

Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

MARCH 2023

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: Sika Hind, Kaweka Forest Park.

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: MARCH 2023

THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR FOR OUR ASSOCIATION IS KICKING OFF AND MEMBERSHIP MANAGERS ARE BUSY PROCESSING RENEWALS ALONGSIDE NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS.

We finished the last year on the highest branch membership ever and we hope the growth continues, our growth target is 10% per annum and we've almost achieved that the last two years.

Many of you will have noticed increased range fees on your invoice, but that should be no surprise after reading the notice about range fee increases in the February newsletter. As far back as I can remember, the range ticket fee has always been the same.

There was much discussion amongst the committee at recent meetings about raising the fees and we understand that it may make range access unjustifiable for some members.

“HOPEFULLY YOU HAVE MADE ROAR PLANS BY NOW, IF NOT CHECK OUT THE NEWSLETTER FOR SOME CLUB HUNTS AND CONNECT WITH OTHER MEMBERS AT A CLUB NIGHT TO MAKE SURE YOU GET MOST OUT OF THIS SEASON.”

Unfortunately, costs have been going up for the last decade, but the fees haven't and with new costs being incurred due to the new regulations as well as ongoing maintenance of the range facility, we had to make the difficult decision to increase the fees to keep the range financially viable.

However, the cost has increased by about one box of .308 ammo so it's not big in the scheme of range shooting and we hope most range ticket holders will continue to make use of the facility.

As with previous years, our March pre-roar club night is at Hamills and I'm sure it will be a great evening as always. We have some excellent club nights planned for this year so make sure you book the first Tuesday of each month in your diary and don't miss out.

Hopefully you have made roar plans by now, if not check out the newsletter for some club hunts and connect with other members at a club night to make sure you get most out of this season.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with a range of club activities. Being a member is not just about what you can get out of the club, it's also about what you can contribute. Read through the areas we need assistance with, detailed later in this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ➔

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

Club Rooms, R617 SH 29, between Barkes Corner & Takitimu Drive

Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Reuben Hayward	027 482 8969 reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Vice President	Tim Taylor	027 668 9904 tim@nzdebop.org.nz
Secretary	Isabell Zitzelsberger	secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Treasurer	David Iles	020 4085 3353 treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Patron	Keith Theobald	07 578 1195 027 693 5445

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Membership Secretary	Chris Maisey	027 496 7259 membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Range Manager	Royce Downes	021 286 1109 range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Range Sub-Committee Chairman	Chris Fryer	021 0817 2557 07 868 4515 lowe2147@gmail.com
Stan Lowe		07 578 1180 021 137 3831
Chris Munro		
Grant Hammond		
Sarah Cotching		
Josh Keen		
Aaron Collier		
Jonathan Flude		027 545 1515
Stacy Whiteman		07 578 0995
Doug Williams		07 544 3065 davonne09@xtra.co.nz
Evan Dines		027 485 9935 evandines1@gmail.com
Andre Marygold		021 419 777
Richard McEwen		021 138 2483

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

BRANCH CONTACTS:

Hunts Instructors	Keith Theobald	07 578 1195 027 693 5445
	Doug Williams	07 544 3065
Newsletter Editor	Nik Maxwell	021 0226 0185 editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Clubrooms Custodian	Keith Theobald	07 578 1195 027 693 5445
Refreshments Managers	Richard McEwen	021 138 2483
	Evan Dines	027 485 9935 evandines1@gmail.com
Chiller Custodian	Reuben Hayward	027 482 8969 reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Branch Hunts Coordinator	Tim Taylor	027 668 9904 tim@nzdbop.org.nz
Eastern Fish and Game Council Member	Mike Jarvie	mikejarvie09@gmail.com 021 808 899
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.

newsletter, and consider how you can help this coming year.

The club requires both income and volunteer hours to function, if you want to keep fees low and get the most out of your club, then do these two things: firstly, volunteer to help, secondly get your mates to join the NZDA.

More members means more income and a bigger volunteer pool, these are what we need in order to remain a strong association and continue to provide opportunities and advocacy for our members.

SUBMISSIONS ON THE ARMS REGULATIONS:

Review of fees 2022 discussion document were extended by two weeks in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle to the 2nd March.

I hope that everyone has submitted. The branch made a submission as well as the national association.

As many of you will have read, the NZDA is running a program to help hunters on the East coast in regions badly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Tim and I have offered our branch as a staging location for sending surplus hunting gear to those who have lost so much in the wake of flooding.

Read the communications on how you can assist and please donate suitable gear if you can. If you have questions on how or what to donate, contact Tim Taylor.

“THE CLUB REQUIRES BOTH INCOME AND VOLUNTEER HOURS TO FUNCTION, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP FEES LOW AND GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CLUB, THEN DO THESE TWO THINGS: FIRSTLY, VOLUNTEER TO HELP, SECONDLY GET YOUR MATES TO JOIN THE NZDA. MORE MEMBERS MEANS MORE INCOME AND A BIGGER VOLUNTEER POOL, THESE ARE WHAT WE NEED IN ORDER TO REMAIN A STRONG ASSOCIATION AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVOCACY FOR OUR MEMBERS.”

To continue to receive communications, retain access to club facilities and have your roar trophies eligible for the AHT competition, make sure you pay your membership fees on time.

Range and chiller access will change with the new financial year and late payers run the risk of losing access and missing important communications. Timely payment also reduces the administration burden on national office staff and our branch volunteers.

See you at club night! If you can't make it, best of luck for the roar. I'm looking forward to seeing those heads at measuring night.

Reuben

PRIZE FOR BEST NEWSLETTER STORY IN 2023

A \$500 HAMILLS VOUCHER DONATED BY THE HAYWARD FAMILY FOR THE BEST NEWSLETTER STORY WRITTEN BY A BRANCH MEMBER.

Story must be about a hunting trip, must be a minimum of 300 words, must be published for the first time in a 2023 newsletter and must be accompanied by at least two photos that meet the quality standards for publishing.

All stories must be emailed to the editor as an attachment in .doc or .docx format.

To be eligible to enter the competition you must be a financial member at the time of submitting the story for publishing, and to be eligible to claim the prize you must be a current financial member on the March 2024 Club Night when the winner will be announced.

Best story will be picked by the editor.

Let your inner storyteller share your adventures with us!

DEERSTALKER NIGHT MARCH 2023

REPRESENTATIVES FROM TATONKA PACKS, DOMEX SLEEPING BAGS, WINCHESTER AMMO, CZ RIFLES, LED LENSER TORCHES, MEOPTA OPTICS, AND LEATHERMAN TOOLS.

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS.

20% off Tatonka, Domex, Winchester, Led Lenser,
Leatherman and Stoney Creek clothing.

40% off Spika Clothing.

Other specials some up to 80% off.

EVERY \$50 SPENT ON THE NIGHT PUTS YOU IN THE DRAW TO WIN A RANGE OF PRIZES.

Refreshments provided.



NZDA BOP HUNTER BUDDY PROGRAM

**IN 2022 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 Sarah Cotching at sarah@nzdbop.org.nz or speak to a committee member at a Club Night.

 STONEY CREEK
STALKING PULLOVER





BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2023

MAR	CLUB NIGHT: Location: HAMILLS Date: Tuesday 7th		
APR	CLUB NIGHT: PHILIPP SPARN - FUNGI Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 4th	PAKIHI HUT HUNT Date: 13th - 16th Organiser: Daniel Gallagher 021 648 011	
MAY	PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 7th Organiser: Baden Prentice	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 9th	GALATEA HUNT Date: 12th - 14th Organiser: Sarah Cotching
JUN	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 6th	WHANGANUI RIVER CANOE TRIP Date: TBC Organiser: Isabell Zitzelsberger / Tim Taylor	
JUL	CLUB NIGHT: ANNUAL PRIZEGIVING Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 4th	LAKE TARAWERA HUNT Date: TBC Organiser: Sascha Haag	
AUG	PEEKING WALLABY MATCH Date: 6th Organiser: Baden Prentice	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 8th	RUAHINE RANGE HUNT Date: TBC Organiser: Reuben Hayward
SEP	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 5th		
OCT	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 3rd	MOKAU RIVER TRIP Date: TBC Organiser: Catherine Russel	TAHR HUNT - SOUTHERN ALPS Date: Oct 28th - Nov 5th Organiser: Stan Lowe
NOV			

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



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

2023

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.



OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES

MEDIA AND COMMS MANAGER URGENTLY REQUIRED

We need a tech savvy media manager to coordinate our communications across all our comms channels.

Our media extraordinaire will need to be familiar with website administration, social channels, HTML email, and the advertising market. To become our Media and Comms Manager, contact the committee by email at: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

BECOME A HUNTS COURSE ASSISTANT

Assisting with the HUNTS Course requires a willing attitude and a commitment to help with all sorts over the period of the course.

Duties may include preparing the clubrooms, doing the shopping, collecting sponsored goods, cooking, doing the dishes, cleaning up after a training session or anything else that may be required. To become a HUNTS Course Assistant, contact the committee by email at: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

BECOME A HUNTS INSTRUCTOR

Our HUNTS Instructors train and guide new hunters as they start their journey of learning to hunt. This is an opportunity to support the future of hunting in NZ through sharing your knowledge, skills and experience with aspiring hunters. To start the journey of becoming a HUNTS Instructor contact the committee to express your interest, they will need to support your application to the NZDA National Office to become a Provisional Instructor.

Once you've gained Provisional Instructor status, and have started assisting with instructing on the course, you will undergo several assessments by a Nationally Qualified HUNTS Assessor.

When the assessor is satisfied with your level of competency as a HUNTS Instructor you will receive certification from the National Office granting you status as a Warranted HUNTS Instructor. To find out more about becoming a HUNTS Instructor, contact the committee by email at: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

HUNTS COURSE GUIDES

Every year the HUNTS Course concludes with a guided one on one hunt, where each student is paired up with an experienced hunter for a guided hunt on publicly accessible land. The HUNTS Instructors rely on strong support from the members to have enough volunteer guides to pair with all the students.

If you enjoy sharing your knowledge, would like to help guide a novice hunter, and would like to be considered for the privilege of a catered weekend away hunting with the course students, then contact the HUNTS Instructors when the next course is advertised.

HUNTER BUDDY PROGRAM

We need experienced hunters to help mentor novice hunters. For details, see the section of this newsletter on the Hunter Buddy Program.

BECOME A RANGE OFFICER

Our Range Officers (NROs) are NZDA Nationally Qualified Range Officers. We require Range Officers to support our club range shooting activities and Range Open Days (public days).

To become a NRO you must pass the required theory and practical assessments. You will also require the support of the Branch Committee, usually granted on endorsement by the Range Manager. To find out when the next Range Officers' course is, contact our Range Manager Royce Downes at: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

BECOME A RANGE ASSISTANT

If being a Range Officer isn't your thing, but you would still like to help with range events and Range Open Days, we need members to assist with the administration side of running range activities.

Duties could include administering the registration process for open days and other events, assisting with the administration of match scoring for scored shooting events, helping with setup and pack up before and after a range event, and helping with the kitchen and BBQ if required.

ANTLER, HORN & TUSK COMPETITION HELPERS

We need to establish an AHT Sub-Committee to plan and prepare for our Annual Antler, Horn & Tusk and Photographic Competitions.

This sub-committee is ideally suited to those who are qualified Douglas Score Measurers, those aspiring to become qualified or those with a strong interest in wildlife photography.

The AHT Sub-Committee will be responsible for all aspects of the AHT and Photographic Competitions. To express your interest in being an AHT Sub-Committee Helper, contact the committee by email at: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

BECOME A DOUGLAS SCORE MEASURER

The AHT Competition requires Qualified Douglas Score Measurers to measuring all the heads and jaws that are entered in our annual competition. Normally this is all done on Measuring Night which is usually the third or fourth Tuesday in May.

If you have an interest in learning to use the Douglas Score to measure and score Antlers, Horns & Tusks, then contact the committee to express your interest and find out when the next training day is by emailing:

secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

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BILLBOARD HELPERS

The three billboards at the front of our clubrooms provide our club with a good source of income in addition to member subscriptions. This relatively passive income supports as much as one third of our operating expenses, helping to provide facilities for our members while keeping subscriptions low.

From time to time these Billboards require changing, often in a short time window, usually around the end/start of the month. It only takes two blokes 30 minutes to change a billboard skin over so it's not a big time commitment.

We need a handful of helpers that can be called upon at short notice when a skin requires changing. If you live local to our clubrooms, are handy on a ladder with a staple gun and have a flexible schedule then please contact Evan Dines at:

skinchange@nzdbop.org.nz.

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WORKING BEES

It is commonly said amongst our members and volunteers in other clubs, "it's *always the same old people*" that put their hands up to help. Be one of those people, put your hand up to help.

When there's a working bee, turn up and give some of your precious time away. Remember, everyone has the same amount of time in a day (24 hours). Others regularly give a portion of their precious time to support the organisations that you benefit from, give some of your own time back and contribute to the collective good of your club and community. Keep an eye on the newsletters and emails for the next opportunity to lend your assistance at a working bee.

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ASSIST WITH GROUNDS KEEPING

We require ongoing assistance with property maintenance at the clubrooms. Presently we have a Clubrooms Custodian, and with the support of some committee members the clubrooms maintenance and grounds keeping has been managed ad hoc to date.

Ideally, we would have a handful of volunteers who together proactively manage the property maintenance at the clubrooms.

If you enjoy keeping a well-manicured lawn or garden, are handy with a few hand or power tools and would like to support our Clubrooms Custodian to keep our premises looking sharp then contact the committee by email at: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

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TE PUKE RIFLE CLUB

LONG RANGE SHOOTING COMPETITION

Sunday, March 5th, 10am
823 Maniatutu Road, Pongakawa

SPONSORED PRIZES TO BE AWARDED!

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ENTRY FEE \$40.00

BBQ and refreshments provided.
Please keep speed below 15km per hour on farm roads and tracks.

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NO MUZZLE BREAKS.
NO RIFLE WEIGHT OR SCOPE RESTRICTIONS.
OPEN TO ALL CENTREFIRE RIFLES 8MM AND UNDER.
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR RIFLE IS ZEROED FOR 100 YARDS.

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COURSE OF FIRE:

2 CONVERTIBLE SIGHTERS PLUS 5 SHOTS TO COUNT
ONCE AT 300 AND 500 YARDS.
TWICE AT 600 YARDS.
THE COMPETITION WILL BE HELD ON ELECTRONIC TARGETS WITH
A LIFE SIZE DEER TARGET FACE AT 300 YARDS.
TOTAL ROUNDS REQUIRED FOR THE DAY - 28.

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CONTACTS:

Club Secretary - Greg McKirdy: 027 291 6102
Club President - Brian Carter: b.carter@hamertons.co.nz

FIRST DEER AWARD

THE BAY OF PLENTY
BRANCH OF THE NZDA
RECOGNISES THAT
SHOOTING YOUR
FIRST DEER IS A HUGE
ACHIEVEMENT IN ANY
HUNTERS LIFE AND WE
WISH TO RECOGNISE
YOU FOR GETTING
THIS FAR. COST OF
ENTRY IS FREE FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF OUR BRANCH.



- To be presented at a club night to any member who shoots their first deer. Members will be encouraged to share the story with the club if they feel comfortable doing so.
- Game boards will be written up and displayed at the club entrance in recognition of their success.
- Required to submit a digital photo and short story for the club magazine and/or social media.
- Not to be given out retrospectively

If you have recently shot your first deer, please notify Vice President, Tim Taylor, before the next club night so we can have your award ready to present to you.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE

NEW ZEALAND IS STILL IN SHOCK AFTER THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY CYCLONE GABRIELLE. THE NZDA HAS THREE BRANCHES IN THE WORST AFFECTED AREAS - NAPIER, HASTINGS, AND WAIROA. MANY MEMBERS FROM OUTSIDE THE AFFECTED AREAS HAVE BEEN ASKING WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP.

Firstly, the immediate needs will be the basics - food, water, shelter, and coms. The reality is that the only practical way to offer support is through cash donations to NGO's who are already on the ground.

If you wish to do so, we suggest the New Zealand Disaster Fund run by the Red Cross: www.redcross.org.nz/support-our-current-appeals/new-zealand-disaster-fund/

Secondly, the NZDA recognises that many of our members in affected areas will have lost some, if not all of their hunting equipment. With the roar nearly upon us, and freezers now empty, we believe that supporting hunters will be critical.

We are asking for donations of hunting and outdoor equipment that we will distribute to these members once a practical method can be found.

TIM'S WORK ADDRESS:

Ruahine Kayaks

5 Atuaroa Ave

Te Puke 3119

Hours are 7am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

KEY POINTS OF EQUIPMENT DONATIONS:

- Donations are being coordinated by Vice President, Tim Taylor. He will sort and store these at the Bay of Plenty Branch clubrooms until they can be safely transported and distributed.
- We are asking for donations of clean hunting clothing and outdoor gear.
- Examples of desirable items: hunting clothing, rain gear, packs, boots, cooking equipment, optics, head lamps, freeze dried meals.
- Strictly no firearms, ammunition or knives.
- This is not an excuse to dump your rubbish. If you wouldn't use it, please don't send it.
- Please make sure clothing is clean!
- Exact time and method of distribution still to be established but we will coordinate with branches in affected areas.
- If you have any items you wish to donate, please drop them into Tim's work or bring them to the March Club Night.
- Please drop off all items before the 20th of March



SOLO

PART ONE:

WORDS/PICS: Dave Sorenson

LAST YEAR I WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE FIRST STAG THAT I SHOT AND MY FIRST SOLO TRIP. IT ENDED WITH A LOT OF PAIN AND 4 DAYS IN THE HUTT HOSPITAL. YOU WOULD THINK THAT AN ENDING OF A TRIP LIKE THAT WOULD DETER ME, BUT FAR FROM IT. YOU SEE AS A YOUNG HUNTER, THAT WAS REAL ADVENTURE AND I WANTED LOTS MORE.

Daves basecamp setup.

And so began a lifetime of hunting trips, most of the big ones solo. The main areas that I hunted over the years were Fiordland, South Westland (*Rain was always a problem*) Tararuas, Ruahines, the Kaimanawas and Kaweka Forest parks (*For tops hunting you just had to be fit*) In later years I have spent a lot of time in the Kaimai Forest Park, the kindest range of all for an older hunter.

For over 40 years I carried a pack and rifle into the hills with no communication device. You see, I liked to be totally independent. I got the weather wrong heaps of times. Gorges and passes were always a problem, but worst of all was the mist. When the thick clag came down, you could not hunt or travel

and sometimes not even find your camp. But, hey, that's all part of the adventure, so I used to tell myself, although that certainly wore thin a few times.

The following is an account of my longest solo trip, one that I had into the Pyke River area in 1995. At the age of 52 I was still fit, and had to be to undertake a trip like that as I hunted and tramped over a lot of miles.

Last year our President wrote about sorting our main trophies for our Branch awards, looking at the names on them and wondering about the stories behind them. Well, here is one such story, as one of the heads that I brought back from this trip won the Best Red Deer trophy for me. As you can see from this account, a lot of time and effort was put in to getting a good head pre-roar.

I had phoned the helicopter pilot from Haast, Dave Saxton, about 2 weeks before I drove down South and told him I would like to be dropped in some place for a 3 week plus hunt pre-roar. A lot of the area down there was balloted out for the roar and I didn't get a block, so we had a bit of a yarn over the phone.

He would not commit himself as he wanted to meet me first: at that stage we had never met (After this trip we had a bit to do with hunting and we became friends).

The trip down to Haast took 2 days. I slept in the Buller Gorge overnight and met up with Dave Saxton at 2pm the following day. He quizzed me on places I had hunted in South Westland, the first being the Karangarua in 1962. We discussed our options for my hunt

“I HAD PHONED THE HELICOPTER PILOT FROM HAAST, DAVE SAXTON, ABOUT 2 WEEKS BEFORE I DROVE DOWN SOUTH AND TOLD HIM I WOULD LIKE TO BE DROPPED IN SOME PLACE FOR A 3 WEEK PLUS HUNT PRE-ROAR. A LOT OF THE AREA DOWN THERE WAS BALLOTTED OUT FOR THE ROAR AND I DIDN'T GET A BLOCK, SO WE HAD A BIT OF A YARN OVER THE PHONE.”

and settled for the Upper Pyke. He had a fuel dump and base fly in there that I could use, which proved to be a really good thing in bad weather.

He lent me 2 metal ammunition boxes to store my food in as they were waterproof and vermin-proof. Magic! Another big plus in the hills. I packed all my gear and food, and 11am the next day we flew from Haast into the Pyke to his fuel base. What a long flight, and I got a good look at just how big that country really is.

We dropped my gear off, and as he would be dropping a lot of hunters in the area at the beginning of April, we arranged to catch up then. As he flew out of the valley, I thought to myself *“That's 3 1/2 weeks away Dave, so you better not stuff things up.”*

What a difference a P.L.B or a Garmin In Reach Unit would have made to the mindset, but alas, they weren't around then.

As I mentioned before, the idea of getting it right the first time, with no Plan B, for some reason appealed to me.

As always on a trip like this, 1st set up camp, 2nd a quick look around the camp area, and 3rd get some venison hanging, as that certainly reduces the pressure food-wise. That afternoon I achieved all 3.

As the rain set in I lit the fire under Dave's big, heavy fly and cooked a good feed of fresh venison heart and back-steaks. Life was good. The next day was a camp day as it rained and rained and gave me a good lesson of how fast the main Pyke River and the bigger tributaries could rise and be impassable.

With a lot of country feeding in to the Pyke, it was no wonder, with the Red Hill Range, Olivine Range and the Cascade Tops. But I found that the rivers would lower quite fast too.

The camp was set back from the main river, 150 metres under some beech trees, and in good weather it was a very nice place to be. That is if you could stand the sandflies, although they weren't a problem at times. The next 2 days I hunted down the main valley, it was big country with a lot of flats. Most of them had good grass as Dave Gunn grazed it with cattle for many years. (See *Westland Muster, a book about Dave Gunn*)

For years he mustered cattle annually up the Hollyford River, over the Main Divide, down the Eglington River to Te Anau. When the cattle were gone, the deer moved in and lived the life of Reilly until the venison market

“OVER THE NEXT 3 DAYS OF SETTLED WEATHER, I HUNTED OVER TO BIG BAY AND FLY-CAMPED MIDWAY BACK TO THE PYKE. IT WAS BIG COUNTRY WITH A LOT OF EROSION IN THE WATER-COURSES. I SAW A FEW DEER AND MANAGED TO SHOOT AN OK 6 POINT STAG. BUT THE SANDFLIES OVER TOWARDS THE COAST WERE VERY BAD INDEED AND IF I STOPPED FOR A REST, I JUST PUT A TOWEL OVER MY HEAD.”

was developed. Then the meat hunters came into the Pyke area, first with jet boat and fixed wing, then with helicopters.

As it was a long way from anywhere, they needed big loads of venison to make it pay, and still do to this day. It was a good patch of weather, so I tramped and hunted the valley floor. There were lots of good big flats, and not all could be seen from the river. I got down as far as Lake Wilmott, all very nice country, but it was a long haul back to camp.

Day 5 and it was still fine, so with the river down, I managed to cross opposite camp for a look around. I found some more nice flats upstream, and another helicopter fuel dump, complete with a large fly.

While I was in the area, I saw a chopper use that site twice Downstream from the site there were some of the best bush terraces that I've ever hunted. I tell you, I was like a kid



Dave's 6-Pt Red Stag.

in a lolly shop. Late in the afternoon, I shot another young camp deer, I re-crossed the river opposite camp and set about cooking up a feed. One tired, but very happy camper.

Over the next 3 days of settled weather, I hunted over to Big Bay and fly-camped midway back to the Pyke. It was big country with a lot of erosion in the water-courses. I saw a few deer and managed to shoot an OK 6 point stag. But the sandflies over towards the coast were very bad indeed and if I stopped for a rest, I just put a towel over my head.

They say sandflies were invented to stop a man being lazy around camp, and I reckon there is some truth in that. On the way back to base, I hunted up an open water course with lots of deer sign. On red alert, I hunted slowly and located a group of 5 hinds. I sat there and watched for a while until the lead hind barked, and they were all gone.

Suddenly off to my right, about 50 metres away, a good stag burst from the bush, ran across some open gravel and into the bush again. I stuffed that hunt up for sure, as I had no idea he was around, too busy watching the girlfriends, I guess.

That is how those stags get big and old, they stay in the bush most of the time. I got back to base camp along with the rain and spent the next 2 days waiting for it to stop. A good feed and rest helped to recharge the batteries.

I spent the next few days hunting a ridge system downstream on the true right of the main valley, a very nice area to hunt. But when you lost sight of the main valley, you had to keep your wits about you, as I only had a compass with me. Oh for a Garmin track recorder and some way-points, but I hadn't even heard of them back then...

**CHECK OUT PART TWO IN THE
APRIL NEWSLETTER!**

RANGE NEWS:

RANGE FEE CHANGES FROM 1 MARCH 2023:

Effective from 1 March 2023 (the start of the NZDA membership year) our various range fees will be increasing. The new firearms legislation has contributed to our operating costs, plus we have ongoing maintenance and fixed costs such as insurance, power and internet to recover and lease fees to the council.

We are also increasing the public day fees to give more incentive to join NZDA so we can represent more of these occasional shooters that make up the silent majority of licenced firearm owners.

The facilities on offer at our 300m TECT Park Range are fantastic and are a great asset to our club and region but it does cost a lot to have these facilities available and range fees need to cover the costs or the range is not financially viable.

NEW FEES:

- Annual range ticket - \$100
 - Range access tag - \$30 (one-off cost on application)
 - Range Open Day non NZDA member fee - \$50
 - Range Open Day NZDA member (any branch) without range ticket - \$25
-

RANGE MAINTENANCE

Thanks to our members that attend our working bees at the range - as they say, few hands make light work so it would be good to see some new faces assisting at working bees.

We have a core group of members putting in most of the hours but we know there are many more active and regular range shooters out there that should be helping.

We are currently working on extending the 100m, 200m and 300m target lines so that each firing position (1 to 15) will shoot more directly straight down the range as opposed to the slight angle that is currently needed.

This will require an extension and rebuild to the target lines. Initial earth works have been completed and the final tidy up of dirt will be completed in February.

RANGE WORKING BEE

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEW WORKING BEE DATES AND INFO - COMING SOON!

Royce Downes
300m Range Manager

WE NEED YOU!

We are now on the look out for someone to take on the project to build the backstop and target extension. We need someone who can lead this project, organise materials and equipment and make it happen.

We also need a small group of willing members, ideally those who can work at the range during the week, to join this "extension build" team. Ideally some DIY or building experience but that isn't essential. If you are keen please email range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

RANGE TICKET HOLDERS REFRESHER COURSES:

Refresher courses for Range Ticket holders are reaching the end. If you do not complete a refresher by the end of May your range ticket will be cancelled. If you have emailed advising that you can not make one of the Wednesday evening courses then we will be in contact with a weekend date for the course to held at the range.

Remember that you MUST attend one of these sessions to retain your range ticket. If the dates for these courses do not work for you then you must email range@deerstalkers.org.nz and let us know so that alternative arrangements can be made.

All of these courses will be held at our NZDA BOP Tauriko club rooms (on State Highway 29) and will start at 7.00pm:

- Wednesday 15th March
- Wednesday 5th & 19th April
- Wednesday 3rd & 17th May

The revised Range Standing Orders are on our website, please review them now so you are familiar with them for your next visit to the range and in advance of attending your Range Ticket refresher course. You will find these under the Rifle Range information page.

300M RANGE WEATHER – NOW ACCESSIBLE VIA OUR WEBSITE:

As you know the weather up at TECT Park can often be very different from that in town.

If you want to check out the weather at TECT Park before going there, go to our website i.e. www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz, select the RIFLE RANGE menu and then TECT PARK WEATHER STATION.

Click the hyper-link for TECT Park Weather Station to get a 10 day forecast, and if you click on the day, you will get an hourly forecast for that day.



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).

BOP BRANCH PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS (PLB'S) FOR HIRE

AVAILABLE TO BRANCH MEMBERS FOR HIRE. THESE DEVICES CAN SAVE LIVES BY DRASTICALLY REDUCING SEARCH AND RESCUE TIMES.

Members will need to:

1. Book the units in advance.
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



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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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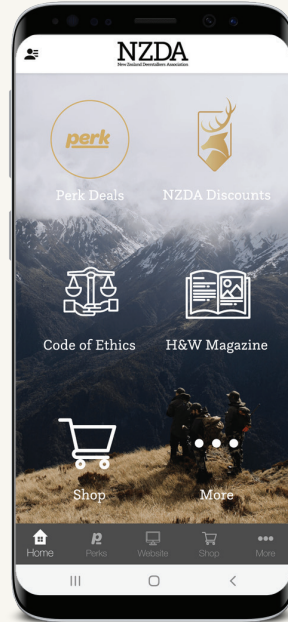


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- NZDA membership perks and discounts
- Direct access to the NZDA Hunting & Wildlife online magazine
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Please join us on Facebook and Instagram for ongoing information about party hunts and information about our events.

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