

# New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc



Newsletter – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The NZPHA committee welcomed Don Hammond, Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council to the last meeting where Don was able to give a update on the activities of the GAC. Of the many topics discussed, the main concern was on the subject of " licensing the Recreational hunter "

Contrary to rumours, there are NO proposals by the GAC for the Licensing of recreational hunters.

The GAC is certainly looking at all avenues for the funding of the GAC. But from the recreational hunting sector, the GAC is exploring more indirect mechanisms for the recreational hunter to contribute to the protection of hunting. The average recreational hunter prepared to purchase a decent firearm is not going to be concerned if a small amount is levied on that firearm or a packet of ammunition. This will not be a issue for pig hunters after all how many packets of ammunition would you use annually while pig hunting. This will be a fairer way of us all investing in our sport.

After Don had left , the committee moved on to drafting the NZPHA Code of Conduct, which sets out new standards of behaviour that all pig hunters in NZ will be expected to abide by. This code will also guide the judiciary on what is acceptable behaviour in terms of animal welfare in the sport of pig hunting.

The code of conduct does not just apply to what is acceptable in how to dispatch a animal that has been captured but includes all facets of pig hunting, from the welfare and housing of dog / horses used in hunting, the transporting of dogs to the hunt (nobody wants to see more dogs carried in a dog crate than what that dog grate is designed for. Just as carrying of dead animals over the bonnet of vehicles in full public view is no longer acceptable.

While engaged in pig hunting, the pig hunter will not knowingly enter into illegal activity against the laws of NZ. At all times pig hunters will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring themselves or any club / association that they are affiliated to into disrepute.

This includes, how the hunter portray themselves in the electronic media.

The full code of conduct is likely to be ratified subject to minor amendments and released to affiliated clubs and put on the NZPHA website after the next NZPHA committee meeting.

On the subject of a collared pig having been released into the wild by Land Care Research as part of a trial into animal movements and then the animal being caught with the collar cutting in to the animals neck. This is a matter for the RNZSPCA who are conducting an investigation into the LCR operation.

The RNZSPCA court case in Blenheim concerning animal cruelty where the NZPHA has sent two expert witnesses for the prosecution, this has been postponed until November 2016 because of legal reasons.

The NZPHA Public Liability Insurance for all hunters affiliated to the NZPHA has been cancelled due to not enough interest from affiliated clubs.

The proposed OSPRI East Kaweka / Kaimanawa and Ahimanawa Forests aerial 1080 operation targeting bovine TB.

From a meeting held in Taupo, 9/6/2016, this operation has been delayed and when questioned for a date for the restart of the operation, the OSPRI representatives would not commit to a date.

This whole debacle came about due to a critical lack of consultation with stakeholders and adjoining land owners. It was compounded by wanting to spread 1080 during the roar arguably the busiest time of year for sika hunting and businesses serving Kaweka recreationalists.

The NZPHA had representatives at the Puketitiri and the Taupo meetings to voice objections and to have noted all the good work that NZPHA had put in with Lochinver and Rangitaki Stations in controlling wild pig populations.

It was disturbing that when collecting the heads from those wild pigs, that TB Free did not want them for TB analysis. NZPHA was not seeking financial gain from the exercise but trying to prove that there were no reactors in that area.

The NZPHA was also acting on behalf of the 3000 permit holders that would be hunting the Kaimanawas this year. The conclusion is that the OSPRI consultation had not complied with the ERMA guidelines, their own OSPRI Standard Operating Procedures or the Department Of Conservation consultation guidelines. The latter is relevant because the planned operation is on public conservation land.

The NZPHA will be closely following the outcomes of this exercise and will be supporting the GAC in its endeavours to get OSPRI to be more transparent in its consultation processes

Wild Pig Head collection Policy has had a second draft and is back with the NZPHA committee for review.

Kauri Die Back: The tendering process has gone out for the upgrade of the selected tracks for this year. The aerial survey of the Kauri Forests to identify Kauri Die Back from the air is on going. Hunters & Trampers are urged to use the cleaning stations where they are provided to prevent the disease spreading. Kauri are not limited to just North Auckland or the Coromandel, there are Kauri groves at Kawhia in the King Country and in the Kamais in the Bay of Plenty.

The 35 year consent for the use of 1080 by the Waikato Regional Council, DOC and TB Free has been changed to a 25 year consent due to the results of the feedback from submissions.

The Waikato Regional Council has also requested further information which means that the application is still following due process.

## REMINDER

The 2016 NZPHA AGM is to be held Sunday 26th June at the Te Awamutu Information Centre, 1 Gorst Ave, Te Awamutu, starting at 1pm sharp. The Guest speaker starting at 1pm, will be Don Hammond, Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council.

Reminder that we are looking for a new Secretary / Treasurer at this meeting, if you require any further information on this please e-mail [admin@nzpighunting.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzpighunting.org.nz).

Regards  
Steve