



# THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

**MAY 2011**

**ISSUE 5**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all, just when you think every things under control Murphy strikes. I was planning to be ahead of schedule with my monthly for Lynne but ended up in hospital instead. All OK now though which is pretty good to know. It did put an idea in my mind, should I get a PLB? Who of you have one? I reckon it would be quite essential for big trips into rugged country like Fiordland but now I'm thinking if I'm out in the bush and get really sick again this would be a pretty good idea. Maybe see what the boss has to say.

Thanks also to the Richards family for giving Julie a hand while I was out of action too. Wendy you're a life saver.

With the daylight hours now becoming quite a bit shorter so does many guys (and girls) hunting taper off, including me. I am hoping though that I can squeeze in a few more winter hunts this year though. I have spoken to others with some quite positive reports about winter hunting. Maybe a Rusa hunt would be a good club trip idea too?

I also have succumbed to the big gun club and have added a 7mm Rem Mag to the arsenal. Wouldn't be my first choice of calibre to start out with though, as she fair barks with a full house load up the spout! So much so that I have just got it back from Trueflite with a brake fitted. Can't wait to give it a lash with the brake on. Another buddy of mine has also recently bought the same calibre and his with a brake is very casual to shoot compared to my mule.

It is our turn to host Hawkes Bay inter branch this year. We were able to walk away with the Anderson shield last time round, let's see if we can do the double. If you think you have anything worthy of submitting you will get a second chance this coming weekend as our judging for both branch and HB has been put forward one week. The HB prize giving was a great night out last year at Tutira with Mal Ingpen and I attending. It was a long drive out there but being close to home this time I hope to see a lot more of you this time around.

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

**James**

## EDITORS CORNER

OUR AHT COMPETITION AND THE HB INTERBRANCH COMPETITION ARE ON THIS COMING WEEKEND. YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO GET YOUR ENTRIES IN AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING PHOTOS AND VIDEOS. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PAID UP YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES SO YOUR ENTRY IS VALID.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE IT ALONG TO OUR AGM AS IT IS ALWAYS A BUSY TIME OF YEAR. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MALCOLM INGPEN FOR STEPPING UP INTO THE VICE-PRESIDENTS POSITION WHICH WAS MADE VACANT BY JEREMY HANARAY. THANKS TO JEREMY FOR HIS TIME IN THAT POSITION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO ALL WORKING ALONGSIDE MAL.

A NEW MEMBER TO INTRODUCE THIS MONTH IS - **HOWARD DE COURCY LYS**. REMEMBER TO BE IN THE DRAW FOR THE **TRIPLE PEAK ENTERPRISES** SPONSORED FLY IN TRIP YOU NEED TO SUBMIT A STORY FOR THE NEWSLETTER. ALSO ANY JOKES, ARTICLES OR OTHER INFO. ARE ALL APPRECIATED!!

## Events Calendar May/June 2011

### Hastings AHT Comp. & HB Inter-Branch Comp.

Sat 28th (Hastings) & Sun 29th May (HB) 2011 Both held at Hastings Deerstalkers Clubrooms. Please note the extra week now for getting entries in.

### Club Night

Wed 1st June at 8.00pm.

### HB Pig Hunters Comp.

Sun 5th June 2011 (Queens Birthday). Contact Kirstyn Renall on (06) 876 0086.

### HB Inter-Branch Prizegiving

Saturday 18th June 2011 (details page 3)

### Committee Meeting

Wed 22nd June 7.30pm.

## Up Coming Events!!!

**NZDA 63rd National Conference** - held in Tuatapere, Southland. 22nd—24th July 2011.

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# Hastings Branch AGM 2011

## Appointed Officials

Club Patron  
President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
General Committee

Max Motley  
James Guilford  
Malcolm Ingpen  
Neil McLean  
Steve Shaw  
Wayne Martin, Hamish Tait, Hector Crawford-Flett  
Angus Richards, Robert Underwood, Guy Te Kahika  
Steve Shaw & Lynne Ellingham  
Hector Crawford-Flett

Newsletter Editors  
Bartender

## Hall Sub-Committee

Hall Caretaker  
Grounds Keeper  
Bookings

Rob Underwood  
Grant Richards  
Guy Te Kahika, Grant Richards, Rob Underwood

## Competition Officials

Competition Judges  
Competition Scribes

Grant Richards & Malcolm Ingpen  
Rob Underwood, Paul Montaperto

## Club Representatives

SAR Co-Ordinators  
DOC Fire Team Leader  
Trophy Custodian  
Hunts Co-Ordinator

Grant Richards, Rob Wallace  
Guy Te Kahika  
Graeme Withey  
Mal Ingpen

Please note: Any of our members are welcome to attend the committee meetings!!

### On Our Notice Board & Website Blog at

[www.nzdahastings.org.nz](http://www.nzdahastings.org.nz)

#### Fish & Game NZ

Media Release on recent change in protection status for Canada Geese.

#### Epro Ltd

Information and map on the 1080 drop in Waitara Valley from 1/5 to 30/6/11.

#### HBRC Aerial 1080 Drop - 2011

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

#### Roydhouse Pest Control

Notice of Feratox poison program in the Tutaekuri Mohaka area from 7/2/11 to 31/7/11.

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### **Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Competition**

**There is still plenty of time to get your entries in!**

**Saturday 28th May 2011. Judging will start from**

**10.00am to 2.30pm** at the Hastings Deerstalkers Clubrooms, 1534 Maraekakaho Road, Hastings.

Your entries can either be lodged at the Hastings Deerstalkers Clubrooms on Friday 27th May between 7.00pm & 9.00pm or from 9.00am on the Saturday morning. **All entries must be lodged no later than 11.30am on Saturday 28th May.**

(An entry form is inside this newsletter)

Suitable entries will automatically be entered into the HB Inter-Branch Comp. held on Sun 29th May.



### **HB Interbranch Prizegiving/Dinner**

Sat 18th June held at the Hastings NZDA Clubrooms -1534 Maraekakaho Road, Hastings. All welcome!!!

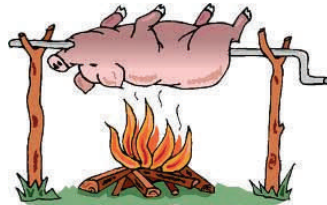
Doors open 4.00pm, meal at 5.30pm and at 7.00pm the prizegiving starts.

\$20 entry fee to cover meal. Kids 10-15yrs are \$10. Kids under 10yrs are free.

Menu is Pig on the spit with all the trimmings, roast veges and salads.

Bar will be open - beer, wine, fizzy & mixers.

Make sure you get along to support our 3 clubs and have a great night. See you all there!!



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At our December committee meeting discussion wandered towards the end (as it often does) and settled on the rifle that rests on the deer antler above the Centre Makaroro Hut sign. Angus Richards and Ross Tweedy found the rifle in the Makaroro River about 1980. Its muzzle was poking out of the gravel somewhere between the old Centre Makaroro hut and the gorge on the way to Top Makaroro Hut. Discussion ranged from how it got there, who lost it and when. All we have is the rifle and the rifle can actually tell us quite a bit. The rifle is a Mark 1 or 2 Lee Enfield short rifle made prior to 1904. This was a transitional model between the old infantry rifles used during the Boer war that had a 30 inch barrel and the No 1 Lee Enfield adopted in 1904 and used during the First World War. The rifle would have been obsolete for front line troops after 1904 as it could not be charger loaded. The magazine is loaded with Mark VI cartridges. This is quite significant as this type was superseded by the later Mark VII type in 1910. Mark VI cartridges seem to have been made in NZ up to 1917 as this is the date on my one sample. The Mark VI cartridges are not common as they were never made in the volume of the later types. Supplies of these must have been all but exhausted by 1940 and scarce before that. It is most likely that our Makaroro rifle was lost in the late 1920's or 1930's. There are other clues. Red deer were first liberated in Hawke's Bay in 1883 at Matapiro Station. They did not arrive in the Makaroro, Waipawa and Tukituki catchments of the central Ruahines until 1925 to 1930 and were also protected until 1930. The deer also mostly inhabited the open tops until about 1940. This information comes from Bruce Banwell's first book on red deer. At this point I am asking myself what is a hunter doing in the Makaroro River bed in the 1930's when the deer are all up on the tops? A quick surf through Norman Elders Route Guide to the Ranges throws considerable light on this question. Norman Elders route guide was prepared in 1942 from Heretaunga Tramping Club records for the use of the army. It was updated and published in 1959 and gives us a good picture of the tracks and routes in use prior to 1940. The guide lists no less than four routes from the Makaroro River to the Piopio Tupari tops. The quickest route, but by no means easiest, climbs the spur on the true right of the gorge. This route climbs directly to Tupari past the current site of Kylie Biv. Anyone been up this ridge? This and other routes indicate that the Makaroro was something of a highway to the tops between the wars. So our Makaroro rifle was most likely made in the 1900-05 period and is loaded with pre World War 1 cartridges. It also most likely found its way into the river in the 1920-1940 period. It did not, however spend the next forty years or so in the same place. In the late 1970's there was a significant flood in the northern Ruahines. This eroded vast quantities of gravel from the upper reaches and re deposited them lower down. The bed level was raised significantly at Centre Makaroro Hut. Since then the river has cut down through the deposit towards its original bed exposing the rifle. It is probable that the rifle was lost somewhere in the upper catchment, possibly in the gorge and transported to where it was found during the flood.

The words possible and probable have been used extensively in this article. I can't say for sure that the rifle was not lost by some more recent retro hunter who loaded it from a cache of cartridges that he had squirreled away. Neither can I say for sure that the rifle was not lost by Ellis the murderer who was captured in 1904 at the hut that bears his name not that far away. Ellis was believed to have lost a rifle in the river. The idea that Ellis had an arsenal new rifle does strain credibility however. It was most likely lost by a hunter like any of us who arsed up in the river while trying to collect a bit of venison for his family. Hopefully he survived the experience.



#### **Committee Officers**

Patron.....	Max Motley	
President.....	James Guilford	876 5334
Vice President.....	Malcolm Ingpen	878 7795
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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