



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

MAY 2025

MOLESWORTH STATION

(See Clayton Water's story on page 13)

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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Page 1 Story and Photo

Want to feature on the cover of our next newsletter?
If you have a suitable photo and can write a few words to support it, 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

May 2025

Another roar has come and gone, with plenty of excitement and disappointment. Unfortunately, the weather didn't play nice for many of us, but we can't let that lousy excuse stop us getting out there. I had many missed opportunities and re-learned some valuable lessons that had faded into distant memory, but I really enjoyed the season and getting out there always reminds me of the many great hunting opportunities New Zealand has on offer. I'm already thinking about the 2026 roar and possibilities are starting to form tentative plans in my head. The big highlight for me was the 7 nights in the Whirinaki with my family and the several days of hunting with my children and four-legged homing missile.

For those who say it's too far, the terrain is too steep, or the track is too rough, don't let a 5-year-old put you to shame. Being a big fan of getting kids into hunting, and the proud dad that I am, I can't help but tell everyone that my 5 year old daughter carried a 7kg pack (1/3 her body weight) for 6 hours in the wet on an unmaintained 11km track, now classified as a "route" by DOC, arriving at the hut an hour after sunset, and much to the surprise of three old Aussie battlers who had flown in. If you need to get hunting fit so you can keep up with my 5-year-old daughter, then get training and give yourself the best chance of hunting success over the next 12 months.

Measuring night has come around fast and although I'm away for the next two weeks, I'm looking forward to seeing the heads on display in June. If you haven't secured a trophy, taken any photos, or tanned a skin over the last 12 months, try setting yourself some goals for next year's measuring night. Pick a category you want to enter next year, get a plan together, and start working towards your goal. You might want to keep it local and go for a Kaimai stag, maybe you want to have a go at tanning a skin, or perhaps you've been thinking about leaving the rifle at home and shooting with a camera.

Whatever you decide, set some goals for the next 12 months and get into it. Hot tip for new hunters, we don't stop because the roar is over, the Reds have their antlers until as late as August, and if you want a challenge, you get many more months of hard antler to chase with Rusa and Sambar rutting later in the year.



I was recently writing the Branch Report for the National Conference and I felt proud of our Branch and our many volunteers when I realised our club ran over 50 events over the past 12 months. That we are such an active club is a credit to all those who contribute, and to those who participate. Well done to everyone on an outstanding effort over the past year.

The impromptu butchery night was a great success and the venison for the club will provide plenty of sausages (maybe over 100kg) for club BBQs over the next while. The meat has also provided the opportunity for a sausage making workshop next month which will be a lot of fun and I'm sure there will be a lot of interest.

See you then.

Reuben

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A RETIRED FARMER TO HELP US RAISE 3-4 LAMBS FOR THE CLUB FREEZER.
If you can help please contact me on reuben@deerstalkershop.org.nz



MEASURING NIGHT

TUESDAY 20TH MAY

FROM 7PM

As the roar of the stags subside, it's a timely reminder that our annual measuring night is next week. For those of you who aren't familiar with Measuring Night, it's the time of year when we bring in all of our trophies to the club and get them Douglas scored for our annual Antler Horn and Tusk Competition. It's important to note that you shouldn't be put off if you haven't got the biggest and best as there are plenty of opportunities that might get you in the running for some silverware even if you aren't expecting it...you may be the only person who enters so bring everything in to be measured!

The trophy categories are:

- **Bay of Plenty Cup** - best Red deer head Donated based on its DS score.
- **H. Seely Cup** - second best Red deer head Donated based on its DS score.
- **Stan Lowe Trophy** - best Kaimai Red deer head based on its DS score. Must be taken within the Kaimai Forest Park north of State Highway 29.

- **Joe Monk Memorial Shield** - classical Red deer head based on visual, as judged by the measuring panel.
- **NZDA-BOP Branch Cup** - non typical deer head (any species) awarded to the most unusual or peculiar head.
- **Jenson Shield** - best Sika deer head based on its DS score.
- **Jack & Ken Barrow Shield** - Best Fallow deer based on its DS score.
- **George Baldock Cup** - Best Fiordland deer head based on its DS score.
- **Stoney Creek Trophy** - best Sambar deer head based on its DS score.
- **Waghorn Trophy** - best Rusa deer head based on its DS score.
- **John Hamilton Cup** - best Chamois head based on its DS score.
- **Neville Hogg Cup** - best Tahr head based on its DS score.

- **Bruce White Shield** - best Goat head based on its DS score.
- **John Dyke Ford Trophy** - best Goat head taken by a junior based on its DS score.
- **Huxtable Shield** - extracted Pig tusks based on its DS score.
- **Joe Malyon Cup** - undrawn Pig tusks based on its DS score
- **Pickering Shield** - best head taken by a lady based on its DS score.
- **Leo Malyon Cup** - best head taken by an under 20 year old based on its DS score.
- **Burr Family Trophy** - best head taken by a junior under 16 Years based on its DS score
- **D'Luxa Caterers Cup** - most outstanding head (all species) based on its DS score Red equivalent
- **Rod Mills Cup** - highest Antler, Horn & Tusk aggregate
- **Knight Trophy** - highest aggregate over all competitions based on AHT, Photography & Shooting
- **Dale Treanor Cup** - best tanned skin of a game animal based on shape, appearance, condition of hair markings and type (species). Skin must be tanned by the entrant and not done commercially.
- **West Trophy** - best Whitetail deer head based on its DS score.
- **West Trophy** - best wild Sheep head based on its DS score.
- **Golden Oldies Trophy** - Best head taken by a member 65 years or over, at the time of taking their trophy based on its DS score Red equivalent

We also celebrate our photographic and filming skills so it's time to dig through the hundreds of photos and videos you've taken throughout the year and submit your best ones for the chance to win yet more silverware.

Section A: Game Animals

Section B1: Other wildlife - birds

Section B2: Other wildlife - mammals

Section B3: Other wildlife - insects, reptiles, and amphibians

Section C: Scenic

Section D: Flora

Section E: Human Interest

Section F: Best colour or black and white print of all sections

Section G: Best Junior colour or black and white print

Section H: Photographic sequence

Section I: Photographic aggregate

VIDEO FILMS

Section A: Training/Promotional

Section B: Hunting

Section C: NZ wildlife

For more information on all of these categories as well as the AHT categories, please check out our NZDA Branch Handbook.

Friendly reminder that you need to be a current financial member to enter this competition and at the time of taking either the photo or trophy head.

BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

MAY	20 May Annual Measuring Night Contact: Josh - keen.joshuaj@gmail.com	30 May - 2 June Wanganui River Hunt Contact: Isabell 026 650 3488	
JUN	3 June Club Night, Sausage Workshop Speaker: Bruce Richards (Mr Meat Man) Starts: 7pm	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	3 August Peeking Wallaby Match	4 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams	5 August Club Night - How to get the most out of the rifle range Speaker: Baden Prentice Starts: 7pm
	14-17 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams	14-17 August Paparangi Ventures - Motu River Contact: Reuben Hayward	
SEPT	Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC	2 September Club Night - Navigation Speaker: TBC Starts: 7pm	14 September 300m Tack Driver (test run)
OCT	7 October Club Night - Whats in your pack Speaker: TBC Starts: 7pm	18-19 October Mokau River Club Hunt Contact: TBC	25-27 October Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC
NOV	2 November Peeking Wallaby Match		

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

RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range.

Hello members.

Not much has been happening at the range in April, other than a lot of RAIN!!!! The TPRA shoot for 19/4 was cancelled due to the bad weather on Easter weekend, but Baden's Peeking Wallaby shoot did go ahead on the 4th May – a very cold 5-degrees start! However, with all the rain it has been great to see that our drainage works completed over the summer months have paid off, and have made a huge improvement in managing the water flows resulting from the constant and persistent rainfall events which can occur up there.

1. NZDA-BOP club members 'Training Day' at the range – looking for expressions of interest for this proposed event or service to club members.

At the last range sub-committee meeting it was suggested that we might look at providing a few Range Officers to run an event on the second Saturday or Sunday of each month, for the benefit of those members who are wanting to do practical shooting inductions towards getting their range ticket. This would just be for a 2-3 hour session, or a half-day at the most, and would be dependant on having at least 3-5 members pre- booking and attending, along with 2-3 Range Officers to assist them. It was then suggested that this event/service could also be extended to act as a training or coaching session for any members who are wanting help with sighting in their rifles, trouble-shooting problems, or getting some basic shooting coaching on the range. This could be of huge benefit for some of our members who are maybe new license holders and may not have the benefit of a shooting-mentor to assist them in their journey to become a competent hunter and shooter. Also, things like learning how to clean and maintain your rifles properly, and possibly even some basic instructions on the safe techniques and procedures for the reloading of custom ammunition on site. We have some very experienced ammunition reloaders in our ranks now, and some of them may be willing to share their knowledge and experience with their fellow members. Some members may also want to attend this day to be able to do the 'Field Marksmanship test', which is something that is often not available to do on the Public Range days when things may be too busy. So please let us know if you think that having a monthly special session at the range just for club-members only would be of interest, for the main purposes of doing Inductions,

Training, and Marksmanship. (ITM). This would be totally different from the organised competition days where it is a booked event (like the Peeking Wallaby Match, or the TPRA shoot days), or the public open days which are usually just catering for the normal sight-in sessions only. This event would probably not 'book out' the range, but most likely be held and run in conjunction with the general use of the range by range-ticket holders on the day. Email me on range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz and let me know your thoughts about this proposal.

2. Steel bullet catcher (trial) - The design for our prototype has now been finalised, and production is underway at the moment. Hopefully we will be able to install this up at the range in June, but I will update the members when that happens – via Facebook and in the newsletter.

3. 600m Range development - The MOU has now been signed with Council to allow us to do some scrub clearing and investigative works on site. Obviously we need to wait until the ground conditions improve a bit more before we can make a start on this.

4. GATE ACCESS ISSUES: We are still having a few random problems with some gate access tags prematurely expiring on the system and not working, even if the member's subs are 'fully financial' and all paid up. Please DO NOT tamper with the access gate if you have any issues getting in or out of the facility. Or if you have to do it, then please let me know asap so we know what is going on, and just in case your actions screw things up for the next guy trying to get in. Please email me on: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz if you find that your electronic access 'fob/tag' is not working, or

RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range in March.

if you notice any damage at the range, or if any of the range safety-tags are missing off the board. We don't have anyone living on site or doing inspections up there every day, so we rely on feedback from our members to let us know what is going on. We are all volunteers, and can't afford to be going up there several times a week to sort things out at short notice. The range is still open for members and non-members alike at the end of the month on the Range Open days, so if you need to check that your access tag is still working ok, then that is a good day to do it. Alternatively, you could go up to the range with another mate who also has their own range tag/fob as well, so that you can still access the site in the event that one of the tags may not be working. PLEASE NOTE: After the 16 th of April any memberships (+ range fees) that are still overdue will have their range access tag deactivated. If they run over 3 months overdue then there is a \$50 re-joining/admin fee payable if you re-join late. If your subs or membership expires for over 12 months, then you may have to also re-do your range inductions process if you want to get a range tag again. So please keep your membership current rather than letting it lapse, as this is beneficial for both yourself and the clubs volunteer administrators/officers.

Good luck on your hunting adventures if you are getting out there, please stay safe and well.

Regards, Dean Maisey

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Tauranga Precision Rifle Association shoot. Range booking - SATURDAY 17th MAY, 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 18 th April 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, + \$10.00 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 25th May, 2025. 9:00am to 3:00pm Registrations close at 2:15pm.

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.

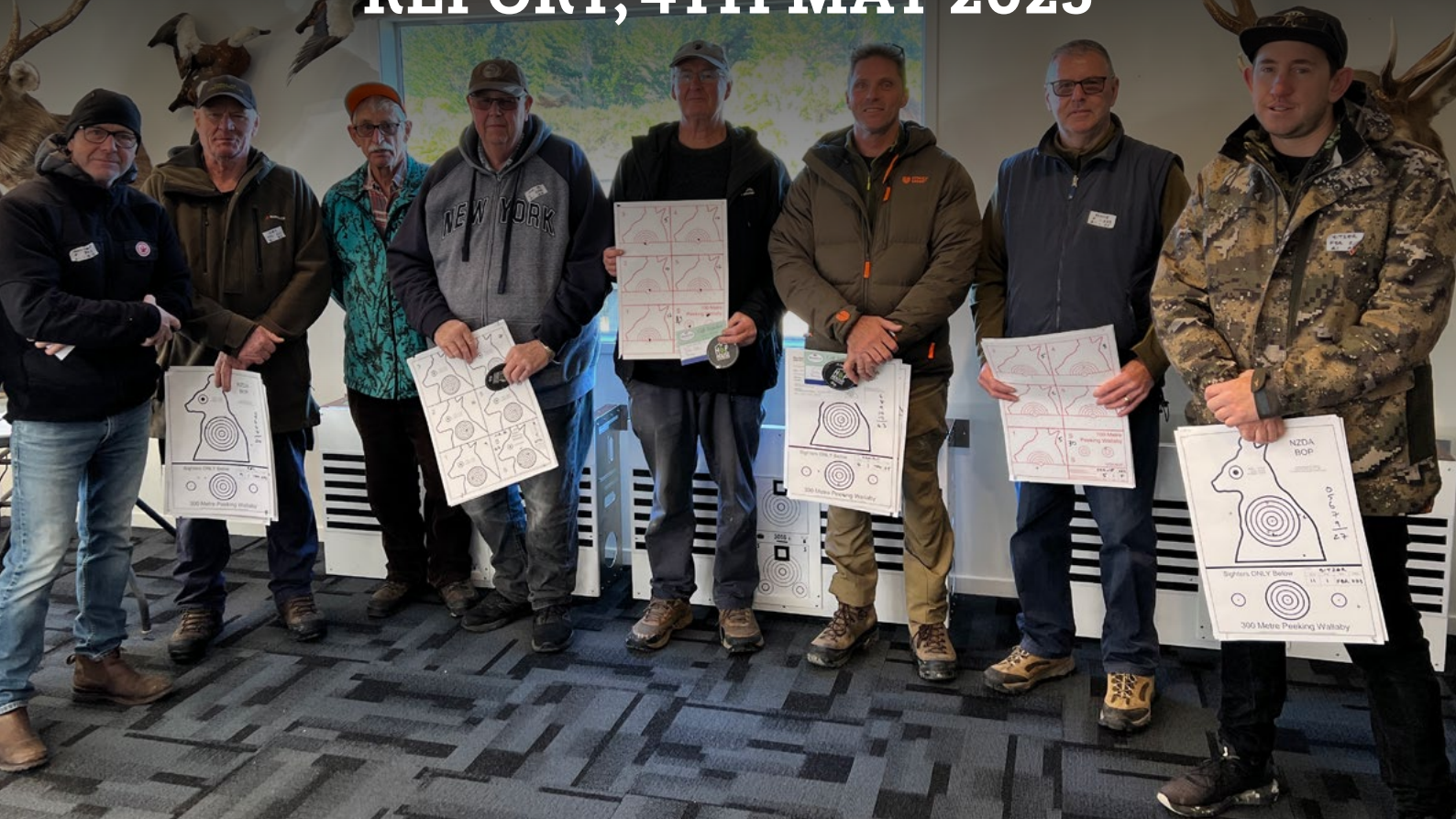
PLEASE NOTE: The club will not be liable for re-imbursement of your fuel or time costs (or anything else) if you turn up to find out that you can't actually use the range due to some organised event – or any other reason. Please remember that the direct personal costs to us volunteers to run the range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

Regards, Dean Maisey.

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



PEEKING WALLABY MATCH REPORT, 4TH MAY 2025



Another blue sky day for target shooting and fine tuning those rifle skills. We have run 13 Peeking Wallaby Matches now over 4 years and amazingly not one wet day. I have probably jinxed it now!

It was a cold 6 degree start but NZ Varminter got out the gate in Custom Class with a solid 49 at 100m. It could have been an outstanding 53 but he hit the grass. Adrian gave everyone a lesson by shooting a combined 100, 200, 300m score in TPH Class of 131 points. Earning himself a Hamills voucher and also a Good Shooter certificate. Well done Adrian.

Thanks to the range officers for helping run the event. The next Peeking wallaby Match is on Sunday 3rd August.



Peeking Wallaby Match, 4th May 2025

Handle	Class	Cartridge	100m	200m	300m	Total	Place
Bull Kelp	F	308WIN	32	27	28	87	1
Shane	F	223REM	30	33	15	78	2
Bitzer	FBR	223REM	30	31	27	88	1
NZ Varminter	C	6PPC	49	43	37	129	1
Mr B	C	6PPC	33	44	29	106	2
Adrian	TPH	6.5CM	48	40	43	131	1
Reg	TPH	223REM	40	37	24	101	2
Davo	TPH	6.5CM	40	29	28	97	3

Best scores (max 60)

49 44 43

Conditions at 10am
Temp: 12°C
RH: 67%
Pressure: 1025 hPa
Wind: 23 kph SSE
Gusts: 45 kph
Blue sky & gusty

2025 NZDA Tokoroa Classic Benchrest Tournament

*Pre-registration interest



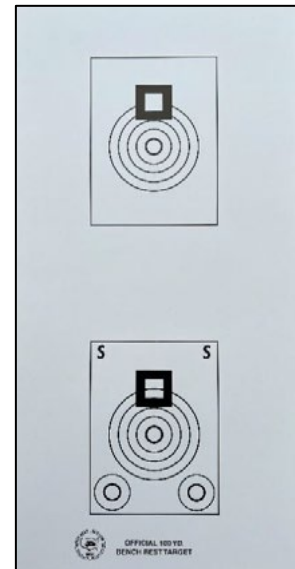
Hosted by NZDA - Bay of Plenty branch

Where: Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex (TSSC)
205 Newall Rd
Tokoroa

When: Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th August 2025

Program:

Friday	9:30am Target frame setup 10:00am Practice day
Saturday	8:00am Target frame setup 8:15am Sight in (only for late comers) 8:45am Safety & match briefing 9:00am LV-200 and FC-200 12:00pm Lunch break 12:30pm LV-100 and FC-100
Sunday	8:30am Target frame setup 9:00am HV-200 12:00pm Lunch break 12:30pm HV-100 4:00pm Range closed & tidy up 5:00pm Prize giving



*As this is our first mid-winter tournament, yardage order may change from above due to light conditions.

Entry Fees (*estimated)		
Classes	Senior	Junior
FC	\$40	\$20
LV / HV	\$80	\$40

Class Descriptions
FC = Factory Class
LV = Light Varmint 10.5 lbs
HV = Heavy Varmint 13.5 lbs

*Pricing subject to confirmation, depending on numbers.

Camping is available at the range with kitchen, toilet and shower facilities on hand. Cost of \$5 pp/night to be paid in cash into the range honesty box.

Please register your interest by emailing the match director. Final registration forms will be sent out mid-July. Limited to 16 shooters (2 relays).

We look forward to seeing you.

Baden Prentice

Match Director, NZDA-BOP Branch
Email. Baden.Prentice@gmail.com
Phone. 027 490 8613

www.deerstalkers.org.nz



2025 NZDA North Is Benchrest Championship - Dean Wilton

Congratulations to our branch member Dean Wilton who broke four national records at the 2025 NZDA North Is Benchrest Championship. This was hosted by the BOP branch at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex during Auckland Anniversary weekend.

Dean shot a Sako Varmint rifle chambered in .223Rem in NZDA Factory Class.

The records broken were:

- 100 yard aggregate, 0.6000
- 200 yard small group, 0.542"
- 200 yard aggregate 0.4792
- Grand aggregate 0.5396

*An aggregate is the average group size over 5x, 5 shot group record targets for a yardage.

*The grand aggregate is the average of the 2 yardages combined.

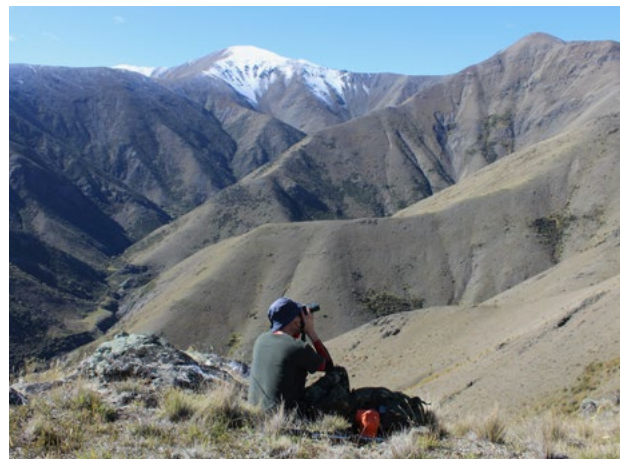


MOLESWORTH STATION



It was the 15th of October and I received a text from my mate Tim who I'd originally met through the Deerstalkers some years ago. He was asking if I'd be keen to join him in Molesworth Station as he had just secured a roar block for the 9th to the 15th of April. Before then I had never heard of Molesworth Station and had only been to the South Island once some years before on a club Tahr hunt. I never forgot how good a trip that was in the South Island Terrain. I also knew that when Tim came up with an idea for a hunt it was always a good one. I quickly replied that I would definitely look into it.

I soon discovered that Molesworth Station is New Zealand's largest farm spanning over 1,800 square kilometres. There are 20 different roar blocks that can be balloted for and the one Tim had secured



was 'McGuires'. After a quick bit of browsing through google and a couple Youtube videos it became clear that this could be a pretty cool trip. After a quick check with the scheduler (who also happens to be my understanding wife), I let Tim know I was definitely in.



After some planning the time had come and I found myself throwing gear in the back of the Ute as we set off for the South Island. Molesworth runs pretty much the length from Hamner Springs through to Seddon, just south of Blenheim. We broke the trip up on the way down and spent a night in Hamner Springs. The next morning we woke to the first day we were eligible to be on our block. As it was about an hour from Hamner, we arrived at the McGuires block on daybreak.

Access to the block involved shuttling our gear across the Archeron River in Tim's Canadian Canoe. The river was a bit high due to heavy rain the days prior, but soon we had our gear across and had a camp set up a couple hundred meters inland. Excited to actually be there after the months of anticipation, we did what anyone would do and headed off for a hunt.

The area is mostly open country with long and wide negotiable ridges that gain elevation and allow for time glassing into vast areas; some steep and rocky, others covered in Tussock and also bush typically found further down in the guts. We decided to head up a ridge directly behind our camp. About two hours later we spotted our first animals. It was a small group of three pigs about 400 meters away across a valley. Although they were on our list, they were well below

chamois and stags. We decided to let them be in order to not disturb the area we were still new too and exploring. It turned out to be a good decision as about a half hour further up the ridge, I peeked over and at first glance saw what I thought was another pig facing away from me at about 130 meters. Tim replied, 'That's not a pig, it's a Chammy!'. Sure enough it was! Within a few minutes I had added this species to my list. Neither of us could really believe it as chamois typically hang out in groups. This one was out on its own and a bit of surprise as we had only been hunting for a few hours. We were pretty stoked to have already had that much excitement!

After the celebrations and as we began to sort it out, I spent a couple of minutes just admiring the animal as I had never seen one up close before. It had a dark coat of fur that was in great shape. We had brought a bag of un-ionized salt to our base camp for such an occasion. I went to work skinning it out, taking the head as well as the backstraps and hind quarters. As I was busy with this, Tim was glassing the area we were in. It was a large steep basin that stretched about 600 meters following a ridge than ran 180 degrees around us and included a grassy patch almost directly across and a half a kilometre away. After about 15 minutes I heard the words, "I see a stag!".

Sure enough there was a good sized stag laying down in the middle of this grassy patch. It's head was up and we could make out a decent set of antlers. Due to the distance, he had no idea we were watching him or what our intentions were and was not at all alarmed. He looked to have about 10 points, but we couldn't tell for sure. We ranged him at 530 meters and made a plan to try and cut the distance down as much as we could. We brought the sorted remains of the chamois to a spot which we would again pass on the way back to camp, and then made a plan to get closer to the stag.

A couple of weeks earlier we had gone for a North Island hunt into Koranga Forks hut in the Waioeka area. Since on that trip Tim had shot a 7 point stag, and I had only taken 1 hind, he very unselfishly offered that I be the one that takes the shot. I was very thankful and the next stag and chammy he would obviously have first rights to.

Within a half an hour we had cut the distance down to 401 meters. I was comfortable shooting up to about 350 meters with the way my .270 rifle is set up, but I knew that any further would have reduced the odds and the ethical considerations involved. Tim offered for me to take the shot with his 7mm Rem Mag scoped with the dial up turrets that I lacked on my rifle (since added to my hunting gear wish list). After a quick turn of 23 clicks I was zeroed in at 401 meters, calming my breath and doing my best to ensure the shot was going to go where I wanted it to. This set up for a long-distance shot compared to my usual bush stalking missions was a nice change. The wind was relatively calm and at this distance, with the animal unaware of us, it was nice to have the time to get into shooting position rather than a snapshot in thick bush.

The stag was still lying down and had not moved since we first spotted it about an hour before. There were small bits of scrub where its body met the ground, but thankfully I could make out the top half of its entire body. I had the crosshairs on its front shoulder and slowly squeezed the trigger. After the shot as the rifle jumped, at that magnification I found it difficult to keep sight of it in the scope. I was very excited when Tim shouted in a low voice, "You smoked it!". Then within a couple of seconds it had gone a few meters below where it was lying and was now sitting on its





hind quarters with both front legs propping up his front end, trying to hang onto life and looking around wondering why his nap had been lethally disturbed. I then heard the next most common phrase that would naturally come next, "Put another one in him!". After dialling back the magnification, finding him in the scope again, then quickly zooming back in, with a quick pause to ensure the shot would be true, the second shot hit him right where it was supposed to. He seemed to absorb the impact for a few seconds, then flopped over and rolled a few meters where he stayed. Then came the high fives and the celebrations as neither Tim nor I could really believe our luck! After not knowing really what to expect from a new hunting area, within a few hours after setting up camp we had knocked over two nice animals!

A goal when originally thinking about this trip had been to get a "nice wall hanger", what ever that would look like. As we lacked a spotting scope, we couldn't tell for sure how many points this stag had. There was some very steep scree slopes we would have to traverse to make the retrieval. We elected to return the next day, as we didn't want to be out making our way back to camp in the dark with this terrain. The next day it took about five hours just to get to the stage across some sketchy slopes. Walking poles and not looking down to see how steep it was below, made all the difference both physically and mentally, as we picked our way along the scree. As we approached the stag, we could finally make out the size of its head. After wondering about it all night we were very pleased to see that it was a very uniform looking 12 pointer! My personal best head and longest kill shot to date, plus it was definitely a "nice wall hanger"! It felt like one of those times when every

single part of your hunting career comes together at once and rewards you with a trophy you will never forget harvesting. It was another mission to get back to camp and we arrived fully satisfied and physically spent for the day.

Day two we found ourselves high up on a ridge surrounded by various basins to peak into. On the way up we spotted some hinds and a nice even 10 pointer. As the next stag was Tim's call, he passed on this one as he had hopes for something bigger. I'd never imagined we'd be in a position to pass on such an otherwise nice animal, but it was nice to watch it go about its business undisturbed. We later also saw a four pointer and some more hinds. After not coming across anything better that day it was back to camp for the night.

The next day near the top of that same ridge that the 10 pointer was on, we could hear the odd moan from not to far away and went to investigate. I was behind Tim as we approached the area and I noticed that just in front of us at about 100 meters, were three hinds watching us walk toward them in wide open country. I was able to get his attention without alarming the hinds further and we both hit the ground doing our best to look non-threatening. I took myself out of their field of view, but Tim had no were to go that would put him out of sight. After a couple of minutes of being very still, the hinds moved on thankfully without raising alarm. Tim then spotted what was no doubt the dominant stage in that area. He was a big boy sitting in the sun without a worry in the world and letting out the odd moan. It turned out passing on that 10 pointer earlier was likely going to pay off. Tim got into shooting position prone on the ground

after crawling around a bit to negotiate some bits of tussock in front of him. I watched as a shot rang out. As it was in somewhat of a tricky position, the stag stood up after being hit through the jaw and side of its body. Tim very quickly put another one in his shoulder and it just stood there seemingly absorbing the impact into his large body. One more follow up shot soaked in and he tipped over shortly afterwards. As we approached, we were impressed by the sheer size of him! I was in disbelief; this was our second really nice stag in almost as many days! It turned out to be the biggest bodied deer I had ever seen. It had 12 points and very thick long tines. More high fives, smiles and thoughts of not believing how good this was! There was even a bit of cell phone reception in this spot to let the family know how we were getting on so far.



The next day we spent skinning our heads in the morning, re-organizing our meat storage in the river, sorting camp out a bit and relaxing in the sunshine which we were lucky to have the entire trip. After lunch it was then an afternoon hunt to a different area with just a couple goats being shot.

The following day we headed up into a spot that looked good. It was early morning and with the help of Tim's handheld thermal, we easily picked out a few animals. It was our first trip using a thermal and found it was a very useful tool. It made it very easy to cover a large area and spot animals otherwise mostly hidden from plain sight. Within the next hour we had shot a hind and yearling stage as a couple meat animals and were headed back to camp with very full packs.

That night at camp we concluded that we had achieved everything we set out for in this roar block, and decided to leave a day early so the return trip wasn't a straight shot home. The next morning we broke camp and were soon head down the gravel road the runs through Molesworth Station from Hamner Springs to Seddon. The scenery on this over 100 kilometre section is well worth the time it takes to drive through. If you are looking for a multi-day hunting trip that takes you a bit further afield, I would

definitely give some thought to the Molesworth roar blocks. The geography of large valleys, long winding rivers, and tall open hills are a nice change of scenery. The fact that one also has a good chance of harvesting a trophy stag with the possibility of chamois and pigs or even a stray goat sets the scene for an exciting trip. All hunting trips are a privilege to be on and each memorable in their own way, but this trip was epic and no doubt one of my favourites so far.

By Clayton Waters



“EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST REQUIRED”

We are looking for experienced hunters to guide our 2025 HUNTS Course graduates on their first hunt on the weekend of September 12-14.

If you are interested and experienced at navigating in the bush, please contact HUNTS Instructor

Doug Williams
07 544 3065
huntscourse@deerstalkershop.org.nz

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



APRIL CLUB HUNT REPORT: TE WHARE OKIOKI

Our club undertook another successful hunt to Te Whare Okioki Hut in the Kaimai Ranges.

Six of us were heading in at different times, so I walked in after work on Wednesday evening. Departing from the Blade car park, I was hoping to be at the hut by sundown.

Once I hit the North-South Track, I started to hear faint roars. I slowed down and let off a few myself. There were two stags going on both sides of the track, but as it was getting dark and I couldn't see anything in the thick bush, I headed to the hut.

In the morning, I got up early and headed to a wallow where I had my game camera set up. Knowing deer were using it, I approached slowly. I let off a small



roar and got a reply straight away—he was close. But being the Kaimai, it was thick as hell. The wind wasn't great, coming across me, so I stopped and listened...

Then—a bark from a hind above me! I thought I'd bugged it up. I let out another roar, he responded again, and then I heard crashing through the bush—he was heading up to me fast.

I got the gun up, ready to go. Then he appeared, less than 20 metres away.

Antlers. Head. Front legs. Bang! He crashed off...

Did I miss? Surely not at that distance.

Following him down the ridge, I started to see some frothy blood—looked like a lung shot. I climbed a slight rise and there he was, lying down. I put another shot through him and he was down. A Kaimai 6-pointer. I looked at my watch—8 a.m. Not bad. I love the quick hunts.

After butchering, I had a slow walk back to the hut, thinking to myself, that's taken the pressure off.

The other guys arrived later and made plans for the afternoon hunt.

The next morning, I was hunting with Ryan. We decided to head up the ridge behind the hut, toward another wallow. Seeing some sign, we slowed down and followed the prints—they were fresh.

I told him to be ready and to start looking through the bush. A minute later, around a slight bend, I spotted a hind feeding—it was close. Ryan was in the lead so I couldn't shoot. I gave a signal for him to send it...

Bang! She bolted a short way. The follow-up—she went down.

His first Kaimai deer!

We took most of the deer back to the hut to be processed. The meat safe was looking good. Back steaks for tea, thanks to Chef Thinus and his onion.

**There was a great team effort to debone the meat for the walk out the next day.
Heavy packs—but worth it.**

By Dan



SAUSAGE MAKING WORKSHOP

**DON'T MISS OUR SAUSAGE MAKING WORKSHOP FROM 7PM
ON TUESDAY THE 3RD OF JUNE AT THE CLUB ROOMS**

By special invitation, butchery legend Bruce Richards (aka Mr Meat Man) from Farm Killing and Processing Services will be joining us to share his tips, tricks and recipes for making sausages. With nearly 50 years in the butchery game including his role as head butcher for Pak n Save Tauranga and New World Brookfield, Richard has won multiple awards for his sausage making skills.

DON'T MISS THIS!



MR MEAT MAN

Your local homekill butcher

Ph: 022 077 4360



WANGANUI FALLOW HUNT

JUNE 20 -22

FATHER AND SON, FATHER AND DAUGHTER, MOTHER AND SON, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER...

We are looking for 6 dynamic duos to join us on our June Club Hunt to Wanganui, if you are an experienced hunter with a son or daughter who is just starting out in their hunting career and keen to shoot their first fallow deer then this is the hunt for you.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

This is a balloted hunt, simply join us at the Clubrooms from 7pm on Tuesday the 3rd of June from 7pm to be included, successful attendees will be drawn on the night.

You must be a current financial NZDA BOP Member to attend.

You need to accompany a youth hunter aged 10 – 17 years old.

This trip is not open to those who have already attended a Wanganui Club hunt in 2025.

A quad bike is highly recommended as is a 4x4 for property access.



WINTER HUNTING COMPETITION

**FIRST 50 ENTRIES GO INTO
THE DRAW TO WIN A \$50
HUNTING & FISHING
VOUCHER**

HUNTING PERIOD: Wednesday 2nd to Sunday 6th July

WEIGH IN: 9am - 12pm Sunday 6th July

ADULT
(PIGS & DEER)
\$50

CHILD
UNDER 15
(POSSUM & RABBITS)
\$20

**Already registered and paid? Sweet! you're in the draw!
Not yet? Don't muck around, get your entry in now**

**ENTER NOW BY SEARCHING
'KAIMAI SCHOOL' ON FACEBOOK**



CLUB HUNT PAPARANGI VENTURES

14TH TO 17TH AUGUST



Photo of the heads we got last time.

- The hunting block is on the Motu River, it is private land that borders conservation land.
- The hut has fire and wetback hot water, gas cooking and solar lights.
- Dogs are allowed under certain conditions – ask first please
- Drive to the hut, 4wd vehicles only.

THIS IS A PAID ACCESS HUNT

**\$85/night for hunting adults
= \$255/adult**

**\$10/night for children aged 5-17
= \$30/child**

CONTACT:

**Reuben
(027) 482 8969
reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz**

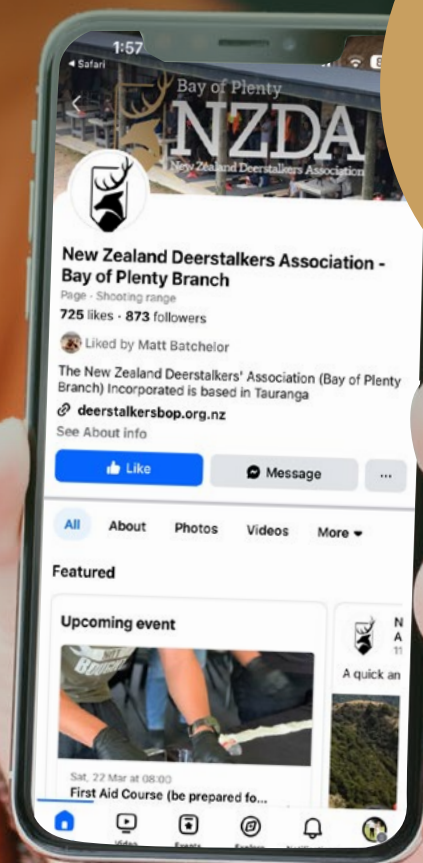


DID YOU KNOW THE NZDA BAY OF PLENTY HAS ITS OWN LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE?

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.





If you would like to be involved with this event and have a flair for organising parties to remember, please JOIN US for a sub-committee meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 27th at the Club Rooms.

**For more information please call
Isabell Zitzelsberger on: 026 650 3488 or
email secrartary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz**

WATERPROOF AND DUSTPROOF RATINGS EXPLAINED:

HOW DURABLE IS YOUR LIGHTING?

When you're hunting deer in the New Zealand bush, you need gear that works as hard as you do. The terrain is rugged, the weather can change in an instant, and staying dry and warm isn't just a comfort, it's a necessity. Element protection is crucial, for you as well as the tools you rely on.

When selecting a flashlight, understanding its durability against environmental factors like dust and water is crucial. So, just what is an IP rating, and what does it even mean?

The Ingress Protection (IP) rating system provides a clear indication of how well a device is safeguarded against the elements of dust and water.



WHAT IS AN IP RATING?

An IP rating is a two-digit code that classifies the degree of protection provided by an enclosure against the intrusion of solid objects and liquids. The first digit represents protection against solids (e.g., dust), while the second digit pertains to liquids (e.g., water). Higher numbers indicate greater levels of protection.

IP RATING BREAKDOWN:

First Digit (Solids):

- 0: No protection
- 1-4: Protection against objects sized from >50mm to >1mm
- 5: Dust protected (limited ingress permitted)
- 6: Dust tight (no ingress of dust)

Second Digit (Liquids):

- 0: No protection
- 1-6: Protection against varying degrees of water exposure, from dripping to powerful jets
- 7: Protection against immersion up to 1 metre
- 8: Protection against continuous immersion beyond 1 metre

For example, a device with an IP68 rating is both dust-tight and protected against continuous immersion in water.

GREAT LIGHTING OPTIONS WITH HIGH IP RATINGS

Ledlenser offers a range of flashlights and headlamps designed to withstand challenging environments. Here are our top picks:

P6R CORE RECHARGEABLE TORCH

The P6R Core delivers up to 900 lumens and features an IP68 rating, making it completely dust-tight and suitable for continuous immersion in water. Its sleek design encases cutting-edge technology, including Ledlenser's patented Advanced Focus System and Smart Light Technology with 8 different light functions.



P5R WORK RECHARGEABLE TORCH

Designed for demanding work environments, the P5R Work offers an IP68 rating, ensuring superior protection against dust and water. It includes features like the Advanced Focus System, Smart Light Technology with 8 light functions, and a transport lock. Recharging is convenient with Ledlenser's Magnetic Charge System.



HF4R CORE RECHARGEABLE HEADLAMP

Sleek and lightweight at just 72g, this headlamp is designed for any day use. From the hills to the home, experience exceptional illumination with Fusion Beam technology, providing a perfect combination of both nearby task lighting and long-range visibility. Whether you're going camping or taking the dog for a walk, the HF4R Core is the ideal headlamp.



WHY IP RATINGS MATTER

Understanding IP ratings helps you choose a flashlight that meets your specific needs. For instance, if you're engaging in activities where the device may be exposed to dust or submerged in water, selecting a flashlight with a high IP rating ensures durability and reliable performance.

By choosing Ledlenser products with appropriate IP ratings, you can confidently tackle various environments, knowing your equipment is built to withstand the elements.

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@deerstalkershop.org.nz



HUNTING GEAR FOR SALE

FOR SALE

ITEM	PRICE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Honda TRX350FM 4X4	\$3800.00	- Fully serviced - Bull bar, good tyres	Kerry Pask 021 137 1671
Pard Night Vision Night Stalker 4k Scope	\$650.00	- Worth \$1599.00 NEW - Will allow a trial for an approved buyer.	Matt 021 222 5854
Hardy Tikka, 7mm Rem Mag, Carbon barrel, Carbon Stock, Nightforce NXS Scope	\$6900.00	- Cost \$11000 to build	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
CZ 457 Long Range Precision, 22lr	\$2599.00	- Unfired	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Air Arms S510 Xtra, 22 cal	\$2300.00	- Unfired - Includes filling adapter	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Yildiz Silah SANAYii Burder NBD TS 870 - 20 gauge under & over shotgun.	\$1,200 ono	76mm chamber, 5 multi chokes plus spanner. Hardly used, low recoil, a great gun for young shooters. Complete with 260 rounds 76mm steel #3 shot, 160 rounds lead #6 shot, plus ammo belt.	Chris Fryer 021 0817 2557
Browning X bolt Max Varmint Target 223	\$1,700 ono	26-inch heavy fluted Barrel. Re-bedded stock with stiffened fore-end. 5 shot mag plus muzzle break. Fired 300 rounds.	Chris Fryer 021 0817 2557

LOOKING TO BUY

ITEM	DETAILS	CONTACT
Quality used reloading equipment	- 6.5 Creedmoor - Needs all reloading equipment	Marty Finkel mf8176@gmail.com

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.



TWELVE-HOUR SLOW ROAST WILD PORK

Credit: NZHerald:<https://shorturl.at/LPArT>

Ingredients:

- 4 Garlic cloves, grated
- 1 Tbsp Salt
- 2 tsp Ground cumin
- 2 tsp Smoked paprika
- 2 tsp Ground fennel
- 1 Lemon, zest of
- 2 Tbsp Olive oil
- 2 ½ kgs Wild Pork shoulder, or pork leg (Main)
- 1 Onion, peeled and sliced
- 1 cup Apple juice

Directions:

In a mortar and pestle grind garlic with salt until a paste forms. Add cumin, paprika, fennel, lemon zest and olive oil. Rub the paste all over the pork and place in the fridge to marinate. It is best left overnight. Heat oven to 200C.

Place pork on top of onions in a roasting dish. Cook for 30 minutes, add apple juice, then cover dish with a lid or foil, reducing the oven temperature to 110C.

After 11 hours remove the lid and turn oven up to 200C. Baste pork with cooking juices.

Roast for a further 30 minutes until pork caramelises and becomes sticky.

Allow to rest then serve pork whole on a plate for people to pull apart meat at the table.

Serve with steamed courgettes tossed with fresh oregano and olive oil.



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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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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

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Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

BRANCH OFFICERS:

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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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.*



www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz