

New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc



Newsletter – August 2016

The NZPHA held its 6th AGM on the 26th June 2016, from which we welcome to the committee, Grant Bunting from Christchurch, Greg Deal from the Southern PHC, Todd Hewitt from the Peninsula PHC and Glenn Morris from the Te Kuiti PHC.

The South Island now has four representatives on the committee. Grant has taken on the job of Secretary with Angela staying on as Treasurer. Geraldine from Hawkes Bay PHC, has stood down this year but the club still stays affiliated to the Association.

The guest Speaker was Don Hammond, Chairman of the NZ Game Animal Council. He diverted from his prepared speech and instead gave his insights into matters facing the NZPHA that had arisen from the minutes.

The first meeting of the new committee was called for on 24th July 2016. A lot of ongoing issues have finally come to completion and were able to be signed off.

The first matter to discuss was the latest developments concerning the OSPRI operations in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges. The NZPHA has sought legal advice and is acting on that.

The NZPHA Code of Conduct has been ratified after being reviewed and with one minor amendment. The Code provides guidelines as to what is acceptable in all aspects of wild pig hunting in NZ. It can be referred to by the Ministry of Primary Industries, The RNZSPCA and the Judiciary amongst others, to determine how pig hunters should conduct themselves. It will be sent to affiliated clubs and posted on the association website.

The Pig head collection policy has had its final draft and now will be sent to the appropriate government departments for their support and implementation.

The NZPHA has continued to pursue a Public Liability Insurance for pig hunters in NZ, and has found a deal for \$6.50 per person for \$10 million dollars cover. Some conditions apply. It is only available to Pig Hunting clubs and individuals who are affiliated to the NZPHA. Each club that is interested is to apply in the first instance to the secretary at admin@nzpighunting.org.nz who will direct them to the right contacts. Each club will then deal direct with the Insurance Broker.

The NZPHA has only been active for 6 years and has some major accomplishments. A full list (so far) will be posted on the website and sent to affiliated clubs.

After providing the Te Urewera Trust Board with a policy on the use of dogs on Trust land, the NZPHA has formed a set of guidelines that can be used between Land owners and Hunters in the private sector. If followed, it is designed to reduce conflict and misunderstanding between both parties. The list is on the website and has been sent to affiliated clubs.

Kauri Die Back. The Association has been keeping a watching brief on this subject which came about from claims that wild pigs were spreading the disease and so all wild pigs should be exterminated in the Kauri Forests. There is no data / scientific proof to substantiate those claims and the assertions may have stopped but the NZPHA continues to keep a watching brief. It is more likely that humans walking from tree to tree is the mode of spread. Putting cleaning stations at the end of tracks in the Kauri forests and building / upgrading those tracks is one way to help slow the spread. Encouraging news is being released (30/6/2016) that Plant and Food research scientists are using a common horticultural chemical to fight off the disease. Trials are showing promising results.

Because of increased costs due to the compliance with Health & Safety regulations, the NZPHA will not have a booth at the Sika show in Taupo this year.

The NZPHA is actively seeking responses from Government departments into the matters surrounding TB being artificially infected into possums and then released into the wild.

The NZPHA is investigating the causes of the Go Slow toxin in dogs. The first advice to all pig hunters is Do Not feed raw or cooked wild pig meat to your dogs. Especially in areas where the toxin is known. Cooking the meat may not be successful in stopping the effects. Testing of pig meat samples is under way to determine the cause of the toxin. To determine how wide spread the toxin is, we need hunters details of their experiences, what are the symptoms that they have encountered etc. Send to admin@nzpighunting.org.nz