



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

JULY NEWSLETTER

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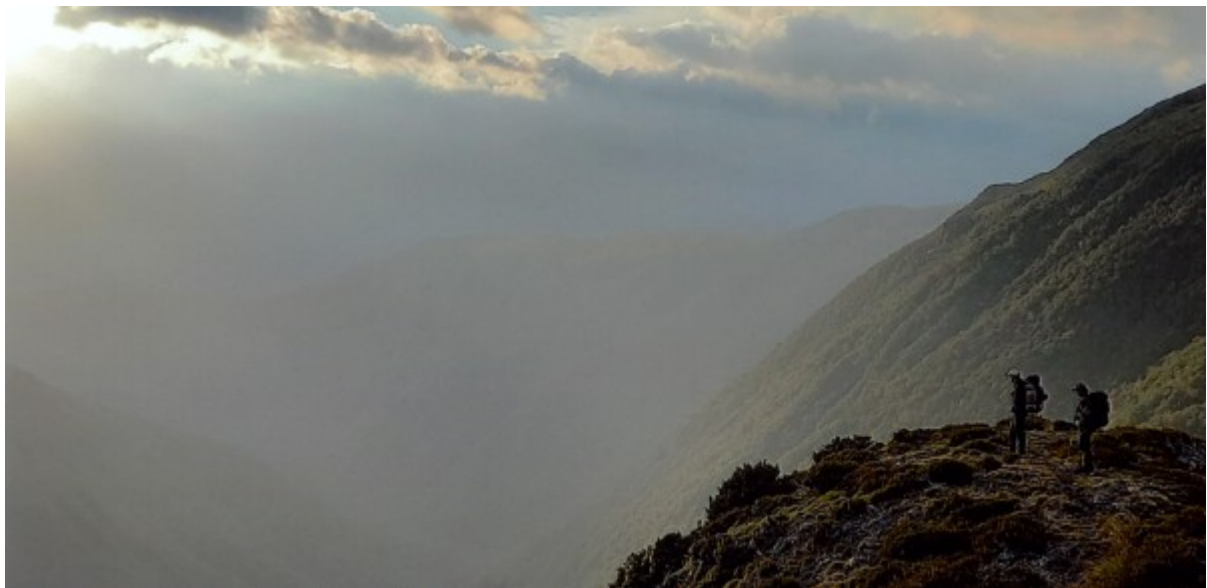


Photo Credit: Tim Watson (Wellington Branch), Scenic, 2021 National Photographic Competition

Membership Survey - Reminder to Submit

Open Survey

We are conducting a survey and we would greatly appreciate your feedback and comments. We have received over 1,100 responses to date but reaching 2,000 would be epic. We are re-asking some historical questions from 2001 and 2018 along with some new questions to make sure we're on the right track in meeting our members' expectations.

The survey will close 5pm, Monday, 2nd August.

The survey takes most people just 7 minutes so please take the time to give us your feedback.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQ8MSF6>

National Board Reports



Craig Benbow National President

Malvern branch

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It's mid winter and we are really getting a winter to remember this year. Storms and floods have wreaked havoc and brought misery to some in our fair land so if you are one of the many who have volunteered to help or someone who can contribute to those in need, thank you for your contribution.

We usually expect our heaviest snow falls to occur through August-September, so some fun to come yet, I suspect.

Our HUNTS volunteers will welcome the announcement of our Jobs For Nature grant funding. It will invigorate our HUNTS programme by allowing us to train more instructors. Securing this grant is a massive positive for our sport. NZDA needs to do all we can to provide hunter education because hunting is a part of life in New Zealand and well trained responsible hunters will be valuable contributors to society and conservation efforts. NZDA has a goal to see as many well trained, ethical and responsible hunters as possible.

Branches committees will be planning events for the coming spring and summer. Our lives are very busy but with plenty of notice people can plan

for attending or assisting. I encourage members to volunteer your time to support our hard working committees. I know how hard it is to get participation and sometimes it just feels easier to round up the usual suspects who always front, but as an association we need all our members contributing. In my experience, the more you put in, the more you get out!

Lastly, at this time of year things on the hunting front are relatively quiet but those willing to venture out and scan the sunny faces on nice days are usually rewarded, so there is no reason to hug the fire if you have a good day and need a bit of exercise. It is fair to say there is no shortage of hunting opportunities so you are spoiled for choice and there are a lot of hunting competitions running around the country for everyone to have a go. Make some time, get out there!

Wayne Smith South Island Rep
Marlborough branch

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From my perspective there appears to have been a small case of post conference exhaustion with the NZDA Board taking a bit of a pause on a few workstreams – probably fair, it was a very busy year! That said while our next face-to-face meeting isn't until September there have been a few things progressed worth noting.



The Business Plan is now approved by the Board and out to branches. I know this might be a bit of a boring document for some but its another significant milestone we can tick off. It represents the culmination of a lot of work behind the scenes driven from the Board largely by Morgan. Of course it's also a huge amount of work for Gwyn to put together and then to deliver on significant components of it. This is a rolling 3-year road map which we will of course update and share with branches every year.

There has been other back office, but important, house keeping work that needed to be completed. Dan and Gwyn have finalised a rolling 1-year Board Work Plan so we now have an outline of our meeting agenda's looking out as far as July 2022 and this will be extended so we always have this picture in front of us for the upcoming year.

All the branches will now have seen the news about the HUNTS funding which was an absolutely brilliant effort by Gwyn to secure that. The Board knew this was almost certainly going to happen just before conference but

it wasn't 100% confirmed so we couldn't make any announcements at conference. It was exciting news but we just had to sit on it until we had the greenlight from government. While great news it creates another whole recruitment workstream as we start to get that in place. I've offered to help Gwyn with that as required over the coming months.

In amongst all of the above we have also been chipping away at getting terms of reference's and other background documentation drafted for the Game Animal Management (GAM) and National Access (NA) subcommittee's. This has been work I have been leading since about March. It's important work but has been sitting at times as a 2nd priority workstream until we were clear of conference and some of the stuff I've alluded to above. It's probably floating to the top of the priority order about now with GAM hopefully stood up shortly and then National Access with a bit of luck not too far behind. I just need to consult a little further with some key people on the draft terms of reference and then get it formally approved by the Board.

The Chasing Great Report suggested that one advantage of a Board subcommittee structure should be to act as a succession planning pool for the NZDA Board. I agree but would add that it can also be used as people look to exit the Board. Their knowledge, skills and experience doesn't need to be lost fully and some may well enjoy continuing to add value at a subcommittee level for a period after their stint on the Board.

Regardless it will be good to get these subcommittee up and operational shortly. That will be another thing ticked off and then I guess we will move onto the next item in the Business Plan!



Photo Credit: Greg Hull (North Canterbury Branch), Highly Commendable, Game Animals, 2021 National Photographic Competition

A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



Board members Craig and Wayne and HUNTS Coordinator, Rob, (see below) have provided a good summary of what NZDA has been doing in the past month so I'll be brief this month.

NZDA App Progressing

The NZDA membership App is progressing well, with design and layout approved just last week. The next phase will be developing the backend and testing. I'll be asking a few people to run a test version of the App, so keep an eye out and you might get a sneak peak, if you're lucky.

HUNTS Programme Grant

In regard to the \$700,000 grant funding, on a personal note, it is pleasing to have worked with Tim Gale at Game Animal Council to secure funding to train more hunters and build on the capability and capacity of our volunteer HUNTS programme over the next 3 years. It is my hope that our HUNTS programme sees many positive benefits of having dedicated staff working on it.

A new HUNTS Trust role for me

I recently accepted the role as Secretary of NZDA HUNTS Trust and will help to administer that trust. It's a registered charitable trust board and has huge untapped potential as a funding mechanism for our education goals.

I took over the secretary role from the long-serving Chaz Forsyth (NZDA National Life Member and former National Secretary) so thanks, again, to Chaz for yet more dedicated service to NZDA initiatives.

I'm now serving on a few NZDA governance committees as a volunteer but it's what makes me tick and I'm happy to apply my skills doing the admin work which frees up others to enjoy our sport.

Recruitment to start shortly

Finally, I will be running a recruitment process shortly to fill our HUNTS roles - don't worry, NZDA members will be sent a notification. I'm looking forward to having more staff on the NZDA team that work hard for recreational hunters.



Learning to hunt on a HUNTS Course and meeting like-minded people is something

unique to NZDA. Learning to hunt provides a life long and rewarding sport.

HUNTS Trust Advisory

Rob Howey National HUNTS Co-Ordinator
Porirua branch

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I thoroughly enjoyed conference this year. Queenstown was a fantastic location and we were well looked after by the local team at Southern Lakes branch.



A few of the HUNTS instructors arrived early and we were treated to a evening "thermal" demonstration session by local pest controller and Southern Lakes HUNTS Instructor Shaun Maloney. Those present were given an overview on the functions of thermal optics and the pros and cons before taking us out for a practical exercise on a local farm. It was an enjoyable exercise but damn cold, thankfully I had my gloves and beanie.

On the Friday a few more instructors joined us and Shaun ably assisted by local HUNTS assessor Pete Henderson took us for a guided walk up Mt Dewar which gave us a great view over Queenstown area and beyond.

By now you will have heard the news about the Jobs for Nature funding that will allow us to hire staff to drive the HUNTS programme forward, I have been working closely with our CEO Gwyn to gather the necessary information to get this project underway. It is a very exciting time for HUNTS as we get this project up and running to help get our back log of provisional instructors signed off and get new instructors on the pathway to being fully qualified.

A huge shout out to Gwyn for his dedication to NZDA and the foresight to seek this funding grant for the HUNTS programme and also to all the HUNTS instructors out there volunteering their time to run courses each year, I know how many hours you put into running a course so thank you. Lastly, thank you to our assessor team who also volunteered their time to get around the branches and assess the Instructors, it's an extremely difficult task to line up two peoples time so thanks Pete, Frank, Stephen, Glen and Bill - hang in there we have some help coming.

To the Hunts Instructors awaiting their warrant cards, these are not far

away.

\$700,000 Hunter Education Grant Secured for Recreational Hunters



The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) and the Game Animal Council (GAC) are welcoming a \$700,000 boost for hunter training and education delivered through the Jobs for Nature Community Conservation Fund.

"Hunting is increasing in popularity and with a lot of new people seeking to learn the skills required to feed their families, we all have an interest in assisting them to be as safe, ethical and successful as possible," says NZDA Chief Executive Gwyn Thurlow.

"Both the NZDA and Game Animal Council are committed to improving the provision of hunter education and training and we acknowledge the support of the Department of Conservation in supporting this funding application."

The Jobs for Nature funding will allow for the creation of five positions to develop and implement the National Hunter Education and Training Scheme over a 3-year period.

"In keeping with its statutory mandate, the GAC is in the process of designing an online hunter education course that will act as a bridge between gaining a firearms licence and the hands-on instruction provided by NZDA's hunter training course, known as HUNTS," says General Manager Tim Gale. "This funding will allow us to employ someone fulltime to get on with the complex development and delivery of the online course."

"The HUNTS course has been incredibly successful since being launched in 1987 and has seen thousands of hunters gain the skills to safely hunt big game in New Zealand," Thurlow says. "Currently it is run by qualified volunteers, which has limited our ability to meet the high demand of aspiring hunters applying for training. The extra resource through Jobs for Nature will allow us to professionalise the coordination and instructor

assessment roles and mean more people than ever can access this practical training.”



“The reality is that there are so many facets to being a good hunter,” Gale says. “A lot of people get fixated on firearms training and while that is important, most hunting accidents don’t involve firearms at all and are instead the usual outdoor incidents – rolled ankles, falls and being caught out in bad weather.”

“Teaching new hunters the necessary safety skills also needs to be combined with teaching them how to be successful. This can comprise of what to hunt, where and when, practical field shooting techniques, good game animal management practices, hunting ethics and animal butchery.”

“The importance of hunting to New Zealand cannot be undervalued,” says Thurlow. “Estimates are that recreational and meat hunters harvest

around 135,000 deer, 132,000 other game animals and 230,000 pest goats each year in New Zealand. This is a significant contribution, not only to conservation, but in the provision of mahinga kai for many communities.”

“The bottom line is the more new and inexperienced hunters we can reach through this scheme the better the outcomes will be for hunter safety and enjoyment and the greater the hunting sector’s contribution will be to game animal management and the wellbeing of our communities,” says Gale.

Background

The National Hunter Education and Training Scheme has two key parts delivered in partnership:

1. An online education course delivered by the Game Animal Council that will provide foundational knowledge to new and inexperienced hunters.
2. Expansion of the classroom and practical/field training programme delivered nationwide by NZDA through the HUNTS Course.

The approval of the application to the Jobs for Nature Community Conservation Fund will allow for the creation of five hunter education and training positions to deliver this over a 3-year period:

- One full-time employee to develop, facilitate and deliver hunter education through an online education course to be delivered by the Game Animal Council.
- One full-time employee to manage NZDA’s HUNTS programme as a National Co-ordinator.
- One part-time employee to support the National Co-ordinator to administer HUNTS and work with iwi to develop Maori HUNTS programmes.
- One part-time employee to oversee the training and assessment of HUNTS Instructors (volunteers) in the North Island.
- One part-time employee to oversee the training and assessment of HUNTS Instructors (volunteers) in the South Island.



Obituary - Lawrence Rowe

Patron, Manawatu Branch



It is with a heavy heart that we notify members that Manawatu branch member and Patron, Lawrence Rowe has passed away on Monday the 19th of July.

Pat (spouse) advises that Lawrence joined the Deerstalkers at 15 years old in 1950, soon after leaving School, a long standing Member of 71 years. He enjoyed the friendship, the hunting trips and all the mates he met over the years.

Pat has also said that Lawrence was very happy and proud to be invited to be the Manawatu branch Patron, and was looking forward to Trophy Night. Pat has also said she is sorry to miss the Trophy Night this year too but does send the Branch best wishes for the future and has sent thanks to us all.

NZDA - DOC Goat Cull Competition Announced



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

Feral goats across a swathe of the central North Island are the target of a new hunting competition launched by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA).

In many parts of New Zealand, feral goats are a pest on both private and public land. The animals browse a range of plants – including many native species, and farming pasture – and breed prolifically. They are known to be shrewd animals and adept at avoiding capture. Hunting is seen as the most reliable control method.

Kina Tweeddale, DOC's Community Ranger for the Maniapoto district, says the new competition will be held for the first time from 14 August to 4 September, culminating with a prizegiving event in Te Kuiti DOC's Taupiri St workshop from 10am onwards.

"We've enjoyed some good success with the annual Pureora Forest Park Hunting Competition, and through our very positive relationship with NZDA we identified an opportunity to add this event to the North Island hunting calendar," she says.

"Feral goats are an issue for DOC, and for many private land-owners, and working with the hunting community to give them another competitive opportunity to enjoy their sport – while also helping to reduce one of our most problematic pest species – is a win-win situation."

Competitors are urged to focus on the area spanning Hamilton to Taumaranui, and from the western boundaries of Lake Taupo through Pureora and Waitomo to the west coast of the North Island. However, entries will be accepted from beyond the general area – the competition goal being to reduce the feral goat population.



Photo credit: Jared Parker, South Auckland branch 2020.

Trevor Chappell, national past president of NZDA, says winter sees less opportunities for deer hunting in the central and northern North Island – with the animals usually disappearing into denser forest after the roar - so turning hunters’ attention to goats gives them a new challenge. Goats are nimble and quick compared to deer.

“NZDA has made commitment to work alongside DOC to reduce deer numbers, but shifting the focus to feral goats is a new initiative based on recent discussions,” he says.

“Ultimately this is about encouraging hunters to reduce the feral goat numbers – the goats are eating their way through native bush. If we want healthy environment for deer hunting, need to reduce the goat population.

“It’s another chance for NZDA to collaborate with DOC and strengthen that relationship, and there are mutual gains for hunters and landowners through this competition.”

Trevor Chappell says hunting for the competition can occur on private property with owner’s permission, or public land with authority or a permit from the relevant organisation.

The competition will run to a similar format as the annual Pureora hunting event, with two age categories – Open and Junior (hunters less than 17 years old). There are five categories – Most Tails Open, Most Tails Junior, Biggest Set of Horns Open, Biggest Set of Horns Junior, and a random

prize draw for all participating hunters.

Those entering horns and skulls are asked to ensure the heads have been appropriately cleaned or boiled to ensure any hygiene/odour issues are dealt with.

Pre-registration is not required, but hunters planning to hunt on public conservation land must have a relevant permit from DOC.

Firearms licences are also essential for competitors, and the competition is open to anyone "willing to have a go," Trevor Chappell says.

NZDA Southern Lakes HUNTS Course



Southern Lakes HUNTS course, team photo of the participants.

The Southern Lakes branch have just had their first weekend of this year's HUNTS course.

The branch are training 10 hunters and it is a great example of our HUNTS programme in action.

HUNTS courses are increasing in popularity with long waiting lists to participate.



Southern Lakes HUNTS Course is taught by Instructor, Katie Dugan.

In the News: At home on the range: Back-country skills teach life lessons



Upper Clutha branch member Tony Higgins decides not to fire at a doe because he could not guarantee the shot. *Photo supplied by Otago Daily Times.*

It's a long way to the chop... if you want to catch it yourself. Lisa Scott from the Otago Daily Times meets the Upper Clutha Deer Stalkers Club and asks them for their favourite recipes.

The afternoon was all about the deer we didn't shoot. A young buck across a stream who would grow into a trophy stag, three deer on the skyline, a shot too unpredictable to take, another deer right in front of us. I held my breath. But the shot wasn't right, and the animal was becoming agitated, which would spoil the meat. Hunters aren't Rambos, spraying everything in sight.

Club president John loves the solitude of hunting. Just him and Bella the dog, who still hunts despite her missing foot. She forgets her injury completely when she's after a wallaby.

"Clear your mind of all the crap, the noise of life. I sleep the soundest when I'm in a tent on the side of a mountain."

When he's not alone he takes newbies under his wing. People are coming into the sport from a wide variety of backgrounds; and there's a huge range of different hunting in the Wanaka area, and the nearby Hopkins and Dobson valleys. John's hoping that with more women becoming members, they might want to take on some of the club's executive roles and he won't have to spend four terms as president.

Fifteen-year-old Ella goes after bunny, tahr, deer. "You pick what meat you eat. You shot the animal, you saw it die, made a connection to it. You have to read the signs, to become it, be where it's going to hang out. It doesn't come to you. You see if it's a good animal to have. Then calm your breathing, control your emotions. If you miss the shot and wound

the animal, you'll have to follow it for however long it takes."

To read the full article, click [here](#).

NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!



NZDA T-shirts and stickers can now be purchased at our online [shop](#).

There are two T-shirt versions available, black or white, in mens and womens sizes. More options to come. The price is \$45.00 (including domestic shipping).

We also have high quality NZDA bumper stickers for sale at \$15.00 (including domestic shipping).



Danica Pearson, Taupo - Section B1, Birds, Highly Commendable, 2021 National Photographic Competition

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In the News: Boar-derline: Pig hunter's kills parked up at Queenstown Airport

A hunter who parked in a busy airport car park with his ute stacked with the fresh wild pig carcasses has inadvertently created a stir online.

A photograph was taken and posted on the local Queenstown Trading Facebook page with a caption: 'Why would you park your vehicle at the end of school holidays at Queenstown Airport with the carcass of wild pigs on the back of your ute ... What were you thinking?'

Many felt it was a common sight around New Zealand and that Kiwi kids should be educated on where food can come from.

Some people called the complainer a "Karen", with almost everyone suggesting no offence should be taken.

Read the full article [here](#).



The dead pigs were spotted at Queenstown Airport - Photo supplied by Otago Daily Times.

In the News: Feral deer culled from Christchurch parks for the first time in eight years

Deer have become such a nuisance at Christchurch parks hunters have been hired to shoot them for the first time in at least eight years.

Ten were killed at Victoria Park and the adjacent Bowenvale Park on the Port Hills overnight on Friday and into Saturday morning.

The city council said numbers were in the area increasing to the point where the deer were causing noticeable damage newer plants and established native bush.

Parks and surrounding tracks were closed as two contractors used thermal imaging equipment to help locate them.

To read the full article, click [here](#).



Fifteen signs were placed around Victoria Park warning it would be closed due to a deer cull overnight Friday and into Saturday morning - Photo supplied by Stuff.

In the News: Vanquishing predators will be no mean feat on Stewart Island, home of Whitetail Deer

Stewart Island/Rakiura is a place you can bump into kiwi crossing the road or hear the harsh call of a kaka flying above. Taonga species on the island, however, face predation.

Predator Free Rakiura is a collaboration of iwi, government, business, organisations and community representatives, and the Department of Conservation is one of a number of groups and agencies that signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019.

"How do we sort out the long-term problem? It's more of a planning and research type of approach."

To read the full article, click [here](#).



Forest on Stewart Island almost reaches down to the sea. *Photo supplied by Otago Times Daily.*

Key Takeaways

- A draft governance structure has been developed and a governance entity should be formed by the end of August. We need to choose the best model that will enable us to attract the maximum amount of funding.
- The first amount of funding promised by DOC in October 2020 was paid over to the Southland District Council in July 2021 on behalf of the future entity. This means we can now start employing people, including board members and a project team to run field trials and design a plan. To date, DOC has spent around \$200,000 on the project.
- Much of the work going on is not visible to the community, which has led to frustration around the perceived slowness of the project. This project is a long game, and we must ensure that all parties involved are aligned in their expectations. Sometimes you need to slow down to go fast – if we rush this we will fall over.
- The funding received from DOC will go towards running trials and

developing fully costed plan. The trials will involve the community and help us see what works - or doesn't work - it is important everyone is involved every step of the way for our successes and failures. We need to ensure the whole island is comfortable and confident in the final plan.

- Everything to date has been a desktop exercise - testing the ideas in the field with the community will be an important step. Rakiura will be the largest inhabited island eradication in the world. The largest eradication to date has been 12,000 hectares - this will shift to 160,000 hectares with people in it if Predator Free Rakiura is successful.
- It is crucial that the new Engagement Group is the trusted advisor and conduit for maintaining and building community support.
- The PFR website will be the focal point for all communication updates.

In the News: Judith Collins backs former columnist who had gun licence suspended following allegedly threatening tweet

National Party leader Judith Collins says a woman who had her firearms licence suspended after writing a threatening tweet is a "good person" who should not be criminalised.

Her comment comes after she tweeted support for former New Zealand Herald and Stuff columnist Rachel Stewart, who had her firearms licence removed after making the allegedly threatening social media post.

Collins told reporters she was aware of the issue and was "shocked" to see "people like Rachel Stewart being criminalised under the current regime".

Stewart said she was comfortable with the police suspending her licence, as owning a firearm was a "privilege, not a right" - but said the complaint was "bordering on malicious, and is entirely political".

"Police consider threatening any form of violence against a person and exhibiting any form of hatred, as well noncompliance [sic] with the Arms Act 1983 to be inconsistent with the criteria of a fit and proper person."

To read the full article, click [here](#).

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