




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

Newsletter for **October 2025**



Photo credit **Shane Dougan** Trophy New Caledonia rusa

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	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

Sat 11 October	2025	Branch annual dinner & prize-giving. 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.
Sun 19 October	2025	Firewood working bee. South Featherston. See details later in newsletter.
Wed 5 November	2025	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall – 7.30 pm
Sun 9 November		Firewood working bee. South Featherston. See details later in newsletter.
Wed 19 November	2025	King & Henry open night. Details to be advised next month.
Sun 30 November	2025	4-wheel motorbike ride and Xmas function. 555 Mangaoaranga Road, Eketahuna. Meet at 10 am with quad or side-by-side for drive round the farm (please make sure you have good tyres and brakes and a helmet!). Followed by barbecue lunch. Meat provided. BYO drinks and salads. If you don't want to go on the ride, turn up from 11 am.
No committee or general meetings in December or January		



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Annual dinner & Prize-giving Saturday 11 October 6 pm Parkvale Hall

About 80 members have confirmed their attendance.

The cost for dinner is:

- Adults \$25 per head
- Under 15 \$10 per head

Pay on the night with cash please.

There will be some great raffle prizes, so please bring along extra cash to buy (lots of) tickets!

Enjoy a scrumptious banquet dinner, share those great hunting stories and congratulate all the prize winners.

At 8 pm, we will convene a (very) short Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for the purpose of adopting a new constitution. A new constitution is required to be registered to ensure compliance with the National Constitution and Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The proposed constitution was distributed by email on 22 September. You do not have to attend the dinner to attend the EGM and can just be present for voting at 8 pm if you wish. You must register your attendance on the night with the Secretary. Voting will be by way of show of hands by Financial Members. Proxies are not permitted.



Vale Joe Wayne Quenten Hansen 7/03/1951 - 13/09/2025

Joe was a longstanding member of the branch and for many years ran our annual head measuring competition. His knowledge of the Aorangi Forest Park from his time working as the Ranger based out of Te Kopi was truly outstanding. In 2024 Joe gave a fantastic presentation to branch members showing a large selection of his slides, photos and stories from his many hunting trips around the country, including his ever-present green towel hanging from the bunk.

A great Totara has fallen in the Aorangi Forest Park. RIP



September general meeting report

About 20 members attended on 17 September to hear **Dawie Breedt**, Business Development Manager, Bene Footwear talk on GRI Sport, Crispi, and Andrews boots. Dawie had a great selection on show and didn't gloat too much about the Springboks result against the ABs on the previous Saturday!



Committee News and Updates

UPCOMING HUNTS

Dates have been secured for **Wanganui fallow trips in December, January, and May**. These will be announced at the dinner with a sign-up sheet available for expressions of interest on the night. If trips aren't full, an email will be sent out around 18 October.

We are also in initial stages of planning a **tahr trip to the west coast for March 2026**. Dates and details to be confirmed next year.

FINANCIALS

Balances: \$11,978, Term deposits \$23,927

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.)

FUNDRAISING

Good attendance at the first two firewood working bees on September 14 and 28 saw about 40 m³ of wood split and sold. There are still plenty of logs left at this site.



There are further working bees scheduled on **19 October and 9 November**. Both will start 8 am, South Featherston access off SH53 before the bridge, 'Farriers' tanker turn-around area (see map over the page). Ringing and splitting. Please bring appropriate protective gear, and a trailer if you want wood.



There is dry gum and kahikatea.

Firewood prices

- \$50 per m³ for members who actively participate in working bee on the day
- \$75 per m³ for members who don't show up (or collect their wood then disappear!)
- \$100 per m³ for non-members

HUTS & TRACKS

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

SEARCH & RESCUE

No incidents reported 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 had a site visit to the hall with Fulton Hogan to view driveway and yard area. For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

DEER PARK

Thanks to the 'maestro' from Valley Plumbing who spent 2.5 days on a digger clearing the extended pens. The new grass has been planted and looks good. Plans are being drawn up to build a storage shed for feed.

The red stag dropped his antlers mid-September. One cast was recovered. The other is missing in action!



MEMBERSHIPS

New applications continue to come in. Please introduce yourselves to new members and make them feel welcome.

RANGE & SHOOTING

The Branch shooting competition was held on Sunday 21 September at Gladstone Range. Only 6 shooters this year – which might be a sign of the times with the price of ammo! Winners will be announced at the Annual Dinner & Prize-giving.

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.



Cape Palliser Paper Road: Vehicle Ban Gets The Nod

Vehicles will soon be banned from accessing a scenic stretch of South Wairarapa coastline for at least two years, but pedestrians and cyclists will still be allowed.

At a bylaw deliberations meeting on Wednesday 24 September, South Wairarapa District councillors agreed to scrap its initial proposal which aimed to ban all access to an unformed legal road in the Cape Palliser area for three years.

Council chief executive Janice Smith said the initial proposal would not have been enforceable and "could have led to legal challenge".

The paper road, which gives public access to a stretch of South Wairarapa coastline, traverses both privately-owned Māori land and Crown land managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

It had historically been used by the public for access to remote coastal areas, including surf breaks and parts of Aorangi Forest Park, but the area had suffered extensive environmental damage due to the misuse of the road to access private land by four-wheel drives, quad bikes, and illegal campers.

At a pre-meeting briefing, Haami Te Whaiti, chair of Ngāti Hinewaka and trustee of some of the affected land blocks, said the bylaw was a critical measure to protect sacred land and would enable the council to meet its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

He said the only acceptable option was to exclude all motorised vehicles.

Deputy mayor Melissa Sadler-Futter said one of the things that struck her during the consultation process, which attracted 3500 submissions, was "the genuine passion and love for the area".

"We are not here because the vast majority of people want to vandalise or disrespect the area," she said.

"They love it, value it, and see it for the incredible piece of nature it is."

She said there were "a few bad eggs", but that most people wanted to find positive pathways forward.

"We need to take action, we need to move forward, and we need to take responsibility for what is ours which is the paper road and address the concerns of our community as well."

Sadler-Futter noted that the bylaw was restricted to access of the paper road only and that permission to access private land would still need to be sought from landowners.

"The privately-owned land and the paper road are two separate things," she said.

"At the moment, we have a merging of those two things because one is not clearly defined from the other."

Councillors voted in favour of immediately surveying and defining the route and erecting signage.

A motion raised by councillor Aidan Ellims to adopt a two-year bylaw that would have allowed access to pedestrians, non-motorised wheeled devices, quad bikes, and side-by-side vehicles failed to win over a majority of councillors.

Instead, a motion to ban all motorised vehicles – except for e-bikes – passed.

Ellims voted against and councillor Alistair Plimmer abstained.

The bylaw would be adopted by the full council at its meeting on October 8.

Councillors also agreed that a stakeholder access group be “invited to consider options for future access and use” of the paper road.

This group would consist of Ngāti Hinewaka, Ngāwi community/ratepayers association, council, the Rural and Coastal Advisory Group, DOC, Outdoor Access Commission, Heritage NZ, and the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association.

The council would also work with DOC “with urgency” to publicise that camping was not permitted at Stonewall Scenic Reserve.

“What we heard repeatedly across a number of submissions is ‘we need vehicle access through this paper road to take our camping equipment to Stonewall because if we can’t, how are we possibly going to carry our camping equipment to this specific location?’” Sadler-Futter said.

“What DOC have been very quiet on is waving a flag that says actually you aren’t meant to camp here.”

Content Sourced from scoop.co.nz

September 25, 2025

Article – Emily Ireland – Local Democracy Reporter– LDR is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air





[National Wild Goat Hunting Competition](#)

Ballot block applications open

A number of ballot block applications are now open:

Fiordland wapiti ballot

Applications close 5pm 11 November

Ballot drawn 22 November

Find out more and apply through the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation website.

Hooker-Landsborough and Adams tahr ballot

Applications close 4pm 31 October

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of the draw by 13 November

Find out more and apply through the DOC website.

Haast roar block ballot

Applications close 4pm Monday 29 September

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of the draw by Monday 13 October 2025

Find out more and apply through the DOC website.

Wānaka roar block

Applications close 4pm Monday 29 September

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of the draw by Monday 13 October 2025

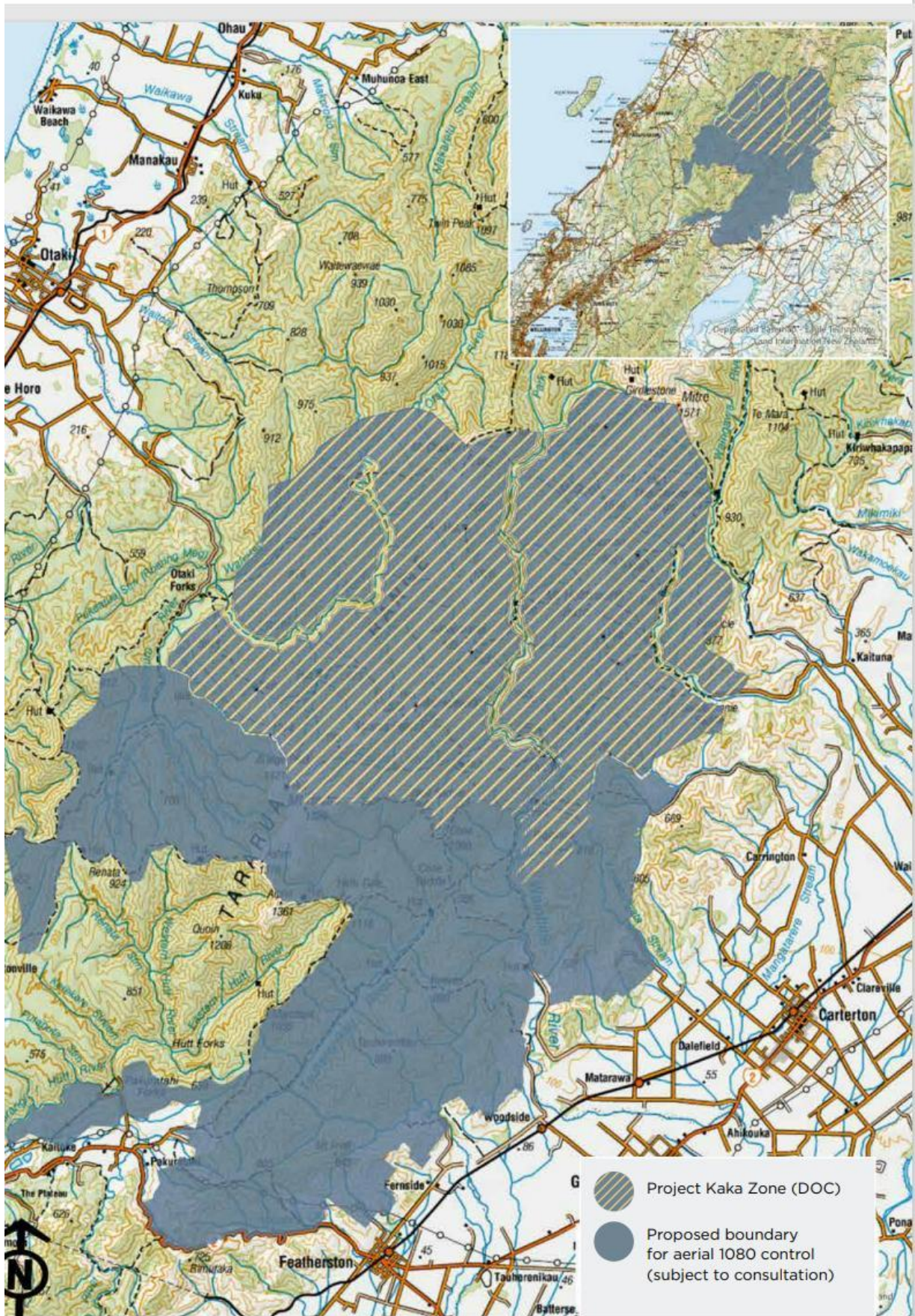
Find out more and apply through the DOC website.

Aerial 1080 Operation – Southern Tararua & Project Kākā Area

There is an upcoming aerial operation planned for the Southern Tararua and Project Kākā area. OSPRI were looking to begin aerial work from the end of September, weather permitting.

Here's a link to the factsheet with more detail:

<https://www.ospri.co.nz/assets/AerialOpsFactsheets/TBfree-Southern-Tararua-Aerial-Factsheet.pdf>



Information about travelling by air with firearms

If you intend travelling with firearms or ammunition on airlines within New Zealand, make sure you plan ahead.

Travelling with firearms or ammunition is always at the airline's discretion.

Airlines have specific rules, and they have the final say on whether firearms and ammunition are permitted on board.

To help people travelling with firearms and ammunition on airlines in New Zealand [we've updated our information](#) about:

- notifying airlines
- packing and securing firearms and ammunition, and
- the documentation needed to travel with them.

Licence holders who are seeking to travel while their licence is progressing through the renewal process will likely need to use the Firearms Licence Checker to confirm to airline staff that your firearms licence remains current while in the renewal process.

Updated Storage and Transportation Guide for 2025

We have made a number of changes to our secure storage and transportation guide for firearms and ammunition. The changes are designed to make the guidance easier to understand, interpret and apply, for both firearms licence holders and our vetters.

Some sections have been strengthened or clarified (such as clarity on the construction of commercially built steel safes and options for ammunition storage), and new sections have been added (such as guidance on where to store keys and using heavy bank safes or shipping containers for firearms storage).

You can read the updated guide in full on our website here: [Storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Firearms Registry reaches milestone

Our monthly Firearms Registry Update shows we have reached a notable milestone. The total number of licence holders who have entered details in the Registry has passed the 100,000 mark.

A sizeable proportion, more than 30 percent of those who have registered, did so proactively without waiting for an activating circumstance.

We acknowledge everyone who has completed the Registry so far and are doing their bit to make it harder for unlicensed people to access firearms.



Are you permit ready?



DOC Ranger checking hunter permits. Credit: DOC.

Over 10,000 hunters across New Zealand are getting behind our upgraded hunting permit system, with strong uptake ahead of the spring season.

The new system makes it easier to apply for permits and understand the rules for hunting on Public Conservation Land (PCL). All hunters on PCL must hold a valid DOC permit and follow the conditions that come with it. These rules are in place to protect hunters, other visitors, and the environment.

This spring, DOC and NZ Police will be carrying out joint compliance checks. You need to be able to show your permit to any warranted officer, DOC staff member, or Police officer.

"This is about education first—helping hunters stay safe and do the right thing," says David Martin, Manager Rural Police.

As checks may be made anywhere on conservation land it's advisable to ensure you can show your permit in areas that have no phone service - so download it to your phone or print it out before heading out.

Using handheld thermal gear? That's permitted during daylight hours — but it must not be attached to your firearm. And remember, hunting at night is not allowed (with or without thermal equipment). These rules are in place to ensure safe and ethical hunting practices. Misuse of thermal equipment can lead to enforcement action.

Also remember:

- Respect huts and other visitors
- Leave no trace
- Hunt safely, ethically, and responsibly
- Identify your target beyond all doubt. If in doubt, don't shoot.

[Check your permit, know the rules](#)

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

- .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/>



Trophy Boil Electric Simmering Pot

The Electric Trophy Head Simmering Pot is built for hunters, taxidermists, and outdoor enthusiasts who want precision and efficiency in preparing skull mounts. With a thermostat-controlled heating system, it eliminates the mess and inconsistency of gas setups. Safe, clean, and energy-efficient, the spacious stainless-steel pot handles a variety of game while protecting delicate bone structures. Upgrade your skull-cleaning process with speed, reliability, and professional-quality results.

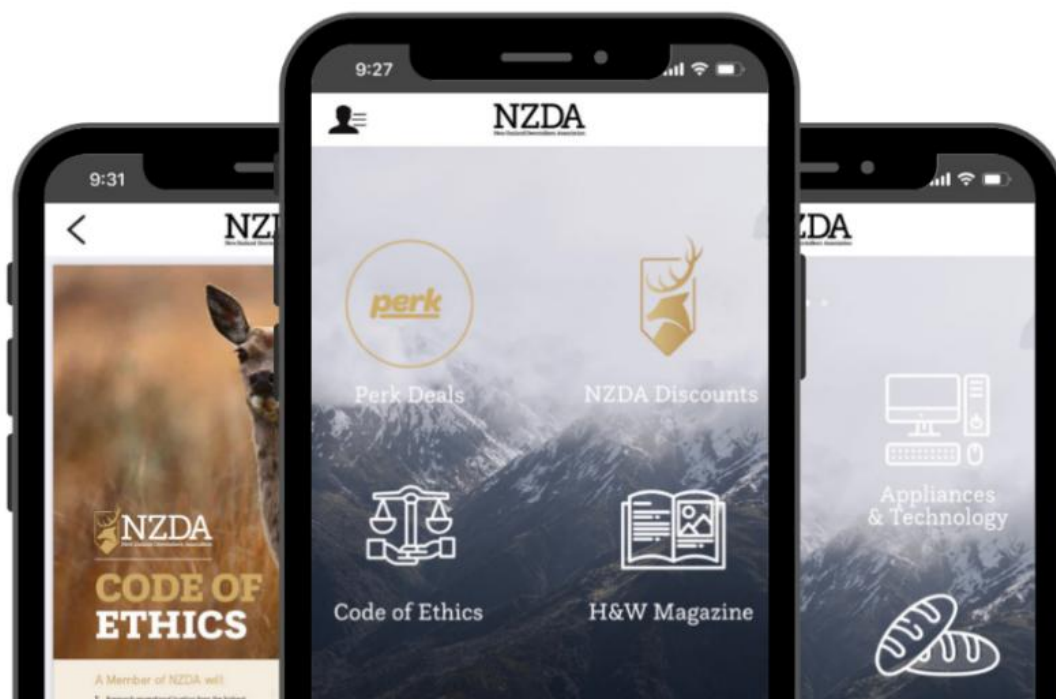
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What you'll find inside:

- 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

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.



**Saturday 1st
November 2025**

2025 TAUPO ANNUAL PRIZE SHOOT

**Over \$5,000 worth of
Prizes to be won!!**

Jack Dillon Memorial
Community Range, 62
Mountain Road, Taupo

*Camping available
on the range.
\$10 per night.*

HUNTING & FISHING Taupo

Centrefire Hunter Class



**Major 1st 2nd and 3rd
Prize Packages!**

**The TOOL SHED Taupo
Graded Competition**



**Prizes in each Grade:
A, B, C & D**

Entry fee - each event:

Senior: \$45 per event

Junior: Under 18 on the day FREE

Family team: \$10 per team

Registrations from 8.30am

Shooters Briefing @ 9.30am.

Shooting starts immediately
following briefing.

Spot Prize for Hunter Class



\$1,000 Value!

Arken EPL-4 4-16x44
FFP Illuminated
Reticle With Zero
Stop 30mm MOA
Plus scope rings.



**Winner needs to be at the prize giving to qualify for
the draw, if not present a re-draw will take place
until a winner is found.*

**Graded Junior Shooter & Family
Team Shoot Sponsor**



HUNTING & FISHING Taupo Hunter class

Non Graded

Centrefire .222 up to 8mm max.

Scopes set @ Max 9 power

2 point sling allowed

Four positions

5 shots in each position

No sighters

No target shooting

clothing or aids allowed

The TOOL SHED Taupo Graded Competition

Graded 100 Metre

Graded A, B, C & D

Centrefire or Rimfire

Unlimited sighters

Four Positions

20 scoring shots in total

All Target clothing & aids

allowed within rules

HAMILLS Taupo Family Team Shoot!!

A Rimfire Team shoot.

A Family competition for
teams of two.

One parent and one junior
to shoot as a family team.

10 shots each with .22's on
the 50 metre range.

The team with the highest
aggregate will win!

enquiries to: Kath 021 035 4455 or Alan 027 600 6519 or Margaret 027 622 6893



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tow-bar, mud mats and tray liner.



Tickets on sale until the 27th October 2025 or until sold out.
More information can be found at www.deerstakers.org.nz