



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **February 2025**



Photo credit **Liz Warren** Beach sunset

Contacts

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	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
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	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

14-16 February	2025	Tararua fly-in trip. Going in Friday afternoon coming out Sunday to Sayers, Neill Forks, and/or Cone. Weather dependent. Contact Lloyd on 027 608 0325 to register
Wed 19 February	2025	General meeting. Head-skinning demonstration – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Sun 2 March	2025	Firewood working bee. Starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056.
Wed 5 March	2025	Committee Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
11-19 March	2025	Branch Trip to Stewart Island. Full
Wed 26 March	2025	Annual General Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm



Grant Langlands

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 Mobile: (027) 4420 294
 Email: langlands@honda-motorcycles.com
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ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

General Meeting 19 February

For our first meeting of 2025, committee member and hunting guide Shane Dougan will give a head-skinning demonstration and teach us how to keep that trophy in primo condition for the taxidermist. Perfect timing with the roar coming up.

Come along at 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall. Followed by supper.



Firewood working bee 26 January

A dozen or so made further inroads in the pile of logs at South Featherston Road with nearly \$2000 of wood sold and taken away on the day.

One more good team effort should get the remainder cleared up. The next working bee is Sunday 2 March starting 8 am.



Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Current account balance \$12,807 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 pen enlargement is now complete.



Thanks to Valley Plumbing, Deco, Hydroflow, Farmlands, our other sponsors, and to our great team of volunteers.

The deer are in great condition with 4 red fawns and 3 fallow fawns born this year.

Phil Gray gave the red stag a pedicure recently 😊



FUNDRAISING

Come along to the next **Working Bee on Sunday 2 March starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056**. Ringing and splitting. Please bring appropriate protective gear and a trailer if you want wood.

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

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

6

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

HUTS

The committee has written to DOC about relinquishing our hut maintenance agreement for Neil Forks on the basis that this hut is seldom used by our members. DOC confirmed receipt of our letter. 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

The new membership is about to start and you should receive invoices from National Office shortly.

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 or take that great photo for entry into Branch and National competitions.

The membership fees for 2025/26 are as follows.

Member type	Wairarapa 2025/26 Fees
Senior	\$160
Family	\$15
Superannuant	\$100
Associate	\$100
Junior	\$60
Student	\$60
Affiliate	\$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

It has been a busy month with PLB activations. Wairarapa now has the highest rate of beacon activations reported to Rescue Coordination Centre – beating out Wanaka! Not all are emergencies. The Westpac rescue helicopter was recently sent to Tutuwai hut to airlift an injured party. The person wasn't there when the chopper arrived – having recovered enough to walk out on their own!

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

HALL

A new hireage agreement is being drawn up that will include a cleaning fee. The committee is considering fencing the hall area.

Public consultation on the rewrite of the Arms Act 1983

From 13 January to 28 February the Ministry of Justice is inviting public submissions to assist us with the Arms Act rewrite. We want to hear your thoughts on what works, what doesn't, and what needs to change in the Act.

This newsletter provides information on how to make a submission, introduces the consultation documents designed to guide your feedback, and outlines resources you can share within your networks to encourage community participation in the consultation process.

Why we are rewriting the Arms Act

We are rewriting the Arms Act to ensure it provides for greater protection of public safety, reflects best regulatory practice, and is fit for purpose. The rewrite is a key part of the commitment made by the Government in the Coalition Agreement between the National Party and the ACT Party to reform New Zealand's firearms laws.

Why your views matter

Every community has a role in shaping the rewrite of the Act. Your submission will help the Government identify where the Act is and isn't working.

Discussion document

We have developed a discussion document to assist with your submission. This document divides the Act into seven key themes and includes a glossary to explain technical terms.

Summary version of the discussion document

We have also developed a summary version of the discussion document that is shorter, less technical and available in English, Arabic, Bengali, Somali, and Urdu. Accessible formats of the summary document will soon be available, and we will provide an update once they are ready.

How to make your submission

You can submit your feedback by:

- using Citizen Space, the Ministry of Justice's online consultation hub
- emailing your submission
- sending it by post.

Firearms reform webpage

All information on how to make a submission, including the discussion document and the summary version, can be found on the Firearms reform webpage.

www.justice.govt.nz/firearms

The webpage includes some resources we have created about the Arms Act rewrite public consultation for you to share with your communities.

- Arms Act rewrite factsheet.
- Arms Act rewrite public consultation poster.
- Arms Act rewrite public consultation social media file.

Closing date

Submissions must be received by midnight 28 February. Due to expected high interest, we encourage early submissions.

Contact us

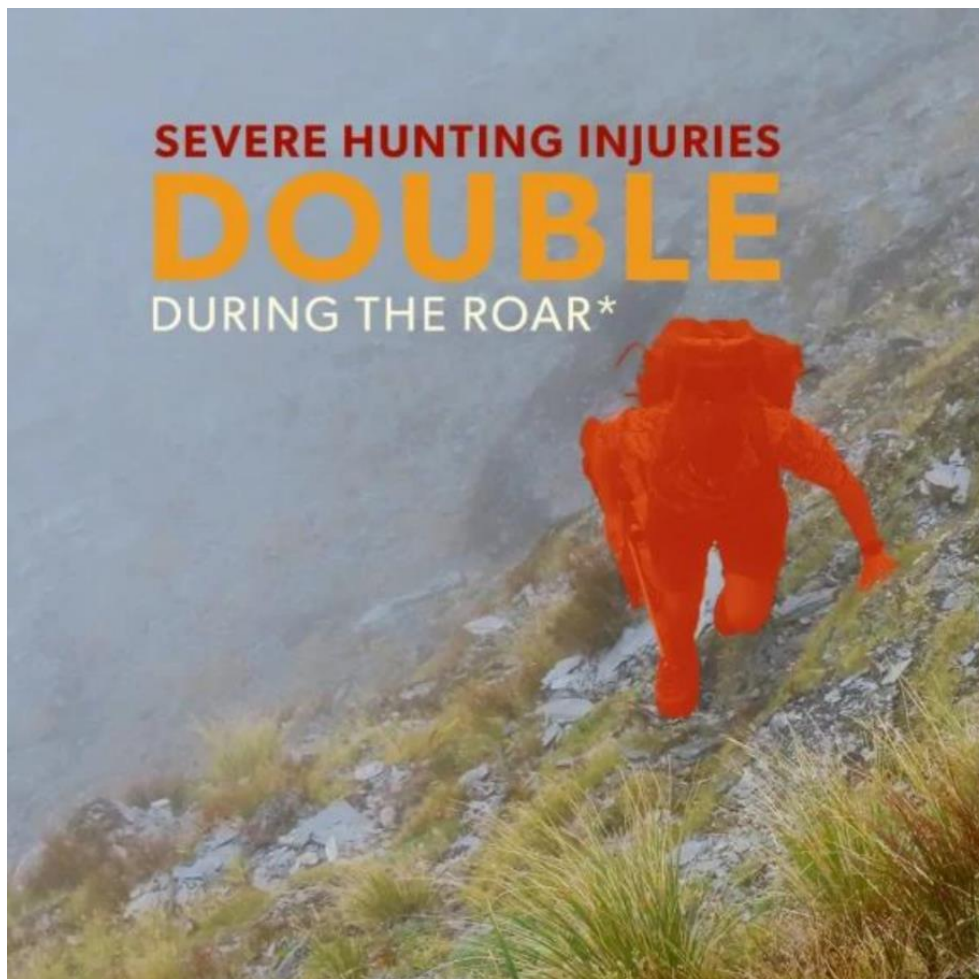
If you have any feedback about the public consultation or want to talk to us about the Arms Act rewrite, please email the Firearms Team at firearms@justice.govt.nz



Going hunting? Get prepared before you go...

Mountain Safety Council

Every year, thousands of Kiwi hunters head into bush, up hills and across ridge lines.



Check out our tips and resources to keep on top of your trip planning and fitness so you can set yourself up for a safe and successful hunt, whatever the season. Without quality training and preparation, hunters can sustain severe injuries with potentially long-lasting consequences.

Severe hunting injuries double during the Roar compared to an average month, making fitness crucial for both your enjoyment and safety. If you're not hunt fit, start your preparation early to ensure you can cover more ground comfortably, stay injury-free and make the most of your hunting trip.

We've developed a free 12-week #ROARfit guide to help you on your fitness journey. If you have less than 12 weeks, don't sweat it – any fitness is better than none. There's no better time to start than today!

12 weeks out: Do the ground work

- Start exercising. A great way to train or maintain your fitness for the Roar is to walk, tramp or go on shorter hunting trips.
- Be consistent. Going regularly is key. Choose an exercise you like, start small and build up slowly, especially if you're out of practice.
- Introduce strength work. As you get fitter, include some weight training in your programme. Again, start small and increase weights gradually.
- Begin planning your hunt. Use the free Plan My Walk app or website to plan your route and build your trip plan.
- Research your hunting route. Once you've decided your route, find out as much information as you can, including hills and other challenging terrain, like ravines.

6 weeks out: Sharpen your focus

- Check your gear. Make sure your gear is in working order. Repair or replace any items now.
- Hit the hills. There's no better way to get prepared, than hunting in the hills on uneven tracks and steep descents.
- Take your pack. A loaded pack on your back will get you #ROARfit. It will also help you decide if you need to cut down on weight.
- Review your progress. Do you need to increase your training? If you're struggling, do you need to reset your goals for the Roar?
- Build a Plan B. Plan your exit routes and decide what your group will do in an emergency, for example if someone gets injured or the weather packs in.
- Check in with your mates. Talk to your hunting party and make sure everyone knows the plan and is getting prepared.

2 weeks out: fine tune

- Check in with your mates, again. Make sure everyone knows the details for the day.
- Share the trip plan. Have an emergency contact and share the trip plan with them. Plan My Walk makes this step easy.
- Rest and recover before the big day. Aim for an early night before you head out. The days can be long so you want to be well rested and focused.

On the day: Stay sharp, know your limits and enjoy the hunt

- Discuss your plan. Before you head out, make sure everyone in the hunting party knows the day's plan.
- Watch the weather. Check the forecast and any weather warnings, and keep an eye on the conditions on the hunt. To get the latest weather updates, sign up to Plan My Walk.
- Pack the essentials. Always take a rain jacket, warm layers, beanie and gloves, emergency shelter, first aid kit and a distress beacon.
- Know your limits. If you're feeling fatigued, either physically or mentally, take a break, reassess your situation and check in with your group. Your top priority is always getting everyone home safe.
- Take care of yourself and each other. Eat, drink and rest regularly, stick with your group, and make key decisions together.



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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.

Northern Remutaka: Proposed Aerial 1080 Programme – Postponement

Further to the renotification that was sent on the 14 November 2024. EcoFX has been unable to complete the Northern Remutaka aerial 1080 programme at this time.

As the Christmas holidays are approaching it has been agreed with OSPRI New Zealand to postpone this operation until the end of January 2025.

For a map of the proposed treatment area please refer to the Northern Remutaka TBfree Aerial Factsheet on the OSPRI website: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/aerial-operations/>

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

- WANTED FOR UPCOMING SOUTH ISLAND TRIP 8-14 MARCH.
 1. Spotting Scope
 2. 4 Person TentLooking to either loan, hire or buy. Please contact Steve Wagner on 021 1768 664 to discuss.

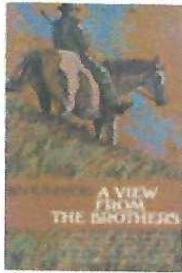
- CHAINSAW BAR OIL
20 litres for \$90. Selling at cost. Please contact Aidan on 027 432 3410

- .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/>

> HUNTING BOOKS FOR SALE



Ben Rutherford
A View from the
Brothers (1970)
\$37 + \$15 Post



Bob Pittaway
The Lure of the
Hills (1983)
\$32 + \$15 Post



Gary Joll
Big Game Hunting
in NZ (1968)
\$25 + \$15 Post



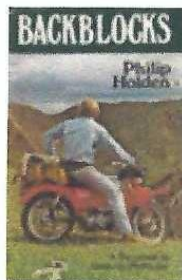
Greg Kelly
Guns in the Hills
(1968)
\$35 + \$15 Post



Murray Cameron
Trophy Hunter (1992)
\$45 + \$15 Post



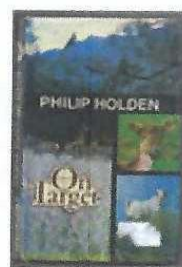
Philip Holden
Golden Years of
Hunting (1983)
\$85 + \$15 Post



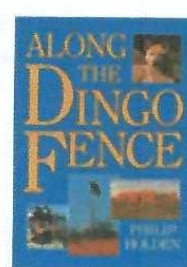
Philip Holden
Backblocks (1974)
\$30 + \$15 Post



Philip Holden
Hunt South (1989)
\$60 + \$15 Post



Philip Holden
On Target (1981)
\$38 + \$15 Post



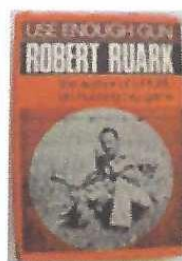
Philip Holden
Along the Dingo
Fence (1991)
\$40 + \$15 Post



Rex Forrester
Hunter for Hire
(1965)
\$35 + \$15 Post



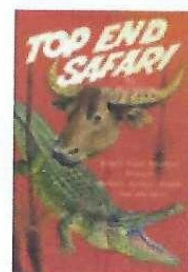
Rex Forrester
True Hunting
Adventures (1980)
\$37 + \$15 Post



Robert Ruark
Use Enough Gun
(1966)
\$70 + \$15 Post



Ron Helmer
Stag Party
(1964)
\$20 + \$15 Post



Vic McCristal
Top End Safari
(1966)
\$40 + \$15 Post

Colin Geertson
113A Charles Street
BLenheim

colingert@xtra.co.nz

RECENT PHOTOS

From Hamish Graham

Not a lot of material for the newsletter this month but Hamish came through with some pics from his recent trips to Ruahines, Kawekas, and local forestry and farm blocks. A great summer of growing conditions and nice fat venison hitting the deck!





ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

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.

