



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

APRIL 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: Early morning sunrise on the tops. 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: APRIL 2023

WELCOME BACK TO ALL WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIP OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS, AND WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED SINCE THE START OF MARCH.

I'm getting the fever every time I leave the house now, listening to stags on the Kaimais is really getting me excited! I hope you all have roar plans locked in now.

Many of you may be late to reading this newsletter due to being out in the hills, I hope you have renewed your membership and paid your chiller fee.

If you haven't paid your fees, you won't have access to the chiller or the range, and your trophies and photos won't be eligible for the annual competition if they're taken while you're not a financial member. Pay your fees ASAP so you don't miss out!

A massive thanks to Tim for his role in organising the Hunters Helping Hunters charity event in March. Well done Tim! And thanks to everyone who contributed. Helping the wider hunting community in the flood affected Hawkes Bay was a great representation of the generosity and sincerity of the NZDA and hunters in general.

It was a really great opportunity to help those affected and I'm sure there are many grateful hunters out there preparing their newly acquired gear for the roar.

In the background the committee has been working on meeting the objectives of our Branch Strategy. You may remember this from the AGM last year. If you haven't seen it, you can view it here on our website.

The committee has been working on several fronts, including, strengthening our HUNTS course by bringing on provisional instructors and assistants, continuing work towards a 1000-yard range, and developing relationships with landowners for hunting access.

The branch has made submissions on issues important to us all as hunters and shooters, and recently I provided some comments to a local journalist on the success (lack of success) of the legislative changes we have endured over the last four years.

While not everything is always visible, you can be sure your committee continues to work hard to protect your hunting and shooting opportunities.

If you're not away hunting, we have a great evening planned for our April club night. I might see you there. Don't forget to come early for some socialising.

Good luck for the roar, we all need it. Stay safe and look after your mates!

Reuben

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:

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BRANCH CONTACTS:

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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.



SECOND ANNUAL KAIMAI MAMAKU KIWI SURVEY

THIS WEEK THE MANAAKI KAIMAI MAMAKU TRUST (MKMT) STARTED PUBLICISING THE SECOND ANNUAL KAIMAI MAMAKU CITIZEN SCIENCE KIWI SURVEY AND WANTED TO GIVE YOU ALL THE HEADS UP!

We're asking all local MPs, mayors, and industry representatives to get involved, community volunteer groups, trustees, agencies and environmental organisations to participate.

Youth Search and Rescue will have about 60 kids GPSing bait stations and doing the formal kiwi survey in June at Otawainuku Kiwi Trust, and they'll participate in the May survey also.

It is a citizen science event with the main purpose of raising awareness of the Kaimai Mamaku restoration project and maybe even hearing kiwi so we can mobilise pest control to protect them.

The actual survey is simple, takes only a couple of hours in an evening, and no technical skills are needed.

The optimal weekend is May 13th but the survey will run for 2 weeks to allow for poor weather. More info will continue to be added at the link below:

www.kaimai-mamaku.org.nz/kaimai-mamaku-kiwi-survey

NZDA CEO - GWYN THURLOW

2ND OF MAY CLUB NIGHT

WE HAVE THE NZDA CEO GWYN THURLOW COMING TO SPEAK TO US ABOUT HIS ROLE AS THE CEO, HIS BACKGROUND AS A LAWYER, THE ROLE OF THE NZDA BOARD, AND MUCH MORE.

Don't miss this great opportunity to hear from the keen hunter who represents us in regular meetings with government ministers and Wellington bureaucrats.

There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and hear about all the work the National body of the NZDA does to protect our rights as hunters and shooters.



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!



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

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

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

OUR APRIL CLUB NIGHT WILL BE A FUN NIGHT WITH PHILIPP SPAHN FROM @wild_heart_hunter. DOORS WILL BE OPEN FROM 6:30PM.

Philipp is the guy behind "The Wild Table" (www.youtube.com/@TheWildTable) and a wealth of knowledge about hunting, cooking and the outdoors. Well worth coming along.

Check out Philipp on his channels here:

www.linktr.ee/wild_heart_hunter



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.



OBITUARY

DORA (THEADORA MARGARET) MALYON

Dora Malyon, wife of Leo Malyon (Deceased) a past life member of our club, passed away on 1st March at the age of 95.

Dora along with her husband Leo were dedicated club members for many years, probably from its inception until Leo's death. She was very active not only at club nights, club hunts but also catering for annual dinners and other social occasions.

Together they were also there to volunteer help to make the club the thriving organisation it was. Dora loved the outdoors and hunting as much as any bloke and was very capable of not only shooting animals but dressing and cooking the meat they gathered.

One notable trophy Dora shot was an 11 point roaring stag in 1973 in the Oronui - Raukumara Ranges (pictured above). On that same trip here is Dora with a shovel in hand clearing the Oronui hut clearing along with Les Nelson, Russell Nelson, Paul Cowley and of course Leo was there to.

Dora and Leo are survived by daughters Leona, Audrey and son Ron along with 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

The club will always have memories of the Malyon family as the moose head, Dora's 11 pointer and several other trophies are proudly displayed in the clubrooms. These were gifted to the club by the family after Leo's passing.



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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BOP NZDA CLUB RANGE EVENTS

RANGE MAINTENANCE DAYS

(RANGE CLOSED 8AM TO 5PM)

9th July

HUNTS COURSE

(RANGE CLOSED 8AM TO 5PM)

20th Aug

PUBLIC RANGE DAY

(LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)

30th April

28th May

25th June

30th July

27th August

24th September

29th October

26th November

21st December

PEEKING WALLABY MATCH

(RANGE BOOKED FOR EVENT

8:30AM TO 1:00PM)

7th May

6th August

5th November

BENCHREST SHOOTING

(RANGE PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR EVENT

9:00AM TO 12:00PM)

11th June

10th September

CLUB SHOOT (TPRA/NZDA)

(RANGE PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR EVENT

9:00AM TO 1:00PM)

15th April

20th May

17th June

15th July

19th August

16th September

21st October

18th November

16th December

BOPSRA CLUB DAY

(RANGE PARTIALLY CLOSED FOR EVENT

9:00AM TO 3:00PM)

8th April

13th May

10th June

8th July

12th August

9th September

14th October

11th November

9th December

PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR PAGE OF THE CLUB WEBSITE BEFORE SETTING OUT FOR THE RANGE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.



SOLO

PART TWO:

WORDS/PICS: Dave Sorenson

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I WAS ON THIS RIDGE SYSTEM ONE AFTERNOON, SITTING DOWN FOR A REST, AND I SPIED A STAG HEADING UP THROUGH THE BUSH TOWARDS ME, OBVIOUSLY ON A MISSION, AS HE JUST KEPT COMING.

Daves Best Red Deer club competition winning stag from 2019.

I waited until he was about 10 metres away and shot him. He dropped down at my feet, the closest shot I've ever had. 9 points and not too bad at all, and another head to take home. I took the back steaks and the head, then trudged back to camp.

The back steaks were really good, as I had developed a way to use them when away for long periods of time. I cut 1/3 of a back steak, cut about 5 slots into but not right through the meat.



Dave's basic fly-camp setup

I would rub in some Marmite, salt, and into each slot I would place an onion ring and sometimes a bit of cheese, sprinkle with flour and wrap the lot in tinfoil, place into hot embers from the fire and cook. It was good to eat hot or cold and I used to take them out on the hill a lot, something tasty to chew on.

It was off this same ridge system that I found the valley of my dreams. I had dropped down in a bush saddle and headed west. I broke out into a small, open valley, stream, grass flats and surrounded by nice bush.

The grass was like my lawn at home and deer sign was everywhere. Suddenly I was in Hunter's Heaven. I had a good look around and I just didn't have enough hours that day. I found 2 things of note in there.

As I traveled upstream, I could hear the sound of water cascading and it wasn't from

the stream ahead. I followed the sound up a small side creek and there, coming out of the lower part of a solid rock wall, was a large flow of water. The hole was about 1 metre in diameter and the flow was full bore and very loud. It must have been fed from above somewhere.

The 2nd thing of note was on the main flat downstream. There was an old deer trap still in good condition and it covered about an acre.

The gate was closed and as the deer couldn't get in, the grass and vegetation was very high. It was probably some years since that gate was open, so I wired it open, with the intention of coming back in 2 days.

Well, that didn't happen, what with the weather, rivers up etc, it was 7 days before I got back there. It took me a while to find the saddle into the valley again and when I got back to the trap I could hardly believe my eyes.



Hunter's heaven. The stuff dreams are made of.

All the grass was grazed down and a stag had dealt to most of the vegetation, the 2 metre height is the size they like to beat up. It was time for a good look around as there was one stropky stag in there.

Well, I hunted hard out in the surrounding area and after about 4 hours of hard out stalking, I arrived back out to the main grass flats. I had a good look around, then stepped out on to the grass. Three paces and I could see up to the far end and there at about 200m was the stag, stock still, side on and just looking at me: a very good Westland stag indeed.

I froze and slowly loaded the rifle, the stag went from 0-50 in 4 strides, and with his head up, the large antlers folded along his flanks (that's a sight I'll never forget) he raced along the edge of the bush and disappeared around the corner.

As I didn't get a good bead on him, I didn't take a shot, but followed him and ran into 3 of his hinds, so that was the end of it. You can't win them all, and I never got back to that valley, much to my disappointment.

I had been in the Pyke for about 15 days and on returning to basecamp after fly-camping out for 2 nights, I unzipped my little tent under the main fly, and there on the floor were 2 loaves of fresh bread and a bag of fruit.

Talk about mana from heaven. To me, that was like winning the lottery, what a treat. Dave Saxton was in the area and had dropped in to see how things were and left me the food. That's just how it used to be down on the coast, and later on in life I had the chance to return a small favour.

Day 18. I awoke to a blue sky day with no wind, and as the river was down, I decided to hunt up high into the Red Hills range. So off I went across the river, across the bush terraces and up into the sub-alpine area. Mid - level was thick with high fern etc, but as I got higher, it opened out a bit, so I started to sidle where most of the deer sign was.

The tops got a lot of helicopter pressure, so the deer seemed to live in the top level bush and sub-alpine regions. I saw a few hinds and about 2pm, as I came around a sharp spur, I spied a good stag bedded down about 150m away. With no breeze at all, I just watched him, and it didn't look as though he would move for some time, so I decided to take a shot.

With the sound of the shot, his head just slumped and that was the end of it. I took a



Pyke Valley hind.

while to cross the gut and get over to him, but when I got there, I was a happy hunter.

A classic Otago - type head with good timber and purling, polished up for the roar. As I removed the head and back-steaks, it started to cloud over, so I decided to head back down to the river.

The sky darkened and half way down I got my first spits of rain. I was almost to the terraces and it was bucketing down, I was really worried about the river levels, so I went as fast as I could with the head, meat and my hunting gear.

At a steep slope things started to get really slippery and slidey and I was concerned that I might stab myself with the antlers. As luck would have it, when I broke out to the river bank, it was only about 200metres upstream from my crossing point.

Yes, the river was rising fast, but was crossable, so I grabbed my pole, left from the mornings crossing, and plunged in and just went for it.

I got back to camp, unloaded the gear and when I placed that head by the fire, I tell you, my smile was a mile wide. It rained hard for 2 days, and even the side streams became torrents, and it was 6 days before I could cross that river again.

I spent the rest of the trip just cruising the area, got to know where a few deer lived, but saw no better heads than I had back in camp. Several evenings I would sit and watch a good river flat and most times it would be just about dark before any deer came out. Yes, even in a remote area like this, the mature stags have learnt about hunters on the ground and in the air.

Only on misty or overcast mornings did the deer feed after daylight. One morning, late in

the trip, I got up at daylight, walked outside and the air was hot, the atmosphere was almost static and very still. I had this happen one other time in the hills, a few years ago. A pocket of warm air drifts down from the tropics and sits against the ridge of a mountain until dispersed by Mother Nature.

I went down to the river and the air was so warm, so not being one to let a chance go by, I raced back to camp, grabbed the toilet and washing gear, back to the river and stripped all the gears off. I soaped and scrubbed, shampooed the hair (yes the water was still very cold) washed all my clothes and sat on a rock to dry out as it was so warm.

The funny thing is, there was not one sandfly to be seen. I guess the sight of a very clean, naked hunter sitting in the riverbed was all too much. I went back to camp, hung the washing out and 2 hours later the rain set in, so it was back to normal.

Like clockwork, the 1st April saw hunters being dropped into their hunting blocks and one lot was dropped into my basecamp. They had a mountain radio with them, so I arranged for Dave Saxton to take me out the next day; he was bringing another party in.

Time to go, and as I packed my gear up I did so with mixed feelings as I was leaving some of the best hunting country that I had ever been in, and I would probably never see my Hunter Heaven valley again. Melancholy with the thought that some of the deer close to camp that I got to know would probably get shot over the next month or so.

But I was positive that I had completed a big trip that ended with most of the boxes ticked. It really was a remote area and all the time I was in there, I only saw 2 trampers out by Big Bay. Yes, they got a hell of a fright when I appeared out of the bush and said "Giddyay".

Dave Saxton treated me right on the costs as it is a long trip in there. He got to fly me into the hills a few more times as he told me he liked hunters who put in the hard yards. Sadly he is no longer flying and his son Morgan, who flew me in at times, died in a helicopter crash over Lake Wanaka.

So that was the end of my longest solo trip, lots of adventures, hardship, rain, a head full of memories, new challenges and experiences, and lastly a decent red deer head for our NZDA antler competition.

Interestingly the only roars I heard in all the time I was hunting in the area, were 2 moans the day before I went out. I tried roaring at times, but the stags weren't interested at all. It must have been a late start for that season.

Lastly, the head pictured at the start of this article is not the Pyke head as I sold a property with that head mounted in a shed, and the purchaser (another hunter) asked me to leave it there, so I did.

The head in the picture is mounted at my home and won the Best Red Deer club competition in 2019. It took a bit of hard yards hunting, but that is another hunt I have yet to write about.

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.

BUDDY HUNTER PROGRAM

ARE YOU A NOVIS HUNTER LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE YOU UNDER THEIR WING AND SHOW YOU THE TRICKS OF HUNTING AND GET YOU ON YOUR FIRST DEER?

Or are you a more experienced hunter and are happy to share you knowledge and passion with someone who is hungry for more?

Our Hunter Buddy Program is designed to pair up Novis and Expert for the ultimate hunting experience and freshen up your old habits and create some new ones.

Just click the link to sing up for the program:

www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz/buddy-hunter-program



RANGE NEWS:

REMINDER – RANGE FEES HAVE INCREASED FROM 1ST MARCH 2023:

As of 1st March 2023 (the start of the NZDA membership year) our various range fees increased. 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.

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.

Lock in one of the following dates to attend a refresher course at our NZDA BOP Tauriko club rooms (on State Highway 29) and will start at 7.00pm:

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

Also we will be holding refresher courses at our 300m Range on Sunday 30th April at 9.00am and 11.00am

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.

RANGE WORKING BEE

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

Royce Downes, 300m Range Manager



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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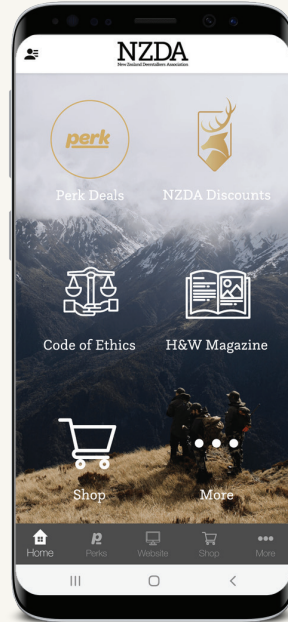


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- NZDA membership perks and discounts
- Direct access to the NZDA Hunting & Wildlife online magazine
- ...and much more!



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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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association is to ensure that the
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