



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

AUGUST 2009

ISSUE 7

PRESIDENTS REPORT

(with additional input from the secretary)

Giddy all,

Yet again another month has flown on by and the daylight hours are slowly beginning to stretch out a little bit more each day. Spring is almost upon us, as I have seen a lot of young animals on the ground recently of both domestic and wild. The other day I was harassed by an angry Plover that obviously had chicks nearby. Please remember this when hunting over the next few months, as the hinds will still be carrying at the moment and by the end of spring they will have a fawn tucked away somewhere close by, so show some restraint and consideration for our future stocks. As things slowly warm up the deer will be out enjoying the new grass as it emerges and they must have had fairly meagre pickings over winter due to the cold and snow, so we're not the only ones hanging out for the warmer weather of the new season.

All in all it has been a quiet month though. I did see some nice video footage from one of our members with a handful of deer out the back on a farm block but other than that not a hell of a lot of action.

I have recently learnt a lesson with rifle maintenance, the hard way! It is a bad idea to knock out the roll pins of a trigger assembly outside on the wooden deck! After a good hour pressed flat on the ground grovelling under the deck looking for the damn things, I can now offer the sagely advice of either using a drop sheet or do it inside on the work bench!

There are a couple of new offers for NZDA members that have come up, the first being from the www.gunriflereload.co.nz website offering a 17.5% discount for listings plus a 10% donation to NZDA on rifle listings and the other one is the McMurdo Fast Find **personal locator beacon** that is being offered to us at \$799 inc GST (they normally retail for \$899). Contact the National Office via email or there is an order form available on the club notice board for copying.

Hot barrels, James

You can get hold of me on 021 765335 or by email jamesquiford@clear.net.nz.



Upcoming Events for September 2009

Committee Meeting-
Mon 31st August
@ 7.30pm, then
again on
Wed 23rd September
@ 7.30pm (TBA)

Club Meeting-
Wed 2nd September
@ 8.00pm

Wilkinson Shoot-
Sat 12th September
At Ben Lomonds
(Details Page 2)

Junior Shoot-
Sat 12th September
At Ben Lomonds
(Details Page 2)

Sika Show and Competition-
Sat 26th and
Sun 27th September
in Taupo

EDITORS CORNER

WE HAVE A NEW SECTION IN THE NEWSLETTER, CALLED "THE CLUB NOTICE BOARD" WHERE ANY OF THE CLUB MAIL RECEIVED THAT NOTIFIES OF UPCOMING EVENTS, IMPORTANT INFORMATION OR NEWS, IS MENTIONED ALONG WITH A BRIEF OF THE CONTENT AND THE ACTUAL DOCUMENTS WILL BE POSTED ON OUR CLUBROOMS NOTICEBOARD AND UPDATED MONTHLY.

EAST KAWEKA HELICOPTERS HAS BECOME A SIGNIFICANT SPONSOR FOR OUR NEWSLETTER. THE COMPANY IS BASED IN PUKETITIRI AND OWNED BY CHRIS CROSSE. PLEASE SUPPORT CHRIS BY USING HIS SERVICES FOR ALL YOUR SPRING & SUMMER FLY IN TRIPS THIS YEAR.

YOUR **HUNTING STORIES** ARE WANTED AND **CLUB ACTIVITY PROPOSALS** ARE STILL NEEDED, SO DON'T BE SHY, GIVE WRITING A STORY A CRACK OR CONTACT JAMES WITH YOUR ACTIVITY IDEAS. REMEMBER THAT **ALL PUBLISHED EDITORIALS GO INTO THE DRAW FOR A TRIP TO OTUTU ISLAND IN MARCH 2010.**

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CLUB SHOOTING COMPETITIONS

Wilkinson Cup Postal Shoot

As we have managed to secure a shoot at Ben Lomond we thought we should try and make the most of it by holding the club open competition and a junior event.

On **Saturday 12th September** there will be a shoot at the HB Gun Club on Ben Lomond Station, SH50, Maraekakaho. There is an entry fee of \$2 per person.

The competition will begin at 10.00am, followed by the junior competitions.

A lunch time BBQ will be laid on courtesy of TriplePeak Enterprises catering.

This shoot is open to all current financial members

(If bad weather on Sat, shoot will held the next day Sun 13th—no catering on Sun so BYO)



Junior Club Information



SWAZI Junior Shoot

The junior competitions will be for rimfire & centrefire rifles over a 75 & 100metre range respectively. The BBQ will be followed by the SWAZI prizegiving event. The Swazi sponsorship conditions require that for a junior to be eligible to win a prize they must be a current NZDA member, so make sure you've joined up to win, but you're still quite welcome to participate if you want to anyway.

There is an entry fee of \$2 per person.

Contact **Brad Pinker** for any further information **(06) 8734344** or **027 662 5625**



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FISHING & HUNTING

SPECIALISTS



THE SILENT LAND

A POEM BY MIKE MCCLUNIE

In alpine lands where you can touch the sky
 and chamois play on mountains high,
 Where the hunters stalk and the keas squawk
 and trampers go for a nature walk,
 Where the air is clear, crisp and sweet,
 where hovering skylarks, chirp and tweet
 There came a noisy flying machine
 that rudely interrupted the idyllic scene.
 And on that sunny day it rained down
 no water, but carrots covered the ground.
 Then the noise of the machine faded away.
 What a beautiful, peaceful, sunny day.
 A curious kea thought the carrot was nice -
 he was about to pay the ultimate price.
 Down the valley where the ground was damp
 the hunter prepared his weekend camp.
 Drinking water from a clear mountain spring
 he wondered what tomorrow would bring.
 As morning broke on that cool autumn day
 he noticed the keas weren't coming to play,
 And the bellbirds were quiet in the first morning sun.
 Little did he know their singing was done.
 Climbing hard in the stiff morning breeze
 he reached the tops with relative ease.
 Sitting and glassing he looked all around -
 of no living thing was there sight or sound.
 He found a dead deer with no holes in its side
 and thought long and hard about how it had died.
 A big fat eight-pointer right in it's prime -
 this animal had died long before its time.
 He never spotted the dying chamois doe
 lying in a hollow in the frozen snow,
 Or the small lonely kid huddled by its side
 from the rain and cold it could no longer hide.
 And the king of them all, the mighty bull thar
 paid his price for walking just a little too far.
 While crossing the valley in search of a mate
 he nibbled a carrot — we all know his fate.
 His great golden mane that once honoured the peaks
 now lies lifeless in the bed of a creek.
 The hunter returned in the last evening light
 and heard nothing but the creek all through the night
 No possums, no kea, no weka came round
 not even the morepork were making a sound.
 He walked out next day to a road by the coast
 and came across a sign stuck upon a post.
 '1080' it said, 'is laid in this place' -
 the anger within made his heart race.
 The bastards, he thought, the sign should have read:
 'Keep out of this valley, everything's dead'.

www.doc.govt.nz/huntsika

Department of Conservation prizes

SIKA SHOW
26/27 September
2009



Judge's choice - Best representative sika head shot on public
conservation land

Best photo - of Kaimanawa/Kaweka Forest landscape, flora or fauna.
Please send photo's to kturia@doc.govt.nz, phone Kim 07 386 9263
Entries by Wednesday 23 September

For full entry details and show information go to

www.nzsika.co.nz



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

"The Club Notice Board"

(please check noticeboard at the Clubrooms for full details)

***Animal Health Board** "Vector Control"
1080 Aerial Baiting and New Proposed
Operation Involving "Te Awahohonu" Trust
Lands, Ahimanawa Range.

***Taupo Branch Prize Shoot** is being held
on Saturday 7th November 2009, open to
all NZDA members.

***NZDA Inc. - Official Media Release**
Deerstalkers urge recognition of Rakiura
Whitetail deer.

***Department of Conservation (DOC) -**
Policy on Deer Repellent Use.

***Land Information NZ (LINZ)** will soon be
launching a new topographic map series
called Topo50.

Special offers to NZDA members

***Gun Rifle Reload Auction Web Site**
Discounts and donations for our listings.

***McMurdo Fastfind Locator Beacon**
Small size & significantly discounted price.

Having hunted the Worsley back in 1975, I was keen to hunt it again, so when Dave Yule rang to say we had scored the Worsley block for the 1st Period, I was quickly off to the gym to get fit. As eager as a couple of school boys we began planning the trip and getting all the required gear together.

Before long it was time to head off to Fiordland. Our first stop was at Wanaka to pick up Jerry, along with his boat, before heading to TeAnau for the Wapiti briefing. At the briefing we met up with Angus and Joe as planned. After all the formalities were finished we all set off in Jerrys’ boat across Lake Te Anau to stay in the Worsley hut for the first night.

Next morning the group separated into two hunting parties. Angus and Joe were headed off to cover the Saints Creek area; whilst Dave, Jerry and I left for the upper Worsley. We found a track on the true right of the Worsley River, so we took it. The tramp in was relatively good going and we arrived at our first stop, Castle Creek mouth, in about 2 hours. This was where we had to drop off the extra food we were carrying for later in the trip. With our packs still weighing in around 80lbs each, we continued on up the track for about another 8 hours, passing both the Terminus and Prospect Creeks along the way. Losing light we finally had to set up camp on the track for the night.



We packed up and got away at first light the next morning, so we hunted along through a big bog clearing as we made our way toward our destination at the fork of the North and South branches. There we made a good camp right at the forks, which was to be our base for the next couple of days. Dave and Jerry left the following morning and headed up a ridge for the Worsley Saddle, whereas I planned to negotiate my way up the Worsleys’ North branch. After clambering up stream, over and under huge boulders, I finally made it to the head basin, but all was quiet and there was neither a Wapiti or Red to be seen! I then sidled back towards the Worsley Saddle before dropping down for an evening hunt on the clearing down stream, but there was still no stag to be seen or heard! The next day Dave and Jerry arrived back from up in the Saddle area, but they had only found two Red deer carcasses left behind from the chopper search and destroy missions.



The following day we headed back down towards the Prospect Creek confluence, as on the way in we had heard a Red stag roaring in that area. Early the next morning, Dave was still in bed and Jerry was away having a crap, I was just standing around taking a piss and happened to glance over at the other side of the Worsley river only to see a Red stag standing there watching me. I quickly popped the old boy away, grabbed the 7mm-08, took aim and shot the bastard! After that it was just the small matter of getting myself dressed, before I headed across the river to get a decent look at the beast. The inspection of the animal revealed a rather “scrubby” 11 point head, so I just got stuck into the job of butchering him up. After our party had struggled to find any sign of deer on the trip to date, we weren’t expecting a stag to come so easy!

The whole event worked out to be a rather “rude” awakening for the camp and although a trophy head wasn’t the result, it provided us with some pretty good back steaks for breakfast!
To be continued.....



Committee Officers

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Patron..... | Max Motley | |
| President..... | James Guilford | 876 5334 |
| Vice President..... | Jeremy Hanaray | 873 3948 |
| Treasurer..... | Neil MacLean | 874 3018 |
| Secretary..... | Stephen Shaw | 877 5275 |
| Newsletter Editor.. | Lynne Ellingham | 877 5275 |

Hall Contacts

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|----------|
| Hall Bookings..... | Guy Te Kahika | 879 9598 |
| Groundsman..... | Grant Richards | 878 4467 |
| Trophy Custodian... | Graeme Withey | 878 6161 |
| Hall Caretaker..... | Robert Underwood | 878 8792 |

Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

1534 Maraekakaho Road, Bridge Pa,
P O Box 2155, Stortford Lodge, Hastings
Phone: (06) 879 9396
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