



# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## MAY NEWSLETTER

ISSN 2744-5380



Shane Hall - West Coast Branch

**New Member Promotion Winner Announced -  
Meindl Islands**

We'd like to thank the team at Stäger Sport for supplying the Meindl boots. To check out their full range click [here](#).



## National Executive Reports

**Craig Benbow National President**  
**Malvern branch**

E: [craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz)

So where did May go? Hopefully everyone got out and about in the autumn hunting months and has a freezer full of meat. It's



not long until the shortest day and the nights are pretty cool round here where I'm from.

## **Conference**

Preparations for NZDA's national conference in two weeks time are well advanced and you have a digital copy of NZDA's annual report in your inboxes. I am sure you will agree it's an attractive and professional document that I am happy for anyone to peruse. Dan Friedman, National Secretary, and Gwyn our CEO toiled hard to get it all together. My thanks to Carolyn, National Treasurer, and Joseph Howell, our honorary accountant, for getting the financials in order under a very tight time frame.

I am genuinely excited to get to conference and I hope branches will enjoy the event as planned. Southern Lakes have things well organised and I am sure you will all enjoy yourselves.

## **NZDA meets Minister of Conservation**

Last Friday, Gwyn and myself met in person with the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Ayesha Verrall, at Parliament. We were very pleased to engage with the Minister after not being offered the opportunity for so long and she expressed disappointment that her schedule did not allow her to join us at conference. She was genuinely interested in what NZDA does and what parts of the conservation space we operate in collectively, as branches and individuals.

Despite growing up in Te Anau she had no prior experience of NZDA. We explained our close relationship with the Game Animal Council and our willingness to engage with them on issues of game management across the country. The importance of wild game to people as a food source and the need to more fully consider the effect of poison operations on local communities was discussed, as well as the difficulties with taking game for redistribution to those in need. Our Minister was interested to hear about that as she holds the food safety responsibilities also. NZDA volunteer involvement in biodiversity protection and maintenance of facilities for recreation was also acknowledged as valuable contributions. Our interest in Whio protection was noted and the desire to work forward on that was recognised by the Minister also.

## **NZDA Continues to Speak up for Firearms Owners**

For those who are unaware, I was recently interviewed by OneNews in regard to the firearms licence delays. The item took a few twists and turns but hit a few crucial points, in my opinion anyway, and Harry's input was great. There is a lot more to pursue on this, and Gwyn and ourselves need to keep banging on the drum and advocating for hunters and shooters. Click the image below to watch the news piece.



Click [here](#) or the image above to watch the full OneNews interview featuring Craig.

### **Working hard for members**

Our term as National Executive has been shortened by the early conference and in some ways we feel like that missing month represents missed opportunities but the team that we have as National Executive is working as a collective very well and while you may not see exactly what everyone is contributing there is significant effort going into governing NZDA, working with branches and setting in place the policies and processes to allow Gwyn and his team to deliver to you as members. Almost all the board are engaged in their own businesses or working for others so any time given is time away from family or their own activities but they bring a wealth of knowledge, skill and experience to the table regardless. Similarly Gwyn and our office staff have a list of tasks they are constantly working through.

Our success as an association relies on everyone playing their part and branches and members are welcome to bring matters forward they have attempted to resolve but cannot. However, those matters should be raised to your regional representatives, Callum, Morgan, Wayne and Ian in the

first instance. Your National Vice President Alec McIver has extensive experience at both branch and executive level so utilise his skills also, and I am always here if you need to deal with particularly difficult or sensitive issues. You have a strong team of capable people you can call on and all are approachable and willing so please come to us, that is why we are here and why we serve.

**Alec McIver Vice President**

**Rotorua branch**

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It's a very busy time of year. The roar has finished, duck shooting season is wrapping up, and now is a great time of year for fishing. Next month we have our national conference in Queenstown.



I hope we have a large turnout this year at conference as we can travel and network face to face with Covid restrictions at lower levels. I have been working closely with the National Executive this year especially with our National President, Craig Benbow. We talk almost daily and have a good working relationship with each other and the CEO. I am standing again as National Vice President and I don't think there is any need to change a good team. I fully support our National President and the board.

National conference this year should be exciting. We will have lots of opportunities to network amongst ourselves and learn from each other. We will also have some excellent speakers like Andrew Glasser, the Whio guru from DOC, to discuss how we can get our national Blue Duck Whio program up and running.

I would like to finish by congratulating hunters throughout New Zealand during the roar for their safety, we had no major accidents. This is a great reflection on how safe hunting is in New Zealand and how safe New Zealand hunters are. We should all pat ourselves on the back. This is a great result with all the pressure coming on hunters and firearms users at the moment.

I am looking forward to catching up with as many branches as I can at conference. Safe travels, see you there.

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow





May is my favourite month on the hunting calendar because it is the chamois and tahr rut.

This year I only had time to fit in a week's hunting for tahr because NZDA has had a busy period as we prepare for Conference and annual reporting. You can read my full CEO's report in the Handbook but it was satisfying to oversee the enhancement of our operations and a growing membership.

Like me, the National Executive have been pleased with the results and changes put in place since I took on the CEO's role last year. Some of you will know I was engaged for a 1-year contract however I'm pleased to say I've been offered, and taken up, a permanent position as your Chief Executive. So, you'll see more of me in the future as I seek to enhance NZDA and work in the best interests of recreational hunters - there's some exciting projects in the pipeline!

I was lucky to win an Adams Wilderness ballot block in 2019 which was rolled over to this year due to Covid-19. The ballot was organised by the Wellington Branch and we had two blocks for the second period - Eblis Tops and Barlow River. Eight members travelled south to the West Coast and enjoyed a week of fine weather and alpine hunting. Coincidentally, NZDA's Tahr Rep, David Keen, had the Barlow for period one.

Our observations were that the herd has a bull bias, meaning very few nannies were seen relative to bulls. In the Barlow block itself, few of the bulls were 'mature', however 7+ year old bulls were taken, most notably by Dave Keen who secured a 13 inch class trophy.

My time in the ballot block reminded me that getting a good head is not easy, and that tahr hunters are certainly going to find it harder in the coming years to get onto mature bulls. Hunters will need to adopt a management approach and you'll see NZDA, Game Animal Council and the Tahr Foundation working hard to educate hunters in the coming period.

I hosted SCI (NZ Chapter) President, Mike Knowles, at Deerstalkers House this month. SCI and NZDA work on many issues facing our memberships. Communication and collaboration between our organisations is important because I firmly believe we are stronger working together.

As always, I'm keen to hear from NZDA members so feel free to get in touch and let me know what's concerning you. I'm here to help.

**E:** [gwyn.thurlow@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:gwyn.thurlow@deerstalkers.org.nz)



NZDA CEO Gwyn Thurlow showing SCI President Mike Knowles around the NZDA Museum.



2021 Tahr ballot photos. NZDA CEO and NZDA Tahr Rep, Dave Keen, walked the talk this rut after drawing the same ballot block. Dave secured an 11 year old bull and Gwyn secured a 7 year old bull.

## 2021 National Competitions Promotion | ZeroTech Thrive HD Rifle Scope

A big thanks to those members who entered this year's national competitions. You are all in the draw to win a scope. The winner will be announced at the Gala Dinner of the National Conference in Queenstown.

A special thanks to the team at ZeroTech for supplying a scope. Please check out their range of scopes that are newly developed and will be on sale at retailers around the country. The scopes are designed in Australia



for our conditions and come with a Lifetime Warranty.

Visit their website at [ZeroTech](http://ZeroTech.com).



**NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

ENTER AND GO IN TO WIN  
BEFORE JUNE 1ST

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\*SEE WEBSITE FOR FULL  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

SHOOTING, LITERARY  
ANTLER, HORN AND TUSK  
FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHIC

**NATIONAL  
COMPETITIONS**

Marlborough Branch Treat Local School Kids with  
a Visit



Bohally Intermediate enjoying an introduction to hunting

Matt Kerr from the Marlborough Branch provided a detailed briefing on hunting, firearms and outdoor safety to the students at Bohally Intermediate.

The students had a good day sharing hunting and fishing stories, trophies and information.

The Marlborough Branch Committee gladly supported the Bohally school initiative and the opportunity to present to these students. The branch have also gifted a copy of the HUNTS manual to the School to be added as a library resource for future hunting programmes.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Department of Conservation Director-General to step down this year after years of service

Department of Conservation's Director-General Lou Sanson is leaving the

role after eight years.

He plans to spend time working on backcountry huts by working on projects along side the Backcountry Huts Trust, a trust founded by NZDA and run by our National President, Craig Benbow.

Lou's contract was already extended by two years after he served two three-year terms, which is standard for the heads of government departments.

Lou will speak at NZDA's National Conference at Queenstown in June and so our association will have the chance to farewell him then.

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

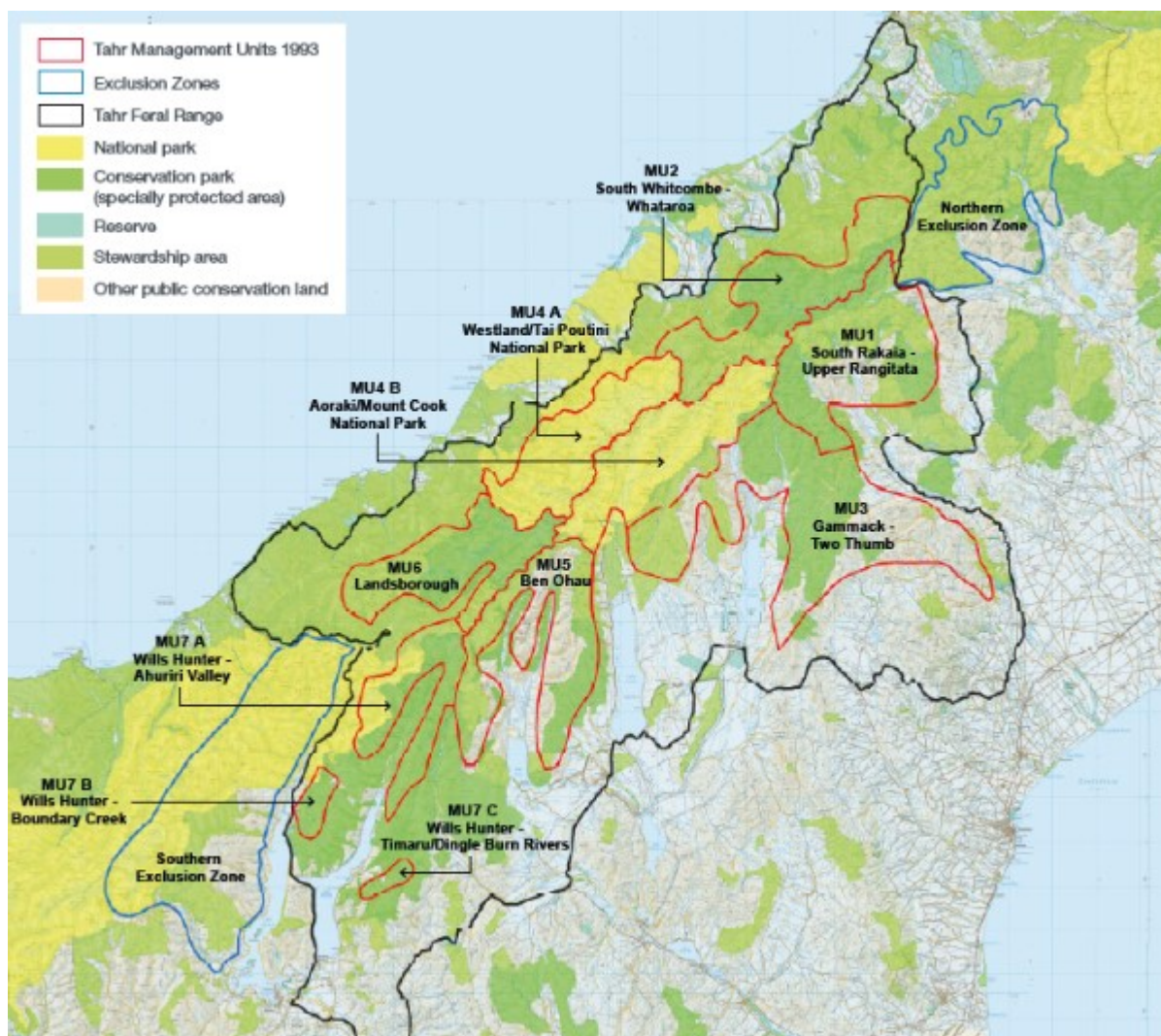
## DOC: Tahr Control Operational Plan 2021/2022

This year's plan has been informed by the results of tahr control operations over 2020/2021 and contributions from members of the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG).

Longer-term management will be shaped by the results of new research and ongoing and new monitoring. This will improve understanding of both control parameters, such as the effects of controlling fewer males than females, and the effects of tahr densities and herd sizes in different environments.

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





Map of Tahr Management Units, [click to open full plan.](#)

## NZDA's Media Statement - 2021/22 Tahr Management Plan to Involve Hunting Community

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association believes the Department of Conservation's 2021/22 tahr control operational plan released this month is a step in the right direction and notes the plan acknowledges the important role played by recreational hunters in tahr management.

The Himalayan tahr herd is a valued resource to New Zealand's hunting community and after two years of being in direct conflict with the hunting sector's organisations the Department is now actively involving those hunting organisations in their plan; something long called for by NZDA says NZDA's Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow.

"This year we have seen a major change in the Department's



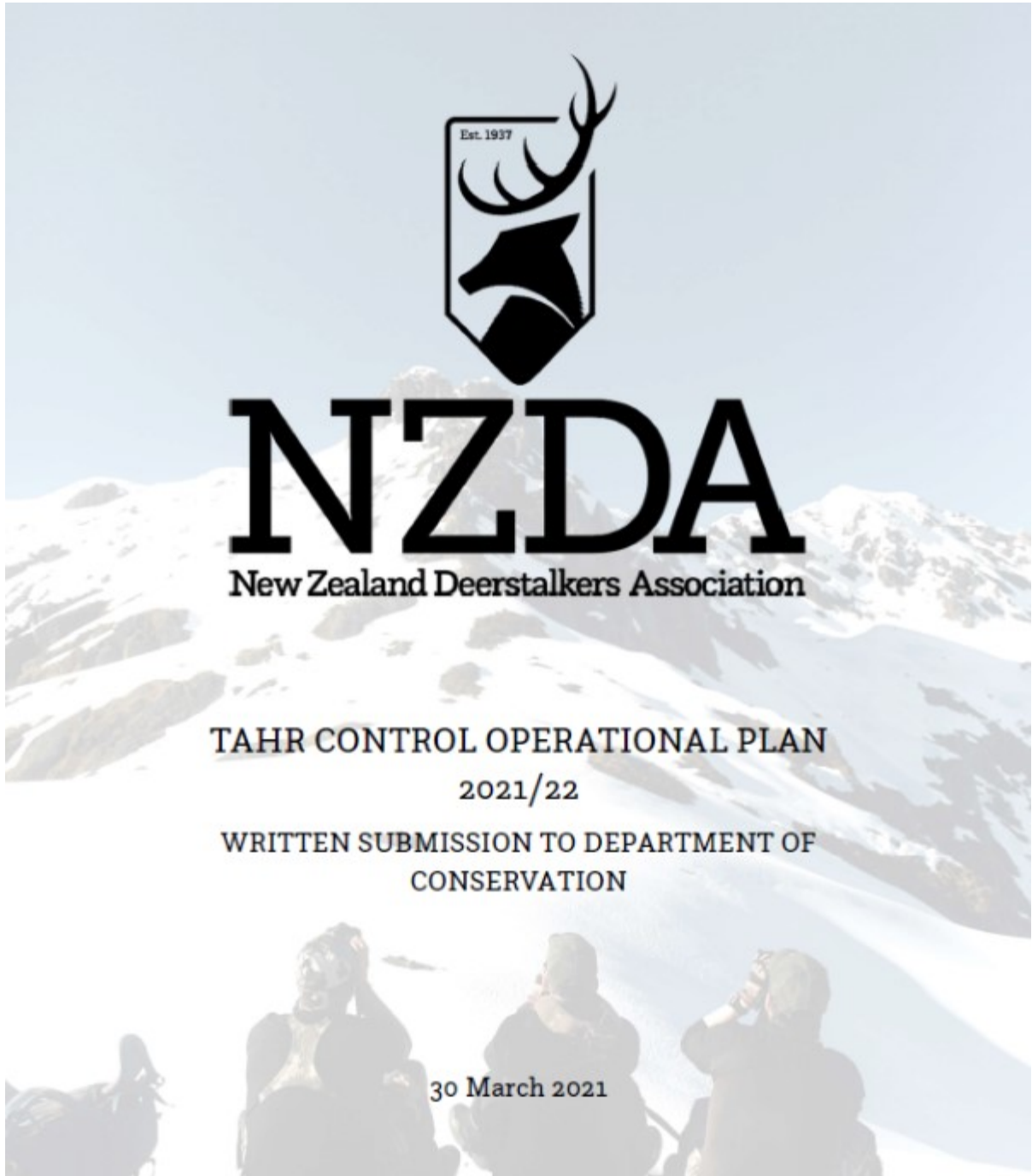
approach. The Department has realised the hunting community provides good information which is based on observations from the field, and that those same organisations can form part of the long-term solution regarding tahr management," says Mr Thurlow.

"It is pleasing to see a commitment by the Department to gather quality data and this enables the results of research to help make better informed future decisions. It is further pleasing to see that the New Zealand Game Animal Council will work with the Department to review the implementation of the plan at the mid-point."

Gwyn Thurlow says, "While we welcome some aspects of this year's plan, I'm cautiously optimistic. There is still room for improvement. In particular, NZDA has concerns with the total number of planned hours, which may be excessive given the previous years' culls, and NZDA does not support the continued culling planned for Mt Cook and Westland National Parks, particularly targeting the highly prized bull tahr."

## NZDA's Full Submission on 2021/22 Tahr Operational Plan

NZDA has been working hard to advocate for recreational hunters' interests and you can read a full copy of our written submission to DOC by clicking on the below image.



Click [here](#) or above to view the submission.



## 2021-22 Tahr Plan Reflects Pragmatic Management Approach say GAC

The Game Animal Council (GAC) is welcoming the release of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan 2021-2022 as a pragmatic approach to tahr management but remains committed to developing a long-term management programme for New Zealand's tahr.

"There are aspects of the Plan that we recommended be changed, such as the priority to remove all recognisable male tahr from national parks," says Gale.

"Attempting to eliminate the odd male tahr in the national parks is basically a waste of resources when the effort could be better spent controlling breeding animals in areas where tahr are having significant negative impacts on vegetation. However, outside of this the overall shape of the plan is pragmatic and proportional."

"The GAC remains firmly of the view that the Department and stakeholders should be working towards a revised Himalayan Tahr Control Plan and a longer-term management programme that provides for better protection of the habitat, a viable tahr herd and quality hunting opportunities through aligning permitted tahr densities with the environmental capability of different locations."

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



Mike Morse - Auckland Branch

## Upcoming Douglas Score Courses

**Manawatu:** To be held on **Sunday 18 July** at clubrooms – 251 College Street, West End, Palmerston North 4412. Level 1 & Level 2 can be taught at this course.



## 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).

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine - Autumn 'Roar' Issue #212

[Click here to read the latest Autumn Edition!](#)



### 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

As we've now completed the move back to the Collina Terrace office, we've found the back issues of the magazine which are available for purchase.

[Order your printed editions here!](#)

## Survey by NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers





The NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers is conducting a survey.

To open the survey, click [here](#).

The government has embarked on a review of Fish and Game and the conclusions are ominous. The review proposes government appointments made by the Minister of Conservation on the advice of the Department of Conservation. Even the chairman of the national council i.e. Fish and Game NZ would be a ministerial (DoC) appointment. Government appointees would be on regional Fish and Game councils too, with the number of regional councils reduced.

There's a strong link between fish and game sports and recreational big game hunting. The predecessor to today's Fish and Game councils were Acclimatisation Societies. Indeed they managed deerstalking until the infamous Deer Menace Conference of 1930 which removed any game management and all protection from big game animals.

Besides a significant number of deerstalkers participate in duck shooting and/or trout fishing.

Deerstalkers know only too well, the intrusion of departmental policies into big game hunting on issues with no semblance to game management, access issues, firearm ownership etc., Trout and salmon fishing, duck and game bird shooting share many facets such as field and management aspirations, as all are based on the egalitarian principles of public ownership of fish and/or game resources. Whether trout fishing, duck shooting or deerstalking a good measure of the experience is the enjoyment of being outdoors and particularly in wilderness settings.

It is an easy survey that takes little time. Please consider helping by letting us have your thoughts. Many thanks.

**Andi Cockroft**

NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers



## Nadia Lim: We need to eat more wild meat

When it comes to food and drink, Central Otago is renowned for producing gorgeous wine and superb stone fruit. But there's another incredible food source in the district that deserves as much attention: wild rabbits.

Wild rabbit is delicious. I slow cook the legs in a casserole (Moroccan apricot or red wine and mushrooms are favourites) until the meat falls off the bone. Then it goes into a pie, is tossed with pasta or is eaten with mashed spuds.

Everyone I serve it to loves it, and they always think it's chicken. Even though it's very tasty, most Kiwis can't get past the fact rabbits are a pest, and screw up their noses when I talk about eating them.

Imagine if we could shift our mindset to viewing these "pests" as a resource? It would divert thousands of wild animals left to rot on the hills (think of the tahr cull last year), to be used as a nutritious resource.

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

## OSPRI: Targeting Bovine Tuberculosis

### **Campaign targeting hunters on how to prevent the spread of TB**

Ospri has launched a nationwide TB education campaign for hunters, providing the advice needed to keep hunters and their whānau safe while ensuring the disease is not spread unintentionally.

Hunters sometimes come across bovine tuberculosis (TB) infected animals during their hunting activity and may not know what to do when it comes to reporting or handling and disposing of these infected animals, says Simon Andrew, OSPRI General Manager, Disease Management.

"To ensure hunters do the right thing when they kill a wild animal, whether it be a deer or pig, we're asking them to raise the alarm if they find something suspicious. What we've got to remember is that we're dealing with a disease that humans can catch. It's a form of TB which is detrimental to our health."

Mr Andrew says there are a few simple steps hunters can take to reduce the risk of bovine TB spreading:

- Diseased animals must be left where they've been killed, and hunters

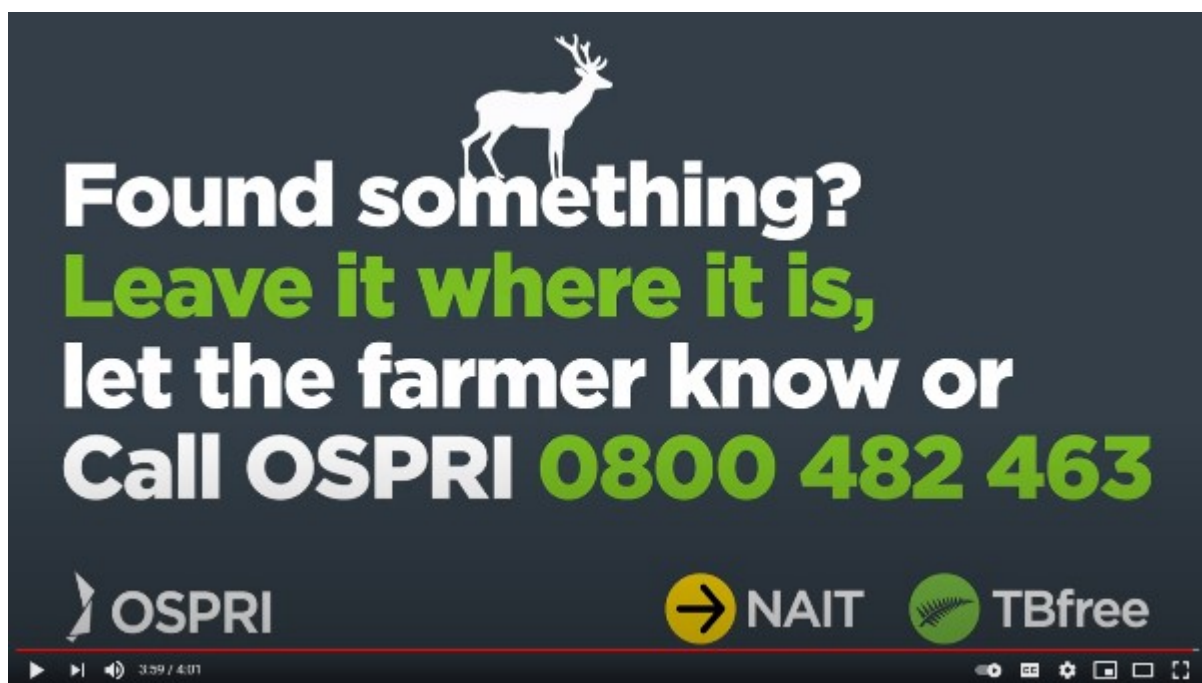
must report the animal to the landowner.

- Minimise disease spread - never move a carcass to the next hunting site.
- If you suspect disease, take a picture if you can and note the location before sending the information to [info@ospri.co.nz](mailto:info@ospri.co.nz).

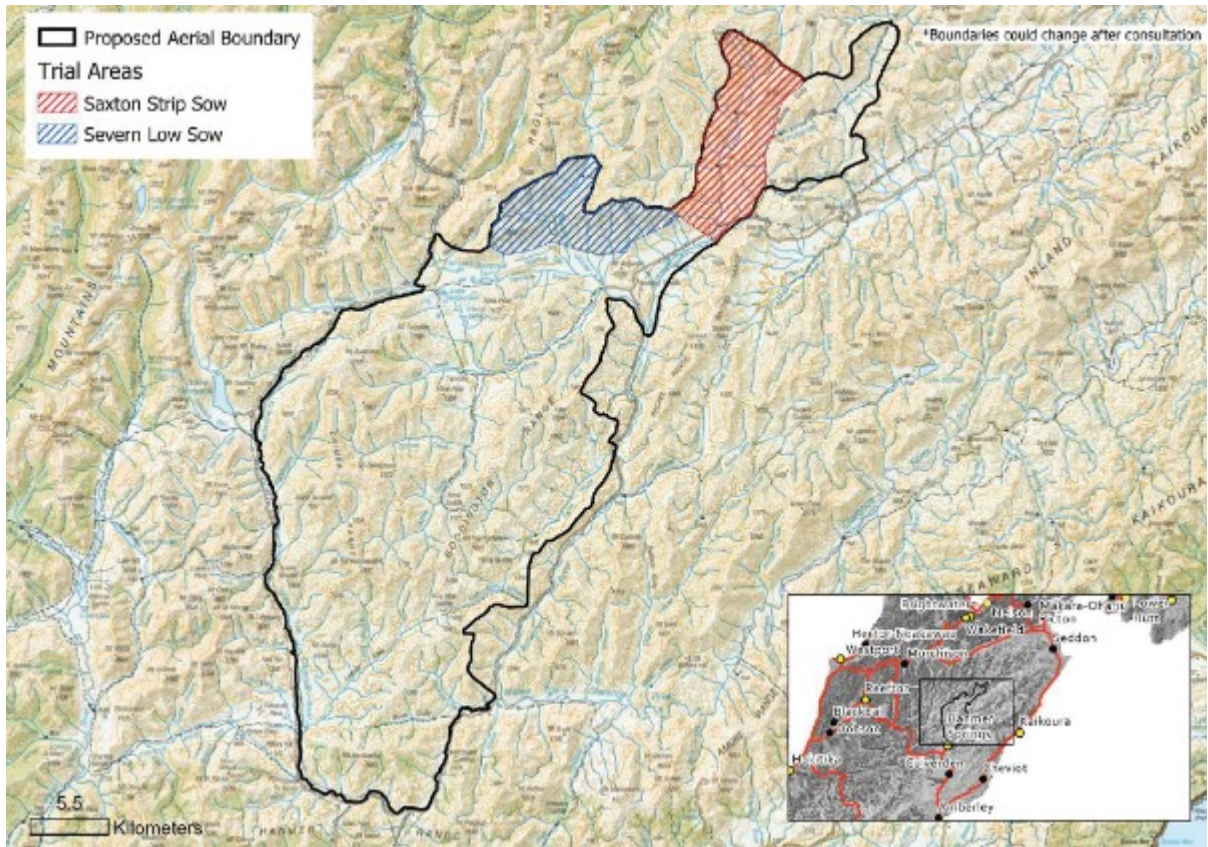
If you suspect a carcass is infected, call OSPRI on 0800 482 463. We'll investigate and make arrangements for the disposal of the carcass. For more information visit our website: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/wildlife-and-pests/hunters/>

## Hunter Education Video

OSPRI have created a hunter education video. Click on the below image or follow this link to watch: <https://youtu.be/lkvKqQb9r7o>



## Molesworth Bovine TB Control Operation



Affected area, subject to change after consultation. Click [here](#) or the image above to read more about the plan.

## @NZDA on Instagram and Facebook

In this section we showcase our supporters content posted on social media so, for your chance to be featured, follow [@NZDANational](#) and [@nzdeerstalkersassociation](#) and just tag your photo to either of the pages.





**Instagram - @nikolai\_haps**



**Instagram - @outbeyondthecity**





**Instagram - @ashleehuntsnz**

## The Outdoor Store NZDA 10% Discount Offer

The team at the Outdoors Store (part of The Loggers Shop) have just joined our growing team of retailers offering exclusive NZDA members with a discount of 10% off your next order of outdoors gear or equipment (excludes their work equipment range). Check out their website by visiting them [online](#).

Visit the team at 4/38 Ellis Street, Brightwater, Tasman 7022. An online discount code will be available soon but you can get deals by visiting in store and presenting your valid 2021/22 membership card.

10% DISCOUNT



## Go Native NZDA 25% Discount Offer

Remember to visit Go Native and use the NZDA member discount code to get 25% off your next order thanks to the team at [Go Native World](#).

Visit [www.gonativeworld.com](http://www.gonativeworld.com) today!





## Interislander Ferry NZDA Discount Code



NZDA are pleased to offer financial members a discount when using the InterIslander Ferry.

Enter the code **FA5474** under the "Book using a group code" tab on the website. For more info, please [click here](#).

## Other NZDA Supporters Offering NZDA Members

## Deals and Discounts



## Update your Contact Information

It is important we have your most up-to-date contact information. If you have recently changed your email or postal address now is the time to tell us, please email [membership@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:membership@deerstalkers.org.nz) to let us know.



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**Protecting Hunters' Rights in New Zealand Since 1937**

[www.deerstalkers.org.nz](http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz)

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