

**2011
Woodhill Fallow Deer
Hunting Ballot
Application Forms**



(Wayne & Joshua Saunderson 2010)

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

2010 Chairman's Report; Garth Johnson

Another season has drawn to a close. This year the overall deer numbers both sighted and shot were down on previous years. Some of this could be explained by the very dry summer and autumn we experienced causing a feed shortage in the forest. This caused some of the deer to move from the forest to the adjoining farmland in search of food. The outcome of this was that some of these deer were shot by the farmers as they graze the feed set aside for their stock and also by hunters on private blocks next to the forest. As I have said in previous years it is a bit of a balancing act when setting the number of doe permits and trying to maintain a reasonably stable population of fallow deer to protect our breeding stock. Not only do we have to contend with the number of deer shot by the ballot hunters, but we also have to make an allowance for deer shot on the neighbouring farmland and through poaching activities within the forest.

Another factor in the equation is that as areas of cut over mature pines are replanted and the trees start to grow some areas are a lot harder to hunt than others. The deer may still be there but to be successful different stalking techniques and strategies may be required. The Northern end of the forest where the ballot blocks are, has undergone an almost complete harvesting programme over the last 6-7 years. With this now nearly completed and the area replanted, wide open areas will soon be a thing of the past.

We are still getting large numbers of people not taking the time to read all the information we send out, not only for the ballot applications but also for successful applicants and their nominated hunting companions. We are a small group of volunteers on the committee and we do not have time to chase up individuals who haven't filled out and signed the required forms especially when we get around 1700 applications each year. Please ensure you have read the forms thoroughly, filled out all the required details and sign where required.

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**

This year, after 22 years of running the public hunting ballot in Woodhill forest we had our first search and rescue operation. A hunter spent the night out after becoming lost in his hunting block. He managed to find his way out in the morning. However in our view this hunter did everything wrong and we could have avoided a major operation involving committee and patrol members, police, search and rescue and the rescue helicopter not to mention the cost in dollars of mounting such an operation.

The hunter spent the night in a hay barn on a neighbouring farm. From where the track from the barn met the forest to Inland Road (the major road running north to south through the forest) was less than 250m.

Lessons learnt from this exercise were;

1. Always have a map and compass (and a GPS if you have one)
2. Have a torch or a headlamp
3. Reply to any effort made by searches to contact you.
 - a. Fire a shot,
 - b. Wave your torch or cell phone with the backlight on at a helicopter if it is flying overhead in the dark.
4. Let your hunting companions know your intentions and a place and time you intend to meet them after the hunt. Have a plan in case one of you gets lost. Have some pre-determined procedures to follow. If you are not confident in the bush then do a Mountain Safety navigation course or a HUNTS course through your local NZ Deerstalkers Association. Hunting is an enjoyable, safe and rewarding sport if done properly.

One of the great things about hunting in Woodhill forest is the opportunity for both experienced and novice hunters to test their stalking skills and see reasonable numbers of deer for their days hunt. The WPMC has strict rules on what you are and aren't allowed to shoot. They have to be. This year we had nearly 740 hunters go through our 8 hunting blocks. We estimate the total deer population in the ballot blocks at around 300-400 deer. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to work out that if everyone shot the first deer they saw then half way through the season there would be **no deer left for ever**. Unlike the central North Island the deer cannot repopulate this area. The Tasman Sea is on one side and farmland and the Kaipara Harbour on the other.

So it is disappointing each year when we have a small number of people who blatantly break the rules. We don't catch everyone red handed, but you would be surprised how many we do. The ones we don't catch we generally find out who they were as someone always has to brag to their wife, girlfriend or a mate of a mate and it eventually gets back to us, or another hunter finds the evidence in their block the next day or the next week.

The Committee always takes a lenient approach to those hunters who have made a genuine indiscretion and who own up. For those that don't they face a ban from applying for the ballot and will also be trespassed from all forests in New Zealand under the control of Hancock Forest Management. As an example, if you get banned from Woodhill for some breach of our rules and are trespassed by Hancock's then you also will be ineligible to be a member of the Tokoroa Pig Hunting Club. If you can't observe the rules don't apply.

As I am writing this I am reflecting on a recent shooting tragedy where a so-called hunter shot a woman tramper brushing her teeth at night. The WPMC prides itself on a 100% safety record over the past 22 years. We cannot be complacent about firearm safety. It is up to each and every one of us to practice fire safety every time we handle a firearm. This is especially so at Woodhill because despite our best efforts through signage and patrols there are always motorbikes, 4wd's, horse riders, mountain bikers, poachers and people in the forest – ALWAYS IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET.

Finally a big 'Thank you' to the committee for giving up their spare time and working tirelessly and thanklessly to make this another successful ballot season.

Good luck with the 2011 ballot



FENCING of the LAKE OTOTOA RESERVE – Dave Chisholm

Woodhill Fallow Management hunters can be proud of the fact that they initiated, co-funded in conjunction with the South Kaipara Landcare group and Hancocks Forest Management Ltd, the completion of the fencing off of the Ototoa reserve from Woodhill forest.

Lake Ototoa covers around 110 Hectares and has a native bush catchment of 625 hectares. It is seen as the most pristine lake of all the lakes in the Auckland region. It has significant wildlife and cultural values, as well as providing surrounding land owners with their main water supply.

By completing the fencing off of Woodhill Forest Fallow deer from the reserve, hunters have shown the lead and their commitment to the protection of significant natural areas, such as Lake Ototoa.

During 2002 a plan to deer fence the boundary was proposed and formulated between the 3 parties. A staged approach was formulated as logging of forest blocks had to be completed before fencing could start. July 2002 saw the completion of stage one, completion of 3 other stages over the intervening years has lead to the final staple being hammered in during October 2010.

WFMC would like to thank Oikoumene Forest Ltd for their support and help with materials, for many years we had posts stored at their yard in Helensville, and they delivered them to the sites free as needed, nothing seemed too much trouble for them, many thanks.

Thanks to South Kaipara Landcare for supporting and then adopting the concept of the Lake Ototoa fence, the South Head community can be proud of what they have achieved at Lake Ototoa. The biggest thank you goes to you, the hunting community that supported morally and financially this project.



2010 Hunting Results

The number of deer taken at Woodhill Forest during the 2010 hunting season was:

Bucks	17
Does	37
Pigs	14
Total Harvested	68



(A hasty escape)

WEB PAGE

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

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.

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.



2011 WOODHILL FALLOW DEER BALLOT

Note: We prefer you to fill in and print the application on our website

DETAILS OF APPLICANT

Date.....

Last Name.....

First Name.....

Postal Address

.....

Residential Address (if different).....

.....

City..... Email.....

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

Firearms License no.....

I agree to ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS SET OUT BY THE W.F.M.C and accept full responsibility for my companions while in Woodhill Forest

Ballot Application Fee - \$25, payment by cheque (do not send cash) OR Direct credit;

Account Name : Woodhill Fallow Management Council Inc

Account No.: 01 0141 0041658 00

IMPORTANT: Reference : the reference accompanying the deposit MUST be:

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

- otherwise we cannot match the payment to the application form.

e.g Bill Bloggs 14Mar11

Please circle your method of payment: Cheque Direct Credit

(No additional fee for successful applicants will apply in 2011)

Post completed application with payment to:

W.F.M.C

P.O.Box 56383,

Dominion Road,

Auckland 1446

APPLICATIONS CLOSE : 3rd April

BALLOT DRAWN: 20th April

BALLOT HUNTING STARTS 11th June (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

Special Thanks

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

Prize Draw From 2010 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 :	Ian Smeaton	Orewa	-\$120 Voucher
	Keith Prime	Helensville	-\$120 Voucher
	Patrick Bowden	Manurewa	-\$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

2010 will be remembered as the first time in twenty-two years of managing the hunting in Woodhill where we spent a whole night searching for a missing hunter in conjunction with the police and the Westpac helicopter, something we could have done without. The only good part about it was that it was a Sunday night so it didn't interfere with any hunting. So to all primary permit holders, make sure the other members of your party have a map and compass and know what they are for.

Most of the hunters enjoyed their hunt and abided by the rules, making things easy for those on patrol. However we always get a few who are hell-bent on trying to beat the system. Stick to the conditions of your permit and everybody's happy. Just remember that the Woodhill Ballot is not about open-slather hunting. Occasionally the patrol will find nobody hunting on a block. If for some reason you cannot make it on the day please inform the Woodhill Committee and your block will be utilised by another party.

Vests. As you should be aware you must always wear a high-vis orange vest while on your allocated hunting day in the forest. Not lime green or yellow. If you are seen by the patrols not wearing the appropriate coloured vest you will be escorted out of the forest.

A hunter was seen last season sitting on the edge of a sand track without a vest on eating his lunch. When asked by the patrol person why he wasn't wearing his vest he said " I took it off because I'm not hunting while I'm having lunch." Hard to figure out how having lunch can make you safer.

One last thing. If you see any vehicles in the forest on your hunting day please note the rego number and give it to the patrol people along with a description. Rest assured it will be followed up.

Good hunting.
Sandtracker

Woodhill Moments



Maureen Coleman and Carol Ussher



Dave Chisholm (Ototoa Fencing Project)

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.

Sobering thought

(Yes you can try this at home)

Take a 1-pound lead ball (500g to you young fella's) in your right hand. Rest your left hand palm down on the kitchen sink and drop the ball onto the back of your hand from a distance of 1 foot (approx 30cm). After trying this and while being driven to the doctor consider this. You have just experienced the equivalent of 1 fpe (foot pound of energy) to the back of your hand.

A typical 222cal bullet has over 1000 fpe at the muzzle and a 270 cal bullet has over 2600fpe.

(PS. Suggest you don't try this just before your balloted days hunting)

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

2011 Woodhill Ballot Hunt Application form Outlets

Hunting&Fishing Westgate	Auckland 09 8333019 mikehuntfish@xtra.co.nz
Auckland N.Z.D.A.	7 Target Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland
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 07 849 7626 mark@cobyexhausts.co.nz
Serious Shooters	Great North Road, Penrose, Auckland 09 579 3006 ssshooter@ihug.co.nz
Richard Waaklens	Whangarei 09 4347231 richard@mikepero.co.nz

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

Hunter Contributions



Joshua Saunders, Evan Clapp and bucks

Hi guys, just a bit of feedback on our hunt last Saturday. It was quite hard to determine the sex of the prickets and does, most were on the run. I have catergorised them together, we definitely saw one with 2 spikes but all the rest had nothing on their heads. Another we had in our sights and it was getting towards the end of the day and we weren't positive that it didn't have a pissel so we chose not to let Aaron shoot it (he had the Doe permit). Hope that helps with your head count somewhat.

Thanks heaps for what you do. Having such a well run operation so close to home is priceless. I have hunted my whole life with Aaron and Martin, so feel safe with them, but in this environment I feel extra safe having the orange high viz vest compulsaory is great. It is easy to see everyone and makes it great to work together through the bush and not lose each other.

Nathaniel King

Thanks again for the WPMC commitment etc in managing this resource. Sadley we stalked to within 20 metres of a number of hinds but no stags. But the day was great and excercise and scenery marvelous.

Wayne Turei

To all members of the Woodhill Management, I was a companion to Travis Brown along with my daughter on Block 8 as our first time hunting in Woodhill Forest. I would like to thank you for this privelege we had a great day. Your rules are plentiful but practical and proably necessary catering for all sorts. We were checked several time during the day and felt safe leaving our vehicle at the carpark. We saw 38 fallow deer for the day between us but only one stag fitted the criterion for our permit and is still there. The block offered a cross section of terrain with cutover, young pines and taller timber and we have a better idea how to go about a successful day for the future. We will be keen to apply fo a ballot next year as I have a date with that stag. Thanks again, keep up the good work.

Steve Morley



Bruce & Kennan Donovan

TAKE A KID HUNTING REPORT

2010. The 5th season of Woodhill Fallow Management Council's Take A Kid Hunting initiative. What was a casual comment passed by Council member Tony Gray at the beginning of the 2005 season -- "You know that Take a Kid Fishing Programme? Why don't we have a Take a Kid Hunting day?" It didn't take much thought from the committee and everyone agreed that it was a great idea and let's get it going.

With Council member, Mark Nobilo establishing a basic format with input from the rest of the committee, we now believe that we have evolved to an acceptable format and a great time is had by all, both organisers and participants.

Garth Johnson, the chairman welcomes everyone and outlines the day's activities. All members of the committee contribute whether it be on the administrative or the tutorial side of procedures or the catering and other organisational duties.

Over the years supportive contacts have been established and the loan of many record book trophies on the wall of the hall help contribute to the "hunting ambience."

The educational process of the procedures, albeit far too short to impart detailed knowledge to the participants, at least scratches the surface. The WFMC is sure that there is an impact as a young ballot hunter this year (successful) had been through the TAKH day 3 years ago, had since attained his gun license, and is now a successful active hunter.

The kill returns matter not, so long as the participants have had a great time, then the Council committee members can only feel that they have completed a job well done.

The Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike and Delwyn Shepherd of Westgate Hunting and Fishing for their very generous sole sponsorship which was greatly appreciated by the committee and recipients. Rick Linton for his talk as a hunting accident survivor. Another thanks goes to Hancock's Forest Management Ltd for helping make this all happen through their hunting lease.

Finally , a further thanks goes to the volunteer members of the committee and their helpers who once again gave generously of their time and knowledge to ensure that the day was the success it was.

Mark Nobilo TAKH Coordinator

Woodhill Fallow Management Council

Take a kid Hunting Photo's





PLACES TO STAY NEAR WOODHILL FOREST

Black Pete's Bar and Grill

09 420 8765

Aquatic Park

09 420 8998

Mineral Park Motel

09 420 8856

2011 WOODHILL "TAKE A KID HUNTING" BALLOT

Note: We prefer you to fill in and print the application on our website

DETAILS OF PARENT or GUARDIAN

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

Postal Address.....

.....

Residential 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 2011

~ HUNT ON SATURDAY 17TH 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 Ken Howlett 09 412 9308 or Dave Chisholm 09 4207058)

TAKE A KID HUNTING CONTRIBUTION



Kane Sargent and his first deer - TAKH

Kane had an awesome day Saturday. An experience I am sure that he will never forget.

A huge thank you to the whole WFMC committee for organising a fantastic experience for teenagers interested in hunting. There is nothing like this anywhere in the country. The talk was good, the lunch was to die for, and despite the forecast, the weather wasn't too bad. Please pass onto the rest of the committee that they do an excellent job.

Mark Sargent

Thank you very much for being so awesome and making this brilliant day happen. I am very grateful to you guys for letting me come and shoot on your land. I noticed that you guys were very well organized for everything you did. Thanks heaps for that great safety briefing, I learnt a lot from it. Due to this fantastic weekend I have my fallow deer hide tanned in my bedroom so thanks again for a great weekend.

Carl Goodwin



Daniel Pikett TAKH

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 pizzelle)

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET!

Photo: Brian Witton