



The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

July Issue 2009:

Next Social: Comedy evening/videos



**“The Tines”
Rotorua Branch Newsletter July 2009**



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	Planning a walk of the Whirinaki Forest to see the huts NZDA Rotorua will be adopting.
Socials	Comedy evening/videos. Bring a plate. July 22nd, 7.30pm Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms.
Range Shoot	Range itinerary for 2009 in this issue: Contact Malcolm Perry.

Cover Photo: The joys of winter hunting, June 2009. (I know there's no deer in the photo but in Winter I can't find them!!!) For a better cover, please submit some photos.

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.

Thanks to: Konica Minolta (1190 Pukaki Street, Rotorua) for printing our newsletter. The best address for quality and affordable copying and document solutions!

Advertising prices: If you would like to advertise in this publication, costs are as follows:

Full page \$150 (for 11 issues)

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

Hello,

The National conference was held last weekend in Omaru, the Branch decided not to send delegates along this year however BOP branch did act as proxy for the motions & remits.

The branch did well in the Antler Horn & Tusk competition with Kerry Boyle taking 1st place in the Seddon Shield for Rusa Deer. Clyde Foster was placed 3rd for Drawn Pig Tusks in the Dillon Shield and 1st for Undrawn Tusks for the Putaruru Branch Trophy. In the Literary awards Darryn Cosgrave placed 3rd in the Phillip Holden cup. Reports back from the conference said it went well and most of the business was completed on the first day.

On the Club front the social night in June went very well. Cliff Graham did a presentation/training session on reloading. There was a good turn out for the night and we all agreed that we learnt something no matter how experienced.

The Social for Wednesday July 22nd will be a “comedy night” with some funny DVD’s. The fire will be roaring hot and bring a plate of something hot. The Hunts course will be starting in October and the Branch is looking for helpers. An add is in this Tines issue with the contacts and details. We are planning a party Hunt at the end of July which will consist of a tour of the DoC huts Okahu, Rogers and out the new mountain bike track. Guns will be optional & if you are interested call Darryn Cosgrave or Murray Robson to register your name.

On the political front Alec McIver, myself and two other NZDA raps will attend the “great 1080 debate” next Wednesday in Taupo. Mayor Rick Cooper has organised the meeting so both sides of the 1080 debate can present to the councillors. If successful the council may consider stopping 1080 in the Taupo Conservancy. This is a pivotal point in the 1080 saga and could have massive flow on effect throughout the country.

On the hunting front I have not been out for the last couple of months but I intend to soon weather permitting. If you have been out and would like to share your store with us, send it to Elvis Bowring for the Tines mag.

Darryn Cosgrave.



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\$129.99**

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Drop shot 6'6" 2 pce 6-10 kg
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\$289.99**

10% discount to all NZDA members – bring your membership card (discount excludes electronics, ammunition and firearms)

Hunts Course 2009

NZDA Rotorua is running another Hunts course over October. There are 10 places available. If you wish to be involved, please contact Murray or Darryn to register your interest.

Get the essential skills required to hunt successfully and safely in the New Zealand wilderness by doing a Mountain Safety Council HUNTS course through your local New Zealand Deer Stalkers Branch. From 16 to 60+.

- Essential bush skills
- River safety
- Firearm safety in a hunting context
- Practical shooting and hunting ballistics
- Hunting techniques
- Species knowledge
- Game utilisation (skinning, butchering etc)

Participants must have a reasonable level of physical fitness and access to personal tramping equipment.

If you wish to help out with general running of the course this year, please also register your interest with Murray or Darryn.

Rotorua Range Report for June 2009

Sunday 7th 300M club shoot. This was attended by 5 shooters and I helped with targets and Range Officering. As this was a practice shoot and different people shot different numbers of 10 shot targets, scores were not kept.

Sunday 14th 50M Smallbore shoot.

Sunday 21st. C/F. Deer silhouette shoot. This was well attended with eight members taking part initially and I ran through again with a new member who turned up mid morning and needed to sightin his rifle first. The program we are following this year seems to be popular.

Sunday 28th. This was to have been a 50M shoot but as there were not too many likely to take part and as Pistol club had a major shoot on we decided to cancel.

Coming events;

July; Sunday 5th. 300M club shoot.

Sunday 12th 50M Smallbore club shoot.

Sunday 19th R/F. Silhouette shoot in morning and Junior target practice in afternoon.

Sunday 26th 50M Smallbore shoot W/S.

August Sunday 2nd 300M club shoot.

Sunday 9th 50M Smallbore club shoot.

Sunday 16th C/F Deer silhouette shoot 300, 200, 100, & 50M in morning and starting at 1-30pm Junior SWAZZI shoot

Sunday 23rd Free at this stage.

Sunday 30th 50M Smallbore shoot W/S.

Environmental work;

Thursday 25th June saw Richard Mallinson and me at the range release spraying the flaxes already planted and clear spraying an area for future planting. This planting is intended for Saturday 8th August at this stage and we will be looking for six or eight volunteers to help with this. It is to be noted this date may have to be changed if weather conditions are not favorable. So mark it on your calendars now if you are keen.

Time to reload, Malcolm.


NZDA ROTORUA WEBSITE IS ONLINE:

CHECK OUT WWW.NZDAROTORUA.ORG.NZ

SHOP HOURS
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Monday - Friday
Saturday 10am-1pm

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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.

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

GPS

Magellan eXplorist 500 LE

Was \$900.00

Now \$600 with maps

Only 2 units available!!!!



Rotorua Hunting and Fishing, Cnr Lake Road & Fairy Springs Road, ROTORUA,
Ph 07 349 6303.

FOR SALE

Old NZDA Oven. Offers. Phone Darryn for more info.

Party Hunt

Mid winter tramp/hunt. Whirinaki Forest. Hut walks. A tour of some of our DOC Huts. Walking as a group. Rifle optional.

Okahu to Rogers, and out along mountain bike track. Last weekend of July. Overnighter – staying at one of the huts. Call Darryn or Murray.

Head measuring

NZDA Rotorua is looking at running a head measuring course in the future. This would be an introduction to head measuring. If interested, Darryn or Murray or contact the editor.

FROM HEAD OFFICE

NEWSLETTER TO BRANCHES AND MEMBERS,
FOR BRANCH SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

June 4th 2009

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE INCLUDED IN THE MAIL FOR YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:

- **Overdue accounts as at May 5th** (where applicable) – if you have made a payment since this date please ignore the notice. For those still outstanding prompt payment would be appreciated.
- **Invoices postage H&W 155** – as the national office has had to settle this account with NZ Post, payment would be appreciated as soon as possible

2. FOR THOSE BRANCHES WHO ARE NOT ON THE CENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM:

- **Invoices for 1st payment capitation**
- **Invoices for COLFO levy** as agreed to at Conference 2008
- **Invoices for National Heritage Trust levy** as agreed to at Conference 2008
- **Invoices for the Research levy** as agreed to at Conference 2008

3. FOR THOSE BRANCHES WHO ARE ON THE CENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM:

- **Invoices for branch life members** (where applicable)

Our apologies that these invoices have not been posted sooner, however the office has been short staffed for over a month due to illness.

CONFERENCE – OAMARU 10 – 12th JULY 2009

1. CONFERENCE HANDBOOKS have been posted.

- Instead of the usual two copies of the handbook being automatically sent to each branch as per the last few years, only one copy has been posted to branches.
- If you have two delegates going to conference and require another copy please contact the national office as soon as possible.
- Additional copies over and above the two per branch will be available at the conference for \$10 each.

2. CONFERENCE PAPER No. 3 - in the mail to the branches, and available electronically on request from the national office. This contains:

- Closing dates for entries
- Trophy custodian details
- Address for sending trophy heads
- Address to return cups and trophies
- Accommodation details
- Conference secretary details
- Registration at conference
- Official opening details
- Saturday evening function
- Hunting contact

3. CUPS AND TROPHIES PRESENTED AT CONFERENCE 2008 - If your branch or any of your branch members have any cups or trophies please make sure that these are returned to the host branch North Otago – not to the National Office please.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – ORDER FORM for the '**THE RED DEER PART 1**' the fifth in the series of the NZ Big Game Records Series, by D Bruce Banwell. – Or check out the website for more details.

COLFO

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request

WHERE TO NOW?

RECENT ADVOCACY

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request:

1. DOC NEW WARO PERMIT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION - letter to the Mike Cuddihy, Canterbury Regional Conservator, DOC, which includes the following points:

- Enforcement of WARO conditions
- Nuisance to recreational hunters and other recreational users
- Implementation of various policies which include encouraging recreational hunting
- Exclusion zones and exclusion times
- Restricted deer WARO numbers and tendering for blocks
- Subdividing WARO type concessions
- Delay the new system for a year to iron out difficulties
- Safety issues
- Sustainable management of wild deer
- Excluding the carriage of recreational hunters and fare paying passengers
- Opposition to commercial concessions for live capture of wild animals

2. THE FUTURE OF THE ST JAMES BLOCK – letter to Kingsley Timpson, Area Manager, Waimakariri DOC, which includes:

- Not another national park
- Recreational big game hunting
- Continued grazing
- A representative stakeholder planning reference group
- Managed as a recreationally opened conservation park
- 4WD public access and better public road access from the north

3. TAUPO DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE DANGERS OF POISON 1080 - letter to the Mayor Rick Cooper and Councillor Dom Ormsby, Taupo District Council in regard to NZDA concerns including:

- Very high toxicity of 1080 and 1080 toxicity rates
- Killing power per hectare for various animal species
- 1080 application rates and killing power per ha by species
- ERMA 2006 review biased and incompetent
- 1080 dangers in public water supplies
- High deer by kill from aerial 1080
- Alternatives that don't require tax payer and rate payer subsidies forever

In conclusion NZDA urged the council to oppose aerial 1080 operations in their area, especially on public conservation land such as the Kaimanawa Forest Park.

The unacceptable and indiscriminate by kill of native and introduced birds, deer and wild pigs that results would be largely avoided. This is especially the case for the internationally important Sika deer herd in the Kaimanawas.

Controlling possums by trapping them for fur, pelts and possibly meat is a much more sustainable option.

Opposition to 1080 operations in water supply catchment because of the unacceptable risks to the community from this very highly toxic poison.

SHOOTING CALENDAR

1. WAIKATO REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June to be hosted by the South Waikato Branch at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex

Saturday R/F 80s shot 4P @ 50m. Sunday C/F 80 shot 4P @ 100m. 10 shot matches available. Contact Colin or Sandi Curreen, 07 886 3090 or Malcolm Perry 07 348 4473

2. 2009 SOUTH ISLAND SHOOT– 31 October and 1 November

To be hosted by the South Canterbury Branch subject to the certification of the Taiko Range.

For further information contact David Wood, phone 03 686 2006 or 0274 322 662, email davidwood@xtra.co.nz

Dianne Brown
CEO

NEWSLETTER TO BRANCHES AND MEMBERS,

June 18th 2009

FOR BRANCH SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS INCLUDED IN THE MAIL FOR THOSE BRANCHES WHO ARE NOT ON THE CENTRALISED ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM:

Invoice for 2nd payment capitation – Due July 2009

2. VOLUNTEER AWARENESS WEEK – 14 – 20th June 2009.

This is a time to acknowledge the vital contribution made by the branch committee members who volunteer their time so freely for the good for the branches and their association.

Thanks to every one of you – without you undertaking branch activities such as /HUNTS courses/Douglas score measuring/range activities and upkeep/ competition judging/hut maintenance and building /branch newsletters, etc things would not happen.

It is also great to see branches volunteering to work alongside DOC and other groups within their communities, eg stoat trapping, etc.

I would also like to thank the members of the national executive who also give up a weekend every couple of months, not to mention the hours spent every month answering emails, writing papers etc.

MINUTES

Mailed to the branches but available on request from the national office:

DRAFT UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HELD FRIDAY 8TH – SUNDAY 10TH JUNE

Keep up to date with what your national executive get involved in/issues/submissions etc

HOT OFF THE PRESS

1080 OPERATIONS ON PUBLIC CONSERVATION LAND

Hugh Barr asked DOC for a list of all aerial 1080 operations from now until December 2009 including a request for the following information:

- Conservancy areas and name of parcel of land where the operation is planned to take place
- Proposed start month
- Type of bait being used eg, cereal, carrot etc and the application rate
- Area of the drop
- Whether being undertaken by DOC, AHB or other funders

Included in the mail to the branches and available on request from the national office:

- **1080 OPERATION LIST BY CONSERVANCY, OPERATION/DATE**
- **ANALYSIS OF 1080 OPERATIONS**
- **FURTHER INFORMATION FROM HUGH BARR ON DROP RATES, TOTAL AREAS ETC**

Some of the facts from Hugh's analysis include:

- The South Island has the most aerial 1080 in 2009 (27 separate drops totally 280,000 ha – DOC and AHB) and the West Coast gets 10 drops totalling 185,000 ha of it
- The North Island gets much less aerial 1080 from this year than the South – 95,000 ha (8 drops vs 27)
- For the 2009 year, DOC is 1080ing 227,000 ha while AHB is 1080ing 150,000 ha totalling 377,000 ha of public conservation land.

URGENT SUBMISSIONS/ACTIONS SOUGHT

Mailed to the branches but available on request from the national office:

1. MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN – by June 30th 2009.

Branches and members, especially those who hunt this park should make submissions. A major good point about the plan is that it prohibits helihunting, ie using a helicopter to aid trophy hunters shooting trophy animals, including inexperienced trophy seekers shooting trophies from a helicopter. Check out www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/mt-aspiring-national-park-draft-management-plan/ A paper written by Hugh Barr with an NZDA request for submissions includes assistance on the following:

- Opposing helihunting
- Protecting the Whitetail deer herd
- Oppose the addition of the Dart State Forests

Also in the mail are the following:

- Guidelines to making your submission
- Submission form

2. ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD'S NEW GOALS – empire building and wiping out deer

AHB is reviewing its \$82 million/year Bovine Tb programme. It is well ahead of its 2013 goal of eliminating Btb in cattle, dairy and deer herds. This involves getting affected herds down to 0.2% or about 80 infected herds. The AHB would then phase down and possibly be wound up.

- What can you do?**
- Encourage farmer members to respond to AHB
 - Propose members write letters to the minister of agriculture
 - Discuss your concerns with your local MPs
 - Keep in touch with Hugh Barr regarding responses from ministers and MPs

The paper provided by Hugh Barr explains why you need to do this and how to go about it.

MERCHANDISE/PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

Posted the branches, available electronically on request and on the NZDA website www.deerstalkers.org.nz under Publications.

These items are available for a reduced price to NZDA members. The order form includes:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bull tahr | limited edition pencil drawing | - still a few available |
| Big Red | latest limited edition pencil drawing | - limited to 100 copies |
| NZDA 2009 calendar- | 'the way it used to be....' | - reduced to \$5.00 each |
| <i>Golden Days of Stalking: The Hunting Diaries of Archie Kitto</i> , compiled by Bruce Banwell | | |
| <i>Wild New Zealand</i> : colour prints compiled by Trevor Chappell and Dave Blair | | |
| <i>My Stalking Memories</i> by Major R A Wilson – reprint | | |
| <i>A Lifetime Love of the Outdoors</i> by Dave Atkins – an undertaking by the Heritage Trust | | |
| NZDA's Big Game Records Series | Volume 2 | <i>The Sika</i> |
| | Volume 3 | <i>The Wapiti and the Moose</i> |
| | Volume 4 | <i>The Fallow Deer</i> |

ERMA UPDATES

1. 1080 WEB PAGE GOES LIVE - A number of web pages providing information on aerial 1080 operations went live on the ERMA website in March. Check out www.ermanz.govt.nz/1080 - this includes information on best practice, operations reports and the annual report as well as maps. The information is being updated at regularly as it comes to hand.

2. SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT ON ZINC PHOSPHIDE – by July 20th 2009 Check out www.ermanz.govt.nz/consultations/make-submission-zinc/html - Zinc Phosphide will be used to manufacture a paste for use as a vertebrate toxin agent for ground control of pests, with its main target being the brush tail possum. **For further details** contact Sarah Kenward, phone 04 918 4812, email sarah.kenward@ermanz.govt.nz

3. CHANGES TO RULES FOR POSSESSING EXPLOSIVES – effective July 1st 2009

Smokeless powder as used by recreational shooters, will not require a licence - providing the holder has a firearms licence. Those interested in reading the full decision check out www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/explosives_decision.pdf (HRC08007)

AHB UPDATES**THE ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD'S ANNUAL 2008 RESEARCH -**

1. A brief report by Hugh Barr - In hard copy in the mail to the branches and available electronically on request from the national office

2. For a full discussion refer to the full Report, which are available on request from the NZDA national office)

Even though hunters do not appear to be represented on the TAG, a number of anti-1080 concerns appear in the research programme. This probably means AHB is keen to counter the plausible arguments put up by anti-1080 groups since ERMA's 1080 review.

- Aerobic transformation of 1080 in soil – rate of degradation
- Movement behaviour of 1080-poisoned possums – how far can they move?
- Uptake of 1080 by watercress and puha
- Addressing specific 1080 concerns with publicly available data (propaganda?) – a review paper in an internationally recognised toxicology journal, and an “easy-to-understand” short paper addressing controversial issues, with special emphasis being placed on sub-lethal effects – mitochondria, endocrine disruption, welfare, non-target impacts, water-monitoring needs etc
- Estimating maximum possible concentration of 1080 in streams after aerial application
- Elimination of Tb from Molesworth
- Tools for mapping and eliminating possums following possum control
- Reducing the risk of spillback infection from hunter kills – from offal, unburied carcasses etc
- No possums, no Tb – whether possums can be eliminated from significant areas by detection and mop-up of Mainland Islands
- Low-cost aerial poisoning – reducing aerial poisoning costs by 80%, with minimal reduction in effectiveness
- Cyanide bait for pigs
- A weka-safe possum control technology

DOC UPDATES

1. NZDA QUESTIONS TO THE DOC/NGO MEETING including:

In hard copy to the branches and available electronically on request

- DOC walkways
- DOC helihunting concessions
- Cancelling marginal strips- Molesworth
- List of all movable marginal strips
- Topo and cadastral maps of conservation parks

2. ST JAMES UPDATE - Kingsley Timpson, area manager for Waimakariri Area DOC has advised that they are in the final stages of the wide ranges of views which submitters provided reflecting the values and opportunities in this area. For further details contact ktimpson@doc.govt.nz or phone him on 03 313 0821.

3. CANTERBURY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CMS) check out www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/canterbury-conservation-management-strategy-review/html

4. DOC's NATIONAL HUNTING ADVISOR – this week Hugh Barr and I met with Brent Beaven who has been appointed by DOC to become involved in hunter liaison. Some of you will know Brent and will have worked with him through DOC Southland/Stewart Island issues.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERS –FUEL CARD

Enclosed in the mail to branches and available electronically on request from the national office or by checking out www.cardplus.co.nz/fuelcard - benefits on the card, which is accepted at over 400 Caltex and Challenge service stations nationwide, includes:

- 5 cents a litre discount off the pump price for petrol and diesel
- Savings on car washes
- Discount vouchers for tyres, coffees, window repairs, brakes and exhausts, pizzas etc
- Up to 40 days fee credit with no transaction fees
- Can have multiple cards linked into one account
- From only \$2 per month card fee

POSSUM CONTROL/POISONING OPERATIONS

1. NORTHERN AREA OF THE TE UREWERA NATIONAL PARK, 50,000 ha - To commence June 2009 and to be completed by June 2010. Traps, cyanide paste, Feratox pellets and cholecalciferol paste will be used. Please note the following:

- The Otamatuna study areas is closed to hunting and dogs all year round
- The Mangaone Kiwi Area is closed to hunting with dogs at all times
- Huts in the area may be unavailable due to contractor use – please check availability with DOC Opotiki
- Game meat of animals killed within and adjacent to the poison areas should not be eaten

2. MT ALLAN and HINAHINA - aerial operations commencing June 3rd 2009 and ground baiting starting 22 June 2009. For further information or a map of the affected area contact Doug Trafford 0800 773 328

3. MACKENZIE 1080 DROP – DOC wants a 10-year consent to drop 1080 poison and Pindone bait by air on 51,000 hectares of conservation land in the Mt Cook-Aoraki National Park, the Mackenzie Basin and Upper Waitaki Valley.

RECENT ADVOCACY

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request:

WARO CONCESSION RENEWALS BY CANTERBURY CONSERVANCY – letter to Tim Groser and Kate Wilkinson June 16th 2009 which includes the following points:

- Canterbury conservancy bias on recreational hunting matters
- Reduced number of WARO concessions is desirable and cost effective
- NZDA's concerns about Canterbury conservancy

DOC through its Canterbury conservancy is reviewing its Wild Animal Recovery Operation (WARO) concessions under part 2 of the wild Animal Control Act (WAC) as it does every five years. DOC Canterbury is also reviewing the WARO concession structure and reissuing WARO licenses for the next five years. NZDA is concerned that Canterbury conservancy has been designated the lead conservancy for this review. The conservancy seems motivated by commercial considerations to the detriment of a balanced assessment of recreational and commercial interests.

OTHER SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION

1. SPARC – SIR EDMOND HILLARY OUTDOOR RECREATION COUNCIL - A new council has been set up which will play a crucial role in advising SPARC on strategic and investment decisions relating to outdoor recreation including:

- Promoting participation in outdoor recreational
- Developing greater capability in outdoor recreational
- Developing a strategic sector-wide approach for outdoor recreation
- Fostering improved collaboration and coordinated planning within and between the outdoor recreational sector and other relevant sectors
- Raising the profile and positive values and impact of outdoor recreation

The national executive will invite the council to a future meeting to further relations etc.

2. POISONING PARADISE – ECOCIDE NEW ZEALAND Graf Brothers DVD update – Clyde Graf has advised that there has been repeated hold-ups and changes in the forecasted release date. He advised June 10th that the documentary was going to the duplicators this week.

They have been working with scientists Pat and Quinn Whiting O'Keefe who have added considerable evidence and credibility to the documentary.

The Graf brothers will be planning film nights at various towns and cities around the country, to help get the evidence of this atrocity into the face of the public. If you are able to help with one of these evenings please contact Clyde on thegrafboys@xtra.co.nz

STEWART ISLAND UPDATES

1. DRAFT STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND DRAFT RAKUIRA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS - DOC is now working on setting hearing dates. A strong passion for the island came through in the submissions. That information is being recorded to allow for full consideration of submissions against the draft strategy and plan.

2. INTRODUCTION OF HUNTING ADMINISTRATION CHARGE - Hunting administration is time consuming on Stewart Island, particularly because you can book 12 months ahead. From July 1st 2009 there will be a \$30 administration charge. This will apply only to hunting blocks not to open zone permits, which are available on the spot and do not create extra administration.

SHOOTING CALENDAR and OTHER EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

1. 2009 SOUTH ISLAND SHOOT– 31 October and 1 November To be hosted by the South Canterbury Branch subject to the certification of the Taiko Range. **For further information** contact David Wood, phone 03 686 2006 or 0274 322 662, email davidwood@xtra.co.nz

2. AUCKLAND GUN SHOW – 5th July 2009, Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, corners of Balmoral and Dominion Roads, Mt Eden, Auckland For further information contact Miles at mschandler@xtra.co.nz

3. NORTHLAND BLACK POWDER CLUB'S ANNUAL INVITATION SHOOT, Sunday July 12th 2009, at the Oromahi Range. \$20 per day, including a sizzle sausage lunch. Starts 9.45am

Dianne Brown

CEO

NATIONAL OFFICE

I will be out of the national office from Thursday July 9th until Monday July 13th while I attend national executive meetings and then the national conference in Oamaru.

Please still leave free to leave a message on the answer phone at the national office 04 801 7367 or fax 04 801 7368 or email deerstalkers@paradise.net.nz

For URGENT messages only please call me on my cell phone 027 688 1736 and leave a message – I will be unable to take calls as I will be in meetings most of the time.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

MSSA RECATEGORISING – MILITARY-STYLE SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request:

1. **COLFO - update 2 July 2009**, by the chairperson Gary Howat
2. **NZ Police - Check your stock** which includes features which would consider your firearm to have a 'military pattern free-standing pistol grip' and therefore is a MSSA
3. **NZ Police communication** which includes:
 - a. The introduction
 - b. Communication
 - c. Transition
 - d. Defining 'military pattern free-standing pistol grip';
 - e. MSSA firearms
 - f. Information to license holders
 - g. Timeframe – **effective August 10th 2009**
 - h. Enforcement action – **an educative rather than prosecutorial approach until March 31^s 2010**
4. **COLFO press release June 22nd** 'Reclassification of sporting guns to military style'

HUNTS

PROMOTIONAL DVD – enclosed in the mail to branches and available on request to members

- See review page 42 NZ Hunting & Wildlife 165

MSC

Enclosed in the mail to branches and available on request to members

RIVER SAFETY BROCHURE

- How rivers work
- Swimming and fishing
- Tramping and river crossing
- River crossing methods
- 10 rules of river safety

POSSUM CONTROL/POISONING OPERATIONS

1. RAT CONTROL OPERATION DART AND LOWER ROUTEBOURN VALLEYS JULY 2009

The above will be occurring on two separate days during the last two weeks of July, subject to weather - the actual dates will be available on request closer to the time. The following tracks will be CLOSED on these two days:

Dart Valley – from Dales Flat to Mill Flat (including vehicle access through the Lower Dart Conservation Area from Mill Flat to Chinamans Bluff)

Routebourn Valley – the lower Routebourn Track from the road end to just past Bridal Veil Falls; the Sugarloaf Pass Track to the Rockburn and the Lake Sylvan Track from the road end of the Rockburn Hut

Rockburn Valley – the lower approximately 4km of the track

Beansburn Valley – the lower approximately 2km of the track

For further information contact John Roberts, jroberts@doc.govt.nz

2. EGMONT NATIONAL PARK – 1080 AERIAL DROP

Check out www.stuff.co.nz/taranki-daily-neews/news/2529326/Massive-park-poison-drop

The operation will take place between August and December 2009 on 33,000 ha.

3. WANGANUI NATIONAL PARK, west of Ohakune and including long sections of the scenic Whanganui, Retaruke and Manganui o Te Ao Rivers. 30,000 ha, August – September 2009.

For more information contact Horizons Regional Council 0508 800 800 www.horizons.govt.nz or DOC Whanganui 06 349 2100 www.doc.govt.nz

RECENT ADVOCACY

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request:

1. MT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN, which includes

- No helihunting
- Keep the Lower Dart Conservation area outside of the park
- NZDA supports the helicopter landing sites for recreational hunters in the park
- Red deer, Whitetail and chamois should be a valued recreational resource in the park
- Some accessible areas of open tops reserved for recreational hunting
- WARO and helihunting enforcement in the park

Conclusion: NZDA believes that the plan is too extreme of its protection of native vegetation beyond reasonableness and the requirements of the National Parks Act.

NZDA requests that greater recreational hunting use of the park be encouraged and fostered – this includes viewing deer and chamois as a recreational and food resource, which is guaranteed a permanent place in the park.

2. WARO OPERATORS

NZDA has a list of the WARO concessionaires and a partial list of WARO helicopter registrations. If any branch is interested they can get the list from Hugh Barr hugh@infosmart.co.nz

3. SUBMISSION ISOLATED HILL CRC 0919587 HEARING

Enclosed in the mail to the branches and available on request electronically from the national office

DOC UPDATES

1. DOC HELI-HUNTING BROCHURE

Enclosed in the mail to the branch and available electronically on request which includes

- Background
- The benefits (as in the eyes of DOC)
- The issues
- WARO concession permits, including heli-hunting
- Stakeholder concerns about heli-hunting
- How is the department resolving the issues

2. HAWKE'S BAY, WELLINGTON AND CHATHAMS COMBINE IN NEW CONSERVANCY

Effective July 1st 2009. It comprises five area offices – Hawke's Bay, Poneke, Chatham's, Kapiti and Wairarapa.

3. WELLINGTON CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CMS) DEFERRED

Delayed to allow the Hawke's Bay regional to be included in the revised Wellington and Hawke's Bay CMS.

Dianne Brown

CEO

ROTORUA DEER STALKERS 2009 RANGE CALENDAR

Date		Day	Shoot
July	5 th	Sunday	300M club Shoot.
	12 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
	19 th	Sunday	NZDA club shoot.
	26 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot W/S.
August	2 nd	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	9 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot
	16 th	Sunday	NZDA club shoot
	23 rd	Sunday	Range free.
	30 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot W/S.
September	6 th	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	13 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
	20 th	Sunday	NZDA club shoot.
	27 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
October	4 th	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	11 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
	18 th	Sunday	NZDA club shoot.
	25 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
November	1 st	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	8 th	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot.
	15 th	Sunday	NZDA club shoot.
	22 nd	Sunday	50M Smallbore Club Shoot
	29 th	Sunday	Range free.
December	6 th	Sunday	300M club shoot.
	13 th	Sunday	Christmas shoot- Novelty .22 shoot, Families welcome.

For further info, contact: malcolmperry@clear.net.nz (348 4473)

Smallbore shoots, contact: Jon Abbott on 345 7112

300m shoots, contact: Pat & Don 346 7725

Outdoorsman Headquarters

NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS

6 Tarawera Road, Rotorua
07 345 9333

Rifle deals

Rifle type	\$	Rifle type	\$
22		280	
BRNO Model 1 1952 (on behalf)	1250.00	Ruger M77 Synthetic Stnless Rings	1250.00
Winchester Model 180 Semi Auto Scope	425.00	7x64	
Marlin Mod 60 Semi Auto Scope	450.00	Sako A691 Mannlicher Stock 1.5-5 Leupold VxIII	2600.00
204		308	
BRNO Mod 527 as new	1495.00	Tikka T3 1.5-5 Leupold VxIII	1795.00
22 Hornet		Spanish Mauser Carbine	295.00
BRNO Mod 465 1949 (on behalf)	1150.00	30-06	
222		Browning BAR Rings	1195.00
BSA Hunter Scope Bush Rifle Only	575.00	30-30	
223		Marlin 336 Sling	775.00
Tikka 595 Stnlss Synthetic as new	1550.00	44MAG	
Remington BDL 700 Deluxe Rings	1250.00	Ruger 96/44 L/A Rings Sling	995.00
Howa M1500 Blue Wood 3-9 Tasco	895.00	12g	
22-250		Franchi 'Barrage' Trap O/U	1495.00
Remington BDL 700 Deluxe Bases	1195.00	Diamond Semi Auto Multi Choke 2x	650.00
Ruger MK1 Rings	995.00	H & R Excell Semi Auto Camo ex Demo	750.00
Tikka T3 Rings	1550.00	20g	
Sako All 3-9x40 Redfield	1495.00	Mossberg Sa20 Semi Auto ex Demo	950.00
243			
Remington 700 3.5-10 Nikko Scope	1200.00		
Tikka T3 Rings Threaded	1550.00		

NZDA SOCIAL

Video/fun/comedy evening

At Rotorua Deerstalkers Club Rooms

Neil Hunt Park

ROTORUA

22nd July, 7.30pm

Bring a plate of something hot!!! (or cold). Roaring fire (if its cold)

Come and socialise and have a good time with other members.

In the news

TWO ATTACKS ON HUNTERS UNRELATED - NZ HERALD

Police believe there is no link between two attacks on hunters in the Bay of Plenty.

A masked attacker ambushed a 20-year-old farm worker while he was hunting in Ruapapa Station near Te Urewera National Park on the East Coast late last week.

His rifle was stolen.

In May, seven Mongrel Mob members armed with knives confronted two hunters in the Ureweras and demanded their meat and rifles.

"We are not aware of any connection between the two cases," Wairoa Senior Sergeant Tony Bates told the Gisborne Herald.

"No doubt we will look into it."

An appeal for information on the recent attack and the whereabouts of the gun had not produced much information.

Josh Holmes said he was hunting pigs about 6pm on Friday when a man wearing a balaclava jumped from behind a tree, hit him on the side of the head, knocking him to the ground, then took his knife and rifle.

"He was hiding in the bush; he must have been watching me," Mr Holmes told the Dominion Post.

"I just yelled ... but it was all over within a minute and a half."

The Department of Conservation's Gisborne and Opotiki manager Andy Bassett earlier said he thought the two incidents were linked, and they were the first he had heard of in his 35-year career.

"It sounds like there's a small group of people who are taking on this sort of stand-over tactics and the sooner it can get stamped out the better," he told Radio New Zealand.

Ruapapa Station is not considered to be in the Ureweras, but is close to the boundary.

RESIDENTS ANGRY OVER ROAD CLOSURE - THE DAILY POST BY MATTHEW MARTIN

A popular short cut through Kaingaroa Forest is to be closed after more than 40 years of public use.

From July 1, vehicle access into Kaingaroa Forest, through Goudies Rd near Reporoa, is to be restricted to forestry and emergency service use only.

The unsealed private road is managed by Timberlands, an independent forest management company which acts on behalf of Kaingaroa Timberlands, the company that owns the forests' cutting rights.

The road links State Highway 38 near Kaingaroa Village with Taupo and is part of an off-road highway network used by large forestry trucks. Timberlands officials say

the road is unsafe for public use and is also part of a recent Treaty of Waitangi settlement. However, a lack of consultation and notification has angered local farmers and residents.

Goudies Rd farmer Phillip Berry said he was concerned the public had not been adequately informed and there were no provisions made by Timberlands for a turning area when travellers came across a locked gate. Mr Berry said he had made up his own sign to warn road users but that had been pulled down a few days ago by unknown vandals.

"This is a very popular route ... there will no doubt be people who still find their way on to this end of Goudies Rd and come across a locked gate.

At least some of these people will be towing boats, caravans or trailers and there is simply no room to turn these vehicles around," Mr Berry said.

Timberlands forest risk manager Colin Maunder said Goudies Rd would be closed due to safety, but he said the restrictions were, in part, due to a change in ownership of the forest. As of July 1, Kaingaroa Forest will become the property of the Central North Island Iwi Collective after a Waitangi Tribunal decision late last year gave the collective back 176,000ha. "During the next five to 10 years, the forest harvest will double and if we can't use those roads then there will be more trucks on public roads."

Mr Maunder said the off-road highway network is critical to the running of the forest and complaints had been received that sharing it with the public was becoming too dangerous. "Some of the trucks can weigh up to 88 tonnes, they are massive vehicles that would never get on a public road."

He said that in the last few days a turning area had been constructed at the end of the road.

Iwi collective establishment team project manager Pelenato Sakalia said Timberlands had the right to close the road in the interests of safety. He said once the collective became a legal entity on July 1, there would be a "three-month notice period" where concerns surrounding the forest's use and accessibility would be sorted out.

Rotorua MP Todd McClay said he had been in talks about the issue and was sure an interim arrangement could be made.

FEARS OVER FUTURE USE OF WHAKA FOREST - THE DAILY POST BY MATTHEW MARTIN

Users of Rotorua's Whakarewarewa and Kaingaroa forests fear their access could be in jeopardy when the assets are handed over to Maori ownership.

Hunters and fishermen won't get permits for Kaingaroa after September so access issues can be sorted with the new owners, who take ownership in July. Whakarewarewa forest event organisers and commercial businesses operating there are also uncertain about their futures.

A spokesman for the iwi told The Daily Post he could not give any assurances about the future until they had met forest managers Timberlands and the Rotorua District Council.

From July 1, ownership of 176,000ha of the Central North Island's forests will be transferred to the Central North Island Iwi Collective.

Iwi collective spokesman Pelenato Sakalia said he understood forest users' concerned and had already been in talks with the Rotorua District Council and Timberlands. However, he could give no assurances about future use.

"A three-month notice period is in place from July 1 and our intention is to allow all parties to get together and work this all out."

Issues about fees to use the forests would be sorted out during that time. "Come July 1, we can all sit down and get an understanding of what's going on in here," Mr Sakalia said.

Commercial use of the forest by rafting companies and Rotorua events, like the Cateye Moonride, may be in jeopardy if a decision is delayed.

River Rats Raft and Kayak owner/operator Justin Hutton said almost 25 per cent of his business relied on being able to access the Rangitaiki River through Kaingaroa Forest. He had been advised by Timberlands his permit to access the forest would not be renewed after July 1.

"The short notice is a bit of a worry, we were only advised of this on June 8. We need to find out what is happening as soon as possible in case I have to cancel future bookings," Mr Hutton said.

"This is definitely a concern for us, but we understand the iwi's position and it is their right to say yes or no. We don't expect to get something for nothing ... We just hope they can come up with an interim solution until they can sort out their end of things."

Cateye Moonride event director Murray Fleming said it would be a shame to lose his event but he was optimistic.

"Everything has been up in the air for the past three or four years but I'm sure they will make a positive move," he said.

Local hunters like Rotorua's Martin Spiers are also concerned. He wondered if it would be "Mt Tarawera all over again".

In 2000, Mt Tarawera New Zealand gained sole access to the mountain, winning a contract from iwi owners Ngati Rangitihi. The company banned free recreational use and started running guided tours up the mountain.

"I would be happy to pay a small fee for a permit to hunt in the forest," he said.

Timberlands forest risk manager Colin Maunder said the company had to protect its interests and any decisions about fees would be made after discussion with the iwi group and local councils.

"Permits will be issued until the fire season starts at the end of September," he said.

Rotorua mayor Kevin Winters said earlier plans to purchase the cutting rights for part of Whakarewarewa Forest had been canned in favour of the council advocating for the people of Rotorua to ensure future access could continue. "The forests are so important for us as a tourist destination and it's important those commercial operations are allowed to continue." * Anger over Goudies Rd closure following Treaty deal

PAIR LUCKY TO SURVIVE PEEL HUNTING TRIP - BY RHONDA MARKBY – THE TIMARU HERALD

Two Christchurch hunters were lucky to survive a thar hunting trip on Little Mount Peel after they broke all the rules on Saturday.

The pair, one in his late 20s and the other a 38-year-old, had been shooting in the area when they got into trouble. They dialled 111 and asked for an emergency helicopter to pick them up. The hunter stated he would not be making the request unless they were in serious trouble.

A helicopter rescue was not an option because snow was falling. A ground search-and-rescue operation was launched shortly after 4pm.

The operation involved about a dozen police and volunteers, said Mid South Canterbury police area commander Inspector Dave Gaskin.

Even though they had a fairly good idea where the pair were, it still took searchers more than five hours to reach them near a waterfall on Emily Stream.

The men had shot a thar and had then gone down into a gully on the southeast face of Little Mount Peel to retrieve it. Mr Gaskin said the pair had decided to follow the stream down, but became stuck when they encountered a waterfall and could not get back up on to the ridge because of the difficult terrain.

Once searchers reached the pair, it took them a further 3 1/2-hours to walk them back, not reaching Blandwood to around 3.30am.

The two inexperienced hunters had virtually no wet weather gear, very little food and only a couple of pack liners, Mr Gaskin said .

"They were cold, wet and extremely relieved to see the searchers arrive."

The pair were given dry clothes by the rescuers for the walkout.

Mr Gaskin said the hunters had broken all the rules. They had gone into the area on Saturday morning when there was a shocking weather forecast and they were ill-equipped.

"These men shouldn't have been on the mountain with that weather forecast, and without even the basic equipment required they were extremely lucky to have lived through the experience."

One thing that had been in the pair's favour was that they had a cellphone with them and had been able to call out. But even that was not failsafe, as phone contact with the pair was lost early evening. If they had been unable to call for help, Mr Gaskin said it could have been several hours before their partners raised the alarm. He did

not like to consider what the outcome could have been if the men had been in the bush all night.

"They had no spare clothes, no decent wet weather gear and were in an extremely exposed area ideal hypothermia conditions. The problem is it is called 'Little' Mt Peel and people think it is easy."

As well as being extremely grateful to have been rescued, the pair were rather embarrassed.

In spite of their ordeal, Mr Gaskin suspected the real "danger" the pair were likely to face was when they got home to their partners, to whom police had earlier reported the pair's predicament.

TE ARAWA FACE 'GREATEST' CHALLENGE- BY GREG TAIPARI – THE DAILY POST

The money's in the bank and the assets have been handed over. Now Te Arawa faces its greatest challenge - managing its Treaty of Waitangi settlement.

Yesterday's official hand-over by the Crown of more than \$85 million in cash and assets marked a monumental day for Te Arawa.

Its chief negotiator, Rawiri Te Whare, said it had been a long and sometimes challenging journey but he was confident about what was in store for Te Arawa.

"The greatest challenge is still ahead of us, how we now manage and grow the assets, and we look forward to that challenge," he said.

Eru George, the chairman of Te Arawa's treaty negotiating body, Te Pumautanga o Te Arawa, said it was fitting the handover ceremony was held at the same marae where it all began six years ago.

"It marks a conclusion in a process that has spanned generations of our tupuna [ancestors] who committed their lives to righting the wrongs and seeking resolutions for injustices on our people."

Te Arawa's settlement forms part of the Central North Island \$400 million-plus treaty settlement that has been dubbed the "Treelords" deal as it incorporated forests, including Kaingaroa Forest.

The deal sees Te Arawa receive commercial redress of \$38.6 million in cash, more than \$40 million returned from accumulated rentals from Crown forestry land, ongoing income from rental of the forest lands which is estimated to be about \$2.1 million per annum, the return of land situated under five schools within the Rotorua region and four geothermal wells.

Mr George said the trust had used past treaty settlements to plan how they would invest in Te Arawa's future.

"Te Arawa are fortunate to have the example of other iwi to guide our development and we have learned from the mistakes and successes of those who have come before us."

The trust yesterday also launched its package deal for the 11 iwi groups linked to the trust. Each group will receive \$1 million provided criteria are met. The initiative drew a favourable response from members of the public at yesterday's ceremony.

Te Pumautanga trustee Roger Pikia said it was the first time in the history of settlement deals that money had been made available to iwi members straight away.

Rotorua mayor Kevin Winters said yesterday was a special day for all of Rotorua.

"I feel this is much a deal for Pakeha as well as Maori, because the Rotorua District Council has been there right from the word go," he said.

As part of the settlement deal the iwi will also receive a Crown apology, which will be delivered on August 28 at Te Pakira Marae, Whakarewarewa.

NEW PARTNERSHIP A WIN-WIN FOR CONSERVATION

Date: 30 April 2009

Back country huts in Whirinaki Forest Park will continue to be maintained to high levels under a new agreement between the Rotorua Branch of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and Department of Conservation.

This new partnership will see NZDA carrying out wild animal control and maintenance work to some of the backcountry huts and surrounds on DOC's behalf in Whirinaki Forest Park. In return for this work members of the Rotorua branch of NZDA will be able to utilise free access to five back country huts. These huts are: Upper Whirinaki, Mangakahika, Moerangi, Upper Te Hoe and Whangatawhia (Skips).

Last week saw a team of eight from Rotorua NZDA fly into the Upper Whirinaki Hut along with a couple of DOC rangers to complete the first weekend of planned working bees in these remote and popular huts. Even though the weather was against them, they managed to complete repainting of the hut inside and out, gathering of winter firewood and a general clear up of the area surrounding the hut. There was even enough time for a couple of early morning hunts.

Darryn Cosgrave president of the Rotorua Branch NZDA who was part of the team effort was pleased with the weekend. "The weekend was a success because two groups came together with common ground. I would like to thank DOC who were extremely accommodating and put in that special effort to make the weekend a success. I would also like to thank the eight members of the Rotorua Branch for their extra special effort and hard work to prove to DOC that we have the credibility to be able to carry this type of work out."

Earl Rewi, Programme Manager for Visitor Assets in Whirinaki Forest Park agreed. "It is a great example of how continued dialogue and sharing of ideas can lead to benefits for all parties – especially when in the past there hasn't really been a relationship between the Department [of Conservation] and hunters. The team did a

great job and we look forward to the ongoing maintenance scheduled to continue in the other huts within the Park in the near future.”

MUSEUM HEAD'S DEATH PUZZLE FOR POLICE – THE NZ HERALD BY JAMES IHAKA

The sons of former Te Papa chief executive Seddon Bennington are returning home for their father's funeral as police try to figure out how the experienced tramper and his companion were caught out on the freezing Tararua Ranges.

Dr Bennington's body was found yesterday by a specialist alpine search and rescue team from Levin about 9km into the Tararua Ranges.

His tramping companion, 54-year-old Marcella Jackson, also known as Rosie, was found 15 minutes later about 300m away.

The pair were supposed to return home on Sunday but were found a kilometre short of their destination, Kime Hut.

They had planned to spend the night at the hut after setting out from Otaki Forks on Saturday.

Central police communications manager Kim Perks said last night police did not know if Dr Bennington or Mrs Jackson had been carrying cellphones or locator beacons.

"But certainly we know he had not had any contact with anyone since he went into the ranges," she said.

Yesterday, family, friends and Te Papa staff were coming to terms with the loss of Dr Bennington and Mrs Jackson.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister Christopher Finlayson said Dr Bennington would be sorely missed.

"Seddon Bennington served Te Papa and the people of New Zealand well over his seven years as chief executive," said Mr Finlayson.

"He brought wide international experience and leadership to the role."

Tributes also came from around the world.

Te Papa acting chief executive Michelle Hippolite said the international museum world was small and close knit, and Dr Bennington was well known.

"Seddon worked a lot with the Australian museums, and we've received messages from there," she said.

Other messages had come from the United States and Europe.

Te Papa board chairman John Judge said Dr Bennington "continued to push the boundaries of museum excellence".

He said Te Papa staff were deeply saddened by their colleague's death.

"Seddon's contribution to New Zealand's cultural sector is significant, his international reputation is to be admired and he will be greatly missed by many people."

Aotea Pathology chief executive Karen Wood said Mrs Jackson had worked at the Wellington clinic for 12 years.

"The staff were obviously devastated and upset when we got the news this morning," she said. "She will be sorely missed."

Ms Wood did not know if Mrs Jackson went tramping often but said she was a keen walker.

She had no children and her husband had died a few years ago.

Dr Bennington's two sons are in Australia.

Central area police chief Inspector Mark Harrison said it appeared the pair had strayed from the track and were in an area of snow-covered open alpine terrain with rocks and tussock, known as Bridge Peak.

"There are no obvious signs of a fall or accident and it appears a strong possibility that they were overcome by the weather conditions," Mr Harrison said.

Conditions had been "extremely atrocious" for several days, and snow had been waist-deep in some parts of the ranges.

Four search and rescue teams made up of volunteers and police searched throughout Tuesday and some stayed in the ranges overnight.

Their efforts were hampered early yesterday by heavy rain, low fog and mist but an Air Force Iroquois helicopter flew several more searchers into the ranges to help.

Tararua Tramping Club president Chris Munn said the area where Dr Bennington and Mrs Jackson were last seen on Saturday afternoon, on the track above Field Hut, was a popular spot for trampers.

The area had several huts, most about four hours' hike from one another.

But the terrain was challenging in bad weather, particularly when it was snowing, as snow obscured foot patterns and guide poles.

Mr Munn said that at this time of year, trampers in the Tararua Ranges should be equipped to cope with "extremely changeable" weather.

The Department of Conservation website warns that the ranges are exposed to freezing southerlies that have caused deaths.

The bodies of Dr Bennington and Mrs Jackson were yesterday airlifted by helicopter to Palmerston North Hospital.

Club Contacts

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
	Ralph Price	Ph 357 2786
Library	Peter Graham	Ph 333 1838
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, Amohia St, 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 executive.

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

