



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

**Newsletter for December 2024**



Photo credit **Richard O'Driscoll** Stonewall climb

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LandSAR	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
Website	<a href="http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/">http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/</a>	
Facebook 	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA">https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA</a>	
Closed Facebook page	Open only to members. You can apply to join here: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/79860064354866">https://www.facebook.com/groups/79860064354866</a>	
Newsletter Story Competition	October 2024 to September 2025 – prize of \$50 Stories and photos to the newsletter editor at <a href="mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com">wairarapanzda@gmail.com</a>	

Calendar

Sun 8 December	2024	<b>Firewood working bee followed by end-of-year lunch barbecue.</b> 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		
Sun 26 Jan	2024	<b>Firewood working bee.</b> Starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056.
Wed 5 February	2025	Committee Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
14–16 February	2025	<b>Tararua fly-in trip.</b> Going in Friday afternoon coming out Sunday to Sayers, Neill Forks, and Cone. Weather dependent. Contact Lloyd on 027 608 0325 to register
Wed 19 February	2025	First general meeting of 2025 – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
11-19 March	2025	Branch Trip to Stewart Island. Full



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## Wanganui Hunt 15–17 November

Sixteen members harvested 31 animals, with most people shooting their desired "quota". A notable first deer for Tyler (aged 11) with a great shot of 250 metres plus.



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

4

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

## King & Henry Open Night 20 November

Another great event with 39 people attending. Thanks to Willie and the team at King & Henry for hosting us and Terry for supplying the Subway.



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

## Committee News and Updates

### FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$12,703 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

Construction has begun on the new deer pen. Stage 1 Working bee on Sunday 1st December took about 12 hours and got all the posts in for the first new pen. Attended by Phil, Gary, Derrick, Owen, Andrew and Aidan (who provided photos below).



Thanks to Farmlands for sharp pricing on materials, Valley Plumbing for 2 trucks and the digger and Owen for the tractor and post driver. Really good feedback from the public.

A second working bee will be held to put up the netting, gate and water supply. Stage 2 will be next year to build the second pen

#### 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.

Firewood prices are:

- \$50 per m3 for members participating on the day
- \$80 per m3 for non-participating members
- \$100 per m3 for public sales

Delivery by negotiation

There will be a **second working bee on Sunday 26 January** at the same property.

#### HUTS

See the great story from **Liz Nicholson** at the end of this newsletter about the recent track cutting work.

The committee has voted to write to DOC about relinquishing our hut maintenance agreement for Neil Forks on the basis that this hut is seldom used by our members. We are hopeful that maintenance would be taken on by 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

We have 189 members on our books with new memberships still coming through.

As reported last month, 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	<b>Wairarapa 2025/26 Fees</b>
Senior	\$130	\$136	<b>\$160</b>
Family	\$15	\$10	<b>\$15</b>
Superannuant	\$75	\$82	<b>\$100</b>
Associate	\$80	\$82	<b>\$100</b>
Junior	\$60	\$60	<b>\$60</b>
Student	-	\$60	<b>\$60</b>
Affiliate	\$20	\$0	<b>\$20</b>

Please pay your subscriptions as soon as you receive your invoice from National Office as there is no carry forward of memberships this year and you need to be a financial (paid) member at the time you shoot that big trophy for entry into Branch and National competitions.

#### 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

Wairarapa SAR provided assistance in a Porirua search. A small team also responded to a PLB activation by an injured party near Dracophyllum Biv.

Contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

## HALL

New septic tank lids have been installed. Concrete lids thanks to Deco Masterton (Graham & Teresa McClymont). Installation thanks to Valley Plumping (Gary & Liz Warren)



### **New Official #1 Sika Head**

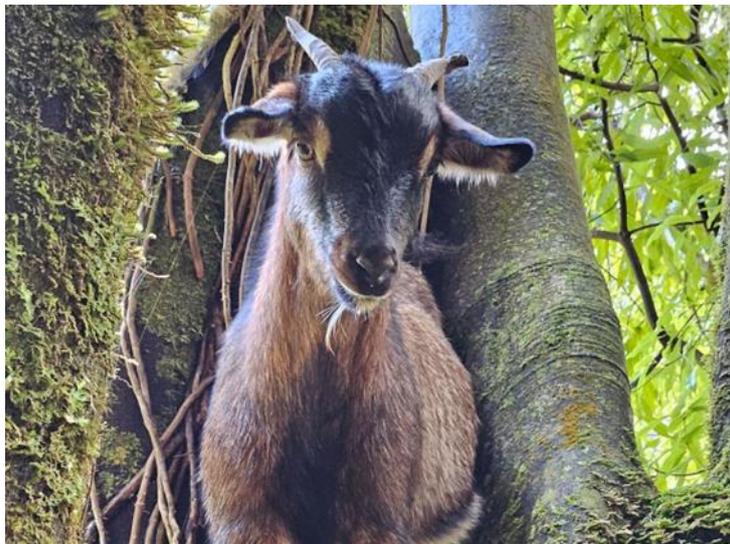
Measured by official NZDA Douglas Scorers at the Sika Show, this trophy taken by Teariki Ama scored 243 3/8 making it the new NZ record. To view the Sika Show competition results including photographs of the heads with the hunters, head to their [website](#).



## **NATIONAL GOAT COMPETITION**

### RESULTS TO BE ANNOUNCED 13TH DECEMBER

Over 8000 tails collected and entered. We think this is a great result, with around 70% of entrees being first time participants. This is a great indicator that the interest in hunting goats is increasing. Results of the major prizes and top placing branches will be announced on the 13th of December so keep an eye out on social media and your inbox.





A new advertising campaign from 11 November 2024 is designed to remind households with firearms, that when they aren't being used firearms are safest in a safe.

We've launched the campaign to be a catalyst for positive conversations within households with firearms about how they should continue to secure their firearms and ammunition every day.

We want to make it harder for burglars and thieves to get hold of firearms, but also to keep firearms safe from curious young hands or anyone else that shouldn't have access to them.

The reality for most recreational firearms users, even really keen shooters or hunters, is that a lot of the time their firearms are not in use. Others like farmers might use their firearms weekly or daily, but it is equally important that they are locked away in the safe each night. This campaign is just a friendly reminder to households that when you aren't using them, firearms must be locked in your safe.

Keep an eye out for the campaign in the coming months. It's running across radio, print, social and digital channels.

### **Health and Firearms pamphlet now available**

Our Health and Firearms pamphlet is now available! Thank you to our community members who helped put this together.

You can find the pamphlet [here](#) on our website.

The pamphlet provides information for licence holders, their whānau, and friends about:

- Proactive things to do if you or someone you know has health concerns
- Firearms access and storage

- What happens if a licence is being reviewed.

Experiencing difficulties with health or seeking support from a health practitioner does not mean a firearms licence holder will automatically lose their licence. We encourage anyone facing health issues to have a conversation, act early and seek help.

If you would like to order copies of the pamphlet, please email [firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz)





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**Free NZ hunting essentials eLearning**  
Hunt safely and successfully by completing our online hunter education courses.

- **Broaden your hunting skill set**
- **You choose when where and how**
- **No price, pressure or pestering**

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



## Northern Remutaka: Proposed Aerial 1080 Programme – Operation Renotification

EcoFX has been contracted by OSPRI New Zealand to undertake a large-scale aerial 1080 operation in the Northern Remutaka Ranges. The purpose of the operation is to reduce the possum population to low numbers to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB).

A non-toxic prefeed was undertaken on the 20th May, we were unable to complete the toxic phase due to unfavourable weather conditions. It is now planned to reschedule a second prefeed from mid-November, with the Wainuiomata water catchment area being excluded (see map).

There are two phases of the proposed programme.

- Non-toxic prefeed cereal baits will be sown over the treatment area at an average rate of 1 kg per hectare.
- Approximately 7 days later toxic 1080 baits will be sown over the treatment area at an average rate of 2 kg per hectare.

Both phases are weather dependant requiring 2-3 fine nights with minimal rainfall after application. EcoFX has obtained the required consents from the relevant agencies to carry out the work. As part of public notification, EcoFX will be placing advertisements in local and regional papers circulating in the wider area to inform the public of the operation and the associated risks.

In addition, EcoFX will be erecting signage at all key public access points such as walking and cycle tracks, roadways and public amenity areas.

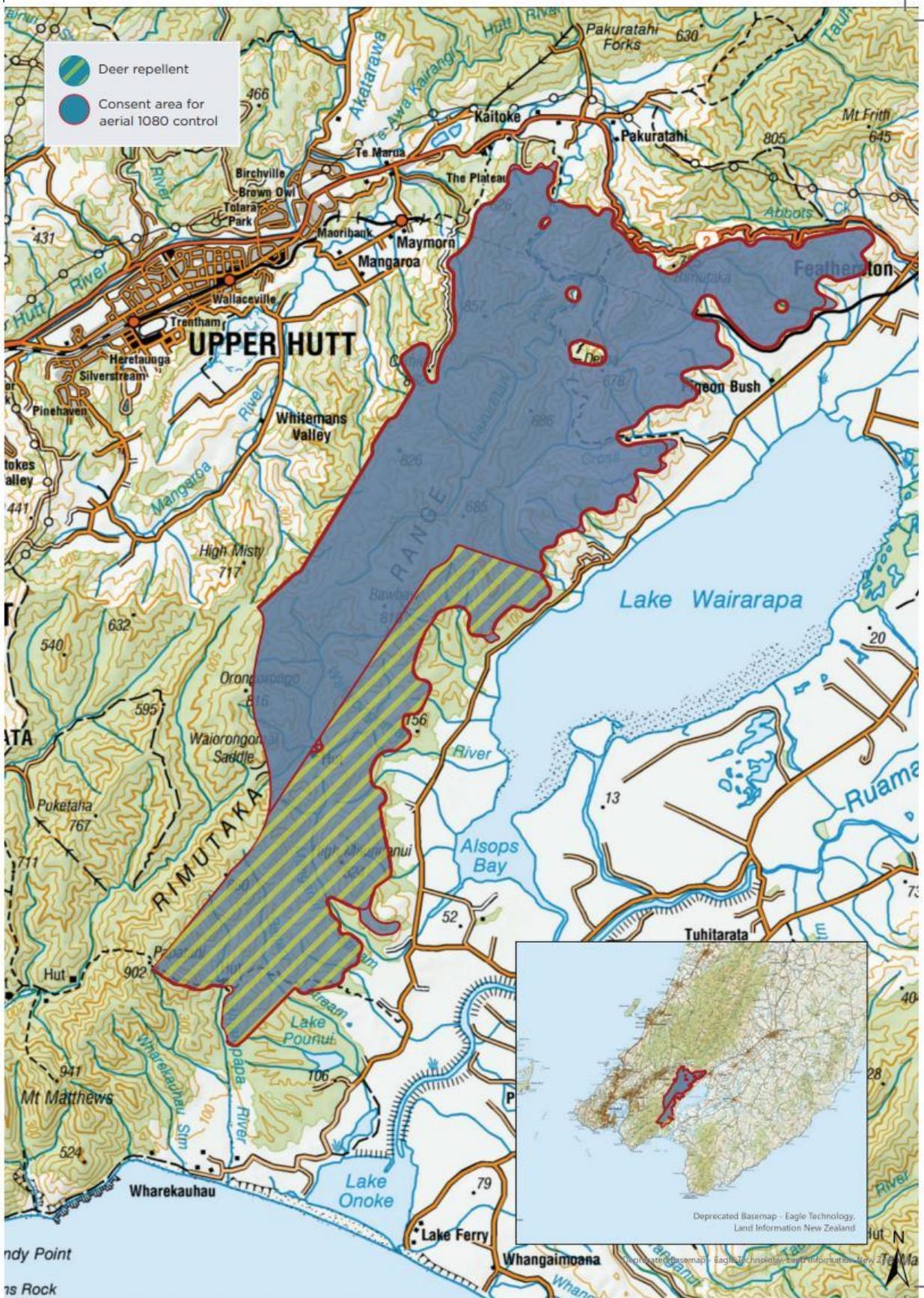
- DO NOT TOUCH poison bait
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times
- DO NOT EAT animals from the area (this also applies to buffer zones around the treatment area)
- Poison bait or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may be present in baits or animals.

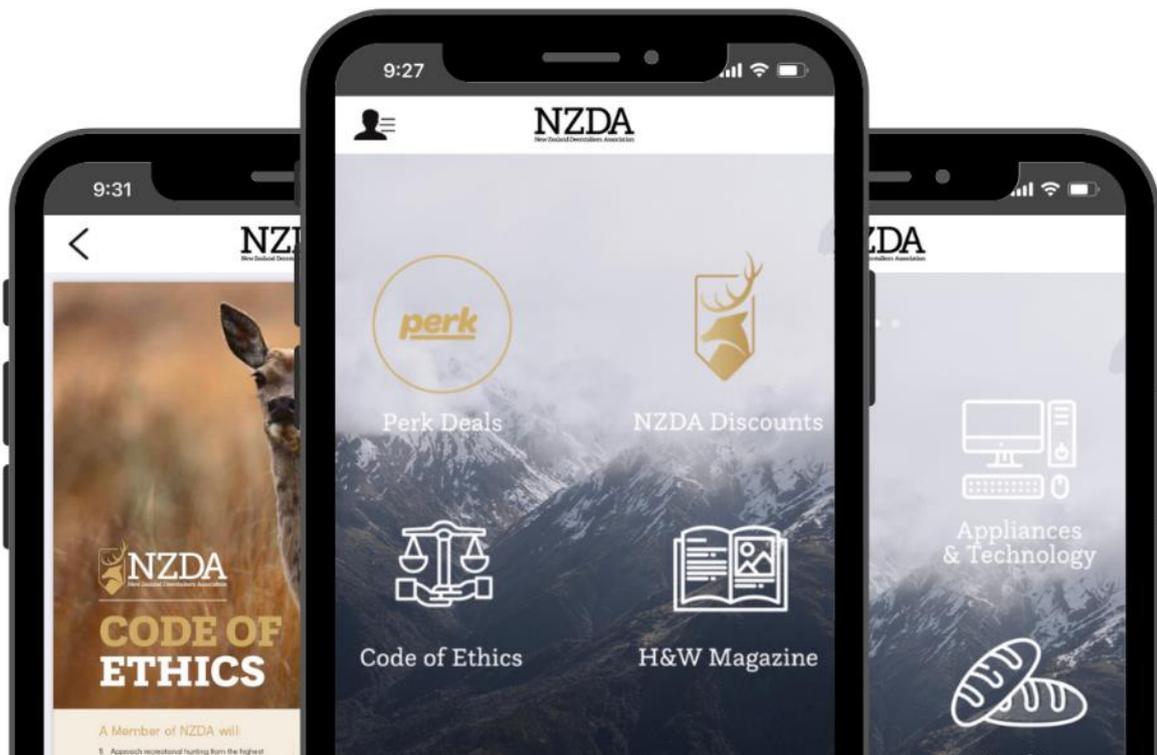
When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected

You can find further information about 1080, including the safety data sheet on our website:

<http://www.ecofx.co.nz/current-aerial-operations/>



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



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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.

## THE WINCHCOMBE RIDGE AND SOUTHERN TARARUA MAIN RANGE

By Liz Nicholson

Two GWBN teams took to the hills last week, to deal with one of the roughest sections of tramping track in Tararua.



Team Winchcombe were based at the Winchcombe bivvy, for a couple of days, then transferred via helicopter to Maungahuka hut. The team was Jim Hepburn, Andrew Bichan, Mike Sheridan and Greg Thurlow. Task was to clear the well overgrown track from Neill to Winchcombe and also install 50 waratahs for marking the alpine route down from Hector to the bivvy. Also install waratahs over Neill. At Maungahuka, the team was to clear the Southern Main Range track to Aokaporangi.

Team Cone spent 2 nights camped on Cone then cut their way down to Neill Forks hut, while the gear was flown. The team was Dave Eaton, Ian Atkinson, Liz Nicholson and Derrick Field. Their task was to clear from Neill to Cone, then work to Neill Forks and cut up to Maungahuka.



The work was long overdue. The new Winchcombe bivvy has been a popular destination, but the track conditions have led to two recent rescues. First couple of days were bit wet, then cleared so both teams made good progress.



Team Winchcombe moved to Hotel Maungahuka while Team Cone cut our way down to Neill Forks hut. A cozy 6 bunk NZFS hut. With plenty of firewood. Last to arrive after 11 hours of cutting windfalls, at Neill Forks hut were Ian and chainsaw guru Dave. On the Southern Main Range, the team found the going hard, thru heavy tussock and flax and constant mud.

At Neill Forks, last days effort was to deal with the Consertina Knob track to Maungahuka. Team Winchcombe also helped by working down from Maungahuka. Liz and Derrick checked out the track from Neill Forks up to Neill. Team Winchcombe flew out a day earlier than Team Cone, who flew out on Wednesday. On the way, waratahs scheduled for the Cone summit were installed also.



Overall, not a lot went wrong. Some long days worked, by all, and all of our track clearing targets met. Getting the Neill route sorted didn't completely happen. Still, it was a long day on the hill. With the needs for helicopter relocations, if the weather hadn't co-operated, the result could have turned out differently. A satisfying result and big effort by the teams to get the tracks cleared in a special part of Tararua. Total effort of the 6 days was a total of 300 hours. All this result was enabled by funding from the Backcountry Trust Aotearoa/New Zealand Trust and also a grant from the Carterton District Council.



## 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.
- 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.

