



# THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

FEBRUARY 2011

ISSUE 2

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

I think I might be setting a new record for time spent staring blankly at a computer screen this morning as nothing is coming to mind of any interest!

February certainly has been pretty conducive to some good hunting though, with decent weather and plenty of tucker about. The deer I have seen have all been in fantastic condition and it's been a long time since I've seen the Bay so green through summer.

If I was a betting man I'd say the roar should be a cracker this year.

Over the last few roars the stags overall have not really been in great condition and were not really bristling for a fight either. Maybe this year will bring out the real stropy ones and create some exciting close encounters, making this roar the one you take home some great memories and feed the fires for more of this exciting type of hunting.

I must admit to being a bit slow in keeping up with the committee and current issues. This time of year is pretty tapped out in my field of work as well as some weird fever I caught last club night has made me a bit of a stranger this month.

Actually, while I have your attention, I need the venison gurus to answer me this. Why has the last few Sika's I have eaten been tough? They have varied in age and sex, were taken in different seasons and were all in at least moderate condition? Compared to Reds it's been like mutton is to lamb. It will be Ruahines only for me if this keeps up. The only thing I can think of is the Reds have mostly been in the chiller as a whole carcass as opposed to the Japs being broken down in the field (for an easier carry). Be interesting to hear if anyone can tell me where I've gone wrong, or if it was just bad luck.

Anyway that's enough from me. Hot barrels and I'll see you at the club next meeting!

James

## Events Calendar March 2011

### National Shooting Comp

Sat 26th & Sun 27th Feb.  
Sat 5th to Sun 7th Mar.  
Fri 11th to Sun 13th Mar.  
*Tokoroa Sports Complex*  
Contact Sandi 07 8864090

### Napier Wilkinson Shoot

Sun 27th Feb. at the  
Poraiti Range 10am.  
Contact Mike 06 8450096

### Club Night

Wed 2nd March 8.00pm

#### Guest Speaker:

Chris Crosse from East Kaweka Helicopters. Chris will be informing us on the private blocks he has available. Grant Lower from Stichbury Exhaust will also be drawing the winner of the fly-in trip with Chris.

### Hastings Wilkinson/ HB Challenge Shoots

Sunday 13th March  
10.00am -details page 2

### Committee Meeting

Wed 23rd March 7.30pm

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## EDITORS CORNER

THE ROAR ISN'T TOO FAR AWAY NOW WITH MOST OF YOU I'M SURE ALREADY GEARING UP IN ANTICIPATION. BEING SAFE THIS HUNTING SEASON IS PARAMOUNT AND I TRUST EVERYONE WILL USE SOUND JUDGEMENT BEFORE PULLING THE TRIGGER.

WE HAVE OUR WILKINSON SHOOT COMING UP ON 13TH MARCH SO PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR AS IT IS ALWAYS A GOOD DAY AND A CHANCE FOR MEMBERS TO CATCH UP. IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT TO OUR WILKINSON GET ALONG TO NAPIERS WHICH IS ON THE 27TH FEBRUARY AS THE TOP THREE SCORERS GET POINTS TOWARDS THE ANDERSON SHIELD.

THE **STICHBURY EXHAUST SPONSORED FLY IN TRIP** WILL BE DRAWN ON MARCH 2ND AT OUR CLUB NIGHT. WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORT MADE BY THOSE THAT HAVE SUBMITTED ARTICLES, JOKES ETC FOR THE NEWSLETTER THIS PAST 12 MTHS - PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING AS WE NEED YOUR INPUT. WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A NEW SPONSOR FOR NEXT YEARS STORY PRIZE DRAW, SO IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FUNDING LET US KNOW, OTHERWISE JUST WRITE A STORY TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN.

## Wilkinson Shoots & HB Challenge Junior Shoot

The Hastings Branch's Wilkinson and HB Challenge national postal shoots are being held on **Sunday March 13th** at the Ben Lomond Range, SH 50 Maraekakaho. It starts at **10.00am** - bring your own refreshments & lunch.

The cost is **\$2 per person** which covers our hireage of the range.

We have four entrant categories which are:

*Wilkinson Senior* - Centre Fire at 100m

*Wilkinson Ladies* - Rim Fire at 75m

*HB Junior Challenge* - Centre Fire at 100m

*Wilkinson Junior* - Rim Fire at 75m

(which is also the Swazi Junior prize shoot)

For ammunition allow for 20 counting shots plus sighters.

As per normal for Senior Men there are the four shooting positions - prone, kneeling, sitting & standing. Juniors & Ladies only have to shoot from three.

If you have any queries contact Neil MacLean on 06 874 3018.

**We look forward to seeing you all there for a great day!!!**



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### East Kaweka Helicopters

#### **Ahimanawa Blocks**

By agreement with the Te Awahoahonu Forest Trust, East Coast Helicopters Ltd now has exclusive access to a limited number of blocks within the Ahimanawa ranges. These blocks will give hunters the opportunity to hunt both Red & Sika and can only be accessed by helicopter from East Kaweka Helicopters Puketitiri base.

Contact Chris 06 839 8693.

**A full block map is posted on our web site blog / notices [www.nzdahastings.org.nz](http://www.nzdahastings.org.nz)**

## **EAST KAWEKA HELICOPTERS LIMITED**



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**Hangar:** 99 Hukanui Rd, PUKETITIRI. **Email:** [cgcrosse@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cgcrosse@xtra.co.nz)

### DOC Update: Hunting Permits Now Online

The Department of Conservation's (DOC) National (online) Hunting Permit System is now up and running, simplifying the application process and ensuring hunters have access to all the relevant information they need. All permits will be valid for four months. A current firearms licence is required to validate a permit to hunt on public conservation lands.

Hunters can now go online at any time from any computer and apply for a hunting permit on conservation land any where in the country, says minister of conservation Kate Wilkinson.

DOC Permit website: <http://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz/start>

**(The DOC website link is on our web site at [www.nzdahastings.org.nz](http://www.nzdahastings.org.nz))**



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Incorporated  
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Email: deerstalkers.org.nz

2 February 2011

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION ENDORSES PRISON SENTENCE FOR ANDREW MEARS**

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association endorses the 2.5 year prison term handed down to Hamilton man Andrew Mears, in the High Court at Rotorua this afternoon.

NZDA national president Alec McIver believes the judge fairly and clearly arrived at a custodial sentence, though the defence clearly wished to see a sentence of home detention imposed on Mr Mears.

Mr Mears' lack of regard for his DOC permit and for the basic firearms rules he was expected to know when he gained his firearms licence, were noted and considered to be grave and contributing factors by the judge. The judge called Mears conduct 'a stupid act'; NZDA can do nothing but agree.

'We are pleased the judge has taken such breaches of a DOC permit and of the arms code into account,' says Mr McIver.

NZDA also acknowledges and endorses the judge's view that this sentence should not be considered a benchmark for any other cases where hunters are charged with manslaughter. NZDA understands this is the first case of its kind in recent years, and expects the judiciary, the police and the parliament of New Zealand to work harder to secure safer provisions in the Crimes and Arms Acts, so that ambiguities around charges and sentences do not occur again, as they did in this case.

NZDA is concerned to see that Mears' accomplices have not been charged and urges the police to secure and lay informations on them promptly. Letting them off will send a tragic message to those who love the outdoors, and who expect to be able to use it safely without the stupid acts of men like Andrew Mears and his associates.

NZDA is appalled at the defence lawyer's suggestion in his submission this afternoon that Mr Mears' actions amounted to 'buck fever'.

We record here that such a flippant and inaccurate reference to this tragic stupidity, in no way resembles buck fever to decent law-abiding hunters who read permits, shoot only during daylight hours, and use firearms correctly.

Buck fever for the record is defined by the American Heritage Registered Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Ed 2000, as:

'Nervous excitement felt by a novice hunter at the first sight of game.'

We respectfully suggest such was in no way part of the impulse, ignorance and idiocy demonstrated by Mr Mears.

**Please direct all further enquiries to:** Alec McIver, National president. Ph: 07 349 4250 (work)  
07 347 4380 (home)



UnitedFuture

## Dunne: 1080 is failing our native birds

Thursday, 13 January 2011, 2:07 pm Press Release: New Zealand Government

UnitedFuture leader Peter Dunne has called for greater investment in alternative pest control methods following further evidence presented by the Environment Commissioner that 1080 is failing to control predatory pests.

“For over 40 years 1080 has been used in New Zealand yet our native bird populations remain in decline and targeted pests such as possums, rats and stoats are still the major culprits,” said Mr Dunne.

“We currently spend around \$100 million a year on 1080 operations, which is an awful lot of money for something with a dubious record of success. We also have to bear the side-effects of spraying such an unpopular and deadly toxin over large tracts of our conservation estate, water catchments and farmland.”

“1080 is an extremely cruel and indiscriminate killer, with a high level of secondary poisoning. While it is mammals and therefore pests that are most susceptible to the poison, many native birds are killed by it also.”

“It is time we changed course.”

“DoC currently spends less than \$2 million a year on researching and developing alternatives. With that level of investment no wonder we are still banging the same old drum we were 40 years ago!”

“If we are to save our native bird populations we need to substantially increase the amount of funding available to develop anti-1080 alternatives. DoC and other agencies responsible for pest control need to significantly contribute to this out of their existing 1080 budget.”

“Newly developed self-setting traps for both stoats and possums should be invested in further and 21st century technologies such as genetic or biological controls must be explored and if possible accelerated.”

“Local communities also need to be better empowered to contribute to pest control operations.”

“For example, the possum product industry is already worth \$120 million annually to New Zealand. With the right incentives in place it could grow to be worth many times that amount while significantly denting possum numbers. In areas such as Northland, the East Cape and the West Coast, where pest management is a priority and unemployment is high, it seems an absolute no-brainer.”

“I look forward to the Environment Commissioner’s final report on 1080 in April and will read with interest the alternatives she puts forward,” said Mr Dunne.

ENDS

<sup>3</sup>**Our Clubs History** - This photo was sent to us by R. Lissington who found it in his fathers slide collection - Does anyone know who the two people are and a date?



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

### Changes You Need Know About

#### Charlie Brown Road, Kaweka

**Forest Park** - Charlie Brown Road, behind Robson's Lodge, is closed to walkers and vehicles until April 2011 due to logging operations.

#### Lakes Road & Carpark, Kaweka

**Forest Park** - Access to Lakes Road and carpark off Kuripapango Road in southern sector of the Forest Park is closed to the public from 28 February to 18 April 2011 due to forestry operations in the nearby Pan Pac Douglas Fir Block.

#### Eastern Ruahine Forest Park

The last section of the *Coppermine Creek Track* is closed as a substantial slip has made it impassible. The Wharite and Loop Tracks are not affected.


The *Rimu Track* is closed from Takapari Road.

#### Makahu Rd, Kaweka Forest Park

Caution is required at the Makahu Road ford which is 7.5km before the road end and Maungatutu Hot Springs. The HDC has placed a marker pole in the stream to indicate the safe crossing level. Logging is taking place at Makahu Station on Makahu Road. Expect to encounter delays, rough road conditions and logging trucks.

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[www.broadbents.co.nz](http://www.broadbents.co.nz)

## On Our Notice Board & Website Blog at [www.nzdahastings.org.nz](http://www.nzdahastings.org.nz)

### DOC Hawkes Bay

A number of documents, maps and images which will update you on the Sika GPS Tracking Project in the Kaweka Forest Park.

### HBRC Aerial 1080 Drop - 2011

Maps of the public and private lands that are programmed for poisoning.

### Forest & Bird and DOC

Letters between these two organisations regarding heli-hunting concessions.

### Belmont Precision Ammunition

Presents an NZDA Newsletter on the responsibility of hunters.

### Dept. of Conservation

Changes you need to know about Wellington Forest Parks and other information.

### Roydhouse Pest Control

Notice of Feratox poison program in the Tutaekuri Mohaka area 7/2/11 - 31/7/11

## **REEL 'N' RIFLE** **Hawkes Bay**

193 Main Rd. Clive or Call  
**Mark Corlett** on ph.8700362



Our specials for NZDA members this month are:

- 30% off all Ridgeline clothing in stock.
- 20% of all thermal gear in stock.
- CCI subsonic & minimag .22LR ammo is still only \$69.95 for a 500 round brick.
- Gun bags for only \$39.00 each.

— [mark@reelnrifle.co.nz](mailto:mark@reelnrifle.co.nz) —

## Pitt Rams More Than The Normal Lamb Chop - By Brad Pinker

As I was starting to write about my last hunting trip to Pitt Island I decided that a bit of history about this special game animal should be told as these animals are more than the average sheep. They are in fact one of our oldest and most pure game herds in the country. Pitt Island sheep are otherwise known as Spanish or Saxony Merino sheep. These sheep are descendants of animals imported into New Zealand by Samuel Marsden on his ship the Active sometime around 1841.



The flock was bought over by John McArthur of the Australasian wool industry. This progeny was from a small flock from South Africa that was presented to the Government of the Netherlands by the King of Spain in 1789. The Spanish Merinos had been jealously guarded by Spain for centuries because of its fine wool and survived through the upheavals of war and famine. They are related to the more ancestral Mouflon from the mountainous regions of Corsica and Sardinia. As a feral sheep, having been wild on Pitt Island in the Chathams since 1841, they hold a wealth of genetic treasure. As you can see these sheep have had to survive everything that has been thrown at them over the years from whalers, sealers, settlers and their biggest predator DOC. For some reason in their minds DOC feel that this managed herd of around 1500 needs to be culled out so with the support of the locals of the island and a bit of education to the next generation lets hope they can reach the 200 year old mark by 2041.

Anyway, back to my last trip which was in October 2010. It started as our plane hit the ground on Pitt Island with a keen young local lad named Zin and his pack of dogs that looked as if they had seen some hard times over the years. My mate Mark Nobile was with me for this hunt and hunting is what we did. We spent the first night up to our balls in swamp country chasing pigs and there was no shortage of pork with six good boars for the night, the best coming in at 174lbs on the hook, but that is what hunting can be like when it is well looked after. There are no cowboys to be found as it is a long swim back to the mainland.

The next day started slow as our bodies were stuck in first gear, so after a late breakfast we headed out to the West Coast to find Mark a ram. After a bit of glassing I picked up a mob on a coastal face so all the hunting skills were put in place. As we came over the ridge to have a look for a trophy all we saw was the tail end of the group in full stride and at that point we knew we had to lift our game. As the afternoon passed on, we picked up the odd mob but it was hard to find a good ram as you learn that the big boys are always at the back using the young ones as protection. After a bit of glassing I picked out one that would look good for the wall. "Boom!", Mark let rip and down went the ram and what a nice shot at 348 yards with his 308 Sako. Instead of getting up and heading over for a look at his trophy we just lay still and waited for a while and about 10 minutes passed and all of a sudden four or five hundred Pitt sheep came in full trot below us. "Boom!", a nice 30 yard shot at a trophy ram and that was one in the bag for me to take home. We were like kids in the candy store and the trigger fingers had to be controlled as the mob kept on their game trail in a nice file past us at a good range to have a better look at what was around. At the end of the mob was one of the biggest rams I have seen to date so I said to Mark to take it or I would boom. P.S.... by the way the other five days were just hell!



### 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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