



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



JANUARY 2024

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION,
BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH



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: Cam Church with a personal best 13 point Stag.
See his story on page 6.

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: JANUARY 2024

The last 5 years we have been losing our rights as hunters and firearm owners, let's hope 2024 is the year the tide turns and the restrictions start rolling back. The outlook is more positive than it's been for a while, now we have a Minister for Hunting and Fishing who is a member of the NZDA and an Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms) who is also a member. It's great to see our interests being represented at the highest level in our country.

The Bay of Plenty Branch has some great club nights coming up, plenty of hunting opportunities around the country and regular shooting events at our 300 metre range. Don't miss out on the camaraderie amongst our membership, get along to some club events and get to know some other members. You never know who might become a great hunting mate in the future or let you in on their secret hunting spots.

A club like ours and many others requires thousands of volunteer hours to keep the cogs turning and provide opportunities for members. We have a working bee coming up at the clubrooms, please make the effort to help out instead of leaving it to others. It's "our" club and "our" collective responsibility to look after our clubrooms and range. Details later in this newsletter. If you are interested in committing some time regularly to support the club's activities, talk to one of the committee members to find out what opportunities there are to help out.

Most of you should be aware that the club's financial year runs from the 1st of March to the end of February. You may not be aware that the membership fees were increased at both the Branch and National AGMs last year, effective 1st of March this year. We understand that there's a cost of living crisis and many people across our community are facing financial struggles and we didn't take the decision lightly. We haven't increased the Branch portion of the fees for several years, and like it does for everyone else, costs keep rising for the club. Please keep an eye on your emails for your renewal invoice and renew your membership on time as it makes everything easier for the staff and volunteers who administer our organisation.

With the Whanganui Fallow Deer opportunity continuing this year, make sure you give yourself a chance at securing a spot, pay your membership renewal by the 5th of March to be eligible for the first balloted fallow hunt, get to the range on a Range Open Day on the last Sunday of the month or to a club shoot on the third Saturday and complete the Field Marksmanship Test to prove your shooting competency, and come to a club night to find out more.

I'm looking forward to another busy year with plenty going on for our members. See you at a club night, at the range or up the bush.

Reuben

CLUB NIGHT - RELOADING

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY AT 7.00PM

AMMUNITION RELOADING FOR BEGINNERS



This is a demonstration on basic reloading, not high precision target shooting.

I started reloading when I was almost 17 (over 50 years ago) - my father bought me a German military 8x57 Mauser, which we put onto a home-made sporting stock that he had made, plus got it rechambered to 8mmx06 for more power.

As this was a non-commercially loaded cartridge, I had to reload for it, initially with Pa's help of course as he reloaded all his own ammo. In the 70's, and living in North Canterbury, I shot heaps of deer, pigs, chamois and Thar with this rifle.

I still reload for it when needed, also for a couple of 243's my wife and I have, my new semi target 223, my wife's 6.5x5 plus my main hunting rifle, a Sako 75 in 6.5x55. The latter is 25 years old and has shot 104 deer plus 8 pigs - all with my own reloads.

Something that needs to be spelt out clearly is: Why do you want to reload your own ammunition?

Yes, the components you use make it cheaper to reload than buy factory loaded ammo. However, you still need to buy the equipment.

So, if you are only reloading for hunting, it's going to take a long time to recover your costs - for example for my 6.5x55 and very basic gear set up costs of \$1300 it will take 577 rounds to recuperate that cost.

Normally I use less than 10 rounds per year for hunting.

February Club night Reloading presentation will be a basic home-made video, played on the clubroom screen. This will enable people to see things better (plus I don't have to take all my gear in and set it up etc.).

I'll answer questions at the end of the video.



BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2024

| | | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| FEB | <p>PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 11th Feb Check the club website for more info</p> | <p>KORANGA FORKS/TAWA HUT Date: 15th - 18th Feb Organiser: Dan Gallagher</p> | <p>CLUB WORKING BEE Date: 15th Feb Time: from 5.30pm</p> | <p>RANGE OFFICER MEETING AT CLUB Date: 20th Feb Time: from 7.30pm</p> |
| MAR | <p>MANGATAINOKA SPRINGS Date: TBC Organiser: Sascha Haag</p> | <p>MARCH CLUB NIGHT Date: 5th March @ 7.00pm At Hamills 437 Cameron Road</p> | <p>BENCHREST SHOOTS Date: 10th March Check the club website for more info</p> | |
| APR | <p>KAIMAI ROAR HUNT Date: 11th - 14th April Organiser: Dan Gallagher</p> | | <p>Location: Te Whare Okioki Contact: danielgallaghan@hotmail.com</p> | |
| MAY | <p>OPOTIKI Organiser: Adam Fairclough</p> | <p>PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 5th May Check the club website for more info</p> | | |
| JUN | <p>WANGANUI RIVER Date: TBC Organiser: Isabell Zitzelsberger</p> | <p>BENCHREST SHOOTS Date: 16th June Check the club website for more info</p> | | |
| JUL | <p>BOYD HUT Date: TBC Organiser: Adam Rusk</p> | | | |
| AUG | <p>NEW HUNTS COURSE COMMENCES Date: TBC Organiser: TBC</p> | <p>PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 4th Aug Check the club website for more info</p> | | |
| SEPT | <p>BENCHREST SHOOTS Date: 8th Sept Check the club website for more info</p> | | | |
| OCT | | | | |
| NOV | <p>PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 3rd Nov Check the club website for more info</p> | | | |

VISIT: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events for more NZDA BOP events and activities.



RANGE NEWS:

RANGE OFFICER MEETING AT THE CLUB

Tuesday 20th February from 7.30pm.

PEEKING WALLABY MATCH

11th Feb, 5th May, 4th Aug, 3rd Nov - For more information please check the club website.

BENCHREST SHOOTS

10th Mar, 16th June, 8th Sept - For more information please check the club website.

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Remember to stay up to date with the how the firearms registry will affect you now that it is in place. Review www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz for details and law changes.

RANGE MAINTENANCE

Thanks to our members that attend our working bees at the range - as they say, few hands make light work so it would be good to see some new faces assisting at working bees.

We have a core group of members putting in most of the hours but we know there are many more active and regular range shooters out there that should be helping.

We are currently working on extending the 100m, 200m and 300m target lines so that each firing position (1 to 15) will shoot more directly straight down the range as opposed to the slight angle that is currently needed.

This will require an extension and rebuild to the target lines. Initial earth works have been completed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**DO NOT LEAVE LIVE AMMO AT THE RANGE.
DO NOT PUT LIVE AMMO IN THE EMPTY CASE BINS.**

Peeking Wallaby Match, 12th Feb 2023

| Handle | Class | Cartridge | 100m | 200m | 300m | Total | Place |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Bull Kelp | FR | 223 | 35 | 44 | 43 | 122 | 1 |
| Fisher 1 | FR | 223 | 39 | 32 | 23 | 94 | 2 |
| Vortex | FR | 243WSSM | 34 | 33 | 0 | 67 | |
| B1 | FR | 270 | 40 | 15 | 5 | 60 | |
| Kiwi Shooter | C | 6PPC | 49 | 47 | 47 | 143 | 1 |
| Charf | C | 6PPC | 51 | 36 | 41 | 128 | 2 |
| One Gun | C | 6PPC | 48 | 40 | 33 | 121 | |
| NZ Varminter | C | 6PPC | 37 | 35 | 45 | 117 | |
| Best scores (max 60) | | | 51 | 47 | 47 | | |

Peeking Wallaby Match, 7th May 2023

| Handle | Class | Cartridge | 100m | 200m | 300m | Total | Place |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Long Shot | TPH | 6.5PRC | 38 | 31 | 29 | 98 | 1 |
| NZ Varminter | C | 6PPC | 39 | 48 | 47 | 134 | 1 |
| One Gun | C | 6BR | 40 | 41 | 42 | 123 | |
| Charf | C | 6PPC | 36 | 41 | 45 | 122 | |
| Best scores (max 60) | | | 40 | 48 | 47 | | |

Peeking Wallaby Match, 6th August 2023

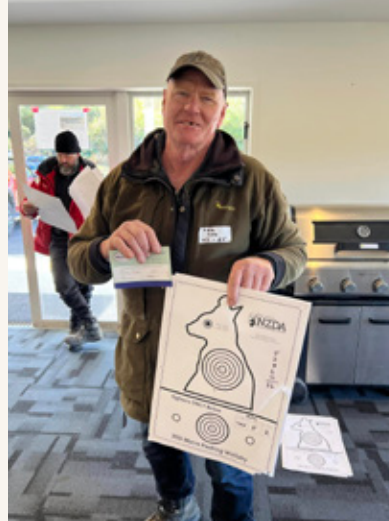
| Handle | Class | Cartridge | 100m | 200m | 300m | Total | Place |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Rowdy | FR | 223 | 37 | 38 | 31 | 106 | 1 |
| Nige | FR | 204 | 28 | 30 | 38 | 96 | |
| Vortex | FR | 243WSSM | 15 | 20 | 0 | 35 | |
| Bull Kelp | FBR | 223 | 48 | 42 | 41 | 131 | 1 |
| NZ Varminter | C | 6PPC | 44 | 44 | 45 | 133 | 1 |
| One Gun | C | 6PPC | 42 | 44 | 47 | 133 | |
| Reg | TPH | 243 | 45 | 38 | 36 | 119 | 1 |
| Dilligaf | TPH | 223 | 41 | 30 | 15 | 86 | 2 |
| Long Shot | TPH | 223 | 34 | 16 | 15 | 65 | |
| Kyal | TPH | 7RM | 28 | 5 | 29 | 62 | |
| Bitzer | TPH | 223 | 25 | 11 | 0 | 36 | |
| Best scores (max 60) | | | 48 | 44 | 47 | | |

Peeking Wallaby Match, 5th November 2023

| Handle | Class | Cartridge | 100m | 200m | 300m | Total | Place |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Bitzer | FR | 223REM | 26 | 6 | 10 | 42 | 1 |
| Long Shot | FBR | 223REM | 41 | 41 | 33 | 115 | 1 |
| Charf | C | 6PPC | 51 | 35 | 42 | 128 | 1 |
| One Gun | C | 6PPC | 39 | 36 | 42 | 117 | |
| Forrest | TPH | 223REM | 27 | 35 | 39 | 101 | 1 |
| Reg | TPH | 243WIN | 36 | 30 | 32 | 98 | |
| Vortex | TPH | 243WIN | 26 | 6 | 10 | 42 | |
| Best scores (max 60) | | | 51 | 41 | 42 | | |

Best of 2023

| Best Distance Score | 100m | 200m | 300m | Theoretical | Best (first up) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|-------------|------------------|
| Factory Rifle (FR) | 40 | 44 | 43 | 127 | 122 Bull Kelp |
| Factory Benchrest (FBR) | 48 | 42 | 41 | 131 | 131 Bull Kelp |
| Custom (C) | 51 | 48 | 47 | 146 | 143 Kiwi Shooter |
| Tactical Practical Hunter (TPH) | 45 | 38 | 39 | 122 | 119 Reg |
| Best at 100m | | | | | |
| 51 | Charf | | | | |
| Best at 200m | | | | | |
| 48 | NZ Varminter | | | | |
| Best at 300m | | | | | |
| 47 | Kiwi Shooter, NZ Varminter, One Gun | | | | |



NZDA BOP RANGE OFFICER ROSTER 2024

| | Ph No | Email | Count | | | | | | | | | | | | Sun 29/12/2024 NO Public Open Day |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | |
| | | | Sun 28/01/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 25/02/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 31/03/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 28/04/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 26/05/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 30/06/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 28/07/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 25/08/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 29/09/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 27/10/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 24/11/2024 Public Open Day | Sun 29/12/2024 NO Public Open Day | |
| Adrian Winks | 027 610 9754 | adrian@winks.net.nz | | | RO | CRO | | RO | | | | | | | |
| Arthur Hudson | 027 600 7382 | kingdombroce@hotmail.com | RO | | | RO | | | | | RO | | | | |
| Baden Prentice | 027 490 8613 | baden.prentice@gmail.com | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bob Mack | 021 450 2655 | bsgnbob1@gmail.com | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bob Mankelaw | 021 260 0904 | | CRO | | | | | | RO | | | | RO | | |
| Bob Iatton | 027 683 9256 | bob@iattton.co.nz | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chris Fryer | 021 0817 2557 | chris@upshotnz.co.nz | | | RO | | | CRO | | | | RO | | | |
| Chris Maisey | 027 496 7259 | chrismaisey@xtra.co.nz | | RO | | RO | | | | | | | | | |
| Chris Munro | 021 993 846 | chrismunro366@gmail.com | | CRO | | | | | RO | | | | | RO | |
| Dave Bragg | 027 246 9033 | davonne19@xtra.co.nz | RO | | CRO | | | | RO | | | | | CRO | |
| Dean Maisey | 027 683 3049 | dean@quinsmith.co.nz | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Doug Williams | 027 494 5966 | doug@boplandsescaping.co.nz | | RO | | | | | RO | | | | | RO | |
| Evan Riggit | 021 286 2590 | eriggit@xtra.co.nz | RO | | | | RO | | | RO | | | | | |
| Evan Dines | 027 485 9935 | evan.dines@seaway.co.nz | | RO | | | | | | RO | | | | | |
| Grant Hammond | 021 137 3831 | nzvarmlite@gmail.com | | | | | | | RO | | | | | RO | |
| Jill Fryer | 027 2477 116 | jill@upshotnz.co.nz | | | RO | | | | | RO | | | | | |
| Keith Theobald | 027 693 5445 | keiththeobald@xtra.co.nz | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kevin Long | 021 2282752 | ks1153@xtra.co.nz | | | RO | | | | | CRO | | | RO | | |
| Lester Poglase | 027 281 19646 | lester@upshotnz.co.nz | | | | | | | | RO | | | RO | | |
| Mike Young | 027 429 1155 | mike.young@powerco.nz | | | | | | | | RO | | | RO | | |
| Paul Hill | 027 510 6478 | pandhill10@gmail.com | | RO | | | | | | RO | | | CRO | | |
| Richard McEwen | 021 138 2483 | richard.mcewen@xtra.co.nz | RO | | | RO | | | | | | | | | |
| Richard Hollingworth | 021 02518043 | richard.holl@xtra.co.nz | RO | | | | | | | | | | RO | RO | |
| Steve Owen | 021 226 8780 | stapowen@xtra.co.nz | | RO | | | | | | | | | | RO | |
| Ryno Taljaard | 027 323 7910 | ryno8311@gmail.com | | | | | | | | | | | RO | RO | |



2024 FAMILY CAMPING TRIP



Late 2023 my wife and I had the idea of hitting the bush for an economical family holiday with the bonus of my son and I being able to get out for a few hunts for deer. We decided on a spot in the Central North Island where I have done a fair bit of hunting over the years.

We loaded up all our camping gear including the kitchen sink and headed for our chosen destination on the first day of 2024!

We had intended on staying three or four days but actually ended up staying for nine! As the 3 of us settled into camp life over the first couple of days of relaxation my mind started thinking of hunting and getting out to see what

animals where around. I had a likely spot to check out on my first hunt where several hinds with fawns were seen. I spent time watching the fawns doing zoomies all the while staying close to their mums.

Once the heat of the day subsided I headed back to the same spot where I had seen deer that morning. It was a supreme evening with not a breath of wind. The unmistakable noise of a wood pigeon swooping past the dog and I as we sat at our chosen vantage point was the only sound to be heard. Looking across the gully I spotted three stags that seemed to be on the move. I could only see glimpses from time to time as they made their way across the face.



One of the stags seemed pretty decent for the area I was hunting so I decided to target him for the rest of our trip.

Over the next few days, I kept going back to that exact same spot hoping to catch another glimpse of the majestic animal. I saw him several days later but once again no opportunity for a shot as he was on the move - Damn!

The next morning dawned another stunner of a day so I thought a new tactic may be a better option. Between the dog (Moose) and I we came up with the cunning plan of stalking the main ridge above where we had seen the stag prior. As we executed our plan, we were quietly stalking our way along the ridge when suddenly Moose stopped.... I froze, rifle at the ready when the stag appeared about 8m in front of me. He took one look at moose and

thought better of standing about trying to figure out what that small four legged brown thing was. Buzzer - another opportunity lost! We were determined to keep trying for the next couple of days though with no more sightings. Just like the days prior our last day dawned an absolute cracker. I was up the ridge back on my vantage point at first light, glassing a few deer below me when I spotted what looked like a stag in a small hole in the bush on the opposite face, binos confirmed it was him!

I could feel the anticipation and pressure build as I knew this was my last chance of the trip. The crack of the rifle broke the airy silence and I heard a solid hit. Moose and I made our way down into the creek and up the other side all the while praying that we would be able to find him once we got over there.

My heart sank after we spent a considerable amount of time searching and couldn't find him. We were not about to give up easily even though we knew my wife and son were back at camp packing up to go home.

By this stage the sun was up and the cicadas were in full song, sweat was pouring off me as we all but gave up on our stag and decided to take the only spur that we hadn't searched as a route out and back to camp. Dejected we started to climb up a small spur that would lead us up to the main ridge and back to camp. Not far up the spur I looked up and couldn't believe what I saw.... Moose standing a few meters in front of me sniffing our stag! I couldn't believe it: I counted thirteen points, and he was beautiful animal in prime condition. I was so happy!

After attending to the meat and removing the head we staggered back into camp exhausted but very proud of the effort we put in.

Packing up camp the three of us felt a little sad to be leaving such a magical place and we can't wait for our next family camping adventure.

Cam Church





.22LR 50M RIMFIRE BENCHREST MATCH

ON SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY WE RAN OUR FIRST .22LR 50M RIMFIRE BENCHREST MATCH.

This was conducted as per the rules in the NZDA National Shooting Rules & Instruction Manual. The competition consists of shooting 3 targets.

Each target has 25 record bullseyes. You shoot one shot at each bullseye. The maximum score is 10 points per bullseye and if you touch or shoot out the tiny dot in the centre, that is 10.1 (also called a 10X or a wipe out). Maximum score per target is 250.25 and over 3 targets is 750.75

Wind flags are set out between the shooters and their targets so they can see the wind and

hold off accordingly. To be able to use downrange wind flags we must adhere to a range Restricted Operating Procedure specific to the event. All shooters had to first prove their zero on a test target before shooting over the flags.

We had 16 shooters participate. Two of those were juniors supervised by their parents. We split the shooters into 2 details of 8 shooters and they rotated after each target shot to average out any wind and mirage conditions that changed as the morning progressed. We had a good mix of factory rifles and custom rifles.

The day went well but we discovered it takes a long time to score 48 targets! These were being scored immediately after we shot but there was a bit of a delay after

lunch as we waited for the last of the targets to be scored. We will be able to speed this up next time. I think we will also make up a large set of club wind flags so all shooters have a better view.

As this was the inaugural shoot club records were set as follows:

Custom rifle
Greg Denby
696.15

Factory rifle
Daniel Oosthuysen
689.13

Thanks to everyone who participated and congratulations to the winners. I hope you had an enjoyable day.



More information can be found on the club website here:

<https://deerstalkers-bop.org.nz/range/benchrest-shooting/>



NZDA-BOP 50m .22LR Rimfire Benchrest Match Results

Date: 14th Jan 2024

C = NZDA Custom Class

F = NZDA Factory Class

Max score per relay/target is 250.25 (Total 750.75)

| Name | Class | Relay A | Relay B | Relay C | Total | Place |
|----------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| Greg D | C | 230.04 | 240.06 | 226.05 | 696.15 | 1 |
| Grant H | C | 225.04 | 235.03 | 220.02 | 680.09 | 2 |
| Dana M | C | 215.01 | 222.02 | 229.03 | 666.06 | 3 |
| Gregg B | C | 203.02 | 177.00 | 216.01 | 596.03 | 4 |
| Colin F | C | 191.03 | 204.01 | 190.00 | 585.04 | 5 |
| Dale W | C | 107.01 | 150.01 | 190.01 | 447.03 | 6 |
| Lewis H | C | 137.00 | 107.01 | 153.02 | 397.03 | 7 |
| Gideon H | C | 94.00 | 89.00 | 84.00 | 267.00 | 8 |

| Name | Class | Relay A | Relay B | Relay C | Total | Place |
|------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| Daniel O | F | 226.06 | 234.03 | 229.04 | 689.13 | 1 |
| Robin D | F | 222.01 | 228.02 | 217.03 | 667.06 | 2 |
| Greg D | F | 220.03 | 213.02 | 224.04 | 657.09 | 3 |
| Reuben H | F | 215.04 | 218.03 | 215.08 | 648.15 | 4 |
| Baden P | F | 183.00 | 191.05 | 194.04 | 568.09 | 5 |
| Craig M | F | 139.01 | 196.00 | 215.01 | 550.02 | 6 |
| Nathalie B | F | 72.00 | 87.00 | 96.00 | 255.00 | 7 |
| Manoa H | F | 20.00 | 87.01 | 93.01 | 200.02 | 8 |

Weather at beginning of event:

Temp: 23 C

Humidity: 77% RH

Pressure: 1017 hPa

Wind: Northerly 14 km/h

Gusts: 34 km/h

Visual: Blue skies, few clouds

Equipment List

| Name | Class | Ammo | Action | Barrel | Stock Mfr | Smith | Cartridge | Scope | Pwr |
|------------|-------|------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----|
| Greg D | C | | Tikka | Tikka | GRS | Tikka | .22LR | Bushnell | 30 |
| Colin F | C | | Marlin | Hawkins | Owner | Hawkins | .22LR | Bushnell | 15 |
| Grant H | C | | CZ | CZ | CZ | CZ | .22LR | Leupold | 36 |
| Gregg B | C | | BSA | BSA | BSA | BSA | .22LR | Bushnell | 10 |
| Lewis H | C | | Ranger | Ranger | Owner | Owener | .22LR | Bushnell | 10 |
| Gideon H | C | | Ruger | Ruger | Ruger | Ruger | .22LR | Tasco | 4 |
| Dale W | C | | Walther | Walther | Walther | Walther | .22LR | Tasco | 16 |
| Dana M | C | | Anshutz | Anshutz | Anshutz | Anshutz | .22LR | Tasco | 24 |
| Robin D | F | | Lithgow | Lithgow | Lithgow | Lithgow | .22LR | Bushnell | 14 |
| Craig M | F | | Bergara | Bergara | Bergara | Bergara | .22LR | Vortex | 12 |
| Daniel O | F | | Tikka | Tikka | Tikka | Tikka | .22LR | Vortex | 25 |
| Reuben H | F | | Lithgow | Lithgow | Lithgow | Lithgow | .22LR | Vortex | 9 |
| Baden P | F | CCI | CZ | CZ | CZ | CZ | .22LR | NF | 25 |
| Nathalie B | F | | Ranger | Ranger | Owner | Owener | .22LR | Bushnell | 10 |
| Manoa | F | | Ruger | Ruger | Ruger | Ruger | .22LR | Tasco | 4 |
| Greg D | F | | Tikka | Tikka | Tikka | Tikka | .22LR | Bushnell | 30 |

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR BRANCH



Caption: On the lookout.

RECENTLY I WAS ASKED “WHAT DO I GET IF I BECOME A DEERSTALKERS MEMBER?”

I THOUGHT ABOUT THIS FOR A MOMENT AND REPLIED, “WHAT DO WE GET FROM YOU IF YOU BECOME A MEMBER?” THE BLOKE SHRUGGED, WALKED OFF, AND LEFT ME SHAKING MY HEAD...THIS IS PRETTY TYPICAL.

You see, belonging to the NZDA is worth so much more than the physical value of membership. It's a community. When you belong to a community you contribute in your own way and in turn, you gain enrichment from the collective strength. We all win. The Bay of Plenty branch is one of the biggest and strongest branches within NZDA. With

over 500 members, we're in the rather enviable position of owning a huge number of assets, having money in the bank, and being able to offer some great activities throughout the year. However, the truth is that the branch is struggling in many ways - it requires a lot of work to run and yet only a handful of members are actively contributing. Yes, we're getting tired. It's my hope that the following story might inspire you to take part more often and contribute to our community. I don't remember exactly when I met Sasha and Isabell, but they epitomize NZDA members.

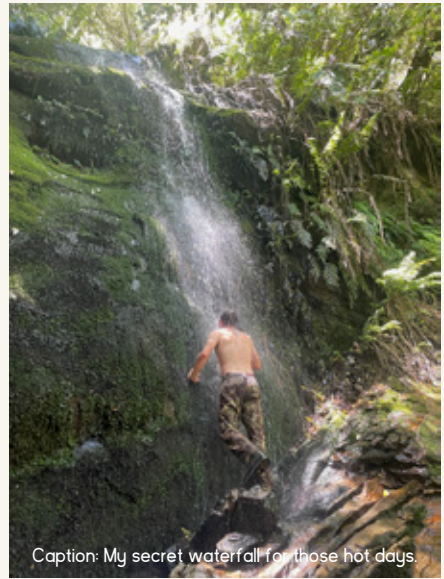
Attending club hunts, club nights, and contributing on the committee: I've got to know them over the last couple of years and naturally we ended up hunting together.

Part 1 of this story starts late last year when I invited them down to my 'spot x' in Gisborne. It was one of those blistering hot summers day and I promised big things. We arrived before 7am and headed out on the Polaris to a patch of scrub that normally holds a few deer. We discussed various options and ultimately settled on a driven hunt, hoping to get them a few easy deer.

With shooting positions established, I left them with the plan of circling around and pushing the deer back to them. As it often happens, a deer popped up where I least expected it and being only 10m away I wasn't going to say no. I hoped the noise of the shot would help start the drive and out of the corner of my eye, I saw two more run off towards Sasha and Isabel, I radioed that they were heading their way. I followed, banging sticks, and making noise, hoping to get a bunch running towards them. Well, it turns out there was no more and the two I saw were the yearling and fawn from the hind I'd just shot (yes I shoot hinds and no I don't care what you think). I arrived back at the shooting positions with no shots having been heard. We were all a bit confused and left wondering what had happened.

The day was heating up and the flies were out in force. After a futile search no more deer were located so the call was made to collect my hind and head to the next spot. We had just made it back to the top of the hill when a blur of brown jumping a fence caught my eye. With adrenalin pumping, all three of us gave chase back the way we'd just come, and between us expended more ammo than we could really afford trying to put it on the ground.

A fluke long shot secured my second deer for the day, but it was almost at the same spot as the first deer, which meant I had to climb that bastard hill for a second time in as many hours. More sweat, flies, and hard work, and we were off to finish our original plan of finding Sasha and Isabel a Christmas deer.



Caption: My secret waterfall for those hot days.



Caption: Team effort on a hot day.

Unfortunately, the day was beginning to really cook and despite an impromptu waterfall swim, we were done, and the animals weren't playing the game. While we were unsuccessful in our plan of getting everyone a deer, we had two on the deck

and agreed that it was a shared effort so we would share the meat.

Part 2 of this story saw us butchering the deer after a week hanging in the chiller. Now anyone who's butchered a red knows it's a huge amount of work and equally, you get a huge amount of meat. With this in mind, we invited a few other 'community' members.

We all have our own way of doing things, so after cracking a few frosty beverages, tricks were shared, a few lies were spun, and everyone went home with a big bag of meat.

Now I've told this story not to brag about the deer that were shot but rather, to emphasize what you can get out of being an active member in our NZDA community. In this situation, we had a fun hunt, got to practice some skills, and a bunch of families got to enjoy some prime Christmas venison. This

had come about because I'd got to know Sasha and Isabell due to their involvement with the branch. I'm not suggesting that we all need to give up our own spot or expect to be taken to someone else's, but when you're involved with our branch, you will get to know other club members, friendships will develop, and opportunities like this will come along.

So next time you're thinking 'what do I get out of being a member?' Think about asking yourself 'what do I bring as a member?' If the answer is not much, it's probably time you come along to a club night, a range day, or a club hunt...the opportunities are there, you just need to be involved with our community!

Photos courtesy of Isabell Zitzelsberger.



Caption: Heading off full of optimism.



DOMEX TITANIUM RANGE



THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS HUNTING

This year summer hunting reached new levels with being able to slog around the hills with my daughter Bailey (10), upgrading our day hunts to overnights.

Having hunted in the Kaweka's with my old man when I was about the same age it seemed to be the pick of the places to cut her teeth over the Christmas break.

Bailey has been on a few big walks with me and has reached the age where she can start carrying in some gear. I packed for her ability, choosing lightweight wherever possible, like the Domex Titanium cookware range.

The plan was to head into the bush for a minimum of two nights and explore the area surrounding the hut. Being only the second time Bailey had carried more than a day pack, it was about making sure she was comfortable with a small amount of weight for an extended time without losing the little luxuries like a decent feed at the end of the day. We have been using the Domex Titanium cookware for some time now, it is my go-to choice of cooking gear as it is so lightweight and durable.

We hunted and explored the vicinity of the hut and hot pools over the next few days, only seeing one stag on our walk in. Being outdoors and seeing how determined Bailey was to push herself was the highlight for me.

It has been fulfilling to watch her challenge herself, navigate complex terrain, and make smart choices. It's these adventures together that create the long-lasting memories. For me, this summer has been about new beginnings, with Bailey holding her own. Keeping things simple just getting out in the bush without any expectations.

When you reckon the kids are ready to start doing it for themselves I highly recommend investing in lightweight gear like the Domex Titanium range, so you're not overdoing it with a heavy pack, and seeking advice from people who have been there, like the team at Hamills.

Taking your time plays a big role in the success of a trip, and Bailey is already talking about our next trip together, which is a win for me.

Cam McKie

@camsfoodadventures

THE BEST VENISON STEW YOU'LL EVER EAT



INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. venison, diced with all sinew removed (I used leg meat*)
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 and 1/2 cups diced potatoes, I left the skin on (about 3 medium potatoes)
- 2 cups diced carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp. herbs de Provence*
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1 15 Oz. can diced tomatoes
- 4 cups unsalted beef stock or venison stock
- 3-4 dashes Worcestershire sauce

METHOD

- 1 Dice the venison into bite-sized chunks, being sure to remove any of the silvery sinew tissue. Leaving this on makes the meat tough.
- 2 Add the olive oil to a large pot or Dutch oven and heat over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, allow the venison to saute for 5-7 minutes or until the edges start to brown. Remove the venison from the pot and set aside.
- 3 Turn the heat down to medium and add the potatoes, carrots, celery and onion. Allow the vegetables to saute for about 8-10 minutes, or until they begin to soften.
- 4 Then, add the garlic, herbs de Provence, salt and pepper and cook for an additional minute before adding the tomatoes, broth and Worcestershire sauce. Then, add the venison back to the pot. Stir well and bring the stew to a boil. Once a boil is reached, turn the heat to low, cover the pot with a lid, and allow the stew to simmer for 1-2 hours until the venison is tender.
- 5 Serve hot (is amazing with crusty bread).

CLUB WORKING BEE

Location: Tauriko Clubrooms
Date: Thursday 15th February
Time: 5.30pm - whenever

Details: Some of you may have noticed the clubrooms are looking a bit neglected so the time has come to do a tidy up. We recognise everyone is busy so we thought we'd try doing this on an evening while the days are still long. The plan is to whack a few weeds, spray some roundup, shovel some mulch around trees, and do a general tidy of

the grounds. It'll be relaxed so chances are high that we will crack a frosty beverage (or two) and fire up the BBQ. If you can help out bring your weed whacker, a broom, a shovel, or anything else you think might be useful. Many hands make light work so looking forward to seeing you there.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
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RAIN





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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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5. Pay a \$10-20 donation per trip, on return, for hire of the unit.

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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:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|
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| Secretary | Isabell Zitzelsberger | secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz |
| Treasurer | Jill Fryer | treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz |
| Patron | Keith Theobald | 07 578 1195 027 693 5445 |

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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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| Eastern Fish and Game Council Member | Mike Jarvie | mikejarvie09@gmail.com 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.

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.

*Formed in 1937,
the New Zealand Deerstalkers'
Association is New Zealand's
recognised National body
representing and speaking
for hunters generally. The
fundamental aim of the
association is to ensure that the
organisation and management
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