



Bay of Plenty

# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

**DECEMBER 2025**

# DREAMS DON'T CHASE THEMSELVES.

*(See Tim Taylor's story on page 7)*



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

## DECEMBER 2025

*Hi Team,*

**Merry Christmas Everyone!**

**By the time this newsletter hits your inbox we will be knocking on Christmas's door, so I hope you've all managed to survive the silly season and are looking forward to a summer break with family.**

Looking back on 2025, I believe it's been a challenging year for the country. With commodity prices high, and the economy stagnant, it's felt like we're only just treading water. If you're anything like me, that pisses you off; we all suffered through the covid years with the promise of better things to come and we're still waiting. As always, politics plays a big role in the mood of our country, and as firearms owners we've been at the blunt end of that stick for a long time. About the same time that Nicole McKee was introducing her revamped firearms legislation to Parliament, Andrew Hoggard was deciding that the country should go to war with deer. Time will tell how these changes will affect us, but I for one, would love to see the hunting landscape settle down for a while.

*While the country has been stagnant, our club has not. Membership continues to grow and I like to think that's because of several reasons:*

1. People are genuinely looking for a place that they belong in our society - an environment where they can interact with like-minded individuals without fear of retribution.
2. Hunting is resuming its spot in the national psyche as a legitimate way to feed your family - have you purchased a steak at the supermarket recently?
3. Our club has great assets - the range is one of the best in the country.
4. We cater for a variety of interests and ability levels - hunting, shooting, bush craft etc.

With all this in mind, it's important to note that nothing happens without the hard work of volunteers, and sadly we're seeing far less people stepping forward. With around 700 members, we're rapidly finding ourselves in new territory, where demand outweighs capacity, and we will soon have to start asking ourselves hard questions about how we can manage it. I'll use the range as an example. With around 300 range ticket holders each paying \$100 for their range ticket, that's only \$30,000 per year to maintain the whole facility. Take away GST,

TECT Park fees, and we're not left with much. In a similar fashion, the HUNTS course continues to see demand outpacing capacity. We could easily run two courses per year, but the reality is that like the range, we don't have the volunteer capacity to facilitate this. I've said it many times that a club is a community, and you get back what you put in so, while you're taking a breather this summer, I'd like you to have a think about what you can contribute. Perhaps you work for a company that could donate some materials for the range. Perhaps you have a professional skill set that would be useful for the club. Or perhaps you would like to take others there on a club hunt. I'd challenge you all to pick one thing that you can offer and see it through in 2026...700 people all donating one thing would be a powerful force.

Looking further ahead, it won't be long until the roar is upon us and I for one are greatly looking forward to chasing silly stags around the hills once again. The holidays would be a great time to read up on our branch and National competitions, and perhaps challenge yourself, or your family members, to enter one of those. Did you know that there is a National competition for the most outstanding young Deerstalker of the year? If you have a child under the age of 21 who loves hunting, you should read up on the entry requirements for that. Or did you know that we have a Branch trophy for best Kaimai Red Deer head? Heads out of the Kaimai's typically don't win National awards, so any stag you secure could be in the running for this particular trophy.

Finally, I'd like to pass on my thanks to all those who have contributed to the Branch in 2025. We've had some amazing club hunts, some awesome club night speakers, the HUNTS course, and many activities at the Range. Your contributions are what we are as the BOP Branch, so a huge thanks from all of us. Also, a big thanks to my committee. You are the unsung heroes of the Branch, with most of your work going unseen, but without you things would fall apart.

I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you in the new year but until then, I'm wishing you and your families a great Christmas.

*Tim Taylor*  
BOP PRESIDENT

# WE WANT YOUR



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# BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2026

JANUARY	<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>	
FEBRUARY	<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>	
MARCH	<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: [www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events](http://www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/club-events) for more NZDA BOP events and activities.

# COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE: JILL FRYER

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



**Name:** Jill Fryer

**Position:** Treasurer

**Age:** 69

**Day Job:** Accountant/Director of Upshot NZ Limited.  
Helping people get their financials and tax correct.

#### **NZDA Background:**

Been a family member since 1997 which changed to a full member June 2023 when I took on the Treasurer's role. Became a NRO March 2021.

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

Helping others get the most from their club. I am lucky to be able to do this via the Public Open Days and as a committee member.

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

I love my original 243 but my favourite is now my Sabatti 6.5 x 55. It is very accurate and produces a clean kill.

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

Be a voice to advocate safe firearms use and encourage non members to join NZDA BOP.



# DREAMS DON'T CHASE THEMSELVES

**TAURANGA TOWER, HOTEL QUEBEC MIKE LEAVING THE ZONE.”**

**I'm cruising along at 80knots (150km/hr), 1200ft above Matakana Island and for the first time I can relax. I allow myself to sink back into the leather seat, release the tension in my hands, check the gauges, and begin to enjoy the view. A grin slowly spreads over my face as I realise that I'm flying a helicopter solo.**

It was mid 2024 and I felt like I was in a rut. The days were merging into one, and while I had nothing to complain about, I just felt like I wasn't achieving anything. I needed a new challenge - something to focus on, to be excited about, and preferably something that would scare me a little. Like so many Kiwi hunters, I've been brought up on a diet of venison recovery stories and often dreamt of getting my pilots license, and when I woke on that fateful morning with helicopters on the brain, I decided right then that I was going to learn to fly. I figured no one was going to make this dream come true except for myself, so if I wanted it, I had to chase it.



So where to start? A quick search online gave me all the information I could ever want, but I found that it was almost too much. I needed some advice. Due to the relationship between NZDA and the Sika Foundation, I happened to be ccd onto an email chain with Helisika, so I thought I'd take my chances and send an email to the boss, Tony, and ask for his advice. He couldn't have been more helpful and recommended I get in touch with Shamus Howard from Adventure Helicopters. Shamus had originally started Helisika and as it happened, he now taught out of the Tauranga airport which was a real bonus for me. Getting in touch with Shamus, his first piece of advice was to come in for a trail flight just to see if I enjoyed it, which I obviously did, and that put me on the path to obtaining my license.

So, what do you need to know about getting a helicopter license? Lots, but here's a few important points you'll need to factor in.

1. A private license requires a minimum of 50 hours flying (realistically this will be closer to 60), and a commercial is a minimum of 150 hours. Your instructor will advise you when he thinks you're ready to undergo the flight exams so nothing is set in stone.
2. As well as the flying, there are 6 theory exams which you must do for both the private and commercial license. You buy the books and do them at your own pace. When you're ready to do the exam, you book them in online and go to the location you've selected to sit them. They're all multiple-choice exams and they vary in length. You need to have passed all 6 of them done before you can do your first solo cross-country flight. If you struggle with self-study, there are often night classes available to join at local aero clubs.
3. Cost is a massive factor. Depending on which helicopter the training company has, you can expect to pay between \$750-\$1500 per hour, plus extras like landing fees.

4. There are very few training organisations that offer student loans. Most people train with private companies that require you to pay upfront. Unless you can tack it onto your mortgage, you'll need access to cash.

5. You will need a medical certificate to get your license. At minimum you need a DL9 drivers license medical for your private (restrictions apply), and for your commercial you will need a Class 1 medical certificate. The Class 1 is more intensive so if you think you'd like to do your commercial pilots license, it's recommended you do this medical at the very start in case they decline your license on medical grounds – it's better to know early. These are another \$1000 by the way and must be completed annually!

6. The two most common helicopters to learn in are the Robinson R22 and Guimbal Cabri – both are 2-seater helicopters. Another common option is the Robinson R44 which is a 4-seater, but this is double the price.

7. You need a rating for each helicopter you want to fly. When selecting your training company, it's important to ask what you'll be learning in because upon getting your license, you'll have a rating for that helicopter. Word of advice, the Cabri is considered a great helicopter to learn in, however very few commercial operators use them, so if you intend to go on to get your commercial license, you'll probably have to fork out for another rating if this is what you train in.

Now that you've got the paperwork done and found some cash, you're at the point where you're ready to learn. This is where both the fun and frustration start. I won't get lost in the details but very briefly, your left hand holds the collective, which controls the engine power and makes you go up and down. Your right hand holds the cyclic which controls the forward, back, and side to side. While your feet control the tail rotor which is basically your left and right turn. Sound confusing? It is and roughly your first 10 hours will concentrate on learning to control them while hovering. It was described to me as balancing a ping pong ball on a dinner plate and I can tell you right now that it's going to be the most challenging things you've ever done. If you're anything like me, you'll probably throw your toys more than once and, on these occasions, I simply turned to the instructor and simply said "I'm cooked." They understand the process and despite what you may think at the time, you do get there. Tim's tip – lay off the caffeine during

this phase as you'll be full of adrenaline and nerves, so a coffee before the flight doesn't do you any favours...I switched to decaf.

Once you've mastered the hover you don't stop practicing but the lessons do become more exciting. You'll start to learn the process of takeoffs and landings, controlling the helicopter in flight, and even auto rotations which is the art of controlling the helicopter in a simulated engine failure. The first time your instructor cuts the power at 1000ft and instructs you to land is an absolute rush!

Finally you'll go solo. You've been working towards this moment for a long time and you know it's coming, but no matter how well you've prepared, it'll hit you like a ton of bricks. My instructor never told me that was the plan on a particular day. We'd been doing some exercises when suddenly he announced that he was getting out and was going to instruct via radio from the ground while I flew solo. Was I nervous? Absolutely. Did I have time to overthink it? Not in the moment. As you lift into your first solo hover, you feel the difference in balance and slowly tilt the nose forward to translate into forward flight. You know the basic parameters of flying and you must simply trust your training. I walked away from that flight not even knowing how to feel. I was mentally exhausted, and as I mentioned in the opening paragraph, it wasn't until a few hours later before I really started to relax into the solo flying.

So what's next? I'm a little over halfway through at this point and this is where the fun (and pressure) really begins. Looking forward, there's cross country flights, mountain flying and the many hours it'll take to polish everything up. My instructor has told me "I won't pass you until I'm confident you won't put your family in danger" so just like the first solo, I'll put my faith in the training and enjoy chasing the dream.

*Tim Taylor*

# NOT ALL BLADES ARE EQUAL: A KIWI HUNTER'S GUIDE TO KNIFE DESIGN



THERE IS AS MUCH SCIENCE AS ART INVOLVED IN A GREAT KNIFE. THE RIGHT BLADE SHAPE CAN MAKE SKINNING, CAPING OR EVEN SIMPLE CAMP TASKS QUICKER, SAFER AND CLEANER.

From clever modern designs to traditional styles to the do-it-all reliability of a multi-tool, there's a blade out there that's perfect for the way you hunt. Here's a closer look at the different blade designs and some of the best models you can get right here in New Zealand.

## DROP POINT: The Kiwi hunter's go-to

If there's one blade shape that works brilliantly for just about everything a New Zealand hunter gets up to, it's the drop point. The spine of the blade gently slopes down to the tip, giving you a big belly for slicing and a strong point for precision.



### TOP PICK: HONEY BADGER FLIPPER

This is a lightweight but rugged folding knife with superb edge retention thanks to its D2 steel. The broad belly makes it a dream for skinning deer or goats, and the one-handed flipper action means you can deploy it easily even with cold fingers. It's also got a textured handle that gives a great grip when things get messy.

## TANTO BLADE: EDC in your pocket

A tanto blade is built for strength and confident piercing. Its angular tip delivers exceptional durability, letting you tackle tougher tasks without worrying about snapping the point. While it has less belly for slicing, the reinforced tip excels at controlled, forceful cuts, making a tanto a reliable



pocket companion for demanding everyday carry.

### TOP PICK: HONEY BADGER TANTO

Inspired by the short armour-piercing swords used by Samurai in feudal Japan, this classic and rugged knife packs a punch, given its compact proportions. Hunters value a tanto blade for its rugged reliability when working on deer in the bush. The reinforced tip handles tough hide and precise punctures without risk of snapping. Its strong angular point gives controlled power for field tasks, making it a dependable backup blade alongside a primary hunting knife.

## GUT HOOK: Designed to keep things clean

If you do a lot of hunting for meat, you'll know there's nothing worse than accidentally nicking the guts. A gut hook is a simple solution. This small, sharpened hook on the spine lets you unzip an animal quickly without puncturing anything that could ruin your meat.

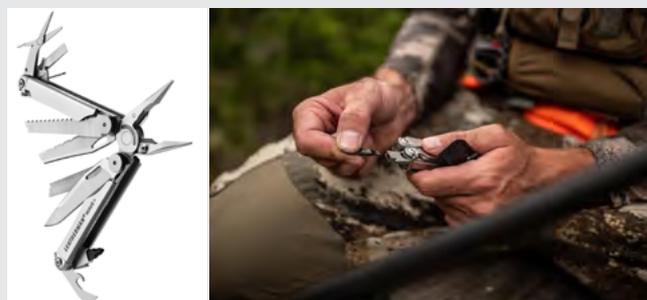


### TOP PICK: HONEY BADGER GUT HOOK MEDIUM

Honey Badger's gut hook knife is lightweight, strong, and has an easy-clean design that's ideal for repeated field use. The gut hook itself is sharp and well-placed, making short work of opening up animals cleanly.

## SERRATED EDGES: For ropes, straps and tough stuff

Plain edges are excellent for meat and hide, but once you need to cut fibrous materials, like ropes, pack straps, and small branches, a serrated edge makes life a lot easier.



### TOP PICK: LEATHERMAN WAVE+

This iconic multi-tool includes both straight and fully serrated blades. That means you can keep your plain-edge razor sharp for meat work, and let the serrations handle the rough stuff. The Wave+ also packs in pliers, wire cutters, saw, drivers and more, perfect for fixing gear at camp or in the field.

## FIXED BLADES: Rugged simplicity that never fails

While folders are handy and pocket-friendly, there's a lot to be said for the solid feel and reliability of a fixed blade. No moving parts means nothing to gum up with blood, mud or fat, and they're often easier to clean thoroughly after heavy use.

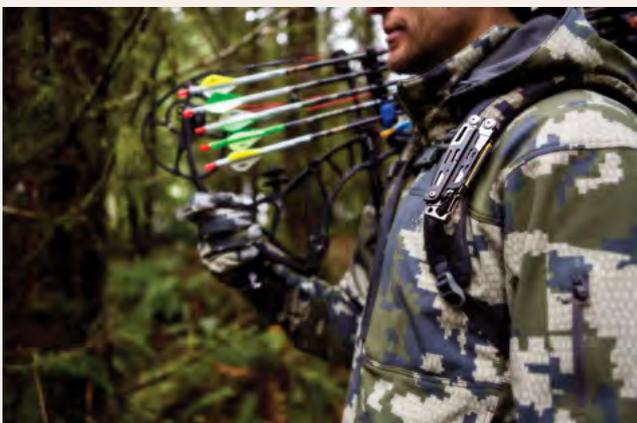


### TOP PICK: WHITBY FIXED BLADE WITH WOOD HANDLE

This traditional knife gives you a strong, full-tang blade and a comfortable, polished wood handle. It's the sort of knife your grandfather would have carried, dependable, simple, and perfect for hunters who value feel and control when breaking down animals.

## MULTI-TOOL MAGIC: For when a knife isn't enough

Sometimes you need more than just a blade. Maybe it's tightening a loose scope mount, snipping wire on a meat pole, or opening a well-earned beer after the long drag out. That's where a proper multi-tool comes in.



### TOP PICK: LEATHERMAN SIGNAL

A rugged multi tool built for the outdoors, with extras like a ferro rod, hammer, emergency whistle and even a built-in sharpener. Hunters who like multi-day missions into the hills rate it highly for peace of mind.

## STRAIGHT EDGES: Still the best for meat

At the end of the day, a clean, plain edge is still your best friend for most hunting jobs. They're easier to keep razor sharp, simple to clean up after gutting, and give you smooth, precise cuts.



### TOP PICK: HONEY BADGER FLIPPER (AGAIN!)

It's worth highlighting twice because it ticks nearly every box for Kiwi hunters. A tough, well-shaped straight edge that holds an edge beautifully and flicks open one-handed. If you only buy one knife this season, this would be hard to beat.

## + BUILD THE KIT THAT SUITS YOUR STYLE

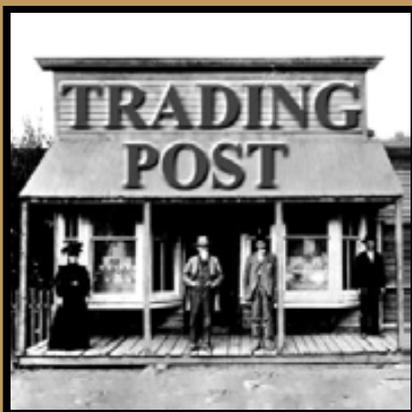
**There's no single knife that's best for every hunter and every mission, which is why many carry a couple of blades, maybe a drop point for general work, a gut hook for processing, and a multi-tool for everything else.**

**This is also why knives make an excellent Christmas gift for the hunter in your life, because no hunter is ever disappointed with a great knife!**

So... Where do you find all those flying reindeer?



McIlwaine



# 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.

# RANGE NEWS - DECEMBER

## Hello members.

*Here is your update on range matters for this month.*

### 1. RANGE TICKET HOLDERS

All NZDA BOP range ticket holders must now provide us with their firearms license number, which will then be stored securely along with their other personal information in the NZDA National associations Bitrix membership system. An indication of when you last did any range training would also be helpful, even if it's just a rough estimate of when you last did any refreshers, or your initial training to get your range ticket. Our membership secretary Jeremy sent out an email to all range ticket holders on 2/12, and this has been re-sent by Tim on 10/12. There are still a lot of range ticket holders that have not completed the required survey yet, and while we realise that some people have not received the email for some reason (check your spam or email filter) we need this info now, ASAP. Please note that this is not optional, nor is it up for debate or dispute, it is a legal requirement for us to have this requested information on file if you want to retain your access to the rifle range.

As a range operator, NZDA BOP have obligations under the Arms Regulations 1992.

On 29 June 2025 these regulations were amended to include section 28GZV Enrolment: conditions relating to duty officers.

The way our range operates, all range ticket holders are duty officers. This enables each of us to access the range for casual use. It is also why we each have to go through a comprehensive range induction process and occasional refreshers. Under section 28GZV the NZDA BOP are now required to hold records for all duty officers including name, FAL number and training.

While we have many members FAL and training details on record, we do have a few gaps where data has not been disclosed or where the information has not been carried forward from a legacy paper based or electronic databases. We are using this opportunity to re-confirm all range ticket holders FAL number to ensure the information we have is current and accurate.

### 2. SIGN IN

At the range there is a new sign-in book, which everyone who is attending the range on casual-use days MUST fill in. Yes, including your full name, especially if that person is a non-member. Everyone is reminded that they must also re-read and understand the range standing orders. If more than one person is shooting on the range, then one of those persons must be designated as the 'Duty Range officer', or 'Officer in charge' of the firing line. A printed notice with the main rules to be followed, and some new/updated signage, has just been installed in the firing line building.

### 3. RULES REMINDER:

A reminder of the rule - that standard range ticket holders cannot take their non-member mates (or extended family members, whose names are not listed on their NZDA Family membership) up to the range to shoot. We are now having to impose a temporary ban on any standard range ticket holders from taking any observers up to the range with them, unless they hold an NRO qualification. This has become necessary now due to a few recent examples of 'confusion' around the range rules, and to reduce the risk of incidents on our range from having un-trained and un-insured persons on our range without NRO supervision. So for the immediate future, the range access rules are as follows:

Standard range ticket holders – gate access is for themselves only, and other current range ticket holders. (Access for their spouse, and any kids under 18 – only permitted if their names are listed on their NZDA BOP family membership. No observers or persons that don't have their own range ticket can be given access to the range. Any exceptions to this directive will require prior written permission of the Range Manager. i.e. if you need someone to come along to help you carry your shooting gear, due to physical injury, etc.)

Nationally Qualified Range Officers (NRO) – access is for themselves, and any NZDA BOP members or non-members under their supervision.

Because we are now having to more closely monitor and manage the range use, anyone found to be deliberately violating the rules and circumventing our safety procedures, may have their range access suspended, or revoked. Any standard range ticket holders must also provide their name and membership details, etc. to an NRO on the range if requested, and follow any of the instructions or directives that may be given.

### 4. WORKING BEE

Working bee – scheduled for Saturday, January 17th. Weather permitting, we will need to rebuild some target lines, and do a general cleanup and spraying work, etc. at the range. The range may be closed for the whole day. Keep an eye on the range calendar and our group facebook page for more updates closer to the time. The club requires volunteer input from all range ticket holders and members in order to get things done and keep the range open, as well as keeping subs down.

### 5. NO RANGE OPEN DAY FOR DEC

Note that there is no 'Range Open Day' at the end of December. If you require NRO supervision to access the range (or to be able to take any guests to the range with you) then please send out the request via the contact form on the 'range information page' of our clubs website. Please be conscious though that a lot of people are away or spending time with family over the Christmas/New Year period, so please do not expect or demand an urgent response to any enquiries during this time.

**Best wishes to all for Christmas, and a good start to the new Year in 2026.**

*Regards, Dean Maisey.*

**New NRO (National Range Officer) Training course**

**DO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN NRO?** Contact [rangeroster@deerstalkersbop.org.nz](mailto:rangeroster@deerstalkersbop.org.nz)



## FESTIVE VENISON STEW WITH CHESTNUTS, PANCETTA AND BRANDY

### INGREDIENTS:

2 lb. venison chops (I had meat with some bones which equaled about 500 gr. of meat without bones) – cut into small-medium chunks  
350-300 gr. brown button mushroom, sliced  
2 large sweet onions, sliced  
150 gr. pancetta, cubed  
2 large parsnips (~200 gr.), thickly sliced  
2 medium carrots (~250 gr.), thickly sliced  
200-250 gr. cooked and peeled chestnuts, crumbled  
1 tbsp. minced rosemary  
5-7 large sage leaves, chiffonade  
1-2 bay leaves  
1/2 to 1 whole nutmeg, grated  
3 tsp. flour  
about 1 cup of brandy  
about 3 cups (or more) of light broth  
2 tbsp. olive oil, divided  
1 tbsp. butter  
salt and pepper, to taste

Additional:  
pomegranate arils, optional, for garnish

### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a Dutch oven or other heavy-bottomed pan, heat 1 tbsp. of olive oil over high-medium heat. Sear the venison chunks in 2-3 batches, for about 5-7 minutes each batch. Remove and set aside.
2. Add the mushrooms to the same Dutch oven and cook without adding any extra oil for about 7-10 minutes, until they release the excess of water and then start browning.
3. Decrease heat to medium-low. Add the second tablespoon of oil and onions and cook 7-10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft and aromatic. If necessary, you can deglaze the pan with a splash of brandy.
4. Add the pancetta, rosemary, sage, and cook for about 5 minutes to brown the pancetta slightly.
5. In a meantime, in a separate small saucepan, cook the flour over low-medium heat for 3 minutes, until fragrant and slightly browned. Add 1 tbsp. of butter and 1/2 cup of hot broth or water, whisking constantly, until homogenous, cook for 2 minutes.
6. Add this slurry to the Dutch oven, mixing with a spoon constantly, to incorporate. Return the seared venison chunks to the Dutch oven. Add about 2,5 cups of broth, 1 cup of brandy, nutmeg, and bay leave. Season with some salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for about 1 hour to 1 hour and 20 minutes, until the venison is getting quite soft. You may need to add more broth during this step.
7. Stir in the parsnips, cook 5 minutes.
8. Stir in the carrots, cook 15-20 minutes, or until the carrots and parsnips almost done.
9. Stir in the crumbled chestnuts and cook just for another minute or so. Check and adjust the seasoning, if necessary. Also, if desired, add another splash of brandy. Remove the bay leaves. Enjoy served with a side of your choice. If you love pomegranate seeds, you can also sprinkle with some – they will add freshness and brightness. Keep leftovers refrigerated for up to 4 days.

RECIPE CREDIT: <https://www.havocinthekitchen.com/christmas-venison-stew/>

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# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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

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# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

## OTHER DELEGATIONS AND BRANCH CONTACTS:

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Club Website Administrator	Reuben Hayward	reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
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](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  
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