



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

Newsletter for October 2026



Photo credit **Richard O'Driscoll** Spring tui

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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 2026 to September 2027 – 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 17 Oct	2026	Annual dinner & prize-giving Parkvale Hall 6 pm. If you haven't replied already, you must book your attendance by replying to wairarapanzda@gmail.com with numbers by Monday 12 October 2026. Email replies only please. The costs for dinner are: - Adults \$30 per head - Under 15 \$15 per head 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. Book your tickets now to come along and enjoy a scrumptious banquet dinner. The menu will feature wild pork, venison, ham, lamb, and chicken with potatoes, various salads and tasty dessert treats. Share those great hunting stories and congratulate all the prize winners. 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!
Wed 4 Nov	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Sun 8 Nov	2026	4WD fundraiser. 30 volunteers required. We are still about 5 people short. See details later in newsletter.
14-15 Nov	2026	Wanganui meat hunt. Full.
Wed 18 Nov	2026	Open night. King & Henry Masterton. Starting 6 pm. Rep from Spika and NocPix will be there.
Sun 22 Nov	2026	Firewood working bee starting 8 am. Details in November newsletter.
Wed 2 Dec	2026	Committee meeting. Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm.
Sun 6 Dec	2027	End of year Xmas BBQ. Starting 11 am at the Masterton Deer Park.
12-13 Dec	2026	Wanganui meat hunt. Full.
Wed 20 Jan	2027	Introduction to Gladstone Range. Starting 7 pm at the range. No firearms. Learn about range access, protocols & rules. Followed by a beer at the Gladstone Pub.





General meeting Wednesday 16 September

A fantastic turnout of over 40 members heard **Mike Simmonds** give an entertaining talk on his recent chital hunt in northern Australia. Followed by John Bissell sharing his ideas about deer management in the Aorangis. Special thanks to Mike for stepping up at short notice to replace our scheduled speaker Dave Morris who became unavailable. Dave's talk will be re-scheduled in 2027.

Sign-up sheets were put out for the next four Wanganui meat hunts and the November and December hunts filled up quickly. There are still a couple of places available on trips in March and May 2027 and these will be advertised again in the New Year.





We also had a 'guess the Douglas score' competition running on the night for a beautiful Wairarapa fallow buck. The actual DS was later measured as 240 3/8. Winner was Liz Warren who guessed 239 (\$50 King and Henry voucher). Second Peter O'Driscoll who guessed 242. Photos below from Gary Warren.



THE NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION INC.					
FALLOW DEER HEADS					
(DOUGLAS SCORE)					
OWNER					
TAKEN BY					
LOCALITY & DATE					
	NUMBER OF POINTS				
STEEPS TAPE MEASUREMENT OF	SHORTER MEASUREMENT DOUBLED*		FACTORS		
	LEFT	RIGHT	SCORE		
LENGTH	29	27	55		
SPREAD			29	SPREAD	
SPAN			22	TIMBER	
BEAM	4	3	4	2	8
CROWN	7	7	14	POINTS	
POINTS BELOW TINES	8	8	16		
TREE	4	3	6	8	
GUARD	8	4	7	15	
REMAINING PALM POINTS BY NUMBER	8	9	16		
PALMS	15	5	15	7	31
Lengths Without Points	5	2	5	4	10
Width Without Points	6	7	7	12	
Width With Points					
TOTAL SCORE			240 ³		
MEASURED BY			G. Hamilton		
ASSISTANT			G. Warren		

Annual Shooting Competition Sunday 20 September

Only one member turned up for the Clay Target Shoot on 5 September which was disappointing.

Eight members shot in the Rifle Competitions on 20 September on a nice sunny Sunday morning at Gladstone Range. Some good scoring and results will be announced at Annual Dinner and Prizegiving and included in November newsletter. Photos next page by Richard O'Driscoll.



One of our newer members suggested that some people in the club have never used the range and may feel a bit intimidated showing up at an event like this. In response, the committee have organised an **Introduction to Gladstone Range on 20 January 2027. Starting 7 pm**. No firearms. Learn about range access, protocols & rules. Followed by a beer at the Gladstone Pub. Remember all our members get six free uses of the range each year under our agreement with WPSSC.

Hunting Competition 25-27 September

Good number of entries and the weather played its part on Friday and Saturday before turning foul for the Sunday weigh-in.

Shane Alexander was winner of Cold Air Helicopters voucher.

Jacob Warren won the firewood.

Junior member Bella Johnson won the Fallow Hunt (& then promptly swapped with her brother for a hat!)

Thanks to Lloyd Rayner for this initiative. This is the first time we have run this competition and it was a success, with over 100 kg of venison mince donated to the local Food Bank, and lots of smiling hunters. We will likely run it a couple of weeks later in future to avoid clashes with lambing/docking

and will advertise more widely. Thanks to Gary Warren, Becky Johnson & Lloyd Rayner for photos.



ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded

ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction

Committee News and Updates

FINANCIALS

The branch bank account number for payments (firewood, etc) is 03-0687-0022096-00. Account name: New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Wairarapa Branch) Incorporated. 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 received an unexpected payment of \$425 from Department of Justice as reparation resulting from a case in **17 August 2000** (!!!) of aggravated cruelty to one of Deer-park animals!

We also have grants received from Masterton Lands Trust for deer park extensions and Carterton District Council Community Trust for fencing of Parkvale Hall.

HUTS & TRACKS

The Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) www.gwbn.org.nz track cutting team are back into it, with recent work in Remutakas (Summit walk) and Tararuas (Atiwhakatu and Mount Frith areas).

Mike Thrupp represents the branch at GWBN meetings. Hamish Graham represents us with the Aorangi Restoration Trust and has just been re-appointed as a trustee.

SEARCH & RESCUE

The team just received 6 new satellite radios from Wairarapa Rescue Trust. Please contact Luke on 027 630 7640 if you are interested in joining LandSAR

HALL

A couple of lights were broken by the karate group and have been repaired. Valley Plumbing kindly cleared the gutters and drains after the heavy rainfall during the hunt competition weigh-in

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

MEMBERSHIPS

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

DEER PARK

The animals are looking healthy with plenty of feed. We have purchased materials for fencing of the new pens, using the grant of \$2,500 from Masterton Trust Lands Trust.

Our Xmas barbecue will be held at the Deer Park on Sunday 6 December starting 11 am.

Note that the bridge over the Waipoua River is still closed 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. See the notice above about the Introduction to Gladstone Range on 20 January 2027. Starting 7 pm. No firearms. Learn about range access, protocols & rules. Followed by a beer at the Gladstone Pub.

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

4WD marshalling Sunday 8 November

We require 30 volunteers to help with a 4WD event in Ahiaruhe Road (near Stonehenge). Starting 8 am with the club providing lunch for volunteers. This is a fun day and we a great earner for the branch. Email wairarapanzda@gmail.com to put your name on the mailing list. **We still need about 5 more volunteers so please sign up!** Can be partners of friends (but not kids).



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

Annual Dinner & Prize-giving Saturday 17 October 2026

See details in the calendar and if you haven't replied already, you must book your attendance by replying to wairarapanzda@gmail.com with numbers by **Monday 12 October 2026**. We need the numbers for catering!

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!



2025 Annual Dinner. Photo Richard O'Driscoll

Spring Sika Hind Hunting- Oldest Sika Hind Jaw Competition

Over the past two years, the Spring Sika Hind Hunting Competition has become a much-anticipated event and a celebration of providing for our families and championing the use of wild game.

What started as a Helisika competition grew into a major event in 2025, with Stoney Creek taking the reins and turning it into a huge competition with an epic prize pool and plenty happening around it. Putting an event of that scale together takes a huge amount of time and resource, and Stoney Creek has decided not to run the full event this year. However, they are exploring the possibility of bringing back the larger format on a biannual basis in future.

For spring 2026, Helisika has decided to keep the competition alive with an Oldest Sika Hind Jaw Competition. The competition runs from 1 October to 15 November 2026 and there is no entry fee.

Open to all Sika hunters

You don't have to be a Helisika client, fly with Helisika, or hunt one of its blocks to take part. If you're hunting Sika country this spring, you can enter.

All you need to do is harvest a Sika hind during the competition period and [submit the jaw](#) to one of the Sika Foundation jaw boxes, with the jaw card correctly completed.

It'd be best to also retain appropriate photos from the harvest so the date and entry can be verified, if required.

Please note: only Sika hind jaws are to be entered. The Sika Foundation will age all eligible jaws, and its ageing results will be final.

The prizes:

- Oldest Sika Hind - Stoney Creek Prize Pack
- Second Oldest Sika Hind - \$1,000 Helisika Voucher
- Third Oldest Sika Hind - \$500 Helisika Voucher

While this year's competition is simpler than the event held in 2025, keeping it going serves an important purpose.

Encouraging hunters to target hinds provides an opportunity to contribute valuable jaw-age data. That information helps build our understanding of the Sika herd, and supports our ongoing work. Of course, there's always the chance of finding an exceptionally old hind. Last year's winning hind was 16.8 years old!

We'd like to say thanks to [Helisika](#) for keeping the competition going, and to [Stoney Creek](#) for continuing its support.

If you're heading into Sika country this spring, save those jaws!



Peter O'Driscoll with sika hind. Photo Richard O'Driscoll

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

They 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.

National Wild Goat competition



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



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



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](#)

The Arms Act 2026

On 23 September, the Arms Act 2026 came into force, replacing the Arms Act 1983. Thousands of licensed firearm owners made submissions through the select committee process, and a good number of the practical fixes in the final Act came from that. Parliament's rewrite sets controls to protect people from firearms-related harm and to support safe, legitimate possession and use for sport, hunting, collecting, and pest control.

A short summary:

Your licence stays current. Regulation moves to an independent regulator. There's a clearer review path for licensing decisions. And from February 2028, health-related suspensions can run for up to 12 months, giving people more time for medical advice and support.

Read more on what has changed, what phases in later, and what we're watching from here by clicking the link: [Arms Act 2026 is in Force Today. Your COLFO Day One briefing.](#)

COLFO hosts Political Discussions ahead of Election

One month until the general election on Saturday 7 November, and advance voting opens Monday 26 October.

Nine parties have answered COLFO's firearms policy survey. Every answer is published in full and unedited so you can compare them yourself: www.colfo.org/post

Our Digital Town Halls continue and next up we have:

Hon Casey Costello (New Zealand First)

Thursday 15 October, 7pm - 8pm

Minister of Customs, Minister for Seniors, and Associate Minister of Police, Health and Immigration. Casey is a former Detective Sergeant with New Zealand Police.

Hon James Meager (National)

Wednesday 28 October, 7pm

Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

Every party has been invited. COLFO doesn't pick sides. We give you a neutral place to hear from the people asking for your vote.

This is your chance to put hard questions on the record. Send them to hugh@colfo.org.nz, or ask them in the comments live on the night. We'll put the strongest ones to our guests; however where we have to prioritise, financial members come first.

Mark the dates. Show up. Ask.

DETAILS:

Price: Free to all

Duration: 1 hour, including live Q&A Live on [YouTube](#) and the COLFO [Facebook page](#).

P.S. If you missed the previous broadcasts with Minister Nicole McKee from Act and Scott Willis from the Greens, you can [watch them here](#).

Hugh Devereux-Mack COLFO

Email: Hugh@colfo.org.nz

New Resources on RHAs

The Game Animal Council (GAC) has recently published the new information resource focused on New Zealand's recreational hunting areas (RHAs).

The new RHA information resource provides hunters with practical information about each RHA, including the game species present, access, huts and tracks, hunting opportunities, local NZDA branches and local hunter efforts.

You can see the pages linked here: www.nzgac.org.nz/recreational-hunting-areas.



Washpool Hut Aorangi RHA Photo Richard O'Driscoll

Ballot Hunting Opportunities

DOC hunting ballots have transitioned to a new online system. The Blue Mountains ballots have been running online successfully for a few months now, so ahead of the 2027 season, the South Island roar ballots will move onto the online hunting permit system (excluding the Haast roar and tahr ballots, which will move to the new system next year).

Application windows are:

- **Murihiku** (combining Leithen Bush, Waikaia Forest, Pomahaka): 1 October to 31 October 2026
- **Wānaka**: 1 October to 31 October 2026
- **Coastal Otago**: 1 October to 30 November 2026
- **Catlins** (combining Catlins-Maclennan, Tautuku Forest, East Catlins): 1 October to 30 November 2026
- **Molesworth**: 1 October to 30 November 2026
- **Greenstone-Caples** (April-May): 29 October to 30 November 2026, with the June-September ballot opening 1 February 2027

Link to DOC Molesworth Roar Ballot [Molesworth Roar Ballot](#)

Information for Molesworth roar block system.

Important: Applications for the 2027 roar ballot will be managed online through the DOC hunting permit system. Applications open on 1 October 2026.

Applications will only be accepted online through the DOC hunting permit system.

Blocks are allocated through a ballot draw and are allocated for a seven-day period.

The balloted period is 10 March to 13 April 2027.

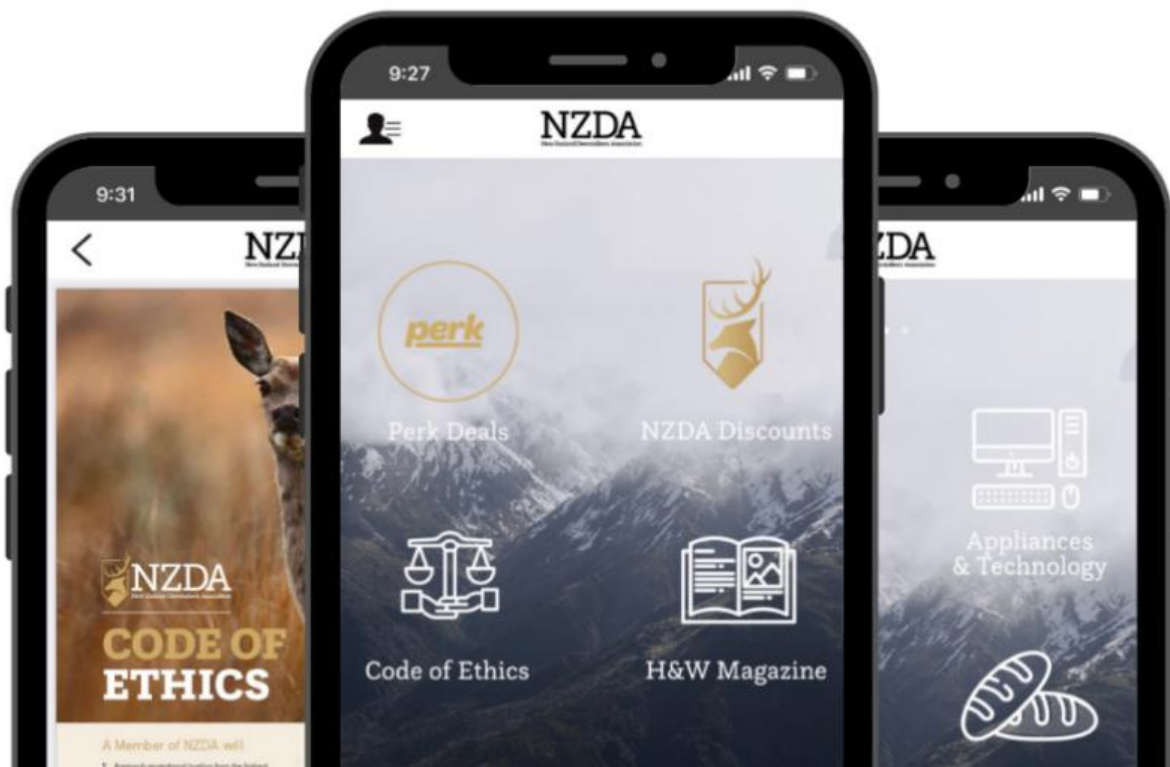
- Applications will only be accepted through the online hunting permit system.
- Applications will open on 1 October 2026.
- Applications close on 30 November 2026.
- Applications are limited to five choices.
- You can submit only one application per party.
- All party members must be listed on the application.
- No individual may be part of more than one application.

Successful applicants will be notified automatically following the draw on 6 December 2026. This notification will include a link to confirm the allocated block.

Blocks must be confirmed by 13 December 2026. Permits will be sent automatically following confirmation.

[GAC Ballots Information for all regions and blocks](#)

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

- **DPT SUPPRESSORS**
DPT suppressors. 7.62 and 7 mm. Very good condition. Minimal use. Muzzle brake end cap available for 7.62. \$250 each suppressor. Phone John on 0278413167.
- **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.
- **SOUTHERN PURSUIT CHARTERS**
We're Southern Pursuit, a Southland-based transfer, van and equipment hire service built for hunters, fishers and adventurers heading into the deep south. If any of your members are planning a trip to Southland or Stewart Island to hunt deer, we can take the hassle out of the logistics with private transfers, van hire, equipment hire, and supply stops along the way, so more time goes into hunting and less into organising.

For members already planning a trip, our Local Experience page has our recommendations for hunting and fishing charters, local guides, and a few Southland extras worth knowing about: <https://southernpursuit.co.nz/local-experience/>

You can find out more about us at <https://southernpursuit.co.nz/>, and follow along on Instagram, Facebook or TikTok @southernpursuitnz.

Looking forward to helping more hunters make the most of Southland and Stewart Island.

Brad & Dana Shaw

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🌐 southernpursuit.co.nz



**SOUTHERN
PURSUIT**

Join the Pursuit

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- There is a book sale now on. Every book in the NZDA online shop is now half price. There are a lot of titles to pick through, and most of them are single copies. Once one sells, that's it.

[Books – NZ Deerstalkers Online Shop](#)

Be safe be sure.
Assume it is a person not a deer.
No meat is better than no mate.
Identify your target.

ALWAYS treat firearms as if they are loaded