

October 2022



R-L: HUNTS Course trainees doing the leg work back to camp: Sean Donovan, Jordan Palfrey and Damian Timms with helper Elliott Humphrey assisting with the carry.

Identify your target beyond ALL doubt

www.tvda.co.nz

Thames Valley Committee and Contacts

Clubrooms: 101 Morrison Road, Paeroa

www.tvda.co.nz

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

Start time 7.30pm

Patron	Basil Morrison	021 946403
President	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786 or a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz
Vice President	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352
Secretary	Ashleigh Dewar #	020 40070067
Treasurer	Clemency Dent #	022 3482843
Committee:	Keven Caddy	027 4881207
	Tony Coleman	027 9271848
	John Senk #	027 4660549
	Dennis Hayfield*	027 2211892
	Henry Cummings*	021 1532759
	Alton Whibley*	021 1825403
	Andrew Austen	027 7269457
	Karen Austen #	027 3186259
	Lee Kelly	027 3794201
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Archery Contact	Dennis Hayfield	027 2211892
Clay Target Contact	Tony Coleman	027 9271848
HUNTS Co-ordinator	Brian Neilson	027 8910958
Chief Range Officer	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Douglas Score Contact	Len Cubitt	027 4978598
Kaimai Ridgeway Trust	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352
Motutapere Hut contact	Mike Cook	027 4741112
Kauritatahi Hut	Jason Affleck	021 2719464
Club Trip organiser	Brian Neilson	027 8910958
Bar Manager	Keven Caddy	027 4881207
Bar Assistants	As shown above (#) and Michael Wade Trish Stachurski	
DOC Liaison	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Police Liaison	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Kids Survival Camp	Nigel Lesley	027 4823117
Membership Officer	Maureen Coleman	027 3337786
Property	Wayne Stachurski	027 4916352

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Club Events Calendar

October		
Wednesday	26	Club Night
Saturday	29	Sika Show – Mystery Creek *
Sunday	30	Sika Show – Mystery Creek
Monday	31	Private use – Range available after 3pm

November		
Monday	1	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Thursday	3	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery (first night)
Saturday	5	Final Setup day for TVDA Anniversary 100 Sporting Clays Shoot
Sunday	6	TVDA Anniversary 100 Sporting Clays Shoot *
Monday	7	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Wednesday	9	Committee Meeting
Thursday	10	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery
Friday	11	Private Christmas Function from 10.00am
Sunday	13	NZDA Regional Meeting Tauranga 10.00am RSVP Maureen by Nov 5
Sunday	13	Bowhunters club day - 8.00am – 3.00pm
Monday	14	OFG Committee Meeting – clubrooms only 7pm onwards
Tuesday	15	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Thursday	17	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery
Friday	18	Clubrooms only – Waikato NZDA HUNTS Course session
Saturday	19	Private use on the range – Range closed all day
Sunday	20	Black Powder Club Day – 9.00am – 1.00pm
Monday	21	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Tuesday	22	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Thursday	24	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery
Saturday	26	Firearms Licence Training – clubrooms only
Sunday	27	Rimfire – Centrefire-Patrons Cup shoots
Monday	28	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Tuesday	29	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Wednesday	30	Club Night

Wednesday	30	FIELD DAYS AT MYSTERY CREEK Start (thru to Saturday 3.12.2022)
December		
Thursday	1	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery
Saturday	3	Firearms Licence Training – clubrooms only
Sunday	4	Black Powder Club Day – 9.00am – 1.00pm
Monday	5	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Monday	5	OFG Committee Meeting – clubrooms only 7pm onwards
Wednesday	7	Paeroa Lions Christmas Dinner at the Clubrooms
Thursday	8	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery
Thursday	8	Club Flyin Trip
Sunday	11	Bowhunters club day - 8.00am – 3.00pm
Monday	12	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Tuesday	13	Private use – Range available after 3pm
Wednesday	14	Committee Meeting
Thursday	15	Twilight Clays and Twilight Archery

Calling all Wapiti Hunters or those who are keen to have a go at Hunting Fiordland and the Majestic Wapiti for the first time. Check out the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation website for details of the upcoming Ballots or stop in and visit them at the Sika Show....

One Stop Wapiti Shop at the Sika Show..... Come along to the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation stand at the Sika show.

We have dusted off the Wapiti team to bring them North with 150 years of Wapiti experience in one spot...how good is that!!!

Do you have any burning questions about Wapiti?

How to hunt them?

Where to hunt them?

What gear to take?

What's the real state of the herd?

Find out at the show.



Remember the Wapiti ballot is still open for another 40 days so here's your opportunity to get the right information, straight from the "Wapiti's" mouth.

Maureen Coleman's TVDA Life Membership Award Celebration!!



Maureen has been presented with a well-earned achievement - Life Membership!

Let's all celebrate with her in the new "covid normal" on receiving this fantastic recognition.

TVDA invite's all club members, family and friends to her formal presentation

When - Friday 25th November, @7pm - 9pm

Where - toda clubrooms 101 Morrison Road, Paeroa.

*Please rsvp by Friday 18th November to
Ashlee via email, text or Phone 02040070067*

(Details are on our website)



SIKA SHOW

NZ HUNTING & OUTDOOR EXPO

29TH & 30TH OCTOBER MYSTERY CREEK EVENTS CENTRE HAMILTON

WIN A \$1000 SHOPPING SPREE AT THE SIKA SHOW!

SIMPLY PURCHASE YOUR SIKA SHOW TICKET ONLINE BEFORE 5PM ON 30TH SEPT 2022 & GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN
Ts & Cs Apply - please see website for details

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!!
WWW.SIKASHOW.CO.NZ
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!



OVER \$100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON!!



SIKA SHOW - EXHIBITOR LIST - OCT 2022

BIG GAME ARTISTRY	FIORDLAND WAPITI FOUNDATION	ADVANCED ARCHERY	FERNTech - DRONES
RED STAG TIMBER HUNTERS CLUB	NZ TAHR FOUNDATION	FISH CITY - HUNTING & OUTDOORS	SUNSAVER
NZ AMMO	AJ PRODUCTIONS	GUNCITY	BERETTA NZ
SHOOTER READY	SCARY SHARP	SABRE TACTICAL	FERAL DESIGN
BLOODLINE GEAR	ARLINGTON ARMS	GLACIER SPORTS - GLACIER RIFLES	NZ GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL
RIVERS TO RANGES	WEKATECH - MOA STEALTH COVERS	PRACMED NZ	SKELETON OPTICS NZ
BULLIVANT TAXIDERM	KEA OUTDOORS	ADVANCED OPTICS	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SWAROVSKI OPTIK	HUNTING AND FISHING NZ	GUNS NZ	BOB'S BILTONG
BARZ OPTICS	LOWA BOOTS	ARB 4X4 ACCESSORIES	GAMECO NZ
GLASS ART	HUNTECH	HUNTER NEW ZEALAND	SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
STONEY CREEK	ZEROPAK	TAKACAT NZ	GLEN DEB HUNTING
MIA GEAR	GERBER	CORALSEA SAFARI'S	NZ BOW HUNTERS SOCIETY
SIKA FOUNDATION	HUNTSMAN THERMAL OPTICS	AUSTRALIA OUTBACK BUFFALO SAFARI'S	RUDOLPH OPTICS
MAUNGAHAU LODGE	GARMIN	NIKL KNIVES	KAI WAHO
PURE SALT	TRAEGER	HOGS & HINDS CLOTHING	RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE
WILD GEAR	MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE	HI TECH COMPOSITES	ZEISS
GOODWOOD PRODUCTS	TATONKA	STRICTLY OUTDOORS	HAMILLS TE AWAMUTU
BACKLANZ	JETBOIL	XPLORA	OUTDOOR ADDICTIONWEAR
DELTA OPTICAL NZ	LED LENSER	KAI WHAKANGAU	LOCATOR BEACONS NZ
LEICA OPTICS	LEUPOLD	MOUNTAIN HIGH CLOTHING	NZ POLICE
NGAMATEA HUNTING & FISHING	YETI	HUNTAHR	MIGHTY MIX DOG FOOD
THE GEAR HUT	STYX MILL	TE ANAU HELICOPTERS	EBBETT TOYOTA
RUGGED RAM OUTDOORS	VORTEX	KILWELL SPORTS	WILD WEST WORCESTER
ROD AND RIFLE	EXTRAVISION	ADVENTURE HUNTING NZ	ACT PARTY
RIDGELINE CLOTHING	MSR	NZ DEER STALKERS ASSOCIATION	NEEDLE & NAIL
OUTDOOR SPORTS NZ	ZAMBERLAN	NATIONAL PARTY	OSPRI
RUAHINE PORTS	BACK COUNTRY FOODS	MTN GEAR	BLUE DUCK STATION
RURAL BUTCHER	SPIKA NZ	COUNCIL OF LICENCED FIREARMS OWNERS	WILD TINE
NZ HUNTER MAGAZINE	NZ PIG HUNTING ASSOCIATION	CHILLERMAN	DOG MASTER TRAINERS
OUTDOOR EDUCATION NZ	PHONE SCOPE NZ	WARFIGHTER ATHLETIC	SITKA GEAR
KIKO & FRIENDS	TARGET DYNAMICS INTERNATIONAL	E-MEGA STORE E BIKES & SCOOTERS	DOG & GUN COFFEE
RURAL SUPPORT TRUST	JPB FURLEY & CO	WILDSIDE HUNTING	YAKIMA
HUNTING HQ	DAMEL KENNELS & TRAILERS	M2 OVERLAND	NZ LIQUOR ONLINE
FREE-RANGE HUNTING NEW ZEALAND	BUSHBUCK	S.R MARSTON & CO	INGHAM MITSUBISHI
NZ WOMAN HUNTERS	55SIX - NZ HUNTER GROUP	SAFARI SUPPLY CO	BOOTLEG JERKY CO
CONNOVATION	UNJUSTIFIED RISK CLOTHING	C.R KENNEDY LTD	NZ OUTDOOR MAGAZINE
MANIATIS GUNSMITHS	ZOE MILADA BRAKE ARTWORK	EXPEDITION RAFTS	HUNTING 4 ART
EBBETT HAMILTON ISUZU & GMSV	EQUIP OUTDOORS	LITTLE FALLOW	STRASSER RIFLES
WORK & PLAY TRAILERS	KNOG HEADLAMPS	MAUNGA TIA	HUNTING INDUSTRY SUPPLIES
TUSSOCK OUTDOORS	LIFESAVER WATER PURIFICATION	COBB GRILLS NZ	

Presidents Report

As you will see in this newsletter there has been plenty happening and many more things on the club's radar. Life is never dull that is for sure.

Massive thanks to everyone that assisted in any way with the recent docking trip to Panekiri Station – this was yet again another extremely successful trip for us and the station and the whole team down there was so appreciative of the commitment and dedication that you all put into this work and the end result being 25,000 lambs done and dusted. A huge pat on the back to you all and heartfelt thanks from the TVDA Committee and members as you did us proud for sure.

The TVDA Anniversary Cup Sporting Clay shoot is just about upon us and it will be fantastic to see this happening again for us and the shooters now that Covid is not able to disrupt it for a 2nd year. The fliers have gone out, the fields are planned and being set and the team is ready for what will undoubtedly be a very busy day. If anyone is able to help with anything on the day or in the leadup to it – that being filling traps with clays, running out leads, a helper in the field with filling and keeping an eye on traps, assisting with the BBQ at lunchtime, in the kitchen, the office or doing odd jobs, or helping with the pickup afterwards (from 2pm through to about 4pm); then please get in touch. Please give me a phone call or an email on 027 3337786 or a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz

Our second HUNTS course for 2022 is well underway and there are only a few sessions left to go. We will be concluding this with a mentored HUNT in Te Urewera and be based out of the Orangihikoia Campsite on the eastern side of the Huirau Summit so this will be a highlight for the trainees for sure. We will also still be having our annual flyin trip to Te Urewera in early December but whether or not the blocks will have huts any longer remains to be seen.

This has come as a huge shock to so many of us that the plans to remove all of the huts has been so swift and ultimately kept tightly under wraps by DOC and Tuhoe however we are still hopeful that we may be able to retain some of the huts. More in the next newsletter on any progress however in the meantime, I have had it in writing that both Te Wairoa (Rogers) and Te Totora Huts will both be left untouched – they are both deemed as Historical which is also part of what has helped them to be saved from removal.

Back to the flyin trip – Brian is the person to contact if you are keen to be part of this trip and still have not put your name down. Keep reading through this newsletter for more information on dates and Brian's contact details. For those that have already got your names on the list, final details will be provided closer to the time on locations gear that is needed etc.

Twilight shooting is also about to begin on Thursday 3rd November (and every Thursday evening after that) so if you are a keen clay target shooter or archer, then roll on along and be part of this. Similarly – if you are keen to have a go and not quite sure how to get started, this is the perfect place to join in and see what it's all about. More details re this are further through the newsletter so check it out and look forward to seeing a really good turnout for twilight....and the burgers afterwards too of course.

Make the most of this excellent weather folks and tackle a day or two in the hills or a few hours out on the water or surfcasting off the beach. I hear the fishing is going well and the deer are in good condition so get ready for the summer BBQ's!!!

Take care out there and **always identify your target beyond ALL DOUBT**. Never assume and always double check before pulling the trigger or releasing that arrow.

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Cheers Maureen

October Club Night..... Wed 26th October

Sika Foundation presentation (that has recently been recorded) by Cam Speedy and the team has been provided to us and is a really valuable tool regarding Game Animal Management and for hunters to start looking at, and assessing several factors when out hunting.

This presentation was partially filmed when we had our last club trip to Clements Road so some familiar faces will be included as well.

The info and the messages are really valuable and there is so much that we can all do, right across the species of game animals to help reduce their overall impact on our native species, ultimately this will increase the quality of the animals that we hunt – both for meat and for trophies and the whole system is so much better of – us, the animals and the environment.

IN ADDITION TO THIS; we will also be having info and details at the club night re new club shirts and clothing that can be ordered so come along and have a catch up on this as well and place your order – for club shirts and any other clothing that you want to order as set out in the newsletter and as offered by Catchphrase in conjunction with Ridgeline and Betacraft.

The two catalogues (with prices to us) are posted on our TVDA website www.tvda.co.nz (as they are too big to include all in the same email with the newsletter) so have a look through them and the same offer applies – whether it is for your 'club shirt' or any other items that you wish to purchase. **These prices and items are only available for purchase through the club and for TVDA Members.**

The prices shown in the two catalogues are all Inclusive of GST. There is a freight component but that will be for the bulk order (not per individual orders).

NB: You will notice in the picture that it says Hutt Valley Branch – this is an example and has been offered to us for the same deal as they get from their own member (who owns Catchphrase).

This is a great opportunity to get everyone on board that wants to have a new TVDA Shirt and be looking really smart at the same time.....and also get logo'd TVDA clothing for any of your other 'back country' needs.

Look forward to seeing you all at clubnight....

Catch Phrase Promotions is very pleased to be able to market the Betacraft Range of products and casual apparel direct to NZDA members priced with your branch logo embroidered onto the left-hand breast of garments.



Every item your purchase will help support your branch. 5% of every sale gets paid to your local branch as a sponsorship from Catch Phrase Promotions.

Te Urewera backcountry huts will be 'gone by Christmas', critic says

12:28 pm on 8 October 2022

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Waiootukapiti Hut has historic status and is a rare totara-slab hut built in the 1950s as a base for deer cullers. Photo: Supplied / Pete Shaw

A former Department of Conservation ranger says plans to remove 55 backcountry huts in Te Urewera is "a shocking abuse of departmental power".

"What we're witnessing is the biggest case of backcountry vandalism ever committed in New Zealand being promulgated by the government department charged with the role of preserving those same structures, without consultation," conservationist Pete Shaw told the *Beacon*.

Winner 2022 Voyager Awards Best Reporting Local Government and Community Journalist of the Year

Shaw said one of the huts had already been removed, and he had been told by a source from within Tūhoe authority Te Uru Taumatua that it plans to have the rest removed by the end of 2022.

He said Te Uru Taumatua stated in its annual plan that it wanted to get rid of the huts.

The annual plan, which is available to view on the Tūhoe authority's website, states its intentions to "remove the western influences and their imprint within Te Urewera" and "establish a decommissioning of DOC structures and infrastructure programme. This includes a prioritisation of replacement".

No mention is made of the timeframe for this work.

"They want to get all of them gone by Christmas," Shaw said. "The whole lot. The reason for that is they are expecting a reaction and they want to get them out before anyone can put a halt to the process. The fact that they've already started has been kept really quiet. They've taken one hut out already, Kanohirua, and the plan is to keep going.

"[Conservation Minister Poto Williams] has definitely signed off on the plans to pull the huts out, which is just incredible. Everyone I speak to, including Tūhoe people, they're just saying, 'what's going on here?'."

On Monday, he sent an open letter to Williams. He said that in doing so he had the full support of two Tūhoe kaumatua, who he did not wish to name.

Minister hears of iwi's vision for Te Urewera

The Beacon contacted Williams to confirm she had agreed to the removal of the huts. Her response did not provide any specific information about when the work would take place, saying DoC would answer those questions.

"Several weeks ago, I met Tūhoe and heard first-hand about the iwi's vision for Te Urewera. Te Urewera Board's focus is on achieving the first purpose of Te Urewera Act, which is to strengthen the connection between Tūhoe and Te Urewera," she said.

"The new approach will lead to a richer, uniquely Te Urewera experience for manuhiri, while protecting the unique biodiversity of the land and all the rights of the public under the act."

Poto Williams is supportive of both Tūhoe and DOC plans for the huts. Photo: RNZ / Angus Dreaver

Shaw expressed his disbelief with this response.

"How can you enhance an experience by destroying heritage?" he asked. He said the board did not intend to replace all of the huts.

"They might build two or three of these centres somewhere, but they won't have the spread of these huts. These huts currently provide really good access right across Te Urewera for hunters and anglers and trampers and whoever wants to go there.

"They are going to rip them all out and build two or three centres where they want, which may not be where the park users want to go.

"What they're doing is they are taking out the access. Anyone that uses Te Urewera, if they're overnighting, 90 percent of them will be staying in the huts. If you take out the huts, you're taking out access for the users of Te Urewera. It's deliberate because they want to exclude anyone who is not Tūhoe."

Director General of Conservation Penny Nelson told *Local Democracy Reporting* DOC was "aware of and fully supports, Te Urewera Board and Te Uru Taumatua's intention to replace end-of-life backcountry huts with purpose-built facilities".

"Along with overnight shelter, new huts will be suitable for a range of activities - for example, serving as a base for Tūhoe kaimahi doing pest control and other tasks away from more accessible areas," she said.

"The intention is that new structures will increase, rather than limit, the accessibility of these back-country areas for locals and manuhiri, which DOC sees as an exciting part of the board's vision for Te Urewera."

Nelson said many of the backcountry huts in Te Urewera were at, or beyond, their end of life.

"As the legal owners, DoC inspects these assets and has legal responsibilities for issues including health and safety. At the direction of Te Urewera Board, Te Uru Taumatua kaimahi, in consultation with DOC, have decommissioned one backcountry hut (around one hour's walk from Rūatāhuna) that was at the end of its life.

"This was a useful exercise in looking at safe decommissioning and disposal of the materials in a less accessible, wilderness setting. Te Uru Taumatua and Te Urewera Board are working through which huts TUT will decommission, the timeline, with support and information from DOC as necessary.

State of huts disputed

Shaw has worked in Te Urewera since 1981. He left DOC in 2002 and now works on private conservation projects in the southern Whirinaki.

"Those huts aren't at the end of their life," he said. "Those huts would go another 50 years easily so long as they're given a bit of TLC every now and then when they need it. Ask anyone who uses them. They're structurally sound.

"Two of the huts they want to remove are biodiversity huts. They were built 30 years ago to the building code, and they're built like brick s.t-houses," he said.

"Those huts are structurally sound because under their own system, they cannot be left in that state. Every part of those huts is gone over with a fine-tooth comb. The system is that detailed that if the hut is missing a broom, it fails. So, there's no way that those huts are unsound."

As well as the 44 huts in Te Urewera that are listed on the DOC website, there are others that are for species restoration work that are not available to the general public. Shaw said at least two of those were earmarked to be pulled out as well.

"It's not just me that regards those huts as an asset, a lot of Tūhoe regard them as an asset as well. They use them to base themselves from to gather food and conduct trips through the bush. I've written that letter [to the minister] with wholehearted support from kaumatua of Tūhoe."

He said three of the huts were listed as historic huts under the DOC system. "So, they're meant to be old. They're unique, totara slab huts. There's hardly any of them left in the country. They're in good nick, they're part of our heritage and they're going to rip them out.

"DOC work for us, the citizens of this country and here they are, without any consultation whatsoever, prepared to rip out a whole big part of our country heritage and infrastructure. It's shocking."

He said he believed both the minister and the director general were contravening the Conservation Act. "The act specifically states that DOC is meant to foster recreation and historic facilities. That's what they are meant to do on our behalf. That's what we pay them for. That's their job."

Te Uru Taumatua was approached for comment on the removal of the huts but declined to provide any response.

HUNTS, On the hill at Owhangó

The 2022 draft of HUNTS course participants all arrived at the Owhangó destination at scattered times over the Friday evening of 23rd September. Beds were found or made from end to end of the woolshed including the grates way up the back and independent cocoons created in the catching pens. At least the sound of snoring was diffused over a large area!

Hearty breakfast with a variety of backcountry specialty stuff and old staples of rolled oat porridge had everyone ready for action on the hill. That just had to wait a few minutes for the organisation and safety brief, ... and the pep talk on what a special privilege it is for TVDA to access this private land for educational hunts, and the importance no-one attempts a return trip off their own bat, then it was time to put the legs into gear. Or in the case of Brian and some passengers, the ute.

Once atop the central ridge which makes up the whole backbone of the property the whole crew meandered quietly along the main track, enjoying views of expansive North Island hard hill country along the way. But that wasn't all, plenty of keen eyes were soon picking out goats, pigs and some deer. Great stuff to get the blood running and everyone keen. Also a good time with help from a few older heads to point out what animal had made which of the array of tracks revealed in the soft clay of the track. Pointers on considering the wind,

avoiding being a silhouette on the skyline, stalking pointers, rifle rest options, animal behaviour and other bits and pieces, some handy, some probably just trivia set the scene for the real deal part of the day.

As the whole group moved farther along the ridge smaller hunting parties with 3 or four hunters including a more experienced mentor in each group broke off to their assigned blocks and commenced their quest to shoot a goat. With-in the next few hours with a variety of guile, luck, skill and beating the feet most of the HUNTS members had succeeded. Mentors seem to get the easy bit here, mainly demonstrating the basics of on-the-hill dressing and preparation of the animal for carrying out, while it was then to the hunters to follow suit but actually hoist their game aloft and carry it back to the woolshed for overnight cooling and setting.



A few bad luck stories, close calls and missed opportunities were successfully re-visited by a couple of hapless hunters the following morning.

Saturday evening was another of back country cuisine experimentation.

Certainly plenty of appealing aromas filled the air upstairs. (certainly more appealing than the smell from a few old billies hanging in the beams below!) A couple of the team had turned up with their own barby quickly becoming popular with those who had steak or sausages in need of cooking.

Not long and everyone was off to bed to the happy tunes of snoring, ready for the finale next day.



Sunday dawned to a busy hustle and bustle of happy hunter-campers going about breakfast and tidying up ready for the butchery session. Here mentors get to demonstrate basics and options for breaking down the animals. Not sure what happened here but a few did find out that their shiny new knives, part of the sponsored package for participants, were indeed quite sharp! By the end of the morning there was bit a human blood to join that of the goats, but fortunately nothing too serious. It certainly was an industrious session which was later revealed as the most enjoyable part of the weekend for many during a final round-up of what each member including the mentors had gained from the weekend.

From a mentors perspective these trips are always great fun and very rewarding to see the joy of folk generally new to the hunting game, so thanks to them for bringing a great attitude with them and also huge thanks to fellow mentors and the property owners.

Wayne Stachurski

Wanted please

A powder measurer for reloading ammo.

Please phone Dave 021 02340143

Docking at Panekiri

Our annual Panekiri Docking Fundraiser has just finished and I have to say such a massive thanks to everyone who travelled down there and was part of the team. It really has been such a humbling couple of weeks seeing our members and friends all chipping in and working side by side; day in and day out and all doing their bit to get the job done.

And getting the job done was no mean feat – in amongst having snow falling the day after we arrived to then lovely hot days before a few days of rain put paid to it all for a couple of days is all part of the mix that is farming.....and docking!!!

The process started well before we ever left Paeroa – with collating people names and making up teams of workers, keeping in touch with locations and changing plans that were coming through from the team at Panekiri and not least of all; getting all the gear sorted and packed for each crew. The utes and trailer were packed to the brim, every spare space was utilized and it was time to hit the road.

We travelled down on Wednesday 4th and managed to get all unpacked and straightened out and both sets of quarters all kitted out by day's end – a long day too given that we needed to go via the Napier Taupo Road as the one through Te Urewera was closed due to slips.

We woke up just before day break on Thursday morning and then as daylight arrived, so did the snow. Yep it was snowing and slowly the nearby hillsides were changing colour as the snow settled. Surely this could not last too long..... We got about 4 snow flurries during the morning and just when the neighbouring bush in Te Urewera was noticeably changing to a hazy white colour, the cloud lifted, the sun came out and that was the end of the snow too!!!

Thursday was also set aside for a later start and then into town to do the big grocery shop – and hope that I had everything on the list. On arriving at the supermarket in Wairoa, there was a list given out for each set of quarters and off we went – armed with trolleys and keen eyes to try and find all the items at a different place to where we normally get our groceries. Brian, Kade and Jordan looking after the food for No 4 quarters and myself, Livy and Charlie with a trolley each in tow for No 2 quarters. Mission accomplished and then back home to unpack.

We started docking on Friday 7th of October and had two crews of members being based at different sets of shearers quarters. This certainly enables the teams to be split different ways, it enables the work to be done so much quicker and it allows the two stock manager's on the station to have their 'own crews' to work with.



As the snow started to settle on the trailer cover....Livy just had to leave her mark....and then thaw out her hands!!!!

We started at the No 1 covered yards and did 2 mobs there before having a bite to eat and then getting transported up to Windies (no prizes for guessing what the weather can be like up there)!!! Luckily for us it was fine and warm but with a slight breeze so that make it great conditions for docking. Once we'd finished the 2 mobs here was off down to Martin's Track and time to set up another set of Pratley yards for the final 2 mobs of the day.



The team in full swing at Skudders Yards. What a perfect day for being out on the farm....

The No 4 crew had a similar day – various locations and plenty of lambs to kick the project off in style. We were certainly happy with our 1500 lambs that were docked on day one by No 2 crew – a real tribute to all the team and the way they worked together. Tallies can be a good indicator on how the day has gone but sometimes if you have to shift 2 or 3 times to new locations or there are significant delays with mobs coming into the yards, this can certainly reduce the number of lambs done in a day but it's all part of getting the job done,

By Friday night more people had arrived and we were getting up to full strength of workers by the end of the weekend. More mobs had been cut out by then and the sun was still shining – we were in business and everyone was happy and working hard. Good tallies were being done – just under 2000 lambs I believe were done by the No 4 crew and the team was in full swing. We missed out on tipping the 2000 tally a few days by a couple of hundred but then the breakthrough came with big mobs, no lamb breaks and plenty of sheep waiting and ready to go on day 5 – it all fell into place and we managed a farm record of 2340 lambs....and we didn't even have a late finish which was an added bonus for sure.

By Tuesday the weather was not looking so flash for the rest of the week so we were reduced to just a couple of mobs that had been put under the covered yards for docking on Wednesday and the same thing on Thursday.....but then the heavens opened up, the low cloud came down and we were pretty much clagged in for the next couple of days.

Some played cards, others caught up on sleep, the oven worked overtime with baking and the conversations around the kitchen tables were many and varied....and interrupted by several cups of coffee and lunch too of course!!! Tony caught up on some welding jobs on the farm and a few bits and pieces that certainly helped out in the bigger scheme of things too which was most appreciated. In between the showers and the now improving weather by Saturday people ventured out for a hunt to various places – plenty of deer had been seen but nothing was on the deck yet.....but that was to change.

Sunday saw plenty of sheep mobbed up near various docking yards and with the weather now much improved and forecast for ongoing improvements, we kicked the show back on the road on Sunday morning. Most people had gone home by this stage and several of the juniors who had come down needed to be back at school by the Monday so we'd already dropped back to one crew and all based ourselves at the No 2 quarters.

Sunday saw 1800 lambs were rattled out and it was smiles all round – the weather may have slowed us down for a couple of days but we weren't beaten. More smiles were also on the dials after work tonight as Kade and Brian headed out for a hunt and this time the bullet connected and a nice fat spiker was on the deck and destined for the chiller

We made Monday the last day as several more of us had to be back home for various other commitments but not before we cracked out another 1500 lambs which had by then put a huge hole in the overall job. Staff from another station also arrived on the Monday to make up a second crew so that still kept the job rolling and they would have had all the main docking completed on the Tuesday. There are now just the 'lates' left to dock in a couple of weeks when they have finished lambing. Another deer hit the deck again this evening so it was back down to the chiller to cool it right down for the trip home tomorrow. Jordan also tasted his first success with his bow and blooded that with a rabbit taken at 30m – very happy hunters all round that evening and rightly so.

In total, our two crews from TVDA docked just on 25,000 lambs and it all went like clockwork....even if the clock did go pretty slow on those few wet days but we all made up for it once the rain stopped!!!

Massive thanks to all those who helped in any way – first and foremost those who came down and docked lambs, the parents who let their kids come down and work for the holidays, everyone who provided transport down and back, George and Lyn; and Brian for the use of your spare freezers, Keven for the loan of your trailer to transport the gear down there, Daph and Lyn for the baking, the cooks that helped out at both

sets of quarters and also very much so to those who were not able to make it for various reasons but helped out with jobs back here in our absence.



Our last mob coming up into the Raupo Yards on the final day. Perfect teamwork between Dave, Shirley and their trusty canines....



Everyone had a job: Miller holding a very young lamb so it didn't get smothered in the pen.

A FANTASTIC TEAM EFFORT is the only way to sum this up and a huge and heartfelt thanks to you all for such an awesome effort that results in 25,000 lambs being drafted, tailed, tail sprayed, ear marked, age marked, vaccinated, scratched for scabby mouth and then sent on their merry way to find mum again!!!

“ A Picture in Words”

D	Deer, Dogs, Dust, Docking Iron, Docking Cradle, Drafting, Docking pens, Ducklings, Drier, Drafting race,
O	Open Space, Onion and cheese sandwiches, Oven for a heater in the quarters, Obama the calf, Oil leak.
C	Cooks, Curly Wool, Crypto's, Covered yards, Card games, Cold rain, Cows and calves, Chiller, Coffee to start the day, Cooked breakfast
K	Kicking lambs, Kids, Keys (in the car door), Kitchen table and chairs, Karerea
I	Injections, Inventions, Ideas, Ice on the windscreen, Icy grass, Iodine ointment
N	Needles, Note book, Night-time, Nice people, No work for a couple of days, Newborn lambs,
G	Girls, Green Grass, Gumboots, Grotty weather, Grunters, Good fun, Gloves

L	Laughing, Ladies, Lambs, Lambs and More Lambs, Little Lambs, Lambs tails, Little pigs, Long drive home; Lots of dogs, Lots of rubber rings, Lunches
A	Animals, Antlers, Ammo, AWESOME GROUP OF HELPERS, Alarm at 5am, Arrows
M	Men, Mud, Muffins for Morning Tea, Marshmallows, Moonlight, Muddy gateways, Mutton for tea, Milo, Magpies
B	Boys, Bunkrooms, Barking Dogs, Burns, Blisters, Big Lambs, Bleating, Brownie the Boss, Bow hunting, Boots, Bush yards, Big Pigs, Bunnies
S	Snow, Side-by-Sides, Sleeping Bags, Scabine scratches, Sheep shit, Spray, String, Spray marker, Sultana Cake, Shooting, Sunny days, Smelly socks, Satellites, Scrim, Shady trees, Slippery mud

Footnote:

The logistical Nightmare of organising all the gear and food for the trek down to Panekiri for the major club fundraiser of the year.

This photo doesn't include the two freezers plus other paraphernalia which are taken along as well.

I caught this little bird unaware, at 7.20am up at our clubrooms the morning we were taking the gear up to Waitawheta for the area schools shooting and archery day.



Ladies

How often have you caught your partner in a pensive mood and asked "what are you thinking about dear?"

To which comes the reply "Nothing?"

Well here is a perfect example of one of our longtime members doing exactly that.

Wandering around thinking about absolutely nothing !



Douglas Scoring Seminar is booked for TVDA on

Saturday 11th February 2023

It's a while since we held one of these so for those of you who have been helping with Douglas Scoring at club nights, various events or just on a casual basis, now is the time to get in touch with Brian and book in for this upcoming course.

The details are as follows:

Date: Saturday 11th February 2023

Location: TVDA Clubrooms

Start time: Yet to be confirmed by most likely approx 8.30am

Lunches etc: TVDA will provide morning and afternoon tea and lunch as well

Registration: \$30.00 is the registration fee for the course

DS Book: If you don't already have one, this costs \$20.00 as is needed for the course

Measuring Tape: Measuring tape (in inches). A thin steel tape is ideal. These can be ordered from NZDA when you do your registration – the cost of these taps is \$20.00

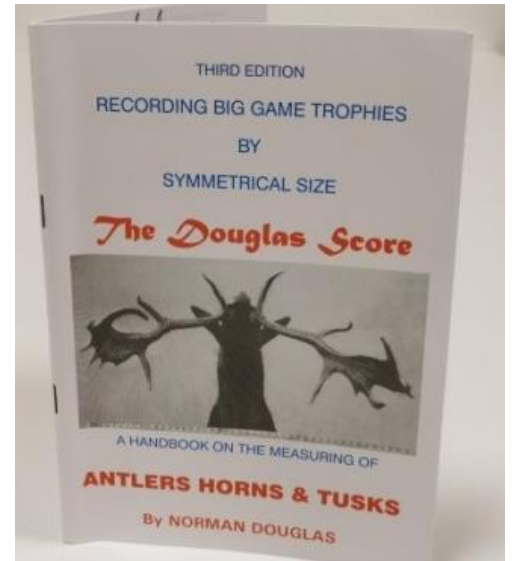
Alternatively a standard width steel tape (in inches) plus a 1200mm long piece of fine copper wire (the core wires of standard phone cable are excellent) or a good fiberglass dress makers measuring tape (in inches) will suffice.

The training seminar on the day will be run by Qualified NZDA Douglas Score Tutors – we are unsure yet who they will be but either way, the outstanding wealth of knowledge and support that these guys provide is invaluable and it makes the training day so interesting as well.

To register for the course, please contact Brian Neilson on brianneilson@xtra.co.nz or call him on 027 8910958.

Brian will provide you with the registration form and any other details that may pertain to the training day.

We need to have people committed to this course to run it so please keep this in mind.



Some shots from our recent day with local school pupils experiencing rifle shooting and archery.



Many thanks to those from TVDA that helped on the day with making this Kids School Holiday Programme event happen....



It's that time of the year again where Twilight sporting Clays and Twilight Archery are about to begin.

***Starting* - Thursday 3rd November**

Check out the Calendar and see what's coming up

This is a great opportunity for anyone to come along and have a go.....

Members are there to help and support new shooters and archers and it's a very social atmosphere. BBQ burgers for tea afterwards too if you want.

Costs:

- R/fee for clay \$5.00 per night plus \$9.00 per 25 targets
- Range fee for Archery is \$7.00 per person
- Burgers - \$6.00 each



Kauritatahi Hut Track is closed.

A significant land slip has occurred on the track to Kauritatahi Hut.

The track is blocked by heavy debris, vegetation and large boulders.

This track is closed until further notice.

Do not attempt to cross this slip under any condition.

KRT, TVDA and the team will be making an assessment on this when conditions allow so please keep an eye on the newsletter and the website for more info.

DO NOT attempt to get to the HUT either as the track is extremely unstable.



- General Boatbuilding
- Fibreglass & Wooden Boat Repairs
- Antifouling & Propspeed
- General Boat Painting
- Cleaning & Polishing
- Trailer Boat Repairs
- Yacht Rigging & Maintenance
- Insurance Inspections

***Kiwi Avoidance Training**

Dates for Training

Due to cut in funding for Doc, dates haven't been able to be set at this time. Christine has asked that anyone needing a course, contact Doc in December ph 078679080 or

kauaerangavc@doc.govt.nz

Also Malcolm McFarlane from Thames also trains which he charges for. His contact is
PH 0272358425

*Bookings are ESSENTIAL so please email
mikechrisfris@xtra.co.nz for a booking.*

*Or text Christine's personal
number 0274055102 **Christine Frills***



The Kestle Trophy



Hardluck/Best Story Trophy

At our Annual Dinner Murray Kestle presented a Trophy to our club, to be awarded to the club member who puts forward the best judged Hardluck/or story to be printed in our newsletter before the Annual Dinner each year.

- 1) The entry has to come from a financial member of TVDA or from a family member of a financial member of TVDA.
- 2) It is open to all ages
- 3) The story must be sort of legal (Murray`s wording not Mine)

This is a magnificent trophy put forward by Murray and hopefully will generate more articles from our membership. **Everyone has a story, even from their past.**

Remember, a good story is always a good story, so lets see some. Just email these to me

johansen.digby9@gmail.com



Kelby Stewart 021 395 400 kelby.co.nz

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We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our new members who have joined since our last Newsletter.

- *Brian Ross*
- *Nick Robson*
- *Daniel Franks*
- *Kathryn Oliver*
- *Scott Revell*
- *Nigel Gibbons*



Congratulations to our new Range Officers who recently went through the day's training and all qualified as fully fledged Range Officers.

New Range Officers for TVDA

TVDA has been really proactive in getting RO's training in recent years and this latest group of members will certainly add to the experience and support network that is already in place. We have both NZDA Range Officers and NZ Clay Target (Shotgun shooting) Range Officers as we are affiliated to both organization's and hold events that cover both shooting disciplines

Very well done and many thanks to the team of new RO's and really looking forward to seeing you at upcoming events:

- **Brian Allison**
- **Nick Dunn**
- **David Fryer**
- **Bruce McKenzie**
- **Gerry Swift**
- **Bianca Upton**
- **Bruce White**
- **Christine White**
- **Allan Van Tiel**
- **Michael Watkins**
- **John Whittle**

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

- Membership card with discounts at major retailers, including:
 - 15% off at Beaurepaires
 - 5%-30% off at Big Save Furniture
 - 15% at Carters
 - Up to 30% at Mico Plumbing
 - 20% off rooms at Millennium Hotels and Resorts
 - Office Max
 - PlaceMakers
 - 10% off at Repco
- Exclusive NZDA discounts:
 - Interisland Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
 - Go Native outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
 - Napier of London shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
 - AJ Productions - electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
 - Kilwell Sports hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
 - Hunting with Huntahr Guiding, 10% discount
 - Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
 - Murchison Heli Tours, 10% off your flights
 - NZ Taxidermy Ltd, 10% discount on mounts
 - Bullivant Taxidermy, 10% discount on mounts
 - Ruahine Tanning & Taxidermy, 10% discount on mounts
 - 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual Backcountry Hut Pass or 'Hut Pass'. See the DoC website for more details
 - 10% discount at all good sporting, shooting and hunter retailers on request



NZDA Discount App Is here...

- The NZDA Membership and Discounts App is now up and running and ready for you to download and use.
- Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for NZ Deerstalkers. Selection Install or GET.
- Once you have installed either of the above, open via the app or click open.



- When in the app, you will need to register with your membership details and this will then enable you to access the app and make the most of your membership discounts.
- This does not replace the benefits that you can still get by presenting your membership card when shopping at the various sponsor outlets – it is another means of getting your discounts. You can still produce your card or add your membership number and get the benefits that you are entitled to as part of your NZDA Membership.

MORE Hunts and Events.....

Please pencil these dates in and make sure you keep an eye on the next newsletter for more details

Confirmed

Douglas Score Seminar is Booked for TVDA on Saturday 11th of February 2023

**To register for the course, please contact Brian Neilson on
brianneilson@xtra.co.nz or call him on 027 8910958**

Te Urewera Spring - Fly In Trip

This is Booked and confirmed for 8th – 11th of December
Huts/Blocks booked are Right Branch ,Ngahirimai,
Takarua, Duckville and Casino

Contact: Brian Neilson 0278910958
Or email: brianneilson@xtra.co.nz

Confirmed

Confirmed
23rd March to
11th April 2023

Stewart Island Club Trips/Blocks for 2023

Fred's Camp has been booked for a double period from 23rd March to 11th Of April.

The neighbouring Freshwater block has been booked for the 2nd of April To the 11th of April

This will enable good hunting and camping on the flats between the blocks.

There is good boat/dinghy and water taxi access to this area as well.

Plenty of fishing available as well and with the bookings like this, it will enable more flexibility for those going on the trip.

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

Auckland Anniversary Weekend Club Hunt January 2023

Pureora Forest – CLUB HUNTING TRIP – FAMILY TRIP AWAY

Dates: Thursday night 26th January to Monday 30th January 2023

Where: Pureora Forest Park

Accommodation: We are booked into the Pureora Forest Park Lodge (this is a Lion's run facility and it's awesome)

Hunting: Red deer and Pigs

Info: This is an excellent area for red deer. A 1080 drop has taken place down there in July but come January it is anticipated that it will be fine to hunt that area. This is especially in light of all the rain that has fallen over the last couple of months.

Or: this is a great place just to bring the family away for the weekend, go tramping, biking or just chilling out with friends.

Access: Drive right to the door so take as much or as little gear as you want. Take the pushbikes too if you want....

What else: Power, hot showers, heating, drying room for wet/damp gear, awesome kitchen and dining room areas, tons of space, bunkrooms and comfy mattresses

Prices: Adults \$20.00 pp per night - Under 17 \$10.00 pp per night

Food: Approx \$30.00 per person for the trip (provided by the club)

Contact: Maureen on a.j.coleman@xtra.co.nz or phone 027 3337786

Website: www.pureoraforestlodge.org.nz



Stumpy`s Tales

Keeping up Morale

They struck metal as they built the road around the toe of the ridge, a huge deposit, a whole hill of it, with next to no clay overburden covering it.

It was greywhacke (rotten rock) soft enough to break out of the hillside with a bulldozer, yet hard enough to surface the new road construction, and at the highest point on the road too !



Stumpy, in fact all the men, were delighted. What luck, better than they could ever have hoped for.

They stopped building the road then and there, and got stuck into opening up the quarry, building a “chinaman,” (a log ramp), to load trucks, and formed a turn table so the trucks could turn around and back under the “chinaman,” and then take off with their loads along the new construction.

All went well, the loading out of metal began, no more long slow drag up the hills for the laden trucks from the metal pit in the river. The weather stayed fine.

Things were going so well that it was inevitable, something had to stuff the job up, and of course something did !

Trouble came in the form of a stupid stubborn visiting city hunter.

Because the quarry was new and raw as was the road to it, the turntable was cramped, giving the metal trucks barely enough room to swing around and park, to await their turn under the “chinaman.”

One morning they all arrived to start work, and there, parked fair in the middle of the turntable was this smart red, modern car, all locked up and secure.

Footprints indicated the owner had taken off down the ridge and into the bush.

All day the metal trucks manoeuvred and jinkered around that red car, tempers shortened, and the whole job slowed down.



The car was still there at knock off time, so when they went home, the men left a polite note, even if it was written in pencil on a dirty piece of paper.

“please shift this car down the road. It`s in the way here.”

Next morning the car was still parked on the turntable. The note was gone, but there was no reply.

All day the metal trucks had to manoeuver around the car, tempers got shorter and shorter.

At the end of the day the men left a 2nd note on the car, not so polite this time

“shift this bloody car.”

Next morning the car was still there, but a reply was on it this time.

“ I`ve got a permit to hunt this block. Get stuffed “

The men were outraged ! they showed the note to the supervisor, who took it down to stumpy, and told him the story.

Stumpy sent a message up to the men to cool it, tolerate the car for the rest of the day, he was pulling them all out with their machinery and gear to start a new job on the morrow, anyway.

Late that afternoon stumpy went up to the quarry to have a look at the job and to redirect the workforce.

There, sitting in the middle of the turntable was the offending red car.

Stumpy and the bulldozer driver had a quiet talk together, which left the driver in a very good humour indeed !

Stumpy then left to return to the office.

When the crew pulled out for the new job the men were in high spirits. They left the red car untouched, undamaged on the turntable, but closely surrounding it was a five foot high bulldozed circle of heavy loose metal, into the top of which was stuck a shovel.

It would take five hours shovelling for a galley slave to free the car from the prison of metal.

The car disappeared that night, and was never seen in the district again.

The shovel was eventually retrieved from over a nearby bank, thrown as far as it was humanly possible to throw, quite a good effort really, after that really physical workout.

When Stumpy went to the club the following Saturday night he need not have taken his wallet, the beer was already set up for him by the grinning roading crew who were already in high spirits.

It was going to be one of those nights !



Bowhunters Corner



Next club day is Sunday 13th of November 2022

New Zealand Firearms Licence

Application Form

A Message from the NZ Police To ALL
Firearms Licence holders.....

Firearms Licence RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

New Arms officers have started and are really helping to make a difference in getting licence applications processed.

'please still make sure everyone that you all check your firearms licence expiry date and make sure that you get your RENEWAL APPLICATIONS lodged at least 6 months in advance of it expiring'. Due to the new process (of having a team working on the Historical Files and another team working on the 'current applications'), those who are due to renew are not having their applications backlogged any longer.

Due to the new Firearms Licence laws, if your firearms licence expires **BEFORE** you get your NEW LICENCE issued to you, you will have to surrender your firearms until such time as the new licence is processed and in your hands.

This is still the case however Police do have extra staff working on the re-licencing process.

What has also come to light in recent days is that a directive has been given by Police HQ to Arms office staff, that effectively they are now working as a 'business unit' so almost all staff are only working 'normal business hours'.

This is a major issue with getting interviews and visits done – even more so for the referees. I was told that if someone wants a licence then they will make the time available.....but what about the referee/s, they are not the one wanting the licence but are all treated the same. They are expected to take annual leave to be at the specific location at a predetermined time.

Maureen has written to Police and the Minister about this and is awaiting a reply.

RANGE USE

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

- **BARRIER AT THE GATE WAY must be across the driveway....** (as shown in the photo below)
- *AND the*
- **FLAG ON THE FLATPOLE AT THE 100m shooting mound MUST BE PUT UP.**



Olivia Austen with her Bachelor of Nursing

***Congratulations Olivia Austen, from us all on getting your Bachelor of Nursing. Just Rewards 'for all the hard work and dedication'
You really do shine in your chosen profession.***



Trap Line Updates and catch results



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

It's great having a really keen and dedicated Pool of members out there helping with the various trap lines that we have in place.

The most recent Trap line to come 'on stream' is the one in the Karangahake Gorge on the Cycle way through the Waikino area.

Kade and the team are looking after this one and it's already having an effect. So much so that the Hauraki Rail Trail team have now approached us to see if we'd be keen to assist with monitoring additional traps across the various sections of the Hauraki Rail Trail when they get the funding to purchase them.

Dennis Hayfield on 027 2211892 or Brian Neilson on 027 8910958

[Trap Catch details on the Coromandel Traps Lines .](#)

In total since Dennis and Bill began trapping on the K2K line in May 2017 the catch tallies are as follows:

- 169 Stoats
- 118 Rats
- 123 Hedgehogs
- 3 Ferret
- 3 Mice
- 2 Birds.
- 8 Weasels



1 Stoat and 1 Weasel caught since last newsletter. These are included in totals.

Due to our Trapline members all being away over the last couple of weeks at Panekiri our kills will be updated next month.

Recent Update on the K2K Line

All the traps have to be taken out so EW can upgrade the stopbank by raising and widening the width to 6 meters.

Once that is done we can replace the traps which will be towards the end of summer.

Then EW start on the next section from Piparoa

to Waitakaruru,

I don't have a completion date at this stage.

Cheers Dennis

The [Kauaeranga River Trap](#) line is now being monitored by Brian (since April 2021) and the totals to date are:

- 10 Stoats
- 21 Weasels
- 246 Rats
- 2 Hedgehogs
- 1 Mouse



1 Stoat, 2 Weasels and 15 rats were caught since last newsletter. These are included in totals.

The Kauaeranga Billy Goat Track Trap - We've still not been able to contact Hadleigh to get the up to date details for this trapline however, the details up to May are as follow:

Rats up to May = 98

Mice up to May = 3

Weasels up to May = 1

Another 'new line' has come on board at Miranda and this has also been yielding some excellent catch results. Given that the current K2K line has helped with seeing significant increases in the Royal Spoonbill tallies wading in the shallow (due to successful nesting outcomes), it will be great to add to this existing trap line and help removing these pesky little buggars on the new **Miranda Trapline**.



- **21 Stoats**
- **20 Rats**
- **4 Hedghogs**
- **15 Mice**

1 mouse has been caught since last newsletter. Included in totals



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The last trap line to come on stream for us has been the section along the Hauraki Rail Trail – predominately through the **Waikino area**.

This trap line has taken a while to get the traps on the ground for various reasons but it has been a great seeding programme as there are many more planned along the rail trail in the coming months.

- 20 Rats 1 Hedgehog
- 4 Stoats
- 3 Ferrets 4 Rats, 1 Ferret and 1 Hedgehog have been caught since last newsletter. Incl in totals.

Massive thanks to all the teams and helpers who undertake this work – your combined efforts are making a fantastic contribution to the overall wellbeing of our many species of native flora and fauna.

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT *Community*

A project as large and long as the Hauraki Trail needs countless contributors to make it happen and keep it running. Financially it needs national support to get it off the ground and regional support to keep it maintained. But, it also needs community support to instigate and help with improvements to the trail.



Some groups contribute voluntary labour while others organise pest control or beautification projects. And sometimes it has been financial help with large or small projects along the way. It is all appreciated by the Trust who runs the trail and trails users alike.



Pest control in this area is being carried out by the Thames Valley branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

Thames Valley Deerstalkers' (TVDA) has been a very strong club in this region since 1965 and currently has over 500 members of all ages. Over the years they have put a lot of effort into a variety of conservation and habitat restoration work to complement their other recreational activities. This has included monitoring and maintaining trap lines across the wider Thames Valley region. And they are now installing and monitoring traps along the Hauraki Rail Trail.

TVDA members have made, assembled and laid out all of the traps. The traps are monitored and cleared at least fortnightly and maintenance is also covered by volunteer TVDA members. The volunteers love to get out and enjoy the fresh air, exercise and countryside as they undertake this work. Seeing the increase in wildlife - native birds, reptiles, frogs and insects - that occurs so quickly when rats, stoats, weasels, ferrets and hedgehogs are controlled is an added bonus for everyone.

This is the Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT) Signage that people can expect to see in the gorge in coming weeks when they are put in place.

This is certainly a great piece of support and acknowledgement for the many hours of volunteer work that we do for conservation in our wider area.

Many thanks to the HRT for showing us this kind of support and appreciation; and for getting this signage made up.

Keep up the great work team – this may be just signage in the gorge for now but it most definitely is acknowledged and reflective of all the work that everyone does with regards to conservation and pest removal.

Whio Predator Trapping Network Update on Data for Spring Nesting Season

The Sika Foundation has passed the 1-year anniversary of the installation of 160 double set B200 stoat and rat traps in the network, and their consistent ability to catch predators continues to be encouraging.

Extending along the Kaipo and Oamaru catchments, covering areas around the Cascade Hut and stretching from Clements Mill Road along the Hinemaiaia Stream, there are now over 33 km of Whio predator trapping lines.

Our series of Good Nature A24 traps and B200 box traps were serviced in August this year. Winter is always a challenge with high river levels and low temperatures, and it's a major effort to cover the terrain that these traps encompass.

The 30 Hinemaiaia B200's set up in July by Tauhara College students are now producing great results. This line will be serviced fortnightly by the students as part of their learning curriculum, and we are thrilled to have them involved as part of this conservation effort.

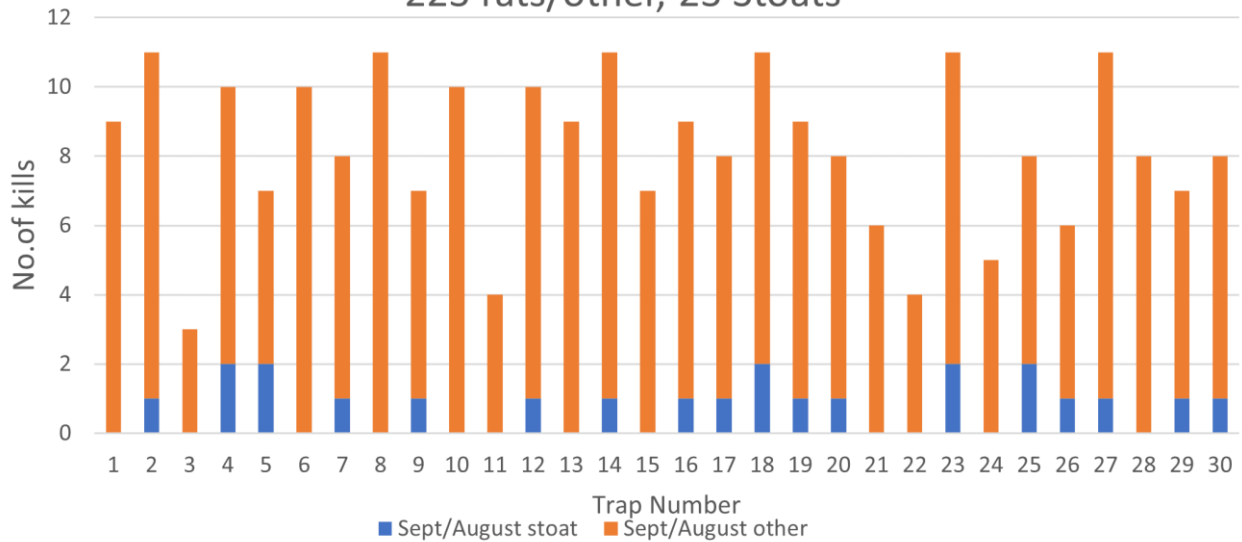


The Good Nature A24 lines consisting of 190 self-re-setting traps were serviced in September and are continuing their silent work. We are hoping to see some great bird fledging numbers this spring and are looking forward to summer where we can expect increased activity and more new bird life in this important conservation area

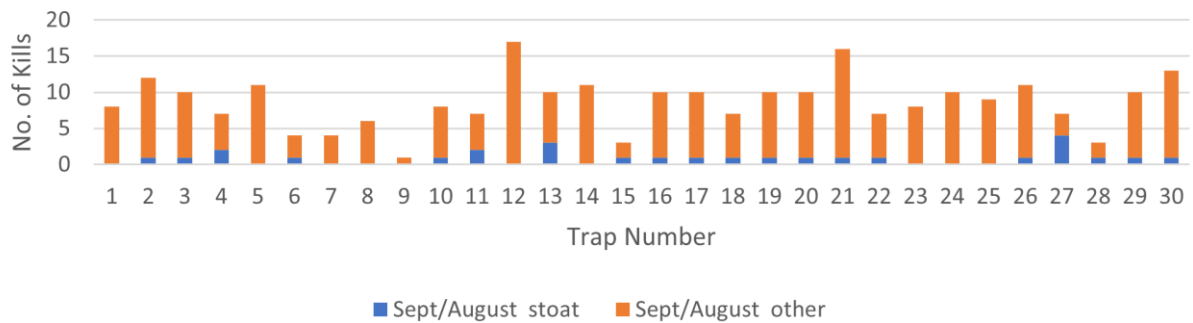
We are grateful for the team of volunteers who complete this work, and acknowledge our sponsors - Bayleys, BFA, Fulton Hogan, Hard as Rocks, H&H, Fly & Gun Hunting & Fishing Taupo, MMC Law, Waikato Regional Council, AJ Productions, Falcon Industries, Helisika, Poronui Station and ITM Turangi - for the trap and servicing materials and resources. Their ongoing support is making a real difference!

If you are interested in signing up with the Whio Protection Trapping Project as a volunteer, please email volunteer@sikafoundation.co.nz. Our friendly coordinators will be at the Sika Show this year, so feel free to stop by the Sika Foundation stand and ask them any questions you may have.

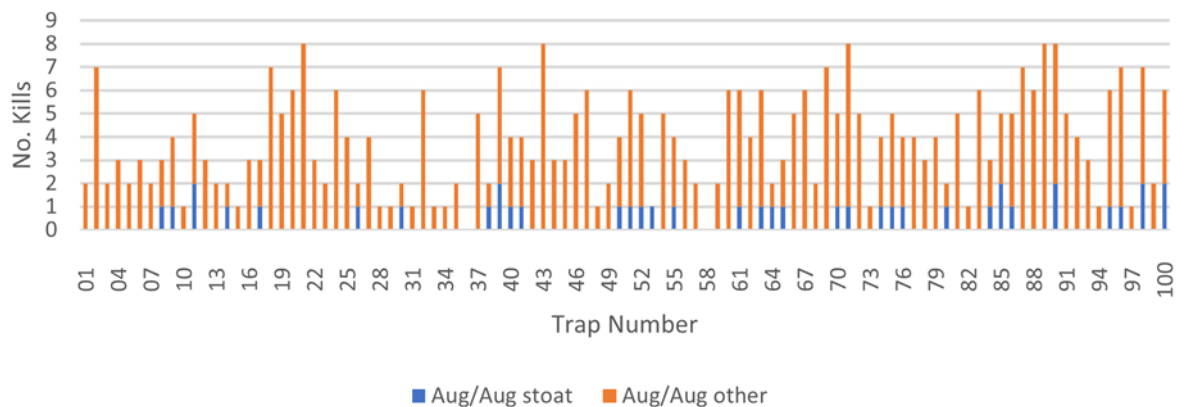
Kaipo River B200 Trap Performance 12 months:
223 rats/other, 23 Stoats



Oamaru River B200 Trap Performance 12 months: 233
Rats/other: 27 Stoats



Cascade Trap B200 Performance 12 months: 351
Rats/other: 40 Stoats



Swamp Comp 2022

Now's the time when these pesky little killers are really foraging around for food and then it will be into the spring months when they really crank up to feed their young over the breeding season.

The Swamp Comp is an awesome way to reward people for setting traps, nabbing these mustelids and helping to increase all bird populations – particularly those of our native species and ground nesting birds – ie ducks and pheasants etc.

All you have to do is cut off the tail, put it in the freezer in a zip lock bag and then hand them into Hunting and Fishing in November.

Tails that are eligible for the competition are: weasel, stoat and ferret tails.

Any other pests that you catch and remove from the ecosystem are a bonus....

A bit more info about these little buggars.....

Some very quick bullet points and stats on mustelids in general here in NZ:

- They can and often do breed throughout the year and females often have two litters per year
- Each litter averages about 6-8 kits per litter
- Female kits are impregnated at approx. 10 days old (normally by their own father) while still in the nest, blind and suckling their mother
- Once these females reach approx. 3 months of age the pregnancy start to progress
- Gestation period is often as short as 5-6 weeks for mature females
- Kits are weaned at approx. 5 weeks and they hunt as a family for the new month
- Kits are then full time killing machines on their own from 8-10 weeks of age
- Kits will breed within their first year (approx. 6 months of age) and have full sized litters
- Mustelids usually consume about 25% of their own body weight in food per day
 - Weasels (the smallest of the mustelids) - this equates to a minimum of 1 small birds per day or a small rat per day
 - Stoats (the most common of the mustelids) – this equates to a minimum of 2-3 small birds per day or at least 1 full grown rat
 - Ferrets (the largest of the NZ mustelids) – they can weigh up to 1kg so this is a lot of birds.....and they will happily kill chooks, ducks, kiwi and anything else that they can catch on the ground or up in trees. These guys are absolute killing machines.
 - Females of all 3 species when close to giving birth will kill well in excess of her own body weigh



The Hunters Kitchen.....

The Mad Chef

'A snippet from the book'.....

As the days marched into months I settled into

My newfound role with a slight degree of confidence and acquired through the natural process of trial and a hell of a lot of error, some semblance of skill. Surprisingly our clientele was steadily growing, not so much due to the extraordinary cuisine on offer but more likely as a result of the theatrics that became part of the nightly dining at the "Brown House" ! Many patrons were convinced that the antics of the distraught chef were a cleverly conceived marketing ploy designed to give the restaurant a high profile in an already crowded market place. I didn't have the heart to tell them the performances were in no way rehearsed and certainly were not intended for the general amusement of the public. It was in fact my inability to cope with the catastrophes that seemed destined to prevail upon us.

A classic example of Murphy's Law as it relates to the Brown House was the night that has been affectionately referred to as Custer's Last stand.

Karen was enjoying a well deserved holiday in Australia so could not be called in at short notice.

Prior to embarking on her plane , Karen had considerably complied a roster to cover her absence.. As the last call for flight 220 to Auckland crackled from the loudspeaker, I happened to notice the Wednesday night was blank.

"Hey you've forgotten to roster anyone for Wednesday !" I shouted after her as she was making her escape across the tarmac.

" I must have forgotten to write it down. Don't worry, they'll know who's on", floated the reply as she disappeared up the gangway.

In order to minimise costs,we operated a system of phone in. On the night that they were working the girls would phone in at 5pm to check on what time they were starting. It worked well until **that** Wednesday night.

Wednesday was a blur of activity as I cleaned the restaurant from the previous night's debacle and set about preparing food for the next wave of hungry diners. Strangely enough by 5 o'clock I had not one customer booked and it was here that I made my 1st mistake.

Tania phoned in to check her starting time.

"Hold fire Tania, things look a little quiet."I said. "Give me until 6 o'clock and I will ring you back !"

By ten to six I still had no bookings but I fired up the ovens just in case. Fired up is right ! At six o'clock I checked to see that the ovens and the grill plate were coming up to heat. The gauge had not moved indicating that things were still stone cold. A quick examination revealed that the pilot light in the oven had gone out rendering the automatic ignition useless.

Mistake two. Kneeling on all fours, I reached under the oven and struck a match to give life to the sad little pilot light. In hindsight, the explosion caused by the build up of gases was quite spectacular.



Both oven doors were blasted open catching me squarely in the face and propelling me backwards against the workbench. The ball of flame that engulfed me made Hollywood's special effects look amateurish and the blaze that was atop my head would have made any stuntman proud! The ovens were now fully alight.

It was about this time that I became conscious of customers in the restaurant. Simultaneously I lapsed into a state of shock, sweating profusely and trembling uncontrollably. Being in sole charge I was tasked with seating our guests and taking their orders.

"Shit I haven't rung Tania."!!

No time for that yet. Trying on an air of composure I sauntered into the dining room to greet my four eager diners.

"Good evening. How can I help", I stammered an octave or two higher than normal.

The look on their faces said it all. Standing before them was a man that was going to be in charge of their night out. A dishevelled character, eyebrows reduced to a charred stubble, face blotched red from exposure to intense heat, and thin tendrils of smoke still rising aimlessly from his smouldering head!

The fact that they were prepared to stay and risk a meal in such circumstances bore testimony to their sense of adventure.



I retired to the kitchen clutching their bottles of wine under my arms and dived for the phone.

"Ring Tania."

"Engaged!"

"Shit!"

Returning to the dining room some moments later with the opened bottles of wine I was confronted with another four casuals looking for a feed. Casuals are those people who graced us with their presence without feeling the need to make reservations first.. Leaving my first guests to pour the wine, I ushered the new arrivals to a table in time to see another two customers walk through the door!

"What do you want?" it came out wrong.

"A table for two," was the hesitant reply.

"Look just find yourselves a seat. The menu's over there." I shouted back, indicating a little table next to the chimney. "I'll be back in a moment!"

I was getting desperate and passing my second lot of diners who by this stage had found their own menus.

I blurted, "you'll have to open your own wine, there is a corkscrew in the kitchen!"

Back in the kitchen the first signs of panic were beginning to take hold

"Keep calm, keep calm.....ring Tania!"

"Engaged."

"Shit!"

Grabbing an order book I dived through the swing door only to collide with a bewildered gentleman looking for a corkscrew

"On the bench!" was all I could manage as I crawled to the first table.

Half way through their ordering the door opened and in walked more people. Blind panic was now the order of the day.

Looking at the lady opposite seated at table two, fondly holding hands with the gentleman I assumed to be her husband, I implored "Madame , I hate to interrupt your conversation but could you seat these people and find them a menu ? The specials of the day are written on the blackboard above the fire !"

Having managed to extract the first lot of orders from my startled patrons I made a hasty retreat to the kitchen and commenced throwing together the entrees for table twelve.

"Don`t panic, ring Tania !"

"Engaged !"

"Shit !"

"Ding !"The timer

"Hell, what`s that for ? Oh, the garlic breads are ready !"

Hastily piling them into a basket I again went forth into the dining room. I didn`t mean to throw them at the people who were hunched over the table deep in whispered conversation, it`s just that I was in a bit of a hurry. Their entrees were merrily burning on the stove.

The lady from table two was returning to her seat after settling the new arrivals.

"Don`t sit down, " I ordered. "You haven`t opened their wine and here is the order book. Write down what you want and bring it out to the kitchen !"

Without complaint she accepted her newly acquired role as head waitress.

The next five minutes were the worst of my life. I managed to salvage the first wave of entrees, start the mains and deliver the entrees to table twelve in time to see yet more people arrive. The lady from table two was doing a sterling job. She had opened the wine for table three, wrestled orders from her own table and was by now seating the new arrivals.. I finally got through to Tania. She had gone out ! Shit .

Between cooking entrees and mains I rang every other waitress on our books and none of them were rostered on. All had made prior arrangements. I was on my own with a restaurant almost seated to capacity.

The order of events get rather confused

From here. I had coped so far but things were rapidly getting beyond me. During the next two hours I had enlisted the help of over half the diners. Some helped dish and learned to garnish their own meals while others poured coffees and made desserts. One man became a dab hand at cooking beef satays and was reluctant to leave the stove when it was his turn to eat. Those that had finished were left with the task of making out their own accounts. People got to know others they may well have never spoken to.

With the last of the meals over the kitchen looked like a bomb site. I left that behind me and went out into the dining room where I was shouted a well earned wine. One lady had enjoyed her evening so much she booked her entire family in for the following Wednesday !

The Mad Chef Had Arrived !



SEAFOOD MAINS

Crayfish Thermidore

Ideally one medium crayfish should feed 2 people, depending on how hungry you are.



- 1 crayfish precooked and cooled
- 1 teaspoon of dry mustard
- 250 mls of cream
- 1 Teaspoon of chopped spring onion
- Brandy

Cut your crayfish in half down the centre and remove the flesh. Cut into bite size pieces. In a moderately hot pan flame the crayfish with a good measure of brandy. Pour in cream and add other ingredients.

Allow the sauce to reduce until nice and thick. Place crayfish pieces back in shell and cover with sauce.

Glaze under a Hot grill.





TVDA Anniversary Cup

100 Sporting Targets

Thames Valley District Championships

Sunday 6th November 2022

8.30am start

*Thames Valley Deerstalkers Range, Morrison Road, Paeroa
(1.5kms past Racecourse) 10.30am Cutoff for entries*

**Welcome one and all – great targets for everyone
Excellent targets shot on two fields of 50**

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

Superb Prize Table & Friendly atmosphere

Wonderful Food & Hospitality

Ammo & Eftpos available

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, UnReg \$70.00

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

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