



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

January 2025

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



NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

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

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

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Cover Photo:

Chris Fryer enjoying New Years Eve in the Kaimanawa's (*see his story on page 16*).

Want to feature on the next cover? If you have a suitable photo, please send it through to:

editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz and you could win a \$100 Bar Tab from the Flying Mullet Sports Bar in Papamoa.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

January 2025

2024 is behind us and 2025 upon us. Last year was difficult for many but 2025 has much to look forward to. Looking back and looking forward, while being extremely grateful to those who support the club in many ways, particularly those who volunteer their time (thank you very much), without you the club would not continue to operate.

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And to the members who haven't volunteered time to assist in the many different areas of club life, think about what you can contribute to the club. While it is heartening to see the massive efforts of those who volunteer, it is equally disappointing to know that our core volunteer base is less than 10% of our members.

There are many club members who give up their dozens if not hundreds of hours each year, and incur significant personal costs, to contribute to the ongoing functioning of the club and to the betterment of club members. Some members never show up for club nights, hunts, or shooting events at the range. They skip working bees and the AGM, yet they have the effrontery to complain about the level of service, membership fees, and the quality of the club's facilities.

To all members, please keep it forefront in your mind that the club is run by volunteers,

who freely give up their precious time and incur many personal costs for your benefit. While constructive criticism is welcome, if you want to see something improved or a new initiative undertaken, start by volunteering to help in the area you want to see change. Contact a committee member or come to a committee meeting to get involved.

As many will know, there are currently opportunities to submit on the future of firearms laws in New Zealand. This is a key area for NZDA advocacy on behalf of members and hunters generally, but it is also equally important that members, licenced firearm owners, and the general hunting community make submissions on the government's firearms reform proposals.

While the memory of 2019 through 2021 might be fading after two years of economic turmoil, we should not forget the significant vilification and persecution suffered by licenced firearm owners, and the ensuing infringement on property rights, firearms confiscation, and ongoing bureaucratic overreach. The current and pending opportunities to have your say on the future of firearms ownership and use in New Zealand deserve your utmost attention if we are to retain the right to own firearms for hunting and shooting in the future.

While we are all limited in resources, the government kindly taxes us while forging ahead with their own agenda. At the same time as consulting on firearms laws, they are also consulting on the future management of conservation land.

There are multiple significant proposals that deserve your consideration and input. Both consultation periods end on the 28th of February so there is time to make a thoughtful and considered submission on each matter. I strongly encourage you to do so, and to encourage your friends and family to also.

The coming year has many hunts already planned, and in planning, as well as club nights and range events. Being part of a club is about being part of a community, so come along to club nights and keep an eye on the club calendar and in the newsletter for specific events that pique your interest. Register for a club hunt or get to the range for a shooting event. The more effort you make to participate in the club's activities, the more you will gain from being a member.

As they say, **"Who dares, wins"**. I'm busy planning a 10-day roar trip with my wife and five kids to a new, yet to be explored location in the central North island. While carrying all and sundry and a 6-month-old baby and convincing a 5-year-old to keep walking for 6 hours is not an easy task, nothing worth doing is easy. Adventures are made of challenges

and tales about overcoming them. If you haven't got a plan for your next hunting trip, you best be getting planning if you want to claim the title of being a 'hunter'... there aren't many fair excuses not to be going hunting. Keep an eye on the newsletter and turn up to club nights to hear the latest on the fallow hunts. We have several pencilled in for this year and there will be various conditions and opportunities for participating in these hunts. Volunteers, kids, and HUNTS students will likely be looked on favourably.

If you want to improve your chances at success with a fallow hunt, it's worthwhile doing the Field Marksmanship Test at the range (look it up on the website). Those who complete this shooting competency test are much better prepared for field shooting and will give both themselves and the hunt organiser more confidence in their ability.

Get planning, get hunt ready, and see you at club night!

Reuben

BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

JAN	<p>25-27 January NZDA North Is Regional Benchrest Championship Hosted by the BOP Branch Time/location: Starts 7pm. Tokoroa Sports Shooting Complex. Contact: Baden - 027 490 8613</p>		
FEB	<p>16 February Peeking Wallaby Match at Range Contact: Baden - 027 490 8613</p>	<p>4 February Club Night Speaker: Simon Carkeek - PracMed</p>	<p>27 February Club Hunt Tawa Hut Contact: Dan - 021 807 4584</p>
MAR	<p>4 March Club Night Hosted by Hamills. Starts: 7pm</p>	<p>16 March Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 100m for Group</p>	<p>28 March Club Hunt - Te Waiti Hut Contact: Scott - 021 385 520</p>
APR	<p>10-13 April Te Whare Okioki Club Hunt Contact: Dan - 022 128 0828 danielgallaghan@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC</p>	
MAY	<p>4 May Peeking Wallaby Match at Range Centrefire 100m for Group</p>	<p>Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC</p>	
JUN	<p>15 June Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 200m for Group</p>	<p>Date: TBC Wanganui River Hunt Contact: Isabell 026 650 3488</p>	<p>Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC</p>

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

RANGE NEWS

Update On Work At Range, And Notice Of Partial Range Closures From 23-25 January.

Hello members.

Hope you have had a good start to the new year. Once again it has been a very busy month, and a lot has been going on at the range. Some of the work you will see from the main usage areas, but a lot of work has been done on the areas of the range which you don't see, turning them from what had become and over-grown wasteland, to an area where we can actually access with vehicles again, for both us and the park staff. Many thanks for Russell Mc for his day spent up there with me on 13th Dec doing the spraying work with his 200L sprayer kit – well done Russell!



A special thanks

to Steve from **Bay Mini Digger Hire** who gave us an amazing deal on hire of the 2.7tonne Kubota for 3 days as a special deal for the club, including delivery as he is located in Pyes Pa also.

He was really great to deal with and great communication about everything. He is also willing to provide a special discount for any of our NZDA BOP club members if you are interested in digger hire for your own projects, just mention it with your enquiry.



We've been busy!

On Jan 3-5 we completed a major 3-day work mission at the range with a mini-digger. Thanks to the helpers on the Friday and Saturday - Lester, Nick, Baden (Captain Benchrest), Mike and his nephew.

Some of the work completed:

1. Installed drainage system at 25m target line and partially filled in the eroded area. Drain now supported along its whole length. This area will need to be finished off and recontoured in the near future.
2. Various tracks and access ways cleared and improved. Some general scrub clearing and tidy up.
3. The outside toilet has had some upgrades, and new doorway mats in the club building.
4. Some works done at the 100m line to prevent or reduce the chances of water ponding in these areas and turning to mud - especially in the winter time.
5. Working to clear the blocked culvert at the 200m crossing - this was supposed to be a 5-10 minute job but became a 2 hour mission. About 8-10m³ of sand and sediment (and some logs) removed from the drain area. This one will need more work in near future to finish it off properly and to stop it blocking up again.
6. Various other small tasks about the place.

RANGE CLOSURES

For the Last Major Maintenance Works Of This Financial Year.

(See upcoming events.)

JANUARY 23-24

Closed during the daytime to ALL shooting
8.00am to 5.30pm

(as we will have machines working on site in the range danger area).

JANUARY 25 (Saturday)

Working Bee (I could use about 6-10 helpers please).

Closed from 8.00am to 1.00pm
(NO SHOOTING DURING THIS TIME).

Please email me first if you would like to attend, or if you are wanting to shoot in the afternoon, just in case we end up running overtime.

Trailer, shovel, spade, rake, leather gloves, rake, hand tools, other powertools or weedwhackers, etc. would be good to bring along if you can assist. One or two members who are builders would be handy also. Bring your own lunch and drinks, change of clothes, etc.

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Fundraising and donations:

We are always looking for additional sources of funding to help with range maintenance costs, and for development work to create new facilities on site. We have recently had a member donate several boxes of some 1-tonne/3M lifting strops, which we will be offering for sale to the members at a good price, and these funds will be going towards the range maintenance bills. (see the advert elsewhere in this issue). Evan will have these for sale behind the counter at club-nights, so please ask. Also we have just received a large quantity of the yellow plastic empty chamber safety indicator tags (ECI tags) for rifles, so if you are wanting to purchase a few of these for your own use they will be for sale up at the range on the open days, or Evan may have some available on club nights as well. All of the proceeds of these sales go directly to the club and help to subsidise the range budget.

However, as a registered charity we do accept donations, and if you feel that you would like to make a financial contribution to the clubs account – especially if you are a keen range user who for some reason can't make it along to the working bees - then that would be appreciated. Please use the following account for our BOP branch (don't send the money to Wellington office by mistake!)

NZDA-BOP branch: 03-0445-0184375-00 Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Thanks & regards, Dean Maisey.

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Over the summer months please be aware that the rifle range use and access may be closed at any time by the park staff for emergencies, or by any of the volunteer range officers if we have to do work down range of the firing line, or anywhere in the 'Range Danger Area'. Wherever possible we will try to give the range-ticket members at least a day or more of prior notice via the club calendar on our website. If it is a significant working bee or shutdown of more than half a day, we will also try to email out a notification to members as well. But to avoid disappointment please be sure to check the club's calendar every time before you head up to the range.

Please note: The club **WILL NOT** be liable for re-imbursement of your fuel or time costs (or anything else) if you turn up to find out that you can't actually use the range due to some organised event – or any other reason. Please remember that the direct personal costs to us volunteers to run the range facility is far more than the cost of your range ticket, and that having a range ticket does not express or imply any guaranteed level of usage of the range facility. Your \$100 range ticket fee is in reality a very modest contribution for a recreational (non-commercial) level of access to a volunteer-run club facility over the course of a year. For a commercially-run range operation you would most likely be looking at minimum annual fees in the \$600-\$1000 range, or more.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE RANGE:

1. Tauranga Precision Rifle Association shoot. Range booking:

Saturday 18 January, 2025.

(This shoot is organised and run by TPRA, but is available for all NZDA BOP members to attend and participate. The TPRA lease arrangement for the day allows them to reserve shooting positions #1 to #12 for their shooting event, but positions #13 to #15 should be made available to NZDA BOP members for sighting-in use if required. The Range officers running this event are also NZDA BOP members.)

If you want to come along you need to RSVP by midday Friday 20th September to royced@xtra.co.nz. This helps us with planning and arranging the BBQ for lunch.

Cost: for range ticket holders (and members completing their range ticket inductions) is **\$10** per shooter, cost for NZDA non-range-ticket holders is \$35 (this includes the **\$25** range fee) to cover targets, patches, BBQ lunch – bring cash on the day. (Non-members of NZDA BOP – range day fee of **\$50 applies, + \$10** for targets, etc.)

You need to be there by 9.00am to assist with set-up. Shooting commences with a safety brief and explanation about how the day will be running at 9.30am (this is compulsory for all shooters). Any members requiring an induction must be there by 9.00am. Anyone requiring an induction that arrives after the induction has taken place will not be able to shoot.

2. Range Closures for maintenance

Thursday January 23 and Friday January 24 - Range closed from 8:00am to 5:30pm - NO SHOOTING during this time. Saturday 25th - WORKING BEE and RANGE CLOSED from 8:00am to 1:00pm - NO SHOOTING during this time.

May be open to shooting after then, if we have finished all work on the range danger area. If you want to come up to shoot on that day, or on the evenings of the Thursday or Friday, then please let me know first. **Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz**

3. Range Open Day

Sunday 26 January - 9.00am to 3.00pm.
(Registrations close at 2.15pm).

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

- 1. DO NOT LEAVE LIVE AMMO AT THE RANGE. DO NOT PUT LIVE AMMO IN THE EMPTY CASE BINS.**
- 2. REMEMBER TO BRING ALL YOUR OWN PAPER TARGETS WITH YOU, AND TAKE ALL RUBBISH HOME WITH YOU.**
- 3. DO NOT SHOOT THE NEW TARGET NUMBER SIGNS ON THE BACKING BOARDS – THESE ARE NOT NOVELTY TARGETS, THEY ARE PART OF THE RANGE INFRASTRUCTURE.**

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Anyone caught deliberately shooting (vandalising) these new signs, or abusing any other assets of the range facility may face immediate suspension of their range access privileges, or a complete ban.

Please report any signs of damage or other issues to the range manager, or one of the Range Officers. Please keep the range firing line area tidy, and sweep it out before you leave.

Regards, Dean Maisey.

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

.22LR 50M RIMFIRE BENCHREST MATCH



**WE SHOT THIS ON SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY.
WE HAD 14 SHOOTERS COMPETE. TWO
WERE FROM OTHER NZDA BRANCHES:
TAUPO AND THAMES VALLEY.**

We ran 2 score sheets so that we could track our own branch records. Greg Denby broke his existing record in Custom Class from last year, with a score of 700.20. Daniel Ooythuysen's record for Factory Class still stands at 689.13.

We created a new Bipod Class for those that did not have a sandbag style front rest or just preferred to shoot off a bipod. Dana Meyer set the branch record for this at 703.20 and certainly gave everyone else a run for their money!

The way this works is you shoot 3 score targets at 50m. Each target has 25 bullseyes. The smallest ring is worth 10 points. Inside the smallest ring is a dot. This is usually referred to as an X if you hit it. The maximum score per target is 250-25X. For arithmetic purposes when adding scores in a spreadsheet the X is noted as 0.01, a perfect score on a target is 250-25X or 250.25. You shoot 3 targets and then add the scores up. So the 3 target perfect score is 750-75X or 750.75.

You can also shoot this match at the NZDA benchrest nationals in Nelson at Easter.

Thanks to the range officers for helping run the event: Lester, Richard, Chris and Jill.



RANGE OFFICER

RANGE OFFICER

Custom Rifle Class

Greg Denby

700.20

Factory Rifle Class

Greg Denby

674.11

BiPod Rifle Class

Dana Meyer

703.20

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Thanks to everyone who participated and congratulations to the winners. I hope you had an enjoyable day.

More information can be found on the club website here:

<https://deerstalkersbop.org.nz/range/benchrest-shooting/>

NZDA-BOP 50m .22LR Rimfire Benchrest Results

12th January 2025

C = NZDA Custom Class
 F = NZDA Factory Class
 B = NZDA-BOP Bipod Class
 Max score per target is 250.25 (total 750.75)

NZDA-BOP Member Results

Name	Class	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Total	Place
Greg Denby	C	225.02	231.10	244.08	700.20	1
Grant Hammond	C	214.03	230.07	219.02	663.12	2
Dale Williams	C	174.03	180.00	173.06	527.09	3
Greg Denby	F	218.02	227.03	229.06	674.11	1
William Chung	F	196.03	199.00	194.03	589.06	2
Gregory Doust	F	198.04	185.03	194.00	577.07	3
Mandeep Chung	F	175.00	122.00	178.01	475.01	4
Dana Meyer	B	227.04	239.10	237.06	703.20	1
Daniel Oosthuysen	B	235.08	235.04	228.06	698.18	2
Rob Duncanson	B	230.07	219.03	222.02	671.12	3
Darren King	B	177.02	205.01	200.04	582.07	4
Craig Marwick	B	152.00	190.00	188.01	530.01	5

All Comers Results

Name	Class	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Total	Place
Greg Denby	C	225.02	231.10	244.08	700.20	1
Gregg Burrows	C	229.06	222.02	232.04	68	2
Grant Hammond	C	214.03	230.07	219.02	663.12	3
Dale Williams	C	174.03	180.00	173.06	527.09	4
Greg Denby	F	218.02	227.03	229.06	674.11	1
William Chung	F	196.03	199.00	194.03	589.06	2
Gregory Doust	F	198.04	185.03	194.00	577.07	3
Mandeep Chung	F	175.00	122.00	178.01	475.01	4
Joshua Maynard	B	236.06	234.07	237.07	707.20	1
Dana Meyer	B	227.04	239.10	237.06	703.20	2
Daniel Oosthuysen	B	235.08	235.04	228.06	698.18	3
Rob Duncanson	B	230.07	219.03	222.02	671.12	4
Darren King	B	177.02	205.01	200.04	582.07	5
Craig Marwick	B	152.00	190.00	188.01	530.01	6

Weather at beginning of event:

Temp: 16°C
 Humidity: 48% RH
 Pressure: 1012 hPa
 Wind: 21.9 kph SSE
 Gusts: 34.8 kph SSE
 Visual: Fine, blue sky.

Advocacy Alert: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ARMS ACT REWRITE TO START JANUARY 2025

Hon Nicole McKee

NZ Government Press Release 17 December 2024 - Consultation on Arms Act Rewrite to Begin

NZDA received a press release directly from Minister McKee's office announcing the long-awaited consultation on our firearms law kicking off immediately after the holiday season in January 2025.

NZDA has long called for sensible firearms laws and the recreational hunting and shooting community will no doubt welcome this announcement.

The consultation period is the time to voice your concerns, share your ideas, and engage with the law-making process. This process will likely determine the firearms laws that affect us all for the next period, just like the 1983 Act, which was in place for 40 years.

Associate Justice Minister Nicole McKee has welcomed Cabinet's decision to undertake public consultation on the rewrite of the Arms Act 1983.

"Phase four of my firearms reforms is the rewrite of the Act and, as promised, we will be consulting with the New Zealand public. The consultation period will open in January and run through until the end of February," Mrs McKee says.

"It has been more than 40 years since the Act was enacted. Throughout the years, it has been amended several times, often at pace. Importantly, the Act has been changed to respond to serious events in New Zealand history where there were many deaths involving firearms."

"I acknowledge the tragic events that have led to previous changes in the Act. However, these changes were often made quickly, they did not include a thorough review of the overall Act, and nor did we become safer because of them. We have not conducted a systemic review or undertaken an open debate about what a modern firearms regime should deliver to the community."

"This Government wants to rewrite the Act so a fit-for-purpose regime can be put in place to provide for greater protection of public safety and simplify regulatory requirements to improve compliance."

"Most firearms users are law abiding and responsible people. Many New Zealanders use firearms to hunt for food for their families, to control introduced pests, in farming and agriculture, and in sporting and competitive events. All these activities are legitimate. They are all important because they benefit communities and help protect our natural environment."

"The safety of our communities is at the heart of an effective firearms regime: it is important that everyone has confidence in how firearms are controlled. For that reason, everyone has a role to play in the rewrite of the Act."

"This upcoming round of public consultation is the first step in hearing from all New Zealanders about their views."

The submissions on the discussion document will feed into the policy development process led by the Ministry of Justice. Following policy development, the Government will introduce a bill to Parliament and the public will have a further opportunity to make submissions on the proposed changes through the select committee process. The bill is expected to be introduced in late 2025.

The discussion document and further details on the public consultation will be available on the Ministry of Justice website from 13 January 2025.

Submissions will close on 28 February 2025.



Press Release 13 December 2024

NZDA CELEBRATES NATIONAL GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION SUCCESS AS A VICTORY FOR HUNTER LED CONSERVATION

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) is proud to announce the outstanding results of the 2024 National Goat Hunting Competition, a key event in our hunter-led conservation efforts. This year, participants removed an incredible 12,935 wild goats, an increase of 27% from last year, making this our most successful competition to date.

The event drew 823 participants, with 64% reporting they were more likely to hunt wild goats because of the competition. The regions of Whanganui, Waikato, and Otago led the charge with the highest number of entries, highlighting the commitment of hunters in those regions and nationally to get out there and enjoy their sport, while also doing their part for conservation.

Callum Sheridan, NZDA President, expressed his gratitude to all involved.

“This competition is about much more than just numbers - it’s about New Zealanders coming together to protect our unique ecosystems. Hunters play a critical role in controlling introduced species, and this year’s record turnout shows the power of hunter-driven conservation.”

Trevor Gratton, NZDA Board Member and Competition Coordinator, emphasised the importance of partnerships in making the event a success.

“We couldn’t achieve these results without the incredible dedication of our branches, members, and the collaboration between NZDA, the Department of Conservation and Federated Farmers. It is great to see DOC working closely with the NZDA to help manage herd numbers effectively.”

The Hon. Todd McClay, Minister of Hunting and Fishing, praised the initiative and stated:

“This fantastic result demonstrates the importance and benefit of strong partnerships across the hunting community in addressing the damage wild goats cause to farmland and native ecosystems.”

The NZDA would like to acknowledge and thank the Department of Conservation for partnering with hunters and NZDA in our joint effort to deliver this annual competition and look forward to building on the success next year. Together, we celebrate this milestone as a step forward in preserving the natural beauty of Aotearoa for generations to come.

Finally NZDA would like to thank all the sponsors for their support and prizes, and most importantly we thank the hunting community who are the real conservation heroes of this competition.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

We have a couple of items for purchase now: of which the funds will go towards the rifle range maintenance and development fund. These will be available for purchase on club nights, at the range itself, or can be made available for pickup at another location/time by prior arrangement with Dean Maisey, Evan Dines, or Chris Fryer. For payments we can take cash, or eftpos (if a terminal is available - i.e. at 'range open days' or club nights), or direct payment into our club's bank account (preferred). The NZDA-BOP branch bank account is: 03-0445-0184375-00

LIFTING STROPS

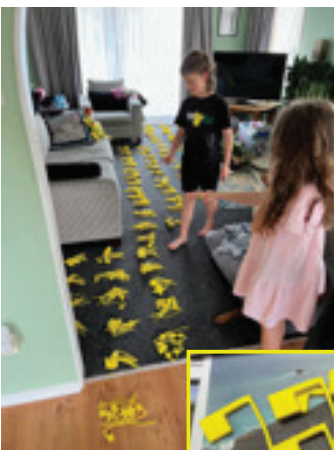
3 METRES LONG, 1-TONNE RATED (ONCE USED)

One of our members has generously donated a couple of boxes of these 'as-new' lifting slings/strops to the club, as a fundraiser. We have used some of these slings at our recent working bee for lifting out the rubber backstop drums, and they are awesome. However they could be used for towing, or a multitude of other uses around the home, farm, or when out hunting.

Disclaimer is that these are being sold 'as-is' for personal use only. If you are wanting to use them for a commercial application, then you would need to pay for them to be re-certified, and the club accepts no liability for any way you may choose to use (or misuse) these items.

Normal retail price on similar 3M/1-Tonne strops is in the \$25-\$30 range.

WE ARE ASKING \$10.00 EACH FOR THESE, OR YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO ROUND IT UP A BIT AS AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO THE CLUB IF YOU LIKE.



YELLOW PLASTIC EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATOR (ECI) DEVICES

These are a recommended item for when transporting firearms, and are mandatory for use at the range, including on our Range Open Days. This simple device gives a quick and clear visual reference that any firearm is 'safe' and unloaded when one of these bright yellow tags is inserted into the chamber of the rifle, shotgun, or pistol. The long stem on these universal indicators is small enough to fit into the bores of .17cal rifles, so (unlike some of the other ECI devices that we have had in the past) these ones will fit the popular .17HMR rifles, as well as .17cal air-rifles, .22cal, and anything bigger up to about .44cal.

We have now received a large number of these (so many that I had to get my kids to count them for me!) which will be available for purchase at the rifle range, or we can make some available for purchase at club nights. (See Evan at the bar.)

PRICE ON THESE ONES IS \$4.00 EACH. OR IF YOU NEED 10 OR MORE OF THEM, THEN LET ME KNOW DIRECTLY PLEASE SO WE CAN ARRANGE THAT FOR YOU.

Or, if you would just like to make a **general donation** to the range maintenance or development fund at any time, that would be greatly appreciated. The NZDA-BOP branch bank account is: 03-0445-0184375-00

Please put something on the payment reference for our statement, like 'RANGE DON.' If you could also please email our treasurer Jill to let her know what your donation is for: treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT EVERYONE

Dean Maisey, Range manager. Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

27 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 2025



CLUB HUNT
Waioeka – Tawa Hut

27th Feb –
2nd March 2025

OUR FIRST CLUB HUNT OF THE YEAR!

We will be heading back to Tawa Hut in the epic Waioeka from the 27th of February until the 2nd of March.

It is well worth the 4-5 hour walk as there are plenty of deer and pigs along the river flats.

So make sure you get in shape and don't eat too many Xmas Pies :-)

We will organise car pooling closer to the time and also will have a What's App Group to organize car pooling and meeting points. The \$40 will go towards fuel to the drivers.

Club Hunt organizer is Dan Gallagher: 022 1280 828
or danielgallaghan@hotmail.com for any questions.

CLUB NIGHT - FEBRUARY 4TH FROM 7PM



SIMON CARKEEK FROM PRACMED TO GIVE US SOME INSIGHTS FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER FIRST AID AND BLEED CONTROL IN THE BUSH.

We are hoping to offer First Aid Training with him after the course, details to be confirmed.

Have a look here, it's pretty epic what they do:
<https://pracmednz.com/about-us/>

Our Values



We Have Uncompromising Service & Delivery



We are Relentless with our Innovation



Setting the Market Standard

FIRST FOR 2025

OUR LAST TRIP TO MANGAMAIRE SADDLE



10.30am on the 27th of December 2024 Jill and I, plus our two dogs Gus and Maggie flew into Mangamaire Saddle with Helisika. This was our 18th year hunting there (all on the same dates i.e. 27th December to 3rd January). It should have been our 19th but we had to cancel 2023/24 as Jill had a fall on our stairs at home the week before, breaking both ankles and some bones in one foot. So, her Christmas 2024 and New Year's Eve were spent in hospital, not in 'the hills'.

The flight in was rather rough due to strong winds plus some drizzle. When we landed, we put the dogs in the hut out of the road while we helped unload our stuff from the chopper.

We then took the boxes of stuff into the hut and unpacked things. Then sitting down having a coffee we noticed 2 rat baits, 1 under the table and the other on the fireplace hearth. What the hell - we had left our dogs shut in there with that poison! When we flew out, we mentioned it to the pilot and he said they sometimes do leave rat/mice bait. We said,

"but you knew we had dogs, why didn't you warn us?"

We didn't go for a hunt that evening as it was

blowing hard with squally rain. The next morning it was downstream and up Mt Dowding a wee way for a look, but we didn't see anything.

On the 29th we went further down the open valley but had to retreat after a while as the tussock & rolling low bushes were playing hell with Jill's ankles.



Photo: Mangamaire Saddle hut, very comfortable 6 bunks (Helisika only allows 4 people per trip), log fire, double burner gas cooker, long drop, and large meat safe.

On the 30th we left the hut at 5.00am in calm weather conditions, up opposite the hut and out the back spur, returning to the hut at 5.35pm, bugged. We had spotted fresh marks of deer in four different places, with the dogs winding strongly in two of these.



Photo: Looking up Mt Dowding with the hut at the bottom.

The 31st was squally rain so a hut day, which we needed after the big effort the day before.

The 1st was wet with strong winds again, so another hut day.

On the 2nd it was fine and light wind, so we left the hut at 5.45am, heading up Mt Dowding through the bush at times. When we came out on a small saddle just over halfway up we sat out in the tussock glassing for ages all the different guts and gullies on the face of Mt Dowding – nothing seen. At 10.00am I said to Jill,

“I’ve had enough of this crap, I’m heading back”.

We had only gone about 150 yards when Jill spotted a deer out in the scrub about 80 yards away. Unfortunately, the scrub we were in was too high for Jill to get her rifle above it for a shot at the deer. I’m taller so I shot it, a nice fat Sika spiker. The dogs were at it in a flash barking and pulling on it, Maggie at its throat and Gus on a leg, even though it was dead.

So, then it was cut up time, removing legs, back steaks, eye fillets, neck meat etc, plus my yummys (heart, kidneys, liver).

Then the steep downhill trip back to the hut. It’s always hard on your knees with a weight on your

back, but a beer when you get back to the hut fixes that!!

This wasn’t just my first deer for 2025. It was also deer number 107 for my Sako 75 6.5x55 which I bought new 26 years ago. I’ve also shot 8 pigs with it. All animals with ammo that I have reloaded myself – 120grain Nosler ballistic tips.

This was our last trip to Mangamaire Saddle, we won’t be going back. The country is getting too steep for us (I turned 71 in December) plus the last 3 times we have been there we have only seen (and shot) 1 deer per trip.

That doesn’t mean that we are giving up hunting. We are off into the Ruahines for a week at the end of January. Then April down the deep South deer hunting, then duck shooting opening weekend. On the way back home stopping off at Kaikoura for 6 days deer hunting. We need to find an easier spot for our December/January hunt.

by Chris Fryer



STAG-GERING RESULTS RAUKUMARA



It was unseasonably wet and cold as we loaded our Tatonka packs and headed for Raukumara. Our potential list of game was as varied as the weather we were expecting: Wild Cattle, Wild Sheep, pigs and lots and lots of velvet stags. With freezers freshly emptied by the festive seasons family gatherings we all had gaping holes in our meat stores and Raukumara would be just the place to fill them.

As we wandered up the river, hesitant to pull trigger on day one of a three day trip, we spotted 14 deer. Mostly hinds with fawns and off limits for our way of thinking.

With pitched tents we scouted the local slips. Four velvet stags looked back at us, the closest a solid 7 pointer, fat on summer grass and perfect for the freezer.

Early, well early enough for us the next day, we spotted four stags jostling each other in a mob on the river flats. An old fashioned bomb up left two on the deck and we now had a stag each for the trip.

After retiring to sleeping bags and puffer jackets to wait out the frigid summer conditions until evening once again a velvet stag dropped to the .308 on dusk. We did our best at eating as much meat as possible



over a sizzling Mahoe fire that evening to lighten the weight of our packs the next day. But four deer and three days worth of gear is a load in anyone's books as we stumbled our way down the slightly swollen rivers of the Ruatahunga.

Not 700m from the bike we saw another mob. Three stags and a barren hind. It gets quite easy to pick a barren hind I reckon once we learn to read their mannerisms. So she came

tumbling down the slip followed by the fatter of the stags.

It was loaded with six deer that we finally dropped our packs to the ground next to the bike. Once again Raukumara had provided, we were grateful and our freezers were full.

Sam - The Trap Man

@sam_the_trap_man

The full range of Tatonka packs mentioned in this story are available at Hamills Tauranga, 437 Cameron Road.



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You may only list "A" category firearms, in sporting configuration, as defined by the Arms Act 1983. Large capacity magazines (i.e. more than 15 cartridges for .22 rimfire, or more than 7 cartridges for others) may not be sold.

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Firearms must already be in New Zealand. Overseas members may not buy or sell firearms on the site.



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VENISON SALAD WITH RASPBERRY VINAIGRETTE



Preparation time: 15m



Cooking time: 25m



Difficulty: ●○○

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pack Silver Fern Farms Venison Medallions
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 1 tsp whole peppercorns
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 lb gourmet baby-sized potatoes
- 2 red onions, peeled, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 2 cups baby arugula leaves
- 1/2 cup raspberries, optional
- Fresh herbs and edible flowers, to garnish

Raspberry Vinaigrette

- 1/4 cup good-quality olive oil
- 1 Tbsp raspberry vinegar
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tbsp chives, chopped
- 1 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp aged balsamic vinegar

METHOD

Step 1

Remove venison from the fridge and remove packaging. Allow to come to room temperature.

Step 2

Make a dry rub by grinding together the cumin seeds, allspice, peppercorns and salt. Rub spice mix into venison and set aside.

Step 3

Wash potatoes and place in a saucepan and cover with water. Bring to boil and cook until tender. Drain, refresh with cold water, cool completely and cut into wedges. Mix red onions with white wine vinegar. Leave to rest. Wash arugula and set aside to drain.

Step 4

To make vinaigrette, mix olive oil, raspberry vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, chives, red wine vinegar, and aged balsamic vinegar in a jar with a lid. Season with salt and pepper. Shake well to combine.



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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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CLUB NIGHT:

First Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
Doors open at 7pm if you want to come early for a chat!

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COMMITTEE MEETING:

Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
All correspondence to be sent to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.

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NEWSLETTER:

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

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