick chat with the pilot if he had seen many deer and the answer was no because it had not rained for a while. That comment became quite relevant as to where the deer were. My first Sika trip was in the 1990s when I was reasonably clueless about them and my hunting companions were no better. 30 years later I am still chasing the little ghosts, it was great to be back.

The helicopter landed at the hut, gear was unpacked, and a plan to have a look around the block was made. There is a track network around open tussock creeks with viewing points over these and any little clearings in the bush. The block is mainly manuka with some native bush higher up, I followed Martin's lead as to how to hunt the block as I am mainly a bush hunter and this low manuka was just about impenetrable as well as noisy. Tactics discussed and plans made - time to get on with it!

The first few clearings were empty but it was only around 4.30 pm as we went away from the main valley and went up a small side creek I was in front and poked my nose over a terrace to see two sika hinds having a great feed in the creek. I signalled to Martin I would shoot the one on the right but just as we were ready to shoot my one moved, then boom and I saw Martin's hind drop into the tussock. I jokingly said to him I thought we were counting to three, the look was priceless as I had him on. We scrambled down the bank to pick up the hind, picked up a blood trail and then spent an hour looking before it ran out as we crawled through the manuka tunnels full of deer beds searching in vain. The amount of blood meant it had to be dead in there somewhere but it was tiger country. Bugger.

Still plenty of light, we spotted two hunters off a Helisika block looking over the river valley. We headed back and as we looked out from a vantage point a deer was spotted, A quick sprint down the track to a shootable position and I shot a young Sika stag. I must explain that the hunters and the stag were picked up with Martin's thermal camera - an amazing piece of kit - and then confirmed with binos.

Day one ended and at night in front of the hut one deer was picked up with the thermal 200 metres from the hut. Next day early start was not happening as we were misted in till about 9 am. So we went for a wander higher up into the beech forest, there was a lot of old sign but nothing happening; obviously the manuka was the favoured habitat during the day and the open tussock clearings at the change of light. Going back to what the pilot said they must only come out of the manuka after rain. The evening hunt consisted of another area and, sitting down and glassing, 2 deer were sighted at 490 metres, Martin raced off to close the distance and before a shot could be made the old wind up the arse happened and they bugged off. Martin came back to our vantage point which was up a hill sweating and within 30 minutes 2 more deer appeared it really was the golden hour. Off Martin went again down the hill to get a bead on them while I watched from above. I heard the shot and saw two deer depart and then a bloody great sika stag took off. The stag had good length but was still in that golden velvet, this was March and I still can't explain why they were not in hard antler as I have shot them in February in hard stained antler? Back to the mission. Something was wrong with Martins scope as the deer ran off unharmed.

(A check of the scope the next morning revealed the culprit). A quick glance over the Poronui hillside with the thermal revealed about 30 deer on the hill at about 1.5 kilometres away, this thermal thing is definitely growing on me.

After sighting in and checking Martin's rifle on the last night we spotted one more deer had dinner went out with the thermal and spotted 2 more deer on the hut flat. Through the thermal I could see the two deer - after the shot was taken another deer ran out on the flat, one whistled on the hill, and another whistled behind us. The buggers were everywhere and not concerned about being so close to humans!

Next morning was pack up and fly out and the drive home, over two and a bit full days 13 deer were seen and one harvested - a great result for such a short trip. Five dollars can still get you quite a bit in the right places!

My thanks go out to Martin and Tracey Amos and to Wairarapa deerstalkers for the opportunity.

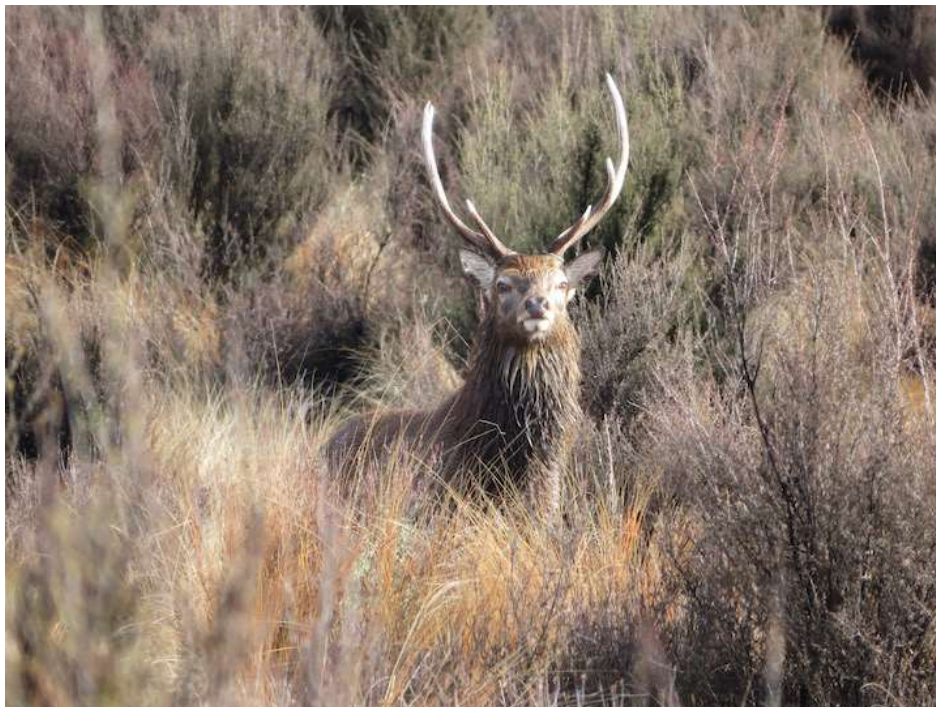


Photo (not from the hunt in the story) Peter O'Driscoll

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.

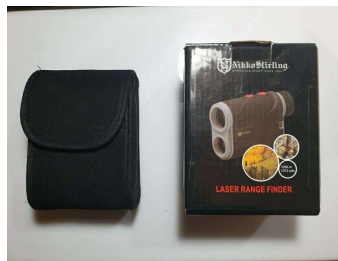
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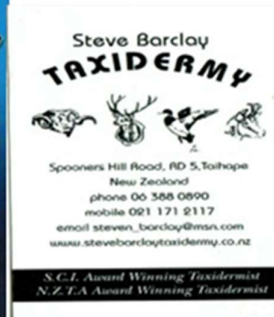
Mobile: 027 4949830



COMBINATION TRIGGER LOCKS

\$30 each. Call Martin Amos on 027 3671635.





Final Thoughts

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

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The Branch now has a Closed Facebook Group (open only to members). You can apply to join here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/798600664354866>

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

