



# The New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.

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## April/May Issue 2011:

*Next Social: Talk with Todd McClay (Rotorua MP) and Paul Jefferson from Mountain Safety will explain some of their available courses.*



“The Tines”  
Rotorua Branch Newsletter April/May 2011



## **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>Party hunt – Boating/fishing social. Still to be confirmed. If interested, please contact a committee member.</b>
<b>Socials</b>	<b>Come and chat with Todd McClay and meet the Mountain Safety guys. At the Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms from 7.30pm. March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm Neil Hunt Park Clubrooms, Tarawera Road, Rotorua.</b>
<b>Range Shoot</b>	<b>Range itinerary for 2011 in this issue: Contact Malcolm Perry.</b>

**Cover Photo:** Scott with a 2011 spiker. See story page 8.

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!

**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 all,

Well it's that time of the year when we all get pumped up for the roar and hope for the chance of the dream stag! Well I was any way as we were heading back to our usual haunt over the in the Ruakumara Range. But it was not to be. I feel we may have been a tad early but you pay your money and you take your chances as the saying goes. I did however manage to bag a couple for meat for the crew. The stags were not quite into it as we did manage to the odd reply, but not enough to track them down!

In all it was good to get away and sup brews by the fire and yarn about the problems of the world, deer numbers and all the usual trivia.

Well done to Scotty who bagged an eleven pointer in his local spot. Just goes to show you don't have the fly in to get the results.

Unfortunately I was away so missed the committee meeting so may have to leave that info to one of the team to relay back.

Please remember if you are keen for the fishing trip to the Coromandel to get your names into one of the committee ASAP as I will have to place a deposit with them and we need 15 bods to make it work.

Well hope you that are heading out for the roar do well and will look forward to seeing the results at the head measuring night.

Please keep safe and ensure to identify your target beyond all doubt.

Cheers  
Colin

## NZDA SOCIAL(s)

**April:** i. A chat with **Todd McClay** (Rotorua MP). ii. **Paul Jefferson** (Mountain Safety) will be explaining what courses are available to our members for those who wish to upskill in various bushcraft levels & risk management.

*May social: Head measuring evening:*

**At Rotorua Deerstalkers Club Rooms**  
**Neil Hunt Park,**  
**27<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm and**  
**25<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm.**

**All welcome.**

## NZDA SOCIAL

# Head Measuring and Photographic competitions!!!

**At Rotorua Deerstalkers Club Rooms**  
**Neil Hunt Park, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm**

All eligible entries (see revised AHT rules) shall be submitted for scoring at this social (**reminder: smelly heads will not be measured**). Note: Owners are responsible for looking after all items to be measured and photos submitted.

### Photographic Competitions Categories

- |                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Scenic                             | 4. Game Animals   |
| 2. Human and General Hunting Interest | 5. Other Wildlife |
| 3. Floral Abstract and Still Life     | 6. Best Photo     |

*NB All photos are for colour prints only.*

Please support your branch and committee by making an effort to attend. Bring along those photos and trophies even if you do not enter them in competition.

Contact a committee member for more info.

### Classifieds

#### For sale

Ex Search & Rescue Etrex H GPS

\$100 each. Six to sell.

If interested, contact Cliff on 362 8883 between 6pm and 9pm.

#### Wanted to buy

*No items wanted.*

#### Wanted

***Good stories for newsletter.***

***Any interesting articles.***

***Any good photo's of your hunting trips.***

***Anything to buy or sell?***

***Send to editor – [nzdarotorua@gmail.com](mailto:nzdarotorua@gmail.com)***

***Or phone 021 066 7868***



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.

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**NZDA ROTORUA WEBSITE IS ONLINE:**

**CHECK OUT [WWW.NZDAROTORUA.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.NZDAROTORUA.ORG.NZ)**

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## ROTORUA

### *Hunting or Working Dog Problems?*

#### *Dogtra YS300 Anti Bark Collar*

*Was \$320.99 now **\$289.99***

#### *Dogtra 1900NCP Remote Trainer*

**\$799.99**

#### *Dogtra 320m Remote Trainer*

**\$949.99**

#### *Dogtra 1804NC Remote Trainer*

**\$1699.99**



***For more details, see page 65 of your latest Hunting and Fishing Catalogue***

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

## Range report March 2011

Sunday 6th, may have been 300M club shoot.

Sunday 20th Rimfire silhouette shoot, was attended by three people, myself included, the others daughter Hilary and her step daughter Casey who is a junior.

Results for a 40 shot match:

Hilary	3 chickens	7 pigs	6 turkeys	2 rams	Total 18
Casey	1 chicken	4 pigs	4 turkeys	9 rams	Total 18
					(all shot prone)
Malcolm	6 chickens	4 pigs	2 turkeys	1 ram	Total 13

April;

Saturday 2nd Scouts have booked range.

Sunday 3rd 300M club shooters may be on range.

Sunday 17th Deer silhouette shoot, come and see why you missed that deer! 300, 200, 100, and 50M; 8 rounds ammo per run through. This is not a competition it is purely to see how you and your rifle performs at these distances under the conditions on the day, (wind etc).

May;

Sunday 1st, 300M shoot (duck shooting). Not 300m duck shooting.

Sunday 15th, Rimfire metallic silhouettes. Also a good chance for juniors to practice for the SWAZI shoot.

Annual SWAZI shoot; Davey Hughes of SWAZI has again agreed to sponsor the shoot for juniors this year. Let us get a little better organized this year, bring your juniors to the practice shoots, May and July in particular, but any range day I am happy to have a junior practice in the afternoon. The SWAZI shoot will be held in September this year which will be a .22 range day, the juniors shooting in the afternoon.

This year we had two quite capable shooters who unfortunately were not financial, so make sure they are this year, it only costs \$5-00, for a family member.

Time to reload,

Malcolm.

## **Hunting Story - GETTING READY FOR THE ROAR** by Scott Russell

The roar is coming I said to my wife, and this time I am going to get a stag. I have been out in two roars but not actually seen a stag even though I have been within metres of one in the Whirinaki with Daryn. I have been going to a spot off my favourite lake for nearly a year now, I am getting to know the area well and regularly seeing deer, so this is where I hope to get a stag.

On Friday the 18th of February not far from the boat I heard a deer feeding, it takes me about 20 minutes to locate it and stalk to about 20 metres from it. Resting on a log I get glimpses of its head through my scope 'a hind'. I keep waiting for a decent kill shot but it moves off to my left. Damn! I think. I try to move another five metres in the same direction to a better vantage point then I hear the un-mistakable sound of a deer crashing off through the bush, a bark then sounds of it disappearing into the distance. Oh well, that's hunting.

A couple of hours later I am walking back towards the boat, the wind is coming from behind me but over my shoulder, so I am moving relatively fast to stay ahead of my scent. I walk towards the top a spur and as I look into the next gut I see a spiker stopped in his tracks looking at me from 20 metres away. Up comes the rifle, bolt closing as I bring it up.

Cliff has been coaching me on reloading, and with a good book and good advice I have developed a load that looks good on paper at the range but I had never fired one at an animal until now.

The .308 Remington Kore-lokt projectile hit it just behind the shoulder, smashing a rib, it then nicks the right lung and then puts a 2cm diameter hole through the left lung, and takes out two ribs on the other side as it exits.

The deer turns and runs off. I wait and listen to it run and then go to where it was standing. Five metres in the direction it went I find a crimson colour splash of blood and for the next twenty five metres it looks like someone has emptied a 2 litre bottle of blood all over the place. I find him, take some pictures and then turn him into a pikau then head for the lake for a spot of fishing, returning home with a deer and a fish.

## **Volunteers/NZDA Rotorua Projects Updates**

### **Whirinaki Deer pen removal**

Waiting for word on the next lot of activities. If you want any further information, or are able to help, please contact Darryn or another committee member.

### **Whirinaki Hut restoration**

If you would like to be involved in the Whirinaki Hut restoration, please contact Darryn or any other committee member. We will be doing one or two huts every year. Although we are working, there is ample time to get in some hunting as well.

# NEWSLETTER TO BRANCHES AND MEMBERS, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011

## **CONFERENCE 2011 Tuatapere 22 – 24 July 2011**

Enclosed in the mail and available electronically on request:

Details on:

- Accommodation
- Timetables/venues
- Transport to and from Invercargill
- Transport around Tuatapere
- Address for consigning heads and returning trophies/cups

More information will be to hand in the next week or so.

## **SWAZI SPONSORSHIP**

Again in 2011 Davey Hughes and his team at Swazi have generously offered sponsorship for our juniors. Please find enclosed (and available electronically on request) a form to be completed and returned to the national office. Please in turn show your support for Swazi – you can now purchase on line at

[www.swazi.co.nz](http://www.swazi.co.nz)

## **INTERISLANDER SPECIAL RATES FOR NZDA MEMBERS**

Enclosed in the mail and available electronically on request:

From comments I have had from members who have used this discount, I believe that it is well worthwhile considering. Enclosed is information on:

- Group booking reference number
- Off peak fares
- Peak fares and dates
- Group booking conditions and instructions for making bookings

## **RECENT ADVOCACY**

Enclosed in the branch mail and available electronically on request:

## **Submission - PROPOSAL REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT NOTIFIED NOVEMBER 2010 to ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO** February 28 2011

## **MEDIA RELEASES**

The following are included in the mail to the branches and also available electronically

1. NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL – **As the roar approaches the NZMSC reminds hunters ‘to load your firearm only when you ready to fire’**. Also included in the media release are the seven basic rules of safe firearms handling.
2. MINISTERIAL RELEASE FROM KATE WILKINSON – **Canada geese protection status changed**
3. FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND – **Canada good decision ‘a costly own goal’**
4. MINISTERIAL RELEASE, PETER DUNNE, **Kaingaroa access permits unacceptable.**

Also included with the media release are the **2001 RECREATIONAL FOREST ACCESS PERMITS** conditions, ie

- How to get a recreational forest access permit
- Is there a cost involved
- Conditions of the permits

## **OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

All enclosed in the branch mail and available electronically on request:

1. **WALKING ACCESS IN THE OUTDOORS** Frequently asked questions from the Walking Access commission which include:
  - what is the walking access commission
  - what is the outdoor access code
  - why is the commission working on a mapping system



- do I have the right to walk over private land to get to public land
- what access rights and privileges do I have
- what forms of legal public access are available in New Zealand
- can I walk on any crown owned land
- can a landholder stop me using an unformed legal road
- what other forms of legal access across private land are available
- what is a marginal strip
- what are esplanade reserves, esplanade strips and access strips
- what status do public reserves have
- are river beds public land
- what do I need to do to care for the environment when out walking
- can I take my dog
- can I carry a gun
- can I use a motor vehicle on walking tracks
- can I light a fire when walking in the outdoors
- are there any special considerations I should know when walking

## 2. **EXCLUSIVE CAPTURE – AN INSIDIOUS RISK**

Chief executive Bruce Johnson, NZ Fish & Game Council investigates the accessibility of fishing in New Zealand and the 'exclusive capture' being practiced by a small number of individuals driven by self interest with no respect for the traditional Kiwi ethic of a free right for all to the outdoors and the associated public trout fisher.

One could almost exchange the word 'fish' and 'fisherman' for 'game animals' and 'hunters' and the scenario is becoming the same.

Fish & Game NZ is interested in building a picture of if this is happening in the recreational hunting world, and would appreciate any incidences that members/branches can provide on similar situations.

Please contact the NZDA antional office if you have anything to report.

3. **STONEY CREEK hunting, clothing and equipment** – 2011 brochure. Stoney Creek is a sponsor to our HUNTS programme providing a generous pack for all HUNTS course graduates. Please also support them by shopping at [www.stoneycreek.co.nz](http://www.stoneycreek.co.nz)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**1. NZDA NATIONAL BENCHREST CHAMPIONSHIPS, HV, LV and RF matches.** Easter Weekend, Packers Creek Range, Maitai Valley, 22 – 25th April 2011, hosted by the Nelson Branch. For further information contact Graeme Smith, phone 03 544 7138.

**2. MILITARIA ACTION, April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 2011**, St Patrick's College, 581 Evans Bay Road, Wellington. For more details contact Ted Rogers phone 0274 419 683 or email him on [rogersmb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rogersmb@xtra.co.nz) This is for the collector, hunter and investor. [www.militaria.co.nz](http://www.militaria.co.nz)

**3. NZSRA CHAMPS 2011**, Easter weekend, Friday – Sunday. Waiouru Old Class Range. For further information please contact [secretary@wrsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@wrsa.org.nz) or [nzsra@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzsra@xtra.co.nz)

Regards

Dianne Brown

CEO



## ROTORUA – TAUPO

[www.hamillsnz.co.nz](http://www.hamillsnz.co.nz)

### *This months specials:*

1: Tangle Free Pro Series, Mallard and Hen Decoy's, Buck Gardiner Signature Series. (1) One dozen lot \$199.99.

2: Laporte 150 Fluro orange clay bird targets \$39.99 Ctn. (Get your eye in)

3: Rio 12g, 2 3/4", 28gm, size 7 shot Trap ammo. \$99.99 @ slab. (250 rounds) (Get your other eye in)

4: "NEW" Latest motion Decoy on market. HIGDON SPLASHING /FLASHER motorized/water pump decoy. Includes battery and battery charger. \$299.99. Probably one of the best released yet ??

Plus Hamill's has the largest range of RIDGELINE outdoors hunting clothing available in the B.O.P. All at a SPECIAL REDUCED ROAR/DUCK SHOOTERS SPECIAL PRICE.

NZDA 10% discounts do not apply to items already on special.

10% discount applies to all of these products (Except ammo) on producing your NZDA Assn members card.

[www.hamillsnz.co.nz](http://www.hamillsnz.co.nz)

**10% discount to all NZDA members – bring your membership card** (discount excludes electronics, ammunition, firearms or already discounted items)

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Monday - Friday

Saturday 10am-1pm

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## NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST OUTDOOR OUTFITTERS

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### *AJ Productions Universal Game Caller*

- *Innovative 3 piece sound device*
- *Main hand unit*
- *Wireless remote controller*
- *Unique interchangeable sound system*
- *Cards available!!*

**\$179.90**



## General

One big as Moose!



(Not shot in NZ!!!)

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Major General Peter Cosgrove is an Australian... General Cosgrove was interviewed on the radio.

Read his reply to the lady who interviewed him concerning guns and children. It is a portion of an ABC radio interview between a female broadcaster and General Cosgrove who was about to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop visiting his military headquarters.

Regardless of how you feel about gun laws you gotta love this! This is one of the best comeback lines of all time.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER:

So, General Cosgrove, what things are you going to teach these young boys when they visit your base?

GENERAL COSGROVE:

We're going to teach them climbing, canoeing, archery and shooting.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER:

Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible, isn't it?

GENERAL COSGROVE:

I don't see why, they'll be properly supervised on the rifle range.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER:

Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?

GENERAL COSGROVE:

I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper rifle discipline before they even touch a firearm.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER:

But you're equipping them to become violent killers.

GENERAL COSGROVE:

Well, Ma'am, you're equipped to be a prostitute, but you're not one, are you?

The radiocast went silent for 46 seconds and when it returned, the interview was over.



## **In the news**

### KAINGAROA ACCESS PERMITS UNACCEPTABLE SAYS DUNNE – SCOOP.CO.NZ (18 MARCH 2011)

Kaingaroa access permits unacceptable says Dunne

"The situation of having recreational users of the Kaingaroa Forest pay for access is totally unacceptable", said UnitedFuture leader, Peter Dunne.

Timberlands, who manage the large previously state owned Kaingaroa Forest have just introduced a system where all hunters entering the forest must register and pay an annual \$50 fee and anglers need to register their vehicles (also for \$50 per annum) to enter the forest.

"The fact that Timberlands are calling the charge an "administration charge for registration" goes against the well established common rights of New Zealanders to fish and hunt without charge," said Mr Dunne.

"As Timberlands are still intending to restrict access during the summer months it means that anglers are being asked to pay for a permit they are unlikely to be able to use it during the fishing season anyway."

"It seems someone has plucked the \$50 figure out of the air and there is no reason that it will not be significantly increased in future years", says Doug Stevens, who is the UnitedFuture spokesperson for the environment and outdoor recreation. "For the many decades prior to Timberlands closing access in 2008 there were no reported fires or major incidents caused by anglers and hunters. What has changed now that a company can deny the average Kiwi the right to access what are publicly owned resources?"

"It is UnitedFuture's policy to ensure that such abuses of power by landowners and forest managers is stopped and that the long established tradition of free unfettered access to outdoor recreational areas is restored for this and future generations," said Mr Dunne.

"Part of what makes this a wonderful country to live in is the egalitarian principle that no-one can own or sell access to publicly owned resources."

"This uniquely Kiwi concept must continue and we will fight those that wish to deprive ordinary New Zealander's accessing what is their birthright," Mr Dunne said.

### BEACON AIDS RESCUE FOLLOWING HUNTING MISHAP BY NEIL REID – STUFF.CO.NZ (17 APRIL 2011)

A man was winched to safety near Opotiki early this morning after spending a cold and wet night in dense bush following a hunting mishap.

The man, aged 40, had gone hunting with his 70-year-old father in the Waioweka Gorge - which runs east between Opotiki and Gisborne - on Saturday.

But he suffered a severe ankle injury after falling in thick scrub.



Unable to walk out of the area, about four kilometres from Opotiki, the man activated an emergency locator beacon that the pair had taken into bush with them.

The locator was tracked by the rescue coordination centre on Saturday evening.

But due to bad weather conditions, a full rescue operation could not be mounted.

After giving basic first aid care to his son, and arranging a makeshift shelter, the 70-year-old man managed to further alert rescuers after making his way out of the bush.

A rescue helicopter from Taupo was dispatched at first light today, after weather conditions had improved, to find the injured man.

He was eventually winched out of the bush mid-morning and taken to Rotorua Hospital for further treatment.

A Whakatane police spokesman said as the man still had the beacon activated, it had aided in the rescue mission.

The spokesman said it was a reminder for hunters and trampers to ensure that they were well equipped and carried locator beacons, warm clothes and extra supplies before going bush.

- Stuff

#### FORESTS OPEN EARLY FOR ROTORUA ANGLERS BY CHERIE TAYLOR – THE DAILY POST (7 APRIL 2011)

It's going to be a long trout-fishing season for anglers at some of the region's world-renowned trout fishing spots with forests opening early for the winter.

Unusually high rainfall has reduced the fire risk in the Kaingaroa, Whirinaki and Rotoehu Forests, allowing Timberlands Forestry to open the forests for hunting and fishing a month earlier than usual.

The forests will be open from this weekend.

Normally, the forests are shut to hunting and fishing through the summer months from October and are re-opened on May 1.

The company has only previously allowed access by vehicle during weekends when the fire risk has been low.

Previously, Fish & Game NZ and commercial anglers have stated that the fishing footprint on the land had been minimal, not requiring the closures.

Many of the commercial angling businesses have been forced to close after being unable to take people in to trout fish during the summer season, as many of the best fishing spots are deep in the forests.

Rotorua MP Todd McClay welcomed the early start to the season.

The forests had recreational appeal to thousands of visitors to Rotorua each year, Mr McClay said.

The Kaingaroa, Whirinaki and Rotoehu forests were extremely important to the local economy in terms of forestry but they also provided jobs and investment through recreational enjoyment, Mr McClay said.

Anglers had been unhappy about the summer closures, he said.

#### HUNTER RESCUED AFTER TWO NIGHTS BY JARED MORGAN – STUFF.CO.NZ (12 APRIL 2011)

A 55-year-old Christchurch man was plucked by helicopter from South Westland today after spending two nights lost in the bush.

Sergeant Tod Hollebon, of Te Anau, said colleagues of the missing hunter used their mountain radio on Monday afternoon to raise the alarm after losing their companion in the Jerry River area, near Gorge River.

Te Anau police began a search late Monday using a Southern Lakes Helicopter.

The search team was forced to abandon the search on dark, because of poor weather in the area, he said.

The search began again at 5am this morning using a helicopter equipped with night-vision goggles.

"The hunter was located quite quickly when his torchlight was seen shining through forest canopy using the NVG (night vision goggles)," Mr Hollebon said.

Apart from being cold and hungry he was no worse for wear for his ordeal.

He was returned to his camp and plans to continue hunting, he said.

Although he recommended hunters carry a means of communication such as an emergency locator beacon, the hunter had done the right thing by remaining in the area and using the light source he had with him, Mr Hollebon said.

- The Southland Times

#### POLICE: LOST HUNTER DID EVERYTHING RIGHT BY ANITA MORAN – THE DAILY POST (22 MARCH 2011)

A hunter who got lost is being praised for his actions which led to search and rescue teams finding him.

Detective Sergeant John Wilson of Rotorua police said the hunter was reported missing about 9.30am on Sunday and rescue crews found him about 6.20pm that night.

He said the 26-year-old Waikato man was part of a hunting group which had spent Saturday in the Whirinaki Forest Park.

The man had become separated from the group and failed to return to a meeting point on Saturday evening.

"Early on Sunday morning his companions raised the alarm," Mr Wilson said.

Rotorua police search and rescue squad members and Land Search and Rescue volunteers spent Sunday searching for the hunter in the area surrounding the Whangatawhia Hut.

"We were assisted by HeliPro helicopter which conducted a search of the wider environs and dropped teams into the field."

Mr Wilson said the hunter was found by the member of the helicopter crew about 6.20pm in a stream bed north of the Whangatawhia Hut.

"He was in an area above a gorge and a series of waterfalls," he said.

"He had no injuries but was tired and hungry and very, very relieved to have been found."

Mr Wilson said the hunter had previously attended a hunter training course which gave him good knowledge about what to do if he got lost.

"He did everything right.

He stayed put, he made himself as visible to searchers as he could and he lit a signal fire."

The man's bright clothing also helped searchers spot him.

Once found, he was longlined by the helicopter to a clearing at the end of Okahu Rd.

Mr Wilson said the search and rescue teams were conscious of the bad weather forecasts for Monday night and had been keen to find the man as soon as possible.

The search was a timely reminder to hunters coming into the roar season to be vigilant and be safe.

"Don't over extend yourselves. This can lead to mistakes, injuries and taking unnecessary risks," he said. "Try to hunt in pairs or at the least hunt to a plan with pre-arranged timings with your fellow hunters so they know when to put the balloon up if you don't return from a hunt."

Mr Wilson said some easy things hunters could do was to always carry a map, compass and adequate food and clothing for a night out.

"Electronic navigation devices such as GPS units are also handy and becoming more affordable," he said.

He said hunters also needed to abide by the rules of firearms safety which included treating every firearm as loaded and identifying their target.

#### CONSENT GRANTED FOR 1080 DROP – STUFF.CO.NZ (29 MARCH 2011)

A region-wide application to drop 1080 and pindone poison on private land has been granted in the face of widespread opposition.

Independent commissioners Barry Loe and Robin Delamore have granted Environment Canterbury's application for a 15-year consent period allowing landowners and accredited contractors to apply bait for pest animals, such as

rabbits and wallabies. Hearings were held in October and November last year, but the commissioners had delayed the decision due to the Canterbury earthquakes.

The application received widespread opposition from hunters, conservationists and others. ECan received 76 submissions on the application, with all but 15 in opposition.

However, the commissioners said there were valid reasons for both the 15-year term sought and the global nature of the consent.

"On the basis of the evidence, there do not appear to be viable alternatives to 1080 and pindone that will be available in the short-to-medium term for control of rabbits and wallabies in situations where there are high populations of these species," they said.

The commissioners imposed a number of conditions for consent-holders, which included frequent monitoring, ensuring that pesticides did not enter groundwater, and that no aerial discharge would be within 200m of any well used for a community drinking water supply.

All consent-holders have to inform the public at least 10 days before carrying out any activity, while exclusion zones should be considered, they said.

Several submitters were concerned about adverse effects of discharges of 1080 on water bodies, and on human health.

"On the basis of the evidence provided, there is limited toxicological data on both the effects of pindone on aquatic ecosystems and on human health. Because there is a degree of uncertainty ... we consider that a more precautionary approach should be adopted," the commissioners said.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association was one of the application's most vocal opponents. South Canterbury association president Tim McCarthy said the national organisation opposed any new 1080 applications.

"However, on a personal level, I find the commissioners' decision rather astonishing," he said.

"To allow the blanket spreading of poison into our environment for the next 15 years is just dreadful. Several native bird and animal species could be affected. Look at how many submitted against it. When the tyranny of the minority overrules the majority, it is a real cause for concern."

However, some organisations were in favour, due to the increase in rabbit and wallaby numbers. According to the latest ECan trend counts, rabbit numbers in the Mackenzie district alone average about 5.1 per km, more than twice what they were in 2003.

Federated Farmers Mackenzie chairman John Murray said he was pleased the consent had been granted: "It would have been nice if we had had it two years ago. Many of the farmers around here have already applied for their own," he said.

The decision is still subject to appeal.

- The Timaru Herald

SCHOOL GROUP GETS LOST 150M FROM SAFETY BY MIKE WATSON – STUFF.CO.NZ (31 MARCH 2011)

A school party on a day walk on Mt Pihanga, near Turangi, became lost only 150 metres from a boundary fence separating dense bush from farmland.

Five pupils and a male teacher from Te Kura o Hirangi in Turangi followed a track to the top of the 1325m-high volcanic mountain but got lost on their return.

Principal Henarata Ham said the group of children, aged between 11 and 12, reached the summit about 2.20pm, then became disoriented about 7pm when light began to fade as they walked back.

"They lost the track and, although they had a rough idea where they were, because of the dense bush they were unable to find their way out to the road."

Ms Ham said the teacher decided the best option was to stay put. He rang the school on his mobile so police and search and rescue staff could be notified.

Ms Ham said Mt Pihanga day walks were a regular activity for pupils from the middle school. "They knew the area and were only 150m from the fenceline. Although the boys are used to the bush, it was quite an adventure for them. But it is a lesson for them all how easy it is to lose your way and the risk of being in dense bush when light is failing."

Taupo Youthtown rescue helicopter pilot Nat Every said night-vision goggles were used to locate the group, whose members shone their headlamps in the air as he circled above.

He passed their location on to searchers on the ground, who found the group about 11pm and walked them back to the road end. "The bush was just too dense to be able to see them clearly. If we had not had the goggles, we would have spent half the night looking for them."

- The Dominion Post



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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 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 (Rotorua Branch)

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 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)

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