



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association
Wairarapa Branch Incorporated

Newsletter for **February 2018**

General meeting
Wednesday 21st February 2018
7:30 pm Parkvale Hall
Speaker: Shane Dougan

General Meeting 21 February 2018

Our first meeting of the New Year. I hope everybody had some time off over January and got into the hills or out on the water.

The first meeting will be an informal affair, and we welcome back **Shane Dougan** to show a video or two and share some of his entertaining yarns. Promises to be a good night, and no excuses about the weather being too cold to go out, so hope to see a good turn-out. Stay for a cuppa and supper afterwards.

Key Dates - Upcoming Trips and Events

16-18 FEBRUARY SUBSIDISED TARARUA FLY-IN TRIP. Participants to meet at 3 pm on Friday 16th at Amalgamated Helicopters in Chester Road to fly to Carkeek and Sayers. Hopefully you will hear successful trip reports at the February meeting

21 FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Details above

24 FEBRUARY HALL WORKING BEE Parkvale Hall starting at 9:30 am. Focus on outside clean-up including spraying grass and weeding.

28 FEBRUARY 2018/19 SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE Existing members should have received their invoice by email or mail from National Office. Please pay by due date. Remember you have to be a current financial member at the time of shooting that trophy stag or taking that winning photograph to be eligible for Branch and National competitions.

3-4 MARCH WANGANUI FALLOW SUMMER HUNT. Still a few places available. Note the new dates a week later than originally advertised. Contact Andrew Wilkinson on 027 4381363 to put your name down.

3-4 MARCH CELEBRATING CARTERTON SHOW. Branch will have a stand at the Carterton Event Centre with a display of heads, photos, brochures, and membership forms. If you able to help with set-up or on one of the days please contact Aidan at 027 4323410.

21 MARCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Nobody will be "press-ganged" into office, but please show up and have your say.

6-8 APRIL WANGANUI FALLOW RUT HUNT. Now full.

18 APRIL GENERAL MEETING Parkvale Hall 7:30 pm. Speaker to be confirmed

MAY NELSON LAKES TRIP. Dates to be confirmed, but will probably be a Thursday to Sunday. Staying at Red Deer Lodge in St Arnaud and hunting round Lake Rotoiti with access by boat. Contact Martin if interested on 027 3671635. Will need a minimum of four people to make this worthwhile.



Recent Events

END OF YEAR BARBEQUE 13 DECEMBER A good turn-out despite not ideal weather. Thanks to the shelter of the Amalgamated Helicopters' barn, 20 members enjoyed a great pre-Christmas get together. Thanks to JD and his team for hosting us again.



10 FEBRUARY FIREWOOD WORKING BEE. Seventeen adult members, four juniors, a tractor, three splitters, and lots of chainsaws showed up at the Amos residence last Saturday and in 4 hours converted a pile of logs into split firewood. Most of this has already been sold and delivered. If you're quick you might still be able to secure a trailer load; \$75 for participating members, \$80 for members who weren't at the working bee, and \$90 for non-members, plus \$10 deliveries within 10 km range. Contact Martin on 027 3671635.



News

PARKVALE HALL

We are continuing to earn income for the Branch from hall bookings, with five to date this year. For more information or to make a booking contact Martin 379 5454 or 027 3671635. Note the hall working bee to clean up the grounds on Saturday 24 February starting at 9:30 am.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Two call outs in January. In early January members were put on stand-by for a possible stretcher carry for an injured person at Holdsworth. Fortunately the injured party "self rescued". On Monday last week there was a call-out for an overdue mountain runner in the Rimutakas, who made her own way out after a night in the bush. Two good outcomes. Phil Gray is Branch rep but keen to get others involved. If you're interested in joining SAR please contact Phil on 027 4740717.

There is a SAR training course on river crossing on 3 March.

HUTS

No reports this month. Some branch members will visit Sayers during the February fly-in



DEER PARK

There are 5 reds and 7 fallow in residence. The red stag is stripping already and the fallow buck has a fine velvet head. Unfortunately the light-coloured fallow doe was found dead a week ago of unknown causes.



NATIONAL OFFICE

Renewal Invoices

All invoices for the 2018/19 year will be going out in February. They will be emailed out first, and any member who has not paid within 10 days will be sent a hardcopy invoice.

Membership forms

The branch has received its membership forms for 2018/19. These have also been updated on the branch and national office websites. Any 2018/19 applications we receive now will be put on hold until March when the new subscription year begins, as we are not able to enter them into the database early.

Conference

Dates have been decided for Conference 2018. It will be held in Wellington on: **13-15 July 2018**. Further details to follow soon.

Hunting & Wildlife magazine

The Hunting & Wildlife magazine was sent out on 1 February to all financial members of NZDA.

COLFO

Meeting the Police Minister

At the end of November COLFO held a meeting with Stuart Nash the new Minister of Police who listened carefully to what we had to tell him about current issues facing firearm owners. Our concern was expressed over Police attempts to add their “wish list” to new policy instead of abiding by what is required by the exiting Arms Act and Regulations. He told COLFO that his number one statement to Police was to fix the relationship between the Police and firearm users. He has asked for a further advice on the findings of the Select Committee Inquiry into Illegal Firearms and will consider this before making any decision on how this should proceed. Although he did not reveal his intentions in respect of any new firearm legislation he did say that any changes would follow the full parliamentary process with opportunity for public submissions. Meanwhile COLFO has pointed out to Police in the strongest terms that their attempt to introduce new policies in relation to the secure storage of firearms through a revised POL67N is unlawful and contradicts the current Arms Act and Regulation.

Police reveal the shape of future licence testing

Just before Christmas Police National Headquarters released information on what the New Zealand Firearms Licensing regime will look like in the future. They sent it out to potential service providers who had previously indicated their interest at the start of the tender process last year. The key points are:

- An applicant applying for their firearms licence for the first time will need to complete their firearms safety education online.
- They will then have to attend at a Government agency to complete an online test based on what they downloaded and learned online.
- Next they will have to attend a 2 hour practical firearms handling course with instructors at a central location, reduced in number to only a third of the locations currently offering the theory instruction. The practical does NOT include live firing. COLFO expects that the applicant will need to demonstrate some sort of competency in safe handling of the firearms given to them to handle.
- Once both the theory and practical are successfully completed, the applicant can then move on with the security check and required interviews of themselves and their referees.
- People without internet access will need to get someone else to download and possibly print the relevant information for them.
- Arms Codes will still be available from Police Stations.
- It is suggested that the Whakatūpato programme which currently delivers a full day firearms safety and licensing opportunities course will extend into areas where communities are isolated – allowing a face to face instruction of both theory, practical and testing.

You can become an individual supporter of COLFO here: <http://colfo.org.nz>

LOWER NORTH ISLAND RED DEER FOUNDATION

The club recently paid a \$100 subscription to renew its affiliation to LNIRDF. This will be reviewed annually by the committee to see whether this still provides value to our branch.

2018 WARO review (helicopter hunting of deer, tahr and chamois)

DoC have shown no ability to learn from past poor treatment of hunters and have now (letter from Dep Director Mike Slater, 20th December 2017) formally reneged on their commitment to undertake a wider review of the WARO system. The commitment to a wider review with full involvement of all parties was made to the 2015 and 2016 NZDA conferences and to the High Court during the Red Deer Foundations (LNIRDF) successful court challenge.

The promised wider review was a much welcome constructive opportunity for hunters to have a fair say. DoC now say they will consult regionally if changes to the status quo are proposed. This in effect means they will deny recreational hunters the ability to input on any land offering (to WARO) already in existence and whether that includes the lands the judge declared invalidly added is unclear. This is not the fairness the judge wanted nor what DoC promised.

We had hoped for a fresh approach from DoC, and keenly anticipated the promised wider review hoping that more thought to sustainable predictable game management might result. But what we found just prior to the meetings, was that the topic of a full WARO review was off the agenda. But yet again DoC have shown the same old short sighted mentality towards management of deer. This backtrack by DOC led the Game Animal Council to conclude that there was little point in attending the meetings so they understandably stayed away.

Questions have been asked but other than confirming they have reneged on the promise to hunters and the court they have as yet failed to answer.

Currently there is little evidence to support that senior staff will treat the nation's 50,000 big game hunters in good faith and with the respect our significant contribution to conservation deserves.

I have passed on the letter formally confirming DoC mislead hunters and the court to a wide range of hunter reps including NZDA National office. I am waiting a response from National office as to what challenge is to occur to such a significant issue. To advocate on behalf of recreational hunters is at the core of NZDA values and we as members should be asking our organisation what are they doing to counter this threat to our core activity, i.e. hunting.

Hunters should not be complacent about deer hunting now, and the effects that WARO will have – particularly with the improved price of feral venison. Reports indicate that helicopter deer recovery has increased substantially, with very few deer being seen in many areas, including Central Westland, Ruahines, parts of Canterbury and Otago. The days of expecting to get a stag on the open tops may fast disappear, yet again.

With the betrayal by DOC, and if the next round of WARO permits is granted for 10 years, then the opportunity to achieve what this Foundation, NZDA, the Game Animal Council and most hunters have sought – a sustainable management of deer, will not happen. The GAC have publicly condemned the decision in the latest issue of the NZ Hunter magazine. The GAC intends to work through the department and the Minister of Conservation to try and get the promised WARO review, but don't leave it to them.

Support by hunters is needed - If you want to see a change to how deer are managed, and a more sustainable WARO industry that recognizes proper management of deer benefits hunting and the environment then do something about it.

Ask DOC (the Director General is Lou Sanson (lsanson@doc.govt.nz) what commitments they intend to honour and which ones are just fairy tales? And let the Minister of Conservation (Eugenie.Sage@parliament.govt.nz) know how you feel about the betrayal of recreational hunters by DOC.

Gordon George
President, LNIRDF

The letters to and from Mike Slater are on our website, link is <https://www.lnirdf.org.nz/blog/753779>

GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL CONDEMNS THREATS BY ANTI 1080 GROUP

“Those making threats to people's lives, to aircraft and to contaminate our meat and milk should be pursued with the full force of the law and brought to justice” said Don Hammond, Chairman of the Game Animal Council.

The Game Animal Council is the statutory body that represents hunters' interests in the sustainable management of New Zealand's game animals for recreation, commerce and conservation.

A letter containing these threats has been sent to the Department of Conservation and Fairfax Media Group. In that letter the perpetrators have branded themselves as representatives of the hunting community.

“This could not be further from the truth” said Don Hammond. “The nature of the threats gives us a pretty good idea about what type of people wrote this letter and they are certainly not representative of the vast majority of law abiding New Zealand hunters”.

For most hunters it is about putting food on the table and, together with opportunities for tourism and farming, hunting is a major part of New Zealand life. The hunting community is a significant contributor to conservation in New Zealand. In Fiordland alone, hunters have spent over \$700,000 and have donated 1152 days labour, making possible 2 million trapping nights that have killed over 1500 stoats and 1200 rats, thus saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of native birds.

We will provide any help we can to identify and apprehend those responsible for the actions already taken and for making these threats since they threaten the future for hunting in New Zealand.

DISCOUNTS ON INTERISLANDER FERRY NZ Deerstalkers Association

Group Booking Reference: **FA5474**

The below rates are based on prices to date, inclusive of GST and subject to availability.

Fares:	Peak Each Way
Adult	\$52.00
Child	\$25.00
Motorcycle	\$50.00
Campervan/Motorhome up to 5.5mt	\$170.00
Additional half metre	\$42.00
Car/Ute/Van/4WD/trailer up to 5.5mt	\$137.00 each
Additional half Metre	\$22.00
Premium Lounge	\$45.00 18yrs plus

Peak Dates:

01-28 February 18
29 March – 03 April 18

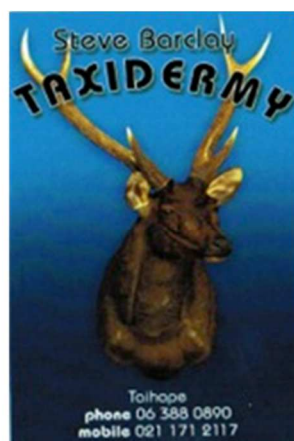
Fares:	Off Peak Each Way
Adult	\$47.00
Child	\$25.00
Motorcycle	\$40.00
Campervan/Motorhome up to 5.5mt	\$145.00
Additional half metre	\$37.00
Car/Ute/Van/4WD/trailer up to 5.5mt	\$124.00 each
Additional half Metre	\$20.00
Premium Lounge	\$45.00 18yrs plus

Off Peak Dates:

01 March – 28 March 18
04 April – 18 December 18

Group Booking conditions and instructions for members are:

- Reservations can be made direct with Interislander online at <http://www.interislander.co.nz/Booking/Group-Bookings.aspx> by entering FA5474 into the group discount code box.
- Space is subject to availability at the time of the booking request.
- Bookings are 90% refundable if cancelled up to 1 hour before departure.
- Date and time changes allowed up to 1 hour before departure without penalty, subject to availability.
- **NZDA membership card to be shown at check-in or full retail fare will be charged. Membership card to be in the name of the person travelling.**
- Fares subject to change with notification.
- If booking from outside NZ you will need to request your booking be made via email.
- Rates valid for travel 01 February through to 18 December 18



Hunting Reports

November 2017 Club Tahr Hunt by Steve Playle (with photos by Richard O'Driscoll)



November 24th 2017 saw 8 members of the Club depart Gary Warren's home in three 4wd vehicles destined for the Growler Hut in the Havelock River beyond Mesopotamia Station on the eastern side of the Southern Alps. We caught the late sailing on the Ferry and arrived in Picton after midnight to catch a few hours of sleep at a Motel which Gary had pre booked. It didn't feel like I'd been asleep long before it was time to rise and hit the tarmac for a long day of travel. We were mobile shortly after 6 am and eventually stopped at Murchison for breakfast and a much needed coffee. Following a first class feed it was back on the road for a full day of travel. Party members alternated between vehicles along the way providing an opportunity to each get to know one another a little better.

We arrived at Mesopotamia late in the afternoon to then negotiate our way up the wide and braided Havelock River to our final destination the Growler hut. The hut already had hunters in residence upon our arrival around 6 pm but some of our group opted to erect tents and sleep outdoors. Once settled in and with coffee in hand, binoculars were extracted from packs for some serious glassing to commence. Derek who has years of tahr experience under his belt was the first to locate some animals below camp up in some steep country. Richard was up for the challenge of getting a shot and was away soon after with a light pack and head lamp. The other hunters returned before dark to show off an 11 and a half in bull plus a cast antler that measured just over 38 inches with 6 points on it. Due to the vastness of the country Richard was unsuccessful in reaching the tahr and returned home with the aid of his head lamp as darkness overcame him.

Following a much needed sleep everyone was up early the following morning to have a feed and formulate plans for a day of hunting. The other hunting party was heading away so we had the whole area to ourselves. The day turned out to be a scorcher so plenty of water in the day bag and a lathering of sunscreen was a prerequisite prior to commencement of the hunt. In pairs the Little Growler, Camp Creek and Carneys Creek were destinations for the day.

Martin and I opted to hunt below the Little Growler and up into the area that Richard had ventured into the previous evening. That turned out to be a day of intense heat for us with no opportunity to get shelter from the sun. I exhausted my water supply over the course of the day and returned to camp that evening with a headache. Light drizzle was falling on our return in the evening.

Pete and Derek arrived back soon after us and Pete told the story of hitting a bull and not recovering it up in the Little Growler stream. He was somewhat dejected and I could well sympathize for him after losing my first

tahr on a West Coast hunt a few years earlier. Later Gary and Richard returned looking shattered after a big day in Camp Creek with Richard beaming after successfully shooting four tahr and recovering three of them. They had to beat a hasty retreat down through the gorges in Camp Creek as rain in the headwaters caused the water levels to rise and discolor. Two tahr heads of just over ten inches was extracted from heavy day bags along with a bunch of back legs. “A very successful introduction to tahr hunting for Richard”! Andrew and Craig was the last to return from Carneys with stories of animals seen but no opportunities to take a shot.

The following day was a quiet one for some of us so Martin took his Hilux further up the Havelock River until we could get no further. My GPS indicated that we had travelled just over 6 kms from the hut. We found a rare shady spot under some beech trees for some lunch followed by binocular work. Tahr was observed high in the bluffs across the Havelock but as Richard said at one point “they may as well be on Mars”!!

It was mid-afternoon when we arrived back in camp to plan tea and sink a beer or two. Gary had decided on a fly camp up above the gorges in Camp Creek and I was invited to go along with him, Derek and Richard for a couple of days. We packed enough equipment into our packs for a couple of days hunting and headed away after breakfast the following morning. The day was expected to be a hot one so the plan was to ascend through the series of gorges before the sun became an issue. It took us over two and a half hours from the time we departed Gary’s truck till we eventually reached our little camp site. The sun was scorching by that time and the tents was quickly erected followed by a large fly that we then crawled under to take a break along with a brew and a bite to eat. While this was going on we had the excitement of seeing a mature nanny tahr and her very young kid that worked their way down off the bluffs opposite us to where they arrived in Camp Creek directly opposite us. Richard and I was both rewarded with some spectacular photo opportunities as the animals crossed the stream to our side completely oblivious to us.



Later we headed away upstream into the catchment in search of descending tahr. On our jaunt we saw plenty of animals high up in the bluff systems but unfortunately nothing came within shooting range. Daylight was all but gone when we returned to our tents to remove wet boots and prepare tea before retiring to our sleeping bags for the night.

Soon after daylight next morning we were up preparing for the day ahead. Gary was heating water on the Jet Boil when he spotted a solid bull tahr on a scrubby ridge downstream and opposite our camp site. A frantic grab was made for rifles and someone said the animal was 200 meters away. I took a reasonably hurried shot off the nearest flat rock that was available and heard the solid thump of a hit. The tahr spun sideways and plunged through the monkey scrub out of sight. We were confident that he hadn't gone too far but a thorough search by Gary and Richard proved fruitless and I was feeling like Pete did when he lost his bull a couple of days earlier.

After a late finish to breakfast we packed and headed back up into the catchment for a further day of glassing for animals. There wasn't any shortage of them but again they were well safe from us up in the rocky crags that were completely beyond our reach. Mid-afternoon some promising animals was sighted working their way down from high up so we settled in to await developments. I took the chance to sneak a wee nap while the others observed the actions of the group of tahr. Eventually the animal judged to be the best of the bunch wandered off the rocky face to a point where Gary said I'd better start shooting. At 300 meters he was clearly visible through my 12 power scope. At the shot he headed around the side of the hill while the others quickly ascended back the way they'd come from. I took a second shot at my bull and he went a bit further before expiring in some monkey scrub. Shooting from the others resulted in another tahr taking two solid hits from Derek's 300 WSM. I was damned elated to finally have a bull tahr down for the count. I personally owe Gary a huge amount of gratitude for his assistance in making that a reality. I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of guys to go fly camping with and the memories will stay with me for a long time.



Meat, horns and head skin was removed and stowed in packs before we continued further up into the catchment till it was time to head back as light drizzle commenced falling. I was feeling pretty pumped by the time we wandered into camp to remove wet boots and get tea sorted. Finally a brew was knocked back before my sleeping bag welcomed me. There were some rain showers at times during the night that made a soothing sound on the tent fly.

The morning dawned fine and damp with cool conditions for our departure back down through the gorges of Camp Creek. With breakfast done and dusted we packed our gear including the additional weight of meat, horns and head skin then broke camp for the decent to Gary's truck back in the Havelock River. We made good progress through the gorge sections with Gary managing to lose his "hill stick" that fell into a deep churning pool never to be seen again. We returned to the Growler Hut around midday and I was ready for a bit of relaxation. The other party members were in residence and it was time to compare stories.

A couple of our group was planning to leave a day early so I decided to head out with them to get my tahr head skin on ice to minimize the unlikely risk of "hair slip". A few celebratory drinks were consumed on the eve of our departure which aided in me getting to sleep amongst the snorers in the hut that night. A total of 11 tahr was shot with 6 animals recovered over the week. "Thanks again Gary for arranging such a great trip.

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

<p>CARTERTON MEAT PROCESSORS</p> <p>WE SPECIALISE IN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacon & Ham Curing • Small Goods & Salami • Wild Game • Beef & Sheep Processing <p><i>Make a Bacon</i></p> <p>The Square, Carterton • Phone 06 379 8181 Craig & Ursulla • Fax 06 379 8182</p>	<p>HUNTING & OUTDOOR SUPPLIES <i>Retail shop & mail order supplies of firearm & outdoor equipment</i></p> <p>COLLINGS & BRADEY</p> <p>Ross Collings <i>Owner/Gunsmith</i></p> <p>62 Costley Street, Carterton, Wairarapa, New Zealand. Phone: 0664 6 379-6690 Fax: 06 379-6689 Email: ross@outdoorsupplies.co.nz Web site: www.outdoorsupplies.co.nz</p>
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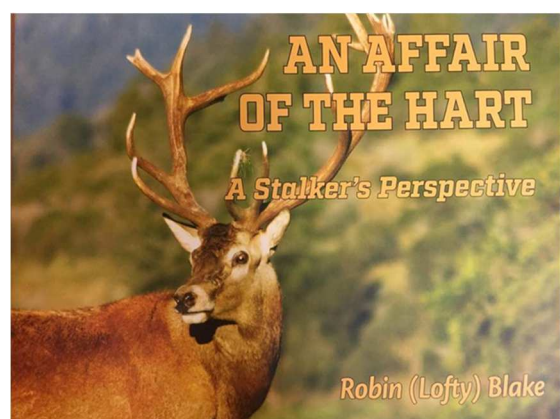
Buy, Sell, and Swap

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

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.



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 027 917 6358 or text Hannah 022 150 4699.

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 027 432 3410.

Final Thoughts

BRANCH ANTLER, HORN, TUSK, AND PHOTO COMPETITIONS

Now's the time to start thinking about securing a head or taking a photograph that will win one of the branch trophies in September. A reminder about the categories:

- Red deer, public land (Avon Tatton Shield)
- Red deer, private land (Steve Ticehurst cup)
- Classic Red deer (J.M. Jury shield)
- Best goat head (Crawford Cameron shield)
- Best head where a trophy fee is paid (Playle trophy)
- Best pig jaw –undrawn tusks (Harvie Morrow shield)
- Best pig jaw – Drawn Tusks (N. Tilsey Shield)
- Aggregate, two or more species (V.V. Donald shield)
- Best head other species
- Best trophy head 'under 20'
- Tahr / Chamois (Max Cole Barometer)

Photographic categories are:

- Game animals in their wild, outdoor state (W.F. McIntyre Cup)
- Other Wildlife in its wild, outdoor state and not in any form of captivity (V.V. Donald Shield)
- Scenic relative to the sport of hunting (B.W. Newport Cup)
- Other – not covered in other categories (K Gear Cup)
- Junior photograph (Amos Cup)

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.



Hard Copy Newsletter Recipients – if you are receiving this newsletter by post but also use email, please contact the editors at wairarapanzda@gmail.com so your newsletter can be sent electronically.

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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<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/>