



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

JULY 2025

ELLA'S FIRST DEER

*(See Dan & Ella Gallagher's
story on page 12)*

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 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

JULY 2025

Wow, after joining our Branch at the tender age of 16 never having seen a deer, I'm now sitting in the Presidents chair just before my 39 th birthday...it's a privilege to be here.

Firstly, thank you to all those club members whom I've got to know, have mentored me over the years, and supported me to this position. I still remember my first club hunt, led by the late Stan Lowe, fly camping at the Te Tuhi track junction, and hunching up goats with the President, Russell Neilson. Secondly, a big thanks to Immediate Past President, Reuben Hayward. I have always admired your leadership skills and hope to continue the path of professionalizing the Branch that you started.

People often ask why I put so much time into Deerstalkers. That's easy, it's my community. We're not just hunters or shooters; we're like-minded individuals that are collectively stronger together. Take a look at our range and you'll see what we can achieve when we pool our resources and knowledge. Within our Branch there are those who give a lot to our community, while sadly there are those who only take. I would challenge all of you to evaluate what you contribute and where necessary, step it up a bit...an hour here and there from 600 members adds up very quickly!

We're more than halfway through the year and we have several exciting events coming up. On the 1 st of August tickets go on sale for our 75 th Anniversary Dinner in November. This is going to be a great night, which includes an amazing dinner, drinks, an MC and a band, so remember to bring your dancing shoes. Our August club night also involves food, with a free potluck dinner preceding the awards evening. The range is also going to be busy with numerous competitions and development works in the pipeline. And of course there will be hunting, with the HUNTS course kicking off in August, the National Goat Comp, as well as several exciting club hunts to participate in.

I'm looking forward to a great year ahead, so I hope to see you all getting involved.

Tim Taylor

BOP NZDA CLUB EVENTS & HUNTS CALENDAR 2025

AUG	<p>3 August Peeking Wallaby Match</p> <p>POSTPONED TO 17 AUGUST</p>	<p>4 August New HUNTS Course starts Contact: Doug Williams</p>	<p>5 August Club Night - Annual Awards Night and Family BBQ Starts: 6pm</p>
	<p>8-10 August Mt Zion Club Hunt, Mica Pines Only See page 16 for details</p>	<p>14-17 August Paparangi Ventures - Motu River Contact: Reuben Hayward</p> <p>FULLY BOOKED</p>	<p>14-17 August HUNTS course at Ngamuwahine Lodge Contact: Doug Williams</p>
	<p>22-24 August NZDA Tokoroa Classic Benchrest Tournament - Hosted by the NZDA-Bay Of Plenty Branch at Tokoroa</p>	<p>24 August The range will be closed for club member use from 8am to 5pm on Sunday 24th August 2025 for the HUNTS course range day.</p>	
SEPT	<p>Date: TBC Club Hunt Mount Zion Mica Mountain Pines Contact: TBC</p>	<p>2 September Club Night - How to get the most out of the rifle range Speaker: Baden Prentice Starts: 7pm</p>	
	<p>12-13 September 300m Tack Driver Showdown Practice on Friday, Tournament on Saturday Contact: Baden Prentice</p>	<p>12-14 September Hunts Course Guided Hunt Contact: Doug 0274945966</p>	
OCT	<p>7 October Club Night - Whats in your pack Speaker: Various Starts: 7pm</p>	<p>18-19 October Club Hunt Mokau River Club Hunt Contact: TBC</p>	<p>25-27 October Club Hunt Mount Zion Contact: TBC</p>
NOV	<p>2 November Peeking Wallaby Match 100M, 200M, 300M NZDA Range Contact: Baden Prentice</p>	<p>4 November Club Night - Navigation Speaker: TBC Starts: 7pm</p>	
	<p>TBC Club Hunt - Mount Cook Contacts: Josh Keen and Jonathan Flude</p>	<p>22 November 75th Anniversary Dinner - Club Rooms Speaker: TBC Starts: 6pm</p>	
<p>Visit: www.deerstakersbop.org.nz/club-events for more NZDA BOP events and activities.</p>			

RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range.

Hello members.

The club's AGM has come and gone, and the new committee had its first meeting last night. The range managers job has fallen on my shoulders once again, but with support from Chris Fryer and Baden – and the new range sub-committee – I am confident that we are well-placed to tackle the challenges of the year ahead.



1. Steel bullet catcher (trial)

THIS IS ABOUT TO GO 'LIVE' SOON – WE WILL NOTIFY RANGER USERS VIA EMAIL AND FACEBOOK WHEN THIS IS READY TO USE. The 300kg stand-alone unit has been installed at the range on 15/6 with a hi-ab, and is located on the far right-hand end of 100m target line, at a special target location - now sign-posted '15a'. Shooting for this target-board and bullet catcher/trap will be from Bench #15 only.

2. RULES REMINDER

With most people sighting in their rifles at 100m, the rules state that you MUST first zero any new rifles (or rifle/scope combination) at the closer targets of 25m or 50m, BEFORE you can shoot at 100m. The reason for this is that the 100m line gets by far the most use (and damage), and we have already found stray bullet holes through the new posts on the rebuilt 100m target frame line. There should not be any excuse or reason for this to occur if your rifles are properly pre-zeroed at 25m or 50m first. If you can't keep all of your shots on a 1200mm x 800mm target board at 100m, then something is wrong. The vertical target frame posts should not be getting shot at all – please take care to avoid creating unnecessary extra damage to the range. Also remember to follow all of the range rules, which also clarifies who you can or cannot take up to the range with you. See the club's website for all relevant info on the range rules and standing orders, etc. Or if you have any questions, ask me or one of the NRO's (Range officers).

3. 600m Range development

Rain has prevented any works on site so far, but we are planning to have a digger on site to start scrub clearing later this month. If you notice a truck or other machinery in the carpark area then please stay well away and do not park too close to any contractor's vehicles or equipment. At this stage we do not anticipate any closures to the 300m range for this work to be undertaken by our contractor, as he will most likely only need to access the 600m range area via the track on our northern boundary.

4. WORKING BEES

After a break of several months, we are approaching the point where we need to service the bullet backstop drums again, and for this we will need at least 10-20 helpers on the day along with the mini Hi-Ab. Tentatively looking at a Saturday in early September for that job at this stage? Also there is a proposal to line the shooting building and use up the remainder of the spare insulation that we have had in storage for ages. We will also need some fit helpers to do this job, possibly around the same time. Also just some general cleanup and tidying work around the range area and fencelines again.

5. WEBSITE & GATE ACCESS ISSUES

We are having some problems with the clubs calendar on the website, and also the private range session requests that are going out to NRO's from our club's website. Someone is working on this currently, and we hope to have these matters resolved soon. But if you are not getting any replies to those website-generated requests, then please email me directly on the 'range' email address.

A few members have been having 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. However, in some instances it has been operator error. DO NOT 'SWIPE' YOUR TAG PAST THE READER – IT'S NOT LIKE PAY-WAVE. YOU JUST NEED TO HOLD THE TAG/FOB AGAINST THE READER FOR A FEW SECONDS UNTIL IT BEEPS AND THE LIGHT CHANGES COLOUR. Note that in bad weather the system may be compromised due to the fact that the connection between the main gate and the range building is wire-less, and this may be the reason for some of the occasional glitches in the system, or failure to function.

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

RANGE NEWS

Update on work at range.

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 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: Our policy is that 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Range Open Day:
SUNDAY JULY 27TH, 2025
9:00am to 3:00pm
Registrations close at 2:15pm**

**Peeking Wallaby Match
SUNDAY AUG 17TH 2025**

**300m Tack Driver Showdown
SEPTEMBER 12TH-13TH 2025
(entry by ticket purchase)**

**Peeking Wallaby Match
SUNDAY NOV 2ND 2025**

Fundraising and donations:

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

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

NZDA-BOP branch: 03-0445-0184375-00

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Thanks & regards, Dean Maisey.

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.

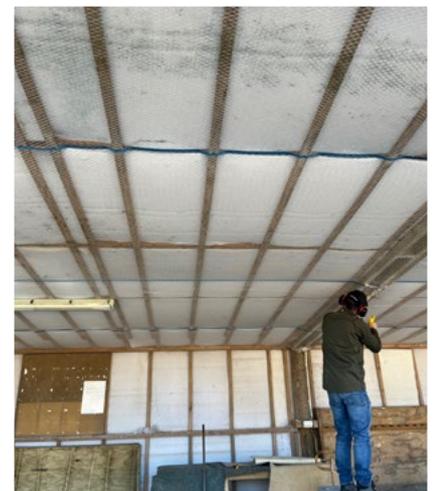
4. **DO NOT BRING CHAIRS OR BIKES, OR OTHER ITEMS TO THE RANGE WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE RANGE MANAGER. SOME ITEMS MAY BE OF USE, BUT WE DON'T WANT EVERYONE/ANYONE BRING UP THEIR OLD CHAIRS AND BIKES TO "DONATE" TO THE RANGE. THE CHAIRS AND BIKES SEEM TO BE BREEDING AS FAST AS WE THROW THEM OUT (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-imbursment 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, Dear Maisey.

Email: range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz



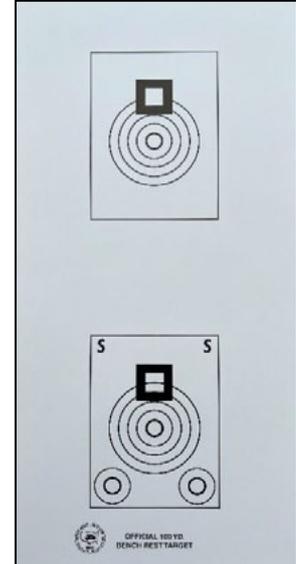
2025 NZDA Tokoroa Classic Benchrest Tournament

*Pre-registration interest



Hosted by NZDA - Bay of Plenty branch

Where:	Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex (TSSC) 205 Newall Rd Tokoroa	
When:	Friday 22 nd – Sunday 24 th 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



THE TACK DRIVER SHOWDOWN

**NEW ZEALAND'S MOST ACCURATE RIFLES
GO HEAD-TO-HEAD AT 300 METRES**

COST: \$80 PER ENTRANT

The **Tack Driver Showdown** is an annual one-of-a-kind, all comers, shooting tournament. This match will reveal the most accurate cartridge, rifle and shooter combination, at least out to 300 metres.

The 6PPC and 30BR are king in short range benchrest. Cartridges in 7mm are leading F-Class, while 6 and 6.5mm's dominate PRS. Precision hunting rigs are using various cartridges up to 30 calibre. They will all go head-to-head in this multi-discipline rifle match!



Tack Driver targets will be placed at 300 meters (328 yards). This should be far enough that the higher BC bullets used by today's competition and modern hunting rifles come into play. The Tack Driver's course of fire demands competitors demonstrate both precision and accuracy by switching between Group and Score targets. The Group target provides a test of precision, measuring only the group size. Meanwhile, the Score target demands accuracy with the goal of hitting 5 separate, 1 inch bullseyes.

Who: Those who would compete to be the **Tack Driver Champion**
Limited to the first 18 entrants

Where: NZDA Bay of Plenty Branch, 300m rifle range, TECT Park, SH36, Tauranga

When: Friday 13th September to Saturday 14th September

PROGRAMME

Friday: 9:00am - 3:00pm Range inductions, practice & zero sign off

Saturday: 7:30am Registration, range inductions & zero sign off

**There will be no practice time available on Saturday*

9:00am Wind flag setting

9:30am Safety briefing & match briefing

10:00am Tournament commences

12:00pm - 12:30pm Lunch

4:00pm Tack Driver Champion trophy & prizes awarded



TACK DRIVER SHOWDOWN ENQUIRIES TO:

BADEN PRENTICE, MATCH DIRECTOR

E: BADEN.PRENTICE@GMAIL.COM M: 027 490 8613



Kind acknowledgment to Jim Cline (IBS), South Carolina, USA.

<https://deerstalkersbop.org.nz/range/300m-tack-driver/>



Bay of Plenty

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



**BRING YOUR ROAR HORN FOR
THE ROAR COMPETITION**

**A \$50 BAR TAB AT THE FLYING MULLET
SPORTS BAR UP FOR GRABS**

AWARDS NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST
FROM 6PM**

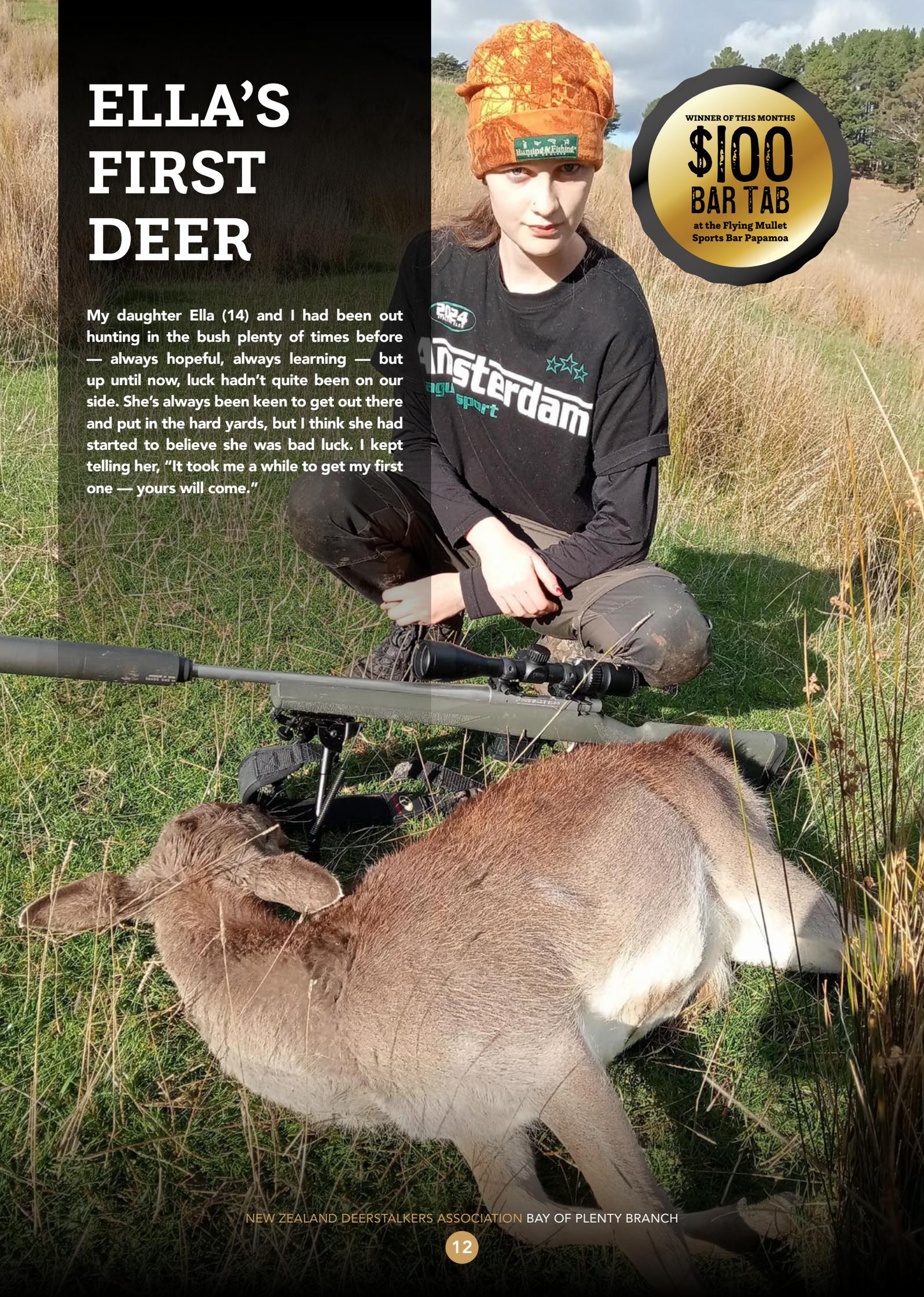
**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5TH WILL BE A COMBINATION OF OUR
MONTHLY CLUB NIGHT AND ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER.**

The club will be putting on a potluck family BBQ with doors open from 6pm. It would be great if you can bring a plate to share.

We expect to eat around 6.30pm with the awards being presented from 7.30pm. We encourage everyone to come down to this club night to celebrate the success of our hunters throughout the year.

ELLA'S FIRST DEER

My daughter Ella (14) and I had been out hunting in the bush plenty of times before — always hopeful, always learning — but up until now, luck hadn't quite been on our side. She's always been keen to get out there and put in the hard yards, but I think she had started to believe she was bad luck. I kept telling her, "It took me a while to get my first one — yours will come."





I'd always wanted to take her down to the Whanganui farm for a proper hunt, so when the club announced a kids' hunt, I didn't hesitate to put our names down. I was stoked to tell her that we'd got the last spot.

To get her ready, we had a few practice shots up at the range — and I have to admit, her groups were better than mine. There was a chance to shoot on Friday evening if we arrived early enough, so we hit the road from Tauranga at 6 a.m. As we approached the farm, I told her to keep an eye out for deer — sure enough, we spotted a few in the forestry blocks before we even arrived.

After the safety briefing, we headed out. We were given the Slip Block just below the woolshed. On foot, since we didn't have a quad, we began slowly making our way down to the flats. Ella suddenly pointed and said, "Look!" — a mob of deer was running for the fence line. I told her, "Okay, let's slow down and scan for more." Sure enough, she spotted a lone yearling across the valley, out in the open and unaware — over 300 metres away. I said, "Let's get a bit closer," so we snuck in to just over 200 metres. I got the .243 rifle ready and told her, "This is your shot." She lay down, set herself up, and I reminded her, "Take your time. Aim just behind the shoulder."

Bang.

The yearling rolled down the hill. "Awesome shot!" I yelled. "Did I get it?" she asked, eyes wide. "Yep, you nailed it." I replied. Then came the smile — slightly stunned, proud, and unforgettable. We gave each other a hug. Proud dad moment right there.

We made our way over, adrenaline still pumping, and she knelt beside her first deer — a nice, small yearling. "This one will be tasty," she said with a grin. After a quick gutting lesson, we dragged the deer back to the quad track where it could be picked up, then made our way back to the accommodation for tea.

That evening, we hung the deer up and made a plan for the next day — but honestly, nothing could top that first evening. It's a memory I'll carry forever, and I reckon Ella will too.

By Dan Gallagher

FIRST DEER FOR SOME OF THE LADS

Mount Zion Club Hunts have usually been reserved for the grown ups however in a club first, we opened it up to some of our junior members in June and it was a HUGE success.

7 young hunters all accompanied by either their Dads or another senior member of club managed to shoot 47 fallow over 2 days however most of these were shot by the younger members with most of these up and coming deer stalkers shooting their very first deer.

With a special congratulations to Ella Gallagher, the only female junior on our trip who also made the cover of the newsletter, we would also like to congratulate the following young lads for their extraordinary shooting skills and efforts over the weekend.



Samuel Fowler
Aged 15 years
Rifle Calibre .243



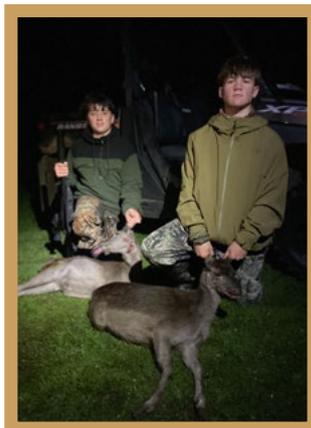
Zane Windle
Aged 15 years
Rifle Calibre .223



Alex Maisey
Aged 10 years
Quad Bike Pilot



Jayden Middleton
Aged 12 years
Rifle Calibre .243



Mason Batchelor
Aged 13 years
Rifle Calibre 7mm-08



Indie Hudson
Aged 14 years
Rifle Calibre 7mm-08



2025 HUNTS
COURSE FULLY
BOOKED!
JOIN THE 2026
WAITLIST
TODAY

HUNTING GUIDES URGENTLY NEEDED

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 NIGHT RAFFLES

We have 5 high quality Victory knives to give away over the next 5 Club nights.

YOU COULD WIN:

- 1 of 2 Victory point knives
- 1 of 2 Victory poultry knives
- Or a Victory rabbit knife

All of them with a quality S10 leather sheath

SIMPLY PURCHASE A \$2 RAFFLE TICKET AT CLUB NIGHT AND YOU ARE IN TO WIN.





WHANGANUI FALLOW HUNT PINE FOREST ONLY

FRI, 8 AUG, 2:30PM - 10 AUG, 7PM NZST

This Club Hunt is part of an ongoing relationship with a property owner that has had a fallow deer problem that's been affecting forest seedlings. Our Branch has a provisional arrangement with the forestry operator to help them manage their deer population. To date over 1000 deer have been shot on the neighboring farm, and the forest manager would like more removed from the pine forest.

To be eligible to participate in this club activity you must be a member with insurance benefits - Associate Members are not eligible.

If you have already been on a club fallow hunt this year then you are not eligible to register for this hunt. Please use the I have already been on a fallow hunt this year ticket to get on the waitlist. If not all spaces are filled by the end of July then we will open it up to members who have already been this year.

Due to the nature of this club trip, it is not suitable for beginners who are not independent hunters. **Those who attend are expected to be able to stalk, shoot, retrieve, gut, carry, skin, butcher and process multiple deer unassisted and in a timely manner.** We are targeting a large number of deer in a short timeframe and the task is very demanding. If you are not a competent shooter, don't have experience shooting moving targets, and/or can't shoot under stress and from awkward field positions then you will struggle.

Members who attend are strongly encouraged to use a suppressed rifle chambered in a non-magnum short action calibre. **Suitable calibres** include .223 Remington, .243 Winchester, 6.5 Creedmoor, 7mm08 Remington, .308 Winchester or any other similar calibre. **Calibres considered not suitable include** .270 Winchester, .300 Winchester Magnum, .300 Winchester Short Magnum, 7mm Remington Magnum etc.

Those attending are required to be present for a briefing at approx. 7.30pm at the accommodation on the Friday evening, this requires you to leave Tauranga no later than 230pm on the Friday afternoon. Due to the large task of skinning and butchering dozens of deer, and the pack up, tidy up and clean up at the accommodation, it is likely that you will get home after dinner on the Sunday evening.

Accommodation is provided, first there get the choice of a bed (sleeping bags on top), those who miss out will be sleeping on the floor, so you may want to bring a mattress of some sort. There is a very small kitchen to share between a large group and a small fridge available for dairy products.

Only 4wd vehicles are able to come on this trip and it is recommended that all 4wds have mud tyres, the parking area is in a flat paddock that gets waterlogged and some 4wd vehicles have got stuck on previous trips. If you don't have a 4wd you will need to carpool with someone else.

All attendees will be expected to shoot, process and transport at least 3 deer. Some attendees will shoot more which will help towards reaching our target of 20 deer for the weekend. If you don't have freezer space for 3 deer then the excess carcasses can be donated to the club for a club butchery night - donated animals should be clean kills, i.e. not shot in the back legs or guts.

A hand held thermal will be useful.

Full details will be sent to those who register for the hunt. If you're up to the challenge reserve your spot now! The registration fee is to go towards the cost of accommodation, we don't pay for the deer!

<https://events.humanitix.com/whanganui-fallow-hunt-august>

CLUB HUNTS CATCH UP

WHEN: WEDNESDAY JULY 16TH FROM 6PM

**WHERE: THE RAFT SPORTS CAFÉ AND BAR
65 CHAPEL STREET, TAURANGA**

Please come and have your say and share ideas over a beer on where we should be having our Club Hunts for the rest of 2025 and 2026.

**Organiser: Andrew Burr
Contact on: 021 477 599
or email: andrew@quadbitz.co.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

THE LOVE STORY OF ANGUS AND LUNA



This is a love story—of sorts. Two goats, Angus and Luna, found each other during a wild hunting trip on the Whanganui River. Think Pulp Fiction, but with more guns, more pulp, and less fiction—because this one’s true.

It all started when a crew of hairy men and a few incredibly good-looking women set off for the town of Owhango. After surviving another soul-draining week at work, we arrived at the local pub. The food took over 90 minutes to arrive, but burgers, chips, and beer helped ease the pain as rain tapped on the tin roof. We chatted about life, hunting (never enough of it), and silently hoped the weather would ease up.

Then my dog protested the company of the other dogs by peeing on the carpet. Katie joked she probably wasn’t the first. That was my cue to retire. I cleaned up the mess and claimed a bed in the far end of the lodge—far from the snoring beasts.

Morning arrived with rain still falling, gear stuffed into barrels in hopes they’d stay dry (they wouldn’t). Sleep had



been elusive, but adrenaline kicked in. Our guides warned us the river was dangerously high. We listened, nodded, and went anyway.

Launching our canoes into the swollen river, we paddled into the current, nerves high and boots already muddy. But once we were afloat, a strange peace settled in. This was why we’d come. The river demanded our full attention—fast, brown, and churning through mossy green gorges and waterfalls.

Matt, my canoe buddy, and I were out front. We spotted some goats and fired. I dropped a nanny, and while paddling to retrieve it, saw a goat head drifting by. "It's a goat! Get the bloody goat!" I shouted. Matt paddled hard, I grabbed it by the ears, and we hauled her in—my only kill of the trip, but a proud one.

We stopped for morning tea, sharing war stories. Matt had also landed a billy. I gutted the nanny and propped her in the canoe like a grim mascot touring the Whanganui. That night, we stayed at John Coull Hut—beautiful spot, ear-splitting snoring. I slept in the kitchen to escape it, only to be joined by another snorer seeking refuge.

Day two brought more river magic. Matt and I explored a narrow side stream after spotting heat on the thermal scope. Suddenly, chaos. Elsie, my dog, launched from the canoe, tangled in her lead. A young nanny and her kid burst from the bush. Cohen, a young hunter, fired. The kid leapt into the water, followed by Elsie, who swam after it like a torpedo. Matt waded in to rescue it. We'd found Luna.

Later, at the Bridge to Nowhere, Chris and Matt discovered a tiny, abandoned black kid—Angus. He was weak and barely moving. Chris bundled him into his jacket. Now we had two goats. Elsie was outraged.

Back at the marae that night, the goats were tucked into the woodshed with a dog kennel for shelter. Milk powder was warmed and fed to them via glass droppers. Angus looked like he might not make it. But by morning, he and Luna were alive and bleating.

At dawn, a rifle shot woke us—Kyle had taken down a red hind near the marae. As others hauled it in, hunters-turned-nurses warmed milk and dosed up two newborn goats in a makeshift woodshed hospital. The contrast wasn't lost on us: we'd spent days shooting, and now we were saving.

On the final river stretch, fast-moving rapids threatened to beach our canoe, but we scraped through. Angus, Luna, three dogs, and a crew of smelly, sleep-deprived hunters cruised to the landing, our journey done.

I rode home with Chris and Luna, stopping at Tokoroa Woolworths to buy nappies, baby formula, and a bottle with a teat—the gear of a true hunter.

Angus and Luna parted ways—Peter took Angus, while Luna now lives comfortably on the couch with Chris's family, watching TV. Whether their love story continues is unknown. But for a moment on the river, it all felt pretty magical.

By guest hunter Sarah Cee
on our Whanganui Club Hunt – May 2025



TICKET RELEASE 1ST OF AUGUST



Anniversary

CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE

Date: 22nd November

Time: 18:00 - 23:30pm

Location: Cargo Shed, Tauranga

More details to come soon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Call Isabell Zitzelsberger on: 026 650 3488 or
Email secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz**

NZDA BOP COMMITTEE

MEMBER PROFILE

EACH MONTH WE ARE PROFILING ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO HELP YOU GET TO KNOW THE TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES.

Name	Tim Taylor
Position	President
Age	38 going on 39
Day Job	Owner of Ruahine Kayaks
NZDA Background	I did my HUNTS course at the age of 16, have been on and off the committee ever since, Membership Secretary, Vice President, National Board Member.
Passion within NZDA	Club hunts. I love the comradery of sitting around a smoky fire in a hut spinning yarns, retelling the story of a stalk, and getting to know people. It's also great feeling being to be able to introduce others to a new area so that they can safely get to know it and grow their experience.
Favourite Caliber and why	I'm a bit weird with my selection and try not to follow trends. My workhorse would have to be my Tika 25.06. It flattens most things, comfortably shoots to 500m and I've secured more deer within 10 meters than I care to remember.
What you want to contribute to NZDA	I hope to see our Branch grow into more of a family club. I grew up attending various club events with my family and have some great memories so this is what I'd like to see for our club. Tauranga's demographic has always been a largely blue-collar, working-class town, so I'm always thinking about what we can be offering these people to help get them involved and loving hunting as much as I do.





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At any time of year in NZ, hunting can be a wet and miserable affair if you're not kitted out properly. One minute, you're creeping through the bush like a seasoned pro, and the next, you're ankle-deep in an unexpected bog, with soggy socks and a growing sense of regret. But fear not! If you've never tried Dexshell waterproof socks, you're in for a treat when you discover the magic that is warm and breathable socks, gloves and hats that also prevent water from soaking through!

NO MORE SOGGY SOCKS = NO MORE MOOD KILLERS

Wet feet are a fast track to a miserable hunt. Not only are they uncomfortable, but they also make you cold and cranky, encourage blisters to form, and shift your focus from spotting the big one to finding ways to dry out. DexShell waterproof socks keep your feet dry, warm, and blister-free so you can keep your mind on the hunt instead of the squelching in your boots.





WARM HANDS, STEADY AIM

Ever tried lining up the perfect shot when your fingers are so cold they've lost all feeling? It's not ideal. Waterproof gloves mean you don't have to choose between dexterity and warmth. They keep your hands dry and toasty while still giving you the control you need to make a clean shot. Wave goodbye to fumbling around with your gear like a half-frozen possum, and with Realtree® MAX-5 camo print available, you also don't have to compromise your position.



HEAD WARM, HUNT ON

A cold, wet head is a one-way ticket to an early retreat. And let's be real, there's nothing worse than rain trickling down your neck when you're trying to stay focused. A waterproof beanie keeps your head warm but also wonderfully dry, so you can sit around glassing for that money shot for hours. A range of colour options means these beanies are at home in the bush, at the footie, or out on the farm.



MORE HUNTING, LESS COMPLAINING

At the end of the day, hunting is meant to be fun. You're out there for the challenge, the thrill, and the escape from the everyday. You're not there to spend half your time wishing you were back in the truck with the heater blasting. Investing in proper waterproof gear means more time in the field and less time questioning your life choices.

So, whether it's socks that stop the mud from ruining your day, gloves that keep you ready for action, or a hat that keeps your head in the game, DexShell's waterproof range has got you covered. Literally.



HUNTING GEAR FOR SALE

ITEM	PRICE	DETAILS	CONTACT
Honda TRX350FM 4X4	\$3800.00	- Fully serviced - Near new tyres - Light bar	Kerry Pask 021 137 1671
TRX300 BigRed	\$3500.00	- Fully serviced - Bull bar, good tyres	Kerry Pask 021 137 1671
TRX500FM & TRX500 Auto Parts	POA	Phone/message and see if I have what you are looking for.	Kerry Pask 021 137 1671
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
Bergara B14 Crest 7mm	\$3499.00	- PRC Carbon Barrel - Carbon Stock New	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
Tikka T1x ACE	\$2999.00	- 22lr New Special	Stacy Whiteman 07 578 0995
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

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.



SLOW COOKED WILD PORK TACOS

Credit: <https://tinyurl.com/fh23sjsk>

INGREDIENTS:

2 red capsicum, thinly sliced
2 onions, thinly sliced
375g tomato salsa, bought or homemade
1 cup barbecue sauce
4 cloves garlic, crushed
3 t ground cumin
2 t cayenne pepper
1 t dried oregano
1kg wild pork boneless shoulder
12 tortillas
1 cup sour cream
1 cup fresh coriander
2 avocados chopped
Salt & pepper (to taste)

SALSA INGREDIENTS

6 tomatoes
1 bunch coriander
1 onion, diced
2 chillies, deseeded
1 clove garlic
1-2 lemons or limes
2 T Olive oil

Directions:

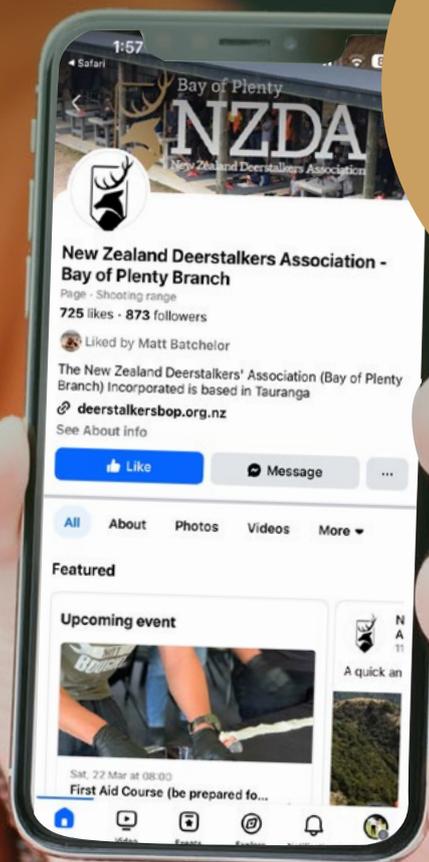
1. Combine capsicum, onion, salsa, barbecue sauce, garlic, spices and oregano in a 4.5L slow cooker, add pork, turn to coat in mixture.
2. Cook covered on low for about 8 hours.
3. Prepare salsa - Add tomatoes, coriander, onion, chillies, lemon or lime juice and garlic in a food processor, pulse until roughly chopped. While pulsing, add olive oil. Set aside until required.
4. Carefully remove pork from the slow cooker, shred meat using two forks. Return pork to slow cooker, stir gently. Season to taste.
5. Divide pork between tortillas. Serve topped with fresh salsa, sour cream, avocado & coriander.

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.



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NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

PO Box 3111, Greerton, Tauranga 3142

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

Website: www.deerstalkersbop.org.nz

Branch Secretary: secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

BRANCH OFFICERS:

President	Tim Taylor	president@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Vice-President	Jeremy Woolerton	membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Secretary	Isabell Zitzelsberger	026 650 3488 secretary@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Treasurer	Jill Fryer	treasurer@deerstalkersbop.org.nz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Membership Officer	Jeremy Woolerton	membership@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Range Manager	Dean Maisey	range@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
HUNTS Instructor	Doug Williams	07 544 3065 huntscourse@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Patron	Keith Theobald	
Clubrooms Custodian	Lester Polglase	lesterandann@gmail.com
Social Media Manager	Josh Keen	keen.joshua@gmail.com
Range Sub-Committee	Dean Maisey Lester Polglase Baden Prentice Chris Fryer Tim Taylor Evan Dines	

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION (BOP BRANCH) INC.

OTHER DELEGATIONS AND BRANCH CONTACTS:

Newsletter Editor	Matt Batchelor	editor@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Club Hunts Coordinator & Chiller Custodian	Andrew Burr	021 477 599 andrew@quadbitz.co.nz
Club Website Administrator	Reuben Hayward	reuben@deerstalkersbop.org.nz
Branch Solicitor	Luke Stewart (From Holland Beckett)	
Eastern Region Fish and Game Council	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
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