



# New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **July 2024**

**Next general Meeting Thursday 18 July  
Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street 7 pm**

## General Meeting 18 July

Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street starting at 7 pm. This is a **Thursday night** and replaces our July general meeting. \$15 for two cards. This is always a fun night and there are senior and junior trophies up for grabs so bring the kids along.



## Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

**12–14 JULY 2024 NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE** Lower Hutt Events Centre, Laings Road, Hutt Central, Wellington. This will include a **Hunting & Wildlife Expo on Saturday 13 July**, led by the team at NZDA Hutt Valley Branch. Thousands of hunters from across the country will be coming together for the Expo held at the Lower Hutt Events Centre. The branch delegates will be Andrew Dennes and Dave McKay.

The Expo will not only provide hunters around the Lower North Island to connect, get valuable information, and discounts from our exhibitors but also will introduce the non-hunting public to our sport and the NZDA. This is important because it allows us to showcase the valuable conservation role that hunters play in maintaining our environment and give people an easy introduction should they wish to learn to hunt themselves.

The Hunting and Wildlife Expo is a family friendly event and we encourage you to bring your little hunters and huntresses to enjoy the day. Entrance is a gold-coin donation that helps raise money for NZDA Hutt Valley.

For more details see [Hunting & Wildlife Expo | New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc](#)

**18 JULY GENERAL MEETING Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street starting at 7 pm.** See details above.

**7 AUGUST COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**21 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING** Open night at Hunting & Fishing Masterton. Starting 6:30 pm. There will be food and a great prize draw.



**4 SEPTEMBER CLOSING DATE BRANCH AHT & PHOTO ENTRIES** See details and entry form later in newsletter. There will be somebody at Parkvale Hall to receive entries from 7 pm.

**4 SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**18 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.

**2 OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING** Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.

**19 OCTOBER BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER** Parkvale Hall 6:00 pm. Put it in your calendar now!

**11–19 MARCH 2025 BRANCH TRIP TO STEWART ISLAND** Save the dates. Bookings for Kellys and Rakeahua blocks (see map in May newsletter). Room for up to 18 people departing Bluff. This trip will be subsidised for active members. Contact Lloyd on 027 6080325 if interested.

## Recent Events

### 19 JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Really good turn up for a tour of the Kahutara Taxidermy Museum. Some amazing animals on display and a lot of history. With hot cheese scones for supper! Thanks to John McCosh for hosting us.



### 23 JUNE BRANCH CLAY TARGET COMPETITION

This started at an earlier time as 9 am to get the shoot in before the forecast rain. The weather still wasn't great so we shot from almost under cover using these different stations which had the clay sequences written out on a board in front of the shooter, quite an interesting idea.

Scores (out of 30 targets) as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup>	John B	23
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeff L	20
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dave M	18
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bradly	17
5 <sup>th</sup> =	Liam D	16 (Junior)
5 <sup>th</sup> =	Derrick F	16
7 <sup>th</sup> =	Murray	5
7 <sup>th</sup> =	Alex B	5

Special mention to junior member Liam Dennes who shot really well. Thanks to Alex for photos below.







The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and the Hutt Valley Branch are thrilled to announce that we are giving away a brand-new GR Sport Double Cab Hilux 4x4!

Tickets are only \$25 and you can purchase them via the link below. All proceeds go towards supporting the NZDA and our work on behalf of our members.

The draw is open to everyone, members and non-members alike and there is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

The raffle will be drawn at our Hunting and Wildlife Expo July 13<sup>th</sup>, but you do not need to attend in person to be eligible to win.

[CLICK HERE TO BE IN TO WIN](#)

## News

### PARKVALE HALL

Phone 022 323 6993 for hall bookings.

### FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$17,993 with \$21,987 in term deposits. The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00 but please note that this is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.

### SEARCH AND RESCUE

Pretty quiet although there was a rescue of two mountain runners from Cone area. If you're interested in joining SAR, please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.

### DEER PARK

Committee has drawn up a memorandum of understanding with Masterton District Council for expansion of the Deer Park. Once this is signed we will develop a project plan and seek grants for materials.

### DOC LIAISON

Hut maintenance agreements for Sayers and Neill Forks Huts for next three years have now been signed.

### FUNDRAISING

We have some **split dry pine firewood for sale**. This has been under cover since it was split. Cost \$70 per m3. Contact Andrew on 027 295 5300 to arrange pick-up.

### HUTS

Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings. Hamish Graham has been nominated by the branch to represent us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust.

### MEMBERSHIPS

New members still coming through. Those that haven't renewed their subscriptions for 2024/25 have been removed from newsletter mailing list.

### 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.



## WAIRARAPA BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Closing date for entries for annual Branch competitions is **7:30 pm on Wednesday 4 September 2024**. Entries can be dropped off at the General Meeting at Hunting & Fishing on **21 August 2024** or before the committee meeting at **Parkvale Hall from 7 pm on 4 September 2024**.

Categories are as follows:

- Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
- Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup)
- Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield)
- Best goat head (Crawford Cameron shield)
- Best head where a trophy fee is paid (Playle trophy)
- Best pig jaw –undrawn tusks (Harvie Morrow shield)
- Best pig jaw – Drawn Tusks (N. Tilsey Shield)
- Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
- Best head other species
- Best trophy head ‘under 20’
- Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

Photographic categories are:

- Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)
- Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)
- Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)
- Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)
- Junior photograph (Amos Cup)

All competitions will be run closely to the Branch Competition rules which have been laminated and displayed in our Parkvale meeting room for the whole competition year. These notes are simply an abbreviation of them.

Key dates this year are:

- Heads, jaws and photos must be taken in the year from **1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be dropped off at Parkvale Hall by **7:30 pm Wednesday 4 September 2024**.
- Photographs to be emailed to Richard O’Driscoll at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) by **7:30 pm Wednesday 4 September 2024**.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – **Saturday 19 October 2024**.

Extracts from the Rules.

1. Entrants must have been financial members of this branch at the time of shooting the trophy or taking the photograph. Junior members (18 years & under) to be noted on Entry forms please.

2. All entries in the Antler-horn-tusk competitions (including the Paid hunting section) must have been taken in unimpeded fair chase. No spotlighting. **Paid hunting entries are to be clearly designated on Entry forms.**
3. Antler-horn-tusk entries must be on a clean, full skull (or jaw). Foul entries will not be accepted. **No mounted heads accepted.**
4. A Disputes panel will be appointed by the Committee.
5. A competitor may enter more than one head in each competition.
6. Entry forms (both AH&T and photographs) should contain adequate information to illustrate the philosophies within these Competition rules are met.
7. Photos taken in N.Z. Not from a Conveyance. No dead animals or birds. **All entries will be submitted digitally rather than as prints.** Please email high resolution .jpg images to [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com). Make sure you put "Photo entry" in subject. Images can also be provided on USB to Richard O'Driscoll (021 1411472). You will still need to complete an entry form for each photo entered.
8. Judging will be of four categories. The categories must be designated by the entrant and clearly marked on the Entry form and the back of photo. One fully completed entry form (see note 6 above) for each photo. Members may enter up to three photos in each category.
9. The categories are:
  - a. Game animals in their wild, outdoor state. Not in any form of captivity.
  - b. Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity. The subject matter is to be relevant to hunting, hunting country, and the associated activities of hunters.
  - c. Scenic relative to the sport of hunting. Human activity should be of minor importance.
  - d. Other – not covered in other categories. Subject matter is to be relevant to hunting or hunting country. Or the associated activity of hunters.

NOTE: The winning photo of each category will be printed and retained for the Parkvale Hall display board.

Entry form at the end of the newsletter. There must be a separate entry form for each trophy or photo submitted!

## FIREARMS REGISTRY REVIEW

The Government is delivering on a commitment made in the National-ACT coalition agreement by commencing a [review of the Firearms Registry](#).

"Cabinet has agreed to the registry review terms of reference and the review is now underway," Associate Minister of Justice, Hon Nicole McKee says.

"It is important that we take stock of the available data and information so that we can establish whether the Registry is effectively and efficiently improving public safety."

The review will be carried out by the Ministry of Justice and will look at data and information, stakeholder insights, and domestic and overseas experiences with firearms record-keeping, to better understand:

- whether the Registry is or will effectively contribute to improving public safety.
- whether the requirements on firearms users are necessary, appropriate, and streamlined.
- the costs versus the benefits of the Registry, and
- what changes, if any, are required.

## UPDATES TO RAKIURA/STEWART ISLAND DOC HUNTING BOOKING SYSTEM

DOC has been making progress on updating the entire DOC hunting permit system in all its forms. DOC issue around 55,000 hunting permits each year. There were 610 party permits issued for Rakiura in 2023. Modernising the IT will make it much easier for people to use, find information, and remove barriers to compliance. For example, the new system will make applying for a hunting permit easy to do on a mobile phone. The team has been looking at how to improve the online experience:

- can applying for a restricted permit be done in real time
- and can booking a block be made more straightforward.

It is a big job, so we are starting with Rakiura/Stewart Island. Once a prototype has been developed, you will see us working with the Game Animal Council, the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, and small hunter focus groups to make sure the new system is fit-for-purpose.

Recent parties will have seen a change on paperwork from DOC Rakiura.

And you will have seen recent announcement that handheld thermals can be used on conservation land but thermals and night vision on rifles are strictly prohibited on the Island.



## BETTER HUNTING WITH THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

Better Hunting is free to access at [www.betterhunting.nz](http://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. 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](http://betterhunting.nz) and access them all for free.

Work is nearly complete on a **new pig hunting module**. The course, which has been developed with expert advice from the [NZ Pig Hunting Association](http://NZ Pig Hunting Association), covers key information relevant to those either just starting out in pig hunting or wanting to increase their knowledge. Content includes navigating access requirements and landowner permission, personal safety, responsibilities and obligations, animal welfare, food safety and dog training and responsibilities. The new pig hunting course is expected to be launched over the next few weeks and, as with the rest of the Better Hunting programme, will be completely free to access at [www.betterhunting.nz](http://www.betterhunting.nz).

While Better Hunting is contextualised for hunters, a lot of the training is applicable to every backcountry user, so check out the navigation, compass, survival, first aid, land access or plant identification modules if you haven't already. You may also find the game animal management module interesting, exploring game animal



overabundance from a hunting lens.

Through [Better Hunting](#), we've released a **map to help hunters find useful hunting facilities** and hunting community initiatives. Like a directory it will never be 'complete', so we've released it knowing there are plenty of gaps. To make this useful to the community, we need community input! Please have a look and if there's useful things going on in your region that it would be useful for hunters to know about and access, send in an entry. [You can access the map and add an entry here.](#)



#### WAR ON WAPITI

Forest & Bird may have pushed pause for 6 months but the threat to Wapiti and to the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is still as real as ever. Read their recent wapiti piece [here](#).

Help us raise some noise and some funds to protect what we know is worth fighting for, while paving the way to make Wapiti a Herd of Special Interest.



## 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. Please send stories and photos to the newsletter editor at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com).

A great contribution this month from Bradley. Enjoy!

### Adversity and Success in the Orongorongos

By Bradley Riggs

Back in January I was seeing what was new on the NZ hunting and shooting forum. There was a post from a guy from Denmark named Magnus wanting advice about hunting in NZ, I read through it and someone had mentioned that he probably won't get his visitors firearms license in such a short time frame, so a new thread was posted by him asking if someone was willing to take him out because of this reason. He was more interested in looking for tahr and chamois in the South Island which wasn't something I could offer. No one else had replied to him so I thought I would at least give him an invite to the Wellington region for some different species. He took me up on the offer and we kept in contact until he was in NZ.

When he made it to the Wairarapa the weather decided to pack in with high winds on the forecast, so I decided that no NZ trip would be complete without seeing some keen dogs swinging off a pig or two which we could do lower down where the wind wouldn't be quite as extreme. We picked an evening that wasn't looking too bad and ended up getting six pigs but all pretty small ones.



Then we got our gear organized to head up onto the Remutaka main range the following day. The weather was

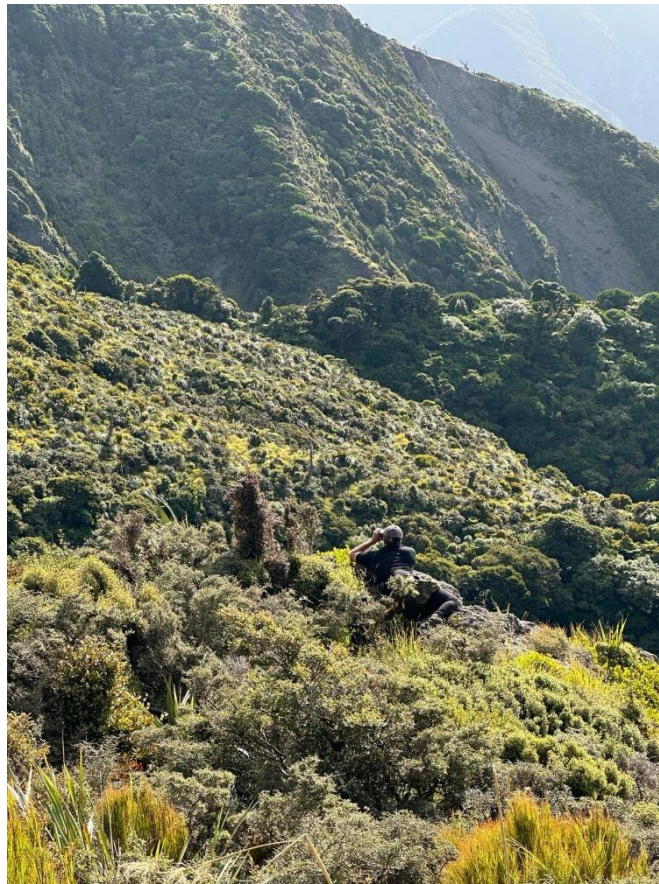


still not great the following day but we made the call knowing that the weather would clear the day after that which would give us three full days of hunting. We walked in that afternoon, it was four hours to the camp we were heading to with a short break half way to load up with plenty of water. Once camp was setup it was too late to get to a point to glass, so we opted for dinner and an early night.



Our first full day was fine and warm so we got our day bags sorted and headed to a lookout to start glassing. It took a fair bit of time looking through the binoculars until we spotted our first deer. He was a long way off so we carried on looking and our patients paid off with five deer walking up the scrubby ridge below us. We assumed they would carry on up the ridge and through a small patch of bush and out the other side, so we quickly closed the distance to 200 yards and waited. They never popped out of the other side of the patch of bush and little did we know at this stage but our trip was going to be plagued with this sort of bad luck.

We eventually had to admit defeat and move on, we wandered back to camp and packed up and moved to our second camp of the trip which was an hour and a half away. The plan was the same for the evening, to get to a lookout and try and pick up an animal in the binoculars. We had a good basin of a mix of slips, grass and broken scrub to look over. Right below me I spotted a bit of scrub moving and swung the bino's on to it. It was a hind and a fawn feeding only a hundred yards from us. As quickly as we saw them they had disappeared again over a small rise. But we weren't worried because surely they would show themselves again.



While we waited another deer popped out just under three hundred yards away feeding up a scrubby face, but again bad luck followed us with the deer moving over the ridge into the next valley. With light fading quickly and high winds predicted for the next day we made a quick decision to cut back up to the main range and come down on top of the hind and fawn. We stalked into position and eventually picked her up again, as I got Magnus set up she was wandering downhill. We struggled to follow her and before we knew it, she was out of sight for good. It was a punishing feeling being so close to getting an animal on three occasions in one day but just falling short three times, but it was still super exciting having the encounters.

Day two was going to be high winds all day so we packed up camp and moved to camp number three. It would give us a bit more shelter and some new country to look at for day three. We did however spot four deer back on the Wairarapa side while we were travelling north along the main range. They were a long way away but fortunately not too far from where we were travelling to. So we done a bit of a scout in the evening to see if they were still there and sure enough they were out grazing in the lee of the wind.

Day three was our last full day of hunting so I was really feeling the pressure now. We had made a plan on how to hunt the deer from scouting the evening before. It was simple, we would head up the main range and drop down straight above where they were in the large open basin. What could go wrong, it was a warm, sunny day and getting into position went like clockwork. Unfortunately there were no animals to be seen except goats. At this point of the trip Magnus hadn't been the first to spot any of the deer we had previously seen except for one which was already dead. I had been giving him a bit of grief about this as well to lighten the mood along the way.

As we sat on the edge of the open basin wondering what our next move should be Magnus got excited and he had spotted two stags sitting in the sun on a narrow ridge down the valley. Was this the end of our unlucky streak, not exactly.







As we got closer they decided to get up and walk back into the bush. We still had to head back that way to get back to camp and after getting bluffed and changing our course I looked up the hill and there was a young stag standing there winding. I put the gun in Magnus' hands and told him to hurry up and shoot the thing. BOOM, the deer went down and rolled a long way down a narrow little creek back towards us.

For me there were equal parts of excitement and relief and for Magnus, well he was just super excited. After some photos and butchery, we headed back to camp, we were really feeling up beat now and kept talking about how everything played out with all the lows and then the success.

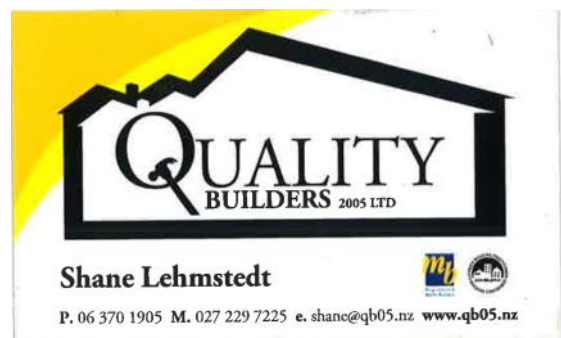


We also shot a goat each and I shot a hind on the walk back to camp, our fortunes had definitely changed for the better.

That evening we spent relaxing and getting ready for the walk out the next day, our legs were pretty sore by now. We had an amazing sunset to watch from camp looking down on Wellington city and harbour while reflecting and laughing about our trip.



It makes you realise how lucky we are when you can be in the mountains hunting and be so close to our capital city.





## 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)

### CHAINSAW BAR OIL

20 litres for \$90. Selling at cost. Please contact Aidan on 027 432 3410

### .223 AMMO

80 cents per round. Contact Aidan on 027 432 3410

### 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.





**WAIRARAPA BRANCH NZDA**  
**ALL ENTRIES FOR ANTLER HORN & TUSK**  
**AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS**  
**TO BE ON THIS FORM**



**COMPETITION ENTERED FOR** .....

**NAME OF ENTRANT** .....

**ADDRESS** .....

.....

**DATE SHOT/TAKEN** ..... **LOCALITY** .....

**BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SECURING TROPHY** (to be completed by entrant) .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION AND I UNDERSTAND THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.**

**SIGNATURE** .....

**DATE**

.....

ANY PERSON FOUND DELIBERATELY CONTRAVENING RULES MAY HAVE ALL THEIR ENTRIES DISQUALIFIED AND MAY BE BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR AS DETERMINED BY THE BRANCH COMMITTEE.

**WITNESS:** I ..... CERTIFY THAT THE ENTRANT IS A FINANCIAL MEMBER AND WAS, AT THE TIME OF TROPHY TAKING.