



APRIL 2015

The official newsletter of the North Auckland Deerstalkers

Presidents Message

Hunting success stories are pouring in – well at least trickling. Stewart Island once again produced excellent results for many. For some of us that's the main hunting for the year over until spring. Please send in your photos and articles for the newsletter.

May and June are busy months for the committee. There's the measuring day, prize giving night, AGM, national conference, and working bee on top of the normal monthly tasks. Keep a close eye on the calendar for details. The members' night list has been finalised – the details are on our web site.

Membership renewals have been slow – less than 50% as I write this. If you sent in your form and paid up, but have not yet received your new (sticky-back) membership card, please email an enquiry to info@nads.org.nz. If you haven't renewed, please get on with it. If you didn't get the renewal reminder, then we might not have your correct personal details. Again, send us an email please.

Firewood is still for sale during April – a separate email was sent out with the details. It's good wood (gum) and the top 1/3 of the stack is really dry. At only \$80 a cubic metre it's a bargain and all proceeds go to the Branch.

The property has been getting its fair share of attention as well. The floor for the new 200m shelter will be in soon, and a project to replace the old benches at the 100m and 200m starts next week. There will be four more benches added to the 200m firing point.

The HUNTS course dates for 2015 have been announced – see details later in this newsletter.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Clause 18 of the rules of the Branch Association that the annual general meeting of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (North Auckland Branch) Incorporated will be held on 27 May 2015, at the Branch club rooms in Riverhead starting at 7:30pm.

The Agenda:

1. The annual report of the President
2. The annual report of the Treasurer.
3. The statement of accounts.
4. The budget for 2015/16
5. The appointment of an auditor for 2015/16.
6. Consideration of notices received according to the rules of the association
7. To elect a committee of the Branch Association.
8. To induct newly appointed officers of the committee.

Notices of Motion.

Notices of motion are to be in writing and addressed to:

The Secretary

NZDA North Auckland Branch

PO Box 300-316

Albany

Auckland 0752

Notices of motion are to be in the hands of the Secretary not later than 30 April 2015.

Copies of the previous minutes and the statement of accounts will be available at the meeting.

My Next Hunting Rifle will be

I'm not much of a hunter – never have been.

My bush skills could be likened to the Heffalump.

I always thought deer came down the race with the cows – it took me years of flogging around the bush to realise that normally they don't do that.

And, the taste. By the time I got home in 4 or 5 days, the meat was either off or blown, or both. Mum was not impressed. So the meat was not the driver in those days.

I don't think of hunting as a team sport – at least not for deer. My idea of a party hunt is me and a mate separated by at least 2 grid squares.

So, all in all, I was not a great hunter.

But, time marches on, and the opportunities to re-create the great days of your youth beckon.

So, I am a hunter again.

Living in Auckland has its challenges of time and distance. But Colin's party hunts have had great success – at least in the telling. So, off to the Kaimanawas it will be. After all, it's only a 4 hour drive to the most flogged out public hunting areas in New Zealand. But I will be more cunning, more patient, skilful, accurate, and my stories will be more believable. And after a taste of Bev's casserole there is no turning back.

Where to go?

We have a wee place in Taupo, so it was easy to convince the co-pilot that simple day trips were in order.

Ever mindful of the infamous HUNTS leader: "I don't need a map, I've been here before", I carefully stocked up on Topo 50's. Cunning sods put the join of 4 maps just there. Strangely, the Waiouru one was out of stock everywhere local. I am sure that in Queenstown there is a hunting store with a lot of Waiouru ones left in the rack. But not in Turangi. Never mind, I used to live there. And the co-pilot has a good memory.

Day 1, recce Kaimanawa Road, pick a place, evening stalk, back to the car by 10. If I am not back, toot the horn every 10 minutes. Next month, collect the insurance. Hard; never. Saw more tourists and campervans than deer sign. Don't go here on weekends.

Day 2 – Tree Trunk Gorge. Well named.

Day 3 – Rangipo Intake. Delightful scenery, picnic table up, Chardonnay and magazines, co-pilot happy for at least 4 hours. Even talked about cooking dinner. But I will be late dear – after dark. Never mind she says, you brought 2 Tilley lanterns, 3 stoves, 21 litres of fuel, and the big table.

Day 4 – Waipakihi River Road. Past thousands of beehives all busily producing fake Manuka honey, road rutted, and then to find out that the old tar-sealed bit down to the river is washed out. How could they allow that to happen? It was 30 years ago dear – we should just walk. Had to leave the big table behind. No deer, wet feet (the ford has been dozed away and the swingbridge is a memory).

Not looking good. Re-think the problem. Kiko Road? Clements' Mill? Try both. So another 3 days gone and miles on the clock. No deer.

By now you must be admiring the fortitude of the co-pilot. Dedicated to her hunting husband? No, it's blackberry season.

What on earth has this to do with my next hunting rifle? Very little, except that I don't own one. I had to take my daughter's little CZ carbine. Lovely rifle, perfectly adequate for this type of country. Except it's getting a bit beaten up. Shame.

What should I have taken? Light, certainly – crawling through that thick S@t is not easy. And it's either up, or down. Light is good.

And the thick S%^t is not good for a wooden stock, so synthetic has its place after all. Calibre? Not really important, as long as it is enough. So, .308; what else?

Stainless? Never really taken to them. Not necessary. If you neglect your rifle so badly that you need stainless, shame on you. So blued action and barrel is perfectly acceptable; cheaper too.

Short is also good. A .308 works perfectly with a 17 inch barrel; a .270 doesn't. Problem solved.

Suppressor? I don't need one. The day I shoot more than one animal in that sort of country I will stop calling myself a hunter, and start calling myself a legend.

Back to Pooh Corner.

Begging Bowl

Wanted: Chairs for the deck. Those stackable resin chairs are very handy when there is a crowd on the deck. Update your outdoor furniture and donate your old chairs to the Branch – Thanks.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 19th April, 9:00am

Range Day

am: 100m general practice, registration opens at 9:00am. 25m open 9:30am until 12:00pm. 11:30am, The President's Trophy, Centrefire 6mm – 8mm, 10 shots standing, score added to trophy Douglas score for the President's Trophy

pm: 1:00pm, 100m rimfire F-Class - .22LR only, 7 shots in 20 minutes, best 5 to count, contributes to the F-Class Trophy aggregate. 1:30pm, general practice continues.

Sunday 3rd May, 9:00am

Range Day

am: 200m general practice, registration opens at 9:00am. 25m open 9:30am until 12:00pm

11:30am: F-Class competition 7 shots in 20 minutes, best 5 to score – aggregate contributes to the F-Class Trophy.

pm: 200m, general practice.

Wednesday, 13th May, 7:30pm

Club Night

Members evening at the Riverhead club rooms. First Aid in the Bush - hosted by Mike Siimms

Sunday 17th May, 9:00am

Range Day

am: 100m general practice, registration opens at 9:00am. 25m open 9:30am until 12:00pm.

pm: 100m, 1:00pm, The Lance Harris Shield, rimfire .22LR only, 60 shots prone. NO centrefire general practice during the Lance Harris Shield. .22LR general practice permitted.

Sunday 24th May, 9:00am

Working Bee

Working bee and combined BBQ lunch. No Shooting
Measuring Morning at the Club Rooms

Wednesday, 27th May, 7:30pm

Annual General Meeting 2015

HUNTS Course

The branch will run two HUNTS courses in 2015.

HUNTS Course # 1

Wed 10 Jun Sun 14 June
Wed 17 Jun Sun 21 June
Wed 24 Jun Sun 28 June (range day)
Hunt 4 & 5 July or if postponed due to
weather 11 & 12 July

HUNTS Course # 2

Wed 23 Sep Sun 27 Sept
Wed 30 Sept Sun 3 Oct
Wed 7 Oct Sun 11 Oct (Range day)
Hunt 17 & 18 Oct or if
postponed due to weather 24 & 25 Oct

The committee will now manage nominations for both courses. If you have already submitted a nomination to attend a HUNTS course, you will get an email asking which of the two courses you wish to attend. If you have not already submitted a nomination for a HUNTS course, send your nomination to: info@nads.org.nz

Working Bee

The next working bee is Sunday 24 May. A task list is being prepared and will be advised in the next newsletter (mainly winter cleanup jobs) . Please donate your time if you can.

The main task will be to cut up and prepare steel sheeting for recycling. Bring angle grinders with cutting blades, gloves, goggles, trailer and tie down straps.

Shooting Results

Shooting Results:
12 Apr 2015
Hunters Shoot
Darin Grenz – 53
Peter Dennis – 39
John Bray – 32
Jordan Guildford – 19
Sonya Brown – 6

Balnagown Hunting

Not only trophy, but plenty of meat animals for hunting. Day hunt or overnight.

Richard can guide and also dress the animal if required.

Prices start at \$450 for a meat animal and go to \$1500 for the best trophy bucks. Some older bucks at \$450. Lots in between as well.

Book through the site -
www.balnagownhunting.co.nz
or phone Richard on 0274 442 057.



Send in your content!

The newsletter is for the members, so send in your news, trip reports or just brag about your latest hunt! Get in touch!

Contacts:

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