

# TALLY HO

A GUIDE TO THE WAITEMATA HUNT INCORPORATED



# HISTORY

## 1950 - 1969

After an initial meeting in 1949 the instigators of the new Hunt had several dry runs to see how things would go, and it was at once evident that there was sufficient enthusiasm to try the real thing so the country's latest aspirant started at the very bottom... by acquiring a litter of hound puppies from a Maramarua bitch. These were walked over the summer months and then returned to Vern Rope to house and form into a pack. Paper-chasing was the thing in the winter of '51, with the pups shown the way to go for one outing, then further prepared until the season of '52.

Enthusiasm was high, riders coming from all districts, and the only problem seemed to be the lack of hares. Several were released but the effort came to nought so aniseed was the only resort, with drag hunts proving equally as exciting as the real thing. Over the years a variety of false scents has been tried, proving that fit keen hounds will literally hunt anything, but for the last fifteen or so years possum has been used with comparable success. Although in the mid-fifties the number of hounds in kennel built to 17 couple with replacements, the norm these days is 11, well bred tricolours fast and fit. Their diet is unusual in that it consists of well bred tricolour fast and fit. Their diet is unusual in that it consists of wholemeal bread, dried blood and cheese (mis-batches coming from the factory in 44-gallon drums). Although it sounds unlikely, it has been clinically tested and passed with flying colours. Certainly the Waitemata pack looks the picture of health, and no one who has followed it can point the finger at a lack.

The Hunt affiliated in the '52 season, and in 1955 at the Waikato A&P Show had a hound placed in every eligible class as well as gaining with its Beau and Tess the award for Best NZ-bred Hound and Bitch. Another highlight occurred in 1958 when, with the permission of local Helensville farmers, a fallow deer hunt was held. On this unique occasion two deer were caught... an unusual feat for hounds run entirely on drag... and for the next dozen or so years the Day of the Deer Hunt was an annual, eagerly-awaited event.



*Hunt at Paremoremo, circa 1949*



*Mr Bill Stafford-Bush, Master & Prince Regent 1969*

## **Masters**

1949 – 1951 Mr Don Nash  
 1951 – 1958 Mr Gray Prebble  
 1958 – 1959 Mr John Nelson (summer nights)  
 1959 – 1965 Mr Bob McCown  
 1965 – 1966 V. Rope, M. Lee jointly (summer months)  
 1966 – 1970 Mr Bill Stafford-Bush  
 1970 – 1971 Mr Phil Peterson  
 1971 – 1973 Mr Rob Francis  
 1973 – 1980 Mr Ranald McDonald  
 1981 – 1982 Mr Ray Broughton  
 1982 – 1983 Mrs June Thompson  
 1983 – 1984 Mr Terry Wilson  
 1985 – 1986 Mr Ranald McDonald  
 1986 – 1991 Mr Dave Oliver  
 1991 – 1999 Mr John Rosamond  
 1999 – 2001 Mrs Paula Thoms  
 2001 – 2002 Miss Angela Allen  
 2002 – 2003 Mrs Lyn Skilling  
 2003 – 2006 Mr John Catt  
 2006 – curr. Mr Nigel McNeill

## **Huntsmen**

1950 – 1954 Vernon Rope  
 1954 – 1959 Norm McAteer  
 1960 – 1961 Charles Peters  
 1961 – 1965 Alby Phillips  
 1965 – 1966 Geoff Fairgray  
 1966 – 1970 Phil Peterson  
 1970 – 1973 Bruce Moatt  
 1973 – 1974 Rosemary Askew  
 1974 – 1982 Barry Whitehead  
 1982 – 1991 Dave Oliver  
 1991 – 1994 Barry Boase  
 1994 – 2000 Andy Wright  
 2000 – 2004 Mike Irvine  
 2004 – 2008 Wayne Bragg  
 2008 – curr. Nigel Tracey

## **Presidents**

1998 – 1999 Mr Nigel Owen  
 1999 – 2001 Mr John Catt  
 2001 – 2005 Miss Bunty Condon  
 2005 – 2006 Mr Evan Kerr-Taylor  
 2006 – 2008 Mr Mack Storey  
 2008 – 2010 Mr Robert Burgess  
 2011 – curr. Mr John Mackie

# 1969 - 1989

In 1973, a breakaway hunt was formed at Kaipara. This formation created much debate between the two hunts, as to boundaries. Waitemata could ill afford to lose its northern reaches, with Auckland City pushing from the south and deer farming on the increase in the western reaches.

The Waitemata territory is full of interest, varying from light sandy coastal to easy rolling hills, and the obstacles include everything – hedges, ditches, fences. Most are sparred, and the field averages about 60 followers with many many more in the school holidays. Hounds run twice a week from the end of March until July, then once weekly until the first week of August, and they run fast. One visitor paid an unwitting compliment to the Master when at afternoon tea he revealed that until that moment he had not realised he was hunting drag.

Fund-raising efforts include a Ribbon Day, a calf-to-beef scheme, raffles, sweat shirts with Hunt motifs, and saddle blankets with pockets. And cap fees help too, as all meets are advertised in the NZ Herald, hence there are many visitors and with caps at \$25 this proves lucrative.

Without a tote permit, the Waitemata is entirely dependent on its membership efforts, and without the services of these people with the interests of their organization at heart life could be far from easy, but while their dedication remains, so will the Waitemata.

*Mr Dave Oliver,  
Master-hunstman,  
on Matty 1989*



# 1989 - 2011

**T**wenty two years is a long time when one is not very old and this is certainly true in the case of the comparatively young Waitemata Hunt.

A major milestone for the Hunt during this twenty two years was the purchase of a property for kennels at Ahuroa, for the sum of \$168,000 in 1995. For the first time, this enabled the Hunt to employ a permanent huntsman. Previously, the Hunt had relied on the goodwill and generosity of successive huntsmen to care for hounds and kennel the pack on their own properties. Among them notably was Dave Oliver, Master and Huntsman in the 1980's and early 90's, who ably assisted by his wife Michelle, took care of the pack. Past Master John Rosamond was one of the most enthusiastic leaders of the Hunt's goal to buy a property and under his Mastership members scrimped, saved, fund-raised, jam bottled, 'sausage sizzled' and even ran beach races at Orewa to get together the necessary substantial deposit. The balance of the purchase price was by way of ASB Bank first mortgage, New Zealand Hunts' Association second mortgage, and members' interest free debentures, many of which were subsequently gifted to the Hunt. The newly acquired property comprised a basic house and shed, so many working bees were held to build kennels and hound runs under the expert supervision of Des Rider and the late Tim Styles-Joustra. At around this time, Andy Wright was employed as Huntsman.

In 1998 the Hunt hosted the Northern District Hound Show and in conjunction with that held a 'Hunt Week' where Andy was keen to show that Waitemata hounds were a versatile pack and not only could they hunt a drag but also hunt 'live'. Whether by chance or design was never quite clear but at a property in South Head hounds put up a feral deer, which resulted in a thrilling chase before the unfortunate quarry was duly dispatched. On the following week some people enjoyed bbq venison steaks at the hunt breakfast! However, the majority of the members were unhappy about the deer incident and a motion was passed to avoid killing deer in the future and that Waitemata would remain a drag hunt.

The Hunt celebrated its 50th jubilee in 2002 and although the Hunt became affiliated in 1952, it had in fact been hunting since 1948. Past and present members came together for a memorable celebration dinner at the Settlers Lodge and a few days later a large field met at Barry and

Susan Hart's property for a fine day's sport.

Since 1989, the Hunt has organised some very interesting nights to entertain those farmers who generously allowed the Hunt onto their properties. On one such occasion, the Hunt put on a show at the Parakai Tavern entitled 'Riding Through the Ages' which starred Bunty Condon riding Michelle Oliver's pony bareback around the tables, 'dressed' as Lady Godiva! This performance must have gained the respect of the members, as Bunty was later appointed President to assist the then Master, Paula Thoms (Pom), with organising the rewriting of the Hunt's Constitution, together with John Catt and Hunt Honorary Solicitor Peter Smith.

In 2006, John Rosamond's son, Caleb (then Deputy Master), moved the Hunt into the electronic era by setting up the Hunt's website, possibly the first hunt website in NZ. Charlotte Porter, being a senior sales and marketing executive and also a Deputy Master introduced many other modern initiatives to improve the Hunt's profile and membership numbers; including an upmarket hunt card, a programme for junior members, billboard advertising on Barry and Susan Hart's property, a preseason hunt school programme and a risqué hunt calendar.

The Hunt sadly lost a highly respected and valued member in April 2008. Roger McGill and his horse Jaffa were both fatally struck by lightning, while hunting near Whangarei with the Northland Hunt. Another very enthusiastic member, Frith Daniels, presented the Hunt with a magnificent trophy in memory of Roger and Jaffa and this is presented annually to the member who has demonstrated the most passion for the Hunt.

Leading up to 2011 a lot of effort by members (and Des Rider once again) has been put into improving the house and the kennels on the Hunt property. Members have also put a lot of hard work into ensuring that the properties which they are fortunate enough to ride over are well prepared and sparred.

The annual Hunt Ball used to be held mainly in the Coatesville Hall, Allely House and the Settlers Lodge but in recent years the ball has been successfully held at Sarah Lowndes' barn in Coatesville, and Soljans Estate in Kumeu.

Since 1989 the annual hunter trials have been held at Barry Boase's Te Pua property, Te Kanae

Road, Styles-Joustra's property in Muriwai, both Avondale and Helensville Racecourses, Liddles' property in Fordyce Road, Green Road in Coatesville and most recently Sarah Lowndes' property in Woodhill. More recently, two annual treks, including a regular Christmas trek at Mack and Anne Storey's Muriwai property, have proved to be a very good source of fundraising.

Thanks to the efforts of the present Huntsman, Nigel Tracey, Waitemata has a pack that it can be proud of; that give fast and furious sport, accompanied by fine music from enthusiastic hounds. The number of carded events including hunts but not including hunt schools has grown from 38 per year in 2006 to 51 in 2011.

Waitemata is predominantly a drag hunt and prides itself in always being friendly, encouraging and helpful to newcomers and visitors.

*Mr John  
Rosamond,  
Master 1992*



*Mr Nigel McNeill, Master, on Churchill 2009*

# MEMBERSHIP

For 60 years, the hunt has continued to have a dedicated following of hunt members both young and old. Like any sporting organisation, membership is paramount not only for income but also for the spreading of the workload involved in the organisation of the hunt itself.

In 2012 our membership consisted of 54 adults, 4 juniors, and 3 riding farmers. In addition we also have 6 life members who have contributed to the hunt greatly since its foundation.

Our members not only contribute to our sport, but also to the wider community via the purchase of services and goods in order to keep them and their horses in tip-top-condition. It is estimated that Waitemata Hunt members on average spend \$11,500 on their chosen sport, a total of \$701,500 invested back into the local economy every year.

Our members are from mixed socio-economic backgrounds and whose occupations are just as varied as their surnames - nurses, lawyers, salespeople, students, real estate agents, firefighters, parents, teachers, and a lucky few who are retired. Female members outnumber male members 3 to 1, so if you are an eligible good kiwi bloke looking for a nice lady, best saddle your horse and come hunting!

Increased diversity of equestrian pursuits has offered hunt riders a myriad of choice when it comes to spending time with their horses. Many of our regular hunt riders also compete at local and national shows, as well as hunt with Waitemata.

We have introduced a Junior Programme to ensure the future success of the hunt, by encouraging Pony Club riders to attend not only our hunt meets, but also Junior friendly events and functions specifically tailored to their needs such as Hunt Schools and Junior Camps.



# GEOGRAPHY

The Waitemata hunts predominantly in the Nor-West Auckland region, from Coatesville to further West at Muriwai up to South Head, and Nor-West up to Glorit and beyond. The hunts boundary is set by the NZ Hunts Association of which the hunt is a member.

With increased urbanisation and subdivision of large land holdings - the hunt finds itself needing to travel further afield for the days sport - not a chore in the mind of our members, rather it is always a privilege to be able to hunt over country generously allowed by the landowners.

In particular, the hunt has had some challenges finding sand based country able to be hunted in the later months of June and July, where the free draining soil helps to assist not only with footing, but also a happy farmer as we leave less hoofprints in our wake.





IT IS ONLY WITH THE SELFLESS GENEROSITY OF  
THE THRILL OF THE CHASE, THE FULL CRY OF



LANDOWNERS THAT WE ARE ABLE TO ENJOY  
HOUNDS, AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE HUNT

# COUNTRY

Looking forward to future seasons, there are two key factors to the success of the hunt. The first is membership, specifically attracting and retaining members. The second is country, retaining our existing landowners and properties, as well as attracting new and sometime past landowners and country for the future of the sport. With increased urbanisation and subdivision within the district, the hunt is now as conscious as ever for the need to have strong and longlasting relationships with farmers and landowners within the Waitemata district.

It is simply with the generosity of landowners that we hunt, and that our members get to enjoy a magnificent day out in the country following hounds, and participating in the sport they love. And what do our landowners receive in return? Well simply nothing other than the gratitude of the hunt and its members.

The Waitemata Hunt committee have the important task of approaching new and past landowners to ask them the very questions which we are sure most farmers would dread - "can we hunt over your land". These brave committee members have steeled themselves for what will no doubt be a variety of reactions from farmers.

The objective of the committee is to secure new venues for the upcoming season, hunting these properties twice in the upcoming season. Each of these new or returning landowners will have the undivided attention of a senior hunt member who will co-ordinate the sparring (fencing) teams whom will introduce, prepare, repair, and look after that particular landowner and their country.

We endeavour to make every care and grace a reality when hunting your land. Should the hunt for any particular reason in the past have 'blotted our copy book', please do not hold that against the current committee and membership. The committee would very much appreciate the opportunity to start afresh should you be in the generous position of offering your land. In past seasons, on a landowners request, we have limited meets to be members only.

*Example of hunt fences  
prepared by hunt sparring  
teams.*

*Top: dropped down  
wires with insulators;*

*Below: wooden sparred fence  
also with insulators.*



# SAFETY

The Waitemata Hunt acknowledges that there are risks associated with horse riding, as do the NZ Equestrian Federation, the ACC, and pretty much every rider in the country. It's how you manage you and your members' safety that is key — the key to safety is management.

To that affect, the hunt has a comprehensive health and safety programme that includes emergency management guidelines, guides for children and young people, hazard identification and control, risk assessment, accident reporting forms, animal handling guidelines, and first aid training. The hunts health & safety programme meets the requirements of the Department of Labour and relevant law.

Where ever practical and possible, the hunt ensures that a nurse is on-site at each meet, that a 4x4 or ATV vehicle is on site should it be required to assist, and that a fully stocked first aid kit and two trained first aid officers are at each meet. The hunt also fundraises for the Westpac Resuce Helicopter Trust on an annual basis to assist with ensuring that their services are adequately funded should we require them at any stage.

Also importantly, at each of the hunt meets or upon joining, the members and visitors of the hunt are required to sign an indemnity form, indemnifying the hunt and you the landowner of any risk whatsoever. Each rider is aware that they ride at their own risk and are responsible for any damage that they may cause. In addition, the hunt also has public liability insurance held with FMG and the NZ Hunts Associations insurer.

The hunt's appointed Health & Safety Officer is available at any stage should you require any further information or a copy of the hunts policies.

# CONTACTS

**T**hankyou for taking the time to read this publication. We hope that you find it both interesting and informative and goes some way to providing you, a landowner, with the necessary information you might require should you be considering allowing the hunt to hunt over your land.

If you would like to talk to us further regarding the hunt and possible use of your land to hunt on, please contact us at:

Waitemata Hunt Incorporated  
PO Box 601  
Kumeu, Auckland  
[www.waitematahunt.com](http://www.waitematahunt.com)  
e. [info@waitematahunt.co.nz](mailto:info@waitematahunt.co.nz)





