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Owned and operated by Richard and Sarah Burdon, Glen Dene can offer game park hunts for the time or fitness challenged or a true wilderness hunt in the high country overlooking some of the most spectacular alpine scenery New Zealand has to offer. While their game park hunts offer exceptional trophy quality, their free-range wilderness hunts are a bit more physically demanding, but can also produce some excellent trophies, thanks to three generations of game management by the Burdon family.

As some of you will know, I've crossed the ditch for more than three decades now, chasing mainly chamois and tahr, but rarely hunting reds. Having heard stories from several different reputable hunting sources, I thought it was time to visit Glen Dene myself. This trip, I chose to fly direct from Sydney to Queenstown, which is situated in Otago in the south-west of the South Island. From there Glen Dene is only a short 90-minute drive through Wanaka to Lake Hawea.

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS. Glen Dene Hunting accommodation extends to their premium brand Cross Hill Lodge and Geodomes as

well as "The Camp" which also offers a variety of accommodation options including glamping/ camping or basic cabins and self-contained cottages with comfortable beds, kitchen, bathroom and even a TV. Both options are owned by the Burdons and adjoin the station.

If you want to hunt in style or bring your wife or partner, I would highly recommend the Geo Domes. They are state of the art accommodation and she will be impressed, I assure you.

Each Geo Dome features a 40 square metre interior with private deck and contemporary bathroom, heated floor, gas fireplace, bar for tea and coffee making and super comfortable bedding, with a magic view of the outdoors. There's even an outdoor hot tub to relax in after a hard day on the hill.

Camp cottages are designed more so for those who want to self-cater and while you may wish to cook for yourself and BYO food and beverages, other packages are also available to include all meals catered for by the team at Glen Dene at their cosy Cross Hill Lodge, situated in the middle of their accommodation venue.

THE HUNT. Glen Dene have a team of

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Glene Dene is home to wild ram, red deer, fallow deer, chamois and also tahr.”

excellent guides, some of whom I met. However, my friend John Royle of Canterbury Tahr Hunting Guide, along with a few select outfitters, are also allowed to guide on Glen Dene station, so John was my guide for the trip. The first evening John introduced me to Richard and Sarah Burdon who were very welcoming and made me feel at home. The following morning, we were up before first light and headed out on an ATV into the back country. As John had guided here on several occasions, he knew exactly where to go and in no time, we were negotiating one of the many steep but well-worn tracks up into the heavens. Through the clouds and onto the tops, John cut the motor and said we'd be walking and glassing from here.

As the rut was over, John explained the stags had left the

ON THIS SPREAD

1 self-contained cottages.

2 Geo Domes

3 A bachelor mob of red stags caught out at 80 metres.

4 The Lodge.