



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

Newsletter for September 2026



Photo credit **Peter O'Driscoll** Evening kea

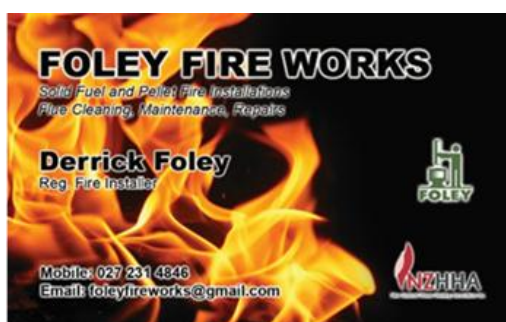
Contacts

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	027 438 2048
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

Sat 5 Sep	2026	Clay shoot. Gladstone range starting 9 am. Cost \$40 for non WPSSC members, \$25 for WPSSC members. 60 target shoot. IMPORTANT: You must provide own ammo and it must be fibre wad. Ear and eye protection must be worn.
Wed 16 Sep	2026	General meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker Dave Morris talking about his leopard hunt. Sign up for 2026/27 Wanganui hunts.
Sun 20 Sep	2026	Annual shooting competition. Gladstone range starting 8:30 am. Rules and details later in newsletter.
25–27 Sep	2026	Hunting competition (see flyer in newsletter)
Wed 7 Oct	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Sat 17 Oct	2026	Annual dinner & prize-giving Parkvale Hall 6 pm. Further details & pricing later in newsletter
Wed 4 Nov	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Sun 8 Nov	2026	4WD fundraiser. 30 volunteers required. See details later in newsletter.
Wed 18 Nov	2026	Open night. King & Henry Masterton. Rep from Spika and NocPix will be there.
Sun 22 Nov	2026	Firewood working bee starting 8 am. Details in October newsletter.





General meeting Wednesday 19 August Masterton Hunting & Fishing

Good turnout with the rep from Beretta showing off the impressive Burris range of scopes and some sharp bargains on offer. Pulled venison burgers and sausages were available so nobody went hungry.

Last year it was Liz N, this year it was Sharon Playle having the luck with the spot prizes. Thanks to the team at Masterton Hunting & Fishing, the sponsors, and Gary Warren for organising this.



September general meeting and Wanganui fallow hunts

This month's meeting is Wednesday 16 September starting at the usual time of 7:30 pm in Parkvale Hall.

We have a great local speaker **Dave Morris**, talking about a recent leopard hunt.

We will also announce dates for four upcoming **Wanganui fallow meat hunts**. To encourage members to turn up at the meeting, sign-up sheets will be available on the night to register your interest in these hunts. If they don't fill up on the night, all members will be notified later by email. But to get your name down early for these popular hunts, please turn up on the 16th!



Will filling the freezer on a 2025 fallow hunt [Photo by Richard O'Driscoll]

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00. You can also pay your entry to the Annual Dinner to this account – use your surname as Reference and 'Dinner' as the Code. (This is not the account for payment of memberships – which go direct to National Office.)

We were successful in getting **\$7,500 from Carterton District Council Community Grants** to help put a fence round the hall and stop the sort of damage shown in last month's newsletter.



HUTS & TRACKS

The Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) www.gwbn.org.nz track cutting team are having a break after a very busy and productive summer and autumn.

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

SEARCH & RESCUE

First Aid training was held at Parkvale Hall 22-23 August. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

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

As noted above, we were successful in getting a \$7,500 grant to help fence hall and carpark.

MEMBERSHIPS

We had four new members introduce themselves at Hunting and Fishing open night.

DEER PARK

The animals are still sorting out the new pecking order and the new red spiker is taking a hiding. Watch him get his own back next year!

We have purchased materials for fencing of the new pens, using the grant of \$2,500 from Masterton Trust Lands Trust.

Note that the bridge over the Waipoua River will be closed over next few weeks so you'll need to visit the deer from the hospital/sports-bowl side.

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.

Branch clay target shoot Saturday 5 September

Gladstone range starting 9 am. Cost \$40 for non WPSSC members, \$25 for WPSSC members. 60 target shoot. IMPORTANT: You must provide own ammo and it has to be fibre wad. Ear and eye protection must be worn.

Annual shooting competition Sunday 20 September

Gladstone range starting 8:30 am. Rules next page.

Sunday 20 September 2026
Annual Club Shoot Competition

Gladstone range – 8:30 am (shooting starts 9 am sharp)

Centrefire, Rimfire, F-class, Military
New class: Varmint .17 HMR, .22 magnum through to .221 Remington

Junior prizes – come along and have a go

We have a lot of events to shoot in a limited time so please listen to range staff and help with setting up, packing up etc. All shooters to bring own ammunition.

Match 1. Junior(under 18 years of age) Rimfire

50yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 2. Senior Rimfire

50yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 3. Varmint rifle(.17 to .221 Rem)

100yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

Match 4. Centrefire(for larger calibres above .221 up to 8mm)

100yds, 20 rounds. 5 shots prone, 5 shots sitting, 5 shots kneeling, 5 shots standing.

PLEASE NOTE MATCHES 1-4

- Are to be shot unsupported, no slings, bipods, rests etc
- Scopes are to be set not exceeding 6x power.
- Sporting stock configuration only.
- No special target clothing, gloves, jackets etc.
- No heavy or target barrels.

Match 5. Junior F Class

100yds, 10 rounds. Up to 8mm, max score 110. Any aids; bipods, slings, rests, barrel/stock configurations allowed.

Match 6. Senior F Class

100yds, 10 rounds. Up to 8mm, max score 110. Any aids; bipods, slings, rests, barrel/stock configurations allowed.

Match 7. Military

100yds, 10 rounds. For iron sighted(no Parker Hale target sights), bolt action military rifles of military origin(may be sporterised but not restocked with sporting stocks) and must be of military calibre ie, 6.5x55, .303, 8mm etc.

Branch trophies will be competed for in the following categories:

Junior Rimfire, Senior Rimfire, Centrefire, Varmint, Open Aggregate, Women's Aggregate, F Class Junior, F Class Senior, Military.

Range Rules will be read out to you on the day but I would like to remind all:

- All shooters and spectators must abide by WPSSC range rules.
- All children are to have a parent/guardian supervise them at all times.
- All visitors to sign the range book on arrival.
- Hearing and eye protection to be worn while on the range.
- Chamber flags are now mandatory on the range(will be available on the day).

FUNDRAISING

4WD marshalling Sunday 8 November

We require 30 volunteers to help with a 4WD event in Ahiauru Road (near Stonehenge). Starting 8 am with the club providing lunch for volunteers. This is a fun day and we are a great earner for the branch. Email wairarapanzda@gmail.com to put your name on the mailing list. **We still need more volunteers so please sign up!**



Next firewood working bee will be Sunday 22 November. Details in October newsletter.

Annual Dinner & Prize-giving Saturday 17 October 2026

Planning is well underway for this year's event. The menu will feature wild pork, venison, ham, lamb, and chicken with potatoes, various salads and tasty dessert treats.

Costs this year are **\$30 per adult with children under 15 costing \$15**. You can pay by internet banking beforehand or on the night to 03-0687-0022096-00 – use your surname as Reference and 'Dinner' as the Code. Or by cash or eftpos at the door.

We'll be running an "It's in the Bag" style raffle this year with tickets \$2 each so please bring cash to buy heaps of tickets. Each ticket has a chance at some great (& not so great) prizes!



Hunting competition 25-27 September

See details next two pages. **Entries close 5 pm on 24th September.**



Wairarapa

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

GAME ANIMAL MANAGEMENT HUNTING COMPETITION



September 25th – 27th

Open to all Hunters \$20

Scan QR code to
enter and T&C's

1 Animal = 1 Entry

Deer

Red hind – Fallow doe

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

Lots of prizes

Up for grabs

Cold Air Helicopters
voucher

Fallow deer hunt

Fire wood

And much more

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

Proudly sponsored by ColdAir Helicopters





NOTES :

Juniors – (1 x 14 years old and under – free with each Adult entry) Additional Children \$5 each

All game animals must be gutted, and in tidy condition and ears intact and attached to the body.

Entry form plus entry fees to be paid by 5pm on 24th Sept using the participants (name) as a reference and (comp) as the code. Entry forms can be found using the QR code

All Animals **MUST** be wild and freshly shot during the stated days 25th – 27th of September, The Judge reserves the right to reject/disallow any suspect animal/s.

All animals must be presented at WNZDA Parkvale Hall between 12pm and 2.00pm 27th September, Prize giving to commence shortly afterwards

Sausage sizzle and (non alcoholic) refreshments available from 1pm

Winners will be selected by lucky draw for each category and the Judges decision is final.



PUREORA FLY-IN OPPORTUNITIES

Waikato Branch have fly in hunting trips in Pureora Forest Park again this year. It's a great way to get further into the Pureora Forest Park without the longer walk. The focus is on managing the numbers of deer, pigs and goats and gathering information on animal numbers and bush conditions for dept of conservation. You will be flying with Chris, from the Heli-hire base at the edge of Pureora Forest, Tihoi, with 5 dates from September 2026 through to July 2027. Its \$400 per person, if flying into the same site with a mate or \$800 if flying in solo.

Please see <https://www.nzdawaikato.org.nz/pureora-fly-in-hunts/> for more details and email any questions to pureora@nzdawaikato.org.nz

We are also running a raffle to raise money for a much-needed heat pump for our branch. Tickets are \$10 each with the prize being a fly in trip for you and a mate to Pureora on one of the fly in trips. Please see <https://events.humanitix.com/pureora-helicopter-affle> for more details and to purchase a raffle ticket.



WHAT'S UP FOR GRABS

- \$3,000 in Hunting & Fishing NZ vouchers
- Nocpix thermal monoculars
- Bushnell rangefinders, riflescopes and binoculars
- Svord knives, Ledlenser lighting, Tatonka packs and more



*Prize items may differ from items shown

Running 1st August – 26th November 2026.

Bring eligible wild goat tails or heads into any Hunting & Fishing NZ store, select NZDA branches, or DOC offices to enter.

Get out there and make your hunt count.

ENTER NOW



Supported by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Hunting & Fishing New Zealand and Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand.

[National Wild Goat Hunting Competition 2026](#)

August 2026 update on the Ruahine Deer Management Plan

Work is underway by DoC to finalise the 26-27 operational plan. It is intended to be much the same as the 25-26 plan and will include similar deer control actions. Namely another recreational hunter lead management hunt, some subsidised WARO and further aerial control of deer in the North-West of the Ruahines. By far the greatest tally of deer has come from the aerial culling in the NW management unit.

The other 5 management units in the Ruahines will remain as they are now with recreational hunters being the primary control means in the restricted (to WARO) zones and being the only control means in the closed areas. There is very little WARO happening on North Island public land with most activity occurring on private land where the economics make more sense.

To date the majority of monitoring/research has occurred in the NW of the Ruahines where there are the greatest biodiversity threats. DoC want to do additional monitoring throughout the Ruahines however funding constraints will likely impact on that wish. Depending upon what that monitoring shows further discussion as to appropriate responses will need to occur. We and others have stated to DoC that rolling out the NW control model onto the rest of the park is neither necessary nor likely acceptable to the 6000 hunters with permits for the Ruahines.

A trial has also occurred involving a specialised thermal camera operated from a helicopter. A range of areas were flown; they saw very few goats (localised in the east) but did detect quite a few deer with the greatest number of sightings being in areas hard to access (no great surprise there).

We have noted to DoC that one of the outcomes of monitoring should be to provide hunters with better information as to where the higher concentrations of deer are. If hunters are provided the information we expect they will then target those areas. This is our preference for deer control options. The 6000 permit holders are an enormous deer management resource and we need to make sure others do not lose sight of that.

DoC have quite a bit of information on the Ruahine Deer Management Plan and associated reports on their website: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/biodiversity/wild-animals-management/wild-deer-management-in-ruahine-forest-park/>

We will also be in contact later this year for expressions of interest in the next management hunt. Dates not confirmed yet but likely late Feb or Early March 2027.

Thanks
Gordon George
President, LNIRDF

RPCP Possum Control Operation

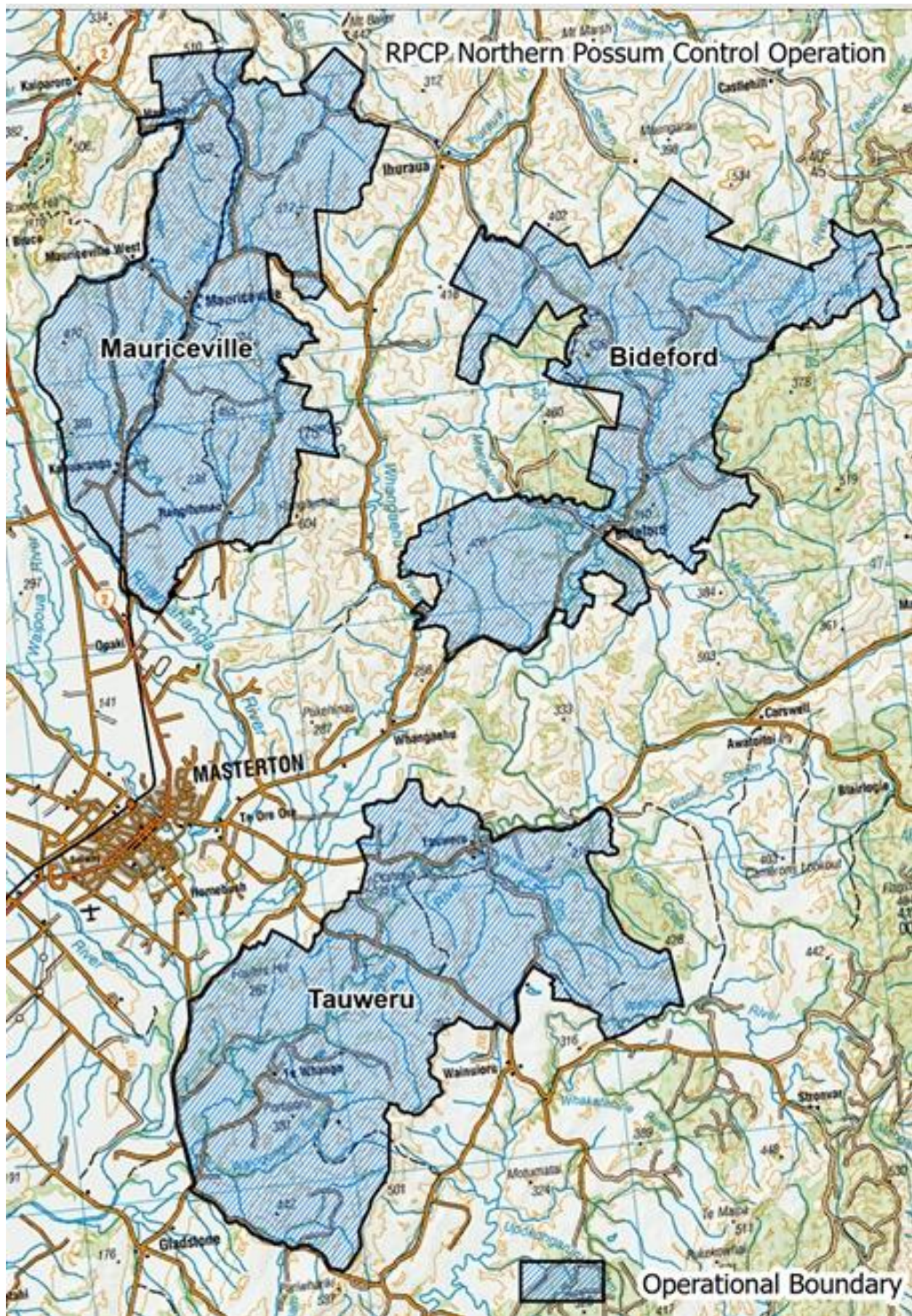
The RPCP Northern Possum Control Operation encompasses parts of the Mauriceville, Bideford and Tauweru areas. The operational area covers approximately 42,266 hectares and is located about 10 km west of Masterton. Please refer to the map next page for the operation boundaries.

This is to notify neighbouring landowners and user groups of the planned use of Feratox within the treatment area.

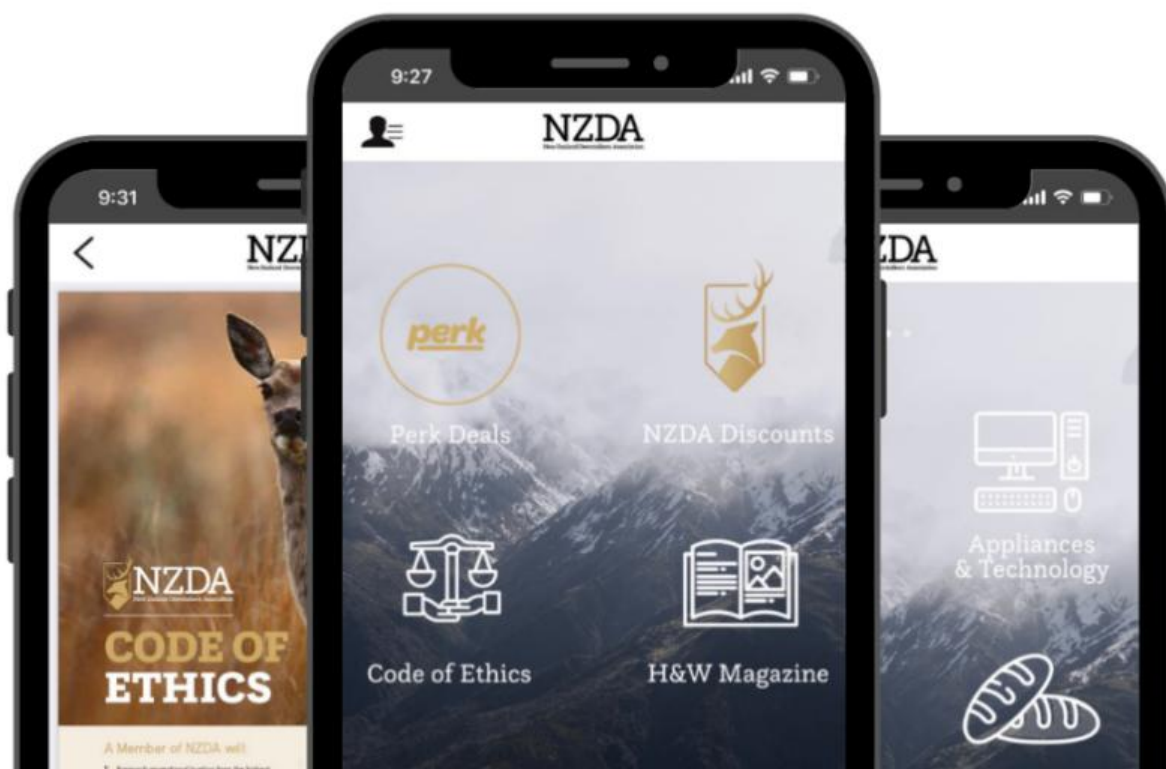
The primary possum control methods proposed for this operation include:

- Brodifacoum 50P bait stations.
- Encapsulated cyanide (Feratox®) pellets placed in bait stations or biodegradable blue bait bags. Feratox pellets are pea-sized, dyed green, and are used in conjunction with a pre-feed bait.

The deployment of cyanide baits is scheduled to commence from August 2026, with all control work expected to be completed by August 2027.



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

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/>

➤ KNIFE SETS & TRAIL CAMERAS

Knife sets @ \$47.00 including GST and \$6.00 delivery to Wellington region.



Trail cameras on special at \$135.00 including GST plus postage of \$7.00

Ridgeline 4K Digital Trail Camera



- Super Slim and Compact Profile
- Photo resolution: up to 24MP
- Video resolution: 4k/10fps
- Long Time Standby Time: +/- 8 months
- Fast Triggering time: 0.4 Second
- Low Glow, Long Night Vision Range: 65ft (20M) with 36pcs IR LED
- Big Screen: 2" COLOR VIWER TFT LCD
- Automatic Temperature Compensation
- Accepts SD cards up to 128GB (not included)
- Operating on 8 x AA batteries (not included)
- 12 month Warranty
- Great for security

Your members can send orders direct to catchphrase@extra.co.nz with their info, I will send them an invoice and once paid we will send out their orders.

SUPPORTING THE DOGS THAT DO THE HARD WORK

At The Vet Clinic, we know that working dogs aren't just part of the team—they are the team. Whether they're working stock, controlling pests, competing in trials, hunting, or spending long days on the job, they rely on quality nutrition to keep performing at their best.

To help make feeding top-quality working dog food more affordable, we're pleased to offer your members our **Royal Canin E4800 Working Dog Pallet Deal**.

Our Pallet Offer

FREE delivery or

FREE pallet storage – Don't have room for a whole pallet? No problem! Purchase your pallet and simply collect bags as you need them. We'll happily store it for you at The Vet Clinic.

Only \$5040 per pallet of 36 bags – that's \$140.00 per bag!

Royal Canin E4800 is specifically formulated for highly active working dogs, providing concentrated energy, excellent digestibility, and the nutrition needed to help maintain muscle condition, stamina, and recovery during demanding work.

Whether your "Team members" are:

Farm working dogs

Trial dogs

Pest control dogs

Hunting dogs

Security or detection dogs

Our pallet deal offers exceptional value without compromising on quality.

If you'd like to know more, arrange a pallet purchase, or discuss how we can support your team to be the best, we'd love to hear from you.

Kind regards,

Leigh Hill

The Vet Clinic Wairarapa PH: (06) 378 2662 | Cell: 027 444 3822



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.