




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

**Newsletter for August 2025**



Photo credit **Richard O'Driscoll** Totara Flats

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Parkvale Hall Booking		
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>	

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

## Calendar

Sat 16 August	2025	<b>Claybird shoot 9am, Gladstone Range.</b> 60 target shoot, BYO ammo: must be fibre wad. \$40 if non-member of Wairarapa Pistol Club; \$25 Wairarapa Pistol Club member
Wed 20 August	2025	<b>General meeting. Masterton Hunting and Fishing</b> 6 pm onwards. Guest speakers start from 7 pm. See details next page
Wed 3 September	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm <b>Entries close for branch competitions.</b> See details and entry form later in newsletter.
Wed 17 September	2025	General meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm. Speaker <b>Dawie Breedt</b> , Business Development Manager, <b>Bene Footwear</b>
Sun 21 September	2025	<b>Branch shooting competitions.</b> Gladstone Range. Starting 9 am. Details next month
Wed 1 October	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Sat 11 October	2025	<b>Branch annual dinner &amp; prize-giving.</b> Note the change of date! 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.



**Rebecca O'Neale**  
Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller

**Mobile:** +64 21 447 960  
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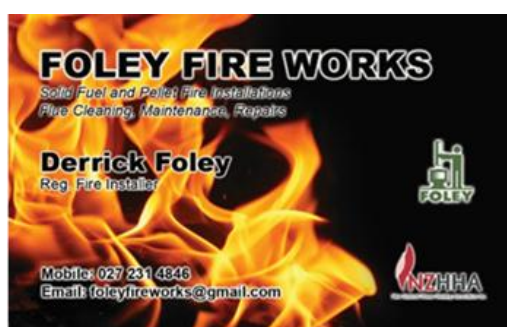
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## Next general meeting

### Wednesday 20 August Masterton Hunting & Fishing

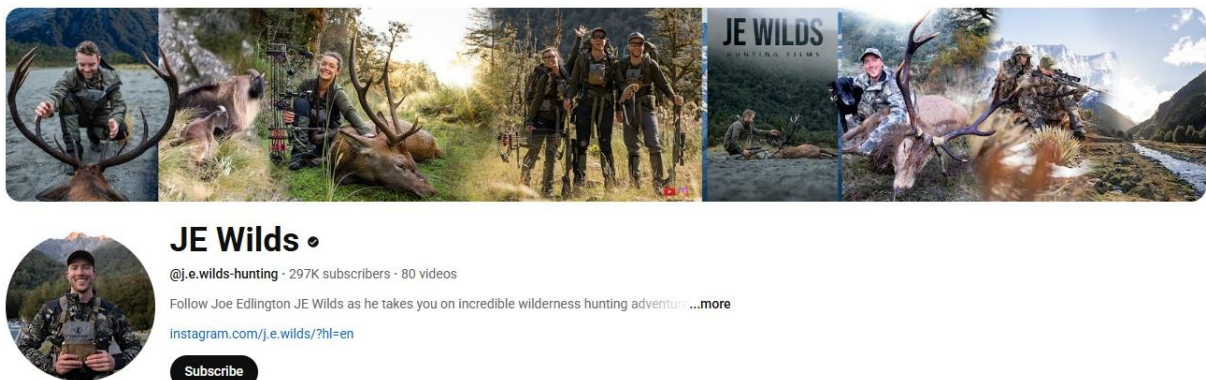
6 pm onwards. Guest speakers start from 7 pm Nibbles and drinks will be supplied.

The following Products lines will have representation from their respective reps.

- MSR Tents
- Leupold optics
- Hunttech Clothing

Main Quest Speaker **Joe Edlington (J.E.Wilds)** of you tube fame. Talking all things hunting, filming and followed with a Q and A session

Open to all club members and their families. Numbers are capped to this event at 100. If you haven't already responded to email or on our Facebook Closed Group, register by texting (not calling) Gary Warren on 027 282 1112 with your full name and numbers attending. This is nearly full already!



[JE Wilds - YouTube](#)

## July general meeting Masterton Miniature Rifle Club

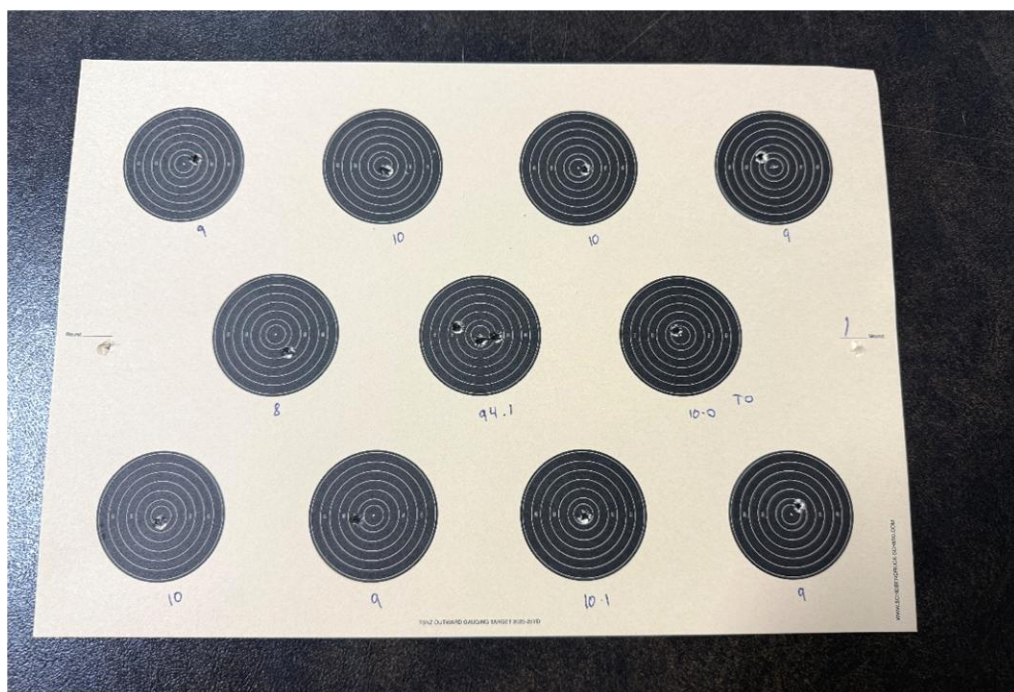
About 20 members, senior and junior, turned out to compete in the annual smallbore shooting competition. Most people shot 2-3 cards and, as always, their first was usually their best!

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

4

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Come along to the Annual Dinner and Prizegiving to see who scored best on the night!



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

5

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

## Committee News and Updates

### FINANCIALS

Balances: \$12,590, Term deposits \$23,624.38. Insurance renewal is underway. No increase in council rates.

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 positive meeting with Masterton District Council (MDC) was held early July. MDC are providing input on signage. Maybe Oct/Nov for the next working bee.

### FUNDRAISING

We have trees on the ground. Firewood working bee dates: two Sundays in September 14 and 28. Venue details to come.

### HUTS & TRACKS

Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) their excellent annual report is available on Facebook.

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

### SEARCH & RESCUE

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

### HALL

Plenty of enquiries regarding hire. Plans being made for fencing the hall area. Derek Williams has secured Fulton Hogan as a sponsor to maintain the parking area once the fencing is done For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:membership@deerstalkers.org.nz). Unpaid members have only one reminder left!

### RANGE & SHOOTING

Branch claybird shoot is Saturday 16 August starting 9am at Gladstone Range. 60 target shoot, BYO ammo: must be fibre wad. \$40 if non-member of Wairarapa Pistol Club, \$25 Wairarapa Pistol Club member.

Branch shooting competition Sunday 21 September starting 9 am at Gladstone Range. Details and rules in next month's newsletter.

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](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com) by 7:30 pm Wednesday 3 September 2025.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – Saturday 11 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](mailto: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!

## **DOC tahr control**

DOC has released updated maps as part of the 2024/25 Tahr Control Operational Plan (TCOP), which now include ground-based control zones. These sit alongside last year's bull sighting data and aerial control activity.

In addition, DOC has made available new information on Aerially-Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH) concessions - showing unit boundaries, date ranges, and downloadable location data.

We encourage all hunters with an interest in tahr management to explore these tools:

- [Tahr Sightings and Control Map](#)
- [AATH Concession Locations](#)

NZDA continues to work behind the scenes to ensure recreational hunters are represented and that data-driven, fair, and sustainable management of the tahr herd remains a priority.



## **NZ Game Animal Council seeks a modern approach to game animal management**

Public consultation on the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill concluded on 24 July 2025.

The Bill seeks to clarify the law, to enable the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to establish a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) in a national park and therefore exempt the herd from extermination or eradication requirements under conservation legislation.

"The NZ Game Animal Council (GAC) would like to thank those who engaged in the consultation process and raised awareness of the opportunity to submit," GAC CEO Corina Jordan says.

"The GAC is a hunter-led statutory body that represents the views of hunters. Showing your support for the Bill also shows your support for the GAC," she says.

Read the full media release and see the GAC's submission on the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill here: [NZ Game Animal Council seeks a modern approach to game animal management | NZ Game Animal Council](#)



### **National Goat Hunting Competition**

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) are proud to announce the return of the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition – a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the environmental and agricultural damage caused by wild goats.

Running from 1 August to 26 November 2025, the competition encourages hunters and landowners across Aotearoa New Zealand to tackle the growing wild goat population.

Wild goats are prolific breeders and pose a serious threat to native biodiversity and farmland. This competition is a practical and rewarding way for communities to contribute to conservation efforts while enjoying the outdoors.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is about more than just hunting—it's about protecting native ecosystems, supporting farmers, and encouraging responsible community involvement.

This year, the competition has the private landowner category open again. Landowners who register can be paired with vetted NZDA hunters and go in the draw to win over \$3,200 worth of prizes from Bushnell and Hunting & Fishing NZ Ltd.

The hunter categories also have great prizes up for grabs, including gear from Hunting & Fishing NZ, thermal monoculars from Nocpix, a tent from M.I.A, binoculars from Bushnell, freeze dried meals from Real Meals, a wild goat hunt with the NZ Hunter crew, and more—there's over \$70,000 worth of prizes, it's a great time to get involved.

"We want to see wild goat hunting become a regular feature in the hunting calendar," says Mike Perry, Wild Animals Manager at DOC.

Thinking of entering this year's comp? Entries are open from 1 August to 26 November. Whether you're hunting on public land or teaming up with a local landowner, you never know where it might take you.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is brought to you by the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association. It is supported by Federated Farmers of NZ, Hunting & Fishing NZ, and Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority.

### [National Wild Goat Hunting Competition](#)

A promotional poster for the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition. The poster has a tan background with an orange border. On the right, there is a silhouette of a wild goat standing on a hill. The text on the left reads: "ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION" in large, bold, black capital letters, followed by "1 August – 26 November" in a slightly smaller font. Below this, it says "To enter, visit [doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](https://doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition)." At the bottom left, there are two logos: the Department of Conservation logo (a green and blue circular emblem) with the text "Department of Conservation" and "Te Papa Atawhai" below it, and the NZDA logo (a black silhouette of a deer head) with the text "NZDA" and "New Zealand Deerstalkers Association" below it.

**ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD  
GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION**

**1 August – 26 November**

To enter, visit [doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](https://doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).

 Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

 **NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



## Proposed closure of Cape Palliser Access to Aorangi Forest Park

As most of you will be aware the South Wairarapa District Council have put out a bylaw to the proposed closure of a paper road, from the Cape Palliser lighthouse around the coast to Stonewall Basin. This road is the main access point to the southern point of the Aorangi Forest Park. This is one of the few access points where you can drive right to the DOC land.

As a hunting community we are not happy with this proposal at all.

Your Committee have planned a 3-stage act on this and we need your help

- At National level the NZDA have put submission forward opposing the closure
- At Local level your committee have put a submission forward on behalf of the Wairarapa NZDA
- We now require as many individual submissions as possible from our club members opposing the proposed closure of the paper road.

We have provided below the SWDC submission form link. This is a very easy and quick form to fill out (will not take more than 10 mins). This needs to be in before the 19 August.

You can fill out the form and email it back or you can print the form, fill it in and post it back to the address on the Submission.

One question on this form is Do you support the Paper Road Access Bylaw 2025? The answer is **no**. Note: you are not submitting on behalf of an organisation - select no for this question

We believe the only way to stop the bylaw is to have as many submissions against the bylaw as possible. 10 min of your time now is needed to provide access for current and future generations.

As a committee we do understand some of the problems the landowners of which the paper road passes through are having, but once a paper is closed it will never be open again. We believe SWDC and the landowners need to work together to see the paper road stay open.

If you care about continued access, please make a submission:

<https://haveyoursay.swdc.govt.nz/paper-road-access-bylaw>



## National Aerial Operations Plan 2026 consultation

OSPRI are now inviting feedback on their 2026 National Aerial Operations Plan for TBfree pest control operations.

The feedback period runs from **1 August 2025 to 30 September 2025**.

The feedback document and details about how to make a submission are available on their website - [OSPRI consultations](#). You can also use the link below.

The plan outlines the proposed aerial 1080 pest control operations in support of the National Pest Management Plan for 2026 and the goal of eradicating bovine TB from New Zealand by 2055.

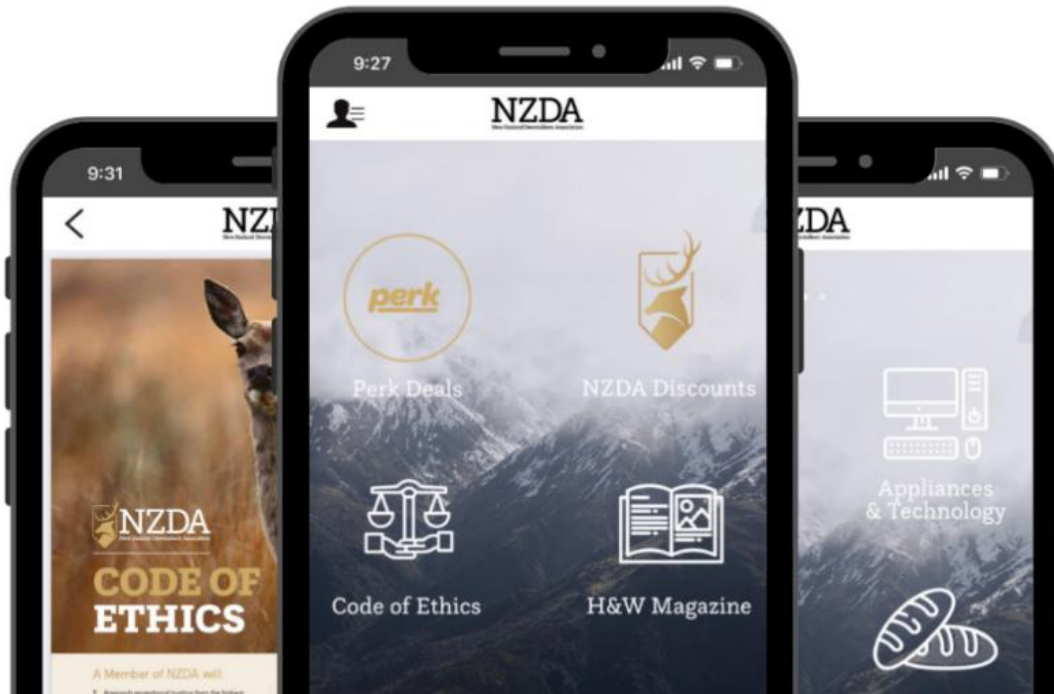
There are a number of ways to make a submission including an online submission form. If you would like to meet to discuss, please contact OSPRI.

You will see in the submission form that they are asking for feedback on the boundaries, timing and nature of the proposed aerial operations. They believe that it is important to undertake effective and timely consultation. This will provide an opportunity for people and organisations interested in, or affected by, our pest control operations including landowners, farmers, hunters and recreational land users to discuss any concerns they may have regarding the proposed operations.

If you have any immediate questions or comments, please contact [consultation@ospri.co.nz](mailto:consultation@ospri.co.nz).

[Download the National Aerial Operations Plan 2026](#)

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

### 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)

- 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.



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**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.