

# Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

May 2026

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Kia ora,

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

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**Te Tari Pūreke | Firearms Safety Authority**

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## Whakatūpato course update

Whakatūpato is a community-based firearms safety course designed for people living in rural and isolated areas who may not be able to access standard training. It promotes safe handling, storage, and responsible use of firearms through practical, culturally responsive learning.

Through Whakatūpato, our Firearms Safety Team is supporting safer communities by bringing firearms safety education directly to where it's needed most. These courses help build confidence, reinforce safe practices, and support responsible firearms use across generations.

If your community or organisation is interested in hosting a Whakatūpato course, we'd love to hear from you.

To get in touch with the team, email:

[SupportFirearmSafety@police.govt.nz](mailto:SupportFirearmSafety@police.govt.nz)

[Whakatūpato and Schools Based Firearms Safety Courses](#)



## Supporting local pathways to firearms licensing

A recent Firearms Licence Application Workshop in Murupara has demonstrated the value of locally delivered, hands-on support for new applicants, delivered in partnership with Eastbay REAP and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Manawa, with the Firearms Safety Authority.

Learners received help completing online applications, accessing e learning, and understanding firearms safety and storage, with several applications submitted on the day.

The success of this approach confirms the value of community-based delivery. This model is now being extended into Kawerau and Ōpōtiki to support safe and informed participation across the local communities and districts in that area.

[Whakatūpato and Schools Based Firearms Safety Courses](#)



## Duck hunting season: safety reminders

As duck hunting season gets underway, licence holders and hunters are encouraged to refresh their knowledge and check they're set up for a safe and responsible season. [Fish & Game's Hunting Knowledge Hub](#) is a useful resource for both experienced and new hunters, covering where and how to hunt, designing and camouflaging a maimai, and food safety for harvested game birds.

Hunters are also encouraged to review guidance on maimai safety, including safe construction, stability, visibility, and firearm handling when hunting from a hide.

Taking time to refresh your knowledge supports safer hunting practices and helps ensure everyone can enjoy the season responsibly. You can read more about how you can make your maimai safe this duck season here:

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



## Another firearms safety training delivered on Great Barrier Island

Our Firearms Safety team supported more successful firearms safety training sessions on Great Barrier Island in April 2026, working with local Police and community partners to deliver a community course and a Whakatūpato course in partnership with Tū Mai Taonga. An Arms Officer attended both courses to complete licence vetting interviews with new applicants and their nominated next of kin, helping reduce interview backlogs and support timely processing of around 20 new licence applications, including for locals contributing to Predator Free 2050.

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

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## Update on the future firearms regulator

Expressions of interest have been sought from suitably qualified candidates for appointment as the Chief Executive of **Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand**.

Legislation currently before Parliament proposes the establishment of a new firearms regulator, which would take over the functions of the Firearms Safety Authority – Te Tari Pūreke. Subject to the legislation passing, the new agency is expected to become operational in late 2026 as an autonomous agency hosted by New Zealand Police.

The proposed regulator would focus on community safety while providing simpler, smarter services for firearms users, including encouraging compliance, enabling lawful possession and use of firearms, improving education, and maintaining public safety.

The Ministry of Justice is managing the recruitment process.

More information can be found here:

<https://lnkd.in/eNMbsChz>

Thu, 4 Jun, 6pm - 9pm  
Wānaka Community Hub  
34 McDougall Street, Wānaka

Scan QR code to register  
Limited spaces available  
\$35 Per person



**MENTAL HUNTS 101**

**MENTAL HUNTS**

MentalHunts 101 is an engaging, practical evidence based course designed specifically for New Zealand's firearms community. This programme breaks down the stigma around mental wellbeing and firearms ownership while delivering clear, relevant education on firearms legislation, help seeking, responsibilities, and the realities behind common myths.

Whether you're a new licence holder or just someone who lives or works with a licence holder, MentalHunts 101 will equip you with the knowledge, tools, and mindset to promote safer communities and stronger wellbeing.

Breaking down mental health barriers for firearms licence holders.

## MentalHunts 101 Course - external course notice

MentalHunts 101 is a New Zealand-based course intended for firearms licence holders, as well as people who live or work with licence holders. The course focuses on general wellbeing, seeking help pathways, and personal responsibilities associated with firearms possession, alongside information about firearms law.

### Upcoming session

- **Date:** Thursday 4 June
- **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- **Location:** Wānaka Community Hub, 34 McDougall Street, Wānaka
- **Cost:** \$35 per person
- **Registration:** Via QR code
- **Note:** Limited spaces available

*This programme is independently developed and delivered. Mental wellbeing and education needs can vary, and people may choose to engage with a range of wellbeing and education initiatives that support their individual circumstances.*

## Firearms safety



### How can I safely transport my firearm to and from a shooting area?

Transporting a firearm to and from a shooting area should be done with caution. Firearms and ammunition must be concealed from view from outside the vehicle.

Firearms should be made inoperable where readily possible by removing the bolt or other vital part. The part should be kept on the licence holder's person or stored out of sight separately from the firearm. If this is not possible (for example, with lever action, semi-automatic, or single-shot firearms), the firearm should be fitted with a trigger lock or transported in a locked case or carry bag.

Firearms must not be loaded with ammunition in the breech, barrel, chamber, or magazine. Ammunition should be stored separately from firearms and, where practicable, kept in a locked glovebox or similar storage area.



**Remember:** it is unlawful to drive on public roads with a loaded firearm.

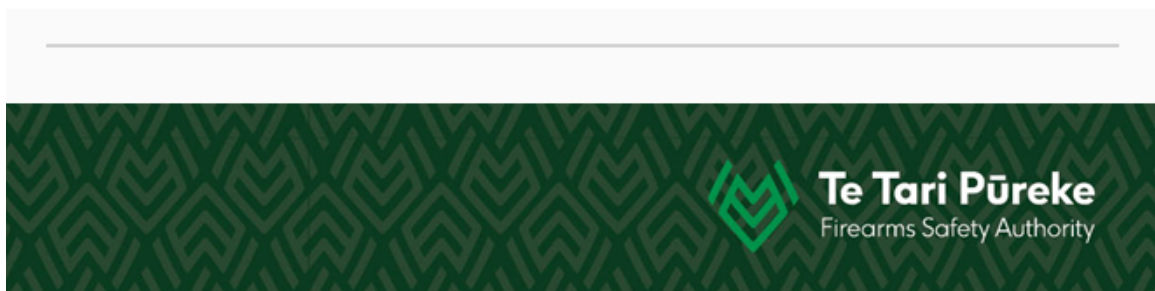
## Keep up to date on the latest numbers

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 shows the total number of licences completed in the given month, rather than a percentage, and is broken down by 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](mailto:firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz)

