



The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

September Issue 2015:



**“The Tines”
Rotorua NZDA Branch Newsletter
September 2015**



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	Last Monday of each month
Range Shoots*	3rd Sunday of each month
Socials	4th Wednesday of each month
Party Hunts**	4th Weekend of each month

** 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.*

Our programme for this month:

Party Hunts	Sika Lodge Hunt, October 2015. Register your interest now.
Socials	NZDA Rotorua with two guest speakers. 1) Richard White of Ahurei Adventures. Keen hunter, fisherman and horse whisperer. 2) Mike Keefe, Rotorua Police Arms Officer, Wednesday 23 rd September.
Range Shoot	Range itinerary for 2015 in this issue: Contact Malcolm Perry or Rod Andrews.

Cover Photo: Guest speaker David Benfell talking at the NZDA Rotorua Clubrooms. Details of the next social are in this edition.

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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Half page \$75 (for 11 issues)

Single issue adverts can be arranged if required.

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'

Presidents Report August 2015

Hi all

Well guess, who along with others, missed the last committee meeting. Well my excuse was turbine shut and long hours - well enough of that.

So apart from some poor judgement with some NZDA members shooting pukeko the news has been a bit slow. The boys did finally get the concrete laid out at the range after a few goes. Main problem was that the supplier didn't really have enough orders to justify our run. Many thanks to Allied Concrete for their sharp deal and also to Mark P for giving up his time again.

So I have delivered the plywood sheets to go on the outside, hopefully by now the trusses will be on site. They were a tad longer than we thought so once again Dennis had to sus his mate with the Hiab to deliver. I will have to deliver the windows etc. that were kindly donated by Alan & Robin Burberry.

So the next mission will be to modify and fit the trusses up and then we can crack on and finish the pad. All going well this may be before October. I see another working bee plus a roof shout maybe. If you can't be there but would like to donate \$50 bucks (the cost of a box of ammo) or more we will publish the account so you can deposit a donation – remember it's for the range and will benefit us all in the future.

I had organised a meeting with the RDC to try and get a way forward on the proposal of land between us and the Black Powder Club, so Warren Fitz, Elvis and I fronted up, we put our case forward to the lease manager Robbie Atkinson who understood our idea and would look into it with regards to the Black Power Club, so we wait.

Take note

The Horse and his mate went into Rogers hut on the weekend, froze a tad and didn't see any pukeko, but on return to the road end and their ute, some nice person had broken the window and kindly borrowed the battery. It gave them a long walk to work on revenge no doubt.

Well that's my lot for now.

Hope to see out at range some time.

Cheers
Colin

September Guest Speaker – 23 September 2015

NZDA Rotorua introduces

Richard White

Born and bred in Ruatāhuna, Richard White is an accomplished hunter, fisherman, horse whisperer and tramper.

Richard will talk about his early days hunting with his father and how his love of the land has developed to bring others and share the Te Urewera's.

Wednesday 23Sep. Doors open at 7pm with a BBQ. Entry \$5.00 including a raffle ticket.

<http://www.ahureiadventures.co.nz/>

All welcome.

We will also have Mike Keefe, Rotorua Police Arms Officer, giving a short talk about firearms



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TAUPO BRANCH PRIZE SHOOT

**Saturday 7th NOV
2015**



**JACK DILLON
MOUNTAIN**

off Napier / Taupo Highway at the Foot of MT Tauhara

**MEMORIAL RANGE,
ROAD, TAUPO**

**REGISTRATIONS: 8.30am until last detail on mound.
Shoot commences 9.30am**

**INCLUDING: TAUPO GRADED SHOOT
TAUPO" BIG BALLS HUNTER CLASS"**

ENTRY FEES: PER EVENT
\$25.00 SENIOR
\$12.50 JUNIOR [under 18]
Ie, \$50.00,
If entering both disciplines

FORMAT: PRIZE SHOOT;
100 metre Centrefire or Rimfire,
Four positions, 20 shots, Graded A to D
Three minutes unlimited sighters

BIG BALLS HUNTER CLASS;
See attached details.

RULES: GRADED SHOOT:
and
BIG BALLS HUNTER CLASS
TAUPO Rules apply.

CAMPING; Free on range. No camp site power points
Plenty of room with kitchen and toilet facilities
No dogs
Free morning and afternoon tea
Free hot pork, venison, or hogget sandwiches after shoot

TAUPO BRANCH PRIZESHOOT

BIG BALLS HUNTER CLASS RULES

Highest scores

\$50 1st,

\$30 2nd,

\$20 3rd,

COURTESY OF GREAT LAKE TANNERY

PLUS PRIZE TABLE FOR ALL ENTRIES

5 SHOTS, 4 POSITIONS:

Shooter can elect to shoot a less stable position if desired.

Non- graded:

No sighters:

Max rifle weight: 9lb / 4k

Hunting rifles with factory or similar barrel profiles

not Varmint profiles

Scope set to a maximum power of 9x

Min muzzle energy : 1940 ftlb : ie 243, 100gr, 3000fps

Taupo reserves the right to test loads

**No target equipment : ie, jackets, elbow pads,
Shooting hats gloves etc**

No rests or bi-pods

**No single point slings, 2 point slings ok :
if used must be attached in positions**

ENQUIRIES ; PHONE MARGARET or BILL SEAL [07 3789630]

whmmseal@xtra.co.nz

021 231 6223 / 027 622 6893

Or

Kris Lyall klyall@slingshot.co.nz

PARTY HUNT – Sika Lodge

We are having a party hunt at Sika Lodge on the weekend of Friday 9th-11th October.

The cost is \$25.00 per person per night. Bring your own food sleeping bag and towel etc.

If you are interested, please confirming your attendance with Denley. His number is 0278974368.

We will have a get together before the that date for final sort out travel times etc.



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.

Hon Todd McClay

MP FOR ROTORUA

Putting Rotorua First

ROTORUA ELECTORATE OFFICE

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THE ADVENTURE WAS GREAT

NOW TASTE THE REWARD

Rotorua range report September 2015.

Rotorua Range Program 2015.

SEPTEMBER;

Saturday 12th Cadets from 10am to 3pm.

Sunday 20th .22 Metallic silhouette shoot.

OCTOBER;

Saturday 3rd C.N.I.G.C. Service rifle shoot.

Sunday 4th 300M target shoot*.

Saturday 17th Central regional N.R.A. 3x40 Rimfire match.

Sunday 18th Central regional 3x20 Centrefire match.

NOVEMBER;

Sunday 1st 300M Target shoot.

Saturday 7th C.N.I.G.C. Service rifle shoot.

Sunday 15th Deer silhouette shoot.

DECEMBER;

Saturday 5th C.N.I.G.C. Service rifle shoot.

NOTES;

As yet the date and nature of our Christmas and Junior shoot are yet to be sorted.

*Denotes shoots I will not be available to range officer and I will arrange a stand in prior to the event.

Malcolm, Contact 07 348 4473 or 027 625 9608.

Coming events:

Sunday September 20th .22 metallic silhouette shoot.

October;

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th Central regional service rifle shoot.

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th Central Regional Scoped rifle champs, P.R.S.C. program.

Sat 120 shot rimfire 3P; Sunday 60 shot centrefire 3P

November:

Sunday 1st 300M target shoot.

Saturday 7th C.N.I.G.C. service rifle shoot,

Sunday 15th Deer silhouette shoot.

Please note: The date and venue for the Christmas and Swazi shoot will be determined at the September committee meeting.

Time to reload,

Malcolm.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS FIELD & GAME CLUB Inc

GONG SHOOT

Date: 04 October 2015

Venue: Colyton,

Time: 9.30am

Cost: \$25.00 per person

There will be a total of six shooting stations, each of which will require a total of four to five shots at gongs of varied sizes and at varied distances, the event will not be timed but a maximum time per shooting station and per shooting position will apply.

A marshal will be at each shooting station to advise distances, the required order of shooting and the designated position for each shot.

Each shooter will be required to supply their own ammunition, maximum calibre is 8mm, no magnums short or long, no automatics – semi only, also no tracer or armour piecing ammunition permitted.

Participants are advised to bring/wear their normal hunting gear, please particularly ensure that appropriate foot ware and ear muffs/plugs are worn.

There is a maximum of 25 entries only, there will be prizes awarded to the top twelve shooters and this will be judged on accuracy, the decision of the marshal at each shooting station is final as is any decision made by the Range Officer of the day.

It is mandatory that all shooters be present prior to commencement for a briefing by the Range Officer/Organiser on range/gun etiquette, safety requirements for the day, range rules, terms and conditions.

Entry registrations can be made to the organiser Ken Turner at Colleenzturn@hotmail.co.nz or to Chris Symonds at 1broxt@gmail.com

The entry fee of \$25.00 must be paid in advance by either cheque or direct credit, details are; ANZ 06 0729 0389807 00, if funds are not received within seven (7) days of registration the entry will be cancelled. The CDF&G postal address is; PO Box 557, Feilding.

Participating hunters should provide their own lunch, at the end of the day's competition there will be prize giving and a barbecue.

Organiser: Ken Turner phone 06 323 1494

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Inc

National Championships

23/24/25/26 October 2015

Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex
Newell Road
Tokoroa



Fri 23rd

**80 Shot Metallic
Silhouette (Rimfire)**

\$30.00

Sat 24th

Rimfire 60 Shot

4P @ 50 & 100m

\$35.00

Sun 25th

Centrefire 60 Shot

4P @ 100 & 200m

\$35.00

Mon 26th

60 Shot Prone - C/Fire

@ 200m (am)

\$35.00

60 Shot Prone - R/Fire

@ 100m (pm)

\$35.00

Closing date: Friday 9 October 2015 (penalty may be applied to late entries)

Refreshments: Coffee, Tea & Biscuits supplied

Camping on Site: \$5 per person per night

Registration Forms are available on request or found on the website at: www.deerstalkers.org.nz

Start Planning Now!

We look forward to seeing you



Any Enquires: I McFetridge M: 027 269 7433

E: swhs10.1@gmail.com

M Perry

P/F: 07 348 4473

E: perry4484@gmail.com

Central Regional Championship



Rotorua Branch NZDA Range
Mead Road (off Tarawera Road)

17th & 18th October 2015

Start Time

Range Opens: 8.30am - Saturday & 8.00am - Sunday

Briefing: 9.30am - Saturday & 9.00am - Sunday

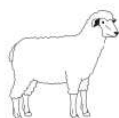
Programme: Saturday 17th 120 Shot Rimfire, 3P @ 50m
Sunday 18th 60 Shot Centrefire, 3P @ 100m
(PRSC Format)

Entry Fee: Rimfire \$25
Centrefire \$30

Refreshments: Complimentary Tea and Coffee provided

Enquires: M Perry Ph/Fax: 07 348 4473

NOTE: Please note those intending to compete in this event need to advise Malcolm Perry (07) 348 4473 prior to Sunday 13th October. If insufficient registrations the event will be cancelled.



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New Spring 2015 catalogue out now!!!



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

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.



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www.deerstalkers.org.nz

NEWSLETTER to Branches

31st August 2015

National Executive Activities

- 9/9 Wellington DOC/NGO meeting, Visitor Safety Reference Group (Bill)
- 10/9 Wellington Inter Agency Hunter Safety Committee (Bill)
- 11/9 Wellington Minister Dunne (Bill, Graeme), HUNTS Trust meeting (Bill, Tony)
- 12–13/9 Wellington Natex meeting
- 15/9 Golden Bay branch (Bill)
- 16/9 Marlborough branch (Bill)
- 17/9 Wellington Animal Welfare meeting (Tony)
- 19/9 Christchurch SCI meeting (Graeme)
- 24–25/9 Taupo Sika Show (Bill, Jim Peffers, Stephan Shaw)
- 26/9 Rotorua GAC (Bill)

Expected in September – announcement of successful funding applications for the Community Conservation Funds

A Chronology of Tauratua & Rimutaka Ranges

A completely updated and enlarged 6th edition (2015, buff-covered) of this popular booklet is now available, from the author. Last revisited in 2006, it comprises 72 pages, including four sketch and four photos.

Payment details can be found on the NZDA website under the Heritage Trust books page.

Financial

Clearings branch clearings reports for June and July 2015 have been posted to each branch and an electronic copy will be sent out within the next few days.

New Website

Some of you may already have seen but our website has been updated!

<http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/>

If there are any changes you require, contact the membership email so any changes can be made as soon as possible.

Hi All,

CDFGC Gong Shoot – Sunday the 4th of October. (More info attached)

The first one is being hosted by the Central Districts Field and Game Club (CDFGC) on a property just out of Colyton (between Fielding and Ashhurst, just north of Palmerston North) on Sunday the 4th of October. Malcolm and I will be running this event again for the club. This is a hunter event (30 shots, targets out to 300m, no magnum calibres). See the attached club notification for more information.

Tarata Medium Range – 21st and 22nd of November.

The second event is the Tarata Medium Range Precision Event to be held on a property outside of Tarata, in Taranaki. This event involves a centre fire course on the Saturday and a rim fire course on the Sunday. This event will be held on the 21st and 22nd of November. The centre fire course will be broken down into a Hunter class (25 shots, targets out to ~300m) and an Open class (50 shots, targets out to 600m). We will allow calibres up to 300WinMag for the centre fire event. The rim fire event will be strictly limited to 22LR only and will involve some moving targets and longer distance targets, although the majority of targets will be between 10m and ~80m. Competitors will complete the course in squads of three or four.

Still have quite a few details to sort out with this event but accommodation will be made available for those people travelling that don't mind fitting in. Also a large

proportion of the funds raised from this event will go to the Taranaki Sporting Shooter Hub (name to be confirmed) – a new range facility we are looking at here in Taranaki.

Limited entries to both events. Get in touch with the CDFGC for entry into their event and get in touch with myself if you are interested in coming along for one or both days for the Tarata event. I will announce more details for the Tarata event closer to the date.

Feel free to check out the facebook page for announcements and the youtube channel for videos. Also feel free to pass this email on to anyone you might think is interested. Of course any queries just get in touch.

Cheers,

Simon Gillice

Phone (Work): (06) 759 5821

Phone (Home): (06) 758 1693

Phone (Cell): (027) 233 4147

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GillicePracticalRifleEvents>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/sgil045>

National Office Email – Please check you have the correct email for national office. The old @paradise email address is no longer being used. Please note our emails are info@deerstalkers.org.nz or membership@deerstalkers.org.nz.

Sue and Kirstie

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

In the news

GOVT: PUKEKO CULL WENT 'HORRIBLY WRONG' – 3 NEWS (26 AUGUST 2015)

The killing of four endangered takahe was the result of a culling operation that went "horribly wrong", Conservation Minister Maggie Barry's office says.

Labour's Ruth Dyson has released an email which explains why Deerstalkers' Association hunters were chosen to carry out a pukeko cull on Motutapu Island.

"The choice of using NZDA hunters was not due to cuts in funding, but rather a way of getting all New Zealanders engaged in conservation in some form or another," the email from Ms Barry's office says.

"Unfortunately, in this case while the intent was good, things went horribly wrong."

The Deerstalkers' Association has apologised for the killings.

The birds were shot last week during the organised cull to cut down the number of pukeko on the island.

The birds look similar, although pukeko can fly and takahe can't.

The hunters had been told to only shoot pukeko on the wing.

There are fewer than 300 takahe left.

Ms Dyson says it's ludicrous for Ms Barry's office to say the hunters were used as a way of spreading the conservation message.

"The email also claims the Department of Conservation is actually at its highest level of funding in history and claims that rumours of funding cuts were unsubstantiated," she said.

"That is just tosh, as the annual funding in real terms in 2015 is a whopping \$65 million below the 2008/09 figure."

NZN

PIG HUNTER'S FIRST-AID IN MACGYVER STYLE BY TIMOTHY BROWN – NZ HERALD (24 AUGUST 2015)

A Palmerston hunter used his T-shirt and duct tape as a tourniquet before hobbling more than 200m to meet his rescuers after impaling his leg on a stick in the Maungatua Range.

Luke Direen was pig hunting off Grainger Rd, near Outram, when he fell and impaled his leg on a stick about 10.30am yesterday.

"I slipped on a dead flax bush and just arsed over and a stick went into my leg," he said casually after being discharged from Dunedin Hospital yesterday afternoon.

"It went three inches into my calf muscle.

"I pulled it out - apparently it's not a good thing to do. You are supposed to leave it in there.

"I didn't really think about that. It wasn't on the top of the to-do list."

It left a wound big enough that a paramedic "could put two index fingers inside my leg".

The pain was immediate, he said.

"The pain was pretty good - it was right up there."

He contacted police with his cellphone to report the accident and then applied his own form of first-aid.

Mr Direen did not have a first-aid kit with him, as "I didn't take my dogs with me", so he used his T-shirt as a tourniquet, applied further pressure with duct tape and used his rifle as a crutch as he hobbled back towards the track more than 200m away.

Emergency services arrived within about 30 minutes of the fall and he was winched out by the Otago Rescue Helicopter about 12.25pm.

"They were awesome about everything and the speed they did everything with is unreal," he said.

Constable Amie Manning said Mr Direen had "done everything right".

"There's nothing else he could have done to make it any better," she said.

"He was very well prepared, wearing fluoro gear, had a cellphone, enough food,.. a locator beacon and GPS."He was in "good spirits" when emergency services arrived despite the "stab wound" in his leg, she said.

Mr Direen said despite initial concerns he would need surgery, a doctor had "stitched my leg and a couple of tendons" and he would return to Grainger Rd with his "mum and a mate" to get his truck yesterday afternoon. It was a tale he expected to hear about at the pub.

"My mates are going to give me a bit of stick for it," he said, with a laugh.-

- Otago Daily Times

GRIEVING DOG OWNER BELIEVES 'PEST POISON' MAY HAVE KILLED HIS DOG BY AMBER-LEIGH WOOLF – STUFF.CO.NZ (24 AUGUST 2015)

A Lyall Bay resident who watched his beloved dog die an agonising death is warning Wellington dog owners to be aware of poison in the area.

Stefan Prentice suspected Frankie swallowed poison after she wandered from his property on Hungerford Rd, which backed onto council land.

Frankie, an 8-year-old border collie whippet cross, died last Monday morning after returning home unwell the night before.

Her health rapidly deteriorated and she started vomiting, shaking, struggling to breathe and suffering fits, before dying.

The popular dog was well known around Wellington for joining Prentice, who worked at Regional Wines and Spirits by the Basin Reserve, on his delivery runs.

"She went with me to work, she went everywhere with me."

While it was unknown what had killed his pet, he believed Wellington City Council needed to keep the public better informed about where it laid poison for possums.

It used brodifacoum with each bait station holding a maximum of 1kg of bait and stations spaced at 100m.

Prentice believed the poison was strong enough for the council to warn dog owners, so it should be treated with caution.

"They do say on the website not to let your dog off the lead and off the road".

While devastated about his dog's preventable death, he hoped publicity might prevent another dog owner losing their pet.

"I know my dog was poisoned, and she died. I'd hate for it to happen to someone else."

Wellington City Council confirmed there were possum bait stations near Prentice's home on Te Raekaihau headland.

"There's strict rules around the signs that do go in. For example, at every reserve entrance, there's a sign in the area," the council's open space and parks manager, Amber Bill, said.

The council had only heard of two dogs poisoned by possum bait in the past decade.

"Two cases have been brought to our attention where anti-coagulant has been found in the dog's bloodstream. But we still don't know if that's from the bait in the area."

The council did everything it could to ensure people's pets were safe, Bill said.

Council spokesman Clayton Anderson said the risk of dogs becoming poisoned from bait stations was low.

"A 20kg dog would need to eat its own body weight of bait or 6kg for several days in a row, which is very unlikely to occur."

Natural poisons, such as karaka berries, could be to blame, and slug baits were a common cause of dog poisoning in urban areas, he said.

Wellington SPCA spokesman Mark Collyns was unaware of an influx of dogs consuming poison.

However, he said Prentice's experience was a warning to other dog owners.

"They need to be wary and cautious about having their animals around the bush."

Collyns said if owners found their dog has been poisoned, they needed to seek immediate veterinary care.

- Stuff

COUNCIL ADAMANT WATER WON'T BE AFFECTED BY 1080 DUMP – 3 NEWS (22 AUGUST 2015)

Auckland Council is reassuring residents drinking water won't be affected by a dumping of 1080 poison.

Hunua Ranges, Waharau and Whakatiwai regional parks and tracks in Auckland are closed while the poison is laid to kill pests.

Aerial application of poisoned bait over a section of 12,500 hectares began on yesterday morning.

Areas would be closed for up to five days, while the tracks are cleared, the council says.

Water supply reservoirs in the area have been isolated from the public water supply.

They won't be returned to service until consecutive samples show no 1080 has been detected, and the Medical Officer of Health signs it off.

Young children and dogs were particularly at risk of 1080 poison and people in the area should heed warning signs, the council says.

Dogs owners in the vicinity should watch them carefully and prevent them scavenging carcasses.

Why 1080?

- Rats and stoats take eggs from nests of native birds
- Possums damage the native fauna
- The last kokako breeding season in the Hunua management area produced no fledglings
- Four out of five monitored kokako breeding pairs outside the management area were missing.

NZN

HUNTERS NO LONGER ABLE TO 'FARM' ANIMALS BEFORE COMPETITION BY MARK PRICE – NZ HERALD (10 AUGUST 2015)

Hunters tempted to "farm" wild deer or pigs before hunting competitions are likely to be out of luck at the Upper Clutha Deerstalkers Association competition later this month.

The association, which is holding its popular annual competition for the third time, has changed its rules, mainly to encourage more interest in hunting among women and children.

But the changes also aim to sideline hunters who manipulate the competition process by allowing wild deer or pigs to graze crops on farmland over the winter.

That improves the animal's chances of winning competitions where prizes are awarded for the heaviest animal.

Organiser of the Upper Clutha competition Russell Duff told the Otago Daily Times the issue had led to the association's recent rule change.

As a result, the top prize at this year's competition, on August 28, will go to the animal closest to the average weight of those shot, and a "judges' choice" prize would be awarded for what they considered the "best animal" in each category.

There are categories for red and fallow deer, goats, pigs and other hoofed species, such as tahr and chamois.

"If we have a prize for the average weight ... it gives everyone a chance," Mr Duff said.

Pig hunter Duncan Stewart, of Bannockburn, who won the prize for the heaviest pig last year, was nonplussed about the change yesterday, saying most competitions now operated in the same way.

He competed in four or five competitions a year, for the social benefits rather than financial gain.

Mr Stewart said it was hard to tell when a wild animal had received extra feed, but he recalled one event where the signs were fairly obvious.

"A pig came in that looked like it had been fed on grain for the last year and a half.

"But you never know."

Mr Stewart said while the average pig might win the prize money, his aim was always to return with the biggest.

"You still want to get the biggest pig. Even though it's not the best prize, everyone wants to have the heaviest one there."

There will still be prizes at the Upper Clutha competition for the heaviest animal in some categories.

These include hares, rabbits and possums shot by junior association members.

The association is offering \$10,000 cash, goods and services as prizes.

- Otago Daily Times

DARYL CRIMP: HUNTING PART OF NZ'S NATIONAL IDENTITY – NZ HERALD (05 AUGUST 2015)

The killing of Cecil the lion generated a seemingly unprecedented level of outrage, and public condemnation of the individuals involved.

The outpouring of anger, disgust, and vitriol on social media was akin to Lord of the Flies dystopian mentality, which resulted in the persecution of the hunter, without trial. It spawned many opinion pieces, such as Sandra Kyle's highly emotive All hunting is animal cruelty.

Those who argue against hunting and hunters often rely on emotive language, aspersions and convenient truths, and Kyle's piece certainly doesn't disappoint. References to beheading, destroying animals, painful lingering deaths, and

disrupting nature's patterns, is sensationalism and does little to bring perspective to the debate.

Hunting is an integral and necessary part of nature, whether it is man doing the hunting or another predator.

In New Zealand we have no natural predators so hunters fill that role and they do play a useful part in pest control and helping to maintain healthy balanced animal populations.

Ms Kyle's argument that, left to her own device, nature will balance out with natural predators killing the sickest and the weakest, doesn't apply here. Nor is it entirely true of other places in the world, because we now live in a highly modified environment and that Utopia no longer exists. Nature now also controls by population imbalance, disease and starvation.

The idea that hunters cause stress and fear to animals thereby compromising their immune systems and making it harder for them to thrive is nonsense. Fear and stress in the animal kingdom are the natural defence mechanisms that help keep animals alert and alive, and are necessary if populations are to thrive.

Animals are part of a natural order whereby everything that eats ultimately gets eaten, so to argue that hunting is cruel is drawing a long bow. The reality is that death by 'hunter' is generally quicker and less painful than death by natural predator.

Animal rights protagonists do try to distort the notion of hunter cruelty by bestowing human characteristics on animals, thereby making the act appear abhorrent. This is called anthropomorphism. An example is naming a lion Cecil and calling it a 'celebrity', thereby making it easy for people to make a human connection with it. It is, in fact, a wild cat with no human characteristics and no idea that its name is Cecil. Animals don't, can't and won't ever possess human attributes or qualities.

Kyle's tenuous reference to the psychology of hunters' motivation is weak and aspersions of narcissism, arrested development, suppressed anger, and a desire for domination, are spurious, inflammatory, and insulting. If that were the case, none of us would have passed our firearms licence test!

The reality is that most hunters are intelligent, well-adjusted, successful, compassionate individuals who invest heavily in conservation and animal welfare. Worldwide, hunters' dollars contribute to animal preservation, habitat protection and restoration, animal recovery and breeding programmes, anti-poaching programmes, jobs, and local economies. Why? Because in order for hunting to exist, animal populations must be abundant and healthy. Hunting is not about the extermination of a species but sustainable off-take.

Contrary to Ms Kyle's belief, hunting is a highly skilled pursuit that requires a lot of an individual: ability, fitness, agility, tenacity, self-discipline, determination, marksmanship, leadership, co-operation, judgement, empathy, control, and a vast array of outdoor skills, to name a few. Hunting is also an important part of our identity as a nation. And let's keep it in perspective: killing is only a very small part of

the act of hunting - it is the full stop at the end of the sentence. In order for us all to eat, something must die - no matter how you dress it up.

I would argue that the debate is not about cruelty, but that hunting offends some people's sensibilities - and that's okay, but it's not a reason have it banned. Perhaps animal rights groups would be better served working with hunters, rather than attacking them. After all, don't we want the same things: more animals in the wild, healthier populations and better habitat. Surely compromise is a better way to an end goal that serves all.

Daryl Crimp is a Nelson-based, author, writer, cartoonist and hunter. He publishes The Fishing Paper & Hunting News.

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.

Club Contacts

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Paul Midgley
Malcolm Midgley

Library Peter Graham Ph 333 1838

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 the Branch and must obtain a key from Hunting and Fishing, Hamills, Outdoorsman HQ or Serious Shooters. You must have completed the range induction protocol. 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.

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
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ROTORUA

