



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **October 2023**

Annual Dinner & Prize-giving Saturday 14 October
6:00 pm Parkvale Hall

Annual Dinner & Prize-giving 14 October

6 pm start. BYO refreshments.

There are some changes this year:

- 1 You must have booked your attendance by replying to wairarapanzda@gmail.com. **If you have not sent your RSVP already please do so immediately.**
- 2 The cost for dinner is \$20 per head. Junior members (under 16) are free. Pay on the night with cash please.
- 3 Raffles on the night are our major fundraiser for the year. Tickets will be \$5 and \$10. . Prizes for raffles from King & Henry, Hunting & Fishing and Quality Builders. Please support this fundraiser generously. Please try and bring the correct change. No Eftpos available.

We have over 75 people confirmed so this promises to be a good night as always.



There is no general meeting in October.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

14 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER Parkvale Hall 6:00 pm.

28–29 OCTOBER SIKA SHOW Mystery Creek Events Centre Hamilton

1 NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

4 NOVEMBER TAUPO BRANCH SHOOT See details later in newsletter.

15 NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Shane Dougan is organising a great speaker. Details next month!

6 DECEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

9 DECEMBER WAIRARAPA 4x4 FUNDRAISER. 4x4 marshals are looking sorted, but we will take more names as backups. See details later in newsletter. The 4x4 BBQ details have also been sorted; charging \$5 per head cater for 200 (BBQ is free for club marshals).

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

10 SEPTEMBER BRANCH SHOOTING COMPETITIONS

A good turn-out and tight competition. Full results to be published next month after winners announced at prize-giving. Thanks to Alex and Derrick for arranging this and to Derrick for photos.





17 SEPTEMBER DEER PARK WORKING BEE

Over 20 members participated and made a great job of tidying up the rubbish and doing repairs. Photos below by Gary Warren.





20 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

The 42 people present were treated to two great talks: Duncan and Josh Griffith from Wairarapa Ultimate Hunting; and Sam Cash talking about his hand-made knives. Photos from Gary Warren.



News

PARKVALE HALL

Bookings are going well. The current yearly income is approx. \$2000 and future bookings should cover the hall insurance of \$2700. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings. Gary has donated a 50" smart TV to be installed at the hall.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The committee got an update on the McGregor search. 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

See report on the working bee above.

DOC LIAISON

Hut maintenance agreements for Sayers and Neill Forks Huts are still to be signed. Andrew has it underway with just the Health and Safety plan to attach.

FUNDRAISING

We have sold all the remaining split firewood at Dave McKay's in a bulk lot for \$4000. There is still one more session of ringing up and splitting at Martinborough required. Date will be notified. We have also identified a new location at South Featherston with good supplies of old man pine, mac and gum for 2024 fundraising.

We have been asked to provide marshals again by the Wairarapa 4x4 club. 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 running a BBQ afterwards for ourselves and the competitors. This is a great day out as the 30+ members who participated last time can attest. And a great fundraiser for the branch. We are still taking names as back-ups. Call Sean at 021 822802 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com. No children - 18+ members only.

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

Sayer Hut funding has now been sorted with Back Country Trust. The last bits of work to be done in summer.

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

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.



TAUPO BRANCH PRIZE SHOOT

Saturday 4th November 2023

Jack Dillon Memorial Range, Mountain Road, Taupo

(off Napier Taupo Highway, at foot of Mt Tauhara)



In “*a blast from the past*” Eileen Comber and Margaret Seal have returned to invite you to enter in the fun at the 2023 TAUPO BRANCH PRIZE SHOOT.

A day of friendly competition, comradeship and great food!

Registrations: 8.30 am until last detail on mound. Shooters Briefing 9.30 am

Entry Fee: Senior \$35.00 per Event. Juniors (under 18) \$15.00

Note: CASH ONLY. Novice Juniors (10 years and under) Free

Format: **Graded 100 Metre** – Centrefire or Rimfire, unlimited sighters (time limited) prior to Prone match.
Four positions, 20 shots. Graded, A – D.

Big Balls Shoot – Four positions, 20 shots, non-graded, no sighters.
Max rifle weight 9 lb/4 kg – Hunting rifles with factory or similar barrel profile. No Varmint rifles (222, 223, 22 Hornet etc).
Scope max 9x. Min muzzle energy 1940 ft/lb e.g., 243, 100 gr, 3000 fps (Taupo reserves the right to test loads)
No target shooting jackets, gloves, elbow pads, or hats. No spotting scopes, rests, or bipods. No single point slings. Two-point slings allowed, but must be attached in all positions.

Prizes: To be chosen from a large selection on the Prize Table.
Novelty Prizes are making a return. Raffles to be won.

General Rules: Taupo Rules apply. No dogs permitted on the Range (RSOs).

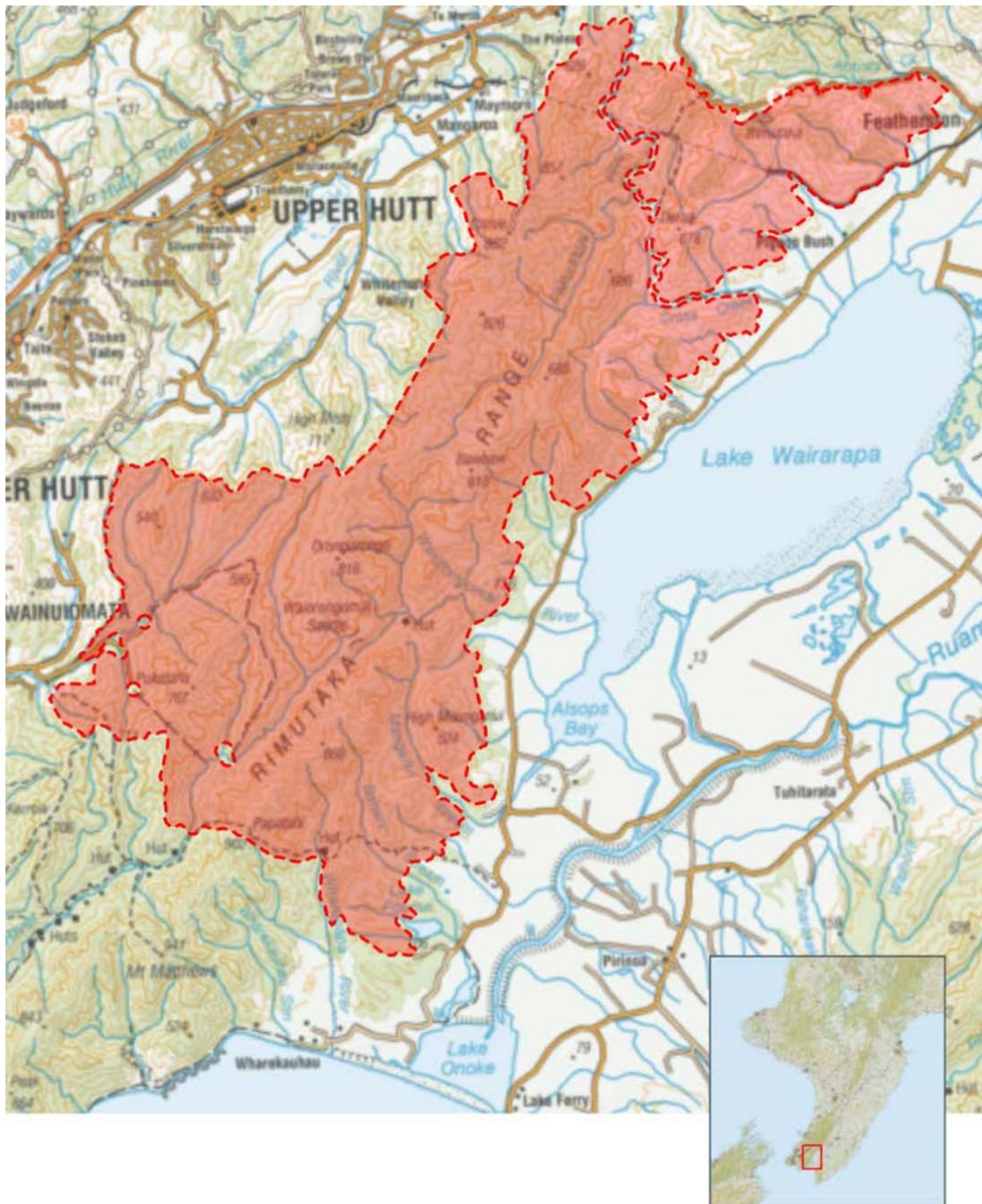
Camping is free at the range. No power points. Kitchen and toilet facilities available in the hall. No showers, but hot pools ~5 minutes down the road.

Free morning & afternoon tea – BYO lunch
BBQ after shoot – Hot Roast Venison Sandwiches

Enquiries to Eileen Comber: treasurer@nzdataupo.org.nz

Poison operations northern Remutakas

OSPRI are consulting on the 2024 TBfree pest control operations. These operations include the northern Remutakas.



To comment, go to:

<https://www.ospri.co.nz/assets/Documents/National-Aerial-Operations-Plan-2024-feedback-form.pdf>

Please support our newest sponsor!



Rebecca O'Neale
Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller

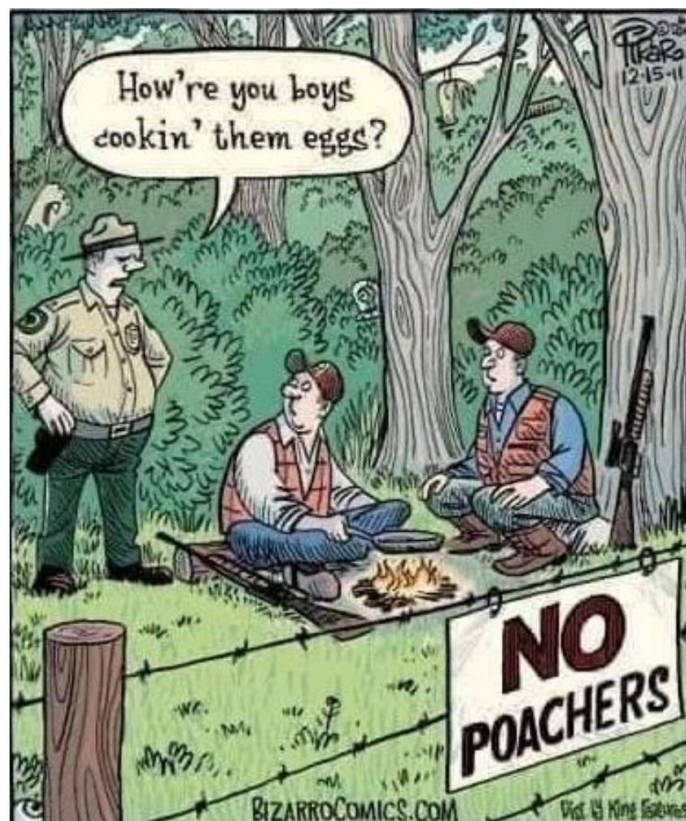
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Email: becs@xtravel.co.nz
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Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group



Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation update

The Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation held their AGM via Zoom meeting on Tuesday 19 September.



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

Our newsletter story competition will be on again from October 2023 to September 2024 with a **prize of \$50 for the best newsletter story**. There were only three entries last year so hoping to do better in the next 12 months. Open to all members, so please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

Kicking things off, here is a contribution from one of our junior members who submitted the following to his "creative writing" course at Kuranui College.

Roaring Reds in the Ruahines **By Peter O'Driscoll**

"Have you got your binos and high-vis?" Dad called out from the other end of the house.

"Sure have", I responded. I had my gear packed for what seemed like years.

Warm clothes, in case the weather was shite, binos, knife, food, boots, gaiters, rifle and pack, everything needed for a great hunting trip. It was early April, peak roar, the hinds should be on heat; stags, fuelled with testosterone thinking only of one thing. Every hunter's dream. We piled our full packs into the back of our dull, dust-covered Subaru Forester and we were off. After what felt like an eternity, the whizz of wheels on tar seal changed to the rumble of a gravel road, alerting us we were close to our destination. As the sun faded, slowly sinking our surroundings into shadow, the air in the car was thick with anticipation. Gravel soon turned to grass, and we came to a stop.

Stepping out of the car, I was greeted by a frigid, clear night, stars glistened with hope, a morepork greeted us, its soft cry shattering the silence. As we began to tramp our way towards the hut, led on by shining circles of white light cast by our headlights, an unmistakable sound rang out, cutting off the morepork's mid-call. My heart began to race. We'd picked the right weekend. The roar was underway. Upon reaching the hut, we were greeted by another series of testosterone-induced roars and grunts, echoing out from across the gully. As I attempted to sleep, my heart continued to flutter and pound with excitement. Kept up with images of roaring red stags dancing through my mind. Eventually, my anticipation was overcome by my body's need for sleep, and I drifted off, overcome with dreams of what great excitement could meet me in the morning.

My eyes flew open, and I was met with deathly silence. Not a single stag sounded out; had the excitement of the night before been for nothing? As I dragged on my clothes, socks, and boots, I strained my ears, listening out for the faintest of sounds, but was met with deafening silence. With my spirits almost so low they could brush the ground, we trudged slowly through the sopping wet grass towards the now quiet bush. Upon entering the bush, the deathly silence was soon disturbed by the pleasant chirping of birds. Towering trees stretched their long, gnarly fingers towards the heavens, creating a beautiful interlacing web of branches and leaves. Making my way further and further into this heavenly place, my recently low spirits began to rise, splash! "Oh, for fucks sake," cold water seeped, slowly but surely into my boot, reaching out and grasping every inch of my socks till they were thoroughly soaked. While my mind had been occupied with the stunning scenery, I managed to, without looking where I was going, step right into a deep hole in the creek that I had been walking along. While this was rather irritating, it wasn't the end of the world, so I continued to make my way along the creek, more carefully this time. After 30 minutes or so of bounding between boulders down the creek, we re-entered the bush and were once again blessed with the sharp, ringing sound of bird song. Grass green ground fern enveloped the forest floor, an irritating carpet of booby traps. Leaves, loud enough to wake a man dead for 100 years, concealed long dead logs lying in wait to gauge the skin from my shins. Pushing through this noisy shit, my ears strained, searching for any sound of a deer over the constant rustle and bustle of the fern. I froze.

My heart leapt to my mouth, butterflies fluttered in my stomach. A low groan resounded through the bush, followed by the crack of a twig, then another. In my head, my mind races also, "Identify your target, middle

of the shoulder; squeeze the trigger," removing his horn from the front of his shirt. My Dad utters a low response, starting with a low sound and then increasing in pitch before fading to silence once more. Instantly, this was met by a roaring challenge. As I leant on a tree stump, steadying the shake of the rifle in my hands, cold, wet moss dampening my clothing, my attention was completely focused on the wild wall of bushes above me. Every crack of a twig was a gunshot, drawing my focus to the place this animal stood. A flicker of shadow caught my attention, and there he was. Silhouetted behind an impenetrable barrier of sticks and leaves, sunlight streaming around him like a shower from the heavens. I raised my rifle, peering through the scope, the black crosshairs a stark contrast to the vivid green bush and golden sunlight. One dark antler, roughly textured with three long points, showed through the trees. My heart was the drum of a marching band. beating so loud I feared the stag might hear it and spook. The antler dipped, obscuring my stag once more from sight.

Crack! Crack! Crack! A patch of muddy red flashed out from behind the shield of bushes, then nothing.

No roaring, no crack of twigs, not even a bird singing. What had I done wrong? I hadn't made any noise; the wind had been good. Why did he have to spook? Rising slowly from the tree my saturated shirt and socks suddenly seemed far more noticeable. Disappointment welled up in my chest, a heavy feeling pressing on my throat, a hand restricting my breathing. Gulp! I swallowed hard, forcing down the disappointment. Sitting down quietly, I replayed the situation. Over and over in my head analysing what I witnessed that singular antler and patch of muddy red. Once more, my surroundings came back to me, flooding my senses. Two fantails, minute and lively, playfully chased each other around my soaked boots, trees formed a gleaming green canopy above me. The rancid, rotting scent of stag piss wafted to my nose, and I chuckled.

"Probably better I hadn't shot that smelly bastard, he would have stunk."

A grin widened on my face, brightening my recently grim expression. Glancing over at dad he too was grinning ear to ear. His smile, now aged with several deeper wrinkles, brought back memories of my first time shooting a deer. I was only 11. We'd persisted through several hardships that day, missing a deer, then tiredly tramping hours, my little, lanky legs struggling to keep up. We saw the sunrise and sun sink slowly below the horizon bathing us into shadow before finally we were awarded with my first deer, a fat red hind and that same ecstatic smile on my dad's face.

"Well that was rather exciting" he whispered softly.

"Shit yeah", I exclaimed.

I'd gotten to experience all the best bits of the roar, spent the day with my old man and, I didn't even have to carry out a heavy, rancid red stag.



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/>.