



Wairarapa

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **December 2025**

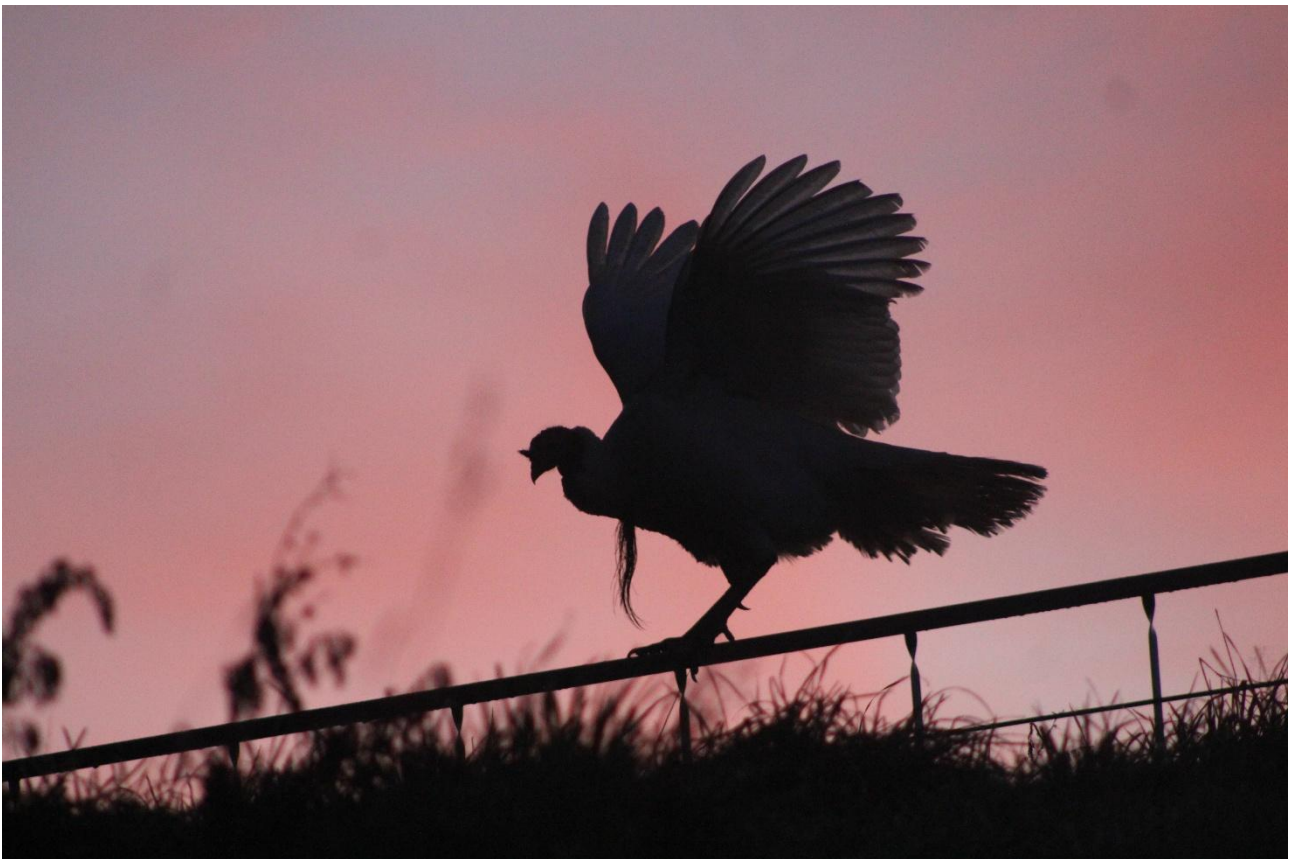



Photo credit **Clair Hodgins** Fenceline turkey – seemed appropriate with Xmas coming up!

Contacts

President	Andrew Dennes	andrewdennes71@gmail.com
Vice President	Gary Warren	027 282 1112
Secretary	Liz Nicholson	027 224 2556 or 06-379 5108
Treasurer	Sean Roberts	021 822 802
Committee	Aidan Bichan	027 432 3410
	Alex Beesley	
	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
	Derek Williams	027 656 8897
	Derrick Foley	027 231 4846
	Lloyd Rayner	027 608 0325
	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
	Andrew Dennes	022 323 6993 please use this number for bookings and enquiries
Parkvale Hall Booking		
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

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.
Wed 18 February	2026	First general meeting of 2026. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.



Rebecca O'Neale
Travel Expert/Passionate Traveller

Mobile: +64 21 447 960
Email: becs@xtravel.co.nz
Website: www.xtravel.co.nz

Approved Travel Broker for Travel Managers Group



FOLEY FIRE WORKS
Solid Fuel and Pellet Fire Installations
Flue Cleaning, Maintenance, Repairs

Derrick Foley
Reg. Fire Installer


Mobile: 027 231 4846
Email: foleyfireworks@gmail.com



QUALITY BUILDERS 2005 LTD

Shane Lehmstedt

P. 06 370 1905 M. 027 229 7225 e. shane@qb05.nz www.qb05.nz



Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND



KING & HENRY
FISHING • SHOOTING • LOCKSMITHS

Est 1873





Grant Langlands

Langlands Honda Motorcycles Ltd
11 Chapel Street, Masterton 5810
Phone: (06) 378 8444 Fax: (06) 378 9874
Mobile: (027) 4420 204
Email: langlands@honda-motorcycles.com
Website: www.honda-motorcycles.com

BavariaNZ
HANDCRAFTED GERMAN SMALLGOODS



Deer park working bee 9 November

Oak tree. What oak tree? Thanks to skills of Dave Bashford with his chainsaw and a merry band of helpers, the fallen oak in the deer park was converted to firewood. Photos by Aidan Bichan.



King & Henry Open Night 19 November

Thanks to Willie and his team for hosting our last general meeting of the year. About 30 people filled the store in Queen Street. Josh from Swazi gave a presentation with some sharp deals and giveaways. And a great spread was provided thanks to our friends at Subway!





Motorbike ride and Christmas BBQ 30 November

Our final club meeting for 2025 was a quad ride and Christmas barbeque held on Lloyd Rayner's run-off, just outside Eketahanua on Sunday. The weather played ball and about 25 members attended with most joining the convoy for a ride round the property. Rounded off by sausages, steak and paua fritters on the BBQ. Thanks to Lloyd and Kerri-Ann for hosting,



Committee News and Updates

UPCOMING HUNTS

Wanganui fallow trips in December, January, and May are all full and Andrew Wilkinson has been in touch with participants. Good luck to those on the December hunt this coming weekend.

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

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

The first firewood working bee of 2026 will be on **15 February**, likely at South Featherston.

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

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

See earlier in newsletter for details on the working bee.

MEMBERSHIPS

As noted last month, 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 disappointment 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.

Major changes to firearms law announced

The Government has announced the repeal and replacement of the Arms Act, the legislation at the heart of New Zealand's firearms laws.

This is a significant development for everyone in the hunting community.

The new Act is intended to create a law that is more fit-for-purpose, and that improves public safety by keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals while making compliance easier for responsible licensed firearms owners.

Hunters need reasonable access to firearms to participate safely and responsibly in their sport. The same is true for those undertaking game animal management, farming, food gathering and pest control – firearms are an essential tool that enables them to effectively manage animals, protect livelihoods, and support conservation outcomes.

There are a number of areas where significant changes are proposed, including around storage flexibility, a new 'red flag' system, updated penalties and new offences, endorsement extensions for pest controllers and a new firearms regulator separated from Police. A number of these represent very meaningful changes for hunters and others who participate in the safe and lawful recreational or professional use of firearms.

The Minister's statement and an explanation of the proposals are available here: [Fairer, fit-for-purpose Arms Act to improve public safety | Beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/statement/minister-justice-fairer-fit-for-purpose-arms-act-to-improve-public-safety)

What happens next?

The detail now needs to be drafted into legislation. Once drafted, this legislation will be introduced to Parliament. After its first reading, the Bill will go to a select committee. This is when the public gets to have its say, with the Government committing to a full select committee process and consultation.

That select committee process will be the key opportunity for hunters and firearm users to provide feedback on specific aspects of the draft legislation and help shape the final law.



Branch student member Peter O'Driscoll in the Canterbury high country

Licensing demand creating delays

Licence applications have risen sharply, and processing times are longer than usual. This surge stems from the introduction of the 10-year licence. Many were issued around the same time, meaning large numbers are now expiring together.

In 2023/24 we issued 19,672 licences. Last year that rose to 25,119, a 27% increase. This year demand is tracking toward 30,000-35,000 applications. While our team is working hard, current resourcing cannot fully absorb this volume without affecting timeframes.

We are exploring ways to smooth out these high-demand peaks in the system. In the meantime, applying early helps both you and us. If you apply for your renewal prior to the expiry date, you can continue to possess and use firearms and ammunition legally, irrespective of how long the renewal process takes.

Retailers can use our online ['licence checker'](#) tool to confirm the current status of your firearms licence so you can continue to purchase firearms or ammunition.

Additionally, applications submitted before a licence expires cost \$126.50 and remain valid for 10 years, while expired-licence applications cost \$241.50 and are valid for five.

If you have already applied, please remain patient - we'll contact you as your application progresses. For queries, email your local regional firearms office (details are on our website under [regional firearms office](#))



Aerial 1080 Operation – Southern Tararua & Project Kākā Area

The planned aerial pest control operations in Southern Tararua/Project Kaka area have been delayed until the beginning of **February 2026**.

For information you can check the OSPRI websites:

<https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/aerial-operations/>

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

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

Trophy Boil is Designed and Made in NZ

Website: www.trophyboil.co.nz

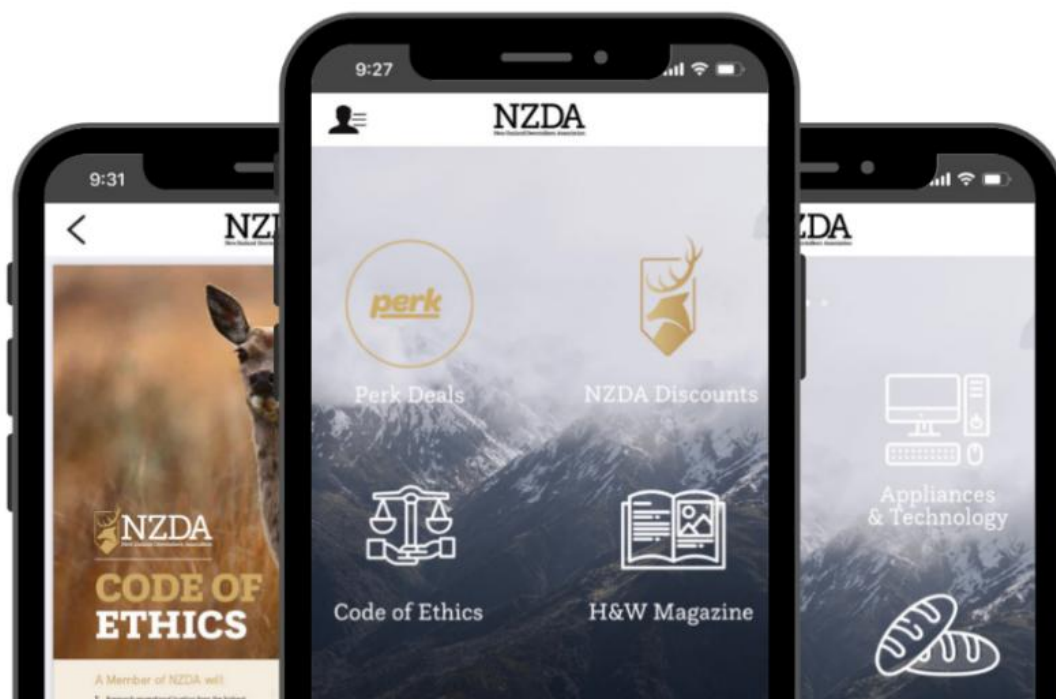
Email: admin@trophyboil.co.nz

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.



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

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.