

# Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association

July 2020



*SWAZI Kids Range Shooting day participants – Very happy kids for sure.....*

*Photo: Courtesy Sarah Pert*

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**Club Nights – Always the LAST Wednesday of each month. Start time 7.30pm**

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# Club Events Calendar

## July

Tuesday	21	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	22	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Thursday	23	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>RANGE CLOSED – F&amp;G WORKING BEE*</b>
Sunday	26	Kiwi 3D event being held at <u>Massey</u>
Wednesday	29	Club Night – Prize Giving club night*
Thursday	30	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>

## August

Monday	3	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Tuesday	4	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	5	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Thursday	6	<b>Clubrooms ONLY in use – <u>range it still available</u></b>
Friday	7	<b>Clubrooms ONLY in use – <u>range it still available</u></b>
Sunday	9	Bowhunters Club Day
Monday	10	<b>Clubrooms ONLY in use – <u>range it still available</u></b>
Tuesday	11	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	12	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	12	Committee Meeting
Thursday	13	<b>Clubrooms ONLY in use – <u>range it still available</u></b>
Friday	14	<b>Clubrooms ONLY in use – <u>range it still available</u></b>
Monday	17	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Monday	17	<b>HUNTS Course Commences 7 – 9pm</b>
Thursday	20	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Friday	21	<b>HUNTS Course – overnight at the clubrooms</b>
Saturday	22	<b>HUNTS Course – Range in use for HUNTS Only</b>
Sunday	23	<b>Bowhunters Interclub – being held at <u>Franklin</u></b>
Wednesday	26	Club Night
Sunday	30	Kiwi 3D event <b><u>FINAL</u></b> being held at <u>Pine Ridge</u>

## September

Tuesday	1	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	2	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Thursday	3	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Friday	4	<b>HUNTS Course – Trip away for the weekend</b>
Wednesday	9	Committee Meeting
Friday	11	<b><i>Sponsors &amp; Supporters Function – RANGE CLOSED</i></b>
Saturday	12	<b><i>Open Day at TVDA – RANGE CLOSED</i></b>
Sunday	13	Bowhunters Club Day
Monday	14	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Monday	14	<b>HUNTS Course 7 – 9pm</b>
Thursday	17	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Saturday	26	Sika Show – Taupo – info only
Sunday	27	Sika Show – Taupo – info only
Monday	28	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Monday	28	<b>HUNTS Course 7 – 9pm</b>
Tuesday	29	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	30	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	30	Club Night

## October

Thursday	1	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Friday	2	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Sunday	4	<b>Bowhunters Interclub FINAL – being held at <u>Lakeview</u></b>
Monday	5	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Tuesday	6	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	7	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Wednesday	7	Committee Meeting (early due to docking at Panekiri)
Sunday	11	Bowhunters Club Day
Monday	12	<b><i>DOCKING STARTS AT PANEKIRI (goes for 10 days)</i></b>
Monday	12	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
Tuesday	13	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>

<b>Wednesday</b>	14	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Monday</b>	19	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	20	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	21	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	27	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	28	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	28	<b>Club Night</b>
<b>Friday</b>	30	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	31	<b>Working bee to finalise for TVDA 100 sporting clays</b>

## November

<b>Sunday</b>	1	<b>TVDA Anniversary 100 sporting clays shoot</b>
<b>Monday</b>	2	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	8	<b>Bowhunters Clubday</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	11	Committee Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	11	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Friday</b>	13	<b>HUNTS Course Final Wknd Hunt – Te Urewera's</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	19	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Monday</b>	23	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	24	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	25	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	25	<b>Club Night</b>
<b>Monday</b>	30	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>

## December

<b>Tuesday</b>	1	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	2	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Monday</b>	7	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	8	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9	Private Use – <i>finished by 3pm</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	9	Committee Meeting
<b>Friday</b>	11	<b>TVDA Club Flying Trip to Te Urewera's***</b>

Saturday	12	TVDA Club Flying Trip to Te Urewera's***
Sunday	13	TVDA Club Flying Trip to Te Urewera's***
<p><b>***If some people want to stay longer - More days can be added. You will need to indicate this when contacting Maureen to book the trip so that it allows for adequate planning.</b></p>		
Sunday	13	Bowhunters Clubday
Monday	14	Private Use – finished by 3pm
Tuesday	15	Private Use – finished by 3pm
Wednesday	25	<u>NO CLUB NIGHT IN DECEMBER</u>
Monday	30	Private Use – finished by 3pm

**The range will definitely be closed this coming Sunday – 26<sup>th</sup> July as F&G are putting a new roof on their container. Your help and understanding on this is most appreciated.**



**.....Correction** - we had a special thank you in the last newsletter to Nigel Lesley for his fabulous work on building the storage shed for the survival camp gear.....which was absolutely correctly but I was unaware at the time that his right hand man over the weekend on this job was his son Daniel.

Huge thanks to you too Daniel for your excellent help and support – Im sure 'the old man' would have struggled without you!!!!

## **July club night & Prize Giving**



- Please remember the earlier start time of 7.00pm and**



- If at all possible, can you please bring a plate to help make this an extra special supper for everyone to enjoy and to help round out a top night at TVDA**

# TVDA Annual General Meeting – June 2020

## Presidents Report

Good evening everyone

What a year this has been on various fronts but I have to reinforce here the huge amount of gratitude and compliments that I pay to you all for your understanding, your commitment and also the resolve that you have all shown to make sure that the right outcomes are achieved, and also that the facts are known.

I start this with the Firearms Amendment Act that we are still waiting to see go to Parliament for its third and final reading. Many of you as members have been very active and financially supportive through the submission process, via Colfo and the select committee hearings to highlight the huge wrongs and injustices that this government and their 'puppets' have dished up to us all as lawful and law abiding citizens.

This absolute sham has now just started to be officially revealed from within the walls of PNHQ but still the Police Minister is saying that *'his new law changes are all about preventing "firearms falling into the wrong hands".....* and we all know full well that this pathetic line being trawled out is so far off the mark. Ultimately, it is just further compounding the corruption that has been rife on this scene from the outset.

I must thank you all once again, for the dedicated work and ongoing support that you have been relentlessly contributing to help ensure the truth comes out; and it will. We can only hope now that with continued pressure, the Government will wake up and wait till after the Royal Commission Findings before revisiting what has been a huge kick in the guts for so many, and all at the hands of the Government and policy makers.

Move forward a few months as we are all very aware of the effects that Covid has already had on our communities and as I have said in the recent newsletter, a massive thanks to you all for so readily and fully respecting the request to stay away from the range and the property in the earlier phases of Lockdown. Further to this is the way that you all made the necessary sacrifices that had been required of you under the Levels 4 and 3 and you did not head out hunting, shooting and fishing etc. This could not have come at a more challenging time for us as avid hunters and outdoors people however I am immensely proud of the way in general that the hunting fraternity has done the right thing.

Let's just hope beyond hope that this latest fiasco of people from overseas not being put through the necessary procedures and thus putting Covid back into our community is dealt with under the absolute urgency that it deserves. One cannot overlook the fact that this just so happened to be front and centre on the same day that the police meekly admitted to the firearms sham that was absolutely their making – and politicians think we are stupid.



Back on the 'home front' it has been a busy year for many of us and huge accolades to the whole team that have helped to bring you all as members the various events, trips, club nights, overall support and club facilities. Not least of all amongst this has been the extensive time and work contributions that have been applied to our club's annual fundraising ventures – this dedication and support has been invaluable. This has been never more so than this year as we have had to expend considerable funds to help retain our range, clubrooms and entire venue from the effects of the proposed neighbouring subdivision.

This 'journey' has been underway for close to two years now and thanks to the amazing support and understanding from you all, we are nearing the end of this and with what we trust you will all be very appreciative of. There has been a huge amount of work going on at committee level as hundreds of hours have been contributed to making sure that the very best results possible can be secured for us, for you the members, for our supportive neighbours and of particular importance; for the future generations to be part of TVDA. The unceasing support from you all as well as our neighbouring landowners has extremely appreciated and we owe you all such a depth of gratitude in assisting us through our now also necessary Land Use Consent application, which has been in addition to dealing with the proposed subdivision application.

Membership over the last 12 months has been the thorny chestnut dished up to us by NZDA at national level. For you as the committee and members who I feel have been sold short on so many fronts when trying to join or renew your membership, I thank you all for your patience and sincerely hope that you have felt truly valued by your branch committee and fellow members throughout, despite the challenges at a national level. From the committee, I sincerely apologise to you all for these shortfalls – however this has also been out of our immediate control as well. The upcoming national AGM will be a chance to further address these issues as there have been several people with excellent skill sets who have put their names forward for all roles on Natex in a bid to help retrieve the situation this current National Executive has placed us in. Be assured we will be voting with the past concerns and shortfalls very much in mind.

**Back to the branch here as this is very much where my key focus is.**

This year we will be running a HUNTS course and plans for this are well afoot and we will be seeing a full complement of participants taking part. As there is no funding available via the usual avenues due to Covid, we have had a rejig of the programme and I know for a fact that this will have not taken anything away from the excellent programme that we will be offering as a branch.

The open bowhunters and clay target shooting events over the last 12 months have been very well supported and due to the hard work and the excellent quality of the events that this club always puts on, I'm sure that these calendar bookings for the upcoming year will also be highly sought after. These events and the results are a huge credit to all those involved in making them possible so huge thanks for your dedication and hard work.



The docking at Panekiri in October came together very well and special mention has to be made of the considerable number of non members that joined the ranks to help make sure that we had the numbers to undertake this work to its maximum potential. Huge thanks to everyone but I also think it is essential that we have a better uptake on members contributing to this for later on this year. These funds have been a major contributor to the TVDA portion of your subs not being increased; they have also gone a long way to the added improvements to the property as well as assisting with the costs of securing our property from the unprecedented issues a residential subdivision would pose on our doorstep. The docking will be for 2 weeks over the mid October period so please give this some genuine thought and consideration as any help that is available, and for whatever timeframe you can make possible will certainly be accommodated and is most appreciated.

Moving forward we also have several club hunting trips booked in for the year ahead and I am sure that there will be excellent numbers so keep an eye on the newsletters. These trips will also be matched by kid's trips into the hills which are to be 'follow-ons' to Mikes fantastic Kids Survival Camps, the Swazi Shoot for kids and also the Little 3 Competition. The sponsorship that we have had for these kids' events in particular has been extremely appreciated and humbling and it has been fantastic to see the wider membership being so supportive of our junior members.

On the external scene, we have had Mike and Peter; Dennis and Bill doing the pest control lines for DoC and excellent results have been attained throughout the year. Already the K2K line has taken over 100 stoats to date which is an awesome benefit for the wildlife and the Terry Line continues to control the rat predation on the tiny Pterostylis orchid that the programme was set up to protect. This awesome work is much appreciated but it also highlights the willingness of TVDA members to go above and beyond in a bid to help the wider conservation goals for everyone to benefit from. Peter has also advised that he and Mike are looking for another person or small group to take over the Terry Line work so if anyone is keen, please get hold of Peter and Mike.

I cannot close this report without saying a very special thank you to the committee who have served over the past 12 months and also their families at home as there have been sacrifices for sure. Your dedication and willingness to work together on a range of projects has certainly seen many benefits for the members of this branch. I am sure, when you take into account everything that has happened over the last 12 months this last year has certainly been a successful one and we have all come out of it much wiser as well.

Stay strong, stay safe everyone and let's see a great year ahead, with plenty of hunting, great camaraderie and many more successes at TVDA

Thank you .

## Docking at Panekiri - *dates confirmed*

**We NEED you.  
Can you HELP?**

**Panekiri is  
on the  
horizon again  
in October.**



We did extremely well down at Panekiri again last year and we will be going back again in October 2020. This is again proving to be an invaluable fund raiser for the club and with many hands on deck, the work load is shared, the club pays for all the food etc and we all reap the benefits. Pack a rifle or a bow as well – after work hunts & wet days are a bonus!!!

People who have very kindly offered or expressed interest in the past can you please contact Maureen and mark it on your calendars, book in some leave or make plans to be part of this really valued fundraiser.

**The dates are now confirmed as starting on  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October and finishing on Thursday 23 October.**

For those who have not been down there before, we have two crews operating (from different areas on the station) and we stay in the shearer's quarters. This is a major and significant fundraiser for our club and all help and assistance from members and friends etc is extremely appreciated. You certainly don't have to be there for the full 2 weeks – if you are able to just provide a couple of days or a long weekend, maybe a week or just however long you can contribute is hugely appreciated and by letting Maureen know asap it enables the crews to be allocated and juggling in the time that people are able to contribute.

Please contact Maureen to put your name down as this helps immensely with planning and takes pressure off the last few weeks when so many other club activities are also happening.

**Maureen: [a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz)    0 27 3337786**

**Dave Madsen  
Contracting**

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# STEVE COLLINS

## Speaker for July Club Night And NOW also our Annual Prizegiving Evening **START TIME 7.00PM**

Don't miss out on what will be an excellent night at TVDA – a top quality speaker, a great chance to have a good catch up post Covid and share in the many and varied successes at TVDA via the presentation of our annual trophies.

Here is some of Steve's blurb and a couple of photos that will give you a snippet of an insight into what we have in store for you at the dinner and prizegiving.

*An upbringing on a 18,900 acre sheep and cattle farm in the North Island of New Zealand, life was tough and exciting for Steve and his seven siblings during the 1960s. Wildlife was plentiful, wild Kaimanawa Brumbies were captured and broken in for stock horses. Hunting and fishing put food on the table and adrenaline in the veins. Hard work and independence was expected.*



*At age 17, Steve climbed into a helicopter for the first time and from that moment he knew he was destined to fly—he was hooked. Three years later, he began a career as a shooter for his oldest brother Joe Collins on venison recovery operations based in Opotiki. He survived a helicopter crash with his two brothers in 1981 and continued shooting until 1983.*



*In 2003 Steve was offered the position as chief pilot and operations manager for Project Isabella in the Galapagos Islands. The project was contracted by the United Nations Development Program and Charles Darwin Foundation to eradicate feral goats and donkeys to restore habitat to save many unique endemic species from extinction*

*This was the largest and most successful ungulate eradication program ever achieved. It was during this project, Steve realized he'd become an eco warrior.*

Steve has also become a very accomplished photographer so I'm sure we will see some of this on the night as he shares some of the 'life of Steve'.

***Most definitely a night not to be missed.***

***Bring the family and friends to share in this excellent evening – everyone is most welcome. Supper to follow as usual***





*.....to everyone who has chipped in and helped out with various events over the last few weeks. There has certainly be an air of 'catch up' post Covid but things are back on track and there is a bundle of things coming up between now and the end of the year.*

*Huge thanks also to the wonderful sponsors and supporters that helped make the Kids Little 3 Competition such a buzz for the kids.*

*Parents and Grandparents – your help and support of the kids was priceless and to our very generous sponsors as well; THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH for your wonderful generosity.*

### Membership Renewals

Thank you also to all those people who have paid their subs through the online system or for those who are not on email, via getting your invoice in the mail.

If you have had problems making your payments due to the system not working, can you please let me know and I will chase it up with the NZDA Office.



*Similarly; if you have not received your invoice either by email or through the post, please contact me.*

*Everyone's membership is hugely valued and appreciated. In return, we as a committee are focused very much on representing you and your sporting endeavours on the wider front – be that Nationally with NZDA or politically to help retain the things that matter so much to us as firearms owners, outdoor recreationalist, the retention of the ability to hunt our prized game animal species on public land etc.*

Many thanks once again everyone –

*Maureen 027 3337786 or [a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz)*





# Consultation on the protection of native taonga species in Southern Coromandel

The Department of Conservation's Hauraki Office plans to reduce rat, possum and stoat numbers to protect Coromandel brown kiwi, Archey's frog, long-tailed bat, kārearea (New Zealand falcon) from local extinction in Thames Coast, Kauaeranga Valley, Kapowai and Broken Hills.

The Southern Coromandel contains extensive forest areas, including rare coastal forests. These areas are valued for their diverse native flora and fauna, scenic natural landscapes and range of recreation and tourism opportunities.

Southern Coromandel's indigenous forests include mixed podocarp and broadleaf forest, remnant kauri, coastal pohutakawa and kanuka shrubland.

The forest ecosystems across Coromandel support a great diversity of flora and fauna, including many endemic and vulnerable species. The forests are home to invertebrates, bats, birds and lizards, and provide important habitat for native frogs. The threatened Coromandel brown kiwi is found across many forest and shrubland areas on the Peninsula.

DOC's Tiakina Nga Manu operations target stoats, rats and possums – major threats to our endemic and taonga species, including the long-tailed bats and Coromandel brown kiwi.

## Why we are controlling possums and/or rodents

Possums and rodents threaten native species. To protect these species, DOC is planning to carry out an aerial operation to control these predators across

24,100ha of public conservation land in the Southern Coromandel, as shown on the map. Helicopters with calibrated buckets will distribute cereal bait containing 1080 bait along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This operation will give threatened taonga species a chance to recover and allow the Coromandel brown kiwi population an opportunity to breed and have chicks that reach maturity.



Native Archey's frog

Photo credit: DOC

## Consultation – Have your say

DOC is consulting on the effects of predator control. Your views are important, and you are encouraged to provide comment. We are here to listen to you.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



Epro Ltd (our contractor) or DOC staff from the Hauraki office would like to visit you at a convenient time to discuss the proposed operation; how it affects you, and what we can do to mitigate these effects.

DOC will be undertaking early engagement with our Treaty partners to ensure the best approach for the protecting of taonga species is achieved on the ground.

### Use of a range of predator control methods to protect species

Aerial application of cereal pellets containing 1080 is the most effective control method over large areas. It is the only viable method in remote, rugged terrain. Ground-based trapping and bait stations are effective in smaller more accessible areas, however the number of possum/rodents and stoats can overwhelm trapping networks. In those areas aerial 1080 may be used to supplement the existing ground-based work. Aerial 1080 operations target rodents. Stoats are also reduced effectively as they eat rodents/possums.

### Timeframe

Operations will start when monitoring shows predators have reached levels threatening bird populations. At this stage, this operation will occur between 1st August and 30th November. The operation is weather dependent. You will be notified of the more specific time before the operation.

### Planning

DOC engages and works closely with iwi, its local Treaty Partner for all predator control. DOC consults with stakeholders, affected landowners and communities.

Following feedback from this consultation process, decisions will be made on what changes can be made to the operational plan to mitigate the effects of the operation on you.

A notification fact sheet will be distributed closer to the time to confirm any changes to the boundary plan and the timeframe.

Also, DOC and Epro will contact all neighbours, advertise in the local newspaper and place warning signs at entrances to public conservation land immediately prior to the operation starting.

DOC will also contact iwi, landowners and stakeholders after the operation to inform them the operation has been completed successfully, including details of reduction of predator levels.

Use of 1080 requires permission from the local Public Health Protection office of the Ministry of Health.

DOC assesses vertebrate predator control operations using a toxin on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DOC staff follow procedures approved by the EPA. These regulations ensure the toxin is applied in a way that safeguards the public and the environment.



Native brown kiwi

Photo credit: Sue Bell

### Key facts: What you need to know.

1080 is a manufactured, biodegradable toxin. Its active ingredient, fluoroacetate, is salt that occurs naturally in poisonous plants in Australia, Africa and Brazil. It does not accumulate. It is broken down naturally by micro-organisms, fungi and plants into harmless compounds and does not leave permanent residues in soil, water, plants or animals.

DOC complies with all relevant regulations and takes a precautionary approach to the aerial application of biodegradable 1080.

All operations begin with an aerial pre-feed of non-toxic bait to prime possums/rodents to eat the toxic bait applied afterwards.

- The toxic cereal bait pellets contain 0.15% of 1080. They are about 2cm in diameter, cylindrical and dyed green.
- Non-toxic pre-feed cereal pellets are about 2cm in diameter, cylindrical and sandy coloured (not dyed).

### Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. Dogs are highly susceptible. In areas where the toxin has been applied, the risk to dogs will remain until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated - which can be anywhere between four and eight months.

These risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

**DO NOT** touch bait.

**WATCH** children at all times.

**DO NOT EAT** animals from this area.

Toxic baits and carcasses are **DEADLY to DOGS**.

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These warning signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and

animals. When signs are removed this means you can resume normal activities in the area.

### For more information

Visit the following website:

[www.doc.govt.nz/tiakina-nga-manu](http://www.doc.govt.nz/tiakina-nga-manu)

Epro Ltd.

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## K2K Trap Line

In total since trapping began in May 2017 the catch

tallies are as follows

- 112 Stoats
- 77 Rats
- 77 Hedgehogs
- 1 Ferret
- 3 Mice
- 2 Birds.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



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This map shows the area proposed for predator control. It is indicative: the boundaries may change subject to consultation and other operation planning requirements.



March 2020  
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[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

## **Stoats, Rats and all things trapping.....**

As most of you will be aware from the info in previous newsletters, talking to club members and the likes, TVDA helps to run and monitor two very successful pest control trap lines in the district.

**In summary** - The Terry Line was first established 8 years ago up in the Kauaeranga Valley to help protect the extremely rare Pterostylis orchid that was found in the area. The rat populations were decimating the already precarious hold on life that this tiny gem had so we helped get the trap lines set out and from there Mike and Peter took over the work of keeping these traps checked on a monthly basis. Massive kudos to both of you for your dedication and hard work – it really has been so appreciated.

### **WANTED – people to help out with the**

- Terry Line (rat traps located on the Hydro Camp/Pinnacles track area (you do not go up to the Pinnacles but instead start off on the Pinnacles trap and loop back around to the carpark).
- There is also a new trap line going in along the valley floor from the Camping Ground at Kauaeranga and this is one that will appeal to those who feel that the Terry Line may be a bit beyond their 'days in the hills'. This is one that will be 'drivable' for the most part and easily accomplished for a much wider group of members.

**Both of these lines are programmed for checking once a month.**

### **AND**

DoC is also looking at a training day for new and old trappers with the app “walk the line” for recording catches and a bit of health and safety training. These Apps are very user friendly and a great way of keeping very accurate records of 'hot spots' that can further assist with other trapping programmes and help learn more about predatory patterns.

On the day of the App training they will also be replacing the old traps on the Terry line heading up to Pinnacles for those who are able to help out. If you are keen to learn about the new equipment but not up to walking the Terry Line – no problems at all, there is something for everyone and finding out more about the Valley Floor Line will be great as well.

***This training day is currently marked on the calendar for the second week in August and will be at the Kauaeranga Visitor centre.***

For TVDA members who are keen to pick up on checking the Terry Line, do the new Valley Floor Line checks or able to help in any way – even just learning to use the 'walk the line' app, please contact:

**Dennis Hayfield (TVDA) on:**

[l.d.hayfield@xtra.co.nz](mailto:l.d.hayfield@xtra.co.nz) or 027 2211892 **before Wednesday 5 August.**



# Upcoming Hunting Trips

***These 2 are a MUST READ***

## **1 KIDS** – Hi Kids and Parents.

As a committee we are in the process of organising two hunting trips for the Junior members over the coming months but dates are yet to be finalised. The general vicinity of the hunts will be Western Waikato / Northern King Country. ***The thing is we need to hear from you as the members – if we don't hear from you, it won't happen.***

***Please do remember that these trips have been organised because people have asked for them so we need to hear from you now that the work has been done.***

The split age-wise will be primary school aged kids for one trip and secondary aged members will make up the second group. While the dates are yet to be finalised they will be in the late October / November period once lambing is finished as the trips will be on sheep and cattle farms.

Both situations will have accommodation – be it a hut or a woolshed to stay in and will be a great opportunity to get out and learn from those who have so much to share and are so happy to share as well.

If you have kids who are keen to be part of this, please contact Maureen 027 3337786 [a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz)

## **2 Everyone** – **TVDA Flyin Trip to Te Ureweras - Reds, Rusa and Pigs**

**Friday 11 – Sunday 13 December (or Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December)....or longer as well**

These trips are for any members that want to take part so please make sure you put your name down if you are keen.

### **The blocks that we have pencilled in are:**

**Right Branch, Left Branch, Duckville, Takarua, Casino, Waihua, Ngahiramai.**

Groups of 2 chopper loads (6 people) per block will be put into the blocks. Most of these blocks will have a hut (but not all, nor guaranteed), and there will certainly be a selection of game to hunt. **The price will be \$275 Per person for the chopper flight so long as you meet the gear and weight criteria as well as 3 per load.**

If you want to make the trip for a longer period that is no problem but you will need to advise this at the time of booking so that it can be factored into the planning.

**Bookings must be made by 1 December and it is on a first in first served basis.**

**Contact:** Maureen on 027 3337786 or email [a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz)

# ***Work on Motutapere Hut***

Plans are now advancing for this year on getting materials flown up to the Hut for the repairs and maintenance so your help is needed please.

Once we get a group of members together who are able to help with this, the chopper can be organised, loaded up and the materials flown to the site.

Last year when this was all planned it got 'skuttled' as we were told at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour that the chopper could not land on the helipad, that trees posed a safety issue at the site and.....etc!!!

The long and short of it all is that I have been in touch with DOC directly, Warren has since flown into the site with the operators that they use and it was absolutely fine. Permission has been fully granted for us to have materials flown into the site – we just need people to help with the work and matching window in the weather and the job is all go.



*Lay of the land near Motutapere Hut*

The work that is required relates to: levelling up the decking, fixing up the sink/bench so that the water actually runs out...., replacing slats on the bunks, recladding the mattress box to keep the vermin out, putting a storage area in the porch and just some other general tidy up work.

The materials are all sorted, there will be tools going in and staying in there for future use (to be kept in the storage area that will be locked) – we have just had to overcome some unfounded hurdles to get the gear into the hut.



*Motutapere Hut – Kaimai Ranges*

For those going in, it will be possible for your packs etc to be flown in as well and we have permission to access the Rayonier Forestry area for a much quicker walk up the old cullers track to the hut. This will certainly make the trip up the hill on foot much quicker.

Taking your rifle or your bow is a must as well – this is not all work and no play. Hunting is also a key part of this trip so make sure you come equipped and either check out your favourite hunting spot or for up there for the first time, learn more about the area and some good places to hunt.



# **Congratulations Riley**



**.....on having your story published in the latest H&W Magazine.**

**Well done and so proud of you. Keep up the great work – for both your hunting and writing stories**

**This is also a reminder to all members that you can put pen to paper or tap out a story and send it in for publication. TVDA has two articles in the latest version and you have all helped make the second article possible – enjoy the reads.**

**Do you want your Hunting and Wildlife in a hard copy version so that you can pick it up and enjoy a read while having a cuppa etc.**

**These are now able to be ordered from NZDA so there are a couple of options for doing this:**

- You can order them online for \$29.00 for 4 editions by clicking on this link <https://nzda.shop> and follow the process through from there.**
- Once on this NZDA Shop page, scroll down to the bottom for the option to purchase the next 4 issues as a package.**
- Or contact Maureen and I will just go online and order them for you, and you can give me the money at club night etc.**





## Feature



TVDA was part of the core group of branches that got HUNTS kick-started within NZDA and we are extremely proud of that. Check out the joy-stick operated rifle setup on Elliott's Polaris which allows him to successfully take game.

# BRANCH PROFILE: Thames Valley

THE TIME WAS RIGHT AND ACTION WAS NEEDED. THE YEAR WAS 1956 AND A GROUP OF DEDICATED LOCAL HUNTERS AND (AT THE TIME) MEMBERS OF WAIKATO BRANCH WHO LIVED IN GREATER HAURAKI AND THAMES VALLEY AREA GOT A SPEEDING TICKET ON THEIR WAY HOME ONE VERY COLD AND WET WINTERS NIGHT FROM A WAIKATO BRANCH CLUB MEETING SO THE DECISION WAS MADE.

**W**e needed our own branch here in the Valley' and so it was that soon after a local meeting was called, the Thames Valley Branch of NZDA was duly born from that and a new base for local hunters and shooters had arrived.

WORDS BY: MAUREEN COLEMAN

With huge passion for their sports, a wealth of experience coupled within their midst and an endless will to succeed, the members and committee of the day set the wheels in motion for what we have today. In the early years meetings and club nights were held at various local

pubs or people homes; halls in the various communities were used for the branches annual ball which we often hear were 'the events to go to' not only for members but for the wider community as well. Thames Valley Deerstarkers (TVDA) has always been an all-encompassing club and had made sure that there is always something for everyone – be that hunting on all fronts, rifle ranges, clay target shooting, archery, camaraderie, training, support and social events.

Time has been very kind to TVDA – thanks to the vision, immeasurable amounts of hard work, endless hours of volunteer input and smart decision making backed up by a fantastic community since those early days; this branch is one that really sits at the centre of the wider community on so many fronts.

Complete family involvement is a very humble but proud imprint that is at the base of TVDA and this is always seen when going back over the old club photos, reading the names on the trophies and hearing the stories that have been passed down through the generations of members since those formative years.



## SO WHAT ABOUT TVDA, WHERE IS IT LOCATED AND WHAT'S ON OFFER

**Where:** TVDAs clubrooms, ranges and property are located on Morrison Road, Paeroa. While this is a tad outside the core of the Thames Valley region it is very much a part of wider region that proudly associates as 'the Valley' and is most welcoming of those from so much further afield as well. This has always been the case and with what we have to offer on so many fronts, the more people and families that can enjoy this, the better.

**What's on offer:** Owning our own property is a wonderful bonus that, when shared with others makes it even better still. The property includes our much admired clubrooms, rifle ranges (50m, 100m and running boar facilities), a full internationally ranked sporting clay target layout, field archery complex and a huge commitment to supporting members and the community right across the board.

**Property:** After having various temporary range locations in the formative years of the branch – some getting taken out with floods, another affected by power pylons being planned to go through the middle of it, it was time to find a permanent home. Such was the community spirit, that in 1977 the generosity of a local farmer (and non-member) offered a portion of his land for a permanent range and somewhere to build a clubrooms – and all on a handshake; nothing more was needed or expected by him.

Rifle ranges were built and used that year, the club had a home albeit a canvas tent for events but the spirit was unbreakable – we had a home. By early 1980's the initial clubrooms were built and before the decade was done, extensions had doubled the size of the building to accommodate the growing membership.

By now also club shotgun shoot's were popular on 'our land' and an opportunity to hold bigger events was on the radar. This saw large numbers of sporting clay target shooters arriving in droves, events had a top notch reputation and so the club expanded even more.

As is always the case – properties change hands; the year was 2000 and we had the chance to purchase the land where our clubrooms, ranges and activities were based. Fundraising efforts were kicked into gear; the support was fantastic from members, locals and the community – and just a couple of months later, we had the funds secured for the 7 hectares that we had surveyed off. What a great feeling – we now owned this piece

of paradise and within 10 years and huge accolades to all those that contributed to the massive amounts of hard work and toil, all loans and debentures were fully repaid.

**The people:** TVDA has a membership that last year tipped the scales at just over the 400 mark and while a number of these were family members, everyone is a fully valued and respected member of the branch. In addition to the aims and goals of those wonderful founders of the branch who have gone before us,



*Life Member Mike Deane instigated a Junior's Survival Weekend at least 45 years ago covering many aspects of the modern day HUNTS course plus a few extras and these weekends away were extremely popular. Things have changed over the years but the core values are the same – it's about getting youngsters out there and learning about and enjoying the great outdoors.*

the heart of TVDA is still set around the entire family and encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to get out and enjoy the best that the outdoors has to offer. Whether you hunt deer or pigs, chamois or tahr, you are part of us, it doesn't matter if you shoot with a shotgun, a rimfire or a large calibre rifle – the ranges are open; be it a compound bow or a recurve – the targets are there to be hit. Mums and Dads, kids and grandparents alike – they are all involved as are the neighbours too and plenty more that come along. We also have an amazingly supportive wider community and this can never be overlooked – hunting, fishing, shooting and the great outdoors are so important and well understood by this community and the benefits of that are so truly humbling.

**Shooting Activities:** in addition to our ranges being available for members to use outside of scheduled activities, club events include rimfire and centrefire shooting events/competitions, we hold three running boar shoots a year (as a minimum), the field archery/bowhunters have a monthly club day, we hold two major sporting clay target competitions each year (November and February) and the summer months see twilight clay target shooting each week. All of our facilities are wheelchair accessible and fully catered for. The TVDA grounds are also 'home' to the local Ohinemuri Fish and Game Assn for their events and this is a way for us to further contribute to the kinship and sporting diversity that abounds in our area.



*Antler, Horn & Tusk competitions are an important part of our club with Douglas Score training sessions well attended at our club rooms.*





*Ted and Leo on a HUNTS course.*

**Hunting:** Given that there are no recognised wild deer populations across the greater Thames Valley or Coromandel Peninsula region, travel to pursue our hunting has always been a given. Early years saw a fallow herd at Matatoki although that got wiped out many years ago primarily due to farming intensification, however pigs are still aplenty in those rugged hills and they're a magnet for hunters. The nearby Kaimai-Mamaku range to the south of our area holds good numbers of red deer and supporting the management of them is key to us having them on our 'southern doorstep'. The Ohinemuri River is a natural geographical boundary for the deer and the Coromandel Range is designated as deer free so we all need to work towards keeping it that way.

Club trips have always been a really important part of TVDA Culture – back in those very early years, the lure of Fiordland and Stewart Island saw annual club trips taken to those distant parts of our beautiful country. No same day delivery back then – these were marathon journeys just to get there by road and sea and a month off work or off the farm was the norm. Families back home kept the wheels turning to support their avid hunters and this in turn, is what kept the heart of TVDA pumping.



*Shooting competitions are a big part of the club and well attended. Pictured is club secretary Ash Dewar taking aim during a running boar event.*

Club trips are still a regular part of the club's annual calendar – some of these trips still visit those distant hunting grounds, there are weekend trips to the Kaimanawa's and Te Urewera that get a visit or two each year as do private properties for planned hunts and there are social events and fishing trips too – and everyone is welcome. A strong focus for all of our club hunts is to take new

people along and help them get started in their sport, mentor them and introduce them to new areas to hunt.

**Training:** TVDA was part of the core group of branches that got HUNTS kick-started within NZDA and we are extremely proud of that. For so many people in our area they are not brought up with the mountains and the ranges but the desire to be out there needs to be supported. Our branch runs a HUNTS course most years and the results of those are great to see. When we look at HUNTS being approximately 30 years old as a NZDA branch, we look further back than that and treasure the work that Life Member Mike Deane instigated at least 45 years ago – a Junior's Survival Weekend. Essentially this covered many aspects of the modern day HUNTS course plus a few extras and these weekends away were extremely popular. Things have changed over the years but the core values are the same – it's about getting youngsters out there and learning about and enjoying the great outdoors. These Kids Survival Camps are now booked on a first in first served basis – they are that popular; Mike is still fully involved and the results are fantastic. When you see past attendees bringing their own children along because it was 'the best time ever', you know you are on the right track.

**Outside Events:** In the early 1990's sporting clay target shooting was in full swing by many of our members so it seemed a natural progression to add this to our club's connections and activities. Events sprung up, throngs of shooters started arriving and so began our affiliation to the NZ Clay Target Association. Over the years we have hosted a wide range of sporting clay events and they have been a fantastic opportunity for our club via club events, twilight shoots, Regional Competitions, NZ National and Oceania Sporting Clay Championships and the pinnacle of it all, was holding the World English Sporting Champs in 2011.

A couple of decades later, bow hunting in the area was having a resurgence and the branch was approached to see if these archers and hunters could be 'part of our club'. It was a no brainer to have them involved and it's great having further diversity within our ranks. Over the last ten years the club has hosted two National Bowhunter Championships, multiple Kiwi 3D target competitions, interclub events and we were also part of a wider venue for an Oceania Archery Championships.



**Something for everyone:** In addition to the classic hunting and shooting activities, our venue also hosts several school events each year – normally with a focus on firearms safety, outdoor safety and time on the range. There are other functions at our venue as well – the venue, location and stunning backdrop are popular attractions for a wedding venue too.

**Always looking for new ideas:** About 15 years ago a club hunt had a member's friend who was a quadriplegic join us which was awesome – and the light went on. We needed to make more opportunities like this available for people with varying levels of mobility. As we headed home that day with a deer slung on the back of his Argo, the brain was working overtime and so it has been that since then, several people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility, have been introduced to range shooting, taken into the hills and wow – what a buzz that is. Helping these people to get an animal and seeing the massive thrill for them and everyone else involved is what makes it all so worthwhile. There is 'no such thing as can't', it's just 'how do we make this happen'.

**Firearms Support:** TVDA was the venue for one of the very first COLFO meetings in the 1990's and the clubrooms were packed to standing room only. As a branch we have never shied away from taking a lead or responsibility for our sport and what is so important to it. This has been further endorsed by

our venue being a firearms licensing centre for many years and the club has a strong compliment of fully qualified range officers.

**Women:** For all but a small handful of years in the branches history; women have been part of the committee and junior members too have been a welcome part of the branch's nucleus. There is never an 'us and them' mentality around the committee table – everyone has a hugely valued contribution that the hunting and outdoor sports can benefit from. Men in the kitchen, women as range officers and kids helping out at shooting events or setting up camps – it's all in a day's work.

**Kids:** We have over 60 years of valuable history that have shown that involving children and juniors from a young age into all aspects of the club's activities has been priceless. They know the ethics behind harvesting game, they are fully familiar with the drill on the range, they are brought up with good firearms safety processes and they take full ownership for their actions. They are valued, respected and supported – the key ingredients for happy and successful kids.

**DoC Projects:** Soon after securing the ownership of our property, it came to our notice that the extremely valued 'cullers huts' in the Kaimai's were to be removed as they were 'too dangerous and didn't meet the new criteria'. Knowing how essential shelter can be in the outdoors and particularly when it cuts up rough,

we went into bat to have these retained. After a lengthy process we were offered a MOU, the huts were retained, the needs of the outdoors community benefitted immensely and more was to come.

Since then we have been approached to help install and monitor trap lines in the Kauaeranga Valley to protect an extremely rare orchid that had been found but was getting decimated by rats. Great stuff – the guys and girls were lined up to pack trap boxes into the hills, the two lines were set up and have been an on-going project for close on 10 years now. The results have been great, the dedication has been unwavering and from this we have also now added another project – the K2K stoat line which follows the length of the Kopu to Kaiaua leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail and protects the world renowned RAMSAR site in that area.

**Where to now:** TVDA is always looking to make new and positive opportunities available to people, maximising the full range of our facilities and taking on new adventures and challenges along the way.

This is what kicked started TVDA all those years ago by that car load of guys who got that speeding ticket and so we as future members have taken up the mantle of continuing their ensuing vision and hard work by supporting the future generations of good keen people who love the outdoors as much as they did.

Their legacy is just as strong as it ever was and we are proud to have and share 'our branch here in the Valley'. **NZHW**



*A fundraiser docking tails.*





*A very special Welcome to the New members who have joined TVDA over the last month:*

- *Manihera Forbes*
- *Rick Taylor*
- *Robbie & April Cook*
- *Bruce and Chrissy White*
- *Dawn Richards*
- *Pierre Wentzel*
- *Mike Josephson*
- *Ronny Kurze*
- *Scott Aitchison*
- *Anne Leef*
- *Trish White*

*Make sure you all have a catch up with these folks at events or on the range and make sure they are made feel very welcome – I know you will all do that anyway.*

## **HUNTS Course and Kick Start Your Journey event**

As a fore runner to our HUNTS course this year, we held a 'kick start your journey' last weekend and what a huge success it was.

Slots or a spot in this years HUNTS course are now filled so it was a great opportunity for many of the course participant to get to know each other before the course starts proper on 17 August.

Everyone enjoyed a sit down meal on Friday night, there was a 'round the campofire session on Friday night with other club members, here was a nice warm place to 'bunk down' in the clubrooms and the next day we covered various aspects of the great outdoors, dabbled with fire lighting, looked over some maps, spent time on the range and all enjoyed delicious Venison Burgers for lunch.

Huge thanks to all those who took part in the weekend and also to the various club members who helped out with various aspects of the evnet. It really was a team effort all round and great way to introduce people to their journey into the back country and roll on the rest of the HUNTS course programme.



Another fantastic day on the range for TVDA kids was held on Sunday 21 June.

The day was the culmination of some avid young hunters getting out there in search of a Possum, a Rabbit and an Eel (or a goat or two as well for the older kids), and then to round it out perfectly, we held the Swazi shoot while the kids were all there.

It was absolutely awesome to see so many new kids taking part, the big the small and the in between's all had a go, some impressive young shots showed their talents on the day and best of all – there were beaming smiles all round. The smiles were for all sorts of reasons – some because it was their first shot with a .22, some did better than last year, a couple managed a 10.1 score and others were just having ball on all fronts.

Huge thanks to the parents and family members that also helped make this happen – there needs to be a good number of helpers on the range to spread the load, a busy couple of hours for the Range Officer/s and then it



Photo: Courtesy Sarah Pert

was back down to the clubrooms for deliciously cooked burgers; bangers and bread and a coke or two as well to keep the day humming!!! Nigel your help on all fronts in the leadup to this and on the day was a massive help so very special thanks from us all.

Congratulation to Elliott Humphrey for getting the High Overall score of 80 /100 With this win also came the pick of the prize table and following this, all other shooters had their names drawn out of the hat and one by one, they all made their way up to the table. Some were lucky enough to get one of the three fantastic SWAZI shirts that Davey and the Team at SWAZI provides each year, however nobody goes home empty handed. Other prizes on offer were other hunting knick knacks that the club provided by way of wonderful local sponsors support – there were packs of fish hooks and sinkers, flasher rigs, camo paint, camping gear, pocket knives, H&W magazines – most definitely something for everyone.

## Kids Little 3 Event

The Kids Little 3 this year saw a really good turnout of young members who got out there with parents, grandparents and friends and tried their luck to nab the threesome. Some managed to get all the species on the list (plus some) – others struggled on all fronts but the best part of all was that everyone got out there and gave it a really good nudge and had a ton of fun in the process.



L-R Harry Spinks, Kade Gill & Elliott Pilkinton – winners of the Heaviest Possum Section.

*Photo: courtesy of Sarah Pert*

It was really awesome to see several first time entrants as well and this too is what makes it all so much more fun so well done everyone and let's see another great turnout next year.

***Special thanks must go to the awesome sponsors who helped make the day such an epic way to finish off a great weekend all round.***



Heaviest	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Possum	Kade Gill	Elliott PB	Harry Spinks
Rabbit	McKenna Lesley	Holly Hoebergen	Kade Gill
Eel	Adam Deane (Jnr)	Elliott PB	McKenna Lesley

Little 3	Adam Deane (Jnr)	McKenna Lesley	Holly Hebergen
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Most Hares	Daniel Lesley	Team Hoebergen	Riley Pert
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Most Possums	Daniel Lesley		
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Heaviest Goat	Daniel Lesley		
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## Sika Lodge and Clements Road trip....

The first weekend of July saw 10 of us gathering at Sika Lodge for our club trip on a very cool frosty Friday night – it sure as hell was a welcome sight to see the fireplace glowing and feeling the warmth radiating as the lodge door opened.

The weather the week leading into the trip hadn't been flash but despite the weather forecasts, the snow that has been threatening hadn't arrived and with a cracker of a day tomorrow in store, spirits were high.



*What some of us saw.....*

Adding to anticipation was that Brian has bagged a nice fat hind a bit earlier in the afternoon when he 'had a bit of spare time on his hands' – what better to do with it than go for a quiet stroll and come face to face with a cheeky hind that popped her head up out of a patch of crown fern at the wrong time. The only thing that would have been better would be catching up with the very fresh stag sign that he had been following – maybe someone else would get him tomorrow.....

Everyone had a good night's sleep, breakfast was done and dusted in stages and everyone made plans for a good day out. The day dawned as frosty as it had promised the night before, pots of warm water were ferried out to the carpark to unfreeze the wiper blades and clear the screens and off they went. There were plenty of other hunters at various other spots along the road but there is still so much room in this area and everyone got a good days hunting under their belts.

Quentin chose the local basin across from the lodge, Mike tackled the windfall near the Te Iringa (on Saturday only), Francois and his trusty canine trod the path out to the pines and scrub, Jos found a nice sunny face to sit and wait, Brian and James hit the top side of the road, Mike and Emma looped around some promising guts and sidlings, Maureen found



*This is not a photo of Jos' visitor but a closeup of a similar nature all the same.....*

a nice basin on bottom side of the road and Peter headed back to a favourite spot that he has visited on many occasions in the past.

Everyone either heard them, saw them or were given a hell of a fright by them.....but none had a better encounter than Jos did on the first day. As he sat there just enjoying the warmth of the winter sun's rays, he heard a wee noise; it got closer and then right before him a young deer (a few months old) walked right up to within 2m of where he was sitting. Alas that rifle has been left knocked into a V in a nearby tree, the camera was still in his daybag (that was on his back of course) but none of this mattered – the moments were too good to lose. Jos and his new friend spent a good 2-3 minutes just looking at each other at such close quarters before the younger of the two turned to walk off. A few glimpses over the deers shoulders indicated that maybe mum or one of its kin may be nearby nothing else appeared. A couple of glances back did not alarm the deer but all of a sudden reality kicked in and in a flash it was gone – what a few moments to savour. It really does go to show just how close you can get to them.....



*Sika hind grazing amongst the fern.....and not the one that Brian got either*

As parties and hunters arrived home later in the day everyone had enjoyed a great day out – even if Mike's favourite part was knowing that there was somewhere else that didn't have so much windfall and crap to battle through tomorrow!!!

Quentin put in the hard yards arriving back at camp after dark – albeit without an animal but with even more determination to outwit these spotty squealing little buggars tomorrow.....

The heart of Sika Lodge cranked away with crackling delight as everyone sat around the table for tea and enjoyed the company of wonderful hosts Brent and Val as well as two other hunters from north of the Bombays.....

Sleep came without too much effort that night – the day had been such a winter delight that everyone made the most of their time out there and tomorrow held plenty of promise.

Some went back for 'another crack' at where they'd been the day before, Mike was delighted to have an easy basin filled with plenty of good sign to hunt; Mike, James and Emma did some more leg time out there which was really great, Jos was ever hopeful



for a repeat of yesterday and Jean Francois was confident that his tracker would get all the ducks in a row.

Brian's deer was also skinned out, broken down and sorted out for people to all have some venison to take home (this was to be a nice surprise when they all got back from their hunts), there was also some relaxing time spent back at the lodge and time to spend having a chat with Brent and Val.

One by one the hunters returned around midday – Quentin found out just how quick these little fellas can move; especially when a keen hunter is sneaking in and disrupts an outpost group that squeals and scatters at a great rate of knots.....at very close quarters!!! Mike came back and excitement



of the hunt was evident straight away – a perfect place to hunt, very fresh sign everywhere and good visibility, just perfect. So perfect in fact that with a good vantage spot, being able to hear animals and all ready for the action to happen, Mike sat down, looked around and then decided to take off his daybag when a beautiful big stag turned and bolted away.....from less than 20m away where he'd been standing the whole time!!! Buggar. A quick trek in pursuit of the stag was to no avail but so much was learned from the moment and the theory I have of 'the ones that get away teach you the most' was very apt at this time. On his way back to the road he had squealer remind him of just where it was and it was more than just a couple of heartbeats that skipped a rhythm as the rest of the mob scattered unseen from nearby.

Everyone had a fantastic weekend, Sika Lodge was the perfect place to use as a 'base camp' and special thanks once again to Brent and Val for your wonderful help and support. \$30.00 a night for adults and you get a fully kitted out kitchen, great atmosphere, lovely showers, a fantastic fireplace in the lounge and wonderful comfy beds in a nice warm bunkroom – perfect.



**A SPECIAL MENTION OF THANKS.....**to all the team that came down. Before we left as usual we tidied up, stripped and changed the bunks, vacuumed, cleaned the showers and toilets in appreciation of having such a neat

place to stay. ***Brent and Val have asked that I pass on their heartfelt thanks to each of you for your wonderful help and support – it really was appreciated immensely.***

***.....It's so easy to all chip in and do a little bit each and make such a big difference for somebody else. I really am so proud to be part of this club – TVDA you are awesome.***

# **TVDA Open Day – *change of date:***

This event has now been finalised and it will be held on

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10am – 3.00pm.**

**The date for this has needed to be changed do please note that these details [here are the confirmed ones.](#)**

This will be a 'come one and all' open day with much of what we have and do at TVDA on display. There will be chances to show and explain various parts of our sports and recreation to those who are keen and come along, and in the main – get the chance to highlight the benefits of belonging to a club such as ours and the wonderful environment that is there for the uptake.

This will be advertised fairly extensively but we are also looking for ideas and suggestions from you as members on what you want to see as part of this day. This is a day to promote our club, our sports and help people to understand the excellent conservation work too that we all do – be that on the trap lines, when out hunting or doing general pest control etc.

Please feel free to tell family, friends and neighbours about this, there will also be advertising in various forms of media and

Members – please help out by coming along if you can to help share the TVDA camaraderie, be hosts on the day or help out wherever the needs may be.

Please contact Ashleigh if you have things that you'd like to see included in this day  
[ashleigh\\_d007@hotmail.com](mailto:ashleigh_d007@hotmail.com) or  
020 40070067 or if you are able to be there on the day to help with the various activities.

An 80 year old lady was marrying for the 4th time.

A newspaper asked if she wouldn't mind talking about her first 3 husbands and what they did for a living.

She smiled and said,  
"My first husband was a banker, then I married a circus ringmaster, next was a preacher and now in my 80's, a funeral director.

When asked why the 4 men had such diverse careers.

She explained,  
"I married one for the money, 2 for the show, 3 to get ready and 4 to go."



# Info from NZCTA re New Gun Laws

Below is information that has been supplied to us via the New Zealand Clay Target Assn. It has been sent to all National Shooting bodies and asked that it be sent out to their members. More info on this will be in the next newsletter and also on the club website page.

## Changes to the Arms Act which may affect you

New changes to the Arms Act have started to come into effect. Because our records show you are or have been a firearms licence holder, Police is reaching out to you to share information on the changes and how they may impact you.

The changes will impact on firearms licence holders to a lesser or greater extent depending on your individual activities. The changes give greater transparency to what will be considered when a person applies for a licence.

The changes are coming into effect in stages, with the immediate changes summarised below. More information on these and later changes can be found on the [Police website](#). The website is the main source of information for people. It also holds frequently asked questions and will be regularly updated. We encourage you to visit the website to look at the changes in more detail.

### Summary of the immediate changes

- People seeking a firearms licence for the first time will be eligible for a five year licence only. Others who may have let their licence expire or surrendered their licence or had it revoked are also eligible for a five year licence. At the end of the five year licence and if they have retained their fit and proper status they then will be eligible to apply for a ten year licence.
- A small group of [additional firearms are now prohibited](#), including those short (pistol-length) semi-automatic rifles that had been defined as pistols because of their shorter lengths, and centrefire pump-action rifles with a detachable magazine or a non-detachable magazine capable of holding more than 10 cartridges. There are also new requirements for [lawful possession of a pistol carbine conversion kit](#) (which converts a pistol into a shoulder-fired firearm).

An amnesty is in place against criminal prosecution for possession of the above noted items. Regulations will be developed to enable a new buy-back and this will be well publicised when dates are confirmed. We ask that if you have one of the prohibited items or a pistol carbine conversion kit, that you please safely and securely store these items.

You can visit the website to find out if you are eligible to apply for an [endorsement](#) and [permit to possess](#) to retain and use these items.

- Endorsements for wild animal and animal pest controllers will have a maximum duration of 2 years and 6 months.
- Additional exemptions have been created for those who own or manage an agricultural business and there is a real possibility the commercial viability of the business would be detrimentally affected by wild animals or animal pests and they can only be controlled through the use of prohibited firearms.
- Visitors to New Zealand will no longer be able to buy and take ownership of a firearm for use during their visit (they can buy and export only). However, visitors can import their own firearm, and lease, hire or borrow another firearm.

- New and updated offences and penalties.
- A Minister of Police's advisory group comprised of both firearm-owning and non-firearm-owning people must now be established to provide ongoing advice to the Minister.
- The Arms Act is set to be reviewed again in 2025.

#### **Note on future changes**

More changes will be coming into force from December 2020, from June 2021, from June 2022, and from June 2023. More detailed information on those changes will be put on the Police website in due course.

We encourage you to please visit the [website](#) for more information, including [questions and answers](#). If you can't find the information you are looking for on our website, you can call 0800 311 311.

Kind regards

**A/Supt Mike McIlraith**

**Business Lead:** Firearms Transformation Programme

**Officer in Charge:** Arms Act Service Delivery Group

**The other information provided is also available on the club website or on the NZ Police website but in summary it relates to:**

- Dealer Endorsements
- Endorsement Holders Information
- Timing of changes in Arms Legislation

**MEMBERS - For your information** – once we get more details and specifics on how the changes will affect clubs and shooting ranges we will keep you all informed.

What we do know is that the laws relating to clubs and ranges will come into effect in 2022.

We can advise though that much of what is anticipated in the new laws we already do on a regular basis and our TVDA Range is fully certified so we are well on the way to being fully compliant and meeting the requirements even at this stage.

# DoC Minister and Managers give hunters the finger

Supplied by Gordon George – President Hutt Valley NZDA (17.7.2020)

They had the opportunity to prioritise culling tahr in the exclusion zones whilst consulting properly. They had the opportunity to meet biodiversity requirements without sacrificing a hunting resource that employs hundreds of New Zealanders.

Instead in a triumph of arrogance and dogma over reason, Minister Sage and her Department (lead by Ben Reddiex in this endeavour) **yesterday starting shooting bull tahr in the National Parks**. The court didn't say they couldn't so instead of showing any goodwill to the consultation wishes of the judge they have effectively said f\*\*\* you to hunters.

This is the kind of behaviour we can look forward to unless we are effective in forcing the department and the politicians that fund it to behave more reasonably. Make no mistake this is not the end of the extremism, **the Ruahines deer are reportedly next**.

Already across the country hunter groups running conservation projects are giving DoC notice that their projects may be threatened through lack of volunteers and enthusiasm for a department hell bent on unnecessary heavy handed control to levels where hunting is unviable. All this driven by a mix of dogma and new funding rather than actual biodiversity need. All this harm purely for dogma.

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/nztf>

**They will not change tack unless we make them** through sheer weight of numbers and the churn we can create. **YOU need to write** (politely) to both DoC and Government ministers such as the deputy Prime Minister, Grant Robertson who is Minister of Sport and Recreation ([g.robertson@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:g.robertson@ministers.govt.nz)). Hunting as a sport has more male participants than rugby or cricket (154,000 from the 2014 sport and active recreation survey), we need to remind them of how many of us there actually are, **and we will all vote in September**.

Write to NZ First, it was they who gave us Minister Sage and her extremism after all. All the Minister contacts and guidance can be found via the following link.

<https://www.nzcpr.com/quick-email-mps/>

**Remember to also ask questions and note them as official information requests.**

- Ask the deputy Prime Minister if it is government policy to put New Zealanders out of work so as one Minister can pursue a long held goal of eradicating a species she does not value. Note your concerns over this excessive cull and what might be next.
- Ask other government ministers including your local MP questions in relation to game animals etc etc

**The following questions of DoC and the Conservation Minister might be useful to you though please mix and match rather than simply copy. The main thing is we need lots and lots of feedback and questions to get their attention.**

- Communication including email between the Minister of Conservation and Forest and Bird and also from the Minister to the Conservation Authority for period 1/1/2020 until 17/7/2020 with regards to Tahr/Tahr control and/or deer control
- Communication between or including James Holborow and Ben Reddiex and Forest and Bird for period 1/1/2020 until 17/7/2020 with regards to Tahr/Tahr control and/or deer control.
- Date and location and data of any tahr control operations that have happened during the year 2020 to date(17/7/2020)
- Date/location and information regarding any Tahr monitoring that has happened during the year 2020 to date(29/6/2020)
- Communication between Ngai Tahu and the Department of Conservation in the period 1/1/2020 until 17/7/2020 with regards to Tahr/Tahr control.
- Tier one vegetation monitoring data for the years 2018/19, including Tahr metadata record sheets, subplot measurements-snow tussock, acipylla and fleshy herb record sheets, random subplot record sheets, individual measurements-snow tussocks sheet, individual measurement -acipylla and fleshy herb sheets and individual measurements-woody shrub sheets.
- Tier one vegetation monitoring data for the years 2017/18, including Tahr metadata record sheets, subplot measurements-snow tussock, acipylla and fleshy herb record sheets, random subplot record sheets, individual measurements-snow tussocks sheet, individual measurement -acipylla and fleshy herb sheets and individual measurements-woody shrub sheets.
- Ask for the DoC communication plan and who fact checked materials to be used in it and who was provided with those materials and when.
- When will the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan be formally reviewed as was required over 20 years ago?
- When will the HimalayanTahr Control Plan be given science based data to replace the now nearly 30 year old conservative estimates used in the absence of information on tahr numbers and vegetation health?

**Go for it and do it soon !**



**For extra impact.....**

**Additional to the minister ([E.Sage@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:E.Sage@ministers.govt.nz)) address questions to**

[breddiex@doc.govt.nz](mailto:breddiex@doc.govt.nz)

[jholborow@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jholborow@doc.govt.nz)

**Ensure to use OIA or Official Information Act in the title and request noting that the request must be met as soon as possible and in no case later than 20 working days.**

DoC have chosen to take an unconstructive path, your efforts and the efforts of your mates and family can help make them behave reasonably.

Thanks

**Gordon George**

*Editors Note:* **Gordon is President  
Hutt Valley Branch of NZDA....and  
Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation\***

\*The LNIRDF set up as a group and took DOC to task via the Courts 3 years ago for the very same manner and process that they are applying here for the Tahr – and the LNIRDF won their case against DOC on 26.6.2017. It was not a wet bus ticket either but now they have tried the exact same process against another of our game animals – the Tahr.....

➡  
This is nothing to do with the Tahr Issue but it highlights someone's sense of humour.....which we all need. They were probably one of those people who had been having problems at the supermarket over lockdown!!!!

**Gotta love the people in my town**





## DOC RESTARTS TAHR CULL BEFORE CONSULTATION

Friday, 17 July 2020, 4:38 pm

Press Release: [Tahr Foundation](#)

DOC have begun killing tahr in Aoraki/Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Parks before undertaking consultation with the hunting sector and it is another kick in the guts says the NZ Tahr Foundation.



The killing of bull tahr in Aoraki/Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Parks has always been the most controversial part of the culling programme.

“Mature bull tahr in our national parks are the ultimate recreational and commercial resource and worth up to \$14,000 each to the economy so we are quite frustrated that DOC have chosen to do this part of the operation before consultation has begun,” says the Tahr Foundation’s Willie Duley.

“While we acknowledge that last week’s High Court decision gave DOC the right to begin culling before consultation, we hoped they would have given the hunting sector the chance to have a say before starting with the national parks.”

“Tahr hunters regard Aoraki/Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Parks as the pinnacle of the Kiwi alpine hunting experience. To have this taken away without even being consulted is a very bitter pill to swallow.”

“Contrary to what DOC claims, there is no conservation imperative for this, especially to target bulls as the bulls don’t have kids. This will have a far bigger impact on peoples’ livelihoods than what DOC are suggesting. They have not even considered the effects on the huge recreational hunting sector and the retail industries that rely on it”

“It would have been an act of good faith for DOC to have prioritised the control work outside the feral range that all stakeholders agree needs to happen. That is uncontroversial and vital to preventing tahr spreading to surrounding landscapes,” says Duley.

“We are also worried that many recreational tahr hunters and other backcountry users currently in the mountains are unaware DOC have restarted their helicopter culling operations. We have had contact with local operators that have hunters potentially in close proximity to tahr in and around the national parks, that are concerned at the safety risk this presents.”

DOC’s restarting of culling operations brings into stark focus just how important it is that the long-out-of-date 1993 Himalayan Tahr Control Plan is reviewed and an acceptable long-term management strategy put in place.

"I'm sure I can speak for all stakeholders when I say we are sick of the almost annual conflict that the 1993 Plan and DOC's failure to review it has created," says Duley.

"The 1993 Plan was put in place as a best-guess at a time when little information was really known about tahr in our alpine environment. The intention stated within the Plan was for it to be reviewed and updated as more science and information was developed."



"DOC have never undertaken the proper research on vegetation impacts, herd densities and the contributions of recreational and commercial hunting that are necessary to inform future management. Instead they focus on short-term culling programmes like what is happening right now that pit the various stakeholders against each other."

"The reality is that there is a huge amount of common ground among stakeholders. We all agree that tahr must be eradicated outside their

feral range, we all accept that some form of management is required and yet we also know that tahr are an extremely precious recreational and commercial resource," says Duley.

"Those are solid foundations to build an enduring management regime upon."

Over 50,000 people have signed the Tahr Foundation's petition calling for a halt to the cull and hundreds are expected at the hunter-led Tahr Jam protest drive from Lake Pukaki to Aoraki/Mt Cook on Sunday.

## Vote for Change



This is the same group of politicians in the [PREVIOUS two articles](#) that are working their arses off to destroy the game animals in our back country and the same ones that found it so easy to kick good honest and law abiding firearms owners and users in the guts. Now they are hell bent on decimating the tahr from our National Parks and if they succeed in this – watch our sika, wapiti herds and hunters; these gems will be next.

**The Labour/Greens coalition will also not stop there either if Eugene is let have her way.**

Remember September 19 is not far away – your votes for common sense and to protect what is so important to us has never been more essential than it is now; be that to help retain our firearms and our hunting as both are under very real threat.

Add this to the Covid blunders and the train wreck continues to happen all around us.





***A personal note of thanks to those who have supported me over the last 18 months***

Dear Maureen and member of TVDA,

When it became clear the politicians would use the tragic events in Christchurch to ram through law changes focused at identity politics rather than safety, I put my hand up to fight back.

More than a year later, look what COLFO has achieved: a strong united voice for law-abiding, decent New Zealanders, who happen to enjoy firearm based sports, recreation, and lifestyles. Far from the “Trolls” the Police Association and Police Minister called us, COLFO has actually been the voice of rational debate.

But with the assent to the Arms Legislation Act – despite its very clear flaws, despite the exposure of the Police cover-up of their irresponsibility, and despite all the promises from NZ First that they stood with rural New Zealand – it shows that a strong voice outside of Parliament just isn’t enough.

And as we saw with the decision from the High Court on Thursday, it doesn't matter that you have traditional human rights and longstanding law on your side. A majority coalition in Parliament can ride roughshod over you and your rights.

**When it comes to the rights of licenced firearms owners, Labour, New Zealand First, and sometimes even National’s record shows that there needs to be more MPs who ‘get it’. We need people who have the technical understanding within Parliament and who are willing to ask the tough questions of the Government and the Police.**

So now my year ago hand up for a few months has now turned into a long term commitment. I’ve been persuaded that to beat them in Parliament, I have to be there.

**Maureen, I have decided to accept ACT’s nomination for Parliament – to continue the fight for the licenced firearm owning community and to advocate for better public policies from within. I want to be on the spot to call out the kind of cynical disrespect for ordinary New Zealanders I’ve seen over the last 18 months.**

With my decision to join and stand for ACT, I have stood down from COLFO as their Spokesperson and Secretary. And while I might be leaving these roles, I certainly won’t be turning my back on these issues. **ACT are appointing me as their spokesperson on firearms and outdoor issues and will today announce my list ranking at number three.**

This will be my last message to you on the Fair and Reasonable email list. [To keep up with my campaigning over the next few months, click here to follow my progress.](#) It's been a privilege to get so much helpful feedback over the last year. I hope it will keep coming for my new role.

COLFO and this campaign are in safe hands. While I've had the privilege of fronting the Fair and Reasonable campaign, there are dozens of talented people who have made it possible. They're not quitting. Having voices outside of Parliament holding MPs to account is essential if we are to win the hearts and minds of New Zealanders, the media, and MPs.

So I look forward to serving you, albeit in a different role, should I be fortunate enough to earn your party vote and make it to Parliament with the ACT Party.

[->> Click here to get my ACT updates <<-](#)

Thank you for your support.



*Nicole*

**Nicole McKee**  
(Former) Spokesperson  
Fair and Reasonable Campaign

HEAR MORE FROM NICOLE

Thank you for signing up to receive updates from me on the campaign.

The utter contempt shown by every party in Parliament except ACT towards licensed firearms owners over the past 18 months shows that we need more MPs who get it. We need more MPs who know this community. More MPs who have a technical understanding of gun laws. More MPs with the guts to do what's right. That's why I have decided to stand for ACT in the upcoming election.

I look forward to campaigning for the rights of firearms owners and all New Zealanders during this election. I hope I can count on your support too.

*Nicole*

**Nicole McKee**  
ACT's Firearms and Outdoor Issues Spokesperson



You can contact Nicole via email [nicole.mckee@act.org.nz](mailto:nicole.mckee@act.org.nz)



# Bow hunters Corner



**Next club day is Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Since the last newsletter TVDA has been the host club and venue for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Bowhunters Interclub event. This was held on Sunday 28 June. The weather had been pretty grotty in the lead up to the event, the day before when the targets were being put out was very wet but skies dawned fine on the day and the sun shone through – much to the delight of all the archers and helpers alike.

Some excellent shooting was on offer – despite some ‘rust’ on the bows thanks to Covid Lockdown but it didn’t take long for the much honed skills to start showing through.

Due to Covid there was also the need to postpone the Kiwi 3D and Interclub competitions over March – May as they had originally been advertised.

You will see in the calendar (in the front of this newsletter) that these ‘new’ days are now being accommodated over a reduced timeframe so that they can all be held before everyone gets caught up in the madness of the festive season.

Please make sure that you check these out and let Shelley know if you are keen to take part in the ‘away events’.

**There have also been a set of Field Setting Standards and Procedure formulated for preparing Bowhunter fields and setting targets so please make sure you catch up with Shelley, Bill or Dennis re these at the next and upcoming club days if you were not able to attend the July club day. This is everyone’s responsibility.**

**There is also a process being developed for Bowhunter/Archery Field Scrutineers and Field Setters so find out more about this as well.**

## **Wanted**

Right wing feathers from wing of Turkey, Peacock, White Goose or Canadian Geese.

The first 8 feathers only please.

Ph Bill 07 867 5611 or 0276566058



## RATES QUOTED FOR

# NZ Deerstalkers Association

Group Booking Reference: **FA5474**

The below rates are based on prices to date, inclusive of GST and subject to availability.

### Fares:

	Peak Each Way
Adult	\$52.00
Child	\$25.00
Motorcycle	\$50.00
Campervan/Motorhome up to 5.5mt	\$170.00
Additional half metre	\$42.00
Car/Ute/Van/4WD/trailer up to 5.5mt	\$137.00 each
Additional half Metre	\$22.00
Plus Lounge	\$55.00 18yrs plus

**Peak Dates:** 19 – 28 April 20

### Fares:

	Off Peak Each Way
Adult	\$47.00
Child	\$25.00
Motorcycle	\$40.00
Campervan/Motorhome up to 5.5mt	\$145.00
Additional half metre	\$37.00
Car/Ute/Van/4WD/trailer up to 5.5mt	\$124.00 each
Additional half Metre	\$20.00
Plus Lounge	\$55.00 18yrs plus

**Off Peak Dates:** 01 March – 3 April 2020; and 28 April – 11 December 2020

### **Group Booking conditions and instructions for members are:**

- Reservations can be made directly with Interislander online at <https://www.greatjourneysofnz.co.nz/members-fares>
- 
- by entering FA5474 into the group discount code box.
- Space is subject to availability at the time of the booking request.
- Bookings are 90% refundable if cancelled up to 1 hour before departure.
- Date and time changes allowed up to 1 hour before departure without penalty, subject to availability.
- **NZDA membership card to be shown at check-in or full retail fare will be charged.**
- **Membership card to be in the name of the person travelling.**
- Fares subject to change with notification.
- If booking from outside NZ you will need to request your booking be made via email.
- Rates valid for travel 01 February through to 11 December 2020
- **Please note that no discount applies 19 December 2020 through to and including 31 January 21**





**ECOLAB®**



## **TVDA Anniversary Cup**

### **100 Sporting Targets**

#### **Thames Valley District Championships**

**Sunday 1st November 2020 - 8.30am start**

***Thames Valley Deerstalkers Range, Morrison Road, Paeroa***

***(1.5kms past Racecourse) 10.30am cut-off for entries***

**Welcome one and all - great targets for everyone**

**Excellent targets shot on two separate fields of 50**

**\*\*Transport for all shooters to the start of each field\*\***

**Superb prize table and friendly atmosphere**

**Wonderful food and hospitality**

**Ammo available and Eftpos on site**

**Holten Collegiate Trophy** - (any shooter who is still at school is eligible)

**Top Notch Drawn Prizes** - must be there to take these prizes

**Grades: AA, A, B, C, Unregistered - \$70.00**

**Categories: Ladies, Veterans, S/Vets, Masters, Juniors, TVDA \$60.00**

Enquiries - Maureen Coleman: 027 3337786 or [a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz)



Sender:

P.O.Box 206

Paeroa 3640