



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **May 2017**

General Meeting
Wednesday 17th May 2017
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall
Speaker: John Bissell

Hope that you all got out during the roar/rut and that the duckshooters managed to bag a few despite the fine conditions on opening day? No newsletter last month, so this is a bumper issue!

General Meeting 17 May 2017

Our guest speaker this month is John Bissell. Always an interesting speaker and back by popular demand, John will talk about game animal management and conservation, which was the subject of his recent article in NZ Hunter magazine. Promises to be a good night, so come along bring your mate, share your roar stories, and stay for supper afterwards.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

17 MAY GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall. John Bissell. See above.

18 MAY SAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm SAR base. Contact Phil Gray on 027 474 0717 for details

26-28 MAY SUBSIDISED TARARUA FLY-IN TRIP. To lower valley huts (Sayers, Cow Creek etc). Please text your details to Martin Amos on 027 3671635 if interested. Still places available.

11-12 JUNE WANGANUI FALLOW TRIP. Contact Andrew Wilkinson on 0274 381363 to put your name down.

21 JUNE GENERAL MEETING A special night at Wairarapa Hunting and Fishing. Meet outside the shop in Queen Street, Masterton at 7:30 pm. Bring your wallet to snap up some bargains!

14-16 JULY NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHRISTCHURCH. This year's theme is "Growing the Business". Registrations close 9 June. Anybody interested in attending from the branch, please contact Martin on 027 3671635. Advertisement on page 9 of this newsletter.

19 JULY GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm Parkvale Hall. We're hoping to get Paramedic Johnny Mulheron back to provide some hands-on training in outdoor medicine for hunters

24 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER SOUTH ISLAND TAHR HUNT Garry Warren has agreed to take a club trip to South Canterbury. This trip is now full, but you can contact Martin Amos on 027 3671635 to put your name on waiting list in case others pull out.



Recent Events

15 MARCH BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7:30 pm was attended by 17 members with 5 apologies. Wairarapa Hunting & Fishing kindly sponsored an assortment of outdoor clothing, which was drawn as door prizes with Paul S, Tracy, Andrew, Rhys, and Lloyd the lucky winners.



President's address

In his President's address Martin Amos began by remembering Members and family who had passed away over the last year, most recently Howard Egan's son Martin.

He went on to acknowledge the support and activities of the 2016/17 committee, as well as Graeme Hamilton and Paul Sayer for their roles in firewood working bees and maintenance, Andrew Wilkinson for organizing Wanganui hunts, Chris Cherry for maintaining the branch website, and Lance Hare for running ATV courses.

Martin noted that weather conditions meant that only one fly-in trip (out of four planned) actually went ahead in 2016/17, but Wanganui trips continued to be a highlight for the branch, and another successful goat hunt was held in Rewa Bush with the assistance of Joe Hansen at DOC and Geoff Reid at JNL. The club shooting competition in September was well attended and tightly contested, and AHT and photography competitions attracted lots of entries. The photo competition in particular had 73 entries and Martin acknowledged Geoff Walker for judging these. The Annual Dinner was again well attended and thanks to our sponsors for the many raffle prizes.

Firewood working bees were great – many had higher attendance than club meetings (!!) – and continue to be the major fundraiser for the Branch. Thanks to all those members who came along. The club was successful in getting a Trusthouse Wairarapa Grant for the purchase of 4 PLBs which are now available for rental to members. The branch has taken on responsibility for maintenance of Cow Creek Hut in the Waingawa valley as well as Sayers and Neill Forks, and working bees are planned in the upcoming year. The Parkvale Hall continues to attract bookings for functions, although the number of bookings was down slightly from the previous year

Attendance at general meetings has been down, and Martin asked for members to come forward with ideas for talks to help get people along. He concluded by urging members to pay their 2017/18 subs and reminding people of safety over the roar period.

Treasurer's report

Richard O'Driscoll presented the clubs accounts, prepared by Bill Duncan Financial Services. Total society funds were \$113,186 made up of \$92,584 of assets, and an account balance of \$20,602, which was up on the previous year. Total income for 2016/17 was \$11,517 which was made up mainly from subscriptions, firewood sales, and tickets and raffles from the annual dinner. Annual expenditure was \$7,057 which included hall costs (insurance, rates, power etc) as well as costs associated with the dinner.

The full financial statement is available at www.societies.govt.nz. Click on "search for a society" under online services and enter the organization number 216621.

Bill Duncan was re-appointed as auditor for 2017/18 and subscription fees for 2018/19 were set to remain the same as in 2017/18.

Election of officers for 2017/18

President: Martin Amos

Vice-president: Tracy Amos

Secretary: Aidan Bichan

Treasurer: Richard O'Driscoll

Committee:

Phil Gray

Alex Beesley

Steve Playle

Pete Cunningham

Andrew Dennes

Adam Kenning

Brad Gardiner

Lloyd Rainer

Potential nominations for branch life members were discussed and the meeting was closed at 9 pm.

Designated club roles 2017/18

Newsletter: Richard O'Driscoll

Website: Chris Cherry

AHT: Steve Playle

Photography: Sharon Playle

Memberships: Tracy Amos

DOC Liaison: Martin Amos

Huts and Tracks: Andrew Dennes & Mike Thrupp

Range and shooting: Alex Beesley

Hunting trips: Martin Amos & Andrew Dennes

Wanganui trips: Andrew Wilkinson

Hall hire: Martin Amos

Search and Rescue: Phil Gray & Pete Cunningham

Deer park: Phil Gray, Brad Gardiner, Paul Sayer

Youth members: Adam Kenning

Please support your committee and others with designated responsibilities. A successful club is one where all the members pitch in!

17-19 MARCH SUBSIDISED TARARUA FLY-IN TRIP. Nine members had at successful weekend at Carkeek, Cattle Ridge, and Sayers. See trip report later in newsletter.

26 MARCH QUAD/SIDE BY SIDE TRAINING COURSE. Thanks to Lance Hare for instructing. The club is investigating an organised branch ride through the Haurangis to put these new skills into action.

1 APRIL DUCKSHOOTERS CLAY TARGET SHOOT Fourteen shooters attended. Thanks to Alex Beesley for organizing and hosting this.

Final scores (out of 32):

Ben Gordon	28	Harley Bengston	17
Jordan Hamilton	27	Simon Young	15
Justus Kelly	27	Adam Kenning	15
Steve Playle	24	Jared Thore	14
Paul Hodgins	24	Jo Bengston	11
Martin Amos	18	Clair Hodgins	9
Grahame Hamilton	18	Rhys Amos	0



7-9 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW RUT HUNT. Washed out by Cyclone Debbie. Next trip 11-12 June.

News

PARKVALE HALL

Committee had a clean-up 3 May. Bookings are relatively quiet for next two month

SEARCH AND RESCUE

The SAR AGM is 18 May. If you are interested in joining SAR please contact Phil Gray on 027 474 0717.

DEER PARK

Paul, Phil, and Aidan met Masterton District Council Parks & Reserves advisor Adele Suyure and discussed health and safety, supplementary feed, weed control, and contacts. New signage for the Park is being drafted.

HUTS AND TRACKS

Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka Huts Committee meeting had its committee meeting on Monday 6th March 2017 at DOC Wellington Porirua Conservancy, 13B Wall Place, Keneperu

Kathy (DOC Wairarapa) said that a heavy rainstorm in the Wairarapa in October had caused slips and other damage. The road to Walls Whare now stopped a kilometre before the end of the road, because of a slip. A footbridge across the Atiwhakatu Stream had also been damaged. Record rainfall fell at Angle Knob in September 2016, highlighting just how wet this spring and summer has been. DOC Wairarapa had gained funding from the DOC National Emergency Fund to re-roof Alpha Hut, also a notoriously wet site. There is a high likelihood that Hutt Valley NZDA will take over as custodian of Alpha Hut.

Work on Custodian huts:

Cattle Ridge Hut: (Wellington Branch NZDA): Repayment of a \$5,000 grant was made to the Pharazyn/Treadwell family trusts. Although these funds are for upgrading Cattle Ridge hut, they were not supplied to TARHC for that purpose. Negotiations between Wellington Branch NZDA, the hut custodian, and Treadwells should make the funds available. Wgtn Branch has also made a \$15,000 contribution to the hut upgrade. David Mardell is available to do the work. But the heavy rain and lack of days on which helicopters have been able to fly in the Tararuas has significantly restricted opportunities to get materials in and do the work.

Waiotauru Hut: (ARAC): Waiting on signing the Custodian agreement. The \$6,000 of TARHC funds put aside for this work is still unspent. But prospects look good for a start to be made soon.

Nichols Hut (Kapiti NZDA): Part of Hut and the toilet painted. Also the water tank tied down.

Kapakapanui Hut (Kapiti NZDA): Painting working bee rostered.

Renata Hut (No custodian at present): Some possible interest from WTMC.

Arete Forks (Ex NZFS): New 1960s concrete fireplace & re-roof.

Mitre Flats (Masterton TC): Have stained the wall, but still to be painted.

Cone Hut: (Tararua TC): Info supplied after the meeting by TTC. Main issue is still the need to cut down the trees that threaten the hut. The sooner that this is done the better.

Te Matawai Hut (Manawatu T&SC): This hut is suffering from the number of people using it, from both the Te Araroa Trail, and the Northern Crossing. It appears in need of replacement or a major refurbishment. It is a core hut.

Waipahu Hut (Levin Waiopahu TC): Neil Bigwood said that working bees to paint the hut had been aborted because of rainy weather. The hut has no under-floor insulation. Neil praised DOC Masterton for their strong support.

Ruahine Forest Park Public Access: Those present were enthusiastic about gaining better public access to Kawhatau Base and Colenso Peak. People need to ring DOC to gain landowner permission.

Annual Election of TAR Huts Committee Officers

The present Officers were re-elected unopposed, as no other nominations were forthcoming.

President: Nicholas Boyack (HVTTC)

Secretary-Treasurer Hugh Barr, (TTC)

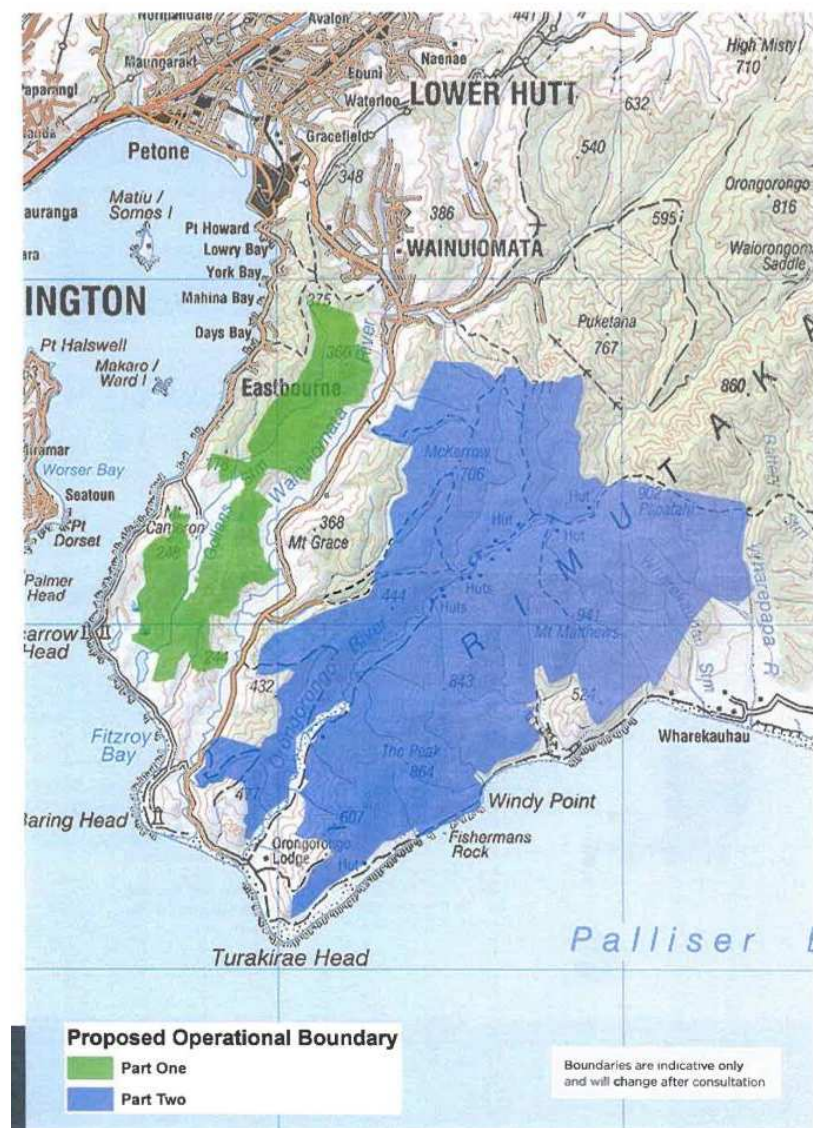
Vice President: Derrick Field (Ex NZFS)

PROJECT KAKA 1080 DROP

The large aerial 1080 drop in the 22,000 Ha south-central part of the Tararua was finally carried out 15-17 March.

SOUTHERN RIMUTAKA 1080 DROP

Greater Wellington Regional Council have advised that aerial possum control operations in Southern Rimutakas have commenced. The aerial pre-feed operation in East Harbour Regional Park was completed on 26 April. Application of 1080 pellets will occur from 8 May onwards (weather permitting). Operations will then shift to the Rimutaka Forest Park (area in blue in map below), with 1080 pellet application tentatively planned for 15 May onwards. All aerially applied baits will be treated with deer repellent. .





LOWER NORTH ISLAND RED DEER FOUNDATION INC.

The Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation had its day in court Wednesday 2nd May, finally (take 2 scene 1). Initial court day was deferred from December 2016 due to a WARO operator wanting to participate

Too early to say what the result is likely to be but on the positive side, the Judge appeared to get a good grasp of the issues after a fair bit of questioning of both counsels. Our counsel thought that's the best we could ask for, to happen.

Could be couple of months before we get a decision. Key issues the Judge wanted our counsel, and DOCs to explain/justify included; the consultation process, role of rec hunters in the Wild Animal Control Act, the "effects" on hunters of the decisions to remove exclusions to WARO, the basis for the decisions (ie deer densities), among others. Very interesting day, seeing how the process worked.

A positive result for the LNIRDF will have far reaching effects on recreational hunting and WARO management by DOC throughout the country.

Our aim has been to show that hunters should have been formally consulted, and the effect the decisions had on hunting were significant. Also that rec hunters have a Statutory role in Wild Animal Control and should be given better consideration in the decision making.

The aim has not been to exclude WARO, but simply to get DOC to include hunters in the decision making process and get a better deal for hunting and Game Management.

Many thanks to all those that donated to the cause. Without the support from hunters, this challenge would never have happened. That would have resulted in more of the same from DOC. We believe this challenge by hunters is the first to go all the way to court. Whilst threats have been made in the past no court action had resulted, we had always backed down. It has also become clear that DoC and the WARO guys never thought we would go this far and that they could "weather the storm" and we would go away as we always had done.

No matter what the outcome hunters now have credibility. This has not been cheap and we are still seeking donations,

Thanks,

Gordon George (GG), President, Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation Inc.

COUNCIL OF LICENCED FIREARM OWNERS (COLFO)

Report of the Inquiry into Illegal firearms in the New Zealand Community

The government recently held an inquiry into illegal firearms in the community. A select committee, comprised of members from political parties which make up our Parliament, investigated the matter. It called for submissions from the public, receiving 105, making 20 recommendations to place before the Government. NZDA submitted on this under its connection with COLFO.

Three factors need to be remembered:

- a. these are recommendations, and will not necessarily form or become government policy;
- b. they are NOT the law, but may lead to changes in the law;

- c. Any law change will have to undergo due process, that is (unless urgency is taken by Parliament) undergo three readings, select committee processing (to hear public input) before being passed into law. Timeline for this may be as long as two to three years.

The Select Committee recommendations are listed under six subheadings:

- Sale and supply of firearms and ammunition
- Definition of military-style semi-automatics
- Effectiveness of licensing, training, and registering firearms
- Criminal offending with firearms
- Reducing the number of grey firearms
- Importing firearms into New Zealand

Many of the recommendations suggest changes which are already in effect, or which already exist under the Crimes Act (1961, and subsequent amendments), the Arms Act (1983, and subsequent amendments) and the Arms Regulations (1992, and subsequent amendments).

The entire report and its recommendations may be found at:
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/reports/document/SCR_72851/inquiry-into-issues-relating-to-the-illegal-possession

COLFO has prepared a response which is available from its website, www.colfo.org.nz, and from its facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/colfonz/>

PEST TRAPPING

A local group organise fortnightly visit to Holdsworth to check and re-bait pest traps on about 40 hectares around the Donnelly Flat area. DOC have received a bequest, worth some \$70,000, to be spent on biodiversity in the Holdsworth area. The plan is to set over 400 traps in an area roughly 1000 acres centred on Donnelly Flat.

But they need help! There are various tasks

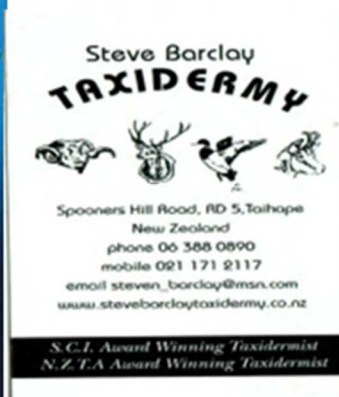
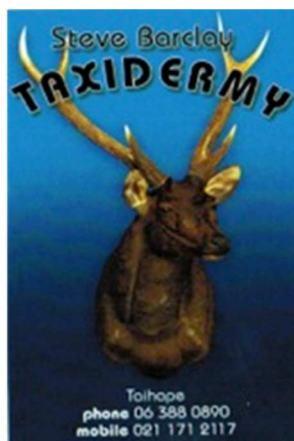
Assist in putting out 80 monitoring tunnels

Assist in putting out 400+ Good Nature A24 traps

Each 3 months carry out a rat monitor on one of the 8 monitoring lines

Every 6 months re-bait and re-gas some of the A24 traps.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Nigel Boniface on nigelb707@gmail.com



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

69th Annual Conference



14th - 16th July 2017

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Other Hotel / Motels within the area:

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Airport Birches Motel – 390 Yaldhurst Road – Ph 03 342 3338

Middlepark Motel – 120 Main South Road– Ph 03 348 7320

Other Hotel / Motels for those with transport wanting something more classy:

Check out Motels available in Upper Riccarton/Riccarton

or Roydvale Avenue

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Hunting Reports

NZDA helicopter trip 17-19 March 2017

By Richard O'Driscoll

With Brad Gardiner, Tim McKay (and Sid the dog) to Carkeek Hut, Tararua

The long-awaited return to Carkeek after several cancelled attempts. Met at JDs about 2:30 pm. Martin, Aidan, and Pete C had gone into Cattle Ridge, and Paul Sayer, Graham, and Lloyd went into Sayers. Project Kaka 1080 drop the day before limited the areas somewhat, but we were just outside the zone.

Tim, Brad, and I flew out into a building north-west. JD took us for a tour round some likely spots including a run up into the head of the Park River where there was some really nice country and a stag wallow. A couple of nice ridges head into this from between Carkeek and Thompson – it would be a good place to camp, as probably 2 hours walk from Carkeek.

Landed, dropped our gear at hut and we were hunting by 4 pm. Went down track to look at the shingle slip below hut where Brad shot a deer a couple of years ago, then up towards tops. Wind was poor, from behind and down Waiohine side. Got up to the 1260 m lookout point above saddle. Tim stayed there while Brad and I continued up sneaking up the ridge looking into side guts. No deer, but Brad saw a 6-point stag in Waiohine Flats on a big open face above river. Watched as he fed down onto flats. We also saw 3 hinds highlighted in evening sun on bottom of Tarn Ridge.



Tim & chopper



Carkeek ridge

Tim meanwhile was walking round on the skyline! We gave up at 7:40 pm and met up with him to stumble back in the dark. As we passed the first high knob from hut, a deer barked and fawn-called down on Park River side of ridge.

A bit disappointed at lack of deer and sign, but blamed the weather.....

Up at 6 am next morning, but windy and cloud round the hut, so I went for a quick hunt below the hut down Park River side. Not a lot of sign and gave up quickly. Got back to the hut at 8 am, grabbed my pack and headed up the ridge. Joined 30 minutes later by Brad and Tim. All went up to 1260 m point together then Brad went down ridge towards Park (he spooked one), Tim continued up Carkeek Ridge, and I dropped down into Waiohine. Had to bash through some leatherwood to start, then very steep, but improved as I dropped off ridge to left. Quite open bush, grassy faces, and some nice little guts. Lots of deer sign in bush including some very fresh stag poo, but wind was wrong. Took 1.5 hours from tussock to river, and came out in swampy flat where we saw hind in 2013. Not much sign in swamp or river itself.

Hunted up river with cool wind swirling round, up to face where we saw stag previous evening. A bit more sign in this area, but would need to camp to make the most of it. Nothing up in Waiohine headwaters, but heard an early stag moan in the bush on Carkeek side.



Spot the stag!



Looking back up ridge where I came down from
tops



Waiohine headwaters

Started to drizzly rain and wind went round to southeast, so gave up about 3 pm and headed back downstream. Only took 1.25 hours back up ridge to tussock, but wind up my bum again. Cold and damp getting back to the hut and was glad to smell the fire as I approached at 5:45 pm.

Brad and Tim had more success. As they were walking back to the hut at midday, Brad saw a hind and fawn in saddle off the Park ridge that leads off first high point. Tim put in a good stalk to a rock outcrop and shot them both through the head at 60 m. A very good result 😊



Tim – the successful hunter



We all decided it was too cold and wet for an evening hut, so I enjoyed a late lunch followed an hour later by dinner.

Up early again Sunday and despite cloud round hut, I headed up ridge. Was rewarded by breaking out above cloud into a magic morning. JD reckons cloud in the valleys was the thickest he had seen in 18 years in Tararuas and he buzzed round about 7 am looking for a saddle to go through onto western side.

Hunted carefully all my way up to 1310 m point, but no sign of animals. Wondered whether I was seeing them, but quickly picked up a stag, spiker, and hind on Dorset Ridge about 9 am. Shame camera batteries had died or I could have got photos. Gave up at 10 am and returned to hut by 11:30 am for a coffee and clean-up. JD arrived to take us back to civilization at 1:40 pm. A great weekend, but not many handy animals.

Martin and Aidan got a hind and spiker at Cattle Ridge. The guys at Sayers saw trampers and dead possums!

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

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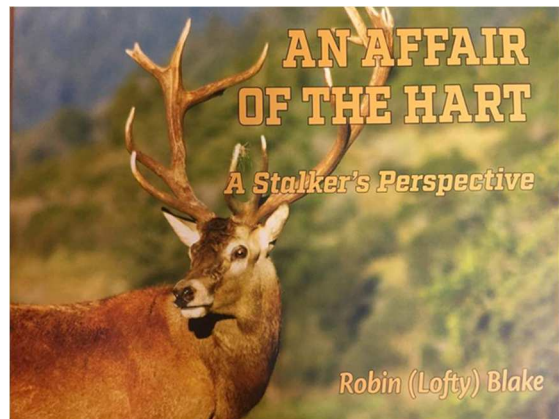
Buy, Sell, and Swap

Starting afresh for 2017. 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

AN AFFAIR OF THE HART

\$50 per book signed by the Author

Lofty has given our branch a great opportunity to sell these books and our Branch receives \$10 per copy



RELOADING BALLISTIC SPECIALISTS

Bill Perry (agent for Norma, Swarovski, and Schultz and Larsen) has recently moved from Fabians Road in Greytown to near Masterton and has new contact details. You can now contact Bill on 06 3701432 or 027 2086863.

FOR SALE TOTARA WOOD DESIGNS

Custom made for anyone. All art work is hand drawn on the totara wood. Price Varys on design and wood size. These make really good gifts, also check out Facebook for more photos and previous designs, search Gladstone Totara Designs. If anyone is interested or wants more information call or text Adam on 0279176358 or text Hannah 0221504699.

LOST AND FOUND HEADLIGHT

A headlight was found on the Ngapotiki Ridge earlier this year. If you think that it might be yours please contact Phil Gray on 027 474 0717.

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

The four club PLBs purchased with a grant application from Trust House Wairarapa are available for hire for \$10 for a weekend or \$20 for 3-14 days. Contact Aidan on 0274 323410.

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.

Check us out on Facebook:  We now have over 950 likes!!
<https://www.facebook.com/WairarapaNZDA>

Thanks to Chris Cherry who keeps the branch website up-to-date. You can even look through previous newsletters! Check it out on: <http://www.wairarapanzda.org.nz/>