
Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

April 2026

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Kia ora,

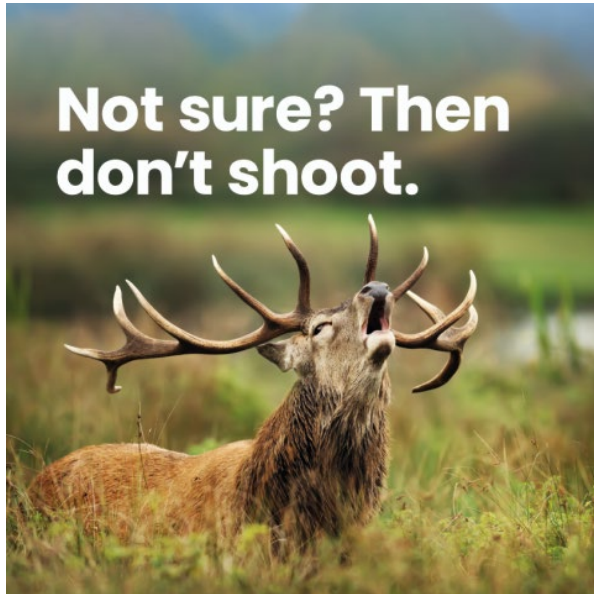
In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

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Ewan Kelsall

Poutaki Kōtui | Partnerships Manager

Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority



This Roar: if you are not sure, then don't shoot!

As thousands of hunters prepare for autumn and the Roar, recreational firearms groups are reminding hunters of the importance of being 100% sure of their target.

Through the Recreational Firearms Users Group, a public safety message is being shared that focuses on **Rule #4 of the Firearms Safety Code: identify your target beyond all doubt.**

Failing to fully identify a target can have serious consequences. If you are not sure, don't shoot.

Hunters are encouraged to slow down, positively identify their target, check their surroundings, and never shoot at sound, colour, movement, or shape alone.

For more information on Roar safety, visit:

[Hunter safety | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Good hunters check twice

Research from the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council shows that most big game shooting incidents happen within the same hunting group. In around 80 percent of incidents, the shooter and victim were members of the same hunting group. These incidents often occur when groups split up, lose contact with each other, or when someone moves into another hunter's area.

In most cases, the distance between the shooter and the victim was less than 75 metres. This highlights how important clear identification is before taking a shot.

Hunters can help reduce risk by using binoculars to scan the area and positively identify their target, rather than using a rifle's optical sight.

With the Roar season underway, we encourage all hunters to refresh their safety knowledge. Visit our website to read more about hunter safety and shared responsibilities in the outdoors.

[Hunter safety | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Firearms Safety Education with Wairarapa College

Our Firearm Safety Team recently worked with senior students at Wairarapa College to deliver a firearms safety course. The session focused on awareness, responsibility, and making safe decisions when possessing or using a firearm. These conversations help young people understand their legal responsibilities and the wider impact of their choices on whānau and community. Completing this course is a required step in applying for a New Zealand Firearms Licence. We value working alongside schools supporting learning early and promoting a culture of safety. The students engaged well, asked thoughtful questions, and showed a strong commitment to learning. Mahi pai to Wairarapa College and its students for supporting safe, informed futures.

To find out about our schools programme, visit [Whakatūpato and Schools Based Firearms Safety Courses](#).



Supporting safe firearms use in rural and isolated communities

New resources for rural and isolated communities are being developed. This is in response to kōrero with rural and isolated Māori communities. This supports our shared vision of making firearms use in Aotearoa the safest in the world.

The first resource is a step-by-step walkthrough PowerPoint of the online firearms licence application, including guidance on RealMe, [MyFirearms](#), and the application process. The second is a presentation, He Hapori Haumarū – Safe Communities, aimed at the wider whānau of firearms licence holders. It will support whānau to play an active role in creating safe communities around firearms use. These will be held and delivered by our Firearms Safety Team.

The Māori Partnerships Group and the Firearms Safety Team also spent some time in the Northland district delivering the Muriwhenua Roadshow. This included three days of [whakatūpato courses](#) delivered to 27 employees of iwi-owned farms. Holding a firearms licence enables pest control on their whenua and supports the exercise of tino rangatiratanga.



Rai Valley A&P Show – fifth place for best stand



Wanaka A&P show with Glen from MentalHunts

Community engagement at regional A&P shows

We recently engaged with communities at the Rai Valley, Wānaka, Flaxbourne, Temuka and Geraldine A&P Shows, speaking with more than 1,100 adults and children across the events.

The stands attracted strong interest, with firearms safety information, safe storage resources, and family-friendly giveaways supporting positive conversations about responsible firearms use. Safety-focused competitions were well received and prompted discussion about good firearms practices.

Across the shows, attendees raised questions about licence renewals and firearms licensing, including inquiries from people new to the licensing system. Displays such as tahr and stag heads proved to be popular drawcards, bringing many people to the stands. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with strong support for seeing the Authority present and engaging directly with local communities.



Working with Wild Chix to support women in firearms safety

Recently, we worked alongside [Wild Chix](#) during one of their weekend programmes, supporting women to build confidence, skills, and knowledge around firearms use. One of our Firearms Safety Officers attended the course, providing practical guidance and answering questions about licensing, ammunition,

and safe handling. Using hands-on learning tools helped bring key safety concepts to life and supported informed discussions.

Engagements like this help create clear pathways for women who are exploring firearms licensing, with several participants already beginning the application process. We value partnerships with organisations like Wild Chix that foster supportive, inclusive learning environments and promote safety-led participation.

[Firearms licence | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



World Down The Line (DTL) Championship in New Zealand

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the ICTSF World DTL Championship at the Canterbury Clay Target Club.

New Zealand hosts a number of international competitors each year across local and national shooting events. Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority supports these competitions by enabling overseas visitors to participate safely and lawfully.

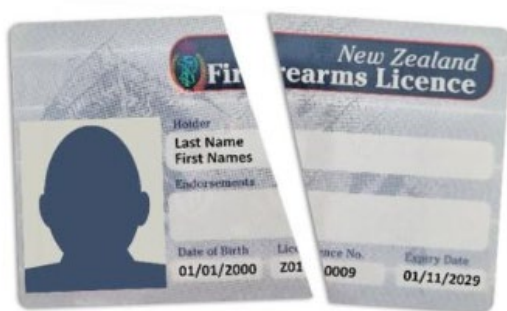
For this event, we worked closely with World DTL competition organisers to process around 200 visitor firearm licences and support smooth arrivals for competitors at New Zealand airports. Staff from district offices, permits, firearms safety, and partnerships were also present on the range to assist visitors with



licensing, firearms registration, and travel-related changes following disruptions in the Middle East.

Congratulations to the winners, including World DTL Champion Dan Power (Australia), and to the Open, Ladies, Juniors teams – New Zealand I; Veterans – Australia A; and Super Veterans – Australia A.

[Visiting or moving to New Zealand | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Surrendering your firearms licence - updated process

If you no longer need or want your firearms licence, you can now surrender it more easily.

The [Firearms Licence Surrender Form](#) is available on our website under “[Disposal of firearms and arms items](#)”. You do not need to call to obtain a form.

Before surrendering your licence, please make sure any registered firearms or other arms items are lawfully transferred or disposed of. Surrendering your licence does not automatically remove items from the Registry.

To surrender your licence, please:

- Complete the [Firearms Licence Surrender form](#)
- Cut up your firearms licence card

Then either:

- Email the completed form and a photo of your cut-up card to firearms.NST@police.govt.nz, or
- Take the form and cut-up card to your local Police station.

Providing both the completed form and evidence of your cut-up licence card helps ensure your licence surrender is processed promptly.

Firearms safety



 **Te Tari Pūreke**
Firearms Safety Authority

Using chamber safety flags

Whether you are on a shooting range or out hunting in the hills, the safe handling and carrying of a firearm greatly reduces the risk of harm to you and others.

One good safe handling practice is to use **chamber safety flags**. These are inserted into the chamber of a firearm to show the firearm has been cleared; they act as a physical barrier to the chamber and action area and help to show yourself and others that a firearm is unloaded.

We often hand out chamber safety flags at public events; if you see the Te Tari Pūreke stall at a show or event, come on over for a chat and take a chamber safety flag home with you.

Keep up to date on the latest numbers

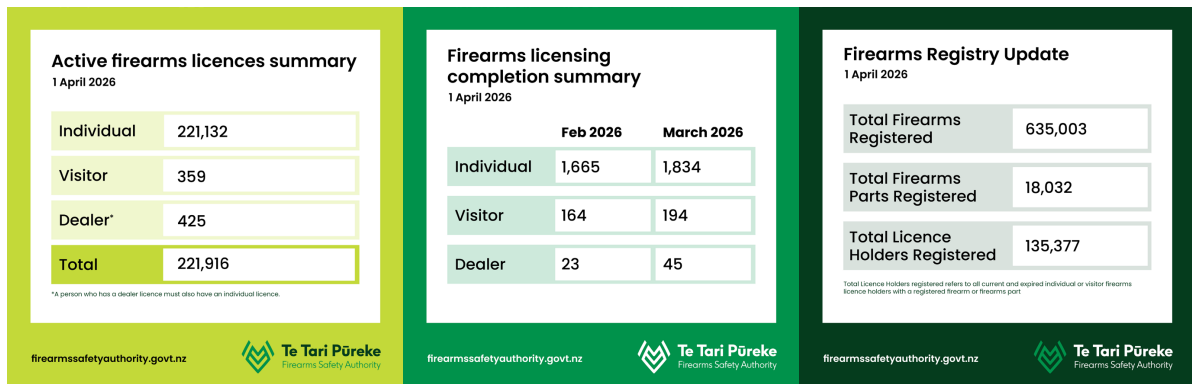
On our website, we proactively release firearms regulatory information to help people better understand features of the firearms licence-holder community, and aspects of the performance of New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. The information below provides a snapshot of selected data.

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

Two additional firearms data sets are now available, providing information on firearms regulation, Registry service performance, and Firearms Safety Course delivery.

More detailed firearms data is available at: [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



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