



# The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

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**April Issue 2010:**

*Next Social: Guest speaker - Rotorua DOC Area  
Manager.*



“The Tines”  
Rotorua Branch Newsletter April 2010



## **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:**

<b>Party Hunts</b>	<b>If you have any ideas, please let me know.</b>
<b>Socials</b>	<b>Visit from DOC Rotorua April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms, Tarawera Road, Rotorua.</b>
<b>Range Shoot</b>	<b>Range itinerary for 2010 in this issue: Contact Malcolm Perry.</b>

**Cover Photo:** Murray Ramage and daughter with the stag head that came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the local Rotorua NZDA competition last year.

If you have a photograph that would be suitable for the cover please contact the Newsletter editor, Elvis Bowring on 350 3230 or [ebowring@gmail.com](mailto:ebowring@gmail.com).

**Thanks to:** Konica Minolta (1190 Pukaki Street, Rotorua) 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'

## Presidents Report

Hello,

Well the Red Roar is almost over and Sika should be getting into full swing, I hope you have a the chance to chase some deer about and hopefully got some meat for the freezer and scored that head you have been after. I been out a couple of times after Reds and I have had the stags roaring well but not been able to get close in enough for a look, usual story my foe the wind has put an end to any hopes. I will be chasing Sika around late April so hopefully we have a bit of a weather change to quieten the bush down.

I have not heard of anyone getting their trophy yet however head measuring night will be held in May so we will be able to see what heads have been shot locally and other areas. Remember if you get what you think is a good trophy take photos of it as a whole animal and do not cut the antlers/horns off the skull. Without the skull it will not be accepted in the antler horn & tusk competition.

We had a pleasant surprise at the last committee meeting; Earl Rewi from DoC based at Murupara presented the committee with a voucher for 2 hours flying. The voucher was paid half by John Sutton DoC & and the other half from Lakeland helicopters. The voucher is for the excellent work the NZDA volunteers have been doing in the Whirinaki hut restoration project. As the volunteers time has been mostly taken up doing the restoration work DoC wanted to give them some time solely for hunting within the Whirinaki Forest Park. John mentioned that since we were doing such an excellent on the restoration project that there may be an opportunity to do more huts up on top of the 5 we are currently doing. For those interested in helping out please register your name with myself or one of the committee members you know their phone numbers are in the back of the magazine.

The Rotorua branch website has had a makeover thanks to Ralph Price; follow this link to have a look, <http://www.nzdarotorua.org.nz/cms/>

The social this month will be on the 28th of April, the Rotorua DoC area manager will do a presentation on localised hunting areas & reserves this should be an informative evening and if you have not been to a social before please come along and meet some of the regulars.

Happy Hunting

Darryn

## April Social

Visit from Rotorua DOC Area Manager.

He will be doing a presentation on local hunting areas & reserves.

Come along and learn more about hunting in the DOC land around Rotorua and meet some of your friendly NZDA members.

Date: Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup>

Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms. Starts from 7:30pm.



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# **Rotorua Range Report for March 2010**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 300M club shoot, I believe took place, but that's all I know.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Rimfire Silhouette shoot, was attended by 4 people other than myself. One of them a prospective new member was brought all the way from Galatea, by his mum, for the days event and to check out what is available in the shooting sports. There were two juniors and two seniors shooting and as the juniors did most of their shooting from the prone position, and one young lady made her dad's score look a bit sad I will as asked not print the results. However I will say well done Casandra and Nathan for a great effort. I did not shoot apart from firing a couple of shots to check rifles and as both shots connected I quit while I was ahead.

National Shooting Week.

Rotorua Branch was represented by six shooters at this event and one of them a junior who ended up beating his dad in the event they both entered, Short F Class. The competitions entered and shooters placings are as follows;

Brenda Perry R/F & C/F positional matches 2 x Bronze medals, 200M 60shot prone silver medal, R/F Metallic silhouette Gold medal, C/F running boar Bronze medal.

Rod Hill R/F positional 10<sup>th</sup> place ( 22 entries), C/F positional 8<sup>th</sup> place (19 entries), B grade Gold medal Both events

Malcolm Perry R/F positional 15<sup>th</sup> & veteran Bronze medal, C/F positional 13<sup>th</sup> & veteran Silver medal, R/F metallic silhouette 11<sup>th</sup> , C/F Running Boar 5<sup>th</sup> /7.

Rick Ruiterman took part in the 60 shot prone match but unfortunately left early and took his targets before we had recorded his score.

Garth Piper Metallic Silhouette 12<sup>th</sup>, Short F class 9<sup>th</sup>/ 10.

Grant Piper Jr Short F class 8<sup>th</sup>/10, Grant made up ground on his father in the 200M section of this event, an outstanding performance for a 13year old in his first attempt in this event, Well done Grant.

Another ex Rotorua member Simon Gillice who still has family ties here also took part in the Short F class placing 7<sup>th</sup>.

In an effort the encourage more shooters to attend Nationals we are considering using both weekends and having three mid week days off, more info on this in due course.

## ***Coming events:***

April

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 300m club shoot? (Easter Weekend)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> C/F Deer silhouette shoot, 300, 200, 100 & 50M,8 rounds of ammo per run through.

May:

Saturday & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 300M North Island Championships.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>R/F Silhouette shoot

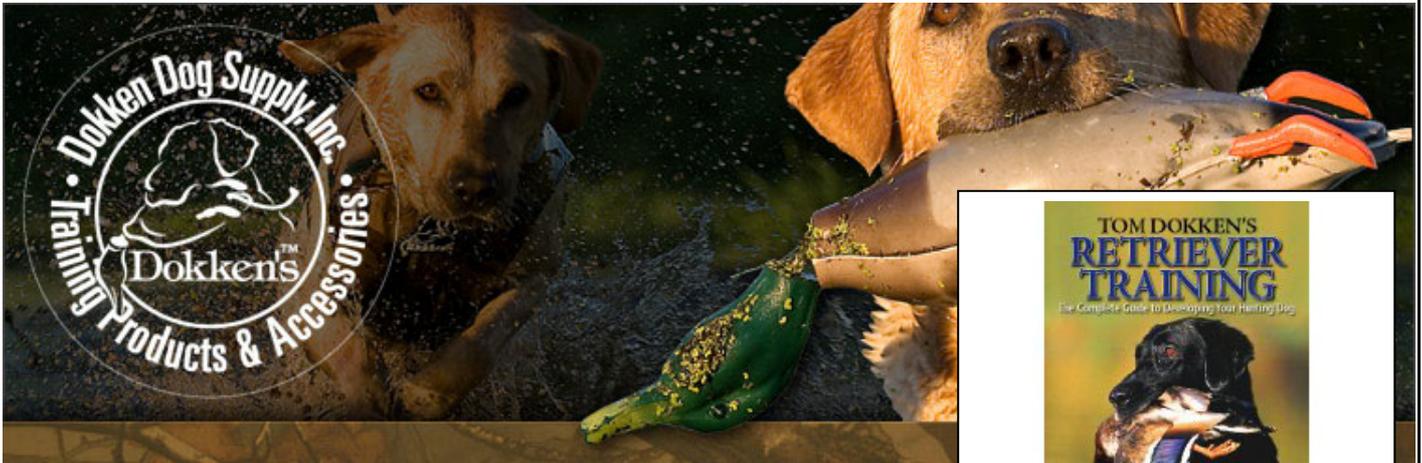
June:

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> (Q/B weekend) 300M club shoot

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> C/F Deer Silhouette shoot.

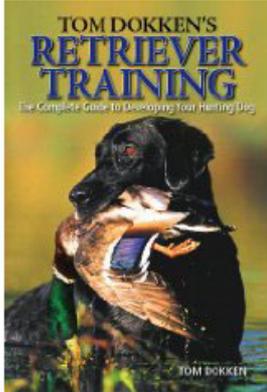
All for now, time to reload, Malcolm.

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***Wanted***  
***Good stories for newsletter.***  
***Any interesting articles.***  
***Any good photo's of your hunting trips.***  
***Send to editor – [nzdarotorua@gmail.com](mailto:nzdarotorua@gmail.com)***  
***Or phone 021 066 7868***

# ROTORUA DEER STALKERS 2010 RANGE CALENDAR

Date		Day	Shoot
May	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sat & Sun	1st & 2nd may be 300M N.Is. champs.
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	R/F silhouette shoot.
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	(Qb W/E) 300M club shoot.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	C/F deer silhouette shoot.
July	4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	R/F silhouette shot, Junior practice for 'SWAZI'.
August	1 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Morning C/F silhouette shoot PM. Junior .22 SWAZI SHOOT.
Sept	5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	R/F silhouette shoot.
Oct	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sat and Sun	Central Regional Championships.

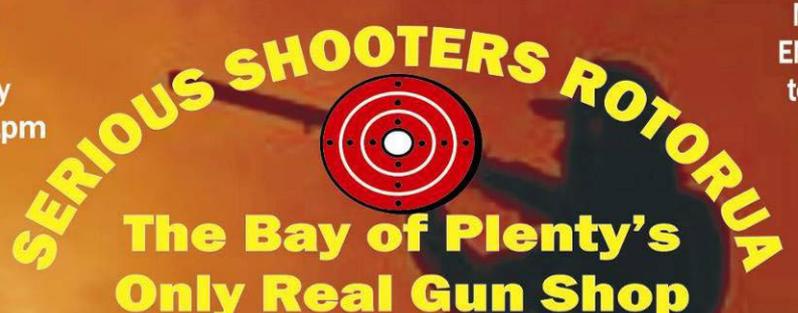
N.Z.D.A. and all range matters contact: [malcolmperry@clear.net.nz](mailto:malcolmperry@clear.net.nz) (348 4473)

Smallbore shoots, contact: Jon Abbott on 345 7112

300m shoots, contact: Patricia Law/Don Robertson 362 7725

This program is only provisional as some dates may be altered/revised.

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## **Hunting story - Anniversary Day 2010** by Scott Russell

Okataina is open to hunting to-day so I am walking to my favorite spot again at first light in the pouring rain. Ahhh what a perfect morning, the deer will hopefully be on the move when it stops. I cut off the walking track at the usual place and walk toward the area that I have shot deer before. I pick my way carefully through the bush for a few hours getting thoroughly soaked to the skin, my rain coat and dry shirt are in my pack, but it is too warm to bother with them yet. After a while the rain stops and the sun comes out. At one time when I am eating my apple I hear and then see a lone wallaby foraging for food, and later I startle another three, but that's not what I am looking for.

At about 9.30am I am making my way down a spur when suddenly I hear the unmistakable sound of a large animal crashing away through the bush heading to my left, without thinking I run in the same direction to a gap in the trees. On the next spur a stag is coming out of the gut and turning to follow it. Oi! I yell, closing my bolt and bringing my rifle up. He stops, crosshair on his shoulder, Boom! And then he is gone.

F@#K!! I can't have missed, I know I didn't miss it was only about 20 metres! I run to where he was standing and look around. Nothing! Time to calm down I decide, so I go back to where I shot from. Every thing looks the same, was it there? or there? Worried that there is a wounded deer lying somewhere I return to where I think he was when I fired my shot and then start zigzagging down the spur in the direction he went. After travelling about thirty metres I find what I am looking for, Marks on the ground from a fast moving animal, then blood – lots of blood. The squashed undergrowth points the direction between the trees and ten or so metres on, there he is.

I drag him to a bare patch of ground to inspect him, my shot was a bit low and slightly forward of the shoulder, but it did the damage anyway. I get my phone out and find enough reception to phone my friend Rob, we organise him to pick up my boat, jigging rods, Daughter Millie and my wife Georgie. We will meet at the same place as last time and save me a bit of walking. I decide that because I have a ride, and it is not a particularly big animal I will take it out whole and then I can hang it for a week. I take a couple of photos and then set about turning it into a pikau for carrying.

What a dumb idea, it weighed over fifty kilos. By the time I make it to the beach, (about two kilometres of walking) I have promised my self to bone the next one out in the bush and save my self from the aching shoulders and leg cramps.

Finally I make it to the beach and there waiting for me are Rob, Georgie and Millie, with the essential rum & cokes, G & T's for George, food and two fish already on ice. We spend the next few hours catching fish, swimming and relaxing in the sun before heading back home to clean up and contemplate the next hunt.



Scott's spiker and rifle.

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.

# FROM HEAD OFFICE

NEWSLETTER TO BRANCHES AND MEMBERS,

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

Sorry there has been along gap since the last newsletter, but I have been by myself in the national office and there have not been enough hours in the day.

Our **NZ HUNTING & WILDLIFE EDITOR** has resigned due to ill health so all future material for the magazine should be sent to editor@deerstalkers.org.nz

## **ADVOCACY**

All enclosed in the mail to the branches and available electronically on request.

### **1. HELI-HUNTING IN AORAKI-MOUNT COOK NATIONAL PARK** – NZDA submission that includes:

- Definition and description of heli-hunting
- The history of the activity of heli-hunting
- The use of foot-access by hunters
- Inadequate reference to animal welfare matters
- Potential effects of visitors or projection of environmental effects and visitor impacts

### **2. GRANTING OF HELI-HUNTING LICENCES ON PUBLIC LANDS FROM FEBRUARY 2010** – NZDA's letter to the minister of conservation, Hon Kate Wilkinson

- NZDA's interpretation of the situation on heli-hunting
- NZDA's principal objections to the proposed scheme
- The current process
- NZDA observations
- That NZDA does not support heli-hunting at all, whatever its final form

### **3. PROPOSALS FOR HELI-HUNTING CONCESSIONS ON LANDS NOT SUBJECT TO GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY, OR ADMINISTRATION VIA CMS AND CMP INSTRUMENTS** – NZDA preliminary submission which covers:

- NZDA's concerns
- Legislative constraints not observed
- The current process
- Conditions of the draft concession for heli-hunting
- The mapping exercise
- Civil aviation rules and offences

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** - see Pages 2 and 3 *NZ Hunting & Wildlife* issue 168 for more on what the association has been doing in regard to heli-hunting.

### **4. COMMENTS ABOUT UPDATING HSNO REGULATIONS TO GLOBAL HARMONISATION SYSTEM (GHS)**

**CRITERIA** – Comments about updating the HSNO regulations to GHS criteria in which NZDA raised some points, which give cause for concern. Although the desire of harmonisation of chemical hazard classification appears to be a sound objective, it is a matter of concern that it involves only four trading partners who have entertained national standards for such endeavours, namely Australia, Japan, The People's Republic of China and South Korea. Other trading partners have indicated interest in or have made plans to do so, these including the European Union and the USA. So compliance is at best, fragmentary, and is unlikely to be more than that until such time as these nationals have become fully compliant with proposals promulgated as long ago as 2001.

**MATCHING OUR RULES TO THEIRS** – see the editorial Page 4 *NZ Hunting & Wildlife* issue 167 for how much this could cost you. It ensures regulations for managing hazardous goods (**including small arms ammunition, primers, propellants and cooker fuels.**)

### **5. 1080 OPPOSITION TO RESOURCE CONSENT U100035 UPPER WAIHOPE VALLEY REGION** –

submission stating NZDA opposes the indiscriminate use of poisons and toxins in the environment, causing contamination of valuable food sources and endangering non target species.

### **6. SLOWING PEST SPREAD – DOMESTIC PATHWAYS OF HUMAN MEDIATED PEST SPREAD AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT** – NZDA submission including:

- NZDA's justification for involvement in consultation
- Association policy – ie to 'participate in the management of New Zealand's wild animals in numbers consistent with adequate conservation of water, soil and vegetation resources of their habitat on public land.'
- With suggested changes to the paper, would be enhanced as a tool for increasing public awareness for the need to minimise opportunities for the spread of pests

**7. DOC HELI-HUNTING CONCESSIONS WILL TARNISH NZ'S CLEAN REPUTATION** – letter to the ministers of conservation from CORANZ covering issues such as:

- Animal cruelty
- Unethical and unsporting
- Dangerous to and interfering with the enjoyment of other users
- 

**8. RESPONSE TO CORANZ LETTER** – letter from the minister of conservation, Kate Wilkinson covering:

- Temporary licenses
- Interference
- Where and when the activity take place
- Policing
- Equity
- CMA and management plan enforcement

**9. AKERBLOMS ROAD DRAFT PROPOSAL SUBDIVISION** – CORANZ letter to Marlborough District Council expressing their opposition to the proposal and concerns over the short deadline imposed for submissions.

## **SWAZI**

Davey Hughes of Swazi Apparel has generously agreed to continue his sponsorship for NZDA junior shoots during the 2010-year. Remember that if you take advantage of this generous offer, photos of the awards must be taken and forwarded to the national office complete with a small description of the shoot and the prize winners – this is then featured in *NZ Hunting & Wildlife* and is also sent to Swazi for their photo montage in their premises as well as featuring on their website.

## **DOC UPDATES**

Both enclosed in the branch mail and available electronically on request

1. **RAKIURA PLANNING NEWSLETTER** 27 January 2010 which includes:
  - Draft Rakiura planning documents presented to the Southland Conservation Board
  - Changes to the draft planning documents and What's next?
  - Flowchart summary of the process – next steps – recommendation to the drafts to the NZ Conservation Authority
  - **For further information contact** Rebecca Heenan or Anke Habgood, Rakiura Planning Team, DOC, phone 03 211 2400 fax 03 214 4486 or email [rakiura@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rakiura@doc.govt.nz)

## **2. BIOSECURITY ACT CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO SPECIES LEGISLATION**

There are moves afoot to change parts of the Wildlife Act and Wild Animal Control Act to better deal with possums and wallabies. This paper includes:

- The background
- Proposed changes to the Wild Animal Control Act
- Proposed changes to the 'injurious birds' part of the Wildlife Act
- Proposed changes to the Wildlife Act in relation to newly naturalised species
- For further information contact: Brent Beaven, National Hunting Advisor, DOC, phone 027 266 4079 or email him on [bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bzbeaven@doc.govt.nz)

**MILITARIA AUCTION – April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, FOR THE COLLECTOR, HUNTER AND INVESTOR** St Patrick's College, 581 Evans Bay Parade, Kilbirnie. **For further information** contact Ted Rogers, 0274 419 683 or 04 388 1376 or email him on [rogersmb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rogersmb@xtra.co.nz) Postal bids are welcome to PO Box 14699, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6024. Check out [www.militari](http://www.militari)

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Regards

Dianne Brown, **CEO**

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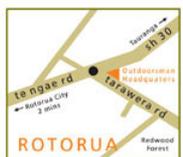
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## FROM THE EMAIL INBOX:

### Pig hunting Northern Territory style:

Notice the tusks on the pig, not a bad size ... 75 to 95 kilo... notice the height it carries it and the size related to the road. Must be 18 or 19 feet long.



### Albino Moose:

The odds of seeing an albino moose are astronomical and to see this in the upper peninsula of Michigan, near Wisconsin, is even greater than astronomical. To see two of them together is nearly impossible.

We wanted to share these photos with as many people as possible because you will probably never have a chance to see this rare sight again. This is a really special treat, so enjoy the shots of a lifetime.



## **In the news**

### INJURED HUNTER WINCHED FROM BUSH – NZ HERALD (20 APRIL 2010)

A seriously injured hunter was last night airlifted to safety from the Fiordland bush after a tricky rescue mission.

The 54-year-old Australian man set off his emergency locator beacon from the George River area just after 7pm, said Keith Allen, of the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ).

The beacon alert coincided with a call from the South Island Mountain Radio Service, advising that the hunter had a broken leg.

A helicopter with night vision equipment was sent in but the rescue was "not straight forward" because the machine could not get close enough to winch the man out of the bush.

"The hunter's injuries were also worse than at first thought, with a badly broken leg, fractured pelvis and suspected internal injuries sustained after falling over a bluff," Mr Allen said.

"The rescue team then had to go in on foot and move the injured man to a more suitable spot so the helicopter could gain access, where the winch still needed to be extended to its longest reach."

Mr Allen said one of the rescue crew then had to spend a night camped at the rescue site to make room for the injured man and his companion.

The pair were flown to Southland Hospital in Invercargill late last night, where the man was treated.

The helicopter returned to the rescue site early this morning to pick up the crew member and retrieve the man's rifle and pack.

"Thanks to the hunter being well prepared by carrying an emergency beacon and mountain radio, we were able to launch a rescue mission and reach him relatively quickly, which probably saved his life," Mr Allen said.

- NZPA

### KIWI KILLED IN RIMUTAKA FOREST PARK, MATE MISSING BY PAUL EASTON - THE DOMINION POST (09 APRIL 2010)

A wild kiwi has been killed by a dog in the Rimutaka Forest Park near Wellington.

The Conservation Department said the death of the male adult kiwi, named Waikiwianu, was a serious blow to the region's population.

There are also fears for Waikiwianui's mate, Potiki, which is missing.

Rimutaka Forest Park Trust spokesman Melody McLaughlin said it was believed the kiwi was killed around March 20.

An autopsy has confirmed a dog was the culprit.

The death underlined the importance of keeping dogs on a lead near kiwi populations, she said.

New Zealand's kiwi population is thought to number 75,000 and is declining.

Adult kiwi are often killed by ferrets and dogs.

SHOCK OF BODY DISCOVERY RECALLED BY SAM MCKNIGHT - THE SOUTHLAND TIMES  
(08 APRIL 2010)

A man yesterday described his shock at finding a decomposing body while hunting for wapiti in Fiordland.

Mystery still surrounds the identity of the man's body found by the hunter's party last month and reported to police on Monday.

Police recovered the decomposed remains of a man found in a sleeping bag beside McDonald Creek, on the south side of Bligh Sound, on Tuesday.

The body is believed to have been there for several weeks.

One of the hunting party told The Southland Times yesterday it was a gruesome discovery.

Robin Severinsen, of Piopio, in the North Island, and his colleague, who were shooting in the George Sound wapiti block, found the man's body on March 24.

"We were just walking down the river and saw him, we didn't know he was dead." The man had only a pack, a sleeping bag and a raincoat and there was no evidence of a campfire or an established camp site, he said.

There were empty mussel shells nearby, Mr Severinsen said.

The pair were shocked to come across the body, he said.

With no way of contacting authorities, they marked the location on a GPS device and continued hunting, Mr Severinsen said. He went back in with the helicopter crew to pick up the body on Tuesday, to help pinpoint the location.

Another man who was hunting in the same block, Malcolm Lowe, of Templeton near Christchurch, said he had heard a suggestion the man could have been there for between two and three months. He did not see the body. The area was unforgiving, with steep and rugged terrain dominating the landscape, he said.

Mystery also surrounds how the man got there. Southern Lakes Helicopters operations manager Lloyd Matheson said because of the site's wilderness area status it was against National Park rules for any helicopter or boat operator drop anyone off. For anyone to get there it would have to be done under their own steam, he said.

Department of Conservation Te Anau spokeswoman Beth Masser said the spot where the body was found was in the Glaisnock Wilderness Area, where there were no marked tracks and no huts.

Detective Sean Cairns, of Invercargill CIB, said early indications showed the man was not hunting in the area and had limited equipment.

An autopsy was to be carried out on the deceased at Southland Hospital yesterday.

#### RABBITS CAUGHT ON THE HOP - NZ HERALD (06 APRIL 2010)

It has been another terrible Easter for Central Otago pests as the 19th annual Great Easter Bunny Hunt spelled the end for more than 24,000 rabbits, hares, possums, stoats and other pests.

Hunt convener Dave Ramsay said 23,064 rabbits were shot and collected during the 24-hour hunt.

The total was significantly up on last year's 14,799 but still short of the highest recorded tally in 1997, when 23,949 were killed.

The total tally of 24,378 pests included 1152 hares, 54 possums, 54 stoats plus other sundry unwanted irritants.

This year's 39 teams beat the "pro rata" record by each killing an average of 590 rabbits, beating the 1997 average of 540.

Mr Ramsay said farmers in the area would "have to be pretty happy".

"We've had a pretty good clean-up and there's 23,000 [rabbits] that aren't out there breeding now."

He said the hunt was also a way to bring a bit of money to the community.

#### DoC STAFF SMELL A RAT ON ISLAND SANCTUARY – THE DAILY POST (05 APRIL 2010)

Department of Conservation (DoC) Rotorua Lakes area manager Nicola Douglas said the rat and mice were thought to have arrived in the past month.

"While it is not known how the vermin arrived on the island, it would be quite probable that the cause would be increased people and boat traffic to the island," she said.

The island is home to endangered birds including kokako, kiwi, weka and saddlebacks and a vermin outbreak could devastate the populations.

Mokoia Island has been home to several endangered species since 1990 and has been pest-free since 2001. All visitors to the island must get a permit and quarantine checks via Wai Ora - Mokoia Island Experiences.

The dead rat in a trap and multiple mouse tracks were discovered on the island on Monday during routine monthly checks by DoC staff.

"We are currently responding by laying extra traps, baits and tracking tunnels to catch the mice and ensure the rat was alone, returning the island to being pest-free," Ms Douglas said. "These situations are highly avoidable if the correct quarantine procedures are followed before heading to the island."

The Mokoia Island Trust Board and Waiora - Mokoia Island Experience are working with DoC, providing staff, a skipper and a boat.

"Fantastic" support had been received from Rotorua volunteers.

"The unfortunate thing is that these eradication operations are expensive and come at the cost of other conservation work," Ms Douglas said.

POLICE MOVE ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN FORESTS BY TAMLYN STEWART – THE DAILY POST (09 APRIL 2010)

A crackdown on trespassers and poachers has resulted in 736 people issued with trespass notices from commercial forestry areas in the past nine months.

"Operation Pita" was a nine-month joint operation between the Rotorua Police and forest security agencies to reduce crime, poaching and trespassing in forestry areas.

Rotorua Police Arms Officer Mike Keefe said the operation was the first of its kind in Rotorua and targeted people in commercial forests, national parks and private property in Rotorua, Bay of Plenty and South Waikato.

People were issued with trespass notices for not having permission to use the areas, permits and/or firearms licences.

Mr Keefe said 98 per cent of those with firearms licences were "pretty law-abiding".

He said those were also the same people who often did not have a firearms licence and many were responsible for other crimes in these areas, including wilful damage, drug offences, the dumping and burning of stolen cars, illegal cutting of firewood, removal of plants and vegetation, theft of wood products, lighting illegal fires, stock thefts from farms, as well as minor and serious traffic offences involving high speeds.

"Obviously these activities are illegal, but their behaviour also adds a significant safety risk.

"Unfortunately there are still a number of firearms injuries during hunting every year. If people don't have permits, then we don't know where they are if something goes wrong. But just as importantly, these people are missing important safety messages."

Mr Keefe said people issued with trespass notices from hunting areas also ran the risk of losing their firearms licences.

One of the requirements for a firearms licence is being a fit and proper person, and receiving a trespass notice compromised this status, Mr Keefe said.

Firearms licence holders would have their status reviewed wherever a law had been breached, he said.

This could lead to firearms licences being revoked and seizure of any firearms.

The status of about 250 firearms licence holders was under review.

A number of those people were from outside the Bay of Plenty and South Waikato.

Mr Keefe said the operation would continue and advised hunters preparing for the duck shooting and pig hunting seasons to be safe with their firearms.

SONG OF THE BELLBIRD RETURNS TO MOTUTAPU BY ELOISE GIBSON – NZ HERALD (17 APRIL 2010)

Volunteers helping with weeding on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf were thrilled to hear a bellbird singing in the trees - because the birds disappeared from the island 100 years ago.

Neil Lorimer, a volunteer for the Motutapu Restoration Trust, was the first person to hear a bellbird singing after the Department of Conservation dropped 147 tonnes of poison-laced cereal bait to kill predatory rats and mice on Motutapu and neighbouring Rangitoto last year.

A few days later Mr Lorimer saw a bellbird - the third native species to appear on the island since the blitz of warm-blooded predators.

The poison drop, which was controversial at the time, is now being used as an example for international visitors who have gathered in Auckland for a workshop on tackling threats to island wildlife.

Alfonso Aguirre, executive director of Mexican island conservation group Grupo de Ecologia y Conservacion de Islas, said after visiting Motutapu yesterday that New Zealand had a lot to teach other countries about eradicating warm-blooded pests.

He said island projects showed there was hope for restoring wildlife on the mainland. "If we keep going, we can restore the whole world," he said.

Department of Conservation project manager Richard Griffiths said the bellbirds probably came from rodent-free Rakino Island, less than two kilometres from Motutapu.

There was now a real chance they would start turning up in Aucklanders' backyards, he said.

It will not be known until next year if the attempt to create a predator-free, 3842ha city-side sanctuary for rare native birds has succeeded.

But native pateke, or brown teal, were spotted there in February after a long absence and kakariki began breeding there in December.

Mr Aguirre said Mexican researchers were working with New Zealand conservation workers on finding new ways to improve island biodiversity.

Mexico's 1000 islands had been home to 77 per cent of its extinct species, he said, and they had many of the same pests as New Zealand islands, including rats and cats.

## Club Contacts

Postal address: PO Box 857, Rotorua  
Email: [nzdarotorua@gmail.com](mailto:nzdarotorua@gmail.com) web: [www.nzdarotorua.org.nz](http://www.nzdarotorua.org.nz)

Patron	Des Jenkins	
Honorary Solicitor	Barry Rodgers	
Life Members	Des Jenkins	
	Rod Houghton	Ph 348 4057
	Owen Rumble	
	Gary Winslade	
Honorary Member	Ross Burton	
Investment Trustees	Keith Billington	
	Rod Houghton	
	Des Jenkins	

## Branch Executive

President	Darryn Cosgrave	Ph 348 4496
Vice President and Hunts Convenor	Murray Robson	Ph 345 5160
Treasurer	Rod Houghton	Ph 348 4057
Secretary	Elvis Bowring	Ph 350 3230

## Committee Members

Range	Malcolm Perry	Ph 348 4473
	Ron Marsden	Ph 362 8542
Socials	Scott Russell	Ph 343 9383
Search and Rescue	Cliff Graham	Ph 362 8883
	Colin Petersen	Ph 343 9481
Webmaster	Ralph Price	Ph 357 2786
Library	Peter Graham	Ph 333 1838
	Dennis Price	
Tines Editor	Elvis/Scott	Ph 350 3230/343 9383

## 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 Hamills, Outdoorsman HQ or Serious Shooters at a cost of \$20.00 per year. 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

Senior = \$90 (full benefits at local and national branch level)

Associate = \$60 (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 2008. 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 2008. Full benefits)

Family = \$5 (Children or grandchildren)

Sender: Rotorua Branch NZDA  
PO Box 857  
ROTORUA

