

**2017**  
**Woodhill Fallow Deer Hunting Ballot Booklet**



**Rick Linton giving safety talk to Take a Kid Hunting Day 2016**

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

# 2016 Chairman's Report

Another successful season has drawn to a close with deer numbers both sighted and shot on a par with previous seasons. As always, the W.F.M.C faces a balancing act each year between harvesting the right number of bucks and does (through the doe permit system) and leaving enough animals to breed for the next season so as to manage the herd for future generations. We seem to have got this equation right, for now.

This year we had a hunter report an accidental discharge of his firearm while he was preparing to enter his hunting block. Fortunately, he was hunting alone and no one was hurt, but the W.F.M.C cannot stress enough the importance of FIREARM SAFETY. Every hunter MUST be aware of the basic rules of firearm safety and the rules of the W.F.M.C. It is the responsibility of every hunter to ensure both themselves and their companions always pay strict adherence to good firearm safety. The consequences of failing to do so can be fatal. You do not need to load your firearm in the carpark or walk down one of the access roads with a loaded firearm. Always unload your firearm when approaching a patrol vehicle.

The W.F.M.C apologises for the lateness in opening the ballot applications on our website and having copies available in some hunting shops. The new forest owners have understandably required a settling in period as they come to grips with all of the activities and user groups within Woodhill forest. This has meant we have had to negotiate a new access agreement on a year by year basis. Coupled with that, Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara have changed some of their business units and organisational structures to best suit the running of the forest. All this takes time as we have to deal with new managers each year. Hopefully in the future we can negotiate a longer term for the access agreement and give the W.F.M.C some certainty for future seasons.

As you will be aware the fee for each hunting block for 2016 increased significantly on previous seasons. Unfortunately, this is a commercial reality now that the forest has passed into effectively private ownership. There is significant demand from various groups and organisations for access to Woodhill forest and we have to compete with those groups when we negotiate an agreement. The W.F.M.C still believes the cost of \$150/block when divided between 3 hunters still delivers good value for money when compared to the cost of travelling to, say, the Kaimanawa's or Pureora's for a weekend hunt.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their time and effort to make hunting in Woodhill Forest a safe and enjoyable experience for thousands of hunters over the last 28 years. These guys donate their weekends so you the hunter can enjoy your hunt. They are always willing to share their knowledge and experience with all hunters. Well done guys. Good luck for the 2017 ballot and keep it safe.

Garth Johnson  
Chairman

**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 2016**



**Dylan Johnson with best head for 2016**

Winner (Hunting and Fishing Voucher \$120.00)

## **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

## **2016 Hunting Results**

The number of deer taken at Woodhill Forest during the 2016 hunting season:

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Bucks           | 27  |
| Does            | 68  |
| Pigs            | 12  |
| Total Harvested | 107 |

## **LUCKY KILL RETURN**

Peter Burow wins \$120.00 Hunting and Fishing voucher

## **BEST STORY**

Cameron Smith \$120.00 Hunting and Fishing Voucher

## **BEST PHOTO**

Connor Basham \$120.00 Hunting and Fishing Voucher

## **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 it is incorrect or 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 acknowledge 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!!





**Guns**

**Ammo**

**Clothing**

**Packs**

**Navigation**

**Sleeping Bags**

**Boots and Gaitors**

**Bivy's and Fly's**

***For all your hunting and fishing supplies***

## **Westgate Hunting & Fishing**

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### **Patrol Information**

Looking after hunter vehicles in the car parks is part of the job, so if you party arrives in more than one vehicle please leave a copy of your permit on each dashboard. That way the patrol people know that the vehicle belong's to legitimate hunters.

If you see any vehicles in the forest try and get their rego numbers and give them to patrol people and they will be forwarded to the forest management who will take the appropriate action. We do our best to keep illegal activity out of the hunting blocks but we can't be everywhere at once.

During the course of a weekend lots of hunters are driven back to the car park or to different part of their block. If you are picked up for any reason whatsoever make sure you unload your rifle when approaching the patrol vehicle. Safety is our number one priority.

It was also pleasing to see most hunters abiding by the rule of plain as opposed to camo HI VIS orange vests. In the pine forest they really stand out. You must put your vest on before leaving the carpark and keep it on until you are back at your vehicle. Any hunters found in the forest not wearing the appropriate vest will be ordered out and their permit will be revoked immediately. Stick to the condition of your permit and it makes it easier for the patrol people. Remember they are volunteers.

## **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 2017 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 the 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 acknowledged your acceptance of the rules on your application. This one is a big one; you are telling 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, and your companions, 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 email addresses, or don't respond to any messages that are left.

Read the application form thoroughly, read the rules, remember to fill out every requirement and confirm that you accept the application rules and conditions on 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 PARTICIPANT PHOTO'S**

**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**

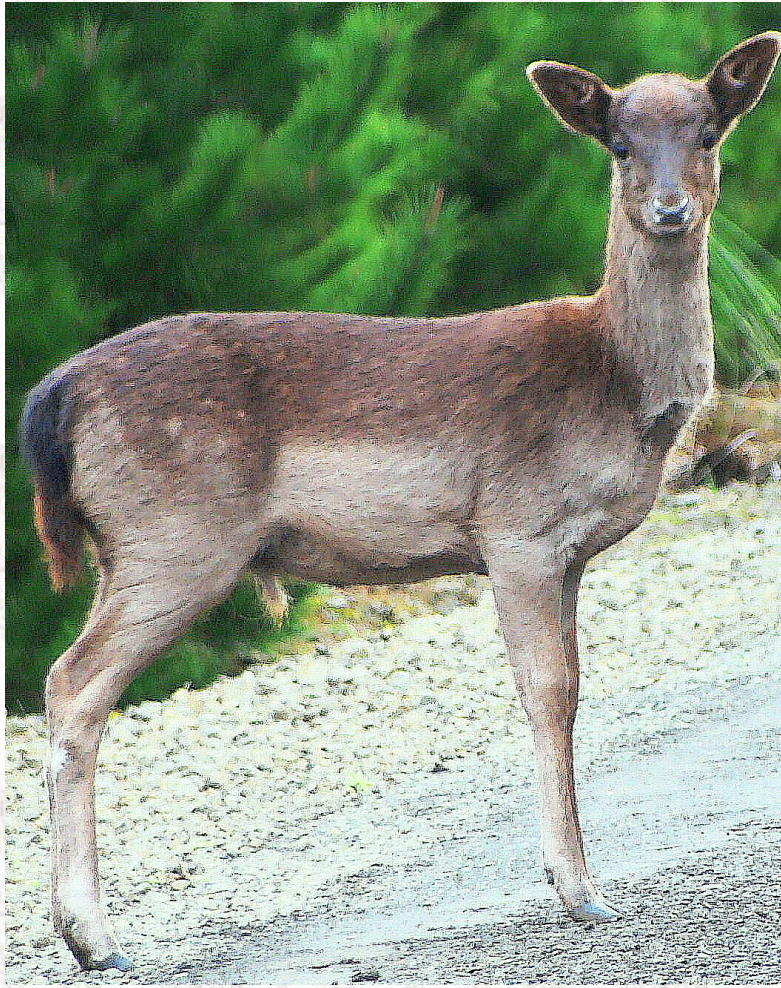
**Aquatic Park** **09 420 8998**

**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