



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.



DECEMBER 2009 **ISSUE 11**

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all, Christmas is almost upon us and it looks like it should be yet another glorious Hawkes Bay summer. I hope you are all able to get the chance to get a bit of time off work to both enjoy a good break with your families as well as get out into the bush for a walk. Actually thinking about it that would be a bloody good combo, maybe 'Christmas in the Park' could take on a whole new meaning for my whanau! On second thoughts, considering how pregnant my wife is, that idea might just have to wait till next year.

Even with the impending increase to our household number, I too have managed to get out for a few quick trips. I have been abnormally successful, partly thanks to a late invite for a handy hunt from Leigh Montaperto. I must also raise my hat to his skill with a knife as it was great to be shown how to butcher an animal properly. We all invest a lot of time and money into the initial part of hunting but once the animal is on the deck there are still quite a number of important skills required to ensure a top notch feed can be presented at the table. As well as a heap of good eating meat I was also able to get a nice Sika summer coat skin which is awaiting tanning at the moment. They just look so good, I had to get one done.

Please don't forget the club chopper trip this coming February. It will only be a few days away before you know it. If you are keen please call Angus Richards for bookings. Next club night is not until Feb 3rd 2010 so you may be too late if you leave it till then, so don't delay!

Otherwise I hope you have had a great year and enjoyed the events and functions the club has put on this year. I'm certain next year will be even better so make sure you come along to see what's happening and give a hand where possible.

Have a Merry Christmas, along with a safe and Happy New Year.....**James**

P.S. Please try not to shoot any reindeer over the next few weeks. Red noses do not count for non-typical in Anderson Shield or club judging.



Events Calendar January 2010

There will not be a Club Meeting in January due to the Xmas & New Year holiday break.

Committee Meeting
Wed 20th January
@7.30pm. Apologies please if you can't make it!

The Club Notice Board

(please check the notice board at the Clubrooms for full details)

A full list of all the Back Country Huts

that have either been removed by DOC, destroyed by fire or are not available for public accommodation have been posted on the board. A second list of new huts to be built or replaced and of the major track upgrades that DOC has planned for the next 2 years has been put up there as well.

EDITORS CORNER

THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2009 AND IT SEEMS THAT THE YEAR HAS JUST FLOWN BY SO FAST. I MUST SAY THAT, EVEN THOUGH IT HAS BEEN A GOOD YEAR FOR THE CLUB WITH MANY MEMORABLE EVENTS, WE REALLY NEED MORE INPUT AND COMMITMENT FROM OUR MEMBERS IF WE ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE THE CLUBS FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES! SO GET INVOLVED IF YOU CAN. WE **WILL BE DRAWING THE WINNER** OF THE **MARCH TRIP** AT THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING. THE CLUB WILL BE OFFERING ANOTHER GREAT DRAW FOR NEXT YEAR, FOR WHICH MORE **HUNTING STORIES** ARE NEEDED, SO PLEASE GET WRITING! OTHERWISE, HAPPY HUNTING & HAVE A GOOD BREAK.....**STEVE & LYNNE**

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2 Just Kidding!!! Gun vs Wife?

10. You can always trade in an old 44 for a new 22.
9. You can keep one gun at home and have another when you're out.
8. If you admire a friend's gun and tell him so, he will probably let you try it out a few times.
7. Your primary gun doesn't mind if you keep a second gun for a backup.
6. Your gun will stick around after you run out of ammo.
5. A gun doesn't take up all the closet space in the house.
4. Guns function normally on every day of the month.
3. A gun doesn't ask, 'Do these new grips make me look fat?'
2. A gun doesn't even mind if you go straight to sleep after you've shot your load, but seriously, the No. 1 reason that a gun is better than a wife is that

Feta, Leek and Venison Tart (Serves 4)

250 grams thinly sliced strips of venison (any reasonable cut)
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 big leek, thinly sliced (use as much tender green top as you can)
200 grams button mushrooms, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons any tart chutney or relish
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 sheets ready flakey puff pastry
2 eggs, beaten
200 grams feta cheese, crumbled
Paprika



Preheat the oven to 200°C. Heat the oil in a pan and gently fry the leeks and mushrooms (seasoned well with salt and pepper) for about five minutes until they are soft but the green leeks are still bright. Remove from the heat and cool.

Lay the two defrosted sheets of pastry end to end on a lightly oiled tray and join together to make a rectangle. Crimp the pastry edge right around the rectangle so that you have a raised border to contain the filling. Spread the chutney or relish evenly over the pastry interior and then put the leek and mushroom mixture over that. Sprinkle the raw venison strips on top. Drizzle the beaten eggs over the fillings and don't worry if some of it leaks outside the border – discard it later. Brush the pastry border with some of the egg mixture to glaze it. Lastly, sprinkle the crumbled feta over the other fillings and dust the top with paprika.

Put in the oven for 20-30 minutes, or until the venison is just cooked and the egg is set.


Slice and serve immediately with a green salad or simply on its own.

Taken from Andy Lyver's Cookbook '*Wild and Wonderful Everyday Venison Recipes for all Seasons*', which is available from all good book stores or direct from Andy, see her advert below.

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Club February Fly In Trips

Thursday 25th
through to **Sunday**
28th of February
2010 - The club has
booked DOC huts with
East Kaweka
Helicopters.

The options are:-

Back Ridge biv,
Mangatinoka hut,
Ngaawapurua hut,
Venison Tops hut,
Rocks Ahead hut &
Manson biv.

Cost will depend on
your destination and
our numbers, but will
be less than \$300 per
person. Payment of a
deposit of \$200 by
February 3rd will be
required to book your
flight. Hut preference
will be given to those
who have paid the full
deposit first. Any
charges remaining will
be sorted out once the
flight plans & numbers
have been confirmed.

Book your seat by
contacting

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All of the other reindeer *used* to laugh and call him names.

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The Monarch of the Pans

By Paul Montaperto

I was sitting on the edge of the Pines listening to a stag roaring every few minutes, when a shot suddenly cut short any more noise coming from that side of the gorge. The lucky bugger, I thought to myself, as I imagined the scene that had just taken place. I was only up there to check out how many cars were already parked up and estimate the number of hunters out. In another three days my long-time hunting mate Kevin, his son Joseph and myself, were heading into the Mackintosh hut for our annual pilgrimage after a Sika stag.

It was the 9th of April 2003 and there was still only the one vehicle there, so we set off and about halfway in we met the hunter coming out. The shot I had heard three days prior was him nailing a hind while sneaking in on a stag. While we stood there talking two stags were moaning continuously and we had two hinds dash across the track before we reached the hut. This was very encouraging stuff. We were staying three days and I had planned to do all my hunts down the eastern end of the plateau. By the second day I had the usual amount of close calls without coming close to getting a shot. That afternoon I spotted a hind feeding along the side of a big swamp and decided to take her for meat. 5 shots and 3 bullet holes later I had her hung in a tree! I carried on down the track and was about halfway along the plateau when I could hear a hybrid roaring way down the end. It was too late to go there so I decided to leave it until morning. I heard him roar twice on my way back there the next day and when I got close, I could clearly hear two stags single calling at one another. They were on an area of large clay pans, divided by small ridges with scattered scrub and a line of large old pines growing along them. Just off the track I heard a mew, then I spotted some movement, but couldn't make anything out. Suddenly, without warning, an animal bolted away into the scrub. To add to the confusion a hind casually walked out from where the other had just disappeared into and I thought 'maybe he wasn't spooked', but he didn't show himself again. So with nothing to lose I 'single called' and was answered immediately by a stag a little further on. I had moved about 40metres in his direction when, over the top of one of those small ridges, I saw 4 white antler tips coming towards me. He walked right out in front of me onto the clay pan and with one quick shot he went down. It was a good sized animal with 8 even points. We were headed out today, so I was pleased to have two mates to share my load with, but when I got back to the hut, they had both returned with stags of their own! A year later I was back at the same spot and there were a few bones scattered about the clay pan and a patch of hair where the remains of the carcass had lain and in the middle of it sat the Barnes 'X' projectile that had done the job. In the years since, I have never heard a hybrid roar in that area again, so I reckon, he must have been the animal that I shot that day.



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

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