

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

Know someone who might want to subscribe or benefit from this panui? Please feel free to forward it on to **anyone who might be interested**. To subscribe, people can email firearmspartnerships@police.govt.nz

Kia ora,

In this edition of the Firearms Pānui you can find:

- Opening weekend: keeping your ducks in a row
- In conversation: duck hunting season on The Rural Roundup
- Working together: behind the scenes with Lean on a Gate
- Supporting wellbeing: mental health and firearms
- Guidance for events: firearms and prizes
- Only pay your application fee once
- Firearm safety: hunting in low light - staying safe after dark
- Keep up to date with the latest numbers

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Opening weekend: keeping your ducks in a row

This duck hunting season, members of Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority headed out to maimais across the country alongside our [Fish & Game New Zealand](#) partners. Our focus was engaging with the hunting community and reinforcing our key safety message: keep your ducks in a row.

This means:



- 🗨️ having a clear plan for the maimai – including who will be where, and designating someone to oversee the 7 firearms safety rules

- 🗨️ handling firearms safely – especially with visitors or young people present. In particular: always point shotguns in a safe direction, agree on a safe arc of fire, and unload and secure shotguns when not in use

- 🗨️ wearing hearing protection to reduce long-term harm

Feedback was positive. Great to see safe hunting across Aotearoa.



In conversation: duck hunting season on The Rural Roundup

Want to hear more about this year's duck hunting season? We recently joined The Rural Roundup to talk about opening weekend, safety, and our work alongside the hunting community.

Listen

here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/34YeIA Y8Uubavp36ZjiXNK>



Working together: behind the scenes with [Lean On a Gate](#)

We've been behind the scenes filming with [Lean On A Gate](#), talking about mental health and firearms. This work focuses on supporting open, practical conversations within rural communities, where firearms use is a part of everyday life.

Together, we're exploring how to recognise when someone might need support, how to look out for each other, and the role responsible firearms possession can play in keeping people safe.

This is part of our broader approach to partnership and education - working alongside trusted voices to reach communities in ways that resonate.

We're looking forward to sharing more from this collaboration soon.



Supporting wellbeing: mental health and firearms

We have been working on an animation that supports the understanding of why mental health is an important consideration across the firearms system, and how recognising concerns early can help reduce risk. It provides clear, plain-language messaging on noticing potential signs of distress, understanding when concerns may be relevant, and responding in a safe and appropriate way.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to watch the animation and share it within your networks.

You can view the animation on our website here:

[Mental health and wellbeing of firearms licence holders | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Do you have health concerns about a firearms licence holder?

- For immediate safety concerns, dial 111
- Call or text 1737 any time for free support from a trained counsellor
- Lifeline – 0800 543 354 or free text 4357

- Suicide Crisis Helpline – 0508 828 865
- Rural Support Trust – 0800 824 757



Guidance for events: firearms and prizes

The use of firearms or ammunition as prizes are regulated by the Department of Internal Affairs under the Gambling Act. These arms items can be awarded as a prize in firearms related events that are based on the skill demonstrated by the competitors, such as target shooting and hunting competitions.

Competitions where winning a prize is based on ‘luck of the draw’ are restricted by the Gambling Act 2003. Under the Gambling (Prohibited Property) Regulations 2005 Regulation 4, firearms or ammunition and vouchers for either item are prohibited prizes. Gambling includes raffles and spot prizes associated with entry to a main competition.

More information is available on our website under [Competitions and prizes | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)

Regulation on firearms as prizes is set by the Department of Internal Affairs. Resources include rules for running a gambling activity and <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Gambling>.

Only pay your application fee once

Some licence holders are accidentally paying their licence or endorsement application fees twice. This happens when licence holders pay the fee at the Post Shop and then go on to complete their licence renewal or endorsement renewal and pay again online.

There is no need to go the Post Shop to pay the fee and get a receipt if you plan to complete your application online (the best way). When you apply online, you’ll need to pay the fee at the end of the application to complete the process.

So, if you’ve paid at the Post Shop and then go to apply online, you’ll have to pay a second time to



complete the application. You should only pay once! Apply online and pay online.

Firearms safety



Hunting in low light: staying safe after dark

Winter means it gets dark earlier, and hunting at night comes with added risk. A significant number of shooting fatalities and injuries have occurred when hunting at night. Remember you cannot hunt during the hours of darkness on Department of Conservation land and only on private land with the landowner's permission.

- It can be more difficult to identify your target at night; be absolutely certain of the target every time, whether using a spotlight, thermal imager or night vision
 - Be aware of anything between you and your target, and beyond it
 - Never fire when companions are ahead of you, especially if you have lost sight of them
 - Before you shoot, ask yourself: “what could happen if I miss my target?”
 - Never shoot at something on the skyline
- It is important to remember the maximum range of your firearm's projectile does not change at night, but your ability to assess what may be in your firing zone does.

[Hunter safety | 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 firearms licence-holder community, and aspects of the performance of

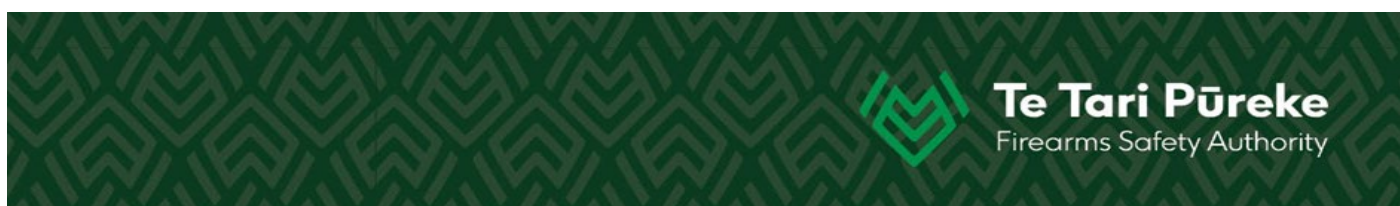
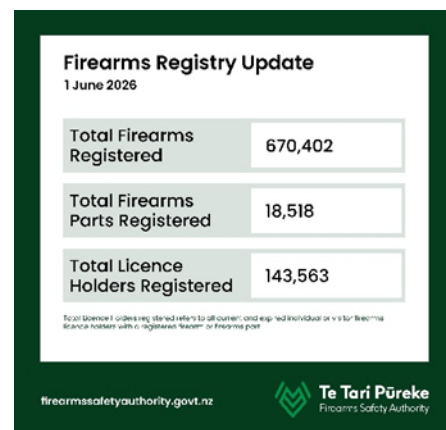
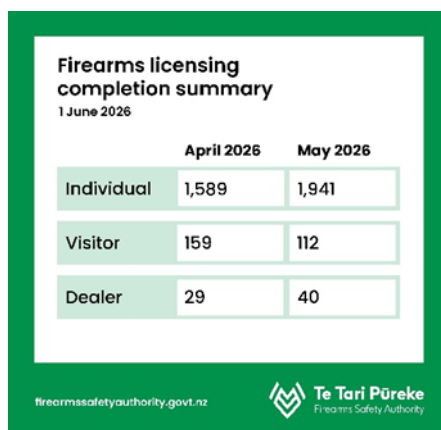
New Zealand's firearms regulatory framework. The information below provides a snapshot of selected data.

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





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