



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



JULY 2022

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



NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

Our mission statement is to retain, enhance and create opportunities for the enjoyment of legitimate recreational hunting and the sport of shooting, for the members of the Association.

Founded in 1950, the Bay of Plenty NZDA is a branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association.



COVER PHOTO: Tim Taylor's first tahr. Want to feature on the cover?! If you have a photo suitable for the cover, please send it through to editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

PRESIDENTS REPORT: JULY 2022

WE'RE PAST THE WINTER SOLSTICE AND STARTING TO GET THE WINTER WEATHER. NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PREVIOUS SEASON AND START MAKING HUNTING PLANS FOR THE NEXT ONE. IF YOU'RE LIKE ME AND HUNT THROUGH THE WINTER, THEN IT'S TIME TO DIG OUT THE COLD WEATHER CLOTHES AND RE-WATERPROOF YOUR RAIN WEAR, BAGS AND TENTS. WE HAVE SOME GOOD WINTER TRIPS PLANNED SO DON'T FORGET TO CHECK THE UPCOMING HUNTS AND GET YOUR NAME DOWN.

The tail end of May we supported DOC with a Kiwi Survey in the Kaimai Range, there was mixed success with bad weather giving some a thorough drenching. Thanks to those who supported this effort, it was really good to be able to report back to DOC on behalf of the branch with some good news from our efforts.

Participating in opportunities like these goes a long way to building a positive relationship with DOC and other stake holders in the public land we like to hunt on.

Queen's Birthday weekend followed a very wet week but didn't put off the planned hunt on the Whanganui, read more about this trip later in this newsletter.

Unfortunately the working bee was cancelled due to the growing scope of work not being fully sorted. As you may

have seen, the drain behind the clubrooms has now been cleared with a digger and we're closer to being ready to plant some natives. We'll let you all know a date once the working bee is rescheduled.

On the 14th of June I attended a meeting in Taupo with DOC and other stake holders where the new Director General of Conservation Penny Nelson discussed the \$30m in funding for goat control and deer management. The Minister of Conservation was also supposed to attend but with the change in cabinet the afternoon prior this didn't happen.

There were representatives from several NZDA branches, the NZDA Board, the Game Animal Council and other groups with a common interest in the new funding. The positive message from DOC is that they have changed their strategy when it comes to deer on public land and are now looking at management of deer herds as opposed to the previous ideas that included terms such as eradication, extermination, suppression and control.

This positive change where DOC now recognise deer as a valuable introduced species that requires management is something NZDA has been advocating for on your behalf for many years. The best

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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

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

CLUB OFFICERS:

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Vice President	Tim Taylor	027 668 9904 tim@nzdabop.org.nz
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Accountant	Cam Graham	
Grants Coordinator	Peter Setz	

CLUB NIGHT:

First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Doors open at 7pm if you want to come early for a chat!

COMMITTEE MEETING:

Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

All correspondence to be sent to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

NEWSLETTER:

Deadlines for newsletter contributions is the 20th of the month. Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the branch, its executive committee or the national association. All newsletter content to be sent to editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: JULY 2022

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way forward for our hunting opportunities is for sustainable forests with sustainable herds that produced quality trophies and good condition animals for the freezer. It's really pleasing to see a positive change from the engagement the hunting sector has been doing with DOC.

The second meeting invitation to get me out of work for a day was for a handover ceremony at the base of Wairere Falls where DOC officially handed over the Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project to the stewardship of the Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust.

The MKMT has several hunters on the Board of Trustees which along with iwi and hapū representatives provide a strong voice for hunters when it comes to the management of our favourite four legged vegetarians. I am really looking forward to seeing some positive changes in our Kaimai Mamaku forest over the next couple of decades.

At the end of July a number of committee members will be off to Hamilton to attend the NZDA National Conference and AGM. This is always a great time and the networking, sharing of ideas and relationship strengthening with other branches is a really important aspect of being part of the national organisation.

It's often said that most of the important matters are discussed around the bar and it's certainly been my experience in the past. The National Competition entries will be judged and the prizegiving held on the Saturday evening, I'm hopeful for those branch members who have entered. If you missed measuring night but have an outstanding trophy, it's not too late yet, get in touch with Keith and you might be lucky.

This month is our AGM and it would be really good to see a strong turnout from the membership. The committee and others contribute a lot to the branch throughout the year and the AGM is an opportunity to show your support and gratitude for the thousands of hours of volunteer time that is put in by these dedicated volunteers. This is also your chance to ask questions about the annual financial statements and to vote for the Branch Officers and Committee for the coming year.

Thanks to all of you who have supported the branch over the last twelve months, there have certainly been some challenges.

Thanks for the support I've received as your Branch President, it's been a privilege not taken lightly and I hope most if not all of you have been pleased with how the branch has functioned over this disrupted period. See you at the AGM.

Reuben

BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2022

JULY	<p>HOT WATER BEACH, LAKE TARAWERA Location: Hot Water Beach Date: 8th - 10th Organiser: Ken Buckley, kenbuckley10@gmail.com, 027 698 3544</p>	<p>AHT Prizegiving BBO Date: 23rd at 12pm</p>	<p>HURUNUI HUT VS. MANGAMUKA Date: 30th - 31st Organiser: Lewis Hayward, lewis@nzdabop.org.nz, 022 370 2622 Note: We are looking for another hunt leader for the Mangamuka hut.</p>
AUGUST	<p>CLUB NIGHT: ANNEALING MADE PERFECT Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: 2nd</p>	<p>PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Location: NZDA BOP Range Date: 6th Organiser: Baden Prentice 027 490 8613</p>	<p>WAIHOHONU HUT, DESERT ROAD Date: 26th - 28th Organiser: Iain Macaulay, iainmaca@gmail.com, 021 263 9845</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>CLUB NIGHT: WHIO RECOVERY PROGRAMME Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: 6th</p>	<p>HUNTS COURSE Date: 10th - 11th Organiser: Bob Tatton, huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz</p>	<p>PUREORA Date: TBC Organiser: Stacy Whiteman, tauranga@hamillsnz.co.nz, 021 567 117</p>
OCTOBER	<p>CLUB NIGHT: SIKA HUNTING Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: 4th</p>	<p>WAIOEKA RIVER RAFTING Date: TBC but possibly Labour Weekend Organiser: Reuben or Tim</p>	<p>TAHR HUNT Date: 29th Oct - 5th Nov Organiser: Stan Lowe, lowe2147@gmail.com, 027 667 1140</p>
NOVEMBER	<p>LAKE OKATAINA WALLABY HUNT Date: TBC but around the end of November Organiser: TBC</p>		
DECEMBER	<p>OAMARU HUT Date: TBC Organiser: TBC</p>		

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

WINTER TAHR RUT

BUBBLE CREEK, LANDSBOROUGH RIVER

NOW I MUST ADMIT THAT BEFORE I SIGNED UP FOR THIS TRIP, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TAHR NOR DID I KNOW THAT THERE IS A BALLOTTED PERIOD FOR HUNTING THEM. BUT I'M A FAST LEARNER AND FROM A NORTH ISLANDERS PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS A BLOODY GOOD EXPERIENCE. I GOT MY ASS KICKED, I GOT STUCK IN A TENT FOR DAYS ON END, AND I SHOT MY FIRST TAHR. WHAT MORE COULD A HUNTER WISH FOR!

WORDS PICS: Tim Taylor

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Glassing in perfect morning conditions.



Tahr have a rut period that runs roughly from May to August and during this time the bulls change their behaviour. Much like a stag, the big boys try to round up a good harem and the younger boys try to steal it off them.

When they're looking for the girls, they commute between a lot more feeding areas, and once they've found them, they seem to favour lower elevations. All of this makes them more accessible to the average hunter, with the only downside being that it comes at a time of the year when the weather can be horrible verging on deadly.

Each year DOC runs a balloted period for accessing the Adams and Landsborough areas. These areas are wilderness areas, so no helicopter landings are allowed during the year, however if you're lucky enough to secure a ballot, you are

awarded the right for one landing and pickup in a 7-day period in a set location. There are 25 different landing spots, 12 periods for each spot and it's run in a similar manner to the Wapiti ballot: you choose your desired locations and period, pay the \$60 fee, and you may get lucky.

You're allowed to put in one ballot per person so if you're serious, each member of your party will put in their own ballot. This year I missed out, but my good buddy Twiggy got his, so we were off to Bubble Creek at the start of June.





Bubble Creek is the highest balloted spot in the Landsborough River and snow is well within the possibility in June. Winter hunting to me typically means a bit more rain than usual, however in the Southern Alps it means ice axe and crampons.

The week prior to our trip there had been a big dump of snow, and our forecast was for a couple of ok days followed by 3-5 days of absolute mayhem. I'd done my research and hadn't mucked around with gear, but I was still apprehensive. I phoned Twigs the day before I was due to fly down...

*"What do you think mate?"
"Tim, I need this, I'm going with or without you."
"Stuff it, I'm in!"*

The whine of a jet engine, the warning alarm as it redlines over the pass, the smell of jet fuel, the silence afterwards. There's just something that's awesome about a chopper flight. Deposited in the middle of nowhere I took a moment to take it all in. It had been months in the making and suddenly we had the whole place to ourselves for 7 days. My first thought was *"Crap, how am I ever going to be able to climb those mountains!"*

ABOVE: Our home away from home next to the Landsborough River.

We set up camp and tore off down river for our first hunt. The plan was to make it to the opposite plateau and spend the rest of the day glassing. Tahr are known to feed down to lower elevation in the late afternoon, so we were hoping to make the most of the settled weather and find something that evening.

Annoyingly, the weather gods hadn't received the same forecast as us, and for the remainder of the day we dodged showery squalls.



“BY THE TIME DARKNESS FELL WE WERE FROZEN SOLID. RIGHT ON LAST LIGHT, SEVERAL BULLS HAD EMERGED, BUT THEY WEREN’T WHAT WE WERE HOPING FOR SIZE WISE, SO WE RETREATED TO OUR TENT AND THE WARMTH OF THE FIRE.”

ABOVE: A bull low down in the scrub.

Now normally I wouldn't think this to be too much of an issue, we were prepared: However, I was soon to learn that the first rule of winter Tahr hunting is don't get wet! We were above the snowline and spending hours sitting still while glassing is not the best way to keep warm.

By the time darkness fell we were frozen solid. Right on last light, several bulls had emerged, but they weren't what we were hoping for size wise, so we retreated to our tent and the warmth of the fire.

In the pre-dawn darkness, we made our way up the Landsborough under headlamp, being careful with our footing. The temperature was well below

freezing, with puddles frozen solid and rocks slick with ice. By daybreak we had finished our climb and were once again freezing our ass off as we glassed new faces.

It was a picture-perfect day, but the animals knew it and had beaten us with their retreat to higher elevations. By late morning we had located several promising bulls, but they necessitated a decent hike and required us to negotiate several steep faces.

Now I must admit that heights are not my forte. Traversing down the first big slope almost did me in me mentally, but it was

negotiating a house-size boulder to get to the other side of the river that finished me off...I lost my rag, had a bit of a panic attack, and pretty well threw my toys.

Normally I wouldn't be too proud of admitting this sort of thing, but I after a bit of time to reflect, and I have to say that it was a good experience to have. The embarrassment that followed gave me a lot of motivation, and in the following days I was to push well past my normal limits.

Day three the storm arrived. We were packed and ready for an early start just in case

the forecast was wrong, but when the alarm went at 5am, the sound of rain on the tent told us all we needed to know. We were woken at 8 by a clap of thunder and for the rest of the day we were treated to the most amazing show of lightning that I've ever witnessed.

The rain had eased by lunchtime on day 4. We'd been sitting under the tent awning spotting tahr in between the squalls when Twigg asked, *"Should we risk it?"* Ten minutes later we were climbing Bubble Creek heading towards a mob that we'd been watching.

Nearing the top of the creek, just where it turned from huge boulders to vertical scree, the storm came back in force. My nerves were already shot, due to the height and steepness, and I had to force myself not to look back down. My brain was screaming at me so I kept three thoughts in mind to help manage the vertigo:

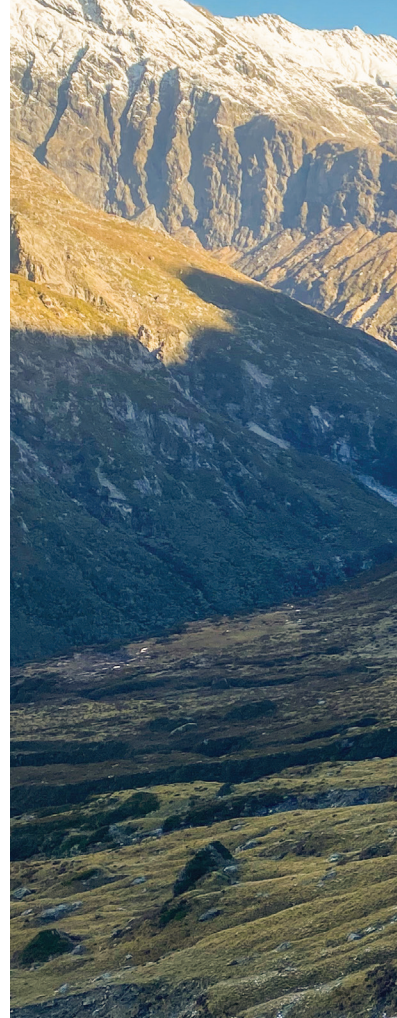
I knew Twigs would never put me in danger. I kept telling myself that getting back down was a problem

"WE HAD CLIMBED TO 1400M AND WERE UP IN THE HEART OF THE STORM. DRIVING RAIN, HAIL, AND SNOW WERE MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO TALK BUT TWIGS STILL FOUND A WAY TO PUT US IN A GOOD SHOOTING POSITION."

for future Tim... deal with it later. I kept a quote in mind *"How do you eat a whale? One bite at a time"* - I kept going upwards one bite at a time.

We had climbed to 1400m and were up in the heart of the storm. Driving rain, hail, and snow were making it difficult to talk but Twigs still found a way to put us in a good shooting position. Borrowing his 7mm Rem Mag, it was a straight shot of 375m, and the bull slumped down just as quickly as the sound of the shot was swallowed by the wind.

There wasn't time for celebration as it was well



past 4pm and the daylight was already fading. Twigs looked at me and shouted, *"You don't want to go where I'm going bud, I'll bring it down to you."* With the storm threatening to tear us off the mountain I wasn't about to start complaining so half an hour later we met in the creek for butchering and photos. *"You have to get*

The cheeky juvenile
on our final day.



photos of your first one he said...a bloody good friend he is!

We only had half an hour of useable light left so pushing hard, we dropped down into the safer elevation of Bubble Creek. I was still absolutely petrified but was surprised at how I was getting used to managing the fear, all the

while just thinking *"One bite at a time"*.

In the pouring rain and under headlamp, we made camp in one piece and feeling bloody good with ourselves. We pulled out on our deckchairs and had a well-deserved beer. Side note, we later measured the bull at 10" which is by

no means a trophy, but considering the way we went about the hunt, it's something I'll always be proud of.

Day five the weather got worse. The rain turned to hail and the river rose dramatically, but we were warm, dry and had a mountain of food to get



LEFT: Pancakes on a rainy day.

through. You really get to know a bloke when you spend every second of the day with him, and the running joke was that we knew each other's poop schedule. Late on day six the weather broke so we nipped upriver for an evening hunt.

There were numerous bulls, nannies, and juveniles out relishing the drier conditions, but we had agreed that after shooting my first, the only two choices would be an easy nanny for meat or a 12+ inch trophy. We watched until sunset before descending via a scree slope to camp. Again, we

sat out having a post hunt beer, feeling good about life, and this time we were able to enjoy the stars.

Our final day on the hill was a stunner and we were downriver and glassing by sunrise. There were numerous animals to be seen, including one mob with a decent bull only 200m away but on the other side of the river. Twigs was being a bit of a South Islander wasn't keen on getting wet, so I made the decision to strip down.

We've all read the stories of hunters crossing rivers in their jocks, and I felt this

was just one of those things I had to do. Now I'm not going to lie, that crossing was uncomfortable, but it was bloody funny.

If anyone had of chanced upon us it would have made an entertaining sight... two skinny white boys, wearing only undies and a pack crossing a snow melt river. I think the Tahr must have died of laughter because they weren't to be found!

Late in the afternoon we had climbed a frozen tussock slope and were glassing a mob which included 3 bulls all around the 11-12" mark. The combination of wet boots, ice, and wind, had me frozen to the core and combined with the height, I was battling a bit.

Despite these factors, I was loving it, and had enjoyed getting up there without the extra pressure of finding an animal to shoot.

The consensus was these bulls all needed another couple of years so we were hoping people in the next



ABOVE: Tims first tahr.

ballots would have the same foresight. We were about to head back down when Twigs grabbed my shoulder and whispered, *"There's a Tahr 50m below us, don't move."* Out of the corner of my eye I could see it approaching, so very carefully I pulled out my phone and started recording.

This young bull must have decided to investigate us as he walked to within 2 metres before cramp forced

us to move. With a snort he bounded off to a safe distance while we laughed and told him how much of a silly bugger he was. It was a great way to end a hunt.

The final morning arrived and our week in the mountains was over. The Hughes 500 settled next to our gear and another round of eager blokes looked around with wide eyes at the mountain above them. I cringed at how we must have smelt as we buckled up next to the pilot.

Within minutes we were back in civilization and later that afternoon, surrounded by beautiful smelling people, we inhaled beers and burgers at Cardrona. Out of curiosity we checked the forecast and only one word described it. Dang!

I later found out that these fellas spent 7 continuous days stuck in the tent, receiving 2 metres of snow, and had to wait an 3 extra days for the helicopter to pick them up. So that's winter tahr hunting age.



NZDA BOP HUNTER BUDDY PROGRAM

**THIS YEAR WE LAUNCHED
THE NZDA BOP HUNTER
BUDDY PROGRAM.**

The purpose of the Hunter Buddy Program is "To provide an opportunity for new members and post-

HUNTS course graduate hunters to gain valuable experience with more seasoned hunters, in order

to develop and consolidate skills and knowledge".

In addition to this, the program aims "to establish friendships and support networks for new hunters within the club to enable them to feel a sense of

belonging to a hunting community of outdoor enthusiasts”.

If you're an experienced hunter, think about how your knowledge and skills could benefit those new to the adventure of hunting. If you're a novice hunter think about what you can do to prepare yourself for your next hunting adventure and grow your capabilities.

The HUNTS course is still the best way for those new to hunting to immerse themselves in the basics of hunting and establish a solid foundation of knowledge to build on in the future.

The Hunter Buddy Program provides the opportunity for those who have completed a HUNTS course to continue being mentored by more seasoned hunters as well as the opportunity for those less experienced and new to the Branch to build on their existing knowledge, while establishing relationships with other members.


Experienced hunters volunteering to be 'buddied up' with an inexperienced hunter will be vetted by those coordinating

the program to ensure inexperienced hunters are paired up with a suitably capable hunter who has the necessary experience.

Experienced hunters who participate in the program and who meet the criteria will be entered into a prize draw, with the lucky winner

taking away a Stoney Creek Stalking Pullover (courtesy of Stoney Creek) and a \$200 Hamills voucher.

To participate in the program contact Lewis Hayward at lewis@nzdabop.org.nz or speak to a committee member at a Club Night.

 STONEY CREEK
STALKING PULLOVER



Rusa Fawn
Galatea,
North Island



JULY 8TH-10TH LAKE TARAWERA CLUB HUNT



Get the boat out of hibernation and come enjoy the natural hot water after a day of hunting for reds, sambar, wallaby or pigs.

Location: Lake Tarawera.

Cost: \$15/night if you intend to camp.

Getting there: Access via boat or Tarawera trail, approx. 2-3 hour walk in.

Please email Ken Buckley to register your interest:
kenbuckley10@gmail.com
027 698 3544



NZDA BOP CLUB NIGHT: **AMP ANNEALING**

August 2nd, 2022
7.30pm ~ 10.00pm

AS GUEST SPEAKER ON THIS CLUB NIGHT WE HAVE THE PUKEKOHE COMPANY ANNEALING MADE PERFECT WHO MAKE THE AMP ANNEALING ELECTRIC INDUCTION MACHINES.

These machines are a no mess, simple solution, for annealing cartridge brass to extend life and aid in consistent bullet release.

Earlier this year AMP released their AMP Press for extremely accurate and precise Force / Distance bullet seating measurements.

They are a NZ small business success story and their machines are exported all over the world.

So, if you would like to know more about how their research and technology is helping target shooters, long range shooters or hand loaders in general, please come along.

www.ampannealing.com



PRIZE GIVING AHT AND PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

SATURDAY 23RD
12PM AT THE CLUBROOMS

BRING A PLATE TO SHARE. MEAT WILL BE PROVIDED. BBQ WILL BE READY AT NOON. THERE WILL BE A SHARED LUNCH FOLLOWED BY A PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY AND FURTHER SOCIALIZING.



This is a great opportunity to bring family and friends along for a social gathering and celebration of members hunting achievements.

Everyone welcome but please RSVP to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz so we know how much meat to cook.



KAIMAI RIDGEWAY TRUST BRANCH CONTACT PERSON REQUIRED

IF YOU LIVE LOCAL TO THE KAIMAI RANGE AND ENJOY GETTING UP THE TOP REGULARLY THEN WE COULD DO WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Stan Lowe is our NZDA representative on the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust. It would be great if we had another person in the branch to be a contact person for when Stan is away and to assist with liaising between KRT and our branch for routine hut checks and minor maintenance requirements.

If you frequent the Kaimai Range regularly and are keen to assist Stan in liaising between KRT and our branch then get in touch with Stan at lowe2147@gmail.com or on 07 868 4515.

PEEKING WALLABY MATCH DATES

2022

Sunday 7th August

Sunday 6th November

2023

Sunday 12th February

Sunday 7th May

Sunday 6th August

Sunday 5th November

Registration between 8:30am - 9:15am on the day.

Match rules can be found on the Range page of the club [website](#).

Phone Baden on 027 490 8613 for more information or match sponsorship opportunities.



DOGS FOR SALE

2x Black/White male and 2x Tan male Labany puppies. Mother is a Black Laborador. Father is a Brittany Spaniel. Both dogs excellent with deer and duck hunting. We are very keen to see them go to hunting families. Ready to go from 2/7/22 with 1st vaccination done. \$800 each

Contact: Sarah Davis 027 462 1570



WHANGANUI HUNT REPORT

THE LEAD UP TO THE WHANGANUI TRIP HAD HEAVY RAIN MUCH LIKE LAST YEAR, ONLY THIS YEAR WE WERE TOLD THAT THE RIVER HADN'T BEEN THIS HIGH IN 15-20 YEARS SO THERE WERE LOTS OF PHONE CALLS BEING MADE AND OPINIONS BEING SOUGHT FROM EXPERIENCED RIVER ADVENTURERS AS TO THE PRACTICALITY AND SAFETY OF PUTTING ON THE RIVER AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL.

In the end we made the call to take rafts for the safety of the three youngest in the party. Arriving at Whakahoro late on the Friday evening we had a quick look with a spot light and head torches which

revealed a river still in full flood. While the river level had been going down for the best part of 24 hours it was still exceptionally high. We got a good nights sleep in the DOC hut and woke early to get underway.

Putting on the river was a sticky affair with thick knee deep mud covering the jet boat ramp and river banks for many metres. As we discovered further on, it was everywhere the water had eddied when the river was at maximum height, a slippery challenge to land in several places.

Once we were underway, headed out of the Retaruke River and onto the Whanganui there was plenty of excitement as the swift current dragged us off to our weekend hunt.



There was enthusiasm at the first sighting of game, a couple of ducks that looked like dinner. As we hurled down the river at speed it was clear the goats we encountered last year weren't out and about despite the good weather after the previous week of heavy rain.

Still we were keeping sharp eyes and vying for pole position on the river so as to not miss out on an opportunity when it presented itself. Which it did soon enough and we did some "conservation work".

A short while into the trip we came to our first

"fun" section. Unexpected though not surprising, there was a reasonable section of large pressure waves which the rafts easily rolled over, exciting the younger party members and bringing back fond memories in others of some really gnarly rapids.

The only canoe amongst us did the smart thing and stayed in the smoother water along the edge of the river, getting left behind for a period.

Soon enough we were pulling up on the side to shoot some more stinkers and the others were sailing past to find the next ones.

"ONCE WE WERE UNDERWAY, HEADED OUT OF THE RETARUKE RIVER AND ONTO THE WHANGANUI THERE WAS PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AS THE SWIFT CURRENT DRAGGED US OFF TO OUR WEEKEND HUNT."

As we were floating a smooth but fast section with all three vessels in relative close proximity, someone called "goat,



“WE WERE ALL ON A HIGH HAVING A DEER ON THE COUNT AND TWO DAYS STILL TO GO. THERE WAS PLENTY OF TALK WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COMING DAYS AND WE ENJOYED A BUTTER DUCK CURRY FOR DINNER.”

there, a brown one”, then it put it’s head up with a surprised yet inquisitive look. We were just as surprised... it was a spiker! There was a sudden haste to paddle and then rifles at the ready.

Bang! The first vessel had missed and sailed on past a now fully alert young stag. Bang! The second vessel missed. Oh bother, quick,

reload. The third vessel managed a buck shot to slow it down but missed with the 9mm.

Now the second vessel was nearly too far past but just managed a lucky last chance shot to drop it, straight through the neck with the 338WM and it toppled into the swollen river. The two front vessels disappeared off

around the corner in the swift current leaving the lads at the back to do the paddling work to recover the camp meat.

A handful more goats and a duck or two and we were at the first hut in plenty of time to explore about camp and get settled in for the night.

We were all on a high having a deer on the count and two days still to go. There was plenty of talk with high



expectations for the coming days and we enjoyed a butter duck curry for dinner. The next two days consisted of the odd goat, a few more ducks and plenty of blazing at pesky geese.

By the time we got to Pipiriki on the last day the river level had dropped

about 6-7 metres from where it had been 36 hours before we set off. Down from over 2000 cubic metres per second to a still high but more reasonable 290m/s.

We had made it, safely and relatively easily. An enjoyable time by all 9

of us and some great memories made, especially for the 4 juniors. We learnt from our shuttle driver that a DOC contractor had spent the previous 3 weeks culling goats along the river, hence the low numbers this year. Something to check on next time!

HUNTS COURSE 2022

THERE ARE A FEW PLACES AVAILABLE ON THIS YEAR'S COURSE STARTING ON 1ST AUGUST.

Anyone interested in completing this course should email: huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

The usual help from experienced hunters will be requested to guide students on the one-to-one hunt. This will be at Waikaremoana on 9th - 11th September.



NZDA BOP CLUB CHILLER

CHILLER USE RULES

- Chiller use is a privilege that may be removed if access is abused or rules not adhered to.
- Clean up after yourself, every time you access the chiller.
- Use a fish bin or other suitable container to catch dripping blood etc. and remove from site when you take your meat away.
- No skinning or butchering on the NZDA premises. The chiller is for hanging only, no processing of any sort is allowed.
- All waste must be removed from the premises when you take your meat away, including any part of an animal, blood, and all wastewater.
- All animals/meat must be tagged with a label denoting the date hung, name and contact number of the person who hung it in the chiller. Any meat without a label will be considered a donation to the club.
- The maximum time for hanging any meat or animal is 10 days.
- Do not hang any foul meat or contaminated carcasses.
- Take care not to contaminate anyone else's meat with hair, blood, dirt etc.

It is preferable to hang all carcasses with the skin on and to hang any partially processed meat in a breathable bag or muslin cloth. Hanging carcasses and meat should not touch the chiller walls or they may (partially) freeze.

Respect the facility and other members meat.

For more information or if you need to report any issue, misuse, or abuse of the facility you can contact Reuben on **027 482 8969** or at reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

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RANGE STANDING ORDERS

REMINDER: “THE RANGE RULES”

Range ticket holders CANNOT allow other non-range ticket holders or non-members to shoot at our range. The name, date and time start time of shooters shall be recorded each time they use the range. Range flags and warning signs are to be enabled at the following locations prior to firing:

- The Range status sign's "Caution Range in Use" warning shall be displayed when the range is open for use.
- The red firing line flag shall be hoisted when the range is open for use.
- The firing line flag must be lowered, and the range status sign closed when the range is closed.
- Muzzle brake
- Ammunition
- Empty chamber indicator (ECI)/ empty chamber flag (Have 1x ECI for each rifle and insert them before leaving home)
- Ear muffs/Ear plugs
- Safety glasses and/or whatever prescription glasses you may require

An empty chamber indicator (ECI) MUST be inserted in the chamber at all times except when the Range Officer allows the shooter onto the firing point and gives permission to remove the ECI.

To review the full Range Standing Orders please go to: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/range/ and click the link for App 6.1.3 Range Standing Orders

RANGE GEAR CHECK LIST:

Print this out and put it in your gun safe or shooting box!

- Range key
- Range membership card
- Firearms license
- Paper targets
- Stapler & spare staples
- Rifle
- Bolt
- Magazine (empty)
- Suppressor
- Personal first aid kit
- Gun cases/bags/storage bins/trolley
- Bipod
- Front rest
- Rear rest/sand bags
- Slings
- Shooting mat
- Chronograph (charge any batteries)
- Phone/ballistic calculator
- Spotting scope
- Timer
- Cleaning rod
- Patches
- Bore solvent
- Tools
- Shooting diary & pen
- Ruler/tape measure
- Water & snacks
- Warm clothing

Royce Downes
NZDA BOP Branch Range Manager
021 286 1109
range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



TAHR LODGE:

SOUTH ISLAND HUNTING

Check out this great Tahr, Chamois and Red Deer hunting destination to kick back and relax and shed some of that North Island stress (the South Island is stress free!).

Built in the stunning Mount Cook National Park, near the Mount Cook Village, this is the jewel of our 'huts'.

A fabulous place to relax. Book it to have the lodge to yourself. Hot and cold running water, shower, 14 beds in 3 bunk rooms and a double in a separate room. New log fire, solar lighting, fridge freezer and all cutlery, cooking etc provided. Just linen and food required.

INFORMATION:

Sleeping up to 16, this hut has gas cooking and hot water. Very comfortable and recently updated with a new kitchen, it's a great place to stay.

To book this excellent club facility please phone Jim Kroening, 03 688 7641 evenings, or 027 276 0905 anytime.

FEES:

- Members \$15 per night.
- Members and immediate family \$25 per night.
Max of \$150 per night (capped).
- Non Member \$35 per night.
- Non Member and immediate family \$50 per night.
Max of \$250 per night (capped).

METAL IN YOUR MEAT?

A GLOBAL RESEARCH STUDY

FOR THOSE INTERESTED THERE IS A LIVE STUDY BEING UNDERTAKEN OF LEAD EXPOSURE IN NEW ZEALAND GAME MEAT HARVESTED BY HUNTERS RIGHT HERE IN NELSON. A DETAILED ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#).

I became involved in this project because I am a keen hunter and my family eats almost only meat we shoot and fish we catch. I have a PhD from the Mayo Clinic in the biomedical sciences, and that training combined with my interest in hunting resulted in me leading this project.

Outside of New Zealand, lead fragments have been found in wild game meat shot with lead bullets, but no one knows if that is the case in New Zealand. As hunting in New Zealand is very different from hunting in other parts of the world, we do not know if this study will find any lead fragments in the meat hunters provide.

If we do find lead fragments in some of the meat, people can make a choice to change bullet types, change the way they process animals, or they don't have to do anything—the goal of this work is just to let people know if there is a risk of lead exposure.

If people want to submit a sample the minimum amount we can use is about 250

grams of mince. We try to make it easy for participants so hunters can submit whatever amount they have in their freezer—we typically see 500 gram packages.

The laboratory technique to measure the amount of lead in meat requires the samples to be mincemeat, so we prefer mincemeat. But, if all people have is stew meat we have a mincer we can use to mince the meat samples they provide. We cannot process anything besides stew meat and mincemeat.

If someone wants to participate all they need to do is email Research.Admin@nmit.ac.nz or me Eric.Buenz@nmit.ac.nz and we will get them entered into the system. We provide them a pre-paid courier package to submit the sample and there is a form that gets submitted with the sample describing the animal they shot and the ammunition used.

Local people are welcome to drop samples at NMIT. We test samples once per month, so the longest people ever wait for results is about 6 weeks. We email the results as soon as we have them available.

Eric Buenz, PhD, MBA, MAg
Research Professor of Applied Industries
Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology
(NMIT)

AGM 2022

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Bay of Plenty Branch Incorporated will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 5th of July 2022 at the Branch Clubrooms, 617 State Highway 29A, Tauriko, Tauranga. Doors open 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend.



NEW HOME FOR DOG

APPROX. 18 MONTH OLD VIZSLA
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Dog's name is Jesse. Good with kids and used to being kennelled and tied up for periods.

Owner is leaving the country after her husband passed away. She wants him to go to a hunting family as he's from hunting lines and that's what her husband had him for.

Owner lives near Te Puna.

022 4317 993

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH AROUND HUNTING IN THE KAIMAI AND KAURI DIEBACK DISEASE

Kia ora,

We want to connect with people who hunt in kauri areas of the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park, including people in local private groups/networks.

This is part of a National Science Challenge project aiming to support people to protect kauri from dieback disease.

If you would be willing to walk with us in the bush while talking through some questions (this would be recorded and your identity kept private), or if you would like to know more, please email me:

vicki.macknight@otago.ac.nz

Nga mihi nui,

Dr Vicki Macknight
University of Otago

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2. Be a current member and show their membership card when picking them up.
3. Fill in an Outdoors Intention Form to be held by the Branch custodian issuing the unit.
4. Pay a \$40 cash bond, refundable on return, in original condition and on time.
5. Pay a \$10-20 donation per trip, on return, for hire of the unit.

Hire will be on a per trip basis, based on a maximum of a 21 day trip. The units will not be insured because of the cost, so any damage or loss will be payable by the user (approx. \$640).

There is no cost for the renewal of the unit if it is used in an emergency but if possible we will need it returned. Any costs incurred for rescue by emergency services or false PLB activation will be the sole responsibility of the user.

BRANCH PLB CUSTODIANS:

Dean Maisey, Welcome Bay
07 544 2207

Keith Theobald, Greerton
07 578 1195

Baden Prentice, Bethlehem
07 579 3107 (pick up can also be made from Newton St, Mt Maunganui by prior arrangement)



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NOTICE BOARD

NOTE: If you have something to buy or sell please let the editor know. Similarly, if you advertise something for sale, and then sell it, please let the editor know so your advert can be removed.

We are encouraging anyone who wants to bring a head or jaw in for measuring on club night to do so. If you bring a head to measure you'll get a free beverage.

DEERSTALKERS LIBRARY

Don't forget the library is open for club members to borrow books and DVDs.
See Richard McEwen on club nights between 7.15pm - 7.30pm.

RANGE NEWS

Royce Downes
NZDA BOP Branch Range Manager
021 286 1109
range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



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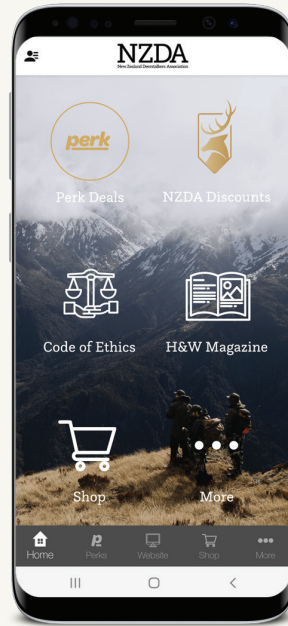
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Please join us on Facebook and Instagram for ongoing information about party hunts and information about our events.

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www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

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NZDA MEMBERSHIP FEES:

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE 2022/2023 MEMBERSHIP YEAR, PLEASE DO SO ASAP.

If you are not a financial member you cannot enter the AHT and Photographic competitions, your range access and chiller access will be revoked, and you won't be covered by the NZDA's liability insurance.

If you have any queries, contact Chris at membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

FOR SALE:

Mossberg .308WIN Bolt Action 4-Shot with Nikko Stirling scope 3-9x40. Excellent condition less than 100 rounds. \$500.00
Stirling .22LR 5-Shot Bolt Action with scope 4x32. Again little use. \$150.00
Both are being sold as surplus to requirements.

Books on hunting 100 various authors nearly all NZ. Pretty good condition. Offers to go as one lot.

Contact: Peter 022 6744 506.

RANGE OPEN DAYS:

Range Open Days are back following the lifting of some of the government's restrictions.



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CODE OF ETHICS

"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his conduct. Whatever his act they are dictated by his own conscience, rather than by a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."

Aldo Leopold, *The Sand County Almanac*

.....

A MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED WILL BE EXPECTED TO:

1. Approach recreational hunting from the highest possible level of ethics, having due regard to the welfare of the animals hunted, and prevention of cruelty to the same.
2. Not hunt or carry a firearm on property without the proper approval of the owner, occupier of controlling authority and shall strictly observe any conditions imposed upon him.
3. Be a responsible firearms owner and abide by current Firearms Laws.
4. Avoid unnecessary or deliberate damage to the environment, respect property, and other users of the outdoors.
5. Advocate sensible conservation practices at all times and promote New Zealand's biodiversity 'in situ'.
6. Practice the Field Guidelines when out hunting.
7. Be exemplary members of NZDA by promoting and abiding by its Rules, Field Guidelines and this Code of Ethics.



HUNTING SAFETY GUIDELINES

Some suggestions from committee discussions.

1. It is recommended that hunters wear Hi-Viz clothing at all times while in the hunting block.
2. Alcohol may only be consumed after the days hunting is completed.
3. Illicit drugs will not be tolerated.
4. Only load your weapon when ready to shoot at your quarry.
5. Identify your target beyond any doubt.
6. Check the firing zone for people, non-target stock, buildings etc.
7. Never fire above the skyline.
8. Unload your weapon with the barrel pointing away from any potential hazards.
9. Never skylark with weapons.

BOP BRANCH
NZDA
PO BOX 3111
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