

Firearms Pānui

The latest firearms information

July 2026

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:

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Keeping in touch with change through this Pānui

This will be an important year for firearms users, businesses, and representative organisations with a new Arms Act currently being considered by Parliament.

When passed, the Arms Act 2026 will create a clearer and more straightforward regulatory framework. As well as modernising and updating the legislation, it will bring into being a new independent firearms regulator which will be called Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand.

This Pānui is one of the communication channels we'll be using to connect with the firearms community about the changes coming up, and how and when they might impact licence holders. Be sure to stay subscribed to get the information first hand, and feel free to forward this on to anyone you know who might also like to hear the latest news.



Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF)

Last week we met with members of the firearms community through the Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF), sharing updates, listening to concerns, and supporting informed discussion.

The forum brings together representatives from hunting and target shooting groups, commercial users, businesses, and government agencies.

Forums such as FCAF allow us to consult on any new or changing documents or processes and act as a two-way connection to the firearms user community.

You can read more about FCAF on our website, where you will also find minutes from the forum dating back to 2014. Take a look here:

[Firearms Community Advisory Forum \(FCAF\) | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Napier Fin and Feathers Club

We partnered with Napier Fish & Game to deliver a firearms safety session for their Fin and Feathers Club, for young people aged 10–15. The session introduced basic safety and awareness in a simple, practical way.

Twelve children took part, asking great questions and showing strong interest in safe firearms use. We also demonstrated common firearm types used under a standard licence, which sparked lots of discussion from both kids and parents. Each child received a take-home pack with safety resources.

This is a positive example of working together to build early understanding of safe firearms behaviour in our communities, especially where hunting is common.

If you're part of a group or organisation interested in firearms safety education, you can contact our team at SupportFirearmSafety@police.govt.nz for further information.



Connecting licence applicants to further education and support

At the end of the firearms safety course, applicants can choose to hear from trusted organisations offering more training, support, and advice.

With their permission, we share their details with selected organisations to help connect them with groups, mentors, and opportunities that support safe and responsible firearms use. These organisations must meet strong privacy and data protection standards.

In May, applicants chose to connect with: Fish & Game NZ (457), Department of Conservation (115), Game Animal Council (116), and National Rifle Association (113).

This shows strong interest in ongoing learning and community connection.

Note: Data sharing began in November 2025. Information will be published on our website from June 2026.

[Firearms data and public information | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand](#)



Two-thirds of licence holders now in the Firearms Registry

It was the third anniversary of the commencement of the Firearms Registry on 24 June, and for the first time New Zealand is starting to get a picture of how many and the types of lawfully held firearms are in our communities.

Nearly two thirds of all licence holders (63%) are now in the Registry. Latest data shows 138,115 licence holders are registered from a total population of 219,955 licence holders.

They have collectively registered 683,435 firearms, and further 18,675 parts. On average each licence holder has registered five firearms.

Firearms registered to date by type:

- Rifles 66%
- Shotguns 27%
- Pistols 5%
- Other 1%

At this current rate, New Zealand will have 1.1 million lawful firearms in its Registry by 2028, which was the deadline set by Parliament for having all licence holders registered.

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



Check your firearms licence expiry date

Got a minute? Grab your firearms licence and check the expiry date. With licences lasting up to 10 years, it's easy to forget - 11% of people in a recent survey didn't realise theirs had expired.

If we can't reach you by email, we'll send a letter. We follow up again 2 months out, and send a final text reminder 5 weeks before expiry.

If you apply **before expiry**, you can keep using your firearms until a decision is made, and your new licence will be valid for 10 years.

If you apply **after expiry**, you must transfer your firearms to a current licence holder and your new licence will be valid for 5 years.

Make sure your contact details are up to date via MyFirearms or 0800 844 431.

Firearms safety



Treat every firearm as loaded

Treat every firearm as if it is loaded – no matter how sure you are that it's not.

That means keeping the muzzle pointing away from yourself and other people, finger off the trigger, and having control of the firearm at all times.

Statements from shooters who have experienced their firearm firing when they didn't expect it to (known as an unintentional discharge) will often include the comment "*But I didn't know that it was loaded*".

So remember,

🔫 Treat your firearm as if it is always loaded.

🔒 Do not take anyone else's word that a firearm is unloaded – always check.

🔒 Never lean your firearms where they could slide or be knocked over.

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.

Read more about hunter safety on our website here:

[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](#)

Active firearms licences summary 1 July 2026

Individual	219,245
Visitor	125
Dealer*	436
Total	219,806

*A person who has a dealer licence must also have an individual licence.

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz



Firearms licensing completion summary 1 July 2026

	May 2026	June 2026
Individual	1,941	1,895
Visitor	112	42
Dealer	40	30

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz



Firearms Registry Update 1 July 2026

Total Firearms Registered	689,096
Total Firearms Parts Registered	18,735
Total Licence Holders Registered	147,520

Total licence holders registered refers to all current and expired individual or visitor firearms licence holders with a registered firearm or firearms part.

firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz





Te Tari Pūreke
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