



The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

May Issue 2014:

*MAY SOCIAL: Air rifle shoot and party hunt planning
– note earlier date on 21st May - all welcome*



“The Tines”
Rotorua Branch Newsletter May 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	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	23 rd and 24 th May. More details on page 4.
Socials	Every 4 th Wednesday at the Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms. <i>(except for this month)</i>
Range Shoot	Range itinerary for 2014 in this issue: Contact Malcolm Perry.

Cover Photo: Photo from Elwyn Green – Red Deer from Arawata.

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.

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Presidents Report

Hi all

Well the roars been and gone and I played little part in it so hopefully some of you have something to show for it and will bring your racks along to the Head measuring night. Duck shooting for those of us that take part has started and damned near finished with little to show and now the weathers cooled and the grass has all but stopped growing, hope your got the fire wood stashed.

So to business - well DOC held the Memorandum of Understanding on the Whirinaki Forest, but unfortunately we and a few others parties that have a vested interest in the Park failed to get notice; but fear not after contacting DOC we have sorted out another meeting. So if you have ideas bring them along to the social Wednesday 21May and give them to either Dennis, Elvis or myself, as we will be attending the meeting.

Those of you who would also like to assist in the trap line work down in the Whirinaki Park, get along to the social also, as Dave Wills will be along to show us what is required to reset and bait the stoat traps and where they are placed in the upper Whirinaki hut area. It's all in aid of helping save the blue ducks and DOC asked if our branch could go in once a month to clear and reset the traps, so now's your chance to do some good.

All's good down on the range for the time being. I may have scored a decent sized culvert but only time will tell, also we must chase up the road as it's a bit rough at the BPC corner.

Well that's about all I have for now. Maybe I'll see you lot at the social, Dennis is buying Pizzas so the fencer is bound to front.

Cheers

Colin

PARTY HUNT – 23rd and 24th May



We have booked a cabin at the Whirinaki Recreation Camp for the nights of Friday 23rd May to Saturday 24th May, for the purposes of a base for a party hunt during this weekend.

To register your interest, or for further information, please contact Neil on 027 235 8002 or email nzdarotorua@gmail.com

NZDA SOCIAL – Wednesday 21st May

NOTE THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL.

All welcome.

The social is being held one week earlier to allow for a briefing/last minute planning for the party hunt weekend.

We will also be having a fun air rifle shoot and are planning on having a few pizzas.

All are welcome.

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.

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.

A doc representative will be at the next social to explain what is required.

Classifieds

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None listed.

Wanted to buy

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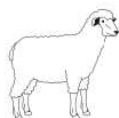
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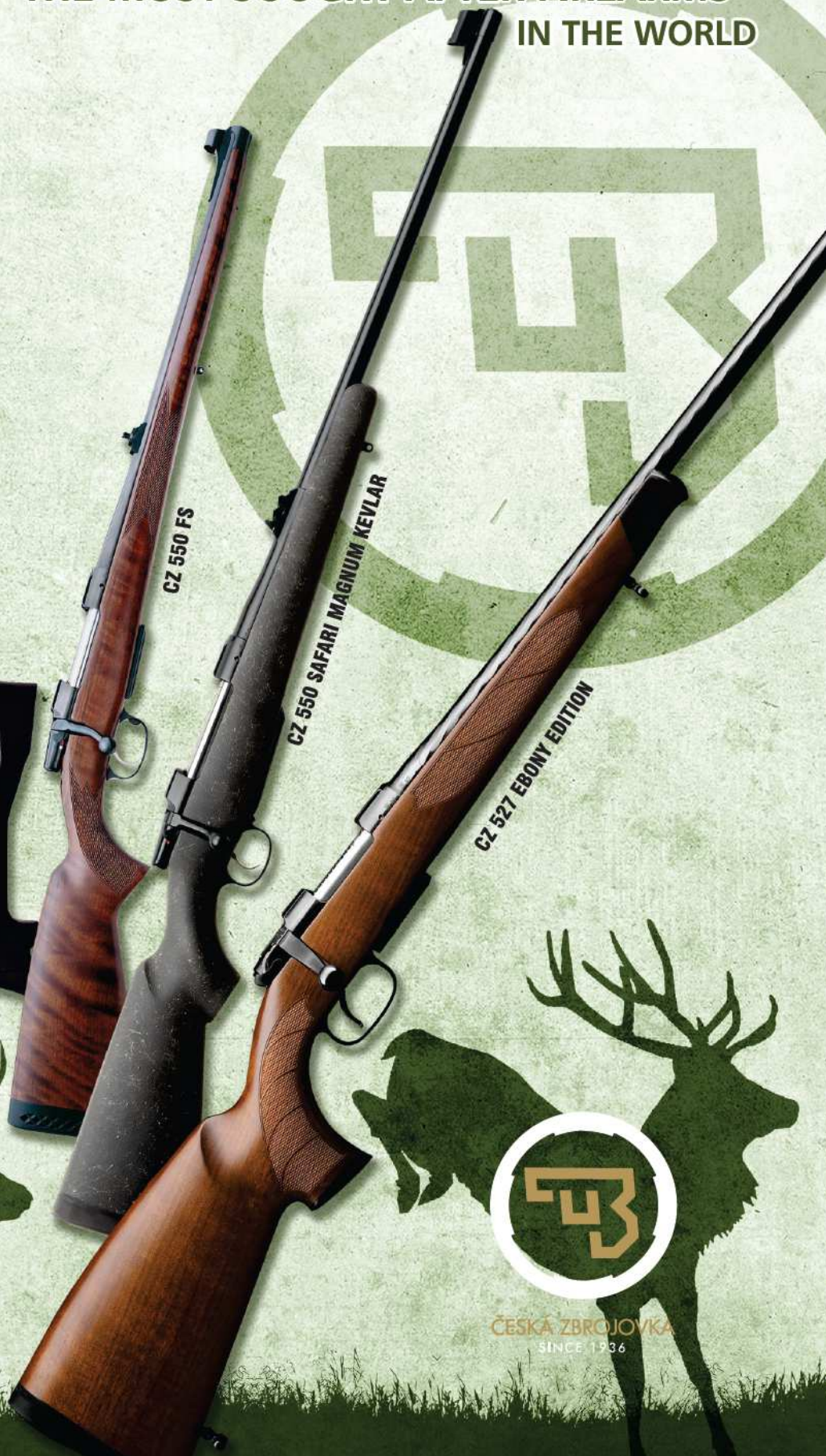
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NZDA ROTORUA WEBSITE IS ONLINE:

CHECK OUT WWW.NZDAROTORUA.ORG.NZ

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

Hon Todd McClay

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Putting Rotorua First

To make an appointment please contact me at:

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Upcoming Range Activity – May 2014

MAY events:

Sat and Sun 3,4 300M two day shoot.

Sunday 18th .22 Metalic silhouette shoot + induction course starting at 10am.

Induction courses:

These have been running and attendance has been good. These will continue to be held on Sundays after advertised shoots.

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

SEARCH AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS PRAISED – ROTORUA DAILY POST (24 APRIL 2014)

Bay of Plenty police have acknowledged the "outstanding" contribution of LandSAR volunteers after five searches in a week around the Central Plateau.

Taupo police Senior Constable Barry Shepherd said the volunteers were a credit to themselves following the searches, which started on Saturday when a couple of pighunters separated while in the Kaingaroa Forest.

When the 16-year-old hadn't returned to camp by 12pm Sunday his brother called for help. He was found "a bit hungry and tired" just before dark.

On Tuesday two Belgian tourists were lost on Mt Tauhara near Taupo. The two men in their early 20s lost the track while descending the mountain, then ran out of daylight. They called police who pinpointed their whereabouts using their smartphone and they were rescued by a four-person LandSAR team from Taupo.

Immediately after police and Turangi LandSAR volunteers travelled to the Ketetahi end of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing to search for a 68-year-old Chinese man who had not arrived at the car park as planned. Two LandSAR volunteers found the man just after 11pm, about 3km from the end of the track.

He was sitting in the pitch dark, very wet and cold. After supplying him with food, hot drink and dry clothes he was brought out to the car park, arriving there just before 1am.

On Wednesday afternoon Taupo and National Park police received calls from a young German man stuck on ice near Te Heuheu Peak on Mt Ruapehu. A local helicopter and a LandSAR Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation team flew to the peak, and rescued him. Strong wind and icy conditions made that rescue a little delicate, but the man was flown back to the Iwikau Village car park none the worse for wear.

Later on Wednesday night Taupo police were called by an Auckland man who was stuck on a steep bluff in bush near the Waiotaka River in the Kaimanawa Forest Park. The man was returning to camp after a day hunting when he became bluffed and could not move.

He was in such a precarious position he activated his personal locator beacon. The Taupo based Greenlea Rescue Helicopter was used to find him and fly LandSAR teams from Turangi and Taupo to the hunter's camp. They negotiated their way down river and then climbed through bush to get to him.

He was extracted from the bluff and walked back to his campsite to be reunited with his hunting companions by 2am.

Police have commended the hunter for carrying his beacon in the front pocket of his jacket as his position was so precarious he would not have been able to reach it in his backpack.

"The contribution made by LandSAR volunteers at Taupo, Turangi and Mt Ruapehu this week has been outstanding," said Mr Shepherd.

"Their selfless efforts, day and night, regardless of the weather, are a credit to themselves and the LandSAR organisation, especially over this Easter and Anzac period when a lot of people are on holiday enjoying themselves out in the backcountry."

- ROTORUA DAILY POST

HUNTING EXPEDITION ENDS IN TRAGEDY BY ABBIE NAPIER – WWW.STUFF.CO.NZ (26 APRIL 2014)

A Christchurch man killed in a North Canterbury four-wheel-drive accident while hunting has been named.

John Charles Percival, 56, died when the utility vehicle he was driving plunged off the track and rolled several times down a steep hillside.

Percival was not wearing seat belt.

Percival was one of a three-man hunting party in the Macdonald Downs area near Hawarden. The passenger, a 15-year-old, was airlifted to Christchurch Hospital with minor injuries and has since been discharged.

A 17-year-old was riding on the deck of the vehicle when the crash occurred and escaped serious injury.

Police and emergency services were on the scene about one hour after the crash occurred thanks to a phone call to emergency services from one of the hunting party.

Inquiries into the accident were still underway.

- The Press

BEING ADAPTABLE KEY TO DUCK HUNTING SUCCESS – ROTORUA DAILY POST (21 APRIL 2014)

Eastern Region Fish and Game says the duck hunters who'll succeed in the face of another challenging season are the ones who are smart and adaptable.

Senior Fish and Game officer Matthew McDougall said the start of the season, on May 3, could again be tough.

The Eastern Region includes the East Coast, Tauranga, Taupo, the Rangitaiki Plains and Rotorua Lakes district.

Mr McDougall said to succeed, hunters needed to adapt quickly to the circumstances.

"Smart and adaptable hunters will get the payoff."

Mr McDougall said being adaptable might also mean heading into some farm paddocks to target paradise shelduck, going on a pheasant or pukeko shoot, or targeting black swan on some of those big water areas, such as Tauranga Harbour.

Trend count results suggest the black swan populations are as high as they've been for many years in the Bay of Plenty, particularly on Tauranga Harbour and Lake Rotorua.

"We are encouraging hunters to do their homework - read up on how to hunt 'big waters'."

Mr McDougall said heading out on a duck hunt was about much more than getting big bags - for many there's plenty of enjoyment in the challenge, "having fun with family members or some mates and taking part in a Kiwi tradition". One annual message to hunters is that hunting and alcohol don't mix. "Clean your birds and then have a drink - it's far safer and more enjoyable approach to the game bird season."

Rangers will be out in force over opening weekend. Hunters will have their licences checked and if they're found with lead shot, banned within 200m of open water, it will be seized and prosecution will follow.

- ROTORUA DAILY POST

BEECH SEEDING COULD SPAWN A PEST PLAGUE BY NEIL RATLEY – STUFF.CO.NZ (02 MAY 2014)

Fears of a widespread beech mast that could spawn a pest plague all over the South Island have been confirmed.

Results from beech forest sampling throughout the South Island show a widespread seeding event is under way, Department of Conservation scientists say.

DOC scientist Graeme Elliott said the results showed widespread seeding that looks set to fuel an explosion in forest predators such as rats and stoats in many places.

During the past two months, seed on beech trees has been measured at 23 sites from northwest Nelson to Fiordland by shooting branches from trees to get an early indication of likely autumn seed fall.

"The seed shooting results confirm the beech mast is proving to be a widespread event, as initially predicted from extensive spring flowering," Elliot said.

"With the seed fall now well under way it's expected rodent numbers will begin to increase towards a peak in the coming summer when stoat numbers will also explode."

The plague of predators will put rare birds and other species at risk.

In Southland, the mohua would be on the menu for rats, Elliot said.

"They are small birds and nest in holes where the rats can get into. However, all of the rare native bird species could potentially take a hit."

Field teams would closely monitoring rat and stoat numbers during the next few months for early signs of rising numbers and DOC would work with affected communities, Elliot said.

This information will inform decisions about the pest control response in the coming months, including exact operational areas, timing and mix of pest control tools, he said.

Plans to counter the expected rising predator numbers were already well under way.

The Battle for our Birds pest control response - announced by the minister of conservation in January - aims to protect native bird, bat and snail species with aerial 1080 and ground-based pest control operations in multiple beech forest areas the length of the South Island.

- The Southland Times

FEWER BUNNIES BAGGED IN EASTER HUNT BY SUSIE NORDQVIST– 3 NEWS (20 APRIL 2014)

Hunters who converged on Central Otago for the annual Great Easter Bunny Hunt were down on their luck this long weekend.

Together they bagged 7700 bunnies – less than half of last year's total.

Organisers say a shortage of farm blocks to shoot on meant 20 teams had to be balloted out of the competition.

Many farmers whose land is usually used for the shoot chose to head to the nearby Warbirds Over Wanaka event instead – and less land meant fewer hunters were allowed into the event.

"There's so much going on in Central Otago this weekend we really struggled to get a lot of people on board," says convenor Dave Ramsay.

Hunters worked through the night to bag as many rabbits as possible, before bringing their spoils back to base for counting the next morning.

The winning team for 2014 was Ben Cummings and The Wabbit Warriors, who shot 769 rabbits in just 24 hours.

Their fellow hunters, and the event's organisers, will be hoping the event is back to full strength again next year.

3 News

Club Contacts

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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. 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
PO Box 857
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