



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: NZDA BOP Members at the bench. 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:

APRIL 2022

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THIS I'M MIDWAY THROUGH PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING CLUB HUNT IN ÖPÖTIKI, PAKIHI VS TE WAITI, AND I'M GETTING PRETTY EXCITED FOR MY FIRST HUNT OF THIS YFARS ROAR

No doubt many of you will be making similar preparations and feeling the excitement that comes with it. By the time this is published the roar will be peaking in some areas and many of us will be busy climbing hills and calling stags. Good luck to you all.

The government's restrictions have remained problematic for our Branch during March but it seems the situation may be changing and I hope we can return to regular club activities soon.

As restrictions change, we will keep you informed once we are able to resume gatherings such as Club Nights, Range Open Days and Club Shoots. The committee reviews the Branch's position regularly and if appropriate will update our policy as the situation changes.

There have been some developments happening in the background around hunting and shooting. You can read more about these later in this newsletter. A big thanks to Baden Prentice for developing a Peeking Wallaby Match. I'm really looking forward to shooting this as it's something unique to our Branch.

Also a big thanks to those on the committee who have put together a Hunter Buddy Program. This is a great opportunity for novice hunters to be mentored by more seasoned hunters.

This week I received an email from the national office congratulating our Branch on a 9% year on year growth. Well done to our members and committee for promoting our organisation and facilitating this growth.

The stronger we are as a Branch, the stronger our voice at our national conference. The stronger our national organisation is, the stronger our voice is when it comes to advocating on behalf of our members, as well as hunters and shooters generally. Let's aim for 10% growth by the end of February 2023.

A quick reminder, if you haven't paid your subscription invoice, please do it ASAP. Make sure you pay direct to the national office per the payment instructions as we are now operating under centralised billing.

This year's HUNTS course preparations are underway, thanks to our team of instructors led by Bob Tatton. As spaces are limited, be sure to contact Bob early if you are intending to participate in this year's course. If you have friends or family that may benefit from this course, please promote this to opportunity to them.

Changes to firearms regulations came into effect in February, and not everyone is aware of how these may affect them. If you don't know what these changes are, make sure you find out as many licenced firearms users are affected.

Be sure to communicate the changes to your friends and family who may also be affected. While the police guidance has not yet been released. NZDA national office last month released some guidance to assist members in the interim. Read more about this later in this newsletter.

I am very concerned for our members who may have their firearms licence expiring in the next 1-2 years as the delays with processing applications both for renewals and new firearms licences have been continuing to grow since the government made changes two years ago.

Police are now advising that anyone who's licence expires in the 2022 year should apply now for renewal of their licence. They are also advising that new applications may take 12 months to process and there are reports that over 2500 applications are still pending approval over 12 months after being lodged.

For friends and family wanting to take up hunting or shooting, they should apply for their licence as soon as possible.

With hearing of a number of back country incidents over recent times, I am more aware than ever before of the need for hunters to be aware of their limitations. When we venture into the great outdoors, we take risks, these need to be calculated.

Ultimately we are responsible for our own safety. Be safe out there this season, look after yourselves, look after your mates and when you identify your target, be 100% sure before you pull the trigger.

Safe hunting

Reuben

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

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

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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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021 808 899

Accountant Cam Graham **Grants Coordinator** Peter Setz

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.

NFWSI FTTFR:

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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR ALL MEMBERS

POLICE PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS FOR SHOOTING CLUBS AND RANGES

The proposals in the discussion document released last week by police would be devastating for hunting and shooting clubs across the country, for our sport and way of life generally.

As you would have seen in the email from National Office, the NZDA will be making a submission at national level. The expectation is that branches across the country including ours will make submissions tailored to their unique situations. It is equally important that members make their own submission.

The proposals would be the end of the HUNTS program. The proposals include limitations that would be the end of junior and family membership and prevent under 16s from shooting at the range or participating in other 'club shooting activities' such as club hunts.

These proposals would be the end of hunting and shooting clubs as we know them, the NZDA included. Please take the time to read the discussion document and make a submission relevant to your personal situation.

The police <u>discussion document</u> can be viewed <u>here</u> on the police website.

NO APRIL CLUB NIGHT

FOLLOWING THE GOVERNMENT'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT
REMOVING VACCINE PASS
REQUIREMENTS AND
INCREASING GATHERING
SIZES, THE COMMITTEE HELD AN
EXTRA MEETING AT THE END OF
MARCH TO REVIEW OUR POLICY.

The committee voted to discard our 'Policy for Operating Under the Government's CPF Restrictions'. The committee decided that although there were no limitations preventing us from holding an April Club Night, the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the community was discussed as a risk factor, and has ultimately led to the decision to delay returning to Club Nights for another month.

We expect to be back to normal Branch activities from the start of May unless the government imposes restrictions that prevent regular gatherings.

NOTICE:

BILLBOARD ADVERTISEMENT SPACE AVAILABLE

If you want to advertise on the billboard spaces at our clubrooms, or know of someone who might, please email: billboards@nzdabop.org.nz



BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2022

APRIL

APRIL ROAR HUNT

Location: Te Whare Oki Oki Hut, Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park

Date: 15th - 18th (Easter Weekend)
Organiser: Tim, tim@nzdabop.org.nz

There are 12 spots (beds) available as we have booked the entire hut.

JUNE

WANGANUI RIVER CANOE TRIP

Location: Wanganui River

Date: 4th-6th (Queens Birthday Weekend))

Organiser: Reuben, reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

JULY

HOT WATER BEACH

Location: Hot Water Beach, Lake Tarawera

Date: TBC Organiser: TBC

MEASURING NIGHT

ANNUAL AHT COMPETITION ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

'MEASURING NIGHT' FOR OUR BRANCH ANTLER, HORN AND TUSK (AHT) COMPETITION WILL BE HELD ON THE THIRD OR FOURTH TUESDAY IN MAY, DATE TO BE CONFIRMED. ENTRIES FOR THE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED ON THE NIGHT.

The 2022 National Competition AHT entries can be taken up to the end of May, and entries submitted by 5pm on Friday the 15th of June. Be sure to familiarise yourself with the National Competition Rules here.

For all competition entries, the entry must have been taken and must be entered while the competitor is a financial member. Entries for our 2022 Branch competition must have been taken between the close of entries in 2021 and measuring night in 2022.

Entries for the National Competition must have been taken between the start of June 2021 and the end of May 2022.



NZDA BOP HUNTER BUDDY PROGRAM

THIS YEAR WE ARE INTRODUCING A HUNTER BUDDY PROGRAM. THIS INITIATIVE WAS FIRST PROPOSED TO THE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR AND HAS BEEN WORKED ON IN THE BACKGROUND OVER THE PREVIOUS SIX MONTHS. WE WANTED TO LAUNCH THE PROGRAM AT THE HAMILLS CLUB NIGHT WITH THE START OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR. UNFORTUNATELY WITH RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE, THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN. HOPEFULLY WE'LL BE ALL GO FOR LAUNCHING THIS PROGRAM IN MAY

The purpose of the Hunter Buddy Program is "To provide an opportunity for new members and post-HUNTS course graduate hunters to gain valuable experience with more seasoned hunters, in order to develop and consolidate skills and knowledge".

In addition to this, the program aims "to establish friendships and support

networks for new hunters within the club to enable them to feel a sense of belonging to a hunting community of outdoor enthusiasts"

If you're an experienced hunter, start thinking about how your knowledge and skills could benefit those new to the adventure of hunting. If you're a novice hunter start thinking about what you can do to prepare yourself for your next hunting adventure and grow your capabilities.

Some of us were lucky enough to have a parent or other take us hunting and teach us the basics. Many of us have battled through the minefield of "expert advice" on how to hunt, tips and suggestions on where to hunt, and equipment

"recommendations" by sales people and social media, only to have to learn for ourselves by trial and error. Sometimes our blunders have been small, sometimes costly. This program is a way to help those who are new or inexperienced.

The HUNTS course is still the best way for those new to hunting to immerse themselves in the basics of hunting and establish a solid foundation of knowledge to build on in the future.

The Hunter Buddy Program provides the opportunity for those who have completed a HUNTS course to continue being mentored by more seasoned hunters as well as the opportunity for those less experienced and new to the Branch to build on their existing knowledge, while establishing relationships with other members.

Experienced hunters volunteering to be 'buddied up' with an inexperienced hunter will be vetted by those coordinating the program to ensure inexperienced hunters are paired up with a suitably capable hunter who has the necessary experience.



Experienced hunters who participate in the program and who meet the criteria will be entered into a prize draw, with the lucky winner taking away a Stoney Creek Stalking Pullover (courtesy of Stoney Creek) and a \$200 Hamills voucher.

Over the next few weeks, give some thought to this

initiative and consider what level of commitment you might be willing to meet.

Hopefully we'll launch the program in the near future with strong support from experienced members and lots of enthusiasm from those still early in their hunting journey.



NZDA BOP PEEKING WALLABY MATCH

300M RIFLE RANGE

8:30AM SUNDAY 1ST MAY

FOR A WHILE
NOW I HAVE BEEN
RESEARCHING A UNIQUE
MATCH SUITABLE FOR
OUR 300M RIFLE RANGE
BASED ON BENCHREST
SHOOTING. IN THE USA
THERE IS A SOCIAL,
SEMI-COMPETITIVE
STYLE OF SHOOTING
CALLED GROUNDHOG
SHOOTS.

A rifle club in Pennsylvania USA has given our branch copyright permission to use their target design and match rules.

As we don't have groundhogs in New Zealand I have re-designed the targets using wallabies. A pest species that is supposedly expanding its territory in both the North and South islands. It is also a good fit size wise for the target.

This is a score shooting match that uses 3 different targets. One at 100m, one at 200m and one at 300m. Five scoring shots are fired at each distance with unlimited sighters. So

"A VARIETY
OF RIFLES
CAN BE USED
FROM FACTORY
HUNTING RIFLES
TO CUSTOM
RIFLES. SCOPE
MAGNIFICATION
POWER WILL BE
THE LIMITING
FACTOR FOR SOME
PARTICIPANTS.

A MINIMUM OF 15X POWER IS RECOMMENDED, AS WELL AS HAVING ADJUSTABLE ELEVATION TURRETS (DIAL UP)."

you can expend as little as 15 rounds to complete the match but most shooters will use 21-24 rounds. A variety of rifles can be used from factory hunting rifles to custom rifles. Scope magnification power will be the limiting factor for some participants. A minimum of 15x power is recommended, as well as having adjustable elevation turrets (dial up).

A small group of us have been testing the match at the range. Using the data collected, we have adjusted the targets and written up the rules. We will have targets printed and hope to run our first club match on Sunday 1st May. The rules can be viewed here and will be accessible from our website in April.

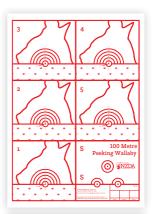
We are thinking this match will be run 4 times a year, at 3 monthly intervals. We can analyse how it runs over the first year and adjust it if necessary.

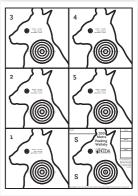
Initially for the first few shoots we will limit participants to Branch members (both range ticket holders and non-range ticket holders), BOPSRA members and TPRC members.

We have had a lot of fun testing this and you might enjoy it as well. Benchrest shooting is about precision and comfort.

A lot of discussion is also had at the match regarding rifles, equipment and reloading (although you do not have to reload) and shooting technique. We look forward to seeing you there.

Enquiries can be made to Baden Prentice on 027 490 8613.







ABOVE: The 100m, 200m and 300m Peeking Wallaby match targets.

APRIL 15TH-18TH TE WHARE OKIOKI ROAR HUNT



We've block booked this hut for Easter weekend so this is your chance to spend some quality time chasing stags in the Kaimais.

Location: Kaimai Range.

Cost: \$45 for hut fees.

Getting there: Several tracks access this hut,

approx. 2-3 hour walk in.

Please email Tim to register your interest

tim@nzdabop.org.nz

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





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 jewel 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.

FFFS:

- 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).



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.

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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

www.chillerman.co.nz

BOP BRANCH PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS (PLB'S) FOR HIRE

AVAILABLE TO BRANCH MEMBERS FOR HIRE. THESE DEVICES CAN SAVE LIVES BY DRASTICALLY REDUCING SEARCH AND RESCUE TIMES.

Members will need to:

- 1. 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).

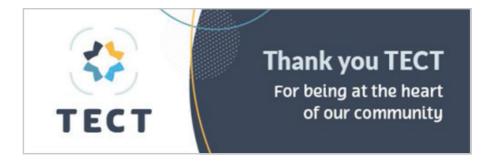
There is no cost for the renewal of the unit if it is used in an emergency but if possible we will need it returned. Any costs incurred for rescue by emergency services or false PLB activation will be the sole responsibility of the user.

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



THE NZDA BOP BRANCH WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND
A BIG THANK YOU TO SURVEYING SERVICES WHO GAVE US
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servicing1@yahoo.com



CHANGES TO ARMS REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT ON THE 1ST OF FEBRUARY 2022

THE NATIONAL OFFICE
HAVE PRODUCED GUIDANCE
DOCUMENTS TO HELP
MEMBERS INTERPRET THE
NEW REGULATIONS AROUND
STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF
FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.

Please see the reference guide and the storage and transport manual for further information. The new regulations can be read here. The police are yet to update their website but we recommend you refer to their Firearms & Safety section here.

NZDA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER:

If you haven't already, please pay your membership fees. Please pay direct to National Office as we have now moved to centralised billing.

If you have any queries, contact Chris at membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz





NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST TRUE DESTINATION DEALERSHIP

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE BAY OF PLENTY DEERSTALKERS

SPECIALISTS FOR 4X4 IN TAURANGA

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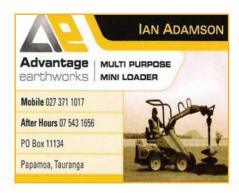
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info@farmermotorgroup.co.nz www.farmerautovillage.co.nz



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.

