



# THE

# GRUNT!



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## KAURI DIEBACK

THE COROMANDEL KAURI DIEBACK FORUM RECENTLY HELD A WORKSHOP ENTITLED 'THE STORY OF COROMANDEL KAURI – WHAT OF ITS FUTURE?' THE WORKSHOP WAS HOSTED BY NGATI MARU AT MATAI WHETU MARAE IN KOPU, THAMES.

The group proved to be very diverse, with a good cross section of the community with farmers/landowners, a mineralogist, a scientist, DOC, and Iwi, an expert in Rongo (traditional Maori medicine) and Matauranga Maori (knowledge of the natural and spiritual worlds), local contractors, hunters, a Member of Parliament and students from Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

Kauri only grow naturally as far South as 38 degrees so roughly a line from Kawhia in the west to Tauranga in the east. Planted kauri beyond their natural range as far south as Dunedin. These kauri will grow more slowly due to the cooler climate and it is unlikely they will produce fertile seeds.

Russell Skeet, a local Historian, gave a brief but very interesting snapshot of the plight of Kauri on the Coromandel over the last 200 years. It is estimated that 99% of the original mature Kauri was harvested prior to 1976.

Peter Scott, a Scientist from SCION (a Crown Research Institute, previously the research arm of the New Zealand Forest Service) advised that it is possible that 90% of the remaining Kauri could be affected by Kauri Dieback (Phytophthora Agathadicide previously known as Phytophthora Taxon Agathis or PTA) - so the need for a cure and to limit the spread of this disease are vital to the survival of the Kauri.

There are many different types of Phytophthora around the world. Amongst them are that responsible for Ireland's potato famine and Sudden Oak Death. Phytophthoras can either be specific to a certain species of plant or can adversely affect many different species. In the case of Phytophthora Agathadicida (PA) it has only been found, so far, to kill kauri. Most Phytophthora kill their hosts by destroying their feeding roots (Phytophthora in Greek means 'root destroyer').

No one is quite sure where PA came from. The first time PA was recognised as a serious threat was 2006 when it was identified as a 'new to science' species. Kauri dieback had previously been seen on Great Barrier Island in the 1970's however was thought to be an already known species of Phytophthora. However after re-testing these samples with more advanced analysis tools, it was shown to match the new species identified in 2006 in the Waitakeres.

PA spores can travel via water or by soil movement. In water the spores would appear to have a quite limited life span. In soil the spores can survive almost indefinitely we were told. Its natural rate of spread is 3 metres per year however with the assistance of human activities it is spreading at a much faster rate.

The wild pig has been named as one of the villains' that can spread PA. Research on a similar species of phytophthora in Australia identified that the phytophthora spores can remain viable after passing through a pig's stomach. Consequently contract hunting for pigs has been undertaken in the Waitakeres west of Auckland and Waipoua Forest in Northland to reduce the pig population and the risk of spread to, probably, New Zealand's most iconic kauri – Tane Mahuta and Te Matua Ngahere. These trees and kauri in general are considered a Taonga or Treasure by Maori valued as a connection to the spiritual beliefs and way of life of the ancestors. These iconic trees are also very important to New Zealanders in general and are an important tourist attraction bringing tourist revenue dollars to New Zealand's far north.

A lot has been learnt about PA but there is a lot that is still unknown. Research is currently under way looking at ways to increase the kauri's resistance against PA using substances that are naturally found in the environment to stimulate growth in mycorrhiza – organisms which help protect the kauri's feeding roots. Other studies are being undertaken to identify resistant strains of naturally-growing kauri. The government has provided DOC with funds to improve tracks throughout the conservation estate to reduce the risk of spread of PA using materials that improve drainage thereby reducing the risk of footwear and gear coming into contact with mud. In addition boardwalks are being constructed in high use areas thereby preventing contact with the kauri's feeding root system. PA has come to the fore in our time so it is our responsibility to do what we can to protect these magnificent trees. It is our actions, attitudes and energy that will determine whether future generations will be able to appreciate, admire or even view these amazing giants of the forests.

One of the recommended prevention measures is to stay on formed tracks and off kauri feeding roots. Another is to keep your dog on a lead. Obviously as hunters we aren't going to be able to adhere to these two guidelines.

So as Pig Hunters, what can we do? hot soapy It is important that all signs of dirt is removed. Sterigenethat DOC, regional and district council use. It can be purchased from veterinary clinics and on-line through Ethical Agents. Make sure you enter the bush with clean gear and vehicles. It is recommended that once gear has been cleaned with hot soapy water and a brush, that Sterigene be sprayed on surfaces that come into contact with mud. The organism that spreads kauri dieback is minute – it only takes one spec of dirt for the disease to be transferred. Many clubs that spend time in the bush have purchased Sterigene for use for all club members and provide kits for packs for members who visit multiple areas or who camp overnight in the bush.

The best thing may be to avoid areas where PTA is known to exist. If this is not possible, avoid the base of the kauri trees as the feeding roots sit only millimetres under the soil's surface – you cannot only spread disease if your shoes are dirty but you can disturb and damage these sensitive roots leaving them more susceptible to becoming contaminated with PA and other soil-borne diseases..

Make sure you use cleaning stations if they are present when you enter or exit the forest. Even if your gear and footwear are clean – do the right thing and set a good example.

If you hunt predominantly in areas free of Kauri it is still a good idea to develop good hygiene habits when hunting as there are other pest species that you could inadvertently spread such as Didymo which is present in some south island rivers and lakes.

It may take a little more time at the end of a long day but once the habit is developed good hygiene practices don't take long and could avoid an environmental disaster and stop forest areas being closed to the public.

There is a lot of information available on the internet if you google "Kauri Dieback". Familiarise yourself with the symptoms, and what PA looks like. If you find any trees that look to you like they may be infected GPS the location and report it to your local DOC office. Be aware that humans are the number one vector of this deadly disease, so take care and enjoy your hunting. ■



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## KEEPING YOU INFORMED

THROUGH THIS PAGE THE NZPHA HAS KEPT THE PIG HUNTERS INFORMED ON ISSUES THAT CONCERN THEM AND THE VOLUNTARY WORK THE ASSOCIATION DOES ON THEIR BEHALF. IF YOU BELONG TO A PIG HUNTING CLUB OR GROUP YOU NEED TO BE AFFILIATED TO THE NZ PIG HUNTING ASSOCIATION



The latest addition to the list of benefits the NZPHA generates is the availability of a Public Liability Insurance at a competitive price of approx \$6.50pp. Generally anyone accessing forestry land is required to provide proof of PLI to meet the standards set by the forestry companies. If you want higher cover, it will cost a higher premium. This fantastic deal is only available to pig hunting clubs / groups that are affiliated to the NZPHA. For this money we would strongly advise hunters to insure themselves as any incident will cost you exponentially more than this. Remember when a hunter was going to be charged the cost of firefighting when he was accused of starting a fire with a bullet ricochet.

Want to know more then make contact with the NZPHA at [admin@nzpighunting.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzpighunting.org.nz)

The battle to eradicate TB from NZ continues and OSPRI is seeking feedback from their Consultation document for the 2017 TB Free pest control operations. The links have been advertised on the NZPHA / GAC / OSPRI websites. From this OSPRI will be consulting / meeting with key stakeholder groups to give people and organisations that are affected by pest control operations, this includes landowners and land users, farmers, hunters and recreational land users, the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have regarding the proposed operations.

It is not just limited to hunters as affected parties but also the communities they support. If you can't access a block because

of a TB Free operation so you stay home or travel elsewhere then the local businesses can also lose out on the passing trade, petrol stations, cafes, pubs, Dairys etc especially if an operation is going to be prolonged.

We encourage everyone to make a submission and please base it on up to date facts and data.

The NZPHA and GAC last year held OSPRI to account on their lack of correct process and inadequate information. We advised DOC that the data just didn't add up and therefore three DOC planned operations were cancelled and another two DOC operations were required to use deer repellent.

OSPRI are now making the effort, it is now up to you reading this to have your say.

The NZPHA through the Game Animal Council also has input into DOC's battle for our birds program which involves large areas of pest control. We will look at all operations to assess any effects on pig hunting and seek to mitigate for them.

As many of you will be aware there has been varied an inconsistent policy and procedure surrounding the collection of pig heads for TB surveillance. As OSPRI's request we have proposed a new policy for the procurement for wild pigs heads collected for TB analysis.

We are waiting for their response.

As we head into another pig hunting year we remind all hunters of their responsibility to hunt ethically and safely and above all enjoy all that benefits that pig hunt has to offer. ■



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## NZPHA CODE OF CONDUCT

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT IN 2015 CHANGED THE WAY HUNTING IN NZ IS TREATED IN REGARD TO THE WILFUL OR RECKLESS ILL TREATMENT OF WILD ANIMALS OR ANIMALS IN A WILD STATE.

NO LONGER IS THE ACT OF HUNTING, A BLANKET DEFENSE TO THOSE OFFENSES.

Section 30A (3) now provides a new test, in that the conduct now had to be part of "generally accepted practise in NZ for the hunting or killing of wild animals of that type or animals in a wild state of that type."

Generally accepted practise is not defined in the Animal Welfare Act therefore this posed the question, what is generally accepted hunting practise in NZ?

Previously the hunting sector had been a mix of organisations and mostly individuals.

There had been no overarching body for all hunting disciplines.

This changed in 2013 with the passing of the NZ Game Animal Council Act which set up a statutory body to represent the interests of hunters in general.

In September 2015 in response to a request from the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, the Game Animal Council and the Ministry of Primary Industries convened a meeting of major game hunting groups to find common ground amongst the hunters of all types, whilst recognising the extremely different contexts that apply to each.

Representatives of the NZ Pig Hunting Association, NZ Game Estates, NZ Bowhunting Society, NZ Deer Stalkers Association, NZ branch of Safari Club International and the NZ Profesional Hunting Guides Association resolved to adopt the following overarching statement of principles related to animal welfare and hunting and this has been ratified by each of those organisations.

"Hunters in NZ have a responsibility to conduct their

method and animal harvest to the highest practicable standards of animal welfare with regard to minimising distress and suffering and to humanely kill animals being hunted."

Each individual hunting organisation will develop a code of conduct consistent with this statement, applicable to generally accepted hunting practises within their hunting method.

Reference to hunting method recognised that multiple approaches can be used for any particular species.

The ability for each organisation to develop its own code is important because it recognises the different types of practises that have traditionally been accepted in that organisation.

Accordingly the NZPHA has developed its own code of conduct, which should be regarded as a living document. The code is undergoing development and refinement through regular and sometimes spontaneous review. An example being from the result of a recent court case, showed that some of the language (wording) needed to be reviewed.

They may seem trivial changes to the lay person but not only is the NZPHA providing guidelines to ALL the pig hunters in NZ, on how they should engage in their hunting activities, it is also providing a document that will be a reference for the judiciary when making decisions in court cases concerning misconduct by pig hunters.

The NZPHA is not a enforcement agency. It is there to educate and advise and provide co-ordination and a collective voice for pig hunters at a national level.

Drafting the code has been the easy part, the challenge will be socialising it amongst pig hunters and getting them to accept it.

A copy of the NZPHA Code of Conduct is on the NZPHA website: [www.nzpighunting.org.nz](http://www.nzpighunting.org.nz) ■







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## NEXT NZ GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

The Associate Minister of Conservation, Hon. Peter Dunne has announced the make up of the next NZ Game Animal Council.

Immediately comes to the fore that the NZ Pig Hunting Association has had its representation withdrawn. It is extremely important that Pig Hunters are represented on the GAC.

Immediately the NZPHA has formal requests in with two Government Ministers of the Crown to please explain, this is as well as seeking a meeting with the Chairman of the GAC to query why? And how does he see the GAC making decisions with regard to pig hunting? Where to going forward?

Those answer was not known before this edition went to press so readers are referred to the NZPHA website or the NZPHA Facebook page where this subject will be updated as developments occur.

For a GAC that is charged with managing All Deer, Thar, Chamois AND Wild Pig, to operate without representation from the National body of Pig hunting appears to be misguided in the extreme. An association that represents 23 Pig Hunting Clubs throughout NZ with a combined membership of over 2000 and increasing each year. The NZPHA Facebook page and website regularly reach over 5000 viewers.

The NZPHA (2010) has been a robust supporter of the NZGAC (2013) with members volunteering and contributing many hours and kilometres from the establishment committee stages through to being present in Parliament when the GAC Act was passed.

With the omission of the NZPHA it also does not bode well for the recreational hunter. A review of the new lineup of the GAC committee does not show any one of them who regularly attend pig hunting, deer stalking competitions etc where they would have contacts with recreational hunters at the grass root level.

### GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Associate Conservation Minister Hon. Peter Dunne today announced new appointments to the Game Animal Council (GAC). The GAC was established in 2013 for the management of game herds (deer, thar, chamois and pigs)

throughout New Zealand.

"I am pleased to announce that I am appointing three new members to the Council, Richard Burdon, Rachael Dean and Stephen Hall, who will join six sitting Councillors," said Mr Dunne.

The full Council membership is:

- Richard Burdon of Wanaka, with experience in commercial hunting and hunting-related tourism
- Rachael Dean of Cambridge, with experience in recreational hunting
- Roger Duxfield, of Putaruru, with experience in hunting-related tourism
- Stephen Hall of New Plymouth, with experience in nature conservation
- Donald (Don) Hammond, of Rotorua, with experience in recreational hunting and forestry management
- Professor Geoffrey (Geoff) Kerr, of Christchurch, with experience in scientific disciplines relating to game animals
- Garry Ottmann, of Rangiora, with experience in game animal management
- Alexander (Alec) McIvor, of Rotorua, with experience in recreational hunting and Kaitiakitanga
- Carol Watson, of Auckland, with experience in recreational hunting and hunting retail

"The new Council brings together a wide range of skills, attributes, interests and time to govern the work of the GAC. As a national body, the new membership provides a diversity of skills, sector interests and geographical spread.

"I have also reappointed Don Hammond as Chairperson of the Council. Don's strong leadership, familiarity with the functions of the GAC and excellent relationship skills will, I believe, ensure the Council's successful transition from its establishment phase to that of a fully functioning, self-supporting body that supports and advocates for the hunting sector.

"I would like to place on record my appreciation to retiring Council members Mark Brough, Steve McFall, Bill O'Leary, Terry Pierson and Roy Sloan for their service and contributions to the GAC over the last three years," said Mr Dunne.



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## PREDATOR FREE NZ 2050 THE IMPLICATIONS

**IN APRIL 2017 THE GOVERNMENT CHANGED THE LEGISLATION AROUND THE USE OF 1080 POISON.**

They have introduced the Resource Management Exemption Regulations.

This exempts the need for a resource consent for the use of the 1080 and Broadifacoum and Rotenone poisons.

The Government can now drop 1080 where and when they like as long as they abide by the HSNO regulations (Hazardous Substances and New Organisms).

They no longer have to abide by the conditions put on consents such as monitoring wildlife or consulting with groups such as the NZ Pig Hunting Association or the NZ Deerstalkers Association or the NZ Game Animal Council.

There is no longer anything protecting wildlife or the property rights of people on neighbouring properties.

The only protection that still exists is the medical officer or health permit which does next to nothing except enable the poisoning of water and requires water testing at a time when it will never yield a positive result.



The Government intends to massively increase the number of poison operations across the country as part of the Predator Free 2050 programme.

It is no longer just to stop TB in possums and stock or to Battle for the Birds. It is also now to kill all predators rats, mice, wild cats, mustelids (ferrets, weasels stoats), hedgehogs etc

Even though no other country in the world has been able to get rid of rats.

This will give DOC, TB Free and Regional Councils free reign to bombard the country with aerially spread toxins. This includes areas such as the Brook Waimaruma Sanctuary in Nelson.

**Now is the time to act, The General Election**  
**By all means vote for the candidate you want in your electorate. But please use your Party vote wisely.**

The NZPHA is working with other affected parties to have this legislation appealed and amended.

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**THE GOVERNMENT CAN NOW DROP 1080 WHERE AND WHEN THEY LIKE AS LONG AS THEY ABIDE BY THE HSNO REGULATIONS (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND NEW ORGANISMS).**

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## NZPHA WILL BE VIGOROUSLY LOBBYING THE NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

**THE DECISION OF THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF CONSERVATION, HON PETER DUNNE TO NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION TO THE NZ PARLIAMENT HAS THROWN THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE RECREATIONAL HUNTER INTO DISARRAY. ALL THE LOBBYING UNDERTAKEN BY THE NZPHA NOW HAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMALLY APPOINTED.**

The outcome of coalition negotiations is not known as this edition goes to the printers so readers are referred to the NZPHA website or NZPHA Facebook page where developments will be updated as they occur.

Once the Government is sworn in, the NZPHA will be vigorously lobbying the new Associate Minister of Conservation to increase the skills and knowledge around pig hunting and recreational hunting on the NZ Game Animal Council by having at least one of the two spare council seats appointed to a person who is active in the field of pig hunting.

The NZPHA will continue to challenge the Predator Free NZ 2050 program specifically around the use of 1080

poison and other toxins without full consultation.

The NZPHA will continue to lobby the Minister of Primary Industries to ensure that OSPRI is more transparent in its operations and activities.

The major success of the NZPHA during 2017, has been the creation of a Public Liability Insurance available to affiliated clubs at a cost of \$5.75 per member for \$5 million cover.

For more information go to [admin@nzpighunting.org](mailto:admin@nzpighunting.org).

The top 10 Best Wild Pig Jaw measured undrawn continues to gather interest.

You can follow the results (present and past) on the NZPHA website.

The NZPHA is interested to hear from pighunters on any issues that pighunters need explored or for the NZPHA to get involved in, concerning pig hunting and feedback is welcome. But also, if you think that we could do something better then let us know.

As this is the last issue for 2017, the Committee of the NZ Pig Hunting Association extend Seasons Greetings to All, Safe Travels during the holiday period and we will be back with you in 2018 to keep you updated on all matters pertaining to pig hunting in NZ.



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