



# Newsletter

June 2025





# 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: A very happy moment for the late Bill Seal, receiving his Taupo Branch Life Membership from President Alan Bullick in 2024

Photo Left: The Piwakawaka (NZ Fantail)



## 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	Eric Clausen	ph:

Junior .22 Section	Peter Miles	
Trophy Head Records	Vern Pearson	ph: 07 378 4908
Sika Foundation Rep	Allan Jackson	ph: 021 1406475

Douglas Scoring	Ian Carppe	
HUNTS	Kris Lyall	
	Boyd McManus	

Committee member	Saran Tepavac	
Newsletter Editor	Kath Keeley	editornzdataupo@xtra.co.nz

Patron	Bill Seal	
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Online, you can find us on:

Website: [nzdataupo.org.nz](http://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](mailto:secretary@nzdataupo.org.nz)  
 NZDA Taupo branch address: 62 Mountain Road



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Bill Seal this month.

His farewell was held on 17 June 2025, following the sudden turn of events after his fall at the 27 May committee meeting. Bill's passing came as a profound shock to us all. He will be deeply missed, particularly by the many children he mentored during Wednesday night shooting sessions. To honour his lasting contribution to the NZDA Taupo Branch, we have decided that Bill will remain our Posthumous Patron. Articles written by Peter Miles and Trevor Chappell commemorating Bill appear later in this newsletter.

Our AGM, originally scheduled for 17 June 2025, had to be postponed by a week to 24 June 2025. The reason: under our current constitution, we require a quorum of 10% of total membership OR 40 financial members, whichever is fewer. Only 26 members were present on the 17th, so the meeting was deferred. As per constitutional requirements, only those present at the original meeting—including proxy holders—were eligible to vote at the rescheduled AGM. Despite this challenge, some positive outcomes emerged. We successfully passed amendments to the constitution to avoid this issue in future:

- *The quorum requirement was reduced from 40 to 20 financial members.*
- *The rule restricting voting at the second meeting to those present at the first meeting was removed.*

These changes, approved at the Taupo Branch AGM, will now be submitted to the National Office for board approval, and then forwarded to the New Zealand Companies Office – Incorporated Societies section. These amendments will become part of our re-registration process under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

The AGM endorsed the 12 members of the new committee. Attached later in the newsletter.

We're pleased to welcome several new members to the 2025/26 committee:

- **Saran Tepavac**, Owner of Hamills Store Taupo
- **Kris Lyall and Boyd McManus**, HUNTS tutors
- **Eric Clausen**, formerly of the North Auckland Branch.

Continued next page

TAUPO



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YOUR LOCAL CLUBS + EVENTS  
SINCE 1993**

## Presidents report contd.

Looking ahead, our primary objective this year is to invest more time and resources into youth development programmes and events. This is where Kris, Boyd, Saran, and Eric will play key roles in strengthening our engagement and ensuring we continue to attract and retain the next generation—our club's future.

Regards Alan Bullick

### New AGM June 24th, 2025. 7pm Nominations for committee.

(which were endorsed by the AGM).

President – Alan Bullick.

Vice President – Breton Shaw.

Secretary- Morris Yeoman.

Treasurer – Morris Yeoman.

Competitive Shooting – Cam Gray.

Range Officer, Junior shooting & Armoury advisor-Peter Miles.

Hunts assist/Douglas score- Ian Carppe.

Newsletter – Kath Keeley.

Trophy Heads /Douglas score records- Vern Pearson.

Range Committee/ events – Eric Clausen.

General Committee- Saran Tepavac.

HUNTS Course - Kris Lyall.

HUNTS course – Boyd Mc Manus.





## William Hedley Seal

NZDA Taupo Branch member, Old Soldier, and bloody good friend.

It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of another Taupo Branch Member: Bill passed away on the 10th of June 2025.

Dearly loved husband of Margeret, Dad, Father-in-Law, Poppa, and friend. Passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones.

Bill was a long-term member of the branch, participating in the committee and performing most of the positions from President, Range Master, Armourer and Junior shooting rep.

His passion was junior shooting. He helped with this, teaching the kids how to shoot, taking them away to shooting competitions and making sure the branch supported them. In the last few years Bill was stoked to see some of the kids that he had help turn up with their children to start the journey again.

I first met Bill on the range in 2017 when we arrived in Taupo. He saw that I had a Vietnam number plate surround and came over and introduced himself. It was great to meet up with another Vietnam veteran. This was on a Wednesday night shooting for juniors on range two at one hundred metres. We soon became good friends, and he encouraged me to join in helping.

Over the last few days, I have heard all the storeys about grumpy Bill! I never found him to be grumpy. He was a man of few words but when he had something to say you listened.

Bill and I had gone to a Taupo branch meeting three weeks ago where at the end of the meeting Bill fell over. At the time after asking him if he was all right, we did not think there was much wrong so put him in the car to take him home. When we had him sitting in the car, he gave a little bit of a moan when he shifted. (I thought then he is going to hospital whether he likes it or not). So that started him on his last journey. He ended up with a broken leg and a cracked collar bone. The brake in his leg was at the top so it was decided to give him a half hip replacement.

This was completed at Rotorua hospital.

Wednesday the next week Bill was moved back to Taupo Hospital. One of the doctors that looked at him decided to do a scan on him as he was not bouncing back. It was then they found the cancer. Bill was told by the Doctor on the Friday, and he passed away 4 days later.

Bill will be sadly missed by all.

Peter Miles

## Bill Seal

The sudden passing of branch life member Bill Seal recently was quite a shock to the Taupo branch, especially to those who knew him.

Bill was one of those quiet no-nonsense guys who when confronted with a problem or situation, simply got on and solved it. His involvement with the Junior shooting programme over 30 years is typical of his contribution to the branch.

When the indoor shooting range needed up grading, Bill secured a new product from Fletchers and together with Allan Dodson, organised working bees to re-furbish the butts and surrounding walls. Just got on with it- no fuss.

His contribution to the annual prize shoots was outstanding and as Range Master his calm attitude and respect from competing shooters was an example for all Range Officers to follow.

At committee meetings Bill contributed little unless the discussion was relevant but what was made was respected as it was logical and solved the issue. He was the type of good "kiwi bloke" that all committees and organisations liked to have. He had a heart of gold, and I will personally miss his "dour personality".

Trevor Chappell



# Taupo NZDA HUNTS Course – 2025

**When :-** Mid Oct through to Mid Nov – 4 weekends  
Oct 4, 5 – NZDA Taupo Club rooms  
Oct 10, 11,12 - Bushcraft weekend Pureora Forest Park  
Nov 15,16 – NZDA Taupo Club rooms and range  
Nov 21,22, 23 – Weekend hunt Waitotara Valley Private Block

**Where :-** 2 weekends at the Taupo NZDA clubrooms\range  
2 weekends in the bush

**Cost :-** Course fee \$400.00  
(covers manual, compass, survival bivvy, bushcraft & hunt weekend fees, NZDA National Office admin fee)  
Membership with a NZDA Branch

**Note:-** *To attend a HUNTS course, you must have a current NZDA membership.*

**Topics: -** Ethics, Ecology & Regulations  
Equipment & Food  
Travel & Navigation  
Game Animal Species in NZ  
Firearms Selection, Safety & Marksmanship  
Hunting Techniques  
Meat, Skins & Trophies  
River Safety  
When Things go Wrong –  
Survival & Bushcraft



**Contact:-** If you are interested, would like to know more or wish to put your name down call Kris Lyall on 027 307 1324 or Email [huntsinstructor@nzdataupo.org.nz](mailto:huntsinstructor@nzdataupo.org.nz)



# 77th Annual Conference Friday 18th - 20th July

Ascot Park Hotel  
Invercargill



## CONFERENCE RAFFLE GET YOUR TICKETS & SUPPORT SOUTHLAND BRANCH



GET YOUR TICKETS



If you wish to buy tickets in these raffles, then go to the NZDA National website.

Go to NZDA home page, go to New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Shop – NZ Deerstalkers Online Shop

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# What's happening on the Range in July

## Range calendar July 2025

Wednesday 2nd July	Junior shooting	6pm
Saturday 5th July	200 mtr Range Open	2pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Running Target	9am
Wednesday 11th June	Junior Shooting	6pm
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	CF & RF 100 meter	10am
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Junior shooting	6pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Service Rifle match	10am
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Shotgun event	10am
“ “	<i>Tokoroa Silhouette</i>	10am
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Junior Shooting	6pm
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Silhouette shoot	10am
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Junior Shooting	6pm

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## 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.

## Rifle Silhouette [Siluetas Metalicas], Lever Action, Pistol Cartridge

Saturday 24th of May was an auspicious day for both NZDA Taupo Branch and Taupo Pistol Club. After a gestation period of several years, during which time the TPC 200 mtr range was re-developed in order that Metallic Silhouette disciplines of both handgun (HMS) and rifle could be contested, the inaugural Lever Action Rifle - Pistol Cartridge event was held, generously hosted by TPC.

It is believed that this was the first time that a Lever Action event has been contested under the NRA (USA) Rules as adopted by the NZDA in 2022, here in NZ.



The range redevelopment was largely the result of a revival of interest in the MS discipline/s. With the potential for 200 mtr Rifle Silhouette, NZDA Taupo Branch contributed support by supplying a quantity of railway iron for the target stands. Unlike the NZDA range, the 200 mtr TPC range was set up (initially) specifically for the Handgun Metallic Silhouette disciplines. Fortunately, the targets used for HMS are the same size as those required for the rifle disciplines. Those several common features were a catalyst for the support received from NZDA Taupo Branch.

The inaugural event was for Smallbore Rifle (22LR) and Pistol Cartridge Rifle (357Mag and the like), fired on half-sized 'Field Pistol' targets, which are 50% of the full-size target. Big targets? Certainly, much bigger than the 20% (1/5th scale) which NZDA scoped rifle shooters use, but these are shot with rifles having only iron or aperture sights; a bit more of a challenge.

The 'Pistol Cartridge' discipline is fired at distances of 40 (chickens/Gallina), 50 (pigs/Javelina), 75 (turkeys/Guajalote), and 100 metres (rams/Borrego).

Because this discipline of the shooting sport originated in Mexico, we use metric distancing rather than Imperial measurement, and sometimes the Spanish names of the animals.

We do, however, and in deference to modern sensibilities, shoot at "metallic silhouettes" rather than actual live animals, as was the case originally, at which time the distances were an even more challenging 200, 300, 385, and 500 metres, with conventional centrefire rifles. The prize/reward was that the shooter might have been able to take food home for the table. How times change.

Hopefully there will be sufficient enthusiasm for us to be able to introduce the 'Rifle' discipline for which cartridges have projectiles greater than .25 calibre in a rimmed case – 30-30, 38-55, or even 45-70 if you've got a shoulder able to take the punishment of a 40 shot match. Distances for this match are 50, 100, 150, and 200 metres.

Contestants on inauguration day were from NZDA Taupo Branch, dual TPC/NZDA members, and a Rotorua member of the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex (Silhouette).

We'd love to see more of you participating – next event is scheduled for Saturday 28th June (4th Saturday of the month). Don't be shy; we all started as "beginners", some of us a looong time ago. As always, your biggest rival is in your own mind – we all seek to better our own last score. Anybody wanting to know more about the rules, etc., please email your query to Alan at [kcgawg@hotmail.com](mailto:kcgawg@hotmail.com) and provide a phone number.

**The Taupo Pistol Club event on scheduled for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June is cancelled due to bad weather.**



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# HAMILLS

 TAUPO

— TRUSTED SINCE 1955 —

## Branch Maintenance Projects 1974-2015

The following comes from one of the notebooks our late Patron Curly Elmiger kept titled

### "All things Taupo NZDA"

It is an excellent record for new members to see what we did in the past, and also for those involved at the time to re-live some memories.

- 1974 – Hall building moved onto Range.
- 1975 – Small Bore Range constructed as an extension to the hall.
- 1980 – Elmiger Brothers thanked for work on the range preparing it for planting pine trees.
- 1982 - Easter – Cyclone Bernie brought down a lot of trees on the range.
- 1984 – Running Boar shed was completed.
- 1985 – Pistol Club was established.
- 1986 – Running Boar shed was lined, 200m mound constructed.
- 1986 – Cottage from Boot Hill was purchased and installed on range for Caretaker.
- 1989 – Cottage was upgraded and repainted.
- 1990 – Hall re-roofed.
- 1992 – New tractor shed erected.
- 1992 – Ceiling of hall lined and interior painted by contractor.
- 1993 – 5 new clay target traps built.
- 1993 - New retaining wall behind the butts constructed using old tyres.
- 1994 – New pine trees planted.
- 1995 – New walls built along the side of the indoor .22 range and the driveway was fenced.
- 1995 – Old pinasters and rubbish pines logged.  
\$6972.31 profit, 47.70 tonnes of export and 142.26 tonnes pulp.
- 1998 – New caretaker's cottage was erected. (an Ascot home).
- 1999 – Walls and roof of hall given a coat of paint.
- 2000 – Curly shot the Range Stag and trapped 162 possums, 1 rat, 1 magpie and the odd ferret.
- 16 Sept 2002 – Roof erected on .22 Range – 14 metres long.
- 2002 - Baffles were installed in the .22 range to make it safe to shoot in all positions.
- 2002 – The hall floor was sanded and re-varnished and new tables purchased.
- 2003 – Final mortgage repayment made on cottage.
- 2004 – Shipping container purchased to store targets and frames.
- 2004 – Retaining edges installed around bark gardens.

## Branch Maintenance Projects 1974-2015 Contd

2006 – Several gum trees cleared after being blown over by a freak wind.

2006 – Retaining wall at back of butts reconstructed.

2006 – Roof of hall painted and spouting replaced.

4 March 2007 – Raised floor in .22 Range, concreted.

24 Feb 2006 – Painting of hall and roof.

26 Feb 2010 – Closed 3 windows and painted exterior of hall.

22 Mar 2010 – Brass & Lead – Banked \$661.50

2 Feb 2011 – New kitchen installed in hall.

10 April 2011 – Painted interior of hall.

Nov 2011 – Brass & Lead – Banked \$310.00

15 Sept 2012 – New building erected on Running Boar Range.

(Strong Built Kitset from Gold Pine).

3 Oct 2015 - Started building deck at front of hall – finished 27 Oct 2015.

10 Feb 2015 – Cleaned out septic tanks at cottage and hall.

*What an excellent record of projects and progress made on our range.*



The deck being constructed at the range hall 2015.

The late Curly Elmiger and Alan Dodson, with President Lee Garrick

# THE KAIMANAWA HERMIT

By Trevor Chappell

Phillip ( Punchy )Wallace was a real character of a man who made his home in the Kaimanawa ranges for most of his life. He was initially a bushman working with others to cut fence posts and battens from the prolific Red Beech forests indigenous to this region. Much of this work was based on or off Clements Mill Road and clearing.

Down - time was usually spent drinking and socialising at the old Rangitaiki pub (about opposite the Lochinvar Station entrance) on the Taupo-to -Napier highway. It is said that Punchy fancied himself as a boxer-hence the nickname. After an altercation at the pub one day, and thinking the law would seek him, he simply went bush!!

He built himself a hut on a bush terrace above the Mangatoatoa stream, accessed by an old logging track from Merrylees Clearing, the sight of the original Sika deer release in January 1905. This area had a number of old logging tracks and years later Punchy created vehicle access to his camp for his Subaru pickup.

People who visited regularly were always welcome, especially if a loaf of bread or pound of butter was delivered. His specialty however was a cask of "Chateau cardboard ". He had a small vegetable garden for his greens-usually silver beet or spinach and spuds of course - but had a regular battle with possums. The hut eventually became bigger and both clear and black plastic protected his residence.



A young Joseph Keeley and Punchy discuss sika hunting



National Conferences of the NZ Deerstalkers Association usually take place in July each year, hosted by branches alternating usually between North and South Islands .It is an opportunity for the hosting branch to show their organisational skills, display local AHT trophies plus other activities undertaken by branch members.

Taupo branch has hosted three such conferences- in 1970 , 1987 and 2000.The conference in 1970, according to past national life member Ian Wright-was a very long and boring one, with the Friday evening business session finishing in the early hours of Saturday morning. This is understandable when one considers members of the national executive and branch delegates of that era. Great debaters such as John Henderson, Bob Cowan, Hong Tse, Ian Wright, Hugh Redpath would argue over any points of order etc. The conference would have been organised by both national executive members Keith Draper and Jack Dillon plus branch members.

The conference of 2000 was an excellent one and it was Taupo branches wish to be the one to welcome in the new millenium. The backstage wall had a great display of mounted Sika deer trophies borrowed from local hunters. The Friday evening opening ceremony consisted of all entries into the national photograph competition being screened accompanied by music, Taupo Camera club did an amazing job. National Past President Ian Wright commented to me that it was the best conference he had ever attended!!!

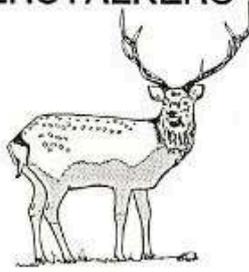
However, the conference that I consider the best Taupo has hosted was the one in 1987 which celebrated the NZDA's 50 th Anniversary. It was held in the old Memorial Hall complex (replaced by the Great Lake Centre). An amazing array of both NZ and Overseas hunting trophies were on show , , the back stage wall highlighted a magnificent display of mounted Sika trophies - and the speeches and anniversary dinner were exceptional. As well as National President John Bamford and wife Maureen , other guests and speakers included the then Governor General Sir Paul Reeves, NZDA Founding member Dr. Geoffrey Orbell , Mayor Joan Williamson and well known hunting author Philip Holden. Philip Holden was there to promote his just completed book on the history of NZDA- "THE DEERSTALKERS"

The meal was superb, obviously sika deer featured-and Nobilo wines created two special wines for the occasion, my favourite being the "Sparkling Sika".

The letter below, created by Vern Pearson, was sent to various persons known to have great trophies.

# N.Z. DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION

TAUPO BRANCH



P.O. BOX 356 TAUPO

4 May 1987.



Dear

This year the Taupo Branch NZDA is hosting the 50th Anniversary Conference, celebrating 50 years Hunting and Shooting in N.Z. The Conference will be held in the Taupo Memorial Hall from 1 - 4 July.



Obviously for such an important occasion, a large display of Hunting Trophies from N.Z. and Overseas will be held. We visualize one side of the Hall displaying N.Z. Game Annual trophies, and the other Overseas Game Annuals and the back drop on the stage behind the top table, displaying a selection of top Sika trophies.



It has been brought to the Organizing Committees attention that you have an excellent mounted Trophy. Would you accord us the honour of displaying your trophy please. We guarantee 24 hour security, with the trophy being displayed out of the reach of people. The presence of such a trophy would certainly enhance the display and add to Taupo's "reputation".

Could you please contact either myself or Trophy Display Co-ordinator - Dave Shaw,  
90 Taupo View Road,  
Taupo - Ph: #2506 (evening)



as soon as possible.  
Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

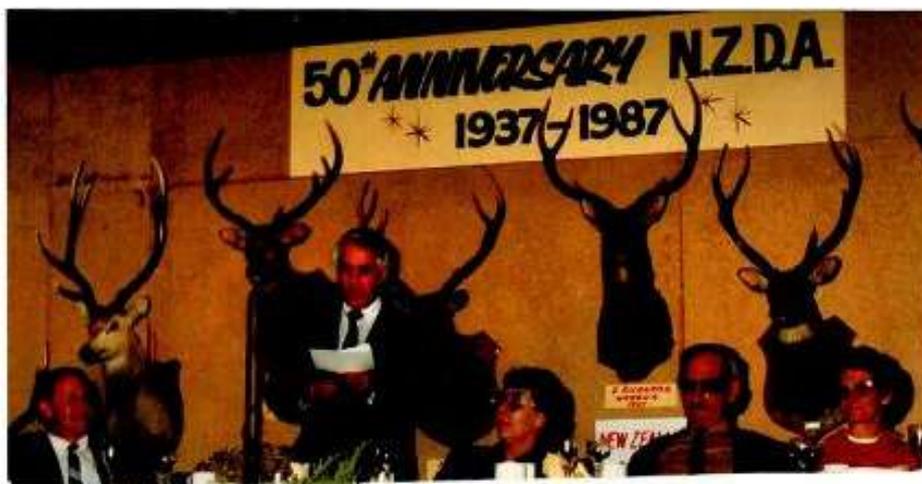


T.O. Chappell,  
CONFERENCE CONVENOR.

Ph: 88488 Day or  
83141 Evening.



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF  
RECREATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING IN NEW ZEALAND  
1937 - 1987



The photograph shows from left to right-

National President John Bamford, Sir Paul Reeves (standing) Maureen Bamford, Dr. Geoffrey Orbell and Mayor Joan Williamson.



# 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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AVAILABLE ON IOS AND ANDROID



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