

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

October Issue 2014:

OCTOBER SOCIAL: Wednesday 22nd October, 7:30pm at the Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms.



"The Tines"
Rotorua Branch Newsletter October 2014



Rotorua N.Z.D.A. Branch Calendar

Ring coordinators for more information. Phone numbers listed on inner back page.

Calendar of the Club's regular monthly events:

Committee Meeting
Range Shoots*

Socials

Last Monday of each month
3rd Sunday of each month
4th Wednesday of each month
4th Weekend of each month

Our programme for this month:

Party Hunts

Socials Every 4th Wednesday at the Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms.

Range Shoot Range itinerary for 2014 in this issue:

Contact Malcolm Perry.

Cover Photo: Photo from Richard Hermans. Dr Cameron and a dead stoat, removed from the Stoat traps that NZDA Rotorua are clearing in the Whirinaki. See story in this issue.

If you have a photograph that would be suitable for the cover please contact the Newsletter editor, Elvis Bowring on 021 066 7868 or nzdarotorua@gmail.com.

Thanks to: Advocate Printing (248 Fenton Street, Rotorua (07 347 8822)) for printing our newsletter. The best address for quality and affordable copying and document solutions!

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DISCLAIMER: As the contents of this magazine come from various sources, the opinions or ideas expressed are not necessarily endorsed by this committee or by National Executive, nor may they conform to branch or national policy. The official publication of the NZDA is the 'NZ Hunting and Wildlife'

^{*} Regular Club Hunting & Trophy Shoots. For extra range shoots and 300 metre shoots please refer to Yearly Range Calendar.

^{**}Some Party Hunts may be on different dates, see programme.

Hunts Course 2014 Course Programme

NZ DeerStalkers Association and Mountain Safety Hunter Training Course

October 2014 cost \$220.00 (limited numbers)

Contact: Murray Robson Ph:3455160 Cliff Graham ph 3459333

Mobile 021573734 0274211489

Wednesday 8 October 7:30pm/9.30 pm at Rotorua NZDA Clubrooms Introduction, Ethics and Ecology, Game Species

- Introductions and Trainees welcomed to the course
- An overview of the hunts course
- Trainees given their training manual & workbook
- Instruction given on the NZDA Ethics
- Given a knowledge of big game species hunted in NZ

Wednesday 15 October 7.30/9.30 pm at Rotorua NZDA Clubrooms Mountain Radio & Epirb/Fish & Game power point presentation

By the End of this evening the participants will have an understanding on

- Mountain Radio & EPIRB use (Ted Bretherton)
- Fish & Game power point presentation on bird shooting (John Meikle)
- River Crossing DVD

Saturday 18 or Sunday 19 October 9.00am / 4.00pm at Rotorua NZDA Clubrooms

Bush Craft Weekend

By the end to the Weekend the participants will have understanding on

- Forecasting and how to interpret weather
- Navigate, using map, compass and GPS
- Know when and where to cross rivers
- Know how to cross a river (Murray Robson)

Wednesday 22 October 7.30 pm /9.30pm Skin & cutting up of deer

- Target identification & bullet placement on animal
- Video On Target (Murray Robson)

Wednesday 29 October 7.30pm/9.30 pm at Rotorua NZDA Clubrooms Search & Rescue, Hunting & camping gear & Bush First Aid

By the end of the evening the participants will have an understanding on

- Search & rescue
- How to deal with an emergency, what to do if lost (Survival)
- Hunting & camping gear (Cliff Graham)
- First Aid (Rob Andrew)

Sunday 2 November

Range Day

By the end of the range day the participants will have an understanding on

- Safety and Requirements for setting up on a Range
- Fire arms for a specific purpose
- Principles of the bullet trajectory
- Sighting in a rifle for hunting
- The factors affecting rifle accuracy
- Field shooting techniques
- Target identification and to demonstration of bullet placement
- Maintaining a firearm in the field and at home
- Factors relating to bullet performance (Malcolm Perry)

Thursday 6 November

Prepare for hunting weekend

Understand and apply outdoor safety / Risk management processes By the end of the evening the trainees will have an understanding on

- Establishing aims and objectives for the Hunting weekend
- Prepare a trip plan, including travel food and equipment list
- Receive a map of hunting area
- Complete a 'HELP' form
- Prepare a safety management and emergency plan

Weekend: Saturday 8 / 9 November or 15 / 16 November Hunting Weekend:

By the end of the Weekend the participants will:

- Complete an overnight camping Trip
- Have a one on one hunt with an experienced hunter
- Learn how to apply safe hunting practices
- Demonstrate basic stalking techniques

And hopefully see and shoot a game animal

Wednesday 19 November 7.30/9.30 pm at Rotorua NZDA Clubrooms

Course completion

By the end of the evening the participants will

- Have a debrief of the course
- Complete evaluation forms

Wednesday 26th November Hunts Prize Giving

Handing out of Hunts certificates and Stoney Creek sponsorship packs

IMPORTANT INFO RE HUNTING AT TE UREWERA

As of the last week the following applies:

- The Department will no longer be issuing hunting permits for Te Urewera.
- At a recent meeting the Tuhoe Board didn't sanction/appoint anyone to issue hunting permits hence at present none are being issued.
- Understanding is that present permits are valid until they expire.
- For any enquires, contact is <u>permit@ngaituhoe.iwi.nz</u>
- The Department's website will retain the Te Urewera information at present with a notice under the permit section of where to go for information etc.

Apologies for not getting this information out sooner but as you can gather I have only just found out myself.

All the best,

Ian Cooksley

National Hunting Advisor Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai If you currently receive a postal copy of this newsletter and would like to receive an electronic (pdf) version instead, please drop me a line with your email address.

Electronic copies are delivered faster, are cheaper to produce and are better for the environment.

NZDA ROTORUA WEBSITE IS ONLINE:

CHECK OUT <u>WWW.NZDAROTORUA.ORG.NZ</u>

Wanted
Stories for newsletter.
Any interesting articles.
Any photo's of your hunting trips.
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Send to editor – nzdarotorua@gmail.com
Or phone 021 066 7868

Hon Todd McClay

MP FOR ROTORUA

Putting Rotorua First

To make an appointment please contact me at:

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Rotorua Hunting and Fishing,

Trade Central, 1530 Amohau Street, Rotorua 3010, Ph 07 349 6303.

Report on Stoat Trap Clearing by Richard Hermans

A colleague from work and I did the lines on 23/24th August. Weather was good, if a little chilly, with a steady southerly blowing through until mid Sunday. We left the Plateau Road end at 8.30 and got into the Upper Whirinaki a bit after 10.30, had a meal, got organised and set off down at 11.30. We did this line and the upper half of U1 down to the Taumutu stream junction which we reached at 3pm. We opted to head back to the hut via the Taumutu track. A couple en route to the Upper Te Hoe had reported a stag just off the track so we thought it was worth a look. He had been feeding on some fallen broadleaf on the saddle below 820 by the look of things but had made himself scarce by the time we passed through. A long day and glad to hit the pit but rewarded with 3 stoats and 23 rats. Best result was at 1/22 with a rat and a female stoat.

Sunday saw us out of the hut by 8. Back down U3 - picked up another two rats, but still could not find trap 7 on that line. Had a good look but perhaps it has been moved further from the markers than we were looking? We left our packs at the caves bridge and began U2. This line is no joke. The Pres mentioned the climb was a bit of a pinch which it certainly was. Took us 3 hours with a short break at the summit. Got a girlie stoat and seven rats. Also ran into a sow but, to be honest, with a good hour to go and the certainty of more ridges to climb, I wished her and her babies well and we went our separate ways. Made Central for lunch at 1pm. Cleared the rest of U1 with the top half getting a second look - bridge by 3 and truck by 5. Both very pleased to see it too.

Grand total 4 stoats, 38 rats and a mouse. We had a great time though it was more 'work' than play.

Will be keen to go again once I have recovered a bit and my companion thoroughly enjoyed a close look at the Whirinaki and the local bird life - notably Kaka, Whio and Rifleman. Next time I go I shall make a point of taking gardening gloves. Scroggin flavoured with eau-de-rat losses its appeal (and is no small health hazard - take care there) occasioning much hand washing.

Regards

Richard Hermans

Volunteers/NZDA Rotorua Projects Updates

Stoat trap clearing

DOC has asked for assistance with clearing stoat traps in the Whirinaki Forest.

If you are interested in helping out by volunteering some time, please contact a committee member.



Madam Stoat by Richard Hermans



Rat race by Richard Hermans



Te Ureweras & Whirinaki



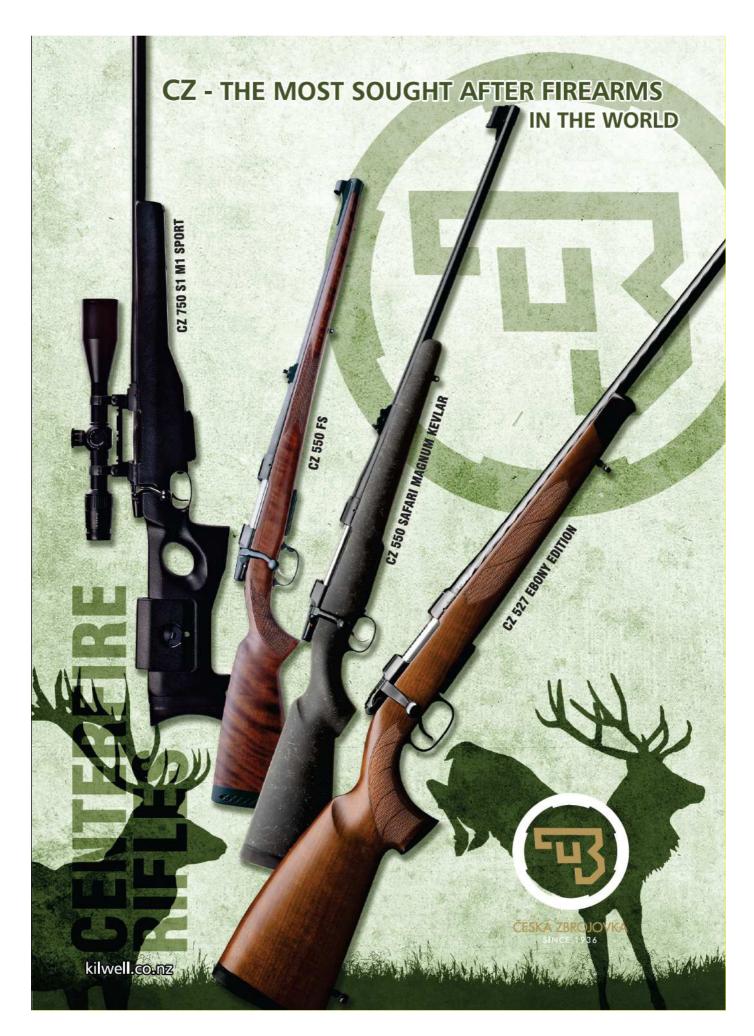
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Range Report - September 2014

Saturday 6th we held a working bee which went very well with the assistance of 8 keen members. Most of the physical work required for certification has been completed, with just a bit of painting to be finished then I will take some photo's to send to Bill O'Leary in advance of an onsite inspection. For the sake of economy I will try to have Tokoroa range ready for inspection at the same time, which should not be a problem.

Sunday 7th we held a 300M target shoot which was attended by 4 members and I was R/O.

Sunday 21st Was a Deer silhouette shoot again we had 4 members, not all the same as previous shoot, and again I was R/O

Coming events:

October;

Sunday 5th 300M target shoot.

Saturday/Sunday 18/19th Central Regional Championships. The program for this event Sat 3x40 shot 3P Rimfire match. Sun 3x20 shot 3P centre fire match. Prior advice of attendance required by Sunday 12th.

November:

Sunday 2nd Hunts Course range day (300M target shoot not likely)

Sunday 16th Rimfire Silhouette shoot.

Sunday 30th Combined Christmas & Junior Swazi shoot on Woodstock Farm, in the form of a Rimfire field shoot. For further info contact Dennis Ph 3484343.

And that's it for 2014, hard to believe, especially as I have had rather a lost year.

Time to reload,

Malcolm.

Induction courses:

Note: that you will need to have attended one of these courses in order to get the new range key. All Induction Courses have to happen at the range. These are being undertaken to ensure members are aware of the safety requirements of using the NZDA range and are a step towards the committee getting the range certified. These courses should only take around 30 minutes. You only need to attend once this year.

For further information, please call Dennis on 027 200 6489.



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In the news

CONTROVERSIAL AUCKLAND 1080 DROP DECISION TODAY BY ANDREW STONE - THE NZ HERALD (9 OCTOBER 2014)

The pesticide 1080 is likely to dumped from helicopters next winter on the Hunua Ranges, source of Auckland's water supply.

Auckland Council is today expected to change the way it conducts pest control in the 17,000 ha park, switching from bait stations for possum and rodent control to the aerial dropping of 1080 pellets.

The method is used by the Department of Conservation in its \$21 million campaign in native forests to knock back mice, rats and stoats in what the agency calls the "Battle for our Birds." The department says its poison project is in response to an increase in predator numbers brought on by ideal growing conditions for seed production.

Auckland council says a similar cycle is occurring in the Hunua Ranges Regional Park, which it manages. The park contains four reservoirs which supply 65 per cent of Auckland's water supplies. It is also home to Auckland's only mainland kokako population, supports the long-tailed bat, hochstetter's frog, kaka, kereru, bellbird and tomtit communities.

Councillor George Wood said last evening that the council was confident it could carry out 1080 operations "without putting any injurious substance in the water supply."

Mr Wood, who chairs the regional strategy and policy committee, said helicopters would not be permitted to carry 1080 loads over lakes and target areas would be off-limits to park users until 1080 pellets had degraded. Buffer zones around reservoirs would protect the lakes from 1080 dumps in nearby bush.

"We have to weigh up the benefits of using 1080 against the opposition it stirs up. Unless we take some positive action bird life in the park will suffer in a bad way. I'm confident we can do it safely."

A report by council staff says a three-year pest control programme with its current toxins - cyanide and brodifocaum - would cost \$1.4 million, and only cover 6.5 per cent of the park. By switching to 1080, the budget would be cut to \$529,000 and the entire ranges would be treated.

Mr Wood said stringent water quality tests would be part of the programme, along with any other monitoring required by the Auckland Regional Public Health Service. Ministry of Health approval is also required for aerial operations.

The change to 1080, which the strategy and policy committee will vote on this morning, would not start until next winter when pests are short of food and bait drops most efficient.

Mr Wood said iwi, community and environmental groups would be consulted.

- APNZ

1080 PROMPTS TROUT WARNING - STUFF.CO.NZ (26 SEPTEMBER 2014)

Anglers are being warned to avoid eating fish caught in back country waters as they could be tainted by 1080 poison.

The Department of Conservation plans to aerially drop 1080 poison across 700,000 hectares of conservation land, mostly in the South Island, to reduce rodent numbers.

Fishing groups expressed concerns that mice - which were often eaten by trout - could carry sub-lethal amounts of 1080, posing a food safety risk for humans.

DOC commissioned independent research into the risk, finding 1080 levels in trout flesh were significantly higher than recognised food safety guidelines.

Fish & Game New Zealand chief executive Bryce Johnson said the results were "not a good look" for New Zealand's so-called 100 per cent pure environmental brand.

"Anglers fishing back country waters, including overseas anglers who come here because of the trout fishery's international reputation, have always been able to assume that it is totally safe to catch a trout and eat it. Sadly, this turns that over," he said.

DOC's massive 1080 operation had been planned in response to an anticipated "mouse plague" after beech forests produced large crops of seed this year, giving the rodents extra food.

"While we understand why DOC is doing this, the findings from this recent research has added a very significant and concerning new dimension to the 1080 debate", Johnson said.

He believed the ramifications of the operation would extend "well beyond" the poison sites, but said Fish & Game had "been left with no choice" but to support DOC's warning to anglers.

He called for further research to provide a more accurate picture of the possible risks.

"Fish and Game is not saying don't go fishing in the back country, just don't eat the fish," Johnson said.

Department of Conservation boss Lou Sanso played down claims that trout pose a health risk.

"You would have to eat tonnes of trout to be affected," he said.

"Overall the risks are very low."

The department undertook research at the request of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, Sanson said.

The research involved feeding trout high levels of 1080 in the lab and the preliminary results showed that trout take up small amounts of 1080 into their flesh which breaks down over a number of days.

The results were only laboratory tests, they were not peer reviewed and would need to be replicated in the field to establish their credibility, he said.

The research was done at the Cawthron Institute laboratories, Swanson said.

- The Press

POACHING: SHOTS IN THE DARK – STUFF.CO.NZ (04 OCTOBER 2014)

Poaching has been riling Gowan Valley farmers for years ... but now it's getting worse. Jonathan Carson reports.

It's about 3am on a Tuesday when Dennis Long sees headlights hovering through the darkness near his cattle and sheep farm. He doesn't know who it is, but he knows why they're here. A short distance along Braeburn Track, near Lake Rotoroa, the vehicle stops and a spotlight beams into a paddock. Long dials 111. Then a gunshot rings out down the valley.

Poaching is not a new problem in these parts. But farmers in the Gowan Valley, east of Murchison, reckon it's getting worse and it's only a matter of time before someone is hurt or killed. Long and his mates, Michael Reedy and Tony Tapper, aged in their late 60s, are vigilantes. They're banding together to confront poachers and rustlers on their land and, in the past two weeks, have caught four parties in the act, resulting in police charging up to six people with unlawful hunting and theft.

In the case last Tuesday, the three men found a Nelson woman sitting in a ute, headlights off. They asked what she was doing and she said she was getting a deer. They told her it was private land and she became abusive. They saw a sheep in the back and she said she had run it over and shot it to put it out of its misery. It was Long's sheep. A pool of blood found in the paddock later that morning showed it had been killed while grazing. Her two friends, a woman wearing a balaclava and a man, appeared out of the darkness. They had shot a deer on Long's land. The men, tired and angry, blocked them in until police arrived.

It was just another night in the valley.

Reedy flicks through a notebook of incidents they've dealt with in the past fortnight. There are five that they know of, but there are bound to be more. September 23, 10.30pm. September 24, 2.45am. September 30, 3.30am. It goes on. Poaching typically involves shooting wild animals on private land at night using spotlights, but Reedy said there had been many cases of stock being shot and stolen, or left to die in a field. "It's been going on for years but it's getting worse," Reedy said. "Where's it going to end? What's going to happen? Is someone going to get shot? That's the worry. And farmers in New Zealand are stressed out at the moment."

Reedy said poachers are highly organised. They travel from Nelson, Picton, Golden Bay and the West Coast to remote backroads after dark. Drivers drop the shooters in an area and they stay in contact on walkie talkies or cellphones until they've made a kill. The drivers then return to pick up the animal. The number plates are often concealed or stolen. But the real concern is that the shooters are often drinking alcohol or smoking cannabis and firing high-powered rifles in the direction

of houses, or across conservation land where people might be camping. Their other concern is the volatility of the people they are confronting. Poachers were known to be abusive, throw punches and carry weapons. Some were known criminals.

"You go up there without a weapon to confront these guys and it's just trouble. You can't fight them, you can't threaten them in any way, but they can do whatever they like to you," Reedy said. "We should be arming ourselves when we confront these people. The police don't want it. But it's going to come to that."

The Gowan Valley is one of many areas across the district where poaching is a growing problem. Federated Farmers Nelson president Martin O'Connor said it seemed to be getting worse and he'd heard stories about farmers losing hundreds of sheep. Farmers were compelled to defend their land, but clashing with poachers created a "very dangerous friction," he said. "Quite often you're dealing with armed people and it can turn into an ugly situation quite quickly. I know the police don't want confrontation and that but . . . they can't supply the coverage really required."

Murchison police Constable Mike McDougall, who regularly responds to reports of poaching in the Gowan Valley, said farmers confronting armed men was risky.

"Something bad could happen one day, and heaven forbid that it does. But some of the farmers are at the end of their tether. They've just had a guts full of it. And I can't blame them."

A law change in November last year saw the maximum penalty for unlawful hunting increase from a maximum \$500 "wet bus ticket" to a maximum \$100,000 fine and one year imprisonment. In Gowan Valley alone, six people have been charged under the new law in the past fortnight.

"There's going to be no leniency because they've been doing it for so long and the penalties are there now to match the crime," McDougall said. "Sooner or later they're going to get caught and if they get caught they get the book thrown at them."

Reedy, Long and Tapper should be easing into their golden years, but they intend to keep watch over the valley where, collectively, they have lived more than 50 years. They're losing sleep and taking chances, driven by the fear of what could happen if they do nothing.

"These people, they're bad news," Reedy said. "Sooner or later they're going to pop someone off, that's what will happen. You wait."

- The Nelson Mail

WOMEN FALL ILL AFTER 1080 DROP BY LAURA MILLS - THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD (22 SEPTEMBER 2014)

Two Reefton women who were caught in the bush as 1080 poison rained from the sky last summer are now both reporting ill health.

An official investigation into the incident has been reopened.

Sisters Gwen Gardner and Kathleen Bartlett were on Maori Gully Road, near Kokiri, having a picnic after checking out a property for sale, when a helicopter with a monsoon bucket flew overhead and dropped poisoned pellets around their vehicle. They were close by at the time.

The sisters say they felt ill within 40 minutes of the drop, but did not associate it with 1080 poisoning.

They remained in the area for several hours as they did not think it could have been 1080, partly because they say a sign was outdated, and the helicopter was following the line of a creek.

However, medical tests by the Reefton GP now show Mrs Bartlett's liver is not functioning as it should, she suffers from nausea and tiredness, and coughs every night.

A trained singer, she says she knows her breathing is not right.

Mrs Gardner, who spent 15 years with St John, suffers B12 deficiency, nausea and fatigue.

After going public about the poison drop, Tb Free said the pair were on private land and should not have been there anyway.

However, the sisters said they later discovered that the photos they took of pellets lying around the vehicle actually recorded their GPS location -- and proves they were on a public road at the time.

They say they were ridiculed after going public for allegedly being in the wrong place.

Mrs Bartlett, who describes herself as a "private, non-confrontational person", has not been named until now.

However, she said this week she wanted to tell her story.

"We were two innocent people picnicking up a creek, and it was covered in 1080. For that, we are really unwell," her sister said.

The women say some warning signs out further have been updated, but not the one on Maori Gully Road.

Their GP, a locum new to the country, knew nothing of 1080 poison until they turned up for their regular tests. They say the doctor Googled the poison and demanded an investigation.

The sisters say they want to see more information made available for medical professionals.

They were "shocked" the case had been closed at the time as they were still waiting to hear back from medical and council staff. They are pleased the investigation has been reopened.

"We thought there was an investigation going on [all along]," Mrs Bartlett said.

West Coast medical officer of health Dr Cheryl Brunton said she had received some "more updated information" this week and as a result they were going to "revisit some things".

"It's still in process of investigation."

Tb Free northern South Island programme manager Matt Hickson said they were awaiting the outcome of Dr Brunton's report.

By Laura Mills of the Greymouth Star

Application for Membership of the Rotorua Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc 2014/2015



To:NZDA
PO Box 6514
Wellington

Dear Membership Secretary,

I am applying for membership of the Rotorua Branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association for the 2014/15 year (March 1st 2014 – February 28th 2015).

My details are as follows:

Surname				
Given Name/s				
Preferred mailing address				
Suburb				
City/Town				
New Post Code				
Telephone				
Cell phone				
Facsimile				
Email	Do you wish to receive the NZDA Monthly newsletter electronically? Yes / No			
	Are you able to assist with Search and Rescue? Yes / No			
Date of Birth if Junior or Superannuant	Junior less than 18 as at 1 March 2014. Superannuant over 65 as at 1 March 2014.			

Membership entitles you to:

- Any discounts such as purchases in certain sport and gun shop and discounted heli fly in trips as available at times.
- \$10 Million dollar personal public liability insurance for hunting and shooting mishaps (such as accidental cause of fires and similar ie \$1 million cover for Rural Fires Act, exemplary and punitive damage).
- Affiliation with COLFO, Coalition of Licensed Firearm Owners the firearm fund for firearm rights.
- Access to monthly socials or meetings; the clubrooms; range competitions or individual shooting; competitions and trophies; organized hunts.
- Involvement in conservation and animal management *ownership, shooting sport, hunting and habitats.*
- Support for the branch as well as the national NZDA association to represent hunters' interests regarding firearms.

REMEMBER YOU MUST BE FINANCIAL AT THE TIME YOU SHOOT THAT TROPHY TO ENTER COMPETITIONS AND FINANCIAL TO MAKE ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE \$5 MILLION INSURANCE COVER.

Range Keys	Any person who wishes to have a range gate key for the private use of our range must be a current financial member of
3: 1,:	the branch and must obtain a key from Hamills, Outdoorsman HQ, Hunting and Fishing or Serious Shooters. Your
	membership card must be produced at the time of key purchase. Keys may not be lent or passed on to other persons,
	whether they are members or not. Non-members can only enter the range if accompanied by a current financial member.
	Any use of the range by non-members requires prior approval of the committee executive.

The membership typ	(please circle one)			
FEES – Branch year runs	from March 1 st 2014 to Fe	bruary 28 th 2015.		Full Year March – May
SENIOR – Full benefits a	at national and branch level			\$90.00
JUNIOR – Must be less t	than 18 years of age as at I	March 1 st 2014. Full benefit	apart from voti	ng rights. \$25.00
ASSOCIATE – Unable to	vote or enter national com	npetitions. Does not receive	H&W.	\$60.00
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membership card from email deerstalkers@pa Tarawera Road. Rang I agree to abide by the the Range Standing O	the NZDA National Officeradise.net.nz. Social cleens and Sunday of the New Zeal rders & Rules of Conductive Co	ce, PO Box 6514, Welling the month. Party hunt land Deerstalkers' Association	gton, phone 04 by of the montl s as advertised ciation (Rotoru by membership	na Branch) Incorporated and to (or renewal) is pending on the
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Membership Costs (Rotorua Branch)

Senior = \$100 (full benefits at local and national branch level)

Associate = \$70 (Unable to vote or enter national competitions. Does not receive H&W)

Junior = \$25 (Must be less than 18 years of age as at March 1st 2011. Full benefits apart from voting rights.)

Student = \$40 (Must be attending a tertiary institute or undergoing an apprenticeship. Proof must be provided.)

Superannuant = \$50 (Over 65 as at March 1st 2011. Full benefits)

Family = \$5 (Children or grandchildren), \$10 partner or spouse.

Sender: Rotorua Branch NZDA

PO Box 857 ROTORUA

