



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **August 2023**

## **Next general Meeting Wednesday 16 August**

6:30 pm Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing  
319 Ngaumutawa Road, Masterton

### **General Meeting 16 August**

Open night at **Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing, 319 Ngaumutawa Road, Masterton**. Starting at earlier time of **6:30 pm**. We will have a couple of guest speakers: Neil Sutherland, talking all things Tatonka Packs, Led Lenser headlamps and torches, & walking poles for our aging hunters; and Mark White on MSR tents & cookers and the Real Meals freeze dried food. We will have tents up instore, cookers there to see and use, and food samples to try on the night. There will be some great in-store deals on the night!!



## **Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events**

**16 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING** Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing, 319 Ngaumutawa Road, Masterton. Starting at 6:30 pm. See details above.

**31 AUGUST WAIRARAPA BRANCH COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE** All entries for photo and AHT competitions must be received by 5 pm. See details and entry form later in newsletter.

**6 SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**10 SEPTEMBER BRANCH SHOOTING COMPETITIONS** This is a Sunday. At Gladstone range starting 9:30 am. See details later in newsletter.

**17 SEPTEMBER DEER PARK WORKING BEE** Masterton deer park starting 8:00 am. Many hands make light work. Note that involvement in club activities and working bees is a requirement for participation in club hunts.

**20 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. We have two great talks lined up: **Duncan and Josh Griffith from Wairarapa Ultimate Hunting**; and **Sam Cash talking about his hand-made knives**. A chance to hear about some young local people doing their thing.

**4 OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

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

**9 DECEMBER WAIRARAPA 4x4 FUNDRAISER**. We have been asked to help out with volunteers again. See details later in newsletter.

**APRIL 2024 KAWEKA SIKA FLY-IN HUNTS** We have booked Tussock, Harkness, & Te Puke Huts. There are still places available at Tussock & Te Puke. Please talk to Lloyd Rayner at the H&F meeting on 16 August.

## Recent Events

### 8-9 JULY WANGANUI MEAT HUNT

Another good trip in wet, winter conditions with 15 members shooting 31 deer. No photos or detailed reports received though! Planning is underway for spring trips in November and December; details to come.

### 20 JULY SMALLBORE SHOOTING

We had a good turnout at **Masterton Miniature Rifle Club** for our annual indoor shoot. Scores as follows:

Justin B	93.2	89.1	Lloyd R	85.0	72.0
Hamish G	90.2		Andrew D	84.2	83.1
Derrick F	89.2	83.0	John C	83.1	79.1
Liam D	88.2	79.1	Regan M	82.0	
Jason H	88.0		Derrick W	80.0	74.0
Gary W	87.0	86.1	Murray H	75.0	
Glen R	87.0		Kerriann R	74.1	73.0
Sean R	86.1	74.2	Joseph J	74.0	
Liz W	86.0				
Michael S	85.1				

### 21-23 JULY 2023 NATIONAL NZDA CONFERENCE

Held at Hotel Ashburton hosted by Ashburton, Rakaia & Malvern Branches. Andrew Dennes and Dave MacKay attended and Andrew will provide a report in next month's newsletter. **Congratulations to Branch member Bradley Riggs** who was 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dillon Shield competition for drawn pig tusks and received a bronze medal for his winning entry (DS 29 ¼). Bradley also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the McGowan Shield for fallow deer with a DS 246 ½, which was also good enough for a silver medal.

Full National competition results are at: <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/what-we-do/get-involved/national-competitions/antler-horn-and-tusk-competitions/>



Grant Langlands

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BavariaNZ  
HANDCRAFTED GERMAN SMALLGOODS



## News

### PARKVALE HALL

Bookings are steady. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings. The Spooner heads will be going back into a private family collection.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

An active search is underway for a missing man in Mt Holdsworth area. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

### MEMBERSHIPS

Three new members and one more pending this month. Liz Warren and Liz Nicholson are now handling memberships (taking over from Sean). Members who didn't renew by 30 April 2023 have been removed from the email list and will not be eligible for branch competitions.

### DEER PARK

**Thanks to Dave MacKay** who donated 12 bales of hay. The Branch has also purchased 12 bales of baleage for winter feed. There is a **working bee at the deer park on Sunday 17 September starting at 8:00 am**. Please come along and help out. Further details will be emailed to members closer to the time.

### FINANCIALS

Branch account had \$10,836 with an additional \$21,265 in term deposits. Hall insurance is up for renewal.

### DOC LIAISON

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

### FUNDRAISING

Firewood has been put on hold over winter.

We have been asked to provide marshals again by the Wairarapa 4x4 club. This is a great day out as the 30+ members who participated last time can attest. And a great fundraiser for the branch. For those who did not do this last time we will have a training session at one of the upcoming general meetings.

The date is 9 December at the same venue as last time, south of Martinborough. It is an all-day event with an 8 am start and maybe 5 pm finish. The 4x4 club provide lunch, and we are planning on having a BBQ afterwards for ourselves and the competitors.

Please respond if you can help. No children - 18+ members only. We need a minimum of 25. Call Sean at 021 822802 or email [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto: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. Here is their latest newsletter: <https://gwbn.org.nz/gwbn-newsletter-july-2023/>



## RANGE & SHOOTING

Smallbore indoor shoot results earlier in newsletter

The Branch centrefire and rimfire shooting competitions will be held on Sunday 17 September starting at 9:30 am.

**Wairarapa NZDA Annual Competition Shoot  
Gladstone Range  
Sunday 17 September 2023 registration at 9:30 am  
Shooting to start 10 am sharp**

This event will be conducted at the Gladstone Range (we thank our WPSSC friends for allowing us the use of Range 6 for the event). The event will proceed regardless of the weather. The branch will supply a BBQ lunch.

We have a lot of events to shoot and only a short time in which to complete them all, so please listen carefully to the range staff and help out with any setting up, packing up etc.

**Match 1. Junior (under 18 years of age) Rimfire**

50 yards, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

**Match 2. Senior Rimfire**

50 yards, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

**Match 3 Open Centrefire (Minimum calibre .222. Maximum calibre 8 mm)**

100 yards, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

**PLEASE NOTE FOR MATCHES 1, 2 AND 3**

- Are to be shot unsupported- no slings, bipods, rests etc.
- Scopes are to be set not exceeding 6x power.
- Sporting stock configuration only- no thumb hole stocks.
- No special target shooting clothing, gloves, jackets etc.
- No heavy or target barrels to be used.

**Match 4. F Class**

100 yards, 10 rounds. F Class up to 8 mm calibre, max score 110, any aids-bipods, slings, rests, barrel-stock configurations are allowed.

### **Match 5. Military**

100 yards, 10 rounds. Military rifles to be bolt action, iron sighted (open sighted-no scopes, Parker Hale target sights), be of actual military origin (may be sporterised but not restocked with a sporting stock) and must be a military calibre i.e., 6.5 x 55, .303 etc.

Notes:

All shooters to bring their own ammunition. Shooting mats may be used. No muzzle breaks.

### **Branch trophies will be competed for in the following categories:**

- Centrefire
- Rimfire
- Open Aggregate
- Women's aggregate
- F Class Senior
- F Class Junior
- Military

### **Range rules will be read out to you on the day but I would like to remind all:**

- All shooters/spectators must abide by the WPSSC range rules.
- All children are to have a parent/guardian supervise them at all times.
- All visitors must sign the range book on arrival.
- Hearing and eye protection must be worn.
- Chamber flags must be used as are now mandatory (can be obtained from the range for \$2.50 each).
- Firearms must be in good mechanical order.

### **Gladstone Range rule changes**

Gladstone range is available for the use of members. Branch members get six free visits a year. **Hours for using the Gladstone range for visitors including Deerstalkers have now changed.** These are now **9:30 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday** unless you're accompanied by a Gladstone WPSSC member.

Please keep to these times to avoid disappoint as with new police regulations, Range Officers are required on active ranges even for casual shooting.

There is a Precision Rifle match booked on range 6 on the first Sunday of the month so late morning is recommended for that day unless you would like to join in with them which you are more than welcome to do.

Please read the range rules on next page to make sure you are familiar with the things you need to know when using the range.





1. The range is opened for shooting by ensuring everyone is back behind the firing line and authorised targets are presented safely.  
The orange cone is removed to behind the firing line.  
The range is declared open.
2. The range is closed when.  
All shooters are notified.  
All firearms are cleared safe and chamber flags inserted.  
The orange cone is placed in front of the firing line.  
The range is declared closed.
3. Ear and eye protection is worn on all active ranges.
4. When the range is closed and people are downrange, there is to be no handling of firearms at all. This includes. Taking out or putting firearms into bags or cases, adjusting sights or firearms positions.
5. Firearms not in use are to be placed in bags or cases or in designated racks. Not leaning against benches or stools.
6. Ensure moveable benches on range 6 when in use are positioned to the front edge of the plywood floor. This is to allow access behind the firing line.
7. Targets are to be of an approved type only. These may be paper or cardboard on supplied plywood backing. The steel type plate are as supplied and approved by WPSSC.
8. Targets are to be placed with a backstop directly behind them and are not to be placed further out than the extreme right hand edge of the range berms looking downrange.
9. If a shooter fails to engage their target, they will be asked to cease fire and given instruction on how to remedy this. If necessary setting up on range 5 on a closer target until results are achieved.
10. Range 6 will be grazed by cattle from time to time. All steps must be taken by users to ensure cattle do not stray into a danger area while shooting is in progress.
11. If a shooter has a misfire or hangfire they should wait 30 seconds with the firearm pointed downrange. Then gently open the action with the chamber pointed down to remove the cartridge.
12. At the end of the days use of the range all rubbish and brass is cleaned up and placed in provided bins. Individuals are expected to tidy up behind themselves.
13. Firearms transport to and from the range in vehicles is required to be in secured cases and out of direct sight. Ammunition is to be secured separately.
14. All members and visitors are required to sign in upon arrival to the range in the register in the main building. All visitors are to be accompanied by a member. Range users must comply with the direction of the range officer or officer of the day.
15. In the event of an accident.  
Cease firing, render first aid and notify emergency services.  
Seal off the area and do not remove the firearm.  
Advise the police and the club president, vice president.

We are now an officially approved Shooting Club 😊 This is a requirement for us to hold shooting and hunting events. Thanks to Sea for getting this sorted!



## Shooting Club Certificate of Approval

### NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (WAIRARAPA BRANCH) INC.

SC-XWLVG

In accordance with sections 38F and 38G of the Arms Act 1983 (the Act), I grant the application for approval made by the NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (WAIRARAPA BRANCH) INC. and issue this certificate of approval.

#### Conditions

This certificate of approval is granted subject to:

1. The conditions contained in Part 6 of the Act and Part 5 of the Arms Regulations 1992.

This certificate of approval will continue until:

- » cancelled by the Commissioner of Police or
- » surrendered by the club.

NZBN: 9429042676720

Steven Crawford  
Inspector

In accordance with a delegation from the Commissioner of Police  
Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority

27 July 2023

**Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority**

Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority is a business unit of New Zealand Police

## WAIRARAPA BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Closing date for entries for annual Branch competitions is **5 pm on Thursday 31 August 2023**. Entries can also be dropped off at the General Meeting at Hunting & Fishing on **16 August 2023**. A further drop-off date will be confirmed in due course - likely to be the morning of **26 August**.

Categories are as follows:

- Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
- Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup)
- Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield)
- Best goat head (Crawford Cameron shield)
- Best head where a trophy fee is paid (Playle trophy)
- Best pig jaw –undrawn tusks (Harvie Morrow shield)
- Best pig jaw – Drawn Tusks (N. Tilsey Shield)
- Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
- Best head other species
- Best trophy head ‘under 20’
- Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

Photographic categories are:

- Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)
- Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)
- Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)
- Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)
- Junior photograph (Amos Cup)

All competitions will be run closely to the Branch Competition rules which have been laminated and displayed in our Parkvale meeting room for the whole competition year. These notes are simply an abbreviation of them.

Key dates this year are:

- Heads, jaws and photos must be taken in the year from **1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be dropped off at Parkvale Hall by **5 pm Thursday 31 August 2023**.
- Photographs to be emailed to Richard O’Driscoll at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) by **5 pm Thursday 31 August 2023**.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 14 October 2023**.

Extracts from the Rules.

1. Entrants must have been financial members of this branch at the time of shooting the trophy or taking the photograph. Junior members (18 years & under) to be noted on Entry forms please.
2. All entries in the Antler-horn-tusk competitions (including the Paid hunting section) must have been taken in unimpeded fair chase. No spotlighting. **Paid hunting entries are to be clearly designated on Entry forms.**
3. Antler-horn-tusk entries must be on a clean, full skull (or jaw). Foul entries will not be accepted. **No mounted heads accepted.**
4. A Disputes panel will be appointed by the Committee.
5. A competitor may enter more than one head in each competition.
6. Entry forms (both AH&T and photographs) should contain adequate information to illustrate the philosophies within these Competition rules are met.
7. Photos taken in N.Z. Not from a Conveyance. No dead animals or birds. **All entries will be submitted digitally rather than as prints.** Please email high resolution .jpg images to [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com). Make sure you put “Photo entry” in subject. Images can also be



provided on USB to Richard O'Driscoll (021 1411472). You will still need to complete an entry form for each photo entered.

8. Judging will be of four categories. The categories must be designated by the entrant and clearly marked on the Entry form and the back of photo. One fully completed entry form (see note 6 above) for each photo. Members may enter up to three photos in each category.
9. The categories are:
  - a. Game animals in their wild, outdoor state. Not in any form of captivity.
  - b. Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity. The subject matter is to be relevant to hunting, hunting country, and the associated activities of hunters.
  - c. Scenic relative to the sport of hunting. Human activity should be of minor importance.
  - d. Other – not covered in other categories. Subject matter is to be relevant to hunting or hunting country. Or the associated activity of hunters.

NOTE: The winning photo of each category will be printed and retained for the Parkvale Hall display board.

Entry form at the end of the newsletter. There must be a separate entry form for each trophy or photo submitted!

## Winter 2023 Tahr Control Operations

The 2023/24 Tahr Control Operational Plan was developed over approximately 5 months of consultation, primarily through the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group which includes representatives from numerous hunting, outdoor and conservation groups. The 2023/24 Operational Plan guides DOC's management of tahr from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/tahr/tahr-control-operational-plan-2023-24.pdf>

Under the 2023/24 plan, DOC's official control will heavily focus on tahr outside the feral range, with the aim of reducing numbers and preventing the tahr population spreading. Within the feral range, the Department's primary focus will be on controlling tahr in Westland Tai Poutini and Aoraki Mount Cook national parks.

Within the national parks and outside the feral range are the only places that control operations will target identifiable male tahr. Elsewhere across over 425,000ha of public conservation land within the feral range, identifiable males will be left for hunters. Impacts of official control on recreational tahr hunting will be minimised by focusing aerial control operations within the months when recreational access to tahr habitat is generally most challenging due to snow and weather conditions; weather permitting, most aerial control operations will be completed across July to September, although operations may continue until mid-November if necessary. Ground-based control may occur in Spring and Autumn.

Due to poor early snow conditions, control is yet to start but official control operations are likely to commence this week (weather permitting).

Alongside DOC's official control, Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH) operators have recently commenced 'environmental offset' control required under their concessions. For each trophy animal taken on public conservation land, operators are required to control five female/juvenile tahr. These offsets are managed and recorded as part of the tahr programme and considered in the overall picture of where, when and how much tahr control occurs.

In 2023/24, some AATH offset control is likely to occur within each Management Unit from mid-July to September. Another round of offset control may be undertaken later in Spring. Much of the control during July-September will be focused in areas relatively inaccessible to hunters, within wilderness areas and national parks. Some control, however, will occur within areas that are accessible to hunters, including parts of Management Unit 1 (South Rakaia/Upper Rangitata) and Management Unit 3 (Gammack/Two Thumb). Input

from hunting sector groups has contributed to measures to reduce impacts from AATH offset control on hunters, including operators focusing on higher elevations and upper reaches of catchments.

Update emails will be sent to hunting permit holders advising when AATH and official control are complete within specific Management Units, so that hunters can plan hunts and be assured that they won't encounter a control operation.

Thank you for your interest in the Himalayan tahr control programme. Keep an eye out for future updates in your inbox, on [our website](#) and on social media.

Ngā mihi,  
**Ben Reddiex**  
*Director, National Operations*

### Operation Southern Winds, Rakiura

Operation Southern Winds 23 was a multi-agency operation involving the Rakiura Māori Land Trust (RMLT), Department of Conservation (DOC), Ministry for Primary Industry (MPI) and New Zealand Police.

From 16 to 20 March 2023 the team got to many of the hunting blocks in and around Rakiura Stewart Island. The team spoke with hunters about firearms safety and security. They checked to see if hunters had their firearms licences, were compliant with their hunting permits and were observing the Fisheries rules. The approach was all about compliance and giving constructive feedback and education to clarify the rules and regulations for the respective agencies.

Rakiura Stewart Island's Sole Charge Constable "was impressed with the general standard of knowledge with respect to recent changes in legislation for transporting and storage of firearms and awareness of the amendments to the 7 Rules of Firearms Safety."

There was support from Invercargill Hunting and Fishing, Rainbow Confectionery and Te Tari Pūreke. They supplied chamber flags which were particularly appreciated by hunters using huts that were poorly lit. The chamber flags gave a better indicator that the bolts on the rifles were open and the chambers clear. There were also combination trigger locks, chocolate fish, personal locator beacons and hi-vis vests provided.

The Wairarapa Branch group got visited!



# ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION



**1 August – 26 November 2023**

**Compete for national and regional prizes  
and help protect the environment.**

Brought to you by

 **Department of  
Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

 **NZDA**  
New Zealand Deer Association

For information on how to  
enter, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/  
wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).

You can take part anywhere you have permission  
to hunt. The competition promotes safe firearm  
use, respecting rights in the backcountry and ethical  
and humane hunting.

Supported by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand and  
Hunting & Fishing New Zealand.

100-1000

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the highly anticipated **National Wild Goat Hunting Competition**, running from **1st August to 26th November!**

Be in to win large national spot prizes or enter your local competition to win prizes for biggest head, or most tails. There will also be spot prizes up for grabs at local NZDA 'Goat Competition Hub' open days.

It will be a fun and challenging event, all while helping to protect farmlands, and native plants and habitats. For more information visit: <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/resources-2/publications/news/national-goat-hunting-competition>

### **When?**

From 1st August to 26th November competitors can enter at a New Zealand Deerstalkers Association branch open day or at an official recording point.

### **Competition Categories**

Every entry at a local competition will count towards the national competition.

National competition categories include:

- **NZ Hunter Goat Pursuit:** Win an unforgettable filmed wild goat hunting expedition with NZ Hunter. Enter a wild goat head or tail and tell us in two sentences or less why you should win.
- **Got Your Goat:** Enter a wild goat tail or head and go in the draw to win one of nine epic spot prize packs. One chance to win per competitor.
- **The Great Goat Roundup:** The more wild goat tails you enter the more entries you get and the greater your chance of winning one of nine prize packs.
- **NZDA's G.O.A.T Hunter:** Highest scoring goat head nationwide - based on the [Douglas score](#) of goat head entries received at NZDA branches only.

Prizes include hunting clothing and apparel and vouchers from Hunting & Fishing Ltd. and Hunttech, a Traeger Ironwood Series Grill & Accessories, Backcountry Cuisine vouchers, Lowa Boots, Personal Locator Beacons and more.

**Keep reading for more information like how to enter and DOC goat distribution maps.**

### **Competition Details**

Entries close at midnight on Sunday 26 November 2023.

Competitors need to enter at a NZDA branch open day or at an official recording point.

- [NZDA branch](#) – enter heads and/or tails.
- [Official recording point](#) – enter tails only.

Tails entered and recorded will be kept at the hub and then disposed of by a NZDA member or approved verifier. Goat heads may be kept and disposed of by NZDA volunteers unless the hunter wishes to keep their entry.

**In Wairarapa, the drop-off point is Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing.**

All competitors must hunt within the competition rules. [Read the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition rules.](#)

Download the competition flyer here: <https://portal.deerstalkers.org.nz/~ERKE5>



## REMINDER

### MEMBER ALERT:

# Firearms Register Goes Live

**New changes take immediate effect from 24 June**

Dear NZDA Members,

You may have heard, on 8th May the Arms Amendment Regulations were released. This means **the Firearms Registry will go live on 24 June 2023**. Firearms licence holders were emailed by the Firearms Safety Authority - this provides details about what arms items are required to be registered, when and how to register them. You can also find this information on the Firearms Registry section on their website (linked below).

#### **What Triggers an Obligation to Register your Firearms?**

- When you apply for a licence or endorsement
- If you notify police of a change in your licence holder information



- When you buy or receive an arms item
- When you sell or supply an arms item
- When you import an arms item
- When you export an arms item
- When you manufacture an arms item
- If you modify a prohibited firearm to a non-prohibited firearm
- If you notify Police of a loss or theft of an arms item
- If you destroy an arms item
- If you're subject to any compliance or enforcement action under the Arms Act
- When you purchase ammunition – from 24 June 2025
- If no activating circumstance occurs before 24 June 2028, you must register all your firearms and arms items by 31 August 2028.

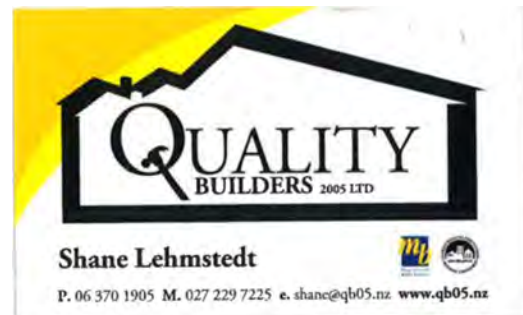
If any of the activating circumstances occur before the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, they will not trigger registration. This means you have 9 days left of the current 'unregistered' system.

If you purchase ammo between now and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2025, it will not trigger registration. You may have heard that this does trigger registration, as it was listed in the consultation paper as an activating circumstance. However, the point in time has been delayed and so you do have the ability to purchase ammo for your firearm until 24 June 2025. Many retailers may not be aware of this, so you may need to show them a copy of the regulations so that they are well informed.

### How to register your firearms?

We understand that using the digital register may be challenging. You can also call their Help Desk on 0800 844 431 for assistance. You can find all relevant information on the Firearms Safety Authority website by clicking the button below or by following this link:

<https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry>



# Sayer Hut.

Authored by: Sean Roberts

Articles to date on Sayer Hut have typically focused solely on the current Sayer Hut, however what is often overlooked is the wider picture. So, having received assistance from various Sayer family members to ensure accuracy, we can now take a quick step back in time.



Sayer family outside a whare in Dalefield Bush (Taranui foothills).

In the late 1850's, Richard Nicholas (Dick) Sayer, at around age 15, built a totara slab whare on a piece of land in Dalefield that was eventually to become the Sayer dairy farm for two further generations. The whare was a single room, originally with a dirt floor. This was Dick's family home until around 1895 after which he had moved into a newly built home. In 1902 he was killed by his own prize bull while leading it home from the Carterton A&P Show. Upon his death, his youngest son, Richard Burgess Sayer took over the farm. The totara slab whare still stands today and has a Grade A Heritage listing.



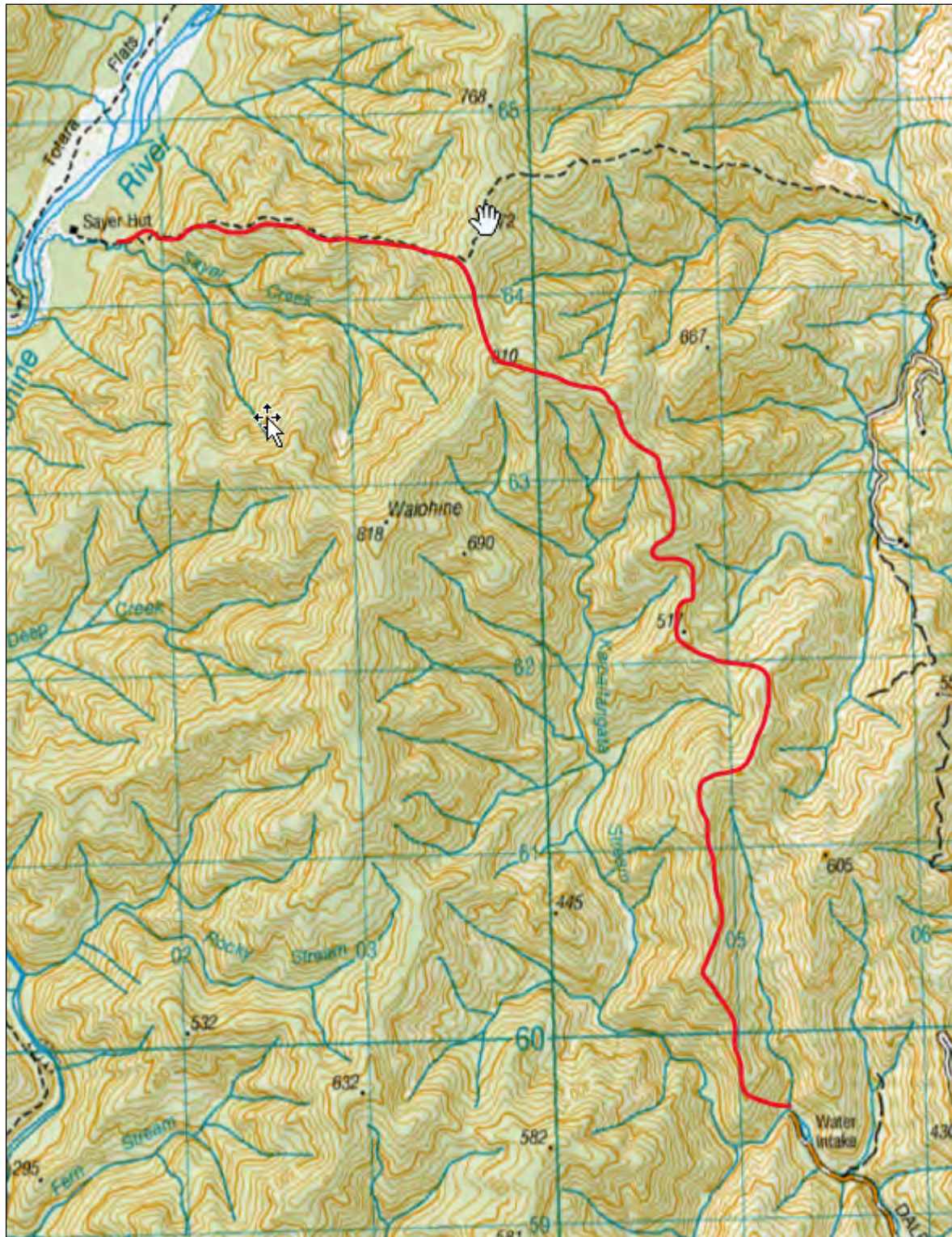


[illegible]

A wide panoramic view of a vast, flat landscape under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with dense, green and brownish vegetation, possibly coastal scrub or marshland. The middle ground shows a flat expanse of land, likely a coastal plain or marsh, with some distant structures or trees visible on the horizon. The sky is a uniform, clear blue.



From 1906 the Sayer family leased 150 acres at Totara Flats, This slowly reduced over the years as the river changed course. The yearling cattle were taken up the Kaipatangata and driven over the ridges to Totara Flats. This is believed to be the route taken.





There were originally two huts, one on each side of the river, built from hand split totara slabs with shingle roofs. The eastern side hut had a raised wooden floor, while the western side hut was hardpacked dirt. The western hut was situated within a small stand of totara below Aeroplane Creek. The western side hut is believed to have been built in 1878.



The western whare. Unknown person, likely to be Richard Sayer. Note the river through the trees.  
Photo : Bennett Iorns - 1937

The western hut was removed when the lease expired in 1956 with the land reverting back to the state. The first public Totara Flats Hut was then built situated higher up close to where Aeroplane Creek exits the bush.



Leo Sayer

There was no fencing in Totara Flats with the cattle managed by a couple of dogs. The men stayed over winter returning back to the farm in early spring ready for milking to start. With the lease expiring in 1956 grazing had stopped prior to WW2, with the track to Kaipatangata now overgrown.

Due to the threat of the riverbank eroding, the eastern hut was moved by Leo Sayer from its original location near the river to where it stands today. This occurred after WW2. Shortly after being moved the riverbank where the hut was situated was washed away in a flood.

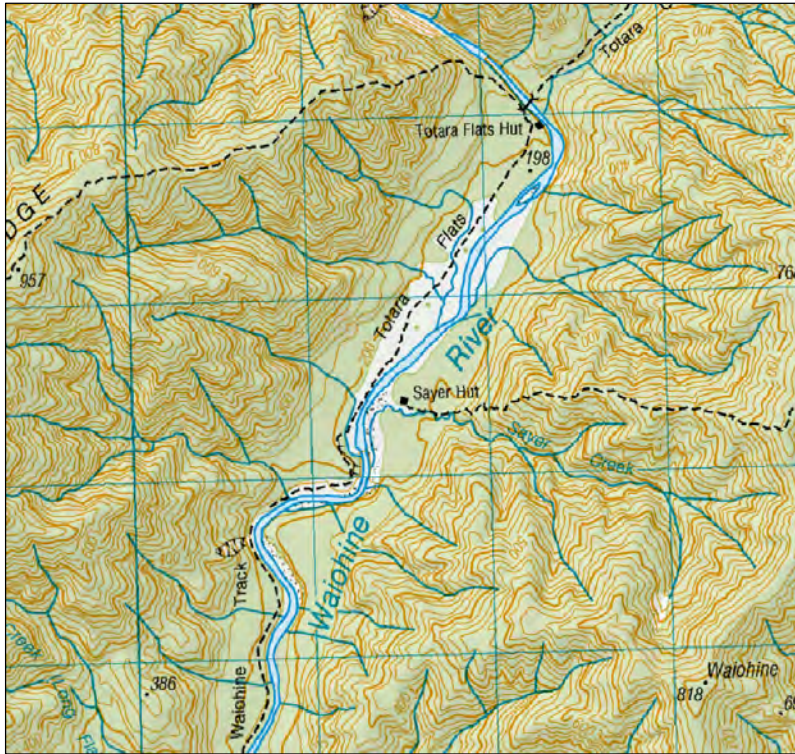
Observant readers will note the different location of the chimney to the western hut.



The current Sayer Hut. Date of picture unknown.



Totara Flats is now a popular tramping destination and hunting spot, with Sayer Hut (and the nearby Neil Forks Hut) maintained by the Wairarapa Branch of NZDA, to which several Sayer family members belong.



The current Totara Flats Hut, and current Sayer Hut locations. Aeroplane Creek can be seen mid-picture.

There have been various additions and repairs to the hut over the intervening years. Stan Sayer, Dicky's great grandson told me about many weekends when he was young spent carrying in long lengths of corrugated iron from the Waiohine road end.

Many more subsequent repairs over the years consisted of canvas or railway tarps, as well as flattened kerosine tins, to keep the water out. It is thanks to all those who have provided input over the years to these repairs that the hut has managed to remain standing and be in regular use.

The latest updates to the hut, which inspired this article, have been a complete reroof and recladding including stripping the cladding back to the original hand split totara, and recovering with treated ply, building paper, and Colorsteel. A new chimney, water tankstand and a woodshed have now been added. Improvements were also made to the front porch with a new step and covered seating.

These renovations have been undertaken by financial input from the Back Country Trust, and time and labour from all others involved. These renovations were undertaken in stages.

Enough with words for now. I will let the pictures tell the story

Stage 1 – reroof & chimney (no pics available), and reclad, involved Paul Sayer (grandson), Barry Sayer (great-great grandson), Kane Sayer (great-great grandson), and Rex Pender (great great great grandson).





Stage 2 – waterstand, woodshed, and porch renovations involved both family and Wairarapa NZDA members, plus a local contracting firm; Paul Sayer (grandson), Sean Roberts (NZDA) Kerre Hovell (NZDA), Stew & Flynn McNeill (Longspur Contracting).



Various other repairs were made during the two stages such as fixing pipe leaks and exterior groundwork for water run-off, painting of windows, and clearlite also being replaced at both western and eastern ends to allow for more light.





The porch now has a totara benchtop and new totara doorstep, as well as bench seating providing a covered area for removal of wet gear before entering the hut.



No more is there a need for firewood to be stored or chopped in the porch with a new woodshed some 3 or 4 metres from the entranceway.



A new waterstand is also in place, however at the time of writing the tank is yet to be installed. This is scheduled to occur in summer 2023/24 along with new spouting and fascia boards.



Those familiar with the hut will know of the memorial to Les (Hoppy) Hooper adjacent to the grass clearing. Kane Sayer has installed a nice macrocarpa leaner here where weary hunters and trampers can enjoy a brew at the end of a long day with the sun setting over Cone Ridge.



Barry, Kane, Paul, and Rex.

Following these latest renovations, the Sayer family, along with the Wairarapa NZDA Branch, hope the wider public can enjoy this wonderful spot for many more years to come.



Photos are personal, or have been sourced from the internet, Sayer family members (Stan Sayer, Ingrid Lowrie) and from [www.backcountrytrust.org.nz](http://www.backcountrytrust.org.nz). The original western hut photograph was taken by Bennett Iorns in 1937.

Additional information sourced from personal family records; Frank Fyfe interview with Joyce Sayer, Ingrid Lowrie, Stan Sayer, Paul Sayer, and personal recollections documented by the late Russell Sayer, son of Leo Sayer.

## 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)

### JEEP WRANGLER TYRES

**Free** to a good home. Two 15" Jeep Wrangler tyres. Call Murry on 0274 515195.

### 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.

## Final Thoughts

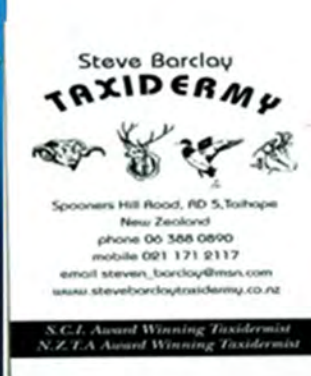
Be safe be sure.  
Assume it is a person not a deer.  
No meat is better than no mate.  
Identify your target.

**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/>.







**WAIRARAPA BRANCH NZDA**  
**ALL ENTRIES FOR ANTLER HORN & TUSK**  
**AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS**  
**TO BE ON THIS FORM**



**COMPETITION ENTERED FOR** .....

**NAME OF ENTRANT** .....

**ADDRESS** .....

**DATE SHOT/TAKEN** ..... **LOCALITY** .....

**BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SECURING TROPHY** (to be completed by entrant) .....

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**THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION AND I UNDERSTAND THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.**

**SIGNATURE** .....

**DATE**

.....

ANY PERSON FOUND DELIBERATELY CONTRAVENING RULES MAY HAVE ALL THEIR ENTRIES DISQUALIFIED AND MAY BE BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR AS DETERMINED BY THE BRANCH COMMITTEE.

**WITNESS:** I ..... CERTIFY THAT THE ENTRANT IS A FINANCIAL MEMBER AND WAS, AT THE TIME OF TROPHY TAKING.