

Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association March 2019



A beautiful little side stream in the Motu

Photo: Courtesy of Ashleigh Dewar

www.tvda.co.nz

Identify your target beyond ALL doubt

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association

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

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

Club Events Calendar

March

Tuesday	26	Private Use
Wednesday	27	Club Night - Phil Dawson from Ospri
Saturday	30	Ohinemuri Fish and Game DTL event
Sunday	31	OF&G Sporting Clays – Duck Shooters event

April

Monday	1	Private Use
Tuesday	2	Private Use
Friday	5	Private Use
Saturday	6	Private Use
Sunday	7	Private Use
Wednesday	10	Committee Night
Sunday	14	Bowhunters Club Day
Wednesday	24	Club Night – Kids Club Night (<i>moved from January</i>)

May

Sunday	5	Final round of Kiwi 3D competition - <i>Massey</i>
Wednesday	8	Committee Night
Friday	10	LAST DAY FOR PHOTO ENTRIES – Dennis Hayfield
Sunday	12	Bowhunters Club Day
Tuesday	14	Private use
Wednesday	15	Private use
Wednesday	15	Annual General Meeting
Thursday	16	Private use
Friday	17	Private use
Wednesday	29	Club Night - Measuring Night (Remember - DO NOT CUT THE SKULLS)

Presidents Report

Last Friday was such an incredibly tragic and dark day and the destruction and grief it has caused has left a shadow over the entire country as so many innocent people lost their lives in Christchurch. I am not even going to mention the name of the perpetrator – he does not deserve such recognition. It has been truly humbling to see that the real Kiwi spirit has come to the fore so profoundly in this time of need – may we all learn from this and be better people because of it.

As you will by now all be aware – the firearms laws have been changed and I must say that as recreational hunters in particular, this is the best possible outcome that we could have hoped for. MSSA's are not a necessary nor needed piece of equipment for us to still enjoy our recreational pursuits and we all need to accept this as law abiding citizens. This is the price we have to pay for flaws in the system that have enabled this cold, heartless individual to create so much grief and havoc. My hope and trust that common sense would prevail and that a good balance would be struck all round has been confirmed. Thank you so much to all concerned.

Back on the club front - special thanks to you each and every one of you for the excellent amount of feedback that we received regarding your varied uses of our range and club facilities. It has certainly enabled us to get a really good picture of especially those involvements outside of organised club days and events. It's also great to hear what is so important to a wide range of members because we all have differing interest streams and involvements.

Moving forward it was also great to see such a supportive group at the club night whereby we could share our information and enable people to see the proposed subdivision plans for themselves and also get your really valued feedback on options as we moved forward.

Our submission was completed and lodged on 8 February and we are now working through the subsequent matters that have been put in place by Council and we had a meeting with the agents for Morrison Developments last week. They are fully aware of our position both via our submission and this in-person meeting held with Council planning staff.

Your valued input and support has enabled us to engage professional help as has proved so helpful all round. More on this once we hear back from the applicants in due course – this will be after they have undertaken their necessary monitoring and produced the required reports that Council has requested.

Looking now at club events over the last few weeks has seen us holding our Annual Maureen Bennett Memorial Sporting Clay shoot with 125 shooters on the day which was a great turnout given that there was the Grand Prix (pre National's) event in Whanganui just two days after our shoot. Special thanks to those who attended and also to the great team on the day and over the setup phase that enabled the day to be so successful.

Moving forward to last weekend and we hosted the 2nd Round of the Kiwi 3D interclub field archery event. With 98 archers on the grounds for the day and not a sound to be heard - another strong recognition of the diversity that makes our club what it is. Once again these events do not happen without a huge amount of work before hand and then on the day so – take a bow teams, you all did your club proud.

Look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 24th for clubnight. We have got Phil Dawson from Ospri as our guest speaker so make sure you come along for a very informative evening – see you there on the night

Good Luck to those getting out into the hills for the upcoming roar.

Remember to stay safe and ***always identify your target beyond all doubt. Once your bullet or arrow has been sent on its way – it is forever your responsibility....***

Maureen

Can you help please:

I have had a request from a club member as to whether anyone may be able to assist him by lending him the use of a Chronograph for the day to check his centrefire.

If you are able to help, please contact Maureen 027 3337786 or a.j.coleman@extra.co.nz



Additional Camera's are now in place at TVDA

Over recent months there have been additional cameras installed on our property.

The need for this has arisen on couple of fronts but particularly as we acting as responsible land owners and for the sake of all our members.

So if in doubt - make sure you are smiling.....!!

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Club Night

Wednesday 27 March 2019

PHILLIP DAWSON

OSPRI

OPERATIONS EXTENSION OFFICER

7.30pm start time and supper afterwards as usual

Phil has offered to come and be our guest speaker at the March club night so no better time to come along and hear exactly where things are at on the pest control programmes that they are undertaking. He has had in excess of 30 years in working in this domain and discussions that I have had with him in the past have been quite enlightening.

There will be ample opportunity and questions are certainly most welcome on the night.

In general Phil will be covering:

- what work has been done so far
- what Ospri are doing in the coming year(s) programme - this will enable you to see where they we are planning to undertake future work. Keep in mind that some of the pre-planned programmes have also been deferred.
- how operations are done now verses past applications AND what they have learnt from their earlier mistakes.
- *And in Phil's own words –*
 - *Any questions from the floor – as free and frank as you like (within reason)*

This presentation and its delivery will be more about how/where/what Ospri are doing and how it may be affecting hunters while we are eradicating TB.

From the committee – this is not going to be a slanging match nor personal attack by any means and we need to appreciate that Phil is coming along as our guest. I know that you will all respect this and you are also most welcome to ask questions and that these will be answered.

RANGE USE....

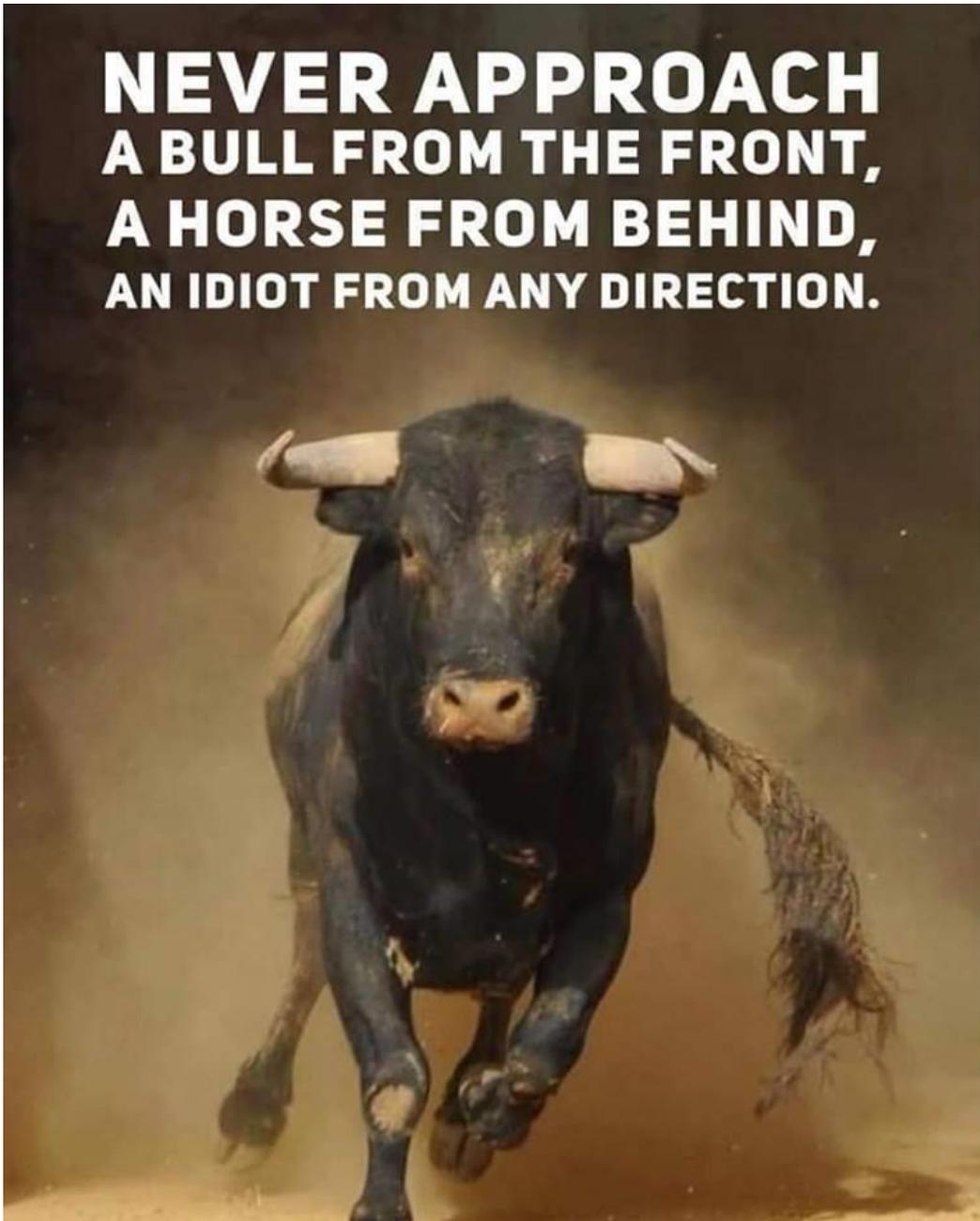
PLEASE... When using the rifle ranges, **ONLY USE PAPER TARGETS** and make sure you **clean up after yourselves please.**

Also please make sure that when you pin your targets up, that you avoid putting the target across where the posts and framing that's behind the coreflute. This certainly extends the life of the shooting area immensely and saves a lot of repair work.



Many thanks for your help with these requests

**NEVER APPROACH
A BULL FROM THE FRONT,
A HORSE FROM BEHIND,
AN IDIOT FROM ANY DIRECTION.**



Fallow Hunt for Elliott - *Maureen Coleman*

Lack of cell phone coverage and differing forecast predictions across each of the regular weather website added doubt to tomorrow's planned hunt. With a hint of local knowledge and keenness to be in the hills the call was made to 'let's give it a crack and if the weather turns to custard it will still be a good road trip'.

We'd had this weekend earmarked for some time to get Elliott out in the hills to try and bag another deer as it's been a few months since he got his last ones. Adding to the challenge for Elliott is that he needs to use a shooting frame attached to the front of his Polaris, the scope has an extension to a screen in the cab and the trigger is a 'tube' clipped to his shirt – but that's no safeguard for the deer.

We met up at the intersection from the main highway down into the valley. The introductions and giddy's were shared, a beautiful evening meal hit the spot perfectly and as the night wore on and the conversations continued; one by one we headed off to bed in anticipation of a good day tomorrow. The heavy rain from earlier in the day had passed, the skies had cleared and there was a decisive nip in the air; as can only pre-empt an icy daybreak.

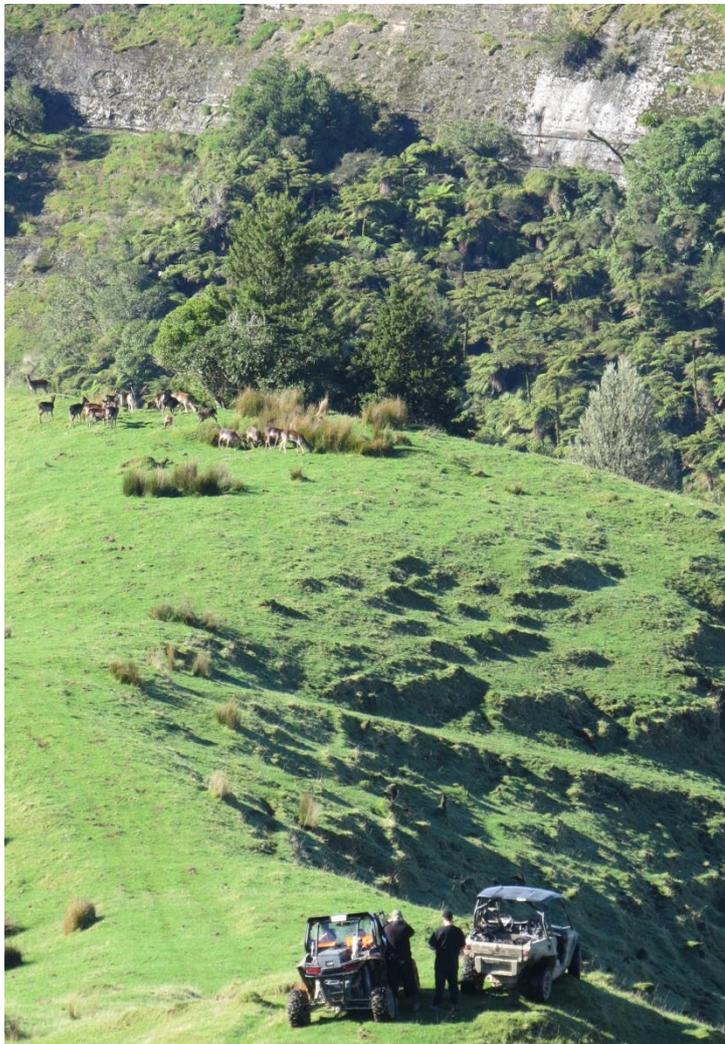
Pre-dawn and a light frost had set, with a perfect day on offer. Breakfast was done and dusted, the side-by-sides were sorted and with 'crews' all set to make tracks, we headed off up to the hunting area. Magnificent views back down into the valley with a light fluff of mist hugging the waterways only got more spectacular, the closer we got to the top of the road. By now the sun's rays were sharp shards across the foothills and the warmth could be felt on our chilled faces.

Looking across at the bluff faces, mobs of goats were tucked up tight where they'd spent the night. They too were waiting for the sun's rays to reach them and with a bit of luck, the fallow deer would also be seeking the sunny faces further on.

Glassing from near the woolshed we picked out various mobs – some small, others with plenty of numbers, all with a range of colours and sizes and some more so than



others, had access that we could get to with the side-by-sides. This was to be our overarching decider as Elliott is tetraplegic and has no option but to stay seated when he's hunting but this certainly does not deter this young man from enjoying the thrill of the



hunt, the enjoyment of the wide open spaces and challenge of getting an animal. We all have our reasons to hunt and never should a hurdle prevent any of us from our endeavours.

Following the landowner up the steep tracks certainly reiterated the value and stability of the side-by-sides. As the tracks climbed ever higher and the corners continued to tighten we closed in on the once distant ridgetop. Looking back into the valley now really did take on that 'top of the world' feeling and it was only going to get better.

With the first mob of deer that we zoned in on now moving off, we waited patiently – the day was still young and like they say on the cheese advert - ya' can't rush these things. Watching as does and youngster went different ways down a steep face –

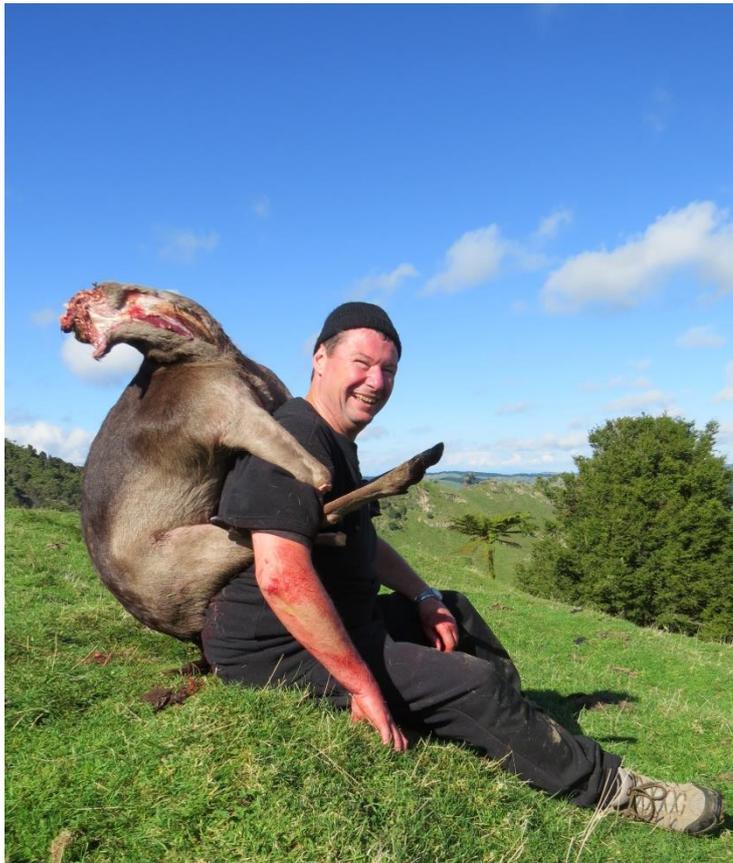
some racing their own shadow, others calling out to each other while some just stood in the sunshine; head tilted to the side as they watched the entertainment. The angle for these ones from where we had the Polaris parked was too steep to accommodate the rifle cradle so no shots were on offer. Watching them was none the less enjoyable – it would be great to know just what the communication was as they certainly all chattered amongst themselves long after they had all disappeared over the knob and out of sight.

Dale at the wheel of the Polaris with Elliott in the hot seat, we moved on up the ridge further and low and behold, just over the other side another mob of charcoal coloured fallow grazed their way across the sidling. Totally unfazed about the 'intruders' in their patch they browsed, skipped and played at will as we sat and watched in anticipation of just where they were heading and if the opportunity would arise to take aim sometime soon. Slowly but surely they ventured around the face, through the saddle below up and out onto the plateau. Getting closer was



now the topic of discussion – they were about 400m away and downhill. Dropping out of sight in the Polaris' in a 'stalk' downhill; the gap could be closed, a better lay of the land was on offer and options would become available. We waited back up the hill, moving around slightly and distracting the lead doe and her compatriots while the hunters moved down the ridge; nestled into a spot about 200m away from the animals and began the process of getting 'set up'.

Elliott carefully nudged the joystick with his cheek as this moves the rifle up and down; left or right. Focussing on the screen that is mounted in the Polaris showed that, with each gentle touch on the joystick, the crosshairs got nudged ever closer to the doe that stood out to the side of the mob. Our anticipation grew. Elliott's dad Mike and mate Dale's



excitement was growing too – probably even a bite on the bottom lip perhaps; the farm owner with eyes squinting in anticipation and so keen to see this all unfold. Elliott's heartrate was no doubt increasing as well and thinking about his breathing just like the rest of us in this situation. He's successfully done this before and surely this was his time again. These challenges also reiterated that there is often so much more time to be had when lining up on an animal than many people ever consider possible.

We watched through the bino's and a camera lens, snapping photos of the deer in general and suddenly the late autumn stillness was shattered by the crack of the

.223. The animal dropped instantly on the spot. A perfectly placed shoulder shot and the calm and accurate shooting style of this young man had reaped just rewards. This doe and the others in the mob had no idea what had happened; she lay there as the others just milled around looking to see where the noise had come from and carried on grazing.

The next few minutes were so humbling. Having the privileged to be hunting on this beautiful property, the expertise and guidance of the farm owner and being able to witness a father, son and their best mate all working together to help Elliott secure another deer for the freezer was such a delight. Handshakes were dished out all round, discussion on the shot, the moment it happened and the excellent result were all rolled into one and summed up the perfect outcome.

Very proud father Mike was dished up the duties of field dressing the deer along with the 'carry' back to the Polaris which was also naturally accompanied by more photos. Smiles beamed all round and success had a very sweet ring to it as we turned the vehicles uphill with more delights in store for us all.

Through a gate up ahead, around a track, over a knob, across the basin and up to the trig and there before us was an awesome 360° view to behold.



Mountain peaks spanning from National Park across to Taranaki and up to Te Aroha were captured in the midday glow. From such a vantage point the rivers of shining thread weaved their way towards the coast, the horizons curved out of sight and everywhere in between was a mottled blend of beautiful native podocarp bush, expanses of lush green farmland and the consistent hue of pine plantations.

With all of this bundled into our bag for the day it was time to venture onto other parts of the farm for a very scenic trip in the trio of side-by-sides back down to the road and further on to where we were staying. Sharing a lovely hot lunch along with the privileges of the day was such a fitting end to what had started out a tad tentatively on the weather front the day before.

Almost as if on cue, lunch was finished, the temperature changed and within half an hour the liquid sunshine was again with us.

What a perfect day – right down to the timing.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As you will have seen in the calendar, the range is booked out for

“Private Use” over the days of **5 – 7 April.**

If you are wanting or needing to sight your rifle in before heading into the hills, please make plans to work around these dates.

It is the NZ Army that is undertaking a large scale exercise in the wider area and our entire range and property has been booked as part of this.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and support in this regard.

Rimfire Champ's
Rescheduled date – 3 March 2019

Mens	<u>50m</u>	<u>100m</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dan Cox	160	82	242
Peter Thompson	166	56	222
<u>Ladies</u>			
Maureen Coleman	101	71	172
Ashleigh Dewar	127	42	169
<u>Juniors</u>			
	-		

Centrefire Champ's
Rescheduled date – 3 March 2019

Mens	<u>Total</u>
Dan Cox	65
Peter Thompson	22
<u>Ladies</u>	
Ashleigh Dewar	28

Patron's Cup (Deer Target)
Rescheduled date – 3 March 2019

Mens	<u>Total</u>
Dan Cox	109
Peter Thompson	105
<u>Ladies</u>	
Ashleigh Dewar	55

Jim Johansen Iron Sight's shoot

Mens	<u>Total</u>
Peter Thompson	1st
Warren Penwarden	2nd
John Senk	3rd
<u>Juniors</u>	
Jessie Penwarden (Jnr)	1st
Dania Penwarden (Jnr)	2nd

Running Boar

3rd Round - 24 February 2019

Mens	<u>Slow</u>	<u>Fast</u>	<u>Total</u>
Peter Thompson	65	50	115
Dan Cox	67	37	104
Mike Cook	54	41	95
Warren Penwarden	56	38	94
John Senk	15	36	51
<u>Ladies</u>			
Ashleigh Dewar	21	13	34
<u>Juniors</u>			
Tash Cook	42	28	70
Jessica Penwarden	29	0	29
Jamie Kuntz	4	24	28
Dania Penwarden	16	11	27

K2K Trap Line -

Dennis Hayfield and Bill Olsen

As at the end of February we are now monitoring a total 116 traps covering the two lines – these lines run from Kopu to Pipiroa and then from Pipiroa through to Waitakaruru.



Kills results for January / February 2019

Stoats 12

Rats 13

Hedgehogs 13

From when we started May 2017 until 28 February 2019; we have trapped .

65 Stoats

44 Rats

46 Hedgehogs.



Jobs coming up at the Property

- Several helpers will be required to assist with installing cables and an electricity supply from the container shed to the 100m shooting shed. Some tree pruning will also be required beforehand. This will be advised once we have the materials but in the meantime, keep it on your radar or let Wayne know of your availability.
- 'fencing off' the 100m covered shooting area. If someone is able to look after this as a project, please contact Wayne for more details and additional helpers will be sourced as needed for you.
- Weed spraying and tobacco weed is always an ongoing job

If you are able to help with any of this work, please contact Wayne on 0274 916352

Membership Renewals

Most of you should have well and truly received your membership renewals by now **but if you haven't PLEASE CONTACT MAUREEN STRAIGHT AWAY.**

Maureen's Contact details are: a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or if you don't have email: 027 3337786

Most of them have been emailed out however if you have only provided a postal address, then this will have been your method of receiving them.

There have been teething challenges with the new membership database and system that has been installed at NZDA so they are just working through these issues as they arise.

Your help and understanding is much appreciated but we do need to know if you have not received a membership form (of either method) by the time this newsletter has arrived. *Cheers Maureen*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY

Please give thought to joining the committee.

This is a great way to bring new ideas and thoughts to the club and our many activities. The future has so much to offer for us and everyone has something valuable to contribute so your input and support will be appreciated immensely.

20 March 2019

MSSA's unnecessary for recreational hunting

"The conversation New Zealand is now having regarding the use of military-style semi-automatic firearms (MSSA's) is important and the Game Animal Council wishes to clarify several aspects in relation to their use for hunting game animals," says Chair Don Hammond.

The Game Animal Council (GAC) is a statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation. The GAC therefore has an interest in the safe use and provision of firearms as they relate to game animal hunting and management in New Zealand.

"The reality is that for recreational game animal hunting there is little practical use for MSSA's," says Hammond. "The vast majority of recreational hunting of deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs using firearms is done with bolt-action rifles."

"The practical application for MSSA's is for game animal management and commercial harvest undertaken by the Department of Conservation, professional animal controllers and commercial meat recovery operators. For this type of work a bolt-action rifle is impractical."

"The GAC does not believe restrictions on the availability of MSSA's will have a major impact on the recreational hunting of game animals. However, provision is needed for a very limited availability to those few organisations that undertake game animal management operations and commercial meat recovery. We do believe there are ways to provide for these applications while satisfying any objective further restricting the public availability of MSSA's."

"Finally, I want to state just how shocked and saddened the Game Animal Council is over the events in Christchurch last Friday. The Council wishes to pass on our gratitude to the New Zealand Police and the other emergency services for their outstanding response and to pass on our condolences to everyone affected by this tragedy."

Contact:

Don Hammond, Chair

Phone 0274885940

don.hammond@nzgac.org.nz



Thank You

So much to everyone who has helped out in any way over the last few months; your contributions certainly do make such a difference.

- *Mike Cook for so kindly doing several building and R&M jobs around the clubrooms, putting the new spouting on the Running Boar shed and fixing up the 50m bench rest – all so appreciated thank you Mike.*
- *Tony for once again ensuring that the Twilight field was always open and ready to go for weekly clay targets shoots. Also to Mike, Clem, Keven and Henry for your help with these events and chipping in to assist wherever it was needed.*
- *On the topic of Twilight shooting – special thanks to those who regularly attended and made it all worthwhile. It's great to hear and see the fun that was had at these events and new friendships made (or at least someone else to poke fun at). It was also so neat to see members and shooters helping and encouraging new participants and giving them valuable tips along the way. Their improving scores and smiles were testament to that for sure.*
- *To everyone who helped at the Maureen Bennett Memorial Shoot back at the start of February. While this was a few weeks ago for sure, the huge amount of work put in by the team setting these excellent targets was so appreciated as we all the help on the day of the event. These are real TEAM EFFORTS and like the recent Kiwi 3D Comp, they simply would not happen without this excellent working environment. Please all accept this well deserved pat on the back.*
- *Sam Dyer and Dennis Hayfield for keeping the trapping programme going at the club property. Rats and hedgehogs are the main victims but a couple of stoats have been nabbed as well so that is fantastic.*
- *Brian Neilson for having done an excellent job on cutting and pasting the Tobacco Weed and Privet. – it really had put a huge dent in the problem...*
- *Keven & Mike for so kindly helping out to run the February club night and share with you all the photos and great times they have had on tripd to the Chathams.*

Congratulations also to:

- *Adam and Irene Deane on the safe arrival of their little bundle of joy – Adam Jnr was born in early February and attended his first event at the club last week. Welcome to our newest members and a continuation of the Deane family connected with TVDA!!!*
- *Sam Johansen and his fiance Deija on their recent engagement – our best wishes to you both for your future together.*

Trap line details from "The Wapiti Blocks"

With the 2019 Bugle drawing near, take a look at the excellent results and the great work being done by the team down there in the Wapiti Foundation. These were the trap results as at 17 February 2019. Bait used – meat and eggs.

These results are certainly making life a tad easier for our native birdlife – well done team.

Run: Upper Worsley

Trapper: Paul Peychers

Trap no	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
13			Sprung x 2
13A			Sprung x 2
44	Stoat		
46	Stoat		
66	Stoat		

Run: Lower Worsley

Trapper: Kevin Swan & Dean Bishop

Trap no	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
C80	Stoat		Sprung
LW6	2 stoats		
LW12		Rat	Sprung
LW20			
LW29A	Stoat		

Run: Castle

Trapper: Ray Orchard

Trap no	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
18	Stoat		
19	Stoat		
24	Stoat		
35	Stoat		
40	Stoat		
49	Stoat		
56	Stoat		
64	Rat		

Run: Upper Glaisnock

Trapper: Michael Rogers

Trap no	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
29	Stoat		
35	Stoat		

Run: Lower Glaisnock

Trapper: Chris Cameron

Trap No	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
30	Stoat		
44	Stoat		

Run: Lugar Burn

Trapper: Russell McBride

Trap No	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
17	Stoat		
33		Rat	

Run: Nitz

Trapper: Roger Foote

Trap no	Stoat	Rat	Sprung
24	Stoat		

2019 Woodhill Hunting Ballots – **NOW OPEN**

This is all being done ONLINE this year so if you are keen to have your name in the draw but don't have a computer, please get hold of Maureen or another club member or friend and the application can be lodged for you.

Details are:

Applications close: 17 April

Drawn: 30 April

Hunting from: 8 June



The application will be emailed automatically when you 'Apply For Ballot'

All payments by Direct Credit or ANZ Branch deposit:

- Make payment of the Application Fee (\$15.00) to:
Account Name : Woodhill Fallow Management Council Inc
Account Number: 01 0141 0041658 00
Payment reference: Both Family Name and Firearms Licence No.(same as on application form)
- e.g. Smith R1234567
- Enter requested information and click **Apply For Ballot** button

Please do not mail a Cheque, or your application form.

If successful you can nominate up to two hunting companions.

Successful applicants will be notified by post, results on website soon after the ballot.



Get your applications in now as there are only a couple of weeks left.....



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:

01-28 February 19

18-23 April 19

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 – 17 April 19

24 April – 15 December 19

Group Booking conditions and instructions for members are:

- Reservations can be made direct with Interislander online at <https://www.greatjourneysfnz.co.nz/interislander/book/fares-and-discounts/group-bookings/> 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.

Other conditions apply as well - (fares subject to change with notification)

- You **MUST** produce your NZDA membership card at check-in or the full fare will be charged. The card to be in the name of the person travelling
- Rates are valid for travel 1 Feb through to 15 December 2019.
- **NO discount applies 19 Dec 2019 thru to & including 31 January 2020**

Te Whare Okioki Hut – Kaimai Ranges

The construction is well underway for our first new hut - Te Whare Okioki (The Resting Place) - at the site of the old Ngamuwahine shelter. This will be a 12 bunk hut built to DOC serviced standards.

The wall construction is now underway and over the next month or so we expect there to be rapid progress with roof and window assembly expected over the next few weeks

There is a DOC digger on site, for continued site clearance, earth moving and site cleanup work. We are hoping that it will soon be repaired and working again !

Last year we installed the new toilet and constructed the woodshed, principally from materials retrieved from the old shelter. The foundations were constructed and installed, and hut floor and deck floor were then built.

A new helipad has been constructed and is in use by our helicopter operations.

PLEASE be aware of the following :

- This area is a formal construction site
- DO NOT enter the construction site
- DO NOT interfere with equipment or materials on site
- Be aware that helicopters may be operating at any time. If you hear or see any helicopter near the site, stay well away in the bush, and ensure that all loose items of clothing etc are firmly secured - otherwise they will be blown away
- DO NOT leave any rubbish on or near the construction site, including in the shed or the toilet

If you have any information or photos to share about your visit past this site, or would like to join a work party during the construction process, please contact us on email

kaimairidgeway@gmail.com



Motutapere Hut - General Work required.....and help needed please



It used to look like this and then thanks to excellent work from club members and DOC staff, a revamp and reclad was done a few years ago which made a big improvement.

The hut then looked like this



AND NOW.....

We are needing helpers again please to assist with general maintenance and tidy up on the hut.



Kaimai Ridgeway Trust has a budget to fly the material and gear etc in for this so there is no need to lug all your gear up the hill which is a wonderful bonus.

There is also a heli pad at this hut that needs a bit of a trim up. It can currently be safely used but having it expanded slightly will enable the rescue choppers to land there in cases of emergency.

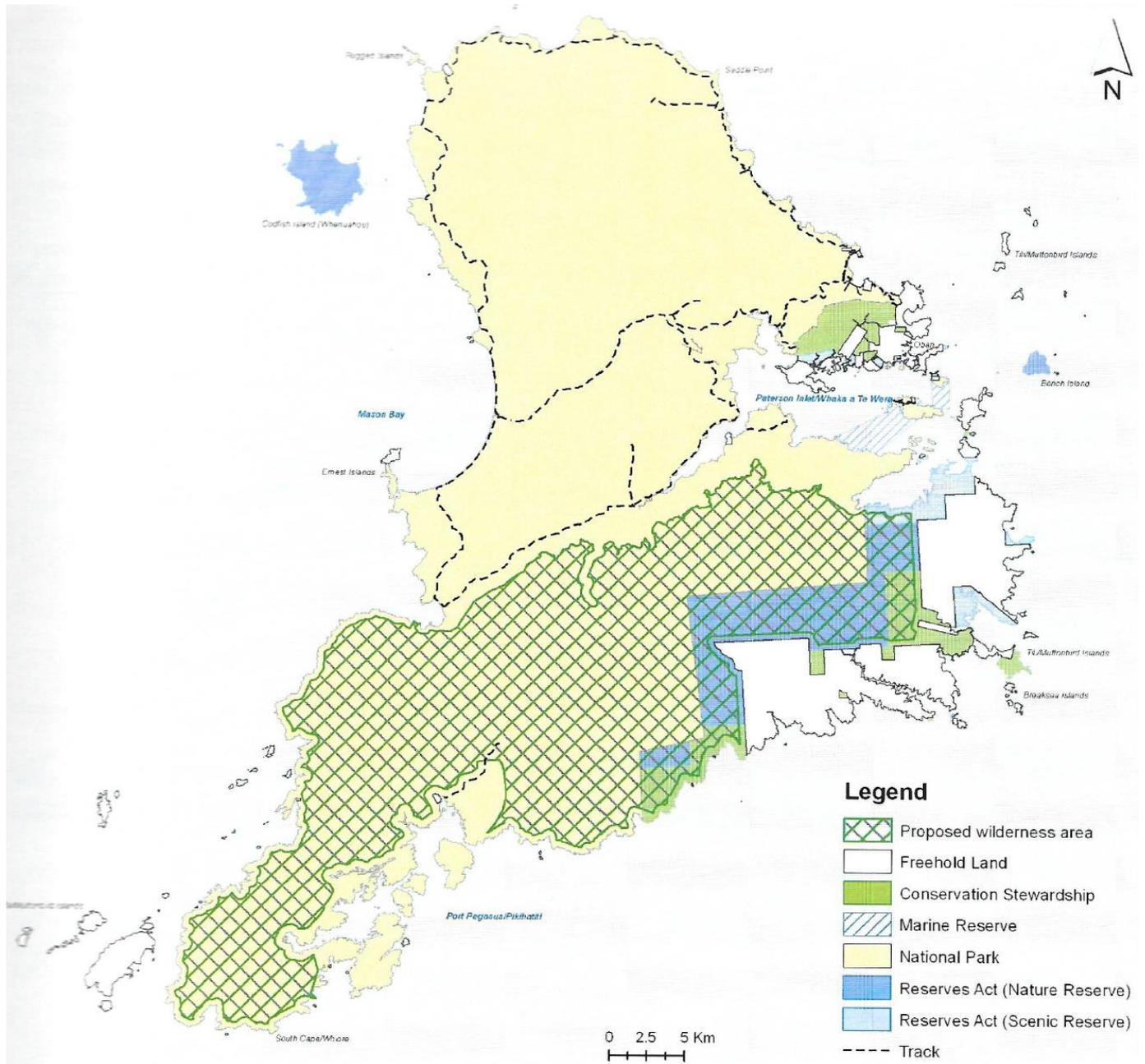
For those who unaware of our connection with these huts, approximately 12 years ago we entered into a MOU with DOC to help retain these valuable huts in the Kaimai ranges. Since then this MOU has been incorporated into the work that Kaimai Ridgeway Trust is doing but our commitment still remains the same.

Our involvement is providing the 'people power' to do maintenance and general upkeep on the huts (and essentially, keeping them in the Kaimais) so hence this request is going out. We also look after the Kauritatahi hut to the South of Thompson's Track which Mike, Jos and others have done a great job of looking after it.

Please Contact Maureen or have a catch up at Club Night if you are able to help with this job. It is anticipated that it will only take a day or at most; a weekend



The Future of Rakiura



A number of people have asked about the area that may become a Wilderness Area on Stewart Island. A map from The CMS for Stewart Island showing the proposed Wilderness area is attached. I understand that the area shown as Nature Reserve had its designation changed to Scenic Reserve some years ago.

You may be aware there is a group known and Predator Free Rakiura which has the aim of eliminating possums, cats, rats and hedgehogs from Stewart Island. Deer are not included at this time.

The method and timing has yet to be established. A project manager has been employed.

A monthly report has been appearing in the Stewart Island News to keep locals up dated. I have arranged for a copy to be sent to me for distribution to hunters. Please send this email

to other Island whitetail hunters you know. They can email me their address to receive future monthly updates direct.

If you do not wish to receive further information please advise me by email and I will delete your contact. Likewise if you received this message more than once.

Other items of interest

The Rakiura National Park plan requires that "A code of use be developed for freezers, generators and other similar large electrical devices on public conservation lands on Stewart Island. The process to develop this code of use has not yet begun. Note conditions within Department of Conservation Hunting Permits prohibit freezers".

Pegasus

"The process to gazette a wilderness has begun and a Task Assignment has been created and assigned by Director Aaron Fleming. Progress will remain a focus from the 2018/19 year to completion which may be 7 – 10 years"

I am looking for some feedback. Do you have any experience or comments you would like to convey on these two issues?

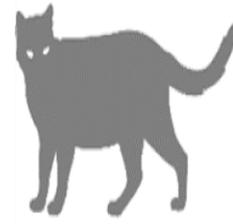
Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust: - The Trust now maintains 18 huts on hunting blocks on the Island. The last hut was built at Little Hellfire in November 2018. For more info see <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/rakiura-hunter-camp-trust>

Hunt Safe

John DeLury



These outstanding huts are all thanks to a great team effort on the ground down there but particularly due to the passion, drive and commitment of two awesome individuals - John DeLury and Ray Phillips.



2018

After a busy and productive year, the Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group reflected on the achievements of 2018.

The Group held five meetings and set up management, engagement and technical working groups, incorporating **professionals** in each area to accelerate the Group's progress. We secured **funding** from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to progress the project, including the appointment of an island-based Project Manager Community role (Bridget Carter).

We drafted a Memorandum of Understanding describing the **commitment** of the Group to progress the Project.

We **sought additional members** to the Group from the Stewart Island Promotions Association, Stewart Island / Rakiura Community Board and an open invitation for further community representatives. We welcomed new members Ali Meade (Environment Southland) and Jon Thomas (DOC). We thanked Jill Skerrett, Phil Tisch and Richard Bowman for their contributions over the years. We submitted on Environment Southland's Proposed Biosecurity Strategy and Regional Pest Management Plan and will attend hearings in February.

Keen to gain from the experience of others to deliver our vision, **the Group engaged with individuals, groups and agencies who are working towards Predator Free goals** and improving their community through restoration. We met people from Taranaki Mounga, the Waiheke Collective and Predator Free Dunedin, the Lorde Howe Island Rat Eradication project, Zero Invasive Predators, DOC's Island Eradication Advisory Group and University of Auckland technical and social scientists. We shared our vision with Predator Free 2050 Ltd, all of the South Island mayors, SIRCET, local Real Journey's staff, the Stewart Island / Rakiura Community Board, Stewart Island Promotions Association and Mamaku Point Conservation Trust.

We provided updates in every Stewart Island News, shared the story in First Edition magazine and in Southland District Council's radio podcast First Word. We started work on a website and are developing an engagement strategy to help better communicate and connect with our people.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Rakiura Titi Islands
ADMINISTERING BODY



environment
SOUTHLAND
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Taiao Tonga



Rakiura Titi
Committee



RAKIURA
MAORI LANDS TRUST



2019

Save the Date: An informal public meeting is to be held on Tuesday evening, 26th March. More information is to be circulated in the March edition of the Stewart Island News. We'd love to see you there.

Looking forward into 2019 we will establish the technical working group to recommend the **options for testing techniques and assumptions of how a Predator Free Rakiura could be achieved** so that the technical barriers can be explored and overcome. Intertwined with this will be work to ensure robust engagement and connection with community and stakeholders, so that a clear understanding and strategy can be developed for maximising community benefits.

We will **secure multi-year funding** to progress the technical questions and community benefits and to support quality engagement with the people who can make this dream possible. We intend to produce a **3-5 year operational plan** with discrete parcels of work to address the challenges, with which we can inspire investment in the both the medium and long term.

Plans for 2019 in summary

We want to **UNDERSTAND** the barriers for Predator Free Rakiura

We will **IDENTIFY** the parcels of work needed to explore the barriers

We will **SECURE** the resources needed for the next 3-5 years

We want to **CONNECT** with the people throughout

We will develop a website and communication **tools to help us explain the vision and the intended path to get there**, to help foster the conversations and understanding needed before any steps are taken.

We want to meet with individuals, groups and agencies with an interest to **understand our connections**, work out how together we can find acceptable solutions to the challenges and to progress the work.

We want to hear from you! To share your aspirations, ideas, questions and concerns please contact Bridget (bridget.carter@southlanddc.govt.nz / 027 212 7809) or Ray representing hunting interests (rkphillips@xtra.co.nz).

PIG WEIGHTS



-Keep those weights rolling in guys.....

Please email them to:
a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or

Post them to: TVDA P O Box 206, Paeroa



Bow hunters Corner



Next club day is Sunday 14th April

A really great effort to all the team that helped make sure that last weekend ran so smoothly. There was an awesome turnout of 98 archers on the day and everyone just had so much fun. The comments that streamed in throughout the day was a real credit to you all

The prep work in the field really paid off and special thanks to Alton (a new member) who spent hours on the weedeater just a couple of days beforehand and those putting targets out on the Saturday. While this is quite different to a clay target shoots – there is still a lot that needs to be done to ensure that safety requirements and the rules are met, target combinations and positioning is critical and distances all need to be measured and double checked and put on the cards. ***Definitely not a 5 minute job.***

The team in the office, the crew out in the field making sure if all ran smoothly did a superb job and full kudos to Shelley for the way she brought everything together for the day – and went out and competed as well. Great stuff Shelley.

As always with larger events such as this the kitchen crew were kept on their toes and the venison burgers and mussel fritters were in hot demand and hit the spot perfectly.

Dave Madsen Contracting	FENCING
THAMES Ph: 07 868 7458 Mobile: 027 500 6110	 Post & Rail, Wire & Batten Stockyards Pole & Post Driving Lifestyle Blocks & Rural Tractor Work & Spraying

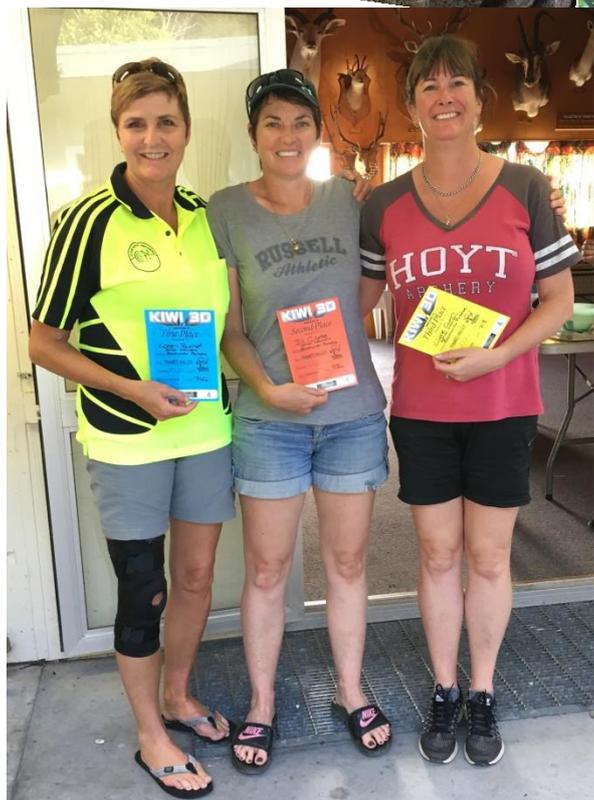
Hi guys

Hey, well done on the massive effort for Round 2, it was pretty darn epic!!

Thank you so much for a fantastic day. Everybody had a blast that we spoke to.

Cheers, Rachel (*Kiwi 3D Competition Organiser*)

See the next page for photos from the event - many thanks to Craig Burnett





Sender:

P.O.Box 206

Paeroa 3640