

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | February & March 2025

Kia ora,

It's been a busy start to the year. In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

- Be extra sure this Roar
- Strong progress reaching rural and isolated communities
- Secondary School's firearms safety training pilot
- Hunters fear losing guns for seeking mental health help, but needn't
- New learning resources for licence holders applying for their pistol (B cat) endorsement
- Firearms safety
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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Let's be extra sure this Roar

As hunters head out for the Roar, they are likely to see or hear our firearms safety reminders about identifying their targets beyond all doubt – Be extra sure this Roar!

Whether hunters are using optical or thermal imaging devices, if they're are in any doubt, then they shouldn't shoot.

That's because we all know having a safe and enjoyable hunting experience, with everyone coming home safely, takes a lot more than just luck. The best hunters follow the seven basic rules of firearms safety and insist that others do the same.

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.

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



Strong progress reaching rural and isolated communities

The Whakatūpato firearms course is designed to promote firearms safety and awareness in rural and isolated communities across New Zealand. Targeting areas where access to formal education and licensing opportunities can be limited, this course provides hands-on instruction on the responsible use, safe handling, and storage of firearms.

In the past, we've delivered 10 Whakatūpato courses each year. We are now delivering 1-2

Photo of attendees and an instructor at a Whakatūpato course

courses a month and are on track to deliver double the number of courses in 2025.

The inaugural Whakatūpato course in the South Island will be taking place during the month of March. We also held a course in Gisborne and the Wairarapa in February, then Kaipara and Te Araroa in April.

We said we were going to increase our education and engagement in rural and isolated communities: we're making strong progress but there is still more to do.



Photo from National Secondary School Clay Target Competition

Secondary Schools' firearms safety training pilot

During 2025 we're piloting firearms safety testing in some secondary schools and we look forward to sharing the results of our pilots as we progress.

We have been working with schools to create a fit for purpose schools-based course. When participants complete the schools course, they will gain 3 credits at Level 2 of NCEA. Once the course is completed, participants will have 24 months to apply for their licences.

Pilots of the course are planned this month in Palmerston North, Ohakune, Fielding, Wairarapa and Hawkes Bay.

If you have any questions, you can contact firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz



Kendra Hill from Te Tari Pūreke, the Firearms Safety Authority says the fear around license revocation is “not justified” as it is on a case by case basis. Photo: Re: News’ documentary series The Regions. (Source: Re: News)

Hunters fear losing guns for seeking mental health help — but needn't

In mid 2024, our Pou Kōtui - Senior Partnerships Advisor, Kendra Hill, was filmed as part of a Re: News docuseries project about the lives of regional rangatahi and what it can be like growing up in small-town New Zealand.

This video focuses on a young hunter who avoided seeking mental health support out of fear of losing their firearms licence. For Te Tari Pūreke a really important point is that mental health conditions are not uncommon.

Our key message is for people to always seek help from a health professional. If firearms licence holders are struggling, there are some proactive things they – and those around them - can do before ending up down the path of revocation.

Find the resources here:

[1 News | Hunters fear losing guns for seeking mental health help — but needn't](#)

[Re:News | Inside the life of a 24-year-old hunter and taxidermist](#)



New learning resources for licence holders applying for their pistol (B cat) endorsement

Since 1 March 2025, pistol endorsement applicants have been able to access a free training workbook: [Obligations of a Pistol Target Shooting Endorsement Holder](#).

The workbook is designed to help new members learn about and understand their legal obligations as an endorsement holder. New (and existing) club members can download a copy of the workbook free from our website, to use during training, or refer to through their shooting career.

Initial training examinations for both Pistol NZ clubs and independent pistol clubs were also be updated from 1 March to include questions on endorsement holders' legal obligations. The additional questions compliment those already in the tests around safe use and practice.

This piece of work is a great example of what we can achieve when we work together with the firearms community to enhance safety and compliance outcomes for New Zealanders.

Firearms safety



Are you still standing out?

Some blaze orange items when old and faded can be mistaken for deer hide, so check any hi-vis items before use and replace as required.

'Hi-vis' (high-visibility) clothing and gear, or blaze, can make it easier for a hunter to identify you and reduce the possibility of being mistaken for a game animal.

This is especially important for dim or faded light - in the early morning, late evening or under the cover of bush.

For more hunter safety tips, go to: [Hunter Safety | Firearms Safety Authority](#).

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.

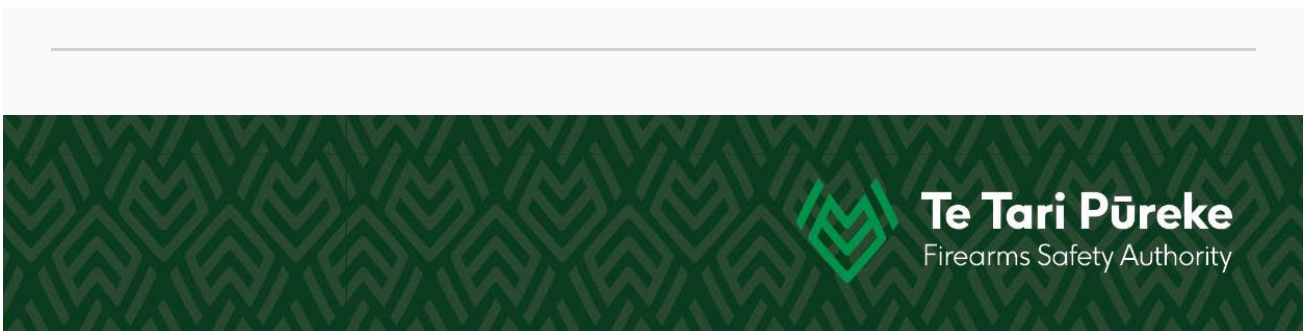
[Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

Active firearms licences summary 1 March 2025	
Individual	230,030
Visitor	167
Dealer	427
Total	230,624

Firearms licensing completion summary 1 March 2025		
	Jan 2025	Feb 2025
Individual	1,628	2,152
Visitor	82	57
Dealer	13	34

Firearms Registry Update 1 March 2025	
Total Firearms Registered	366,297
Total Firearms Parts Registered	13,202
Total Licence Holders Registered	76,435

Total Licence Holders Registered is the sum of all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.



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



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