

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Te Tari Pūreke Partnerships - Firearms Pānui | February 2026

Kia ora,

In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

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Connecting with communities at the A&P shows

We enjoyed connecting with communities at the Golden Bay and Horowhenua A&P Shows. Across both events, we spoke with several hundred people - from experienced licence holders to families stopping by to learn more. Our safety resources were popular, particularly the chamber flags, hands-on activities, and security-focused giveaways. The competitions also attracted plenty of interest and helped spark conversations about safe and responsible firearms possession.

Having Firearms Safety Officers, Arms Officers, and wider support staff on site meant we could answer a broad range of queries confidently and continue strengthening relationships with local clubs and community groups. These events remain an important way for us to stay visible, accessible, and focused on promoting safer firearms use and possession.



National Rifle Association competition highlights

The National Rifle Association of New Zealand Kings Competition, including the prestigious Ballinger Belt match, took place at Seddon Range, Trentham in early January 2026.

On 14 January, several staff from Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority attended to observe the competition and talk with local and overseas competitors.

Everyone was very welcoming and there were good discussions and sharing of information. International competitors gave us great feedback and pointed out areas to work on to further improve the visitor licencing service.

Thanks to Daryl May, President NRANZ, for hosting the group and to all the people who were happy to talk with us when not shooting or scoring.



11 days left - have your say on the Arms Bill

A reminder that submissions on the proposed Arms Bill close at 11:59pm, Monday 16 February 2026. If passed, the Bill would repeal and replace the Arms Act 1983, but several parliamentary steps still need to occur before any changes can become law.

Until then, all firearms licence holders must continue complying with the current legislation and meeting existing requirements.

If you'd like to make a submission, visit the New Zealand Parliament website [here](#). Anyone can submit - individual licence holders, clubs, collectors, dealers, and members of the public.

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of New Zealand's firearms framework.



Is your club an incorporated society? eight weeks left to re-register

Clubs that are incorporated societies have just **eight weeks left** to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. This includes some target shooting clubs, so now is a good time to check that your club has its paperwork in order.

Information about the new requirements for incorporated societies - including what has changed, how to update and approve your club's constitution, and how to submit the documents to the Companies Office - can be found here: [Incorporated Societies Register](#)



Staying safe when hunting in hilly terrain

When you're out hunting, it's important to stay aware of your surroundings - especially in steep or hilly terrain. The skyline is a common place to spot game animals, but taking a shot at this point can be extremely dangerous.

That's because the firing zone beyond the animal is unknown. A projectile travelling over a ridge can strike people, animals, or property you can't see. Safety must always come first.

Most calibres commonly used for hunting can send a projectile several kilometres from the firing position. That reach means a single unsafe shot can have life-changing consequences.

Before you take any shot, pause, assess the backdrop, and make sure you can clearly identify not only your target but also what lies well beyond it.

If you'd like to refresh your knowledge of the seven rules of firearms safety, our YouTube channel has helpful videos and demonstrations to support safe decision-making in the field:



Looking after ourselves and each other

Did you know that around one in three New Zealanders will experience some form of mental health difficulty each year? Conditions such as anxiety or depression are common and often manageable, but in some situations, symptoms can raise safety concerns - particularly for firearms licence holders.

It's always a good idea to check in with friends or whānau and make sure they're doing okay.

If you're worried that someone's mental health may be affecting their ability to possess firearms safely, you can help by encouraging them to seek support from their GP, a health provider, or a mental health service. If you hold a firearms licence, you may temporarily store their firearms for up to 30 days without needing to transfer possession in the Firearms Registry. They can also choose to surrender

their licence and reapply when they're ready.

If you're concerned about someone's immediate safety, dial 111. For support, you can free call or text **1737**, or

- Lifeline – 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE) or free text 4357 (HELP)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline – 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO)
- Rural Support Trust – 0800 824 757

More information is available at:

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/manage-and-apply/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-firearms-licence-holders

and mentalhunts.co.nz



Organisational performance and highlights

At the end of 2025 we released our annual *Delivery and Performance Summary Report* for the 2024/25 financial year. The report outlines our core work and performance against government measures. It also showcases organisational highlights such as the record number of licences issued, an uptick in registry activity, and extensive delivery of firearms safety education and training courses during the financial year. It is available on our website here:

[Delivery and Performance Summary Report 2025](#)

Firearms safety

Meet Nick and Josh, two mates out on a hunt

Take 2 minutes to follow Nick and Josh pulling up to start their hunt in the bush. Pay close attention when Nick grabs some ammunition from the glove box - was he treating the firearm as loaded?

Click the video when you are ready.



Firearms safety course and e-learning

Our online e-learning modules now feature a modern visual design, conversational language, and hands-on interaction.

The updated modules also provide learners with brand-new, scenario-based quiz questions which present realistic situations and ask how someone would respond, making these new modules an engaging, interactive tool to support learning alongside the Firearms Safety Code.

These modules are useful for everyone - not just new licence applicants. Current licence holders, their whānau and friends and anyone else who is around firearms can benefit from understanding their safe use, storage, and transport.

[Firearms safety e-learning | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

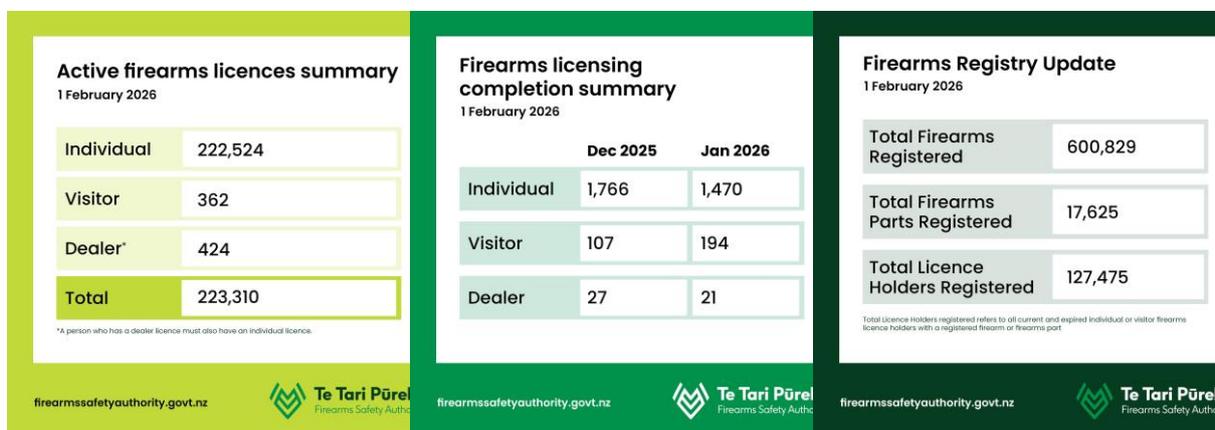
Keep up to date on the latest numbers

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](#)





Te Tari Pūreke
Firearms Safety Authority

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