

Bay of Plenty

# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

**APRIL 2025**

## DOES KNOCKING ON DOORS STILL WORK?

*(See Matt Batchelor's story on page 9)*

---

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.

.....

## **Page 1 Story and Photo**

Want to feature on the cover of our next newsletter?  
If you have a suitable photo and can write a few words to support it, please send it through to: [editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz) and you could win a \$100 Bar Tab from the Flying Mullet Sports Bar in Papamoa.



# PRESIDENTS REPORT

## April 2025

**The weather has played havoc with roar plans for many, myself included.**

It was great to get up the Kaimais to Stan's Hut (Te Whare Okioki) for the club roar hunt. There was a bit of action, but I didn't perform, much to the disgust of my canine companion who successfully guided me onto multiple animals.

Don't forget to prep your heads for the measuring night in May. Next club night will be a great opportunity for a post roar catch-up while trading some hunting and shooting equipment.

I'm writing this in route to a six hour walk in the rain and I'll probably lose cell coverage soon so I'll cut it short here.

**Catch you at club night!**

*Reuben*



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A RETIRED FARMER TO HELP US RAISE 3-4 LAMBS FOR THE CLUB FREEZER.**  
**If you can help please contact me on [reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)**

# TRADE AND EXCHANGE NIGHT

# 6 MAY

GOT HUNTING GEAR THAT  
YOU NO LONGER USE?

BRING IT ALONG FROM 7PM

***PICK YOURSELF UP A BARGAIN!***

***PLUS***

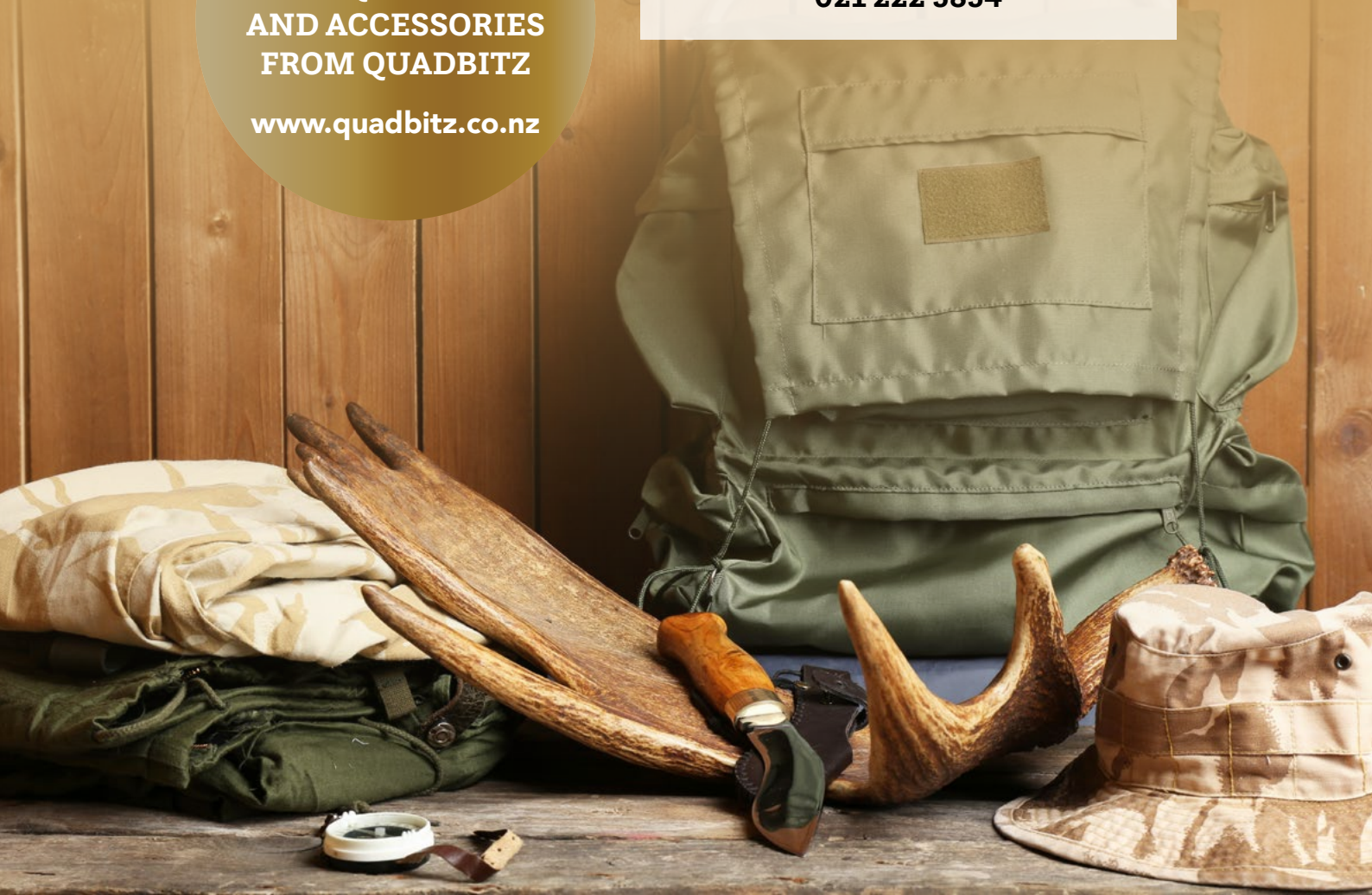
USED QUAD BIKES  
AND ACCESSORIES  
FROM QUADBITZ

[www.quadbitz.co.nz](http://www.quadbitz.co.nz)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**MATT BATCHELOR**

**021 222 5854**





# BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

APR	<b>25-27 April</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Lester Polglase		
MAY	<b>4 May</b> Peeking Wallaby Match at Range Centrefire 100m for Group	<b>6 May</b> Club Night Trade and Exchange Night Starts: 7pm	<b>16-18 May</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Doug Williams
	<b>20 May</b> Annual Measuring Night Contact: Josh - keen.joshuaj@gmail.com	<b>30 May - 2 June</b> Wanganui River Hunt Contact: Isabell 026 650 3488	
JUN	<b>15 June</b> Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 200m for Group		<b>20-22 June</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Matt Batchelor 021 222 5854
JULY	<b>1 July</b> Club Night - Annual AGM Starts: 7pm	<b>5 July</b> Douglas Score Training Thames Valley Branch Clubrooms Contact: keen.joshuaj@gmail.com Starts: 8.30am	<b>11-13 July</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC
AUG	<b>14-17 August</b> Paparangi Ventures - Motu River Contact: Reuben Hayward	<b>4 August</b> New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams	<b>5 August</b> Club Night - How to get the most out of the rifle range Speaker: Baden Prentice Starts: 7pm
	<b>14-17 August</b> New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams		
SEPT	<b>Date: TBC</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC	<b>2 September</b> Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm	
OCT	<b>7 October</b> Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm	<b>18-19 October</b> Mokau River Club Hunt Contact: TBC	<b>25-27 October</b> Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC

Visit: [www.deerstakersbop.org.nz/club-events](http://www.deerstakersbop.org.nz/club-events) for more NZDA BOP events and activities.

# RANGE NEWS

## Update on work at range in March.

### Hello members.

It has been another very busy month, and more progress has been made at the range. Some of the work you will see from the changing landscape in the main usage areas, but a lot of work has been done on the areas of the range which you don't see.



**1. Maintenance on range** – Following on from the working bees on 1 st and 2 nd March, we had another small working bee on Saturday 22/3 with myself and 4 other members until late afternoon, with me finally getting off site by about 6pm. We once again had the 2.7T digger for a 2-day hire, as well as a 2-day hire on a 2.4T tipper trailer that one of our members managed to find locally. The main purpose of this weekend was to finish up the track maintenance while we were still blessed with a longer than expected run of fine weather, which has allowed us to do a bit more of the necessary earthworks on site than what I would have expected us to get done coming into late March. On Sunday 23/3 we did some more work on the tracks with the digger and trailer to finish up as much as possible in the remaining time we had left. My 10 year old son came along to help me out with this on the day, and to get 7 hours of work out of him was quite an achievement considering zero complaints – and no i-pad required !! Weather was really good both days, so we were once again very lucky with that. We didn't quite get enough time with the digger to do the final full-perimeter-run tidy up that I had planned to do, but that is ok to wait for next time. It always seems there is never enough time in the day, and there are always going to be extra tasks still to do. On the 30/3 Range Open day I popped into the range for 1-2 hours to do some final repairs/cleaning on the outside toilet, with the cords for the door latch tools, etc. now being replaced with brass chain which will never rot away. Plus some new shelves installed and a proper hook for the hand-towel as well.

- In summary, this concludes a massive work effort undertaken over the months of December to March to get some significant repairs, redevelopment and remedial works done on site while the weather and ground conditions were the most suitable over these summer months. A major goal has been reached in that we will now be able to fully traverse all or part of the perimeter fence maintenance track with a tractor, 4WD vehicle or quadbike, at any time and regardless of whether or not the range is in use at the time. There will no longer be a compulsory need to shut the range down in order for certain vehicles to access the western side access track, and this has been a vital step in securing a viable access route to the western side for future range development in that area. Once again there are only certain times of year when we can do this work, so I am grateful for the assistance of the club members who helped out with these tasks, and which also makes the massive time and personal expense that I have incurred in

this process to at least seem worthwhile, and of value to the club going forward.

**2. Steel bullet catcher (trial)** - We are still in the process of designing and getting quotes for a basic bullet catcher that incorporates a sheet of 12mm AR500 steel plate, to be set on a 45 degree angle (to deflect projectiles downwards into a gravel-trap, or similar.) A trial unit will be made and then installed at the range, and over a period of time (a few months) we will see how it works out in practice. We have been in touch with the range certifier to get his input on the matter, and also consulted with the FSA (Firearms Safety Authority) in case there are any alterations or amendments required on our range certification to accommodate this trial. When this has been installed we will be requesting that as many people as possible use this special-trial backstop for their sighting-in sessions, and this will most likely be located at position #15a (which is the best position for accurate shooting, having a generally much better wind-condition at that location) behind the 100m target line. This will take a lot of the wear and tear off the existing plastic- drum/rubber-chip backstops on the rest of the firing line.

**3. 600m Range development** - YES, after years of talking about it, the development of a second (longer range) rifle range is now finally underway. Grant and I have been following this up with the Park Manager and Council staff. We have now arrived at a stage where they are quite happy to provide us with an MOU to do some initial scoping and investigative work in the area to the west of our current boundary. This will be limited to a bit of scrub and vegetation clearing. Probably no tree felling or any significant earthworks to be permitted at this stage as it's away from our current lease area. There will be no cost to us for the MOU. So if we then decide that it's going to be viable to proceed in developing that area to the west, then we will need to arrange a lease area boundary adjustment. Hopefully by the time you are reading this report the MOU will have been sorted out. Due to the awesome efforts of some of our club member volunteers over the summer period, we have now got additional 4x4 and tractor/machine access to the area in question, so this work has been a vital step in the process of starting the new range development.

**4. GATE ACCESS ISSUES:** We are still having a few random problems with some gate access tags prematurely expiring on the system and not working, even if the member's subs are 'fully

# RANGE NEWS

## Update on work at range in March.

financial' and all paid up. Please DO NOT tamper with the access gate if you have any issues getting in or out of the facility. Or if you have to do it, then please let me know asap so we know what is going on, and just in case your actions screw things up for the next guy trying to get in. Please email me on: [range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz) if you find that your electronic access 'fob/tag' is not working, or if you notice any damage at the range, or if any of the range safety-tags are missing off the board. We don't have anyone living on site or doing inspections up there every day, so we rely on feedback from our members to let us know what is going on. We are all volunteers, and can't afford to be going up there several times a week to sort things out at short notice. The range is still open for members and non-members alike at the end of the month on the Range Open days, so if you need to check that your access tag is still working ok, then that is a good day to do it. Alternatively, you could go up to the range with another mate who also has their own range tag/fob as well, so that you can still access the site in the event that one of the tags may not be working. PLEASE NOTE: After the 16 th of April any memberships (+ range fees) that are still overdue will have their range access tag deactivated. If they run over 3 months overdue then there is a \$50 re-joining/admin fee payable if you re-join late. If your subs or membership expires for over 12 months, then you may have to also re-do your range inductions process if you want to get a range tag again. So please keep your membership current rather than letting it lapse, as this is beneficial for both yourself and the clubs volunteer administrators/officers.

**Good luck on your hunting adventures if you are getting out there, please stay safe and well.**

**That's all for now, a shorter report due to very short notice from the editor this month!**

*Regards, Dean.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **1. Tauranga Precision Rifle Association shoot. Range booking - SATURDAY 19th APRIL, 2025.**

(This shoot is organised and run by TPRA, but is available for all NZDA BOP members to attend and participate. The TPRA lease arrangement for the day allows them to reserve shooting positions #1 to #12 for their shooting event, but positions #13 to #15 should be made available to NZDA BOP members for sighting-in use if required. The Range officers running this event are also NZDA BOP members.) If you want to come along you need to RSVP by midday Friday 18 th April to [royced@xtra.co.nz](mailto:royced@xtra.co.nz), this helps us with planning and arranging the BBQ for lunch. Cost for range ticket holders (and members completing their range ticket inductions) is \$10 per shooter, cost for NZDA non-range-ticket holders is \$35 (this includes the \$25 range fee) to cover targets, patches, BBQ lunch – bring cash on the day. (Non-members of NZDA BOP – range day fee of \$50 applies, + \$10.00 for targets, etc.) You need to be there by 9.00am to assist with set-up. Shooting commences with a safety brief and explanation about how the day will be running at 9.30am (this is compulsory for all shooters). Any members requiring an induction must be there by 9.00am. Anyone requiring an induction that arrives after the induction has taken place will not be able to shoot.

### **2. Range Open Day: SUNDAY 27th APRIL, 2025. 9:00am to 3:00pm Registrations close at 2:15pm.**

## Fundraising and donations:

We are always looking for additional sources of funding to help with range maintenance costs, and for development work to create new facilities on site. We have recently had a member donate several boxes of some 1-tonne/3M lifting strops, which we will be offering for sale to the members at a good price, and these funds will be going towards the range maintenance bills. (see the advert elsewhere in this issue). Evan will have these for sale behind the counter at club-nights, so please ask. Also we have just received a large quantity of the yellow plastic empty chamber safety indicator tags (ECI tags) for rifles, so if you are wanting to purchase a few of these for your own use they will be for sale up at the range on the open days, or Evan may have some available on club nights as well. All of the proceeds of these sales go directly to the club and help to subsidise the range budget.

However, as a registered charity we do accept donations, and if you feel that you would like to make a financial contribution to the clubs account – especially if you are a keen range user who for some reason can't make it along to the working bees - then that would be appreciated. Please use the following account for our BOP branch (don't send the money to Wellington office by mistake!)

**NZDA-BOP branch: 03-0445-0184375-00**

**Email: [range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)**

*Thanks & regards, Dean Maissey.*

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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

2. **REMEMBER TO** BRING ALL YOUR OWN PAPER TARGETS WITH YOU, AND TAKE ALL RUBBISH HOME WITH YOU.

3. **DO NOT** SHOOT THE NEW TARGET NUMBER SIGNS ON THE BACKING BOARDS – THESE ARE NOT NOVELTY TARGETS, THEY ARE PART OF THE RANGE INFRASTRUCTURE.

**Anyone caught deliberately shooting (vandalising) these new signs, or abusing any other assets of the range facility may face immediate suspension of their range access privileges, or a complete ban.**

Please report any signs of damage or other issues to the range manager, or one of the Range Officers. Please keep the range firing line area tidy, and sweep it out before you leave.

4. **DO NOT** BRING CHAIRS OR BIKES, OR OTHER ITEMS TO THE RANGE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE RANGE MANAGER. SOME ITEMS MAY BE OF USE, BUT WE DON'T WANT EVERYONE/ANYONE BRING UP THEIR OLD CHAIRS AND BIKES TO "DONATE" TO THE RANGE. THE CHAIRS AND BIKES SEEM TO BE BREEDING AS FAST AS WE THROW THEM OUT (AND IT COSTS US TO DUMP THEM).

**NOTICE:** Please be aware that the rifle range use and access may be closed at any time by the park staff for emergencies, or by any of the volunteer range officers if we have to do work down range of the firing line, or anywhere in the 'Range Danger Area'. Wherever possible we will try to give the range-ticket members at least a day or more of prior notice via the club calendar on our website. If it is a significant working bee or shutdown of more than half a day, we will also try to email out a notification to members as well. But to avoid disappointment please be sure to check the club's calendar every time before you head up to the range.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The club will not be liable for re-imbursement of your fuel or time costs (or anything else) if you turn up to find out that you can't actually use the range due to some organised event – or any other reason. Please remember that the direct personal costs to us volunteers to run the range facility is far more than the cost of your range ticket, and that having a range ticket does not express or imply any guaranteed level of usage of the range facility. Your \$100 range ticket fee is in reality a very modest contribution for a recreational (non-commercial) level of access to a volunteer-run club facility over the course of a year. For a commercially-run range operation you would most likely be looking at minimum annual fees in the \$600-\$1000 range, or more.

*Regards, Dean Maisey.*

**Email:** [range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)





# DOES DOOR KNOCKING STILL WORK?



**I often see posts on hunting pages on social media from new hunters looking for somewhere to hunt, and inevitably someone comments "just go and knock on a farmers door". Having never done that before, I often wonder, does that still work? Well I am pleased to report that indeed it does!**

Back in January, I finally fulfilled a 20 year promise to my family to tour the East Cape in a camper van. We spent about a week on the road in a rental van crawling through the spectacular scenery that is unique to the cape, stopping at rivers for a swim, reliving the story line of the iconic Kiwi movie Boy and stopping to camp wherever took our fancy. As a hunter, of course I took a rifle with me but that was not the purpose of the trip and I was cautious not to abandon the family and head off into the hills but it didn't stop me looking for potential hunting spots at every

stop. Everywhere I looked along our weeklong road trip I saw pristine New Zealand bush that was no doubt home to many potential animals for the freezer but it was obvious that access to much of this land was going to be via someone's farm or private property and there was no shortage of 'No Hunting' signs along the way scare me off.



*Me and my son Mason on our road trip*





*A quick stop at Omaio Beach*

Towards the end of our trip, we parked up at a holiday park for the night and as I checked in at the camp office, I asked the lady behind the counter who owned all the land behind the camp. "Go and ask Joe in that house over there she said, he is the farm manager". I had bought a couple of venison back steaks in the freezer of the camper as spare tucker so after dropping one to the camp office lady to thank her for her advice, I took the other one with me as Koha for the farmer. As I walked up the driveway I was shitting myself as I didn't know what to expect, would the farmer kick me off his property, would his dogs tear me limb from limb or would I just never be seen again, all sorts of scary thoughts ran through my head.

Upon meeting Joes 8-year-old son at the door, he took me out to the garage to meet Dad. Conversation was awkward at first and he new instantly why I was there, but he accepted my back steak gift and led me into what had to be the biggest trophy room I had ever seen. At least 100 stags heads adorned the rafters of his garage, every one of them I would have been

proud to mount above my fire place. 3 enormous taxidermy mounts, each with 18 or more points caught my eye and Joe shared with me the hunting stories that went with them, I was indeed in the land of BIG TIMBER.

After breaking the ice over a few hunting stories he asked when I would like to come back for a hunt and who I would like to bring with me. I suggested late March and said I would like to bring my Dad and he agreed giving me his cell number to keep in touch. We exchanged a few texts and on the 3rd week of March me and Dad headed down for the weekend. I had offered to pay Joe for access but he refused so Dad and I came armed with a box of treats and Easter eggs for his kids – they were thrilled.

The first day was wet so Dad and I just parked up at the Holiday Park and kept dry for the day. The next Day Joe gave us a tour through the farm eventually leaving us to surfcast from a secluded beach where we caught trevally and kahwai for dinner.



An evening hunt across the road from the camp gave up a couple of young stags and I took a small 6 pointer for the freezer just in case the good weather didn't last. The next day however was epic and it was the day we had planned to hunt with the farmer and his son so after they met us at 5.30am we headed off on our quad bikes. The deer were plentiful and the stags were huge, many starting to roar. We were there for a trophy so many of the smaller stags we overlooked, we stalked some big boys we had either heard or spied through the binos but they eluded us that day – as they say, they don't get that big by being dumb.

Despite not coming home with anything to go above the fireplace, we came away with a new appreciation for farm hunting and for the extensive knowledge farmers have of their properties and of the animals that reside on them but most of all we came away having made a new friend, one willing to give up his time and his slice of paradise to share with a couple of strangers who had simply knocked his door.

Whilst I am sure not every farmer would be so hospitable, it goes to show that there are still opportunities out there and good old fashioned door knocking still works and without the need for any money to change hands.

*By Matt Batchelor*



Heading out for a scout with my dog Murphy



Dad, Joe and his boy glassing for stags



Cheeky 6 pointer for the freezer



# DOUGLAS SCORING TRAINING

**Date:** 5th July 2025 8:30am

**Location:** Thames Valley Branch Clubrooms  
101 Morrison Road, Komata 3674, Paeroa

**Capacity:** 10 people

## LEVELS AND CRITERIA DOUGLAS SCORE

### LEVEL 1:

**Competent understanding of basic level  
Douglas Scoring**

- Must have an understanding of the most up to date EDITION OF THE DOUGLAS SCORE HANDBOOK and all material handed out which will be supplied at registration for training course.
- Be competent in basic Douglas Scoring
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Must be active in measuring at branch level and other competitions under a branch mentor or a higher-level measurer than themselves, for a minimum of 3 years to advance to Level 2
- Failure to complete the above tasks may result in removal from registry
- Attend a Level 1 training course

### LEVEL 2:

**Revision of Level 1 and acceptable level of  
measuring for all AHT species**

- Be competent in marking out and measuring unassisted in all AHT species
- Be competent in recording and adding fractions of all AHT species in the DouglasScoring system
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Must be active in measuring at branch level and other competitions under a branch mentor for a minimum of 2 years to advance to Level 3
- Attend a Level 2 training course

### LEVEL 3:

**Branch Judge and Level 1 and 2 Mentor  
at Branch Level**

- Measure at Branch Level and other competitions
- Must attend Douglas Score Courses and help train Level 1 and 2
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Can advance to Level 6 by invitation of AHT panel when competence is shown

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
PLEASE CONTACT**

**Joshua Keen**

**keen.joshuaj@gmail.com**





## “EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REQUIRED”

We are looking for experienced hunters to guide our 2025 HUNTS Course graduates on their first hunt on the weekend of September 12-14.

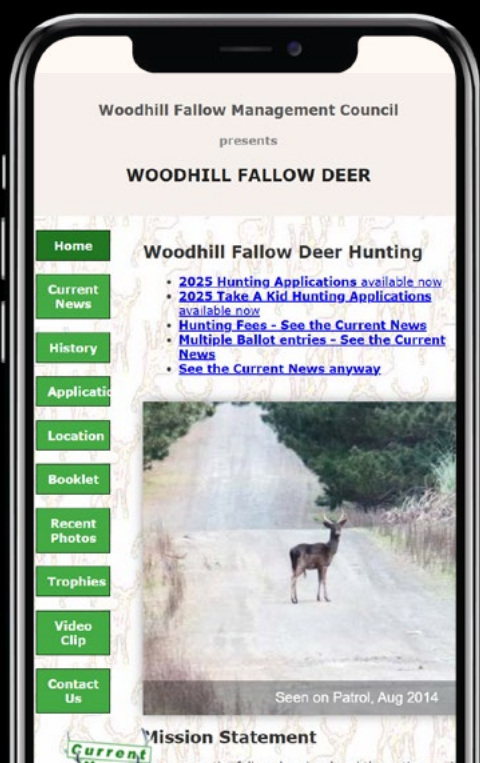
If you are interested and experienced at navigating in the bush, please contact HUNTS Instructor

Doug Williams

07 544 3065

[huntscourse@deerstalkershop.org.nz](mailto:huntscourse@deerstalkershop.org.nz)

## WOODHILL FALLOW MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2025 BALLOT IS NOW OPEN



Please visit  
[www.fallowdeer.co.nz](http://www.fallowdeer.co.nz)  
for more information  
and to enter.

Applications close 5pm 25 April and  
drawn on 1 May.

You can also attend the live draw at  
NZDA Auckland Branch club room  
from 7pm on 1 May.



# CLUB REWARD SYSTEM

REWARD

**This year we are trialling a reward system for supporting our club's activities.**

Points will be allocated based on a points schedule. There will be draws throughout the year and the prize pool value is \$2000+.

Turning up to club nights and paying your fees on time will kick start your point accrual for the year. The major prize will be drawn at the March Club Night in 2026.

**To accrue points, simply turn up to NZDA BOP club events, scan the QR code at the event and enter your name.**

Participation	Points
Membership Fee Payment by Due Date	5
Attend a Club Night	1
Attend a Working Bee	5
Submit an Article for the Newsletter	3
Organise a Club Event	5
Committee Meeting Attendance	1
Participating in a Club Hunt	2
Participating in an NZDA BOP Shooting Event	2
Assisting with a Billboard Change	5
Range Officer / Public Day Duty	5
Guide a HUNTS Course Student for 1 on 1 hunt	3
Douglas Scoring for Measuring Night	3



# CLUB HUNT PAPARANGI VENTURES

14TH TO 17TH AUGUST



*Photo of the heads we got last time.*

- The hunting block is on the Motu River, it is private land that borders conservation land.
- The hut has fire and wetback hot water, gas cooking and solar lights.
- Dogs are allowed under certain conditions – ask first please
- Drive to the hut, 4wd vehicles only.

## THIS IS A PAID ACCESS HUNT

\$85/night for hunting adults  
= \$255/adult

\$10/night for children aged 5-17  
= \$30/child

## CONTACT:

Reuben  
(027) 482 8969  
[reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)

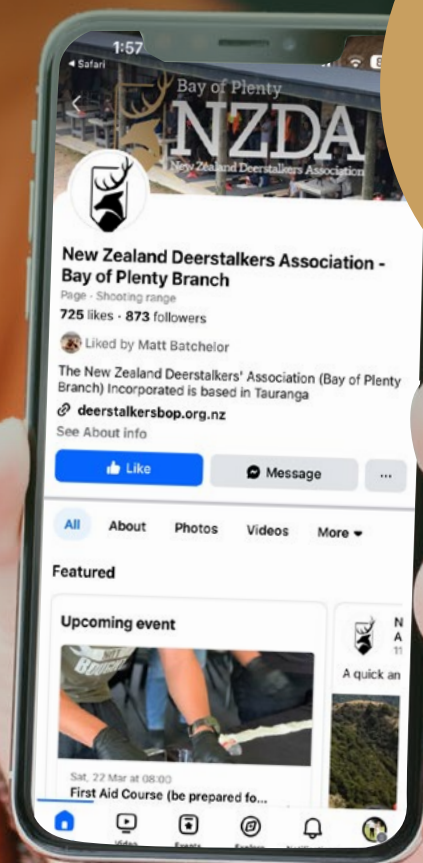


# DID YOU KNOW THE NZDA BAY OF PLENTY HAS ITS OWN LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

Stay up to date with real time announcements from our committee and hunting stories from our members.

## HOW TO FIND US:

Search NZDA BOP on your Facebook profile or ask a member to invite you to the page to join.







# HUNTING FOR HYDRATION

With the roar in full swing, hunters are preparing for long days in the back blocks of Nowheresville, often in wild, rugged and remote terrain. Proper hydration is crucial for maintaining energy, focus, and overall performance during extended hunts because dehydration can lead to fatigue, muscle cramps, and dumb decision-making—issues that no hunter wants to face in the field. The right hydration system can help maintain stamina and keep you performing at your best, no matter how demanding the hunt.



## TOP HYDRATION SOLUTIONS FOR HUNTERS

### 1. COLLAPSIBLE WATER BOTTLES FOR COMPACT CARRY

Collapsible bottles, such as the Stow or Flux, are ideal for hunters who need a lightweight, space-saving hydration solution. These bottles flatten when empty, making them easy to pack away when not in use.

- Soft materials reduce noise, ensuring stealth in the field.
- Integrated filtration systems for easy refilling from natural water sources.
- Durable and leakproof materials withstand rough conditions without leaking or puncturing.

### 2. HYDRATION RESERVOIRS FOR HANDS-FREE DRINKING

For long hikes or a couple of hours glassing, a hydration reservoir like the HydraPak Force™ or Velocity™ offers hands-free drinking via a tube, allowing hunters to stay hydrated without pausing to grab a bottle.

- Fits seamlessly into most hunting backpacks.
- High-flow bite valve delivers quick sips with minimal effort.
- Tough materials are designed to handle extreme temperatures and rugged use.

### 3. INSULATED BOTTLES FOR TEMPERATURE CONTROL

For those hunting in colder conditions, insulated bottles like the HydraPak Velocity IT™ keep water from freezing, ensuring you have access to drinkable water throughout the day.

- Keeps water warm enough to prevent freezing.
- Built to withstand rough outdoor environments.
- Prevents back sweat heating water supply.

## TOP TIPS FOR STAYING HYDRATED WHILE HUNTING

### DRINK REGULARLY:

Don't wait until you feel thirsty; sip consistently to maintain hydration levels.

Refill Smartly: Use a filter-integrated HydraPak bottle or reservoir like the Seeker to safely refill from streams or lakes.

Monitor Hydration Needs: If hunting in high temperatures, increase your intake to compensate for sweat loss.

### HYDRATION IS A KEY FACTOR IN ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL AND SAFE HUNT THIS ROAR SEASON.

HydraPak's lightweight, durable, and efficient hydration solutions allow hunters to focus on the pursuit without worrying about staying hydrated. Whether you prefer collapsible bottles, reservoirs, or insulated options, HydraPak has the perfect solution for your hunting adventure.





# NZDA HUNTER NATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME 2025



**The NZDA Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) was first launched in 1987 and has since helped thousands of hunters gain the skills needed to hunt big game safely and responsibly in New Zealand.**

The HUNTS course is delivered by NZDA branches at a local level where instructors teach the HUNTS syllabus under the guidance of a National Coordinator.

Trainees learn about hunting in New Zealand's unique conditions and develop essential bushcraft and shooting skills for use in the outdoors.

## **GENERAL COURSE STRUCTURE**

The theory aspect of the course generally occurs over eight 2-hour evening sessions covering 9 learning modules.

**The practical training consists of 3 weekend sessions, made up of:**

- 1 full day of practical training in range shooting.
- 1 full weekend covering equipment, food, bushcraft skills, travel, navigation, survival & river crossings.
- 1 full weekend completing an overnight camping/hunting trip.

## **HUNTS MODULES**

The topics covered by HUNTS include:

- Ethics, Ecology & Regulations
- Equipment & Food
- Backcountry Travel
- Navigation
- Firearms Selection, Safety & Marksmanship
- Big Game Animals
- Hunting Techniques
- Meat, Skins & Trophies
- Outdoor Emergencies
- Survival Techniques

## Join our HUNTS Course for 2025

**Monday 4th of August - Wednesday 17th of September.**

### **\$550 per person**

### **Only 20 places available – BOOK NOW**

**Anyone who is interested in helping or learning what is involved with hunts is most welcome to come along to the nights or contact Doug:**

**0274945966 or [huntscourse@deerstalkershop.org.nz](mailto:huntscourse@deerstalkershop.org.nz)**

# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

We have a couple of items for purchase now: of which the funds will go towards the rifle range maintenance and development fund. These will be available for purchase on club nights, at the range itself, or can be made available for pickup at another location/time by prior arrangement with Dean Maisey, Evan Dines, or Chris Fryer. For payments we can take cash, or eftpos (if a terminal is available - i.e. at 'range open days' or club nights), or direct payment into our club's bank account (preferred). The NZDA-BOP branch bank account is: 03-0445-0184375-00

## LIFTING STROPS

### 3 METRES LONG, 1-TONNE RATED (ONCE USED)

One of our members has generously donated a couple of boxes of these 'as-new' lifting slings/strops to the club, as a fundraiser. We have used some of these slings at our recent working bee for lifting out the rubber backstop drums, and they are awesome. However they could be used for towing, or a multitude of other uses around the home, farm, or when out hunting.

'Disclaimer is that these are being sold 'as-is' for personal use only. If you are wanting to use them for a commercial application, then you would need to pay for them to be re-certified, and the club accepts no liability for any way you may choose to use (or misuse) these items.

Normal retail price on similar 3M/1-Tonne strops is in the \$25-\$30 range.

**WE ARE ASKING \$10.00 EACH FOR THESE, OR YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO ROUND IT UP A BIT AS AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO THE CLUB IF YOU LIKE.**



## YELLOW PLASTIC EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATOR (ECI) DEVICES

These are a recommended item for when transporting firearms, and are mandatory for use at the range, including on our Range Open Days. This simple device gives a quick and clear visual reference that any firearm is 'safe' and unloaded when one of these bright yellow tags is inserted into the chamber of the rifle, shotgun, or pistol. The long stem on these universal indicators is small enough to fit into the bores of .17cal rifles, so (unlike some of the other ECI devices that we have had in the past) these ones will fit the popular .17HMR rifles, as well as .17cal air-rifles, .22cal, and anything bigger up to about .44cal.

We have now received a large number of these (so many that I had to get my kids to count them for me!) which will be available for purchase at the rifle range, or we can make some available for purchase at club nights. (See Evan at the bar.)

**PRICE ON THESE ONES IS \$4.00 EACH. OR IF YOU NEED 10 OR MORE OF THEM, THEN LET ME KNOW DIRECTLY PLEASE SO WE CAN ARRANGE THAT FOR YOU.**

Or, if you would just like to make a **general donation** to the range maintenance or development fund at any time, that would be greatly appreciated. The NZDA-BOP branch bank account is: 03-0445-0184375-00

Please put something on the payment reference for our statement, like 'RANGE DON.' If you could also please email our treasurer Jill to let her know what your donation is for: [treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT EVERYONE**

Dean Maisey, Range manager. Email: [range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)





# HUNTING GEAR FOR SALE

## FOR SALE

ITEM	PRICE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Honda TRX350FM 4X4	\$3800.00	- Fully serviced - Bull bar, good tyres	Kerry Pask 021 137 1671
Pard Night Vision Night Stalker 4k Scope	\$750.00	- Worth \$1599.00 NEW - Will allow a trial for an approved buyer.	Matt 021 222 5854
Hardy Tikka, 7mm Rem Mag, Carbon barrel, Carbon Stock, Nightforce NXS Scope	\$6900.00	- Cost \$11000 to build	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
CZ 457 Long Range Precision, 22lr	\$2599.00	- Unfired	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Air Arms S510 Xtra, 22 cal	\$2300.00	- Unfired - Includes filling adapter	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995

## LOOKING TO BUY

ITEM	DETAILS	CONTACT
Quality used reloading equipment	- 6.5 Creedmoor - Needs all reloading equipment	Marty Finkel mf8176@gmail.com

## GOT SOMETHING TO SELL OR ARE YOU WANTING TO BUY?

Simply email a photo, a few words, the price and your phone number to [editor@deerstalkershop.org.nz](mailto:editor@deerstalkershop.org.nz) and we will be sure to publish your listing.

### NZDA TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR TRADING POST LISTINGS

You may only list "A" category firearms, in sporting configuration, as defined by the Arms Act 1983. Large capacity magazines (i.e. more than 10 cartridges for .22 rimfire, or more than 5 cartridges for others) may not be sold.

Sellers must sight the firearms licence of the buyer, or for remote sales sellers must receive written confirmation signed by Police confirming the buyer holds a valid firearm's licence. Forms are available at any police station.

Firearms must already be in New Zealand. Overseas members may not buy or sell firearms on the site.



# SLOW ROASTED RABBIT

Credit: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/115769/slow-roasted-rabbit/>

## Ingredients:

- 1 (3 pound) rabbit, cleaned and cut into pieces
- 1 tablespoon ground black pepper
- 1 ¾ teaspoons salt
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup water
- ¾ cup ketchup
- 1 ½ tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 4 teaspoons white sugar
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 clove garlic, chopped

## Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Season rabbit pieces with pepper and salt.

Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add rabbit; cook in hot oil until brown on all sides. Place in a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Combine onion, water, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, sugar, paprika, and garlic in a medium bowl; mix well, then pour over rabbit.

Bake uncovered in the preheated oven, basting frequently, until very tender, about 90 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the meat nearest the bone should read at least 160 degrees F (72 degrees C).





# *THE BAYS HOME OF LIVE SPORT*

## **TAB • COLD BEER**



**4/38 Gravatt Road, Papamoa Beach**  
**theflyingmullet.com**  **TheFlyingMullet**



# NZDA BOP CLUB CHILLER

## 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](mailto:reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz).





# HAMILLS

TAURANGA

— TRUSTED SINCE 1955 —

Taurangas exclusive stockist of  
Swarovski and Nightforce optics

We also stock Stoney Creek, RAB and Swazi Clothing  
and most major hunting brands of firearms and accessories

437 Cameron Road, Tauranga

P: 07 578 0995 E: [tauranga@hamillsnz.co.nz](mailto:tauranga@hamillsnz.co.nz)



THE BAY'S BEST  
*Burgers, Pizzas  
and Beers*



FUNCTION ROOM AVAILABLE

12 WHARF STREET, TAURANGA • PH 579 4810

**WINCHESTER**  
AMMUNITION



AVAILABLE FROM YOUR  
LOCAL HUNTING RETAILER



ENGINEERED TO  
**DROP DEER  
WHERE THEY STAND**



Accuracy, combined with massive bullet impact performance means that Deer Season XP is a great choice for all deer hunters.

.270Win 130gr | .270WSM 130gr | .30-06SP 150gr | .30-30Win 150gr | .308Win 150gr |  
350 Legend 150gr | 6.5 Creedmoor 125gr | 7mmRM 140gr | 7mm-08Rem 140gr

Proudly distributed by **KILWELL**



GIVING YOU THE CHILLS

**WWW.SERIALCHILLER.NZ**

Stephen Ward 027 555 5065 [stephen@serialchiller.nz](mailto:stephen@serialchiller.nz)

**Walk-in Chillers**  
(-10° to +10°)

**Walk-in Freezers**  
(-5° to -23°)

**Monoblocks +  
Accessories**

**Accessory Packs**

Includes:  
Meat Rails, Shelves  
Hooks and Gambrels.



# 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](http://www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz)

Branch Secretary: [secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)

## BRANCH OFFICERS:

President	Reuben Hayward	<a href="mailto:president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Vice-President	Tim Taylor	<a href="mailto:tim@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">tim@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Secretary	Isabell Zitzelsberger	026 650 3488 <a href="mailto:secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Treasurer	Jill Fryer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Membership Officer	Jeremy Woolerton	<a href="mailto:membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Range Manager	Dean Maisey	<a href="mailto:range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Range Officer Trainer	Royce Downes	
HUNTS Instructor	Doug Williams	07 544 3065 <a href="mailto:huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Patron/Clubrooms Custodian	Keith Theobald	
Refreshments Manager	Evan Dines	
Media Manager	Karl Jager	
Range Sub-Committee	Chris Fryer Richard McEwan Evan Dines Tim Taylor Royce Downes	

# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

## OTHER DELEGATIONS AND BRANCH CONTACTS:

Newsletter Editor	Matt Batchelor	021 222 5854
NZDA Board north Island Rep.	Tim Taylor	tim.taylor@deerstalkers.org.nz
Eastern Region Fish and Game Councilor	Mike Jarvie	rangernz@gmail.com

## 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](mailto:secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz).

.....

## NEWSLETTER:

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](mailto: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  
of recreational hunting in  
New Zealand is carried  
out by hunters.*



[www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz](http://www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz)