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NZPHGA Making Headway

By Adrian Moody

Whenever we start a new project, building a fence, a shed or a business it seems that a lot of work can be done for very little visible result. Then comes a day when all that preparation of a sound foundation seems to miraculously bloom. The deer netting goes up, the roof and walls of the shed are clad or the business starts to become profitable and grow.

I think we have seen such a process over the last few years with the NZPHGA. Now we are seeing some good results.

The passing of the Game Animal Council bill into law is a watershed change for our valued game animals. I recall talking to Cam Speedy some years ago when he was preparing a game management program for our wild Wairarapa deer. I was hoping to see the property consistently produce half a dozen wild Red stags each year, wild Wairarapa deer. I was hoping New Zealand should be producing over 100 such wild trophies every year but the reality is 3-4 for the whole country.

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AGM

For those fortunate enough to attend our AGM I’m sure they would endorse my comments of praise and appreciation to the Wallis Family as superb and generous hosts. For those unable to attend I’ll try to paint a picture for you...

Initially we were invited to attend a delicious barbeque dinner in the Alpine Helicopters’ hangar, with Matt Wallis as our resident chef. He turned out some fine venison steaks and salmon fillets. The cool beers were sourced out of the pod on the Squirrel. Toby Wallis had put T.I.A’s representative, Evan Freshwater to good use by taking him up onto a ridge to help shovel snow into the pod for the “bar” that night.

Next morning we all met on the Haast Highway, and an army of 4x4 vehicles loaded onto the Minaret’s barge (ably captained by Jonathon Wallis). Then off we went across the rough lake to Minaret where we all assembled in a very clean woolshed.

The well-attended meeting’s content is documented elsewhere but I feel that one of the highlights was that Sir Tim Wallis accepted the position of Patron of NZPHGA. While he will not have an active role to play elsewhere but I feel that one of the highlights was that Sir Tim Wallis accepted the position of Patron of NZPHGA. While he will not have an active role to play.

The meeting a small amendment was made to the Bill and because AATH concessions are about to expire the use of helicopters on Public Land. We lobbied for a compromise, which was accepted. This, in effect, will bring some of the complaints, issues, and aspects of the Code of Practice under the Game Animal Council, with the Minister’s oversight. As a result of the meeting a small amendment was made to the Bill and because AATH concessions are about to expire the Minister put the Bill before parliament under urgency.

AATH

I was invited along to a meeting between the Minister of Conservation (Hon Nick Smith) and some of the key players amongst the AATH operators. Prior to this meeting Gerald had studied and tweaked their Code of Practice. The Hon Peter Dunne, as part of his Confidence and Supply Agreement wanted to create another law which would hugely restrict the use of helicopters on Public Land. We lobbied for a compromise, which was accepted. This, in effect, will bring some of the complaints, issues, and aspects of the Code of Practice under the Game Animal Council, with the Minister's oversight. As a result of the meeting a small amendment was made to the Bill and because AATH concessions are about to expire the Minister put the Bill before parliament under urgency.

Game Animal Council

This Bill has now been passed and given it's Royal Assent (28th November 2013). We had only a few hours notice that the Bill was going to be tabled and it was at that point that a couple of MPs requested a written statement from us to enable them to verbally support it. This was duly delivered after consultation with James Guild and by committee we created a couple of statements around the commercial use of helicopters on Public Land. The Bill should present.

To finish up with more positive news, the tahr statue is now in place at Lake Pukaki. There will be an official opening in the near future.
This report is a comprehensive overview of the associations activities over the past 12 months, drawing on some historically events as well as looking at our 2014 directions.

With the theme of this AGM being "future proofing" our high yield /low impact industry and making sure our voice is heard while operating alongside Game Animal council (GAC) we must look to the future. The past is something to look back at and learn from. Change is always happening and if we are not prepared to embrace and lead the change we are not future proofing our industry.

The past 3-4 years has seen a division within our industry, that division was a product of the circumstances of that time. Things have changed, I refer to the issues that surrounded Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH) and the gap that widened and threatened our industry. So what has changed? Lots of small things, time reflecting helps, politics change and the people playing the politics change. 12 months ago Kate Wilkinson was Minister of Conservation, then associate minister Peter Dunne took the lead, he also fell before the political machine and with that Nick Smith returned from ‘growing leave’, all in 12 months.

My personal wish to have this AGM themed “Dunne and Dusted” in reference to Peter Dunne was perhaps correctly perceived by your executive as a tad insensitive!

The past is something to look back at and learn from. Change is always happening and if we are not prepared to embrace and lead the change we are not future proofing our industry.

The single biggest question with the GAC is who will lead it. It will require a very specific and qualified person, one that has considerable expertise in governance and establishment roles. Whoever it is must have the ability to lead, manage and direct a diverse group towards common goals.

Your Scope magazine continues to be the main source of information that brings the membership up to date with what your executive is doing and covers all the opportunities and threats that go with the day to day operations we all run. We are bound to deliver 2 editions a year , the next edition will follow this AGM. It should not fall solely upon the editor to supply as well as arrange the material that goes into Scope, as your magazine it requires your support so please help Adrian out you can by putting pen to paper and sending thought interesting and informative materials for him to use. It is planned to have the next copy with the membership before many of us depart to the USA for the summer convention circuit.

Health and Safety continues to make its presence felt within our industry. Your SMS’s have been internally audited and you are all in procession of the additional pages that address Drugs and Alcohol and Dangerous Terrain. You must read and be familiar with these, put them into your SMS and while you there check everything else is up to date with your SMS-first aid certificates?

As an association we can only supply you with the information, it is up to each and everyone of you to be totally in charge of your SMS. We can’t do anything more for you other than provide the material and support. Be responsible.

Membership is steadily growing which is very encouraging. Along with new membership comes our training program. Our first program is to be run this December (16th-19th). The course outline will be tabled at this meeting. James Cagney and Don Patterson are leading the development of our standards and training. The aim is to have the training program adopted by the GAC upon its establishment. The training program will accompany your SMS and become your operating manual. The opportunity is not just for new members, the training course is open to all members and will benefit everybody. There are costs involved with the establishment of the program. The executive have approved funding to have the training and instructors manuals produced and James time valued. It is expected the residential course will run over 4 days at a cost close to $1500 per member.

Costing options are being investigated. The important issue is that the first course will be run and from there the only direction is upwards and onwards.

Thanks to my executive for their inputs and efforts over the past year. Some of you are busier than others but be assured things change and with new projects planned there is much to be done. We are fortunate to have such depth and different areas of expertise on which to draw.

The rebuild and upgrade of our current website is a priority for 2014, Simon Guild has the lead on this and with the support of other members and funding approved we hope to see the new website in the next few months.

Hearing on Conservation management strategies (CMS) for Southland, Otago and Canterbury are approaching. I’ll be presenting an association submission to the Otago conservancy on the 24th October in Wanaka. CMS have in theory a 10year life span and are DoCs planning and objectives for the next 10years. It’s important to have NZPHGA input into these plans, its often debated as to their value as they do seem to change constantly and continuously within their life span. The important point is that NZPHGA is seen as pro active with the DoC and able to have input into parts of the planning documents when there actions are seen as having effects on our operations. The new partnership development with DOC may offer some insight on the CMS opportunities.

Another project for the coming year will be to continue to work with ACC as we explore options with them on the levels of our levies. If we are able to support our claim that we and our clients are indeed low risk then there is ever chance that we can join a Worksafe scheme with ACC and receive the considerable benefits from such a scheme, i.e lower levies. We have looked at this before, as have TIA but a recent trip to Wellington suggested our Association may wish to go back and revisit our previous efforts. Let’s head into 2014 and enjoy the prospects of a good season, an improved market and the belief in ourselves and NZ as a unique and valued destination.

Our Patron Sir Tim Wallis with Matt, Roger and Gerald.

Minaet Station, Wanaka, 17th October 2013

By Gerald Telford.
Going into the course at short notice I had no idea what to expect. I am amazed by how much material was thoroughly covered in the 4 days. Between theory and practical application we were on a tight schedule from dawn till dusk. James Cagney was able to deliver the material in such a way that made it usable to those with a range of experience levels which opened discussion for each individual’s input. Guiding as we all know requires a vast range of skills which were all well covered. Practical lessons included guiding hunters, shooting and rifle care, trophy photography, carcass recovery, caping and butchery, judging and measuring, river crossings, AATH safety and training and not overlooked were hosting and lodge skills, presentation and general professionalism. We thoroughly covered a lot of content and had a lot of fun doing it. It is always good to spend time with like minded people and there was a lot to take away from the 4 days with a good group of guys. I can honestly say that I learned a lot more than I had expected and feel this course has raised the standards I will deliver. It has been a well thought out and refined course with an excellent and professional delivery by James.
Esplanade Travel Services

Thanks for this opportunity to clearly outline and clarify the services Esplanade Travel provides to both NZPHGA members and to your clients.

As you may already know, Esplanade Travel specializes in worldwide travel for hunters, and we have done so for over 30 years. New Zealand is one of our primary destinations (along with Australia and Africa), and we do not sell any hunts because we believe that clients are happiest when everyone does their own part. Using this model, we can each excel at the services we provide because we're not stretching resources too thin. You sell the hunt, and then we provide the supporting arrangements including airfare, any pre/post hunt arrangements they require, along with their insurance.

We are very well-equipped to provide the best service to your clients not only because we are a preferred account with Air New Zealand, but also because we understand the unique requirements for international hunter travel. We always make a point of reassuring your clients that we know and recommend you, and that we work closely with you to ensure a seamless experience for everyone.

Kit, our resident New Zealand specialist, has spent ample time in New Zealand over the past 12 years. At this point, she is more familiar with New Zealand than she is with Boston! Kit doesn't try to hide the fact that New Zealand is, without question, her favorite place in the world.

There are many advantages to you for referring your clients to us:

1. We offer a referrals program where you can earn free tickets on Air New Zealand, compliments of Esplanade Travel.
2. We pay commission on travel insurance if your client insures the full value of their hunt (and, that means you're protected too).
3. We have a booth at both Dallas Safari Club and SCI annually so your clients can check fares and you can close the deal on the spot. For the other shows, we are only a toll-free call away.
4. We are a preferred account with Air New Zealand, meaning that we have the best international fares and can hold fares for up to 14 days prior to purchase. In the event the airline website undercuts us, we can match the fare while still providing great service to your clients. We do not charge any booking fees for our services.

We travel to New Zealand frequently, and we also have ground agents in place for 24/7 assistance while your clients are on their tour. We have excellent buying power and offer a range of services to suit your client's budget and style. We book anything from a 4* hotel to the most luxurious of lodges; rental cars, camper vans, or private chauffeured tours; scheduled regional flights to private helicopters; shared touring to private go-as-you please with a driver on call. Everything we book is unique and custom-designed, driven only by your client's parameters.

The way our referrals program works is that every booking on Air New Zealand gets you one point. A Business Premier booking counts as two points. These points are cumulative and they don't expire on an annual basis so you can reach 25 points in a year or five years, it makes no difference to us. Once you reach 25 points, you've earned a ticket on Air New Zealand (economy class, gateway to gateway), compliments of Esplanade Travel.

You are responsible for the applicable taxes and fuel surcharge and the ticket can be used from New Zealand or from the US. The ticket cannot be used for travel between New Zealand and other destinations. You will also be responsible for all flight costs for additional regional flights beyond the gateway. Blackout dates are from 15DEC-31JAN yearly, but tickets can be used the rest of the year as long as the space is available. Space is on restricted classes of service, so advise if you have any flexibility on dates when you send your requests. Also, once ticketed, tickets cannot be changed or refunded, and frequent flyer points can’t be accrued.

Two ways you can reach the 25-point target faster:

*Business Premier bookings count as two points each

*List us as the only agent on your website or newsletter, along with our contact details and logo, and we will give you a 2-point bonus per year.

Esplanade Travel still offers the most competitive airfares on Air New Zealand, and we are delighted to offer two show specials again in 2014. $400 off each ticket in Business Premier, and $250 off each ticket in Premium Economy, valid for bookings made at DSC or SCI only!

Regional NZ fares are always the lowest cost when they are included with your client's international ticket. If regional flights must be standalone, then we offer the best published fare available and we quote your client at nett.

Don't forget that travel insurance is an extremely important element of your client's trip. Insurance guarantees peace of mind in the unfortunate event that a flight is delayed or re-scheduled, or if someone needs to cancel their trip due to unforeseen circumstances. The policy includes emergency medical coverage while overseas, as well as emergency evacuation. Pre-existing conditions can be covered, as long as insurance is purchased within 21 days of ticketing their air. We can insure any arrangements, even those not booked directly by Esplanade, including non-refundable hunt deposits and payments so that you are fully protected as well. As an added bonus, we offer you a 10% commission for clients who insure the full value of their hunt. We are happy to pay your commission by cash or check at DSC or SCI each year.

We highly value our relationship with the NZPHGA and are looking forward to catching up with everyone during show season!
NZPHGA Website upgrade

By Simon Guild

For those of you who haven’t met me, my name is Simon Guild and I am the executive member responsible for the development of a new NZPHGA website, given the existing site is long overdue for an upgrade. The purpose of the new site is two-fold:

One, to inform and educate potential hunting clients about hunting in New Zealand, what the NZPHGA is and what we stand for;

And two, to inform and educate potential guide members about what it takes to be a professional guide and what membership of the NZPHGA means.

The aim is for the site to be engaging, informative and useful to those interested in guided hunting in NZ - to the point that they leave the site better informed and more likely to make a decision on their New Zealand hunting plans. To this end, we will need to utilise some attractive imagery to convey the type of experience a client can expect when hunting with an NZPHGA member. If anyone has a selection of photos they would be willing to submit, please feel free to do so.

Here’s what we’re after:

- Our primary game species (alive)
- Images of NZPHGA guides and clients out in the field
- Landscapes showing the diversity of the terrain covered by our members
- Modes of transport
- A limited number of trophy shots
- Lodging / hospitality
- What we’re not too keen on:
- Too many dead animal shots
- Photos that feature / promote individual members
- Photos that feature recognisable close ups of faces / people

Credit will duly be given for any featured photos. If you have any images, along with any thoughts or comments, please submit them to simon@highpeak.co.nz.

Wishing everyone the best for the summer and upcoming 2014 season.

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Membership report

By Chris McCarthy
Membership Executive Officer.

For those of you who haven’t met me, my name is Simon Guild and I am the executive member responsible for the development of a new NZPHGA website, given the existing site is long overdue for an upgrade.

2013 has seen a sharp rise in new members. This year we have welcomed Zion Pilgrim, Brad Travers, Snow Hewetson, Shaun Allison, Craig Smith, Sam McArthur, Ari Overmars, Stacey Anderson and Aaron Kent into our association. I suspect by the time the year is out we may have another three new members which would take the tally to 12 for the year, this is double the number of previous years.

The main driving factors behind the spike in membership seem to be guides seeing the value in our blanket concession and the training programme which James Cagney has developed.

Next issue I hope to have an outline of the photo competition which was discussed and passed at the AGM.

I would like to wish all members a happy festive season and a productive show season.

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Mustang looping at Wanaka, By Ed
Hunting is in my blood. Some of my earliest memories are of hunting trips with the family at a very young age, into places such as Otematata Station, the Hopkins Valley and West Coast valleys. I learnt a lot from Charlie.

To me these guys are true legends and I hope they will one day be celebrated as true folk heroes from a unique and special era the way America celebrates its legions of Native American Indians. I really latched onto the fantastic hunting and shooting opportunities these guys presented. My hunting and shooting skills are the result of this and the opportunities these guys provided me.

Professional Hunting Guides Association Incorporated

Through my Dad’s involvement in the venison industry during those days in the °80’s I also got to know a few of our current NZHPGA steward members, the likes of Donald Greig, Bert How, and the Wallis’.

It was interesting ground shooting and competing with the local polo players for big game animals at this time. I also have some of my earliest memories of hunting trips with the family at a very young age, into places such as Otematata Station, the Hopkins Valley and West Coast valleys. I learnt a lot from Charlie.

These were great days. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to have known some of the real legends, the likes of Dave McClone, Charlie Emerson and John Singer among many others. Also many of the legendary venison helicopter operators of the time. To me these guys are true legends and I want to one day celebrate them as true folk heroes from a unique and special era the way America celebrates its legions of Native American Indians. I really latched onto the fantastic hunting opportunities these guys presented. My hunting and shooting skills are the result of this and the opportunities these guys provided me.

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The first Professional Hunters Academy (PHA) has been delivered 4-7 December at Manuka Point. I was unable to attend due to fly fishing guiding commitments, however Roger, Don and James will have something to say as we debrief the course, as will those attending.

Congratulations to all those that took part, the PHA has been a long time in the making, to finally have the commitment from James and Don to deliver the course and James to have put the course together is an awesome effort, Thank you!

So how did we get to where we now are and what processes have to be taken and have been taken to establish the course and what will the future of the course bring to NZPHGA?

Firstly why PHA? Well its short, its catchy and we needed a brand. The word guide was deliberately left out, its a word I’d like you all to think long and hard about and think about yourselves as professionals and as hunters, where and what does the word guide imply with regards to our industry? Are we guides or and as hunters, where and what does the word guide about and think about yourselves as professionals and as importantly define and prove we are what we say we are, professionals and professional hunters and the Academy tells and delivers on this.

It is not by chance that the PHA as arrived along side the Game Animal Council (GAC). It will be with a certain amount of pride the NZPHGA will be able to table our SMS, Code of practices for AATH and our PHA course to the GAC. The importance of this goes way beyond a symbolic gesture, this is a very clear statement that the NZPHGA is in total control of its industry, is leading the field with regulation and compliance matters and is perfectly capable of managing its own sector with out need of any governing bodies.

These are our industry standards, created by the hunting guides for the hunting guides, and specific to NZPHGA. The PHA is copyrighted to NZPHGA and can not be reproduced without permission. There will always be an issue surrounding the PHA being hijacked by some operators. This is something we will have to live with and as time goes on perhaps be in a position to mitigate but in the mean time there are risks. One of the primary reasons that the very limited number of instructors manuals are not available for the membership to have free access to is to protect our standards and the work and effort that has been put into the standards.

As for formal qualifications? Not at this stage. Lets first get comfortable with industry standards, they are what we require and exceed any regulatory requirements. There is an opportunity to pursue a unit standard approach and some of the course content is in fact unit standards that we have taken from the NZDA HUNTS program, with the permission of NZDA. At the moment there is a TROG review still underway, this targeted Review of Qualifications is a huge undertaking that is looking at the delivery of ALL units standards NZ wide and the wish by the regulators to eliminate duplication of standards and difference within standards being delivered by different tertiary education providers. Once the TROG review is complete we may have the opportunity and desire to go down this road. That can be someone else projects! For now lets get comfortable with the great progress we have made and not exhaust the enthusiasm and hard work of those that have already contributed so much to the PHA.

As with all new ideas and change there are some issues that the executive have encountered that have yet to be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction. Yes we did rush into things BUT the majority understood the reasons why. Put simply there was a very narrow time bracket available in which to have the course delivered, like all good cat herders we strung a couple of cats off the side as we went forward but now we have the opportunity to review the course and make certain all the T’s are crossed and the I’s dotted, I make no apology for this approach, it was my decision and I’m happy to explain it once and that once is now. The GAC is in existence, the chance to run the first course and attract a dozen participants’ could only happen in the first week of December 2013. If the course wasn’t run then the delays would have resulted in the loss of the considerable momentum we have for the sake of some unneeded tinkering with what was judged to be a very robust program a decision was made an I will stand by that. Of course, the procedure I followed was correct. Correct procedure? Probably not, can we remedy that? Certainly, and with a lot more understanding and inputs now that the first course has been run. 2020 hindsight, I wouldn’t change anything with procedure. I will apologies to our treasurer for the burden I dropped in his lap, we are big boys and once the yelling stopped, agreement and understanding was reached, sorry John Berry.

So where to from here, well to get everybody that is interested to be counted then we need to be prepared to be operators on any matter that draws their attention, if we are prepared to stand up and be counted then we need to be prepared to be questioned and able to satisfy any investigation.

Congratulations to all those that took part, the PHA will those attending.

For now lets get comfortable with the great progress we have made and not exhaust the enthusiasm and hard work of those that have already contributed so much to the PHA.

The first Professional Hunting Guides Association Incorporated

By Gerald Telford

The Scope

Guided Hunting in New Zealand

Professional Hunting Guides Association Incorporated
This has been a long time in the making, having been talked about for the last 25 years and slowly progressed at various AGMs. But it certainly gained momentum after the release of the Coroner’s report in 2007. The imminent arrival of the Game Animal Council spurred your Exec into action—there really needed to be a training standard in place. This resulted in a couple of meetings with Bill Disley (the author of the NZDA Hunts Programme). Bill was subsequently employed by your Exec to provide material to them which formed the basis of the 100 page Professional Hunters’ Training Manual created by Cagney with input from Gerald, Telford, Don Patterson and myself.

James then devised a training programme to meld theory and practical together with the assistance of Don and Julie Patterson. The four day course commencing on 3rd December was subsequently hosted by the Patterson’s at Manuka Point.

Upon our arrival at the lodge after an uneventful late afternoon crossing of the Rakaia River, we gathered our rifles into the gunroom. We were then given a workbook and began straight into some theory. Our timetable was drawn up to cover every minute of our work for the four days.

Work began with a practical unit covering such things as the role and attributes of the guide, SAC, SCI, CIC, Boone and Crockett, and non-hunters. They covered the specifics of a guided hunt practical component, which was set for 9.30am start. There was a number of open discussions about what to do. It also covered how to get out should what not to do. It also covered how to get out should not to do.

One of the standout points he made, apart from everything being said, was that “embarrassment” wasn’t something we should be afraid of (i.e. not being able to get a shot at a client).

The river crossing unit was presented by the lead instructor, KT, from the Mountain Safety Council. One of the standout points he made, apart from the river being the biggest killer in our mountains was that “embarrassment” wasn’t something we should be afraid of (i.e. not being able to get a shot at a client).

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Back To School? Yes!

By Gary Joll Founding President

Last month I was the non-participating listener to a conversation about a young New Zealand woman who had astounded her peers by completing an international alpine guiding training course in three years, a course with international standards where the expectation was it normally took a trainee five years to complete all instruction and finally graduate. I was grateful that I was solely a fringe observer, also that those participating in the conversation didn’t know that I’d been a professional hunting guide for much of my adult life; now retired, didn’t know that I’d had no formal training in my chosen profession. The irony is that young woman would be guiding her clients in the very same challenging terrain that I had for years guided clients while hunting tahr and chamois. The degree of training between that young woman and me would be as far apart as the east and west shores of the Pacific Ocean. Three years of international standards requirements and training against my forty odd years of ‘experience’! If only my experience could be harnessed and passed on to the up-coming generation of professional guides……!

And then I attended our 2013 AGM at Minaret Station and there, at last, at last, in my hand was a watershed document, a document signalling that our Association was making the boldest step forward it had ever taken in our twenty-seven years as a professional organisation. I had in my hand an industry specific GUIDE TRAINING COURSE document, a blue-print aiming boldly at training all new entrants into our Association to be consummate professionals, remembering always – ‘It is a self-evident absolute into our organisation to be consummate professionals, a blue-print aiming boldly at training all new entrants into our Association to satisfy the many and comprehensive requirements of the TRAINING MANUAL’.

How embarrassing will it be if a trainee at a future course should ask his instructor if he personally had a pass mark and is therefore a graduate from the course? A mumbled evasive answer would do irreparable damage not only to the intentions of the training course but the prestige of our Association, particularly if the mumbled response from the instructor is a slurred ‘No’……

I wish to boldly suggest to our executive that they should make haste to arrange a series of ‘Work Shops’ aimed specifically at bringing current members up to the requirements of this fantastic Training Manual. Let me hasten to state that I fully accept existing members will have no need to attend a full course of instruction, rather a series of small workshops catering to ‘deficiencies’ current members seek to rectify. The first step will be to canvas members, seeking from them areas where they would enjoy instruction or refreshing. Once all members have responded it will not be difficult to collate the requirements of members and structure workshops accordingly. It will require a ‘professional’ response from all members, with all of us admitting to ‘deficiencies’ and seek honestly to rectify them. We simply cannot have new entrants into our Association being better qualified professionals than we current members. You must agree?

Much discussion was generated when this Training Manual was introduced to those attending the AGM, but it was Rachel Burke who caused us all to take pause and individually engage in deep retrospective thought. It was Rachel who raised the highly pertinent question of if we as members of NZPHGA will expect new-entrants into our Association to satisfy the many and comprehensive requirements of the TRAINING MANUAL? How embarrassing will it be if a trainee at a future course should ask his instructor if he personally had a pass mark and is therefore a graduate from the course? A mumbled evasive answer would do irreparable damage not only to the intentions of the training course but the prestige of our Association, particularly if the mumbled response from the instructor is a slurred ‘No’……

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You’ll be interested to learn that in the brief period of time following the AGM and during the dinner that evening I heard of members who would seek ‘refreshing’ in:-
- Gaining an understanding of the SCI Scoring System.
- Comparison between SCI Scoring and Douglas Scoring.
- One person was amazed that it took me about forty minutes to full-body skin a bull tahr, with his usual time being two hours. It all came down to the knife he uses.
- Others quietly asked about vehicles requiring C of F and drivers have appropriate Passenger Service licence endorsement.
- And then it is a ‘shammy’ or ‘chamois’ (What do European hunters call them?)
- Knife sharpening was mentioned and best knife sharpener?
- How many laws of the land apply to our industry? Many.

No doubt at other tables during the dinner further issues relating to ‘refreshment’ were discussed, discussions I was not party to. So there we have it! In simple terms we have approached a point where we need to go back to school before we are confronted by a group of youngster who eventually may be better instructed and qualified than we the older generation of professionals.………..

Editors Note Gary’s fourth book “Fifty years of Trophy Hunting” is due out soon. Contact Gary for your copy.
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- **Don Patterson**
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