



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **September 2023**

Next general meeting Wednesday 20 September

7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

Speakers: Duncan and Josh Griffith from Wairarapa Ultimate Hunting
Sam Cash talking about his hand-made knives

General Meeting 20 September

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. Followed by supper.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

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. Details above.

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!

28–29 OCTOBER SIKA SHOW Mystery Creek Events Centre Hamilton

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

5-10 APRIL 2024 KAWEKA SIKA FLY-IN HUNTS We have booked Tussock, Harkness, & Te Puke Huts. There are still places available at Tussock & Te Puke. To get on this trip please talk to Lloyd Rayner on 027 6080325.

Recent Events

16 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING WAIRARAPA HUNTING & FISHING

Nearly 50 members attended a great evening. We were lucky enough to receive a 20% discount on sales for the night. Thanks to Greig and the team at Hunting & Fishing. Please support them and the other sponsors who feature in our newsletter.



21-23 JULY 2023 NATIONAL NZDA CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Held at Hotel Ashburton hosted by Ashburton, Rakaia & Malvern Branches. Andrew Dennes and Dave MacKay attended. Andrew has promised us a report, but this will need to wait another month as he has been too busy out hunting!

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



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. Hall insurance has been renewed.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

No reports this month. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

MEMBERSHIPS

Liz Warren and Liz Nicholson are now handling memberships (taking over from Sean).

DEER PARK

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.

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.

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



RANGE & SHOOTING

The Branch centrefire and rimfire shooting competitions will be held on **Sunday 10 September starting at 9:30 am**. Please note that this date was wrong in a couple of places in August newsletter.

**Wairarapa NZDA Annual Competition Shoot
Gladstone Range
Sunday 10 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.

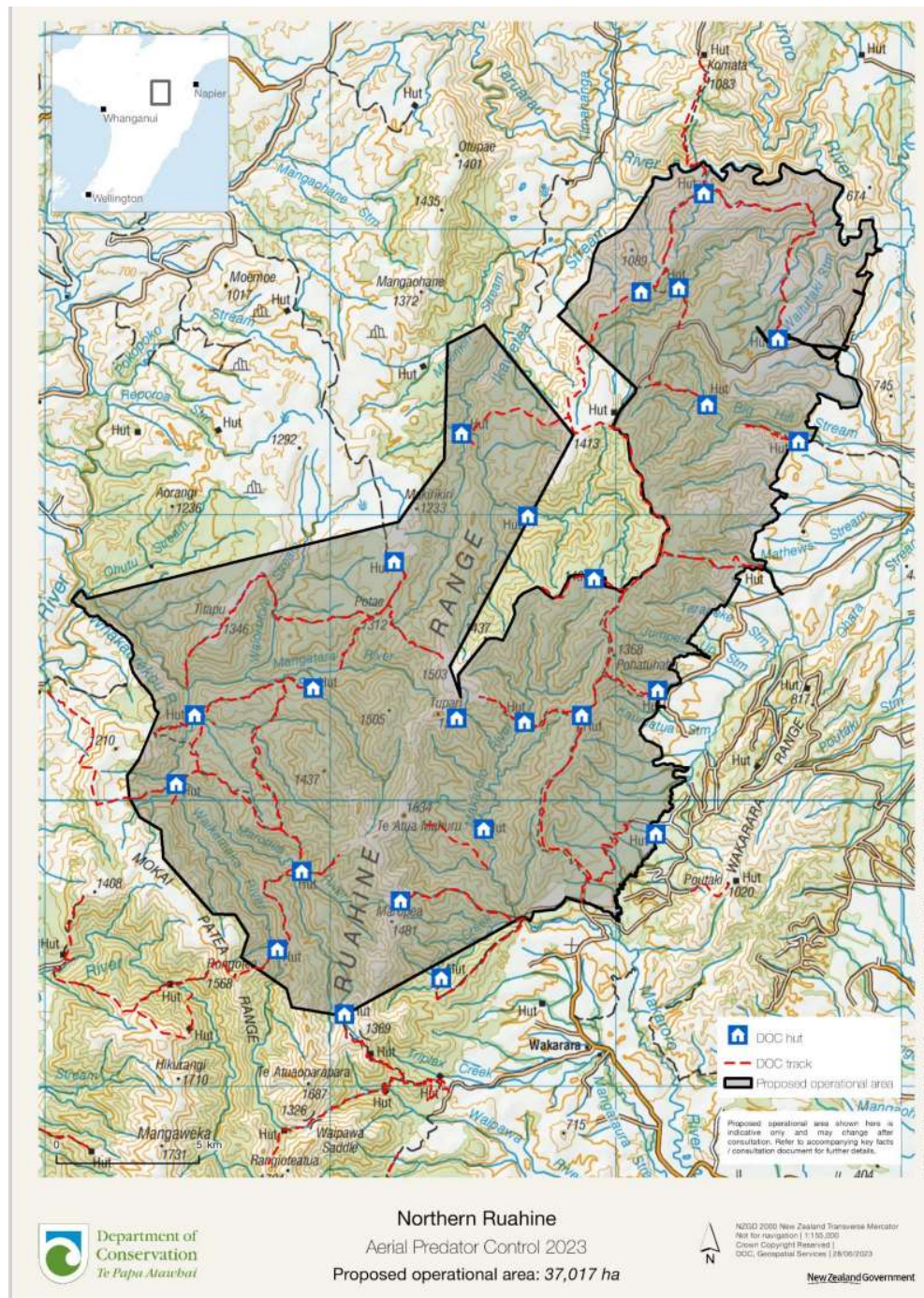
Please read the range rules on next page to make sure you are familiar with the things you need to know when using the range.



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.

Poison operations northern Ruahines

The Department of Conservation will be using the toxin sodium fluoroacetate (1080) to control possums, rats and stoats in the Northern Ruahine Operational Area anytime from 15 September 2023. Cereal baits containing the toxin 1080, will be distributed over the area at a rate of 1.5 kg per hectare. The toxic bait application will be preceded at least 5 days prior by non-toxic pre feed baits. The start date is dependent on weather conditions as multiple fine nights are required to get the best results. Information about the National Predator Control Programme can be found in the following link: [National Predator Control Programme: Our work \(doc.govt.nz\)](https://www.doc.govt.nz/national-predator-control-programme-our-work/) For further information, please contact manawatu@doc.govt.nz (06) 350 9700



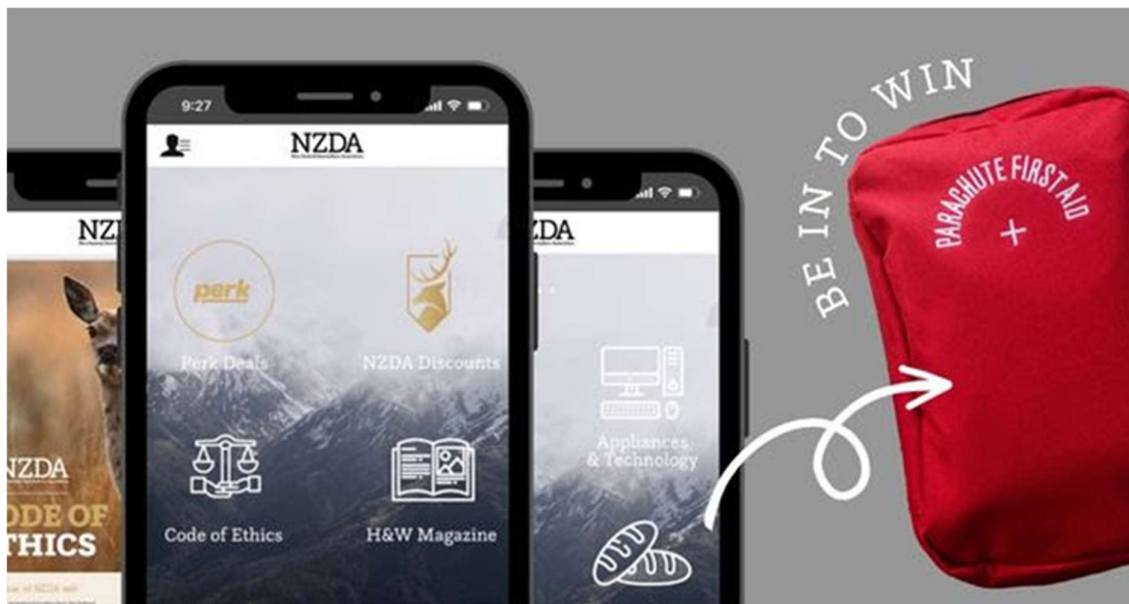
Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation update

After a prolonged spell of inactivity it seems that DoC are now in a position to resume work on the Ruahine Deer Plan. No timings are known yet but people have been tasked with completing it. There seems the willingness to involve rec hunters strongly in deer management in the Ruahines so we are hopeful of constructive discussions.

Relevance of the Ruahine Deer Plan: Included in the relatively recent lower North Island CMS is the requirement that the now very old Ruahine Forest Park Conservation Management Plan (about 1992 vintage) cannot be removed without the Ruahine Deer Plan being in effect. The RFPCMP 1992 is what created the rec hunter friendly WARO restrictions in the Ruahines so it is very important that we get the new plan right and it presents an opportunity to create a cooperative plan that meets the needs of rec hunters, commercial and conservation. The goal is to create a science based adaptable management plan with no more boom bust cycles or conflict.

The Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation will hold their AGM via Zoom meeting on Tuesday 19th September starting 7 pm.

Official NZDA App



The NZDA Membership App is your gateway to a treasure trove of benefits, designed exclusively for our members.

Explore 60+ Exclusive Discounts: We believe in rewarding your loyalty. Our app provides you with access to a curated list of over 60 discounts across various everyday, outdoor and hunting-related brands. Whether it's gear, services, or equipment, our partners are here to support you with special offers that are just a tap away.

Stay Ahead with the Latest Insights: Stay informed and inspired with our Hunting and Wildlife magazine, now available within the app. Immerse yourself in captivating articles, expert tips, and the latest developments in the hunting world. Whether you're an experienced hunter or just starting out, this magazine is a wealth of knowledge that will elevate your understanding and skills.

Seamless and User-Friendly: Navigating the app is as easy. We've designed it with simplicity and user-friendliness in mind, ensuring you can access your membership benefits and resources without any hassle.

Win 1 of 3 Wilderness Kits! All current and new users of the NZDA Membership App. As a token of our appreciation for your unwavering support, we're offering you the chance to win 1 of 3 Wilderness Kits by Parachute First Aid.

How to Get Started

Getting started is as simple as sighting in on a target. Just follow these steps:

1. **Download the App:** Visit the App Store or Google Play Store and search for "NZDA Membership App." Download and install the app on your smartphone.
2. **Log In:** Use your NZDA membership credentials to log in. If you need assistance with your login details, don't hesitate to reach out to us.
3. **Explore and Enjoy:** Once logged in, you're all set! Explore the app, discover the exciting discounts, and dive into the latest issue of our Hunting and Wildlife magazine.



National Wild Goat Hunting Competition



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>



Hunting Reports

After last month's epic history lesson from Sean, we have had no further contributions this month.

Our newsletter story competition will be on again from October 2023 to September 2024 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.



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>

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/>.