



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **March 2024**

**Annual General Meeting Wednesday 27 March**

7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

**Speaker: Ewan Kelsall Firearms Safety Authority**

## Annual General Meeting 27 March

Note this is 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of March not our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. The AGM will include the annual President's Report, 2023/24 Financial Report, and election of committee and officers. Nominations for new committee members and office holders must be received in advance. Please send any nominations to [yrapanzdasec@gmail.com](mailto:yrapanzdasec@gmail.com) by 9 pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024. You can nominate yourself, but nominations must be seconded by a current financial member. All existing committee members have agreed to stay on, so nobody will be press-ganged on the night!

Andrew Dennes (president)

Liz Nicholson (secretary)

Derrick Foley

Phil Gray

Alex Beesley

Pete Cunningham

Aidan Bichan

Gary Warren (vice-president)

Sean Roberts (treasurer)

Derek Williams

Lloyd Rayner

Richard O'Driscoll

Murry Clark

Luke Johnston

Shane Lehmstedt

Shane Dougan

Hamish Graham

Dave Bashford

Please come along to the AGM, find out how our club is doing, and have your say. A good club is one where the members get involved!

After the formalities, we have a great guest speaker, **Ewan Kelsall** is the Partnerships Manager at the Firearms Safety Authority and a Wairarapa local. Ewan will give a presentation and answer our questions about recent changes to firearms legislation, gun registries etc. There is a lot of rumour and hearsay out there on social media. This is your chance to get the facts straight.

Followed by a cup of tea and a great chance to discuss those roan plans.



## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**10 MARCH FIREWOOD WORKING BEE** 1119 Lake Ferry Road. Sunday starting at 8 am (no chainsaws before 8 am please!). 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 at \$50/m<sup>3</sup> so bring a trailer too. This is mostly gum, with a little bit of pine.

**24 MARCH FIREWOOD WORKING BEE** 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056. Another Sunday session starting at 8 am. This load is  $\frac{3}{4}$  pine and  $\frac{1}{4}$  macrocarpa. We will be ringing and splitting. Same instructions as above.



**27 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. See details on first page. Note that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month not our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. There is no meeting on 20 March.

**NO COMMITTEE OR GENERAL MEETINGS IN APRIL** Go hunting!

**6-7 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT** Full.

**5-10 APRIL 2024 KAWEKA SIKA FLY-IN HUNTS** Now full. Thirteen members are flying into Tussock, Harkness, & Te Puke Huts.

**1 MAY COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**4 MAY DUCKSHOOTING OPENING DAY**

**15 MAY GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.

**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

### 21 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

About 30 members visited Gary & Liz Warren's place for a tour of their trophy room and to hear stories about their African adventure. Really impressive and thanks Gary & Liz for sharing.



### 25 FEBRUARY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

A dozen members split and took away about 20 m<sup>3</sup> of pine and gum. There is at least the same amount still to be cut and split so come along to the next working bee on 10 March.

### 1-2 MARCH WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT

Our first branch organised hunt of 2024. Twelve members shot 39 deer. Neil took home 8, so had a major butchery session in store! Well done to Callum who managed to shoot a nice yearling to celebrate his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. And he got another the next day too.







## News

### PARKVALE HALL

The committee is considering options for fencing. Bookings are going well. Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

### FINANCIALS

Come along to the AGM to hear the latest financial statement. 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

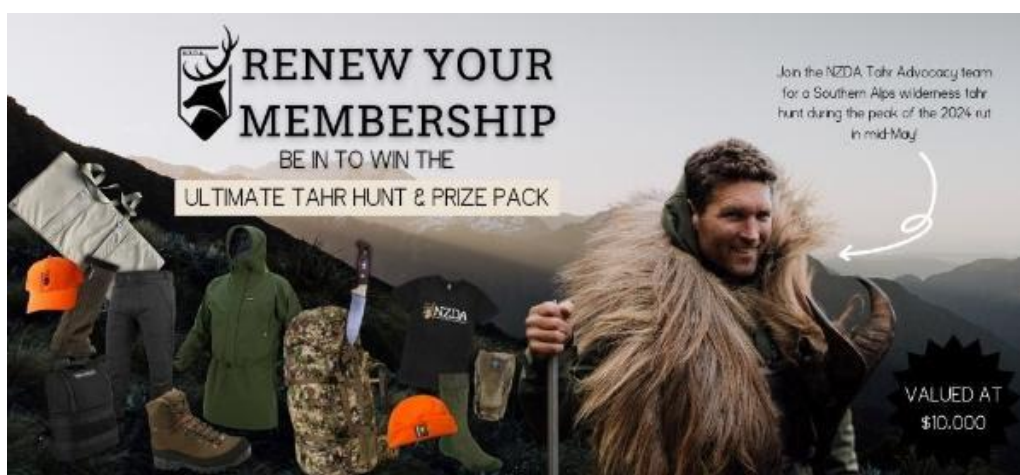
A local team was called out for the recent Levin search which resulted in the elderly person being located by his son after two nights in the bush. If you're interested in joining SAR and getting some great life stories, please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

### MEMBERSHIPS

You should now have received your invoice from National Office. 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.**

Renew your membership with the NZDA before 31 March and go in the draw for an EPIC prize package. This year the prize is a guided tahr hunt during the rut and all the gear to help make it happen.

Learn more here: <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/resources/publications/news/renew-your-membership-for-2024-2025-and-be-in-to-win/>



## DEER PARK

Options being considered to replace the fallow buck. One red hind and the spiker have moved out. Committee members are meeting with Masterton District Council next week to discuss plans for expansion of the Deer Park

## 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

There is still one more session of ringing up and splitting at Martinborough required and this is scheduled for **10 March**. We have also got trees on the ground at South Featherston with good supplies of pine and macrocarpa gum for 2024 fundraising. First working bee at this new site will be **24 March** (details above). Please support our working bees as these pay for club activities and trips. Participation in working bees is a requirement to go on subsidised hunts.

## 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  
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Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group



# Roar Safety – Things to Be (from Nelson NZDA)

## Be Legal

Make sure you are up to date with your public or ballot land permits (or private landowners' permissions) [GAC Licenses and Permits Information](#) and read the permit conditions.....



## Hunting Permit

**Permit Number:** 00750163  
**Permit Validity Period:** 2024-01-27 08:32:55 -  
2024-05-26 08:32:55

### Permit Conditions:

1. No firearm other than a high-powered centre fire rifle may be taken into the area, unless the permit is issued for shooting rabbits on which case LOW-POWERED SMALL CALIBRES CAN BE USED. Where this permit is issued only for game birds (as noted on the permit), only 12-20 gauge shotguns are permitted.
2. Hunting wild animals during the hours of darkness is prohibited.
3. This permit is not transferable and must be carried while hunting and produced on demand to any warranted officer or any other authorised person, and may at any time be cancelled by public notice issued by radio or published in a newspaper of the district.
4. Carcasses, offal and rubbish must not be left in stream beds or within loom of huts, campsites and tracks.
5. Care must be taken that streams, rivers and lakes are not polluted. All animals are to be killed as humanely as possible.
6. No fires to be lit in the open air without a fire permit.
7. No aircraft landings in wilderness areas.
8. Accessing and hunting on farmland requires the farmer's permission. Note: Other persons (trampers, fishermen, DOC rangers, guided groups etc) may be in the hunting area.
9. Hunters using a firearm must abide by the NZ Police Arms Code and hold a valid firearms licence.

.....as well as your firearms license, ensure team mates are too. Remember the rules re carriage and storage of firearms while out hunting.

### Tips for travelling with firearms and ammunition this summer

Before you go on holiday, consider how your firearms and ammunition will be transported, stored and used safely while you're away.

**Top safety and security tips:**

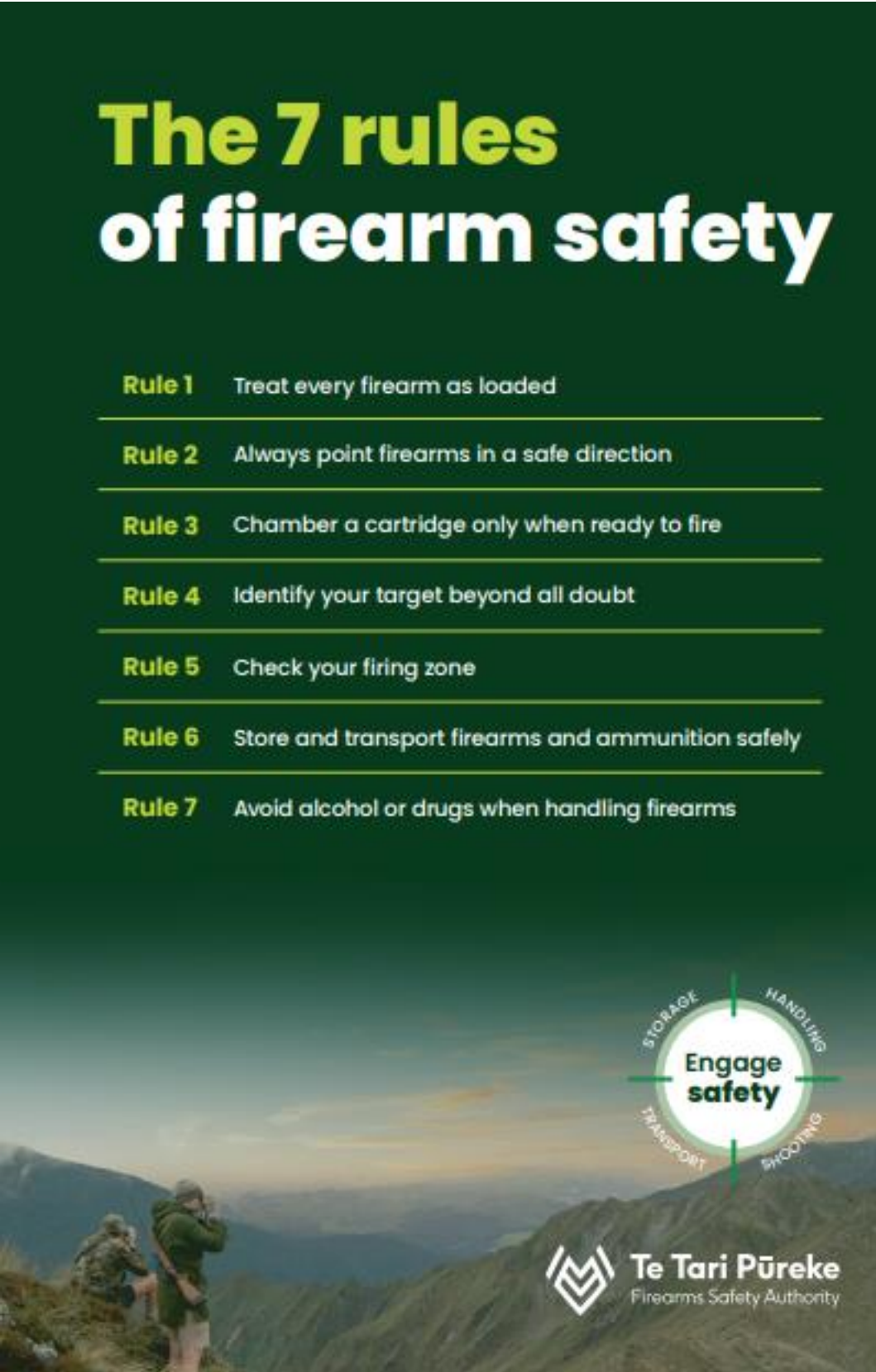
- Firearms can never be left in a vehicle overnight. If you pack your vehicle the night before, make sure you leave time and space to pack your firearms just before you travel.
- Ammunition must be transported separately to your firearms, and in a locked container if practical.
- If you're not taking your firearms with you, make sure they're stored securely – take the keys with you and cover up your gun safe and ammunition storage.

[Learn more about safe storage and transportation](#)

Read more on the Firearms Rules here: [FSA Rules](#)


## Be Firearms Safe

Always obey the 7 Rules




# The 7 rules of firearm safety

- Rule 1** Treat every firearm as loaded
- Rule 2** Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Rule 3** Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
- Rule 4** Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Rule 5** Check your firing zone
- Rule 6** Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely
- Rule 7** Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms



**Engage safety**

STORAGE HANDLING SHOOTING TRANSPORT



**Te Tari Pūreke**  
Firearms Safety Authority



## Be Informed and Flexible



Do your homework with maps and Google Earth – hunting spots, vegetation/terrain, camp sites and crossings - even if you have been there before, especially if its new ground. Have a plan – you can use [MSC Plan My Walk](#) - and a Plan B for weather or other events.

## Be Prepared



Check all your gear and check again!

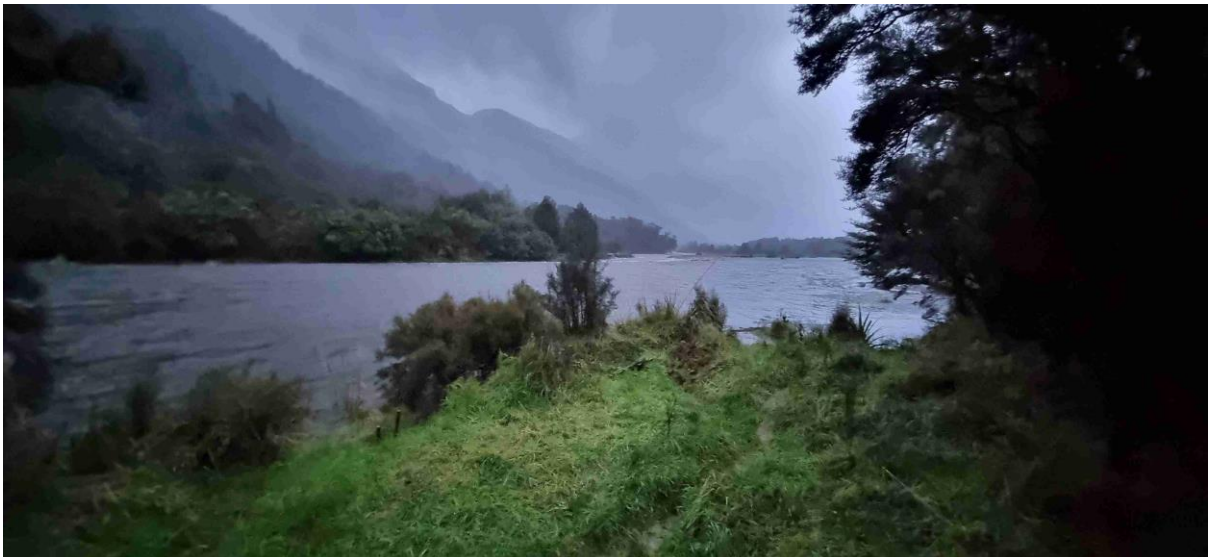


## Be Visible to Humans



Deer are colour blind..... People are not.

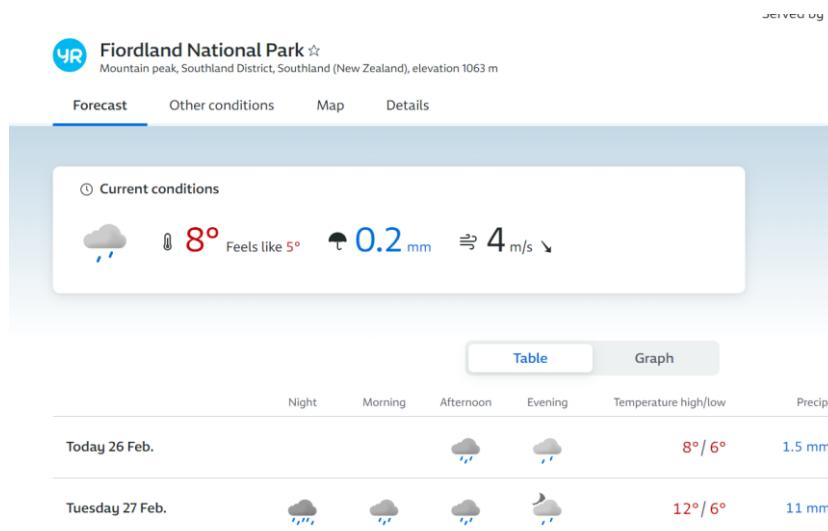
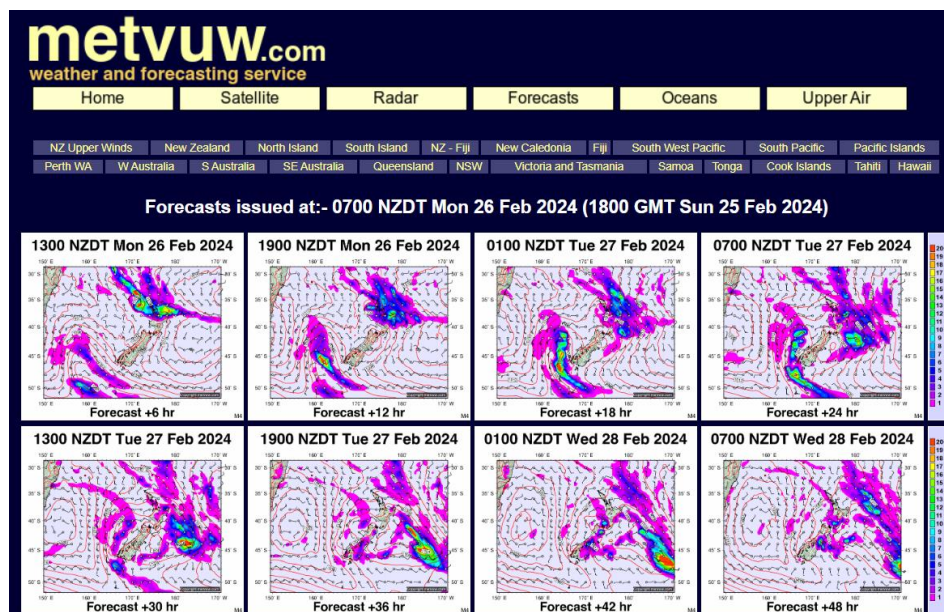
## Be River Safe



Don't cross when you should not, no river HAS to be crossed despite what you might tell yourself!

Watch this MSC video for a refresher [MSC River Safety](#)

## Be Weatherwise



Use all the great Apps and websites, there really is NO excuse these days to not have a good grip on the next 5 days weather at least. I use YR and MetVUW all the time but there are other popular sites.

Weather YR [Link YR](#)

MetVUW [Link MetVUW](#)

Metservice [Link Metservice](#)

Windy [Link Windy](#)

Weather Watch [Link WeatherWatch](#) (great maps of Pacific area and so long view of what's coming our way)



## Be HeliSafe



Flying is fun but be sure you know how to keep yourself, your pilot and the aircraft safe while loading, boarding and disembarking. Check out this free online DOC Course especially if you are new to choppers. [DOC Helisafety](#)





## Be Sure of Your Whereabouts



Make sure your navigation gear is working, you have backups (at least a compass), check batteries and powerpacks. Ensure your team know how to use it.

## Be ready for the moment....

For the worst.....**always have a PLB**, first aid gear and ensure your intentions are known by your people back home - you can use online tools such as [AdventureSmart Intentions Form](#) and use Hut Books when available



And the best....**be ready** to enjoy yourself! **Double check everything** and then you can relax and enjoy your autumn hunting experiences!





## NZ Game Animal Hunting Research Project

The Game Animal Council has underway a major research project to gather information about deer, pig, chamois and tahr hunting in New Zealand and we need your help. **Please [follow this link](#) to participate.**

The new research will provide information on key aspects of hunting in New Zealand, such as; the number of hunters by species hunted and by demographic groups, how they hunt, why they hunt, overall harvest rates and hunter participation in conservation initiatives. This will inform us as to how well the overall system is working, where improvements need to be made and how better we can integrate various parts of the hunting sector to provide optimal outcomes for game animal management and the improvement of hunting opportunities.



**There are two parts to this research that hunters can help us with:**

1. A short one-off survey where hunters are asked some basic questions about their hunting.
2. Those that participate in the first part are then invited to undertake short monthly surveys to provide more detail about the hunts they undertake over a year. We may also ask some questions regarding how you would prefer game animal hunting to be managed.

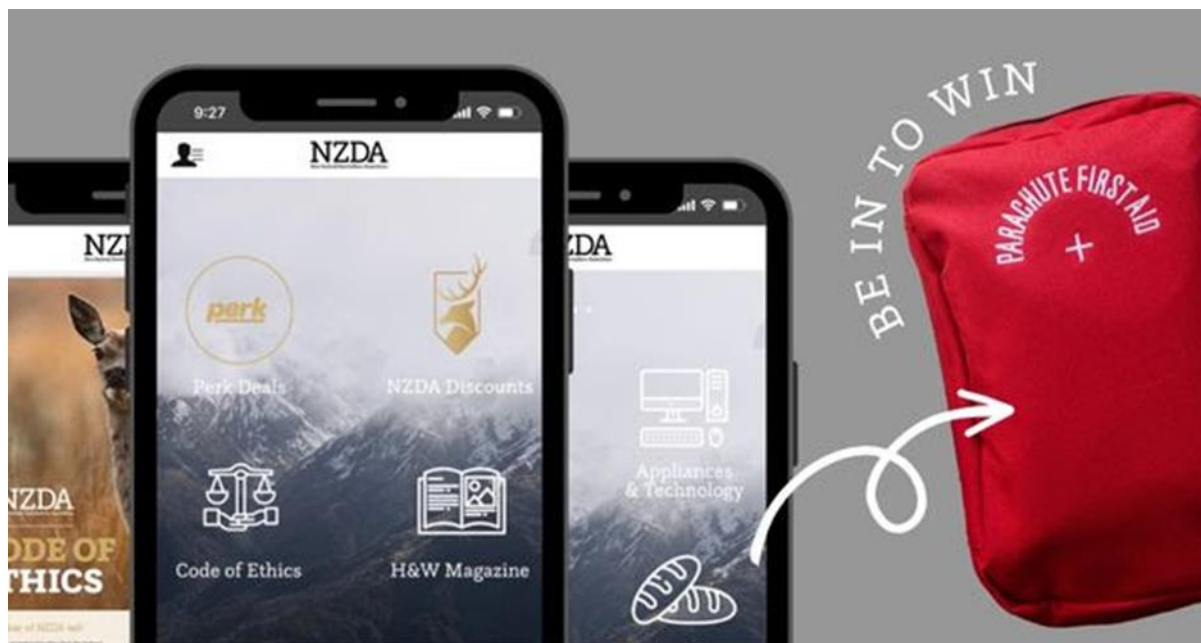
The initial survey only takes about 5 minutes to complete. **Please [follow this link](#) or click the button below to sign up and participate.**

### Anonymity

Participation in the survey and all subsequent surveys associated with this project is anonymous. You will never be asked your name, your favourite hunting spots or any other information that may identify where you hunt. The only thing we will ask for is an email address so we can send you an invitation each month to ask about your recent hunting experiences.



## 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.

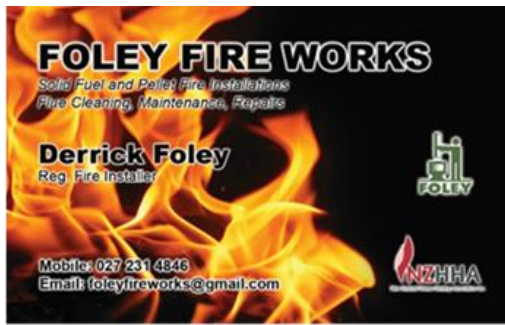
**Seamless and User-Friendly:** Navigating the app is as easy. We've designed it with simplicity and user-friendliness in mind, ensuring you can access your membership benefits and resources without any hassle.

**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](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com). No entries again this month 😞

## 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)

### BROWNING .223

Ideal Wanganui fallow rifle. Browning bolt action .223 stainless with synthetic stock. Scott Traill suppressor and Leopold stock. Text Murry on 027 4515195.



## RUSA HUNT NEW CALEDONIA

Shane Dougan has had a cancellation and there is an opportunity for a party of up to 4 hunters to book a New Caledonia rusa hunt with him at Coral Sea Safaris on 11–24 August 2024. Call Shane on 027 2474484 if you're interested.



## 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 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.



## 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.

