



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **May 2023**

Next general Meeting Wednesday 17 May

7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

Speaker: Hamish Graham on his rifle set-up

General Meeting 17 May

Branch committee member and social media sensation **Hamish Graham** will talk about his rifle set-ups for hunting. Followed by supper.

And no the below picture isn't from Poacher Cam. It was the only picture I had of Hamish with a rifle - off my trail camera in Stewart Island!



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

17 MAY GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker Hamish Graham. Details above.

3 JUNE BRANCH CLAY TARGET SHOOT Gladstone Range starting at 11 am. Club will pay for clays. Ammo available for sale or BYO (fibre wads only). Sporting clays competing for the branch trophy (or to discover why you are missing so many ducks). Later date this year to avoid the roar so hoping for a great turn-out.

7 JUNE COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

21 JUNE GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Enrolment for upcoming club trips. Come along to sign up for 2024 Kaweka hunts.

5 JULY COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

19 JULY GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.

21-23 JULY 2023 NATIONAL NZDA CONFERENCE To be held at Hotel Ashburton hosted by Ashburton, Rakaia & Malvern Branches. If you're interested in going call Andrew Dennes on 027 2955300.

14 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER Parkvale Hall 6:00 pm. Put it in your calendar now!

APRIL 2024 KAWEKA SIKA FLY-IN HUNTS We have booked Tussock, Harkness, & Te Puke Huts. Come to the June general meeting to sign up and find out details.

Recent Events

1-2 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT

15 members saw a bunch of deer with about 35 shot and everybody getting at least one animal. The 'no shooting bucks' policy of the past 4 years is starting to pay dividends with some nice ones getting around. Even some early croaking. Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organising these club trips which are always popular.

To encourage people to come to meetings, sign-up sheets for upcoming trips will be at our monthly general meeting before these are advertised via email.





16 APRIL FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

Five members turned up at short notice and helped to tidy up some of the remaining gum logs at a property outside of Martinborough. There is still further wood on this property to be split and a date will be advised.

30 APRIL FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

A good turn-out of 20 members at Dave McKay's finished ringing and splitting the remaining gum logs. Gum is available for sale at \$100 per m³ for participants (\$130 per m³ for everybody else). Email wairarapanzda@gmail.com if you want wood.




Grant Langlands

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News

PARKVALE HALL

We now have two replacement stoves ready to be installed. We are getting good numbers of inquiries about bookings. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Pretty quiet recently. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

MEMBERSHIPS

Members who didn't renew by 30 April 2023 have been removed from the email list and will not be eligible for branch competitions.

We have a couple of new members invited to the May meeting. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

DEER PARK

We still plan to schedule a working bee to tidy up the Deer Park - details to come.

FINANCIALS

Branch account has \$10,681 with an additional \$21,150 in term deposits.

RANGE & SHOOTING

The Branch clay target shoot this year will be held on Saturday 3 June to avoid clashing with the roar all the sponsored duckshooters' events. Gladstone Range starting at 11 am. Club will pay for clays. Ammo available for sale or BYO (fibre wads only).

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

DOC LIAISON

Club is renewing hut maintenance agreements for Sayers and Neill Forks Huts.

FIREWOOD/FUNDRAISING

See details of recent working bees above. Gum is available for sale at \$100 per m³ for working bee participants (\$130 per m³ for everybody else). Email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

WEBSITE

Sean Roberts has taken over website administration and has recently updated the website with new stories. Check it out on <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>.

HUTS

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



NATIONAL NZDA COMPETITIONS

You can enter the following categories:

- Antler, Horn and Tusk (AHT)
- Photographic
- Film
- Literary
- Shooting competitions

More details around National competitions can be found [here](#).

With so many categories available, there is sure to be a competition that piques your interest and offers the chance to showcase your abilities.

Photographic Competition 2023 Update

We are excited to announce that we will be accepting photo submissions digitally as well as in print this year, making it easier than ever to enter the competition. Your digital submission will be printed by us for judging, as per the rules. So, whether you're an experienced hunter or photographer, or just starting out, this competition is for you!

Prizes - To Be Announced

This year we have lined up prizes for the main categories - we'll announce these over the coming weeks. There's going to be a major 'entrants' prize for each competition category. It means you just need to make an entry to be in with a chance to win.

The closing date for all entries is 5pm on Friday, 7th July 2023

To enter, simply visit our website and follow the instructions provided.

You can access all entry forms [here](#).



2023 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

National Office is conducting our annual membership survey and we would greatly appreciate your feedback! The survey should take you roughly 5-10 minutes and can be done on your phone, computer, or laptop. Please take the time to answer as we value your feedback.

This survey will be open until the end of May.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HT829V7>



Hutt Water Collection Area - Aerial 1080 Possum Control

I wish to advise you that Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) will be undertaking a possum control operation in the Hutt Water Collection Area (WCA) in Kaitoke, using 1080 pellets aerially applied.

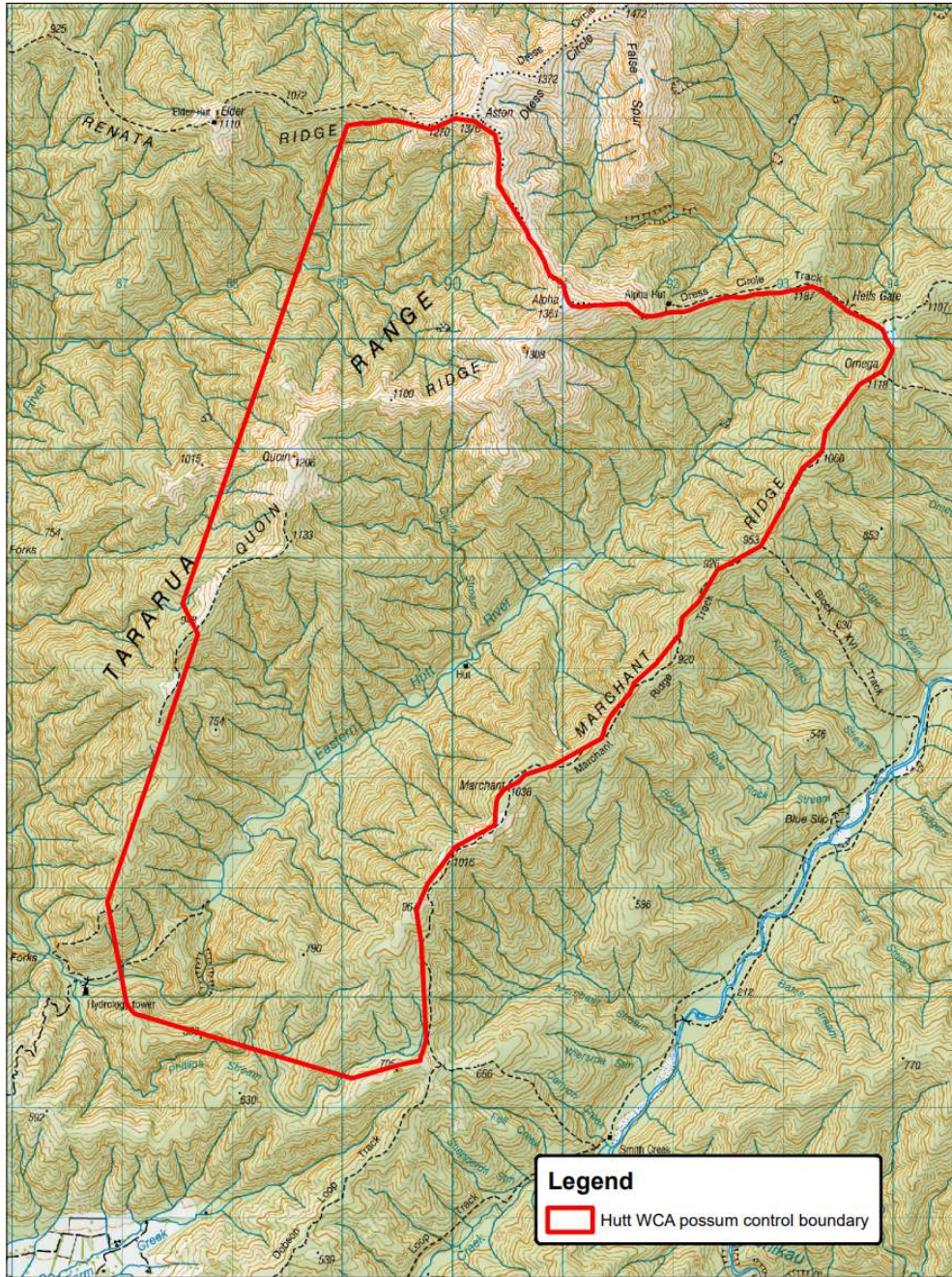
This work was intended to be treated in 2022 as part of a larger operation including the Kaitoke Regional Park. That work was not completed at the time because unsuitable weather conditions stopped the helicopters from continuing. The area treated last year is not going to be repeated this year.

This work is being done to protect significant natural sites within the Wellington Region, ensuring these natural habitats are healthy and able to support our native species and public water supplies. The operational area is ecologically diverse with eight different forest types, four wetlands, numerous major and minor watercourses, and sub-alpine and alpine flora present.

Possum control using 1080 has the additional benefit of controlling rats and stoats. Rats will die when they consume possum baits, while stoats will be killed when they consume the carcasses of poisoned rats and possums. A reduction of these introduced predators will further protect native plants and birds.

The tentative timeframe published for the operation is as follows:

- Apply prefeed cereal pellet baits from 2 May onwards.
- Apply 1080 cereal pellet baits from 9 May onwards:
 - Fine weather conditions are required for both applications, if too much wind or rain is forecast, delays will occur.
 - Current aircraft workloads and unsuitable long term weather forecasts are likely to delay the start dates until mid May.



Hutt Water Collection Area - Possum Control



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.

No stories this month, but members have been out there enjoying success as indicated by these pictures from the closed Facebook Group



Lloyd Rayner



Liz Warren



Kerry Fenwick



Gary Warren



Hamish Graham



Sean Roberts



Kerry Fenwick



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

WAIRARAPA BRANCH SHIRTS

We have arranged to get some fancy Stoney Creek Corporate shirts printed with our branch logo. See the below link for shirt details and sizing.

<https://www.stoneycreek.co.nz/index.php?route=product/search&search=HMM-8206-TSC%20>

These can only be ordered by attendance at a general meeting at a cost of \$70 per shirt (pay via electronic transfer or cash on the night). We will submit orders every couple of months.

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>



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Final Thoughts

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

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:  <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>

Our updated website is at: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>.