



THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

JANUARY 2010

ISSUE 1

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

I hope you have all had a great break off over the Christmas and New Years period. I was able to get away from the job for a good break and with a rather incapacitated wife we were able to convince everyone to come see us over the holidays. It sure looks like it is going to be a busy year, though I hope that it is going to be a lot more positive on all fronts for everyone.

As far as hunting goes I must admit I've not really got out much at all. It started off looking good, but a raft of technicalities & a low brownie point count have conspired against me, which means I've been doing more dipping into the freezer rather than adding to it. I have heard quite a few positive comments though regarding the general amount of good hunting out there, with a few less experienced hunters seeing more animals than they ever have in recent months, as well as them shooting a few too.

I understand we have had a really good response to the fly in trip coming up in February with four blocks booked and a couple left to go. Good on you guys, I'm just gutted I can't come, so my kids might just have to owe me one.

It looks like our first battle of the year has come up, with DOC opening the way for helicopters to be used to chase game animals for recreational clients. This obviously would impact on land based recreational hunters needing to compete against not just WARO operators killing commercially, but guided helicopter hunters taking out the trophies as well! It is a very un-ethical way to hunt an animal and is potentially dangerous to all who are in relative proximity, not to mention the fact that the lack of machinery noise in these wilderness areas is half the reason we go there. Anyway, I've heard of a few too many stories of animals being taken by WARO from under the noses of recreational hunters who had put in the hard yards to get there. This type of activity may have a small impact on us here in the Hawkes Bay currently, but our southern members are certainly seeing this as a real threat. Presently both Chamois and Tahr appear to be the main target species, but precedents are so easily set. The Taruarau shoot has now been confirmed as a goer and is to be shot on the 7th of February. For those of you who are keen, the shoot is to be held at the Rangitikei range site that was used for the last shoot. I'm sure for anyone who is keen, but has never been, that Robert Underwood or Neil MacLean would be able to point you in the right direction and maybe even share a ride.

Hot barrelsJames

Events Calendar February 2010

Club Meeting

Wed 3rd February
@ 8.00pm.

Taruarau Shoot

Sun 7th February.
9.00am start. Held at same venue as last time -true right bank of Rangitikei River, upstream of the old Springvale bridge, on the Napier-Taihape Rd.

Tahr Ballot closes 4pm on 12th February. (further details on page 2)

Committee Meeting

Wed 17th February @ 7.30pm. We have a growing number of club event issues that need your attention and help, so please turn up or ring in with your apologies if you can't make it!

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EDITORS CORNER

WE TRUST EVERYONE HAD AN ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY BREAK AND FESTIVE SEASON. WE HAVE THE FEB. CLUB TRIP AND A BUNCH OF OTHER EVENTS COMING UP SOON SO LOOK OUT FOR DETAILS ON THESE IN OUR NEWSLETTERS.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME TWO NEW MEMBERS, NAMELY **TERRY BICKER** OF HAVELOCK NORTH AND **NIGEL EETS** WHO HAS TRANSFERRED DOWN FROM THE TAURANGA BRANCH. WE WILL BE **DRAWING THE WINNER OF THE MARCH 'OTUTU ISLAND' TRIP** AT THE NEXT CLUB NIGHT ON FEBRUARY THE 3RD.

NO HUNTING ARTICLES WERE RECEIVED THIS MONTH, SO NEIL'S GIVEN US AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORIGINS OF OUR NTH ISLAND RED DEER, AS ACCOUNTED BY D.B. BANWELL, ALONG WITH A SLIGHT MYSTERY TWIST TO THE RUAHINE BLOODLINES .

What is Heli-Hunting?

It is the use of a piloted helicopter by a so called hunting guide and paying client to find, chase and then course a trophy wild game animal into a position of entrapment or submission, so as the client can then be placed in a position to kill it!

I ask you, what happened to fair chase?

The following web link shows a shocking incident of so called guided heli-hunting and should be viewed by all sportsmen, outdoor recreationalists and any other animal admirers.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcDMX4tQTy4>

DOC's Position on The Issue

Doc considers heli-hunting to be a legitimate recreational activity and not illegal by way of any aspect of either the current laws or their own policies. It says that it is a growing tourism activity and they have been accepting applications for operators to become permitted in such activities. DOC has also said that if the concession process is not completed in time this year, then it will simply allow the applicants to perform the activity as if the process was completed!

Heli-Hunting in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

An NZDA national submission in response to the background paper 'Heli-hunting within parts of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park' is under consideration currently and as soon as the national office has something it will be forwarded to branches and to assist members with more submissions. Check out this site:-

<http://doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/heli-hunting-in-aoraki-mount-cook-national-park/>

Your comments should be sent to Canterbury Conservancy, DOC, attn AMCNPMP by **February 1st 2010** via any of the following: ppalmer@doc.govt.nz Fax 03 365 1388 or Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre 8140.

Protect Our Values, Our Environment and the Ethics of Fair Chase Hunting

Say No to Heli-Hunting !!

This link is to a petition for you to support the banning of these heli-hunting operations.

<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-guided-helicopter-hunting.html>

The Club Notice Board

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

NZDA 2010 Calendar featuring 17 historical photos from the glory days of hunting and this years event dates.

Biosecurity NZ & HB Regional Council reminder to all outdoor rec. users of the 'Didymo' problem and the control measures required to contain this pest, that is to **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** all your wading, fishing and boating gear when you travel between different river catchments.

National Shooting Week 6—12 March 2010 at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex, Newell Road, Tokoroa.

TAHR BALLOT 2009—Adams & Hooker/Landsborough Wilderness areas The Himalayan Tahr Control Plan provides for approved helicopter operations to land recreational hunters at specific sites in the above areas for the purpose of wild animal control during the period of the 1st May 2010 to the 17th July 2010. Hunters wishing to obtain permits for these areas should log onto the DOC website to download the information package and permit application form:

www.doc.govt.nz/haasttahrballot. Alternatively hunters can ring 03 750 0809 or email haastvc@doc.govt.nz and provide credit card details. The application form must be posted to DOC, PO Box 50, Haast 7844, Attn. Tahr Ballot. Completed applications must be received by **4pm on February 12th 2010** to be included in the ballot draw.

A list of the DOC Huts that have been removed, destroyed by fire or are not available to the public for accommodation, as well as a list of new huts to be built or replaced, along with the major track upgrades that DOC has planned.



106 Nelson Street, Hastings

call Jeremy (06) 8787177

**FISHING & HUNTING
SPECIALISTS**

Feb. Fly-In Club Trips

Thursday 25th through
to Sunday 28th of Feb.
2010 - The club
originally booked six
DOC sites. Four of them
have been taken, the
two remaining sites are:-

Ngaawapurua hut or
Venison Top(TiraLodge)

Those who have
registered interest need
to **Pay a deposit of
\$200 by Feb. 3rd** to
confirm and book your
flight & site, otherwise
the site booking will be
cancelled to free it up for
other chopper operators
to use.

Do Not Delay!!!

**Book/Pay For
your trip by
contacting**

**Angus Richards on
877 9422**

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Just Kidding!!!

Four friends spent weeks planning the perfect hunting trip. Two days before the group was to leave Frank's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going. Frank's friends are a little put out and annoyed that he couldn't go, but what can they do, so they resolved to continue without him.

Two days later the three remaining friends arrive at the planned camping site only to find Frank sitting there drinking a cold beer with a big smile on his face. He had already set up a tent, gathered firewood and there was a deer hanging in the meat safe.

"Damn man, how long have you been here and how did you talk that wife of yours into letting you go?"

"Well, I arrived here yesterday, but, the evening before that I was sitting in my chair, when my wife came up behind me, put her hands over my eyes and said "guess who?" I pulled her hands free, turned around and there she was, looking gorgeous, wearing some brand new see through lingerie. She seductively took my hand and led me to the bedroom. Our room had two dozen lit candles in it and there were rose petals scattered all around. She was obviously feeling very amorous, as there were also a few new sex toys beside the bed. On the bed she had also lain out two sets of handcuffs and some soft ropes!

She ordered me to tie and cuff her to the bed, so I did as I was told; then she said "now you can do what ever you want."

So I did.....and here I am !!!

Stewart Island Trip : Chew Tobacco Bay Block

Due to a couple of his party members pulling out, Peter Thomson is looking for others that are able to take up 3-4 open positions in the group. This is a fantastic opportunity into one of the great blocks on the island. Flying out of Palmerston North on the 27th of March and staying through until the 10th April 2010. Please contact Peter on 06 855 6444 asap

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A few years back my son Stuart shot a young stag on the Rouge Ridge. The animal had the brick red coat that is typical of Red Deer but it also had faint spots. Many of you have likely seen this before, but it was new to Stu and I. My first thought was that Sika may have featured in the animal's ancestry but about a month later my cobbler from Carterton told me that he had shot a six point Red in the southern Tararuas that was similarly marked. All this got filed away in the memory banks until I was reading Bruce Banwell's latest book on Red Deer. This book, available from the public library, covers the history and origin of the North Island Red Deer Herds. Most of the information for this article has been derived from this source.



The origin of the Ruahine, Kaweka and Kaimanawa Red Deer herds is rather interesting. The original liberations were of animals captured at Bushey Park in Otago and were of Invermark origin. The animals were released at Matapiro in 1883 and spread rapidly reaching the Kaimanawas in 1905. Other liberations took place at Erehwon, Kawhatau, Pohingina and no doubt other places from 1902 until 1922. These animals were from the Wairarapa herd and the Paraparaumu Game Park.

Bruce Banwell's book gives considerable detail on the Red Deer family or *Cervus elaphus*. This group of deer includes those that we know as Red Deer and Wapiti. *Cervus elaphus* is divided into three groups of subspecies. The Atlantic's include deer from Britain, Western Europe and North Africa and include *Cervus elaphus scoticus*, the original deer from Britain. The Maraloids include deer from Central Europe and southern Asia and are largely unknown to us. The Wapitoids include deer from Asia and North America and include *Cervus elaphus nelsonii* which we know as Wapiti.

The original liberations of Red Deer in Hawkes Bay were of Invermark origin and were almost certainly pure *Cervus elaphus scoticus*, but the southwestern Ruahine liberations from the Wairarapa and the Paraparaumu Game Park were of a much more diverse genetic background. Deer from both of these sources originally came from Windsor Great Park and later Warnham Court. From about 1800 there had been considerable movement of Red Deer about Europe and to a lesser extent into Britain. The intent of these movements was to improve the trophy potential of the deer herds in the parks. Sound familiar? This appears to have been more evident in the Warnham Court bloodlines. Two of the favoured subspecies came from Central Europe and the Balkans, both of these subspecies are larger deer with correspondingly heavier antlers. The latter being the Panonian Red deer or *Cervus elaphus pononiensis* was described by Bruce Banwell in 1997 and has been generally accepted as a new subspecies of red deer and is one of the Maraloid forms. This deer has spot markings and there is a black and white photograph in Bruce's book of a German deer showing Panonian blood influence. Perhaps this is where those spots on Tony's and Stu's deer came from, what do you think?

Bruce Banwell has now completed five books in his series on New Zealand big game records. The volume on Sika has recently been revised to show the considerable number of top trophies taken since 1997, when the original volume was first published, it includes heads taken by some of our local NZDA members. The books sell for between \$35 and \$45 and are available from Natex (order form on the back of the bugle). All of the books are packed with information and are thoroughly recommended for anyone with an interest in the origins of our New Zealand Deer and the NZDA trophy records.

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 |
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| Trophy Custodian... | Graeme Withy | 878 6161 |
| Hall Caretaker..... | Robert Underwood | 878 8792 |

Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

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