



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **July 2016**

Next meeting Wednesday 20th July 2016
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall
Speaker Bruce Slater

General meeting 20 July 2016

Bruce Slater has been invited to share some yarns about his hunting experiences in the Wairarapa and beyond from the 1960s and 70s. I know it is hard to drag yourself away from the home fire in the depths of winter, but make the effort to come along and stay for supper and a cuppa afterwards.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

9-10 JULY WINTER FALLOW HUNT Confirmed and going ahead this weekend with a full crew of 12 members. Report to follow next month.

15-17 JULY NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE Auckland. No Wairarapa Branch committee members are able to attend this year and apologies have been sent on behalf of the branch.

20 JULY GENERAL MEETING See details above.

17 AUGUST GENERAL MEETING Speaker Ted Rodgers of Firearms Auctions.

11 SEPTEMBER WAIRARAPA BRANCH SHOOTING COMPETITION Gladstone Range. Details next month.

21 SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING Speaker to be confirmed.

24-25 SEPTEMBER SIKA SHOW Taupo.

15 OCTOBER WAIRARAPA BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER Parkvale Hall. Put it in your calendar now!

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Recent Events

11-12 JUNE SAR TRACKING SKILLS COURSE An excellent turnout from Wairarapa NZDA members and a good day by all accounts.



15 JUNE GENERAL MEETING Shane Dougan talked about his recent hunting experiences at River Valley Station in Australia. This is a big private station with reds, fallow, chital, sambar, and rusa deer in abundance. An interesting talk and some amazing wildlife photographs. About 18 members attended

26 JUNE QUAD TRAINING DAY with instructor Lance Hare. Seven members with varying riding experience turned up at Aidan's place for a practical and fun course. I think we all learnt something, and the slalom course in reverse was a highlight. Thanks to Lance and Aidan, and good to see new member Colin Bailey there. With the new Health & Safety laws, formal training will be required to use a quad on future club hunts and it would have been good to see a few more of our young hunters attend.



News

GRANT APPLICATION

The committee submitted a grant application to **Trust House Wairarapa** for the purchase of personal locator beacons for the club. This was successful and we received \$1200. Beacons will be purchased shortly.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Only one call out for a (non) missing person at Cross Creek. Twelve Wairarapa SAR members participated. The guy later turned up at a mate's place in Upper Hutt. If you are interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 474 0717.

PARKVALE HALL

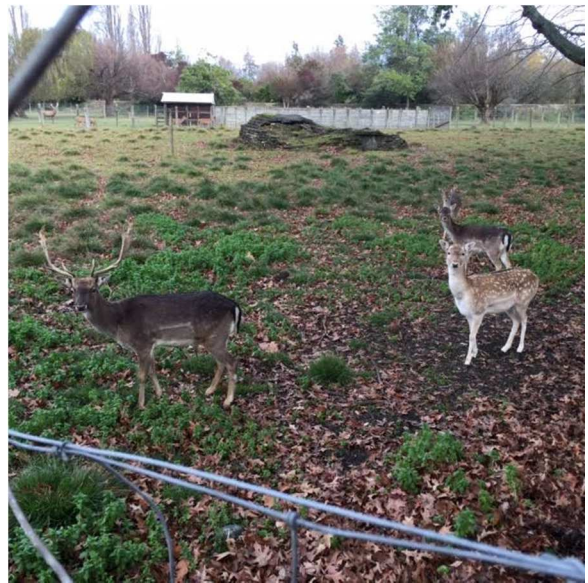
Regular bookings throughout the winter are helping to raise funds for the club.

HUTS AND TRACKS

The trip to replace the south wall on Sayers Hut has been deferred to summer. Neill Forks has a new toilet and meat safe installed by the ex Tararua Cullers' group. Martin is meeting with DOC next week and will offer to assist with re-piling of Cow Creek hut re-piling and replacing the deck at Herepai Hut.

DEER PARK

Animals are looking healthy. This is a great place to take the kids on a winter weekend outing. Recent photos below are by Martin and Tracy Amos.



NATIONAL NZDA NEWS

There has been some concern among branches in respect to changes in the H&S legislation and implications for NZDA and including branch officers. The National Office has obtained a legal opinion from their solicitor which has been distributed. In due course National Office will produce some guidelines for branches. In the meantime branches should ensure that ranges, range activities and all branch activities are organised and conducted with all reasonable care being taken to keep members and associated persons safe. Any identified risks should be documented along with steps take to mitigate those risks. Any injuries sustained on branch activities should be documented.



SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND (SSANZ)

SSANZ made a submission to the enquiry into issues relating to the illegal possession of firearms in New Zealand, responding to the basic questions posed. In brief they said:

How widespread firearm possession is among criminals, including gangs?

It would appear that not even the Police have accurate data on the types of firearm seized from criminal activity and stolen. We believe the recent figures quoted for seized firearms are over inflated due to changes in the way this data is collected. Data released by Police on 20 May show that overall firearm offending is trending downwards, but firearms stolen in burglaries are on the increase (776 stolen in 2014/15).

How criminals, gangs, and those who do not have a licence come into possession of firearms?

These fall into two groups; black - those held by criminals and grey -those held without a licence but without criminal intent. Black guns obtained by theft, illegal imports, and legal purchase and on selling by sympathisers, deception and manufacture. Pointing out that Licensed firearm owners are not the cause of this problem, but rather too often the victims. Grey guns are those held as family heirlooms, people who have failed to renew their licence, found in sheds, guns held by licence holders without the correct endorsement, etc.

What changes, if any, to the current situation might further restrict the flow of firearms to criminals, gangs, and those who do not have a licence?

We recommend stronger penalties for theft of a firearm and using a firearm in the execution of a criminal act.

More resources for Police to properly administer firearms and solve firearm theft, as well as more resources for Customs to combat smuggled firearms. Since most criminal activity involving firearms is drug related, this should be the focus of further review.

We recommended that existing firearms legislation should not be changed as this will only affect law abiding licence holders and will not impact on criminal activity.

MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL – VOLUNTEER SERVICES NO LONGER REQUIRED

In a series of Road Show presentations around the country the Mountain Safety Council (MSC) executive announced the end of the Firearms Safety Programme as we know it, telling the volunteer instructors that their services are no longer required.

The delivery of the firearms safety message and test, required by new Firearm Licence applicants, that has been provided by around 480 volunteer instructors at 150 locations ranging from city police stations to private dwelling in rural locations is to be replaced by a new model.

By the end of the year the thousands combined years of hunting and shooting experience of the volunteers will be replaced by a new model. Three models are being considered:

- A. 40 part time paid instructors covering 50 locations,
- B. 5 full time paid instructors covering 50 locations,
- C. 15 part time paid & 72 volunteers covering 50 locations.

As an example the 12 volunteer instructors who presently cover Whangarei will be replaced by one, in whatever option is chosen.

MSC are publicly stating they have a signed agreement with NZ Police to change the current system into one of these three options. However it is understood that the Police Officer who sits on the MSC Board is also the same Officer who pays MSC and is also responsible for the current Police Firearm Review, could this be a conflict of interest and is he trying to shape the future of firearm ownership to his own model?

MSC justify the change by claiming the new model will provide consistency of delivery across the country with opportunity for assessment and moderation of performance and course content. However MSC were unable to provide evidence to the volunteers, when questioned, as how the current system is failing in this respect. MSC have ignored the fact that a system of instructor assessment and formal qualification was put in place as recently as 2011 which, with the firing of the programme manager last year, has been allowed to lapse. MSC volunteers have been delivering the Firearms Safety Programme for the past 30 years and its success can be measured by the steady decline in the number of unintentional shooting incidents. What MSC executives have failed to realise is that the volunteers provide much more than the basic lecturing. A large pool of instructors allows for more time to be devoted to those with reading or learning difficulties. Since most are embedded in their local firearms community they are able to introduce new applicants to sources of practical training and advice, and monitor the behaviour and safety standards of their fellow shooters. They have the safety of their local community at heart, something that 5 full time paid instructors will be unable to provide. SSANZ is concerned that no longer will any firearms safety education be available to schools, scouts or businesses as there will be no volunteers to deliver it and paid staff will only be focused on licensing. The fear in the community is that more people will ultimately die as a result of these unprovoked changes. Especially children. It will be harder for rural people to get firearms licences as the opportunity to do so is taken away and hence they will eventually be criminalised for it.

LEAD SHOT BAN FOR SUB CALIBRES

SSANZ have been advised that the Conservation Minister Maggie Barry has instructed Fish & Game Council to extend the lead shot ban to all sub calibre gauges for water fowl.

LOWER NORTH ISLAND RED DEER FOUNDATION (LNIRDF)

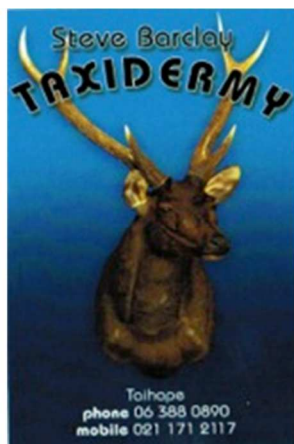
The group started as the Lower North Island Hunter Liaison Group and was set up to oppose DOC changes to Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) in the Ruahines and Tararua. The group lodged a judicial review on the DOC process around WARO in the High Court on 1 June 2016. The case will be heard on 17 October at the earliest.

In a phone conference on 23 June, LNIRDF discussed what they considered acceptable to settle the claim and agreed settlement terms would be as follows:

- That the WARO concessions be returned to their 2009 conditions and land offerings.
- No short term WARO concession provisions
- Recognition of the significance of recreational hunting in the Lower North Island and that recreational hunting be deemed the priority tool for deer management.
- Cost recovery
- A deer management plan for the Tararuas

HUNTING ON TV

A new series of the Red Stag Timber Hunters Club has started on Monday at 7 pm on Sky Sport 3. For those without Sky, the series will be replayed later in the year on Prime. And Hunting Aotearoa has moved to Choice TV and is playing on Wednesday nights at 9:30 pm. Perfect for watching after our club committee/general meetings!



Hunting Reports

This month's story is by Nelson NZDA branch member Richard Wells and is reproduced from the Nelson branch newsletter "Nelson Echo" with the author's permission. We want to include your hunting stories and photos in the newsletter. Stories can be sent to the newsletter editor at wairarapanzda@gmail.com

Well it's not named Block 69 because there are 69 deer there.....

Richard Wells

For the last several years my mate Vern, daughter Ros, and I have done the "roar thing" in Southland (long but great drive, cool hunting but short period blocks). I decided this year it was time to try again in South Westland. I did this as a novice several years ago and spent six days in the Jerry River block under tarpaulins watching it rain (either pretty hard or very hard and noting that pretty hard seems like drizzle after a couple of days of very hard!).

Being put off tents I went in the ballot for blocks with huts, mostly north of the Haast river where checking with mates and chopper guys it seems there is some good hunting as well as some valleys to avoid as pretty poor.

I was awarded Block 69 Upper Moeraki which is the top end of the Moeraki River between the Paringa and the Haast. It's surrounded by tops and looks not too steep on a map if looked at casually.

A bit of sleuthing about came up with varying comments on the block with some negative, some positive –

what the heck, we're off! Vern was indisposed by Stewart Island plans so just my daughter and I prepped to go.

Getting off the tourist infested Coast highway the thought of getting into a helicopter for once seemed a positive safety improvement! We arrived at Lake Moeraki and James Scott, the Karangarua Cab, whisked us up there. We passed over the other blocks and could see deer trails across the swamps in all directions. Unloading a swag of gear (including, wisely - some coal, dry kindling and a crossword book) we set up house then boosted off (daughter's terminology) up the main gully for a recce. It was Saturday and thus not permitted to hunt so went without rifles...."bloody tramping" so described.

The 1 & 1/2 hour trip up to the head of the Moeraki passed a huge old rock bivvy with much sign of previous use and brought two revelations..... we were feeling very unfit and there was more broadleaf about than I had seen anywhere...neither good omens. But heaps of birdlife with flocks of rifleman and tomtits everywhere was compensation. The valley sides were steeper in real life.

The head basin has a huge lovely flat, crystal waters in all directions and not a whisper of deer sign. I finally found a very small wallow with some recent sign but not a dropping of any sort or age anywhere. Some 2-3 day old tracks lead off downriver from the wallow. No roars.



Upper Moeraki valley

On return the hut book made for sombre reading, the previous party of 4 had spent three days in the block, seen neither sign nor deer and left early in disgust and never to return (well if crudely described in the book!). A big day's rain was forecast 2 days out so Sunday was recce with rifles! The creeks and river bounding each side of the hut meant heavy rain kept you at home and we are both relatively inexperienced in river crossing and knew our limitations.

Sunday morning and off up the north leading Pegmatite....rapidly looking like our best (or only) hope... just having a quick look before planning a flycamp up there later in the week. Heavy bush, no sign and leadening skies suggested we give that away early and we re-crossed the river and videoed a camera-friendly Whio, and had a much needed brew. We then decided to cut a transect straight across the valley to the big southern boundary bluff thinking if any deer were drifting up and down we would cut their trail. Anything for a footprint! In the mire of punga, bogs and crown ferns 5 feet high (nearly), no fresh sign, complete silence, no adrenaline in our veins and I was getting some apprehensive looks from Ros up on point. A sudden thump behind me and about 8 feet off and closing was a stag on the trot. Our eyes met and we both grunted in surprise. His fate depended on his next decision, which was to overtake us on the inside and wrong. Heart in mouth, I knew Ros

had about 1.3 seconds to come to grips with the situation. In 0.74 seconds she banged him hard in the shoulder as he shot past about 6 feet away, followed by a brief mopping up. We imagined it was the only sudden sound heard in the gully for a long time. We looked at each other and asked “what the hell just happened there!?” It took us a fair bit of wandering slightly off our GPS direction and about three hours to get back to the hut, just in time before the rain hit. With meat hauled back and boots drying, we were still wondering how the whole thing unfolded- and still are - the loneliness must have taken a toll on that bored young stud.

The next days were spent managing the meat (warm NW and heavy rain the issue), trying to get our radio transmitting and doing a Virgo hut clean. Cabin fever set in rather early with an hour spent building a toaster from an old baked-bean can and arranging firewood stacks fit for an art museum.

We had an early start with another look in the head valley on a beautiful frosty morning and the place shrieked deer, except for the total lack of them - we trudged home seeing no sign and no feeling in our frosted wet socks. Eventually, we decided that to save the meat we had and given lack of sign, we would depart early so hailed “the cab” on the now working mountain radio (“try fresh batteries” says Ros wisely.....) radio. Better late than never.



Ros with the instant stag



Radio shack

We enjoyed the whole experience and we learned that being fit is important, anything can happen anytime, 3.5 seconds can make a day and a trip, and time in the bush is great regardless of what game you encounter or don't. Oh yeah... and technology can sometimes be as reliable as a 14 pointer climbing out of your long-drop.

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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

FIRESTONE FIREHAWK RMT TYRES

31x10.50R15LT.M.S Half-worn. \$50 each. Call Paul on 06 3770467 after 6 pm.

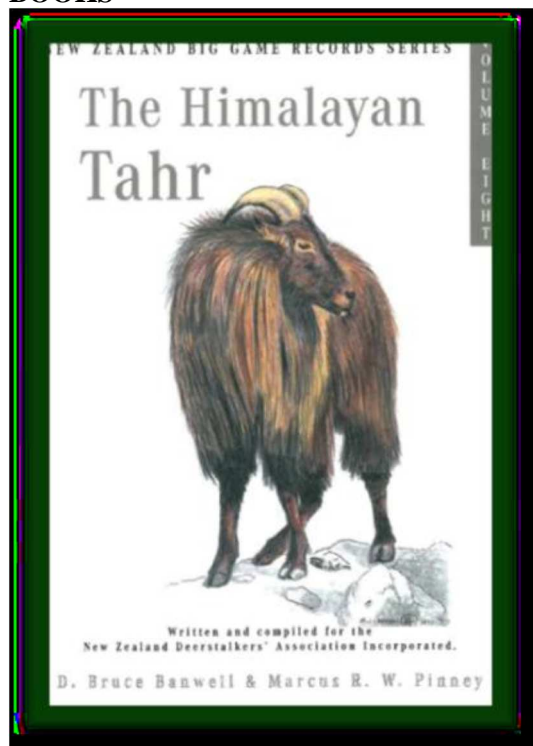
CAST-IRON POT BELLY and FLUE

\$100 ono. Call Paul on 06 3770467 after 6 pm.

SAUSAGES & SALAMI

A club fundraiser. Salamis \$20 (1 kg salami) and sausages \$6/kg. Email Aidan at yrapanzdasec@gmail.com to order.

BOOKS

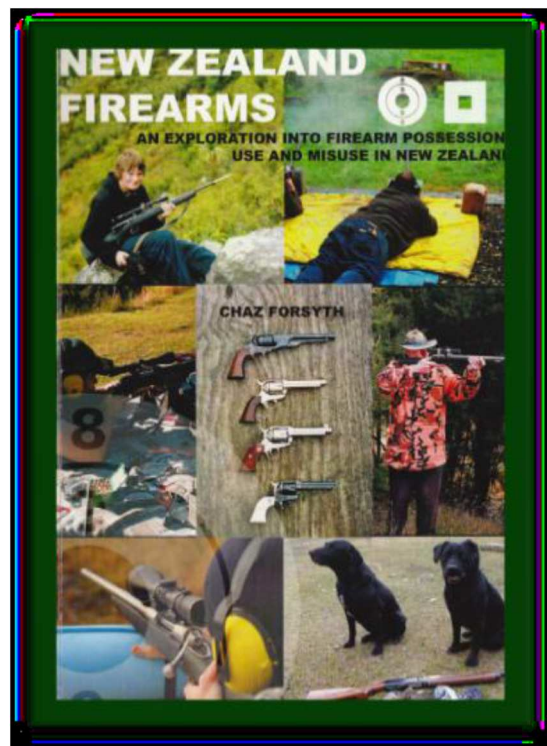


The Himalayan Tahr – Bruce Banwell & Marcus Pinney. This is the eighth and final book in the series written by Bruce Banwell which makes up the NZDA record series. This volume was completed with the help of Marcus Pinney and a number of other people, too numerous to mention here. This book is available from National Office for \$35 plus \$5 P&P.

STEVE BARCLAY TAXIDERMY VOUCHER

For a new mount (not a head that is already in Steve's possession) by a club member to the value of \$1200. Amazing value at \$500. This is the on-sale of an item that Steve very generously put up at the Dinner Auction last year and was purchased in error. Please contact Martin Amos on 06 3795454 or 027 3671635.

Examples of Steve's work can be seen at the hall including the recent fallow mount.



NZ Firearms – Chaz Forsyth. A 350 page electronic document about the extent of firearm use and misuse in New Zealand • The culmination of more than three decades of research (first published in 1977, revised and enlarged in 1985) • Illustrated with graphs showing trends • Supported by tables and extensively referenced, with appendices. Available from the National Office.



SAUSAGES & SALAMI

A club fundraiser. Salamis \$20 (1 kg salami) and sausages \$6/kg. Email Aidan at yrapanzdasec@gmail.com to order.

TARARUA VHF REPEATER

Club member Adam Kenning is working with LandSAR and the New Zealand Police to improve communication inside the Tararua forest park. To do this they need to build a repeater. They have set up a Givealittle page to raise the \$25,000 required <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/milneandkenningcomms>

More details on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Milne-Kenning-Communications-1019344244769404/>

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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