



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

JUNE 2009

ISSUE 5

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

Well I can confirm, for sure, that winter is here and as I write this it is the shortest day. That only means one thing, summer is coming! (the eternal optimist in me had to say that!).

I must admit hunting has been slow in my house, but I am still hearing reports of a few members getting onto animals and still being successful out in the bush.

We have, in this past month also had both our Hastings branch and Hawkes Bay judging. I must say it was a slightly disappointing event at our clubrooms as the number of antler, horn and tusk entries was not high. We did receive some very good heads but not much in the way of numbers or other category fillers. Hopefully this was more a reflection of less hunting rather than member malaise. Even if you only shoot a smallish head next year, bring it in, you can never be sure of the results.

Regarding operational issues surrounding our own club's judging event, I am hoping to get committee to sit down and set straight a few difficulties that were encountered. None of these should be too hard to sort out, but there are a few Hastings branch documents we need to re-discover (re-create) as well as the updating of our competition and rules to reflect the more modern world we live in. We should have a proper list of the competition rules and all of the entry categories so that our members, especially the new ones, are aware of what they can contest in.

During the Hawkes Bay event a few larger issues surrounding competition rules on hybrids/crossbreeds, general entry parity and etiquette came to the fore. We are fortunate to have a senior life member in our club who has invested a heck of a lot of time in trying to develop a system to quantify a true Sika head from a hybrid's, so I would like to suggest the incorporation of his information and the creation of a new category to accommodate such heads, therefore reducing future problems, as well as giving merit where merit is due. I hope we can install something like this before next years competitions. I would also like to follow this up with the other Hawkes Bay branches so we can hopefully have some parity when it comes to the competition results. The Hawkes Bay prize giving will be hosted by Napier this year, prizegiving is kicking off at 6.30pm on Saturday 27th of June at their clubrooms in Thorn PI, Napier. All are invited and it should be a good night.

On a lighter side, chatting with Jeremy (Hamills HB) he advises me that a Tahr and the common goat will hybridise. He tells me it's called a Gotahr! Maybe we will need a cup for those too! Anyway, enough nonsense from me. Get your warm gears on and get out there.

Hot barrels - James



Upcoming Events for June & July

Hawkes Bay Prizegiving -

Sat 27th June @ Napier Clubrooms
Doors open @ 3pm
A \$5 entry fee includes the meal and wine.

Committee Meeting -
Mon 29th June - 7.30pm.

Club Meeting -
Wed 1st July - 8pm
Guest Speaker - Mark White, the Bushnell & MSR Representative from Ampro NZ.

National NZDA AGM and Competition Judging -

10th -12th July
*Conference is at the Oamaru Opera House
*Accommodation is at the Kingsgate Brydon Hotel in Oamaru.

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EDITORS CORNER

THANKS TO STEVE WHEELER FOR BRINGING ALONG HIS KNIVES TO SHOW OFF AT LAST MONTHS CLUB MEETING. ANYBODY ELSE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THEM SHOULD RING HIM DIRECT, AS HE IS OFFERING GENEROUS DISCOUNTS TO NZDA MEMBERS, SEE HIS AD ON THE BACK PAGE FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

YOUR STORIES ARE WANTED, REMEMBER THAT ALL PUBLISHED EDITORIALS GO INTO THE DRAW FOR A TRIP TO OTUTU ISLAND IN MARCH 2010.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME SOME NEW MEMBERS, MR **ROD BARCLAY** AS WELL AS HIS WIFE AND FAMILY. PLEASE MAKE OUR NEW MEMBERS FEEL WELCOME AND HELP THEM BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES.

Results for Hastings Branch Competition

Antler, Horn & Tusk

Best Sika Head - L.N Taylor Cup

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1) Stephen Shaw | 166 3/8 |
| 2) Paul Condon | 158 7/8 |
| 3) Mal Ingpen | 158 5/8 |

Best Red Head - L. Masters Cup

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| 1) Rodney Knight | 202 1/8 |
| 2) Rob Underwood | 171 5/8 |
| 3) Peter Montaperto | 145 4/8 |

Champion Head - E.J Herrick Cup

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1) Stephen Shaw | 291 D.S.E |
| 2) Paul Condon | 278 D.S.E |
| 3) Mal Ingpen | 277 D.S.E |

Best Visual Head - Carlton Cup

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 1) Stephen Shaw | Sika |
| 2) Paul Condon | Sika |
| 3) Mal Ingpen | Sika |

Best Sth.Is. Horned Species - Lyver Cup

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1) Jeremy Hanaray | Thar | 281 D.S.E |
| 2) R. Griffiths | Chamois | 277 D.S.E |
| 3) Jeremy Hanaray | Chamois | 268 D.S.E |

Best Non-Typical

- Gavin Hall Cup
1) Paul Montaperto

Best Wild Ram

- D. Adamson Cup*
1) Malcolm Byrne

Best Boars Tusks

- L. Masters Cup
1) Mike Ingpen

Photography

Best Human Interest Photo Album

- G. TeKahika Album
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1) Rodney Knight | Unknown ? |
| 2) Jeremy Hanaray | Man & Thar |
| 3) Rodney Knight | Lady Hunter |

Best Colour Print

- Mal Ingpen Album
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) G. Richards | Spider Web |
| 2) G. Richards | Stick Insect |
| 3) Jeremy Hanaray | Thar |

Big Game

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1) Jeremy Hanaray | Thar |
| 2) Jeremy Hanaray | Sika Yearling |
| 3) Stephen Shaw | Sika Surprise |

Scenic

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1) Aaron Wakeford | Sunrise |
| 2) Aaron Wakeford | Amazon |
| 3) G. Richards | Mountain |

Other Wild Life

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) G. Richards | Stick Insect |
| 2) Jeremy Hanaray | Pheasant |
| 3) Rob Wallace | Kereru |

Flora Fauna Abstract

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 1) G. Richards | Spider Web |
| 2) Graeme Withey | MagicMush |
| 3) Graeme Withey | Tussock |



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South in Search of Tahr Again by Jeremy Hanaray

A lot of people have asked me why I travel to the South Island just to shoot a goat and when I ask if they have shot a Bull Tahr, they normally answer “No, but they are just a glorified South Island Goat anyway!” In my opinion they represent some of the best hunting that New Zealand has to offer. To me seeing a monster Bull Tahr standing on the some of the highest and steepest bluffs in the Southern Alps is an awesome sight. The sheer bulk of the animal and where they live gets a gold medal from me.

In May last year I went on my first hunt to the South Island to chase Chamois and Tahr and loved every minute of it. So this year I was equally excited! The plane touched down in Nelson where my hunting buddy Greg picked us up. We planned to spend a day or two with the girls to get a few more brownie points before setting off for a weeks hunting.

Sunday arrived and we loaded Greg’s Hilux for our long drive down the coast to Ashburton, picking up two more hunting mates on the way. The forecast was looking better considering that it had been snow, sleet and rain for most of the weekend so far.

We arrived at our destination just out of Farlie the following morning, where we were to meet our pilot from Tekapo Helicopters. The hills were barely visible covered in low cloud - I was thinking we wouldn’t make the flight today then the hum of the 500 buzzed in the distance so we quickly unloaded our gear.

The chopper landed and the pilot was happy with the weather conditions saying “its clear over the top”. Well he was right, we flew up the valley and I was amazed there was blue sky on the other side. “Choice!” I thought to myself, until I saw the snow, not so choice! It was right down on the valley floor and looked thick. The machine turned as the pilot located the hut below us, we landed and quickly unpacked the chopper, ten minutes later he returned with the rest of the gear and the others.

I opened the door to the very tiny hut which had four bunks and an open fire, there wasn’t even enough room for our chilly bins! However, it was better than pitching the tent, because the snow on the ground outside was frozen as the sun hadn’t quite hit it yet. The Valley looked awesome, although the snow was right down, it wasn’t as bad as it looked from the air. We unpacked most of the gear and set off as we had seen a few Tahr on the fly in.



Snow Hewetson and I chose the left hand side of the valley while Greg and Dutchie took the other. We both saw a lot of Tahr that evening and had decided just to look around to see where the animals were so we could put in a solid day tomorrow. We got back to camp at the same time and lit the fire very smartly as everything was frozen again.

The next day was a good one and we set off about 7.30am as it was finally light enough to see and we decided to head toward an area where we had seen a good Bull the night before. We had been going for about an hour when a Wallaby shot out from the scrub - this was my first wild one I had seen - I was tempted to shoot it but decided to take a photo instead as I did not want to disturb the valley. We decided to climb up to gain a bit of height, the snow was about calf deep most of the way which made it hard going. We had seen a few nanny’s and young bulls and spied a few more higher so we kept going, the snow was now knee deep and progress was quite slow. A couple of young bulls were being a bit cheeky running up a bluff to our left gaining height very easily.

My mate Snow was about 30metres ahead of me and he turned and waved his arms in the ‘get up here quickly’ way, I managed to push my way through the deep snow ‘there!’ he pointed. Up on the skyline were 8 nannies and a big bull, I quickly cranked a round in and asked Snow for a range, “370 yards” he replied as I dialed up my scope. Snow said you had better hurry as the bull was on the move, so I took aim -“BOOM”. He took off running across the face chasing the nannies that had split after the shot. As he started to slow up I was sure I had hit him, quickly I cranked another round in and with 400 yards as the new range -“BOOM”. This connected in the right spot as he collapsed and started to slide. He must have slid about six or seven hundred metres back down toward the valley floor. (continued on page 4)

When we got down to him I was wrapped at what a magnificent animal he was. The tape measured 12.5” which was just what I wanted, a good respectable Bull to get mounted . The autopsy revealed two hits high to the shoulder I hadn’t quite calculated the angle right - but both projectiles had exited taking enough bone out to do the job. We caped him right out as I decided to get him mounted life size since he was in such good condition. I carried him over my shoulders back to the hut, as this is the done thing according to my South Island mates. A Tahr skin is a trophy in itself, this is probably due to the weight I am sure or it could be the smell, but thankfully they don’t smell like a Billy Goat! Mature Bull Tahr skins weigh over 25 kilos so with the head and all hocks still attached I was feeling it after my carry. Greg and Dutchie arrived a couple of hours after us and they had also shot a good bull measuring 11.7”.

The rest of the week was great as the weather played ball and we saw a heap more Tahr. I decided to hunt with my camera as trying to get close to a Tahr was a good challenge. We packed up Thursday evening as we had an early flight out in the morning, because Greg had organised a farm for us to visit that run free range guided hunts for Tahr, Chamios and Deer; but that’s another story.....





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Hall Caretaker.....	Robert Underwood	878 8792

Just Kidding !!!

An American taxidermist is on vacation down in the southern states. He is feeling a little thirsty and decides to have a few drinks at the nearest tavern. Upon entering the tavern, the conversation stops and all eyes turn to him. Feeling a little uneasy, he makes his way to the bar to order a beer. The bartender serves him and says, "Ya'll ain't from 'round these parts, is ya?"

Guy: "No...I am from Connecticut."

Bartender: "What is it you do up there in Connecticut?"

Guy: "Well, I am a taxidermist."

Bartender: "A taxidermist...Hey Al, you ever hear of a taxidermist?"

Al: "No, never heard of it."

Bartender: "So Mr. Taxidermist, what is it you do exactly?"

Guy: "Well, I mount dead animals."

The Bartender turns to the bar and announces "It's OK boys--he's one of us!".

Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

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Obituary Douglas Spencer

Condolences to the family of Doug, who passed away in early May this year. He was born during the 1st World War at Okaeria, Waikato and moved to Hawkes Bay early in his life. In his younger days he was a skin hunter for Internal Affairs culling in Ruahines. Doug had a life long interest in the outdoors and encouraged the same interest in his children and grandchildren. Once he told his grandson that he never learnt to bush hunt because all the deer were out in the open. Although Doug was never a member of our club, his grandson Graeme Jobey was and his monetary donation to our branch is duly acknowledged and gratefully accepted.

Wheeler
 & Sculpting
 & KNIVES

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