



NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

Our mission statement is to retain, enhance and create opportunities for the enjoyment of legitimate recreational hunting and the sport of shooting, for the members of the Association.

Founded in 1950, the Bay of Plenty NZDA is a branch of the New Zealand

Deerstalkers Association.

COVER PHOTO: BOP NZDA Club Hunts Course 2021. Want to feature on the cover?! If you have a photo suitable for the cover, please send it through to editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

PRESIDENTS REPORT: FEBRUARY 2022

Happy new year to you all.

I hope everyone has made the most of the fine weather and had some time for family and leisure. I was lucky to get away for a night with some mates on a North island river, forty plus goats dealt to and a doe for one of the lads, plenty of cold beers and laughs had all round. The Tapu fishing will no doubt have been enjoyed by those who able to get out there and many will have made the most of the long weekend elsewhere.

Unfortunately, the year has started with an increase in restrictions from the government which is significantly impacting on Branch activities. February Club Night is cancelled, more about this in the notice in this newsletter. We are continuing with club hunts under the government-imposed restrictions and have a great overnight weekend trip planned for the Mokau River, read more about it in the Club Hunts section.

The range continues to be available to all range ticket holders and the chiller is getting plenty of use with this warm weather. We are really privileged to have these facilities for our members so make the most of them. Membership renewals are coming up and we would appreciate everyone's timely processing of their renewals. This year it will be a little different as we move to centralised billing to lessen the burden on the volunteers in our Committee.

Please keep an eye on your emails as the ever changing social and political environment will continue to require updates about Branch activities and gatherings. We will try to be as proactive as possible and get notices out in a timely manner. Please be understanding that our committee are all volunteers and the ongoing burden of government-imposed restrictions and continual changes comes with an increased work load for those managing various aspects of the Branch.

Get your roar trips planned and fingers crossed plenty of us can bag a trophy for the AHT competition despite the ongoing restrictions and inconveniences. Don't forget about the other competitions also, the photographic competition, skin competition and newsletter story are rewarding too with previous entries going to the National competition.

Happy hunting.

Reuben

NOTICE: FEBRUARY CLUB NIGHT CANCELLED

Due to the government-imposed Level Red restrictions, the February Club Night has been cancelled.

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

Club Rooms, R617 SH 29, between Barkes Corner & Takitimu Drive

Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

CLUB OFFICERS:

President Reuben Hayward 027 482 8969

reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Vice President Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995

tauranga@hamillsnz.co.nz Vice President Tim Taylor

027 668 9904 tim@nzdabop.org.nz

Vice President Jonothan Flude 027 545 1515

Secretaru Sarah Cotching secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Treasurer David Iles 020 4085 3353

treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Keith Theobald **Patron** 07 578 1195

027 693 5445

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

027 496 7259 Membership Secretary Chris Maisey

membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz **HUNTS** Coordinator **Bob Tatton** huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Range Manager Royce Downes range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

021 286 1109

021 0817 2557 Assistant Treasurer Chris Fryer Stan Lowe 07 868 4515

lowe2147@gmail.com Chris Munro 07 578 1180

Grant Hammond 021137 3831 07 544 3065 Doug Williams Dave Braga 07 576 0204

davonne09@xtra.co.nz

Evan Dines 027 485 9935

evandines1@gmail.com

Andre Marygold 021 419 777 Lewis Hayward 021 639 106

Richard McEwen 021 138 2483

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

BRANCH CONTACTS:

HUNTS Course Coordinator Bob Tatton huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.ora.nz

Keith Theobald 07 578 1195 **Hunts Instructors**

027 693 5445 07 544 3065

Doug Williams Newsletter Editor Nik Maxwell 021 0226 0185

editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz Clubrooms Custodian Keith Theobald 07 578 1195 027 693 5445

Richard McFwen 0211382483 Refreshments Managers

Fyan Dines 027 485 9935

evandines1@gmail.com Chiller Custodian 027 482 8969 Reuben Hayward

reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Hunts Coordinators Stan Lowe 07 868 4515

lowe2147@gmail.com

Tim Taylor 027 668 9904

tim@nzdabop.org.nz Eastern Fish and Game

Council Member Mike Jarvie mikejarvie09@gmail.com 021 808 899

Accountant Cam Graham

Grants Coordinator Peter Setz Auditor Ken Collings

CLUB NIGHT:

First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm if you want to come early for a chat!

COMMITTEE MEETING:

Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

All correspondence to be sent to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

NEWSLETTER:

Deadlines for newsletter contributions is the 20th of the month. Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the branch, its executive committee or the national association. All newsletter content to be sent to editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.



BOP NZDA CLUB HUNTS COURSE 2021 GRADUATES

WORDS: Kay Workman

HE EMBERS BURNED
BRIGHTLY AND
FLICKERED IN THE
BRAZIER ON THE
LAWN IN FRONT OF BLAIR
ANDERSON'S HOUSE, UNDER
A SUMMER EVENING STARRY
NIGHT SKY OVERLOOKING
THE WAIROA RIVER. BLAIR,
AN AVID AND EXPERIENCED
HUNTER AND FRIEND, AND
MYSELF WERE SITTING
AROUND THE FIRE.

Blair has aroused my curiosity about hunting, his freezer always full of venison, fish, peacock and other wild game, and I had sampled the delicious meat cooked on his BBQ many times.

Blair gave me a challenge that night saying that if I got myself a firearms licence and completed a NZDA Hunts course he would take me into the bush to hunt for deer the following summer.

I was up for the challenge. Having grown up in Wellington and only having moved up to the Bay of Plenty 11 years ago onto a lifestyle block on the foothills of the Kaimais in Whakamarama, it was a long way from being chai latte drinker in the metropolis of Wellington!

So I enrolled with the BOP NZDA Club's Hunts course in 2021. When I arrived on the first night to the Tauranga Deerstalkers clubrooms, it was to a sea of faces arranged in a horseshoe table formation,





with an array of Hunts instructors perched around the clubrooms, led by Bob Tatton, the Hunts Course Coordinator of the course.

Bob warmly welcomed us all and introduced us to the other Club instructors, including the Club Patron, Keith Theobald, who had developed the course and been running it for many years before retiring but was still a Hunts instructor. The President of the Club, Clyde Rogers also welcomed us, along with the other Hunts instructors -





Doug Williams, Lester Polglase, Les Nelson and Murray James.

Our Hunts course packs were distributed to the students and here the Hunts journey began! And what an incredible journey it was!

We had plenty of classroom evenings at the clubrooms covering topics such as bush first aid, navigation, a talk by a Game & Fishing officer and a Land SARS presentation, ballistics, firearms safety, deer behaviour and life cycle as well as the Douglas measuring system.

This was an excellent foundation for the practical training which cemented the theory and put it all into action. Highlights were the Hunts weekend at Ngamuwahine Lodge in the Lower Kaimais.

We were able to sample Keith Theobald's famous venison stew on the Friday evening as we settled into our bunkrooms, followed by a hunting gear session delivered by Stacey from Hamills Tauranga covering everything from sleeping bags to bivvies



and bush cooking as well as the clothing to wear in the bush.

On the Saturday morning, we had a deer dressing demonstration by Les Nelson, who had shot two deer especially for the group, having strung the beasts up on pulleys and ropes to the rafters outside the lodge, meticulously showing us how to dress the deer for all us novice hunters.

We also covered bush survival skills, where the trail was dotted with deer antlers, deer hide and items of clothing, to see if we were aware of our environment, as a key skill to develop in the bush whilst hunting game. Followed by a river crossing exercise, both for solo and group crossings, using poles to cross rivers safely.

On the Sunday, we had a map and compass exercise, placed into groups of four, armed with maps, and it was a bit like a treasure hunt, looking for key landmarks as we traversed rolling farm country to test our newly acquired skills, having been taught in the classroom, it was now time to put the theory into action!

We then wrapped up the morning with a guest speaker come in, Bob Mankalow to show us all the useful species of native plants in the bush, to eat and to use for first aid. It was a truly enriching weekend, invaluable skills taught to keep us safe in the wilderness.

We were coached by an ex-military shooting instructor, Reuben Kelly, who got us all out of our chairs in the classroom and try the different postures for shooting and the correct positions and how to hold the firearm safely.



"THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A PRACTICAL SHOOTING EXERCISE AT THE BOP NZDA RIFLE SHOOTING RANGE AT TECT PARK, WHERE WE GOT ONE ON ONE COACHING FROM REUBEN TO HELP US ALL TO FIRE TARGETS ACCURATELY, AND IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE TO GET OVER THE NERVES, BUT WE WERE ALL WILLING AND ABLE!"

This was followed by a practical shooting exercise at the BOP NZDA rifle shooting range at Tect Park, where we got one on one coaching from Reuben to help us all to fire targets accurately, and it took a little while to get over the nerves, but we were all willing and able!

As Covid lockdown on 16 August stopped the hunts course butchery demonstration, we luckily got the opportunity to dress and butcher deer that Blair Anderson had shot at his place at Waimarino Kayak Adventure Park, and along with Sarah Cotching, the BOP Deerstalkers Club secretary we got stuck in, coached by Blair, Sarah and his cousin and another friend who was an ex-butcher s of his on how to safely use a knife to dress and butcher venison meat.

We also had a Douglas scoring demonstration night at the clubrooms, as well as instruction on mounting scopes on hunting rifles and Les bought in Wapiti cross antlers at the clubrooms, ranging from three to fourteen years old.



Another training night was run by a Game & Fishing Officer, John Meikle, who was a colourful speaker and was very passionate delivering a captivating session on his role and being a hunter and fisher himself shared lots of great stories with us.

The course culminated in a weekend at Clements Mill Road on the doorstep of the Kaimanawas just off Napier-Taupo Highway.

This was after the August lockdown and held in November 2021. I travelled down from Tauranga with a fellow student, Isabell Zitzelsberger, and we arrived at camp in time to set up our tents in the camping area and enjoyed another one of Keith Theobold's infamous venison stew that was on offer for all the Hunts students.

Each of us was paired up with an experienced hunter from the Tauranga Deerstalkers club for a day's hunt in the Kawekas, with breakfast at 6am and heading out with our hunting mentor shortly thereafter.

"NO-ONE BOUGHT HOME A DEER THAT DAY BUT IT WAS A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE.

WE SHARED THE MANY STORIES AROUND THE CAMPFIRE LATER THAT NIGHT AND MANY MEMORIES TAKEN HOME."

I was in the hands of Les Nelson, a deer farmer and back in the day a commercial deer hunter and possum trapper. With my brand new Tikka T3X that I purchased from Hamills Tauranga, from Stacey who is owner of the huinting store and sponsors the BOP Deerstalkers Club and is vice-president on their committee.

We headed out in my ute to the Hinemaiaia track then veered up some steep ridges to look for sign of any Sika deer in the vicinity.

As we walked up and across ridges, Les told me about how cyclone Bola had bowled over a large number of beech trees in the forest, which we encountered first hand, scrambling over large beech trunks which were aplenty in the area we were tramping through.

We hit a creek as we came down into a valley and stopped for refreshments overlooking a majestic river carved out in the flats below.

It was a still sunny day and it was just magic being amongst nature and listening to Stan's stories hailing from his days of deer hunting in helicoptors and possum trapping adventures. We sadly didn't hear



any Sika calls in the bush but we did see plenty of sign. They are notorious for scenting you up wind and circling around you stealthily and very tricky to spot apparently.

Mid afternoon and Les called it, so we headed back along the river track back to the carpark. We arrived back at camp midafternoon and descended back at camp with other pairs back but the stories were thick and fast of sign spotted but no sika sign apart from one pair.

No-one bought home a deer that day but it was a fantastic experience. We shared the many stories around the campfire later that night and many memories taken home.

The graduation night at the Tauranga Deerstalkers Club was an awesome way to finish the course, we proudly wore our Stoney Creek sponsor high vis vests and beanies for a group hunts course photo. With new friends made and each of us enriched with new hunting skills forged.

The Hunts course was excellent training that set us al up with a successful and safe hunting future. The Hunts trophy was co-won by myself and 17 year old Conner, which was a wonderful achievement.

I have a huge respect fort my NZDA BOP hunting fraternity who deeply care about the environment and learning to hunt on this course made me proud to be part of this community.

The first Hunts course run by the BOP Deerstalkers Club was in 1993 with Keith Theobald as the instructor In our 2021 course, five of us ladies took part, which was the largest contingent of females to participate in the group of 20 students, so the men wont have it all their own way from now on!



COVID-19 VACCINE POLICY FOR DOC VISITOR FACILITIES

To keep people safe and facilities open, we have introduced a COVID-19 vaccination policy. This applies to all DOC visitor accommodation and visitor centres.

VACCINE VERIFICATION NEEDED FOR DOC FACILITIES

Eligible people aged 12 years three months and over must be fully vaccinated to enter a DOC visitor centre. Everyone can access these services by email or phone. Contact your local visitor centre.

Eligible people must also be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to use DOC visitor accommodation. This includes:

- Huts
- Campsites
- Lodges and other sole occupancy facilities
- Great walk huts and campsites
- Camping by huts
- Use of DoC hut or campsite facilities by day visitors except for toilets

Be ready to provide vaccine verification, such as a digital or printed copy of My Vaccine Pass, when accessing these facilities.

Other DOC facilities including tracks, carparks and most toilets remain open for everyone.

PURPOSE OF THE VACCINE POLICY

This policy is to ensure those using DOC visitor facilities don't put themselves or others at unnecessary risk of infection or transmission from exposure to COVID-19.

The policy provides people with greater certainty when using our visitor accommodation. It enables the majority our facilities to remain open to the public.

Our visitor accommodation is often remote, off the grid and brings people together from all locations. Vaccination provides a higher level of protection against infection from COVID-19. It also significantly reduces the risk of transmission and people suffering serious illness.



TAHR LODGE:

SOUTH ISLAND HUNTING

Check out this great Tahr, Chamois and Red Deer hunting destination to kick back and relax and shed some of that North Island stress (the South Island is stress free!).

Built in the stunning Mount Cook National Park, near the Mount Cook Village, this is the iewel of our 'huts'.

A fabulous place to relax. Book it to have the lodge to yourself. Hot and cold running water, shower, 14 beds in 3 bunk rooms and a double in a separate room. New log fire, solar lighting, fridge freezer and all cutlery, cooking etc provided. Just linen and food required.

INFORMATION:

Sleeping up to 16, this hut has gas cooking and hot water. Very comfortable and recently updated with a new kitchen, it's a great place to stay.

To book this excellent club facility please phone Jim Kroening, 03 688 7641 evenings, or 027 276 0905 anytime.

FEES:

- Members \$15 per night.
- Members and immediate family \$25 per night.
 Max of \$150 per night (capped)/
- Non Member \$35 per night.
- Non Member and immediate family \$50 per night.
 Max of \$250 per night (capped).

DAVE'S TRAIL CAM PICS





NZDA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER:

Make sure to renew your NZDA membership on time. Please be advised that membership renewals will be handled by the national office as we are moving to centralised billing.



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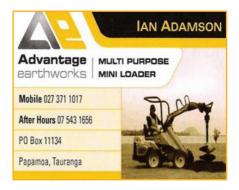
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NZDA BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH:

OPERATING UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S RESTRICTIONS

The Branch Committee has had vigorous discussions on how to proceed under the government's CPF restrictions, aka the traffic light system.

The Branch's policy is now available on the Branch website. The Branch policy represents the Branch's position and in no way reflects the national organisation. The Branch policy guides the Committee and Members on how the Branch will operate under the government's CPF restrictions.

The policy reflects the motions passed by the Committee at the December 2021 Committee Meeting including a motion to make appropriate policies based on current Covid-19 Government legislation.

The overarching purpose of this policy is to ensure that all members and prospective members are treated equally.

Below is a summary of the policy in seven bullet points.

 The Branch activities are generally not affected by the governmentimposed restrictions except at Level Red.

- Vaccine certificates will not normally be required for Branch gatherings.
- The 300m range facility will remain available to all range ticket holders at all levels of restrictions.
- Range Open Days can continue under the government-imposed Level Orange or Green restrictions.
- There may be occasions where measures are required at a club gathering or at the range in order to comply with the restrictive limits on gathering sizes.
- Masks are optional at club indoor facilities under Level Orange or Green restrictions.
- Personal separation is the responsibility of the individual

It is important for Members to be respectful of each other and not discriminate against other Members due to their personal medical choices or opinion.

Please note that there may be a requirement to register for some Branch gatherings to help the Branch comply with the government's restrictions on gathering sizes. On occasion you may also be turned away from a Branch gathering or the range should the government's restrictive limit have already been reached.

During this disrupted season we ask that all members do their best to support the Branch in complying with the government's restrictions.

There are QR codes for scanning and a paper option for signing in at our clubrooms and range.

Under the government's current Level Red restrictions, we are limited to 25 people at a regular gathering, this includes children.

In line with the Branch policy, social gatherings at club facilities are cancelled until the governmentimposed restrictions are lifted or relaxed.









RANGE STANDING ORDERS REMINDER: "THE RANGE RULES"

Range ticket holders CANNOT allow other non-range ticket holders or non-members to shoot at our range. The name, date and time start time of shooters shall be recorded each time they use the range. Range flags and warning signs are to be enabled at the following locations prior to firing:

- The Range status sign's "Caution Range in Use" warning shall be displayed when the range is open for use.
- The red firing line flag shall be hoisted when the range is open for use.
- The firing line flag must be lowered, and the range status sign closed when the range is closed.

An empty chamber indicator (ECI) MUST be inserted in the chamber at all times except when the Range Officer allows the shooter onto the firing point and gives permission to remove the ECI.

To review the full Range Standing Orders please go to: www.deerstalkersbop.org. nz/range/ and click the link for App 6.1.3 Range Standing Orders

RANGE GEAR CHECK LIST:

Print this out and put it in your gun safe or shooting box!

- Range key
- Range membership card
- Firearms license
- Paper targets
- Stapler & spare staples
- Rifle
- Bolt
- Magazine (empty)
- Suppressor

- Muzzle brake
- Ammunition
- Empty chamber indicator (ECI)/ empty chamber flag (Have 1x ECI for each rifle and insert them before leaving home)
- Ear muffs/Ear plugs
- Safety glasses and/or whatever prescription glasses you may require
- Personal first aid kit
- Gun cases/bags/storage bins/trolley
- Bipod
- Front rest
- Rear rest/sand bags
- Slings
- Shooting mat
- Chronograph (charge any batteries)
- Phone/ballistic calculator
- Spotting scope
- Timer
- Cleaning rod
- Patches
- Bore solvent
- Tools
- Shooting diary & pen
- Ruler/tape measure
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothing

Royce Downes NZDA BOP Branch Range Manager 021 286 1109

range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2022

FEBRUARY

Location: Mokau River Goat Shoot

Date: 12th - 13th February

Organiser: Reuben Hayward, reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz, 027 482 8969

Target: Goats

Leaving Tauranga early Saturday morning, returning Sunday afternoon/evening. Canoe, kayak or dingy required and a vehicle to transport it, preferably a trailer and roof racks. The trip is weather dependent and won't be postponed due to the lower part of the river being affected by tides. The overnight camp will be fly camping wherever suits on the day. There's no clean drinking water anywhere so everyone needs to bring their own. Water safety is the responsibility of the individual, you'll need an appropriate life vest for paddling/rowing. A very tame river trip, suitable for taking juniors who are competent swimmers. (In January 2021 two of us did a scouting trip and shot over 30 goats in 24 hours on the river, we brought 10 home. We processed 40 legs and got them put into sausages by Naked Meats, resulting in a delicious 40kg of Moroccan goat sausages. We've since had plenty of comments that they were the best sausages ever. All up, fuel, ammo and butchering costs we came in at \$10/kg for the sausages. Excellent value for feeding the family.)



NZDA BOP CLUB CHILLER

Don't forget to pay your chiller fee when paying your membership fees. The chiller access code will change on the 1st of March so if you haven't paid your fees on time, you may find you can't access the chiller until your fees are processed.

Hopefully there are plenty of stags moving through the chiller this roar. A reminder of the rules below.

CHILLER USE RULES

- Chiller use is a privilege that may be removed if access is abused or rules not adhered to.
- Clean up after yourself, every time you access the chiller.
- Use a fish bin or other suitable container to catch dripping blood etc. and remove from site when you take your meat away.
- No skinning or butchering on the NZDA premises. The chiller is for hanging only, no processing of any sort is allowed.
- All waste must be removed from the premises when you take your meat away, including any part of an animal, blood, and all wastewater.
- All animals/meat must be tagged with a label denoting the date hung, name and contact number of the person who hung it in the chiller. Any meat without a label will be considered a donation to the club.
- The maximum time for hanging any meat or animal is 10 days.
- Do not hang any foul meat or contaminated carcasses.
- Take care not to contaminate anyone else's meat with hair, blood, dirt etc.

It is preferable to hang all carcasses with the skin on and to hang any partially processed meat in a breathable bag or muslin cloth. Hanging carcasses and meat should not touch the chiller walls or they may (partially) freeze.

Respect the facility and other members meat.

For more information or if you need to report any issue, misuse, or abuse of the facility you can contact Reuben on 027 482 8969 or at reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

NZDA MOBILE APP

CHECK OUT THE NZDA APP TODAY!

The application is feature rich and offers the following:

- Direct access to the NZDA National website
- NZDA membership perks and discounts
- Direct access to the NZDA Hunting & Wildlife online magazine
- and much more!



BOP NZDA SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE LINKS

Please join us on Facebook and Instagram for ongoing information about party hunts and information about our events.

facebook.com/groups/deerstalkersbop instagram.com/deerstalkersbop www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

www.deerstalkers.org.nz



Scan the QR Code to be directed to the BOP Deerstalkers Instagram.





THE CLUB CHILLER FACILITY WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CHILLERMAN AND HAMILLS TAURANGA

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Members will need to:

- Book the units in advance.
- 2. Be a current member and show their membership card when picking them up.
- Fill in an Outdoors Intention Form to be held by the Branch custodian issuing the unit.
- 4. Pay a \$40 cash bond, refundable on return, in original condition and on time.
- 5. Pay a \$10-20 donation per trip, on return, for hire of the unit.

Hire will be on a per trip basis, based on a maximum of a 21 day trip. The units will not be insured because of the cost, so any damage or loss will be payable by the user (approx. \$640).

There is no cost for the renewal of the unit if it is used in an emergency but if possible we will need it returned. Any costs incurred for rescue by emergency services or false PLB activation will be the sole responsibility of the user.

BRANCH PLB CUSTODIANS:

Dean Maisey, Welcome Bay 07 544 2207

Keith Theobald, Greerton 07 578 1195

Baden Prentice, Bethlehem 07 579 3107 (pick up can also be made from Newton St. Mt Maunganui by prior arrangement)



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NOTICE BOARD

NOTE: If you have something to buy or sell please let the editor know. Similarly, if you advertise something for sale, and then sell it, please let the editor know so your advert can be removed.

We are encouraging anyone who wants to bring a head or jaw in for measuring on club night to do so. If you bring a head to measure you'll get a free beverage.

DEERSTALKERS LIBRARY

Don't forget the library is open for club members to borrow books and DVDs. See Richard McEwen on club nights between 7.15pm - 7.30pm.

RANGE NEWS

Royce Downes NZDA BOP Branch Range Manager 021 286 1109

range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



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CODE OF ETHICS

"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his act they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."

Aldo Leopold, The Sand County Almanac

A MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

- Approach recreational hunting from the highest possible level of ethics, having due regard to the welfare of the animals hunted, and prevention of cruelty to the same.
- Not hunt or carry a firearm on property without the proper approval of the owner, occupier of controlling authority and shall strictly observe any conditions imposed upon him.
- 3. Be a responsible firearms owner and abide by current Firearms Laws.
- Avoid unnecessary or deliberate damage to the environment, respect property, and other users of the outdoors.
- Advocate sensible conservation practices at all times and promote New Zealand's biodiversity 'in situ'.
- 6. Practice the Field Guidelines when out hunting.
- Be exemplary members of NZDA by promoting and abiding by its Rules, Field Guidelines and this Code of Ethics.



HUNTING SAFETY GUIDELINES

Some suggestions from committee discussions.

- It is recommended that hunters wear Hi-Viz clothing at all times while in the hunting block.
- Alcohol may only be consumed after the days hunting is completed.
- 3. Illicit drugs will not be tolerated.
- Only load your weapon when ready to shoot at your quarry.
- 5. Identify your target beyond any doubt.
- Check the firing zone for people, non-target stock, buildings etc.
- Never fire above the skyline.
- 8. Unload your weapon with the barrel pointing away from any potential hazards.
- 9. Never skylark with weapons.

