

April 2025



*Brian Neilson checking the Hauraki Rail Trail traps
Excellent catch results and so many benefits all round*

Identify your target beyond ALL doubt

Thames Valley Committee and Contacts

Clubrooms: 101 Morrison Road, Paeroa

www.tvda.co.nz

CLUB NIGHTS: Are always the LAST Wednesday of the month.

Start time 7.30pm

Patron	Basil Morrison	021 946403
President	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786 or a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz
Vice President	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352
Minutes Secretary	Bronwyn Joynt	027 6984248
Correspondence Secretary	Mike Nankivell	021 0292122
Treasurer	Lisa Daly	0272 557792
Committee:	Keven Caddy	027 4881207
	James Cole	027 7386924
	Tony Coleman	027 9271848
	John Senk #	027 4660549
	Dennis Hayfield*	027 2211892
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Chief Range Officer	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Douglas Score Contact	Len Cubitt	027 4978598
Kaimai Ridgeway Trust	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352
Motutapere Hut contact	Mike Cook	027 4741112
Kauritahi Hut	Jason Affleck	021 2719464
Club Trip organiser	Brian Neilson	027 8910958
Bar Manager	Keven Caddy	027 4881207
Bar Assistants	As shown above (#) and Trish Stachurski	
DOC Liaison	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Police Liaison	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Kids Survival Camp	Nigel Lesley	027 4823117
Membership Officer	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Property	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352

Disclaimer: As the contents of this magazine come from various sources, the opinions or ideas expressed are not necessarily endorsed by this committee or by the NZDA Board, nor may they conform to branch or National Policy. The official publication of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association is the "NZ Hunting and Wildlife".

Club Events Calendar

The calendar as it used to be shown in the newsletter is no longer going to be published as such as it is 'LIVE' on the club website and changed regularly – hence it is often out of date by the time the newsletter is printed even.

If you don't have an email address to receive this newsletter; A copy of the calendar pages will be printed off and included when this is posted out to you as a 'starting point' for what is happening at TVDA. Please do remember that these dates and events could well change as the month rolls by.

MAKE SURE YOU READ THIS INFO BELOW AND HAVE DONE YOUR RANGE INDUCTION PRIOR TO USING THE RANGE.

If you have NOT done a Range Induction (over the last 2 years and since the new range has been completed) – you are not permitted to use the range unless you have someone with you who HAS done a Range Induction.



RANGE USE

As an important FYI to all members – please make sure that regardless of what range you are using when you come up to sight rifles in, this MUST BE DONE

- **BARRIER AT THE GATE WAY** must be across the driveway.... (as shown in the photo below)

AND the

- **FLAG ON THE FLATPOLE AT THE 100m shooting mound** MUST BE PUT UP.....

AND

- There is also a red flag (and road cone) at each range. This cone with the flag in it is to be placed in front of the shooting mound when up checking your targets.
- If someone leaves the range but you are still shooting – **YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE BARRIER HAS BEEN PUT UP AGAIN WHEN THEY LEFT. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS YOU ARE STILL ON THE RANGE.** *We do however ask that all people leaving the range to make sure you do your bit too please by putting the barrier up again if there are still shooters using the range. Thankyou very much*
- The Condensed version of the range standing orders on the club notice board and have all the relevant info for members using the range on a casual basis –please ensure that you are fully familiar with all of these details.



www.ngaituhoe.iwi.nz – website for Te Urewera Hunting Permit

WAIRERE FALLS TRACK IS NOW OPEN AGAIN

There had been a Rahui placed on the track and surrounds following the tragic death of a man who fell from the walking track into the river and drowned.

The track and all access / use of the area is fully open to the public.

Take care though – this situation is a timely reminder that even when we take all due care; the outdoors and back country of NZ can be an unforgiving place.

Our thoughts and condolences are with the victim's family and friends.

President's Report

First and foremost, I really do appreciate everyone's understanding at the lack of newsletters over recent months. I am giving this another shot for now but in all seriousness though; we do need to have someone else doing these newsletters please.

There are simply not enough hours in my day to try and do all that I have been doing and something has to give. If you are keen or interested in taking on this role, please do give me a call or drop me an email

Back to the Report – it's been a massive few months up at the club and for all those who have ventured that way since Christmas you will know exactly what I mean.

Of special mention too as there has not been a newsletter for several months is to say a very warm welcome to all those New Club Members that have joined TVDA in recent times. It is great to have you as a member and we look forward to catching up with you if we have not already done so.

Please make sure you have a read further through the newsletter to see what has been done and who's done so much. We really do all owe these guys and girls such a massive thanks.

The Maureen Bennett Memorial shoot was once again an absolute ripper and certainly bucked the trend in regards to shooter numbers. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful support from the shooting fraternity and once again – this would not and could not happen without the massive input from the team at TVDA.

There is now a wonderful and much needed new walkway up to the shooting range. Bill in particular has taken on this job with gusto and it is looking great.

There will be maintenance free gardens being planted in the areas from the new steps up to the range and with the walkway now metalled, and with a much better gradient; it is such a pleasure to walk up there. Once again – massive thanks to everyone who has helped with this but especially to Bill for his digger work, Lance who

masterminded and built the new steps. We really are so incredibly fortunate to have such skilled members who have been so generous with their time in making these wonderful improvements for us all to benefit from.

The Kids Survival Camp was another absolute blast for everyone that attended. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make this all possible and to all the kids who were such a delight to have there. We were blessed to again have perfect weather and an amazing group of members. If anyone says you are mad to try and put 50 kids plus adults under canvas for 3 days – they need to come along to Mikes Survival Camp and see how it really can be so much fun and so workable.

Don't miss this month's club night this Wednesday. We are very fortunate to have John Mort as our guest speaker along with footage from his time working for a Hunting Outfitter up near the Arctic Circle in the 1980's. It will be great to see what John was doing and the challenges that they faced in getting that ultimate trophy for their clients etc.

Next month's CLUB NIGHT is Measuring Night and photo competitions to please read through this newsletter for more details.

The AGM is coming up next month and it would be great to see some more people available to put their name forward to help out with various roles. We really do need to have some front foot succession planning in place to ensure the ongoing health and strength that is at TVDA. I am stressing here that nobody will be 'thrown into the fire' with a job but there are opportunities to work alongside others if you wish to learn the ropes. If anyone has any queries about any of these roles or opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact a current committee member.

I know that this newsletter is too late for a safety reminder over the roar but there is still duck shooting this coming weekend so please remember to always put safety first; always make extra sure about your intended target and don't mix alcohol and firearms.

Stay safe out there and successful hunting folks

Maureen

Massive thanks to.....

Paddy and Sara Maru for so kindly coming up with their tractor and gear and putting in the posts for the new railings on the range area – it looks great and was the perfect kick start to the rest of the upgrade work in this area.



Firewood – A fantastic effort to those who turned up and worked over a couple of very hot days to get all the club firewood split up. We'd been chipping away at this job (pardon the pun) for a few weeks, but it was obvious that a full on effort to get it finished off would be the best approach.

There is still wood there for sale and all proceeds from this are going towards the Office Build project that is underway at TVDA. Getting a purpose built office is now long overdue so this is a perfect way to help put funds towards another asset that will benefit everyone.

If you are wanting to buy firewood; please contact Brian Neilson 027 8910958.

\$100.00 per cube (or part thereof) of stacked wood on your trailer.

Many thanks to those who have also purchased wood so far. Really appreciate your support.



The Pines at TVDA have all gone..... We have removed all the pine trees and what an awesome difference it has made. We were so fortunate with the logging contractors that they took so much care to not do unnecessary damage.



Since then it has been a godsend to have had **Wayne Bennett and Gary Johansen** with their tractor and digger up here doing a massive amount of tidy up work and recontouring. There have been also working bees to do some of the tidy up work where the tractors could not get to, so huge thanks to those who were able to come along and help out – it really did make such a difference.

Brian, Mike, Bill, Tony and Gus have done many hours up there doing fencing prep, digger work and tidying up in general for the next phase of the work. It really has been a team effort and the place is really taking shape again and we will soon be ready to get natives planted where the pines have been removed up on the hillside.



Lee and Dillion from Valley Fencing did a top job banging in the posts for the new fence lines where it was needed and on the steeper country and whipped up a

couple of short fences for us to make the property stockproof. Without a doubt though, massive Kudos must go to Brian and also his right (or left) hand man Gus when he was available. Between them and a couple of others that have chipped in when available, all the rest of the fencing over the entire property has been completed and it looks fantastic.

Just as a side note....there will also be some impressive fires to light up at the property now that the fire ban is off.

To those people who have donated trees or grown trees on from seedlings for the areas that the club that are going to be replanted in natives....our ever grateful thanks to you too.



The ones that we planted alongside the range a couple of years back area really taking hold now and looking great. This next lot of trees to be planted over of the autumn/winter months will be a wider variety and also much bigger trees in the main as they can be put up on the steep hillside and last up there forever. Trees that particularly like this kind of area will be planted for sure and there are already a considerable number of small Puriri and lots of pongas, kawakawa coming away as natural regen so that too is really great to see.

For newsletter info moving forward; can you please email it to me at a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or if you have an item or article and you are NOT on email; please feel free to catch up with me at a club night or similar and we can still certainly include it from there.

I know I said in the last newsletter that the last few months has seen the club really busy, well that just continued into April **as well so a massive shout out and thank you to the team of helpers who have chipped in,** in all manner of ways to make these improvements happen.

Earlier this week there was group of members up there doing more range reinstatement, retaining work and putting in culverts...as well as picking up stones to ensure that the new 'lawn area is a pleasure to mow' once the new grass seed strikes. Having Wayne's tractor and levelling bar there certainly saved a massive amount of rake work but still the 'many hands makes light work' scenario was very evident on the day.

Range Inductions

Ongoing Range Inductions sessions have been booked into the Club Calendar that can be found on the website. These are an essential part of what we do with the compliance of running of our ranges and ensuring that those that use the range are fully up to speed with all the details. Huge thanks to those club members who have been involved with running the various Range Induction sessions and also to those members (new and existing members) who have been up to the club over the last few months and gone through your induction.

Just as a FYI – the next Range Induction dates are as follows: These inductions go for approx. 1 hour.

- **Saturday 10th May – start time 2pm**
- **Wednesday 21 May (AGM Night) start time 5.00pm**
- **Sunday 15th June – start time 3pm**

April Club Night

Wednesday 29th April

TOMORROW NIGHT

Bill Olsen has very kindly organized for John Mort from Whitianga to come over and be our guest speaker for this month's club night.

John spent a couple of seasons working and living up north of Dawson City (only 60 miles south of the Arctic Circle). In his time there he worked as a guide for an Outfitter in exchange for being able to do big game hunting himself.



Things have certainly changed since then, but it will be awesome to hear about his time up there; see the slides and footage he has of Black bear, Grizzlies, Moose, Dall Sheep etc. It will also be great to hear how things have changed over that time and hear all about it from 'on the ground'.

Club nights are an excellent way to meet new members, catch up with mates and generally have social time at your club and continue to make it the success that it is.

Social hour at the clubrooms will be from 6.30pm onwards and the club night itself will start at 7.30pm.

As with all club nights, supper is provided and everyone is most welcome.



This was in the 1980's so as you can imagine; there will have been some amazing opportunities and animals to see back then too.

Hunts Home Kills 2024

Michael Wright
83 Thorp Road, Paeroa
021 411 210 or 0800 250 939

Butchersapron@yahoo.co.nz



The Kaihere Hunt



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2nd Most Possums, Average Number Possums
& Lucky Number Possums

6th-8th June 2025

Adults \$50

Kids \$15

Adults- Possums, Pigs, Deer

Kids- Possums, Flyers, Runners,
Climbers

**Over \$10,000
in cash & prizes
to be won!!!**

Plus...
Bonus spot
prizes for kids!

HUNTS Course 2025

**Names are now being sought for this year's
HUNTS course.**

- **It will commence in early August** so make sure you get your name down on the list if you are keen to be part of this awesome course.
- Approx 7 evening sessions and 3 weekends (2 of these will be hunting trip)
- The whole spectrum of HUNTER Training is included in this course – Navigation, Bush Craft, Hunting Techniques and

Hunting Skill, River Crossing, Outdoor 1st Aid, Butchery, Hunting Ethics, Gear and Equipment, Weather, General Survival and we finish it off with a one on one Mentored Hunting Trip to Te Urewera.

- Cost \$500.00
- Minimum Age – 16 years but no upper limit. *Numbers are limited*
- This is a course that everyone can benefit from immensely.

**To get your name on the list, please phone or
email Brian Neilson**

brianneilson@xtra.co.nz or 027 8910958

TVDA Clothing is now available so please come along to club night and place your orders.....

A new order has been placed, and they were getting their logos embroidered yesterday when I popped in to see how progress was going. Get your new shirt at Club night tomorrow night



\$25.00



\$25.00

Hoodie sweatshirt too.....

This is in black the same top tee shirt and has the white logo (no white trim). It is an excellent heavy weight sweatshirt (but apols for no photo....it didn't come out too good so best to just let you see them at the clubrooms)

\$65.00



Breathable polyester fabric \$40.00



Poly Cotton Fabric \$50.00

Upcoming Club Hunts and events....BOOKINGS NEEDED****

PLEASE

Sika Lodge & Clements Road

The dates for this will be Matariki Weekend –

Thursday 19th June (arriving that evening) through to Sunday 22nd June 2025.

Location – Sika Lodge, Kaimanawas

Accommodation

- Adults - \$35.00 per person per night
- Juniors \$25.00 per night
- Very warm and comfy rooms
- A Kent fire that pumps out the heat
- Hot showers
- Great location

Food – this will all be organised once everyone is booked in. The food will all be arranged and taken down and the overall costs will be split between the attendees. It is my guess that the full price for food for the weekend will be approx \$35 per person.

Everyone is most welcome

Travel: Carpooling can be arranged as required

To book in, please email or phone:

Maureen a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz and title **the email SIKA LODGE TRIP – Matariki Weekend**



An Excellent time for hunting after the Sika Roar and a good time to get onto animals; and

- The perfect place to stay – no worries about the winter chills as the fire at the lodge is a gem, the hot showers are a delight and the warm beds in the bunkrooms are a no brainer in the winter.

This is also a great time of the year to pick up some of those wily old stags that have outwitted many a hunter during the roar.

By now they have let their guard down, the mind is now set firmly on eating up with gusto to put on weight to get through the



cold winter period in front of them. They are certainly quite a different animal to hunt at this time of the year than over the last few months. Similarly the hinds too are often found close to the road as they make the most of the food that is left before they really hunker down for the winter.

These trips are a great chance all round to:

- visit places that you know well,
- be part of your first hunting trip as a member of TVDA
- find a new place to hunt and get the benefit of knowledge and information from those that have been there before
- just come away and enjoy a weekend with friends and other members even if you are not able to get out in the hills for some reason – it's a great social atmosphere and everyone is most welcome.

All you need to bring for this is your hunting gear, sleeping bag, towel and change of clothes for after hunting.

Membership with the NZDA / TVDA comes with a number of benefits:

- *Excellent range of benefits for NZDA Members – all you need is your Membership card to get discounts at the following outlets (discounts and benefits vary so I have not specified them):*



NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

- Torpedo 7
- AJ Productions
- Bush Life NZ
- Camerone Harriss Butchery
- DOC – Back Country Hu Pass
- Go Native
- Heli Sika
- Interislander
- Kilwell
- Murchison Heli Tours
- NZ Taxidermy
- Parachute Fist Aid
- Ridgeline
- Swazi Pro Deal
- Twin Needle
- Advantage Tyres
- Apparel by Design
- Armstrong Smarter Security
- AwaytoGo
- BillSimple
- Bunnings
- Carters
- Chuffed
- The Coffee Club
- Common Good Coffee
- Create Design Studio
- Dope Skin
- Dulux
- Elite Energy Solutions
- Ezi Car Rentals
- First Credit Union
- First Rescue
- Freight Plus
- Give Plants
- Go Generosity
- Gruzo Tyres Online
- Guthrie Bowron
- Habit Health
- Hertz
- Hirepool
- Ideal Electrical
- Insolita
- JB Hifi
- Kiwi Fuelcards
- Mico Plumbing
- Millenium and Copthorne Hotels
- Molemap
- Ninefivenine
- Noel Leeming
- Office Max
- Pathfinder
- Pinnacle Life
- Pita Pit
- Pit Stop
- Placemakers
- Podium Supply Co
- Repco
- Rocketspark
- Scenic Group
- Simply Wills
- Specsavers
- Tower Insurance
- Turfreys
- Urbantics
- Vivo
- Warehouse Stationery
- Workplace Wellbeing



0800 Mighty Mix (0800 644 489)
www.mightymix.co.nz

Mark and Vanessa Walker (from Big Game Artistry) are also the local distributors for Mighty Mix Dog Food for the Eastern Waikato, Thames Valley and Coromandel Regions.

They are running this business alongside their amazing taxidermy work (Big Game Artistry). Mark and Vanessa provide an amazing service to the owners of dogs' right across their area. They do monthly delivering to your door with this fantastic product – ***the service is 2nd to none.***

- ✓ 100% natural products
- ✓ No Preservatives
- ✓ Free deliver to your door once a month
- ✓ Kiwi made.
- ✓ Biscuits, dog rolls and frozen products
- ✓ Tonics and Treat as well
- ✓ Let your dog's try it – you won't be disappointed!!!

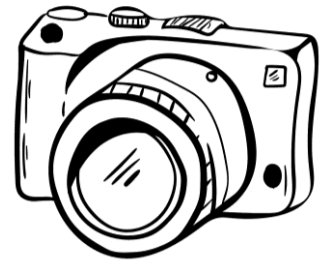
Give Mark and Vanessa a call today on
027 273 6952 or email them on
mightymix@biggameartistry.co.nz

Combining these
awesome products with
excellent service is our
mission.



Photographic Competitions – Photo competitions

Entries MUST be with the committee or brought to Measuring Night (May Club night at the latest).



The following is a summary of all of the photos for the competitions that are on offer at TVDA. In essence all photos have to be a maximum of 7 x 5 to qualify for the various competitions EXCEPT for the Holten Trophy which is designed especially for enlarged/frames photos. The general competition photos can be smaller but must not exceed this 7 x 5 size to be eligible.

The reason this in the newsletter now is so that you have a good idea of what options are available while you are out there in the hills and have some time to snap some awesome photos.

Full details on entry dates etc will be in an upcoming newsletter but if you at least get some photos sorted now, it will take the pressure off later on. These photos will all be on display at Measuring night so get clicking and sorting now folks.

The entrant must have been a financial member of TVDA at the time they took the photo.

Entries are not to be taken from any form of vehicle – be that boat, plane, car etc. Similarly, photos of game animals taken behind the wire are also not allowed. Wild animals that have no barrier (ie deer fence) restricting them to where the photo is taken are fine.

All photos must be taken in NZ with the exception of the Flynn Trophy which is open to any topic that has a 'hunting or wildlife flavour' and can be taken anywhere in the world. The 'human interest' title for this does NOT mean that it has to have a person in the photo.

Best Colour Print

As it states – best colour print. This can be of any topic that is hunting related – ie a scenic photo while out hunting or in the back country, a sunset, animals, plants, huts etc.

Stalking Interest Cup

This photo can be colour or black and white and is to be taken while on a hunt however it does not have to have animals in it. Stalking interest can have shot animals in it, but it is recommended that photos avoid too much blood and show the animal in a respectful manner. This section can also have photos of hunting mates in it, places you have been or things that you come across when out on the hunt. It does not have to be in the bush.

Wildlife Cup

This section can also be colour or black and white and must show Wildlife of some manner – and preferably when out in the wild. It can be game animals, insects, mammals, birds etc – so long as they are alive and in their natural state.

Best Black and White Print

As it states – photos must be black and white – not sepia or any other colour in them. This can be of any topic that is hunting related – ie a scenic photo while out hunting or in the back country, animals, plants, huts, silhouettes, relics etc.

Human Interest (Flynn Trophy)

Pretty much 'anything goes' but the photos must still be no more than 7 x 5 and it can be taken overseas, taken from a vehicle, have people in it OR NOT (remember just because it says Human Interest, it does NOT have to have people in it). Juniors can also enter this competition but if the photos are taken outside of NZ or the NZDA criteria, the photo can only apply to this section and not the Junior section.

Monarch of the Glen (Group of 3 photos)

This category can have any range of photos that come under the above topics, but it is good to have them related in some manner – ie all animals, three different stages of the trip, scenic photos, trophies etc- the options are endless really BUT AT LEAST ONE PHOTO MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THE NORTH ISLAND

Holten Trophy (Framed Photo – any size)

This photo section was designed to encourage people to get those special photos enlarged and framed (or printed on a block or corrugated iron etc) and be put on the wall as an ongoing reminder of that special trip, a beautiful view, a group of mates or just simply a shot that really captured the moment.

Best Junior Photo

Any of the categories above (except the Flynn Trophy because it falls outside the NZDA photo rules) are applicable and so long as the person taking the photo is a Junior and a member at the time the photo is taken, it is eligible. Get clicking guys – you really have got so many options here.

Merit Trophy

This category is for the best photo taken by someone who is a first-time entrant (and not won anything else in this year's competition) or a previous entrant but has not been a section winner in any TVDA photo competitions for the last 5 years.



MORE Hunts and Events.....

Mark these dates on the calendar and make sure you keep an eye on the next newsletter for more details

TVDA Annual Dinner

These nights are always the culmination of the year's activities and a way to celebrate and acknowledge the many achievements over the preceding 12 months.

The food is always superb; there will be a guest speaker as always and trophies a plenty to be given out to very deserving recipients.

Make sure you keep an eye out for when the tickets are available but in the meantime; please mark this on your calendar.

Saturday 14th
June 2025

Matariki Weekend Club Hunt Clements Road – Sika Lodge

This club trip is open to the first 25 people that book in. Accommodation is at Sika lodge so no issues about bad weather and leaking tents!!! Accom Prices as per those set out earlier in the newsletter article.

Everyone is most welcome.

Contact: Maureen Coleman a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or text 027 3337786

Thurs night
19 - Sunday
22 June 2025

Douglas Scoring Course Thames Valley Deerstalkers Assn

NZDA is holding a one-day Douglas Scoring Course at TVDA for those wishing to get onto the Douglas Scoring ladder (Level 1) or those who are already a Level 1 and wishing to progress to Level 2.

Numbers are limited to please get in touch now.

Contact: Maureen Coleman a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or text 027 3337786

Saturday 5th
July 2025

Trap Line Updates and catch results



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Hunters and Conservation working in Tandem

[Trap Catch details from the trap lines that we monitor](#)



Name of the trap line	Start date	Mustelids	Rats	Hedgehogs	Mice
<i>Pipiroa to Miranda *</i>	<i>Apr '17</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>119</i>	
Firth of Thames Line	Jan '21	125	223	9	57
Kauaeranga River Trapline & Terry Line	Apr '21	32	1704	0	22
Waikino HRT Line	June '22	48	253	3	7
TVDA Club Property Trapline	Dec '23	19	38	3	20
Between Hubbard to Ferry Roads (HRT)	Mar '24	30	21	63	17
Pumpstation Line	Feb '25	1	1		
Te Aroha 1 - Paeroa & Tirohia (HRT)	Feb '25	7	6	6	4
Te Aroha 2 - Paeroa & Tirohia (HRT)	Feb '25	2	3	3	



** Note: this trap line has been out of 'action' for several months due to EW raising the stop banks and working on the area where the traps were placed. They are due to go back into service again in the near future.*



WOODHILL – Take A Kid Hunting Application

Applications are now open for Take a Kid Hunting.

These applications close on 27th July so nothing like doing this now while it's fresh in your mind.

Applications and the hunts are absolutely FREE but please read the details on the following site to make sure you are eligible. <http://fallowdeer.co.nz/ballotappl.php>

All applications must be done online.

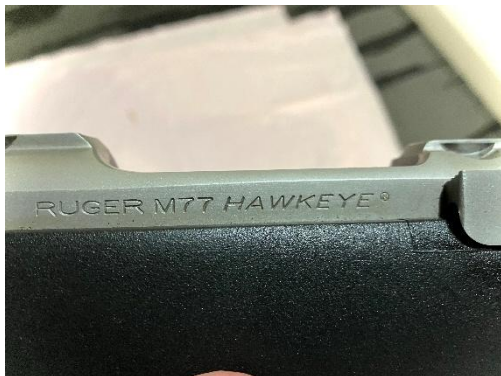


FOR SALE

- Ruger .204 cal
 - s/s synth,
 - bolt action with suppressor & rings,
 - ammo also

See photos included below - Any one interested we can discuss pricing

Contact Maureen for more details on who to contact about this. 027 3337786



AND ALSO



- **DPT 30. Cal suppressor**

H & M PASCOE
BOAT REPAIRS
& MAINTENANCE



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- Cleaning & Polishing
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- Yacht Rigging & Maintenance
- Insurance Inspections






Bowhunters Corner



Next club day is Sunday 11th of May 2025

First Round of the Interclub Tournament - TVDA 8th June 2025

2 courses will be set out.

	<p>We will have the first course pegged out prior to next club day which is May 11th and which we can shoot for the next club day. The other course to be set out soon after</p>
	<p>Because of the Tournament date, Junes Club day has been shifted to the following Sunday which is 15th June and we will use the second course for that day. At this stage we don't see a lot of manual prep needed as the landscape has changed a lot.</p> <p>On the Saturday before the Tournament we will put out all the 3D targets. If you are not shooting, could you please make yourself available for the following jobs: Kitchen Staff, help Paula in the office for registration and scoring etc, help to bring in targets after the shoot has finished</p>
	<p>The main working bee will be to help clean up after the last storm as it has taken some trees out over the tracks.</p> <p>This working bee will be advertised <i>via an email mailout to everyone once the weather improves</i> so it will be great to see plenty of bowhunters helping with this as it impacts directly on your field for the Interclub.</p> <p>Please make an effort to be there as it will be a case of 'many hands make light work' of this job.</p>
	<p>Bales: Dennis and Bill will start these this week and go to Katikati for more netting. Again, <i>this coming weekend (3rd/4th May), some help is needed in getting the netting cut ready to make the bales;</i> this will make the job much easier.</p>
	<p>Induction Course: The new casual archery course will be up and running by Monday 5th May. There is an Induction on this range before you can use it – this is a must. No Induction, no use of the range is permitted. This will make you familiar with Range Standing Orders (RSO's). These RSO's are on the TVDA website and Notice Board. You must complete the Induction Course before using this range. Bill will send out notification on when Dennis and he will be available to hold these Induction days. It will take about 40 minutes to do, any queries, give either Dennis (027 221 1892) or Bill (027 6566058) a call. There are 10 bales on course.</p>

Hedgehogs were first introduced in New Zealand in the 1870s to make British settlers feel more at home. Now, 150 years later, the impact hedgehogs have on our native species has earned them the title of “the most underrated predator”.



With our childhood memories of feeding them milk on saucers, many New Zealanders struggle to reconcile the fact that hedgehogs impact our native species, so we’ve pulled together five facts so you can learn more about them.

1. The hedgehog population in New Zealand is more numerous than in their native homeland, the United Kingdom

New Zealand has one of the world’s largest introduced hedgehog populations. In many parts of the country there are an estimated two to four hedgehogs per hectare (a hectare is approximately the size of a rugby field) and in some areas there may be as many as eight!

You can find them in grassland, braided riverbeds and frier forest habitat.

badgers, but here in New Zealand they have few predators, instead themselves enjoying a ba nquet of food including lizards, bird eggs and wētā.

In Europe, they are hunted by pine martens, foxes and

2. Hedgehogs are mountain climbers

A hedgehog was spotted nearly 2,000 metres up a mountain in the Mackenzie Basin during summer, to researchers’ surprise.

They then attached small transmitting “backpacks” onto 30 hedgehogs to track their movements to see if they move to lower elevations during winter. The researchers thought the hedgehogs would move short distances downhill, avoiding the harsh conditions of alpine zones.

However, they were found to hibernate and even rear young in high-elevation areas, proving hedgehogs aren’t just visitors to these zones, they are residents.



3. One hedgehog was found with 283 wētā legs in its stomach

The hedgehog was found while research was being done in the upper Waitaki basin area.

Wētā have six legs which means approximately 47 wētā were eaten in a single night's foraging.

Researchers were looking into [the diets of hedgehogs and the implications for conservation \(PDF, 140 KB\)](#).

In the same study, 22% of hedgehogs were found to have wētā remains in their stomachs.

Auckland tree wētā sitting on a leaf. Image credit: James O'Hanlon



4. Hedgehogs eat more than just slugs and snails

They eat a varied diet of meat that can include lizards, skinks, mice, bird eggs and chicks.



In a [2009 study looking into the stomach contents of hedgehogs caught at Macraes Flat in Otago](#), 21 percent of hedgehogs had fed on skinks. Female hedgehogs ate significantly more skinks than the males. This may be linked to the high energy demands of females during breeding season.

In Wellington, [lizard numbers are growing](#) at Baring Head due to

5. Hedgehogs prey on birds and eggs

Hedgehogs are a major threat to river birds, particularly breeding ones like banded dotterel, black-fronted terns and pied oystercatchers. They eat their eggs and kill the chicks.

Braid, a group working to protect, enhance and restore braided river ecosystems, recorded trail camera footage of a hedgehog eating dotterel eggs.



Hedgehogs are notorious on ground nesting bird nests. As an example at TVDA this summer, we had over 30 quail chicks fledged from 4 separate clutches which is really awesome. In each of those cases, the tiny bumble bees that we saw all reached being able to fly the same as the adults and were almost adult size when we last saw them.

In the past, these numbers would have dwindled by at least 80 – 90%. Certainly the mustelids that have been caught were a major factor in this but so too are the hedgehogs



Advocacy Update: Arms Amendment Bill (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Passes Third Reading, To Become Law

Dear Maureen,

The *Clubs and Ranges Amendment Bill* has passed its Third and Final Reading in Parliament following three debates held on Wednesday night, 26th of March.

The debate was highly charged. Minister Nicole McKee introduced the bill reaffirming its intent to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on clubs and ranges while maintaining a strong focus on public safety. Casey Costello also supported the bill, rightly noting that with rising firearm-related crime, it is essential to review existing laws to ensure they remain effective and balanced.

NZDA was disappointed to see all opposition speakers (Maori, Labour and Greens) rely heavily on emotional rhetoric, often failing to demonstrate a clear understanding of the bill's contents. Many invoked the Christchurch terror attack or criminal firearm misuse to argue against the bill, with little recognition of the clear distinction between law-abiding, licensed firearm owners engaging in responsible shooting sports and criminals who operate outside the law. This misrepresentation underscores the importance of advocacy efforts to ensure fair and evidence-based policy decisions.

Highlights from the Debates:

Hon. Minister Nicole McKee (ACT) opened by addressing the need to simplify and reduce burdensome regulations on shooting clubs and ranges, particularly those run by volunteers. She highlighted how previous legislative changes



in 2020 had placed unnecessary compliance requirements on these clubs, risking closures and making operations more difficult without improving public safety. The bill introduced a streamlined enrolment system for non-pistol clubs, allowed temporary ranges without full certification, and reduced inspection frequency. McKee emphasized that these changes aimed to maintain safety while ensuring clubs and ranges remained accessible and sustainable, promoting a more balanced approach to firearms regulation.

Ginny Anderson (Labour), in her speech, Ginny Andersen strongly opposed the Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, accusing the Government of weakening firearms laws and prioritising political deals over public safety. She argued that the bill undermined the reforms made after the Christchurch terror attack on March 15, 2019, which included banning semi-automatic weapons and tightening gun laws. Andersen criticized the bill for loosening oversight on shooting clubs and ranges, particularly those used for extremist training, and transferring power from the Minister of Police to the Associate Minister of Justice.

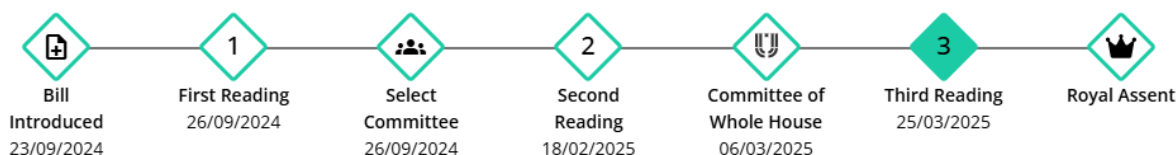
Most significantly, she vowed that Labour would repeal the bill, undoing the exceptional work that our community has fought for.

Hon Minister Casey Costello (NZ First) spoke passionately about the need to review and amend legislation that was hastily passed in response to the Christchurch tragedy. She noted the increase in gun crime over recent years and argued that, six years later, it is important to assess whether the laws remain effective and appropriate, especially in the context of escalating violent crime. Costello stated that the Government understands crime and law enforcement needs and believes this bill will ensure lawful activities, like shooting clubs, can continue without unnecessary restrictions. They concluded by reaffirming their party's support for the bill.

Mariameno Kapa-Kingi (Te Pāti Māori—Te Tai Tokerau) opposed the Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, ridiculously comparing criminal firearm use to the legal use of firearms at clubs and ranges. She cited tragic shootings to argue against loosening regulations, but her conflation of crime with law-abiding gun owners is misguided. She claimed the changes would harm vulnerable communities, though the bill primarily affects responsible firearm users involved in regulated activities.

Further Information

Progress of the Bill



Hon. Minister Nicole McKee expressed her gratitude in the House to those who took time to support the bill: *“I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have worked on and contributed to this bill. I thank the Justice Committee for its comprehensive scrutiny of the bill and all of the submitters who took time to share their views. But, finally, I wish to thank all those volunteer club and range committees from the multiple disciplines that they all cover. Their endless dedication to their disciplines, their members, and their communities is recognised here and I hope these changes go some way to helping their continued operation.*

The result of all this work has created legislation that is a step in the right direction towards a better, modernised firearms regime, and I look forward to returning to the House later this year to introduce legislation rewriting the entire Arms Act. I commend this bill to the House.”



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