



New Zealand Deerstalkers'
Association
Wairarapa Branch
Incorporated

Newsletter for **MAY 2015**

Next Meeting is 20th May 2015
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MAY - Extraordinary General meeting 7.30p.m. Parkvale hall followed by supper and a recent Gone Fishing DvD programme which features Parkvale Hall

Public Notices

NZ DEERSTALKERS ASSN

Wairarapa Branch Inc.

Notice is hereby given of an
Extraordinary General Meeting
under Rule 21 of the Branch Rules, to be
held at the Branch Hall at
Parkvale @ 7.30pm on 20 May 2015.
The sole business to be discussed and
decided will be a motion to award
Life Membership of the Branch to
Howard Egan under the terms of
Rule 5 e(V1) of the Association Rules.

IMPORTANT: To vote you must be a current financial year member of the Wairarapa branch of the NZDA and you will need to present your membership card at the meeting

SATURDAY 9TH MAY – Re-roofing Sayers Hut. Any queries to Martin Amos phone 379 5454 evenings.

SATURDAY 23RD MAY – Working Bee at the Masterton Deer Park. 9am start. Please bring weed eaters, spades and your lunch

SATURDAY 23RD 24TH MAY – SAREX training for LAND SAR members only

WEEKEND OF FRIDAY MAY 29TH - Our next subsidised Tararua fly-in hunt is now fully booked. Hunters will be flown into Tutuwai, Sayer's, Neill forks huts. Be aware of 100kg weight limit per hunter inc rifle and pack. Any queries to Martin Amos phone 379 5454 evenings.

WHITE ROCK HUNTS – White Rock hunts postponed due to upcoming 1080 drop.

SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST – Branch shooting competitions, Gladstone Range.

SATURDAY 17TH OCT – Wairarapa NZDA Annual Dinner at Parkvale Hall. This is an important fund raising event for the club, so we are looking for sponsorship and donated items for the auction on the night. Please contact Martin and Tracy Amos on phone 379 5454 evenings.

SUNDAY 8TH NOV – LAND SAR 1st Aid refresher at Parkvale Hall for LAND SAR members only. Please contact Phil Gray on 0274 740717 for further details.



The image shows two business cards side-by-side. The left card is for Grant Langlands, a Honda motorcycle dealer. It features the Honda logo and contact information for Langlands Honda Motorcycles Ltd. The right card is for Lance Hare, a consultancy services provider. It features the company name 'LB & T HARE LTD' and contact information for implementation and management of industry best practice.

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FEEDBACK:

Branch finances: Our February working bee was well attended (15 members) and successful, making over \$1000 to subsidise branch fly-in trips. **We need more trees!** If you know of any phone Brad Gardiner 372 4004 or Martin Amos 379 5454, evenings.

Parkvale Hall is available for hire to the general public at a cost of \$300 per day. It would be suitable for events such as weddings, as we have good catering facilities. If you know of any interested parties, please advise them to contact Martin Amos 379 5454, evenings.

NATIONAL OFFICE:

National Conference: 67th National Conference will be held in Wanaka 26th to 28th June. Martin and Tracy Amos will attend as branch representatives.

Antler, Horn & Tusk – National competitions 2015.

Whilst our own branch competition year continues until antler cast in October, the National competitions are held in line with NZDA National Conference – 26th to 28th June this year.

Any financial members who have taken particularly good trophies during the year ended 31st May 2015, are encouraged to enter the appropriate National competition. Discuss with either this writer, or one of our Douglas scorers; Steve Playle, Alex Beesley, Greg Hamilton, Gary Moran, Joe Hansen.

By way of a guide, I would expect that National entries would exceed the following Douglas scores: Red stag DS 270, Fallow buck DS 200, Sika stag DS 160, Goat DS 100, Pig tusks (drawn) DS 27. Free range, fair chase, unpaid. Howard Egan. AH&T convenor.

Parkvale hall – photographic.

Our photographic display boards in the main hall are impressive and arouse interest. But to maintain that interest, we are embarking on a programme of feeding some new photos into the display. The original philosophy of featuring the branch members at their hunting activities, will be maintained. Pics of huts, scenery and live animals/birds will be kept to a minority. If you would like to be involved, please get 5”x 7” photos to Howard Egan ph 379 6666.

Membership renewals: Many members have renewed their subscriptions already with National Office. If you haven’t done this yet, please do so. You are not covered by NZDA liability insurance and you can’t enter branch competitions if you are not a financial member at the time the trophy is shot. If any members are having difficulties with memberships, contact Richard O’Driscoll on 06 3086282 for assistance.

Poacher convicted: You may or may not be aware but the person responsible for killing the fallow at the Masterton deer park received a one year prison sentence, so all poachers BEWARE!!

DOC Meeting Follow up: Discussions are continuing with DOC representatives and additional hunting opportunities for branch members to hunt in DOC Reserves, are looking promising, so watch this space.

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News

New Website for Wairarapa NZDA;

New Committee member, Paul O'Donoghue has put a proposal to the committee for a club website, which has been approved at the 6th May committee meeting, with the proviso that the website be re-evaluated after one year, to ensure it meets the memberships requirements. Please note that ideas and feedback are welcomed from all members.

The vision behind this is, that the website will provide an easily accessible, up to date, on-line venue for all club activities and interests. It is therefore very important that members regularly use and contribute to the site, as this will also attract advertisers and hopefully allow the website to be self funding and potentially revenue generating for the club.

Some of the proposed features are;

- Monthly newsletters and club events calendar
- New Membership applications
- Club history and archive
- Members forum, photos and hunting stories
- Technical information on hunting and firearms
- Hunting opportunities
- Hunts training program
- Land SAR training program
- Sponsorship and advertising opportunities

See proposed mock up of the home page below

NZDA WAIRARAPA



WELCOME TO THE NZDA WAIRARAPA BRANCH

To retain, enhance and create opportunities for the enjoyment of legitimate recreational hunting and the sport of shooting, for the members of the Association.

JOIN NOW



ABOUT US



MEMBERSHIP



CLUB EVENTS

LATEST NEWS & DEERSTALKING



AN EXAMPLE POST

Apple pie chocolate cake toffee muffin macaroon gummies bonbon. Powder gummi bears wafer cake. ... Continue Reading



MULTIPLE IMAGE POST

Apple pie chocolate cake toffee muffin macaroon gummies bonbon. Powder gummi bears wafer cake. ... Continue Reading



MULTIPLE PARAGRAPH POST

Apple pie chocolate cake toffee muffin macaroon gummies bonbon. Powder gummi bears wafer cake. ... Continue Reading



AN EXAMPLE BLOG POST

Direct trade VHS put a bird on it, actually four dollar toast dreamcatcher blog twee Vice irony DIY. ... Continue Reading



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CONTACT

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info@wairarapanzda.org.nz

ABOUT US

Formed in 1937, the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association is New Zealand's recognised National body representing and speaking for hunter generally.

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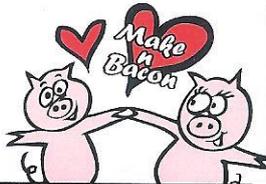
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Hunting Reports

Wanganui hunt 16-19 April 2015 by Richard O'Driscoll

Seventeen branch members enjoyed a successful long weekend chasing rutting fallow in Wanganui. The plan was to arrive Thursday evening, but the first vehicles to arrive encountered a massive slip 400 m south of the property that was impassable.



Martin made contact with Andrew and other branch members and they met at a pub in Wanganui before attacking the road from the north, arriving at 10:30 pm. The less keen spent a night in various spots round the region before proceeding onto the property in the morning.

Weather on Friday was OK and everybody had success – even those hunting one-handed! Steve, Paul S, and Alan all got good bucks. Steve's was a 19-pointer, but Paul's was probably the best (DS 183?). Alan's was big but had one weak palm. The meat-safe and surrounding trees were laden with meat animals.

Heavy rain fell overnight Friday and turned the tracks to mud, but this eased off mid morning. The road into the property hadn't been great, so several groups decided to head out Saturday in case the rain continued. Those that stayed on enjoyed some close encounters with croaking bucks which were rutting well.

Not sure of the final tally – but everybody got the meat they wanted. Craig from Carterton Meat Processors certainly had a busy week! Thanks to Andrew Wilkinson for organizing this. Watch out for the next trip – tentatively planned for July.

Richard



Richard the one-handed hunter with a meat animal



Steve's buck

Wanganui Hunt Report from Steve Playle

On the evening of the 16th April a contingent of Club members headed off to the Mangamahu Valley for several days of fallow deer hunting. This was the peak period of the fallow buck rut so everyone was hopeful of hearing a bit of croak activity and maybe getting the opportunity to obtain a set of palmated antlers.



The trip started badly with us getting a call just out of Fielding from Martin to say that the road had fallen into the Whangāehu river just a few hundred meters from the property entrance. That necessitated a longer trip via the Parapara and Fields Track roads to reach the farm but we got there eventually. It was pleasing to see more animals present on the property than in the year previous. The landowner has reduced the hunting pressure by other hunter groups and this was clearly evident. Croaking bucks were heard and some very nice animals were seen and shot. I managed to shoot a lovely buck on the Friday afternoon that was croaking and holding a small mob of does down in a steep little scrubby gully. Andrew and Ian had seen him earlier in the day on a different part of the property.

On Saturday evening I saw another chocolate coloured buck that was a nice solid animal sporting good length of antler with nice spread and good length brow tines but unfortunately both palms had the proverbial Wanganui cleft that ultimately spoils the head. I thought better of shooting this animal and was most annoyed with myself for taking off my pack containing my camera when I stalked in on the buck as I missed out on some superb photo opportunities.

Feral goats were about in varying densities and I prematurely ended the days of 4 of these with my 30-06. Generally everyone that participated in the weekend hunt had a great time with a few nice heads and some good meat animals secured by the members.

We had steady rain on the Friday night that made the papa tracks somewhat greasy to negotiate. This demonstrated the need to have good tyres and brakes on quads. Variable winds provided some drying of the tracks by the afternoon on Saturday.

A big thanks to Andrew Wilkinson who has taken over from me with the organisation of Wanganui hunts. It was a weekend that everyone enjoyed even with the detour to reach the hunting grounds. New members were rewarded with some great access to shoot their first deer and got some tuition from senior members as well. I look forward to another hunt to this property later in the year.



The Case for Managed Hunting by Howard Egan.

This newsletter is obviously not read by a vast number of people. But at least they have the same general interests as myself. Although mine have become more singular as my life has quickly passed. My passion as you know, is Fallow deer. And the seed that was sown decades ago, mixing with European immigrant hunters, absorbing their ethic and beliefs, whilst visiting a Ranger training college in Germany.

That seed has been nurtured over the last ten years, as I have had an involvement (observing, talking) with the improvement in fallow trophy quality in the lower North Island. And I know the cause has been a mix of new gene pools from liberations, and especially, good management of hunting by private land owners.

I have had quite considerable involvement in the Wanganui and Wairarapa fallow herds, and I want to share what I am seeing. I do so in the hope that my evidence might influence the thinking of any who doubt. ie; The spiker shooting brigade. But I'm not going to say too much, I'll let the pictures tell the story.

My opening statement is that this is a bunch of National and World class fallow trophies shot in the lower North Island over the last six months. The areas involved are Wanganui and Wairarapa. Private land, not paid hunting, and in every case strictly controlled hunting..

I have Douglas scored all but one of these heads, and I can tell you they are all bucks aged beyond 6 ½ years. Pedicles and tooth wear. And it is landowners not permitting young bucks (especially 3 and 4 yr old bucks) to be shot, that is the key. More Strength to their arm.

Here are some of the seven book bucks I have measured since the 2014 rut. And then I'll show you two of the many wild bucks I photographed during the 2014 rut. They are still posturing and breeding. And doesn't it show that you don't have to be inside a deer fence to see or hunt mature, trophy quality, fallow bucks?

In my opinion there is no place for high wire hunting of fallow deer in New Zealand. Managed hunting, whether on commercial, private or DOC land, is the key.

Howard Egan



1) Wanganui. Douglas score 232.6



2) Wanganui Douglas Score 241.7



3) Wairarapa Douglas Score 249.2



4) Wairarapa Douglas Score 248.7



5) 16th April - A wild Wairarapa Fallow buck photographed by Howard Egan



6) A wild Wairarapa Fallow buck photographed by Howard Egan.

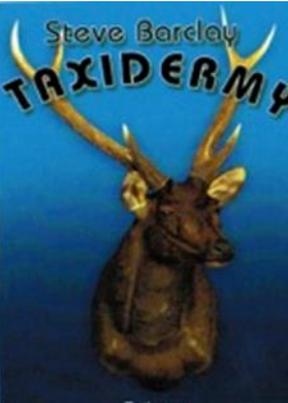
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Final Thoughts

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

A **big thank you** to the team at **Wairarapa Funeral Services** for your printing of our monthly newsletter this year – **we really have appreciated your assistance.**



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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.

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