



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

Newsletter for **June 2025**



Photo credit **Shane Dougan** Bull tahr

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		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

Wed 18 June	2025	General meeting. Speaker Davey Hughes – Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm. See details next page
Fri 27 June	2025	Entries close for National competitions. See details later in newsletter.
Wed 2 July	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Thu 17 July	2025	Smallbore shooting. Masterton Miniature Rifle Club. Date and time to be confirmed next month
18-20 July	2025	NZDA National conference Invercargill
Sat 18 Oct	2025	Branch annual dinner & prize-giving. Put the date in your diaries now! We will also convene a short Special General Meeting as part of the dinner to adopt a new branch constitution as required by the new Incorporated Societies Act.



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Next general meeting Wednesday 18 June 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

We have arranged a great speaker for June. Swazi founder, Wairarapa resident, and branch member **Davey Hughes** will speak to us about hunting Cape buffalo in Mozambique and grizzly bear on Kodiak Island.



Promises to be an entertaining evening, so please make the effort to come out and support Davey and the branch. Remember we've got a heat pump in the Hall now so no excuses about it being too cold to leave home! Or just wear your Swazi gear 😊

Followed by supper

Hunting trip reports

17-18 May Wanganui

11 members shot 41 deer to stock up meat supplies for the winter. As always, a great weekend and thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organising.



Will & a couple of tasty eaters

Tararua fly-in scheduled 23-25 May was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Deer Park Working Bee

Sunday 25 May

Over 20 members turned up and made a great start to phase two of the deer pen extension by clearing rubbish, pruning trees, and getting the old tennis court area ready. This was followed up by some brilliant work by the Valley Plumbing crew, Aidan, & others to finish the job.

Photos by Richard O'Driscoll, Mark Wellington, and Aidan Bichan.





ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction



Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Term deposits total \$23,624 with cash on hand \$10,842. Recent outgoings include purchase of material for the deer park which we will apply for a grant to reimburse.

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

See details and pictures from the working bee and pen expansion project above. New grass is looking good and more feed (hay and baleage) is being purchased. Sean has drafted some new signage to be discussed with committee and Masterton District Council.

FUNDRAISING

We have trees on the ground. Firewood working bees will resume in October,

HUTS & TRACKS

Derrick Field & the team from Greater Wellington Backcountry Trust have been cutting tracks in the Jumbo and Atiwhakatu area. Windfalls were also cleared off the Smith Creek track from Kaitoke to the Tauherinikau valley.

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

There was a manual carry-out of a person with a broken ankle from the Pines track (Waingawa).

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

HALL

Recent hire to Dairy NZ. Committee is drafting a new hall hire agreement.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships for 2025/26 are now well overdue. If you haven't yet received your invoice please contact membership@deerstalkers.org.nz

We are tidying up mailing lists etc to remove non-financial members.

RANGE & SHOOTING

A small bore shooting evening will be arranged for the July general meeting. Our claybird shoot will be in August. The Branch shooting competition will be in September. Dates will be advised as soon as these have been confirmed.

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 and Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm 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.

New DOC Hunter Permit System



DOC is replacing the online form with a new, more reliable, permit system optimized for mobile devices. The new system is now available.

[Get a Hunting Permit Now](#)

Permit duration will be extended from four to 12 months. Selecting hunting areas will be easier and hunters will be sent permit expiry reminders.

Open hunting permits will remain free of charge.

How to Get a DOC Open Hunting Permit Online

To get a permit online you will need an email address. This is so DOC can email your permit to you. If you don't have an email address, call your local DOC office to get a permit.

Pick all regions or the area you want to hunt on.

You will then need to enter or verify your details. You can choose to set up an account (or sign in you already have one) or to continue as a 'guest'. If you choose to create a hunting permits account while getting your permit, it will save you time later.

If you choose to check out as a 'guest', you will still need to verify your email address via an authentication process.

Once you have read and accepted the permit conditions and confirmed your details are correct, your permit will be emailed to you.

You don't need to print your permit. Being able to present an electronic copy (for example: showing your permit on your phone) is allowed for compliance.

[Hunting Permit System Guide | Get your hunting permit with Department of Conservation New Zealand](#)

Fish & Game reforms to modernise organisation



Reforms to modernise and strengthen Fish & Game New Zealand will improve the national management of hunting and fishing resources and advocacy, while maintaining local control over local fishing and hunting rules, Hunting and Fishing Minister James Meager has announced.

"I want to make it as easy as possible for Kiwis to go hunting and fishing in New Zealand. This long

overdue reform to Fish & Game will refocus the organisation on its core job of managing our sport fishing and game bird resources and implement a more professional approach to national decision making," Mr Meager says.

"It is important to our economy that Fish & Game is a well-functioning, highly effective and efficient organisation. Licence holders are estimated to spend up to \$138 million every year, and our hunting and fishing resources are the envy of the world, drawing in tourists from across the globe.

"Previous reviews have made clear current legislation is not fit for purpose, resulting in internal dysfunction, wasted revenue on duplicated activities and staff, variable governance practices, disconnect from licence holders and local advocacy which has overstepped the mark. These long-standing issues must be addressed."

The reforms will make several key changes, including:

- Clarifying the roles and responsibilities so that regional Fish & Game councils focus on delivering hunting and fishing opportunities on the ground, with the New Zealand Council responsible for administrative tasks and policies.
- Shifting to a nationalised fee collection system to reduce double handling of licence fees and ensuring funding follows the demand on the resource.
- Making more licence holders eligible to vote and stand in Fish & Game elections and requiring councillors to comply with professional standards.
- Requiring Fish & Game councils to better consider the interests of other stakeholders such as farmers and the aviation sector in decision-making.
- Requiring a national policy around advocacy and restricting court proceedings to within that policy.

A stand-alone Fish & Game Act will be created, to better recognise the organisation's contribution to helping New Zealanders hunt and fish.

"Sports fishing and game bird hunting are well-established traditions and important recreational pastimes for Kiwis. They have positive impacts on our regional economies and create wider benefits for tourism, wellbeing and our environment – making it even more crucial its regulator is modern and credible", Mr Meager says.

Legislation will be introduced this year, and the Select Committee will provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide feedback on the proposals.



HON JAMES MEAGER

Wapiti Herd of Special Interest takes step toward designation

The NZ Game Animal Council (GAC) congratulates the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation on successfully submitting their Wapiti Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) proposal to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, who is now going to consider formally designating wapiti as a HOSI in Fiordland National Park.

To support the Wapiti HOSI, the Government will also introduce a bill to Parliament to clarify the designation of HOSI in national parks, through a small amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013. If passed, the bill will clarify that HOSI can be established in national parks as was originally intended and clarify the existing legislation.

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation management globally recognised

"The value of Fiordland wapiti is recognised in the Fiordland National Park Management Plan,

representing one of the few truly wild wapiti herds outside their native range, and providing an unparalleled hunting opportunity in one of New Zealand's most remote and rewarding landscapes," GAC Chair Grant Dodson says.

"The herd holds historical significance and is a New Zealand hunting icon, gifted to New Zealand by United States President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905.

"In 2011, the Wapiti Foundation began managing Fiordland wapiti under a community agreement with the Department of Conservation. The Foundation has achieved sustained management of wapiti that protects Fiordland's unique biodiversity first, and provides for hunting purposes second, at near no cost to the taxpayer.

"The Foundation actively manage the wapiti population to reduce impacts on the environment. They also manage six backcountry huts and over 500 predator control traps, protecting native birds like kiwi and whio (blue duck). They have recently established a charitable trust enabling hunters to gift the venison they harvest to food banks.

"The annual wapiti hunting ballot attracts thousands of domestic and international hunters, bringing with it an estimated \$1.3 million spend per year. Additionally, wapiti hunters contribute thousands of hours to conservation initiatives.

"The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation are recognised globally for how hunters and conservationists can work together to achieve shared goals, which is something to be celebrated and supported," Dodson says.

"Designating a Wapiti HOSI will safeguard the long-term gains already being made for conservation, hunters, the economy, and the wider community and ensure they endure, independent of shifting government priorities or resources," he says.



Billy Burn wapiti block 2025 (Photo Peter O'Driscoll)

HOSI process established by GAC

"The Minister for Hunting and Fishing's ability to designate a HOSI has existed since the GAC's establishment by legislation in 2013, however no HOSI has ever been created," Dodson says.

"The reasons for this are complex and include political considerations and lack of a formal process for considering proposals and developing a herd management plan.

"I'd like to acknowledge the significant amount of work that GAC staff have put into establishing systems and processes to enable the development of HOSI proposals.

"The GAC looks forward to supporting the Minister, the Department of Conservation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation in the next phase of the HOSI process."

Next steps in the process includes drafting of a herd management plan with consultation on that plan to follow.



2025 National Competitions

Entries now open



NZDA members from across the country submit their finest heads and tusks for judging in the Antler, Horn and Tusk Competition. We accept entries across 13 categories, this is your chance to have your trophy recognised nationally.

Categories to Enter

- Wapiti or Fiordland Deer
- Red deer
- Sika
- Fallow
- Rusa
- Sambar
- Whitetail
- Wild Sheep
- Tahr
- Chamois
- Wild goat
- Pig tusks - drawn
- Pig tusks - undrawn

Be in To Win

Every AHT entry goes in the draw to win a MTN Gear Mountain Bipod and Rail, and each entrant will receive a MTN Gear Trophy hook just for taking part. We'd like to thank MTN Gear for their support for recreational hunters and the NZDA. You can find more of their products or [make a purchase for yourself here](#).

Entries close 5pm, Friday 27 June 2025

[Entry Forms and Details](#)

Full details, rules and Douglas Score guidance on our [website](#).

Other National Competition Categories

Entries now open with prizes to be won

The categories are:

- [Photographic and film](#)
- [Literary](#)
- [Target Shooting](#)
- [Special Awards including Young Deerstalker of The Year](#)

Full competition details and rules can be read [here](#).

Firearms Registry – getting ready for June 2025 obligations

On and from 24 June 2025, regulatory requirements for ammunition sellers, dealers, and licence holders come into effect. These include:

Ammunition sellers and licensed dealers must record sales of ammunition to a licence holder in the Firearms Registry on and from 24 June 2025

After 24 June 2025, purchasing ammunition from a firearms dealer or ammunition seller becomes an activating circumstance. Licence holders who already held a licence on 24 June 2023 (when Firearms Registry regulations took effect), and who have not yet registered their firearms into the Firearms Registry, will need to register all the firearms and arms items in their possession within 30 days

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

of purchasing ammunition. Licence holders who got a firearms licence (first time licence holders and 'renewals') on or after 24 June 2023 are already required to provide information for the Registry, and keep that information accurate and current.

Licensed dealers are now no longer required to provide to the Police the particulars of all arms items in their possession on or after 24 June 2025. The government is deferring this obligation to June 2027. New regulations will be available in due course to reflect this change.

In the Arms Act, the definition of an ammunition seller does not include "a member of a shooting club, if the member sells ammunition to a club member, or on club premises, with the approval of the management committee of the club or a majority vote of club members; and the sales revenue is used for the benefit of the club".

That means there is no legal requirement when ammunition is sold at a club on and from 24 June 2025 to be recorded in the Registry, using the Dealer Transactions form. Because the sale is not recorded, the club member purchasing the ammunition will not receive an activating circumstance notification as a result of this purchase at the club.

Need Support?

Phone 0800 844 431 between 8.30 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

Visit www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz for more information.



RPPCP Tararua Foothills Possum Control Operation – Cyanide Use

This operation is part of Greater Wellington's Regional Possum 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.

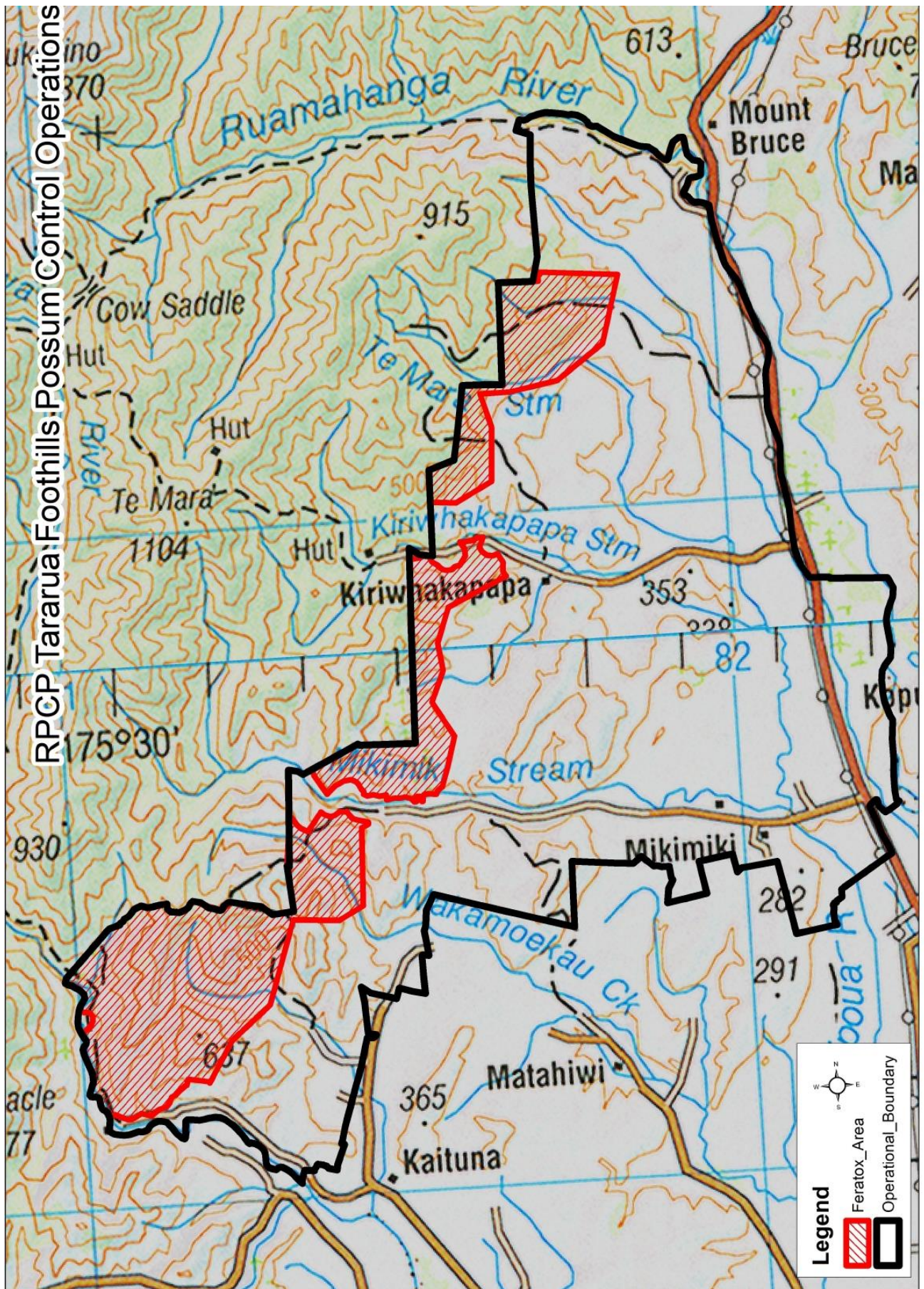
The total control area covers 7809 hectares, and 1700 Hectares will be treated with Feratox poison. The area is located approximately 10 km west of Masterton. Please see the map on next page for the boundary details.

The use of cyanide baits will commence from mid-June 2025 onwards, and work is expected to be completed July 2026.

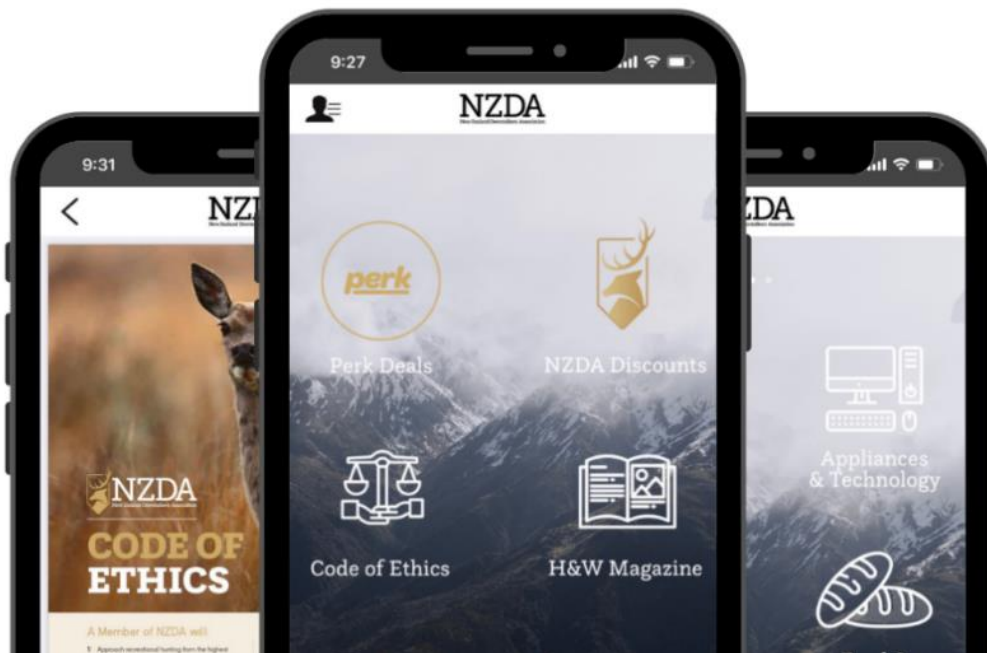
Poison warning signs will be displayed at all main access points to the operational area and the following instructions should be adhered to:

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

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact John Rodgers (Senior Biosecurity Officer) on 0274 845 117 or via email John.rodgers@gw.govt.nz



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



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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.
- FOR SALE: RELOADING DIES
7 x 61 and 22/250. Contact Derek on 027 656 8897 for more details.
- .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/>

Apple Slice Recipe from Keriann Rayner

(Feijoa can be substituted as per Lloyd's version on the latest Wanganui Trip)



Ingredients

- 2 cups self raising flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 apples, peeled, cored and diced (1cm)
- 125g butter or margarine
- 1 egg

Directions

1. Toss apples with self raising flour and sugar in a medium mixing bowl.
2. Melt butter in a small saucepan on the stovetop or in a small bowl in the microwave. Stir in egg.
3. Pour butter and egg into the apple mixture and mix until combined.

4. Spoon into a greased and lined slice tin.
5. Bake at 180 C for 35 to 40 minutes or until the top is golden brown and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Keeps for about 3 days.

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.

