



Bay of Plenty

# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

**NOVEMBER 2025**

**RIVERBEND  
BREAKTHROUGH:  
MY FIRST  
PUBLIC  
LAND  
DEER**

*(See Kyle Steven's story on page 9)*

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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](mailto:editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz) and you could win a \$100 Bar Tab at The Raft Café & Sports Bar - 65 Chapel Street Tauranga.**

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

## NOVEMBER 2025

*Hi Team,*

**I'm writing this report while reflecting on last night's committee meeting. Most of you don't get to see the inner workings of our branch – with a committee of 15 looking after a membership of over 600 there's a huge number of volunteer hours that go unrecognized and unrewarded. It's not an easy job and know I'm not the only one thinks "what's the point, I should just go hunting".**

With such a large Branch, it's not possible for everyone to know everything, so we've settled into a format where we rely on sub committees who are tasked with their area of interest. We have the Range, HUNTS Course, Club Hunts, and the occasional smaller group such as our 75th planning group. The members of these subcommittee don't have to be committee members, so if you have a particular area of interest and would like to be more involved, please consider reaching out and supporting us.

The 2025 HUNTS Course has now wrapped up for the year and I'd like to thank Doug and Lester for all their hard work. There are also a number of other volunteers that support this course so a big thanks to all those who contributed. This year we had 20 students who came from many different backgrounds. The course is considered a starting point for your hunting career so I hope each of you took a great deal from it. A big congratulations to Jono and Joshua for winning the HUNTS Course shield.

The 75th Anniversary dinner in November is approaching fast and so far, ticket sales have been disappointing. While we understand times are tight, tickets are roughly the price of a box of bullets, so it's not a huge cost. An enormous amount of work has been put into this event and it would be a shame to have to cancel simply because people are leaving it until the last minute. We started with the goal of providing a fantastic evening that everyone can enjoy so talk to your better half, book a babysitter, and buy a couple of tickets before it's too late.

Club Hunts have been an unsung hero of our Branch as of late. With a couple of new faces joining the committee, some fresh energy has resulted in quite a range of new hunting opportunities and I believe October could hold the record for having the most hunts in our clubs history with a total of 4 different hunts. Club Hunt Chair, Andrew Burr, has also started keeping track of the numbers and reports that as of the 1st of August, 42 people have attended club hunts with 48 deer, 6 goats, and 1 pig being harvested. Great stuff!

As we head towards the silly season, I appreciate that the demands on everyone's time is going to increase but please remember that our club relies on you being actively involved, so the next time you're enjoying an organized hunt or sending rounds down range, please consider if you're giving as much as you take, and perhaps think about how you can be more involved.

*Tim Taylor*

**BOP PRESIDENT**

*Join us for the*  
**FINAL CLUB NIGHT OF 2025**  
**Tuesday, December 2nd from 7PM**

*Come and join us  
for a free beer and  
a venison sausage  
and celebrate our  
75th Anniversary.*



# BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025/26

<b>DECEMBER</b>	<p><b>2 December</b>          Club Night - Celebrate our 75th Anniversary          Come and join us for a free beer and a venison sausage!          Starts: 7pm</p>	
<b>JANUARY</b>	<p><b>6 January</b>          THERE IS NO CLUB NIGHT IN JANUARY</p>	<p><b>11 January</b>          50m .22LR Rimfire Benchrest          Contact: Baden - baden.prentice@gmail.com</p>
	<p><b>24-26 January</b>          NZDA North Is Benchrest Championship, Tokoroa          Contact: Baden - baden.prentice@gmail.com</p>	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<p><b>3 February</b>          Club Night - GPS Navigation          Speaker: Kieran Andrews, Garmin NZ          Starts: 7pm</p>	<p><b>TBC</b>          Club Hunt - Koranga Forks Hut          Contact: Dan - 022 128 0828</p>
	<p><b>15 February</b>          Peeking Wallaby Match          Contact: Baden - baden.prentice@gmail.com</p>	
<b>MARCH</b>	<p><b>3 March</b>          Special Pre-Roar Club Night          Location: Hamills Tauranga          Starts: 7pm</p>	<p><b>8 March</b>          Pre-Roar Shoot, 100m 4 position          Contact: Baden - baden.prentice@gmail.com</p>
	<p><b>14 March</b>          Club Roar Hunt - Pakihi Hut          Contact: Tim - tim@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</p>	
Visit: <a href="http://www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events" style="color: white;">www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events</a> for more NZDA BOP events and activities.		

# COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE: ISABELL ZITZELSBERGER

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



**Name:** Isabell Zitzelsberger

**Position:** Secretary

**Age:** 40

**Day Job:** Main Chick at Wild Chix

#### **NZDA Background:**

I did my HUNTS course in 2021 and suddenly I was secretary.

#### **Passion within NZDA:**

I love to get passionate people come together and share their stories and create memories together. I love learning about something I care about.

#### **Favourite Caliber and why:**

Sorry, have to be boring and it is my 7mm08. Just love her a lot and think rifles are like puppies - nice when they're new and shiny, but the more adventures you go on the more you appreciate each others company. Haha.

#### **What you want to contribute to NZDA:**

I want the Club to be a fun place to go to, where likeminded people can meet and have a good time!

# TOURNAMENT REPORT

## PEEKING WALLABY MATCH

### Tournament Report: November 2nd Peeking Wallaby Match

The fourth and final match of the year was held a few weeks ago.

Eleven shooters in all turned out for some beautiful weather. Hamish Orr the NZDA national vice president attended and he brought with him another Whangarei branch member. All in all four of the shooters came from other branches.

#### First places were:

- Bull Kelp in custom with 142 (6PPC)
- Aragorn in factory rifle with 96 (30-06)
- Frodo with 98 in factory benchrest (22-250REM)
- Adrian with 121 in tactical practical hunter (6.5CM)

Three shooters managed to hit the hop flower at 200m and win themselves a \$50 voucher from the Hop House bar and restaurant. The final results for the full year are on the branch website.



### Upcoming shoots for the calendar over the next quarter:

#### Sunday 11th January

50m .22LR Rimfire Benchrest

#### Sunday 15th February

Peeking Wallaby Match

#### Sunday 8th March

Pre-Roar Shoot,  
100m 4 position

\*NZDA North Is Benchrest Championship,  
24th - 26th January. Hosted by the Bay of Plenty  
Branch at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex.







**RIVERBEND  
BREAKTHROUGH:**

# **MY FIRST PUBLIC LAND DEER**



Photo: Divvy the meat up for the hike out

**When the call went out for the Tawa Hut club hunt, I jumped at the opportunity. The Waioeka was a stretch of country I'd been eyeing for a while, and the chance to tag along with guys who'd had recent success there seemed too good to pass up.**

With leave booked and gear packed (and repacked multiple times), I hit the road for four days in the bush. When I got the carpark, I could tell two of the party had already headed in, and I knew there were two more behind me somewhere—so I set off solo. The infamous Burn lived up to its name, and I was glad to be on my own—it meant I could take regular breaks and question why I was doing this to myself without judgment.

When I reached the hut, I was the only one there—but not for long. Chris and Jason arrived shortly after, and Dan, Clayton, and Maple (Clayton's dog) weren't far behind after heading out to check a couple of nearby slips. That evening was spent sitting around the fire cooking up a feed and making a plan for the next day.

After a good night's sleep and a quick brekky, Chris and I set off before daybreak to make the most of the morning. Within five minutes, we were into our first river crossing—wet squelchy boots would become the theme of the day. It didn't take long to spot fresh sign along the river edges, so we slowed right down and stalked carefully around each bend.



Photo: Chris with his hind

About a kilometer upriver, we ducked into the bush to cut the next bend and get a look at the flat beyond. As we approached the edge, Chris pulled up and took a knee. He signaled back—two deer. We were in a great position: good cover, wind in our faces, and the river masking any sound we made.

As we sat and watched, it became clear we were looking at a hind and her yearling. The hind was alert, lifting her head often, which pinned us to our positions. Our initial plan was to line up and drop both animals on the count of three, but they kept crossing in front of each other, or one of us couldn't see our target. Time for Plan B. Chris had a clear shot at the hind, and we figured if he dropped her, the yearling wouldn't go far, giving me a chance at him too.

Chris lined up and executed his part perfectly, hitting the hind in the front shoulder. The suppressed shot echoed through the hills, and both deer started running—straight toward us. The hind dropped in the river, and the yearling just stood there, as we'd hoped.

Part two of the plan was on me. "Don't stuff this up," I thought. I had a clear view as the yearling turned to look upriver. I squeezed the trigger and saw my shot land. He didn't drop straight away—just stood there, stunned. I'd done it. My first public land deer!



Photo above: The infamous Burn

Photo below: Ready for the carry back to the Hut.





Photo left: The meat tree | Photo right: Maple chilling in front of the fire after a big day

It was 7:45am and we had two deer on the ground. We dragged them up onto the riverbank, took a breather, and started breaking them down—hanging legs and back steaks in a shady tree as we went. With most of the day still ahead we decided to continue upriver and see if we could reach Makakoere Hut, one of the few still standing in Te Urewera. We had lunch there before heading back to our meat tree. No more deer sightings, but we returned to camp with heavier packs than we'd set off with.

The others were back at Tawa Hut when we arrived, and they'd had a successful day up the next valley over - another two deer hanging up in the tree outside the hut. That night we ate well, shared stories, and made the call to head out a

day earlier than planned. We had plenty of meat to share among the five of us, and carrying any more would've been a struggle.

The next morning, we boned out the meat and divided it up for the long walk back to the carpark. The walk out with heavy packs took us an hour longer than it did to come in, and we were all pleased to see the cars.

For anyone thinking about joining a club hunt—do it. Like me, you'll probably find adventure, challenge, learn lots, and maybe even meet someone who'll put you on your first public land deer. (Thanks again Chris!)

*Kyle Steven*

# HEAD FOR THE HILLS: SUN PROTECTION AT ALTITUDE

## THE NEW ZEALAND SUN IS NO JOKE.

With some of the highest ultraviolet (UV) levels on Earth and one of the highest melanoma rates in the world, hunters are exposed to far more than just the elements. Long days glassing hillsides, walking ridgelines, or waiting in open country can leave even seasoned hunters burnt, dehydrated, and fatigued. That's why a good technical sunhat isn't just an accessory, it's an essential tool.

## Harsh Light, High Stakes

Our latitude means the ozone layer above New Zealand is thinner than elsewhere, allowing more UV radiation to reach the ground. Combine that with reflective alpine terrain, open tussock country, or riverbeds that bounce sunlight from below, and you're getting hammered from every direction. At higher altitudes, UV intensity increases by roughly 10% with every thousand metres climbed, meaning those bluebird days above the bushline are the most punishing of all.

Sunburn isn't just uncomfortable; it's cumulative damage. Over time, repeated exposure increases the risk of skin cancer and melanoma, something Kiwi hunters are statistically more vulnerable to than almost anyone else on the planet. A solid hat is your first line of defence.

## What Makes a Great Hunting Sunhat?

A proper hunting sunhat should offer full protection, breathability, and comfort without interfering with your field of vision or hearing. Look for these key features:

- **Wide, structured brim:** Shields face, neck, and ears from direct sunlight.
- **Neck cape or flap:** Covers the back of your neck, one of the most commonly burnt spots.
- **Moisture-wicking materials:** Keep sweat off your brow and prevent overheating during long stalks.
- **Dark underbrim:** Reduces glare from water, snow, or bright rock faces.
- **Adjustable fit:** So it stays put when the wind kicks in.

## Sunday Afternoons: Built for Serious Sun

Among the best technical options for hunters are the **Sunday Afternoons range of performance sunhats**, designed for extreme UV environments like ours. They're lightweight, packable, washable, and built to last through seasons of hard use.

The **Cruiser Hat** is a top pick, with a simple aesthetic hiding a wealth of features, like crown mesh venting, broad brim, and UPF 50+ fabric. It blocks over 98% of UV rays. The ventilation and adjustable fit ensure peak comfort, and it floats, making it handy for those summer river crossings and ocean or lakeside campsites.



For alpine hunters, the **Ultra Adventure Hat** adds a stiffer brim that resists wind flap, along with a darker underbrim to reduce glare at altitude. It's also crushable, so you can stuff it in a pack lid without worrying, with a handy **Sunglass Lock™** to keep your shades secure on your head when you're not wearing them.



If you like a more traditional brimmed style, the **Charter Escape Hat** strikes the perfect balance between casual looks and serious sun protection. It feels at home in town yet performs faultlessly on hot, exposed hillsides. Thoughtful details, like a hidden pocket for cash or cards, make it as practical as it is stylish.



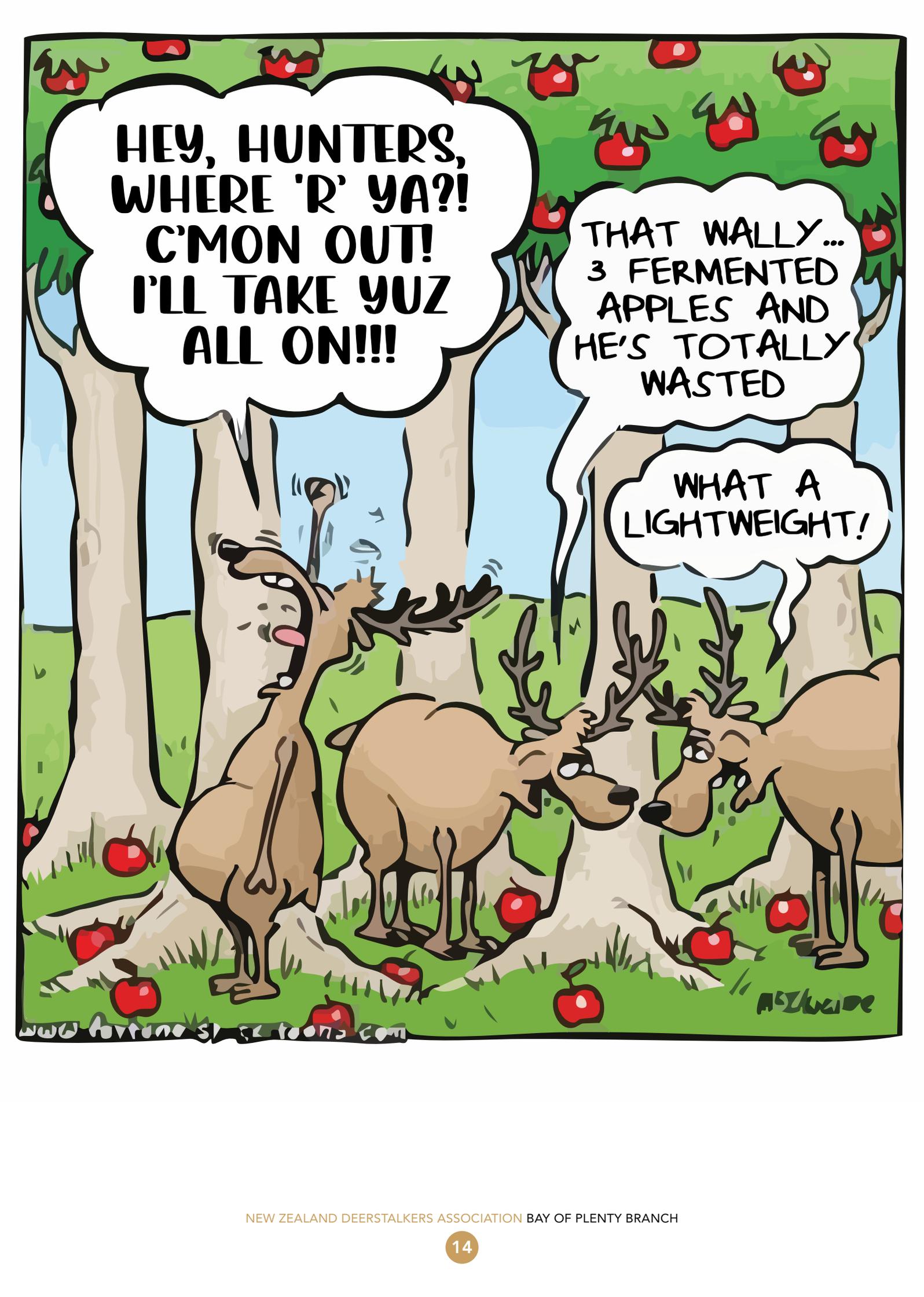
For those who prefer a cap, the **Sun Guide Cap** delivers the familiar feel of a classic ball cap with clever technical upgrades. Its removable **Convertible Ventilation™** system and extra-wide, folding **Clamshell Brim™** provide adaptable coverage, while the ponytail-friendly design keeps it comfortable and functional in any conditions.



## The Smarter Way to Hunt in Summer

A technical sunhat isn't just about comfort; it's about endurance and health. When temperatures climb and the UV index is off the charts, your hat helps regulate body temperature, protects your eyes, and prevents fatigue caused by constant glare. It's one of those bits of gear that you forget about until you don't have it, and then you wish you did.

This summer, start by choosing the right hat to complement your sunscreen. Whether you're tracking deer through mountain scrub or setting up a camp by the river, the right headwear could be the simplest, smartest investment in your long-term health.



HEY, HUNTERS,  
WHERE 'R' YA?!  
C'MON OUT!  
I'LL TAKE YUZ  
ALL ON!!!

THAT WALLY...  
3 FERMENTED  
APPLES AND  
HE'S TOTALLY  
WASTED

WHAT A  
LIGHTWEIGHT!



# HUNTING GEAR

## FOR SALE

ITEM	PRICE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Tikka T3X Blackout 7mm PRC	\$2499.00	• Left Hand New	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Tikka T3x CTR 6.5 Creedmoor	\$1999.00		Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Lithgow LA101 22 Magnum	\$1499.00	• Laminate or Synthetic stock	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Garmin Rhino 650 GPS	\$350.00		Andrew Burr 021 477 599
ATV Gun Racks	from \$108.00		Andrew Burr 021 477 599
2005 HONDA CRF230	\$3400.00 ono	• Freshly serviced and all tidied up	Andrew Burr 021 477 599
2009 YAMAHA TTR110	\$2200.00 ono	• Freshly serviced and all tidied up	Andrew Burr 021 477 599
Garmin eTrex touch 25	\$250.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has all maps for NZ installed via sim</li> <li>• Has been used once but never used in the bush so effectively brand new</li> <li>• RRP \$430.00</li> <li>• Still in the box with everything it came with</li> </ul>	Karl Jager 027 714 1778
Ruger Mk1 M77 .243	\$1000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good condition with Leupold Vari-X 11 2-7 scope and Ruger rings</li> <li>• Includes 3 boxes of .243 ammunition</li> </ul>	Barnaby 02108375490
TRX300 4x4 Bigred	\$3500.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully serviced</li> <li>• Light bar</li> <li>• Rear mat</li> <li>• Mud flaps</li> <li>• Bull bar</li> <li>• Good tyres</li> </ul>	Kerry Pask 0211371671 kerry@ offroadmotorcycles.co.nz

## 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](mailto: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.



# JAMAICAN GOAT CURRY

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 6 to 8 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 tablespoon allspice (see Step 1)
- 3 pounds goat stew meat  
(use lamb or beef if you can't find goat)
- Salt
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 to 2 habanero or Scotch bonnet  
peppers, seeded and chopped
- 1 (2-inch) piece ginger, peeled  
and minced
- 1 head garlic, peeled and chopped
- 1 to 2 (15-ounce) cans coconut milk
- 1 (15-ounce) can tomato sauce or  
crushed tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 3 to 4 cups water
- 5 Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and  
cut into 1-inch chunks

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Make the curry powder: If you can find Jamaican curry powder, definitely use it. If not, use regular curry powder and add the allspice to it. You will need at least 6 tablespoons of spices for this stew, and you can kick it up to 8-9 depending on how spicy you like it.
2. Cut and salt the goat meat: Cut the meat into large chunks, maybe 2-3 inches across. If you have bones, you can use them, too. Salt everything well and set aside to come to room temperature for about 30 minutes.
3. Heat the curry powder in oil: Heat the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Mix in 2 tablespoons of the curry powder and heat until fragrant.
4. Brown meat in curried oil: Pat the meat dry and brown well in the curried oil. Do this in batches and don't overcrowd the pot. It will take a while to do this, maybe 30 minutes or so. Set the browned meat aside in a bowl. (When all the meat is browned, if you have bones, add them and brown them, too.)
5. Cook onions, habanero, ginger, garlic: Add the onions and habanero to the pot and sauté, stirring from time to time, until the onions just start to brown, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle some salt over them as they cook. Add the ginger and garlic, mix well and sauté for another 1-2 minutes.
6. Put the meat (and bones, if using) back into the pot, along with any juices left in the bowl. Mix well.
7. Add coconut milk, tomatoes, curry powder, water, thyme, then simmer: Pour in the coconut milk and tomatoes and 5 tablespoons of the curry powder. Stir to combine. If you are using 2 cans of coconut milk, add 3 cups of water. If you're only using 1 can, add 4 cups of water. Add the thyme.
8. Bring to a simmer and let it cook until the meat is falling-apart tender, which will take at least 2 hours. Longer if you have a mature goat.
9. Add potatoes: Once the meat is close to being done – tender but not falling apart yet – Add the potatoes and mix in. The stew is done when the potatoes are. Taste for salt and add some if it needs it.
10. Skim fat: You might need to skim off the layer of fat at the top of the curry before serving. Do this with a large, shallow spoon, skimming into a bowl. Also, be sure to remove any bones before you serve the curry.
11. Serve with Jamaican rice and peas, a coconut rice with kidney beans.

RECIPE CREDIT: [https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/jamaican\\_goat\\_curry/](https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/jamaican_goat_curry/)

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

# ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION

**FINAL  
DAYS**



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*You can take part anywhere you have permission  
to hunt. The competition promotes safe firearms  
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# **NZDA BOP CLUB CHILLER**

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**For more information contact:  
Vice President - Jeremy Woolerton  
Phone: 027 738 5899 or  
Email: [membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)**



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# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

Club Rooms, R617 SH 29, between Barks 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	Tim Taylor	<a href="mailto:president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
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Treasurer	Jill Fryer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Social Media Manager	Josh Keen	<a href="mailto:keen.joshuaj@gmail.com">keen.joshuaj@gmail.com</a>
Range Sub-Committee	Dean Maisey Baden Prentice Chris Fryer Tim Taylor Evan Dines	

# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

## OTHER DELEGATIONS AND BRANCH CONTACTS:

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Club Hunts Coordinator & Chiller Custodian	Andrew Burr	021 477 599 <a href="mailto:andrew@quadbitz.co.nz">andrew@quadbitz.co.nz</a>
Club Website Administrator	Reuben Hayward	<a href="mailto:reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz">reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</a>
Branch Solicitor	Luke Stewart (From Holland Beckett)	
Eastern Region Fish and Game Council	Mike Jarvie	<a href="mailto:rangernz@gmail.com">rangernz@gmail.com</a>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*



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