



# THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

**JULY 2012**

**ISSUE 7**

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

Phew, yet another busy month for me. As you most probably are aware it was National Conference this month in Masterton, hosted by the Direct and Wairarapa Branches. Steve Shaw, Lynne Ellingham, Guy TeKahika, Grant Richards and myself represented the club for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NZDA. As this was my first time attending it was all a bit overwhelming for starters but after while I soon found my feet. The idea of it being a piss trip away from the boss certainly evaporated pretty quickly too as it was hard work. Mind you, it was also really interesting with speeches from Kate Wilkinson, Peter Dunne, Iain Cooksley from DOC and Geoff Kerr from Lincoln University as well as a few others. Geoff Kerr ran an online survey over the course of a year (which I participated in) recording hunter efforts, animals taken and financial costs. The one interesting thing I remember is the average spend per year was over \$3,800 on hunting. Crap, I hope the wife does not read that bit! Another point of interest was the AHT entries. I was pretty blown away by the quality of the heads and have been advised that this year was a real bumper for quality antler. I have a few photos and expect Steve will also have a good number for those who are interested. The Hastings Branch was well represented in the mix with Jeremy Hanaray taking 1st for his Sika, winning the Cliff Marshall Memorial Trophy as well as getting 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Orbell trophy for Best Deer Head. Good on you Jem! It was good to also put a few faces to names I have known only through email and other correspondence as well as make a few new friends. One really good opportunity was offered from BOP branch to assist with getting our club involved with a Thar hunt in the Aoraki/Mt Cook area. The consensus is that numbers are currently too high and need a good cull. BOP are sending a group every year and took over 100 animals last year. I will certainly follow this up and if you think this is a bit of you please touch base with me and I will start to gather names etc. and get this ball rolling. I was able to place our votes regarding the Remits and Notices of Motion as discussed at the last club meeting and it all pretty much went in the directions we voted. Steve with-drew his nomination for Vice President on NATEX after learning that Bill O'Leary was putting his hand up for the position. Bill is the current HUNTS co-ordinator for NZDA and should perform well as the national vice pres. HUNTS was also discussed with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary being reached this year. This is something we need to digest a bit more at a club level but I really hope we can put together a dedicated core of members to get this off the ground and running. It does take a fair bit of effort and would become an excellent feeder into the club for new members. From the quick look I was able to get it is very professional, with a lot of assistance (both for the club and the trainee) that looks very similar to an apprenticeship program. This next club night we should have a visit from Ken Mills. Ken gave me a heads up Thursday before conference regarding DOCs considerations to remove a large proportion of the funding for maintenance in the Ruahines. As most of you are aware, DOC has a reduced budget and this is one of the repercussions from it. Fortunately Rob Wallace was on the ball and has attended the first discussion meeting (we were forgotten on the invite list!) and has voiced our concerns at losing access and with it the ability to assist with management of the animal numbers in the park. It looks like the department are after ways to co-manage in certain areas and this may work in our favour with preferred access maybe in exchange for trap checking or other assistance. Anyway that's enough from me. Look forward to seeing you at the next club night. Hot barrels, James

## EDITORS CORNER

CONFERENCE WAS A GOOD EXPERIENCE WITH PLENTY OF INTERESTING SPEAKERS AND INFO. TO TAKE AWAY. THERE IS A SUM UP OF CONFERENCE ON THE INSERT INSIDE. CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE MARTIN FOR WINNING THE TRIPLEPEAKS FLY-IN TRIP FOR LAST YEAR AND KEEP THE STORIES COMING IN SO YOU CAN GO IN THE NEXT DRAW!! SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT CLUB NIGHT.

## Events Calendar July/August 2012

### HB Inter-Branch Prizegiving

Sat 28th July (page 2).

### Club Night

Wed 1st August at 8.00pm. We have a guest speaker Ken Mills from DOC Onga to talk about the Ruahines tracks/huts that DOC want users to maintain. Get along and have your say. Also, Steve has got pics of some great heads from AHT to show you.

### Club Rusa Hunt

Fri Aug 10th to Sun 12th at Galatea - call Steve 8775275.

### Committee Meeting

Wed 22nd Aug at 8.00pm

### Up Coming Events

### Hastings Club Prizegiving and Dinner

Sept.- details in Aug. newsletter.

### Tataraakina Club Trip

14th, 15th & 16th September - Details in August newsletter.

### E. Richards Shoot – October (tba)

**DISCLAIMER** – AS THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER HAVE COME FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THE OPINIONS OR IDEAS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY ENDORSED BY OUR EXECUTIVE OR BY NATIONALS, NOR MAY THEY CONFORM TO BRANCH OR NATIONAL POLICY.

## National Antler, Horn & Tusk Judging 2012 by Stephen Shaw

This year's AHT competition was a real ripper and it was the antlers that stole the show, but I won't go over all the results here, rather I would like to give our members some insight into the workings of the competition and the decisions that must be made by the judging panel to come up with the results.

**Pre-Judging Instructions 2012:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am to 12.00pm

The Competition Manager (Mark Sergeant) and Head Judge (John Wills) reminded (instructed) the panel to be accurate, tidy and thorough in their work. Check entries for alterations (rule breaches) and report findings to head judge. Ensure that the entire sheet is filled out on the Douglas Score (DS) forms and signed. It was also requested that all Sika entries have a Withey System form completed for them.

Review issue; A request had been received from previous (2010) year's competitor (2<sup>nd</sup> placed Sambar) to overturn the 1<sup>st</sup> place decision due to recent DNA evidence of hybridization (Sambar x Red) of the winning entry. Discussion was had around the judging panel and then the request was voted on. The decision was unanimous to stay with the status quo due to the extreme rarity of the occurrence ever happening in the wild and the lack of such DNA evidence at the time of judging.

### **Measuring and Judging**

The **Red Deer** Comp. saw a big 18 pointer that was shot in the Rakaia catchment win with a Douglas score of 371¾. It won even though its configuration was not considered to be traditional Rakaia style. The antlers showed a full set of strong lower tines and a lot of multi-pointing off the back tine that is conducive with some modern Warnham influence in its breeding. So it was theorized that it was most likely the progeny from an escapee mixed with the local Rakaia herd gene pool.

A non-eligible entry due to skull (capped) and antler (varnished) alteration was a true Otago style head from the Burke. Its story is in the latest Rod & Rifle magazine. Seeing varnish applied to such a magnificent trophy head had all of us present shaking ours in disbelief that anyone would do that.

There were seven **Sika** entered for the Cliff Marshall Memorial Trophy, but only two were of record book quality. Of course Jem's 206¼ Hukanui head cleaned up with the win, but a very impressive 9 point, 198 1/8 head from the Umakarikari in the Kaimanawa's provided some stiff competition. Jem's 8 point, 206¼ is now No.25 in the '200' club record book.

The four **Rusa** entries this year certainly showed that the buggers are gettable here in NZ. Two of them were also at record book level. First went to an Ohutu catchment, Galatea head at 179½ and second place went to a Whakatane River head that measured 175 3/8. Only one **Sambar** head turned up, it was nicely balanced and of respectable size at 211½ with good beam & tops.

A huge **Fallow** head (not eligible for the comp.) was brought in by a non-member for measuring. It was taken up in the King Country area and was apparently one of three huge Bucks that were standing together when it was shot. They all appeared to be similar in size! It measured 271 DS and will be NZ's new No.1 in our record book. The winning head for Fallow was taken in the Hokonui hills and only measured 242 DS.

Now for the stars of the show, the **White Tail Deer**. Yes you read right, the humble little NZ White Tail. The top three entries all came from the Wakatipu herd and two of them were of gold medal quality (150+). All three heads were very impressive with good balance, tine development, length and spread. The winner measured 178 3/8 which makes it No. 6 in the '165' club record book. My only concern and real question is the sustainability of taking of three mature bucks from this herd at this critical stage in their management.

The **Orbell Trophy** (for Best Antlered); The first two placings were obvious with the Wakatipu Whitetail 1<sup>st</sup> and the Rakaia Red 2<sup>nd</sup>, but an interesting decision was made which elevated Jem's Sika (DSE 360.93) above the Fallow (DSE 368) head. This was also on a split decision from the judging panel. The reasoning was that a Sika head of its quality was harder to acquire than the Fallow of similar Douglas Score equivalent.

This year's top three **Drawn Tusk** entries all measured 26 DS. It was interesting to see how the judging panel decided on the eventual winner and placings. The 1<sup>st</sup> place was given to the tusks with the most even grinds and skull/jaw that had been presented in the cleanest state for measuring. It just goes to show you that being fastidious with the whole skull cleaning process does pay off for all parties involved!!

Finally the **Wild Sheep**, two entries with one disqualified due to questions over its origin and the heads presentation. The panel's discussion revolved around three points. The first was the location it was shot in which was Pipiriki on the Whanganui River. This area is not known for its herd of sheep and there is a safari park in the area. The second interesting point was the cross-sectional curvature of the horns which displayed a distinct flattening on the top. This shape in the horns was concluded to be conducive with a Drysdale genetic influence. The third argument was the alteration to the skull by a complete cutting off of the back section behind the horns. A lot of attention was given to this apparent rule breach despite the wording in the competition rules being ambiguous in the horn section. It was a split decision from the judges to disqualify it.

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

**Roydhouse Pest Control**  
Notice of Feratox poison program in the Kaweka Forest on Napier/Taihape Rd from 1/10/11 - 30/9/12

**EPRO - 1080 DROP IN  
THE MAKARORO-  
NGARURORO AREA**

From June 18 until complete.

**NZDA NATIONAL NEWS**

Heli-hunting correspondence with submissions due and letters from Peter Dunne regarding Game Animal Council and its updates.

**NZDA CONFERENCE -  
COMP. RESULTS /SPEECHES**

Conference Competition Results, speeches, remits & motions are posted on the national website:

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

**RECREATIONAL HUNTING  
AREAS – RHA Presentation**

by Barry Insull at the NZDA Conference in Masterton 2012.

**RUAHINES HUTS & TRACKS**

Recent meeting notes on plans for DOC to no longer keep certain tracks and huts upkeep and for local users to do this.

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**HB Interbranch  
Prizegiving/Dinner**

Sat 28th July held at the Napier NZDA Clubrooms—  
29 Thorn Place, Napier.

All welcome!!!

Doors open 4.00pm, meal at 6.30pm and at 7.30pm the prizegiving starts.

\$20 entry fee to cover meal and raffle.

Kids under 10 years old are \$10. Menu is a hangi.

Bar will be open - beer, wine and fizzy.

Make sure you get along to support our inter-branch competition and have a great night.

See you all there!!

**Contact - John Bakes 8446749**

**New Members**

This month we welcome a new senior member and his family:

Nick Gullery and partner

Ruth Mihaka along with

Jacob, Reno,

Nanai, Jack

and

Jasmine Mihaka

**'Just Kidding'**

A man takes his wife to a hunting show. As they strolled through the show enjoying the sights they noticed a seminar on the life cycle of the deer. They thought that this sounded interesting so they went in and joined the seminar already in progress. About that time the speaker stated that "A dominant buck may mate 100 or more times in a single season."

His wife's mouth drops open and says, "WOW! 100 times in a season, that's more than once a day! You could really learn some things from these deer!"

The man turns to his wife and says, "Raise your hand and inquire if it was 100 times with the same doe."



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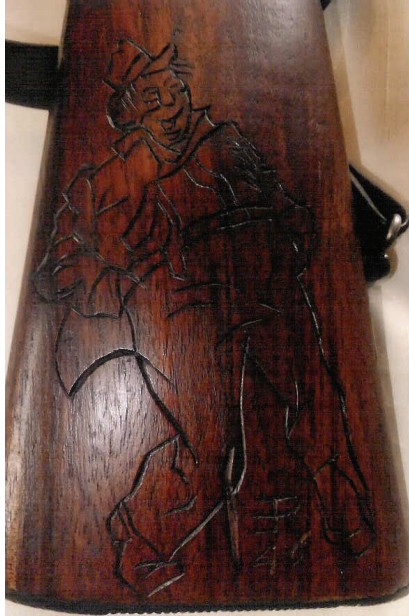
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We all know about the trusted 303's and there were many makes and models made from the early 1900's to the 1950's. A trusted rifle used in both world wars and later as a hunting and cullers rifle during the Forest Service culling days. An early rifle of my fathers was a 1906 Enfield 303 which he used for culling and shooting many deer and goats and also for target shooting at the Cambridge Rifle Club, a very successful shot.



A lot of deer cullers sporterised their rifles to their own design and shape and on wet days to pass the time they customized them by adding extras such as carvings on the stock.



One of these rifles fell into the hands of an old Hastings Club member, Des Neil, the rifle was a BSA 303. It is one firearm that he trusted and never sold. Des competed in club competitions, photography and also shot some nice twelve-fourteen point Red stags off Omahaki Station. One of our earliest club competitions was the JA Hall Shield for best Pig jaw which he won in the 1951-52 season.



I personally have used a 243 Mannlicher for many years now and seemed to have only missed a few animals. Early on I had purchased a 270 that wouldn't group well enough and was quickly sold. It was replaced with a heavy 7 x 57 Bruno, a good fast caliber on larger deer. I still continue to take my rifle for a walk these days, although it doesn't need to go on most trips, but I still feel that it should. It mainly accompanies me on these exercises now as a walking stick or a support aid of some sort to help me complete the journey.



### 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.....	Brian Salisbury	0212135027

### Hastings Deerstalkers Branch Clubrooms

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