



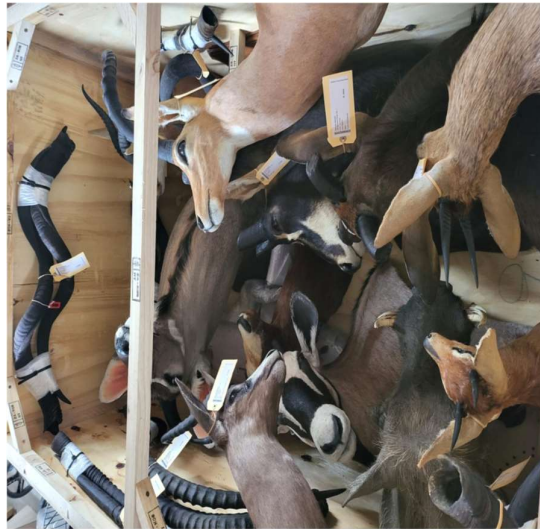
New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **February 2024**

Next general meeting Wednesday 21 February
7:00 pm at 358 Belvedere Road, Carterton

General meeting 21 February

Our first general meeting for 2024. This is **not at Parkvale Hall**. Come to Gary & Liz Warren's place at **358 Belvedere Road Carterton** at the earlier time of 7 pm for a tour of their trophy room and to watch a video of their African safari. Parking will be in paddock next door. See the whole cast of Lion King (minus the lions)!



Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

21 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING 358 Belvedere Road, Carterton 7:00 pm. See details above.

25 FEBRUARY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE 1119 Lake Ferry Road. Sunday starting at 8 am. We will be ringing and splitting. Please bring chainsaw (or just a pair of hands) and all personal protective gear including hearing protection. Wood available for sale to members so bring a trailer too.

1-2 MARCH WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Our first branch organised hunt of 2024. Please contact Andrew Wilkinson on 027 4381363 to register your interest. Limited places available and conditions apply.



6 MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

10 MARCH FIREWOOD WORKING BEE Venue and other details to be confirmed next month.

27 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Note that this is the 4th Wednesday of the month not our usual 3rd Wednesday. There is no meeting on 20 March. Nominations for committee can be sent to wairarapanzda@gmail.com. We are also seeking nominations for Treasurer.

6-7 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Although this is a meat hunt and a ‘no bucks’ policy applies on this property, you should hear some croaking. Please contact Andrew Wilkinson on 027 4381363 to register your interest. Limited places available and conditions apply.

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.

12–14 JULY 2024 NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE Lower Hutt Events Centre, Laings Road, Hutt Central, Wellington. **Hunting & Wildlife Expo: Saturday, 13 July 2024.**



Recent Events

15 NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Over 30 members heard Laurie and Sue Goldfinch talking about their recent trip to South Africa hunting with Crimpy. Some great photos and stories!

9 DECEMBER WAIRARAPA 4x4 FUNDRAISER.

Still waiting for the story from Sean, but another very successful fundraiser for the branch with \$2000 raised.



News

PARKVALE HALL

We recently spent nearly \$800 replacing windows broken by hooners doing skids in the carpark. The committee is considering options for fencing. Bookings are going well. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

FINANCIALS

Bank balance is \$17,902 along with over \$21,700 in term deposits. 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.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

A couple of recent call-outs. One on 7 February about an overdue person who walked out themselves after an unplanned night out. Another in January for a dislocated hip on Dorset Ridge where patient activated a PLB

and was air-lifted. Apparently, the injury was sustained getting out of the tent! If you're interested in joining SAR and getting some great life stories please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

MEMBERSHIPS

The National Office will be sending out invoices for subscriptions in early March. Prompt payment really helps us from an administration point of view. **Please ensure you pay the account number on the invoice not the branch account.**

Fees for 2024/25 will be as follows:

Seniors:	\$130
Family members:	\$15
Superannuants:	\$77
Associates:	\$80
Affiliates	\$20

DEER PARK

Options being considered to replace the fallow buck. The park proved popular with visitors over the holidays.



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 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 and this is scheduled for **25 February**. We have also identified a new location at South Featherston with good supplies of old man pine, mac and gum for 2024 fundraising. First working bee at this new site will be **10 March** (details next month).

HUTS

Planning is underway for the last bits of work on Sayers Hut to be done this summer. Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings.

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.



Rebecca O'Neale
Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller

Mobile: +64 21 447 960
Email: becs@xtravel.co.nz
Website: www.xtravel.co.nz

Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group



Tahr Control Stats 2019 to 2023

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/ 24 to date
DOC Official Control	7,369	7,481	6,395	5,968	3,263
AATH Offsets	2,936	0	0	415	2,757
Total	10,822	7,481	6,395	6,383	6,020

Read the full report from NZDA tahr representative Bruce Hansen on https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/resources/publications/news/tahr-update-nzda-tahr-rep-bruce-hansen?bx_sender_conversion_id=47495098&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=nzda_treasurers_template_message



2024 Tahr Hunter Survey - Please Complete

If you have hunted tahr in the past year, please take the annual survey. The link is below. It's a long-running survey just to track trends over time. It doesn't take long and helps us advocate and gain insights about tahr and recreational tahr hunting.

The survey will run over the month of February.

The link is:

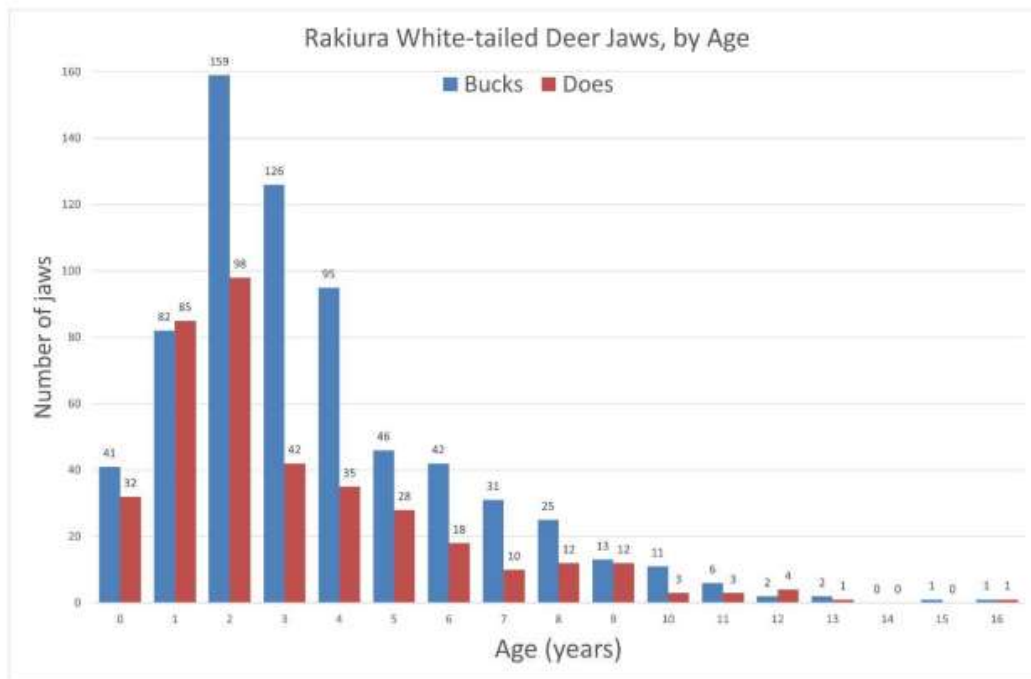
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WC5796B?bx_sender_conversion_id=47495098&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=nzda_treasurers_template_message

Stewart Island Whitetail Deer

In June the Game Animal Council conducted a survey determine what white-tailed deer on Rakiura/Stewart Island mean to hunters. 619 hunters responded. The GAC were happy with the response. Survey results are online: <https://nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Valuing-White-tailed-Deer-on-Stewart-Island-Rakiura.pdf>

610 parties were issued with hunting permits for conservation land during 2023. This is the third consecutive year the number of parties has exceeded 600. Of those 610 parties only 183 parties have bothered to take the 1 minute it takes to submit a Hunter Report after their hunt. That is less than 30%. If you hunted on the Island in 2023 check your party leader has put in a report and if not, get one done. It is not too late to do it now.

Ever wonder why those mature bucks are hard to find. Part of the answer is that quite simply you cannot get mature animals if you keep shooting the immature ones. The graph below is the first 1000 animals that John and Ray have aged by analysing their jawbones. The taking of bucks as opposed to does is very clear in that 2 – 8-year age grouping.



Mountain Safety Council on Hunting fitness: an honest conversation with yourself

As Josh Murray preps for this year's Roar, he asks the question: "picture yourself in 3 months' time and think about what your Roar will look like?"

"It's always good to have an honest conversation with yourself about how fit or unfit you think you are. From there you can figure out what your limitations might be....," Josh says.

Read Josh's advice to getting Roar-fit (<https://bit.ly/NZMountainSafety>)



Game Animal Council: Better Hunting is live!

The Game Animal Council has just launched our brand-new online hunter training platform, Better Hunting, and it is available and free to use for hunters and other backcountry users. Those new to hunting or wishing to further develop their skills will find plenty of content to help them take that next step.

The platform is made up of 28 separate modules across two broad subject areas - Hunting Essentials and Firearms Essentials.

Hunting Essentials includes NZ specific outdoor and hunter safety and skills with everything from weather

forecasting, navigation, river crossing, first aid, preparation, access, game animal management and other bushcraft and hunting skills.

Firearms Essentials is about learning safe and successful firearms use. This includes maintenance, sighting in, storage and transport, and technique.

Better Hunting also includes skill-building games, digital trip intentions, ballot calendars and more.

Better Hunting is free to access at www.betterhunting.nz and can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone. Courses can also be accessed offline through the free mobile app. The platform saves your progress as you go so you can dip in and out as often as you like. Just create an account and get learning.



Firearms Registry

More than 100,000 firearms have now been entered into New Zealand's new Firearms Registry.

Licensed firearms owners across the country have responded well to the Registry, with it taking just 7 months to get to the 100,000th firearm recorded into the system. This is from nearly 10 percent of the approximately 235,000 licence holders in New Zealand.

Te Tari Pūreke - Firearms Safety Authority Executive Director Angela Brazier says she'd like to thank all responsible firearms owners who have filled in the Registry since it launched on 24 June 2023. So far, Canterbury is the area with the highest number of firearms registered, it's also the area with the most licence holders.

"The Firearms Registry is all about preventing firearms getting into the wrong hands. Digitising the licensing system enhances our ability to detect unlawful and criminal activity.

"Along with preventing the sale and purchase of stolen firearms, the Registry provides a better way for Police to trace where firearms used by criminals have come from."

Disrupting the flow of firearms to criminals works in tandem with other Policing initiatives that target organised criminal groups and gangs. These separate but complementary strategies are together making it harder for criminals to possess and use firearms. They are making our communities safer.

"When fully rolled out, the Registry will provide a picture of all lawfully held firearms and arms items in New Zealand. This will give greater transparency when firearms are changing hands and ultimately make the availability of firearms to the black market more difficult," Ms Brazier says.

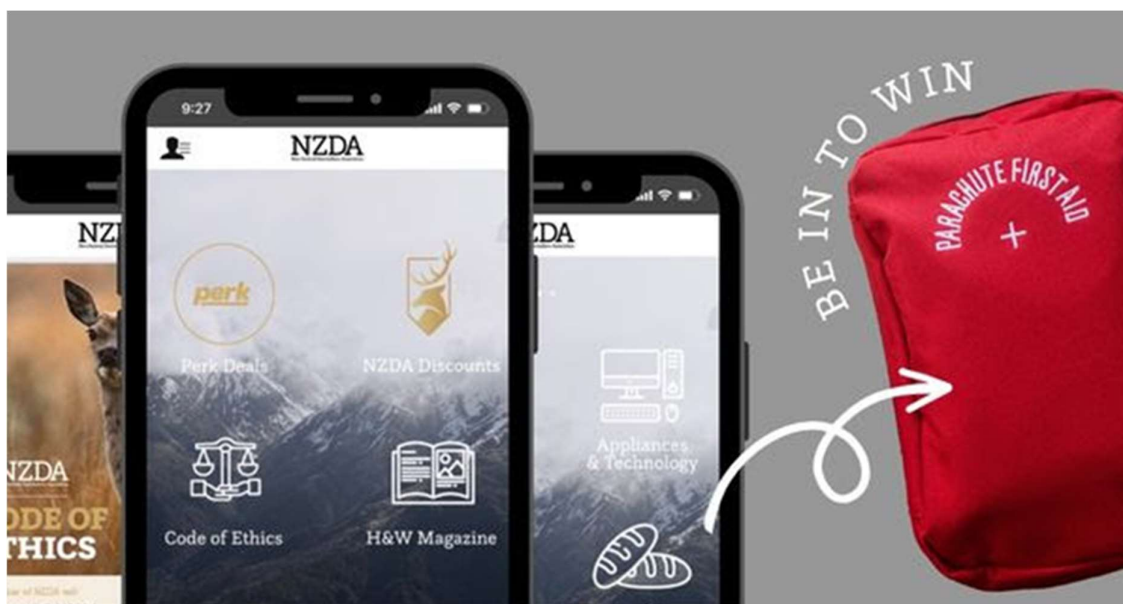
Number of firearms registered by district:

Police district	Firearms registered
Canterbury	14,289

Southern	12,616
Central	12,119
Bay of Plenty	10,098
Waitemata	8,582
Waikato	8,189
Tasman	7,076
Wellington	7,069
Counties Manukau	5,839
Eastern	5,313
Auckland City	4,420
Northland	4,235
Other locations	512
Total:	100,357

If you are unsure what to do, check out the website <https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-registry/when-register-or-update-your-information> or give the helpful Registry team a call on 0800 844 431 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, except public holidays).

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.



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. No entries this month. Hope everybody got outdoors over the break. Here are a couple of photos from the O'Driscoll clan.



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

HUNTING BOOKS

- **Swanning About** by Kim Swan
- **A Deercullers Tale** by Dave Drangsholte
- **Pig Snort** by Reg Carr
- **Its not about the Pigs** by Andy Lyver
- **To Hound a Hog** by Brett Huddleston

\$10 each. All in good condition. Text Murry Clark on 027 4515195

BROWNING .223

For those who actually leave the Lazy-boy and want to get out and really do it! A great poacher's shooter. Browning bolt action .223 stainless with synthetic stock. Scott Traill suppressor and Leopold stock. Text Murry (Master Poacher) on 027 4515195.

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/>. The website is managed by Nick Perkins.

