



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

Newsletter for July 2025



Photo credit **Gary Warren** South African elephant (more photos at end of newsletter)

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	Shane Dougan	027 247 4484
	Mark Wellington	027 770 0065
	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	

Previous newsletters (back to July 2018) are available on our website:
www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/newsletters

Calendar

Thu 17 July	2025	Smallbore shooting. Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street. Thursday starting 7 pm. See details next page
18-20 July	2025	NZDA National conference Invercargill
Wed 6 August	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Wed 20 August	2025	General meeting. Speaker and venue to be confirmed.
Wed 3 September	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm Entries close for branch competitions. See details and entry form later in newsletter.
Sat 18 October	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

Thursday 17 July 7:00 pm Masterton Miniature Rifle Club, Cole Street

This is a Thursday night and replaces our July general meeting. \$15 for two cards. Children of members (12-17 years old) shoot free. This is always a fun night and there are senior and junior trophies up for grabs so bring the kids along.



June general meeting

Good turnout of over 30 members enjoyed some great yarns from Swazi founder, Wairarapa resident, and branch member **Davey Hughes**. Davey talked about hunting Cape buffalo and grizzly bear, with some amazing pictures, actual trophies, and even his .416 Rigby rifle along for show-and-tell.

Thanks to Davey for his time.



Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

Term deposits total \$23,624 with cash on hand \$13,250. First quarter clearings (subscription payments) from NZDA National have come through.

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

More winter feed has been purchased. The project for pen expansion will continue when weather dries out. 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

Liz Nicholson has been involved with cutting tracks up the Atiwhakatu and in the Mikimiki area of Tararuas. There has also been work on the Old Mill track in the Aorangis.

Mike Thrupp represents the branch at Greater Wellington Backcountry Network Inc meetings. Hamish Graham represents us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust.

SEARCH & RESCUE

Quiet this month. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

We have received an ongoing booking from a local karate dojo. Committee have finalised the new hall hire agreement. Plans being made for fencing the hall area. For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIPS

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

We have tidied up mailing lists etc to remove non-financial members.

RANGE & SHOOTING

Our small-bore shooting evening is Thursday 17 July (details earlier in newsletter).

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.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Closing date for entries for annual Branch competitions is 7:30 pm on Wednesday 3 September 2025. Entries can be dropped off at the General Meeting on 20 August 2025 or before the committee meeting at Parkvale Hall from 7 pm on 3 September 2025.

Categories are as follows:

- Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
- 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 Shield)
- Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
- Best head other species
- Best trophy head 'under 20'
- Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

Photographic categories are:

- Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)
- Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)
- Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)
- Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)
- Junior photograph (Amos Cup)

All competitions will be run closely to the Branch Competition rules which have been laminated and displayed in our Parkvale meeting room for the whole competition year. These notes are simply an abbreviation of them.

Key dates this year are:

- Heads, jaws and photos must be taken in the year from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be dropped off at Parkvale Hall by 7:30 pm Wednesday 3 September 2025.
- Photographs to be emailed to Richard O'Driscoll at wairarapanzda@gmail.com by 7:30 pm Wednesday 3 September 2025.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – Saturday 18 October 2025.

Extracts from the Rules.

1. Entrants must have been financial members of this branch at the time of shooting the trophy or taking the photograph. Junior members (18 years & under) to be noted on Entry forms please.
2. All entries in the Antler-horn-tusk competitions (including the Paid hunting section) must have been taken in unimpeded fair chase. No spotlighting. Paid hunting entries are to be clearly designated on Entry forms.
3. Antler-horn-tusk entries must be on a clean, full skull (or jaw). Foul entries will not be accepted. No mounted heads accepted.
4. A Disputes panel will be appointed by the Committee.
5. A competitor may enter more than one head in each competition.
6. Entry forms (both AH&T and photographs) should contain adequate information to illustrate the philosophies within these Competition rules are met.
7. Photos taken in N.Z. Not from a Conveyance. No dead animals or birds. All entries will be submitted digitally rather than as prints. Please email high resolution .jpg images to wairarapanzda@gmail.com Make sure you put "Photo entry" in subject. Images can also be provided on USB to Richard O'Driscoll (021 1411472). You will still need to complete an entry form for each photo entered.
8. Judging will be of four categories. The categories must be designated by the entrant and clearly marked on the Entry form and the back of photo. One fully completed entry form (see note 6 above) for each photo. Members may enter up to three photos in each category.

9. The categories are:
- a) Game animals in their wild, outdoor state. Not in any form of captivity.
 - b) Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity. The subject matter is to be relevant to hunting, hunting country, and the associated activities of hunters.
 - c) Scenic relative to the sport of hunting. Human activity should be of minor importance.
 - d) Other – not covered in other categories. Subject matter is to be relevant to hunting or hunting country. Or the associated activity of hunters.

NOTE: The winning photo of each category will be printed and retained for the Parkvale Hall display board.

Entry form at the end of the newsletter. There must be a separate entry form for each trophy or photo submitted!

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.

DOC tahr control

The latest Tahr Control Operational Plan (TCOP) has been published and is now available on the DOC [website](#).



Herds of Special Interest Amendment Bill Passes First Reading

On 24 June 2025, the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill passed its first reading in Parliament. This is a significant moment for hunters as it marks the beginning of a legislative process to resolve one of the biggest tensions in our national parks: the legal requirement to exterminate all introduced species, even those that are valued and managed.

Currently, the National Parks Act 1980 obliges the removal or extermination of all non-native animals, regardless of their conservation value or the role they play in hunter-led management.

This directly conflicts with the intent of the Game Animal Council Act 2013, which created the Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) framework. The bill now before Parliament proposes to amend the GAC Act to remove this inconsistency—ensuring that designated HOSI can be lawfully managed within national parks.

It's not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction. It legitimises our valued game animals and helps pave the way for sustainable, science-based herd management—especially in places like Fiordland where hunters have a long track record of contributing to conservation.

What You Can Do

Submissions are now open and close at 11.59pm on Thursday, 24 July 2025.

This is your opportunity to have a say. NZDA encourages all members to make a submission in support of the bill. Submissions don't need to be long or complex—what matters is that they show support for recognising the value of managed game animals.

Links

- Read the Bill [here](#).
- Make a submission [here](#).
- Read the first reading Hansard [here](#).

What NZDA Is Doing

NZDA is preparing a formal submission on behalf of members and will release it publicly in due course.

We believe this amendment is essential for the long-term viability of Herds of Special Interest and for better alignment between game animal management and biodiversity goals. Where there are game animals, there is always tension—but this bill helps move us towards a more balanced and realistic approach.

What's Next

The bill will go through the usual select committee process, where submissions will be reviewed, and recommendations made before it returns to Parliament for a second reading. We will keep members informed as the bill progresses and let you know when the next key stages are underway.

Hear From Hon James Meager

"The Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill will ensure the legislation for HOSI is clear and unambiguous. It will support the designation of a wapiti deer HOSI in Fiordland National Park and will allow hunter-led conservation groups to manage deer numbers in our national parks, creating opportunities for local hunters and tourism and driving more economic growth in the region," Mr Meager says.

Read his full statement [here](#).



Firearms Registry – June 2025 ammunition obligations are now live

This is a reminder that purchasing ammunition from a firearms dealer or ammunition seller became an activating circumstance after 24 June 2025. This means that if you have not yet registered your firearms into the Firearms Registry, you will need to register all the firearms and arms items in your possession within 30 days of purchasing ammunition from today onwards. Arms Regulations 1992 Section 41 (1)(e) Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992/346) (as at 28 June 2024) – New Zealand Legislation.

Even if you have already provided information for the Registry, you must keep updating it every time something changes – for example, if you buy a new firearm or move house. How to register or update your information.

Firearms dealers and ammunition sellers are also required to record ammunition sales to licence holders as part of their legal obligations. This Regulation came into effect on and from 24 June 2025.

This requirement is referred to in the Arms Regulations 1992 Section 42(3).
Arms Regulations 1992 (SR 1992/346) (as at 28 June 2024) – New Zealand Legislation

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



Rakiura Update 20 June 2025 John DeLury

Here is a summary of the poisoning on Rakiura as it affects hunting as I understand it.

1. Prefeed for the poisoning of the dotterel area began 16 June. It is expected that the poison will be applied within two weeks. This will be repeated in Phase 2 in August. The aim is to kill cats which will eat the rats that are killed by 1080. (Note this is not the eradication plan.)
2. Deer repellent will be used only on the parts of the hunting blocks involved, Southwest Arm, Rakeahua, Doughboy and North Pegasus.
3. Hunting blocks will stay open for bookings throughout operations, with appropriate communication with hunting parties and recommendations in place not to consume meat until caution periods are lifted. Hunters have asked that deer repellent be used over the entire Island.
4. Trials testing deer repellent at NORTH ARM/PORT WILLIAM have been hampered by possums eating the test baits before deer can get to them.
5. The eradication of cats, rats, possums & hedgehogs is planned to commence at South Port Pegasus (referred to as Block A) autumn 2026.
6. ZIP intention is move north progressively taking roughly a year for each block. At that rate, blocks north of Cavalier/Freds Camp will not be poisoned until Winter 2029.

DOC are working on improvements to the Stewart Island / Rakiura restricted block booking system.

Through the new hunting permits system, hunters can book any of the 35 restricted hunting blocks on Stewart Island / Rakiura. Since it went live there have been almost 900 Rakiura block bookings through the new booking system.

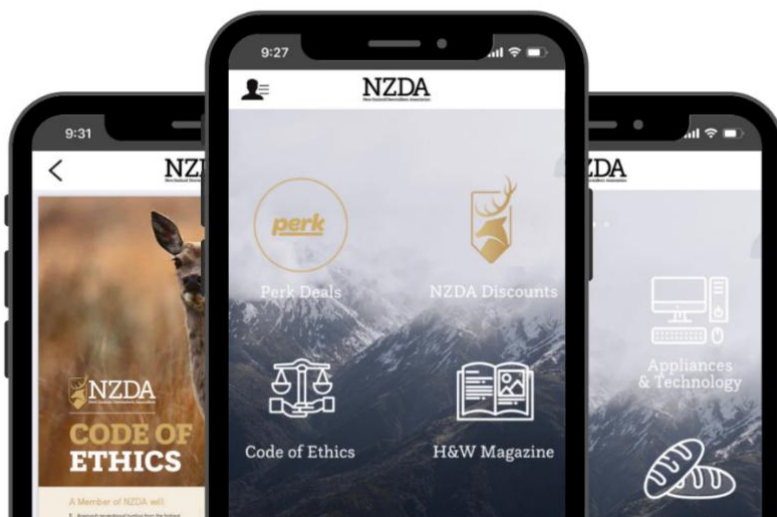
For hunters who will use the new hunting permit system to book a block on Rakiura or confirm hunting party membership, things are about to get even easier.

From September, DOC will:

- introduce an online payment gateway for existing admin fees
- allow hunting party leaders to manage bookings and view member status directly - no need to contact the DOC Visitor Centre.



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

An outing with Akatarawa 4x4 Club

Sean Roberts

One evening I found myself scrolling through inane feeds on Facebook, when I saw a post by the Akatarawa 4x4 Club inviting people to a “shiny” trip around Orongorongo Station. Oooh I thought, that sounds good. So, after registering and then roping in my beloved and friends of ours to join us, we dutifully turned up just before the appointed time at carpark 2. A few others turned up. But no trip leader....hmmm. Then someone drove up and said we all needed to be at the prior carpark, which was 2 – we were at 3!!! Where did carpark 1 go to???? With that hiccup out of the way we had the obligatory H&S talk, paid our trip fee, let our tires down and set off, entering the station through a gate right next to the carpark.

I wondered where we were going as we were not heading around the coast, but back towards Wainui and the gap between the fence and a very steep hillside was starting to get rather narrow. Then we turned right.....and up we went. And went. And went. Finally we popped out at an airstrip overlooking Wellington harbour. And looking directly into the plane windows as they came into land. I had given up on the shiny bit by now as the gorse was a bit overgrown.



Setting off again we went up. And up. And up again, before cresting the top and starting a long and slow rocky descent down into the Orongorongo Valley. It was a bit hairy in parts and I was sure I wasn't going to make a downhill hairpin, leaving me wondering how I would reverse on loose shale at a 45deg angle.



Before long we reached the riverbed where we stopped for morning tea break and chatted away while looking concerningly at a slightly discoloured river that had risen overnight and then back at

the various 4x4's that didn't have a snorkel – including mine. With our break over we followed the trip leader as he gingerly tracked across the braids of the river until we got to the main branch.



We all watched while the trip leader made the first crossing – with a not insignificant step on the riverbank where the current had worn it away. With the engine at near full noise up he popped, and we all dutifully followed. A bit nervewracking as the water came up to the lip of my bonnet a tad too close to my air intake, and a few prayers as I launched up the step and onto terra firma. We then trundled through the paddocks by the stations houses watching the horses and trying to avoid going into the big bogs. Before long we had rounded the headland and we had some rather large shinglefans to navigate across plus a few sandy sections. Through various locked gates we eventually arrived at Little Mukamuka where we stopping for lunch. A few with more serious off-road 4x4s played on the hill climb. Not all made it 😊.

Packing up our lunch we kept heading north towards the Big Mukamuka and then pushed on to see if we could get past the slip just south of Corner Creek. Alas, not to be.



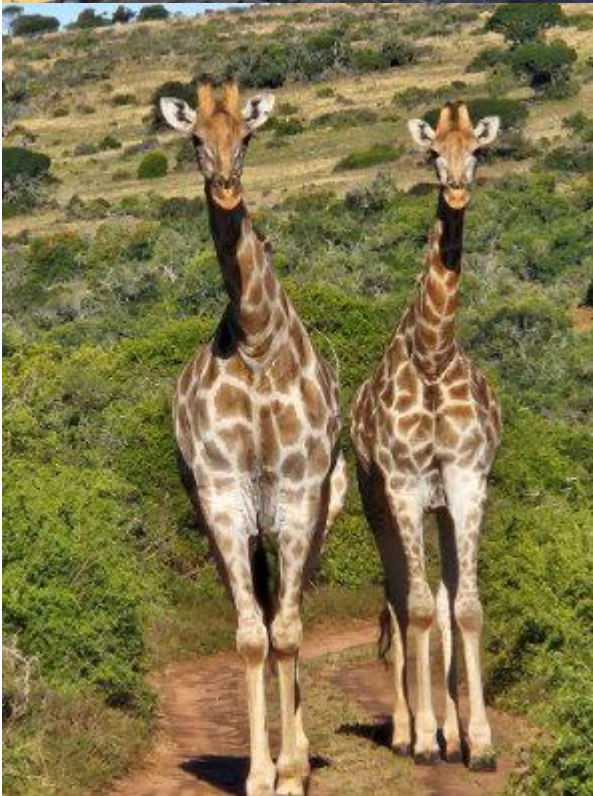
We then returned back the way we came with a few goes needed on one sandy section through an incorrect gear selection. So that made it a bit more fun. Getting back to the farm houses we all stopped and those with tyre inflators pumped their tyres up. Those who forget had a nice trip back to Wainui to reinflate, finding that the BP air machine was bugged and was letting air out of tyres, not in. So a further slow trip was endured over the hill to BP Waiwhetu where air was put back into the bottom of each tyre.

Like our branch, the club is really friendly and I am looking forward to another trip. They do the full range from the showroom shiny through to the serious off-road type adventures. You do need 4L and diff lockers help, even on shiny trips. You can find them on Facebook at Akatarawa Forest 4X4 Club or website (which has a colour coded calendar of upcoming events) www.afc.wildapricot.org and its run by the very welcoming Max Prime. They use UHF radios so take one in your ute and you can keep abreast of what's coming ahead, or radio up the leader if you get stuck. Take camp chairs too, and an easy to eat morning tea and lunch.

South Africa Safari

Pictures by Gary & Liz Warren

For the full adventure check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3fnHH30d5U>





ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

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

➤ FOR SALE VIZSLA CROSS HEADING DOG PUPPIES

Owner wanting to find hunting homes for a litter of Vizsla cross Heading dog puppies. This is not a money-making venture, he just wants to find good homes for them. Please contact Sam on 022 635 9784.



➤ 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/>

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.



WAIRARAPA BRANCH NZDA
ALL ENTRIES FOR ANTLER HORN & TUSK
AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS
TO BE ON THIS FORM



COMPETITION ENTERED FOR

NAME OF ENTRANT

ADDRESS

.....

DATE SHOT/TAKEN **LOCALITY**

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SECURING TROPHY (to be completed by entrant)

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THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION AND I UNDERSTAND THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL.

SIGNATURE **DATE**

ANY PERSON FOUND DELIBERATELY CONTRAVENING RULES MAY HAVE ALL THEIR ENTRIES DISQUALIFIED AND MAY BE BARRED FROM PARTICIPATION THE FOLLOWING YEAR OR AS DETERMINED BY THE BRANCH COMMITTEE.

WITNESS: I CERTIFY THAT THE ENTRANT IS A FINANCIAL MEMBER AND WAS, AT THE TIME OF TROPHY TAKING.