



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **April 2024**

No General Meeting in April

April: No Meeting Gone Hunting



Photo by Peter O'Driscoll

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

NO COMMITTEE OR GENERAL MEETINGS IN APRIL

6-7 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW MEAT HUNT Full.

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

14 APRIL 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. 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/m³ so bring a trailer too. There is a massive stack of logs here so we need a good turnout to get as much as possible split before winter when paddocks and wood will get too wet.



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.**

11–19 MARCH 2025 BRANCH TRIP TO STEWART ISLAND Save the dates. More details to follow.

Recent Events

10 MARCH FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

Pretty good turnout at Lake Ferry Road site with 15 members who split the remaining gum.



24 MARCH FIREWOOD WORKING BEE

Not such a good turnout at South Featherston Road with only 9 members showing up and only two chainsaws. There is another working bee at this site scheduled for 14 April. Remember attendance at working bees is a requirement to be eligible for club subsidised hunts. You don't need to show up every time, but we keep seeing the same faces.



27 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A total of 39 members attended the AGM which included the annual President's Report, 2023/24 Financial Report, and election of committee and officers.

President's Report

Branch president **Andrew Dennes** described the following highlights from the last year:

- Thanks to committee, volunteers & sponsors (especially Hunting & Fishing, King & Henry, Swazi, Valley Plumbing, & Quality Builders), as well as our club night speakers.
- Four very successful Wanganui trips (thanks to Andrew Wilkinson & Paul Sayer) and a trip to Stewart Island (organised by Lloyd Rayner). Kaweka fly-in trip next weekend (also organised by Lloyd).
- Deer park tidy-up and plans for extension.
- Busy year for hall hire.
- Fundraising with firewood and 4WD marshalling.
- Successful annual dinner.
- Attended NZDA conference in Ashburton.

Financial Report

Treasurer **Sean Roberts** tabled the financial statement to 29 February 2024, reviewed by Bill Duncan.

The last financial year has been another good one from a financial aspect with excess of income over expenditure exceeding \$5,000. This was helped by fundraising from wood sales, 4WD marshalling, and hall hire. We have a total of \$38,336 in the branch account and term deposits. Parkvale Hall is now owned by the branch and its value included on our assets. The hall incurs our major expenditure through rates, insurance, power etc. In the next year we have allowed for \$10K for the deer park extension and \$5K for fencing the hall carpark.

Our subscriptions are not contributing much to covering the running costs of the Branch as national capitation has increased. We rely on fundraising which involves only a subset of our members. We can no longer afford to hold our subscription costs at current levels (which are low compared to other NZDA branches and there will be an increase in subscription costs for 2025/26. As required by the constitution, the 2025/2026 fees will be set by the committee in November 2024 and advised to members.

WB Duncan was reappointed as reviewer for 2024/25.

Election of officers and committee

The following officers and members of committee were reappointed.

Andrew Dennes (president)	Gary Warren (vice-president)	
Liz Nicholson (secretary)	Sean Roberts (treasurer)	
Derrick Foley	Derek Williams	
Phil Gray	Lloyd Rayner	Shane Lehmstedt
Alex Beesley	Richard O'Driscoll	Shane Dougan
Pete Cunningham	Murry Clark	Hamish Graham
Aidan Bichan	Luke Johnston	Dave Bashford

There were no new appointments (so photo below from 2023 still shows your committee minus Alex, Pete, and the Shanes)



Two door prizes were won by ?? (Hunting & Fishing voucher) and Aidan Bichan (New World voucher).

The AGM closed at 7:55 pm.

After the formalities, we had a great guest speaker, **Ewan Kelsall** is the Partnerships Manager at the Firearms Safety Authority and a Wairarapa local. Ewan gave a really good presentation and answered questions about recent changes to firearms legislation, gun registries etc. It is fantastic to see that practical people like Ewan, with a farming and hunting background, are behind the scenes to help moderate some of the more extreme anti-firearm viewpoints. We were a pretty tough crowd, but I think most of us left feeling more informed and more reassured about the new rules.



News

PARKVALE HALL

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

FINANCIALS

The financial statement and report were provided at the AGM 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

If you're interested in joining SAR, please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

DEER PARK

Committee members are having meetings with Masterton District Council to discuss plans for expansion of the Deer Park

DOC LIAISON

Hut maintenance agreements for Sayers and Neill Forks Huts have been signed.

FUNDRAISING

Next working bee at South Featherston Road will be **14 April** (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

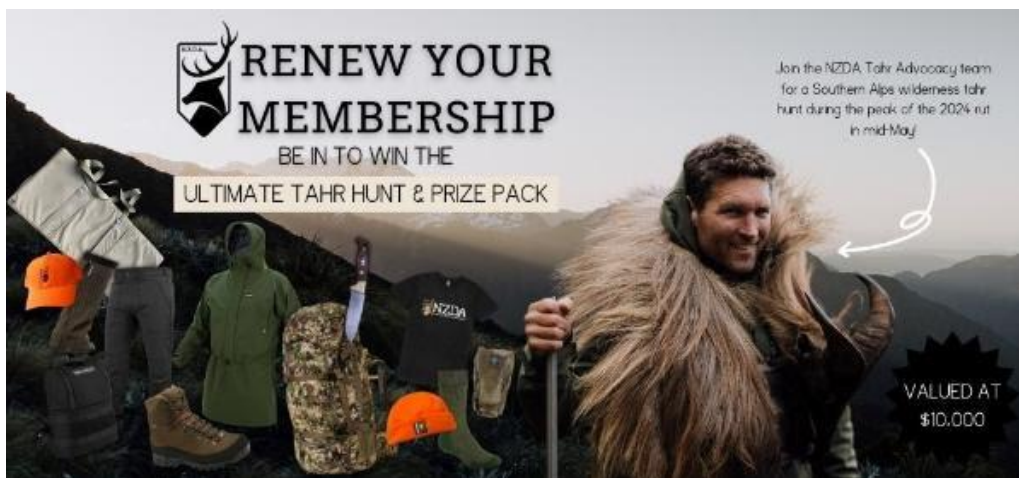
Planning is underway for the last bits of work on Sayers Hut to be done this summer. Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings.

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/>



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.

BETTER HUNTING WITH THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

The Game Animal Council is emphasising the importance of good preparation ahead of this year's roar.

“As a hunter, the Roar is an exciting time. However, it also represents the busiest period on the hunting calendar meaning there is an increased risk of accidents,” says Game Animal Council General Manager Tim Gale.- “Hunters can significantly reduce their risk if they undertake the right planning and preparation for their hunts, including carrying the right clothing and equipment, checking the forecast, taking a personal locator beacon and leaving detailed intentions with friends or family,”

Once out on the hill your safety and the safety of other hunters also relies on making good decisions. “Ensure

you know your limits and are aware of the limits of those in your party, be mindful of changing weather conditions and river levels as well as the physical impact of heat or cold.” “Make a plan for where you will hunt, share that with others in your party and any other hunters you may come across. This not only helps everyone stay safe but also means you don’t impact each other’s hunting,” says Gale.

Gale suggests integrating the Better Hunting hunter education programme into your Roar preparations. “Better Hunting provides free online training on the fundamentals of hunting and hunter safety in New Zealand and has been developed to supplement existing practical training, such as NZDA’s HUNTS courses.” “Better Hunting can update your knowledge on aspects of hunter safety from hunt planning and what gear to take, to river safety, survival instruction, navigation and first aid,” says Gale. “Various modules can also support you to be more successful by improving your hunting situational awareness and helping you assess the age of red and sika stags in the field.”

“Taking the right precautions with regards to firearms is critical anytime you are hunting. Better Hunting includes modules on firearm safety, hunting with others, storage and transportation, and improving your shooting technique and accuracy.”

The Better Hunting platform includes 29 individual training modules and other useful resources for hunters such as a hunt planner, intentions form and multi-map tool. Just visit betterhunting.nz and access them all for free.

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.



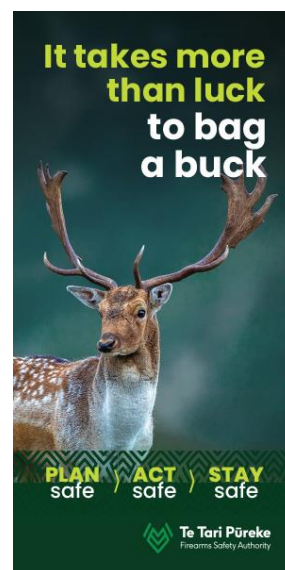
PLAN SAFE, ACT SAFE, STAY SAFE

Autumn is in the air and many hunters are heading out into the hills for the Roar. Remember this season, Plan safe, Act safe, Stay safe.

Recreational hunting is a big part of many New Zealanders lives, we want everyone involved to have a great time away and to head home safe at the end to their loved ones.

Keeping yourself and others in your hunting area safe takes more than luck. This year, we have three key reminders for hunters:

1. Make a plan for your hunt and stick to it.
2. Always treat every firearm as loaded.
3. Identify your target beyond all reasonable doubt.





Northern Ruahine Predator Control Operation

The Northern Ruahine predator control operation is planned for delivery over autumn 2024. Application of non-toxic pellets may begin from late April, with toxic baits being applied in early May 2024 (weather permitting). The laying of non-toxic prefeed pellets will not affect the ability of hunters to take trophies or meat from the operational area.

This operation is targeting rodents and possums and is expected to also reduce the population of stoats through secondary poisoning. Recent monitoring shows that rat numbers are currently very high in the operational area. As the weather gets colder, food will become scarce making rats more likely to eat the bait. With high bait uptake, it is expected that we will significantly reduce rat and therefore stoat numbers ahead of the upcoming whio breeding season.

We have found that pest control operations are more effective when we prefeed with non-toxic pellets so target species become used to eating pellets before they are presented with toxic bait. There will be at least a 5-day gap between the laying of the prefeed and the laying of toxic bait, to allow as many target animals as possible to become used to eating cereal pellets.

Warning signage will be in place at all public access points to the operational area before baiting begins. Information on the DOC website, including the pesticide summaries, will be updated.

For more information, please visit the [National Predator Control Programme pages on DOC website](#) or email manawatu@doc.govt.nz with your enquiry.

A business card for Rebecca O'Neale, a Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller at xtravel. The card is white with a thin grey border. In the top right corner is the xtravel logo, which consists of a stylized 'x' made of two intersecting lines, followed by the word 'travel' in a bold, sans-serif font, and the tagline 'Exceptional Experiences by Experts' in a smaller font below it. On the left side, the name 'Rebecca O'Neale' is printed in a bold, teal font, followed by her title 'Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller' in a smaller, grey font. Below this, her contact information is listed: 'Mobile: +64 21 447 960', 'Email: becs@xtravel.co.nz', and 'Website: www.xtravel.co.nz'. At the bottom left, it says 'Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group'. At the bottom right, there are two logos: 'travel managers' in a teal font with a small globe icon, and the IATA logo.

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



Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

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.

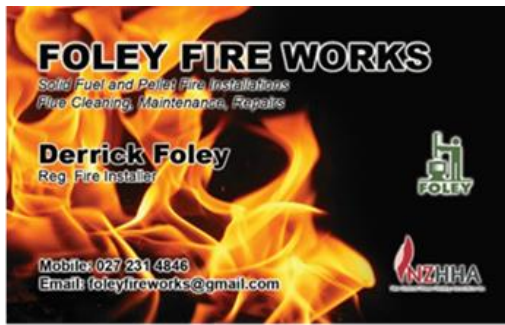
Seamless and User-Friendly: Navigating the app is as easy. We've designed it with simplicity and user-friendliness in mind, ensuring you can access your membership benefits and resources without any hassle.

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.

Check out this great 14-pointer from public land taken on one of the Molesworth roar blocks by our new member **Trent Lett**.



How did you go? 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

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.

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.



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