

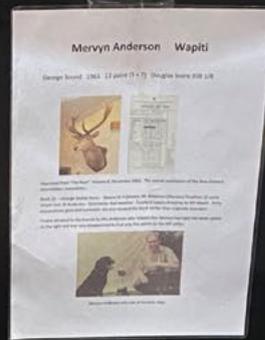


Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

AUGUST 2025



NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

(See Tim Taylor's report on page 17)

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.

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Cover 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 and you could win a \$100 Bar Tab from the Flying Mullet Sports Bar in Papamoa.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

AUGUST 2025

My first month in the hot seat was a busy one. I still managed to sneak out and nail some prime winter venison on a frosty morning, so I hope you've been getting out there too.

With a Branch the size of ours, there's a lot of moving parts, and keeping track of all of them is a big job. None the less, I greatly enjoy it because it shows how much of an active Branch we are, and I wish to thank all of you who are volunteering your time and energy.

Monday the 4th was the start of the 2025 HUNTS Course. We have another 20 aspiring hunters, who come from all walks of life, and it was a great pleasure to welcome you to our Branch. Over the next 6-8 weeks, you're going to learn a lot about hunting, shooting, the outdoors, and yourself. It won't matter if you continue on to become a hunting legend or simply use your new skills on a family tramp, I'm sure you'll all take a lot out of it.



Our August club night doubled as our annual awards night and a potluck dinner. It was great to see so many young faces in attendance, especially those who were getting awarded their first deer pin. The AHT competition saw a great turnout this year, with the most heads being measured in a long time. In amongst them were some very

impressive trophies and a special shoutout goes to VUK Mijatovic who's Sambar went on to win the Orbell Trophy for best head overall at the National Competition with a DS of 225 1/2. This is the first time that a BOP member has won this award so it's huge achievement.

Speaking of achievements, we have recently announced our 75 th Anniversary Dinner. Our Branch was founded in 1950, and the committee was keen to celebrate this milestone. A huge amount of work has gone into organizing the event so we would love to see you all there. It's being held at the Cargo Shed in downtown Tauranga on Saturday the 22nd of November. Tickets are available on our Humantix event page and cost \$75pp; these include an amazing dinner by Grace and Graze, 3 free drinks, a guest speaker, and a band to boogie the night away.

Over the next few months, we have a lot going on, so I hope you check out the calendar and take advantage of what we have to offer. Just a reminder that:

- The Sika Foundation Sika Series is happening on Thursday the 21 st at the clubrooms. This will be an informative night including the Blood Origins short film. Tickets cost \$25pp at the door with all proceeds going to support the Sika Foundation.
- The Annual Goat Comp will be running until November, and we will be counting tails and measuring heads at club nights.
- We also have several club hunts coming up so these will be the perfect opportunity to nail a few spring deer or to add to your goat tally.
- There are several shooting competitions for those of you who are better shots than I.

As we head towards spring and start to enjoy the longer daylight hours, I hope you all start to throw off the shackles of winter and take the time to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Tim Taylor
BOP PRESIDENT

TICKETS COST \$75PP



Anniversary

CELEBRATION

Date: 22nd November

Time: 18:00 - 23:30pm

Location: Cargo Shed, Tauranga

Join us for a fun night at the Cargo Shed to share stories, eat good food, boogie to a band, enter a roaring competition or just catch up with your mates you may not have seen for a while.

YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

- A delicious buffet-dinner from Grace and Graze (from 7pm)
- Dessert
- 3 free drinks
- Guest Speaker Brendon Weatherly
- Entertainment by Shabang
- Roaring Competition
- A cash bar will also be available for those who wish to celebrate with something a little stronger.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Call Isabell Zitzelsberger on: 026 650 3488 or
Email secrartary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz**

BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

AUG	<p>21 August Sika Foundation Sika Series Location: Clubrooms Starts: 6.30pm</p>	
SEPT	<p>19 September Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</p>	<p>2 September Club Night - How to get the most out of the rifle range Speaker: Baden Prentice Starts: 7pm</p>
	<p>12-13 September 300m Tack Driver Showdown Practice on Friday, Tournament on Saturday Contact: Baden Prentice</p>	<p>12-14 September Hunts Course Guided Hunt Contact: Doug 0274945966</p>
OCT	<p>7 October Club Night - Whats in your pack Speaker: Various Starts: 7pm</p>	<p>18-19 October Club Hunt Mokau River Club Hunt Contact: Tim Taylor 027 668 9904</p>
		<p>25-27 October Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC</p>
NOV	<p>2 November Peeking Wallaby Match 100M, 200M, 300M NZDA Range Contact: Baden Prentice</p>	<p>4 November Club Night - Navigation Speaker: TBC Starts: 7pm</p>
	<p>7-9 November Sika Heli Hunt / Kaimanawa's Contact: Thinus 0274403310</p>	<p>TBC Club Hunt - Mount Cook Contacts: Josh Keen and Jonathan Flude</p>
	<p>22 November 75th Anniversary Dinner - Cargo Sheds Speaker: TBC Starts: 6pm</p>	
Visit: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events for more NZDA BOP events and activities.		

NZDA BOP COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE: MATT BATCHELOR

EACH MONTH WE ARE PROFILING ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS
TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW THE TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES.

Name	Matt Batchelor
Position	Editor
Age	51 (last week)
Day Job	Owner of Rutherford Signs
NZDA Background	After doing the Hunts Course in my late 40's, I joined the club and have been a member for around 4 years. Within a year I was the editor and just last year was invited to stand for the Committee.
Passion within NZDA	I love putting together the newsletter, I get to know everything before it happens but the biggest kick for me is publishing the hunting stories told by our members. They are a great read, don't skim read past them!
Favourite Caliber and why	I own 3 rifles, all Tikka T3's, a 7mm-08 (with a thermal scope), a .270 with Meopta Optics and I recently purchased a 7mm Rem Mag with Burris Optics but my favourite by far is my .270mm. Big enough for a bit of long range shooting, short enough for the bush and not too much of a mess of fallow deer as long as my shot placement is spot on.
What you want to contribute to NZDA	As the saying goes, many hands make light work. There is a core group of doers in the club and I always wanted to be one of them. I don't let it dominate my personal life but get satisfaction out of making a contribution when I can to the sport I love.



2025 NZDA BOP AWARDS NIGHT: GALLERY



2025 NZDA BOP AWARDS NIGHT: RESULTS

AHT Trophies	1st	2nd	3rd
Bay of Plenty Cup - best Red deer head	Andy Lowe	Tony Burt	Mike Knowles
H. Seely Cup - second best Red deer head	Tony Burt		
Stan Lowe Trophy - best Kaimai Red deer head	Daniel Gallagher		
Joe Monk Memorial Shield - classical Red deer head, 14 or 12	Tony Burt		
NZDA-BOP Branch Cup - non typical deer head (any species)			
Jenson Shield - best Sika deer head	Vuk Mijatovic	Tony Burt	Vuk Mijatovic
Jack & Ken Barrow Shield - best Fallow deer head	Tony Burt	Parker Cook	Graeme Owen
George Baldock Cup - best Fiordland deer head			
Stoney Creek Trophy - best Sambar deer head	Vuk Mijatovic		
Waghorn Trophy - best Rusa deer head	Vuk Mijatovic		
John Hamilton Cup - best Chamois head	Vuk Mijatovic	Clayton Waters	Vuk Mijatovic
Neville Hogg Cup - best Tahr head	Caden Lowe		
Bruce White Shield - best Goat head			
John Dyke Ford Trophy - best Goat head taken by a junior			
Huxtable Shield - extracted Pig tusks	Jamie Fairbairn		
Joe Malyon Cup - undrawn Pig tusks			
Pickering Shield - best head taken by a lady			
Leo Malyon Cup - best head taken by an under 20 year old	Caden Lowe		
Burr Family Trophy - best head taken by a junior under 16			
D'Luxa Caterers Cup - most outstanding head (all species)	Tony Burt	Vuk Mijatovic	Parker Cook
Rod Mills Cup - highest Antler, Horn & Tusk aggregate	Vuk Mijatovic	Tim Taylor	Clayton Waters
Knight Trophy - highest aggregate over all competitions	Jamie Fairbairn	Vuk Mijatovic	Dan/Tony/Ken
Dale Treanor Cup - best tanned skin of a game animal			
West Trophy - best Whitetail deer head			
West Trophy - best wild Sheep head			
Keith & Colleen Theobald Memorial Trophy - one of each species			
Golden Oldies Trophy - Best head taken by a member 65 years or over	Tony Burt		
Photographic Trophies	1st	2nd	3rd
Rendal Rose Bowl: Game animals	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn
Watson Trophy: Other wildlife - birds	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	Ken Voyce
Charles Maclean Memorial Trophy: Other wildlife - mammals	Ken Voyce	Ken Voyce	
Jim Harris Cup: Other wildlife - Insects, reptiles & amphibians	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	Ken Voyce
Kevin Baldock Cup: Scenic	Dan Gallagher	Jamie Fairbairn	Dan Gallagher
Harris Trophy: Flora	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn
Gore & District Branch Trophy: Human Interest	Dan Gallagher	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn
Carter Cup: Best colour or B&W print of all sections			
Milsom Cup: Sequence	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	
Adamson Trophy: Best print overall	Dan Gallagher		
Theobald Trophy: Best print by a junior (under 16)			
Prentice Family Cup: Newsletter Story	Chris Butcher		
Sorenson Trophy: Trail Cam	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn	Jamie Fairbairn
George Walsh Trophy: Photo Aggregate	Jamie Fairbairn	Ken/Dan	
Video Trophies	1st	2nd	3rd
North Canterbury Branch Trophy: Training/Promotional			
Ramsey Trophy: Hunting			
John Anderson Memorial Trophy: NZ wildlife			
Fisken Plummer Cup: Ladies Roar			
Stoddarts Sport Cup: Mens Roar			
National Awards	1st	2nd	3rd
ORBELL TROPHY - Best Head of All Deer Species	Vuk Mijatovic		
McGOWAN SHIELD - Fallow deer			Tony Burt
SEDDON SHIELD - Rusa deer		Vuk Mijatovic	
HENDERSON TROPHY - Sambar deer	Vuk Mijatovic		
CLIFF MARSHALL MEMORIAL TROPHY - Sika deer			Vuk Mijatovic
McCONACHIE SHIELD - Chamois			Vuk Mijatovic
DILLON SHIELD - Drawn Pig Tusks			Jamie Fairbairn
WAIKATO BRANCH TROPHY - Best entry by a person 65 and over		Tony Burt	
WELLINGTON BRANCH TROPHY - PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAY - BIG GAME HUNTING			Jamie Fairbairn
PHILIP HOLDEN TROPHY			Sarah Cotchings
JM Wilkinson Postal		Robyn Smilie	
Hawkes Bay Challenge Cup	Sepp Downes		
National Medals			
Tony Burt	Fallow		244 3/8 Silver
Vuk Mijatovic	Sambar	225 1/2	Silver
Vuk Mijatovic	Sika	194 3/4	Bronze

CLUB NIGHT – SEPTEMBER 2ND FROM 7PM

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE RANGE

GUEST SPEAKER: BADEN PRENTICE

ABOUT BADEN PRENTICE

I obtained my firearms licence when I was 16 in 1986. Two years before my drivers licence. I think I'm a pretty typical NZ hunter having shot rabbits, possums, goats, game birds, pigs, deer, chamois and tahr over the years. Plus hooking a few eels, trout and game fish along the way. I have been the secretary, vice-president and president of the branch and am a Douglas Score measurer. I have been involved with the 300m rifle range since it was built and was chief range officer on it's opening day. More recently I have been pursuing NZDA target shooting, primarily focused on the benchrest discipline. I think we are fortunate that the NZDA offers such a wide range of activities for its members to participate in.

TOPICS

- How to get a range ticket.
- Range public open days.
- Branch club days.
- Field marksmanship test.
- NZDA target shooting.





WHANGANUI FALLOW HUNT PINE FOREST ONLY

FRI, 19 SEPT, 2:30PM - SUN 21 SEPT, 7PM NZST

This Club Hunt is part of an ongoing relationship with a property owner that has had a fallow deer problem that's been affecting forest seedlings. Our Branch has a provisional arrangement with the forestry operator to help them manage their deer population. To date over 1000 deer have been shot on the neighboring farm, and the forest manager would like more removed from the pine forest.

To be eligible to participate in this club activity you must be a member with insurance benefits - Associate Members are not eligible.

If you have already been on a club fallow hunt this year then you are not eligible to register for this hunt. Please use the I have already been on a fallow hunt this year ticket to get on the waitlist. If not all spaces are filled by the end of July then we will open it up to members who have already been this year.

Due to the nature of this club trip, it is not suitable for beginners who are not independent hunters. **Those who attend are expected to be able to stalk, shoot, retrieve, gut, carry, skin, butcher and process multiple deer unassisted and in a timely manner.** We are targeting a large number of deer in a short timeframe and the task is very demanding. If you are not a competent shooter, don't have experience shooting moving targets, and/or can't shoot under stress and from awkward field positions then you will struggle.

Members who attend are strongly encouraged to use a suppressed rifle chambered in a non-magnum short action calibre. **Suitable calibres** include .223 Remington, .243 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor, 7mm08 Remington, .308 Winchester or any other similar calibre. **Calibres considered not suitable include** .270 Winchester, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 Winchester Short Magnum, 7mm Remington Magnum etc.

Those attending are required to be present for a briefing at approx. 7.30pm at the accommodation on the Friday evening, this requires you to leave Tauranga no later than 230pm on the Friday afternoon. Due to the large task of skinning and butchering dozens of deer, and the pack up, tidy up and clean up at the accommodation, it is likely that you will get home after dinner on the Sunday evening.

Accommodation is provided, first there get the choice of a bed (sleeping bags on top), those who miss out will be sleeping on the floor, so you may want to bring a mattress of some sort. There is a very small kitchen to share between a large group and a small fridge available for dairy products.

Only 4wd vehicles are able to come on this trip and it is recommended that all 4wds have mud tyres, the parking area is in a flat paddock that gets waterlogged and some 4wd vehicles have got stuck on previous trips. If you don't have a 4wd you will need to carpool with someone else.

All attendees will be expected to shoot, process and transport at least 3 deer. Some attendees will shoot more which will help towards reaching our target of 20 deer for the weekend. If you don't have freezer space for 3 deer then the excess carcasses can be donated to the club for a club butchery night - donated animals should be clean kills, i.e. not shot in the back legs or guts.

A hand held thermal will be useful.

Full details will be sent to those who register for the hunt. If you're up to the challenge reserve your spot now! The registration fee is to go towards the cost of accommodation, we don't pay for the deer!

Expressions of interest email reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

RANGE NEWS

Hello members.

A brief update on range matters for this month.

1. WORKING BEE

SEPTEMBER 6th (Saturday) 8:30am to 1:00pm (approx.)
The main thing we need to do on this day is servicing of the bullet backstop drums, and at this stage it's looking like about 14-20 to replace as well as a general tidy up, etc. More info to follow closer to the time.

2. 600M RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Some clearing works with the digger have already commenced. Planning for this project and initial works on our own site started in December 2024, so it's good to be making some progress. The severely wet weather in the last couple of months has delayed progress a bit.

3. STEEL BULLET CATCHER (TRIAL)

This is now in use. The standalone unit has been installed and is located on the far right-hand end of 100m target line, at a special target location - now sign-posted '15a'. Shooting for this target-board and bullet catcher trap will be from Bench #15 only. See the PDF info sheet on our private facebook page, or in this newsletter for more info.

4. RULES REMINDER

- Zero all new rifles at 25m before shooting at 100m.
- Do not place targets at the very top of boards; keep at least 6-8" below the top/green line.
- Remove all live/mis-fired ammo and do not leave at the range.
- Take all rubbish home

5. CLUB DAYS AT THE RANGE

We have had interest in having a day (or half day) set aside for doing range ticket inductions, training, technical help or mentoring, and field marksmanship shoots, etc. At this stage we will probably look to trial the first one of these days in the middle of October. If you are in need of any assistance setting up a rifle or doing inductions before then, you can still request a private shooting session via the range information page on the clubs' website.

<https://deerstalkersbop.org.nz/range/rifle-range-information/>

6. COMPETITION SHOOT

Baden will be leading competition shoots and working with the NZDA national committee to revive lapsed disciplines. With over 270 range ticket holders and 600+ members, this is a great chance to rebuild our competitive shooting culture. Competitions are open to all skill levels—focused on learning, improvement, and enjoyment, not just winning.

7. REFRESHER FOR ALL RANGE TICKET HOLDERS

Given that some people may not have done the induction process for many years, or are very occasional users, we need to remind you that compliance with the range rules and protocols is vitally important to all of us. For us all to retain our very privileged level of access, we need to ensure we are all following the current range standing orders. If it's been a while, we recommend you refamiliarise yourself – they are available on our club website under the Rifle Range tab. In the near future, we will be emailing out a refresher document to all range ticket holders which you will be required to sign and return.

Regards, Dean Maisey.

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Range Open Day:
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST 2025
9:00am to 3:00pm
Registrations close at 2:15pm

300m Tack Driver Showdown
SEPTEMBER 12TH-13TH 2025
(entry by ticket purchase)

Peeking Wallaby Match
SUNDAY AUG 17TH 2025

Peeking Wallaby Match
SUNDAY NOV 2ND 2025

New NRO (National Range Officer) Training course

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN NRO? Contact rangeroster@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

15th July 2025

Bullet Trap Trial

Range: NZDA-BOP 300m rifle range, TECT Park, Tauranga

Location: Position 15A, 100m target line



Due to increasing costs and labour requirements the Branch is trialing a hardened steel plate bullet trap. The hope is that this concept will greatly reduce the amount of maintenance needed at the target lines.

The prototype steel bullet trap has been lifted into place at the right-hand end of the 100m target line. It is located beside target position number 15 and is labeled 15A.

We would like range users to put targets up and start using the trap so we can monitor its performance.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. The trap has a target backer board mounted directly in front of it. Only staple targets to this target backer board. Keep your targets centered on the target backer board. Reference RSO clause 5.1
2. Only fire at the trap from firing line position 15. From position 15 you can shoot at both 100m target numbers 15 and 15A. Do not crossfire from any other firing line position into the bullet trap. Reference RSO clause 5.1
3. We would appreciate a record of your firing: cartridge, bullet weight, bullet type (i.e. solid copper, FMJ, polymer tip, soft point etc) and number of shots fired.
4. Take notice of the gravel pile at the lower/rear area of the bullet trap, and let us know if you see any differences once you have finished your shooting session. Are your bullets fragmenting from the angled-plate impact, or remaining whole (but just deformed)?

Please email your data and any feedback or concerns to the Range Manager:

range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

THE TACK DRIVER SHOWDOWN

**NEW ZEALAND'S MOST ACCURATE RIFLES
GO HEAD-TO-HEAD AT 300 METRES**

COST: \$80 PER ENTRANT

The **Tack Driver Showdown** is an annual one-of-a-kind, all comers, shooting tournament. This match will reveal the most accurate cartridge, rifle and shooter combination, at least out to 300 metres.

The 6PPC and 30BR are king in short range benchrest. Cartridges in 7mm are leading F-Class, while 6 and 6.5mm's dominate PRS. Precision hunting rigs are using various cartridges up to 30 calibre. They will all go head-to-head in this multi-discipline rifle match!



Tack Driver targets will be placed at 300 meters (328 yards). This should be far enough that the higher BC bullets used by today's competition and modern hunting rifles come into play. The Tack Driver's course of fire demands competitors demonstrate both precision and accuracy by switching between Group and Score targets. The Group target provides a test of precision, measuring only the group size. Meanwhile, the Score target demands accuracy with the goal of hitting 5 separate, 1 inch bullseyes.

Who: Those who would compete to be the **Tack Driver Champion**
Limited to the first 18 entrants

Where: NZDA Bay of Plenty Branch, 300m rifle range, TECT Park, SH36, Tauranga

When: Friday 13th September to Saturday 14th September

PROGRAMME

Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm Range inductions, practice & zero sign off

Saturday: 7:30am Registration, range inductions & zero sign off

**There will be no practice time available on Saturday*

9:00am Wind flag setting

9:30am Safety briefing & match briefing

10:00am Tournament commences

12:00pm - 12:30pm Lunch

4:00pm Tack Driver Champion trophy & prizes awarded



TACK DRIVER SHOWDOWN ENQUIRIES TO:

BADEN PRENTICE, MATCH DIRECTOR

E: BADEN.PRENTICE@GMAIL.COM M: 027 490 8613



Kind acknowledgment to Jim Cline (IBS), South Carolina, USA.

<https://deerstalkersbop.org.nz/range/300m-tack-driver/>



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NEEDED

SIKA CLUB HELI HUNT TO THE KAIMANAWA'S (PRIVATE BLOCKS)



Each year, as you may know, the Sika Foundation initiates management hunts to manage the Sika deer population. With these hunts, they hunt deer and gather valuable information that helps them study this wonderful deer species.

My intention is to arrange a hunt as soon as I get visibility on the next management hunt, there are likely to be new blocks being released in the coming weeks however I would like to start taking names from those interested and line up 4 hunters (3 plus me) so we can jump in and reserve seats as soon as these are announced.

The cost of the hunt per person will be approximately \$400 to \$650 per person - location dependant. This is for the Heli flight only. Foundation members get a slight discount I believe. All other transport and hunting gear costs are excluded.

The dates are unknown, however based on history, it would likely be over a weekend between 27 October and 17th November. I am picking 7th to 9th November.

SOME IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- Maximum weight per person + pack would likely be around 135kg.
- There are no huts so be ready to camp out – temps are better this time of the year.
- You should be fully independent hunter with the required emergency gear.
- Be willing to gather some data for the Sika foundation if asked.

If you are interested please email me at meyerthinus@gmail.com and we can start adding names to the list.

- Thinus Meyer

GO IN THE DRAW TO

WIN A BRAND
NEW MITSUBISHI
TRITON UTE

\$25 TICKETS ON SALE NOW



We're thrilled to launch the NZDA 2025 Fundraiser Raffle, giving you the chance to win a brand new Mitsubishi Triton GLX 2.4 Diesel + over \$9,000 of accessories, valued at \$61,925 – all for just \$25 per ticket.

This isn't just about the truck. Every ticket supports the future of recreational hunting, including our work in hunter safety training, outdoor education, and conservation across New Zealand.

The winner will drive away with a fully kitted Triton, including 20" Covert alloys, snorkel, nudge bar, towbar, deckliner, and even \$1,000 cash to help with travel for pickup!

Let's drive the future of hunting, together.



NZDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025



Conference, what is? Simple, it's the only time in the year that all 50 Branches of the NZDA come together in one spot. With over 10'000 members, we're a big organization with a lot going on, so this is the time of the year to hear about it in person, ask questions, and make changes. It's also an extremely important way to make new connections within NZDA as it's a known fact that a lot more work gets done around the bar!

This year's Conference was held at the Ascot Hotel in Invercargill on the 19th and 20th of July and the theme was Wapiti and Whitetail. As one might expect, due to the distances involved, only about 50% of the Branches were represented. Sadly, it's become a noticeable trend that the smaller Branches simply can't afford to pay for the costs involved with attending, so there's a lot of discussion about taking it online. Personally, I think there's a place for that, however the connections you make being there in person are extremely valuable so a hybrid model might be better suited.

Saturday was all about hearing what's going on. We had a fiery speech from the National CEO, Gwyn Thurlow. He isn't impressed with some of the Government departments and there were a few people squirming as he didn't hold back...it was a great way to start proceedings! The National President, Callum Sheridan, also did an impassioned speech. We heard from representatives from DOC, TTP (Firearms Safety Authority), and the new CEO of the GAC, Corina Jordan. The verdict is still out on Corina – she comes from the embattled Fish & Game and there's a strong feeling that she doesn't know bugger all about the big game hunting sector...time will tell.

The two keynote guest speakers were the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, the Honorable James Meager, and every firearms owner's favourite politician, Nicole McKee. I'm not quite sure what to make of James. He's considered a rising star within the National Party. He spoke eloquently and knew his facts, but he's no hunter and there's a feeling that the H&F portfolio is simply a steppingstone. Let's hope he does us a solid before he moves on, and approves both Wapiti and Sika as Herds of Special Interest. Nicole on the other hand, is in her element when she's in a room full of deerstalkers, and she is probably the only politician who comes without security and will sit and have a beer with you. She spoke about what's coming in the reform of the Firearms Act legislation and while she couldn't give us specifics, she believes we will be reasonably happy. She left the stage to a standing ovation.

Behind the scenes over the weekend, the National AHT Competition is taking place, so the winning heads from each Branch are brought in for official measuring. Running alongside this, there's the photographic and literary competitions. There's a huge number of awards so these are given out throughout the Saturday evening dinner. As mentioned in my Presidents report, BOP member, Vuk Mijatovic, won Orbell trophy for Best Head Overall. We also had junior member, Sepp Downes, awarded the Hawkes Bay Challenge Cup which is a shooting comp that that runs as part of the Wilkinson Postal shoot.

Sunday at Conference is reserved for the AGM and it's where the business really happens. This year there was no controversial Notices of Motion (NOM's), however there was a couple of Remits. An interesting Remit came from the President, who wanted to explore the idea of changing our organization's name. As you might expect, this was met with a lot of confusion as NZDA has a proud history and changing our name would be a big deal, but the great thing about a Remit is that it's a chance to chew through "meaty" topics. Callum explained there's a public perception that the name "Deerstalkers" is a bit outdated, and it's not encompassing enough to allow us to represent the whole hunting sector. There was general agreement with this, and it was decided further exploration is needed before any decisions could be made.

Finally, we had the election of officers. This year Richard Wells and I stepped down from the National Board representative roles after each serving 3 years.



Standing unopposed for the South Island was Trevor Dibben from Marlborough Branch, and in the North, Stuart Langslow from the North Taranaki Branch.

It was a big weekend with a lot of talking and a lot of traveling. If you have a desire to get deeper into the inner workings of NZDA then I'd encourage you to get on our committee and come along in the future.

Tim Taylor
BOP PRESIDENT



**2025 HUNTS
COURSE FULLY
BOOKED!
JOIN THE 2026
WAITLIST
TODAY**

HUNTING GUIDES URGENTLY NEEDED

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**

CLUB NIGHT RAFFLES

We have 5 high quality Victory knives to give away over the next 5 Club nights.

YOU COULD WIN:

- 1 of 2 Victory point knives
- 1 of 2 Victory poultry knives
- Or a Victory rabbit knife

All of them with a quality S10 leather sheath

SIMPLY PURCHASE A \$2 RAFFLE TICKET AT CLUB NIGHT AND YOU ARE IN TO WIN.





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SIKA FOUNDATION

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Thursday, August 21, from 6.30pm

Entry: \$25 - Under 16: Free

More info on: facebook.com/sikafoundation



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PUFFER, THE MAGIC JACKET!

ARMED BY YOUR TRUSTY PUFFER JACKET, YOU'VE BEEN OUT IN THE HILLS, CHEERING AT WEEKEND SPORT, PROCESSING THAT DEER, SMOKING SOME FISH, AND SINKING A COUPLE OF COLD ONES. AFTER ALL OF THAT, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY YOUR PUFFER JACKET NEEDS A WASH!

A puffer jacket requires specialist care to maintain its insulating properties and longevity, but that doesn't mean it has to be complicated. Don't wait until the end of winter to preserve your jacket's appearance, refresh that questionable aroma, and enhance optimal performance. You can sort it out this weekend with this simple step-by-step guide:



1. DETERMINE THE INSULATION TYPE

You need to identify the puff in your puffer. Down-filled jackets contain natural goose or duck down feathers, offering excellent warmth-to-weight ratios, whereas synthetic-filled jackets use polyester blend fibres that mimic down's insulating properties and typically handle moisture better.



2. SELECT THE RIGHT NIKWAX CLEANER AND WATERPROOFER

Using the correct detergent is crucial to maintaining the jacket's performance. Do not use the washing powder you use for your socks and jeans!

For Down-Filled Jackets: Use Nikwax Down Wash Direct and Down Proof. This specialised cleaner and waterproofer revitalises insulation and restores the water repellency of both hydrophobic and regular down clothing.

For Synthetic-Filled Jackets: Use Nikwax Tech Wash to clean and TX.Direct to waterproof. These products clean effectively, revitalise insulation, and restore the water repellency of synthetic insulated clothing.



3. WASHING INSTRUCTIONS

First, prep the gear. Ensure zips are closed and any loose straps are secured, and remove any old detergent build-up in the detergent dispenser in your washing machine to prevent contamination.

Place the jacket in a front-loading washing machine. You may come to grief with older style top-loading machines with a central agitator, as it can damage the jacket.

Add the appropriate Nikwax cleaner. For Down Wash Direct: Use 100 ml for one item. For Tech Wash: Use 100 ml for one item. Wash on a gentle cycle at 30°C.



4. WATERPROOFING INSTRUCTIONS

Over time, the Durable Water Repellent (DWR) coating on your jacket may wear off, reducing its ability to shed water. The perfect time to rejuvenate the DWR is while your jacket is still wet, so don't dry it yet!

Simply repeat the above washing instructions, but switch the detergent for a waterproofer. To waterproof, you will use Down Proof for feather-filled jackets or TX.Direct for synthetic filled jackets. Simply run the cycle as before.



5. DRYING YOUR PUFFER JACKET

Proper drying is essential to restore the jacket's loft and insulating properties:

Tumble Drying: After washing, remove excess water by gently pressing the jacket. Avoid wringing it out. Place the jacket in a dryer on a low heat setting. Add clean tennis balls or dryer balls to the dryer. These help break up clumps and restore the jacket's loft.

Periodically check the jacket to ensure it dries evenly and the insulation is redistributed properly.

Air Drying: If you don't have access to a dryer, lay the jacket flat on a clean surface in a well-ventilated area. Gently fluff the jacket periodically to prevent clumping. Ensure the jacket is completely dry before storing or wearing to prevent mould and mildew.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Regular Maintenance: Regular cleaning enhances the performance of your gear. With consistent care, you can clean your gear multiple times with Nikwax Tech Wash before it requires re-waterproofing.

Storage: Store your puffer jacket in a cool, dry place. Avoid compressing it for extended periods to maintain its loft.

Sleeping bags: This handy care guide also works for down and synthetic sleeping bags. Make an afternoon of it with your friends and get that gear back to feeling and smelling shop-fresh!

Your best mate: Rug Wash and Rug Proof will refresh the jackets and covers of your favourite four-legged friends, so they can enjoy more time outdoors with you.

By following these steps and using Nikwax products, you can ensure your puffer jacket remains in optimal condition, providing warmth and protection for many seasons to come.



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP AND A JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP?

A family membership is a cost effective way to add a partner, children or grandchildren to your full membership so they can join us on club hunts, enter competitions and be supervised by full member at the range (provided the full member is an authorised range user).

Junior membership is a full membership avenue for those under 18. If you are under 18 and are not eligible for a family membership, this is the best way to join the club.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

- Cost \$15 per family member.
- Family members are the partner, child or grandchild, child or grandchild of the partner, or sibling, of the 'full member'.
- Children, siblings and grandchildren must be under 18 years of age as at 1 March of the current financial year.
- Includes hunting liability insurance so Family members are eligible for our Whanganui farm hunts.
- NZDA BOP Branch family members may shoot under the direct supervision of the branch primary member who is an Authorised Range User.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

- Cost \$100.25
- Full benefits at national and branch level.
- NZ Hunting & Wildlife magazine digital copy.
- Branch newsletters.
- National newsletters and advocacy updates. Eligible to enter national and branch competitions.
- Eligible to join committees.
- Includes liability insurance.
- Does not receive voting rights.



300M RIFLE RANGE OPEN DAYS

THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
TECT PARK: WHATAROA ROAD, NGAWARO

**REGISTRATION IS \$50 PER SHOOTER OR \$25
IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF AN NZDA BRANCH
(OR A NON-RANGE TICKET HOLDER OF THE NZDA-BOP BRANCH).**

- The range is open for use by licenced firearms owners from 9:30am to 3:00pm on the last Sunday of each month.
- The range is operated under the supervision of our nationally qualified Range Officers (NRO's).
- Registration is only open until 2:00pm. Please do not be disappointed if you arrive after 2:00pm and you are not permitted to shoot.
- All shooters will need to show their Firearms License to be able to shoot. Please ensure you have this with you.
- Any non-Firearms License holders will be required to shoot under the direct supervision of a Firearms License holder (usually the person they arrive at the range with).
- Hearing protection is mandatory for all persons on or near the firing line.
- Eye protection is strongly recommended.
- Empty Chamber Indicators (ECI's), also referred to as chamber flags, are required for every rifle you bring to the range. These should be in your rifles before you leave home. When on the range these can not be removed unless a Range Officer gives you permission to do so.
- When travelling to and from the range bolts should be removed from the rifle and stored separately from the rifle. All magazines should be empty and ammunition also stored separately from the rifle. Refer Arms Regulations, Clause 19B.
- All rifles will be inspected when you arrive at the range and you will be given an induction before you can move to the firing line.
- For the safety of others please do not bring any defective equipment or ammunition (i.e. old, damaged or corroded) to the range.
- All shooters that bring rifles with an unknown zero are first required to sight them in at 25m before shooting at longer distances.

**I'D RATHER EAT SOMETHING
I'VE HARVESTED AND FIND A
HAIR**

**THAN EAT FAST FOOD AND
FIND A HAIR...**





HUNTING GEAR FOR SALE

ITEM	PRICE	DETAILS	CONTACT
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
Bergara B14 Crest 7mm	\$3499.00	- PRC Carbon Barrel - Carbon Stock New	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Tikka T1x ACE	\$2999.00	- 22lr New Special	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
5 Shot Pump Action 12 Gauge Shotgun	\$350.00 ono	- Comes with 50 rounds of lead ammo	Matt Batchelor 021 222 5854
Garmin Rhino 650 GPS	\$350.00		Andrew Burr 021 477 599
ATV Gun Racks	from \$108.00		Andrew Burr 021 477 599
Brand new ATV Tyre Sets	from \$600.00		Andrew Burr 021 477 599

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@deerstalkersbop.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.



VENISON-STUFFED JALAPEÑO BOMBS WITH SMOKED GOUDA

Credit: <https://tinyurl.com/rj5m86hm>

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound (454 g) ground venison (450 grams)
- 12 large jalapeño peppers
- 4 ounce (113 g) s smoked Gouda cheese, shredded (115 grams)
- 4 ounce (113 g) s cream cheese, softened (115 grams)
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) garlic powder (5 grams)
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) onion powder (5 grams)
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) smoked paprika (5 grams)
- 1/2 teaspoon (3 ml) black pepper (2.5 grams)
- 1/2 teaspoon (3 ml) salt (2.5 grams)
- 2 tablespoon (30 ml) s chopped fresh cilantro (30 grams)
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) olive oil (15 milliliters)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Wash the jalapeño peppers thoroughly and pat them dry.
2. Slice each jalapeño in half lengthwise and remove the seeds and membranes.
3. In a mixing bowl, combine ground venison, smoked Gouda, cream cheese, garlic powder, onion powder, smoked paprika, black pepper, salt, and cilantro. Mix the ingredients until well combined.
4. Stuff each jalapeño half with the venison mixture, pressing it down firmly.
5. Lightly brush a baking sheet with olive oil. Arrange the stuffed jalapeños on the prepared baking sheet.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until the venison is cooked through and the jalapeños are tender.
7. Let cool slightly before serving.

ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION

1 August – 26 November

To enter, visit doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) are proud to announce the return of the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition – a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the environmental and agricultural damage caused by wild goats.

Running from 1 August to 26 November 2025, the competition encourages hunters and landowners across Aotearoa New Zealand to tackle the growing wild goat population.

Wild goats are prolific breeders and pose a serious threat to native biodiversity and farmland. This competition is a practical and rewarding way for communities to contribute to conservation efforts while enjoying the outdoors.

Already, ten landowners have registered their interest with the competition to get help reducing wild goat numbers on their land. Many are motivated not just by wild goat control, but by the opportunity to support conservation.

Doug Jacobs, an NZDA member, took part in the 2024 competition with a focus on hunting responsibly on private land.

"I put up a light-hearted post on our local rural community Facebook page," Doug explains. "I mentioned the DOC/NZDA National Wild Goat Hunting Competition, my NZDA membership, and the protections that come with it. I also talked about the Landowner Assist process, which helps set clear ground rules between hunters and landowners."

The Landowner Assist process, developed by NZDA, with input from DOC, Federated Farmers, and Forestry Owners Association, provides a clear framework for safe and respectful hunting on private property. It covers access boundaries, carcass disposal, and meat handling—ensuring transparency and trust. Landowners can view the Landowner Assist document online via the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition website to see how it works and what to expect.

Doug's post caught the attention of a landowner dealing with wild goats crossing over from a neighbouring property. "We met up and went through the Landowner Assist document together," Doug explains. "We covered where I could hunt, what to do with the carcasses, and how we'd handle the meat. It was all very straightforward."

The landowner later told Doug that without the professional framework provided by NZDA and the Landowner Assist documentation, they wouldn't have responded at all. That trust and clarity made all the difference.

Just a week later, Doug had four goat tails to submit for the competition, nine kilograms of salami on the way, and plans for a few hearty curries. "It was a rewarding experience," he says. "Not just for the meat, but for the connection it built and the contribution to managing a local wild goat problem."

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is about more than just hunting—it's about protecting native ecosystems, supporting farmers, and encouraging responsible community involvement.

This year, the competition has the private landowner category open again. Landowners who register can be paired with vetted NZDA hunters and go in the draw to win over \$3,200 worth of prizes from Bushnell and Hunting & Fishing NZ Ltd.

The hunter categories also have great prizes up for grabs, including gear from Hunting & Fishing NZ, thermal monoculars from Nocpix, a tent from M.I.A, binoculars from Bushnell, freeze dried meals from Real Meals, a wild goat hunt with the NZ Hunter crew, and more—there's over \$70,000 worth of prizes, it's a great time to get involved.

"We want to see wild goat hunting become a regular feature in the hunting calendar," says Mike Perry, Wild Animals Manager at DOC.

Thinking of entering this year's comp? Entries are open from 1 August to 26 November. Whether you're hunting on public land or teaming up with a local landowner, you never know where it might take you.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition is brought to you by the Department of Conservation and the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association. It is supported by Federated Farmers of NZ, Hunting & Fishing NZ, and Te Tari Pūreke Firearms Safety Authority.

ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION



1 August – 26 November

**Compete for national and regional prizes
while helping to protect the environment.**

Brought to you by



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



For information on how to
enter, visit [doc.govt.nz/
wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).

*You can take part anywhere you have permission
to hunt. The competition promotes safe firearms
use, keeping safe in the backcountry, ethical and
humane hunting.*

Supported by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Hunting & Fishing New Zealand
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**For more information contact:
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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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Branch Solicitor	Luke Stewart (From Holland Beckett)	
Eastern Region Fish and Game Council	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!

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COMMITTEE MEETING:

Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
All correspondence to be sent to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

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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

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*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.*



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