

NZDA NEWSLETTER

MAR/APR 2015 -



Backgrounding The NZ Deerstalkers' Association's work for hunters.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association has been working to protect hunters' rights since its inception in 1937 -

Today the NZDA has a total of 48 branches spread throughout the country, 29 in the North Island and another 19 in the South Island...

STICK TO THE BASIC RULES

With the roar looming, hunters are urged to remember the seven basic rules of firearm safety:

- Treat every firearm as loaded
- Always point firearms in a safe direction
- Load a firearm only when you are ready to fire
- Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Check your firing zone
- Store firearms and ammunition safely
- Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Taking a look at the Police Arms code (www.police.govt.nz/firearms) is always a good idea too, because it is always possible to overlook an aspect of safety. Take the opportunity for some revision NOW!

NZDA HERITAGE TRUST

Following the launch of the NZDA Heritage Trust, cataloguing of new material continues, still using volunteer workers. The material will be made available to bona-fide researchers on request to the NZDA.



HUNTER SAFETY DEVICES

Advertisements and reviews for hunter safety devices, sometimes involving an invisible beam which, when reflected from transponders or reflectors worn by others in the field, warns the shooter that he is looking at, and may be pointing his rifle at another human being, have appeared on the market lately.

Nicole McKee, Programme Manager Firearms & Hunter Safety for the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (NZMSC) has this to say about these devices:

"The NZMSC supports the development of new technology and initiatives which may aid hunters to use firearms more safely.

While these devices may aid, they do not replace safe firearm handling practice. All firearm users are unequivocally responsible for identifying their target, taking the shot and any consequences of these actions.

The onus is on the firearm user to adhere to the seven basic rules of firearm safety at all times."

UNLAWFUL HUNTING

A recent study of unlawful hunting, ie: hunting without the permission of the land owner (including shooting from and across public roads, with or without artificial light) has highlighted the extent of these criminal activities. NZDA expects that those apprehended will feel the full weight of the recently increased penalties and also have their firearm licences revoked.

It has also been reported that those believed to have damaged a hut in the Mavora Lakes (Southland) area have also been apprehended.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING

Allocations made under the first round of the Community Conservation Partnerships Funding (CCPF) have been made, and the second round closed early in February.

Unsuccessful applicants from the first two rounds are urged to review their applications, noting that success in their approaches for financial support is more likely if the project is relatively small, if the application is supported by good documentation, and if it can readily demonstrate a positive return to the community within a shorter, rather than a longer time-frame.

The formation of the Outdoor Recreation Consortium (NZDA, FMC and Trail Fund) has enabled three major recreational groups to take a lead in managing back country tracks and huts in the interests of hunters, trampers and others.

POLICE (COST RECOVERY) AMENDMENT BILL

This Bill, introduced late in 2014, is understood to provide a way for Police to recover the costs incurred by their excellent work in vetting community groups who desire such a service. Advice received from Police National Headquarters indicates that the vetting required for firearm owner licensing is already recovered under the provisions of the existing firearm control legislation (Arms Act).

It remains uncertain whether the costs of any additional vetting that might be needed for permits to import firearms, or for procuring firearms that require registration (these apply only for holders of endorsed arms licences) are already recoverable under existing legislation, or will be introduced by provisions in the new bill.

"ADVICE RECEIVED FROM POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS INDICATES THAT THE VETTING REQUIRED FOR FIREARM OWNER LICENSING IS ALREADY RECOVERED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING FIREARM CONTROL LEGISLATION (ARMS ACT)."

BIG GAME TROPHY RECORD BOOKS

These catalogues of top trophies continue to be popular, and as more trophies are taken updates are ongoing, and revised editions are planned.



HUNTS

The popularity of HUNTS training courses (see NZG&H Issue #136) continues to increase, with many enquiries, particularly from the main population centres. The recent endorsement by the Game Animal Council of the HUNTS programme has been most encouraging for those involved in implementing this excellent training scheme.

STEEL IS HERE!



Steel 2 3/4" 32gram -
Shot size 2, 3 and 4



Steel 2 3/4" 35gram -
Shot size 2, 3 and 5



Steel 3" 38gram -
Shot size 2, 3 and 4

All new NSI 3" Steel has arrived, new look and new components!

In October we travelled to the NSI factory in Italy to help with the final development of this cartridge and is now loaded to the exact specifications asked for by the NZ duck shooters.

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ABOVE: "In Safe Hands" – among those in attendance were (from the left): Tim Bannister, Paul Clark, Geoff Jones, Kaye McIntyre, Ron Bryant, Michael Dowling, Andrew Edgecombe and John Bryce.



INSET: Paul Clark (left), and Geoff Jones (COLFO & SSAA presidents respectively) shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations.

COLFO AND SSAA RENEW LINKS –

KIWI & AUSSIE SHOOTING ORGANIZATIONS MEET UP...

At a recent get-together, held at the Angus Arms Hotel in Lower Hutt in February, executive members of the New Zealand Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (COLFO) and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA – aka; "Double "S" Double "A") teamed up to renew the now long-established ties between the two organizations.

Flying in to Wellington for the meeting were five representatives from Australia; Geoff Jones (SSAA President), Bob Green (Past President), Ron Bryant – all the way from Fremantle (Senior Vice President) Tim Bannister (CEO & Senior Editor), and Kaye McIntyre (National Secretary).

COLFO members included Paul Clark of the NZ Ammunition Co (President), along with past president Michael Dowling, John Bryce, and Andrew Edgecombe. Also attending were COLFO's founding president, John Howat, SSANZ's new president Phil Cregeen, and Nicole McKee of the NZ Mountain Safety Council.

Two meetings were held during the day, culminating in a dinner in the evening. No minutes were recorded – the gathering was intended as an informal way of networking and enabling the exchange of relevant views and information. Both organisations share similar goals, they are dedicated to maintaining the traditional rights of firearm owners and preserving the hunting and firearm competition heritages of our two countries.

I was privileged to be invited to attend.
Peter Maxwell



The climate and seasons can treat the earth harshly, often leaving it barren and scorched. Bare country is where this camouflage excels. Summer scorched landscapes, desolate high country or leafless undergrowth during the autumn are where Bare™ becomes invisible.

Bare™ creates the invisibility you need in more barren environments be it bush, high country or the open plains. Using the same pattern as Desolve® Veil Deception Camouflage the pattern confuses your prey in to believing you are not there.

Human vision and perceptions dictate that we wear camouflage that blends well with the environment. Animal vision plays by different rules. The pattern breaks up your form which conceals you and the tone hands you the clear advantage.



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BARE
DECEPTION CAMOUFLAGE



/HUNTERSELEMENT

WWW.HUNTERSELEMENT.CO.NZ

WALK FURTHER, CLIMB HIGHER
& HUNT LONGER

Identify your target



BEYOND ALL DOUBT

- If you see movement, colour, shape, or hear a sound, assume it is human until you prove otherwise. Be aware of stag-fever.
- Use both eyes to identify your target; use the scope only to place the shot.
- Do not shoot in a direction you know another hunter could be.
- Do not move into the firing zone of another hunter.



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL



ABOVE: The maple-look on top and "Dura Touch Armor Coating" below make this model X-Bolt visually striking. Most hunters want to pick them up just to get the "feel" of them.



ABOVE & LEFT: The crisp-breaking X-Bolt trigger is user adjustable and easily tuned to suit the individual shooter.



ordinary synthetic themes.

I received a 7mm-08 version to review and found its performance to be right on par with expectations. I also formed some opinions about where the rifle might sit in the market.

Supplied with the X-Bolt were two nice bits of kit – a Zeiss Conquest HD5 2-10x42 scope and a DNZ Products 'Game Reaper' 1-piece scope mount. I have never encountered a stronger mount. I noticed that there's absolutely no 'stretch' in the top straps – once you have taken up the slack in the screws, you are right on to firm clamping and really don't need to go much further. Other, more flexible or poorly shaped rings can leave you wondering if you are tightening them or simply stretching them.

Out at the range I found the colours in the Zeiss picture were rich and involving – testimony to the excellent glass used in these scopes. I did however find it difficult to resolve (in relation to the Z-plex reticle) my small triangular target at 100 metres on 10-power. Dialling back to 9x rectified what seemed like a slight parallax error, but I did lose the advantage of 10x magnification. Although this model is not specifically a target scope, it is nice to have the facility to precisely test

loads at full magnification.

I had three different factory loads to try – two from Federal and a Prvi batch. The groups were virtually indistinguishable at 1.5", with the Prvi rounds opening up a bit occasionally. Still acceptable accuracy with factory ammo. The trigger was crisp and clean breaking. I was able to enjoy a lot of shooting with the X-Bolt due to its marshmallow-like recoil pad, and left the range without the usual sore shoulder.

The mild recoil of the 7mm-08 combined with the excellent absorbing qualities of the butt-

pad and the general look of the rifle lead me to believe it would be a great choice for younger or female shooters wanting a serious hunting rifle. Recoil, or often just the fear of it, are major barriers to success in the field – practice with the X-Bolt Composite should calm the fears of even the most recoil sensitive shooter.

As it turned out, I also had the opportunity to put the Browning to use in the hunting field. A cousin from Canada was visiting and was super keen to get out and shoot something "New Zealand style". Mike is off work back home, awaiting reconstructive surgery on his shoulder after time in the military. He was very concerned about how the recoil of even my .260 would affect him, so remembering how



ABOVE: Cade's cousin Mike, from Canada, carried the X-Bolt on a Taranaki goat hunt and found that the rifle suited him perfectly.

much of a pleasure the X-Bolt was, I set him up with it instead.

After a very long walk around a normally 'target rich' goat block, we finally spotted a bigish billy, just 200 metres from the vehicle we had walked hours to get back to – that's hunting! Mike crouched down and lined the goat up in the Zeiss at just on 150 metres. Bang, flop – a great result. Being from the North American continent meant gratuitous high-fives all round, before we walked down into the clearing to inspect his kill.

A slightly raking chest shot did what you would expect and the goat never stood a chance. Before we packed out Mike fired off a couple of magazines into a target on a dead tree some distance away – feeling much relieved that the X-bolt had been so kind to his shoulder.

I enjoyed my time with the X-Bolt. I am really not fazed one way or the other by the maple pattern – it's not what gets me meat – but the rifle did perform well. There might be someone in your life who appreciates the kind of aesthetics this model Browning offers – and if that's what it takes to tip them into a quality rifle, well, sweet.

Cade

Secure your

FIREARMS

- A young child must not be able to gain ready access to firearms.
- Store firearms and ammunition separately, or, make sure the firearm cannot be fired.



- Firearms must be secured against theft.
- Never leave a firearm in a vehicle that is unattended.

