



Wairarapa

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **May 2026**




Photo credit **Richard O'Driscoll** Stonewall Stream

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Contacts

President	Lloyd Rayner	027 608 0325
Vice President	Gary Warren	027 282 1112
Secretary	Liz Nicholson	027 224 2556
Treasurer	Sean Roberts	021 822 802
Deer Park	Aidan Bichan	027 432 3410
Range Officer	Alex Beesley	
	Dave Bashford	027 459 5477
	Derek Williams	027 656 8897
Range & Shooting	Derrick Foley	027 231 4846
Parkvale Hall Booking	Andrew Dennes	andrewdennes71@gmail.com 022 323 6993 please use this number for bookings and enquiries
LandSAR	Luke Johnson	027 630 7640
	Murry Clark	
	Pete Cunningham	021 190 9468
Deer Park	Philip Gray	027 474 0717
Newsletter	Richard O'Driscoll	021 141 1472
	Shane Dougan	027 247 4484
	Mark Wellington	027 770 0065
Memberships	Liz Warren	027 304 9689
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

15-17 May	2026	Wanganui meat hunt. Full.
Wed 20 May	2026	General meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Video of Lloyd's wild adventures in Africa .
Wed 3 Jun	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Wed 17 Jun	2026	General meeting in conjunction with Aorangi Restoration Trust. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Wildlife biologist Cam Speedy talking about deer management. Open to public and followed by supper. More details next month.
Wed 3 Jul	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Jul	2026	Indoor small-bore shooting night. Masterton Miniature Rifle Club. Date and time to be confirmed.



General Meeting Wednesday 20 May 2026

Come along and see a video of the 2025 adventures of our new President, Lloyd Rayner & Keri-Ann and Vice-President Gary Warren & Liz in South Africa. Should be a good watch. Followed by supper.



Committee News and Updates

UPCOMING HUNTS

The Wanganui trip next weekend **is full**. Report next month.

FINANCIALS

Current balance \$16,039 with \$24,487 in term deposits.

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.)

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

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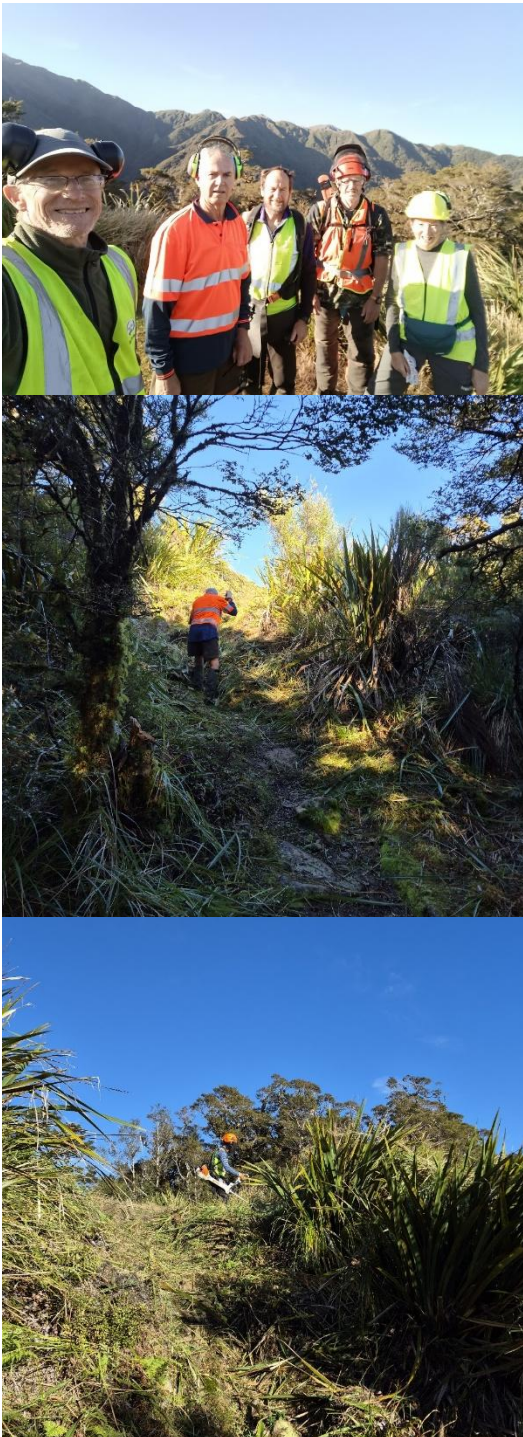
ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

The committee will apply for grants for Deer Park pen extensions and installation of water filtration and septic systems at Parkvale Hall.

HUTS & TRACKS

The Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) www.gwbn.org.nz have been incredibly busy with over 500 km of tracks cut over summer. In the last two months this includes Yeats Track, South Ohau Hut, Te Matawai Hut, Smith Creek, Tauherinikau Gorge, Waiohine Pinnacles, and Mangaterere roadend in Tararuas and Mukamuka Stream and Papatahi Crossing in Remutakas.

Thanks to Liz Nicholson and Aidan Bichan for photos below.



Mike Thrupp represents the branch at GWBN meetings. Hamish Graham represents us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust.

SEARCH & RESCUE

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

HALL

Bookings are steady and committee will set up a fortnightly cleaning roster.

For hall bookings call 022 323 6993 or email wairarapanzda@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIPS

National Office have emailed **invoices for 2026/27. Please pay your subscription as soon as invoice received** to keep up your membership benefits (insurance, eligibility for entry to competitions etc).

If you have not received an invoice please email wairarapanzda@gmail.com and we will arrange for one to be sent. If you no longer wish to be a member, please also let us know. We were soon go through and remove non-financial members from our distribution lists

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.

FUNDRAISING

Next firewood working bee will be in spring.

DEER PARK

Further de-stocking will occur before winter.

Mark Wellington sent the following report and photos:

A few things I did this week with my grandson.

1. The shed has been tidied up, half of the plastic wrap from the balage has been removed.
2. Four wasp nests have been squashed..... No survivors.
3. The resident possum has also been evicted..... also not a survivor.
4. The dividing gate in the lane has a chain on it now and the piece of wire has been removed.
5. Hooks to hold a wool sack have been put up so the plastic wrap can be collected for recycling.
6. The Pora Pora tree has been cut down behind the shed. To be dumped later.
7. Sharp netting has been taken off the strainer into the Fallow pen.
8. Roof flashing has been screwed back on.
9. The rubbish has been dumped.



Call for Nominations National Board Vacancies: Lower North Island Representative

NZDA National Secretary is seeking nominations from suitably qualified members who are interested in contributing to the future direction of the Association and to stand in the election to ensure the traditions of recreational hunting and the rights of recreation hunters and shooters in New Zealand are protected, advanced and advocated for in the best interests of sportsmen and sportswoman.

In accordance with Rule 14.4 of the NZDA National Constitution, nominations are now being called for election at our 78th National Conference and AGM in Lower Hutt.

The positions vacant on NZDA National Board are as follows:

North Island Officer “Lower North Island Representative”
South Island Officer “Lower South Island Representative”

Nominations must:

- Be made in writing - or use the form located under ‘Conference Business Papers’
- Include the consent of the nominee

- Confirm that the nominee is eligible to serve as an officer under the Incorporated Societies Act and Arms Act, with the officer consent form (IS22-CCO) from the Incorporated Societies Office having been completed
- Be received by the National Secretary no later than 24 June 2026.

Please note that in accordance with Rule 14.2 of the Constitution, any member seeking nomination to the NZDA Board must satisfy all eligibility criteria, including having held (or previously held) the position of Branch President, Branch Vice-President, Branch Secretary, or Branch Treasurer for a period of not less than 12 months.

Any member may nominate another member, provided the nominee has agreed to stand. If you wish to nominate yourself or another branch member please contact wairarapanzda@gmail.com for nomination form.

Good hunters check twice

A hunter who died in the bush near Dannevirke was shot at close range by a member of another hunting party who mistook him for an animal, a police officer says.

Research from the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council shows that most big game shooting incidents happen within the same hunting group. In around 80 percent of incidents, the shooter and victim were members of the same hunting group. These incidents often occur when groups split up, lose contact with each other, or when someone moves into another hunter's area.

In most cases, the distance between the shooter and the victim was less than 75 metres. This highlights how important clear identification is before taking a shot.

Hunters can help reduce risk by using binoculars to scan the area and positively identify their target, rather than using a rifle's optical sight. Visit our website to read more about hunter safety and shared responsibilities in the outdoors.

[Hunter safety | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Firearms Safety Education with Wairarapa College

Our Firearm Safety Team recently worked with senior students at Wairarapa College to deliver a firearms safety course. The session focused on awareness, responsibility, and making safe decisions when possessing or using a firearm. These conversations help young people understand their legal

responsibilities and the wider impact of their choices on whānau and community. Completing this course is a required step in applying for a New Zealand Firearms Licence. We value working alongside schools supporting learning early and promoting a culture of safety. The students engaged well, asked thoughtful questions, and showed a strong commitment to learning. Mahi pai to Wairarapa College and its students for supporting safe, informed futures.

To find out about our schools programme, visit [Whakatūpato and Schools Based Firearms Safety Courses](#).



Surrendering your firearms licence - updated process

If you no longer need or want your firearms licence, you can now surrender it more easily.

The [Firearms Licence Surrender Form](#) is available on our website under "[Disposal of firearms and arms items](#)". You do not need to call to obtain a form.

Before surrendering your licence, please make sure any registered firearms or other arms items are lawfully transferred or disposed of. Surrendering your licence does not automatically remove items from the Registry.

To surrender your licence, please:

- Complete the [Firearms Licence Surrender form](#)
- Cut up your firearms licence card
- Then either:
 - Email the completed form and a photo of your cut-up card to firearms.NST@police.govt.nz, or
 - Take the form and cut-up card to your local Police station.

Providing both the completed form and evidence of your cut-up licence card helps ensure your licence surrender is processed promptly.

Arms Bill Update from COLFO

Last week, Minister Nicole McKee published an [update on the Arms Bill](#), stating that over 8,300 submissions had been received and were being considered by the committee. We must extend our thanks to every licensed firearm owner who took the time to make a submission and voice their concerns where it counts.

Nicole said it best:

"After the last few years, I know it's been easy to feel cynical about these processes. But this time your engagement is making a real difference. I'm confident we'll be able to secure some good, practical improvements to the Bill."

That being said, it is disappointing that after years of work and thousands of complaints in Facebook comment threads and in club rooms around the country, fewer than 4% of licensed firearm owners spoke up. It highlights the importance of professional organisations like COLFO when it comes to advocating for the majority of licensed firearm owners. The COLFO Guide and Generator tool contributed over 6,300 total submissions; without those initiatives, it is not unreasonable to say the future of our sports could be dictated by anti-gun lobby groups.

Of course, there is one more place that licensed firearm owners can have their say in the future of our firearm laws, and that is the voting booth in November. COLFO will be doing our part to ask all political parties about their stances so you can make an informed decision.

Cheers,
Hugh Devereux-Mack

Poison notifications: Tararuas

Rentokil Initial (trading as EcoFX), on behalf of Ospri were undertaking the **toxic component** of the **Southern Tararua - Eastern Side** aerial operation on **Monday 23rd March 2026**. This operation is part of the TB Free programme to protect local farms from tuberculosis infection.

The non-toxic component for Project Kaka and the Waiohine Phase aerial operations will take place on **Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th May 2026** (weather permitting).

Please see the maps below. The Project Kaka application area is shaded green. The Waiohine phase, shaded blue, is the remaining portion to be treated within the Southern Tararua application area.

Helicopters will be sowing **toxic cereal pellet bait**, along predetermined flight paths, controlled by GPS. **Pesticide to be used: Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080)**. The toxic cereal pellet bait has been dyed green in colour.

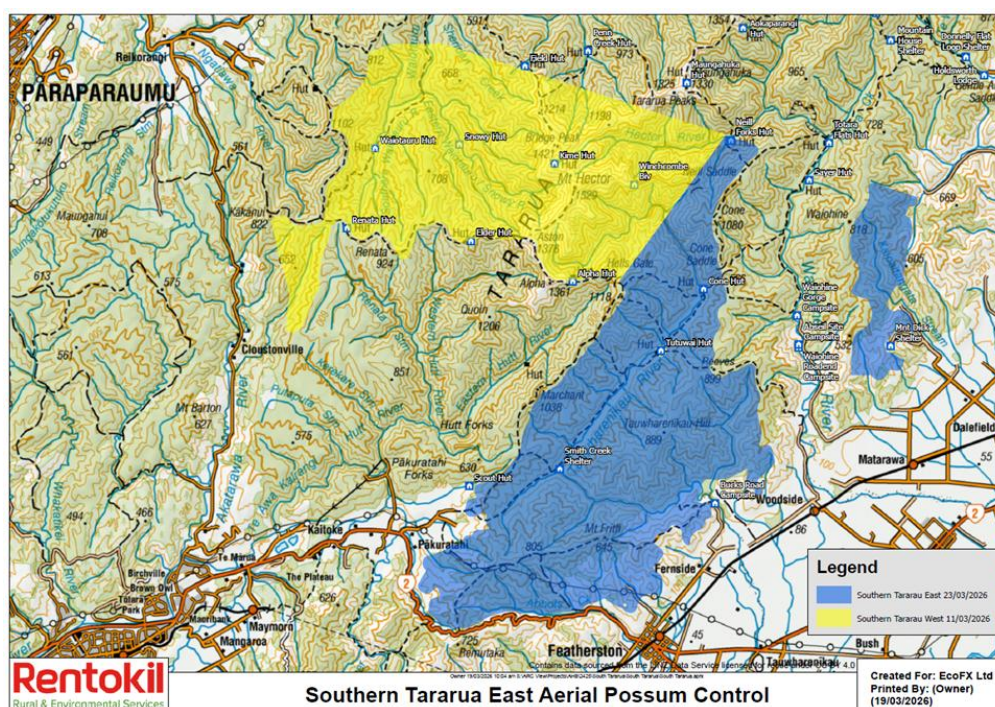
Warning signs will be put in place. A reminder to please check for signage if you are in the area. And;

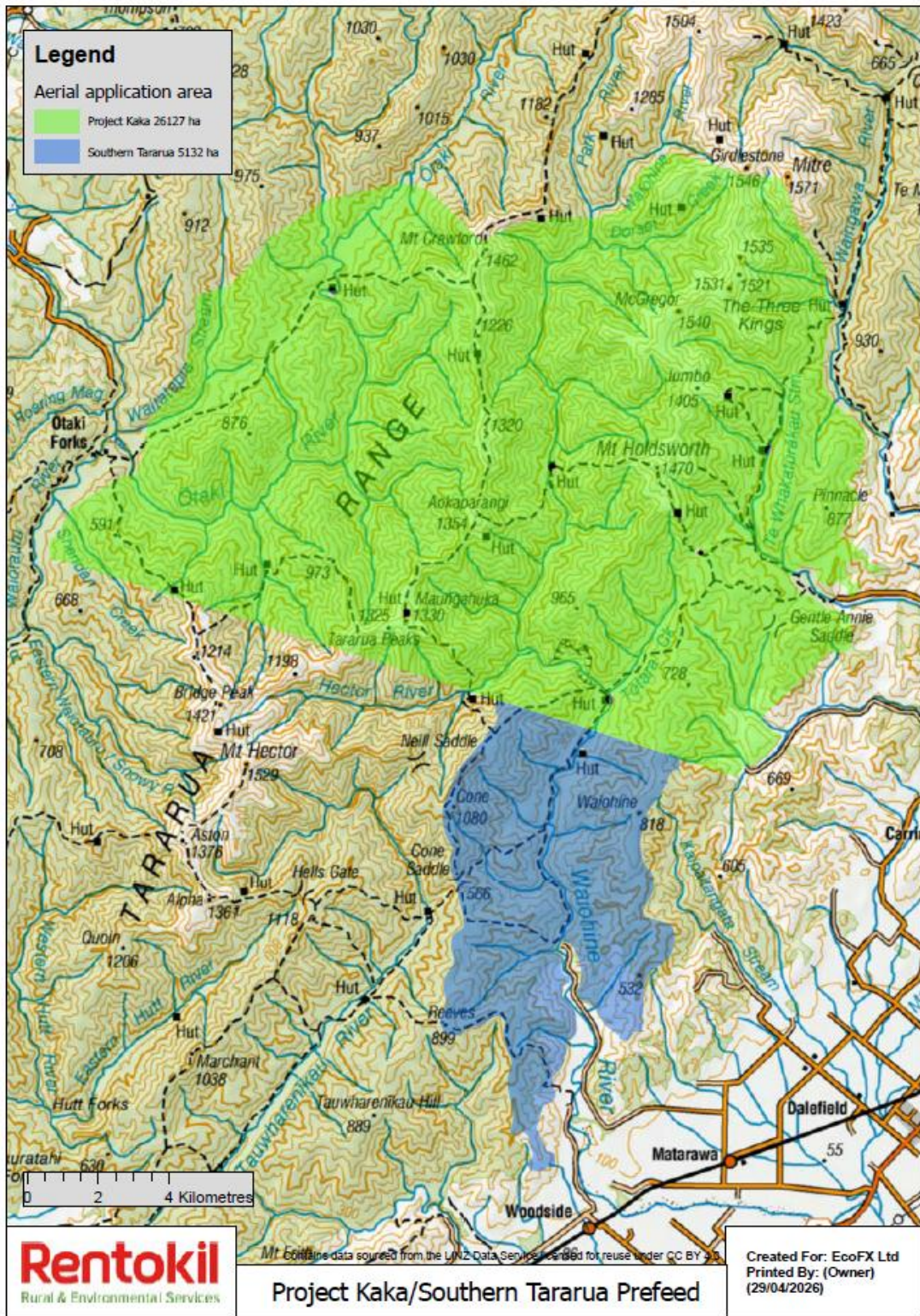
- **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait
- **WATCH** children at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The standard buffer zone is 2km for deer and pigs, 200m for rabbits, and 1km for possums.
- Poison bait or carcasses are **DEADLY to DOGS**

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. The presence of warning signs indicates pesticide residues may be present in baits or animals. Risks will exist until signage is taken down. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals, and dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080 until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes approximately four to eight months, but can be longer, and depends on monitoring results.

When signs are removed, this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you would like any further information about the planned operation, please contact Ian Cutler on 021 134 2674, or ecofx-office-nz@rentokil-initial.com. The factsheet can be found on the Ospri website: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/aerial-operations>. With further information about 1080, including the safety data sheet on our website: <https://rentokilruralenvironmental.co.nz/1080-information-safety-datasheet/>





Roar photos

Stories have been a bit slow coming through, but a few pictures have popped up on our closed Facebook page.

Images below from Will Kells of his Tararua stag and Peter O'Driscoll of a young South Canterbury stag that he passed up.

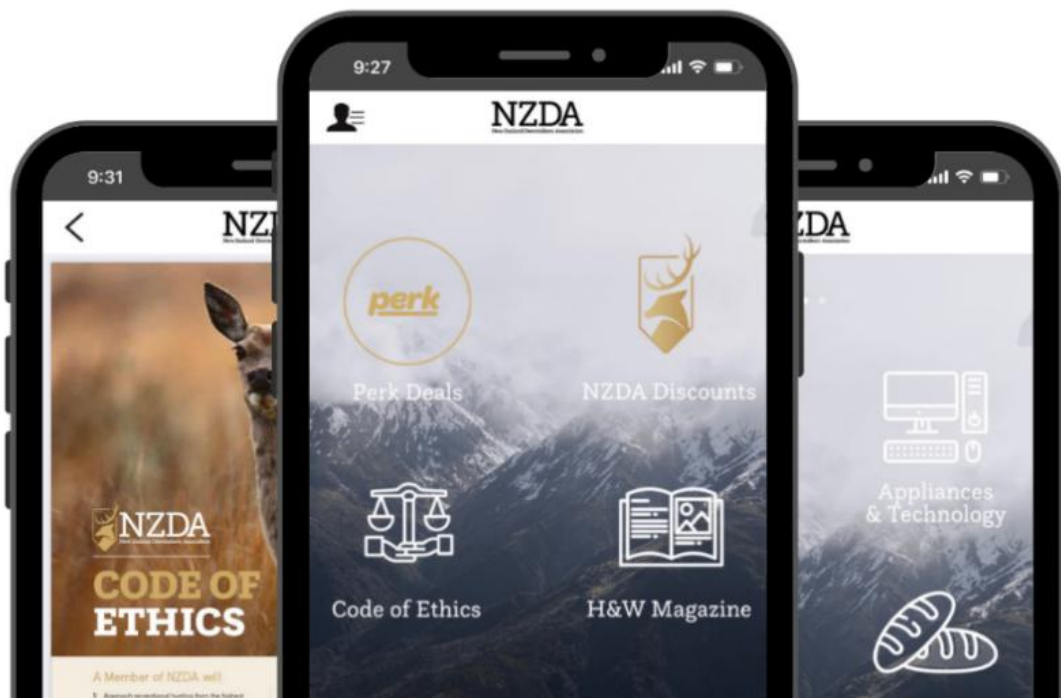


Buy, Sell, and Swap

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

- **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/>

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.