

New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc



Newsletter – July 2018

A big thank you to all those that attended the NZPHA AGM on the 24th June 2018.

We welcome three new councillors to the committee and farewell two councillors who have chosen to step down.

The new councillors bio's and photos will be on the website shortly.

Just to reiterate what has been previously stated:

- Meetings are held when required, typically when there is something that needs addressing. (e.g. changes to legislation, release of findings, consultation processes, etc.)

This year the committee will be trialling more use of video based technology (e.g. Zoom Room) to conduct meetings, which will enable more participation and reduce travel costs.

To date, all the committee meetings have been in the North Island. The association will be investigating the possibility of holding a committee meeting in the South Island, followed by a public meeting to raise the profile of the NZPHA

To the readers of this newsletter, if you have something that you think the NZPHA can help or advise with, then please let a committee member know or use the contacts listed on the NZPHA website.

We cannot help if we are not aware of an issue.

Code of Conduct

It is pleasing to see that the NZ Game Animal Council has endorsed the NZPHA Code of Conduct.

The Code is one the first and few to be published, providing comprehensive guidance to legislative bodies such as MPI and DOC and also the Judiciary.

It has also been sent to all the member committees of the ABWCC (Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee), NAWAC (National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee) and NAEAC (National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee). These committees provide MPI, advice on legislative proposals and legislation.

Public Liability Insurance

The NZPHA will again be offering PL Insurance to member clubs. Those clubs that joined the scheme last year will be invoiced directly for the coming year.

Cover is FREE for the first year for new clubs joining the NZPHA. Contact admin@nzpighunting.org.nz for more details

Health & Safety

The committee is aware of the increasing requirements for compliance in terms of Health & Safety legislation and will begin developing a Health & Safety policy template that pig hunting clubs can adapt to their individual reference.

The Association will also seek to lobby the Forestry Owners Association, for recognition of association clubs that have PL insurance and a H&S policy when considering access to forestry blocks.

Any Health & Safety related matters can be addressed directly to Greg Deal (thedeals69@gmail.com)

Hi Viz Clothing

The Association is still waiting for DOC to make a decision on the mandatory use of HiViz clothing when hunting on the DOC estate.

Animal Welfare

With pending changes to the Animal Welfare Act committee representatives continue to monitor issues that could have a impact on pig dogs and pig hunting.

There is a survey on the NZPHA website from the Greyhound Racing Association that readers are encouraged to complete, if applicable. A sample of the latest law changes which come into effect 1st October 2018 have also been loaded to the website.

Animal Welfare matters can be addressed directly to Steve McFall (steve.nzpha@gmail.com).

Firearm Legislation

The decision from NZ Police to review the administration of the Arms Act has been made and came into effect 1st July 2018. This is the first major review since 1992.

Adding a practical component for first time applicants has merit.

Pig Hunting Clubs are encouraged to do their bit to help by taking new hunters out with experienced hunters offering practical advice and experience where required.

Public meetings have been scheduled to outline changes to the act. Proper consultation is being challenged given the time and location of meetings. However, members are encouraged to attend where possible.

It is expected that the cost of a 10 year license will increase as a result of the changes envisaged.

The committee will continue to monitor any proposed changes and matters relating to firearms can be addressed to Grant Bunting (admin@nzpighunting.org.nz)

ZIP – Zero Invasive Predators

The activities of ZIP Ltd (Zero Invasive Predators) www.zip.org.nz are also being monitored by the committee. It is the high use of 1080 toxin and its associated bi-kill of non specific target species (birds / wild pigs) that needs qualification and transparency.

Concerns or enquires regarding the activities of ZIP can be directed to Bill Westwood (bill@pighunt.co.nz)

Game Animal Council

A new round of appointments to the NZGAC will be made later this year.

The NZPHA has been disappointed with the lack of hunting representation on the council over the past term and will again nominate candidates for election.

It is highly recommended that all recreational hunters review the NZGAC selection criteria and promote/nominate as many eligible applicants as possible.

Kauri Dieback

The Kauri Die Back forum is holding a series of meetings in the upper North Island during July to communicate the steps being undertaken to limit the spread of the Kauri Die Back disease.

One of those steps is to cull all wild pigs from Kauri Forests and then erect fencing to keep the pigs out. The NZPHA will have committee members at as many of those meetings as possible to refute the claims being made.

Since 2017, the NZPHA has sought scientific proof for the justification to cull wild pigs. The latest scientific research data that we have received, dates back to December 2017 and states in its headline "Ingestion of infected roots by feral pigs provides a minor vector pathway for Kauri Die Back Disease"

Refer: <https://academic.oup.com/forestry/article-abstract/90/5/640/3603686>

Human foot traffic continues to be promoted through the media as the most likely pathway for the spread of the disease.

Go Slow

The Go Slow toxin has not gone away, with recently confirmed cases in Timaru and Taranaki and another unconfirmed case out of Coromandel. Hayley Hunt is still in charge of the investigation.

Hayley is particularly interested in any pig meat or pig liver samples that can be directly linked to the dogs developing the symptoms. Contact Hayley at hayleyhunt@outlook.co.nz

Well that's it for another newsletter. Enjoy your winter hunting and please remember to raise matters of concern or interest with your association as required.