



**New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated**

Newsletter for October 2024



Photo credit Richard O'Driscoll, Misty morning in Dusky Sound.

Contacts

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Secretary	Liz Nicholson	027 224 2556 or 06-379 5108
Treasurer	Sean Roberts	021 822 802
Committee	Aidan Bichan	027 432 3410
	Alex Beesley	
	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
	Derek Williams	027 656 8897
	Derrick Foley	027 231 4846
	Hamish Graham	
	Lloyd Rayner	027 608 0325
	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
	Murry Clark	
	Pete Cunningham	021 190 9468
	Philip Gray	027 474 0717
	Richard O'Driscoll	021 141 1472
	Shane Dougan	027 247 4484
	Shane Lehmstedt	
Parkvale Hall Booking	Andrew Dennes	022 323 6993 please use this number for bookings and enquiries
LandSAR	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
Website	http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/	
Facebook 	https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA	
Closed Facebook page	Open only to members. You can apply to join here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/79860064354866	
Newsletter Story Competition	October 2024 to September 2025 – prize of \$50 Stories and photos to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com	

Calendar

Sat 19 October	2024	Branch Annual Dinner – Parkvale Hall – 6 pm
Wed 6 November	2024	Committee Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
16-17 November	2024	Wanganui spring meat hunt #1. Full
Wed 20 November	2024	General Meeting is an Open Night at King & Henry. Details in November newsletter 
14-15 December	2024	Wanganui spring meat hunt #2. Still two places available. Contact Andrew Wilkinson on 027 438 1363 to put your name down
11-19 March	2025	Branch Trip to Stewart Island Still places available. Contact Lloyd Rayner 027 608 0325 before the Annual Dinner



Grant Langlands

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 11 Chapel Street, Masterton 5810
 Phone: (06) 378 8444 Fax: (06) 378 9574
 Mobile: (027) 4420 294
 Email: langlands@honda-motorcycles.com
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Saturday 19 October 2024
Annual Dinner & Prizegiving
Parkvale Hall
6 pm start

Fully catered. BYO refreshments.

The cost for dinner is \$20 per head. Junior members (under 16) are \$10.
Pay on the night with cash please.

Raffles on the night are our major fundraiser for the year. Tickets will be \$4 or \$10 for three.
Please try and bring the correct change. No Eftpos available.

**If you haven't already replied please confirm your attendance by email to
yrapanzdasec@gmail.com**



Branch shooting competition 22 September

A small turn-out but some competitive scoring across 7 categories. Come along to the Annual Dinner and Prizegiving to find out the winners. Scores will be posted in November newsletter. Thanks to Alex and Derrick for acting as range officers on the day.



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

5

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$15,571 with \$22,609 in term deposits.

The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00
(This is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.)

DEER PARK

Deer are all healthy and feed stock supply OK **Thanks to Hydroflow** for their donation of an irrigation control and sprinklers. The hard antler price is currently \$40 per kg, committee agreed to sell surplus hard antlers and use the funds towards the deer park extension costs.

DOC LIAISON

Murry visited DOC to voice our concerns re Sutherland's hut access and hut condition. DOC will send an email acknowledging our concern.

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

Work in planned to put up spouting and fascia board on Sayers. We will apply to Backcountry Trust for funding for work on Neill Forks.

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. 2 new applications: 1 approved; 1 invited to November meeting.

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 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.



Government introduces revised clubs and ranges rules

The Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Bill had its first reading in Parliament on 27 September. This proposed legislation has significant implications for

our activities and the way we operate our clubs and ranges.

Overview of the Bill

After an initial review of the proposal changes, here's what you need to know.

The government has recently tabled a bill aimed at modifying the regulatory framework governing shooting clubs and ranges. This bill introduces changes designed to simplify the administrative processes for non-pistol shooting clubs and adjust oversight mechanisms to allegedly reduce the burden on shooting range operators while maintaining public safety standards. Key features include transitioning from a certification system to an enrolment-based system for non-pistol clubs and ranges and modifying how inspections and compliance are managed.

The bill's sponsor, Minister Nicole McKee's points, can be highlighted as follows:

1. **Simplification of Regulations:** Minister McKee emphasised the simplification of the regulatory requirements for both pistol and non-pistol shooting clubs and ranges. The bill introduces a distinction between pistol and non-pistol entities, maintaining stricter controls for pistol clubs and ranges while easing regulations for non-pistol clubs and ranges, i.e. NZDA Branches.
2. **Streamlining Operational Requirements:** The bill proposes changes like simplifying annual reporting requirements for pistol clubs and introducing enrolment instead of approval and certification for non-pistol clubs and ranges. This approach is intended to reduce the administrative burden on club operators and volunteers.
3. **Enhancing Operational Flexibility:** A significant addition is the provision for temporary non-pistol shooting ranges, which can be set up for events without the usual administrative hurdles. This aims to support clubs in hosting competitions more easily. This is a positive change, and it would allow one-off HUNTS courses to set up a safe range in areas without a range facility. This is undoubtedly a commonsense and welcome change.
4. **Adjustments to Inspection and Compliance Protocols:** The bill modifies how inspections are carried out, aiming to provide more predictability and less intrusion, with inspections scheduled rather than arbitrary. This includes specific provisions about what inspectors can access during visits, focusing on hard copies of documents to reduce the operational burden on clubs.
5. **Maintaining Public Safety:** Despite the relaxation in some areas, the bill maintains that all changes are intended to uphold or enhance public safety outcomes. It keeps stringent requirements where necessary, particularly around pistol clubs and ranges, reflecting their higher risk profile.
6. **Administrative Changes:** The bill also outlines administrative shifts from the Police to the Ministry of Justice, reflecting a broader governmental strategy of centralising and possibly streamlining how firearms regulations are managed across New Zealand.

In summary, Minister McKee's focus in the bill is on balancing the need to maintain high safety standards with the practicalities of running shooting clubs and ranges, aiming to ensure these entities can operate more efficiently without unnecessary bureaucratic overhead while safeguarding the public and club members.

Media Statements and Parliamentary Debates

The discussions in Parliament and recent media statements and articles have brought to light various perspectives on the bill and regulation of our clubs and ranges. There have been expressions of support by Act, National and NZ First for the simplifications proposed, alongside voiced concerns by Labour, Greens and the Maori Party MPs about potential oversights in maintaining rigorous safety standards. NZDA, as an advocate for sensible but safe laws, has publicly addressed these discussions and issued a media statement today, emphasising our commitment to safety and the need for legislation that accurately reflects the responsible nature of our community. Our media release and comments have stressed the importance of

basing legislative changes on factual data and the real-life operation of our clubs and ranges.

NZDA's Position

We have yet to dive deeply into the details, so here's our initial reaction.

While the NZDA appreciates efforts to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, we hold reservations about the continuation of Part 6 of the Arms Act in its modified form. We hoped for a full repeal and are concerned that the persistence of this part may not fully recognise the proven safety record and low-risk profile of our well-regulated shooting environments. As you know, all NZDA ranges hold Police shooting range certification, and several clubs have worked hard to open new ranges despite the administrative hurdles.

NZDA is committed to ensuring that our voices are heard in the legislative process. We believe that any changes to the law must enhance our ability to operate safely and effectively without imposing undue constraints on our responsible activities.

Our CEO's full statement is available [here](#):

This is a pivotal moment for our community. By standing together and making our positions clear, we can influence the outcome in a way that safeguards our interests and continues to promote the safe and responsible use of firearms.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. For further updates, please check our newsletters and website. Your active participation and input are invaluable as we navigate these changes together.

Please feel free to forward this email to your hunting and shooting friends and family who may be interested in this law change

Read the Bill

Read the Full Bill: We encourage all members to read the full text of the bill to understand the proposed changes thoroughly.

[Amendment Bill](#)

Make a Submission

It is crucial that our branches and community engage proactively with this legislative process. We urge each of you to read the proposed bill and our public statements and submit your feedback through the official channels. Public submissions are a powerful tool to ensure that our collective expertise and experience inform the final legislation.

How to Submit Your Feedback: Instructions on how to make a submission can be found via the link below.

[Make a Submission](#)

The closing date for submissions is 11.59 pm, Tuesday, 29 October 2024

ARE YOU THE G.O.A.T. HUNTER?



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Department of
Conservation
Te Pūhā Ahocharū



Supported by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand,
Hunting & Fishing New Zealand and Te Tari Pūroke |
Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand.

Competition Information

It's wild goat hunting season!

Date: 1 August – 26 November. Entries close at midnight on 26 November 2024.

Location: Nationwide – on both public and private land.

All goat tails and goat heads entered must be wild and taken legally, recreationally, and humanely during the competition period. Wild goat heads can only be taken to an approved New Zealand Deerstalker Association (NZDA) entry point.

Entry locations: [Find an entry location near you.](#)

Competition rules: [Read the competition rules.](#)

Competition categories and prizes

We have over \$70,000 worth of prizes donated by the hunting and outdoor sector.

Firearms safety

This spring, take extra care when hunting at night 📺👂

Rule 4 of our 7 Rules of Firearm Safety is to identify your target beyond ALL doubt before firing. If in doubt, don't shoot! Check out the safety video [Rule 4: Identify your target beyond all doubt | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand 📺👂 - YouTube](#)

At night, the maximum range of your firearm's projectile remains the same, but your ability to assess your firing zone changes drastically. Your firing zone and target identification are paramount when hunting in the dark.

Familiarise yourself with the hunting area during daylight hours so you're aware of where it's safe to shoot at night, and if you're new to hunting in low light, consider partnering with an experienced hunter for safety and guidance.

Common aids for night-time hunting include handheld spotlights, which may illuminate the target but not the area behind it, making it difficult to check your firing zone. Take care to identify the whole of your target, and what's behind it, beyond any doubt.

Night vision devices such as thermals or image intensifiers often have limited range detection and low resolution which makes it difficult to check your firing zone and identify your target. Be aware of their limitations and safety considerations.

Never use a night vision device mounted on a firearm for general observation. This breaks Safety Rule 2 – always point your firearm in a safe direction.

Remember, it is an offence under the Conservation Act to shoot during the hours of darkness on any public conservation land.

Plan safe, act safe, stay safe.



Sika Foundation: Assistance with predator trapping

There are opportunities every month to take part in servicing the Cascade, Oamaru, Kaipo, Hinemaiaia, and Clements Mill Rd trap lines. If you are interested and would like to take part in the 2024 trapping roster, please head to the Sika Foundation website to register as a volunteer and view available dates. Or email us at volunteer@sikafoundation.co.nz. We would love to have you on board!



Sika Foundation Volunteers, Dave Bashford and Nic Weatherhead during Cascade trap checks



Firearms Registry

The Firearms Registry now has one-quarter (25%) of all active licence holders using the Registry.

The 25% mark has been achieved through an almost even split of licence holders either registering online by themselves, or reaching out over the phone to our Registry Team for help.

Find out more about activating circumstances and ongoing events here or give our helpful registry team a call on 0800 844 431.

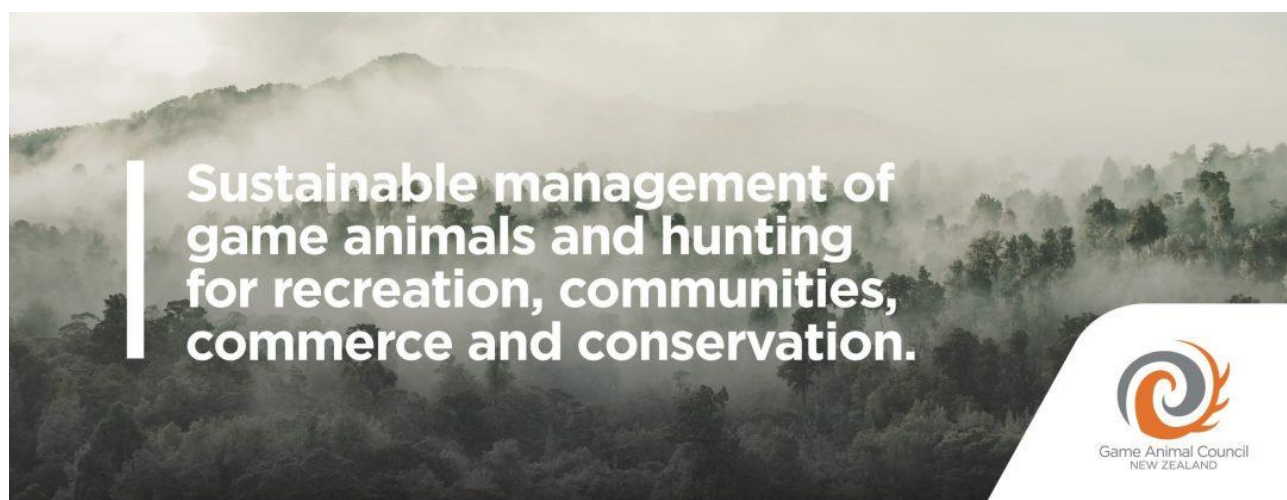


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Yarns in Barns

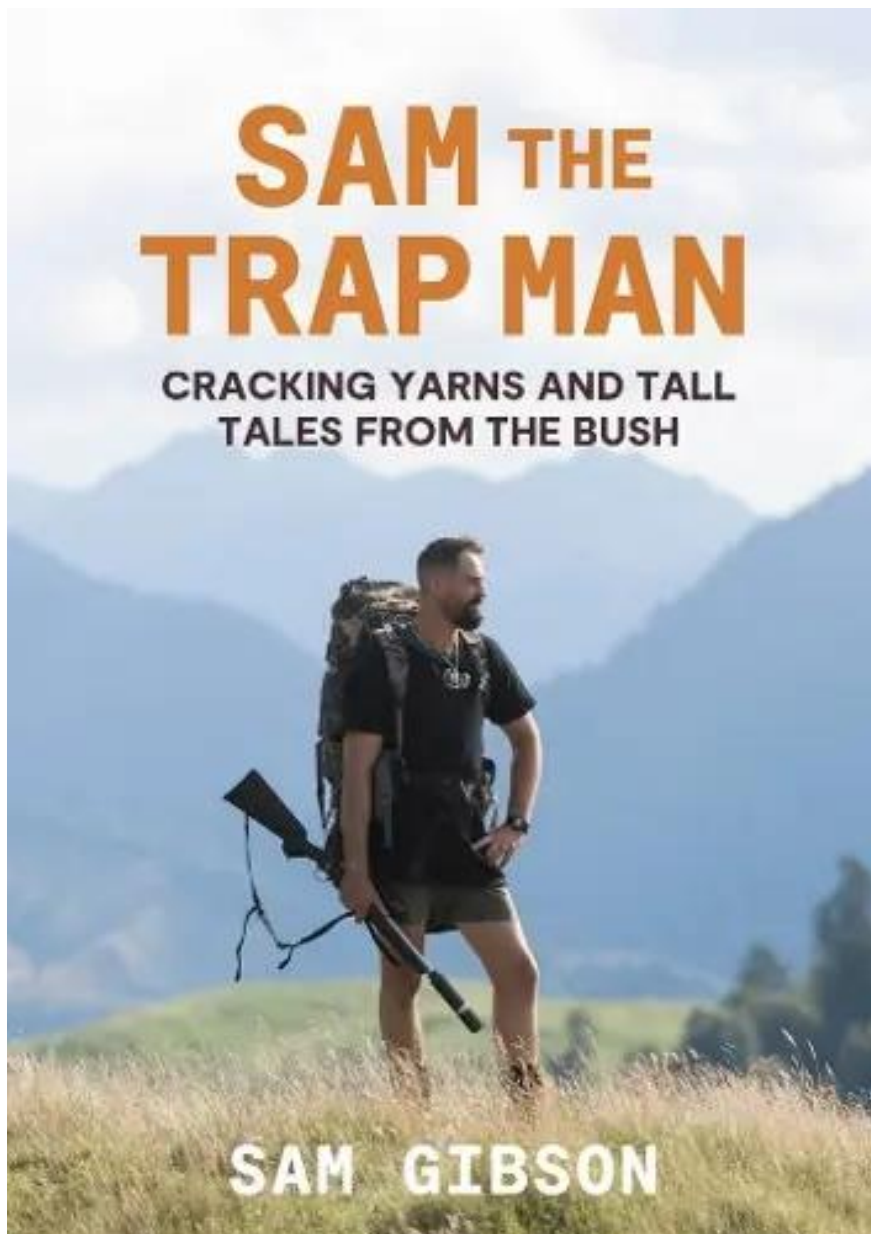
Hedley's Books wish to draw your attention to part of our biennial Yarns in Barns programme that we think may be of particular interest to your members.

On Saturday, October 19, from noon-1 pm, young Kiwi trumper Hannah Rose-Watt will be promoting her recent book, *Wild Walks Aotearoa*, featuring 59 iconic tracks.

On the same day, from 2pm-3pm, Sam the Trap Man will also be talking about his recent book, featuring cracking yarns and tall tales from the bush.

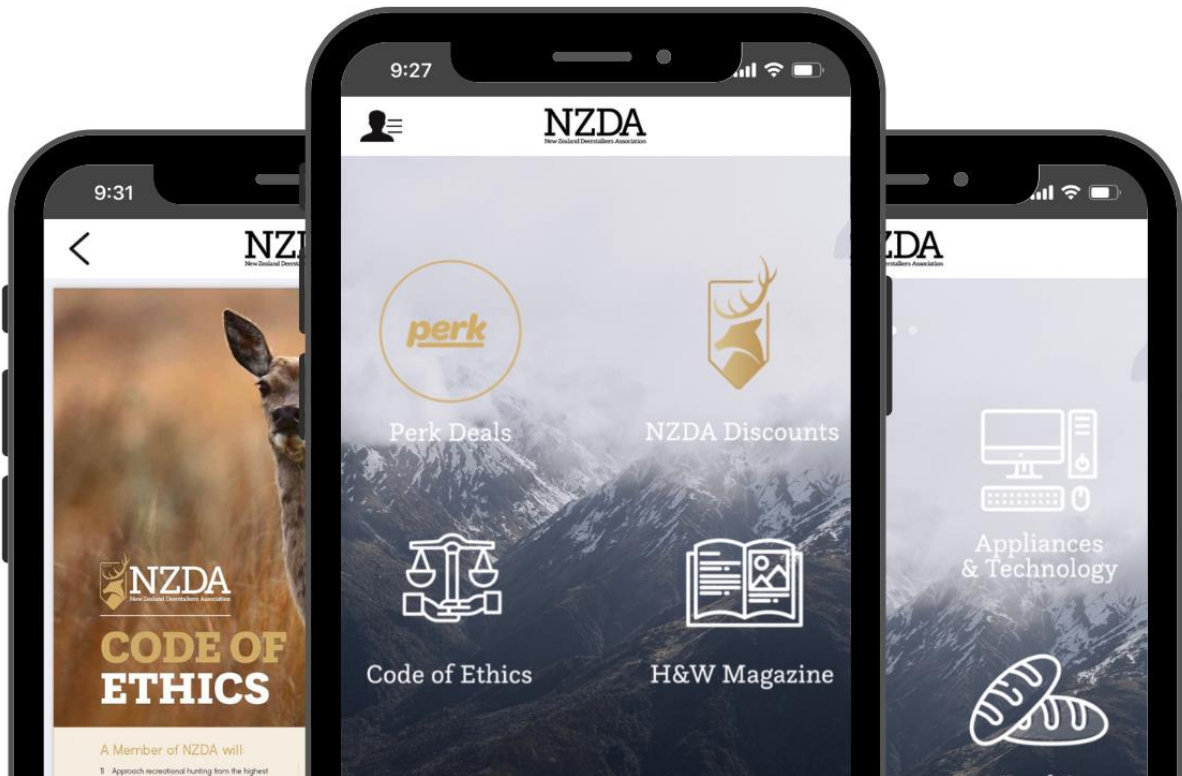
This will be followed at 4pm-5pm by ex-SAS commander Jamie Pennell with his book *Siege and Survival in the NZ SAS*.

More details can be found on our website www.yarnsinbarns.co.nz, with tickets information etc.





A major perk of your NZDA membership is the official app.



DOWNLOAD ON IOS

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What you'll find inside:

- Discounts at major retailers.
- The latest edition of our quarterly Member Magazine: [NZ Hunting & Wildlife](#) - Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter
- Conference and events announcements
- [Competitions](#)
- Link to the NZDA store
- Your membership information
- [HUNTS training program](#) – training courses & certification for HUNTS Instructor

NZDA holds our government to account.

Appointment of new Game Animal Councillor

The Game Animal Council welcomes the appointment by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of Glenn MacPherson to the Council.

Glenn who is from Leamington near Cambridge, is currently a member of the NZ Pig Hunting Association and is a past President of the Te Kuiti Pig Hunting Club (now Vice President). He is a passionate advocate for recreational hunting and wants to ensure access to hunting opportunities are preserved while helping hunters contribute to balanced game animal populations.

"Glenn is joining a well-functioning, diverse Council at an exciting time, with significant progress underway in the game animal management space," says Game Animal Council Chair Grant Dodson.

"The GAC is focused on achieving good outcomes for hunting, game animal management and conservation in New Zealand and we are looking forward to having Glenn on board."

"I also congratulate Eugene Rewi who has been reappointed. Eugene has a lifetime of hunting knowledge and provides a very valuable perspective when it comes to game animals as mahinga kai for our regional communities."

Steve McFall, Kevin Eastwood and Sharon Salmons have completed their terms as council members.

Steve was an inaugural GAC Council member. First appointed from 2014 to 2017 as a representative of the New Zealand Pig Hunting Association, he continued as a council member until 2019 and was then reappointed for a third and final term in 2021. "During his time on Council, Steve has helped navigate the GAC through a considerable evolution of the organisation's place within the conservation system," says Dodson. "The GAC has been lucky to have his expertise for so long, which accompanied by his sound judgement, has stood the Council in good stead."

Sharon Salmons was first appointed to the Council in 2019 and then reappointed in 2021. Most recently she has served as GAC Deputy Chair and as Chair of the Finance Committee. "Sharon's knowledge as a hunter, her experience in tourism and her role with the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Southern Lakes branch have helped strengthen the GAC's expertise in recreational hunting and hunting tourism."

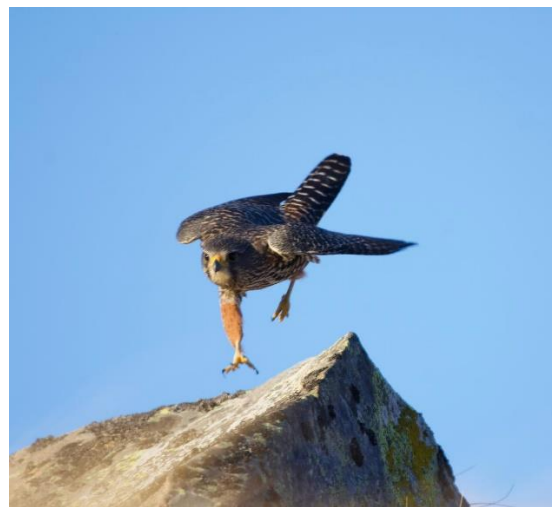
Kevin Eastwood was appointed to the GAC in November 2021. "Kevin's impact on the GAC has been substantial, representing the Council at numerous events, providing valuable advice with regards to the hunting issues faced by central North Island communities and he has been a valued member of our Te Kahui Māori Subcommittee," says Dodson.

If you want to know more about the Council visit www.nzgac.org.nz



Twizel Fish 'n' Hunt

Photos from September 2024 by Richard & Peter O'Driscoll



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

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

- 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.
- NZDA MERCHANDISE <https://nzda.shop/collections/>

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.

