



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **April 2016**

NO April General Meeting
Your committee has gone hunting!

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

8-10 APR FALLOW RUT HUNT Aranui station. Report next month.

22 OR 23 APR CLAY TARGET SHOOT Date and timing to be confirmed. At pistol club range in Gladstone. An email will be sent out with details or contact Alex Beesley 027 435 9216. Cost \$20 for 50 clays. Bring your own ammo or buy on the day.

7-8 MAY DUCKSHOOTING OPENING

18 MAY GENERAL MEETING Possible speaker from Maimai Supplies in Featherston.

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2016 Annual General Meeting

By my (unofficial) count 25 members attended the AGM held at Parkvale Hall on 16 March.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wow another year has passed us again! Welcome everyone and many thanks for your attendance tonight. Yet again our branch has had a very busy 12 months!

We have a great committee dedicated in providing the members with ample activities and to mention a few highlights:

- Aranui Station in Wanganui thanks Andrew Wilkinson and owner Rick Collins.
- There have been a few hunts to White Rock thanks to Steve Playle, however, unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances the hunts are temporarily on hold.

- A club hunt in conjunction with JNL and DOC thanks to Joe Hansen and Jeff Reid this was a great opportunity for younger members to get out there in a safe and controlled environment! More opportunities for these hunts will hopefully rise again.
- Fly-in trips to the Tararua's unfortunately this was limited to only 2 trips due to weather! Next fly-in trip for financial members will be after the roar.
- Due to the T.V program being aired ' Outdoors with Geoff' we had an interest in the heads on display in the hall and committee room and was approached by the Hawkes Bay Branch to come and view our hall, we organised a club shoot and accommodated members from Hawkes Bay.
- Long Range shoot in Wainuioru was organised by Grahame Hamilton thanks to you.
- Firewood working bees have been well attended - remember this subsidises your fly in trip so no contribution no flight!
- Hall bookings- have increased in the last 12 months and now police are doing firearm training here as well.
- A congratulations goes to Alex Beesley for obtaining and completing her range officer's exam. Alex is in Hutt Valley branch tonight receiving her certificate!
- Huts working bee – Sayers Hut has a new roof. Thanks to those who helped with the clean-up.
- Fallow head has been donated by Howard Egan, taxidermy by Steve Barclay.
- Annual dinner was well attended again last year, I would just like to thank all of our sponsors for making it so successful.

Tracy and I attended NZDA conference in Wanaka last year at a very minimal cost to the branch. The theme for the conference was "Back in the future" focusing on threats of social change, as well as apathy.... we need to be more forward thinking OR we will be like the kakapo ... flightless and laying one egg every 5 years!!

General meetings have not been well supported at the club, we go to great efforts to organise someone here every month. We understand that not everyone is interested in all topics: however we haven't had requests for this or that. Please don't be the person known as the armchair critic, give us some suggestions. However general meetings off site have been very well attended.

Branch website was established in May 2015 - thanks to Chris Cherry for keeping this up and running. Newsletter and website require more stories, so with the up-and-coming roar, while you are in that hut or bivvy put pen to paper.

Don't forget to pay your subs!

As of the 4th of April 2016 there will be new health and safety laws implemented with implications for branch activities.

Finally, with the roar coming up a safety message. No meat is better than no mate. Remember it is human until otherwise identified.



Martin (President)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial statement for year ended 29 February 2016 was prepared by Duncan Financial Services.

Total society funds (including hall and assets):	\$109,526
Total income 2015/16:	\$17,095
Total Expenditure (including depreciation) 2015/16:	\$15,488
Excess of income over expenditure 2015/16:	\$1,606

You can see full details of the financial statement for this and all previous years on the Incorporated Societies website: http://www.societies.govt.nz/cms/online-services/register-search/banner_template/CNAME

And either search on keywords like *wairarapa deerstalkers* or enter our society number 216621.

Richard (Treasurer)

APPOINTMENTS/ELECTIONS

President: Martin Amos

Vice-president: Tracy Amos

Secretary: Aidan Bichan

Treasurer: Richard O'Driscoll

Committee: Phil Gray, Steve Playle, Alex Beesley, Brad Gardiner, Pete Cunningham, Andrew Dennes, Adam Kenning

RESPONSIBILITIES

Newsletter editor: Richard O'Driscoll

Huts and Tracks committee: Andrew Dennes

Memberships: Tracy Amos

Huts: Martin Amos

Parkvale Hall: Martin Amos

Deer Park: Brad Gardiner and Phil Gray

Range and shooting competition: Alex Beesley

DOC liaison: Martin Amos

Wanganui hunts: Andrew Wilkinson

AH&T judging and administration: Howard Egan and Steve Playle

Photographic boards: Steve Playle

Search and rescue: Phil Gray

Trophies/shields/certificates: Tracy Amos

Website: Chris Cherry

Facebook page: Richard O'Driscoll

Fundraising: Everybody

The committee has some ideas to take the branch forward and build on the great progress made in the last few years, but **they really need your help**. Please participate over the next year. Like any organisation, you get out what you put in



News

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Police/SAR were notified early Monday morning (4 April) that a hunter had gone into the Aorangi Forest Park, near Waikuku Lodge on Sunday but had not returned. Family and friends had been searching overnight. It was decided to wait until around 10.30 am to see if he would walk out, and in the meantime to put two field teams on standby. Around 10.30 JD (from Amalgamated Helicopters) was tasked to fly the area, and at the same time teams were called in to base. Around 11.30 as teams were arriving at base word came through that JD had found the missing hunter. He had got caught out in the dark (daylight saving?), and got disorientated. He wisely decided to wait till dawn to see just where he was, when dawn arrived he was in thick mist, so not a lot better off! It appears as the mist cleared the hunter, his family and JD all met up at about the same spot. So a happy ending to a short search.

Tora Run coming up (SAR has radio ops and standby role).

HUTS AND TRACKS

No reports from Neill Forks. Sayers Hut south wall needs replacing.

DEER PARK

Reduced to winter stocking numbers. One fallow spiker, an old doe, and two fawns have been removed along with one red spiker.

PARKVALE HALL

Martin to continue to manage bookings. At its meeting on 6 April, committee discussed risk to hall and heads of booking to external groups. While we can't make it completely risk-free we are very choosy about who can hire it (Fonterra, DairyNZ, Police arms training, Cycle group, Pistol club). No parties. Rental goes a long way to covering insurance premium. Committee agreed to continue rental policy.

FIREARMS LICENSING

This was the subject of an interesting presentation by Murray Johnston and Pete Cunningham of NZ Police following the AGM. For many of us who had their firearms licence 'pre-plastic', licences are up for 10 year renewal this year. Check the date on your licence and if it's coming up then get the process started as there are currently delays. If your license is due give it at least 3 months before it expires! It took the newsletter editor 10 weeks to get his renewed recently.

VHF RADIOS

The Club has access to four VHF radios which are tuned into Tararua repeater stations. These are available for Members to borrow and allow you to communicate change of plans or in an emergency when there is no cellphone coverage. Contact Martin Amos on (06) 3795454 for further information.

NEW HEALTH & SAFETY LAWS

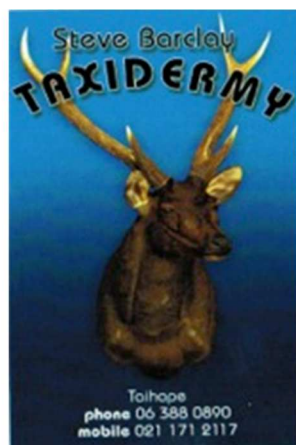
New rules came into effect on 4 April 2016 regarding the use of ATV's. This will mean helmets and passenger carrying restrictions and applications will apply to recreational activities this will also affect our club trips! Lance Hare will run a training/assessment day, probably in June at Aidan's place.

NATIONAL NZDA NEWS

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

LOWER NORTH ISLAND RED DEER FOUNDATION

The group started as the Lower North Island Hunter Liaison Group and was set up to oppose DOC changes to Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) in the Ruahines and Tararuas. The Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation (LNIRDF) has been formed as an Incorporated Society which can act as a legal entity for the pending judicial review of the WARO permit changes. The LNIRDF had its first meeting in Palmerston North on 22 March. Gordon George (NZDA Hutt Valley) was elected as president with former Wairarapa NZDA branch member Derrick Field as secretary.



SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

We have received a lot of material from this group inviting people to join. Benefits of membership include:

- We will keep you informed of issues that affect ownership of firearms
- We will provide a bi-monthly newsletter
- We will campaign and lobby for sensible firearms laws
- We will encourage and support lawful ownership and use of firearms
- We will support where possible the establishment of new shooting facilities
- We will campaign and lobby against anything that adversely affects shooting sports
- You will be part of a national organisation and network of like-minded people
- You will have a platform to express your views and ideas
- You will pay only \$20 annual subscription, unchanged for the past 15 years
- You may include your family members (spouse and children under 16) for \$1 each
- You will qualify for discounted combined sub to both SSANZ + NZ Guns & Hunting
- To achieve our goals we need a large numbers of members
- Without your support we cannot achieve our goals on your behalf

For more see: www.sportingshooters.nz

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DOC is encouraging hunters and trampers to let us know how much they're using backcountry huts to ensure the huts are maintained and replaced. DOC looks after 965 backcountry huts around New Zealand, including 28 in South Westland, and is keen to see people enjoying them. However it needs an accurate picture of how many people are using the huts to justify maintaining them.

DOC's South Westland Operations Manager Wayne Costello says DOC believes the huts are well used by hunters and experienced backcountry trampers but the records from hut books don't show that. "We need hunters and trampers to record hut use to ensure the huts keep getting looked after and replaced. We have a brilliant backcountry hut and track network here in South Westland that I'm sure is being well used and appreciated but the hut books don't demonstrate this," he says.

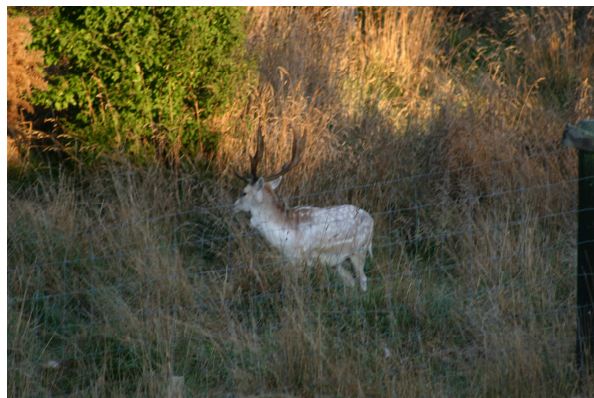
DOC have enlisted help from Davey Hughes, the founder of outdoor clothing company Swazi, who is fronting a new tahr hunting video to promote the hut network and get more hunters into the backcountry. The video was shot in South Westland's Karangarua Valley and Davey says hunters and trampers are lucky to have such an awesome network of huts in New Zealand. "The reality is that if people aren't seen to be using the huts we could lose them. My message to hunters and trampers is it's not hard to fill in the huts books and pay your hut fees, maybe even offer to do a bit of volunteer work on huts and tracks and let DOC see they are being used. That way we all get to share in this amazing New Zealand backcountry".

Check out the video of chasing tahr on the West Coast with Swazi's Davey Hughes at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4p63DLWMUK>

Hunting Reports

This month we have a piece from **Howard Egan** that could be titled "How to shoot a deer in your own backyard"!

Old fellas. This is a little story, bit of a "taking the piss", of a wild fallow buck and his preparations for the rut. And what led up to this outcome at 7.15pm on Good Friday -- one week ago: (pic 1) The scene was a modest cottage on a small farm tucked away against the tararua foothills. Enter the first old fella. Grandad's place. In the Wairarapa. Fallow country. And wild fallow could be seen on occasions, from the kitchen window. They were not molested. Fast forward to the first incident -- about a fortnight ago a stranger appeared, clearly attracted by the handful of captive fallow habitually kept behind wire as an interest. Welcome one old menil buck: (pic 2) The policy of the house was "we don't shoot our wild fallow", so the old buck looked like prospering. He showed himself three times over a few weeks -- once to three visiting Senior members of the NZDA Heritage Trust. All hunters -- even Dulcie. Old fellas. But after a while attitudes started to harden -- the bugger took up nightly residence on the boss's front lawn. Pinched the apples. Shat everywhere. Absolutely wrecked a kowhai tree as antler polisher. Then bugger me, dug a scrape right in the middle of the modest front lawn. So enter old fella (about number 6), the National Patron of NZDA -- aged 86. We'll call him IDW. He was invited to bring his beautiful fully wooded .270, stocked by himself, and try his luck. ID knows the property and would concentrate on a three acre patch of kanuka/native (the daytime cover), and the area of the buck's scrapes right next to the deer fenced paddock and it's half dozen occupants. So that old fella got up early on two mornings and gave it a good go. No result. Meanwhile the boss old fella amused himself by filling in the now 6 inch deep scrape, planting grass seed, and moaning about the kowhai tree. But he got two more sightings of the very attractive menil poser. The only stylish old fella. But then the shit really hit the fan. The buck came back at night, or at daylight, and dug a second scrape only a meter away from the carefully repaired one. Mind you to be fair it has to be said, the boss captive buck had also dug a scrape at the identical point on his side of the fence. "Right" said the boss fella, I'm not having my place wrecked "He's for it!". OK during the day, the 7x64 was brought out of the Gun cabinet, cobwebs removed and ammo located. Even the canvas cover with it's broken zip, was half undone, and left on a handy sofa. And as an example of how serious things had become, the scope was wound down to 3.5. The day went on. Jobs tackled willy-nilly. After dinner time. 7.15p.m.. Time for relaxing -- just Grandad and trixie the black labrador. All the curtains pulled shut. A sudden thought "Wonder what's happening in the deer paddock?" Tweaked the curtain edge slightly to have a look out. "Bugger me!" A magnificent really big menil fallow buck was standing over his scrape, posing very tall, looking straight ahead to show off his palms -- about fifteen meters away. "Shit!". A nearly silent hiss at lexie "Don't move or I'll fecken kill you". She froze. Quickly pulled my beautiful rifle out of it's crappy case. Found one bullet and silently loaded. Down onto the knees. Slid the front door curtains open. First problem -- opening the front door silently. Fifteen meters remember. Door opened, rifle ready, head pushed out and look hard left. Nothing. To self "Shit! He's gone.". Head out another three inches and look again. Wow. Superb. Still staring straight ahead. Poser. What a fallow buck is all about. So then I had to get the rifle up. Still kneeling. And of course the buck saw the movement. The next three seconds will be vivid for the rest (short) of my life. He took one gigantic leap forward -- heading for the terrace edge which would take him down to the bush. And the gigantic second and final leap just started as I pulled the trigger. Crash! The buck hit the ground. Shot thru the base of the neck. Never moved again and was dead in twenty seconds. A huge buck, eight years old -- to be confirmed. And the most beautiful skin I have seen in my life. And I've seen thousands of fallow. This old fallow (the skin has gone to Napier), will be remembered by us other old fellows. (pic 3).



We want to include your hunting stories and photos in the newsletter. Stories can be sent to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com

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Buy, Sell, and Swap

A new part of the newsletter for 2016. 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

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MOUNTED STAG HEADS - A J SMART (JOE) - AORANGI – MAKURI

Alison Danks is trying to track down the whereabouts or 'resting place' of two mounted stag heads that her Uncle (Joe Smart) used to have at their home in Makuri, and that she has very fond/clear memories of. She was told by her cousin that she thought the heads may have been donated to the "Masterton Deerstalkers" when her Uncle Joe left Makuri and retired to the 'flat farm' just outside Pahiatua. If anyone remembers anything along these lines or can perhaps give Alison some leads she can be contacted on 027 6344 729 (work hours).

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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