

# Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | April 2025

Kia ora,

## Remember, Be Extra Sure this Roar!

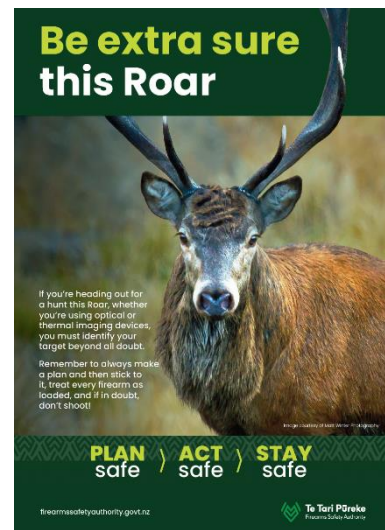
Autumn is in the air and many hunters are already heading out into the hills for the deer Roar. Recreational hunting is a big part of many New Zealanders' lives, we want everyone involved to have a great time away and then head home safe to their loved ones.

This Roar we're urging hunters everywhere to identify their target beyond all doubt, to make a good plan when hunting with others, and to handle their firearms with care. Whether hunters are using optical or thermal imaging devices, if there is any doubt, then don't shoot.

You can find more information and resources on our [Roar Safety](#) page.

### In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

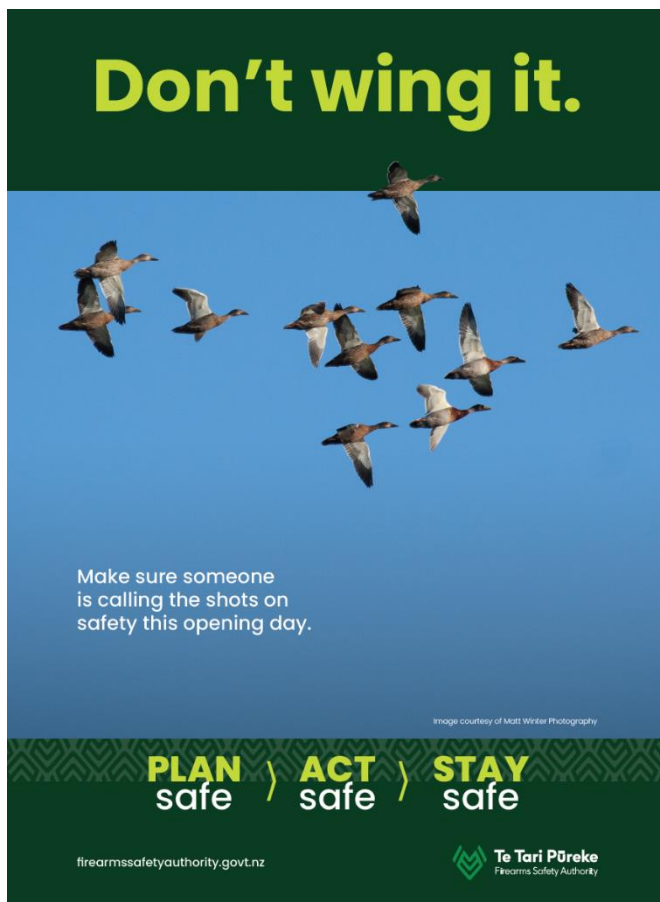
- Don't wing it this opening day
- Speaker series with the Department of Corrections
- ANZAC Day commemorations
- Secondary Schools' firearms safety training pilot
- Firearms safety, engagement, and education pathway: changes on the horizon
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers



**Mike McIlraith**

**Kaihautū Kōtūi | Director Partnerships**

**Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority**



## Don't 'wing it' this opening day

As May approaches duck hunters across the country will be busy preparing for the opening of the gamebird season. With an estimated 60,000 New Zealanders expected to take part in the opening weekend, we would like to remind all hunters not to 'wing it' this opening day.

Gamebird hunting is often done in a group, and amongst the excitement it is important that every hunter always follows the basics of firearms safety. Treat every shotgun as loaded and keep the muzzle pointing away from yourself.

Shotguns that are not in use should be unloaded and stored in a holder or safe place out of the way. If you are finished shooting for the day, completely unload your firearm and secure it. Remember, always save the refreshments until after you've safely locked your firearms away.

We want everyone to have a great weekend with friends and family and head home safely, hopefully with a duck or two in the bag.

Remember 'don't wing it' this opening day, a little bit of planning will help you have a safe and successful opening weekend.



## Information for health practitioners

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz



### Speaker series with Department of Corrections

Last month our Senior Partnerships Advisor - Kendra and Operational Policy lead - Jessica ran a speaker series with health practitioners at the Department of Corrections.

This was a great opportunity to connect with health professionals and discuss firearms use, access and Arms Act requirements.

Find more [information for health practitioners](#) on our website.

### ANZAC Day commemorations

ANZAC day is an important day of remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who returned having given so much, so that we can continue to enjoy our way of life and freedoms. ANZAC Day celebrations are a popular way to remember those who served.

We would like to remind organisers of ANZAC Day commemorative parades and services that:

- New Zealand Defence and Cadet Forces personnel engaging in official duties that involve firearms or similar items, are exempt from the requirements of the Arms Act 1983.
- Anyone else undertaking a rifle or artillery salute must be a current firearms licence holder operating within the conditions of their licence.
- Only blank ammunition can be used.

Contact NZ Police on 105 to advise details (time, place, what will be fired, etc) of the event and the salute being performed.

Finally, advise anyone in the immediate area to ensure safety and prevent unnecessary alarm.



## Firearms safety



### Secondary Schools' firearms safety training pilot

Many young people in New Zealand use firearms under the supervision of a licensed adult for hunting, pest control and target shooting sports, before going on to get a licence themselves.

Early pilots of a secondary school's firearms safety training programme are looking promising. Kaitiaki Guides, Ohakune and Fielding High School were early pilot locations. Both groups had excellent attendance, results and engagement.

Nopera Hauwaho, Senior Partnerships Advisor – Iwi at Te Tari Pūreke, has been working to get the pilot programme off the ground.

“A lot of secondary schools have firearms sports and activities – such as skeet shooting - in their curriculum already,” says Nopera. “The pilot programme we're testing brings nationally-standardised safety training to the teenagers, ensuring they start their sport with a really strong safety foundation.”

“We’ve also worked with NCEA so the students can obtain 3 x level 2 credits once they complete and pass the course.”

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## Firearms safety, engagement, and education pathway: changes on the horizon

At the end of 2024 we [announced some changes coming](#) to firearms safety training, engagement and education.

Over many months, we canvassed feedback from all our stakeholder groups: firearms and non-firearms community. We’ve asked for and incorporated views from all our stakeholder groups. Our goal is to evolve firearms safety engagement and education in partnership with the firearms community.

From July this year, we’ll be delivering enhanced firearms safety training and community engagement across New Zealand.

We will have our firearms safety training team on board. The team will be focusing on:

- Growing engagement with firearms licence holders and organisations through event attendance, club visits, and through the firearms dealer network.
- Undertaking local level partnering activities with organisations such as Fish and Game and the Department of Conservation.
- Delivering the firearms safety course to first time firearms licence applicants.
- Delivering and expand the reach of the Whakatūpatō firearms safety course to rural and isolated communities.
- Delivering firearms safety training to FSA staff who handle firearms during the course of their duties.
- Delivering activities in support of other regulatory objectives FSA workgroups.
- Engaging with the wider community (both firearms licence holders and non-firearms licence communities) in various settings, such as regional A&P shows.

While we have been getting ready for this, we’ve also made significant progress on our other safety training commitments (see the schools pilot update above, and the Whakatūpatō update in the [last Pānui](#)).

And now, we’re working on modernising the standard firearms safety training course, introducing more practical elements covering the safe handling and use of firearms, and increasing our presence in the firearms community.

We’d like to thank NZ Mountain Safety Council for their dedication to safety training since 2018. We couldn’t have evolved firearms training for New Zealanders without them working alongside us as a trusted partner.

## Keep up to date on the latest numbers

You'll notice we have done a refresh of this section. We want to ensure we are continuing to provide you up to date information about the Firearms Registry and licensing performance. So, we have made some changes to our tiles.

This section now contains:

- Active firearms licences summary by type - Individual, Visitor and Dealer
- Firearms licensing completion summary - Individual, Visitor and Dealer. *This section now has the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and broken down into different licence types.*
- Firearms Registry update - including total firearms, parts and licence holders registered

On our website we also proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the licence holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. [Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)



**Te Tari Pūreke**  
Firearms Safety Authority

If you have feedback on this pānui or there is anything you would like to see in future editions, please email [firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz](mailto:firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz)



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