



Newsletter

July 2025



Taupo

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



Club Committee

These are the people who have been voted in by club members to represent them, and to administer, control, and manage the affairs and business of the Branch.

Cover photo: Alan Bullick glassing the area for animals. Story later in the newsletter

Photo Left: The beautiful Kowhai flower. Look out for them shortly with spring around the corner.



2025/26 Committee

Executive committee

President	Alan Bullick	president@nzdataupo.org.nz
Vice-President	Breton Shaw	vicepresident@nzdataupo.org.nz
Treasurer	Morris Yeoman	Treasurer@nzdataupo.org.nz
Secretary	Morris Yeoman	secretary@nzdataupo.org.nz ph: 021 728 495

General Committee

Membership Officer	Breton Shaw	membership@nzdataupo.org.nz
Range Compliance Advisor	Peter Miles	ph: 027 476 2731
Competitive Shooting Co Ordinator	Cam Gray	ph: 027 483 9960
Range Committee/ events	Erik Clausen	ph: 027 608 611
Junior .22 Section	Peter Miles	ph: 027 476 2731
Trophy Head Records	Vern Pearson	ph: 07 378 4908
Sika Foundation Rep	Allan Jackson	ph: 021 1406475
Douglas Scoring	Ian Carppe	
HUNTS	Kris Lyall	ph: 027 307 1324
	Boyd McManus	ph: 021 174 3503
Committee member	Saran Tepavac	ph: 021 0244 6332
Newsletter Editor	Kath Keeley	editornzdataupo@xtra.co.nz

Patron Bill Seal

Online, you can find us on:

Website: nzdataupo.org.nz
Facebook: [@nzdataupo.org.nz](https://www.facebook.com/nzdataupo.org.nz)
Instagram: [@nzdataupo](https://www.instagram.com/nzdataupo)

To contact the NZDA Taupo Branch:

Phone Alan Bullick on 0276006519 or send an email to: secretary@nzdataupo.org.nz
NZDA Taupo branch address: 62 Mountain Road



It's been a busy month. Ian Carppe and I attended the conference in Invercargill. Ian will provide a detailed conference report later in the newsletter.

We drove down two days before the conference, bringing three heads to be judged in the national competition. Ian and I spent a week traveling back to the North Island. During this time, we managed to shoot some wallabies in the Myers Pass region, inland from Waitaki. We also shot some goats on my brother-in-law's property in Palmerston. Unfortunately, the deer on his property were too elusive, as the open tussock country allowed them to see us coming from 700 meters away.

Congratulations to Brad Ramsey from the Taupo club for winning first place in the photographic competition. Also, congratulations to Kath Keeley, our Newsletter Editor, for achieving the best monthly newsletter in the country. This is a significant achievement for the club, so thank you very much, Kath.

We are currently revamping the website, so please bear with us as we get it sorted.

In July, we held two committee meetings and welcomed new committee members. They are expected to add significant value to the committee over the next 12 months.

The prize shoot is scheduled for November 1st. We plan to introduce new events this year and are exploring ways to better include juniors and children in the prize shoot. Any assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, the new committee members are planning more events throughout the year to benefit the youth and juniors in our club, as well as potential new members.

We have allocated more funds in the 2025/26 budget for junior shooting, hunting courses, and youth events, as these are our future members. We aim to hold a junior Fur, Feather & Fish competition in early 2026. If anyone has experience running such events, we would appreciate your advice and assistance.

Regards,

Alan Bullick

TAUPO



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NEW ZEALAND

**PROUDLY SUPPORTING
YOUR LOCAL CLUBS + EVENTS**

SINCE 1993



Conference 2025

NZDA 77th Conference Invercargill July 2025

Ian Carppe

Alan Bullick and I drove to Invercargill to attend the conference (with the intent to do a bit of hunting on the way home). We took two Sika heads and one Ram's head as our branch entries. We also had several photo competition entries.

We arrived at the Ascot Park Hotel conference centre on Thursday afternoon and had informal discussions with other branches and national executives on ideas for membership increases, range entry systems, range administration, and support/donations for the national heritage museum.

On Friday evening, during drinks and nibbles, the national president, Callum Sheridan, gave the opening speech. He thanked the CEO, Board, Team, and Branches for their efforts and highlighted the strong progress made on the increased workload for us as the leading New Zealand hunting and shooting advocacy group. He also emphasized the significant advances made in raising our positive profile in political and public areas, as we have been judged unfairly as licensed firearms owners. He mentioned our work with the police and government on firearms law reform and his aim to continue enhancing a positive culture and open contact for information, ideas, and suggestions.

The Mayor of Southland Council, Rob Scott, welcomed the NZDA and spoke about hunting in general around the district, promoting the district.

Gwyn Thurlow, the NZDA CEO, who has been in office for five years, gave sincere thanks to Trevor Chappell, who, as national president, facilitated the installation of the CEO position. Gwyn spoke of the huge value of having a dedicated full-time person, along with a skilled team, on the board to deal with the political side of running the NZDA. In the last year, we have presented:

27 advocacy alerts to members and stakeholders

15 press releases to media and the public, resulting in many interviews and podcasts

159 news articles and posts on the website and social media

12 major submissions, including health and safety, a rewrite of the Arms Act, modernizing land and game management, WARO reform, OSPRI and DOC 1080 operations, a new online hunting permit system, and others. We also published 4 issues of the Hunting and Wildlife magazine.

We grew total income again, maintained membership, and rewrote the constitution as per the law change. Looking ahead, we plan to lead in rewriting firearms reform, improving access and game animal management, especially herds of special interest. We will assist branches with range and club law implementation, continue hunts education and participation, ensure succession, and promote unity in the hunting and shooting sector. The NZDA, formed in 1937 to defend the rights of hunters, needs to continue that together.

We then had various speakers on the work they are doing as volunteers, including the national committee. These people are giving a lot of time between jobs, family, and personal commitments, or trying to get some hunting in.

Continued



The National Party's James Meager gave a supporting speech but made no promise of funds. Nicole McKee spoke on firearms law and sounded very promising at this stage, but she couldn't elaborate as it's still a work in progress. Roy Sloan of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation showed a very inspiring video of Fiordland and the work they are doing down there. They have 552 double stoat/rat traps they service in big country. Forest and Bird are doing nothing. The FWF liaises well with DOC, even though they sometimes don't agree.

The Game Animal Council has a new CEO, Carrina Jordan, who has just taken over from Taupo's Tim Gale, who steps down after three years. The GAC has become more recognized and respected by politicians.

In closing, Callum Sheridan asked members to support the goat hunt competition as it is great publicity for us as conservationists. He also encouraged members to apply for a new hunting permit, which is easy under the new system and gives access to the whole country for 12 months. These numbers give us more political support.

Keep enjoying your hunting and the outdoors.

Ian Carppe.



National Wild Goat Hunting Competition

Enter the 2025 National Wild Goat Hunting Competition. With over \$70,000 in prizes to be won across multiple categories, there's something for everyone.

Check it out and get all the details here:

Goat Competition | New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc

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

Taupo Members National Competition Results



TREVOR CHAPPELL TROPHY – Wild Sheep

1st Place	B Ramsay	Taupo	Waikato 86 ¼
2nd Place	A Large	Marlborough	Clarence River 85 ¼
3rd Place	N Macklin	Ashburton	Wainakura 71 ¼



CLIFF MARSHALL MEMORIAL TROPHY – Sika deer

1st Place	L Moss	Hastings	Puketitiri 206 3/8
2nd Place	P Maddox	Taupo	Taruarau 194 ¼
3rd Place	V Mijatovik	BOP	Rocky Point 194 ¾



Jock McQuilkan Cup - Other Wildlife - Mammals

1st Place	Greg Monahan	Nelson	Seal pup looking at me
2nd Place	Brad Ramsay	Taupo	Ready to run

WH Robinson Trophy - Other Wildlife - Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians

1st Place	Brad Ramsay	Taupo	Creepy
2nd Place	Steve Thomason	Kapiti	Ogilosoma Inconspicuum
3rd Place	Brooke Panckhurst	Auckland	Frog 3

Highly Commended Brad Ramsay Taupo Dark knight
Highly Commended Brad Ramsay Taupo A Wasp's Diet

Rotorua Branch Trophy - For branch newsletters

1st Place	Taupo	Kath Keeley
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****Prize giving date to be announced ASAP****



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Taupo Branch wins first place for Best NZDA Branch Newsletter 2024/25

It's a WINNER





Ohura Goat Shoot



Sunday 29th June - Kris Lyall, Iain Carppe, Allan Jackson.

An early morning start for Iain and Allan meeting me outside Liquorland in Taumarunui. We were heading off to check out a new block in Ohura for hunting goats.

We were on the block by 9.15 with boots on and rifles in hand heading up a lovely open valley with native bush on one side and pines on the other. We had not even left the vehicle when goats were spotted. It very quickly became obvious why the landowner wanted goats shot, they were everywhere.

We decided to leave the goats down by the road end as there were a lot of cattle and sheep and headed up the furthest valley, there are 3 valleys alongside each other with bush covered ridges separating them.

Every bend we walked around we found mobs of goats and barrels were hot with the action. Iain and Allan were busy collecting meat throughout the day resulting in a tonne of work to sort out when they got home. It was drizzly all day and we all got soaked to the skin, it was cold but incredibly the animals were still out feeding. We shot 53 goats that day.

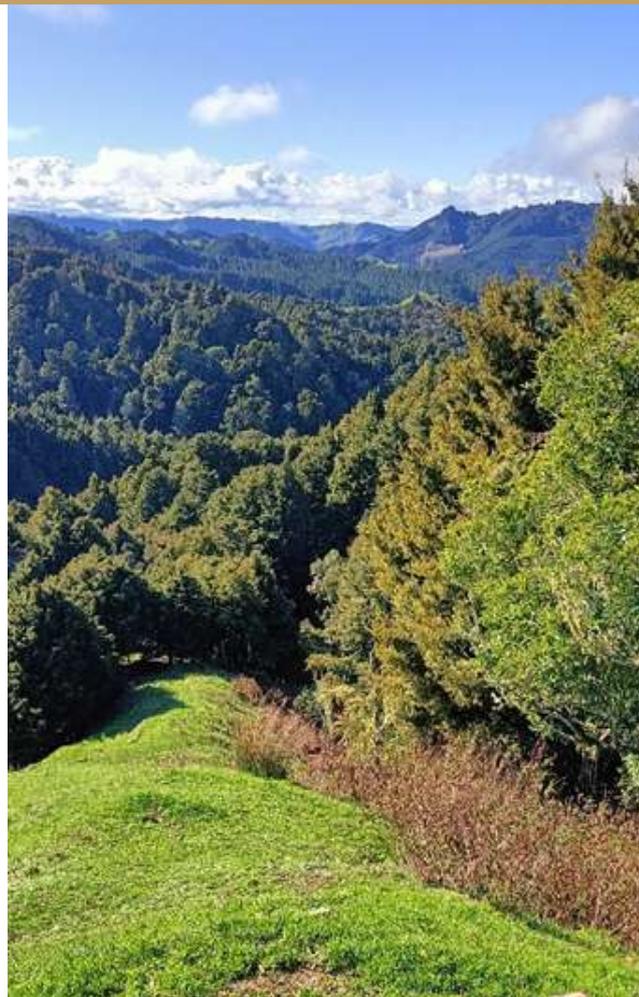




Ohura Goat Shoot Contd



The following weekend Iain Carppe, Alan Bullick, Boyd McManus & Prajot Sabnis went out on the Sunday and again shot another 53 animals splitting into two hunting groups.



The third weekend was Kris Lyall, Allan Jackson and Craig Munro shooting 26 animals and this past Sunday Kris Lyall and Simon Gillespie went in and shot a further 27 animals.

Total tally to date is 159.

The block is being planted in pines so the landowner is keen to get the goat numbers down and then there will be ongoing maintenance thereafter to keep them from escalating into big numbers again.



If you are interested in going out for a goat shoot give Kris a ring on 027 307 1324, there are still plenty of goats there and shooting will be ongoing. The last 3 trips have been beautiful weather and the block is lovely to walk around. Don't forget we have the National Goat Shooting competition starting 1st August. Info on national website





Win a Ute!!



This year, the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association National Office is offering you the chance to WIN a brand new 2025 Mitsubishi Triton GLX 2.4 Diesel and accessories valued at over \$61,925, and also help contribute to the future of recreational hunting!

The draw will be held 28 October 2025 at the NZDA National Offices and the winner will be contacted via phone, email, and have their name posted on the NZDA Website and social media. There can be no tie, or more than one winner will not be selected. The winner will be identified by reference to your unique digital order number that will be sent to you by email upon ticket purchase, and the winner will be drawn using a random number generator.

You do not need to be an NZDA member to purchase a ticket; it is open to all those who live in New Zealand.

Tickets cost \$25 each.

Tickets 1 to 12,385 are available for purchase. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase.

T&Cs can be found on the NZDA website here, and below. In the event of a cancellation, an announcement will be posted on the NZDA Website and emailed to all ticket holders to arrange a full refund.

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc | New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc

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





What's happening on the Range in August

Range calendar August 2025

Date	Event	Times
Saturday day 2nd August	200 mtr Range Open	2pm to 4.30pm
Sunday 3rd August	Running Target	9am
Wednesday 6 th August	Junior Shooting	6pm to 7pm
Sunday 10th August	Rimfire 50 meter	10am
Wednesday 13th August	Junior shooting	6pm to 7pm
Sunday 17 th August	Shotgun event	10am
<i>Sunday 17th August</i>	<i>Tokoroa Silhouette</i>	<i>10am</i>
Wednesday 20 th August	Junior Shooting	6pm to 7pm
<i>Saturday 23rd August</i>	<i>TPC .22 Lever Action iron sights</i>	<i>10am</i>
Sunday 24 th August	Rimfire Silhouette	10am
Wednesday 27 th August	Junior Shooting	6pm to 7pm

Contacts

Juniors - Peter 027 476 2731

Competitive Shooter coordinator For Rimfire, Centrefire & Silhouette:

Cam G - 027 483 9960 - Erik C - 027 608 6114

Service Rifle - Peter M 027 476 2731

Shotgun - Breton S - 021 702 728

200 m rifle sight in - Morris 021 728 495 - Alan B - 027 600 6519

Running Target - Morris 021 728 495 - Alan B - 027 600 6519

Taupo Pistol Club Lever & .22

TPC Lever Action .22 iron sights welcome \$15 for non TPC members contact Eric-021440056

Safety on our Ranges

Please remember these basic Range Safety Rules, when you're using the ranges.

- All persons entering our ranges, must sign the Range Register located at the gate.
- The safety warning flag at the gate, must be up or raise it.
- Hearing protection must be worn. Eye protection is advised.
- Firearms should have chamber flags.
- Chamber flags should be fitted to firearms that are not on the firing line.
- Stop shooting immediately if anyone goes forward of firing line.



July Rimfire Silhouette Match

Erik Clausen

Hi All,

Another stunning day shooting Silhouettes.

We only had 4 shooters so were able to do an 80 shot match.

Paul had an issue with his semi auto Ruger being it wasn't ejecting the cartridge case from the action correctly. Later investigation found the ammo was very slow subsonic.

I would like to invite all members to the next .22 rimfire Silhouette shoot.

All you need is a scope that has accurate elevation settings and some good ammo and you're away.

All shooting is done in the standing position with 10 steel targets setup at each distance 40,60,77and 100 meters.

You get 2 min 30 sec for 5 shots starting from left to right.

The name of the game is to shoot as many targets off the stand as you can with your 5 shots.

Currently we can shoot 8 people per detail.

If anybody would like more info, feel free to contact me on 027 608 6113.

Regards

Erik Clausen

NEXT SILHOUETTE SHOOT SUNDAY 24th AUGUST 10.00am

Silhouette Shoot Sunday 27th July

	Chickens	Pigs	Turkeys	Rams	Total
• Mark	5	3	3	4	15
• Erik	12	13	10	10	45
• Paul	dnf	1	0	1	2
• Cam	8	6	2	6	22





Alan Bullick and I left Invercargill Sunday arvo, drove to about 20km inland from Palmerston to Alan's brother in law's. Arrived after dark.

We got oriented next day looking for red deer on neighbour's crop. Eventually spotted group of eight approx. 1.6km away on open farmland, big rolling hills. Got within 500m but open country and swirling winds spooked them. Looked for goats, which needed culling. Saw some but too far to get to so planned route for following day. Tues much the same down another gully.

Wednesday we looked for Reds first, on another crop, saw two that were at full run when spotted. Bigger. Back to goat country and, after a few hours blocking holes under a boundary fence, scrambled across a scrubby gully and up a ridge and culled 22 goats.



Up the hill to the block on a brilliant sunny day with little wind. Started glassing and got onto wallabies and shot 5. Had lunch and were joined by some friendly horses who had been turned out up there for winter. Gave them a couple carrots and apple.

We continued lunch and enjoying the beautiful scenery looking west over the Hakataramea Valley to snow covered Kirkliston Range. Through a gap we could also see Aoraki, superb. Then Over the pass down Haka to Kurow to stay night. Friday up to Christchurch to stay with another brother in law of Alan's. Tour around his small factory making electric fence insulators and other parts.





Thursday we drove north of Oamaru to Glenavy then inland to Myers Pass road. Met a real character, Jim Doolan, at the bottom and after inviting us to join him for a beer we asked about wallaby hunting. He rang his neighbour who has a tussock run off property at the top of the pass.



Went to Gary's he explained where to go so we hurried up the road to get a look before dark to see where to go in the morning. Alan had found a bed at the Waihao Forks Hotel cabin, basic but with a log fire so nice and warm in minus 5 frost in am.



Saturday drove to Ivan's batch at Kaikoura, got his boat ready and went fishing on yet another pristine day, although a bit lumpy on way to spot X. Once there the ocean calmed and we caught a variety of fish. Several Perch (kept two larger ones) a nice Blue Cod a fat Kahawai and a Slender Tuna. Also some sand sharks which were thrown back much to the delight of a local Albatross who grabbed a small one, scoffed it whole and parted company. Back to the batch cooked up the Kahawai as steaks with air fried cubed potato, carrot and broccoli, Yum.

Packed up and hit the road to ferry at 9pm for 2am sailing on the new Bluebridge "Livia". Got couple of hrs sleep onboard then up to Kaitoke to meet Trev Gratton Hutt Valley Branch in order to see their electronic gate lock, sign in system and shooting complex. A very nice setup indeed, compact and immaculate. Back toward Wellington over Haywards hill to Transmission gully and home. Just over 3,000km on the road and 100km each way on the ferry.

We made some good contacts for the future, seen a lot of beautiful country. What a lot of country yet to hunt. Need to get out there!



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society is again planning a ground-based rat control operation in Okahukura valley, Pureora Forest Park to protect taonga species such as Kōkako, Kaka, Kakariki, Pōpokotea, Kererū, Titipounamu and Pītoitoi.

Your organisation has been identified as having an interest or and notification requirement for toxin use in Pureora Forest Park. Therefore, we respectfully request your attention to this matter

The toxin pindone (trade name Pindone Pellets) will be placed by our volunteers in bait stations within a 1000 hectare pest control area in the Okahukura valley, North Block, Pureora Forest Park, between September 2025 and March 2026 to control rats and possums. The bait is contained in plastic bags placed within enclosed bait stations.

The aim of this operation is to reduce the threat to Kōkako and other rare and endangered wildlife from predation by rats during the breeding season. Predation of eggs, chicks and female adult Kōkako by rats, possums and stoats all threaten the survival of this kōkako population. This operation has been undertaken since 2015 and has resulted in a dramatic increase in the kōkako population in the control area. The last census of Kokako in May 2025 found a total of 91 pairs and 8 territorial singles with many uncounted fledglings still with their parents; it's a healthy and growing population.

Warning signs will be located at all normal points of entry to the area. Any bait not consumed by rats will be removed at the end of the operation in February or March.

This plan has been submitted to the Department of Conservation for approval.

We welcome your feedback and comments on our plans.

A map of the operational area is attached for your information. If you would like any further information regarding this control operation please contact me at this email address or the telephone number below.

Kind regards,

Dianne June

Secretary

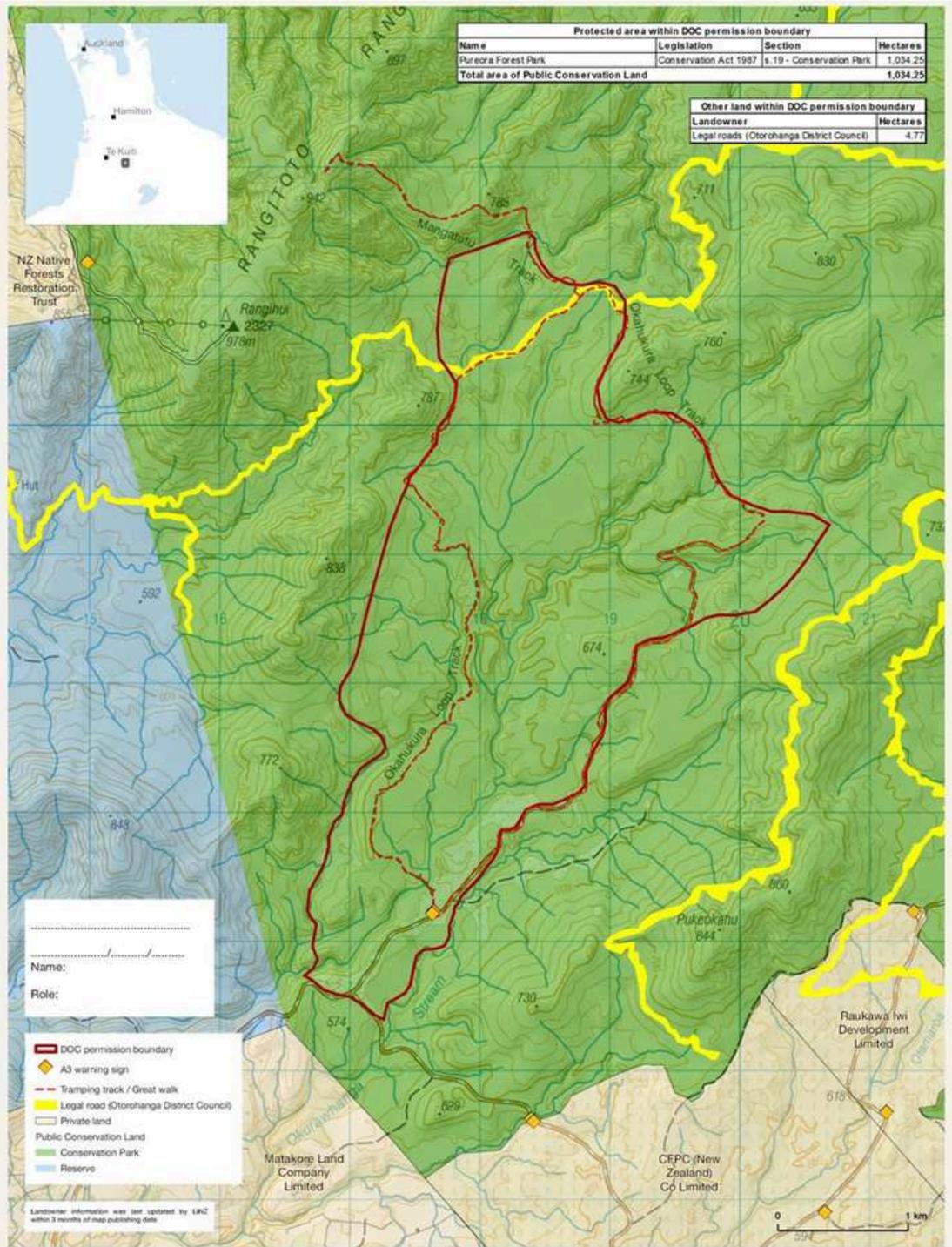
Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society

Ph: 027 497 8151

info.mtpirongiarestoration@gmail.com



TOXIN USE: PUREORA FOREST PARK CONSULTATION LETTER



Blaze Up or Get Lucky: Why Visibility Still Matters in the Bush



Hunting is one of New Zealand's great outdoor traditions — but even experienced hunters can get it wrong if they don't stop and identify what they're really aiming at. With more people hunting on public land than ever, close calls maybe becoming all too common.

I had two of those close calls myself recently.

The first was in November — sitting on the edge of a grassy track, wearing a bright blaze orange hat. I spotted another hunter walking up the track, so I waved my bright blaze orange hat, the hunter immediately raises his rifle and peered through his scope — straight at me. I lay back flat on the ground quickly and called out. To his credit, he lowered his rifle immediately and apologised. “Didn't see the blaze until you waved,” he said. An old-timer — experienced enough to stop, think, and identify his target before firing.

The second was in the roar. I was walking quietly, not making much noise, when another hunter — also an older guy — saw movement at close range and raised his rifle in a near point-blank situation. Same story: he paused, checked, realised I wasn't a deer, and dropped the rifle. Another apology. Another close call. Another reminder.

We don't talk about these incidents enough — but they're probably happening more than anyone realises. How many people are getting lucky, simply because the person on the other end of the rifle followed the rules?

- **A Quick Reminder: Firearms Safety Rules (NZWASP)**
- Every hunter in New Zealand should know and live by these seven rules:
- Treat every firearm as loaded
- Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Load a firearm only when ready to fire

continued



Blaze Up or Get Lucky: Why Visibility Still Matters in the Bush

- Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Check your firing zone
- Store firearms and ammunition safely
- Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

If Rule #4 had been skipped in either of my incidents, I might not be writing this.

So why does blaze matter?

Blaze orange, blaze blue, even pink — it's not about fashion. It's about being seen before someone raises their rifle. Not after. Not when you wave your arms and shout. But at first glance. Good quality blaze gear stands out without spooking deer — and it gives everyone else a fighting chance to recognise you as a human, not a silhouette in the scrub.

And don't just stop at hats. Mix blaze into vests, packs, sleeves — anything that moves.

Movement is what draws the eye, so make sure what they see first isn't the flick of your elbow and a puff of breath in the cold, but something that screams: "Hunter here — not a target."

How many people are still relying on luck? Don't be one of them. Wear blaze. Follow the rules. And always identify your target beyond all doubt.

📖 Read more about the science behind blaze camouflage and hunter safety at these links:

- Outdoor Life – What Colours Can Deer See? <https://www.outdoorlife.com/hunting/what-colors-can-deer-see/>
- North American Whitetail – Facts About Deer Vision and How It Can Help Us Succeed <https://www.northamericanwhitetail.com/editorial/facts-about-deer-vision-and-how-it-can-help-us-succeed/261981>
- Dive Bomb Industries – The Importance of Wearing Hunter Orange <https://www.divebombindustries.com/blogs/news/the-importance-of-wearing-hunter-orange-staying-visible>
- PMags – A Properly Attired Hiker: Blaze Orange in Hunting Season <https://pmags.com/a-properly-attired-hiker-blaze-orange-in-hunting-season>
- Archery Hunting – Deer Vision 101: How Deer See Color, Light, and Movement <https://archeryhunting.com/deer-vision-101-how-deer-see-color-light-and-movement>

Derek Bensemman

Lakes Safety Services – if you like this article, follow us on facebook page and check out our website for other safety info we share.



Why support NZDA

Your subs and support matters

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER. NATIONALLY WE ARE YOUR VOICE.
LOCALLY WE ARE YOUR HUNTING CLUB.**

How your subs make a real difference

When you become an NZDA member, you also support COLFO (Council of Licensed Firearms Owners).

You support the Heritage Trust that retains our hunting history in NZ, you support our National Office that advocates on your behalf.

You also support your local club that voluntarily turns the lights on every month to promote, protect and engage with your community about hunting.

Why join?

- NZDA ensures the traditions of recreational hunting and the rights of recreational hunters in New Zealand are protected, advanced and advocated for in the best interests.
- NZDA keeps watch, ensuring all matters pertaining to hunting in New Zealand are public knowledge and fair.
- NZDA holds our government to account.
- NZDA ensures rules, policy, regulations and codes of ethics necessary or desirable in the best interests of the sport or NZDA.
- NZDA is made up of a body of hunters, we are as strong as our members and their input.
- NZDA has many benefits: we have clubs, ranges, huts, conservation projects, members only discounts, insurance and countless other perks and deals.



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