



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

JUNE 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: A successful hunt. Photo: Isabell Zitzelsberger
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: JUNE 2023

THE LAST MONTH HAS BEEN VERY BUSY FOR ME AND I'VE BATTLED TO KEEP AHEAD OF MY DEERSTALKERS RESPONSIBILITIES AND MAINTAIN A WORK/LIFE BALANCE. WE STARTED MAY WITH HOSTING OUR CEO, GWYN THURLOW, AT OUR CLUB NIGHT. WHAT A GREAT EVENING THAT WAS.

For those who missed it, I encourage you to read the NZDA National Newsletter each month so you can be informed of the good work Gwyn and the team do to protect our hunting and shooting rights. The following week at our committee meeting the carpark flooded during our meeting and 13 members vehicles were damaged (mostly written-off). This has again highlighted the vulnerability of our clubrooms' location.

Luckily the water didn't enter the clubrooms building and there was relatively minor damage to the property, some mulch and gravel washed away, and a few pesky rabbits didn't survive their swim.

The firearms register comes into effect on the 24th of this month. Do some reading online so you understand your responsibilities and what your best course of action is. Everyone's circumstances will be different, so you need to make sure you understand how it affects you.

The club has secured a property for fallow hunts and a group of members carried out a cull for the landowner at the end

of May. This was a great success, and the landowner was very pleased with the number of animals harvested. Currently there's a lot of meat at the butcher being processed into sausages and patties for the club freezer.

This is great way to cater for club BBQs. We are planning to hold a branch hunt to the property later in the year, there will be spots open to the general membership, so keep an eye on the hunts calendar and read the newsletter each month.

The hunts will have limited spaces and will be tightly controlled to ensure we maintain a good working relationship with the landowner. There will be some prioritisation of hopeful participants to ensure we get the right mix of hunter capability and equipment availability. Associate members won't be eligible for hunts on this property because they don't have the insurance benefits that other membership classes receive.

Because we have such a large membership and the team managing this opportunity don't personally know everyone in the club, we will be relying on some indicators to help categorise members' capability, skill level and overall suitability for partaking in management hunts.

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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
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Chris Munro		
Grant Hammond		
Sarah Cotching		
Josh Keen		
Aaron Collier		
Stacy Whiteman		07 578 0995
Doug Williams		07 544 3065 davonne09@xtra.co.nz
Evan Dines		027 485 9935 evandines1@gmail.com
Richard McEwen		021 138 2483

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

BRANCH CONTACTS:

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Newsletter Editor		021 0226 0185 editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Clubrooms Custodian	Keith Theobald	07 578 1195 027 693 5445
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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.

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To increase your ranking score and improve your chances of securing a spot on one of the management hunts you can do the following: if you're new to hunting then enrol in the upcoming HUNTS Course, if you're a novice or experienced hunter you should complete the Field Marksmanship Test at the range on a Range Open Day or at a Club Shoot, volunteer at a working bee, attend club nights to meet members and build relationships, and go on some other club hunts.

“IF YOU’RE NEW TO HUNTING THEN ENROL IN THE UPCOMING HUNTS COURSE, IF YOU’RE A NOVICE OR EXPERIENCED HUNTER YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THE FIELD MARKSMANSHIP TEST AT THE RANGE ON A RANGE OPEN DAY OR AT A CLUB SHOOT, VOLUNTEER AT A WORKING BEE, ATTEND CLUB NIGHTS TO MEET MEMBERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS, AND GO ON SOME OTHER CLUB HUNTS.”

Our measuring night was a success although entries in some categories were light. Next month we will hold our prizegiving on club night so don't miss this exciting occasion. Even if you didn't enter a head or photo, come along to celebrate the success of others, and inspire yourself for future hunts.



MEMBERSHIP FEES:

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE 2023/2024 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 membership queries please contact National Office.

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There will be plenty of opportunity to try and pry the hunt location out of prize winners over a beer and discuss where you might shoot your own trophy head in the future.

This month is our AGM. Don't miss this opportunity to support the organisation that works hard to provide opportunities for you and advocates on your behalf.

See you there!

Reuben



BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2023

JUN	CLUB NIGHT: Location: BOP Clubrooms Date: Tuesday 6th	WANGANUI RIVER CANOE TRIP Date: 2nd - 5th Organiser: Isabell Zitzelsberger / Tim Taylor Click here for more info.	
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

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



WORDS/PICS: *Isabell Titzelsberger*

BECOMING A HUNTER

WHEN YOU ARE NOT A HUNTER, YOU THINK THAT A HUNTER OWNS A RIFLE AND GOES INTO THE BUSH TO SHOOT A DEER. THEY COME HOME WITH THE ANIMAL AND HAVE A LOT OF MEAT FOR THEMSELVES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS... AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.

I never expected the journey of a hunter to be so intense, versatile, challenging for mind and body and overall, just very different to what the overall perception of a hunter is...

So, the first step to shoot an animal is to get your firearms licence - clear as mud! Easy as. But is it though?

After having all the paperwork done and submitted to the police - the waiting game starts. I was lucky, as back in 2020 it wasn't as crazy as it was in those days, and within 4 months I was ready to do my firearms safety course as well as getting my gun cabinet and find my witnesses for the police check.



Luckily, my friends and partner were nice, and the police didn't doubt my ability to own a firearm, so that box was ticked.

The next thing on the list was the safety course. The seven rules of safety make total sense, don't get me wrong, but as a foreigner there are a few language barriers to overcome too - hunters use words that I never needed before in my life. So luckily, I had the chance to repeat the test and pass it after I did some translations.

Next up was how to handle a firearm safely... well, that is a very good question! I had held and fired a rifle before in my life a couple of times, but always got it given to me - not that I had to pick it up, put a bullet in, load it... so the whole process was a bit overwhelming! That wasn't expected! But hey, how could I have known?





Well, it seems like I got it all right and passed the safety course! A few weeks later I had my firearms licence in the mail - great! By February 2021 I was able to purchase a firearm and shoot some animals... but wait... what would I buy? What do I need? Where do I go? What can I shoot?

So many questions and where do I go to learn all of this? With so much insecurity and no family and friends in the country who hunt, there was no one to ask, no one to take me and no one to help me with all of that.

I remembered that at the safety course we had been told about a "HUNTS Course" - a course to learn how to be a hunter. Well, that sounded like me - something I was keen on trying and at least know what to do now with my firearms licence. I had to wait until August until the course started, so hunting was "on hold" during that time for me.

Come August I walked into my local NZDA Branch to start my course. Wow - what a new experience. Around nineteen other people were with me, young, old, male,

"I REMEMBERED THAT AT THE SAFETY COURSE WE HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT A "HUNTS COURSE" – A COURSE TO LEARN HOW TO BE A HUNTER. WELL, THAT SOUNDED LIKE ME – SOMETHING I WAS KEEN ON TRYING AND AT LEAST KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW WITH MY FIREARMS LICENCE."

female, more experienced hunters, some novice hunters, a good mixture.

The course started and I quickly understood that I pretty much knew nothing. What a language! Hunters definitely have their own vocabulary! Velvet, rut, roar, red, fallow, sika... what? I thought there were just deer! I also didn't even expect to have that many different species in New Zealand. I realised I had a lot to learn about the animals, how they behave, what they eat, where they sleep.

“THE COURSE STARTED AND I QUICKLY UNDERSTOOD THAT I PRETTY MUCH KNEW NOTHING. WHAT A LANGUAGE! HUNTERS DEFINITELY HAVE THEIR OWN VOCABULARY! VELVET, RUT, ROAR, RED, FALLOW, SIKA... WHAT? I THOUGHT THERE WERE JUST DEER!”

The HUNTS Course was great! From learning all the practical stuff in the bush, we also went to the shooting range to shoot some firearms. Fantastic! This really gives you the confidence in a controlled environment to shoot a rifle - and different rifles. Which one is the right one for me? Which should I buy? What do I want to achieve with it? What do I want to shoot and where and how do I want to hunt? So many questions I still had to answer before finally purchasing my first rifle.

This is now approximately one year after I received my firearms licence in the mail... one year on and I finally knew (kind of) what sort of rifle I wanted and what sort of hunting I want to start with. The people I met were the biggest help to lead me along the way.

Now what? Now that I had spent a fortune on a rifle, some fancy hunting gear, and my basics - what do I do now? I don't know the "farm" everyone talks about...the one where you just drive to, shoot a few deer, pick them up with a quadbike and come back home... I had to find them!

Thanks to Topo Maps I found areas where you can hunt on public land, so the next



weekend my partner and I packed our bags and left for the bush - easy! Apparently, plenty of deer around everyone said!

Oh really? After a full long weekend in the bush - we found some poo. That was pretty much it! Where were all the deer? Why did we not see a single one?

Apparently, we were too fast and too loud? Really? Ok, next weekend back into the bush! Slower, quieter, but man it is hard in the thick bush! Everything is crunchy, every step could scare the deer away. Wind! Have we thought about the wind? Which direction does it blow? Do they smell us before we can even see them?

A year on from here, we were still hunting on public land, almost every weekend. Still no deer, still very frustrated! Too fast and too loud still? Why can't we see them? It is a journey! So much to learn about nature, the animals, the environment you are moving in. It is the deer's environment, and they know how to behave: they are smarter than you and use all their senses.



“HUNTING IS NOT JUST SHOOTING AN ANIMAL! HUNTING IS AN ADVENTURE, HUNTING IS MERGING WITH THE BUSH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, HUNTING IS LEARNING ABOUT DEER AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR BEHAVIOUR.”

I did not know that as a hunter it is important to use your eyes, ears, nose, breath to control your hunt. All those senses need to be aligned to be successful. Merge with your surroundings, be one with nature like the deer are. Sounds easy right? But man, it is hard!

And the worst of it all - patience! Something which I am not good at and need to get better at! A deer does not have a watch, doesn't have a plan, doesn't have a schedule... they can just watch you and not move forever! (Or at least it seems like this).

After a year, we were fortunate enough to get invited to a couple of farms to at least

shoot a deer. To learn how it feels and what else is involved. The carrying, skinning, chilling, butchering, vacuum packing of the meat is a whole new learning curve!

All those are the things you do not think about before! Learning about the different parts of the body of the deer, trying new recipes, giving away the meat and appreciating the fresh, unprocessed meat you can put on the table is amazing. But a lot of work!

We finally have shot our first animal in the bush - after a 14.5-hour day stalking, spooking several deer, being tired and hungry and grumpy and just before sunset we could shoot one down a riverbank. Not to mention that you climb down there in the dark with the torch to gut it to carry it out...

Hunting is not just shooting an animal! Hunting is an adventure, hunting is merging with the bush and the environment, hunting is learning about deer and understanding their behaviour.

Hunting is caring for your environment, hunting is making new friends, learning new skills, creating amazing meals, sitting on camp fires, hiking for miles, getting up early and appreciate the hard work and exhaustion which goes into that perfect piece of meat on your plate.

I learnt a lot in the last couple of years on my journey of becoming a hunter and I am just at the start of it but in all honesty - I am glad about what it taught me, and I am always hungry for more!

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 NOVICE 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



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





TERRYS FIRST DEER

THE ROAR WAS IN FULL "NOISE", LITERALLY AND I WAS ON A 6-DAY BUSH TRIP INTO THE RUAHINE MOUNTAIN RANGE NEAR MANGAWEKA WITH MY VERY EXPERIENCED MATE, SHANE. WE SET UP OUR TARP & HOOCHIE CAMP AT 750M ASL AND HUNTED THROUGH AN ELEVATION RANGE OF 650M TO 950M.

There had been a dump of snow the night before we went in, down as low as 1,000m - 1,200m and it looked like someone had sprinkled "icing sugar" over the trees. So, it was pretty

fresh and also quite damp as we had our share of showers and rain, "freight train" winds but some moments of sun too... pretty normal right!

By day four, Shane had already shot a stag and two hinds so I really felt this could be my time!

It was the 1st of April 2023 and we had got going at first light to stalk a stag that had started roaring really close to camp, early enough to be competing with the night sounds of our resident Morepork and fighting possums and still going by the time the pair of resident NZ Pigeons started to move about at dawn!

After a couple of hours, with no contact with the stag we decided to split-up for our usual solo day-hunt session, with protocols in place for radio contact and in the

event of an emergency, PLB activation.

I had just made my way up a steep spur, climbing 200 vertical meters to the main ridge that would take me back down in the direction of camp. There was fresh sign everywhere and it felt good. At 1.45pm I stopped momentarily to hydrate and double check my location.

Then just as I was taking a directional bearing to guide me back towards camp down the ridge, I noticed the head and shoulders of a hind partially obscured by a bush some 40 meters below me. I realised she was actually on the small side, last season's but I decided to have a go.

She was eating and had looked up and around a couple of times, but the wind was in my favour. I had to manoeuvre a few meters to my right to get a clear shot

and my moment came a few seconds later. I squeezed the trigger, re-loaded and waited, but she had dropped where she had stood.

After making safe and pocketing the spent cartridge, I inhaled and exhaled deeply with a sense of personal achievement and relief, together with the respect for my quarry and the higher purpose of conservation.

As per our protocol, I turned on my radio, called up Shane, who on hearing the shot was

already waiting for my call. We exchanged a few words and as expected shared the significance of the moment. We had hunted together for a long time, and I had learnt a great deal, so now it felt like graduation day!

It was getting late, so I got onto dressing my hind, cooled the meat as quick as possible and then once all packed away headed down the ridge then with a short sidle to the left, headed into camp.

What a trip... what a day, and as the light faded into

the sounds of the night, I drifted off to sleep, content that today I had shot my first deer!

NOTE: IF YOU SHOOT YOUR FIRST DEER PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL US.

All members are eligible for their first deer award - Terry was awarded his at the May club night by our CEO Gwyn Thurlow.

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!



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)

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)

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)

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)

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.

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

H.U.N.T.S COURSE INFO PACK

THINK SAFETY / PRACTICE SAFETY / HUNT SAFELY

BACKGROUND

The Bay of Plenty Branch (BoP) of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) conduct a Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) course each year that usually runs from July to September. Please click [here](#) to view the full course information. The NZDA HUNTS programme is administered by the NZDA through its National office in Wellington.

It is designed to ensure that students receive a good background to most facets of the recreational sport of hunting in New Zealand. This ensures the continued safe practices encouraged by the NZDA, with respect to safe firearms handling, conservation and bush craft.

CURRICULUM

The course is intense and concentrates on the main topics associated with the recreational hunter under field conditions within New Zealand. The curriculum includes:

ETHICS AND ECOLOGY:

Students will learn about NZDA hunting ethics to enable them to promote the sport within New Zealand as well as a presentation by qualified instructors on Ecology and the Flora and Fauna of New Zealand.

FIREARMS LAW AND SAFETY, MARKSMANSHIP:

A firearms licence is NOT required to attend this course. Students will learn firearm safety and be shown the types of firearm used for hunting New Zealand game species.

They will learn how to correctly apply the principles of marksmanship, the care and cleaning of the firearm as well as use of the firearm under range and field conditions

OUTDOOR FIRST AID:

Students will learn under qualified instructors, how to identify & treat the signs and symptoms of hypothermia as well as burns, fractures, cuts, building stretchers out of what's available in the bush and many other aspects of Outdoor First Aid.

THE DOUGLAS SCORING SYSTEM:

Students will be shown how to measure their trophies correctly under the Douglas Scoring System adopted by NZDA. All game species of New Zealand will be included.

BUSH CRAFT:

Students will learn under practical conditions the many aspects of bush craft taught by instructors with many years of practical experience.

PLANNING:

Students will be taught how to plan a hunting trip and what equipment may be needed.

NAVIGATION:

Students will be taught how to navigate using a map and compass.

RIVER CROSSING:

Students will be taught safe and responsible river crossing procedures.

HUNTING TECHNIQUES:

Students will be taught how to hunt safely and effectively and learn techniques from instructors who have made this their chosen sport for many years.

The course consists of several evening sessions at the branch clubrooms, a range day, practical weekend and culminates in a weekend hunt paired up one on one with an experienced hunter.

ELIGIBILITY

The course is open to all over the age of 16 years old. Younger teenagers may be considered if their parents are also attending the course - please enquire via [email](#).

The course is restricted to 15 participants. The first 15 paid up will have priority.

EQUIPMENT:

A training manual is supplied to each participant as part of the course. You will need to bring a pen and paper (and enthusiasm).

Basic equipment will be required for the practical and hunting weekend trips. A list of

essential equipment will be provided prior to these events to ensure students obtain the right type of equipment and come suitably prepared.

FEES

The 2023 course fees have been set at: **\$450**

This covers the cost of materials, resources, accommodation and food during the course. NZDA Bay of Plenty Branch is a registered charity and does not aim to profit from the HUNTS course. The course is offered as a public service for the benefit of aspiring hunters.

For insurance purposes, course participants must be financial members of NZDA. (Associate membership is inadequate as it doesn't include insurance benefits.)

Information and pricing of memberships can be found at the link below:

[Membership - Bay of Plenty NZDA \(deerstalkersbop.org.nz\)](http://deerstalkersbop.org.nz)

We ask that you are a paid member by Wednesday 2nd August 2023.

We will waive the \$50 joining fee if you are attending the HUNTS course.

Please select "I want to enroll in a HUNTS course" as the reason for joining and the invoice will be amended accordingly.

QUALIFICATION

At the successful completion of the course, students will be presented with a certificate endorsing their achievement.



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS NATIONAL COMPETITION RULES

COLOUR AND BLACK & WHITE PRINTS

SECTION A:

Game Animals
.....

SECTION B1:

Other Wildlife - Birds
.....

SECTION B2:

Other Wildlife - Mammals
.....

SECTION B3:

Other Wildlife - Insects, Reptiles &
Amphibians
.....

SECTION C:

Scenic
.....

SECTION D:

Flora
.....

SECTION E:

Human Interest
.....

SECTION F:

Best Colour or B&W Print of all sections
.....

SECTION G:

Best Junior Colour or B&W Print
.....

SECTION H:

Best Photographic Essay -
Big Game Hunting
.....

SECTION I:

Supreme Branch Photographic Award
.....

New Zealand Hunting & Wildlife Cover
.....

VIDEO FILMS

SECTION A:

Training/Promotional
.....

SECTION B:

Hunting
.....

SECTION C:

New Zealand Wildlife

NZDA Supreme Branch Photographic Award

SEQUENCE

Bay of Plenty has a Branch only competition for Sequence.

A sequence must be 3 to 10 photos or slides of any or all of the other sections. A sequence is to be numbered in order and should tell or indicate a story.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Subject matter to be relevant to hunting, hunting country and/or associated activities of NZDA members and have been taken from land within New Zealand and, in respect to SECTION A only, not taken from any form of conveyance.

1. In **SECTIONS A, B1, B2, B3**, subject matter to be in its wild outdoor state and not in any form of captivity. Photographs of wounded or dead animals, birds, insects, reptiles or amphibians will be disqualified.
2. In **SECTION C**, the subject matter is to be scenic and relative to hunting country, any human activity should be of minor importance.
3. In **SECTION D**, the subject matter is to be of any NZ floral (tree, plant, vegetation, bush etc) subject in its natural environment.
4. In **SECTION E**, the main component of the subject matter is to be human

activity, ie camp scenes, hunting or NZDA associated activities. Human interaction must be the main feature of the photograph and should tell or indicate a story.

5. **SECTION F**: Best print of all sections.
6. **SECTION G**: Thames Valley Deerstalkers' Association Junior Photography Trophy - All junior photographs entered into any existing NZDA photography category are eligible for inclusion in this section of the competition. The judges/organisers have the right to place any junior photographic entry into the competition even if they have not specifically requested to enter this competition so long as their validity as a junior is confirmed.
7. **SECTION H**: Wellington Branch Trophy for the Best Digital Colour or Black & White
8. **NZ HUNTING AND WILDLIFE**: Athol Hood Memorial Trophy
9. **SUPREME BRANCH PHOTOGRAPH AWARD**: Ian D Wright Trophy

All existing NZDA photographic section entry criteria must be applied.

Full competition rules can be found [here](#).



RANGE NEWS:

RANGE TICKET HOLDERS REFRESHER COURSES:

If you have not attended a Range Ticket holders refresher course your range tag will be cancelled - the Range Committee to yet to discuss options for getting your range tag reactivated so watch this space and your emails for more information

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Remember to stay up to date with how the firearms registry will affect you from 24th June 2023. Review www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz for details and law changes

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.

RANGE WORKING BEE

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

Royce Downes, 300m Range Manager



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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**DO NOT LEAVE LIVE AMMO AT THE RANGE.
DO NOT PUT LIVE AMMO IN THE
EMPTY CASE BINS.**



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:

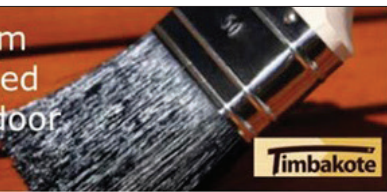
Dean Maisey, Welcome Bay
07 544 2207

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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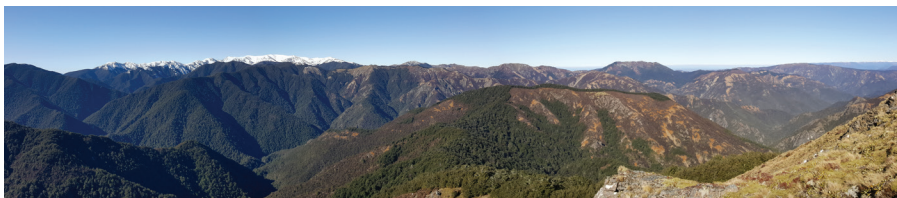
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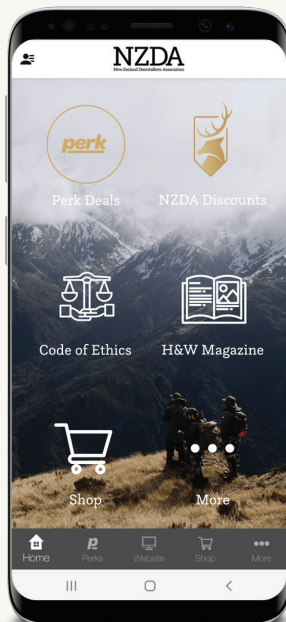


NZDA MOBILE APP

CHECK OUT THE
NZDA APP TODAY!

The application is feature rich
and offers the following:

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



BOP NZDA SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE LINKS

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

facebook.com/groups/deerstalkersbop

instagram.com/deerstalkersbop

www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

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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
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branch then get in touch with Stan at
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or on 07 868 4515.



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*Formed in 1937,
the New Zealand Deerstalkers'
Association is New Zealand's
recognised National body
representing and speaking
for hunters generally. The
fundamental aim of the
association is to ensure that the
organisation and management
of recreational hunting in
New Zealand is carried
out by hunters.*



www.deerstakersbop.org.nz