



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **June 2026**



Photo credit **Murray Hey** Jason Huggins after a successful hunt

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

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 the public and followed by supper. See next page.
Wed 1 Jul	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Fri 3 Jul	2026	Entries close for National competitions 5 pm (see details later in newsletter)
Mid-Jul (date TBC)	2026	Indoor small-bore shooting night. Masterton Miniature Rifle Club. Date and time to be confirmed.
24–26 July	2026	78 th National Conference, Lower Hutt Events Centre & Town Hall
Wed 5 Aug	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Wed 19 Aug	2026	Open night. Hunting & Fishing Masterton. Starting 6:30 pm.
Wed 2 Sep	2026	Entries close for Branch AHT & Photo competitions (entry form back of newsletter) 7:30 pm
Wed 2 Sep	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Wed 16 Sep	2026	General meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed.
25–27 Sep	2026	Hunting competition (see flyer in newsletter)
Sat 17 Oct	2026	Hold the date for Annual dinner & prize-giving





Next General Meeting Wednesday 17 June 2026

Cam Speedy in conjunction with Aorangi Restoration Trust and Wairarapa NZDA will be presenting at our June meeting. Cam is a Wildlife Biologist, hunter and has over 40 years working with native and introduced wildlife. He is involved with the Wapiti and Sika foundations and will be presenting on how we can help manage our herds to improve the quality of our animals and at the same time helping protecting our bush in which they live.



Cam Speedy (image from Predator Free NZ)

Previous General Meeting Wednesday 20 May 2026

About 30 members attended and enjoyed videos of the 2025 adventures of our new President, Lloyd Rayner & Keri-Ann and Vice-President Gary Warren & Liz in South Africa. Some great shooting on display by Keri-Ann!

Wanganui hunt 15-17 May 2026

Fourteen of our members took part in the latest of our popular club meat hunts. A total of 39 deer were shot, including first-ever deer for new member Michael and 10-year-old Jacob. Foggy conditions until 11 am on Saturday morning were a challenge. Turns out the deer didn't like the low visibility either and stayed in the bush. But good animal numbers Saturday afternoon, and on a fine, frosty Sunday morning, meant everybody had multiple chances.

Thanks as always to Andrew Wilkinson for organising these trips. Photos on next page by Richard O'Driscoll.



Food bank donation

Our Branch made another donation of over 100 kg of venison mince to the Masterton foodbank. Hunters helping the community! Special thanks to Jake at Homegrown Butchery and Pantry for doing the mincing.



Committee News and Updates

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.)

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 continued to be busy with recent track-cutting work around Cow Creek and Mitre Flats huts in the Tararuas and on the Aorangi crossing. This adds to the 500 km of tracks already cut over summer!

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

SEARCH & RESCUE

Recent training exercises in the Tararuas and doing urban search. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

Bookings are steady. Committee has set up a fortnightly cleaning roster.

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

MEMBERSHIPS

We have just gone through and removed non-financial members for 2026/27 from our distribution lists.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND COMPETITIONS

Whether it's a hard-earned trophy, a standout hunting photo, a story from the hills, or time spent on the range, the National Competitions are about recognising the skill, experiences and passion that exist across our hunting community.

Below are the competition entry forms which are all due, together with payment of fees, by 5pm, Friday 3 July 2026.

- [Antler, Horn and Tusk](#)
- [Literary](#)
- [Photographic and Film](#)
- [Young Deerstalker of the Year](#)

Note: Trophies and entries must be taken by a financial member between 1 June 2025 and 31 May 2026.

This year, they're also giving every eligible entrant the chance to win our biggest spot prize yet. Thanks to MIA Gear, one lucky entrant will take home a:

- Westlander II Combo
- V2 Woodstove
- Westlander II Tub Floor

Gary Warren & Luke Johnson will be Branch representatives at National Conference in Lower Hutt 24-26 July.

Rules and competition entry forms for Wairarapa Branch AHT & Photo competitions are later in this newsletter.

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.

DEER PARK

Red and fallow numbers have been reduced before winter with excess animals relocated or sold.

The dark house yard has been cleaned out. And the shed had a clean out and now stores baleage and deer nuts.

Thanks to Mark Wellington, we are now live for "Operation Nuts", which allows members of the public to buy feed for the deer. There is a sign at the Rad Pad coffee cart and another at the park. Thanks also to Sharpes Farm Feeds for their support.

Buying nuts is seamless and just included in your eftpos transaction. In rough numbers, we are turning a \$23 sack of nuts into \$200 before a few costs. That's an impressive profit margin. Let's see how fast they sell! And how fat the deer get!



NUTS FOR SALE TO FEED THE DEER ARE AVAILABLE AT RAD PAD COFFEE CART. \$5 PER BAG.

The coffee cart is a short 5 minute walk across the Waipoua River swingbridge.



Open 7.45 ~ 5 Mon-Fri & 9 ~ 5 Sat/Sun

Find out more about the Deerpark



NUTS SOURCED FROM



FUNDRAISING

Next firewood working bee will be in spring.

The Branch is arranging a hunting competition in September. See the flyer below and put it on your calendars. Sponsored by ColdAir Helicopters.



The flyer is for the Wairarapa NZDA Game Animal Management Hunting Competition. It features a blue header with the NZDA logo (a shield with a deer head) and the text 'Wairarapa NZDA New Zealand Deerstalkers Association'. The main title 'GAME ANIMAL MANAGEMENT HUNTING COMPETITION' is in large, bold, yellow letters. Below this, the dates 'September 25th – 27th' are in yellow, and a yellow box contains 'Open Hunter \$20'. The competition rules state '1 Animal = 1 Entry' for Deer (Red hind - Fallow Hind), Pig (Sow, Goat, Nannies), and a Junior Category (Free entry per adult paid entry, 1 Animal = 1 Entry) for Possum, Hare, and Rabbit. A key logo for 'KING & HENRY' is on the left. A 'Hunting & Fishing NEW ZEALAND' logo is on the right. A note states 'Any unwanted Deer/Pigs and Goats supplied will be processed and donated to local food banks'. The bottom features the 'COLD AIR HELICOPTERS' logo with a helicopter illustration. The background is a scenic image of a mountain landscape with various game animals (deer, pig, rabbit, possum) overlaid.

Wairarapa NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

**GAME ANIMAL
MANAGEMENT HUNTING
COMPETITION**

September 25th – 27th

Open Hunter \$20

1 Animal = 1 Entry
Deer
Red hind - Fallow Hind
Pig
Sow
Goat
Nannies

Junior Category : Free entry per adult paid entry
1 Animal = 1 Entry
Possum 1st : 2nd
Hare 1st : 2nd
Rabbit 1st : 2nd

Any unwanted Deer/Pigs and Goats supplied will be processed and donated to local food banks

Proudly sponsored by ColdAir Helicopters

COLD AIR HELICOPTERS

WAIRARAPA BRANCH AHT & PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Closing date for entries for annual Branch competitions is 7:30 pm on Wednesday 2 September 2026. Entries can be dropped off at the General Meeting at Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing on 19 August 2026 or before the committee meeting at Parkvale Hall from 7 pm on 2 September 2026.

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 Sheild)
- 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 2025 to 31 August 2026.
- Entry forms and AH&T Trophies (heads) to be dropped off at Parkvale Hall by 7:30 pm Wednesday 2 September 2026.
- Photographs to be emailed to Richard O'Driscoll at wairarapanzda@gmail.com by 7:30 pm Wednesday 2 September 2026.
- Branch Prize-Giving – presentation of Awards & Certificates – Saturday 17 October 2026 (to be confirmed).

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 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. 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!

Guidance for events: firearms and prizes

The use of firearms or ammunition as prizes are regulated by the Department of Internal Affairs under the Gambling Act. These arms items can be awarded as a prize in firearms related events that are based on the skill demonstrated by the competitors, such as target shooting and hunting competitions.

Competitions where winning a prize is based on 'luck of the draw' are restricted by the Gambling Act 2003. Under the Gambling (Prohibited Property) Regulations 2005 Regulation 4, firearms or ammunition and vouchers for either item are prohibited prizes. Gambling includes raffles and spot prizes associated with entry to a main competition.

More information is available on our website under [Competitions and prizes | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Regulation on firearms as prizes is set by the Department of Internal Affairs. Resources include rules for running a gambling activity and <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Gambling>.



Only pay your application fee once

Some licence holders are accidentally paying their licence or endorsement application fees twice. This happens when licence holders pay the fee at the Post Shop and then go on to complete their licence renewal or endorsement renewal and pay again online.

There is no need to go the Post Shop to pay the fee and get a receipt if you plan to complete your application online (the best way). When you apply online, you'll need to pay the fee at the end of the application to complete the process.

So, if you've paid at the Post Shop and then go to apply online, you'll have to pay a second time to complete the application. You should only pay once! Apply online and pay online.

COLFO Welcomes Budget Funding for Firearms Regulator and Fee Stability

The Council of Licensed Firearms Owners (COLFO) has welcomed the Government's announcement of \$44.9 million in Budget 2026 funding to implement the new Arms Act, and help ensure firearms licence fees remain affordable and accessible.

COLFO is particularly pleased that licensed firearm owners will not face fee increases for at least the next two years. This provides essential time for the new independent regulator to establish its services before owners are asked to pay for them.

"We appreciate the Minister's clear statement that people should not be priced out of licensing, and thank her for all the work she does on behalf of licensed firearm owners" said Hugh Devereux-Mack, COLFO's Spokesperson.

"This funding is important not only for public safety reasons, but also because recreational hunters make a valuable contribution to maintaining and preserving New Zealand's natural environment through wild game management. It is good to see this value being acknowledged by the Government."

COLFO notes that this funding comes at a critical time, as New Zealand has yet to see the rollout of new national training initiatives needed to reverse the ongoing decline in licensed firearm owners — a trend that should itself be treated as a public safety concern.

"We also urge the new regulator to prioritise improvements to renewal processing times," said Devereux-Mack.

Hunting in low light: staying safe after dark

Winter means it gets dark earlier, and hunting at night comes with added risk. A significant number of shooting fatalities and injuries have occurred when hunting at night. Remember you cannot hunt during the hours of darkness on Department of Conservation land and only on private land with the landowner's permission.

- It can be more difficult to identify your target at night; be absolutely certain of the target every time, whether using a spotlight, thermal imager or night vision
- Be aware of anything between you and your target, and beyond it
- Never fire when companions are ahead of you, especially if you have lost sight of them
- Before you shoot, ask yourself: "what could happen if I miss my target?"
- Never shoot at something on the skyline

It is important to remember the maximum range of your firearm's projectile does not change at night, but your ability to assess what may be in your firing zone does.



Southern Tararua (East & West) Post Operation Notification

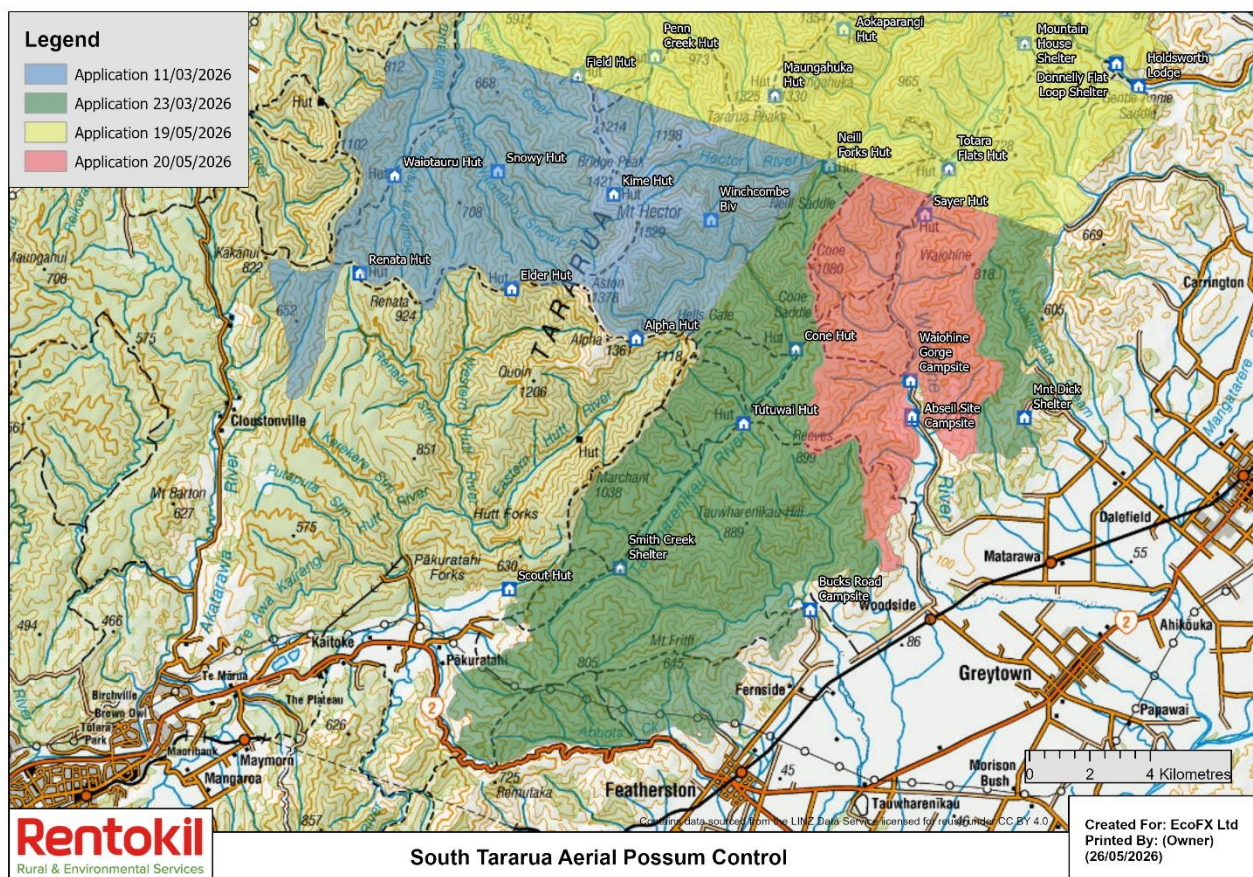
The aerial pest control operation for Southern Tararua was successfully undertaken on the 11th March 2026 for the Western side, and the 23rd March 2026 for the Eastern side, as shown in the map below. (The blue area is the West application, and the green area is the East application).

Pesticide used: Sodium Fluoroacetate Cereal Pellets (1080).

Bait Toxicity: We can confirm that bait is now non-toxic in the East & West application areas (shaded blue and green in the map attached).

Caution Period: Bait is non-toxic; however, **the caution period is still in place**. Please take a precautionary approach. While signage is in place, risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- **DO NOT** touch bait or carcasses.
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times.
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area.
- Carcasses are **DEADLY TO DOGS**.



Chamois-Tahr Trip

By Lloyd Rayner

Time for another South Island hunting trip, been awhile since I've been down the West Coast. Advertised in the Wairarapa NZDA newsletter to see how was interesting in coming, Dave was keen as always. The usual couple meetings beforehand to come up with a bit of a plan, going over maps came up with a couple of options and then decided to go to my favourite stumbling ground up the Whataroa River. Weather report heading in didn't look too good, decided to go anyway, as it panned out, we didn't have too bad weather other than a bit of clag.

Day one - Chopper in from Fox Glacier, just a bit of glassing around camp, short walk up the valley saw a couple of Chamois nothing shot, got back to camp glassing the hills behind camp and noticed three trampers coming in (f***** cyclists of the hills!) had a bit of a chat with them when they got down to camp, they had come up from the Whataroa river to stay the night and they were heading back out the opposite side the next day.

Day two decided to go for a walk up the top beautiful day, as we were about halfway up we were watching the three trampers walk up the opposite side, we looked at each other and thought they were bloody idiots (as we found out when we came out four days later they sat at the top of the hill in the clag for two days until the chopper could pick them up). When we got to the top the clag came in couldn't see more than 20 yards, back down to camp.

Day three - Another walk up the valley managed to get Dave a nanny Chamois with bad horn rot and I shot the young yearling that was with it, cooked some up for tea that night actually very good eating even though it was that fresh.



Day four we went for a walk down the valley up the other side chasing a couple of tahr we had seen from camp but by the time we got over there there was no sign of them and couldn't find anything else and then the weather came back in again back to camp again.

Day five lazy day just glassing from the mound behind camp managed to spot a tahr so decided to have a crack at it, sounded like a good hit and ran like it was hit, about an hour and a half to get up to where it was and we couldn't find any sign of it, heading back towards camp spooked a Chamois at 30 yards and managed a quick shot at about 50 yards turned out to be quite a big buck with a very bad horn rot and in very good condition a lot of fat on it.

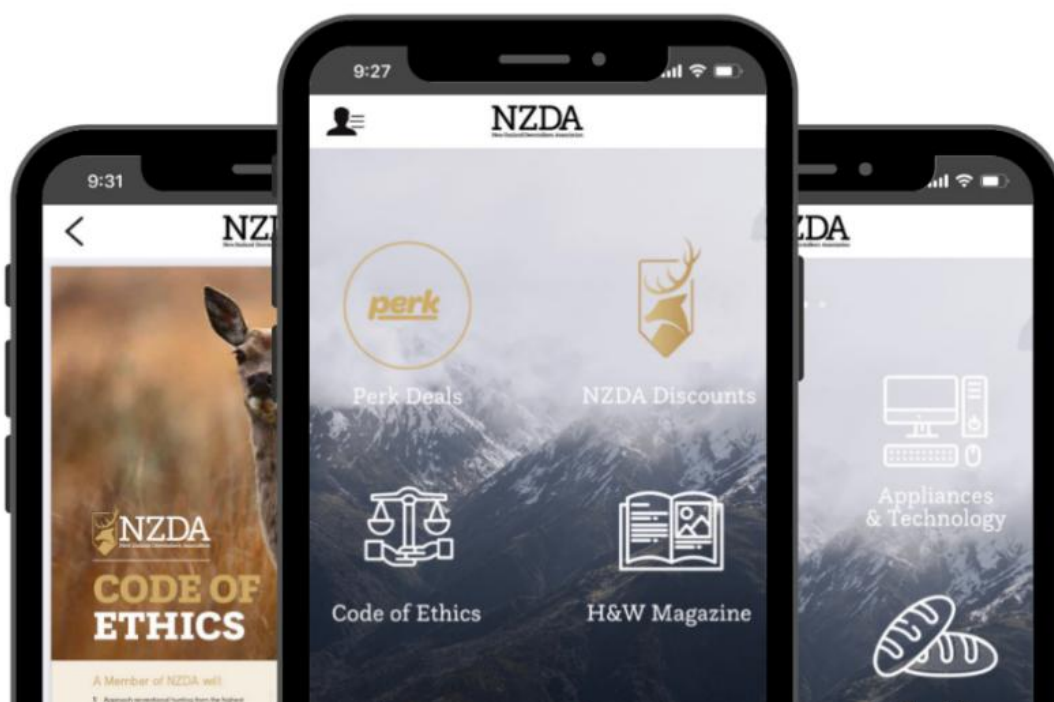
Last day packing up wait for chopper to come in. Very enjoyable trip great company, looking forward to the next one, thanks for the company, Dave much appreciated.

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.



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.