

# Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | October 2025

Kia ora,

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

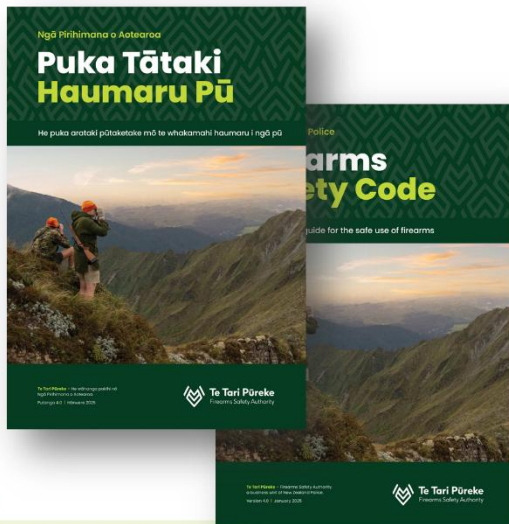
- Firearms Safety Code - update
- The purpose of the Firearms Registry
- Club armourers and the Firearms Registry
- Making it easier for overseas visitors - visitor permit update
- National Secondary Schools Clay Target Championships
- Firearms safety: always point firearms in a safe direction
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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**Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority**

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“Immediately encounter game animals” means that you reasonably expect to see game animals within close proximity to your actual location.

## Firearms Safety Code - update

The Firearms Safety Code has been recently updated. For anyone preparing to sit the firearms safety test, either the existing version or the new version of the Code can be used.

### What’s changed?

- Te Reo translations have been revised and are more succinct.
- Scenarios and photographs have been updated.
- Rule 3, chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire, has been clarified:

*Rule 3 now makes clear that you should only chamber a live cartridge when appropriate - for example, when you have sighted or expect to immediately encounter game animals, or when you are about to discharge the firearm on a shooting range.*

Copies of the Firearms Safety Code are available free to download from our website, to borrow from many libraries, or to buy from bookstores and online.

[Read more - Firearms Safety Code | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

## The purpose of the Firearms Registry

The purpose of the Firearms Registry is to help make our families and all New Zealanders safer. Licence holders have a key role to play filling in the Registry and keeping their information up to date. This means the Firearms Registry, when full, will provide a complete record of all lawfully held arms items in New Zealand, giving better visibility of where firearms are.

The registry improves licence holder and public safety by:

- Helping Police trace arms items that are lost, stolen, or used in crime
- Supporting licensing and regulatory oversight of arms items and their possession
- Improving intelligence across the system to identify unusual purchasing patterns that may indicate risk

For more information and the full list of purposes, visit: [About the Firearms Registry | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

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*Photo credit: Ross Nava*

### **Club armourers and the Firearms Registry**

When a shooting club or shooting range goes to register their firearms a licence holder who is responsible for the firearms – for example the club armourer - must register those firearms with the Firearms Safety Authority.

Any approved club member who holds a firearms licence can directly supervise the use of these club's firearms. However, the person against whom the 'club firearm' is registered remains responsible for the lawful possession of the firearm and its safe storage.

If the person who has registered the club firearms was to leave the club or surrender or have their licence suspended, the club's firearms must be [transferred in the registry](#) to another licence holder authorised to act on behalf of the club. The club's firearms will need to be registered in the Firearms Registry to this new person, who would effectively be acting as the new club armourer in this circumstance.

More information on registry obligations can be found here: [Firearms Registry | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

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## Making it easier for overseas visitors - visitor permit update

Target shooting organisations, hunting guides, and visitors to NZ have told us that the process for visitor permits can feel complex. In response, we've updated our [visitor firearms licence webpages](#) to make the requirement clearer.

The updates clarify:

- the information that must be provided, particularly regarding accommodation and secure storage measures
- what supporting documents are required with a licence application
- the step-by-step process to complete the online application form
- the process after an application is submitted.

We have also published an additional resource: the [Target shooting in Aotearoa New Zealand factsheet](#).

This fact sheet is designed for anyone overseas planning to enter shooting competitions in New Zealand. We encourage associations and independent clubs to take a copy of this PDF and make it available to overseas competitors who wish to enter your competitions.

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*Waitaki Boys' High School Competitors at the National Secondary Schools Clay Target Championships.*

## National Secondary Schools Clay Target Championships - Waikato spotlight

Our Partnerships team was pleased to attend the National Secondary Schools **Down the Line** Clay Target Championships in the Waikato region. This event, hosted annually by the [New Zealand Clay Target Association](#), alternates between the North and South Island.

It was a privilege to connect with students, schools, and many clubs at the Championship - many of whom are young shooters gaining experience in a structured and supervised environment. While not all participants yet hold firearms licences, the competition gives them exposure to safety practices and the discipline expected in the sport.

In the North Island event, **Hamilton Boys' High School** delivered an impressive performance and led with a top score of 286 (as reported).

We extend our congratulations to the organisers, participating schools, and all competitors. Events like this play a key role in fostering the next generation of responsible firearms users.



## Always point firearms in a safe direction

One of the most important rules of firearms safety is to always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction. This applies whether or not you believe the firearm is loaded - every firearm must be treated as if it could discharge.

A safe direction is one where, if the firearm were to fire, it would not cause injury or damage. What is considered safe changes depending on your surroundings, so it's important to always check your environment, whether you are at the range, out hunting, at home, or transporting a firearm.

Controlling the direction of your muzzle at all times is one of the simplest and most effective ways to prevent accidents.

More information here: [7 Rules of Firearms Safety | Firearms Safety Authority](#)

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### Keep up to date on the latest numbers

On our website we 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. We have provided a snapshot of this data below.

This section 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

Find more information here: [Firearms data and public information | 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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