

Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust (SHOT)

– a New Hunting Advocates Group

In the 1970s the NZ Big Game Hunters' Association was a forthright body opposed to commercial exploitation of deer. Its code of ethics was opposed to the sale of venison by individual hunters. It was an organisation for the true amateur deerstalker with a membership of about 1000. West Coaster Laurie Collins was on the national executive. Laurie is seeking to revive the association, or to modify a similar body to be as forthright an advocate as the NZBGHA was in the 1970s.

Laurie is seeking any information on the old NZBGHA. With the passing of its president G T "Jock" Hutton it carried on for a few years and then went into recess.

“Unfortunately papers such as the constitution of NZBGHA are gathering dust somewhere. I would like to contact any former NZBGHA members and/or anyone that has a copy of the old constitution.”

Former NZBGHA members and others can contact him at Laurie Collins,
15 Greenfield Street, Hector, West Coast.

He has had discussions with a few former NZBGHA's people he knows and they have formed themselves into the Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust (SHOT) in the meantime.

Laurie stresses the need for a strong public voice in the light of threats such as 1080 poison, the government orchestrated ERMA review, the recent shallow Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report calling for more 1080, access problems, the Game Council's bias to commercial exploiters of deer plus others.

“With the likely advent of the Game Animal Council it will be the first recreational sport to be controlled by a Government Minister. The need for strong advocacy to protect recreational hunters and their chosen recreational has never been more vital than now.”

Laurie emphasises that any group that may evolve in not in opposition to any current hunting organisations.

“Fragmentation would be counterproductive to the big game hunting sector. The aim is to be positive and constructive. In fact I urge all hunters to join a hunting groups whether it's NZDA, pig hunters or whichever. Belong to more than one.”

“Right now, hunters who care about tomorrow can make a donation to help SHOT get underway. It's a one off donation for the foreseeable future but would be greatly appreciated whether it's \$20, \$50, \$100 or more.”

Donations can be made direct to SBS bank 03 1355 0685840 00 or cheques made out to Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust sent to SHOT, Box 384, Blenheim.