



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

**Newsletter for November 2015**

**Next meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015**  
**7:30 pm Parkvale Hall**  
**Brian Scadden on wet-plate photography**

**General meeting 18 Nov 2015** Brian Scadden will talk about wet-plate photography. Something a bit different this month. The wet-plate photography process was invented in 1851 and is one of the earliest photographic processes. Chemicals are poured onto a glass plate, sensitized, exposed and developed on the spot. This means that a portable darkroom has to be taken with the photographer. Brian has been involved with the wet-plate process for 30 years and use original wooden cameras from the 1800's to make images in size from 4 x 5 inch to 10 x 12 inch. With his partner Jane Fletcher, Brian will demonstrate the process and shoot a portrait of some "lucky" attendee. There will also be a selection of early cameras from his collection. Bring your partner or friends along for what promises to be an interesting presentation.

**In lieu of a gold coin donation for supper, please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to the Carterton Community Food Bank Annual Appeal.**

**Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events**

**13-15 NOV UNSUBSIDISED TARARUA FLY-IN INCLUDING SAYERS WORKING BEE.** Meeting at Amalgamated Helicopters 3 pm Friday. There are still limited places available on this trip. Please call Martin Amos on (06) 3795454 by Wednesday 11 Nov if interested. Those going to Sayers Hut, please pack a hammer or crow-bar.

**6 DEC FIREWOOD WORKING BEE** at Amos residence Belvedere Road starting 9:30 am. We have a large number of trees to ring and split. Firewood is our main fund-raiser. If you want to participate in subsidized Branch fly-in trips then you need to come to the working bees.

**9 DEC FINAL GENERAL MEETING OF 2015** will be a barbeque at Amalgamated Helicopters. Details to be confirmed.

**NO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2016.**

**10 JAN LONG-RANGE SHOOT**, Brancpeth Range, Wainuioru. Your chance to test your rifle to 300, 400, 500 yards, or beyond before heading for the tops. Start time to be confirmed. Contact Grahame Hamilton for details on (06) 3798789.

**23-25 JAN SUBSIDISED FLY-IN TRIP TO THE TARARUA TOPS.** Always popular so get your name in to Martin Amos (06) 3795454 or talk to him at the working bee on 6 Dec.

**13-14 FEB FALLOW MEAT HUNT**, Aranui station. Limited places available. Contact Andrew Wilkinson

on (0274) 381363 to secure a spot. Dates still to be confirmed.

**8-10 APRIL FALLOW RUT HUNT.** Already full! Dates still to be confirmed.

**WHITE ROCK HUNTS.** Quarters are currently unavailable due to station operations, but Steve Playle is trying to arrange another hunt soon. If you're interested, please give Steve a call on (06) 3797432.

Following a very successful visit by the Hawkes Bay NZDA branch in August, we are looking at arranging a combined branches hunt in May 2016.



## News

### **SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Four volunteer callouts in the past month, including 16 members going to Waiterere to search for Alex Fisher.

#### Upcoming SAR events

- 12 Nov 7:20 pm Helicopter orientation at Amalgamated Helicopters
- 11 Feb Pre-SAREX training to be confirmed
- 11-13 Mar Annual SAREX. More details next year.

If interested in joining SAR contact Phil Gray on 0274 740717.

### **ANNUAL DINNER AND PRIZE-GIVING**

A total of 79 members attended the annual dinner on 17 October. It was a great evening, with a game and seafood buffet catered by Murray Hayes and Tracy Amos, a talk on trophy scoring by Mark Nobilo, Howard Egan's book launch, and a successful auction. We made \$3816 net for the evening, thanks mainly to (gross) takings of \$3898 in the auction. Special thanks to our auctioneer Andy Jennings and all our generous sponsors, particularly Amalgamated Helicopters, JNL, Steve Barclay Taxidermy, Shooting Systems Research, and Stihl Shop.



Murray Hayes and the maiden voyage of his new spit roast



Mark Nobilo



Tracy Amos on catering



Branch president Martin Amos with AHT entries in the background



Hall looking good.



Mum Jo collecting one of Jordan Hamilton's many awards from Branch life member Pete Cunningham

**2015 BRANCH PRIZE WINNERS**

**Antler Horn and Tusk**

Red deer, public land: Ratana Davis DS 248.7

Red deer, private land: Paul Hodgins DS 191

Classical head: Jordan Hamilton DS 168.5

Best head other species: Sika, Shane Dougan DS 178.7

Best head Paid hunting: Fallow. Paul Sayer DS 183

Best goat: Paul Sayer DS 103.2

Pig tusks, drawn: Paul Hodgins DS 27

Pig tusks, undrawn: Clare Johnstone DS 8.4  
Best Junior entry: Ollivia Hansen (Fallow) DS 146.5  
Aggregate - 2 species or more: Jordan Hamilton  
Hard luck: Morag O'Driscoll

### Photography

Scenic: Richard O'Driscoll  
Game animals: Howard Egan  
Non-game animals: Helen Campbell  
Other: Jordan Hamilton  
Special award: Jordan Hamilton

### Shooting:

Senior centrefire: Jordan Hamilton  
Senior rimfire: Jordan Hamilton  
F class: Jordan Hamilton  
Women: Alex Beesley  
Military: Graeme Trotman  
Junior rimfire: Reece Amos and Harley Bengston  
Junior F class: Harley Bengston  
Swazi shoot: Peter O'Driscoll



Prize-winning photos by Helen Campbell

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**Tony Roseingrave**  
MANAGER

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### HUTS AND TRACKS

The Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka Huts Committee met on Monday 5 October 2015 in Wellington.

### Hut bookings

DOC has decided to implement seasonal online booking for Powell, Jumbo and Atiwhakatu huts annually

from Labour Day Weekend to Easter (inclusive). This summer, bookings will open on the DOC website on 19 October and bunks will be available from 23 October 2015 (Friday of the Labour Day weekend through to Easter Monday) 28 March 2016.

### **Cattle Ridge hut:**

Tony Macklin has not had good enough weather last summer, but expects to get the hut renovations finished by April 2016, weather etc permitting.

### **Renata Hut:**

No contract has yet been signed with WCTC for planned maintenance, and there is concern that WCTC no longer has the capability to maintain the hut.

### **Cone Hut:**

Spurred by a newspaper article about vandalism in Cone Hut, DOC Masterton and Tararua TC had put a new wood shed at the Hut, and done repairs to the interior of the hut.

### **Ex NZFS huts & bivies:**

Ex NZFS has gained agreement from DOC Masterton to restore and maintain five original S70 huts and two S86 bivouacs, as NZFS historic huts, in the Tararua and Aorangi Forest parks. They will be painted their original high-glo orange, and with their original open hearth fires, and firewood will be supplied by Ex NZFS. The huts are: Arete Forks, Mid Waihine, Dundas, Carkeek and Pararaki (Aorangis). The bivies are McGregor and Mid-King. DOC is talking with local council building managers about removing wood-burners, and has not yet gained their approval.

### **DOC Work programme for the area in 2015-16:**

Major hut work for this year include:

Tararuas

- 1) Powell: Recladding
- 2) Mitre Flats: Paint
- 3) Herepai: Windows fixed
- 4) Field: Re-locate toilets
- 5) The Waiohine Gorge Road has been re-opened.
- 6) Gentle Annie track (Holdsworth) re-metalled.

Aorangis:

Mangatoetoe: New water tanks

### **DOC requirement for painting hut roofs safely:**

Before any "working at heights" work occurs it must be discussed with DOC. People painting hut roofs must be secured against falling. DOC are requiring those painting huts to do a short course, maybe one soon in Masterton.

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Web site: [www.outdoorsupplies.co.nz](http://www.outdoorsupplies.co.nz)

## EASTERN TARARUA 1080 DROP

See letter below from Greater Wellington Regional Council and map of area of operation on next page.



15 October 2015

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New Zealand  
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F 06 378 7994  
www.gw.govt.nz

Dear Dianne

### Eastern Tararua Aerial Project

I wish to advise you of the Eastern Tararua aerial possum control operation to be carried out from late-October 2015 onwards. The operational area is located in the foothills of the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges from Carrington Creek/Mangatarere Valley in the north to Owhanga Stream/Pigeon Bush in the south. The western boundary more or less follows the main ridge line above Totara Creek, the Tauherenikau River and includes the Rimutaka Summit.

The operation is being undertaken on behalf of TBfree New Zealand, by BioWorks, which are part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

One application of prefeed baits will occur from approximately 20 October 2015 onwards, this will be followed approximately 1 to 2 weeks later with an application of 1080 pellets. However both applications can only occur when suitable weather conditions exist, so some delay may occur.

Baits will be applied by helicopter over approximately 11,000 hectares. Prior to the application of 1080 baits, warning signs will be erected at all entrance ways where poisons are laid.

You are requested not to touch or remove any baits, if you consider poisoning has occurred please seek medical aid or call **111**.

Please read the attached information sheet which provides more detail regarding the operation and precautions to be taken. An operational map is included within the sheet.

I would be most grateful if you could advise others within your family or organisation of this operation.

If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact:

Debbie Viner  
TBfree New Zealand  
PO Box 9078  
Terrace End  
Palmerston North 4441

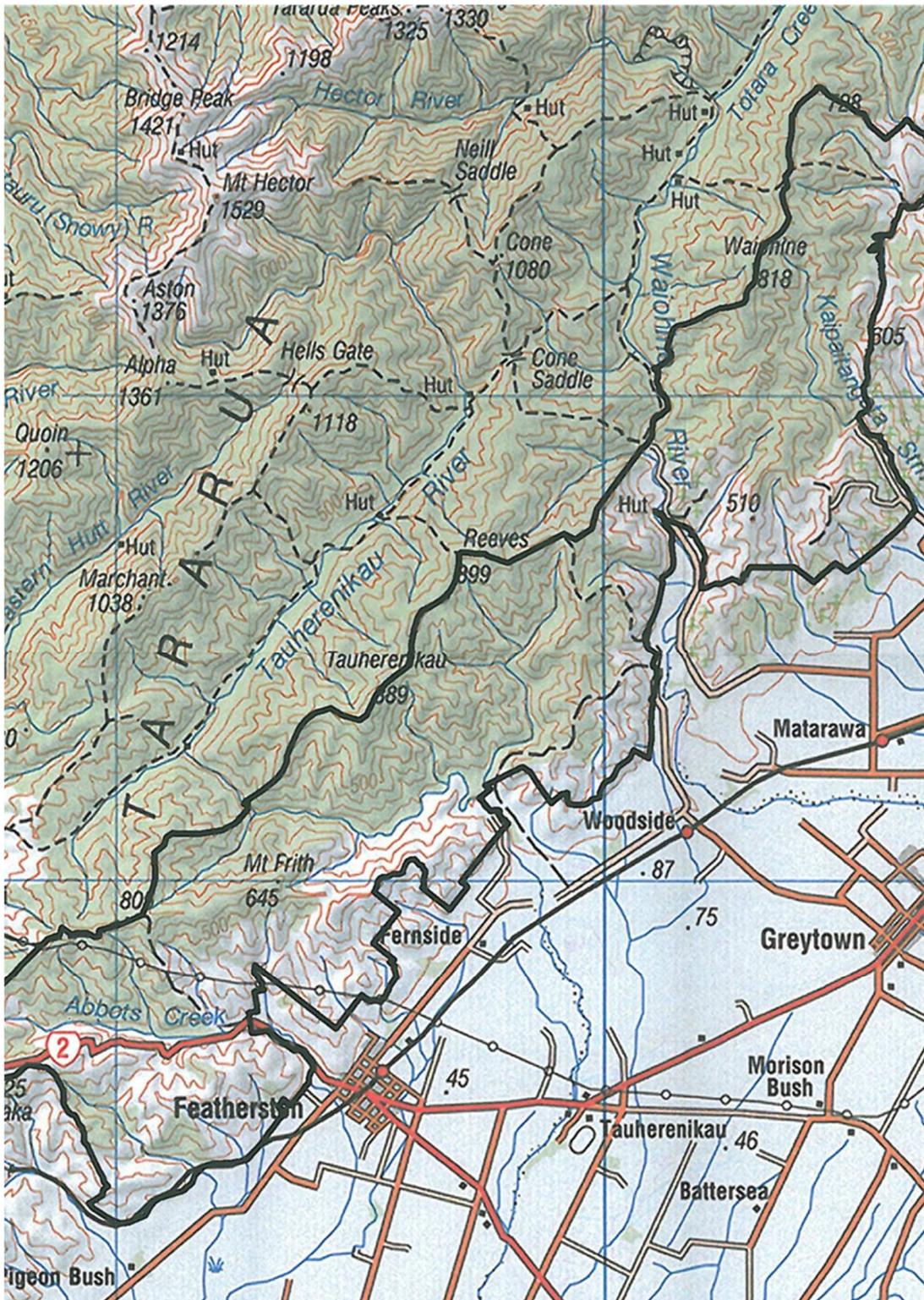
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Greater Wellington Regional Council is committed to ensuring our environment is protected and the social, cultural and economic needs of the community are met.





**WILD ANIMAL RECOVERY OPERATIONS (WARO)**

The Lower North Island Hunter Liaison Group of which the branch is a member met in Palmerston North on 15 October

**WARO review**

DOC had advised that the original deadline for completion of the Ruahine WARO review on 30 September could not be met and that DOC would work to have a decision made by Mid November according to the response by Reg Kemper (DOC). There was a view that the department was delaying the decision, so that there would be little opportunity to respond to a result that did not see a reversal of the decisions, before they would

take effect on 1 December.

It was noted that the Tararua and Rimutaka WARO changes were not going to be considered by DOC in their review, and that the Liaison Group still needed to pursue this issue. The only prospect for getting these changes reviewed was likely to be through a legal challenge.

### **Legal Challenge**

The option of proceeding with a legal challenge to the WARO changes was discussed and agreed that the Liaison Group should proceed with this action.

The next steps are

- Obtain legal advice on the strength of our case (High Court review).
- Legal representatives to be instructed to proceed with filing of Statement of Claim with the High Court.

The options for funding the next stage of legal costs were discussed. A pro rata costs based on club membership numbers was suggested. There are approximately 2020 members represented by the club members of the Liaison Group. There will be an approach to the National executive of the NZDA for them to also contribute and support without unduly stressing their current constructive relationship with DOC.

### **Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) input**

It was advised that DOC had informed the Ruahine User group that the draft CMS would not be available for comment until March 2016. It was noted that the information received from the department through OIR had revealed that the department intended to also remove the current exclusions to WARO in the Ruahine Closed areas. Pending the content of the draft CMS, the Liaison Group and others should be actively involved in submitting on the document.

### **National WARO review**

It was advised that DOC was nationally undertaking a review of the whole WARO concession process. The Liaison group should represent Lower North island hunters in this review.

### **NATIONAL NZDA NEWS**

See the national website: <http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz>

### **McKenzie Partnership Steering Committee**

You will probably be aware that the NZDA National Executive has invested in the purchase of a property at 3 Collina Terrace Wellington to house the National Office and Heritage Trust. All members and branches have been invited to make voluntary donations towards the purchase. All donations are non-refundable and will be subsidized dollar for dollar by Mark Dunajtschik, whether the donation is from a member or branch.

The committee has decided not to donate Wairarapa Branch funds to this project, but if you want to make a voluntary donation, please contact the National Office (04) 8017367.

## Hunting Reports

### **Branch hunt – Wanganui 30 Oct–1 Nov**

#### **Richard O’Driscoll**

Nine senior members and 3 juniors made the long trek up the Whangaheue valley Friday evening after work. The council had done a very good job repairing slip just short of station, but it’s still a long and windy road with all sorts of stock and wildlife hopping out in front of the vehicle in the dark! We were all in residence in the shearers’ quarters by 9:30 pm and with a fine forecast, plans were made for the morning.

We got up at 6 am Saturday to a frost. Leisurely sort of start and my 9-year old son Peter and I headed away from quarters at 6:45 am. We took the track down over bridge and around bottom of face opposite accommodation. The track down to bridge was OK but was boggy and rough along the face.



After parking the quad, we slogged up the fence from the gate and poked over the first ridge. A big white billy goat was up on his hind legs browsing the poplar trees and another billy was below him. Watched them for a couple of minutes and then sidled round to next ridge.

Poked my nose over and saw a deer only 80 m away below me, so chambered a round and belly-crawled over the edge. There were a pair of yearling does, and I lined up on the common phase one. Rolled her over nicely. Looked at the other melanistic one through the scope as it pranced round only 75 m below me, but decided it was too small.

Just opened the bolt, when Peter pointed out 4 deer directly opposite the gully. Looked through scope and the back animal was noticeably larger with knobs of velvet. Decided he would be ideal for our meat animal so squeezed the trigger on him too. I lost sight through the scope at the shot, but Peter confirmed he had dropped and rolled into the rushes. Two deer down and only 7:30 am ☺

Hard work began with a 50 m drag to the top of the ridge for each deer. Left the guts in and rolled them down steep northern face to track below. Hardest part was getting them over the barbed wire fence on the ridge. Peter did well to roll one down by himself.

We had a gutting session and hung the deer in a handy tree to cool by 8:30 am. Hunting was over for us, but we carried on up the gully. By now it was hot and Peter had forgotten his hat so he was over-heating. Saw 6-7 deer on bush edge on north side, but these had seen us too and vanished into the bush as I tried to point them out to Peter.

Sat in the shade for 10 minutes to cool off and then climbed the face up to the central ridge. Nice cooling breeze up there and we worked our way along the ridge with frequent stops to glass. Not a lot of animals evident, but we got close to a nice doe which I photographed. There was a yearling in the scrub too which went with her when she eventually saw us.

Occasional shots from main bush block (suggested others were having some luck too. We had to cross a gate which Peter rattled and I criticized him for being noisy. I stepped over it and put my foot on a piece of timber which then rocked like a see-saw when I put my weight on it and dropped me straddled on the fence and caused a big bruise on the inner thigh. Peter said “you thought I was noisy”!

Right at the end of the ridge we saw a black yearling doe which I sneaked in to within 30 m of and took a couple of pictures.



Picked up our deer and got back to quarters at 12:30 pm. On the way back we saw our two billy goats and three more, so decided to come back for an evening goat hunt. Others (except Lachlan) had all shot a deer each.

I had an afternoon nap, while Peter played with Angus and Reece. They found a rabbit nest with 8 baby rabbits. Lachlan spotted the two billies across the gully and he and Steve put a stalk on. They got one each, then Lachlan shot the black yearling (his first fallow) that I'd seen earlier when they went round to retrieve the goat legs. He was pleased with himself, after learning how to make a deer back-pack. Andrew went to sight his rifle and on the way he shot the other three billies we'd seen!

We all headed out again in the evening about 4:30 pm. Peter and I only found goat carcasses, but we saw four deer across the river, then 3 more as we sidled back round the face. Others were more successful with more deer shot. Lachlan got another, Steve got two, and Reece got a buck!

We had mince stew for dinner courtesy of Al and Mel, with Tracy's famous chocolate self-saucing pudding. Even Davor was stuffed full.

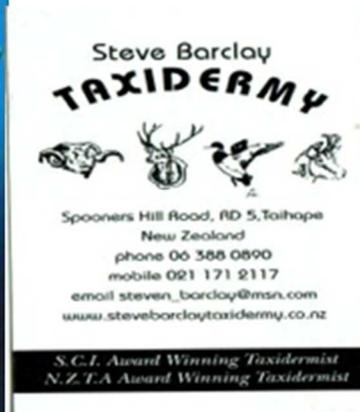
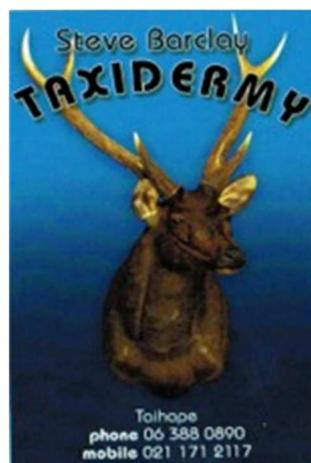
World Cup final Sunday morning and I got up at 5 am to listen on car radio. Was a lonely vigil, although Al joined me for the 10 minutes when Australia scored twice. AB's played much better when he went back inside for a cuppa! The right result 34-17 and the world was a better place.

Peter was still sound asleep and I woke him at 7:15 am, then followed Steve and Davor up to the main bush block to retrieve Steve's deer from the night before. We saw a couple of goats on a bathmat size piece of grass on an otherwise sheer papa face – no idea how they got there! Saw two deer which Davor stalked, but wasn't able to get a shot. We also saw 4 others graze back into the bush.

Skinned and butchered our two (nicely set) deer and packed and tidied up. Left 11 am and headed back via P.N. to drop venison off at my parents. Got home 3:45 pm to clean the quad and get ready for Monday work.

If you're interested in going on a club trip to Wanganui, please contact Andrew Wilkinson (0274 381363). The next trips are scheduled for February and April.

The shearers' quarters we use have seen better days. If anybody has an old (working) fridge or stove, or pot, pans, plates, and cutlery the club would consider donating these to the Station. Please contact Andrew or Martin.



### Reece's story

#### Reece Amos (age 8)

Hello my name is Rhys and my story is about hunting.

There are 7 types of deer in NZ; whitetail, sambar, fallow, red, wapiti, sika and rusa. I have hunted red and fallow deer. We have been in the Tararua ranges by helicopter for hunting, and we go to Wanganui to hunt fallow deer. I won a helicopter trip to the Kaimanawas in Taupo to hunt sika deer when I was 5. I have shot 3 deer one goat and some rabbits.

We take our meat that we hunt to the butchers and have it made in sausages, mince, meat patties and salamis.

For my birthday I got a little rascal rifle so I can go hunting with Dad. I also shoot in competitions at the deerstalkers, and this year I came second.

To be able to hunt a deer you have to spot them with binoculars and sneak up to the deer. Be careful that the wind is in your face that way the deer will smell you. When you are close you lie down and mum or dad will set up my rifle. I look in the scope and line the deer up with the cross hairs carefully pulling the trigger. As long as I don't miss we will have meat.

You must take a pouch with you. I have my binoculars, knife, headlamp, spare batteries, a warm jacket and food in mine.

I really enjoy hunting with my family. It keeps me fit and teaches me bush skills. Thank you for reading my story. The end.



**We want to include your hunting stories and photos in the newsletter.** Stories can be sent to the newsletter editors at [wairarapanzda@gmail.com](mailto:wairarapanzda@gmail.com)

## Final Thoughts

Spring has sprung and the grass is growing on the flats. Hope everybody can get out and get some meat in the freezer for Christmas. But remember .....

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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