

# TEST FIRE

There appears to be a lot of choice in the market for footwear, but how much of it is actually designed for hunting?

## New Hiker Boots from Taranaki Rubber



### Introduction

Taranaki Rubber is a specialised local firm supplying footwear for over 30 years. They are a manufacturer and a boot importer specialising in boots especially suited for wet, muddy or cold weather use, right down to the extremes of the Antarctic. They have kids, women's and farmers' models too with most styles based on the proven design originated years ago in Canada, for a rubber outer boot (for total waterproofing - underfoot) to which a waterproof leather lace up upper is sewn (for flexibility and movement). The foot warmth factor is supplied by an "inner boot within the boot" which is generally removable and replaceable. There are now several variations on the original concept.

They also represent products made by "KAMIK", the leading Canadian company of this type of footwear and suppliers to North America and the world since 1905.

They can supply fast complete repair and warranty service for all their products from their modern production facility in New Plymouth.

### New Hiker Boots

This is a very popular style of boot for all types of hunting world-wide but really hasn't caught

on here the same way. Called "Bean Boots" overseas, in theory they offer the perfect combination of ankle support up top; and waterproofness below where you need it.

These boots are designed for hunting and more specifically, bush stalking. There is no removable inner which keeps the bulk down and also means they are not too warm on a hot day.

The base is made from a type of synthetic rubber with a one piece mould, making it totally waterproof in the way a normal gumboot would be. The upper is a heavy grade woven nylon, printed in a camouflage design and then lined with Thinsulate® for warmth and moisture control.

Basically, the Thinsulate® helps keep your feet warm when it's cold and also helps wick sweat away and keeps them a bit cooler in hot weather.

They have an open tread pattern designed to be soft and "wrap" over sticks without breaking them and in the same way, give good grip on rocks.

### Field Test

Right from the start I liked these boots as bush stalking is my "thing". So many companies make good boots then slap stiff, hard and noisy soles onto them. When you consider the price point of these is around a hundred bucks or so, they are damn good! If I wore them out after a year or so it wouldn't bother me the slightest. They are some of the quietest boots I have worn - and I've tried a few, believe me!

### Conclusion

The Hiker "Bean Boots" are absolutely ideal for bush stalking. The grip is good, ankle support is OK and they are not too heavy. Best of all is that the soles are very soft and quiet. They were comfortable right out of the box without any wearing-in required. They have basic "D-ring" lace hooks which work fine. My only negative is the nylon uppers are noisy if you rub them with the opposite boot as you walk. Long fleece pants and a wrap over the cuffs with the spare lace soon fixed that problem though. Best of all, I'll get close to a few more deer wearing these, that much I'm sure.

RRP \$100-\$120

Sizes 6-12 NZ

Distributed by [www.taranakirubber.co.nz](http://www.taranakirubber.co.nz)

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Tel (06) 755 1314 Tell them Martin, from the NZ Outdoor Hunting Magazine, sent ya!

### TIP:

If you wanted to stiffen-up the sole to make it easier on your feet for really long walks you could easily add a pair of stiff, fibreglass reinforced insoles inside.



## A BOOT FOR ALL SEASONS

Hunting in the hills or walking the footy field sidelines?

This Boot should be in your kit!

- \* Thinsulate lined
- \* Flexible
- \* Light
- \* Quiet
- \* Waterproof rubber base
- \* Great ground grip
- \* Affordable - \$110 - \$120
- \* Women's model - \$100
- \* Men's sizes 6-12 NZ



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