

2013 Woodhill Fallow Deer Hunting Ballot Application Forms



Matt Stanford and Malcolm Hamil with Matt's Buck

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

2012 Chairman's Report

Hello to all the hunters taking time to read this report. 2012 has been significant in the history of Woodhill forest as the ownership has passed from the Crown to Ngati Whatua O Kaipara as part of the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process. What this means to the WMFC is not clear at this stage but we are hopeful we can have a good working relationship with Ngati Whatua and continue to manage the fallow deer herd and provide public hunting into the future in Woodhill forest.

In March of this year the then Chairman of the WFMC, Ross Tindale, accepted employment in Napier and subsequently resigned his role as Chairman. I have stepped in as acting Chairman until the next AGM. I would like to thank Ross for his valuable contribution to the WFMC during his tenure as both a committee member and as Chairman. I wish him and his family well with their new life outside of Auckland.

I would also like to thank the Committee for the hundreds of hours they put in each year to make the Woodhill Ballot a success.

The number of animals seen and shot this year has been on a par with other years. Managing the deer herd to maintain a stable population is not an easy task for the committee. There are always deer shot on the neighbouring farms and illegally in the forest making it hard for the WFMC to accurately estimate the herd numbers. The amount of food available is somewhat determined by the tree harvesting cycle in the forest. After the trees have been felled and the next cycle of young pines planted there are large areas with an abundance of food for at least five years. Once the young pines get to about 6-7 years of age they start to block out the light reaching the ground and the grass and lupins die off and the deer move to new areas.

One of the options we are looking at in managing the herd is the possibility of every 3 or 5 years having a moratorium on shooting bucks for that year. This would allow some of the bucks a chance to grow a better set of antlers and possibly be more hunter wise. This year probably around 80% of the bucks shot were only 2 year olds. So on the year when there is a buck ban only doe permits will be issued. Hunters would then have the option of entering the ballot draw with the chance of getting some meat or not hunting that year. We would like to hear hunter feedback on this proposal.

It is interesting to note that most hunters report seeing numerous does on their hunt. This year as with previous years we issued around 260 doe permits resulting in only 61 does being shot which brings me to the conclusion that either we have a lot of inexperienced hunters getting doe permits or hunters are hunting too fast or being too noisy or both and are spooking the animal before they could get a shot at it.

Another change for the 2013 season is that all hunters must wear a **PLAIN BLAZE ORANGE VEST WITH NO CAMMO PATTERN** on it. The last 3 hunting fatalities in NZ the hunters have been wearing orange vests but have still been shot and it has been suggested that the cammo pattern detracts from the effectiveness of the blaze orange especially in thick bush. The WFMC has a 100% safety record and we don't want to jeopardize this. While on this subject a common report from Patrols this year is the lack of firearm safety displayed by hunters when approached by a vehicle or Committee member. Please ensure your rifle is pointed in a safe direction, the rifle is unloaded and the action open. Hunting rifles can kill, they are not paint ball guns, nerf guns or water pistols. There seems to be a lax attitude to firearm safety amongst some of the hunters.

In the past the WFMC has given away three \$120 spot prizes of names drawn out of the successful ballot hunters who have sent in kill returns. For the 2013 season we are changing that to a new competition. We will be giving two \$100 prizes to the best story from a Woodhill hunt and two \$100 prizes for the best photos taken on a Woodhill hunt. The photos need not be of a successful hunter they may be of human interest or of flora or fauna. So don't forget to take your camera and put pen to paper.

Added to the website (www.fallowdeer.co.nz) this year is a Youtube link to a TV Wild episode the Graf boys filmed in Woodhill and it gives a good overview on the role of the WFMC and the deer in Woodhill Forest.

Good Hunting!

Garth Johnson



Garth Johnson spreading Tordon on Gorse in Woodhill Forest to stop it's spread throughout the forest

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 plain blaze orange hunting vest**
- **Have a firearms licence on their person while hunting**

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!!!

2012 Hunting Results

The number of deer taken at Woodhill Forest during the 2012 hunting season was:

Bucks	23
Does	52
Pigs	11
Total Harvested	86

Bert Howlett Memorial Trophy for Largest Head 2012

Congratulations to the winner **Nick Delamare**.
Nicks' Fallow Buck scored 174 6/8 on the Douglas Score.
He has received a \$150 Hunting and Fishing Voucher

WEB PAGE

Our web site is www.fallowdeer.co.nz for your convenience you can download your own booklet or application forms.

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.

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!!!**

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 the call is 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 percent 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!!

Dave Chisholm
Ballot/ Permit Administrator

**2013 WOODHILL FALLOW DEER BALLOT APPLICATION FORM
APPLICANT Details**

First Name(s): Family Name:

Postal Address:

Residential Address (if different from Address above; not PO Box):
.....
.....
.....

Email Address:

Phone No: Cell phone:

Firearm License no:

I have read & understand the 'Rules for the Woodhill Ballot' & I accept and agree to ABIDE BY THE RULES AND CONDITIONS SET OUT BY THE W.F.M.C. and accept full responsibility for my companions while in Woodhill Forest as a condition of my ballot application

Signed:

*** You MUST SIGN your APPLICATION for it to be accepted ***

Ballot Application Fee - \$30.00 Cheque or Direct Credit Payment only (do not post cash)

Payment is being made by (please circle one) Direct Credit/Cheque

Date of Direct Credit Payment (ddMMMyy)

(This date must match your reference date below)

Account Name: **Woodhill Fallow Management Council Inc**

Account Number: **01 0141 0041658 00**

IMPORTANT: The reference accompanying the deposit MUST be:

Name(the same name as on the application form) **Payment-Date(DDMMYY)**

e.g. Bill Bloggs 14Mar13 - otherwise we cannot match the payment to the application form. *(There is no additional fee for successful applicants in 2013)*

Post completed application with payment (if cheque) to:

W.F.M.C., PO Box 110, Kumeu 0841

7th April APPLICATIONS CLOSE

17th April BALLOT DRAWN

8th June BALLOT HUNTING STARTS (Saturday)

If successful you can nominate up to two hunting companions. Successful applicants will be notified by post, results on website within two weeks of being drawn

Regardless of the weather we never cancel a hunt

RULES FOR WOODHILL BALLOT

- ~ A plain 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 all vehicles

Prize Draw From 2012 Hunters

The following names were drawn from the kill returns received; they have collectively won new hunting gear to the value of \$360.00 from Hunting and Fishing Westgate

Congratulations to: O. Ivatt (Albany) - \$120 Voucher
 N. Weatherhead (Cambridge) - \$120 Voucher
 C. Couwenbergh (Howick) - \$120 Voucher



***Guns
Ammo
Clothing
Packs***

***Navigation
Sleeping Bags
Boots and Gaitors
Bivy's and Fly's***

For all your hunting and fishing supplies

Just call Mike and the team on (09) 833 3019

Westgate Hunting & Fishing

7 Cabernet Cres, Westgate Email mikeshuntfish@xtra.co.nz

Patrols Report

The 2012 season was relatively trouble free. The main problem this year being when the radios went down due to a colony of ants deciding to build a nest in the base of the repeater. There were the usual reports of motor bikes in some of the blocks but not as many as other years. Also the odd four wheel drive. If you do come across a vehicle in your block please try and get a registration number and give it to the patrol people. All the access gates survived the season unscathed so that was a bonus.

If for some reason you are unable to hunt on your allocated day ring the number on your information sheet as soon as possible. There are many others we can re allocate your block to.

If your party is in more than one vehicle make sure a copy of your permit is displayed on each dashboard, in case of an emergency we need to be able to account for all vehicles.

During the day the patrol people sometimes pick up hunters and drop them off at their vehicles or give them a ride back to their blocks. If you are offered a lift make sure your rifle is unloaded and show it to the driver, safety is paramount. Also when you get out of the vehicle take all your gear with you, it makes it easier all round.

Talking about safety we have been increasingly concerned about what some hunters consider to be a high visibility vest. We have seen hunters wearing dull orange and camo vests which from a safety point of view are useless. A full size plain hi viz orange vest stands out above any other material. Don't let anybody convince you otherwise. It is one of the conditions of your permit that you must wear a high viz orange vest. Your safety while hunting in Woodhill Forest is paramount [or anywhere else for that matter].

Because of our concerns, from 2013 on all permit holders hunting in Woodhill Forest will be required to wear a full **HIGH VISIBILITY FLORESCENT ORANGE VEST**. No MINI vests. No CAMO vests. No COMPROMISE. There should be no concerns over this as it is for your safety, however if you have any questions contact the Woodhill Committee.

Brian Witton



Trained Woodhill patrol rabbit



Young Pines

WFMC Story and Photographic Competition

This year we will be giving away two \$100 Hunting & Fishing Vouchers for the two best Woodhill Ballot Hunt stories and two \$100 Hunting & Fishing Vouchers for the two best photographs taken on a Woodhill Ballot Hunt.

So take your camera with you on your hunt (the photos need not be of deer they could be of human interest or of some flora or fauna in the forest) and put pen to paper and send in your entries to WFMC

P.O. Box 110
Kumeu 0841

The prizes will be decided and winners notified by the 31 October 2013.
The winning photos and stories will be published in next years' booklet.

Special Thanks

The Woodhill Fallow Management Council would like to thank **Hancock Forest Management Limited** for accommodating the Woodhill ballot within an operational forest.

Hunter Contributions

Thanks again for a great day out. I must be getting older though, the doe I shot felt like it weighed 2 tons by the time I got to the car park- it's a long uphill walk from the far end of block Six.

Richard

I had a perfect opportunity soon after getting on the block but it was a small doe (looking straight at me) and I left it to look for a bigger animal. From then on I did not get another clear sight on our block, bugger!

I want to thank you for the Doe permits. It was very good of you to grant them to us, we are only sorry we did not do them justice.

I would also like to compliment you and your team on the excellent signage, maps etc. Clearly you guys do a lot of work up there and we really enjoyed it

Terry Gibson

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.

Woodhill Ballot Hunt Application form Outlets

Hunting&Fishing Westgate	Auckland mikehuntfish@xtra.co.nz	09 8333019
Auckland N.Z.D.A.	7 Target Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland John Shepherd	09 820 1343
North Auckland N.Z.D.A.	Mike Power	09 443 5508
Bay of Plenty N.Z.D.A	Baden Prentice	07 5793107
Thames Valley N.Z.D.A.	Maureen Coleman	07 884 9622
Waikato N.Z.D.A	Mark Sargent, 131 Delaware Rd, Hamilton mark@cobyexhausts.co.nz	07 849 7626
Serious Shooters	Great North Road, Penrose, Auckland ssshooter@ihug.co.nz	09 579 3006
Richard Waaklens	Whangarei richard@mikepero.co.nz	09 4347231

**Don't forget our website, you can
download your own copy
www.fallowdeer.co.nz**



The 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. Perhaps you need glasses or else how will you identify your target?
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 so try and make our job easy.

TAKE A KID HUNTING REPORT

The 2012 TAKH day took place on 15th September, the last day of the WFMC hunting season under the lease arrangement between the Council and Hancock's Forest Management Ltd.

The day began with a welcome by the Chairman Garth Johnson who outlined the day's activities. He also welcomed Clyde Graf who was filming the event for his and his Brother Steve's Wild New Zealand programme. Two Officers from the New Zealand Police (both hunters) spoke on firearm licensing and safety with an emphasis on the seven rules of firearm safety. They also outlined their anti poaching initiative which with their positive results will help make Woodhill a safer and better place to hunt.

Participants then sat the standard NZ Police Firearm License test, the results of which established the order of the block selection. Hunter Safety was again emphasized by the talk given by Rick Linton, a hunting accident survivor. Further informative talks were delivered by Mark Nobilo and Brian Witton on Hunting techniques and herd dynamics which kept the kids interested right up to the BBQ Lunch of venison and venison sausages, thanks to the cooks.

The hall was suitably decorated with a number of record book trophies across a wide spectrum of New Zealand's game animals including the 3 best fallow buck heads from the Kaipara herd. A big thanks to those hunters who kindly lent their trophies for the day.

Four deer were taken by the aspiring hunters who were rapt with their success and their thank you letters received by the committee post hunt were greatly appreciated.

The Woodhill Fallow Management Council 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 recipients. A further thanks must go to the Hancock's Forest Management along with all the WFMC committee members and helpers who once again gave generously of their time and knowledge to ensure the day was the success it has become.

Marl Nobilo
TAKH Coordinator

Take a kid Hunting Photo's



Tamika Marston and mentor Chris Fryer



Committee members' presentation



Rick Linton giving talk as firearms accident survivor



Ken Howlett drawing blocks for the 'Take A Kid Hunting'



Kids before hunt



Fleur Arthur TAKH



Mason Court TAKH

TAKE A KID HUNTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks for a great day. It's nice to see two bucks. Bit quick for us maybe next time. Thanks for the car ride to the gate

Ivan Papich

Picture this 5.20pm it's raining; the nephew turns to me after helping me finish the last of his birthday cake "This day was awesome" he says. Yes it is, we need to get back to the road by dark so which way? HE checks his new compass and yes he knew which way to go, what a winner.

We didn't see any deer in the part of the block we had previously covered. But came upon some of the freshest sign that I have ever seen. I am guessing only minutes old and spent the next hour on high alert. Convinced they circled around behind us.

We needed a break from that and found an area we nick named deer valley. It gave us both great glassing spots and hopefully the opportunity we needed. It would only be a matter of time but no, the deer didn't come out. It did not matter.

These months leading up to this has Ben at the rifle range, walking through the bush, stalking rabbits. He has previously seen deer and was keen to have a go. Great place to start. The WPMC, Sponsors and guest speakers have made this event a must for any budding young hunter to enter the TAKH ballot. The Speakers all gave their time and discussed various aspects of hunting in a manner that we all benefited from. To meet the survivor of a hunting incident was surreal.

The Introduction to hunting package was unexpected this was the ultimate loot bag and as I mentioned earlier the compass was used that afternoon (looks better than my one) Good quality products and information that any safe hunter would have and know how to use. Ben won a back pack in the draw it is a quality bag for the purpose, the contents from his back pack were changed over and it was put to use straight away.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend, from Craig and Ben.

Craig Tremeer

I would like to thank everyone for making our day so enjoyable and exciting. Thank you for all the hours put in to make this event possible. Almost got a deer and would be keen to come back another time to get one.

Thomas Ross & Graham Rae

On Saturday 15th September I went to TAKH with my Dad. We had a great morning listening to the many guest speakers on firearm safety, hunting techniques and the history of the fallow herd in Woodhill.

After a BBQ of venison sausages, we were allocated our hunting blocks and set out to try our luck. We were given Block 8A and Brian dropped us off at the start of a track he suggested I try. We followed the track up and around the bottom part of the block then cut up through the middle. Dad said to load the magazine and close the bolt on my empty chamber. While walking very slowly up the track that was cut over and had small pines I saw plenty of fresh deer prints in the sand. I started to practice checking the area ahead with the scope to see if I could spot any deer, no such luck. We sat down had a drink and looked back over the areas we had just come from about a kilometre to the road.

About an hour and a half since we'd left the road we still gradually climbed a bit higher up the middle of the block, Dad spotted a Doe feeding 25m off to the side behind some small pines. I could only just see its back legs and tail, so dad said to load the rifle and get ready, the wind was in our face so I crept forward watching for it to move. I lost sight of her for a minute or two and then she moved out into a clearing between some pines still feeding not noticing us, I took aim on the middle of the shoulder area and fired, immediately she fell to the ground.

Many thanks to the WFMC, I shot my first deer and enjoyed a great day.

Fleur Arthur

2013 WOODHILL "TAKE A KID HUNTING" BALLOT

DETAILS OF PARENT or GUARDIAN

Last Name..... First Name.....

Postal Address

.....

Physical Address if different.....

.....

City.....

Email.....

Phone.....Mobile.....

Firearms License No.....

"In the event of being selected in the ballot, I agree to ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS SET OUT BY THE W.F.M.C and I accept full responsibility for my child while in Woodhill Forest"

Signature of Parent or Guardian

DETAILS OF CHILD

Last Name.....First Name.....

Address.....

City.....Phone.....

Age.....

Firearms License No (if applicable).....

CONDITIONS

~Only One child 12–18 years old, able to handle a firearm per Parent or Guardian

~Parent or Guardian must have current firearms license

~One deer only may be taken (can be Buck or Doe of any age)

~Parent or Guardian that have been successful in main ballot are not excluded

~Introduction to hunting and Free Hi-Viz Vest for each child

~Once a child has been successful in TAKH ballot they cannot apply again

~Post completed application to: W.F.M.C P.O.Box 110, Kumeu 0841, Auckland

~ APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1st JULY 2013

~ HUNT ON SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER STARTING 10AM

(Successful applicants will be notified by post and the results posted on website within two weeks of being drawn.)

For further information contact Brian Witton 09 817 6855 or Dave Chisholm 09 4207058)

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	John Shepherd	09 820 1343
North Auckland	Mike Power	09 443 5508
South Auckland	Martin Robertson	09 2359893
Bay of Plenty	Baden Prentice	07 5793107
Rotorua	Alec Mc Iver	07 3474380
Thames Valley	Maureen Coleman	07 8849622
Waikato	John Voorend	07 8298112
Whangarei	Alan Webster	09 4360181
NZDA National Office Wellington		04 801 7367 Email deerstalkers@paradise.net.nz

You've got a doe permit and you see this deer would you shoot it?



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

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET!

Photo: Brian Witton