



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

Newsletter for November 2024



Photo credit **Mike Simmonds, Richmond Hut. Winner best scenic photograph 2024**

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded


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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Contacts

President	Andrew Dennes	027 295 5300
Vice President	Gary Warren	027 282 1112
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

16-17 November	2024	Wanganui spring meat hunt #1. Full
Wed 20 November	2024	General Meeting is an Open Night at King & Henry . Starting at 5:30 pm . Platters sponsored by Subway Masterton 
Wed 4 December	2024	Committee Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Sun 8 December	2024	Firewood working bee followed by end-of-year lunch barbecue . Starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056. No general meeting in December.
14-15 December	2024	Wanganui spring meat hunt #2. Full
NO committee or general meetings in January		
11-19 March	2025	Branch Trip to Stewart Island. Full



Grant Langlands

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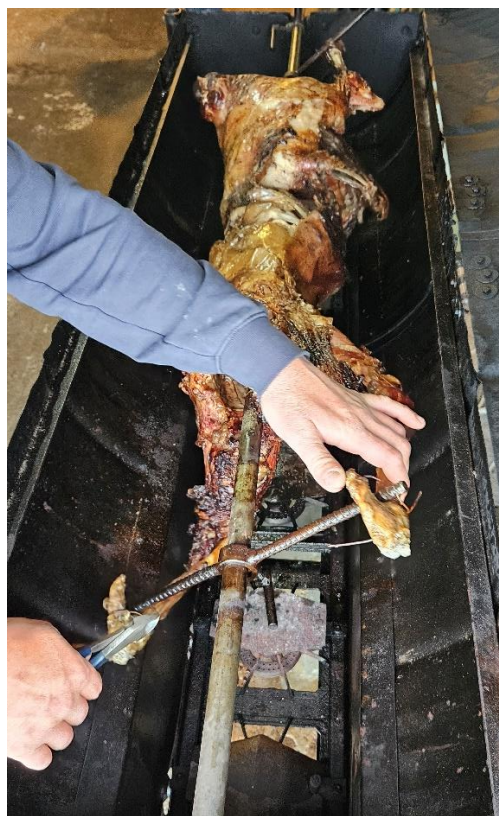
P. 06 370 1905 M. 027 229 7225 e. shane@qb05.nz www.qb05.nz



Annual Dinner & Prizegiving 19 October

Another great event with 82 people attending. One participant emailed: "To the committee and those who worked so hard as part of last night's annual dinner. In short, I have never attended an NZDA club event that was as well run and executed as last night's event. The food was outstanding and every part of the event was well run and great fun. Great to see a good turn-out of heads entered by a good array of hunters. I really enjoyed myself and was reminded again what a good decision it has been to join my local branch. I heard the same sentiment from a number of others last night". Photos by Richard O'Driscoll and Hamish Graham.





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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Antler, Horn & Tusk Winners

Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)

Geoff Lindsay



Geoff's winning stag had a Douglas Score (DS) of 309

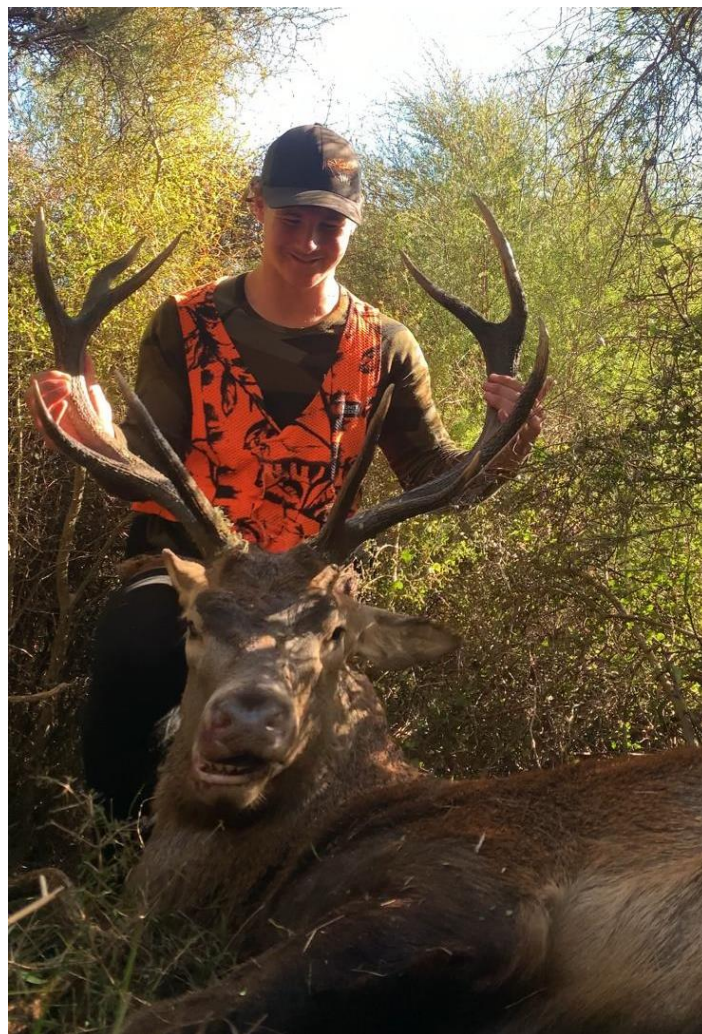


Special mention to **Trent Left** for this beauty with a DS of 305 that would have taken out the trophy any other year

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 Sheild)
 Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
 Best head other species
 Best fallow Warren Family Trophy)
 Best trophy head by a woman
 Best trophy head 'under 20'
 Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)
 Judges' commendation for best presented head

Olivia Hansen
Paul Hodgins
Jacob Warren
 no award
Bradley Riggs
Bradley Riggs
Jacob Warren
John Bissell (sika)
Dave McKay
Olivia Hansen
Peter O'Driscoll
Mike Simmonds
Liz Warren

Congratulations to **Jacob Warren, Bradley Riggs, and Trent Lett** who were also awarded certificates at the NZDA National AHT competition



Peter O'Driscoll - Best trophy head 'under 20' (DS 228)

Best newsletter story (\$50)
 Hard luck billy

Bradley Riggs
Andrew Dennes

Photo Competition Winners

We had 51 entries this year across the 4 categories. Entries were judged by Kylie Alexander (Laughing Owl Photography, Greytown)

Best Game Animal: Clare Hodgins "Roaring stag"

The judge said "Amazing capture of a roaring stag. Great lighting. Sharp focus"



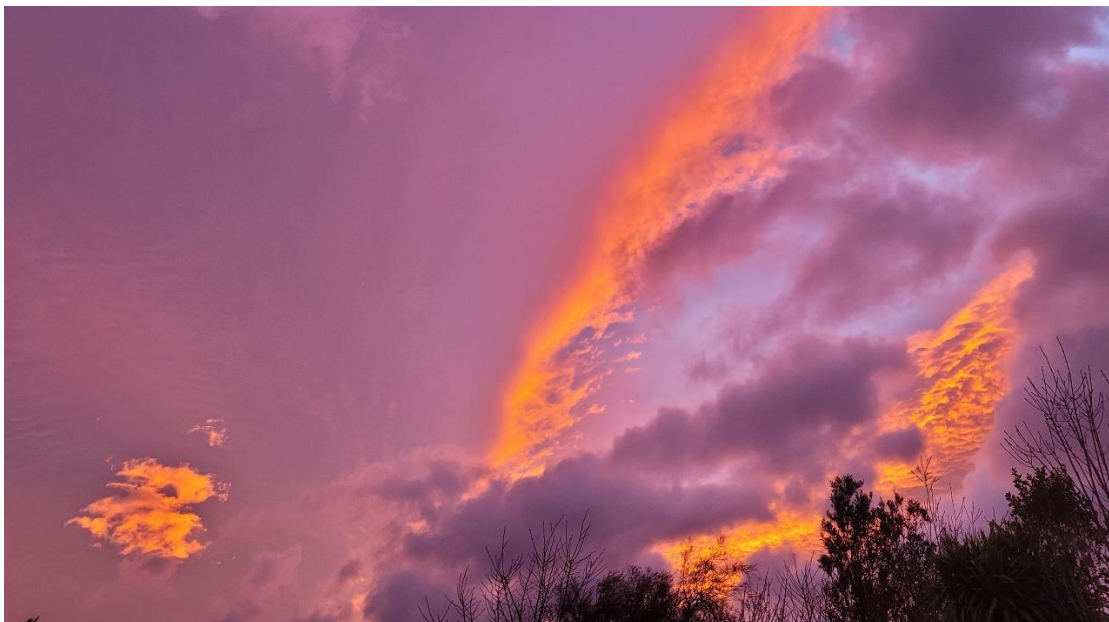
Best Scenic: Mike Simmonds "Richmond Hut"

The judge said "Peaceful hunting hut in a tranquil spot with perfect light"

SEE COVER IMAGE

Best Junior: William Johnson "Colourful clouds"

The judge said "Captured the cloud formation really well. Love the contrast and colours"



Best Other Wildlife: Dave McKay "Cute bird"

The judge said "Stunning capture with a sharp focus on the eye. The eye draws you into the photo. Love it"



Best Other: Rebecca Johnson "Family hunt"

The judge said "Dad and kids off on an adventure. The pic tells a story"



Shooting Competition Scores

Class..... <i>Annual Shoot 2024</i>					
Shooter Name			Score		Place
<i>Junior .22</i>			<i>Aggregate .22 + Centrefire</i>		
<i>Liam D</i>	$53+14=67$	<i>1st</i>	<i>Andrew D</i>	$97+119=216$	<i>1st</i>
<i>Callum D.</i>	$20+11=31$	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Derrick F</i>	$99+113=212$	<i>2nd</i>
			<i>Richard O</i>	$104+96=200$	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Senior .22</i>			<i>Alex S</i>	$121+70=191$	<i>4th</i>
<i>Andrew D</i>	$78+41=119$	<i>1st</i>	<i>Junior F-Class</i>		
<i>Murray H</i>	$77+37=114$	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Liam D</i>	$44+51=95$	<i>1st</i>
<i>Derrick F</i>	$70+43=113$	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Callum D.</i>	$44+43=87$	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Richard O</i>	$66+30=96$	<i>4th</i>			
<i>Alex S.</i>	$48+22=70$	<i>5th</i>	<i>Senior F Class</i>		
<i>Varmint</i>			<i>Derrick F</i>	$45+46=91$	<i>1st</i>
<i>Alex B</i>	73	<i>1st</i>	<i>Alex S</i>	$42+48=90$	<i>2nd</i>
			<i>Andrew D</i>	$42+40=82$	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Centrefire</i>			<i>Philip F</i>	$41+32=73$	<i>4th</i>
			<i>Paul S</i>	$31+38=69$	<i>5th</i>
<i>Alex B</i>	121	<i>1st</i>	<i>Military (on Figure 12)</i>		
<i>Richard O</i>	104	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Alex B</i>	43^4	<i>1st</i>
<i>Derrick F</i>	99	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Paul S</i>	22^1	<i>2nd</i>
<i>Andrew D.</i>	97	<i>4th</i>	<i>Derrick F</i>	21^2	<i>3rd</i>
<i>Women's Aggregate</i>			<i>Murray H</i>	13^1	<i>4th</i>
<i>Alex S</i>	$121+70=191$	<i>1st</i>	<i>Philip F</i>	$0.$	<i>5th</i>

Senior Centrefire
 Senior Rimfire
 Open aggregate
 Women's aggregate
 Military
 Senior F class
 Varmint
 Junior Rimfire
 Junior Swazi 1st
 Junior Swazi 2nd
 Junior F class
 Indoor Senior
 Indoor Junior
 Claybird

Centrefire Cup
 Smallbore Cup
 Neilson Cup
 Cup
 Brass shell
 Trophy
 Trophy
 Hunting & Fishing Cup
 Swazi sponsored clothing
 Swazi sponsored clothing
 Shield
 Cunningham trophy
 Spooner trophy
 Graeme Hamilton Memorial Trophy

Alex Beesley
 Andrew Dennes
 Andrew Dennes
 Alex Beesley
 Alex Beesley
 Derrick Foley
 Alex Beesley
 Liam Dennes
 Liam Dennes
 Callum Dennes
 Liam Dennes
 Logan Cubitt
 Liam Dennes
 John Blatchford

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$13,175 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

The number of fallow in the pen has been reduced and a new fallow spiker added. Deer are all healthy. Reports of kids in Deer Park have been investigate with Masterton Council and CCTV footage reviewed.

DOC LIAISON

Murry visited DOC to voice our concerns re Sutherland's hut access and hut condition.

FUNDRAISING

Come along to the **Working Bee on Sunday 8 December starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056**. Ringing and splitting. Please bring appropriate protective gear and a trailer if you want wood. Followed by our end-of-year barbecue lunch.

HUTS

Dion Rayner walked into Neill Forks Hut and did a big clean up as well as documenting maintenance work to be done. Did you know that hut cleaning kits can be obtained from the Greater Wellington Backcountry Network?

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 members approved and three invited to November meeting.

The committee has set membership fees for 2025/26. Unfortunately, these have had to increase due to an increase in capitation (which is the amount set by National Office).

Member type	2024/25 Fees	National capitation 2025/26	Wairarapa 2025/26 Fees
Senior	\$130	\$136	\$160
Family	\$15	\$10	\$15
Superannuant	\$75	\$82	\$100
Associate	\$80	\$82	\$100
Junior	\$60	\$60	\$60
Student	-	\$60	\$60
Affiliate	\$20	\$0	\$20

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.

SEARCH & RESCUE

No update. Contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR



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.

Stewart Island/Rakiura Update

The 4 October update from ZIP outlines their plans of beginning the operation to eradicate cats, rats, possums and hedgehogs from Rakiura. Hunting will be allowed to continue while operations take place. We are aware some people with bookings at South Pegasus for 2025 have been emailed about the plan.

Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust is aware of a ZIP Operational Plan discussing implementation of 1080 use and having minimal exclusion areas and no gaps in bait coverage. The plan says:- "Minimising these gaps means (where possible) sowing over huts (disconnecting water, clearing roofs and immediate surrounds, etc)"

Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust has not been consulted on this issue and the Trust will not condone or support aerial application of 1080 over Hunter Huts.

Some Rakiura residents have begun a Facebook page called "Protect Rakiura" which has differing views and has a link to the Operational plan mentioned above.

Upgrade to Rakiura/Stewart Island hunting block booking system coming soon

DOC is modernising the hunting permits application system, starting with a pilot on the 35 restricted hunting blocks in Rakiura/Stewart Island in late 2024.

The improved system will be rolled out nationally for other restricted hunting blocks throughout 2025 and will also replace the existing open hunting permits system. Note there will be no impact on anyone who already has a permit for 2025.

It will simplify the permit application process for restricted blocks and allow hunters to apply online, much as they can currently do for open hunting permits. For hunters, the application process will be faster, simpler and will allow permits to be stored on their phone or device.

Hunters will need to register in the new system. However, this will be a really simple, once-only activity that will only take a couple of minutes.

Rakiura hunters will still be able to book blocks up to 365 days in advance and can still apply for a permit by calling the Rakiura Visitor Centre or showing up in person.



Firearms safety

We want your feedback - firearms engagement and education framework for New Zealand

Engaging and educating licensed community and public are critical priorities for us. Community outreach and engagement is a growth opportunity: we don't enough have flexible, consistent services that can respond to demands from communities, or where requirements of iwi and Māori are met.

So, we're developing a firearms engagement and education framework for New Zealand that addresses our changing environment, reduces inequality, and leverages firearms community partners to achieve shared outcomes, focusing on safety, licensing, pest control and putting food on the table. We are meeting with a number of groups from the firearms and non-firearms community, to hear their views and ideas around how firearms engagement and education could be developed and we'd like to invite you to share your views as well.

What are your thoughts on how we, and the firearms community, might evolve firearms safety training to be the best in the world?

What are your thoughts on how we, and the firearms community, might better engage with the wider community: in general, in hard to reach/rural places, with school aged – mid 30-year-olds.

Please email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz with your comments or feedback before 20th November. Your suggestions will be incorporated into our planning as we look at how we can evolve safety outcomes for New Zealanders.



Wairarapa Police are getting tough on poachers

Wairarapa Police are stepping up their efforts to target poachers and hope recent convictions encourage rural communities to break the silence.

Police are ramping up patrols on rural roads across the Wairarapa and are stopping all vehicles that they come across, says Acting Sergeant Nick Bunny, Wairarapa Community and Rural Manager.

In the past year, Wairarapa Police have charged a number of people with poaching. Offenders face prosecution in court, having their firearms licence revoked, equipment seized, and firearms destroyed.

"Poaching is a significant issue for our rural communities, and it's a problem that's grossly under-reported. Our latest efforts to fight back against it include patrols of rural roads, where we will be stopping vehicles and speaking with the occupants.

"We're not playing around. Poaching has real effects and offenders will face real-world consequences. If we catch you poaching or illegally hunting, your rifles, ammunition and other equipment will be confiscated, and you could be charged with firearms offences."

Message for rural communities: help us help you

To get a sense of the scale of the poaching problem, Police spoke with farmers and rural communities, Acting Sergeant Bunny said.

"From those discussions we've become aware that a lot of unlawful hunting incidents aren't being reported. A lot of people believe Police are too busy or won't show up. In those same conversation, almost every farmer we spoke with had a story of hearing gunshots at night, had seen suspicious activity or noticed suspicious vehicles driving on rural roads at odd times."

Reporting gives Police a valuable insight into where crime and suspicious activity was occurring, Acting Sergeant Bunny said.

"When you report suspicious or illegal activity, it builds a picture for us of where our focus needs to be – we really need the rural community to help us by making those reports as soon as possible."

Suspicious or illegal activity should be reported to 111 if it's happening now. If it's after the fact, make a report online at www.police.govt.nz/use-105 or call 105.

Action by Wairarapa Police has resulted in significant sentences being handed down to convicted poachers.

Earlier this year, a man pleaded guilty to unlawful hunting, entering agricultural land with intent to commit a crime after being caught by Police illegally hunting at an address in Hinakura, South Wairarapa. The firearms and equipment Police seized were destroyed, and the firearms licence holder had his licence revoked.

"Our focus won't stop here. With the start of spring, mating season and new grass growth the Wairarapa Rural Policing Team have recently started night patrols, targeting known poaching and illegal hunting areas," Acting Sergeant Bunny says.

"The Wairarapa is made up of rural farming communities and we need these communities to feel safe and prepared to report poaching or suspicious activity."

Police are happy to talk to local farmers interested in setting up rural watch networks, or installing cameras to identify poachers and vehicles. Anyone interested can email: nicholas.bunny@police.govt.nz

For more information on how to safely handle a firearm please follow this link: www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/7-rules-firearm-safety



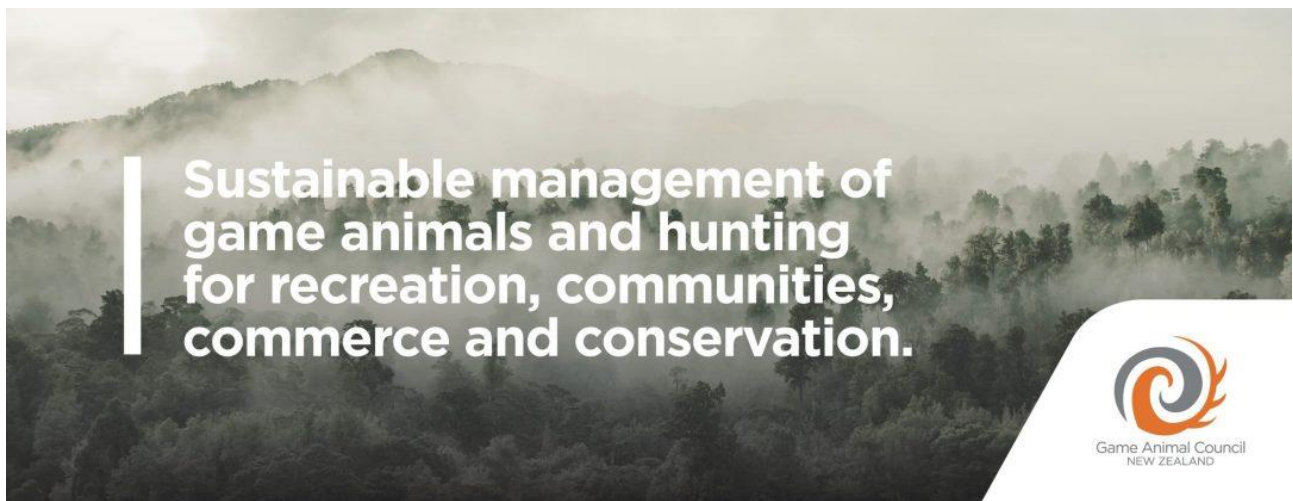


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Sustainable management of
game animals and hunting
for recreation, communities,
commerce and conservation.



Poison operation Eastern Wairarapa

2024-2025 RPPCP Tinui and Langdale possum control operation – cyanide use

I wish to notify you about the proposed use of cyanide (Feratox) poison for a possum control operation which is being undertaken within our RPPCP Possum Control Operational areas.

This operation is part of Greater Wellington's Regional Possum and Predator Control Programme (RPPCP) and is aimed at protecting our environment from possums, improving the natural biodiversity of the area and reducing threats from bovine tuberculosis to domestic stock.

The total control area covers 22,198 hectares and is located approximately 10 km west of Masterton. Please see the map for the boundary details. If you own or manage a property within this operational area, our staff will contact you to discuss and agree upon control methods before any possum control activity commences on the property. They will also keep you informed of progress as the operation proceeds.

The main methods of control proposed for the area includes the use of

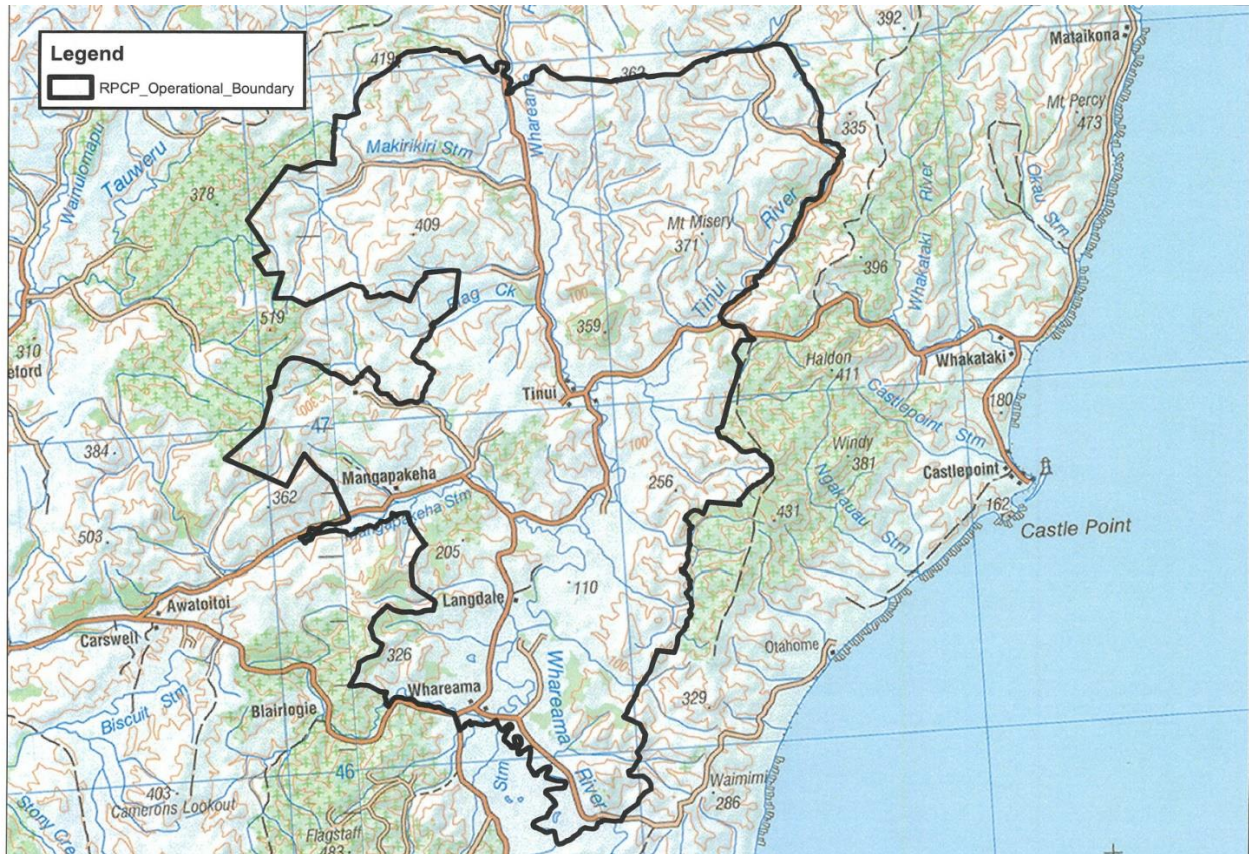
Brodifacoum 50p in bait stations - Treatment area 22,198 hectares

Encapsulated cyanide (Feratox) pellets in bait-stations or biodegradable blue bait-bags. Cyanide pellets are pea size, dyed green and mixed with prefeed bait - cyanide treatment area consists of five separated RPPCP areas covering a total area of 22,198 hectares.

The use of cyanide baits will commence from 18 November 2024 onwards, and I am expecting the work to be completed June 2025.

Poison warning signs will be displayed at all main access points to the operational area and the following instructions should be adhered to:

- Do not touch toxic baits, bait stations, or possum carcasses
- Supervise children closely
- Keep dogs under strict control and away from carcasses and bait

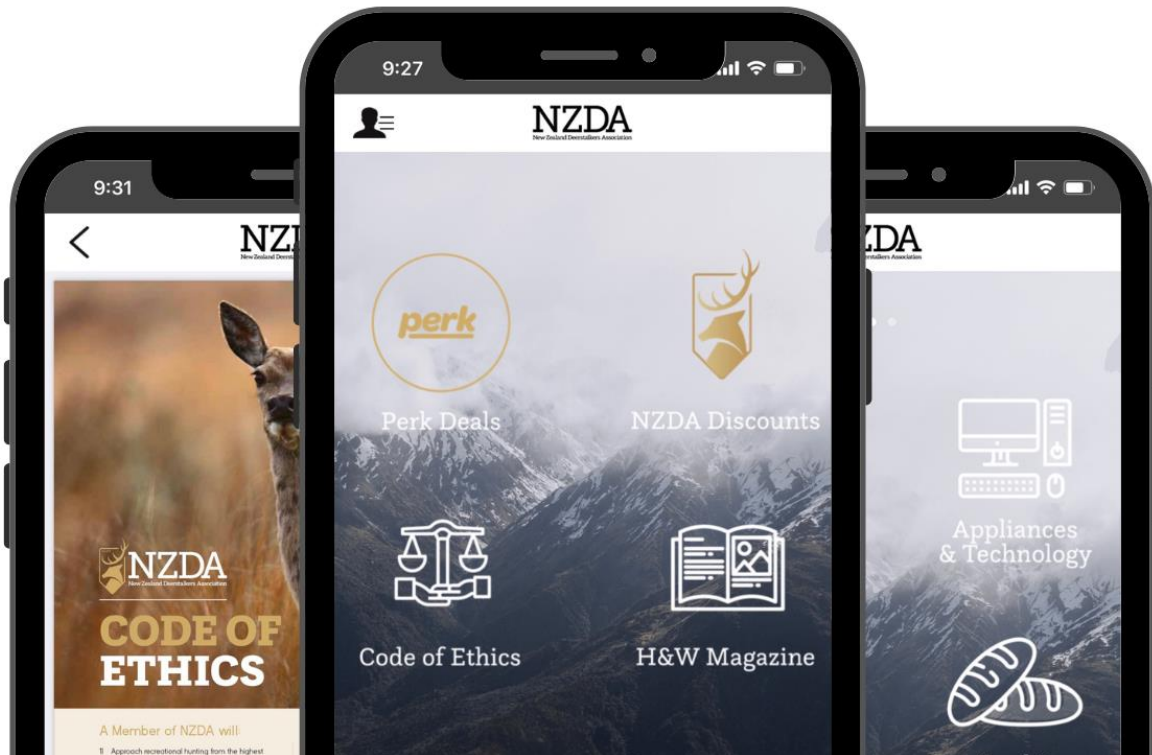


Sika Show

Some of our members went up to Mystery Creek. Nearly 11,000 through the gate and over \$4M spent.



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



DOWNLOAD ON IOS

DOWNLOAD ANDROID

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.

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.

