



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

Newsletter for November 2025



Photo credit **Richard O'Driscoll** Aoraki sunset. Judge's Choice Award 2025 photo competition

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	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
	Murry Clark	
	Pete Cunningham	021 190 9468
	Philip Gray	027 474 0717
	Richard O'Driscoll	021 141 1472
	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 2025 to September 2026 – 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

Sun 9 November		Firewood working bee. Masterton Deer Park starting 8 am. See details later in newsletter.
Wed 19 November	2025	King & Henry open night. 35 Queen Street, Masterton. Starting 6 pm . A rep from Swazi will be in store with some great deals on offer. Some food provided thanks to our friends at Subway!
Sun 30 November	2025	4-wheel motorbike ride and Xmas function. 555 Mangaoranga 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.
6–7 December	2025	Wanganui hunt. Full.
No committee or general meetings in December or January		
24–25 January	2025	Wanganui hunt. Full.
Wed 4 February	2026	First committee meeting of 2026. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Sun 15 February	2026	Firewood working bee. Likely in South Featherston.



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Annual dinner & Prize-giving 11 October

As always, a great night with about 80 people attending. Thanks to the committee, sponsors and caterers. Photos by Morag and Richard O'Driscoll.



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

4

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction



During the dinner, we carried out a very short (4 minute!) Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to adopt our new constitution. There were 45 financial members in attendance, exceeding the quorum of 10. The Resolution was passed in favour. No votes against. Work has now started to re-register the branch. Once the Constitution is registered it will take effect. Thanks to Sean for all his work in putting this together.

Antler, Horn & Tusk Winners

Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
 Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup)
 Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield)

no award
David McKay
David McKay



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 Sheild)
 Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)

Henry Gardiner
 no award
Clair Hodgins
Bradley Riggs
Willey Roseingrave



Willey & family with fallow, sika, & red trophies

Best head other species
 Best fallow Warren Family Trophy)
 Best trophy head by a woman
 Best trophy head 'under 20'
 Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

John Bissell
Shane Dougan
Clair Hodgins
Henry Gardiner
John Bissell



John Bissell's impressive 13" tahr

Joe Hansen award for best presented head

Hamish Graham

Congratulations to **Bradley Riggs** who was also awarded the trophy for best drawn pig tusks at the NZDA National AHT competition

Best newsletter story (\$50)
 Hard luck billy

Steve Wagner
Lloyd Rayner

Photo Competition Winners

We had 40 entries this year across the 4 categories. Entries were judged by Kylie Alexander (Laughing Owl Photography, Greytown)

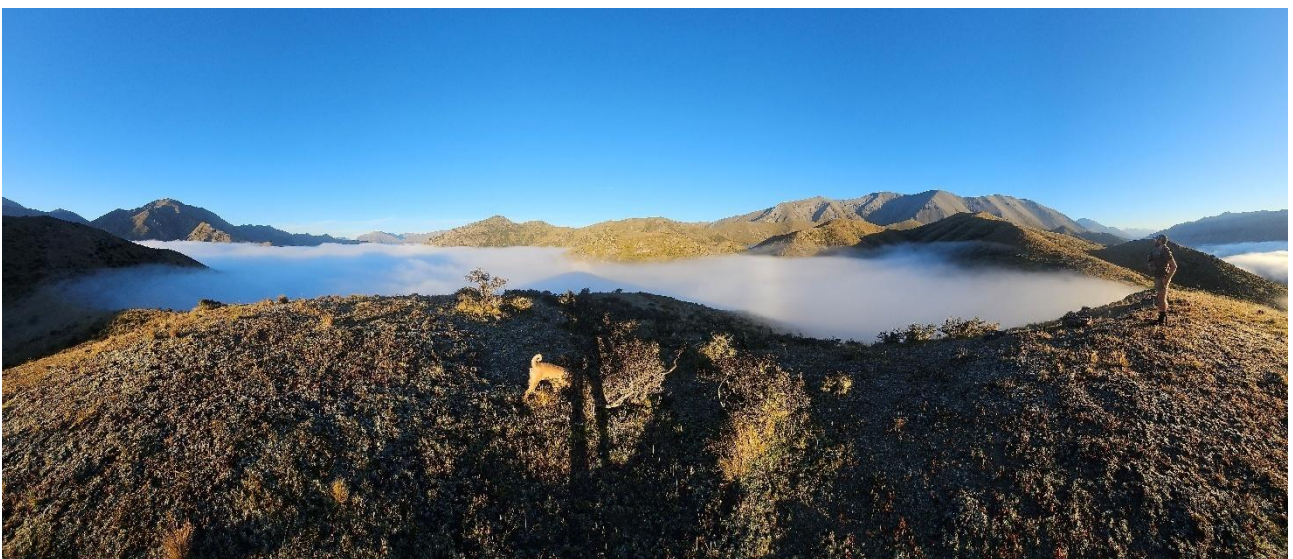
Best Game Animal: Richard O'Driscoll "Fallow spiker"

The judge said "Lovely light, composition and simple game capture in the wild"



Best Scenic: Geoff Lindsay "Morning fog"

The judge said "Beautiful panoramic scenery shot capturing morning fog before the hunting team head out"



Best Junior: No entries

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

7

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Best Other Wildlife: Morag O'Driscoll "Daytime ruru"

The judge said "Amazing capture of our native bird chilling in the bush during daylight"



Best Other: Geoff Lindsay "Heading out"

The judge said "Fantastic view for a hunter to experience doing what he loves"



Judges Choice: Richard O'Driscoll "Aoraki sunset"

The judge said "Stunning sunset light of magical NZ scenery"

SEE COVER PHOTO

Shooting Competitions

Senior Centrefire	Quality Builders Cup	Alex Beesley
Senior Rimfire	Smallbore Cup	Derrick Foley
Open aggregate	Neilson Cup	Alex Beesley
Women's aggregate	Cup	Alex Beesley
Military	Brass shell	Alex Beesley
Senior F class	Trophy	Derrick Foley
Varmint	Trophy	Alex Beesley
Junior Rimfire	Hunting & Fishing Cup	Callum Dennes
Junior Swazi 1st	Swazi sponsored clothing	Liam Dennes
Junior Swazi 2nd	Swazi sponsored clothing	Callum Dennes
Junior Swazi 3rd	Swazi sponsored clothing	Henry Gardner
Junior F class	Shield	Callum Dennes
Indoor Senior	Cunningham trophy	Richard O'Driscoll
Indoor Junior	Spooner trophy	Liam Dennes
Claybird	Graeme Hamilton Memorial Trophy	Greg Hamilton



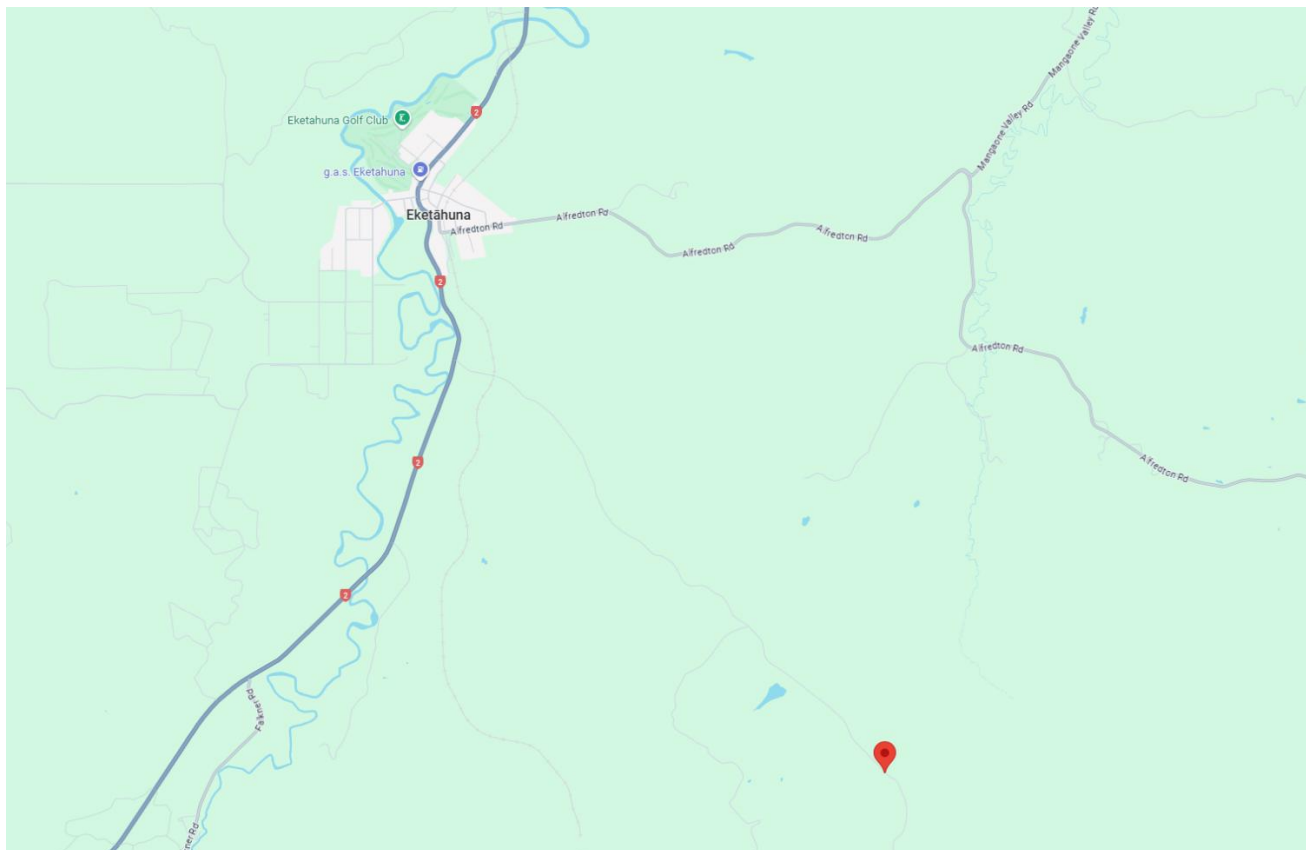
King & Henry Open Night Wednesday 19 November

35 Queen Street, Masterton. **Starting 6 pm.** A rep from Swazi will be in store with some great deals on offer. Some food provided thanks to our friends at Subway!



Branch Christmas Function & Quad Ride Sunday 30 November

555 Mangaoranga Road, Eketahuna (see map below). 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.



Committee News and Updates

UPCOMING HUNTS

Dates have been secured for **Wanganui fallow trips in December, January, and May**. These were announced at the dinner with a follow-up email sent on 17 October. All three trips are now full.

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: \$13,435, Term deposits \$23,928.

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

We held another working bee at South Featherston on 19 October with 11 keen members braving the gale-force nor'west winds and morning rain with about 20 m³ of wood split and sold. Thanks to Mark Wellington for photos.



There another working bee scheduled on **Sunday 9 November starting 8 am**. This will be at **Masterton Deer Park** (not South Featherston as advertised last month) as we need to deal with the big oak tree in the pen filled by the recent winds. Please bring appropriate protective gear, and a trailer if you want wood.



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

One call out to Putara road end where overdue party was already back at car park. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

Plenty of enquiries regarding hire. Karate club have become a regular user. For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

DEER PARK

Posts and wire have been purchased for the pen extensions. Note the working bee on Sunday 9 November to remove the fallen oak tree.

MEMBERSHIPS

Committee has set the membership fees for 2026/27 to be the same as those for 2025/26.

It is now a **legal requirement to keep the membership register updated**. If you move house, change your email address, or contact phone number, you must let us know. We will then let NZDA National Office know on your behalf

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 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.



[National Wild Goat Hunting Competition](#)

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 **mid-October**, 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>

2025-2026 RPCP Tinui and Langdale Possum Control Operation – Cyanide Use

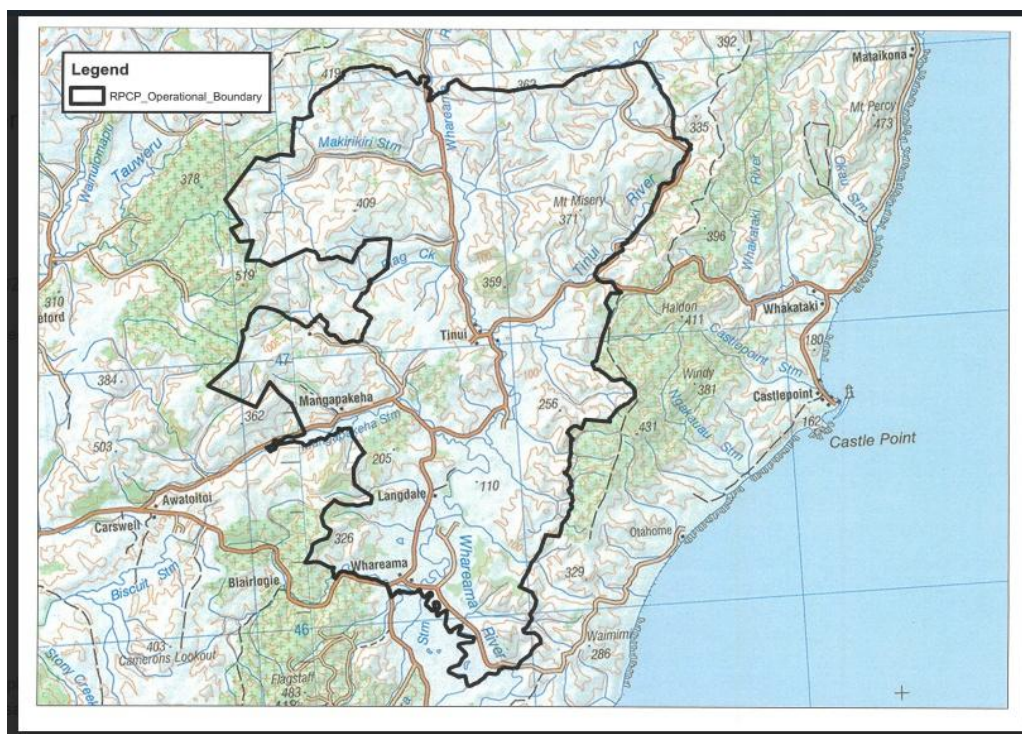
I wish to notify you about the proposed use of cyanide (Feratox) poison for a possum control operation which is being undertaken within our RPCP Possum Control Operational areas.

This operation is part of Greater Wellington's Regional Possum Predator Control Programme (RPCP) 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 22,198 hectares and is located approximately 10 km west of Masterton. Please see the map on next page for the boundary details. If you own or manage a property within this operational area, our staff will contact you to discuss and agree upon control methods before any possum control activity commences on the property. They will also keep you informed of progress as the operation proceeds.

The main methods of control proposed for the area includes the use of:

- Brodifacoum 50p in bait stations
- o Treatment area 22,198 hectares
- Encapsulated cyanide (Feratox) pellets in bait-stations or biodegradable blue bait-bags. Cyanide pellets are pea size, dyed green and mixed with prefeed bait.
- o The cyanide treatment area consists of five separated RPCP areas covering a total area of 22,198 hectares.
- o The use of cyanide baits will commence from October 2025 onwards, and I am expecting the work to be completed June 2026.



Member content

Branch member **Philip Fletcher** was recently in British Columbia, Canada and had some fishing success. Thanks for the pictures Philip!



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/>

- DOC200 TRAP BOXES with stainless steel mechanisms.
Made from H4-treated timber. These traps are for rats, hedgehogs and stoats. \$85.00 including GST. Contact predatorfreemasterton@waip2k.org.nz to place your order.
- T-REX RAT TRAP
The T-Rex trap is an easy-to-use option for a backyard rat trap. It fits in the wooden tunnel to keep the trap away from curious pets and children (note: wooden tunnel not included). It is made from high-impact plastic and rust-resistant metals. The T-Rex is easier to set and rebait than other traps and meets the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee testing guidelines for rats. \$10.00 including GST each. Contact predatorfreemasterton@waip2k.org.nz to place your order.



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.

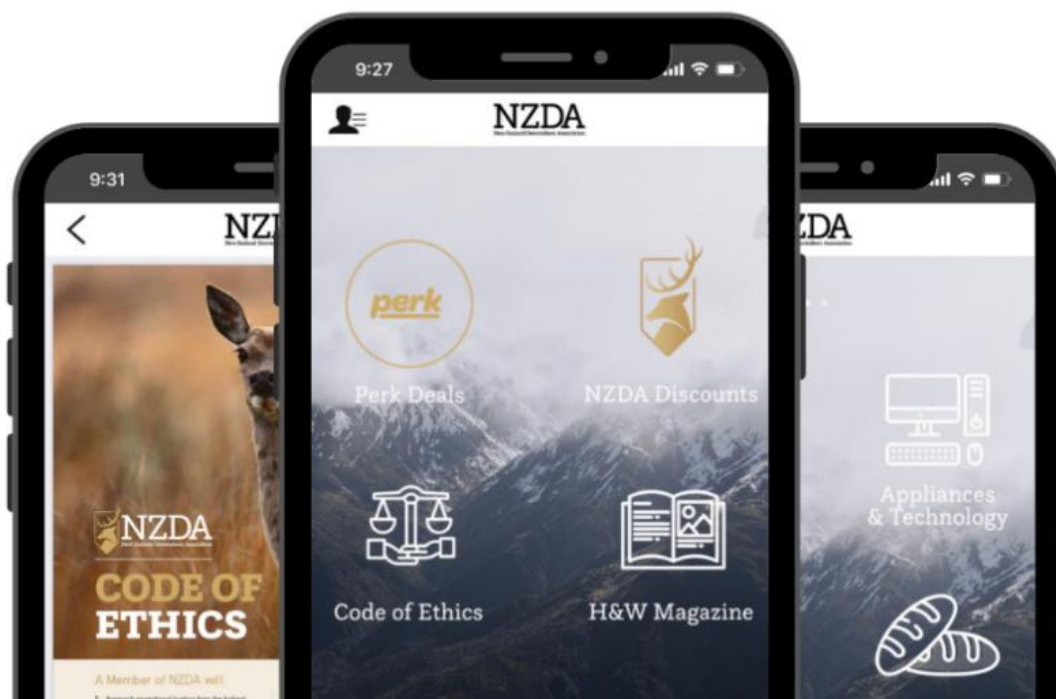
Trophy Boil

Trophy Boil is Designed and Made in NZ

Website: www.trophyboil.co.nz

Email: admin@trophyboil.co.nz

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

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.