

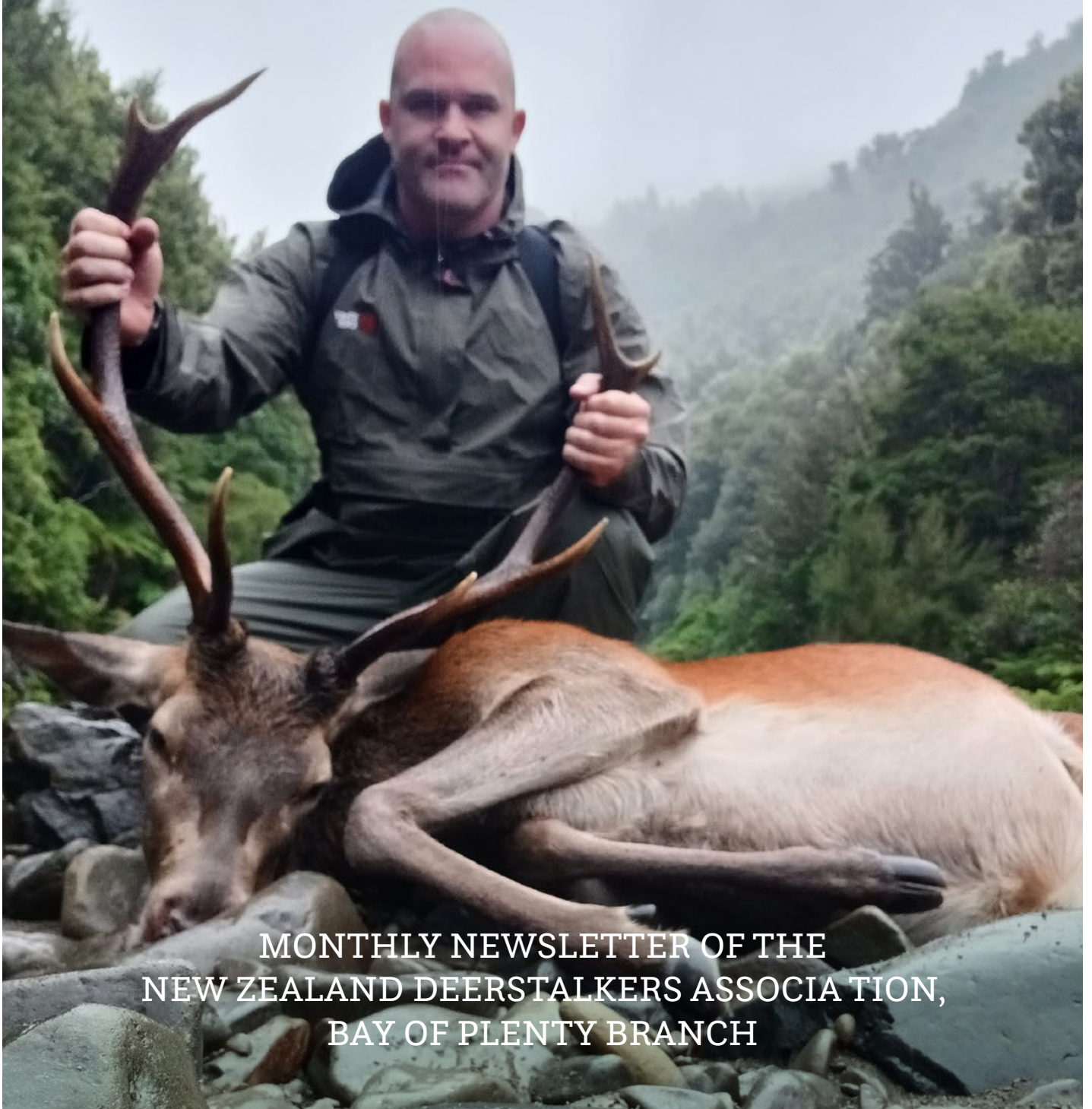


Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

MARCH 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:

3 deer from 1 hunt all on public land (see *Chris Butchers story on page 12*).

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

March 2025

First up, thanks to everyone who came to the March Club Night at Hamills and supported our local hunting gear supplier. We had a great evening, and some lucky members (who had promptly paid their membership fees in the days prior) had their names drawn for the April fallow hunt in Whanganui. You've got to turn up to club events to maximise your opportunities.

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Over the coming months we will have more ballots drawn for fallow hunts and you will need to be present at the draw to secure your spot. As always, only those who have paid their membership fees are eligible for entry in the ballot, and Associate Members are not eligible due to not having the insurance benefits of other classes of membership. Keep an eye on emails and social media for details of how to enter a ballot and secure a spot on a Whanganui fallow hunt.

This year is the Bay of Plenty Branch's 75th Anniversary. We have set a date and secured a venue for the celebration. We need a team of volunteers to make this a memorable event. If you are interested in helping with planning and organising this event, please contact our club secretary (Isabell).

I hope you have all locked in your roar plans, checked over your gear, and sighted in your rifle. Antlers will be hard now and there may be the odd moan from an excitable young stag. Now's the time to check your game cameras to see what stags might be hanging about and assess their trophy potential. If you don't have any game cameras, as some say...

you can always measure the antlers on the ground. The most important detail is to get yourself out hunting.

The success of the last club hunt was great to see. Well-done to those who participated in what looks to have been a great trip. We have some more exciting hunting opportunities coming up over the next several weeks. Check the events calendar and get registered for a club hunt, if you don't, you will certainly be missing out.

A quick reminder to pay your subs by the due date. If you haven't paid by the due date, it creates a whole lot of extra admin work for the national office and our club volunteers. Also, those who currently have access to the range and chiller will have their access revoked on the 1st of April if their fees are unpaid. Please pay on time as it makes everything easier for everyone involved. I'm finalising my meal plans for 10 days in the Whirinaki with my whole family next month, not an easy task with a hungry tribe but worth the effort. If you have a partner or children, get them out hunting with you, make it a family affair. New and young hunters get such a buzz from the experience and the memories will last forever.

I'm looking forward to seeing your trophies at the measuring night in May, so make sure you clean them up and don't forget about them.

Stay safe this season and look after your mates.

Reuben



**HURRY,
BOOK NOW!
Its' this weekend**



CLUB HUNT
Te Waiti
Urutawa Conservation

**Fri, 21 March, 2pm -
23 March, 6pm**

ABOUT THE EVENT: Te Waiti hut is situated an easy 2 hour walk from the end of the road with the track following the river. It has 6 beds with 2 rooms of 3 bunks with a kitchen between the two. The deck is roofed and can be used for additional bedding down. The most amazing thing about this hut is.....DoC has recently updated the track and repaired the hut. Sounds unlikely but the people I spoke to assure me they have visited the hut and admired the work.

The ground around the hut is moderate to steep. Some areas were farmed many moons ago but then abandoned. There are still some open paddocks where deer are known to graze. Other than that it's bush stalking or hunting the river flats. Deer are of a good size and if successful it's an easy walk out.

Rifles: All calibers suitable but Murphys law prevails. (If you take a long range gun, your target will appear nearby and vice versa)

We will be able to leave our cars at Bush Haven at the road end for \$10/night/vehicle.

This trip will suit those of slightly lesser fitness due to an easy track in. There is one river crossing which at this time of year may get your socks wet.

I have been to this hut several times but not for a few years so bear with me on the description.

We will be competing with Trampers, Cyclists and local hunters who travel by quad up the river. Hence an early start on the Friday with 2 hours travel and 2 hour hike.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:
Lester Polglase. 0272819646. lesterandann@gmail.com

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

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--|---|
| MARCH | 21 March Club Hunt - Te Waiti Hut Contact: Lester - 027 281 9646 | | |
| 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 | 6 May Club Night Trade and Exchange Night Starts: 7pm | 16-18 May Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Doug Williams |
| | 20 May Annual Measuring Night Contact: Josh - keen.joshuaj@gmail.com | 30 May - 2 June Wanganui River Hunt Contact: Isabell 026 650 3488 | |
| JUN | 15 June Bench Rest Shooting at Range Centrefire 200m for Group | | 20-22 June Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: Matt Batchelor 021 222 5854 |
| JULY | 1 July Club Night - Annual AGM Starts: 7pm | 5 July Douglas Score Training Thames Valley Branch Clubrooms Contact: keen.joshuaj@gmail.com Starts: 8.30am | 11-13 July Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC |
| AUG | 14-17 August Paparangi Ventures - Motu River Contact: Reuben Hayward | 4 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams | 5 August Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm |
| | 14-17 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams | | |
| SEPT | Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC | 2 September Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm | |
| OCT | 7 October Club Night Contact: TBC Starts: 7pm | 18-19 October 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 1st and 2nd March.

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 Saturday the 1st of March we have completely rebuilt the target frame and installed all new backing boards at the 100m line. Some other tasks were completed down-range, and the range was open for use again by 2pm.
- On Sunday 2nd we completed some more work on the range access tracks with the digger while the weather was fine, nice and hot on the day, and taking the opportunity to prepare the site for the impending change of season and the inevitable increase in rainfall which then severely limits what earthworks we can do on site. Many thanks to the helpers who came along to give us a hand on these two days.

WHAT DO YOU GET FOR YOUR SUBS AND RANGE TICKET FEE, in 2025?

The clubs' committee has recently adopted a new fee structure for use of the range by members, other shooting groups, for our monthly range open days (on the last Sunday of the month), and commercial/corporate bookings.

The vast majority of the range use now comes from our own members who have gained a range ticket. When an 'individual person' joins the NZDA-BOP club and pays the range ticket fee, then that allows them to have unlimited use of the range (within reason) for 'recreational purposes' or 'personal use'. (i.e. sighting in their own rifles, doing load development, participating in NZDA Comp shoots, etc.) There is an expectation that all range ticket holders will make efforts to attend the range working bees especially for those people who are very regular users of the range.

On the other hand, if an individual is regularly using the range for commercial purposes (where they are being paid by someone to provide a service), then that is considered to be 'commercial use' of our facilities and is going to require an additional fee payable to the club. (i.e. offering a rifle sight-in service, load development/testing service, or running a shooting clinic or training session, etc. - for payment.) - note that this policy may not necessarily apply to occasional or one-off instances, but is more focussed on those individuals who are deemed to be undertaking regular commercial use of the range.

Likewise, if a separate club or group want to book-out the rifle range to run a commercial or private shoot (where they are charging people a fee to shoot on our range for their event - or just wanting to have the range for their own exclusive use for a period of time) then a fee is required to be paid to the club for this special use of the range. These fees are not only intended to help us to cover the costs of additional wear and tear on the range facility, but to also acknowledge that these special bookings do limit the use of the range facilities by the rest of the membership, and as such some form of compensation needs to be received by the club. Any requests by members for permission to undertake any commercial use or special bookings on the rifle range need to be approved by the committee. The first point of contact in this instance is myself as Range Manager, or the club President or Secretary.

As noted below we have been doing a huge amount of maintenance and upgrade work at the range over the past 8 months, and we are always willing and grateful to accept donations made to the range maintenance fund. This may be a

RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range from 1st and 2nd March.

good way for some of our members to contribute who may be less physically able to assist with tasks on the working bees, but who still appreciate the work that has been done for them and can then help to play their part in the success and progress of the club in some other way.

Hoping that everyone gets a chance to sight their rifles in before the roar, and have a good safe trip if you are getting out there and into it !



UPCOMING EVENTS

Range Open Day

Sunday March 30th
9:00am to 3:00pm
Registrations close at 2:15pm.



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.

MEMBERSHIP SUBS ARE DUE, AND THIS ALSO AFFECTS THE GATE ACCESS FOR RANGE TICKET HOLDERS.

We now have a large number of range ticket holders with their own electronic access tag, so that they can access into the range facility in their own time to sight in rifles, do ammunition development, or just general target practice.

Please note that as part of your membership subs (plus your range ticket fee) there is a cost component included in there for insurance cover – and this means that if you are not a ‘financial’ member of the club then you are not covered by our insurance policy. For the rifle range it is obviously quite important for us to maintain 100% compliance with all legal and insurance/liability cover requirements.

LONG STORY SHORT:

Pay your subs + range ticket fee now if you haven't already done so. In recent years there has been a grace period of 1 month from March 1st up to the beginning of April, then gate access for unfinancial members has been stopped.

From the first week of April, time any gate tags will be deactivated if the member is still 'unfinancial'.

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.

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.

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.

4. **DO NOT** BRING CHAIRS OR BIKES, OR OTHER ITEMS TO THE RANGE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE RANGE MANAGER. SOME ITEMS MAY BE OF USE, BUT WE DON'T WANT EVERYONE/

ANYONE BRING UP THEIR OLD CHAIRS AND BIKES TO "DONATE" TO THE RANGE. THE CHAIRS AND BIKES SEEM TO BE BREEDING AS FAST AS WE THROW THEM OUT (AND IT COSTS US TO DUMP THEM).

NOTICE: 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.

Regards, Dean Maisey.

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



PEEKING WALLABY Match Report



The first match of the year was held on the 16th February. It's hard to believe we are into our fourth year of running this event now.

The number of participants has been growing each year and some are travelling from as far as Auckland and Taupo. We had a new batch of targets printed at the beginning of the year and each of the 100m, 200m and 300m targets have been slightly modified. At 100m the bullseye that is in the grass has had its edges rounded off where it meets the grass line. This will help bullets sneak in and lead to less 5 point penalties (for some!). At 200m and 300m the 10 point eyeball has been enlarged. The pupil is the same size and is still worth 12 points. This will hopefully create the same risk and reward profile on all of the targets, over the three distances.

The conditions on the day were windy and it was not the day to try for the eyeballs! Bullkelp, NZ Varminter and Reg took out first place in their various rifle classes and went home with Hamills voucher each. NZ Varminter also took home a \$50 Hop House

voucher for his one shot wonder hit on the hop flower beer coaster at 200m.

What sort of rifle do I need?

People have been asking what is the best rifle and cartridge to shoot the Peeking wallaby Match with? The simple answer is just bring what you have to start with. There are five rifle classes and every rifle will fit into one of these. The best cartridges are generally varmint sized, in lower recoiling calibres between .222 to .243 (6mm). The .223Rem is an excellent cartridge choice due to its availability and relatively low cost. The .223Rem cartridge has a wide variety of reloading components available for it as well if you want to go down that road. Reloading will reduce your cost per round (after you have paid off the reloading equipment itself) and it is also a great hobby. You can see the different cartridges people have been using on the branch website on the Peeking Wallaby Match results pages. The largest so far has been a 7mm Rem Mag and the smallest a 204 Ruger.

What sort of scope do I need?

Your scope is probably more important than the rifle because you can't shoot what you can see. Most variable-power hunting scopes range in magnification between 1.5 to 15 power. With a quality scope you will be able to see your bullet holes at 14-15 power at 200m. At 300m you will need a scope that reaches 20-25 power or more. The alternative is to have a high power spotting scope beside your bench and look through it after each shot. Some have been using their high power digital cameras for this as well. Scopes that have dial up (or target turrets) are also useful for simple, quick adjustment as you shoot out from 100m, to 200m, to 300m. As the range target frames are at fixed distances, once you know them it is easy to write down your elevation adjustments for next time.



As usual thanks to our sponsors Hamills Sports and The Hop House. Please support them. A special thanks to Dale Williams from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council who unexpectedly donated us some give-aways to support their "Seen a wallaby, report it!" awareness program.

See you at the next one and keep em' small.

Baden Prentice

Peeking Wallaby Match, 16th Feb 2025

| Handle | Class | Cartridge | 100m | 200m | 300m | Total | Place |
|--------------|-------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Bull Kelp | FBR | 223REM | 42 | 45 | 38 | 125 | 1 |
| Dilligaff | FBR | 223REM | 39 | 18 | 21 | 78 | 2 |
| Bitzer | FBR | 223REM | 21 | 15 | 10 | 46 | 3 |
| NZ Varminter | C | 6PPC | 56 | 46 | 41 | 143 | 1 |
| Charf | C | 6PPC | 42 | 43 | 38 | 123 | 2 |
| Gregg | C | 6PPC | 39 | 43 | 41 | 123 | 3 |
| Reg | TPH | 243WIN | 42 | 32 | 30 | 104 | 1 |
| Nige | TPH | 204RUG | 32 | 31 | 35 | 98 | 2 |
| Adrian | TPH | 6.6CM | 29 | 23 | 27 | 79 | 3 |
| Trent | TPH | 223REM | 32 | 5 | 29 | 66 | 4 |
| Dale | TPH | 6.5CM | 24 | 5 | 13 | 42 | 5 |

Best scores (max 60)

56 46 41

Conditions at 10am

Temp: 15°C
 RH: 94%
 Pressure: 1019 hPa
 Wind: 22 kph ESE
 Gusts: 37 kph
 Overcast & breezy



HURRY!
Last chance
to book!



ROAR CLUB HUNT
Kaimais – Te Whare
Okioki

10th – 13th
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 Gallagher - 022 1280 828
or danielgallaghan@hotmail.com for any questions.



TAWA HUT WAIOEKA CLUB HUNT

Thursday: Driving and walking. And 'The Burn' Waioeka hunting as it turns out is really good. Located halfway between Opotiki and Gisborne, it's a 3.5 hour drive from Tauranga, then a 4 hour walk to Tawa Hut. But before the hunting there's 'The Burn' If you haven't been up the Burn before it's not that bad, in the same way that a woman says she not having another baby, then forgets the birthing process and does it again... then says she's not doing it again. Your brain blocks the uncomfortable, messy, crying parts. 'The Burn' is exactly the same. I assume. It hurts, your body leaks, and you may or may not cry and regret the choices that got you here. If you persevere and break the bush line, it's easy from then on, and the hunting is up wide-open river flats. Or very steep hills and cliffs. Your choice.

After said 4 hour walk and arriving at the hut, I thought I would wander to a slip about 20 minutes up the river. I set myself up under a fallen tree and watched about 100 metres of slip face. After about half



an hour I was feeling a bit sleepy, so I rested my eyes for about a minute then when I opened them 2 hinds wondered out from the side of the slip. The leading hind didn't stop but the trailing one did. I looked through the scope, but the bipod was set too low, and I had to re-adjust, but as I saw the hind in the scope, she trotted off, probably not wanting to be



left behind. Oh well, it's only been about an hour since I arrived at the hut, so it was looking promising for the weekend. The rain started about half an hour later and as I hadn't brought my wet weather gear to the slip, I headed back to the hut. As I got to the junction between the rivers, I was whistled at by 2 cranky Whio who didn't appreciate me walking past.

Friday: The next morning we were up well before daylight, with Dan heading south and me heading north back up the same river as the slip from the day before. As another hunter who spends heaps of time in Waioeka told me, the slip was only an evening slip, I didn't worry about glassing it in the morning and made my way up river. Past another grumpy Whio pair (thanks to the trapping done by the Eastern Whio Link) and a few kilometers with not too much sign, the weather closed in a bit, started to drizzle and the mist descended. I slowly walked onto a large grassy river flat. I looked down and saw some very fresh stag sign. After poking it with a stick and seeing how fresh

it was (it was practically steaming), I told myself to slow right down. I took 2 steps and saw something that didn't quite look right about 25 metres ahead. As I have spent a lot of time looking at rocks and funny shaped trees wondering if it was a deer or not, this one moved. Not a rock, perfect. It was, however, facing away from me, so I couldn't get a shot. The wind was in my face and the river beside me made enough noise to cover any sound I made, and with the soft rain, the conditions were perfect. All I had to do was wait for it to give me a shot.

While I was watching it through my scope trying to slow down the adrenaline, a set of antlers lifted up a couple of metres ahead of the original target and went back down still feeding, oblivious to my presence. I immediately switched targets. The stag, also facing away from me, turned his head and looked straight at me. I thought I was cooked but he went back to feeding. This happened a few times all without him moving...just like me. Then finally he took 2 casual steps to the right, came out from behind the Kanuka



that was obscuring the shot, and turned broadside. Boom! I got him through the shoulder. He ran out of sight behind more Kanuka. I reloaded just as the 1st deer appeared at 90 degrees to me on the other side of the river and slowed down. I let out a 'Meh' and he stopped. With a round through the neck, the young spiker was down. I walked out to the river and saw an 8-point Stag about 5 metres from where he was hit lying on the rocks. 2 deer down. Lots of work ahead. I went over to the smaller deer and thought that I would just throw this over my shoulder and take him across the river. Turns out no. He was heavier than I thought. After dragging them both out, away from the river to some trees for a bit of shelter, the rain stopped and the wind changed direction. Good timing. It took a while to figure out how to sort the head, but I got it and then began processing and breaking down the animals. 4 back steaks and 6 legs later, I began the walk back to the hut.

After a couple of hundred metres I realized I was going to have to leapfrog everything out, taking the meat for a walk then returning for the head and day bag. It took about an hour to get to where I shot the animals, and about two and a half hours to get back to the hut. I arrived back at about midday, and after lunch, started boning the legs out and skinning the head. This took the rest of the afternoon.

Saturday: The next day I wasn't sure what to do. Dan wanted to head up the river I was in as another couple of hunters had to go up the one he was in the day before (to collect an 11 point head left up there a couple of weeks ago – see Sam the Trap Mans videos on YouTube). I thought I would stroll down the main river mostly for the adventure of not having been there before. After watching a slip close to the hut for 15 minutes, I headed back up to the track and carried on. I saw a flash of colour up the hill about 50 metres away. There was a hind standing there staring at me, and so, I shot her. She ran up the hill of about 60 degrees and I thought I missed. Better go check. I scrambled up the scree slope to where I thought she was and couldn't see anything. Then there at the top of the rise was the hind. I saw her just as she fell over and rolled down to within a couple of metres of me. Deer number 3 down. As I was only about 500 metres from the hut at 7.30 in the morning, I was back with the meat by about 8.15am. After pondering how I was going to carry out 3 Deer worth of meat, I decided the only way was to pack out as much gear as I could back to the ute. That was the rest of Saturday, as it was a 24-kilometre round trip.

While walking back in I heard the noise of rocks being knocked about, and saw another deer move through a gap in the trees about 50 metres away. Deer number 6 seen for the trip. This time I got the phone out and snuck around a punga while filming and saw a hind's head watching me before she turned and bolted up river knocking over more rocks and giving me an angry bark from a safe distance. Arriving back at the hut was a relieved Dan as he noticed all my stuff, except a sleeping bag, was gone. I was his ride home after all. Dan had also seen 3 deer and shot 1 during his expeditions.



Sunday: The next morning everything was packed and ready to go. As I put the full pack on, I knew this was going to be a long walk. The first couple of kilometres went by okay on the flat, but the only time I could sit and rest was when there was a fallen tree or a seat height rock. I made the most of these seats whenever they presented themselves because if I sat on the ground, I wouldn't have been able to stand back up. (Later after I weighed everything, I found the pack was 46kg). I slowly made my way back to the top of the Burn. As the hills got steeper, I got slower, but the downhill of the Burn was a nice change. Not any easier, just nice to be struggling in a different way. After

dragging myself to the ute and getting the pack off, I felt like I was going to float away. I didn't in case you were wondering. The walk in takes between 3 to 4 hours, and is harder than the walk out. It took me 5.5 to 6 hours to get out. I stopped timing and just focused on walking, but I did manage to get all the meat out. After fueling up at McDonalds Whakatane, and another 3 hour drive, we made it back, freezer full, wondering where the next trip will be.

By Chris Butcher

DOUGLAS SCORING TRAINING

Date: 5th July 2025 8:30am

Location: Thames Valley Branch Clubrooms
101 Morrison Road, Komata 3674, Paeroa

Capacity: 10 people

LEVELS AND CRITERIA DOUGLAS SCORE

LEVEL 1:

**Competent understanding of basic level
Douglas Scoring**

- Must have an understanding of the most up to date EDITION OF THE DOUGLAS SCORE HANDBOOK and all material handed out which will be supplied at registration for training course.
- Be competent in basic Douglas Scoring
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Must be active in measuring at branch level and other competitions under a branch mentor or a higher-level measurer than themselves, for a minimum of 3 years to advance to Level 2
- Failure to complete the above tasks may result in removal from registry
- Attend a Level 1 training course

LEVEL 2:

**Revision of Level 1 and acceptable level of
measuring for all AHT species**

- Be competent in marking out and measuring unassisted in all AHT species
- Be competent in recording and adding fractions of all AHT species in the DouglasScoring system
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Must be active in measuring at branch level and other competitions under a branch mentor for a minimum of 2 years to advance to Level 3
- Attend a Level 2 training course

LEVEL 3:

**Branch Judge and Level 1 and 2 Mentor
at Branch Level**

- Measure at Branch Level and other competitions
- Must attend Douglas Score Courses and help train Level 1 and 2
- Must correctly answer a fraction in 1/8's Questionnaire
- Must answer a minimum of 8/10 questions on the Douglas Score Questionnaire
- Can advance to Level 6 by invitation of AHT panel when competence is shown

THE MOHAKA RIVER



Caption: Tim looking happy having just negotiated a rapid.

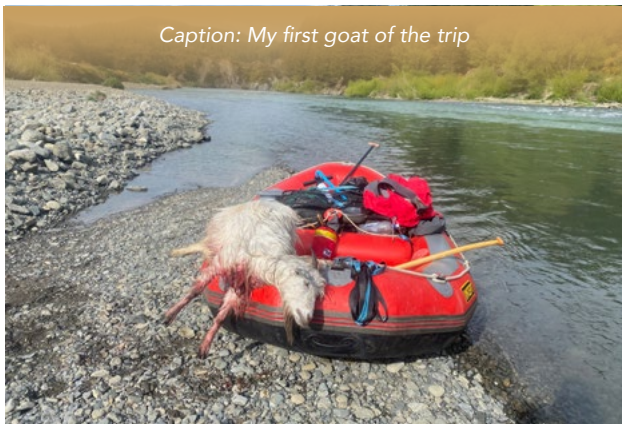
The Mohaka River has its headwaters in the Kaimanawa's and terminates on the east coast in the Hawkes Bay. Many people know it from sika hunting trips as it's the river that flows next to the Oamaru Hut. In my case, I was interested in it for the whitewater rafting opportunities, but with some hunting thrown in. The Mohaka has several sections that are you can paddle.

The upper section starts at the Oamaru Hut and finishes at SH5. It can be accessed with a raft, whitewater kayak, or packraft and most people will generally get dropped at the top by HeliSika. It has grade 3 - 4 rapids so requires a degree of whitewater competency. The middle section starts at SH5 and finishes at the end of Pohokura Road. Day 1 is primarily made up of grade 2 rapids, but it does ramp up considerably to grade 4 on day 2. The final section below Pohokura Road is predominantly grade 4 - 5 and should only be accessed by highly experienced paddlers.

As I've said before, if you've ever been on a river trip, the first thing you have to do, is set up the shuttle.



We were paddling the middle section down from SH5, so this trip required a shuttle of around 1 hour to drop a car at the end of Pohokura Road. It's a decent 3 - 4 hour drive from Tauranga, plus the shuttle, so to maximise our time on we left around 4.30am, to ensure we were on the water by 9am. My buddy Matt and I base our friendship on whitewater kayaking and giving each other stick in-between. This trip was a basically just a lads trip.



Caption: My first goat of the trip



Caption: Goats were getting bigger the further we went down the river.

It was springtime, so the water levels were high but cold (snowmelt), and we both wore drysuits (this later became rather entertaining as we chased goats around). Matt is new to hunting but is keen to learn, so after a quick lesson on how to use my single shot .300blk, he was put on goat duties at the front of the raft. Shooting from a floating raft at moving targets proved harder than anticipated. It seemed that the goats congregated near rapids, so some hilarious antics were had as we tried to get the raft into suitable positions.

We quickly discovered the "drive by method" worked best, which required us to line the raft up at the top of the rapid, then silently drift down. The less we moved, the more interested the goats were in us, which allowed us to get close enough for a safe shot. I'd chosen the .300blk because it's a single shot and theoretically safer, but on reflection I should have taken the bolt action .223 as we were often presented with multiple targets, and the single shot was too slow.

After lunch we rounded a bend and were presented with a mob of stags. I had brought along my 25.06 for such occasion and had spent all day talking about my shooting prowess. These deer were absolutely huge so understandably, I was fizzing. Well, I hate to admit it, but my ego was about to take a serious beating, because like any good river trip, it wouldn't be complete without a complete cockup of some kind. Yes, I missed them all. With the sound of Matt's laughter ringing in my ear, I searched frantically for a sign of blood to no avail. What had happened? Due to their size, my suspicions are that they were escaped Wapiti (later confirmed after we drove past a farm on the way home) and I'd massively misjudged the distance. I'm still kicking myself! Mohaka River Trip.docx We finished the day fly camping next to the river, enjoying some frosty beverages around a fire, and generally giving each other grief about our shooting skills.



Caption: Breakfast duties

Caption: Scouting the first of the bigger rapid on Day 2



Day two started off much the same as Day 1 with some nice easy rapids and several goats hitting the deck ... but then it turned up a notch. Now I'm not one to get nervous on whitewater, but running bigger rapids in a raft loaded with gear was a different experience. Luckily Matt has spent time as a raft guide, so he was able to take control which allowed me time to be the shooter. Interestingly in this section of the river, we came across a lot of wild sheep. We'd previously talked about these, envisaging taking a load of wild mutton home, but on inspection these things were nasty, flyblown mongrels and all thoughts of sizzling roast went down the river. Deer were also on our minds because on previous trips we'd seen a number of Sika stags in this section, but the way it worked out was every deer sighted was while we were negotiating rapids, so we had far bigger priorities.

Caption: Fly camp on the side of the Mohaka river



Like all river trips, when the car comes into sight, there's a mixture of relief and disappointment. We'd talked far more than we'd hunted, but all up we'd shot around 20 goats, seen 100 odd, plus sheep and the sight of departing deer. It was a great weekend and one I'll be keen to repeat this year.

By Tim Taylor

URGENT REMINDER

Membership Fees are due March 31st

Pay by the due date to avoid membership restrictions!



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- 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:



Twin Needle: Members receive 10% off all gear repairs.



SWAZI Pro Deal: sign-up with your valid NZDA membership



NZ Taxidermy Ltd. 10% discount on mounts



Parachute First Aid: 15% off the Wilderness First Aid Kit



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



Murchison Helicopters: 10% off your flights



Helisika: 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks



Kilwell Sports: hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders



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



GoNative: 20% discount outdoor meals and snacks



BushLifeNZ: 20% discount on web orders



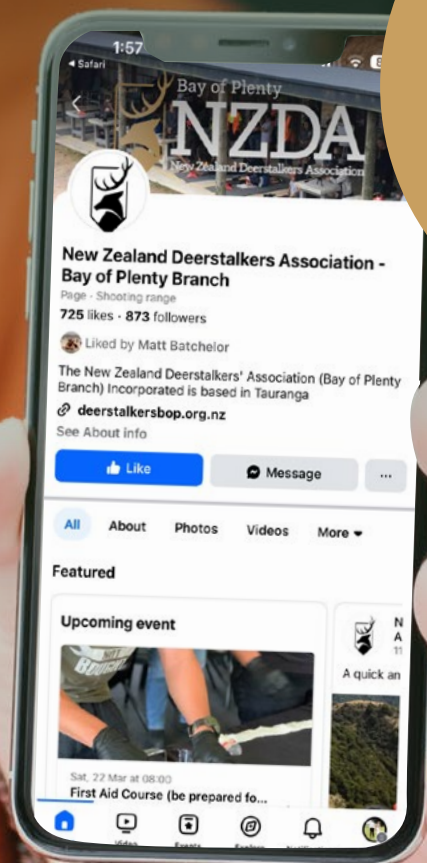
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HOW TO FIND US:

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





2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The NZDA National Office is conducting our annual membership survey and we need your input.

This survey takes just 15 minutes and can be completed on your phone, computer, or laptop. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of NZDA.

The survey will be open until Monday, 14th April.

Visit the link below to complete the survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/7srnd624>

Why Your Participation Matters

Advocacy & Submissions - Your input provides the critical data we need to support evidence-based submissions to policymakers.

Opportunities - Last year, survey feedback helped us secure the best possible Hut Pass discount from DOC. Your responses directly influence the benefits we negotiate on your behalf.

Herds of Special Interest - Your views will strengthen our advocacy with DOC and GAC as we push for the establishment of HOSI, a key focus this year.

Membership Improvements - We are committed to improving our administration and services. Your feedback helps us refine and enhance what we offer.

Thank you for your time, we will use this feedback

VOICES FROM THE WILD

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE NEW DOMEX ASCENT 2



When it comes to choosing the right tent, real-world experience speaks louder than specs. That's why we turned to some of New Zealand's most trusted outdoor influencers — the hunters, trampers, and adventurers who live and breathe the backcountry — to put the new Domex Ascent 2 to the test.

From icy alpine nights to rugged river valleys, the Ascent 2 has been pushed to its limits. In this feature, we round up the highlights, honest feedback, and field-tested insights from those who know outdoor gear best — not just from behind a desk, but from the tops.

JAMIE FROM SIKA HUNTERS NZ

This tent is a little beast! Every part of it is built to perform, making it tough and reliable from top to bottom. The whole set-up is a little battle tank!

I have taken the Domex Ascent 2 on multiple trips in the past 4 months, from a short trip in the Desert Road area, a 7-night fly into the Ahimanawa and lastly a 4-night trip into the Kaimanawa. It has exceeded my expectations and with its new stealth seam sealing technology and weatherproof shape it has become a mainstay in my hunting gear.

It also has plenty of room for 2 adults and is spacious when you are solo.

Small tents can be fiddly to set up but the Ascent is very easy. Simply lay down the tent, put together the aluminium poles, and connect them together. Then lastly throw the fly over, slide the corners together, and finish it off by placing the lightweight pegs around to hold it down in strong wind. I know that sounds simple, but honestly, it is that quick and easy to set up and take down.

Some nights during Summer I left the fly off, as it was a hot night with no rain predicted, and the tent inner kept the pesky mosquitoes at bay. The Ascent packs down really well. With a 2.2kg packed weight, this three-season tent is hardly a chore to carry.



MIKE FROM CHASE AND GATHER

This tent is one incredible piece of kit! I was so keen I gave it a test fire in the backyard! Some very nice features on there - Tensioner straps on guy ropes, tent corners and top/bottom tail. They are so fine!

The aluminium frame system is very simple to construct. The material on the tent itself is luscious, aye - those seams do look super durable and love the vent breather system on top and bottom.



ALESHA TOMASI

Absolutely love the Ascent 2 tent! We've had it in heavy rain, and it held up amazingly in the tops. It's nice and roomy inside—you can sit up comfortably, making it easy to get changed. The tent also has great outside storage space by the doors, perfect for keeping your pack and gear dry.

It's super easy and quick to set up, making it an awesome lightweight tent for taking into the tops or on any tramping adventure. The bright color and fluoro detailing make it stand out, so it's easy to find, even in low light. Plus, the reflective details help you spot it when heading back to camp after a long day of hunting.

If you're looking for a lightweight, roomy, and reliable tent, I can't recommend the Ascent 2 enough!



CAM FROM CAMS FOOD ADVENTURE

I've been using the Domex Ascent 2 for more than 6 months and couldn't be happier. Although it's rated as a 3-season tent due to the pole system not being built for heavy snow, I've used it in winter conditions with no issues. It's also held strong in some brutal winds — the alloy poles are solid.

The fly is impressive, with Stealth Seam Welding making the seams incredibly tough and highly waterproof — even more durable than traditional stitching.

The two side doors and roomy vestibules (around 2 sqm) make it super practical, especially for gear storage or cooking. Inside, there's over 3 sqm of space, plenty for two adults, with four large storage pockets and mesh nylon walls for ventilation and bug protection. The 110cm ceiling height also gives great headroom.

We've taken it out in all sorts of conditions. At just 2.2kg, it's easy to carry and simple to pitch — even my 11-year-old daughter can set it up on her own.

Whether you're new to the outdoors or a seasoned backcountry pro, I highly recommend the Domex Ascent 2 — it won't let you down.



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.

\$550 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@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

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



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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.



CREAMY CAJUN VENISON ALFREDO

Credit: <https://rb.gy/9d71cx>

Ingredients:

1 lb venison, sliced into strips
12 oz fettuccine pasta
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1 tbsp Cajun seasoning
2 tbsp butter
1 tbsp olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 small onion, diced
1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Cook the fettuccine pasta according to package instructions until al dente. Drain and set aside.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season the venison strips with salt, pepper, and Cajun seasoning. Cook the venison for 3-4 minutes until browned and cooked to your desired level of doneness. Remove the venison from the skillet and set aside.

In the same skillet, melt the butter. Add the garlic and onion, cooking for 2-3 minutes until softened and fragrant. Pour in the heavy cream, bring to a simmer, and cook for 3-5 minutes until slightly thickened.

Stir in the grated Parmesan cheese and cook until the sauce is smooth and creamy.

Add the cooked pasta and venison strips to the sauce, tossing to coat everything evenly. Cook for 1-2 minutes to heat through.

Garnish with fresh parsley and serve warm.



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

Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

BRANCH OFFICERS:

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

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| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| 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!

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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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*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.*



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