



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **March 2025**



Photo credit **Clare Hodgins** Curious spiker

Contacts

President	Andrew Dennes	027 295 5300
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Committee	Aidan Bichan	027 432 3410
	Alex Beesley	
	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
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	Derrick Foley	027 231 4846
	Hamish Graham	
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	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
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

11-19 March	2025	Branch Trip to Stewart Island. Good luck to the 9 branch members travelling down!
15-16 March	2025	Wanganui fallow meat hunt. Still places available. Please contact Andrew Wilkinson on 027 438 1363.
Sun 23 March	2025	Firewood working bee. Starting 8 am 252 South Featherston Road Fonterra #46056.
Wed 26 March	2025	Annual General Meeting – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm. Details next page.
No Committee or General Meetings in April = Gone Hunting!		
Wed 7 May	2025	Committee Meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
17-18 May	2025	Wanganui fallow meat hunt. Full
Wed 21 May	2025	General meeting. Speaker to be confirmed – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
23-25 May	2025	Tararua fly-in trip. Going in Friday afternoon coming out Sunday. Weather dependent. Contact Andrew D on 022 323 6993 to register



Grant Langlands

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Wairarapa Branch Annual General Meeting 26 March

Note this is 4th Wednesday of March not our usual 3rd Wednesday. The AGM will include the annual President's Report, 2024/25 Financial Report, and election of committee and officers. Nominations for new committee members and office holders must be received in advance. Please send any nominations to yrapanzdasec@gmail.com by 9 pm on Tuesday 25 March 2025. You can nominate yourself, but nominations must be seconded by a current financial member. Most of the existing committee members (see second page of newsletter) have agreed to stay on, so nobody will be press-ganged on the night!

Please come along to the AGM, find out how our club is doing, and have your say. A good club is one where the members get involved! Please remember that you need to be a current paid up financial member to vote at the AGM.

After the formalities, we have a great guest speaker, **Gwyn Thurlow**, the Chief Executive Officer of NZDA. Gwyn joined NZDA as CEO and General Counsel (in-house lawyer) in June 2020. Based in Wellington, Gwyn has been a long-time member of NZDA and volunteers on the NZDA National Heritage Trust. He is a keen alpine hunter and particularly enjoys hunting tahr and chamois. Gwyn has talked to our Branch previously and is an engaging speaker with a broad perspective on the politics affecting our sport. A great opportunity to hear it direct from the top!



Followed by a cup of tea and a great chance to discuss those roar plans.

Tararua Fly-In Trip 14-16 February

Cancelled due to lack of interest. A shame as weather was good 😞 We are planning another Tararua fly-in trip 23–25 May. Contact Andrew Dennes on 022 323 6993 to register.



Sika success on Branch fly-in trip to Kawekas April 2024

General Meeting 19 February

For our first meeting of 2025, committee member and hunting guide Shane Dougan gave a head-skinning demonstration featuring a "trophy" spiker courtesy of Dave McKay. About 30 members turned up to watch and learn. Hopefully some of those new skills can be put to work on a Stewart Island whitetail buck on this month's Club trip!





Firewood working bee 2 March

A few keen members turned up on a sunny Sunday to make further inroads in the pile of logs at South Featherston Road. There is still a bit remaining to clean up from the first lot of trees and then a whole new pile of wood at the same property remaining!

The next working bee is **Sunday 23 March** starting 8 am.

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Come along to AGM to hear financial report.

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

A further working bee is being planned followed by phase 2 of the enclosure enlargement. All animals are healthy.

FUNDRAISING

Come along to the next **Working Bee on Sunday 23 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 is our main fundraiser which goes towards hunting trips and keeping the branch running. Please support these.

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

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.

SEARCH & RESCUE

It has been a quiet month despite the fine weather which has seen a lot of people in the hills. Contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

Bookings are slow this past month.

MEMBERSHIPS

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.

Just a quick reminder that your annual membership payment is to be made to the bank account on your invoice along with the required references. **DO NOT** pay into the branch's bank account.

You will also have received an email from National Office about a \$15,000 prize pack (see next page) - renew before 31 March to be in to win.

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



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

BE IN TO WIN THE

ULTIMATE TAHR HUNT & PRIZE PACK

VALUED AT \$15,000



FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO
WWW.DEERSTALKERS.ORG.NZ

Last Year's
Winner James
McKenzie



TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.

PAY BEFORE MARCH 31ST TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DRAW.

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.

Ruahine Deer Management Hunt 2025

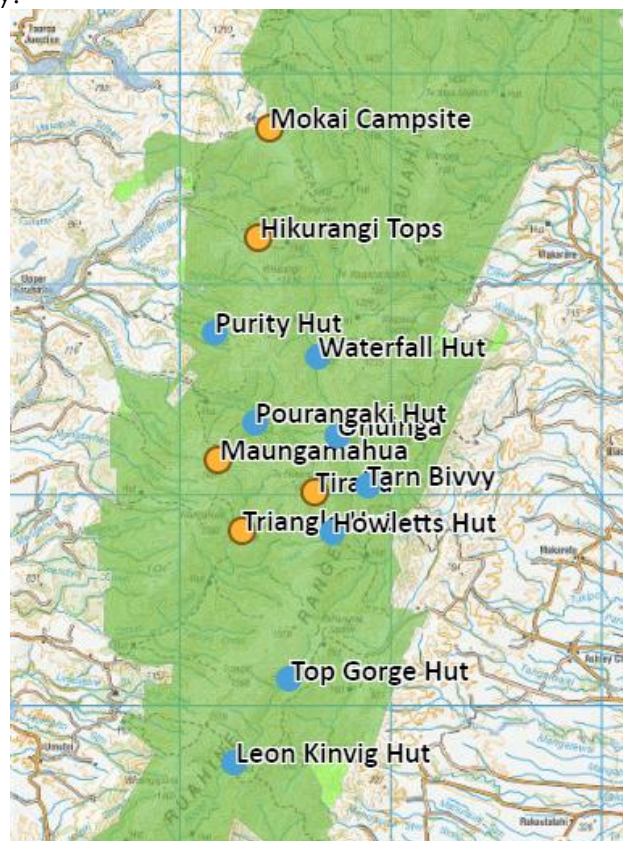
The intent of this multi-club hunt is to reduce hind numbers to demonstrate that recreational hunters can be part of effective deer management in the Ruahines.

Proposed timing – **Thursday 13 March to Monday 17 March**, obviously weather dependent so it would pay to allow for an additional day in case we have to bump it to a Friday start.

Fly-in and Fly-out, central/northern Ruahines landing at huts or temporary landing sites on the tops, aim being to spread the hunters out in teams of 2 or 3. Some sites may be removed from those utilized if the Northern 1080 drop occurs prior (this drop is expected soon, pre-feed is about to be dropped).

We will attempt to reduce costs by flying multiple parties from only one or two points. Funding from DoC has also been requested but cannot be counted on. A better indication of costs will become available once numbers and landing sites are confirmed. It is not a trophy hunt as hinds are the target animal, **no heads will be carried out by the heli's**.

Those taking part will need to provide an expression of interest and a brief honest summary of their hunting experience and current capacity to undertake effective tops hunting. Hunters should forward their interest to the hunt coordinator Gordon George georgeg.gg21@gmail.com. Spots are expected to fill up quickly.



Public consultation on the rewrite of the Arms Act 1983

Submissions closed 28 February. Hope everybody had their say!



Prepare for a safe and successful roar this year

By Kaylyn Pinney, NZ Game Animal Council Acting General Manager

The NZ Game Animal Council (GAC) is advising hunters across New Zealand to plan for a safe and successful roar this year.

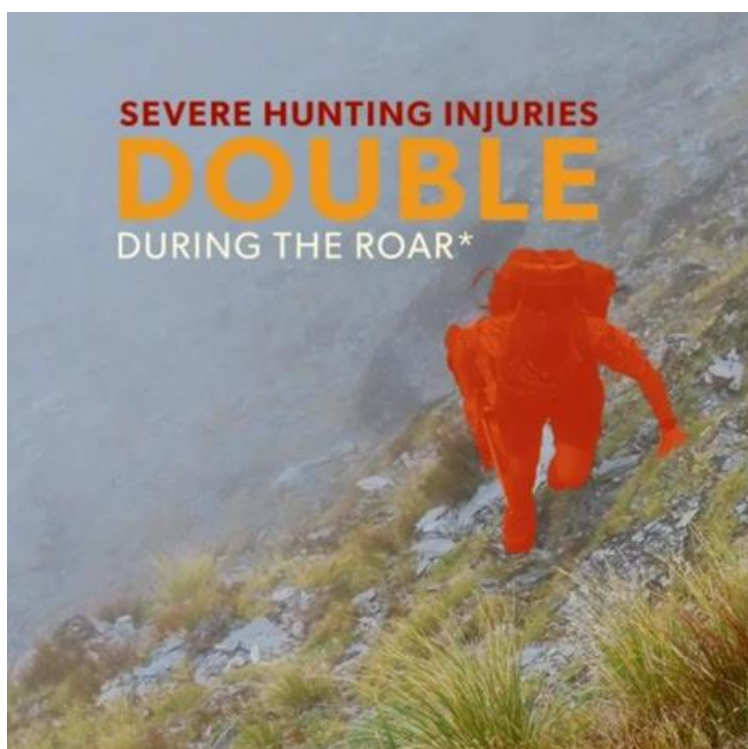
"The March and April roar period is an exciting time of year for many hunters and it's important to prepare for a safe and successful hunt," says GAC Acting General Manager Kaylyn Pinney.

"Coupled with some long weekends, this is the time of year when there are lots of hunters and non-hunters sharing what New Zealand's backcountry has to offer.

"Hunters are one of the biggest users of public conservation land and make significant contributions to conservation through hunting and charitable initiatives.

"If you're exploring the backcountry and cross paths with a hunter, have a chat with them. Let them know where you've been so they know where animals may have been disturbed, and let them know where you're heading, so they can ensure safety all round," says Kaylyn.

"Hunters, if you're sharing a hut with others, have a chat with them about the seven rules of firearms safety and what you're doing to ensure they are upheld. Keep hunting away from huts and tracks."



Follow the 5 P's for preparation

"We're encouraging all hunters to follow the 5 P's for preparation – Plan for the best, Prepare for the worst, Provide your intentions, Positively identify your target, and Pick the right animal.

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

“Hunters can also incorporate the GAC’s free online hunter training platform, Better Hunting, into their preparations. With everything from planning a hunt and ageing stags, to safe river crossing and first aid, there’s something for everyone.

“There are many similarities that go into planning a hunt and planning a tramp or camp. Even if you don’t hunt, or if you’re curious to learn about what goes into hunting, I encourage you to have a look at Better Hunting too,” says Kaylyn.

[Head to betterhunting.nz to sign-up or log in for free.](http://betterhunting.nz)

Hunters, remember to make sure you have your hunting permits for public conservation land, access permissions for private land, and have checked the DOC pesticides summary map.

	<h1>Better Hunting Aotearoa</h1>
Free NZ hunting essentials eLearning Hunt safely and successfully by completing our online hunter education courses.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broaden your hunting skill set• You choose when where and how• No price, pressure or pestering	

Northern Remutaka: Proposed Aerial 1080 Programme – Toxic Notification

A suitable weather window has been identified to deliver the next phase of the Northern Remutaka aerial pest control operation. The toxic application will be undertaken on **Saturday 22nd February** (weather permitting).

EcoFX is undertaking this work on behalf of OsPRI. The operation is being carried out as part of the TBfree Programme that aims to manage and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand’s farmed cattle and deer and wild animal populations.

Pesticide to be used: Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080).

Warning signs will be put in place. A reminder to please check for signage if you are in the area. And;

- **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait
- **WATCH** children at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The standard buffer zone is 2km for deer and pigs, 200m for rabbits, and 1km for possums.
- Poison bait or carcasses are **DEADLY to DOGS**

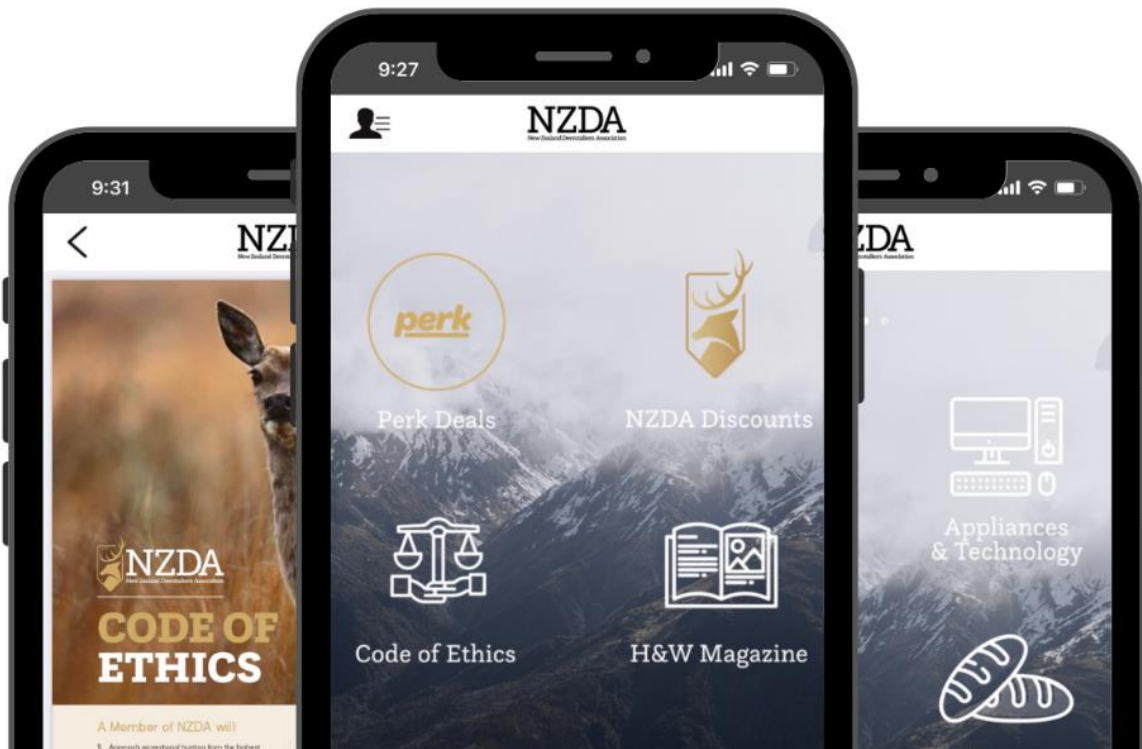
Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. The presence of warning signs indicates pesticide residues may be present in baits or animals. Risks will exist until signage is taken down. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals, and dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080 until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes approximately four to eight months, but can be longer, and depends on monitoring results. The status of this site can also be checked on <https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/aerial-operations/>

When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you would like any further information about the planned operation, please contact [lan](mailto:lan@rentokil-initial.com) Cutler on 021 134 2674, or ecofx-office-nz@rentokil-initial.com, or 0800 482 463.

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.



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

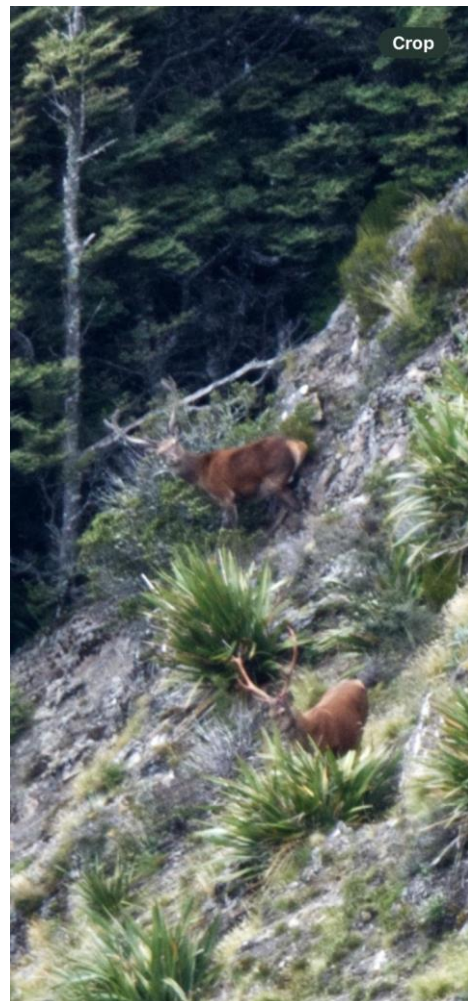
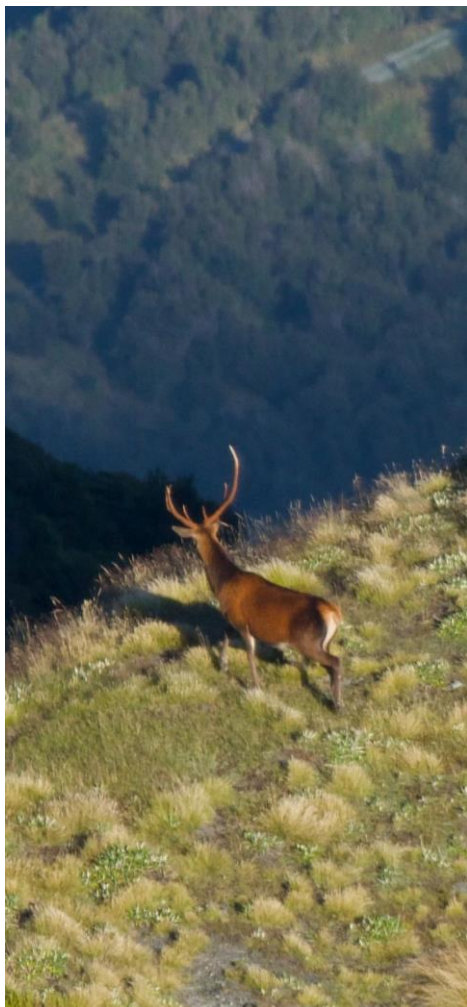
- **WANTED .300 WSM HORNADY BRASS**
Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640.
- CHAINSAW BAR OIL
20 litres for \$90. Selling at cost. Please contact Aidan on 027 432 3410
- .223 AMMO
80 cents per round. Contact Aidan on 027 432 3410
- SEEK THERMAL IMAGER
Built in torch with low and high beam. Nine colour palettes. Internal rechargeable battery. Can take pictures but not video. \$300 ono. Please contact Philip on 022 341 1470.



- 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/>

SOUTH ISLAND WANDERINGS with Peter O'Driscoll

Once again not a lot of material for the newsletter this month but student member Peter O'Driscoll is back down at university in Canterbury and has already hit the hills in search of a big alpine red stag. You can check out the video of one of his recent hunts on YouTube: [3 nights solo chasing north canterbury public land red stags](#).



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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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.

**Media: The average adult spends
\$255 per year on their hobbies.**

Hunters:

