

THE DEERSTALKER

NEWSLETTER OF HASTINGS BRANCH OF THE NZDA INC.

JANUARY 2013 | ISSUE 12



Rodney heads down the Waiau... see story back page.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Giddy all,

Well here we go again, another year has rolled over and 12 more months packed full of deer stalking potential are up.

It sure has been a great start to summer. Hot is good in my book! The hunting certainly has not been too shabby either with good numbers of animals around everywhere.

Early in December the club organised a fly in trip into the Ruahines, with Ruahine Corner, Ikawetea Forks and Rockslide Biv booked. The original fly in date was pushed forward due to poor weather and it proved to be a godsend. Flying in from the Comet sure made for a quick trip in with a pretty good view over the back of Timahunga and up the Ikawetea. A good dose of rain certainly flushed up the bush and hungry deer could not resist the fresh new growth on any open areas. I certainly have to say a big thank you to Mal Inghen for jacking up the trip as well as Chris Crosse for his always great service.

Over the Christmas break I got out a few times and I would have to say this is by far my favourite time of year to go out for a hunt. Slogging your arse off to get that little bit further into the hills is typically rewarded by being able to see plenty of deer in the early mornings and twilight hours. Seeing deer appear out of nowhere is still a buzz. Last trip I watched a yearling nose around some rocks only to give itself a fright when it pushed one loose and the next morning watch a fawn gallivant around like a clown under the scornful watch of its mother. More to it than just hunting eh.

I also had a bit of a clean out in my freezer. I have recently moved house and it was easier to get rid of some stuff than move it. I send all the good stuff (there was a bit more than I thought too) off to Rob Beard at Wild Game Salamis. I now have a heap of salami, sausages and chorizos and boy are they delicious. If you have a bit of trim or other game meat you don't know what to do with I really recommend Rob to turn it into some beautiful small goods. I now have plans to get him to make me some super hot salamis so I need some more meat!

It feels like an eternity since I have been to a committee meeting or even a club one so I'm a little behind the eight ball with up to date news from the club. I hope to get back up to speed before the next club night and hopefully I'll see you there.

Anyway that's enough from me. Looking forward to seeing you next club night.

Hot barrels,
James

EVENTS CALENDAR DECEMBER 2012

Club Night

Due to Waitangi weekend club night will be 13th Feb not 6th.

Bar tab - IOU'S

- Please make sure any IOU people have their bar tabs paid up. We are abnormally short in the bar till this month.

UP COMING EVENTS

Committee meeting

Wednesday 27th March at 8pm

Wilkinson Shoot

10 March TBC @ HB Sporting Shooters Club.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Patron	Max Motley	
President	James Guildford	876 5334
Vice President	Malcolm Inghen	878 7795
Treasurer	Neil Maclean	8743 018
Secretary	Angus Richards	876 2742
Newsletter Editor...	Tom Allan - 'Band'	833 6671

HALL CONTACTS

Hall Bookings	Guy Te Kahika	879 9598
Groundsman	Grant Richards	878 4467
Trophy Custodian ..	Graeme Withey	878 6161
Hall Caterer	Brian Salisbury	02121350027

HASTINGS DEERSTALKERS BRANCH CLUBROOMS

1534 Maraekakaho Road, Bridge Pa, PO Box 2155,
Stortford Lodge, Hastings
Phone 06 879 9396

EMAIL: hastings_nzda@xtra.co.nz

VISIT: nzdahastings.org.nz

EDITORS CORNER

PLEASE send pics or contribute with some info so we can make this Newsletter interesting...

Please email any pics you get to me, tom@band.net.nz - any shots not used in the newsletter will be uploaded to the website gallery.

Get amongst it! Feedback is always welcome - Cheers Tom



Ruahine fly in trip *James*

I finally made the cut to get out for the Ruahine fly in trip this last December. I was in the middle of selling our house and moving out just before Christmas but that just had to wait, life goes on and hunting needs to be given the priority this time. The trip was planned to be on the 8th of Dec but due to poor weather we had to wait a couple more days before Chris Crosse could get us in safely. The wind blew and the rain rained for the next two days, which did not make for much fun having to wait it out at work but Saturday finally rolled around and the skies were clear and warm. Yes.

I had drawn a bunk in the Ruahine Corner Block with Mal Ingpen and Tom Young, both of whom I had hunted with in the past and made me the novice in the hut! Both Mal and Tom are pretty good for a yarn and a beer too so made for a promising trip, even if we did not see any game.

On day one Tom and I flew in first from the Comet road and set ourselves up in the hut. Mal took his time (fluffing around in town so we discovered later on) and once all settled in we planned our evening hunt. There was little else to do during the heat of the day and we were fairly confident the evening should offer some sightings at least. With the rain and wind gone the desire for deer to get out and feed up was strong, as we were soon to find out. Tom and I hunted together and settled in on a spot that looked the business. It did not take long for me to spy our first "customer" for the day with Tom spotting another animal up higher on a slip shortly after. A plan was hatched and after sneaking in a few more yards we were close enough for a shot. Whilst getting ready for the tag team shot to try and ping both animals Tom suddenly hisses under his breath "shit, shoot those two stags down there". Bugger me there's two stags now, even closer just underneath us! With only a few minutes of daylight left, Plan A turns to plan B. Boom, Tom cleanly drops the larger stag and being a little slow my shot is a touch too far forward on the spiker. Bugger. Good thing for me Toms onto it and finishes it before it gets the chance to gather a second wind and make for a hard find. Awesome, on the board before the first night with four animals seen. A quick bit of butchery and we decide to spend the first night out in the bush as the weather was good and we took enough gear for a night under the stars. We had made earlier plans to meet back at the hut with Mal the next morning so with heavy packs we made our way back. Waiting for Mal started to become a regular occurrence and we finally saw him return just before lunch. It soon became apparent as to his lateness as he had lugged a couple of animals worth of prime cuts back to camp. Mal had done well too, and the hut meat safe was looking pretty healthy with less than 24 hours on the clock. I can never sleep during the day but there was not much else to do as the sun was high and hot with the likelihood of finding animals out in it being low. Its always good to have some camp meat early, it takes the pressure off so the next hunt was arranged for all three of us to go for another evening hunt and camp up close to some more prime country. Glassing through the evening revealed a few more animals with one young stag not knowing what to make of us. Unfortunately for him, Malcolm was more decisive and made our packs heavier for the walk out. A few more animals were seen that evening but none were realistically within reach or were across the gorge and before I knew it, it was fast approaching

10PM. Time to hit the hay. Alarms were set for an early departure and to get further into the head of a few side creeks. Day three started out with some low fog and after an hour or so of walking we arrived at a few open areas that were just what we were after. Binos were the order of the morning with a particular gut drawing all of our attention. Like clockwork a young stag meandered his way across a small grassy patch. Action time, and I was in the hot seat. I had been ruing my poor shooting in my last outing so I wasn't going to mess this one up. We quickly made our way into a decent shooting position. The day was getting on and this stag would soon be wanting to make his way back to bed. Tom was spotting and my heart sunk as I saw the stag make his way into the bush before I could sort myself out. "Shoot it" was the call by Tom, "I can't see it, its gone" was my reply. "SHOOT IT BEFORE IT GOES!!"..... "Its gone" I say again. The coin suddenly drops, I was looking at another stag! After a quick navigational adjustment stag no 2 was in the crosshair but now making a brisk retreat to his morning bed. Oi! shouts Tom and he stops, right behind a bit of scrub with only his head and neck showing. There's only one thing for it and at just under 300 yards I had about 4" of drop. Holding slightly high the shot rang out. The stag dropped like a sack of spuds, dead before he even hit the ground with a textbook neck shot. By the time we had made our way over to the stag, butcher it and got ready to go again the morning was over and it was back to our campsite for a brew, then back to the hut. The day drew on and just got hotter and hotter as I lugged my now bursting pack back to the Ruahine Corner Hut. You shoot it, you carry it has always been the call and in the heat I was starting to question some of my earlier choices. Once back at the hut we made short work of the few remaining beers we had stashed in the water tank and then a bit of catch up sleep. That afternoon our peace was broken by a yellow fixed wing plane buzzing the airstrip. Surely he won't land? But in he came and we were soon graced with the presence of a young French chap who was keen to go for a walk. He told us of his exploits in France and his desire to walk the big stuff down South with a quick jaunt in the Ruahines to warm up. We weren't sure if we were going to be holding a SAR trip for him the following week as his gear and planning seemed a little loose but I've yet to read about the lost Frenchman so all must have gone well! That evening Tom took our French guest for a walk down to a slip not far off the track and was able to even show a Frenchman what a NZ deer looks like. Mal and I chose to check out a bit of fresh country but our luck ran out that night. The next day dawned but we figured our luck had run its course so chose to relax at the hut and wait for our bush taxi back to reality. We bode our Frenchman goodbye and tidied up ready to go. Chris arrived pretty much on time and we flew back to the Comet and caught up with the rest of the parties who had also flown. They too had some excellent hunting with plenty of venison being flown out that day.

All and all I think we were very lucky to strike the area after the previous weather with combination of good timing and luck. We are also very lucky to have the services of a great guy like Chris Crosse to ferry us around and to be able to use the Comet for a bulk lot of hunters made for a very affordable fly in.



NOTICE BOARD & WEBSITE BLOG

WWW.NZDAHASTINGS.ORG.NZ

2013 THAR HUNTING BALLOT

Please be advised that the details of the 2013 Tahr Hunting Ballot are now on the doc website.

The number of periods of the 2013 ballot is now 10 and the ballot dates are from 20th April to 28th June. There are 24 landing sites throughout the Hooker/Landsborough and Adams Wilderness Areas. 6 landing sites have been added in the Adams area, plus 4 optional landing sites associated with existing ones. In total there are 240 opportunities in the ballot.

Applications close Friday February 8th 2013 and the draw is on 13th February. A non-refundable fee of \$20.00 will be charged per application and \$40.00 will be charged to confirm a landing site.

GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL BILL REPORTED BACK

check out http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/7/0/8/00DBHOH_BILL11159_1-Game-Animal-Council-Bill.htm

NATIONAL SHOOTING WEEK

23–24 February, 2–5 March 2013
information sheet, entry form for downloading on www.deerstalkers.org.nz/Site/competitions/national-shooting/national_shooting.aspx

Contact Malcolm Perry
malcolmperry@clear.net.nz

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/>
Mapping and signage information
<http://metsservice.com/national/home>
<http://mountainsafety.org.nz>
Safety
<http://landsar.org>
New Zealand Land Search & Rescue
<http://leavenotrace.org.nz/>
New Zealand's environmental care
<http://www.lpga.co.nz/infoSafety.php>
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Chris Crosse Phone (06) 839 8693 or 027 2269303

Hangar: 99 Hukunui Rd, Puketitiri Email: cgcrosse@xtra.co.nz

NZDA LIABILITY INSURANCE

– enclosed in the mail to branches and available electronically on request from the National Office – Certificate of Insurance valid 31 August 2012 – 31 August 2013.

EPA ANNUAL REPORT ON

AERIAL USE OF 1080 For more check

out: <http://www.epa.govt.nz/news/erma-media-releases/>

Pages/EPA-2010-annual-report-on-10801019-2361.aspx

PROJECTS FUNDRAISING

IDEAS WELCOME

We need to come up with some ideas to help support future endeavours and projects – put it out there and get the ball rolling...



CASE DISMISSED

Brought to you by Stichbury Automotive

A little boy comes down to breakfast. Since they live on a farm, his mother asks if he had done his chores.

“Not yet,” said the little boy.

His mother tells him no breakfast until he does his chores.

Well, he's a little teed off, so he goes to feed the chickens, and he kicks a chicken. He goes to feed the cows, and he kicks a cow. He goes to feed the pigs, and he kicks a pig. He goes back in for breakfast and his mother gives him a bowl of dry cereal.

“How come I don't get any eggs and bacon? Why don't I have any milk in my cereal?” he asks.

“Well,” his mother says, “I saw you kick a chicken, so you don't get any eggs for a week. I saw you kick the pig, so you don't get any bacon for a week either. I saw you kick the cow so for a week you aren't getting any milk.”

Just then, his father comes down for breakfast and kicks the pussy cat halfway across the kitchen.

The little boy looks up at his mother with a smile, and says,

“You gonna tell him or should I?”

209 St Aubyn Street, Hastings. 8787700



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DOC UPDATES

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

Programme Manager Firearms and Hunter Safety Applications close 6th January 2013.

This is a significant and senior role with the NZ Mountain Safety Council, reporting to the Education Manager. Your input and expertise will help us ensure we fulfil our mission of ‘enabling people to enjoy the outdoors safely’.

You will be responsible for leading this national programme providing training and testing for new firearms licence applicants.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to:

Richard Brodie

Phone - 04 385 7162 ext 221

Email - [Richard.brodie@](mailto:Richard.brodie@mountainsafety.org.nz)

mountainsafety.org.nz



Down the Waiau

By Rodney Knight

At the end of June, beginning of July this winter the AHB did a massive 55,000 hectare 1080 drop in Te Urewera.

I gambled a weeks annual leave to do a trip down the famous Waiau, where the last shots in the Maori wars were fired in the pursuit of Te Kooti, to see for myself the results. I got Richard White of Ahurei Adventures to drop me off at White's clearing for the start of my week long trip.

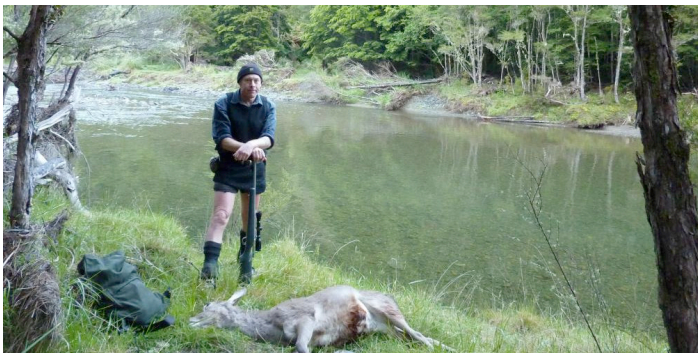
The valley is littered with grassy river flats and it wasn't long before I discovered the good side to 1080 - In fact it proved to be the whole trip that I could leave a backsteak draped over a branch all night and nothing would touch it....not even a mouse.

I soon arrived at my digs for the night..The historic Te Totara hut. Up early the next day to head further down the Parahaki stream to where the Wairoa stream flows in and the famous Waiau River is born.



Those deery type grass flats just keep on going. From here on down the river slowly starts to gain some size..... But I soon arrive at Central Waiau hut, at the same time a cold front did. Up bright and early the next morning for the leg down to another historic hut....Te Waiotukapiti.

A silly spiker found itself hanging in a handy tree to ensure the larder at Central Waiau would be well stocked when I returned. Nothing like a bit of meat hanging in a tree to feast on whence I return this way later in the week.

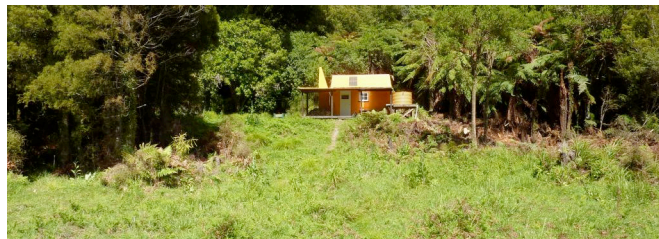


Once past Blue Slip the Waiau river really starts to deserve respect and with good flow after a wet winter can be testing.. The flood level side track is a real shit fight and unable to be followed in a lot of places - And still I continue to see the good side of 1080. Then the cable way suggests I must be getting close, then finally I reach the Te Waiotukapiti hut to be greeted with 3 cans of Double Brown, 1/2 a bottle of Vodka and 2 tins of Spag.

Now for the dilemma.....DOC had been in only a few days before and re-painted the hut. No problems therebut to aid in the preservation of the bush hewn timber the hut was built from they had treated the interior for borer bugs....and the hut reeked of the fumes. Something akin to the smell of kerosene - to stay the night would have invited a headache, possibly worse, so I left the beer and the vodka, took one can of the Spaghetti for Venison Bolognese, and retraced my steps back up river to Central Waiau hut.

HAMILLS STORY COMPETITION

WIN A CHOPPER RIDE - WRITE A YARN!



I did have a lighter moment on my return trip seeing a hind which I yelled at 'Go on.....bugger off you silly tart. No free green pellets left around here. Your too late.'

The next day I just spent a lazy day around Central hut eating and cutting firewood but I did see a hind and yearling only 400 meters from the hut I gave them the big shoo to wise them up just in case someone like me turned up after I was gone.



I moved off upriver the next day to flycamp. It seems I camped right in this stags dinning room..

I poked about up the Wairoa Stream for a bit, then lugged all that venison back up to Te Totara hut and spent a lazy day around there feeding that huge fireplace, hell, it's big enough to singe a pig in. A scout around up Hukitawa stream for the day found some nice clearings and a comfy little camp.



But the 1080 had the final say so I trekked on up to Whites clearing to be picked up by Richard.



'The fishing and hunting specialists'

106 Nelson St South, Hastings. 06 878 7177 www.hamillsonline.co.nz

