

MAY 2023

THE ROAR



Jacob and his first Sika Stag

North Taranaki



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

Branch Committee

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Deer Hunting Convener	_____	Robbie McGregor Ph. 06 7527191
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Range Convener	_____	Neil Koch Ph. 027 758 6234
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Trophy & Records	_____	Robbie McGregor Ph. 06 7527191
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Maintenance Officer	_____	Robbie McGregor Ph. 06 7527191
Party Hunt Convener	_____	Jacob Clement Ph. 027 858 5559

Branch Trophy Measurers

Steve Corlett, Lex Stolte & Chris Bretherton

Branch Life Members

Steve Corlett, Matt Redshaw, Rob McGregor & Lex Stolte

Range Secretary

Ian Turner - rangecommittee@outlook.com



Heads Night

Antler, Horn & Tusk + Photographic Competition

Wednesday 7th June

North Taranaki Deerstalkers Hall, 12a Drake Street (off Carrington Rd)

7:30 pm.

Next Committee Meeting

Wednesday 14th June

7.30 pm

Hunting Opportunities

Lex is offering pig hunting opportunities.

Ring to make arrangements.

Phone: 06 751 3349.

Robbie might be able to get you connected for a deer hunt

Phone: 06 752 7191

New Members

Heinrich Brits, Bill Gray, Mathew Thorburn, Casey Rook

If you see a new face at a meeting, introduce yourself and make them welcome.

Presidents Report

Thanks to all those that came along to last months AGM and gave input, its always good to get feedback on how the club in doing and what we can improve on. There has been a few subtle changes to the committee with Grant stepping down from the Range Convener with Ian and Neil taking over.

There have been a few club hunts with some interesting stories over the last few weeks, Hopefully some of the stories will make it into print. These hunts are a great way to meet new hunting buddies and possibly learn a few new skills while you are there.

June's club night is "heads" night. This usually the biggest club night of the year as we get to see what has been shot over the last 12 months and get to hear the stories behind them.

They are all trophies so even if you don't think it is a sure thing, bring it along anyway, please remember if you are bringing along a head, please make sure that it is clean as the judges may refuse to measure it if it too stinky.

I haven't managed to secure many trophies this year, only a good Red and average sized Chamois Buck which ill bring in.

Don't forget your photos either! as there is also the photo competition which is always a good competition, and consider writing a few lines about your hunt for the newsletter as we are always looking for stories.

If you were lucky enough to win any trophies last year, could you please bring them back nice and clean so that they can be engraved for the upcoming prize giving. This includes

A.H.T., shooting and photographic trophies.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 7th

Cheers Stu



Clem Report

Probably my last chance for a good hunt due to rugby commitments I shot over to Clement's mill after rugby on Anzac weekend to take my bruises for a few days walk.

Crashed at sika lodge and walked into a somewhat secret honey hole I walked into last year. Too far for a day trip and too close for a keen guy who would generally walk past it.

I won't go into too many details as I've been asked to do a write up for a magazine so will leave the details until then.

But long story short after at least 35 days Sika hunting Kaimanuas I finally shot a hard antlered stag in the bush. Shot at 20m in the head. So much hard work went into this little 8 and will take a lot to beat. No single calls at the time a few he haws and got some stags to come close with some mews but as sika do they gave me the slip.

Now with game bird hunting started up it's a good thing for me as it's something I can do in a day now that rugby season is well underway so I've kind of lost my weekend.

Opening weekend saw me head back to Wanganui to chase upland game while most went to shoot ducks. It's hard work with no dog stumbling around kicking bushes until a bird rises.

This year we saw lot of birds as usual but in long fire breaks they have the upper hand but did manage a good pheasant for the hard work.

Still yet to put a duck on the ground but heaps of time I'm sure it'll come in due course.

Cheers Jacob



Photography Competition

Don't forget to get your prints done for the photo competition on heads night 7th June.

Print size 6 x 4in or 7 x 5 in. (7 x 5 stand out better)

Categories:

- Large Game (alive)
- Small Game and Birds
- Fungi and Insects
- Human Interest



How To Clean A Skull

The sooner you start the process and get all the flesh off the nicer the end result will be and the less chance of grease soaking into the bone and turning the hydrogen peroxide yellow.

Here is a roughly Simplified guide to how I clean up my heads for the wall.

Step 1. Remove as much meat and tissue as possible. The skin removed and jaw off is ideal. It's ok to leave some skin on around the coronets a good water blaster will cut through that.

Step 2. Get a pot big enough for desired head and fill with water and a few scoops of washing powder. This is to help break down the grease and fat. Set to a rolling simmer .

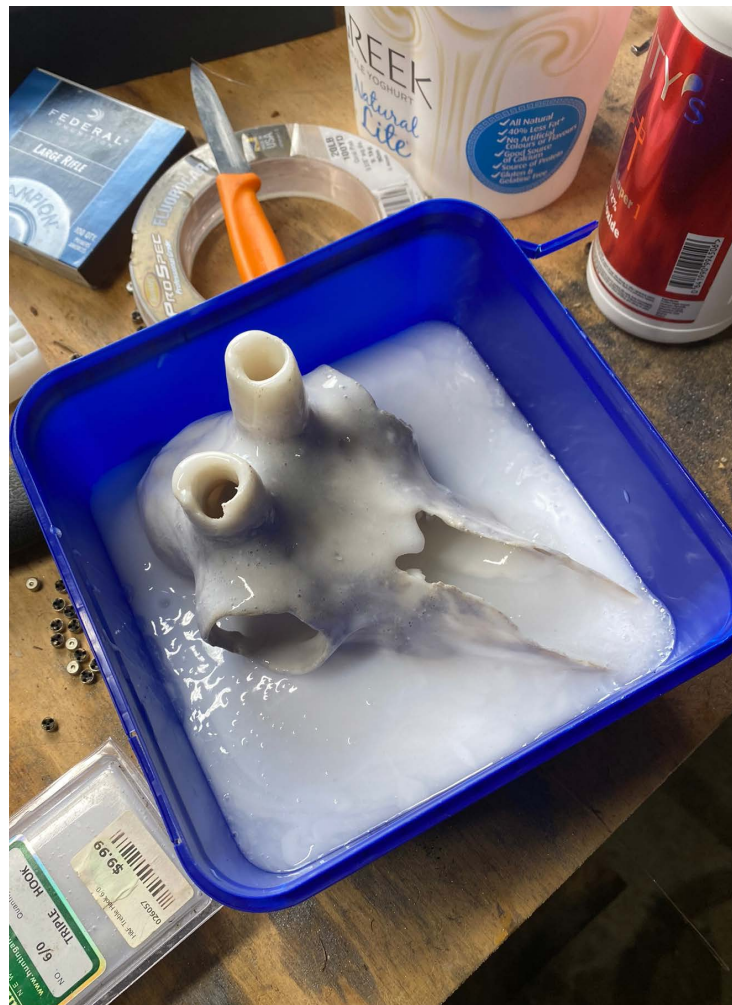
Notes: For horned animals suspend the head in simmering water so the horns aren't in the water and stay attached to the skull (removing the horns will disqualify from NZDA competitions).

With antlered animals sit in the water with coronets just in the water so all bone is under.

Step 3. After about 30-40 minutes on a constant rolling simmer not boil. Boiling can cause bones to break down especially around the nose. Or even worse the dirty water will get into the bone and turn it black. The head should be ready for the first water blast. Best way to tell is when the tissue on the nose is starting to split.

Step 4. Set up water blaster and go hard. Make sure to get every hole. It's a good idea to drill out the ear buds to access the brain easier. Depending how good of a job that did it might need another dunk in the water. If I'm trying to get a head really nice and have time I will usually swap over water and start again in clean water and powder.

Then repeat the water blast until completely clean. There should be nothing left and should almost look clean enough for the wall. No black funky bits anywhere.



Step 5. Depending on state of skull it might need a degrease. Pigs are very bad for it. For this I get a big enough bucket for the skull. I fill with water and clear dish washing liquid. Scrub it around the skull for a bit And leave for at least 24 hours. There will be a bit of grease/fat on top of the water. Repeat if necessary.

Step 6. Once happy and bone is dry, it's time for whitening. If antlered wrap cornets in electrical tape. And glad wrap a wee way up the antler then tape up. This is to stop the hydrogen peroxide whitening the antler.

Step 7. Paste on hydrogen peroxide. I use 11%. And would recommend gloves. Get it all covered and leave for a couple hours, Ideally outside. Check on it and if it dries out in one spot add some more.

Step 8. Once pasted for a bit hose off on jet. Make sure it's all off. Let dry

Step 9. Once dry you can see if you missed anything. It will go yellow or black. Can be fixed with a water blast or simmer then water blast.



Step 10. If there's a bit of white from the hydrogen peroxide on the antler can be fixed up with a coffee/water mix ratio depending on required colour. Horns and antlers can be left as is or can be oiled. I like the oil look. Makes it contrast the white bone well.

Step 11. Put on the wall and bring it in to the AHT at the next NZDA meeting.

Cheers Jacob





Neil's Red hind - a good eater!



Fallow bucks pictured by Charlie Probyn
- Collect your Hunters Element prize next
club night Charlie





What do ya do on a stormy Saturday afternoon?
You pig hunt - Darryn Moeller

Branch Hunt to Mangamahu May 2023

Three days before we were due to depart, I announced at the branch committee meeting that I only had one member signed up for the weekend hunt. Despite it being advertised in the newsletter and our Facebook page. Thanks to Robie and Stu spreading the word we attracted another 4 to give a party of eight which met in Inglewood on Saturday morning.

Arriving at the wool shed mid day, we unloaded and had a bite of lunch while planning the afternoon hunt.

First up, Dennis took Nick and his daughter Elly down the road to check the sight in of his rifle as he hadn't shot it for two years. Six deer were chased off the river flat where they were to shoot. The rifle was found to still be zeroed for 100m. From there they headed up Bush Gulley to try their luck. Ian took Dewet and Chad up the main track to check out the Middle Division paddock while Ashok and I stopped part way up the track and climbed onto a spur to look over Charley's paddock.

We had been glassing for a bit over an hour, seeing only goats. Three mobs, making up about twenty goats were spread over the hillside. The only deer I spied was grazing on the lawn of a house far below on the road side. It was a fawn which I guessed they were keeping as a pet.

We also saw Denis's group high up on the ridge at the end of Bush Gulley. The radio had crackled a few times then through the static came Chads voice.

"We've lost the bike, down into the gully. Everyone is OK."

It took me a few seconds to process this information, then I called Ian and confirmed their location.

"We'll head up to you" I replied.

We dropped back down to the Scart on the track and headed up and over into the next gully to pick them up.

The Scart's suspension creaked and groaned all the way back to the wool shed under the weight of five hunters and the deer that Dewet had shot. The bike would not be recoverable on this trip but nobody was hurt.

Ian, Dewet and Chad headed down the road in a ute to check the sight in of their rifles which had been thrown off the bike as it tumbled down the hill. They spooked four deer off the river flat. None of the rifles were significantly off there zero.

Cont. next pages



Denis's party returned to the wool shed with a deer on the bike. After seeing a small group from a distance, Nick had stalked in to 50m, through the scrub, to secure a solid bodied doe.

After a chilly night, Askok and I headed off early to the top of the farm where a crop was growing on the air strip. While nothing was on the crop, Askok secured a buck from a group also containing a doe, yearling and spiker which I suspect were just making their way for cover after being on the crop over night.

Not long after we had returned to the wool shed, Dennis returned with another buck on his bike which Chad had shot.

Another successful trip, though I was hopeful of securing a pig, but time was against us. The tally was four deer and three geese (Dennis got tired of waiting for those deer on the river flat to re-appear).

The deer are claiming they took out a personnel carrier.

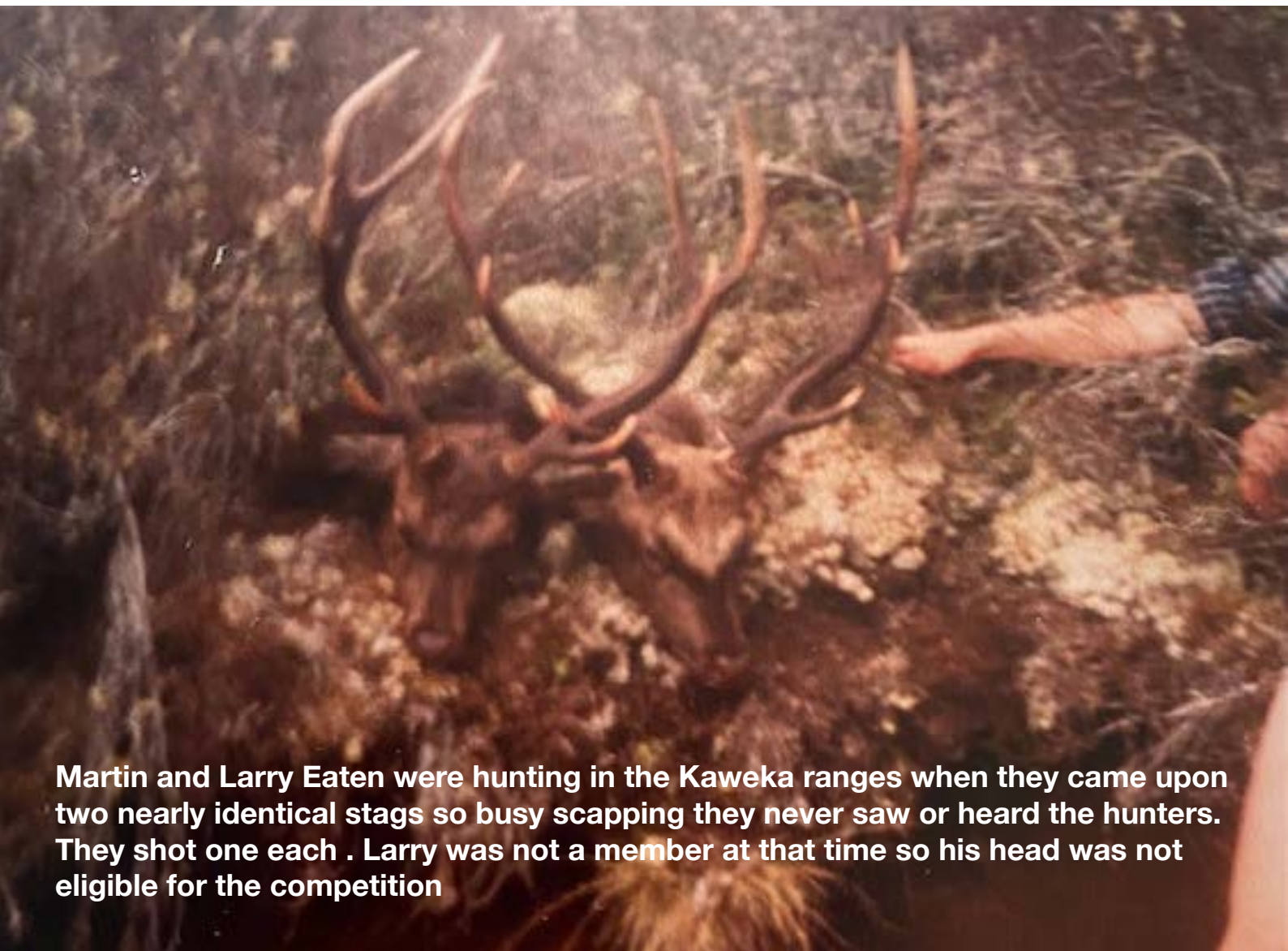
Cheers Grant



From The Archives



1983 the year our club won the Nationals with Martin Moeller's sika head.



Martin and Larry Eaten were hunting in the Kaweka ranges when they came upon two nearly identical stags so busy scapping they never saw or heard the hunters. They shot one each . Larry was not a member at that time so his head was not eligible for the competition



Gun oil for sale!

**\$5 for a bottle, \$2 for a refill in
the same bottle!**

Find Steve Corlett at our regular club nights
for more info

Notices

Keen to join the club?

Visit our website below

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

**For additional details on the range
contact Ian Turner**

Range Secretary: Ian Turner
rangecommittee@outlook.com



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**WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN
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PESTS FROM SPREADING.**

Follow these steps for everything that's been wet when you move between any waterway in New Zealand.

CHECK

Check anything that has been in contact with the water. Remove any debris or plant matter.

CLEAN

Soak or scrub your equipment, including both boat and trailer, with 10% detergent solution. Leave each item wet for 10 minutes.

DRY

Completely dry items to the touch, both inside and out, and then leave for a further 48 hours minimum, ideally 7 days.

For more information, visit mpi.govt.nz/check-clean-dry or talk to the Taranaki Regional Council.

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In The Magazine

We need pictures! If you've shot something snap a pic of it and we'll throw it in the mag, scenery is more than welcome too.

Old or new If you've got a story to tell, pictures to share or something to sell - send it through to me at:

Louisferens@yahoo.co.nz or 027 234 2176

