



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

JULY NEWSLETTER

72nd 'Virtual' Conference

NZDA's first 'virtual' Conference and AGM was held last weekend on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of July in Wellington at the Deerstalkers House.

Due to the impact of Covid-19, it was decided under Level 2 lockdown that the National Executive must deliver an AGM for our members despite the uncertainty in March and April.

A bold decision was made to forge ahead and complete the Deerstalkers House redevelopment project and install the necessary technology to host a virtual meeting.

Fast forward to our 72nd Conference and National Office staff, together with the volunteer Building Committee of Tim Watson, John Kovacs, Rob Howey, Wally Potts and Gwyn Thurlow, pulled it off. Sincere thanks and gratitude must go to them for delivering for our Association when it was most needed.

Covid-19 forced the Association to embrace technology, but it also meant our members needed to up-skill too in order to speak with colleagues, clients, family and friends. The use of online meeting platforms has become normal and accepted. It certainly will be the way of the future and NZDA is planning on holding regular Zoom sessions for branches. Watch this space.

The business at Conference took place via Zoom, with notices of motion, remits, elections and voting all occurring without a hitch. Thanks to all the attendees for their efforts and for participating in a conference unlike those we have been accustomed to in the past.

2020/2021 National Executive board

We must welcome our new National Executive board of officers:

- **Craig Benbow**, National President
- **Alec McIver**, National Vice President
- **Trevor Chappell**, Immediate Past National President
- **Carolyn Heffernan**, National Treasurer
- **Callum Sheridan**, North Island Rep
- **Morgan Rogers**, North Island Rep
- **Ian Owen**, South Island Rep
- **Wayne Smith**, South Island Rep

The role of National Secretary is yet to be affirmed by the National Executive following Chaz's retirement at Conference.

We must thank the new board members for volunteering their time and willingly putting their hands up. It is going to be exciting to see their energy and ideas put into action in the year ahead.

The first board meeting of the new Executive will be on Saturday the 22nd of August, where much business will be discussed.

Farewell and thanks to the outgoing board members

We farewell the outgoing board members who have worked hard over the past two years for our Association and whom have overseen the following transformation projects:

- design, planning and construction of Deerstalkers House redevelopment project, now finished
- review, drafting and ushering in our modern constitution, together with providing branches a template constitution
- implementing an online centralised membership CRM system - Bitrix24
- implementing Xero accounting software
- reviewing and re-writing the HUNTS manual and programme
- appointing our Hunting & Wildlife editor, Simon Gibson, who has transformed the quality of our magazine
- carrying out the "Chasing Great" recommendations
- undertaking the re-branding by modernising our logo, styles and fonts to suit a digital future
- starting to professionalise our Association by hiring our new Chief Executive Officer and in-house lawyer, Gwyn Thurlow

These are bold and transformational actions that the incoming National Executive board can build on together with our CEO in order to keep improving the Association for our members to ensure NZDA has the right people to fight for hunters' rights and deliver on our fundamental aims. We thank the outgoing board to overseeing these projects and for laying the foundation.

If the success of the 72nd 'virtual' Conference is anything to go by, the future is looking strong for NZDA.

Our 73rd Conference is in Queenstown hosted by Southern Lakes branch.

2020/21 National Executive Introductions



Craig Benbow National President
Malvern branch

E: craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz

Hi, to all our members and their families,

National Conference held last weekend (25th and 26th July) resulted in my election to the National President's role and a largely new board was elected as our National Executive. I am sure all members will join with me in thanking all the National Office staff and all the others involved in pulling off a digital conference.

Many branches were sceptical this could be achieved, including myself, and it is a credit to all who took part and those who planned the event that it ran so well.

Thank you to all who took the opportunity to engage in Conference. We saw 31 branches participate online and that is a number that has not been achieved for a very long time.

The new National Executive and myself along with our CEO Gwyn are already getting on with business and we are all looking forward to fulfilling the fundamental aims of NZDA. We will do our utmost to serve you in line with those aims and look forward to improving our reporting and performance across our interests.

Personally I wish to acknowledge the commitment of branches and their representatives to ensuring our Association has a great future. To all who stood for positions on our National Executive board, I thank you for committing to the process and even if you were unsuccessful we hope you will still be available to assist the Association as we need good people

across all parts of our organisation.

Alec McIver National Vice-President
Rotorua

E: alec.mciver@deerstalkers.org.nz

Hi all, a big thank you to you all.

Thank you to the board, both our previous National Executive and my new fellow National Executive team.



I'm motivated to help move our Association forward and seek to ensure there is more transparency and engagement with branches. I aim to ensure the National Executive work on behalf of the branches and so I will be getting in touch with branches to get their ideas and input.

I am a Past National President (2008-2012) and former GAC councilor. I am a HUNTS Course Instructor. I have also stood for years on the Rotorua branch committee, including as President. I am particularly involved with our Maori communities and look forward to working with local iwi to further NZDA interests.

As a keen and active hunter, I look forward to advancing the cause of New Zealand's hunting community.



Carolyn Heffernan Treasurer

Te-Awamutu

E: carolyn.heffernan@deerstalkers.org.nz

Hi members, I stood for the position of National Treasurer because I felt I can use my professional accountancy skills to help our Association. I look forward to getting my teeth stuck into the role and supporting branches and the National Office to the best of my ability.

While I am relatively new to deerstalking having only joined 7 years ago, I am keen and jump at the chance to get out in the bush.

After leaving a farming environment and becoming an accountant I found

I missed the outdoors lifestyle.

Hunting is a great way to satisfy my need to get outdoors.

I appreciate all of Rob Howey's efforts as outgoing National Treasurer and hope he will have more time himself for hunting.

**Trevor Chappell Immediate Past
National President**

Waikato branch

E: trevor.chappell@deerstalkers.org.nz

The 72nd Annual Conference was very successful and sincere thanks go to all branch delegates and observers and all other participants for ensuring its success. Due to Covid-19 it was a virtual/digital conference which proved such a format is possible.



Formal acknowledgments were made to:

- Jim Peffers for his contribution to the HUNTS programme
- Snow Hewetson for his work promoting recreational hunting and advocating for Himalayan tahr
- Chaz Forsyth for his excellent service as National Secretary

A National Life Membership was accorded to John Crone for his outstanding contribution as National Treasurer over a staggering 18 years.

Ric Cullinane of Walking Access NZ was the only guest speaker. Ric spoke about his role as Chief Executive and explained the impediments faced when negotiating better access for recreational hunters in a number of regions.

My sincere thanks goes to Rob Howey. Rob delivered audited accounts for the past two years (2019 and 2020) and the Association's operational budget for the current 2020/21 financial year.

Our National Patron, Mark Dunajtschik must be thanked for his generous offer to pay for all members' 2021/22 levies - COLFO, Research Fund and Heritage Trust. This is just awesome and typical of his generous nature. It will mean NZDA membership will cost less for our members when they renew in March 2022.

The election of officers to our National Executive resulted in a number of

new faces. I warmly welcome our new president, Craig Benbow, Vice President, Alec McIver, National Treasurer, Carolyn Heffernan, and other new members Wayne Smith, Callum Sheridan and Morgan Rogers. Myself and Ian Owen are the only remaining members.

To each of the board members who retired or were not successful in re-election - there are not sufficient words to describe your voluntary commitments assisting the Association. The following is a summary of your time given:

- Snow Hewetson, 9 years
- Tim Watson, 2 years
- Kaylyn Pinney, 1 year
- Geoff Feasey, 3 years
- Chaz Forsyth, 7 years
- Rob Howey, 4 years
- Dave Hudson, 3 years

All tolled it is 28 years of voluntary time. In particular, during the past two years, the National Executive has moved the Association towards a modern entity. We strengthened ties with other hunting stakeholder organisations such as MSC, GAC, Fish & Game, FMC, Tahr Foundation, Sika Foundation and Wapiti Foundation. I believe it is a legacy of work that may be hard to emulate by future National Executives.

I am excited to continue to be part of the National Executive that will oversee the upgrade of our website which is being developed to provide greater information to our membership. Members will see the continued greater use of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to publicise NZDA activities. The monthly newsletter will continue to give you, the members, information about current board and NZDA activities. I hope there continues to be a focus on regular media releases on issues NZDA supports or opposes.

In summary, I have to give my congratulations to the 2019/20 executive team for making hard decisions and agreeing to actions that have moved the Association firmly into the 21st century.

**Chaz Forsyth Retired National
Secretary**
Otago branch
E: cihforsyth@gmail.com

It has been my pleasure to be NZDA's National Secretary. The last month has been my final as an officer of NZDA. I've



been busy preparing for Conference and was amazed at the success of the digital proceedings.

I assembled agendas for five board meetings, took minutes for those held since the previous report - meetings on 1 July, 8 July, 15 July, 24 July, 25 and 26 July (the first three by Zoom, the remaining three face to face).

I took minutes for the HUNTS Trust AGM, and have been appointed its secretary. At present, I am interim secretary for NZDA but that will be resolved on 22 August when the next executive meeting is held.

All the best, and many many thanks for your support and the supportive efforts of my colleagues Sue, and more recently, Gwyn, at the National Office.

**Callum Sheridan North Island Member
Auckland**

E: callums@deerstalkers.co.nz

Hi members,

I've been a member of the NZDA since 2014 joining the Auckland branch in 2015. I am an active member and want to extend my passion for hunting to the national platform.



Since becoming a member of NZDA my passion for hunting and the sport and recreation it provides has grown. It is now at a stage where I can understand the importance of having a voice within New Zealand to represent the hunting and shooting community. I see the NZDA as the perfect avenue to pursue that and would like to contribute to the

association to help it grow and be recognised as a strong voice for New Zealand hunters.

My vision as a North Island rep would be to engage with clubs throughout the island and contribute what I have learnt over the past few years at the Auckland branch, where we have seen member engagement rise as well as a spike in new members coming to the club.

I'm a hunter at heart and there is nothing better than getting out into the bush and doing it!



**Morgan Rogers North Island Member
Hastings**

E: morgan.rogers@deerstalkers.org.nz

Currently based in Clive, Hawkes Bay, I am an active hunter. Hunting mostly in Central Otago, Nelson Lakes and, more recently, the central North Island. I am also lucky enough to frequently experience free range hunting on the global scene.

I am enthusiastic and driven and, currently employed by T&G Global. I lead the group's innovation and technical support of fruit varieties in more than 15 countries.

I have a wide range of governance experience not only commercially but also in the political environment.

I was a member of the NZDA Nelson branch between 2008 and 2016 significantly increasing the membership base and was appointed from the committee to president of the Branch until I left in 2016. During my tenure I also ran a national NZDA conference in Nelson.

I am now a member of the Hastings NZDA committee.

I look forward to working closely with the regional branches and NZDA National office on further identifying what its core role is, who with and how they need to engage nationally and most importantly, make sure Natex supports the office in delivering value to the regional branches and membership base.

I believe the NZDA is at a turning point regarding its ongoing relevance and look forward to supporting the firming up of our position for the next 10 years.

Ian Owen South Island Member
South Canterbury

E: ian.owen@deerstalkers.org.nz

Thank you to all the members and branches that have supported me and re-elected me to the National Executive, your faith and trust in me is very much appreciated.



At conference the members sent a strong signal for change and I am looking forward to working collaboratively with the new members of the executive to work constructively in bringing that change to our Association.

During my time on the National Executive one of my goals has been to get branches and members interacting with each other, this is still one of my goals and I feel that together we will become more united and stronger and because of that our voice will be harder to ignore.

We need to be inclusive and welcoming to encourage growth in our membership numbers and through that growth our voice will be even louder. I believe in all of the NZDA mission statement, and think we all have an active role to play in achieving these goals into the future.

Therefore I look forward to engaging with branches and members to achieve the goals we all want from our association.

Wayne Smith South Island Member
Marlborough

E: wayne.smith@deerstalkers.org.nz

Hi members,

I am delighted to join the National Executive and help work for our Association.

My wife, Louisa and I have three grown up children and two grandchildren and I am now trying to be 'semi-retired' at my

base in Blenheim.



I've held my firearms license for over forty years and hunted fairly extensively in many areas across both the North and South Islands.

I've contributed at the local branch level for over twenty years in most committee roles and continue to do so currently as Treasurer for the Marlborough Branch.

I look forward to putting my energy and passion for hunting and shooting at a national level as part of the National Executive.



2020 Conference Photo Competition - John Lumsden, Napier branch

Amended AHT Conference Competition Results

Please be aware that there has been a change in the AHT Competition results for this years competition.

The updated results have been attached below.

Updated AHT Results 2020

A Word from our Chief Executive

July has been a busy month for NZDA and myself.

Firstly, we have had many new members join NZDA and I welcome you all and thank you for becoming an active part of New Zealand's hunting community. Your membership helps make our voice stronger.



The National Office team are now at Deerstalkers House in our modern office. We packed up the temporary office and moved in over three days, a large and disruptive task for staff and members alike.

The lead up to Conference was a juggling act of completing the building redevelopment, distributing the paper work to branches and delegates for Conference, coordinating national competition entries, arranging for the IT and AV equipment to host the Zoom meeting, and answering many member questions.

I was also tasked with launching the re-branch by the National Executive on the eve of Conference. Like our membership, the re-brand was a surprise to me. My initial response was "why change a great logo" but the more I thought about the versatility and purpose of the new branding I have come to embrace it. It is suitable for these times, digital use, and looks great in print format as well as on clothing.

I have been working closely with the Tahr Foundation and David Keen, NZDA Tahr rep, on the 2020/21 DOC Operational Tahr Plan. I plunged into the deep end attending the DOC meeting in Christchurch, then

was closely engaged with the Tahr Foundation's legal action to seek an injunction and judicial review. As a passionate tahr hunter, I have a vested interest in the outcome and will work hard for our members to ensure recreational hunters' views are heard. I was present at the High Court in Wellington and learnt the value of information and data.

Staying on the subject of tahr, I was proud to be a hunter when 1000 people and around 500 vehicles attended the TahrJam protest at Mt Cook. I am also proud to see a second hunter-lead TahrJam protest happening in Auckland.

You will have seen I have issued many media releases, spoken about hunting issues on the airwaves, been quoted in Parliament, and appeared (albeit briefly) on TV One News last Friday. I have put a lot of effort to raise the profile of hunting and NZDA in New Zealand, and will continue to do so for our membership.

The New Zealand Law Society ran a feature about me that can be read here: <https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/news-and-communications/people-in-the-law/lawyer-profiles/call-of-the-wild-inspires-hunter-lawyer>

I'm looking forward to August and the outcome of our further consultation with DOC regarding the remaining 50% of the 2020/21 Tahr Operational Plan. Irrespective of the outcome, I would ask our members to remain respectful and remember we must demonstrate the highest standard of ethics and behavior as NZDA members.

Lastly, I was invigorated by the appointment of our keen and talented National Executive. I listened intently to their election speeches at Conference and there is no doubt they each have our members' interest at the core of their motivations.

One News: Hunting groups condemn threats of violence to those carrying out DOC's tahr cull

Click below to watch the One News report, where NZDA CEO Gwyn Thurlow is featured.



Jackie Dean (National MP, Conservation Spokesperson) visits NZDA Office



Jackie Dean, National MP and Conservation spokesperson

Jackie Dean (National MP, Conservation Spokesperson) visited National Office and met with CEO, Gwyn Thurlow and National Executive member, Dave Hudson on Friday 24th July. We spent nearly an hour discussing the issues facing Kiwi hunters. Jackie is very understanding and is keen to liaise further with NZDA should she become Minister of Conservation after September's election.

Nicole McKee (Act Candidate, Conservation and Firearms Spokesperson) visits NZDA

NZDA National President, Craig Benbow, and CEO, Gwyn Thurlow, caught up with [ACT](#) candidate for Rongotai, [Nicole McKee ACT - Rongotai](#) to discuss her key spokesperson portfolios affecting NZDA members - conservation and law/firearms. We discussed Act's policies around hunting and conservation which Act have developed and published.

Note: NZDA National Policy is to support 'Policies' not 'Parties'. We will give all Parties the opportunity to meet us to discuss issues facing NZDA members.



Left to right: Gwyn Thurlow NZDA CEO, Nicole McKee ACT, Craig Benbow NZDA National President

CEO Hosts Game Animal Council

NZDA hosted [NZ Game Animal Council](#) for a catch up meeting on 28th July at NZDA Head Office. Don Hammond, Chairman, and Tim Gale, General Manager, were impressed by the new building and our refreshed branding.

Gwyn Thurlow, NZDA CEO, passed on a few views and concerns facing recreational hunters and members. Both parties left the meeting knowing there's lots of discussion and hardwork ahead. NZDA are up for it.



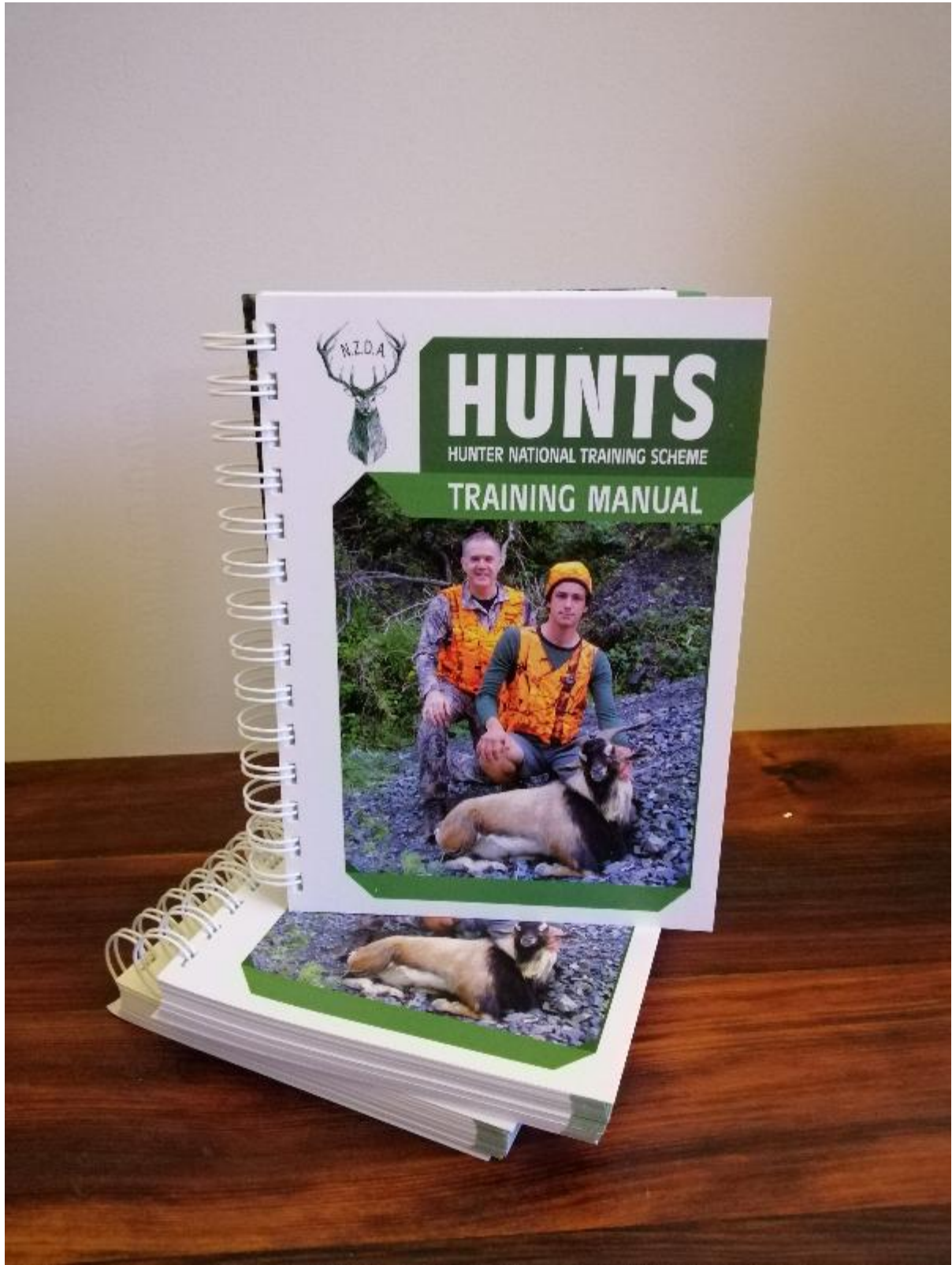
Left to right: Gwyn Thurlow NZDA CEO, Tim Gale Game Animal Council General Manager



Left to right: Don Hammond Chairman Game Animal Council, Tim Gale Game Animal Council General Manager

HUNTS Manuals

The new HUNTS Manuals are now on sale (\$35.00 + pp). Please contact National Office to arrange orders. We only have 500 copies, so preference will be given to qualified HUNTS Instructors orders.



Deerstalkers House Building Update

National Office are pleased to have moved back into the Deerstalkers house on Collina Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington.

The building is just about complete, with all that's left remaining are a few bits and pieces.

The lighting in the main hall and office as well as the commercial oven, were all held up due to Covid-19 shipping delays from overseas.

The front of the house is also to feature a Garden, which is yet to be finished.





Sika Show to go ahead in September

NZDA is pleased to hear that the Sika Show is going ahead at the end of September. NZDA will have a large stand represented by NZDA, HUNTS, Heritage Trust and Douglas Score. We look forward to meeting our members in person.

Press Release Sika Show 2020

Check out the photos from last year's show below!



Heritage Trust stand - Left to right: Peter Thurlow, John Riley, Barry Insull, Dulcie Riley, Tim Watson, Gwyn Thurlow



Fiordland Wapiti meat update



We have had one further donation made by Hutt Valley branch which takes the total donated by NZDA up to \$2,510 by:

- Hutt Valley
- Taupo
- Bay of Plenty
- Marlborough
- Wellington
- National Office (on behalf of all members)

[Check out the website for more on the project.](#)



2020 Conference Photo Competition - Tom McCowan, Wellington branch

Hunting and Wildlife Magazine

Printed editions also available

There is still the ability to order your printed copy of NZ Hunting and Wildlife Magazine and have it delivered to your home address.

\$10 a copy

or

\$29 for 4 x editions



[Click here to read the latest virtual magazine](#)

[Order your printed editions here!](#)

Auckland TahrJam



**BRING YOUR VEHICLE FOR A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION
AS A SHOW OF SUPPORT AGAINST THE SLAUGHTER OF TAHR**

Details:

- Meet at Westgate at 2pm (carpark corner of Kedgley road and Maki street) for a briefing
- Travel along north western motorway over the harbour bridge to exit 421 on northern motorway (first after the harbour bridge) 30 – 40 min
- Turn around back over the bridge to exit 424A. 15 min
- Follow Fanshawe street to the bottom of queen. 10 min
- Turn up queen street to K road. 10 min
- Cross Grafton bridge to park road turning into the Auckland domain

- on domain drive north 15 min
- Park and assemble in front of the Auckland museum wh ere we plan to have Guest Speakers, including Snow Hewetson, Chairman of the NZ Tahr Foundation

Back Country Trust Performance Review



BACKCOUNTRY TRUST
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage



2019-20 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Protecting Hunters' Rights in New Zealand Since 1937

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

You are receiving this message because you have previously registered as a member of the NZDA.
Please [click here to unsubscribe](#) if you no longer want to receive emails from us.