



# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

# BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

Our mission statement is to retain, enhance and create opportunities for the enjoyment of legitimate recreational hunting and the sport of shooting, for the members of the Association. Founded in 1950, the Bay of Plenty NZDA is a branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association.

### **Cover Photo:**

Tim loaded up and excited about the next 3 days in Long Gully (see his story on page 14).

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

# February 2025

I've managed to get up the bush twice in the last month and thoroughly enjoyed it. The first occasion was with my brother, and we had a great twenty-four hours in the Kaimais. There's a story to tell, but it's his to tell so you should ask him about it...

The second time was with my whole family (three-month-old included), and we enjoyed a fantastic three nights fly camping on the Hurunui hut clearing. Nothing beats the forest for a relaxing escape from the busyness of everyday life. There were plenty of people about on the tracks, and the Hurunui hut had several visitors while we were there. A few keen hunters also passed by, on their way to camping in their favourite spot somewhere beyond the hut and stream. Three nights was a good trial of having the seven of us and the dog under the fly. It rained all three nights and thankfully none of us got wet. Those in the hut were sure we were going to come knocking but we all slept comfortably, and everything stayed dry. If ever someone says you can't take a baby up the bush, they're wrong, and we proved it. The kids are hanging out for our next adventure and can't wait to get back to the Hurunui sometime in the future. If you're looking for an easy walk or somewhere to take little legs, it's a good place to start, and despite my bad luck (I only spent a few hours hunting) there are plenty of deer living not far from the hut.

The end of the financial year is nearly here. Membership invoices will be coming out shortly and the branch would greatly appreciate prompt payment. Access to the



range and chiller will be revoked on the 1st of April for anyone who hasn't paid the relevant fees by the due date.

We have the annual pre-roar club night at Hamills again this year and I'm looking forward to a big turnout and strong show of support for our local hunting outfitter and long-time supporter of our branch. No doubt there will be some great deals as well as opportunities to win some prizes. The fallow hunt ballot will be drawn at the end of the night so don't leave early. A few names were called out last year, but the members had left already and missed out.

As I've mentioned in previous newsletters, make sure you have a plan for the roar. The stags will be scraping their antlers over the coming weeks and the opportunity to secure a trophy of a lifetime won't come to those sitting at home daydreaming about hunting. You need to be Johnny on the spot when that stag is roaring his guts out trying to scare off the competition.

See you at Hamills, if not, have a safe and successful roar. Hot barrels and happy hunting!



# **Membership Fees**

The Bay of Plenty Branch made no change to the branch fees at the Branch AGM in July 2024. However, the National Association made changes to capitation and levies at the National AGM in July 2024. So, there is a slight increase in Membership Subscription Fees. You may notice this when you receive your Membership Invoice on the 1st of March. Updated fees can be viewed on our website.

If you are considering paying for a range ticket (and key fob) or the chiller for the coming year and you don't currently have access, then it would be best to promptly phone the national office to have these added to your coming invoice. It's easiest to process now, and it means you will get the advantage of a full year for the applicable fee. The roar is coming, and the chiller is well worth the \$50 access fee during March and April.

This year, invoices will be sent to all members on Saturday the 1st of March. Eligible members who have paid their invoice by close of business on Monday the 3rd of March will be automatically entered in the draw for the first fallow hunt of the year in Whanganui, on ANZAC weekend, the

25th-27th of April. To secure a spot on the hunt, eligible members must be present for the ballot draw held at the March Club Night at Hamills Tauranga on Cameron Road. You must confirm your availability at the time your name is drawn, so check your calendar and consult your partner before the club night.

If the name of a Family Member is drawn, the "Full Member" will automatically be allocated a spot on the hunt with their Family Member. Terms and Conditions apply, and Associate Members are not eligible because they don't receive the benefit of the NZDA's liability insurance cover provided to other membership classes.

Upgrade your membership today to make yourself eligible and add your family members to your membership to give yourself more chances!

# **Club Reward System**

This year we are trialling a reward system for supporting our club's activities.

Points will be allocated based on a points schedule. There will be draws throughout the year and the prize pool value is \$2000+.

Turning up to club nights and paying your fees on time will kick start your point accrual for the year. The major prize will be drawn at the March Club Night in 2026.

To accrue points, simply turn up to NZDA BOP club events, scan the QR code at the event and enter your name.

Participation	Points
Membership Fee Payment by Due Date	5
Attend a Club Night	1
Attend a Working Bee	5
Submit an Article for the Newsletter	3
Organise a Club Event	5
Committee Meeting Attendance	1
Participating in a Club Hunt	2
Participating in an NZDA BOP Shooting Event	2
Assisting with a Billboard Change	5
Range Officer / Public Day Duty	5
Guide a HUNTS Course Student for 1 on 1 hunt	3
Douglas Scoring for Measuring Night	3

# BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

	27 Fak				
FEB	27 February Club Hunt Tawa Hut Contact: Dan - 021 807 4584				
MAR	4 March Club Night at Hamills Starts: 7pm	9 March Range Officer Training Contact: range@ deerstalkersbop.org.nz	15 March Pre-roar Shoot and JM Wilkinson Cup Shoot Contact: royced@xtra.co.nz	16 March Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 100m for Group	28 March Club Hunt - Te Waiti Hut Contact: Scott - 021 385 520
APR	1 April Club Night Casual Social Night Starts: 7pm		10-13 April Te Whare Okioki Club Hunt Contact: Dan - 022 128 0828 danielgallaghan@hotmail.com	25-27 April Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Lester Polglase	
MAY	4 May Peeking Wallaby Match at Range Centrefire 100m for Group		<b>6 May</b> Club Night Trade and Exchange Night Starts: 7pm	16-18 May Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Doug Willams	<b>20 May</b> Annual Measuring Night
JUN	15 June Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 200m for Group		Date: TBC Wanganui River Hunt Contact: Isabell 026 650 3488	20-22 June Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Matt Batchelor 021 222 5854	
JULY	1 July Club Night - Annual AGM Starts: 7pm		11-13 July Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC		
AUG	Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC		4 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams	5 August Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm	
SEPT	Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC		2 September Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm		
OCT			<b>18-19 October</b> Mokau River Club Hunt Contact: TBC	25-27 October Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC	

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

# RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range from 10th-25th 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.



- On 10/1 I had to do some repairs to the new drain near the 25M targets after the first unexpected dump of heavy rain.
- The 2.7 Tonne digger was delivered on site once again (on 22/1) by Bay Mini Digger-hire same deal for the club as last time on a 3 day hire, though we had it until the 27/1.
- •On 23/1 we used the trencher to prep the top of the bank on the LH side of the range area with several 50m-long trenches at a depth of 900mm through the clay and hard rhyolite. The 2.7T digger shifted as much clay and rhyolite from that area and down onto the range floor as I could in the available time. Some extra safety fencing and caution-tape has been installed on the western access and perimeter track in certain areas. A few of the 150mmx50mm x6m boards + stakes were used to prep the track area near the 100m target line, for building up the next day.
- •On 24/1 Roger McLean from R&M Excavators came up with his truck and 4T digger for the day. He cleaned up my mess from the previous day, shifting all of that material to fill the eroded bank near the 25M target line. He then used some of the fresh cut rhyolite to build up the access track on the LH side of the range area near the 100m targets, and this has been packed down nicely. (Note that this was the area that turned into a bog in September last year.). Roger continued to load and shift up to 19 truckloads of material during the Friday, and then again on the Saturday morning. I used the 2.7T digger to dig out the blocked watercourse behind the 200m targets (in preparation for the guys to waterblast out the culverts the next day), and continued to

- clear out and more clearly define the severely overgrown watercourse area going from the 200m targets down to a point in line with the shooting building. This basically took me all day, until about 7:30pm.
- •On Saturday 25/1 we clearing the two blocked culverts at the crossing behind the 200m mark, with the help of the petrol water-blaster from Kennards Hire. We also used the digger to top up the drums at 100M with fresh rubber chip we used 3 of the drum-loads that we had left over from the November working bee, so that is sorted for now - but bear in mind this was only 6 months since those drums were fully serviced and the levels of the rubber-chip were getting pretty marginal in terms of safety. Roger came back up again for 3 hours with the truck and digger, and finished off the last few loads with the truck, and contoured and shaped the range-floor area up to the 25M targets, providing a slope to direct any surface water towards the new drain. One of the guys has repaired the shooting building door, and installed the new (second-hand) cabinets at the range which I have donated. We also made a judder-bar/water-diverter near the gate at the end of the shooting building – to divert some of the surface rainwater from the sealed area out over the bank – where previously it had just been running out onto the range floor area and contributing to the erosion problems. The concrete slab has been cleaned with the water-blaster, and they also did up around the main gate-entry area as well. Some new cleaning gear and a storage shelf has been added to the outside toilet, as well as a bungy-cord to keep the door held- open if required.

# RANGE NEWS

### Update on work at range from 10th-25th January.

The guys have replaced ALL of the target-signs down range with the new ones that were sitting in the office for the past year or more – these look really good, let's keep it that way. Some more works have been done to improve the tracks in the northern boundary area, and one of the guys has also put some 'roading aggregate' on the area of the perimeter track that I re-shaped near the southern boundary gate a few weeks earlier. A few light rain showers during the day, but had a few extra helpers that came along on the day which was good. Finally out of there just after 8:30pm that day. The monsoon started about 11:00pm that night (with 75mm of rainfall on Sunday 26 th!).

Many thanks to the guys who turned up to help out with the work done on site from the 23-25 Jan, that was much appreciated. This is what being part of a volunteer organisation is all about. Cheers!

Also just wanted to say a special thanks once again to Steve from Bay Mini Digger hire who gave us an amazing good 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 good 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.

### **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 (noncommercial) level of access to a volunteer-run club facility over the course of a year. For a commerciallyrun range operation you would most likely be looking at minimum annual fees in the \$600-\$1000 range, or more.

## 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 as 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.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# AT THE RANGE:

# 1. Tauranga Precision Rifle Association shoot. Range booking:

### Saturday 15 February, 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 Open Day

**Sunday 23 February – 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 INFRUSTRUCTURE.

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





The NZDA North Island benchrest championship was held on the 25th -27th January 2025 at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex (TSSC) in Tokoroa. The hosting branch was the Bay of Plenty.

There were twelve competitors representing the following branches: Nelson, South Canterbury, Taupo, Bay of Plenty, North Auckland and Direct. One competitor was a junior and for another it was his first benchrest tournament. Eleven competitors shot in the Light Varmint and Heavy Varmint rifle classes, while one competitor from the BOP branch shot in Factory rifle class.

We were fortunate to secure the services of Lester Polglase and Chris Fryer, both NZDA nationally qualified range officers from the Bay of Plenty branch, to administer the firing line and conduct target changes. Their services were greatly appreciated by the competitors.

The weather was quite fickle for the whole tournament. On Saturday the breeze was very changeable, Sunday it was gales and torrential rain for most of the day. Monday yielded the best conditions and group sizes shrank accordingly.

Dean Wilton, the Factory rifle class shooter, did very well and may have possibly broken both the aggregate record and a small group record. The targets have been taken for validation. Dean also broke several Factory rifle class records two years ago in the same tournament. 1st, Peter Haxell





## PRE-ROAR SHOOT: SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Get roar ready at the Tauranga Precision Rifle Association hosted shoot at our 300m range on Saturday 15 March.

Shooting deer targets at 100m – getting yourself ready for the roar, social fun or a bit of competition – up to you.

Join us from 9am – 1pm at the TECT Park 300m Range. We will throw some sausages on the BBQ too.

Pre-Roar Shoot: 1 round, 4 rounds, 8 rounds, however many you want at 100m at deer targets

If you would like to attend either of the above shoots please flick an email to Robyn on royced@xtra.co.nz to register your interest by Wednesday 12 March.

### **PRICING**

Range ticket holders: NO charge
Non-range ticket holder: NZDA
Members - \$25 (you will need to

complete an induction before shooting)

(Price is for both shoots)

## JM WILKINSON CUP SHOOT: SATURDAY 15 MARCH

Open to all financial members of the NZDA 20 centrefire rounds at 100m(deer target) – 5 prone, 5 sitting, 5 kneeling, 5 standing (1 optional non-scoring sighter from prone is allowed)

Rifle Restrictions: Rifle must not weigh more than 4.5kgs, sight power restricted to 12x or less.

Equipment Restrictions: No slings, palm rests, butt hook or specialist target clothing. No gloves No use of spotting scopes and/or signalling from the butts is permitted

For Junior members there is the option of competing in the Hawkes Bay Challenge Cup: - Open to all NZDA financial members under the age of 18 on the date of the competition (15 March). All other rules are as per the JM Wilkinson Postal Shooting Championship. NZDA BOP can submit the top three results from the two categories (Championship and Junior) to National Office for the competition (closes 10 June each year).

For more details please refer to: https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/what-we-do/get-involved/target-shooting/postal-shooting-competitions

### **TUESDAY MARCH 4TH FROM 7PM**

# **CLUB NIGHT - HAMILLS**



Come join us at this club night to enjoy pizzas and drinks at Hamills Tauranga, along with many great specials.

### SPECIALS INCLUDE

- Stoney Creek Clothing 20% off
- RAB Clothing 20% off
- Stone Glacier Clothing 20% off
- Stone Glacier Packs 15% off
- Burris Droptine Scopes \$200 off
- Wilderness Boot Dryers normally \$89.99 now \$40
- Hikmicro Thermal and Nightvision 10% off
- Selected Bushnell scopes half price

### MORE GREAT SPECIALS ON THE NIGHT



GETS YOU IN THE DRAW FOR GREAT PRIZRES

# 27 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 2025





CLUB HUNT Waioeka – Tawa Hut

27<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Gallaghan: 022 1280 828 or danielgallaghan@hotmail.com for any questions.



Molesworth Station, it's one of those places that hunters dream about but very few visit. My interest was aroused while sitting in an NZDA meeting. Fellow board member, Richard Wells, started telling me tales of roaming hordes of deer and monstrous blue pigs. One day he casually asked if I'd be keen to tag along on a block he secured through the permit system and from there the hook was set.

At 118,787ha Molesworth is New Zealand's largest farm. It's public land managed by DOC and farmed under a management plan by PAMU. The management plan is place since 2013 is up for consultation this year, and recreational users of all types and us as hunters will need to be engaged. Farming and hunting appear to be complementary so hopefully common sense will prevail and access and management of the game animals on the land will continue.

Hunting in Molesworth is run by a "ballot" system (really a "first past the post" permit application like Stewart Island) administered by DOC. There are 38 hunting blocks, some of these are available all year round, while others are only available at specific times. The permit

gives you access to a particular block for 1 week and you're allowed up to 6 ballot blocks in a year plus a roar block. Each block is known for different reasons - some are favored for their big stags, others for chamois or pigs, and a couple simply because you can hunt them all year round. An interesting rule for all blocks is that none can be accessed by vehicles off the designated major public roads, with the only exception being push bikes and horses (which require an activity permit and aren't suitable for all blocks). This largely restricts hunters to walking in from the road, and I'll admit that it's bloody frustrating because the distances are vast. It's little wonder most hunters tend to concentrate on trophy hunting as opposed to



Photo: Richard's blue boar. Photo credit: Richard Wells



meat hunting but in a way it means hunting is very traditional, with long walks, heavy packs, and in the more isolated blocks, animals that often very rarely see humans.

After months of back-and-forth emails, the day finally arrived to head South. We met at Forrest Camp in Hamner Springs. Cabins are \$40 per night and it's only 30 minutes from our block so we were to use this as a base for the entire week. I was initially skeptical about the need for this accommodation, thinking I'd want to spend every second in the block, but after the first 3 days on the hill, I greatly appreciated returning for a shower, some fresh food and being able to stash some meat in the freezer.

Our block rises from 700m at the creek to 1600m on each side, with numerous side creeks to explore. It's not quite as steep as Tahr country, but for this North Island bush hunter, it all looked vertical, and I was soon to learn we'd be right up the top. Day one and 20 minutes into our hike Richard suddenly stops.

### "Bugger, I've left my binoculars in the ute".

On return, he proclaims "that's the mandatory f\*\*\*\* up complete, we're right for the rest of the trip!" With the monkey off our back, we shouldered packs and continued towards our

camp, 2 hours in the distance. The hike in was relatively straight forward, following cattle trails that zigzagged through amour piercing Matagouri and waist high rose bushes (shorts were a bad idea). We were in no rush, so we stopped numerous times to glass for animals and it wasn't long before we started picking out the bright orange coats of red deer shimmering in the distance.

We had 2 goals for this trip, the first was to secure my first Chamois and the second was to give Richard a good understanding of the block for future ballots. Richard had hunted this block in 2024, so he already understood where the Chamois hung out, but he admitted that he'd only scratched the surface and was keen to learn more about it.

Halfway up the valley there's a major, unnamed, side creek on the true right. The Chamois hung out at the top, so we set up our base of operations next to the creek at the bottom. Conscious that we didn't want to blow out on day 1, we decided to climb up to the saddle for an afternoon glassing session...nothing too serious, just to get an understanding of where the animals were at. Well that was the plan.



After a stout climb, we gained the saddle. The temperature had ratcheted up several notches, so we tucked in under some shady beech trees for our glassing session. That sweet smell of summer honeydew wafted through on the breeze while a chorus of Bellbird song welcomed us to the South Island.

"That's one nasty looking gully" I proclaimed. This statement was soon followed by "hey mate, you know that nasty gully, there's two Chamois standing at the bottom of it." "Told you that's where they'd be" Richard replied.

As our eyes adjusted, the Chamois started popping out all over the place. We were glassing a large basin, with numerous vertical faces that rose up from a nasty looking creek bed. Shooting something would be the easy part, I wondered how we'd ever recover it. Half an hour later I spotted a lone animal feeding on the scree face near to us. This face was attached to the ridge that we were sitting on, so it would be a relatively straight forward stalk and an easy recovery. We watched it for a while and the animal appeared to be significantly larger than anything else we'd seen. Being in the open we could clearly see that it had no kids so we decided it must be a lone buck.

"I know it's day 1 but this seems like an opportunity we shouldn't turn down" I whispered to Richard. "I agree, go get into a shooting position and I'll let you know via radio if things change".

I scuttled along the ridge and was just cresting a knoll when I froze. Picking up the radio, I whispered to Richard "mate, there's at least 3 Chamois asleep on that face and I'm in direct line of sight with them. I'll take my time and creep into position."

My Chamois was head down feeding in amongst the flax slightly below me, and I ranged it at 160m. Just as I was settling the bipod, I felt the wind shift on the back of my neck. Up came the head and it quickly trotted off across the scree. It was an open face and I was confident it would present me with an opportunity, so I remained calm and tracked it with the scope. At 206m the Chamois made the mistake I was waiting for. As the sound of the shot echoed around the hills, I expected to see it do a cartwheel, but instead it took off at high speed up the hill. I also saw a puff of dust where the bullet impacted. My initial thought was "crap, I've pulled the shot." Instinctively I reloaded and tracking it as it ran upward. A moment later it turned and finally cartwheeled out of sight. "It's down, congratulations mate" Richard said over the radio.

Rolling the Chamois over for a photo, Richard loudly proclaimed "it's a bloody nanny! Must have been barren."

Smiles all round, we had completed our first goal within the first 2 hours of hunting. "Do you have a tape?" Richard asked."Actually, I do, I scored it in a Christmas cracker!"

She measured roughly 8.5" so I was ecstatic. With an entry hole in one shoulder, and a relatively small exit hole in the other, we speculated that the 7mm Rem mag 162 grain ELD X projectile simply wasn't designed for such a small animal and hadn't expanded so little wonder it ran. On the bright side, it left the skin in good condition, so we set to work.

Day two and three were a mixed bag. The weather had cleared to perfect blue skies so the heat forced us to manage our hunting differently. The animals in the valley also appeared to have changed their habits, moving a lot higher, possibly due to the heat or possibly from our scent wafting around. We both scored a blue pig on day two, but day three was a complete bust. It was time to head out to Hamner to resupply and come up with a new gameplan.



While demolishing a Porterhouse steak we agreed seen enough of the main valley, so we settled on heading back in for a day hunt to explore an unnamed creek that runs parallel to the main area. Standing next to the ute the next morning, I'll admit that I wasn't stoked with this idea. Richard's plan of climbing the ridge to glass appeared to be an absolute gut buster, and the thought of carrying out an animal in the heat wasn't appealing whatsoever. He managed to twist my arm, and later I did have to eat my words as it was a lot more achievable than I'd initially thought. I'll give you that one mate, your experience shone through.

Gaining the main ridge, the morning's hunt became a series of short climbs to the next glassing spot. Yes, the climbs were a bit of a grunt, but in reality they only took 20-30 minutes and we were pleasantly surprised at how guickly we gained altitude. There was deer and pig sign everywhere, and the gully below just screamed animal habitat, but despite this, we only saw a couple of deer shimmering off in the distance. At 1592m we decided to call it. I find it hard to describe what it was like up at this point because I am absolutely petrified of heights so this isn't the sort of country I'd usually find myself in. I'd been so caught up in the adventure that I found myself running on a massive adrenalin high. It was a great feeling.

### "Let's grab a couple of photos before we head back down, this view is amazing"

"Sounds good to me" Richard replied. "Wait, is that a bloody deer?" Sure enough, approximately 200m below us, a lone hind was feeding in amongst the tussock completely unaware of our presence. We'd been searching all morning for a meat animal and hadn't seen anything that would have been within range, yet at the very last minute, she'd come along. It was meant to be. "You get into a shooting position, and I'll be ready for a backup shot" Richard whispered. The sound of the shot capped off what had been an amazing four days. Without saying it, both of us knew that our hunt had come to an end, and securing this hind in amongst the golden tussock was a great way to finish. Weighed down with prime venison, it was a very content couple of hunters who made their way back down the ridge. Bring on the roar ballots!

Tim Taylor



# The Honourable Nicole McKee Associate minister of Justice



Minister McKee will address a Public meeting discussing the current re write of the Arms Act and public consultation process

All those interested are invited to attend

at 6pm Friday 4th April
At the NZ Deerstalkers club room
62 Mountain Road Taupo

(off State Highway 5 at base of Mount Tauhara)

Hosted by Taupo Branch of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



# Membership with the NZDA comes with a number of benefits:

- Membership App with discounts at major retailers.
- Regular newsletters, advice and information directly
  to your inbox, both at your local Branch level and on
  nationally significant level. We inform our members
  about events and changes in the laws affecting hunting
  and shooting. We will also be the first to tell our
  members about current lobbying issues.
- Exclusive NZDA discounts
- Public Liability Insurance when hunting and undertaking NZDA activities
- Quarterly Member Magazine: NZ Hunting & Wildlife -Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter
- Branch club nights and guest speakers
- Conference and events
- Competitions
- Access to rifle ranges
- Networks of facilities, accommodation and huts
- HUNTS training program training courses & certification for HUNTS Instructors
- Head measuring access to Douglas score measurers

### NZDA DISCOUNTS INCLUDE:



Needle: Members receive 10% off all gear



SWAZI Pro Deal; sign-up with your valid NZD



IZ Taxidermy Ltd: 10% discount on mount



Parachute First Aid: 15% off the Wilderness First Ai



Interislander Ferry: Group booking discount (contact us for the code)



Murchison Hali Tours: 10% off your flight



Helisika: 10% discount on helicopter flights to



Kilwell Sports: hunting supplies, 15% discounts or



Department of Conservation: 20% annual Backcountry Hut Pass or 'Hut Pass'. See the DoC website for more details



GoNative: 20% discount outdoor meals and snac



Bush Life NZ: 20% discount on web orders



Go Fuel: Save on every litre of fuel. Will match or better other providers offers for NZDA members.

# DID YOU KNOW THE NZDA BAY OF PLENTY HAS ITS OWN LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

Stay up to date with real time announcements from our committee and hunting stories from our members.

# **HOW TO FIND US:**

Search NZDA BOP on your Facebook profile or ask a member to invite you to the page to join.







# ADVOCACY ALERT: CONSULTATION OPEN FOR FIREARMS LAW REFORM

### - CLOSES 28TH FEBRUARY -

# 2025 is kicking off with this important law review - the Arms Act 1983 rewrite.

We have long awaited this news and for the opportunity to give feedback to make the views of recreational hunters and shooters known to government. Nicole McKee, Associate Justice Minister has attended many club nights and NZDA conferences over the years and all her hard work has come to this point.

NZDA, along with other arms interest groups, like our colleagues at COLFO, are busy reading all of the documentation and information - which is a lot to read. More information will come out in time.

Fortunately, unlike previous consultations run by Police, the Justice team have given us a reasonable period of time to give feedback. Most importantly, unlike the previous few years, the hunting and shooting community are not being asked to write submissions over long weekends, public holidays, the roar, or the duck shooting opening weekend!

As you know, this coalition government is committed to rewriting the Arms Act 1983 and updating the Arms Regulations 1992 to enhance public safety and make firearms rules easier to understand. These changes will shape the laws that all firearms users, including hunters, will need to follow in the foreseeable future.

If you have ever had a complaint, or have seen something in the arms law that was not practical, grounded in common-sense, or inherently related to safety, then make sure you have your say.

### **Your Individual Submission Matters**

It is a numbers game. It is licenced firearm owners and users vs the anti-gun lobby groups. Most New Zealanders see the value of lawful firearms use, so will not be submitting. However, it is up to hunters to have a say.

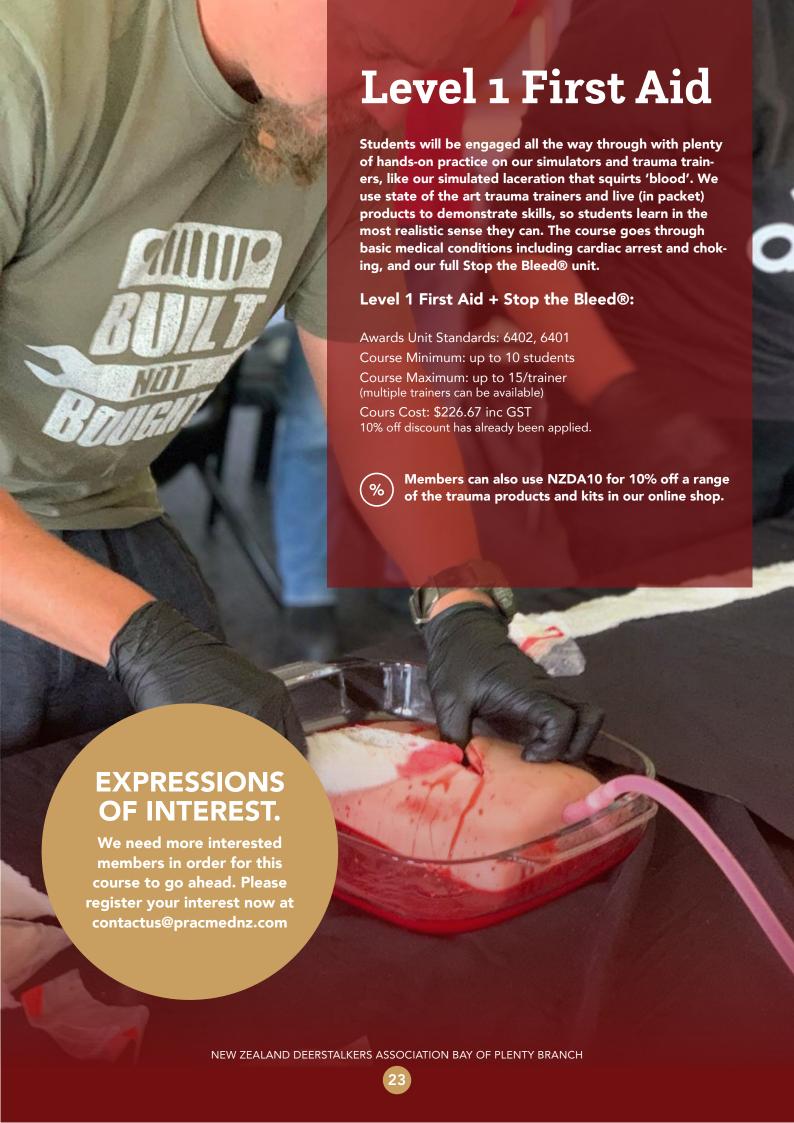


# EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: The NZDA BOP 75th Anniversary is coming up in 2025

We need a sub-committee to help organise this exciting event.

If you would like to be involved and have a flair for organising events and parties to remember, please contact Club Secretary Isabell Zitzelsberger on:

026 650 3488 or secrartary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz





Anticipation is mounting for the Roar! But before you go bush bashing a gear check is essential, because there is a good chance that beat-up old torch is not shining as bright, and no one wants to be stuck in the back blocks in the dark. Reliable lighting is a matter of safety as well as convenience.

Whether you're tracking at dawn, setting up camp, or field dressing in low light, a high-performance torch or headlamp is essential. Here's a handy Hamills guide to choosing the best Ledlenser light for your next hunting adventure.

# Ledlenser MH8 The Handy Hunting Headlamp

If you need a high-performance, hands-free option, the MH8 is the perfect hunting companion.

- Boost mode: Up to 600 lumens for maximum brightness
- Adjustable beam focus and smart light technology
- Red, green, and blue LED options for night vision and tracking
- Runs off a rechargeable battery or a couple of AAs perfect for off-grid.

### THE FULL RANGE IS AVAILABLE AT HAMILLS TAURANGA 437 CAMERON ROAD, TAURANGA

# Ledlenser P7R Core - Versatile and Powerful Handheld Torch

For those who prefer a handheld light, the P7R Core offers powerful illumination in a compact size.

- 1,400 lumens with adjustable brightness levels
- Advanced Focus System for seamless flood-to-spot lighting
- Durable and water-resistant for tough outdoor conditions
- Rechargeable for long hunting trips

### Ledlenser H7R Signature - Lightweight and Adaptable

This mid-range headlamp balances power and comfort for long hunting sessions.

- Up to 1,200 lumens with a dimming function
- Bluetooth connectivity for custom lighting modes
- Red light mode to preserve night vision
- Ergonomic design for all-day wearability

### Ledlenser ML4 Lantern - Compact and Convenient

For campsite lighting and general area illumination, the ML4 lantern is a must-have.

- Ultra-compact design for easy transport
- Up to 300 lumens with multiple brightness settings
- Rechargeable and easy to clip onto gear or tents
- Warm, glare-free light for comfortable use in camp

# Ledlenser AF2R Work Rechargeable Area Light Powerful Flood Lighting

For those needing broad, powerful illumination, the AF2R Work Rechargeable Area Light is an excellent choice.

- High-lumen output for wide-area coverage
- Durable and rugged construction for tough environments
- Rechargeable with long-lasting battery life
- Ideal for lighting up large campsites or dressing that stag after dark

Having the right lighting during the roar can mean the difference between a successful hunt and a frustrating experience. Ledlenser offers a range of high-quality, durable lights designed to handle New Zealand's rugged terrain. For personalised service head into Hamills Tauranga to discuss your lighting needs. The right Ledlenser light will help keep you safe and well prepared for the hunt ahead.



Raddy from South Island Rifle Walkers



Ledlenser ML4 Lantern



AF2R camp site

### **QUALITY LIGHT MATTERS**

Hunting during roar season often means navigating rugged terrain in low-light conditions. A good hunting light helps with:

**Tracking and Spotting:** Illuminating animal trails, blood trails, and terrain.

**Stealth and Versatility:** Using red or green light modes to avoid startling game.

**Safety:** Avoiding hazards like uneven ground, river crossings, or dense bush.

**Hands-Free Convenience:** Keeping both hands free while handling equipment.

# NZDA HUNTER NATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME 2025



The NZDA Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) was first launched in 1987 and has since helped thousands of hunters gain the skills needed to hunt big game safely and responsibly in New Zealand.

The HUNTS course is delivered by NZDA branches at a local level where instructors teach the HUNTS syllabus under the guidance of a National Coordinator.

Trainees learn about hunting in New Zealand's unique conditions and develop essential bushcraft and shooting skills for use in the outdoors.

### **GENERAL COURSE STRUCTURE**

The theory aspect of the course generally occurs over eight 2-hour evening sessions covering 9 learning modules.

# The practical training consists of 3 weekend sessions, made up of:

- 1 full day of practical training in range shooting.
- 1 full weekend covering equipment, food, bushcraft skills, travel, navigation, survival & river crossings.
- 1 full weekend completing an overnight camping/hunting trip.

### **HUNTS MODULES**

The topics covered by HUNTS include:

- Ethics, Ecology & Regulations
- Equipment & Food
- Backcountry Travel
- Navigation
- Firearms Selection, Safety & Marksmanship
- Big Game Animals
- Hunting Techniques
- Meat, Skins & Trophies
- Outdoor Emergencies
- Survival Techniques

# Join our HUNTS Course for 2025

Monday 4th of August - Wednesday 17th of September.

\$500 per person
Only 20 places available – BOOK NOW

Anyone who is interested in helping or learning what is involved with hunts is most welcome to come along to the nights or contact Doug:

0274945966 or huntscourse@deerstalklersbop.org.nz

# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITES 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. I-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 IO 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





### ROAR CLUB HUNT Kaimais – Te Whare Okioki

10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### Thursday 10 Apr, 4pm - Sunday 13 Apr, 6pm

# Get ready for an unforgettable roar Club Hunt from 10-13th April in the stunning Kaimai Range!

This is your chance to immerse yourself in the great outdoors, chase some wild deer, and make lasting memories with fellow hunting enthusiasts.

We've secured the Te Whare Oki Oki Hut, a cozy spot that sleeps 12 people, so you can enjoy three nights in comfort while experiencing all the action. The fee is just \$75, covering your stay, and there's a cheaper rate for kids if needed!

Not only is the hut surrounded by plenty of deer, but you can also choose from a range of walks into the hut, suited to your fitness level. Whether you're in the mood for a more challenging trek or something a bit easier, there's something for everyone! With roughly a 4-hour walk in, it's the perfect way to kick off your hunt.

Closer to the event, we'll create a WhatsApp group for all the details – you'll be able to chat about the hunt, coordinate carpooling, and get the inside scoop on the weekend.

Dogs are welcome with a DOC Permit, and make sure to grab your Open Hunting Permit before you head out!

Don't miss out on this incredible experience. Book your spot today and get ready for an action-packed weekend with awesome people, stunning views, and plenty of deer!

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



# HUNTING GEAR FOR SALE

**OLD TOWN CANOE** 

**Discovery 169** \$1200.00

**Chris Munro** 021 99 3846

### HONDA TRX350FM 4X4 \$3800.00

- Fully serviced
- Bull bar, good tyres

Kerry Pask 021 137 1671 **USED FIREARMS - IN STOCK** 

**Sako AII 243** \$1799.00

Parker Hale Sporter with scope \$599.00

Zastava M85 7.62x39 \$899.00

Bergara BA13 357 Magnum Suppressed \$899.00

Ruger M77 Left Hand 270 \$1199.00

Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995

## GOT SOMETHING TO SELL OR ARE YOU WANTING TO BUY?

Simply email a photo, a few words, the price and your phone number to editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz and we will be sure to publish your listing.

### NZDA TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR TRADING POST LISTINGS

You may only list "A" category firearms, in sporting configuration, as defined by the Arms Act 1983. Large capacity magazines (i.e. more than 10 cartridges for .22 rimfire, or more than 5 cartridges for others) may not be sold. Sellers must sight the firearms licence of the buyer, or for remote sales sellers must receive written confirmation signed by Police confirming the buyer holds a valid firearm's licence. Forms are available at any police station.

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



### Avoid over-cooking venison

It is important to cook venison to the correct degree of 'doneness'. Because venison is so high in iron, and so low in fat, it doesn't have the same resistance to overcooking that fattier meats like marbled beef does. Over-cooking venison will result in drying the meat and developing some 'metallic' flavours, that some might not like.

Never cook venison past medium if using a dry cooking style like pan-grilling or bbqing. If using moist cooking methods like potroasting or casseroling then venison should be cooked at low temperatures to avoid drying the meat out. As meat heats up the muscle fibers contract, squeezing out the moisture. Because venison has so little fat, if it is cooked at a high heat for too long it will become dry.

### Guide to cooking farm-raised venison.

Venison cut	Suggested method	Approximate cooking time for rare.
Steaks and medallions	Pan-fry, bbq.	1 minute each side per cm thickness at high heat.
Stirfry	Hot pan or wok.	1 or 2 minutes over high heat.
Roasts	Sear, then oven roast.	15 minutes per 500g @ 180C.
Diced venison	Sear, then gently casserole.	1 hour @ 100C.
Mince	As you would lean beef mince.	As you would any lean beef.
Frenched racks	Sear then finish in a 180C oven.	10 minutes per 500g @ 180C.
Osso Bucco	Sear then slow moist cook.	1 hour + @ 100C.

### How do I know it's done?



A very useful meat thermometer

If you don't have one already, consider buying a meat thermometer. They're not expensive and all the chefs use them! Venison can be cooked to 57°C internal temperature and then allow it to rest. This guarantees perfectly cooked medium-rare venison.

If you don't have a meat thermometer then press the meat to assess its degree of 'doneness'. A handy guide is to use is, your hand. Feel the heel of your thumb and this will approximate to the

meat you're cooking.



A very handy hand.

Relaxed hand = rare

Loose fist = medium

Tight fist = well done

### Let It Rest!

Meat carries on cooking for some time after it is taken out of the oven, and needs time to relax again after being subjected to heat. Resting the meat allows the muscle fibers to relax, so when the meat is carved the juices will remain in the meat and not be squeezed out. This means the venison will be more tender and juicy to eat.

Cover with a clean dry cloth, put in a warm place and rest the meat for about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the time you cooked it for.



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# 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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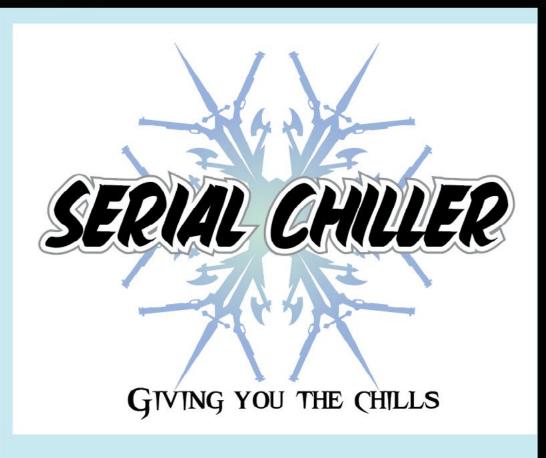
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# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

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

Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstakersbop.org.nz

### **BRANCH OFFICERS:**

President	Reuben Hayward	president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Vice-President	Tim Taylor	tim@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Secretary	lsabell Zitzelsberger	026 650 3488 secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Treasurer	Jill Fryer	treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:		
Membership Officer	Jeremy Woolerton	membership @deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Range Manager	Dean Maisey	range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Range Officer Trainer	Royce Downes	
HUNTS Instructor	Doug Williams	07 544 3065 huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Patron/Clubrooms Custodian	Keith Theobald	
Refreshments Manager	Evan Dines	
Media Manager	Karl Jager	
Range Sub-Committee	Chris Fryer Richard McEwan Evan Dines Tim Taylor Royce Downes	

# NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

### OTHER DELEGATIONS AND BRANCH CONTACTS:

Newsletter Editor	Matt Batchelor	021 222 5854			
NZDA Board north Island Rep.	Tim Taylor	tim.taylor@deerstalkers.org.nz			
Eastern Region Fish and Game Councilor	Mike Jarvie	rangernz@gmail.com			
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:	COMMITTEE MEETING:				
Second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.  All correspondence to be sent to secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz.					
NEWSLETTER:					
Opinions and views expressed its executive committee or the All newsletter content to be se	national association.	ot necessarily endorsed by the branch, ersbop.org.nz			

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.deerstalkersbop.org.nz