

# MANIAPOTO MATTERS



Maniapoto Matters has arrived in cyberspace in a new format. Thank you to our loyal readership who have supported the newsletter for a number of years, and welcome to all our new readers – we hope you enjoy reading about the activities of the Maniapoto Area.

## ***Pureora hunting competition***

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“Another great competition with prizes galore.” That was the general consensus about the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Department of Conservation Pureora Deer Hunting Competition which roared into life on Sunday 17 April to a good turnout at Pureora Forest Park.

The purpose of the competition is designed to connect DOC with hunters, currently the largest recreational users of Pureora Forest Park. The competition was open to all hunters holding a current permit and all heads entered had to be from wild animals shot within the Park or within forested areas adjacent to the Park between the dates of the competition.

DOC Maniapoto Area Manager Ray Scrimgeour was once again impressed by the support. “Considering the shortened season of this year’s competition, numbers appear to be pretty consistent with previous years, however, one thing I did notice was the number of younger competitors submitting entries, which is great to see. One young chap in particular was a bow hunter and he submitted a pretty large head. It would have taken considerable skill to bring down an animal of that size.”

Fifty five registered heads were received on the day to compete for the grand prize of having their entry judged best trophy head of the competition. This year’s winner, Rob Coles from Otorohanga couldn’t be happier with a douglas score of 269 2/8. Rob’s winning head will be professionally mounted by Taupo Taxidermist Vern Pearson and Rob will take his rightful place on the winners’ ‘Wall of Fame’ dating back to the first competition held in 1986.

Generously sponsored prizes were presented to the top ten scoring heads and the major Mystery Prize totalling \$1000 won by Grant Wilson from Arohena. Jaspur MacDonald from Te Kuiti won the \$450 Helisika helicopter ride for the most jaws collected during the competition dates and Richard Floyd took home the prize for the ugliest head submitted.

“Next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the competition, which provides an indication of how important this event is on the hunting calendar,” says Ray. “The credit really goes to the continued loyalty of our sponsors and the hunters themselves who support this event year after year that makes it such a highlight, and of course the deer!”



2011 winner - © DOC



## **Hauhungaroa 1080 operation**

The Animal Health Board is carrying out a complex possum control operation over the Hauhungaroa Range once the roar has finished. The last control operation was in 2005. Possum numbers still remain low but are building. AHB have a goal of eradicating bovine Tb from the Pureora possum population and this requires maintaining possums at such a low density that Tb does not spread between wild animals. A range of new methods will be trialed on the western side of the range, including new cluster and strip methods aimed at reducing the amount of toxin used; as well as the more familiar broadcast sowing. Deer repellent will be used in some areas, including parts of Pureora Forest Park. Across all these methods, monitoring is planned to assess effects on possums, birds, rats and deer.

DOC are contributing a small amount of funding to the operation as it will reduce rat and stoat numbers for the following season, helping bird breeding for a number of species; and because it will also contribute to prolonging the return time that DOC might have sought to control possums for biodiversity reasons.

For more information contact:

Animal Health Board  
Northern North Island (Hamilton) office  
Tel: 07 849 8913, Fax: 07 847 0496  
Email: [NNIAdmin@tbfree.org.nz](mailto:NNIAdmin@tbfree.org.nz)  
Web: [www.tbfree.org.nz](http://www.tbfree.org.nz)  
0800 4 TB INFO (0800 4 824 636)

## **Online hunting permits**

The online hunting permit system is now running live on the DOC website and available at [www.doc.govt.nz/hunting](http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting).

The online hunting permit system has been designed so that hunters can issue their own permits across multiple blocks of land throughout the country without needing to contact various DOC offices.

Hunting permits are available for all public conservation land classified as "open" under the system, and there are maps online to help you decide whether an area is open, restricted or closed. Restricted areas will require a permit from the local area office closest to the land in question.

Pesticide summaries are linked at the top of the page for your hunting permit or may be looked at on the DOC website [www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/pesticide-summaries/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/animal-pests/pesticide-summaries/). The onus is on you as the computer user to ensure you have a look at the pesticide summary as it will not print automatically when you apply for a permit. Other information will also be provided by link on the permit, such as the hunters' newsletter and the Pureora Hunting Competition.

Applying online for your permit is not compulsory so you are welcome to continue telephoning the office for permit requests.

Remember – you still need to have a printed copy of your permit available for inspection by DOC whenever you hunt on Conservation land. Happy hunting!

Pesticide	Status	Action
1080	Open	Apply for your permit
Dieldrin	Restricted	Apply for your permit

## **Free training available**

Conserving New Zealand's natural heritage is everyone's responsibility. Let DOC help you become trained in conservation management skills. Training courses are being offered now.

Five online courses covering natural heritage, field skills, animal ecology, bird identification and VHF radio use are provided **free of charge** to the public. They may be completed from the comfort of home with an internet connection and adobe flash player (which may be downloaded free of charge from the internet if required).

The online courses are often prerequisites for the on-the-ground field training modules also available.

Seven field-based courses are available covering topics such as animal pest control methods, five minute bird counts, weed management and monitoring, and plant identification. Please note there is a cost for the field training modules.

Further information including costs for the field training courses may be found at [www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/get-trained/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/get-trained/)



## **General information**

Just a quick reminder about firearm safety:

1. Treat every firearm as loaded.
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction.
3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire.
4. Identify your target.
5. Never shoot when in doubt, and never at colour, shape or movement only, or when your companions are ahead of you.
6. Check your firing zone.
7. Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely.
8. Avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms.