

# 2016 Woodhill Fallow Deer Hunting Ballot Booklet



Bert Howlett Trophy 2015:  
Shane Gregory (left), Ken Howlett (Bert's son and WPMC Treasurer),  
and Brian Witton (Patron of the Auckland NZDA, Curator of the Douglas  
Score system and current and longest serving member of the WPMC)

**PUBLISHED BY THE  
WOODHILL FALLOW MANAGEMENT COUNCIL INC.**

# Chairman's Report

Our 28<sup>th</sup> season and second under new forest ownership of Nag Maunga Whakahii o Kapara was very similar to those before it. In all it was another successful year and it was very pleasing to see the usual number of happy hunters throughout the season. This is the nearest legal hunting open to all, that is all with a successful ballot within the Auckland region and to many still remains a treasure to the hunting fraternity. We are very fortunate that the new owners have allowed us to continue to hold the balloted hunting in the forest.

We are also very pleased to be able to confirm the ballot for the 2016 season and will continue to work with Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaiapara to hopefully secure hunting for years to come. All hunters need to be conscious that Woodhill Forest is now privately owned and our ability to offer the ballot is purely at the discretion of the owners. It is important the all hunters continue to be respectful of this and adhere to all rules when hunting in the forest if successful in obtaining a ballot.

I would like to thank the committee for the huge amount of voluntary work they do to facilitate the ballot. I know speaking for myself and I am sure I speak for other Committee members when I say we all do this to put back into hunting something to help the hunting community, young and old alike. We are also always on the lookout for prospective committee members to help with patrols and the running of the WFMC. So if you think you have what it takes please get in touch with us.

Again I would like to thank Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara for allowing the hunting to continue into 2016, and ask all hunters to continue to respect the significance of this land to the owners and also to the hunters that have enjoyed the use of the forest.

I request that people interested in the ballot look out our website as all necessary information is contained there.

Good luck with the ballot and safe hunting.

**Ross Tindale**  
Chairman

## **An Explanation of the Fees for 2016**

As most people are aware in 2013 the Woodhill Forest passed into private ownership when the Ngati Whatua o Kaipara tribe purchased the Woodhill Forest off the Crown. The forest is run by Nga Maunga Whakahii O Kaipara Investments Limited (NMWoK) which is a commercial arm of Ngati Whatua o Kaipara. The WPMC is grateful that NMWoK has allowed us to continue to offer a public ballot in the Forest. The balloted hunting blocks take up almost a third of the forest area. NMWoK has sort to increase the fee it charges the WPMC for access to the forest bearing in mind the high demand by other groups wanting to access the forest.

For the 2016 season NMWoK has set the daily block fee at \$150 or \$50 per person if there are 3 hunters on the block. The WPMC is not required to collect money for specified fencing projects or pay for trenching of illegal access points to the forest, (now the responsibility of NMWoK) and this has allowed us to trim our operating costs and reduce the cost of the application fee to \$15.

The WPMC realises that this is a significant increase in the daily rate paid by hunters in the past and it may be beyond the affordability of some, however we have to live with this negotiated rate and we still think it offers good value for money when compared to the cost of travelling to the Kaimanawas of Pureora forests to hunt.

The same rules will apply as in previous years, that is, you will be issued a permit to shoot 1 antlered buck or in some cases a doe (special permit required). If you cannot abide by the rules or you feel the daily rate should entitle you to shoot anything, then DO NOT apply.

As the WPMC has said in the past, this is a relatively small herd, and it cannot be repopulated from outside of the forest. If a hunter was able to should the first animal they saw the herd would be exterminated within one season. The WPMC is here to ensure future generations of hunters can enjoy this recreation.

**If you have been successful in the ballot it is your responsibility as the principal permit holder to make sure that you and your companions have;**

### **Read the rules**

- **Have a map of the block**
- **Are wearing a blaze orange hunting vest**
- **Have a firearms licence on their person while hunting**



## Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara

Ko te tino o Kaipara Deer Stalkers committee “Ko te tino o Kaipara”

*A traditional aphorism [whakatauki] used to describe “the great food bowl of Kaipara”. This going back more than nine centuries of Ngāti Whātua ancestors who lived by hunting, gathering and harvesting food from the harbour, forests, rivers, ocean and soil of Kaipara.*

September 9th 2011 the long awaited signing of the Deed of Settlement between Ngāti Whātua and the Crown was enacted, appropriately, on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour at the historical site of Aotea / Shelly Beach. Quantum monies received by Ngāti Whātua in the settlement, \$22.1 million, was used to purchase and transfer to Ngāti Whātua ownership Crown owned land of 12,500 hectare Woodhill Forest, Kaipara College land, Kaukapakapa, Tauhoa, Parakai, Waimauku and Woodhill primary school lands Parakai Recreation Reserve is under co-management with Auckland Council, as with some DOC estate lands, under a Conservation Charter with Ngāti Whātua. July 11th 2013 the Kaipara Claims Settlement Act was passed into legislation

# **Poaching in Woodhill Forest**

**Persons caught illegally hunting in the forest  
will be prosecuted, penalties include;**

**Criminal Conviction**

**Loss of Firearms License**

**Financial costs**

**If you are thinking of poaching be aware that  
it's not worth the risk !!!**



# **Bert Howlett Memorial trophy for Largest Head** **2015**

**Shane Gregory**

## **Front Cover Photo**

### **FREE HEAD MOUNT FOR BIGGEST BUCK OFFER**

A free head mount is available from Tasman Taxidermy for the largest buck shot. In fact the company is so committed to helping with the Woodhill Hunting they are also willing to head skin any trophy's taken during season.

Please look at their Website for details:



Examples of recent mounts

## **2015 Hunting Results**

The number of deer taken at Woodhill Forest during the 2014 hunting season:

Bucks	30
Does	48
Pigs	6
Total Harvested	94

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To manage the Fallow deer herd and the environment within the Woodhill Forest in perpetuity, in consultation with leaseholders, landowners and hunting groups, and to provide public hunting through a balloted hunting season.

## **WEB PAGE**

Our web site is [www.fallowdeer.co.nz](http://www.fallowdeer.co.nz) for your convenience you can download your own booklet or application forms.

## **BOW HUNTERS**

Bow hunters are welcome to apply for a ballot but the land owners have requested that all applicants have a firearms licence ; this is to ensure:

- The applicant is the same as the photo
- The Applicant has not been trespassed from the forest
- The Applicant has not had his/her firearms license revoked.

## **COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION**

- ~ Always write details in plain legible English, if your application is unreadable it will be rejected before ballot.
  - ~ Ensure your mailing address is correct, if it changes let us know. If changes are not notified it may not be possible to contact you.
  - ~ If you are successful in ballot (i.e. Have received postal notification) complete and return form by due date. If the returned form is not received by due date block will be reallocated.
  - ~ If you are successful in ballot and you can't make it let us know immediately so that we can allocate date to another hunter.
- ~ You must sign acceptance of rules and conditions on the ballot application otherwise application is not complete and WILL NOT be accepted.!!!**

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What you can do to make the administration of your hunting permit easier and smoother.

All correspondence should be by the primary permit holder, unless sickness, or overseas travel restrict their ability to do so.

If you have a problem, you think I can sort out, the sooner you contact me the better.

All phone messages/ calls should state the date of your hunt and allocated block and your name, then what calls about. I always return calls where possible. Ensure your phone numbers are correct on your return and application forms.

If you don't leave a detailed message I can't prepare an answer for you, which wastes time.

Doe permits, write on left of name as stated, as when loading data on to computer its easiest when all returns are the same to read. You wouldn't want me to miss the fact you wanted a Doe permit.

Postal address, please ensure you put your post code on all correspondence with us.

Ten % of returns, that's 25 out of 250 are incorrectly filled out, please take the time to read information sent to you before you start filling in the return. Double check your return to ensure you have covered every requirement. You only have to check one return, I have to check 250!!



## **PATROL REPORT 2015**

2015 was another good year for the patrols with most hunters observing the rules and guidelines. It is even more important now that the land is private property. Remember Woodhill hunting is selective hunting, not open slather hunting and it needs to be that way to maintain a viable herd for the future.

Safety is our number one priority so make sure you and your companions are wearing PLAIN Hi viz blaze orange vests, and If you get picked up by a patrol make sure your rifle is unloaded.

A couple of unusual things happened during the season . A hunter contacted the committee to report that he had lost his firearms licence somewhere on his block and the following weekend a hunter on the same block approached the patrol and handed them a firearms licence he had found. A very relieved hunter from Whangarei was reunited with it a few days later.

A couple of weeks later another hunter contacted the committee to report that he had lost his wedding ring in the block. He had shot his first deer and gutted it. He then started flicking his hands to get the blood off them and thought it may have flown off. A phone call to the block holders the following week and they agreed to allow the patrol to go into the area at mid -day with the hunter and try and locate the remains of the deer. This we duly did and a few minutes later our relieved hunter spotted the ring in amongst the pine needles. He said he thought it would be a wild goose chase and he never expected to see it again.

A cheap cell phone (not working) A Chinese digital watch and a pair of binoculars were found in different areas near where the Woodhill one hundred race went through the blocks a week before the season started so they may have been dropped by spectators. The watch and cell phone are worthless but the binoculars are in good condition. If you lost a pair contact the committee with details.

Apart from the patrol vehicles no other vehicles, motor bikes, push bikes or persons are permitted in the hunting blocks. However it does happen sometimes so please if you see any of the above get rego numbers if possible and give them to the first patrol person you see along with any other information. We hand the details to the forest owners who act on them immediately. The only exception is occasionally during the season the army may access the bombing range via Lone Pine road on block one.

## **Special Thanks**

The Woodhill Fallow Management Council would like to thank **Nga Maunga Whakahii O Kaipara** for accommodating the Woodhill ballot within an operational forest for 2015 season.

## **Hunter Safety: A timely reminder**

The following rules are easily recognisable to Hunters who take advantage of the hunting opportunities the Woodhill Fallow herd provides through the W.F.M.C hunting ballot.

After all, every hunter has had to apply for a firearms license and learn the seven basic rules of firearms safety.

**Rule 1: Treat every firearm as loaded**

**Rule 2: Always point firearms in a safe direction**

**Rule 3: Load a firearm only when ready to fire**

**Rule 4: Identify your target beyond all doubt**

**Rule 5: Check your firing zone**

**Rule 6: Store firearms and ammunition safely**

**Rule 7: Avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms**

Previously the following actions have been observed and reported by the patrols:

### **1. Hunters failing to correctly identify their target beyond all doubt.**

The council has had to deal with a number of hunters who failed to comply with their permits and shot the incorrect animal.

### **2. Always point firearms in a safe direction**

Please don't use a rifle mounted telescopic sight to

- A. Check out your hunting companions
- B. Check out the patrols driving the roads
- C. Check out the hunters on adjacent blocks

A small pair of binoculars doesn't add too much weight to your daypack  
and will increase your chances of success.

### **3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire.**

When approached by a patrol, or anyone else, all hunters should empty the breech and leave the bolt or action open. While the patrols will assist you in returning to your car, hopefully after a successful hunt, or stop and provide advice if needed, it is not unusual to have to ask hunters to unload their rifles before entering the patrol vehicle.

**The W.F.M.C. Balloted hunting has an impeccable safety record.**

**This is as much due to you the hunter as to the efforts of the committee.**

**Let's keep it that way.**

### **RULES FOR WOODHILL BALLOT**

- ~ Hi Viz blaze orange vest must be worn on top at all times, regardless of what else is being worn.
- ~ No smoking in Forest
- ~ Replacement of hunter on permit, only on acceptance (payment) date.
- ~ All hunters to sign indemnity clause.
- ~ One hunt per hunter each year.
- ~ Firearms license must be current and carried while hunting
- ~ Vehicles to have current W.O.F. and registration when entering forest
- ~ No camping in forest or access roads.
- ~ No shotguns, rimfire firearms or rifle suppressors
- ~ Successful applicants notified by mail.
- ~ Permits must be displayed on dashboard of vehicles

**Woodhill Ballot Hunt Application form go to website.**

## **Top Ten Reasons Why You Missed Out On a Ballot at Woodhill**

Every year we get people writing in and telling us they have never won a ballot at Woodhill in the last ten years. Statistically if you and two of your mates each put in a ballot the odds of having a hunt are around 1 in 3 or a 33% chance each year.

However each year people exclude themselves from the ballot because of various reasons. Here is a list of the top 10.

1. You have been trespassed in Woodhill Forest or any other forest in New Zealand managed by Hancock Forest Management (HFM). We submit a list of all successful ballot winners to HFM which is checked against their database.
2. You were the primary ballot holder for a hunt the previous year and you did not submit a Sighting/Kill return by the 1 October - read the rules
3. Your ballot was successful and the ballot acceptance advice was sent to the address on the ballot application but was returned because you have shifted leaving no forwarding address.
4. Your ballot was drawn however your writing was so illegible that despite being checked by several scrutineers we could not decipher your address. All on line applications can be typed.
5. You have deposited your ballot fee into our account by direct credit but have not sent in the ballot form. This accounts for a number each year.
6. You put down your Drivers Licence number instead of your Firearms Licence number.
7. You don't have a firearms licence or you provide an incorrect firearms licence number
8. You have not signed your application. This one is a big one; you are signing the application form to tell the WFMC that you have read and understand our rules and agree to abide by them. If you can't do this we don't want you on one of our hunts.
9. On a previous hunt at Woodhill you or one of your companions has broken one or more of the Rules of the WFMC. There is always the few who spoil it for the many. This is generally hunting without a blaze orange vest, hunting outside your block, shooting an animal you don't have a permit to shoot or shooting from the road.
10. Your ballot gets drawn, you are sent your ballot acceptance advice but you fail to sign it and return it by the due date.

There are a few others like bounced cheques, insufficient postage notification and so on.

In most cases we will try and contact the applicant by phone or email but again some applicants don't leave valid phone numbers or don't respond to any messages that were left.

Read the application form thoroughly, read the rules, remember to fill out every requirement and sign the ballot application form. Please remember we are a small team of volunteers and not some big corporation, try and make our job easy.

## **TAKE A KID HUNTING REPORT 2015**

The 2015 TAKH was the 10<sup>th</sup> TAKH day since the event first started and was the last day of the 2015 WPMC hunting season under the current lease arrangement with the new owners of Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara.

The committee now runs the TAKH day using an evolved format which runs with clockwork precision. This is mainly due to the committee's voluntary input where each member has a designated task and exercise's it to the full.

Alec Corban gave the talk covering all aspects of the 7 rules of firearm safety including a graphic presentation of what 1 foot/pound of pressure really means.

Participants sat the NZ Police Firearms License test, the results of which established the order of block selection. Hunter Safety was again emphasized by the talk presented by Rick Linton; a Hunting accident survivor. Brian Witton and Mark Nobilo delivered talks on hunting techniques, animal behavior, genetics and herd dynamics.

The Hall was suitably decorated with a number of record book trophies across a wide spectrum of NZ's game animals which included the three best fallow bucks from the Kaipara herd. A big thanks to those hunters who kindly lent their trophies for the day.

The usual lunch of tasty venison steak and sausages was prepared and dished up by committee members and helpers before the participants were ferried out to their blocks for the afternoon hunt.

The WPMC would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike and Delwyn Shepherd of Westgate Hunting and Fishing for their generous sponsorship which was gratefully received by the committee and the recipients.

A further thanks must go to Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaiapara along with all the WPMC committee members and helpers who once again gave freely of their time and knowledge to ensure the days continuing success.

## **2015 TAKE A KID HUNTING PARTICIPANT COMMENT**

Thank you to all the committee members and volunteers that gave up your time to make this amazing opportunity possible. I feel greatly privileged to have had the chance to experience everything I did, and to have been able to listen and gain the knowledge shared by the speakers, I found it particularly interesting and sobering to hear about the accident of the guest speaker and will remember his story and safety rules for the rest of my life. Thanks you for the delicious lunch provided and the sponsored gifts as well. Thank you especially to Garth and Brian who picked my father and I up and dropped us off. I greatly enjoyed the whole experience.

**Taylor Asher-Law**

## TAKH; various years



## **New Zealand Deerstalkers Association**

Open invitation to all Woodhill ballot applicants and their companions to join and enjoy the benefits of belonging to N.Z.D.A i.e. meetings, party hunts, range shooting, firearms safety, hunter training etc.

Contact the following branches for details:

**Auckland**

**North Auckland**

**South Auckland**

**Bay of Plenty**

**Rotorua**

**Thames Valley**

**Waikato**

**Whangarei**

**NZDA National Office  
Wellington**

**Email [deerstalkers @ paradise.net .nz](mailto:deerstalkers@paradise.net.nz)**

## **PLACES TO STAY NEAR WOODHILL FOREST**

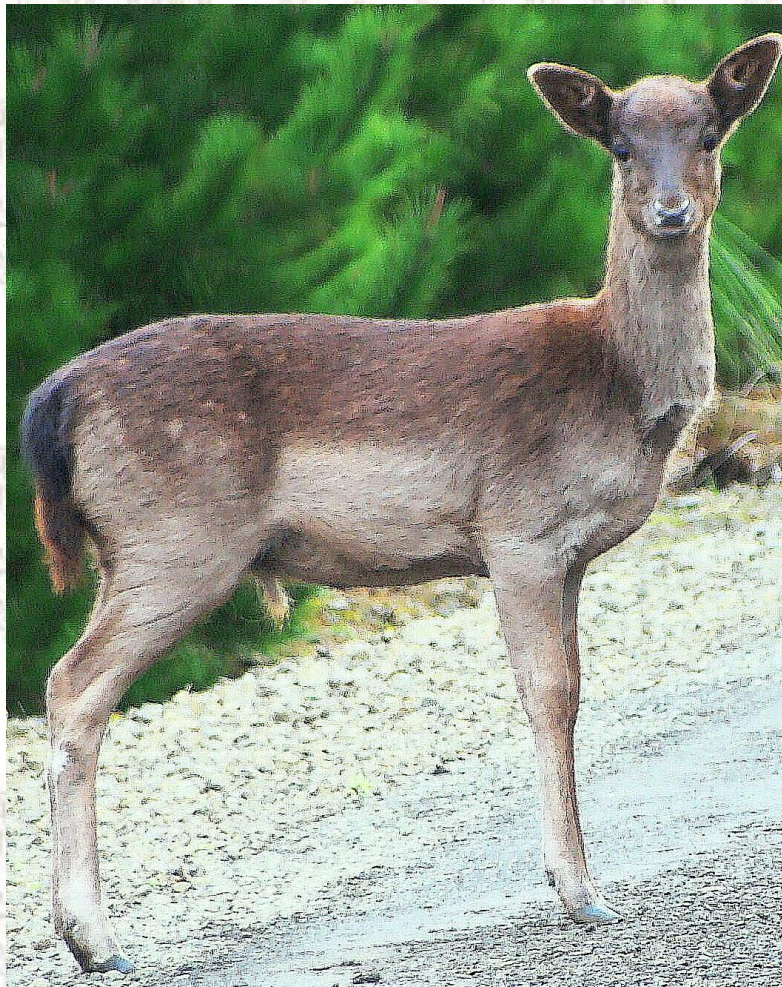
**Aquatic Park** **09 420 8998**

**Mineral Park Motel** **09 420 8856**

**Don't forget our website, you can  
download your own copy  
[www.fallowdeer.co.nz](http://www.fallowdeer.co.nz)**



**You have a doe permit and you see this deer would you shoot it?**



**NO**, it's a weaner buck and a future trophy  
(Check for pizzelle)

**IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET!**

Photo: Brian Witton