



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



76th National Conference

12 - 14 July 2024

Hosted by Hutt Valley at Lower Hutt

Herds of Special Interest

1. Contents

1	Contents	02
2	President's Report	03
3	Chief Executive's Report	05
	Reporting Against 2023/24 KPIs	
	Membership Survey Results	
	Administration	
4	Advocacy	14
5	Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS)	20
	HUNTS Annual Report	
6	Hunting & Wildlife Magazine	26
	Editor's Annual Report	
7	Annual Accounts - Financial Year Ended 29 February 2024	27
8	Presentation of Budget (Estimates) for 2024/2025 and Capitation for 2025/2026	29
9	Notices of Motion	34
10	Remits	36

11	Election of Officers	37
12	General Business	46
13	Venue and Date for 2025 National Conference	46
	Appendix A: Conference Venues and Hosts	47
	Appendix B: Principal National Officers	48
	Appendix C: Branch Membership Summary	51
	Appendix D: Branch Voting Strength	53
	Appendix E: Officers, Life Members and Members' Roles	54
	Schedule One: Conference Minutes 2023	57
	Schedule Two: 2024 Audited Financial Statements	57
	Schedule Three: Branch Reports	58
	Schedule Four: 2024 Reports	74
	Schedule Five: Competition Shooting and Range Activities Report	81

Thanks to our valued sponsors

Gold: Mountain Safety Council,

Silver: Game Animal Council,

Outdoor HQ, Hunters for Conservation



2. President's Report

A Year of Progress and Optimism

Words by: Craig Benbow, NZDA National President

As I write this, I reflect on the significant strides we've made in the past year. A lot has changed, as usual, and the expressions of optimism and desire for better days to come for our sport that I shared at last year's conference remain firmly embedded in NZDA and everything we do.

Our NZDA Board and Governance

The board's commitment to good governance is unwavering as we continue to prioritise the needs of our members. Despite our operational responsibilities, we remain dedicated to our governance role. I extend my gratitude to all board members for their diligence, contributions, and the specific skills they bring to the table.

This year, we welcomed Trevor Gratton (Hutt Valley) to the board as elected North Island Rep, and we later appointed Brian Ferris (Wellington), Ash Foley (Rakaia) and Willy Iglesias (Auckland) to the board whom each come from a commercial background. The appointment of those board members was not something we took lightly but was made in recognition of the need for specific skills in data and analytics, finance, and information systems to support our operations. As a growing organisation with increasing challenges of managing risk and delivering professionalism, tapping into willing volunteers with the skills to build capability is imperative.

The position of our National Secretary has changed in the past year. The board extends its gratitude to Dan Friedman (Auckland) for his selfless dedication to the role and acknowledges the significant effort exerted during a transformative and exceptionally busy period for NZDA. John Taylor (Hutt Valley) has assumed the position and has rapidly familiarised himself with the responsibilities. We appreciate John's willingness to contribute to the governance of the organisation.

Our board members have made significant contributions that must not go unrecognised. Callum has continued to lead the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition and oversees the Antler, Horn and Tusk committee. Richard Wells has led our research projects and now sits on our National Access Committee. Tim Taylor has been instrumental in getting the workshop series up and running, and Trevor Gratton has strongly contributed to coordinating efforts to get management hunts underway in the Ruahines and serves as the board representative liaising on HUNTS. Ian Owen has led by example, achieving a podium finish in the World Benchrest Championships in France. The board is extremely pleased to cultivate connections crucial for the community at every level, from government ministers to government agencies, local bodies, non-government agencies, clubs, and individuals.

A Year of Collaboration for Conservation

Nationally, we have multiple ongoing projects that utilise every talent and resource available to us. This requires people who are willing to contribute their time, skills, and knowledge. It has been a pleasure to work with many talented individuals within the hunting community and beyond. The fact that our relationships continue to grow and expand is a testament to the recognition of NZDA as a credible and valuable partner.

After the announcement at last year's conference, the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition, which was organised in collaboration with DOC and other supporters, saw many of our members and others actively participating and achieving impressive and measurable results. This event brought together community members with the shared goal of reducing goat numbers. There is great potential to build on this as an example of how we can all work together to provide food for families, alleviate pressure on our landscapes, and foster collaborative relationships, making the experience more accessible to more people. NZDA members are leaders in various activities aimed at preserving and conserving nature, and this is something we often overlook and fail to celebrate. You can read more about what local Branches and members are doing in the detailed reports at Schedule Three (Branch Reports).

Continuing Professional Operational Delivery

As usual, our staff at the national office have had a busy year. The operations team, led by our CEO, Gwyn Thurlow, have done an outstanding job and diligently delivered for our members across membership management championed by Membership Manager Alexandra Hudson, advocacy, promotions, member benefits, and day-to-day administrative and financial management of the Association's business and activities in accordance with our Business Plan. The impact of the addition of Hugh Devereux-Mack as Operations and Marketing Manager, a highly skilled and articulate professional, can already be seen in the public-facing view of NZDA, and we are very pleased to have Hugh working with us.

I want to commend our HUNTS staff for their efforts in expanding our training capacity and helping to upskill members to become instructors, assessors, and range officers. Much of this work requires them to be away from home and their families and to be available during evenings and weekends to match volunteer availability. I want to express my gratitude to the following individuals for their hard work: Mike Spray, Paddy Curtin, Pete Henderson, Erin Hewetson, and Tom McCowan. I also want to thank the branches and volunteers who have hosted our staff and helped deliver results that maximise our limited resources. This work has put our HUNTS programme on a good footing and has certainly delivered on the goals of our Jobs for Nature grant. You can read more about the program in the full HUNTS programme report later in the handbook.

We are pleased to welcome Ivan Pavich as editor for our Hunting and Wildlife magazine, bringing about changes that have further enhanced the publication. We anticipate that these changes will be well-received by our readers and advertisers. I want to acknowledge Simon Gibson for his outstanding work and commitment to the magazine and NZDA during his time as editor.

Our Strategy and Helping to Deliver Government Policies

The addition of a fourth pillar to our Strategic Plan focuses on access and is a direct response to the increasing need to protect and enhance access for hunters and recreational users of public land. The



appointment of a Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Hon. Todd McClay, is a significant milestone for all. We will continue to work closely to further your desires for policies that support our sport in the future. Similarly, we look forward to changes in firearms laws from new initiatives underway by the Associate Justice Minister, Hon. Nicole McKee. While these changes are welcome, they will increase the workload on our advocacy staff. However, we are confident that the proposed meaningful changes will go some way to address our deepest concerns about the current laws and regulations in place. In both the hunting and firearms portfolios, we are fortunate to have passionate people with whom we can communicate to further your interests.

Thanks to our Community of Recreational Hunters and Shooters

On behalf of the board, I extend my sincere appreciation to all our volunteers, branch officers and representatives for their dedicated service and contributions. I also express gratitude to everyone for their unwavering passion and commitment to safeguarding the right to hunt and shoot in New Zealand. Your collective efforts play a pivotal role in upholding these rights, and we are deeply grateful for your invaluable contributions. The past year has been remarkably successful for the Association, and as we reflect on the preceding year, we acknowledge the extensive work, endeavours, and initiatives of the Association as a whole.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association has had a remarkable year filled with significant achievements, dedicated advocacy efforts, regulatory and legal compliance, and extensive community engagement.

Words by: Gwyn Thurlow, NZDA CEO.

This report highlights the key activities and outcomes from the past year, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to supporting recreational hunters, promoting recreational hunting and shooting, championing outdoor safety and education, and advocating for a sustainable hunting future for our members.

Operational Highlights

I am pleased to report that NZDA has experienced sustained growth again this year, with a 20% increase in total income year on year and a 2.2% increase in membership, despite the challenges faced by a weak broader economy and headwinds facing the outdoors sector.

Our full-year financial result is disclosed in our audited 2024 Performance Report, which includes a summary of highlights and some analysis. The report can be read in Section 7 (Annual Accounts).

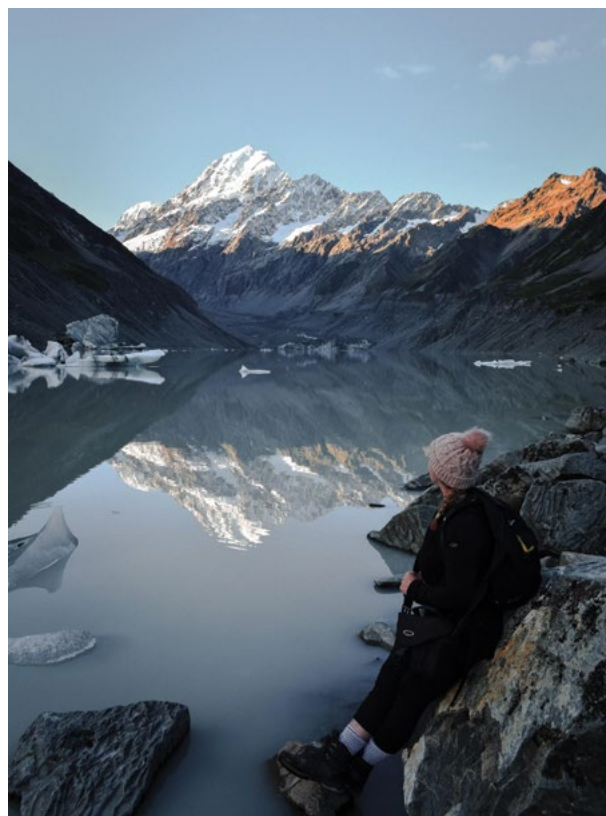
I can confidently say that the issues of operational efficiency, system integration, and membership management delivery, which were an ongoing concern from 2018 to 2020, are now consigned to the past. This view is supported by our satisfaction survey results, which delivered our highest score since surveying began in 2021, with 79% overall satisfaction (compared to 63% in 2021). Our members are saying that joining and renewing is very easy.

Our membership staff led by Alexandra, had a busy year supporting branch officers and members. We centralised additional branches, resulting in five remaining committees managing their own register and invoicing processes. I want to thank the many membership officers and branch treasurers of centralised and non-centralised branches for their support and positive working relationships with our staff.

Promotions, Marketing Activities, and Member Benefits

In line with our Business Plan, we aimed to expand our team by hiring a full-time marketing and communications manager. In late 2023, we welcomed Hugh Devereux-Mack as our new Operations and Marketing Manager. With experience in sports promotion and membership organisations, a background in hunting and shooting, and deep knowledge of firearms politics through his role as spokesperson for COLFO, he was an ideal fit.

Notable changes since his appointment have included improvements to existing NZDA systems, an enhanced online shop, additional member benefits, and greater incentives for our members. The recent GoFuel fuel card is an example of a new commercial initiative that helps members and the organisation overall. It not only provides discounted fuel at the pump but contributes 1c per litre to the NZDA HUNTS programme.



The NZDA online shop has expanded with made-to-order merchandise drop shipping, range targets, and co-branded gear with Twin Needle, Svord, and others. The NZDA store will expand over the coming year to provide members with ways to support the NZDA and showcase our brand while also expressing their passion for hunting, shooting, and the outdoors.

Hugh also worked successfully to deliver the 2024 renewal prize, which has been enhanced with prizes donated by sponsors Swazi, Crispi Boots, Mystery Ranch, Prac Med, and Go Native. Renewing members had the chance to win a prize pack valued at over \$10,000 simply by renewing by before 31 March. We appreciate the support of our sponsors, who help us convey our message and provide opportunities to assist our members and, ultimately, our mission.

The Association has also increased its digital presence through social media, including the use of LinkedIn to share the work that NZDA does with a broader range of New Zealanders. This includes applying pressure to organisations such as Forest and Bird in support of the Wapiti Foundation and others, as well as increasing fundraising efforts through platforms such as My Giving Circle, which has raised more than \$5,000 for HUNTS.

Many other improvements occurred behind the scenes, and many more exciting initiatives will be announced in the coming year.

Major Achievements

One of the standout achievements this year was the successful Hunters Helping Hunters initiative in March 2023. This gear drive was organised to support those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawkes Bay. Led by NZDA board member Tim Taylor from our Bay of Plenty branch at Tauranga, the initiative collected over 500 items donated by our generous members. The event was facilitated by Morgan Rogers and hosted at the NZDA Hastings branch clubrooms, with support from Malcolm Igpen. This initiative demonstrated the solidarity and generosity of the NZDA community, highlighting our commitment to helping fellow hunters in times of need.

Another significant event was our involvement in the 30th Sika Show at Mystery Creek in 2023. This event was a tremendous success, attracting a large turnout of hunters from across the country. The NZDA stand was bustling with activity, with existing members sharing their experiences and new members eager to join. The event highlighted the hard work of volunteers from various branches, including Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Hutt Valley, North Auckland, and the National Douglas Scorers team, who measured the heads for the competition. Their dedication ensured the event ran smoothly and successfully, showcasing the strong community spirit within NZDA.



Our engagement with the hunting community continued to grow through various events and initiatives. The Winter Wapiti Weekend, held on July 1st-2nd 2023, in collaboration with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and Te Anau, was a notable event that promoted outdoor activities and community bonding. NZDA had a stand that was run by Craig Benbow, Callum Sheridan, Richard Wells and Ian Owen, with support for local South Island members. This event provided an excellent opportunity for members to connect, share experiences, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with being part of the NZDA family and the wider hunting sector.

At our Ashburton Conference in July 2023, we honored four outstanding members by electing them as National Life Members. John DeLury (QSM), Brian Witton, Keith Theobald, and Ray Phillips were recognised for their lifelong dedication and significant contributions to NZDA. Their commitment to promoting ethical hunting practices, conducting HUNTS courses, managing game animals, and serving as Douglas Scoring trainers and champions has been invaluable. Along with our other National Life Members, we salute these remarkable members and look forward to their continued contributions to the NZDA community.

The National Wild Goat Hunting Competition was launched in August 2023 in collaboration with the Department of Conservation. The competition aimed to engage hunters across New Zealand and promote sustainable hunting practices and provide a wild goat hunting competition at a quieter time of year in our hunting calendar. It was a huge success. More than 10,000 tails were recorded. As the inaugural event, the competition has raised the profile of hunter-led conservation, attracting significant participation. Thanks to its sponsors, it featured a \$50,000 prize pool donated by the hunting and outdoors sector. This initiative not only helped manage the wild goat population but also served as an educational platform to promote ethical hunting practices and allow NZDA to partner with DOC in a positive and pro-hunting way. A full summary report has been enclosed with the Handbook, and thanks must go to Callum Sheridan, Vice President, for leading this collaboration with DOC.

Advocacy and Conservation Efforts

NZDA has been actively involved in advocacy and conservation efforts, particularly in the management of Himalayan Tahr. In April 2023, we submitted feedback

to the Department of Conservation (DOC) regarding the 2023/2024 cull operations draft plan. We emphasised the need to avoid targeting bull tahr and advocated for hunters to manage bull tahr populations instead. The submission highlighted the high recreational and economic value of bull tahr for both local and guided hunters, warning against a potential population collapse if current culling practices continued. NZDA sees conflict in the near future with recreational hunters and guided hunters coming into direct conflict over a scarce resource - mature trophy-class bulls. A way forward will be to declare the tahr a Herd of Special Interest, so it can be managed to avoid a tragedy of the commons.

We are also pleased to welcome Bruce Hansen as our new Tahr Representative. Bruce brings enthusiasm and a strong commitment to representing the interests of recreational hunters in matters relating to Himalayan Tahr. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to David Keen, the outgoing Tahr Representative, for his dedicated service and tireless advocacy on behalf of tahr and recreational hunters. David's contributions have been invaluable in advancing sustainable tahr management practices and ensuring that hunters' voices were heard in conservation discussions.

Our ongoing advocacy efforts have also focused on the Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) system. In June 2023, NZDA representatives participated in a comprehensive meeting in Christchurch to discuss the current WARO situation and its future under Te Ara ki Mua. The meeting brought together key stakeholders, highlighting the unstable nature of commercial game recovery and underscoring the need for a thorough review of the WARO system. Key improvements to permit conditions were discussed, aiming for better visibility of wild animal removal and compliance.

In November 2023, OSPRI responded to NZDA's submission on the National Aerial Operations Plan for 2024. NZDA had submitted feedback in September on behalf of members, representing the views of recreational hunters. The response from OSPRI acknowledged the input from NZDA and provided updates on how the plan would incorporate the concerns and suggestions raised by recreational hunters. OSPRI has nearly completed its mission of controlling TB, and many areas are TB-free. OSPRI has been proactive in accommodating requests for deer repellent, and DOC could learn a lot from OSPRI on how to work with, not against, stakeholders.

A full list of our submissions and advocacy work can be read at Section 4 (Advocacy).

Government and Political Engagement

The 2023 General Election resulted in a significant shift in New Zealand's political landscape, with the formation of a National-led government supported by coalition partners, Act, and New Zealand First. This change in leadership presented new opportunities for recreational hunters and shooters, signalling potential policy shifts favourable to our community. The election brought new ministers into key positions:

- › Hon Todd McClay, Minister for Hunting and Fishing: A hunters' advocate in the cabinet, ensuring hunters' interests are heard.
- › Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation: Responsible for overseeing conservation efforts and game animal management.
- › Nicole McKee, Minister for Courts and Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms): Focusing on justice aspects related to firearms.
- › Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister of Police: Overseeing law enforcement and public safety, crucial for our activities.
- › Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Justice: Ensuring the legal framework supports our activities responsibly.

With the new government's commitment to firearms reform, NZDA will continue to engage with these key ministers to ensure that the interests of recreational hunters are well-represented. The coalition agreement's commitments to repealing and replacing Part 6 of the Arms Act 1983 and streamlining regulations will be closely monitored to ensure they benefit our members. Additionally, NZDA will advocate for a thorough consultation process to shape firearms laws that are fit for purpose and support the cultural and recreational practices integral to our membership. In the next three years, we are likely to engage in extensive consultation on the firearms law reform process that will mirror the effort of the past three years. It is important that NZDA is, again, ready to be the voice of recreational hunters and contribute to consultation with well-thought-out submissions and Select Committee appearances.

In conjunction with firearms reforms, it will be necessary to support herds of special interest under the Game Animal Council Act 2013. We will collaborate with DOC and the Game Animal Council to create and consult on a framework that will enable the Minister to

declare herds of special interest. The NZDA supports designating our valued wapiti, sika, and tahr herds as the first herds to be declared, with other herds to follow. NZDA has commissioned a values report on the Rakaia herd of red deer, which is an important trophy herd for New Zealand's hunters. While other herds have the potential to be considered "special," it will require a change in mindset from DOC and hunters alike. Over the next few years, NZDA will need to support the Game Animal Council in educating hunters and non-hunters alike on what constitutes a herd of special interest and its significance. There are many myths and misconceptions surrounding this issue.

Firearms System Overview

A significant development this year was the implementation of the Firearms Registry in May 2023. The Arms Amendment Regulations introduced the registry, which went live on June 24th, 2023. Our members received detailed information about registration requirements through emails and advocacy updates. NZDA provided comprehensive guidance to branches and members regarding the new regulations affecting them, ensuring they were well-informed about the new requirements.

One of the significant challenges we faced was the regulation of clubs and ranges by Police. In May 2023, NZDA joined COLFO in presenting a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee regarding the regulation of clubs by Police under Order in Council. The committee's chair, Judith Collins, upheld that complaint and recommended further discussions to develop a sustainable system that maintains safety while keeping clubs operational.

June 24th, 2023, marked the deadline for NZDA branches to apply for shooting club and range certification under the Arms Act. Our volunteers dedicatedly met the immense effort required for inspections, paperwork, and coordination. NZDA recognises the heavy workload imposed by these requirements and extends heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to this important task, ensuring our clubs and ranges remain operational. Those involved are too many to list, but the effort was significant, all for the benefit of shooting in order to allow our members to access safe shooting ranges.

Additionally, a decision on setting firearms licence fees was delayed by Cabinet until after the General



Election. NZDA and COLFO actively questioned Police's calculations and policy options on fees to ensure licencing remains affordable for all New Zealanders. We undertook a series of OIAs, attending meetings with the Minister and Police, which were carried out to question the assumptions and basis of financial modelling and cost recovery. Our advocacy efforts and line of questioning aimed to promote firearm safety while ensuring that the costs do not disproportionately burden hunters and farmers, and were overall in the interest of community safety.

HUNT Programme Delivers for New Hunters

I want to acknowledge the contribution of our HUNTS programme. It is a way that NZDA and our branches can ensure the future of hunting by training new hunters and allowing them to enjoy our sport safely. The HUNTS programme saw leadership changes in 2023 when we bid farewell to Erin, Pete, and Tom, who had contributed significantly to the program's success since NZDA received the Jobs For Nature grant in 2020. We welcomed Paddy and Hugh, who brought fresh perspectives and dedication to continuing the program's mission of educating new hunters and promoting safe, ethical hunting practices by upskilling new HUNTS Instructors and Assessors. I want to particularly thank our Programme leads, Rob Howey,

Volunteer Coordinator, and Mike Spray, National Programme Manager, who have contributed over the past three years to ensure the growth and success of HUNTS. You can read a full HUNTS report in Part 6 (Hunter National Training Scheme).

Moving forward, NZDA is dedicated to improving hunter education. The Game Animal Council has launched "Better Hunting," a free online hunter training platform that offers valuable resources for both new and seasoned hunters. This initiative aims to enhance hunter education and safety, thereby promoting a more informed and responsible hunting community. It complements our HUNTS Programme.

Our practical HUNTS program envisions all branches providing courses. However, to achieve this, we need to continue funding its administration at the National Office to enable instructors to deliver courses with the full support of staff. We are at a turning point in this program. Do we continue to grow and professionalise, or return to a volunteer-delivered and administered program? That fate rests with our branches.

Conclusion

This year has demonstrated NZDA's commitment to supporting its members, advocating for sustainable hunting and sports shooting practices, and engaging with the broader community. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to promoting recreational hunting, hunter-led conservation, and the interests of recreational hunters and shooters across New Zealand.

The new political landscape provides fresh opportunities, and we are poised to make significant strides in representing and supporting our community. In the year ahead, we will continue to deliver on our strategy for success:

- › Be recognised as a leading advocate for hunting and sports shooting.
- › Raise public awareness and support for hunting and shooting.
- › Provide New Zealanders with a safe and sustainable environment for sport shooting.
- › To maintain and enhance access for hunters, to both game animals and land for recreational hunting.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the NZDA. Together, we will continue to achieve great things for our members and the recreational hunting community.

Reporting Against 2023/24 Financial Year Business Plan KPIs

Key Strategic Objective 1:

Be the leading advocate for Hunting & Sport Shooting

KPI Target: 10% per annum Revenue Growth

**\$1,032,231 total revenue,
up 20% from FY23**

KPI Target: 10% per annum Membership Growth

Up 2.2% from FY23

Key Strategic Objective 2:

Raise awareness and create an informed public that supports hunting and shooting

KPI Target: Number of Hunting & Wildlife recipients grows, targeting 10% growth per annum for each year.

428 copies of Issue #224 printed, remaining similar to the 406 copies printed of Issue #220. We appear to have reached the maximum subscriber base of members wanting a printed copy.

KPI Target: Monitor the number of HUNTS courses run by branches.

30 Branches deliver HUNTS Courses by 74 volunteer HUNTS Instructors.

Key Strategic Objective 3:

To provide New Zealanders with a safe sustainable environment for sports shooting

KPI Target: Number of compliant ranges run or accessed by NZDA branches with the aim that all branches and ranges are certified by the required due date under the Arms Act and Regulations

Our ranges and clubs that undertake shooting activities applied for certification for operation by 23 June 2023.

KPI Target: Strong Range Officer team nation wide

503 ROs trained and warranted nationwide.

13 RO Trainers trained enabling branches to upskill more ROs locally.

Core 'Business as Usual' (BAU) operations

Build and maintain national office policies, systems and processes to a professional standard

KPI Target: All centralised members have been issued with annual membership invoices by 10 March yearly.

All invoices for centralised branches were issued by 1 March, with branches cleared more subscriptions to deliver locally in FY24, totalling \$224,475 (compared with \$208,863 in 2023, \$164,076 in 2022, and \$105,294 in 2021).

North Taranaki became a centralised branch during the year.

KPI Target: 95% of branches fully aligned by 2023/24 FY.

Ongoing within branches who are working towards alignment.

73% of branches have adopted a constitution.

61% of branches use the new branding across their platforms.

80% have aligned their financial year-end balance date.

88% of branches are centralised, with just 7 managing their own invoicing and database.

KPI Target: \$100k of National Office reserves re-established by end 2024/25 FY.

\$50,000 now reserved with a further \$50,000 budgeted for FY2025.

\$200,000 is invested, with a further \$548,456 invested in Deerstalkers House.

KPI Target: Branch satisfaction survey indicates overall satisfaction of National Office service.

85% Satisfaction Level

Membership Survey Results

We conduct an annual survey to monitor the performance of the NZDA Board and National Office according to our Business Plan. The 2024 survey results are encouraging, showing a positive trend. Since 2019, when our association approved significant changes to our constitution and began modernising and professionalising, NZDA has made significant progress.

The 2024 member survey was conducted in May, and 1052 responses were received. Compared to the total number of financial members of 10,801, this gives a participation rate of 10% (2023 13%; 2022 12%; 2021: and 2019 9%).

Overall Membership Satisfaction:

1. The predominant outcome for 2024 remains the maintenance of elevated levels of member satisfaction.
2. The percentage of members who are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' increased to 85.3% (2023: 82%).
3. The proportion of members who reported being "very dissatisfied" has decreased again this year to just 0.6%.

This favourable outcome is particularly gratifying given the substantial increase in our overall membership. This necessitated maintaining a heightened level of satisfaction among a larger constituency, notwithstanding the implementation of fee adjustments that could have posed challenges to sustaining such elevated satisfaction levels.

Subscription Value-for-Money:

1. After receiving their 2024/25 membership year invoice, 86.4% of members say their subscription fees were 'value for money'.
2. Only 13.6% (2023: 15%) of members said their membership did not offer value for money (compared with 15% (2023), 13% (2022), 14% (2021), 32% (2019) and 28% (2001).
3. When we analyse the current prices and survey results in comparison to the historical lows in 2019 and 2001, it becomes clear that NZDA is providing excellent value for the majority of its members.

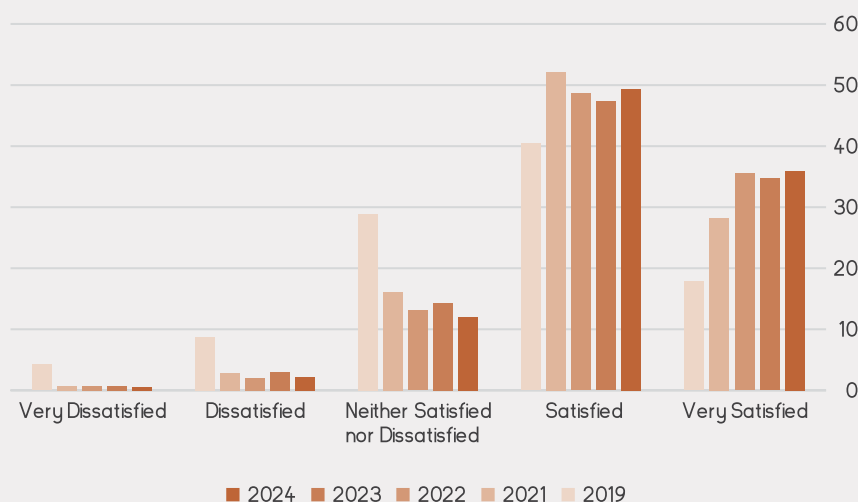
Would you recommend NZDA to a friend or family member?

This survey reveals incredibly positive results:

1. An impressive 95% of all members are likely to recommend NZDA.
2. Only 2% expressed doubts about recommending NZDA, while the rest are undecided.

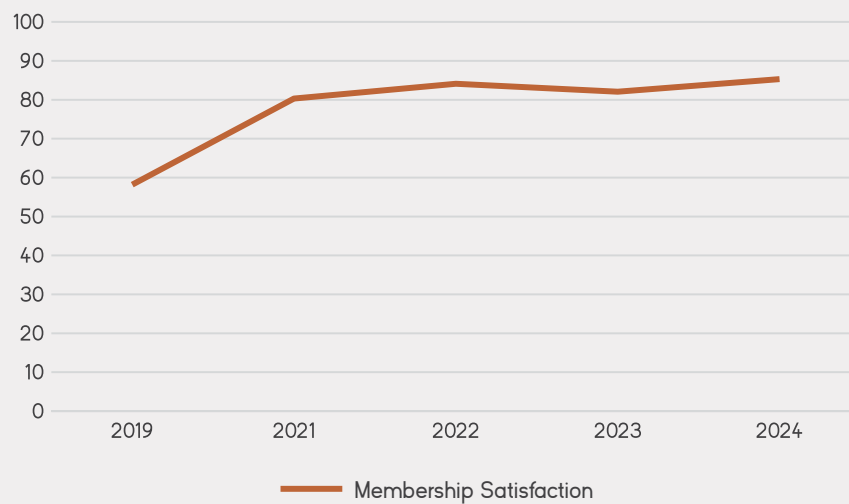
We have received clear indications that our current members highly appreciate both our local branch and national offerings. This high level of satisfaction is a testament to the quality of our programmes, our benefits, the dedication of our volunteers, and the strong sense of community within NZDA. We are immensely proud of these results and will continue to strive for excellence in serving our members. This is why we are growing and will continue to do so in years to come.

Membership Satisfaction Levels

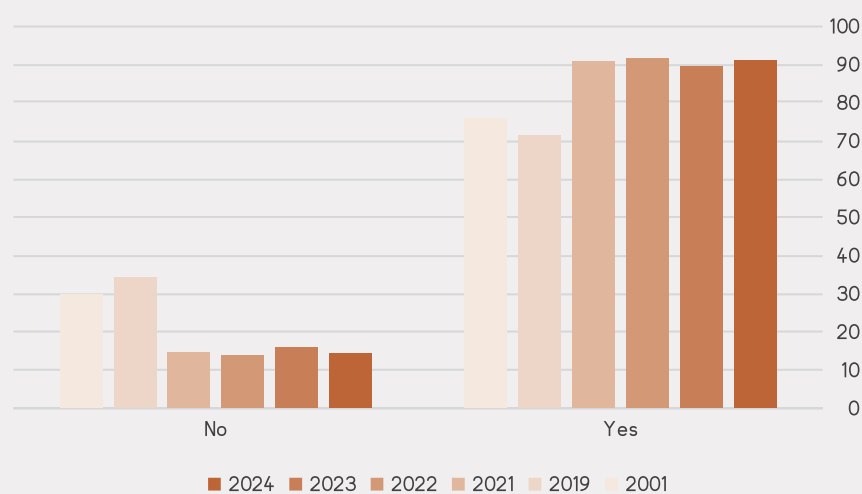




Membership Satisfaction Percentage Trend



Is Your Subscription Value for Money?



ADMINISTRATION

Membership

As at 29 February 2024, the Association's membership counts for each membership type are set out at Appendix C: Branch Membership Summary.

Portfolios (Areas of Responsibility)

- › Finance, Risk and Audit Subgroup and NZDA Board (Note: National Treasurer position remained vacant)
- › Property Committee/NZDA Limited Partnership, G. Thurlow
- › Human Resources/Governance, CEO Performance and Review Working Party, C. Benbow, C. Sheridan and R. Wells

NZDA Policy Issues

- › Policy advice, All NZDA Board, led by C. Benbow
- › Poisons, All NZDA Board
- › AATH, C. Benbow
- › GAC, C. Benbow, G. Thurlow
- › Public Access issues, C. Benbow and R. Wells
- › Research officer, All NZDA Board led by R. Wells
- › Sika Foundation, A. Jackson, T. Taylor
- › Game Animal Committee (GAM) C. Benbow
- › South Island RHAs, C. Benbow, I. Owen
- › North Island RHAs, Barry Insull
- › Stewart Is Hunter Liaison Representative, Ray Phillips
- › FWF, Southland branch chair, C. Sheridan
- › HUNTS Trust, R. Howey, C. Benbow, C. Heffernan, G. Thurlow, M. Spray, P. Henderson
- › HUNTS, R. Howey (Coordinator), M. Spray (Programme Manager), P. Curtin, H. Devereux-Mack
- › ADA Liaison, G. Thurlow, C. Benbow
- › MSC (NZ Mountain Safety Council), C. Benbow and T. Gratton
- › Firearms, All NZDA Board, G. Thurlow, C. Forsyth, S. Malone, M. Spray

Range Shooting

- › Range certification rep (Police RCEG), S. Malone
- › Range officer trainers, W. O'Leary, M. Spray, P. Miles, P. Henderson, I. Patterson, D. Nicols, D. Hodder, I. Brabbs, C. Forsyth, P. Oldham, M. Digby, S. Small, S. Moloney, S. Corlett
- › Range officer marking, P. Miles, M. Spray, P. Henderson

- › Competitive shooting portfolio, I. Owen, T. Gratton
- › Competitive shooting convenor, I. Owen
- › Competitive shooting promotion, I. Owen, T. Gratton

Other Portfolios

- › Douglas and AHT portfolios, C. Sheridan, M. Sarjeant, T. Chappell, M. Nobolio, J. Wills, B. Witton
- › Douglas Score Committee C. Sheridan (Chair), C. Prenter (Secretary), A. Walton, B. Neville, L. Cubitt, M. Pinney, M. Heath, M. Mills, S. McKelvie
- › NZDA Competitions and Rules, Mark Sarjeant (National Competitions Manager), C. Heffernan, C. Sheridan, T. Chappell
- › Certificates, cups and trophies, G. Thurlow
- › Meetings and public media, G. Thurlow, C. Benbow, H. Devereux-Mack
- › Ministerial meetings, NGO meetings, DOC Rec forum, G. Thurlow, C. Benbow
- › Newspaper, TV & radio interviews, G. Thurlow, C. Benbow
- › NZ Police Forum (FCAF), G. Thurlow (NZDA Rep), Piper Benbow (Youth Rep)
- › NZDA promotion and marketing, H. Devereux-Mack, G. Thurlow, C. Pellow, J. Halliday
- › Online NZDA Shop, National Office staff
- › Hunting & Wildlife editor, I. Pavich, S. Gibson (retired during year)
- › Social media, G. Thurlow, H. Devereux-Mack, C. Pellow, J. Halliday, I. Pavich
- › Website A. Etchell, G. Thurlow, H. Devereux-Mack, C. Pellow
- › Prints, products & publications, All Executive, G. Thurlow and National Office staff
- › National archives, NZDA National Heritage Trust, J. Riley (Librarian)

Kindred Organisations

- › COLFO, C. Forsyth
- › Affiliations with other shooting organisations, I. Owen
- › Affiliated clubs - Iwi Liaison, Pig Hunters, Bow Hunters, C. Benbow and C. Sheridan
- › Collina Terrace Building Committee, G. Thurlow

4. Advocacy

We have been heavily involved in a number of key advocacy issues affecting our members including the several substantive submissions and meetings detailed in the table below. Copies of NZDA's written submissions can be downloaded on our website and are shared with members by email update and on social media.

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
March 2023	Police/Firearms Safety Authority (TTP) Recreational Firearms Users Working Group meeting	Recreational Firearms Users Working Group safety messaging with NZDA, GAC, MSC and TTP to plan firearms safety messaging for the roar.
	DOC hosted bi-monthly meeting between DOC, NZDA, FMC & Trailfund.	Attending the regular bi-monthly meeting to discuss and raise issues by NGOs interested in huts and tracks and outdoors recreation generally.
	Wild Animal Management Programme - Context Sharing Session	Meeting with DOC to discuss issues around wild animal management. Representing recreational hunters and NZDA. DOC briefed attendees about how they are shaping investment and focus on wild animal work.
	Annual Tahr Engagement Survey	NZDA launched a survey to collect up-to-date data on tahr hunting. The survey aimed to support NZDA's submission on the 2023/24 DOC Operational Tahr Management plan and to demonstrate recreational hunters' engagement with the tahr herd. Carrying out an annual survey of recreational tahr hunters allows NZDA to gain insights and track trends.
	Attending TPILG Workshop and Meeting	Representing NZDA and recreational hunters at the regular DOC hosted tahr liaison meeting at Christchurch.
	DOC Tahr Control Operational Plan 2023/24 consultation submission	NZDA is a key stakeholder in tahr management. We engaged with DOC to advise them of the views of the recreational hunting community. We attended several meetings and made a substantive submission on the annual draft operational plan.
	Meeting with SCI NZ Chapter	Meeting with SCI to discuss issues affecting hunters.
	Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) in-person meeting	Hosting by NZDA and our office. Attendance at the forum to represent recreational hunters and NZDA branches. Used to raise issues and concerns and learn about updates and plans from TTP.
	Arms Act Fees Review Consultation and OIA requests: Firearms Licensing Fees Submission	NZDA identified a number of complex and significant flaws in Police's proposed Arms Act fee review. We prepared a detailed submission, accompanied by a survey of the firearms community, to highlight our concerns to Police. NZDA encouraged members to submit their feedback before the deadline and over 6,000 submissions were made. We must acknowledge many great submissions on the Firearms Licensing Fees consultation from branches, individuals, and other organisations.

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
	Media Release on Proposed Firearms Licensing Fee Increases	NZDA issued a media release expressing deep concerns over the Police's proposal to significantly increase firearms licensing fees. The organisation highlighted the potential negative impacts on public safety, conservation and biodiversity goals, and the community's ability to educate firearms users. The proposed fees could disproportionately affect lower-income recreational hunters and shooters, especially during the current cost of living crisis. NZDA argued that the fee increases would not necessarily improve firearms safety and security but rather fund high-paying government jobs. Potential for decreased compliance and a decline in licensed firearms owners if fees become unaffordable. NZDA emphasised the need to balance cost recovery with public safety and the vital role of firearms in farming, pest control, and hunting.
April 2023	Land Safety Forum	Attendance at the forum hosted by DOC, LandSAR and Land Transport Authority, to represent hunters and their safety concerns.
	Police Arms Regulations - Clubs and Ranges	We supporting clubs as we move toward the deadline on the 24th of June 2023 for range and club operation approvals.
	National WARO (Wild Animal Recovery Operators) systems analysis consultation	NZDA submitted on the land access review to ensure DOC understands the safety risks of allowing WARO and to ensure recreational hunters' interests are protected. Wild Animal Recovery Operators (WARO) can conflict with recreational hunters, particularly where there are high concentrations of hunters on the ground.
May 2023	GAC meeting	Hosting GAC and councillors at NZDA and liaising/networking on issues.
	COLFO-NZDA Clubs and Ranges Arms Act Regulations Review	Attending the Select Committee with COLFO to present on the complaint filed by COLFO and supported by NZDA. This complaint was later upheld.
	Meeting Minister of Police	Meeting to raise concerns and discuss letters regarding licencing fees and cost recovery, including Police financial modelling and audit.
June 2023	WARO Review engagement and meeting workshop	Attending all-day workshop at Christchurch to represent NZDA and recreational hunters along with all other stakeholders.
	Unlawful Hunting Conference hosted by Police and GAC	Representative/s from NZDA attended this hui / workshop to discuss Unlawful Hunting - Understanding the Issues. NZDA presented from a recreational hunter's perspective and learned about the challenges faced by Police around poaching of livestock and game animals.
	DOC Wild Animal Management Coordination meeting	The intent of the Coordination Group is to provide a forum to coordinate the implementation of effective and sustainable wild animal management solutions. The group will provide advice on prioritising and coordinating actions needed to achieve the goals of Te Mana o te Taiao Aotearoa through the management of wild animals.
	FCAF meeting	Hosting and representing recreational hunters at the forum.

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
July 2023	Concerns About Police/Firearms Safety Authority Data Security	NZDA expressed concerns over a significant data security breach involving the Police/Firearms Safety Authority, stressing the importance of data protection to ensure the safety of members and their families. NZDA highlighted fears about data security, including human error and unauthorised access. Committed to seeking answers on how the breach occurred and measures to prevent future incidents.
	Fish & Game "Hunting and Fishing Influencers Forum"	Attending a meeting hosted by Fish & Game in the context of a "Hunting and Fishing Sector Leaders Forum" to discuss the issues facing hunting and fishing as a legitimate recreation now and into the future.
	Firearms Authority/Police fees meetings	Attending a meeting along with COLFO at Police to review and understand the financial model supporting firearms licencing fees.
	WARO Maps and Permit advocacy	The Department of Conservation (DOC) launched new WARO (Wild Animal Recovery Operations) maps. NZDA reviewed these maps to assess the impact on recreational hunters and raised concern that recreational hunters may be adversely affected by the new WARO areas. NZDA encouraged members to report any issues in their favourite hunting grounds. NZDA remains committed to providing updates as more information becomes available and calls for a full WARO review.
August 2023	Meeting: DOC, NZDA, FMC and Trailfund	Regular DOC sector meeting.
	NZ Hunting Sector Leaders' Network forum	Hosted by GAC, this is a meeting of hunting NGO stakeholders and interest groups to discuss topical issues and share information in an informal session.
September 2023	Submission to OSPRI on Aerial 1080 Operations: OSPRI - National Aerial (1080) Operations 2024	NZDA made a submission on behalf of its members and all recreational hunters to OSPRI regarding planned aerial 1080 operations for 2024. The submission reflected NZDA policy and game animal management science. The widespread use of aerial applied 1080 can have drastic impacts on recreational hunters, particularly on access to food gathering opportunities. NZDA engaged with OSPRI on their proposed national aerial operations for 2024 to minimise their impact on game animals and wildlife.
	TPILG Workshop	NZDA attended the DOC tahr liaison meeting at Christchurch.
	Recreation Sector / DOC Hui	Hosted by Penny Nelson, Director-General, DOC, it is a meeting to provide feedback and thoughts on recreation matters, so that DOC better understand the broader perspective of issues and opportunities across the recreation sector. The intention was to make these gatherings quarterly, throughout the year. These forums provide an opportunity to share information and gain input across the recreation sector.

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
	Arms Act Fees Review and Deferral	<p>NZDA completed and provided submissions on the Arms Act Fees Review to Ministers and completed its advocacy campaign which started in March 2023. The result was an announcement that the Government's decision on the fees is delayed until 2024. Police had consulted firearms users and the public from December 2022 to March 2023 on fee proposals with partial cost recovery options. Full cost recovery was not considered. The result was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › No changes to the licence fees for the time being. › The decision will be informed by feedback from submitters, considering user contribution and the risks of non-compliance. › NZDA's work highlighted concerns shared by the majority of members and other groups in the hunting and shooting community.
	Wild Animal Management Co-ordination group meeting	<p>NZDA attended an establishment meeting regarding a DOC and council led group to discuss wild animal management issues and opportunities. NZDA was represented by Craig Benbow, National President. The purpose was to explore how to work cooperatively and coordinate activities to achieve more effective wild animal management across the country.</p>
October 2023	Survey on Heli-Hunting for Trophies (AATH)	<p>NZDA encouraged recreational hunters to participate in a survey regarding their views on AATH (Heli-Hunting for trophies). The survey was aimed at gathering hunters' opinions on Heli-Hunting which was used to help draft a submission to DOC as part of its review of AATH.</p>
	FCAF meeting	<p>Hosting and representing recreational hunters at the forum.</p>
	Submission and interview with DOC on its AATH Systems Analysis.	<p>NZDA presented its perspectives on Aerially Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH). Conducted on 12 October 2023, this analysis involved interviews with our President Craig Benbow, CEO Gwyn Thurlow, and members Snow Hewetson and Shawn Maloney. The genesis of this submission arises from our persistent concerns about the ethical implications, environmental impacts, and inherent inequities of AATH. Over the years, many of you have reported significant non-compliance with the AATH Code of Practice, insufficient enforcement by regulatory authorities, and negative consequences for public land access and wildlife conservation. These collective observations compelled NZDA to formally articulate our position through this detailed analysis. Our advocacy is clear: we call for legislative reform, enhanced management by the Game Animal Council, and a definitive end to heli-hunting on public lands. This document underscores our unwavering commitment to ethical hunting, fair chase principles, and the preservation of New Zealand's natural heritage for future generations of recreational hunters.</p>
	Land Safety Forum meeting	<p>Representing recreational hunters' safety at the forum.</p>

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
	Letters to Forest and Bird, Institute of Forestry, and Federated Farmers regarding ungulate control assistance	NZDA wrote, in response to a joint media statement by F&B, IOF, and Fed Farmers, to offer our assistance and collaborate with our local branches to hunt on their members' properties. We received no formal replies.
November 2023	DOC Ruaine Access Meeting	Attending a meeting of lower North Island stakeholders to discuss and prioritise access.
	Submission to DOC on its Discounts Policy Review for huts and tracks	NZDA submitted on DOC's review of hut fees and discount policies. The review aimed to adjust backcountry hut fees while managing maintenance costs. Our submission focused on the potential removal of the 30% legacy discount, emphasising the importance of affordable hut access for our members. Key points in our submission included Maintaining affordable hut access, recognising volunteer contributions, implementing a tiered discount system, and addressing administrative challenges faced by volunteer organisations.
December 2023	Tahr TPILG meeting	Attending a meeting at DOC's office in Christchurch regarding the outcome of the annual operational plan.
	Recreation sector hui with DOC senior leaders	Attending this sector meeting to give recreational hunter input and raise issues, including huts and access.
	AATH Meeting with DOC	Workshop to support the systems analysis of Aerially Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH) in New Zealand. This workshop is for those involved in AATH, stakeholders who may be affected by its operation, and Department of Conservation staff. The systems analysis is not a review of AATH policy but will develop recommendations for DOC on what can be done to resolve issues within current policy settings. If a formal review is later commissioned the findings of the systems analysis will feed into this.
February 2024	Survey on Tahr Hunting Preservation	NZDA urged members to fill out a survey aimed at preserving tahr hunting for future generations. The survey is a tool for advocacy efforts to ensure the future of tahr hunting.
	Firearms Safety Authority meeting	Meeting to discuss annual roar safety messaging and coordination.
	Visit by Minister of Hunting and Fishing and Game Animal Council	NZDA hosted the Minister of Hunting and Fishing, Todd McClay, and members of the Game Animal Council. The visit focused on discussions about game animal management, access, conservation, huts, and responsible wildlife management. Highlights the importance of dialogue between industry leaders and policymakers.
	Land Safety Forum Meeting	Representing recreational hunters' safety at the forum.
	DOC hunting permit conditions regarding thermal imaging	Providing feedback on NZDA fair chase policy and safety issues to DOC regarding thermal technology use on DOC land and inclusion in permit terms.

Date	Work or Submission	Synopsis
	Huts of Recreational Importance meeting with DOC	Attending a meeting with other recreational NGOs with an interest in backcountry huts to discuss a partnership and funding maintenance, including BCT, FMC, Trail Fund, and Te Araroa Trail Trust.
	Hunting Permit feedback	Providing input to DOC regarding improving the hunting permit system.
	Meeting with the Firearms Authority regarding the Arms Code and Manual	Liaising regarding NZDA feedback to improve the code.



During the year we have also represented NZDA and recreational hunters and shooters on the following key advocacy issues affecting our members:

- › Firearms issues, FCAF meetings, representation on Police range user groups and continue to hold them accountable through OIAs, our ministerial correspondence, and by engagement with other agencies.
- › Meeting politicians regularly at Parliament to meet with them on firearm laws, access and hunting issues. We hold regular standing face to face meetings with Ministers. We host a number of MPs at the National Office to discuss issues of importance to members.

- › Building alliances with other hunting organisations and groups to present a united front on issues, including firearm laws. We host meetings for NGOs at our head office, including COLFO events and functions.
- › Hut and track projects with Backcountry Trust.
- › Press releases on a variety of issues around firearm legislation and hunting.
- › Responding to news/media inquiries.
- › Radio interviews.
- › Background briefings for journalists on issues of importance to NZDA.
- › Liaising and discussions with DOC.
- › Discussions with OSPRI, ZIP and DOC and GAC on poison operations.
- › Collaboration with GAC and other organisations over tahr and deer control and management operations.
- › Supporting the Tahr Foundation, Sika Foundation and Wapiti Foundation when possible.
- › Representing recreational hunters on the Land Safety Forum.
- › Collaboration with COLFO over the Arms Regulations and firearms licencing issues.
- › Hosting AGMs of other kindred organisations at Deerstalkers House.
- › Discussions with NZ Police on current firearms issues and attending forum meetings.
- › Supporting and promoting women's hunts and providing a national level platform and budget.

5. Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS)

Words by: Mike Spray, National Programme Manager
Paddy Curtin, National Assessor
Rob Howey, Volunteer National HUNTS Coordinator

HUNTS ANNUAL REPORT

Rob Howey, National HUNTS Coordinator

The last 3 years of HUNTS have been amazing. We have had a fantastic team of committed individuals driving the initiatives that have seen the programme grow from strength to strength.

As you will see in the statistics below, we have grown the number of branches running HUNTS, we have increased the instructor pool, we have grown the number of assessors, and we are training more members to hunt safely, ethically, and successfully. On top of this we have improved all the training material available to the instructors and updated the manual, updated our safety and operating procedures and produced guidelines for assessors.

We have also grown the sponsor network with sponsors who are keen to reward the volunteer hours our instructors put in with clothing packs when they achieve their warranted status as well as free gifts for the Trainees.

All of this was made possible through the Jobs for Nature grant we received which allowed us to employ the team of talented individuals who made all this happen. This funding runs out this July and we need to decide. Do we continue to support the programme with paid staff to keep the momentum going?

My belief is that HUNTS is the key driver for building membership of the NZDA, it is the key to our social license to hunt, it shows we are committed to ethical and safe hunting practices and safety with firearms. It is our way of giving back to the community. But this comes at a cost!

As such we are introducing an admin fee of \$100 per trainee to all new courses and are asking for support from the National membership at conference in the form of a Levy to support the ongoing administration of the HUNTS Programme including:

- › Hands on support to the branches running HUNTS
- › Responding to HUNTS enquiries from public
- › Supporting the assessment of new instructors
- › Induction of new provisional instructors
- › Reviewing and update of training material
- › Support of the volunteer Instructors and Assessors
- › Engagement and liaison with HUNTS Sponsors group
- › Review and Update of the Standard Operating Procedures, Safety Management System, Instructor Guide
- › Liaison with Printers (Training Manual)
- › Admin of the trainee packs (ordering for Branches)
- › HUNTS Comms (Newsletter, Social media etc)
- › Instructor renewals (Range Officer, First Aid, Branch endorsement)
- › Annual Reports

Please reach out to the team if you have any questions or want to get HUNTS running in your branch.

JOBS FOR NATURE REPORT, YEAR 1-3

Mike Spray

It is our pleasure to report on the past three years of Jobs for Nature (JFN) funding that has enabled forward motion and growth of HUNTS. The purpose of the JFN funding is to benefit the environment, people and the regions and there is no question that NZDA and HUNTS have fulfilled its purpose. For NZDA, we are a perfect fit, because we are a national hunting organisation that concerns itself with the environment, and through HUNTS provides hunter education for the people and the regions.

Since the funding was made available to NZDA in October 2021, there have been significant successes for HUNTS. Initially the funding enabled four dedicated HUNTS staff to be employed by NZDA and for these new roles to provide the support to Branches and Instructors who were or wanted to deliver courses. I am pleased to report that the funding has enabled this support and as a result we have seen growth and momentum in all facets of HUNTS including the development and review of HUNTS material and resources.

We have together experienced significant growth in the number of Branches delivering courses and an increase in the number of Instructors accredited. Alongside



this, we have graduated more trainees from our courses and appointed an expanded group of capable HUNTS Assessors.

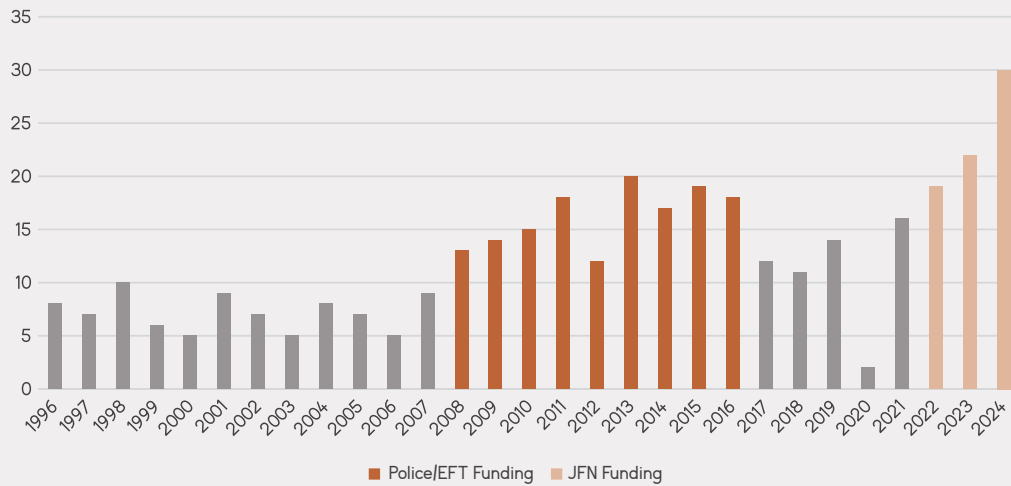
Over the past three years we have completed the development, review and up-date of many of the HUNTS resources including the HUNTS Manual(Sixth edition 2022), the HUNTS Standard Operating Procedures, Safety Management System and Instructor Guide, the Assessor Handbook and Range Officer Training Handbook, as well as numerous other documents and tools necessary for the quality delivery of HUNTS.

We would like to sincerely thank all those in the Branches who have worked so hard to organize and deliver HUNTS courses, and who have contributed hugely to the overall promotion of hunting and hunter education throughout the country. Your time and commitment are not taken for granted but rather you are observed and held in very high regard.

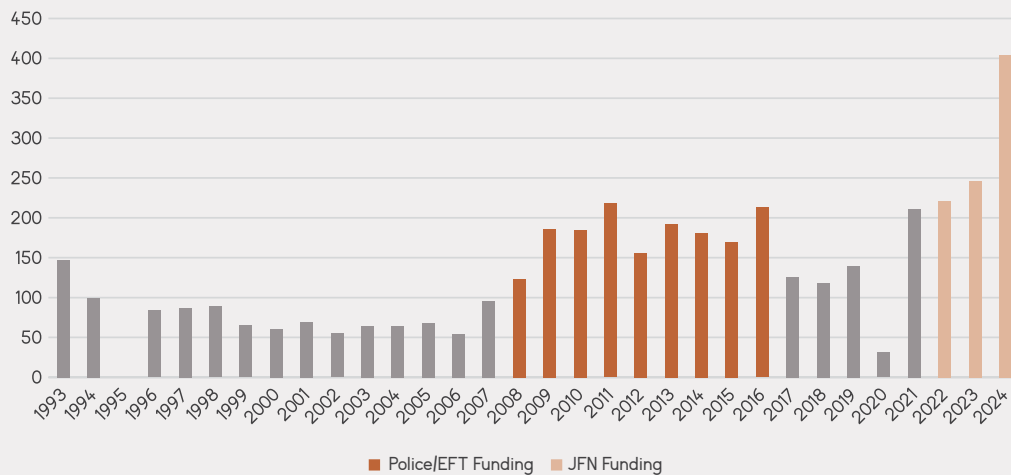
The following graphs show the historical growth periods of HUNTS. These have been highlighted in and which indicate the benefits of funding HUNTS. Funding = Growth

JFN	Pre JFN	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Key Targets		Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved
Branches	19	23	21	25	24	30	30
Instructors	38	50	51	60	70	70	84
Courses	15	15	20	20	24	25	31
Trainees	100	200	221	300	346	450	400

Number of Branches delivering HUNTS 1996 to 2004 (29yrs)



Number of Trainees 1993 to 2024 (31 yrs)



Number of Instructors 2002 to 2024 (23 yrs)



Paddy Curtin, National Assessor:

The 2023/2024 year has been the most successful year for HUNTS since its beginning in 1987. We currently have 74 warranted instructors across 30 branches and another 44 Instructors on the provisional pathway.

We have seen positive growth in the North Island, which I have been in charge of since July 2023. Wellington, Northland, and North Taranaki branches have all come on board as HUNTS branches with the successful delivery of their first courses, and 13 new HUNTS Instructors have been signed off across 6 North Island branches.

In Feb this year I took over the South Island Assessor role too, and the momentum there is beginning to grow. Although not soon enough to be included in the JFN targets, the growth I think we will see in the South Island HUNTS program in the next 2 years will be significant.

Both the North and South Island have seen good numbers of Provisional Instructors come on board across multiple branches, as the demand for good quality hunter training in NZ has not slowed.

The growth over the past 3 years has been helped by the JFN funding but would not have been possible if branches nationwide were not seeing demand for good quality, affordable hunter training. With the JFN funding set to run out end of July this year, there has been a recent focus shift to how we can leave the program in the best possible form to carry on under its own steam, or with only part time support if no funding is found to continue with full time paid support. This focus shift has put the long-term health of the HUNTS program ahead of short-term growth with a focus on more volunteer assessors, easier to use documents and more online aids available to branches.

Other work has included writing a river safety PowerPoint which will help to keep the river safety module more uniform across courses and easier for instructors to teach.

A very warm welcome to the following branches who have joined the HUNTS family by successfully running their first HUNTS Course in 2023/2024. This is no mean feat and these branches have seen the gains to be had by offering hunter training to their region. Well done!

- › Wellington (Previous Wellington/Porirua combined, now 2 separate courses)
- › Northland
- › North Taranaki

Introducing our newest HUNTS Instructors, these people have all graduated from Provisional Instructors to become fully Warranted HUNTS Instructors in the past 12 months.

- › Michael Mills from Hutt Valley branch
- › Mark Soper from Hutt Valley branch
- › Scott Race from Manawatu branch
- › Mike Tarttelin from Manawatu branch
- › Brian Churchouse from Manawatu branch
- › Brian Neilson Thames Valley branch
- › Deb Simon from Wellington branch
- › Llyall Jellyman from Wellington branch
- › Bryce Shepherd from Wellington branch
- › Mark Heath from Wellington branch
- › John Gunn from Te Awamutu branch
- › Phil Watson from Te Awamutu branch
- › James Shearer from Waikato branch

This past year the following senior HUNTS Instructors have stepped up to join our team of HUNTS Assessors having completed the Unit Standard 4098. These are the people who will be instrumental in driving the HUNTS Program forward into the future as we can allocate local assessors instead of having a small number of people having to travel big distances.

- › Rob Howey
- › Hamish Orr
- › Scott Gillam
- › Frans Laas
- › Ian Brabbs
- › Kris Llyall
- › Gary Jackson
- › Paddy Curtin

HUNTS Courses 2023/24:

Since July 2023 there have been 25 HUNTS Courses run across the country. The below tables show a breakdown of what the average course looks like.

Within these 25 courses 311 animals have been harvested

To break these down, HUNTS Volunteers have invested:

- › 11300 hours of their own time into producing the best hunter training in NZ.
- › 287 trainees so far have seen the benefit of these hours.
- › 311 animals have been taken (1.2 animals per trainee)
- › with each trainee receiving the benefit of 452 volunteer hours for their \$314 on average.



July 2023 to May 2024	Current Min	Current Max	Current Average	Current Total
Volunteer hours	135	1768	452	11300
Instructors	1	8	4.4	110
Assistants	0	19	3.8	95
Trainees	6	25	11.5	282
Graduates	5	23	10.3	258
Price	\$0	\$600	\$314	

Branch & Number of Trainees			
Northland	11	Kapiti	7
North Auckland	12	Hutt Valley	25
Direct	6	Porirua	10
Thames Valley	10	Wellington	11
Waikato	17	Nelson	7
Te Awamutu	12	Nelson	8
Bay Of Plenty	17	North Canterbury	16
Taupo	12	Upper Clutha	14
North Taranaki	6	Southern Lakes	11
Wairoa & Districts	12	Central Otago	7
Manawatu	10	Otago	12
Manawatu	10	Southland	8
Kapiti	16	Total trainees	287

Species	Number
Fallow	86
Red	35
Goat	163
Pig	9
Tahr	18
Total	311

Mike Perry, Wild Animals Manager, Department of Conservation



National Hunter Education & Training Scheme JFN0025.27.1

Recreational hunters are one of the largest user groups of Public Conservation Land and facilities. Hunter education and safety are key aspects of safe recreation in, and enjoyment of, the back country.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) have a long history of providing outdoor safety courses to recreational hunters through the Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) courses on a voluntary basis, and in 2020 were successful in obtaining a Jobs for Nature grant to support the programmes further development.

The Jobs for Nature programme was set up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support a greener recovery for Aotearoa New Zealand. Creating jobs and economic support for people and communities, while ensuring environmental benefits.

The NZDA HUNTS programme has been highly successful and has delivered consistently on it's stated objectives and outputs. I highly commend the work that has gone in from the HUNTS teams to update and improve the course material to create a modern and professional level course. Acknowledgement needs to go to both the HUNTS staff, but also the numerous volunteer trainers who have donated their time to make the programme a success.

The Department has been hugely grateful to work with the NZDA in supporting the HUNTS course to deliver practical education and training for New Zealand's hunting community.

Thanking our HUNTS Sponsors

We are very grateful for the generous support or our HUNTS sponsors. Their support helps acknowledge and reward our dedicate HUNTS Instructors who volunteer their time, energy, and experience to help grow the next generation of hunters. Our sponsors also provide safety equipment and discounted supplies to help branches provide value to every trainee and ensure they are fit for their first hunt.

We sincerely thank:



Swazi provide our instructors with a jacket embroidered with the NZDA logo and HUNTS Instructor



Ridgeline Clothing support each of our instructors with a set of functional purpose designed hunting gear and access to discounts across their entire range



Ampro offers instructors access to direct pricing over their entire range of products



Go Native supports trainees with ready to eat meal samples



Stoney Creek sponsor trainees with a blaze safety vest and beanie



federal provides ammunition at discounted process for our HUNTS courses

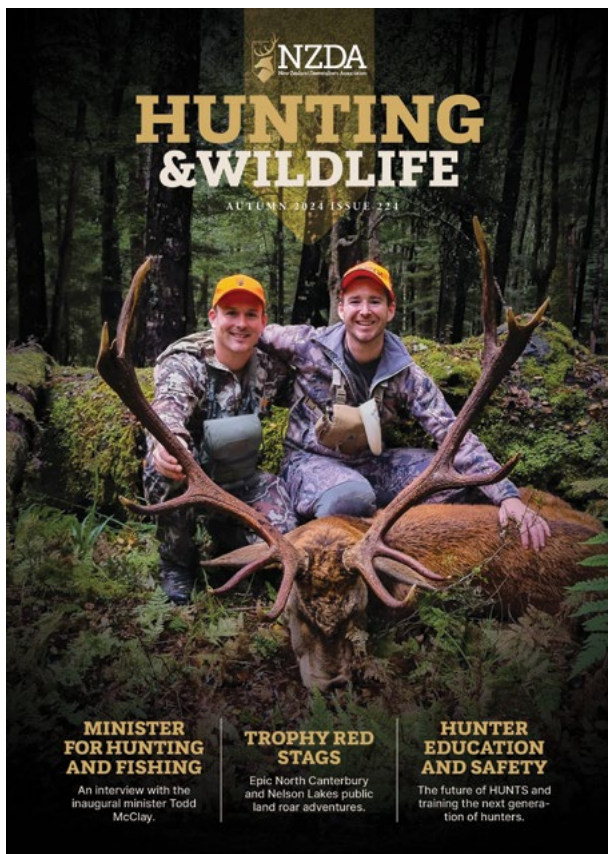


Outdoor Sports NZ as the owners of Ridgeline provide discounts and access to great equipment for our trainees and instructors



Real Meals provide discounted products and samples for trainees

6. NZDA Hunting & Wildlife Magazine



Words by: Ivan Pavich, Editor

Editor's Annual Report

2023 was Simon Gibson's final year as Editor of our Hunting and Wildlife Magazine. On behalf of the Association, I'd like to thank Simon for his tireless efforts in building the magazine into a core benefit for our members and leaving me a magazine that is primed for growth.

The traditional magazine game is not for the faint of heart. The well-established Hunters Journal Publication is closing its doors, and new owners for Rod and Rifle Magazine highlight the need for modern approaches and fresh thinking.

As such, working with Hugh, we have begun making changes to the magazine, with the most significant being a rebrand and redesign. The magazine has now embraced its role as part of our wider organisation and is now the 'NZDA Hunting and Wildlife Magazine,' which helps grow our overall brand recognition with all hunters.

We have also decided that the magazine will be released free to the public a month after members have received their copies. This was a challenging decision, but we believe that the magazine is a shining example of all the work the NZDA does and deserves to be shared widely to encourage non-members to understand the important role we all play in protecting recreational hunting access and our culture.

Like all things in the economy, the cost to produce the magazine has increased steadily year on year. To adapt to these rising costs, we increased our advertising fees to bring them into alignment with other hunting publications. Although the cost to advertising is significantly higher than it was, we are still able to discount our ratecard to provide an attractive advertising package for advertisers by highlighting that every dollar spent with us goes back into supporting recreational hunting rather than personal gain. We put advertiser money to work expanding the pie for all and they have found this to be a good way to support their brands. The goal for our magazine is to grow advertising revenue to the point that the magazine becomes cost neutral for the organisation and in time may eventually generate a small profit.

The demand for printed versions is not increasing even though members have been calling for it. Our print runs have remained static for the past two years. Therefore, we do not anticipate growth in printing hard copies. However, printed materials are still important for promoting our brand and ideas, and for reaching the desks of Ministers, heads of government departments, and key industry stakeholders. Our base of subscribers will continue to have access to print copies at cost.

The single greatest challenge for the magazine is sourcing quality content and exciting hunting stories and photos for our readers. We have begun working with technical experts to produce content that provides value to our readers but the hunting stories must come from our members. If you are interested in becoming a writer or have a good story with great photos please contact me via editor@deerstalkers.org.nz.

7. Annual Accounts

Financial Year Ended 29 February 2024

Words by: NZDA Board (Treasurer Position was vacant following the 2022 and 2023 election of officers)

NZDA Board's Financial Report Detailed Commentary on 2024 Performance Report

Please refer to the separately supplied audited 2024 Performance Report (Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet).

Below are the items the NZDA Board felt needed further explanation when reading the 2024 Financial Statements.

Profit and Loss

1. Grant: \$160,000 is represented by the Jobs for Nature grant from DOC, which covers the salaries of the HUNTS employees. We are currently in Year 3 (of 3) of the grant funding and its delivery. Additionally, a further \$10,000 grant was secured from Pub Charities to help fund the purchase cost of 600 additional HUNTS Manuals.

2. Revenue fell short of budget expectations, with only 2.2% membership growth instead of the forecasted 10%. However, online shop sales of limited-edition merchandise, such as Svord knives and T-Shirts, once again contributed to revenue.

3. Interest: This year, we earned more interest than budgeted due to an increase in the OCR, resulting in higher interest payments on our bank account balances.

4. Salaries & Wages: Came in slightly higher than budget as the Board elected to onboard a full-time communications person, our National Marketing Manager, but deferred the appointment of a finance person.

5. HUNTS Expenses: These are the reimbursements for travel, etc. for the HUNTS team, including volunteer assessors, and are not funded by the grant because the grant only funds staff wages and salaries. The increase over last year is due to the travel required to conduct instructor assessments and deliver RO and assessor training and input.

6. The Administration Expenses and Operating Expenses were mostly in line with the budget, but overall they were 1.2% over budget. Variable costs, which vary with the size of our membership, such as membership cards and related postage, increased because we needed to issue more cards. Printing and shipping costs exceeded the budget due to increased charges from suppliers and the need to ship more merchandise.

7. Research Fund: Unbudgeted research grants of \$29,892 were incurred and paid from the Research Fund.

8. Merchandise costs: This includes T-shirts, knives, and other branded items purchased and embroidered for sale.





Balance Sheet

1. Income received in advance is a timing issue, as it represents income for March 2024 received in February 2024 (i.e. 2024/25 financial year revenue).
2. The Endowment Fund is reduced annually through amortization based on a schedule referencing endowment members. Branches receive \$35 per member for the lifetime of that member.
3. The current account in the NZDA Limited Partnership increased marginally because the building's operations made a slight deficit (refer to the Report at Schedule 4).
4. In February, the board decided to create the National Reserve Fund by transferring \$50,000. The fund is intended to provide cash reserves for meeting future operational costs as needed. The goal is to have \$100,000 in reserve.

Year-end Bank Account Balances

The following is a detailed breakdown of the bank account balances.

Balance Sheet - Bank Account Assets	
As at 29 February 2024	
Direct Branch Account (held on trust)	12,903.06
Hunts Trust Account (held on trust)	14,393.94
National Office Operations Account	6,797.11
NZDA Shooting Account	29,775.65
Research Fund Account	48,681.29
Stripe NZD - Online Credit Card Payments	12,167.87
Subscriptions & Levies Account	229,698.49
Endowment Fund	-
National Reserve Fund	50,005.48
Total Bank	404,422.89

8. Budget Presentation

(Estimates) for 2024/2025 and
Capitation for 2025/2026

Association's budget for the period 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025

The following 2024/25 budget has been accepted
by the NZDA Board and was approved at the
February 17th, 2024 board meeting.

Overall Budget	Notes	Amount
1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025		
Income		
Donations, fundraising and similar revenue	1	\$100,000.00
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	2	
Annual Competitions		\$2,500.00
Associate - National Association Capitation Fee		\$32,200.00
Family - National Association Capitation Fee		\$24,500.00
Junior - National Association Capitation Fee		\$4,000.00
Senior - National Association Capitation Fee		\$744,000.00
Student - National Association Capitation Fee		\$8,500.00
Superannuant - National Association Capitation Fee		\$91,000.00
Total Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members		\$906,712.00
Interest, Dividend and other investment income		
Interest Earned		\$8,000.00
Investment Income		\$18,442.72
Total Interest, Dividend and other investment income		\$26,442.72
Revenue from Providing Good & Services		
Badges & Medals		\$600.00
Douglas Score Sales Income		\$2,100.00
Hunting & Wildlife Magazine Income		\$24,000.00
Sales - HUNTS Manual		\$25,434.00
Shopify - Merchandise Income		\$55,000.00
Target Sales		\$3,000.00
Total Revenue from Providing Good & Services		\$100,134.00
Total Income		\$1,143,288.72

Overall Budget	Notes	Amount
Less Cost of Sales		
Offset fees, subs and other revenue from members		
Endowment - National Association Capitation Fee		\$1,488.32
Levies		
Levies Received During Period		
COLFO Levy 2024-25 - Paid to COLFO		-\$39,800.00
Heritage Trust Levy 2024-25 - Paid to Heritage Trust		-\$18,600.00
Research Levy 2023-24 - Funds for research that is hunting related		-\$15,920.00
Levies to be Paid for Prior Period		
COLFO Levy 2022-23 - Paid to COLFO		\$38,320.00
Heritage Trust Levy 2022-23- Paid to Heritage Trust		\$18,120.00
Research Levy 2022-23 - Funds for research that is hunting related		\$3,750.00
Net Levies		-\$14,130.00
Total Offset fees, subs and other revenue from members		-\$12,629.68
Total Cost of Sales		-\$12,629.68
Gross Profit		\$1,155,918.40
Less Operating Expenses		
Costs related to providing goods or services		
Douglas Score Pad/Handbook Expenses	3	\$10,000.00
Hunting & Wildlife Magazine Expenses		\$53,400.00
HUNTS Expenses	4	\$40,000.00
HUNTS Manual Expenses		\$0.00
Merchandise Costs (Shopify)		\$22,000.00
Range Officers (Clubs & Ranges)	5	\$4,800.00
Shooting Development		\$0.00
Stripe Fees		\$15,350.00
Total Costs related to providing goods or services		\$145,550.00
Governance and Personnel Expenses		
ACC Levies		\$1,000.00
Advocacy inc Travel	6	\$24,000.00
Annual Leave Expense Accrued		\$3,275.52

Overall Budget	Notes	Amount
Executive Accommodation		\$17,000.00
Executive Expenses		\$6,000.00
Executive Travel		\$17,000.00
KiwiSaver Employer Contributions		\$15,000.00
Rent - Carpark		\$8,346.00
Salaries & Wages		\$566,200.00
Staff Parking		\$780.00
Total Governance and Personnel Expenses		\$658,601.52
Interest and Depreciation expenses		
Depreciation		\$3,144.00
Total Interest and Depreciation expenses		\$3,144.00
Other Expenses	7 & 8	
Advertising	9	\$40,588.00
Bad Debt		\$0.00
Bank Fees		\$780.00
Certificates, Trophies & Badges		\$6,000.00
Computer Expenses - IT Support		\$23,250.00
Computer Expenses - Minor IT Purchases & Software	10	\$15,000.00
Conference		\$16,000.00
Donations		\$0.00
Insurance		\$18,005.00
Licence, Registration & Subscriptions		\$6800.00
Membership Cards		\$35,900.00
Minor Asset		\$0.00
Office - General		\$2,700.00
Office Catering		\$1,200.00
Office Cleaning		\$2,824.80
Photocopier Costs		\$4,429.80
Postage		\$12,000.00
Printing & Stationery		\$10,000.00
Rent - Office		\$9,759.13
Repairs and Maintenance		\$300.00

Overall Budget	Notes	Amount
Subscriptions		\$455.00
Telephone & Tolls		\$6,000.00
Venue Hire Catering		\$0.00
Vouchers		\$4,000.00
Total Other Expenses		\$215,991.73
Outsourced and Professional Expenses		
Accounting		\$12,600.00
Advocacy Expenses		\$4,404.00
Auditor Fees		\$4,300.00
Consultancy	11	\$7,800.00
Legal expenses		\$20,000.00
Total Outsourced and Professional Expenses		\$49,104.00
Total Operating Expenses		\$1,072,391.25
Forecasted Surplus		\$83,527.15
Less National Reserve Fund Establishment (NFRE) (50%) Goal	12	\$50,000.00
Net Surplus		\$33,527.15

Notes:

1. Includes HUNTS Jobs For Nature Grant Year 3 grant income of \$80,000 (funding for HUNTS staff remuneration ends mid-July 2024). This budget also includes \$10,000 grants for HUNTS Manuals and Douglas Score Manuals, respectively.
2. Income from members is based on membership numbers as of February 2024, which were uplifted for 10% growth as per the Business Plan.
3. Expenditure on Douglas Score manual project contingent on securing grant income.
4. HUNTS expenses reflect a budget to cover reimbursement of approved expenses for the HUNTS employees and volunteers to deliver on our grant and provide for reimbursements of reasonable costs for travel and accommodation.
5. There is a reduced budget for Range Officers (RO) training at branches with ranges. Our clubs and ranges were Police certified in the 2023 financial year under the Arms Act, and most of the RO upskilling and training has been completed.

6. Includes promotional hunting activities and photoshoots, and costs related to expense claims by NZDA representatives and travel to meetings and government forums and/or stakeholder consultations.
7. Variable expenses related to membership are uplifted by the corresponding budgeted growth of 10% and adjusted for inflation by a modest CPI uplift of 7%.
8. Fixed expenses are reflective of the historical run-rate with a modest uplift of 7%.
- 9 Includes print advertising, promotional activities, social media and tradeshow attendances, i.e. Sika Show.
10. Budget required to replace out of date laptops and computers to operate Windows 11 for staff.
11. Consultancy covers our HR and H&S advisor fees and provides budget for other advice which may be required to support operational compliance.
12. As per the Business Plan, we are working towards a capital reserve of \$100,000 to establish an operational cash buffer over FY23 and FY24.



Capitation for the membership year 2025 (period 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026)

The NZDA Board proposes the following capitation fees for next membership year (2025/26). The fees are set one year ahead to allow Branches to factor changes into their local processes at their AGMs.

Membership	Amount	Change
Senior	\$130.00	+\$10.00
Junior	\$60.00	+\$10.00
Student	\$60.00	+\$10.00
Superannuant	\$80.00	+\$10.00
Associate	\$80.00	+\$10.00
Family	\$10.00	-
Affiliate	\$0.00	-

For reference, the following are the current amounts for the 2024/25 membership year:

Membership	Current amount
Senior	\$120.00
Junior	\$50.00
Student	\$50.00
Superannuant	\$70.00
Associate	\$70.00
Family	\$10.00
Affiliate	\$0.00



9. Notices of Motion

Clause 10.8 Matters are either a "Notice of Motion" or "Remit" and are subject to the following categories and corresponding voter thresholds:

(a) (Notices of Motion):

(i) any proposed amendments or changes to the Constitution: or

(ii) relating to policy, rules or guideline matters, or when a matter arises at a general meeting which would reverse or substantially alter a policy, rule or any National Competition rule,

must be passed by 2/3rds of eligible voters present: and

(b) (Remits): relate to internal association administration, which includes a direction or course of action recommended to the NZDA Board, must be passed by a simple majority of eligible voters present.

Clause 10.9 Any changes to these Rules or the National Competition Rules will take effect the following year (i.e. on and from 1 March).

Notices of Motion 2024

The first four notices of Motion should be considered at the same time for convenience and to save the time of the Annual General Meeting 2024.

N.O.M. 2024/01 - NZDA Board

Moves that Senior members be levied \$4.00 (four dollars) each during the 2025/2026 financial year to help finance rent for the premises and ongoing day to day running expenses for the operations of the NZDA National Heritage Trust, specifically for the running costs of the National Archives.

N.O.M. 2024/02 - NZDA Board

Moves that the Association continue its membership of the Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (COLFO).

N.O.M. 2024/03 - NZDA Board

Moves that all capitated members of NZDA, excluding juniors and student members, be levied \$1.00 (one dollar) each during the 2025/2026 financial year to help finance the ongoing campaign by the Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (COLFO) to protect the opportunities for the ownership and recreational use of firearms in New Zealand.

N.O.M. 2024/04 - NZDA Board

Moves that all capitated members of NZDA, excluding juniors and student members, be levied \$1.00 (one dollars) each during the 2025/2026 financial year to maintain a fund to be used for game animal research projects undertaken or supported by NZDA, branches and members.

N.O.M. 2024/05 - NZDA Board

Moves that all capitated members of NZDA, excluding juniors and student members, be levied \$10.00 (ten dollars) each during the 2025/2026 financial year to support the administration of the HUNTS Programme.

N.O.M. 2024/06 - NZDA Board / Wellington Branch

Proposes amendments to the Association's Constitution by the adoption of amendments enclosed with the Handbook, with deletions shown like "this" and additions shown like "this".

Moves that the Association adopts the amendments, confirms re-registration on the 2022 Act register, and authorises the NZDA Board to undertake all necessary steps and prepare such documentation to re-register on the new 2022 Act register as soon as practical.

Background and Commentary

The NZDA (Wellington Branch) Assoc. Inc. proposes that the Association adopt the attached form of the Constitution at its Conference in July 2024 (the "Constitution"). The purpose/aim of this NOM is to table the amendments to the constitution to allow the Association to re-register on the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and Regulations (2022 Act) in compliance with section 26 of that act, among other amendments.

NZDA and all our branches need to reregister under the 2022 Act to remain an incorporated society. This must be done before 5 April 2026. The first step is to amend the Association's constitution and then provide an updated template for branches to allow them to reregister with an aligned constitution. The NZDA, NZDA Board members, and all branch officers have been aware of this requirement since our rules were replaced by a constitution at our 2019 Conference by reference to the bill. The Act came into force in 2022 and the register is open from October 2024. The Wellington Branch again sponsors this NOM to assist the Association and recommends using this opportunity to:

- › confirm we are going to reregister our society; and
- › vote on all necessary changes to our society's constitution to enable such registration.
- › instruct the NZDA board to carry out all necessary steps.

By doing this at our 2024 AGM it means it reduces the need to hold any special meetings.

Key edits/notes to changes:

1. Update for section 26 of the Act - alignment with the law.
2. Updating the prescribed Register contents required by the new Act and Regulations at clause 7.13.
3. Updating the Association's general power provisions to reflect section 18 of the new Act's

requirements, which now grants sufficient statutory power to the NZDA Board.

4. Applying and clarifying the Delegate attendance and voting applies to attending NZDA general meetings pursuant to regulation 14 (Attendance at annual general meetings), as NZDA is a society with more than 1,000 members.

5. Adding officer nomination eligibility certification under the Arms Act and new Act for NZDA Board members at rule 14.4(b).

6. Registered office section reference update: to s111 from s18(2).

7. Removal of out-of-date legal requirements under the 1908 Act:

8. Common Seal and references

9. Removal of the Treasurer role and references - operational decision

10. Removal of a reference to badges because not applicable

11. Adding the Act's dispute resolution procedure to ensure it meets the requirement for natural justice - see new Schedule 3 (Dispute Resolution Procedure).

12. Opted not to permit written circulating resolutions in lieu of a general meeting to amend the constitution or pass matters at general meetings.

13. Borrowing Funds at clause 24, updated to include current accounting terminology to "Accumulated Funds" from "Capital Funds", which is the correct accounting term for not-for-profit organisations (the accumulated fund is the equivalent of capital of a profit-making organisation).

N.O.M. 2024/07 - National Shooting Committee

Moves that the current Competitive Shooting Rules are amended by reference to the document entitled "NZDA Benchrest Rule Changes 2024" provided with the Handbook.



10. Remits

Clause 10.8 Matters are either a "Notice of Motion" or "Remit" and are subject to the following categories and corresponding voter thresholds:

(a) (Notices of Motion):

- (i) any proposed amendments or changes to the Constitution; or
- (ii) relating to policy, rules, or guideline matters, or when a matter arises at a general meeting which would reverse or substantially alter a policy, rule or any National Competition rule,

must be passed by 2/3rds of eligible voters present; and

(b) (Remits): relate to internal association administration, which includes a direction or course of action recommended to the NZDA Board, must be passed by a simple majority of eligible voters present.

Clause 10.9 Any changes to these rules or the National Competition Rules will take effect the following year (i.e. on and from 1 March).

Remits 2024

No remits were received at the time of printing this handbook.

11. Election of Officers

Election of officers to the NZDA Board for 2024/25

The NZDA Board for 2024/2025 will be declared by the National Secretary at this Conference.

- › Nominees at the time of printing the Handbook.
- › Each nominee will be permitted to speak to the Conference for up to three minutes to explain the aims and policies under which they offer themselves for election or re-election.
- › Delegates will be given the opportunity to question nominees at the conclusion of their speeches.
- › The National Secretary will preside over the election pursuant to Clause 14.4 of the Constitution.

Positions and Nominees 2024/2025				
National President	National Vice President	2x North Island Executive members	2x South Island Executive members	National Treasurer
C. Benbow	H. Orr	T. Taylor	I. Owen	No nominations
C. Sheridan		T. Gratton	R. Wells	
			M. Elliotte	

CANDIDATE PROFILES

National President incumbent re-standing: Craig Benbow, Malvern

I have held the National President's role for the past four years and seek to continue in the role for the coming year only.

I am married and have three grown children. My wife Pam and I have operated an agricultural contracting business in the Selwyn district for 23 years.

I have brought to NZDA a desire for adherence to the founding objectives of the Association and putting in place the structured and planned initiatives that are needed to take an organisation forward. My focus is unchanged but the number of initiatives in my view has narrowed considerably over the past four years with the increasingly sound management and evolution of governance.

In the next year I would like to see completion of the review of our governance framework and our national constitution to ensure the Association is agile, functional and increasingly efficient. I would also like to ensure succession is timely and expanding a pool of leadership that can be built over time from great candidates. I believe thoroughly in the Association's objectives and its purpose and want the organisation to

do the best of work and serve the members to make everyone's experiences more fulfilling while creating spaces where memories are made and friends abound.

Of course there are challenges outside of the organisation that need to be addressed and I am as committed to resolving as many of those as possible using dialogue and personal connection to those who can make things change. We have a series of work streams attached to access and animal management that I am keen to see progressed to the next stage and having done the ground work I am hoping to see some resolution to those matters in the next year.

I enjoy immensely the work that the NZDA board does and the people we work for and with. I am firmly committed to NZDA for the next year but have made the decision to communicate my intention to step down at this point so there is no ambiguity or question around my service going forward. I hope you will continue to support and work with myself and the board for the coming year.

National President nominee: Callum Sheridan, Auckland

I am pleased to accept the nomination for NZDA National President from the Auckland Branch.

Having served on the NZDA National Board for

four years, I am passionate and committed to the Association. At a governance level I have an excellent understanding of the Association's dynamics, its inner workings and what is required to take the NZDA to the next level.

I have a productive working relationship with our CEO and have completed a number of successful projects alongside him. In my first two years as a board member this included enhancing public visibility through promotional hunts and social media, this outreach directly and positively affected the Association's membership growth. In the past two years I have been the NZDA lead for the Sika Show, overseeing our stand, volunteer presence and other contributions such as Douglas Scorers and other competition judging. This has leveraged my ability to build meaningful relationships throughout the sector and politically, in turn elevating the NZDA's profile.

Before jumping headfirst into my nomination, I also discussed my intentions with the current Board members and have a large majority support.

I value well thought out and clearly communicated strategy. In my Vice President's speech at the 2022 National Conference in Hamilton, I communicated my passion and belief for an enduring Association. Succession planning starts at the top with clear communication. Disappointingly in the past 24 months this has not happened, as it requires Presidential initiative, this is despite myself initiating many discussions on the topic.

Due to a number of enquiries from NZDA National Past Presidents, Life Members and Branch Delegates, I now feel this is the best time to accept a nomination for National President. Our current President has communicated his intention to stay in the role for one further year, without any clear pathway and an unwillingness to communicate a succession plan. This was a pivotal factor in accepting my nomination this year, I am offering 4 to 5 years of commitment with a focus on succession and transparent communication ingrained into our Board culture. I plan to work with the board and our CEO to implement this, this could include board member KPIs, a transparent Board peer review system and a structured Board tenure.

My vision for the Association is to graduate into a highly functioning Governance Board overseeing a larger professional Operations Team. This won't happen

immediately and our Board will remain somewhat of a hybrid between Operations and Governance for the next 12 to 24 months. Currently a hybrid model is required due to budget constraints.

I have proven (although on a smaller scale, but a perfect test case) over my four years as President at the Auckland Branch, that I have the skills to build a successful structure, empower people to take charge of meaningful projects and succeed. The branch grew 120% from 200 senior members to near 500, the branch has continued to grow and is the largest branch by senior members in the NZDA. The true measure of success is demonstrated when competent people regularly step up and take on roles to benefit the wider membership. Succession takes a longer-term view. Auckland's succession planning started around 18 months before I stepped down: I was able to transition out of the president's role with ease, with one of our then-current Vice Presidents in line to step up.

The NZDA is NZ's leading Hunting Advocacy Group, but being recognised for this within the sector, by the general hunting and shooting public (potential members), Government and the general public is the next step. I'm driven to create that mana for our Association. This lifts our profile and in turn membership growth, more members means more weight when it comes time to lobby and gives the Association a bigger reach when our hunting and shooting endeavors come under fire by anti-lobby groups or the Government of the time.

Along with membership growth as an income stream, we must have a Plan B, that is why myself and our CEO have been working together on an income stream framework along with North Canterbury Branch as discussed at Conference 2023. Ideally, we would like to be further progressed on this initiative but due to our staff workload and keeping in mind other NZDA and industry events, we have chosen to implement this framework shortly after Conference 2024. There is no doubt we require further income to grow and to benefit existing initiatives like our HUNTS course which I'm eager to see succeed. Our operational team require the opportunity to grow, in turn supporting branches and the overall association's development.

Last year, I implemented on behalf of the NZDA the nationwide goat competition. NZDA and DOC successfully collaborated and over 10,000 goats were shot by hundreds of hunters across the country. In line

with my succession planning ethos, this year a number of board members and staff will be contributing. 2024 will see the national goat hunting competition happen all over again but bigger and better.

The goat competition is one successful workstream, others consist of standing up and co-chairing the NZDA Game Animal Management Subcommittee until 2023. In 2023 and 2024 I have written the Terms of Reference and stood up the NZDA Douglas Score Subcommittee of which I am currently the Chair. As mentioned earlier, I have been the NZDA Sika Show lead for the past two years. I am a member of the NZ Game Animal Council and am Iwi Liaison Officer for the Woodhill Fallow Management Committee where I renegotiate and collaborate on our forest lease and access. I continue to contribute to the Auckland Branch by way of organised hunts and specialist in Branch workshops on various topics. I am a Board Member of action and I wish to apply this at the President level. When I take on initiatives, I like to get them running smoothly with good planning, strategy and execution.

It is key to engage others within the Association and empower them to contribute and forge their own pathway in their desired field to fulfil what matters to them and in turn benefit the Association's objectives. Our members oversight and experience in building



relationships within the sector is imperative to creating depth within our Association.

With the current Government in place, you have to agree we have a huge opportunity to progress the wellbeing of our sport and recreation. My role on the GAC affords me a great understanding of what the framework for a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) may look like, as well as a good understanding of the National Parks Act, the very thing DOC is under fire from, from Forest and Bird. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) have been caught in the middle, my goal is to support our CEO and staff so NZDA can lobby hard. In short if we can lobby and are successful in amending the National Parks Act and support GAC in creating a HOSI framework, the case between F&B and DOC will lose all momentum to the point of becoming null and void. One of my portfolios as NZDA Board Member is the FWF representative - another area I am hugely passionate about.

Some may think I'm busy, maybe too busy for the National President's role, but they don't say to give a task to a busy person for nothing! I thrive on being busy, and collaborate effectively with others to achieve the task at hand.

Professionally I own a residential construction company in Auckland specialising in mid to high end bespoke and architectural construction. I have a construction manager to run the day to day and various PAYE staff and contractors contributing to two to four projects that we have on the go at any one time. As a result, I have honed the skills required of having staff, motivating a team and doing my share of the heavy lifting.

On a personal note, I am passionate about the future of hunting and ensuring that the future generations, including my son Xavier (7) and daughter Summer (5) are able to have the opportunity to experience productive hunting of well-managed game animal herds as well as have the relative freedom to own and operate a firearm as I have done. I am comfortable with what is required in the President's role and motivated to take the NZDA to the next level.

When considering the President's role, I was aware I would be leaving a gap as Vice-President and I am pleased to see the Members have an option, Hamish Orr, a Kapiti Branch member and Past President. He is well versed in the inner workings of the NZDA as well as a passionate hunter and shooter.

In closing, the Association and its purpose is bigger than any one person's goals or specific agenda. I can guarantee stability within the Association and its purpose to protect and promote hunting and shooting in New Zealand will be first and foremost. The importance of building relationships within the sector and collaborating to ensure the sector grows and is successful into the future is imperative to the NZDA's ongoing success. I would encourage all delegates, Branch executive members and those voting at conference to speak to Board members, NZDA upper management, life members and between yourselves to form a well-rounded opinion and understanding of what I can offer as your President. I am of course happy to take emails and phone calls at any time.

A vote for me is a vote for a bright, driven and successful future for the NZDA.

Callum Sheridan | E Callum.sheridan@deerstalkers.org.nz | P 021 0818 2014

National Vice President nominee: Hamish Orr, Kapiti

I am pleased to accept the NZDA nomination for National Vice President from the Kapiti Branch in 2024. Although I haven't been on the National NZDA Board previously, I believe I have the experience and skills for the role. Here is a bit about me and what I bring to the table.

My backstory

I didn't grow up with any family members involved in hunting or shooting, so I was a bit of a late bloomer. It wasn't until 2008 when I was in my early thirties that a good friend of mine introduced me to small game hunting. He took me possum shooting on his family land. After that first time, he kept on at me to get my FALIC, so eventually I did.

Once I had my FALIC and bought my first firearm, (a .22) I wanted to get out and shoot it as much as possible. Unfortunately for me, I lived in town and my friend didn't really want to go out shooting every spare minute he had, like me.

My start at the Whangarei NZDA

Late 2009 I was in the local Hunting & Fishing store in Whangarei where I came across a copy of the local NZDA club newsletter. I didn't know much about the organisation, but I thought it was worth flicking an



email through to the club president. I had a reply quick smart and that was it, I was joined up and hooked. I was very lucky that the club president and another member noticed I was keen to learn the art of target shooting, and they took me under their wings and taught me everything I could absorb. And it is because of their generosity with their time that I like to help any newbies to the sport.

Soon after joining the club, I was voted onto the committee which quickly led to me being asked to become a club Range Officer. I jumped at the opportunity to learn more and be able to repay the club by giving my time. The Whangarei branch was the perfect club someone new to the sport of shooting and hunting, could have hoped for. I was asked to go away to the NZDA Nationals with one of the members, and that just sealed the deal, I was well and truly hooked now.

Going for gold at Nationals

At my first Nationals I came away with gold medals for my grade and a third place overall bronze medal in the short f-class match. In that same year I was asked

to go on my first big game hunt for Bull Tahr. I was so excited because I had never been to the South Island, let alone been into the mountains. What an amazing adventure. I was so grateful for this opportunity and to this day, Tahr are my preferred species to hunt.

Small business experience

I have my own Joinery Installation business that I started in 2007. A couple of years into it I started getting some big national contracts. Before I knew it, I was travelling up and down the North Island for these jobs. Eventually the decision was made that we needed to relocate to cut down on so much travelling. Whangarei was a long way north to be servicing the vast area we covered. So, we decided to relocate to the Bay of Plenty as I had just started a contract there that would last for three years.

Next stop - the Bay of Plenty

In 2012 I joined my second NZDA club the Bay of Plenty Branch. I had met one of their members at the NZDA Nationals the year before and I caught up with him at the first club meeting. The BOP Branch has an amazing range complex, it was only in its very early days when I was there. Once they found out I was a Range Officer, they had me on their roster for the public scheduled range days. When they found out I was a keen competitive shooter, they asked would I attend their Range subcommittee meetings. They were keen to get a range shooting calendar up and running, and because I had experience from another branch, they were keen for my input. My time in the BOP branch was short at only two years, work had other ideas. Another relocation due to more contracts in the lower North Island.

And finally, to Kapiti

In 2014 I joined my third and current club, the Kapiti Branch. At the beginning of my time in Kapiti, work was so full on that I didn't get along to my first club meeting for a few months. I did find time to attend my first range day for the area pretty much straight away. Their range is probably like most NZDA ranges around the country, it's on a farm. It's actually a ripper of a little range with shooting out to 330m.

It took me a year or so before I ventured on to the Kapiti committee. I was just so busy with my business at that time. We now had contracts back up the other end of the island, at the same time as the lower end. We were

staying in motels pretty much six months of the year. I had to step down from the committee because of this. It was a pretty full on across a 2-3-year window: I attended as many club shoots and club meetings as I could during that time. Finally, around 2018-19, work settled a bit, and I rejoined the committee. I stepped straight into the role of Newsletter Editor and club Vice President. I really enjoyed these roles and treated it as a new challenge for myself.

Club committee changes

In December 2020, after learning of the proposed departure of 85% of the committee I contacted Gwyn at the national office for advice. I knew the situation was serious; and that we needed to work quickly to ensure the club didn't fold. I made it my mission to assemble a new committee; and as a team we pulled it off. By the end of our first full membership year, our club had a solid foundation. To this day I remain truly grateful for Gwyn's guidance.

We have a committee member to greet new members and a Social Media Coordinator, among other new roles. The HUNTS course was also back on track with two new provisional instructors plus new Range Officers trained up, and our clubs constitution had been updated. All the hard work had paid off and the club was in a great place and heading down the track nicely. There is no way I could have achieved this if my business workload was still super heavy, and if I didn't have the support of such a great committee.

2023 AGM - with the club now set up it was time for me to step aside and let someone else steer the ship. Perfect timing really because my focus was on getting our range certified. I'm still the club's immediate past President and I still hold the position of Range Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator.

Through all of my relocations and different NZDA branches over the years, I have still managed to stay an active hunter doing my part for conservation by way of animal management. I may not be a trophy hunter, with the exception of Tahr hunting, my freezer has never run dry of game meat.

My skillset

Over the years, with three NZDA Branches I have taken every opportunity to up skill. It's these skills that I believe make me a suitable candidate for the National NZDA Board:

- › Range Officer
- › HUNTS Instructor
- › Range Officer Trainer
- › Police Shooting Range Inspector
- › Douglas scorer
- › HUNTS Assessor, almost, I have just received my NZQA 4098 qualification
- › Experience in three NZDA Branches and their committees
- › Held most positions on club committees

I'm a team player and believe I can fit in with whomever to achieve the best outcomes for the organisation. I felt quite honoured to have been approached to put my name forward for the position of National Vice President. I would be proud to represent the members if I am elected.

A transparent succession plan is something to work towards. It's something I'm pushing at my current club and why I am interested in becoming the National President (in time). Yes, I'd certainly consider stepping up once I have a few years under my belt. In addition to advocating for hunters, obviously, with my background, I'm keen to grow shooting competitions and the HUNTS programme.

So here I am, ready to accept a new challenge, and I hope what you know about me is enough to make you feel confident in putting a tick by my name. I have spoken to a number of clubs prior to writing this, and I plan on talking to as many of you as possible before the conference. I'm always happy to have a chat with like minded people, so if any of you want to ask me anything else, please feel free to give me a bell in the evenings or flick me an email. I look forward to meeting a lot of you in person at the National Conference.

Hamish Orr | M 021775486 | E orr8fan@gmail.com

North Island incumbent re-standing: Tim Taylor, Bay of Plenty

For the 2024/25 year I am seeking re-election as the North Island Representative.

I first came to the NZDA at the age of 16 to attend the HUNTS course. I had no background in hunting, but the NZDA offered me a place to learn and in many ways helped guide me towards the man I was to become. Not only did I learn essential hunting skills, but more importantly, ethics and interpersonal skills. Returning to the Bay of Plenty Branch in my early 30's, I have

worked through the ranks undertaking the Membership Secretary, Hunts Coordinator, and Vice President roles. While my passion within our Branch has largely been about hunting (I make no apologies for the fact that I'm a North Island meat hunter) somewhere along the way I developed a keen interest in helping other members. These days I'm happier helping newbies secure their first deer or teaching them how to mount a scope, than knocking over everything that moves. This is why I've recently signed on as a provisional HUNTS instructor and undertaken Range Officer training.

Outside of the NZDA I own a company called Ruahine Composites which manufactures racing kayaks and waka. My passion in life has always been kayaking, with some notable achievements including racing for New Zealand, circumnavigating the whole of NZ in a sea kayak, achieving a 24-Hour Guinness World record, and writing a book.

Joining the Board 2 years ago, I'll admit that I was naive, and it has required a whole lot of learning. I was keen to get stuck in and get stuff done but I quickly learnt the Board is not like a committee and it required a new skillset. I was given some very wise advice,

"You must advocate for, and represent all areas of NZDA, not just your own small area of interest."

I learnt there are three major concepts to be aware of, I call them the three P's - people, politics, and preparation.

1. There's a huge number of people who have contributed to the growth and success of NZDA so getting to know these people has been a large part of my Board role.

2. Politics has been an interesting skillset to learn but not in the ways many might think. At its most basic level, our organisation exists to serve our members, and as I mentioned above, a Board member must advocate for all areas of NZDA. I've taken this to heart as I know that every decision I make must be in the best interest of our whole organisation and I must be able to back up my decisions through logical arguments.

3. It's no surprise that working on a Board requires a lot of preparation. There's a constant stream of emails, reports, and reading that's required. This workload is largely unseen but it to fulfil my responsibilities and stay on top of current issues it's mandatory. Incidentally, I do enjoy this because it means I'm 'in the know'.



As the North Island Representative, I've been involved with several big projects and responsibilities:

- › As reported elsewhere, my first program was the Hunters Helping Hunters initiative where I helped organise and distribute over 500 items of hunting gear to cyclone affect hunters in the Hawkes Bay.
- › Communication between Branches has also been a focus of mine, organising and holding several regional meetings. These were rather difficult to run due to time pressures and the cost of travel however they have now morphed in Branch Workshops.
- › Branch Workshops was an idea I developed after last years Conference. I recognised that there was a desire from Branches to grow but given our limited budget we needed to develop a way to offer skills without costing the organisation any money. I could see that there are some great skillsets within Branches and by utilising an online meeting, we've been able to start sharing these skills through a monthly Workshop.
- › One particularly difficult job that I was tasked with was sorting out the situation with competitive shooting targets and the Tokoroa Branch. Unfortunately, the branch couldn't be saved, however it's been extremely satisfying to see the growth in target sales now that we have them available through the NZDA website.

For the 2024/25 year I'm looking forward to growing the Branch Workshops, being involved with the Access Subcommittee, and assisting Callum with both the Sika Show and the National Goat Competition. We also have the challenging job of establishing a new funding model for the HUNTS course so I'm very keen to explore ways that we can maintain the success of this program as I believe it's a vital part of attracting future members as well as giving us a huge amount of leverage within the public.

Thanks to all those individuals and branches who I've had the pleasure of being involved with over the last year. I'd love to engage with more of you please come and have a yarn introduce yourself if you see me floating around Conference.

North Island incumbent re-standing: Trevor Gratton, Hutt Valley

Born and raised in Lower Hutt, my upbringing was filled with memorable moments in the bush around Wellington. From possum hunting in the Akatatrava valley to fishing off the south Wairarapa coast, those experiences shaped my love for the outdoors. Life took its twists and turns, and it wasn't until my mid-forties, that I joined the Hutt Valley branch of NZDA to re-connect with those memories.

In 2019, I stumbled upon the Hutt Valley branch and enrolled in their Hunter Training Course. Those eight weeks were transformative, reigniting my passion for nature and outdoor pursuits. Joining the branch and subsequently becoming its president in 2021 marked a new chapter in my life. Despite being new to deerstalking, I was driven by a deep-seated passion for what our branch and organization stood for.

Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of leading a team that shares my enthusiasm for our sport. Despite regulatory challenges, our branch has thrived. Initiatives like Range Use Induction Briefings and regular workshops have enhanced member engagement and provided valuable opportunities for upskilling. Rejoining the NZDA HUNTS programme was a significant team achievement, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement and collaboration.

Standing as a nominee for the North Island Representative role, I am eager to leverage my experience and passion to serve our organization at a

regional level. I envision fostering better communication and collaboration among branches as we navigate regulatory changes and seek to maximize the value we offer to our members. By sharing successes and learning from each other's experiences, we can ensure that the magic of hunting and outdoor adventure continues to enrich our lives and those of future generations.

In conclusion, my motivation lies not in corporate jargon or flashy slogans, but in the profound moments of connection with nature that we all cherish as hunters. It is my desire to preserve and extend these experiences for our community, ensuring that the beauty and bounty of our natural world remain accessible to all who share our passion.

South Island incumbent re-standing: Ian Owen, South Canterbury

Not provided at the time of publishing.

South Island incumbent re-standing: Richard Wells, Nelson

I am currently the oldest member of your Board at nearly 65. My life experiences in farming, large corporate business management, environmental/fisheries science and management as well as hunting from the age of 5 starting with an air-rifle, have provided me with experiences and skills that make me of some use to NZDA, in my view at least! Being semi-retired means I do have the time to devote to tasks for NZDA at National and Branch level (I am still on the Nelson Committee).

My passion is ensuring that our ability to continue in the sports of hunting and shooting opportunities is not marginalised in this country that generally holds these in high regard, but which are threatened by a concerned and relative few.

If reinstated this will be my 3rd year on the Board, who I enjoy working with immensely. That said, I am not seeking a long tenure on the Board and will hope to develop some fresh blood in the Upper South Island over the coming year. I look forward to the era where those with times and skills can support the organisation with specific technical and operational skills, as a volunteer, but without the need to be a Board member per se, i/e under the watch of the Board.

I have skills in communication and engagement with groups and bodies; also, I have good experience in corporate practices and management financials. My work in fisheries also kept me grounded when working with "the guys on the deck" where policies and processes need to make sense and be pragmatic. My applied science degree and several years on a committee assessing research proposals for the seafood sector have provided skills in guiding the development of, judging, and supporting research proposals.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to support our Board, our CE and his team, Branches and the goals and objectives of the organisation as a whole. My areas of particular interest remain in:

- › improved communications (between Branches and across the association)
- › access with a pan NZ perspective as issues of varied types arise across the breadth of our hunting land
- › game animal management solutions in times of obviously increased abundance of game animals in some areas (with associated agency control plans starting, being considered or likely on the horizon) and less so in others, and
- › supporting the research programme fund especially helping Branches develop their ideas where such projects provide results, evidence or frameworks that can support better game animal management.

South Island nominee: Mark Elliotte, Upper Clutha

I offer myself for 1 of the South Island NZDA Executive roles as I have relevant, proven governance & management experience & have the time available to increase communication & interaction between Branches & positively contribute to the NZDA Board's governance as it transitions into the next phase of growth following the development of its management structure.

There are multiple, new & ongoing challenges facing hunters today, including the Wapiti herd management, Tahr numbers management, use of 1080 by DoC, possible categorisation of game animals as pests, access issues & firearms legislation changes etc that all need ongoing lobbying on.

I want to contribute through a common-sense, collaborative approach in helping to ensure the ongoing opportunity to go hunting with the current range of game animals on public land for my 3 adult sons & 2 grandsons & the wider hunting community.

At Branch level there is a lot of duplication in work going on, that other branches also do, regarding sourcing guest speakers & activities for General meetings, organising hunts, newsletters etc & this is an area where information should be being shared in order to reduce workloads & make it easier for volunteers.

I have retired from Timaru to Wanaka, from a business career starting in 1984 in corporate then chartered accountant office roles for 10 years, then being self-employed in my in-law's grain & seed merchant business, Annett Grain & Seed Ltd, St Andrews, which I subsequently bought.

Following the sale of my business to CRT in 2010, I joined their Executive as General Manager, Grain & Seed Division & continued with FARMLANDS in the role following the co-operatives' merger in 2015.

Predominantly based in Canterbury my role involved managing the nationwide grain & seed trading & delivery / storage logistics, interacting with farmers & our staff, managing the overall sale & procurement of retail seed, chemical & fertiliser products & providing the associated agronomic advice to arable, dairy, sheep & beef farmers.

The G & S division's turnover was approx. \$220m & involved responsibility for 55 staff & operating 4 seed stores. I was a member of the CRT / FARMLANDS' Executives, Farmlands operating 82 Branches nationwide with approx. 1,200 staff & a total annual turnover of \$2.7b.

I have over 20 years of governance experience in Chairman / Director / Trustee roles on Corporate companies, a Conservation board & Primary & High School boards that I have been a member on. I particularly enjoyed 7 years on my alma Mata school board, Timaru Boys' High, with the last 5 years as Chairman.

I was born in Invercargill & have lived in addition to Wanaka, Auckland, Dunedin, Washington DC (USA) 5 years & Timaru 33 years.

I enjoy hunting & fishing & have regularly hunted wallabies, geese, goats, tahr, chamois, fallow & red

deer around the Central & Lower South Island over the last 40 years. I've been fortunate to have had 3 hunting trips to Stewart Island & have particularly enjoyed the many trips hunting in the Caples.

I go rabbit shooting most Sundays around the Wanaka area with the 'last of the summer wine' hunters that recently featured in the Farmers Weekly newspaper. We also go duck, quail, goose, goat & deer shooting locally.

Prior to being a NZDA member for the last 5 years in Wanaka (3 years Committee, 2 years President), I was a South Canterbury Branch member for many years when my 3 sons were teenagers.

Over the last 4 years I've also been involved in pest trapping out the Matukituki River, mainly with the Diamond Lake Conservation Trust as a Trustee & Secretary & also with Deerstalkers clearing cage & box traps.

I was recently nominated for the Otago Conservation Board to represent hunter & other outdoor recreational users' interests & am awaiting their response.

I have attended the recent conferences in Queenstown, Hamilton & Ashburton & have recently had discussions with Branch Presidents, Board members & Gwyn regarding the issues facing the Association & their expectations going forward.

I look forward to helping the Association with these challenges.

Your Delegate's vote for me takes up the opportunity of change in the South Island representation & on the NZDA Board, & having someone with the enthusiasm, governance / management skills & experience, to assist the Association in strategically moving forward, growing in member numbers & supporting management in providing more information & services to Branches & lobbying on behalf of members.

National Treasurer nominee:

No nominations were received at the time of printing this Handbook. As tabled and discussed at the 2023 AGM, the proposal is to remove this role as an elected NZDA Board officer and seek to employ a staff member suitable qualified and appropriate for a not-for-profit organisation such as our Association, coupled with an Audit and Risk advisory panel from NZDA Board members.

12. General Business

No general business was submitted at the date of issuance.

13. Venue and Date for 2025 National Conference

Southland will host Conference 2025.

Appendix A: Conference Venues and Hosts

No	Year	Venue	Host Branch
1	1949	Invercargill	Southland
2	1950	Wellington	Wellington
3	1951	Invercargill	Southland
4	1952	Christchurch	South Canterbury
5	1953	Palmerston	Palmerston
6	1954	Wellington	Wellington
7	1955	Wellington	Wellington
8	1956	Palmerston North	Manawatu
9	1957	Dunedin	Otago
10	1958	Hamilton	Waikato
11	1959	Blenheim	Blenheim
12	1960	Napier	Hawke's Bay
13	1961	Timaru	South Canterbury
14	1962	Masterton	Wairarapa
15	1963	Nelson	Nelson
16	1964	Wanganui	Wanganui
17	1965	Westport	West Coast
18	1966	Auckland	Auckland
19	1967	Invercargill	Southland
20	1968	Rotorua	Rotorua
21	1969	Christchurch	South Canterbury
22	1970	Taupo	Taupo
23	1971	Ashburton	Ashburton
24	1972	Gisborne	Poverty Bay
25	1973	Queenstown	Southern Lakes
26	1974	Tauranga	Bay of Plenty
27	1975	Blenheim	Marlborough
28	1976	Napier	Hawke's Bay
29	1977	Dunedin	Otago

30	1978	Wellington	Wellington
31	1979	Christchurch	North Canterbury
32	1980	Gisborne	Poverty Bay
33	1981	Nelson	Nelson
34	1982	Palmerston North	Manawatu
35	1983	Te Anau	South Otago
36	1984	Oamaru	North Otago
37	1985	Levin	Manawatu
38	1986	Christchurch	North Canterbury
39	1987	Taupo	Taupo
40	1988	Gore	Gore & Districts
41	1989	Ohakune	Waimarino
42	1990	Dunedin	Otago
43	1991	Auckland	Auckland
44	1992	Invercargill	Southland
45	1993	Wellington	Wellington
46	1994	Blenheim	Marlborough
47	1995	Hastings	Hawke's Bay
48	1996	Upper Hutt	Upper Hutt (Hutt Valley)
49	1997	Masterton	Wairarapa
50	1998	Nelson	Nelson
51	1999	Christchurch	North Canterbury
52	2000	Taupo	Taupo
53	2001	Gore	Gore & Districts
54	2002	Hamilton	Waikato
55	2003	Invercargill	Southland
56	2004	New Plymouth	North Taranaki
57	2005	Timaru	South Canterbury
58	2006	Wellington	Wellington
59	2007	Queenstown	Southern Lakes

No	Year	Venue	Host Branch
60	2008	Rotorua	Rotorua
61	2009	Oamaru	North Otago
62	2010	Palmerston North	Manawatu & Taihape
63	2011	Tuatapere	Western Southland
64	2012	Masterton	Direct & Wairarapa
65	2013	Blenheim	Marlborough
66	2014	Nelson	Nelson
67	2015	Wanaka	Upper Clutha

68	2016	Auckland	Auckland
69	2017	Christchurch	North Canterbury
70	2018	Wellington	Wellington
71	2019	Wellington	Porirua
72	2020	Virtual (Wellington)	NZDA Board
73	2021	Queenstown	Southern Lakes
74	2022	Hamilton	Waikato
75	2023	Ashburton	Ashburton, Malvern & Rakaia
76	2024	Lower Hutt	Hutt Valley

Appendix B: Principal National Officers

Year	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
1948/49	G B Orbell MBE	-	-	A H Hamilton
1949/50	G B Orbell MBE	-	-	A McCrostie
1950/51	G B Orbell MBE	-	-	T P Wilson
1951/52	G B Orbell MBE	-	-	T P Wilson
1952/53	N McConochie	-	-	T P Wilson
1953/54	N McConochie	-	R Wood	T P Wilson
1954/55	N McConochie	-	Ms J Hickey	R D Larritt
1955/56	H Morrow	-	Ms J Hickey	R D Larritt
1956/57	H Morrow	-	-	D T Johnston
1957/58	H Morrow	-	-	D T Johnston
1958/59	W H Robinson	-	W J I Cowan	D T Johnston
1959/60	W H Robinson	-	W J I Cowan	D T Johnston
1960/61	R D McGowan	-	W J I Cowan	D T Johnston
1961/62	W A Hood	J T Dillon	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1962/63	W A Hood	J T Dillon	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1963/64	J T Dillon	J A Anderson	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1964/65	J T Dillon	J A Anderson	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1965/66	J A Anderson	J B Henderson	W J I Cowan	I D Wright

1966/67	J A Anderson	J B Henderson	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1967/68	J A Anderson	J B Henderson	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1968/69	J B Henderson	A M Duncum	W J I Cowan	I D Wright
1969/70	J B Henderson	A M Duncum	W J I Cowan	J M Murphy
1970/71	J B Henderson	A M Duncum	W J I Cowan	J M Murphy
1971/72	J B Henderson	A M Duncum	W J I Cowan	J M Murphy
1972/73	I D Wright	A S D Evans MNZM	W Carter	J M Murphy
1973/74	I D Wright	A S D Evans MNZM	W Carter	J M Murphy
1974/75	A S D Evans MNZM	H Tse	W Carter	J M Murphy
1975/76	A S D Evans MNZM	H Tse	P H Redpath	J M Murphy
1976/77	A S D Evans MNZM	H Tse	P H Redpath	J M Murphy
1977/78	H Tse	H Egan	P H Redpath	J M Murphy
1978/79	H Tse	H Egan	P H Redpath	J M Murphy
1979/80	H Tse	H Egan	P H Redpath	Ms PA Howitt
1980/81	H Egan	J C Bamford	P H Redpath	Ms PA Howitt
1981/82	J B Henderson	J C Bamford	P H Redpath	S Grant
1982/83	J B Henderson	J C Bamford	P H Redpath	S Grant
1983/84	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	S Grant
1984/85	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	S Grant
1985/86	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	S Grant
1986/87	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	S Grant
1987/88	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	B H Mackrell
1988/89	J C Bamford	D W Hodder	P H Redpath	B H Mackrell
1989/90	D W Hodder	I D Wright	P H Redpath	M P Watt
1990/91	D W Hodder	I D Wright	B C Hall	M P Watt
1991/92	D W Hodder	Dr R G Lentle	B C Hall	M P Watt
1992/93	I D Wright	R M McNaughton MNZM	D R Suisted	M P Watt
1993/94	I D Wright	R M McNaughton MNZM	D R Suisted	M P Watt
1994/95	I D Wright	R M McNaughton MNZM	-	M P Watt
1995/962	A E Frampton	-	M P Watt	M P Watt
1996/97	A E Frampton	-	J Crone	I D Wright

Year	President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
1997/98	A E Frampton	-	J Crone	I D Wright
1998/99	D P Davies	-	J Crone	R B Abernethy
1999/2000	D P Davies	-	J Crone	R B Abernethy
2000/2001	D P Davies	-	J Crone	D Brown
2001/2002	D P Davies	-	J Crone	D Brown
2002/2003	T Dyke	-	J Crone	D Brown
2003/2004	T Dyke	-	J Crone	D Brown
2004/2005	T Dyke	-	J Crone	D Brown
2005/2006	T Dyke	-	J Crone	D Brown
2006/2007	S Veail	-	J Crone	D Brown
2007/2008	S Veail/A Mclver	-	J Crone	D Brown
2008/20093	A Mclver	-	J Crone	D Brown
2009/2010	A Mclver	R Sloan	J Crone	D Brown
2010/2011	A Mclver	T McCarthy	J Crone	D Brown
2011/2012	A Mclver/T McCarthy	T McCarthy	J Crone	D Brown
2012/2013	T McCarthy	W. O'Leary	J Crone	D Brown
2013/2014	T McCarthy	W. O'Leary	J Crone	D Brown/C Forsyth
2014/2015	W. O'Leary	G Steans	T Allen	C Forsyth
2015/2016	W. O'Leary	G Steans	T Allen / S Corlett	C Forsyth
2016/2017	W. O'Leary	G Steans	S Corlett	C Forsyth
2017/2018	W. O'Leary	J Steans	R Howey	C Forsyth
2018/2019	T O Chappell	J Steans	R Howey	C Forsyth
2019/2020	T O Chappell	G Feasey	R Howey	C Forsyth
2020/2021	C Benbow	A Mclver	C Heffernan	D Friedman
2021/2022	C Benbow	A Mclver	C Heffernan	D Friedman
2022/2023	C Benbow	C Sheridan	-	D Friedman
2023/2024	C Benbow	C Sheridan	-	D Friedman / J Taylor

From 1995 all Executive Members were Vice Presidents.
Vice Presidents were first introduced in 2009

Appendix C: Branch Membership Summary

(As at 29 Feb 2024)	Senior	Superannuant	Junior	Student	Family Member	Associate	Affiliate	TOTAL	Honorary	National Life	Branch Life Senior	Branch Life Superannuant	Endowment (included in Senior & Superannuant)
Ashburton	36	6	0	0	10	1	0	57	0	0	0	3	1
Auckland	556	56	1	16	84	0	9	746	0	1	3	7	14
Bay of Plenty	345	70	5	7	209	38	10	690	0	1	1	5	0
Blue Mountains	44	11	2	0	9	0	0	69	0	0	0	2	1
Bush	9	11	0	0	8	0	0	29	0	0	0	1	0
Central King Country	17	17	0	1	10	0	0	46	0	0	0	1	0
Central Otago	52	11	0	0	24	2	6	95	0	0	0	0	0
Direct	136	39	0	6	56	2	0	244	0	0	0	0	5
Eastern Bay of Plenty	14	4	0	0	1	1	0	20	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Bay	58	12	0	1	24	10	1	106	0	0	0	0	0
Gore & Districts	166	22	4	2	63	3	1	267	1	0	0	5	0
Hastings	63	13	2	1	32	4	0	119	0	0	0	4	0
Hutt Valley	425	63	3	11	144	246	22	927	0	1	5	2	6
Kapiti	102	14	1	0	27	2	0	152	0	0	1	5	0
Malvern	32	8	0	0	17	1	0	60	0	0	0	2	0
Manawatu	137	14	3	4	28	0	1	190	0	0	0	3	0
Marlborough	162	28	0	3	72	0	1	269	0	0	0	2	1
Napier	27	19	2	0	24	4	0	83	0	0	0	4	3
Nelson	229	64	3	10	93	0	0	410	0	3	0	6	5
North Auckland	273	41	0	3	134	29	15	504	0	0	0	1	8
North Canterbury	405	95	6	30	103	0	2	648	0	1	0	5	2
North Otago	101	30	0	4	77	2	0	215	0	0	0	1	0
North Taranaki	65	20	1	0	14	1	0	109	0	0	2	3	7
Northland	26	10	0	0	10	0	0	48	0	0	0	2	0
Otago	209	48	2	12	42	1	3	325	0	1	0	4	4

(As at 29 Feb 2024)	Senior	Superannuant	Junior	Student	Family Member	Associate	Affiliate	TOTAL	Honorary	National Life	Branch Life Senior	Branch Life Superannuant	Endowment (included in Senior & Superannuant)
Palmerston	24	4	0	0	6	1	0	37	0	0	2	0	0
Porirua	36	3	0	2	4	2	0	47	0	0	0	0	0
Rakaia	63	15	1	1	11	0	0	94	0	0	1	2	0
Rotorua	144	49	1	10	69	34	5	320	2	0	2	3	1
Ruahine	22	9	0	0	8	1	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
South Auckland	89	18	0	5	22	4	0	142	0	0	1	3	0
South Canterbury	91	31	1	0	50	0	0	200	0	0	1	5	21
South Otago	37	7	1	0	23	0	0	68	0	1	0	1	0
Southern Lakes Queenstown	175	12	13	3	31	0	12	246	0	0	0	0	0
Southland	315	49	4	5	144	0	0	525	0	3	0	6	2
Taihape	19	5	0	0	14	8	0	47	0	0	0	1	0
Taranaki	72	19	0	0	30	1	0	124	0	0	1	1	0
Taupo	170	74	3	2	104	25	2	386	1	0	1	4	0
Te Awamutu	88	25	1	1	65	0	1	183	0	0	0	2	0
Thames Valley	253	64	8	7	223	20	5	592	2	0	1	6	3
Upper Clutha	194	34	0	4	76	1	3	315	2	0	0	1	0
Waikato	182	24	3	4	39	0	1	259	0	0	0	5	1
Wairarapa	102	30	0	0	56	5	3	200	1	0	0	3	0
Wairoa & Districts	17	6	1	4	8	2	0	38	0	0	0	0	0
Wellington	187	36	1	7	50	0	10	300	1	2	1	5	2
West Coast	40	10	0	0	3	2	0	57	0	0	0	1	1
Western Southland	21	6	2	0	10	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0
Whangarei	53	28	0	1	21	7	0	114	0	0	0	3	1
TOTAL	6083	1284	75	167	2382	460	113	10801	10	14	23	120	89

Note: *South Waikato Branch Dormant and removed from the list.

Appendix D: Branch Voting Strength

One (1) vote per twenty (20) financial Senior, Endowment, Superannuant, Student and branch Life members (or part thereof) in accordance with Clause 10.23 of the Constitution. Voting strengths are based on figures supplied by the branches for the capitation reconciliation for the year ending 29 February 2024, i.e. the financial year 2023/24 or for branches which take advantage of the centralised administration system, figures reflect the national database.

Branch	As at 28 Feb 2023	As at 29 Feb 2024
Ashburton	3	3
Auckland	30	34
Bay of Plenty	21	22
Blue Mountains	3	3
Bush	1	2
Central King Country	2	2
Central Otago	3	4
Direct	8	10
Eastern Bay of Plenty	1	1
Golden Bay	4	4
Gore & Districts	10	10
Hastings	6	5
Hutt Valley	25	26
Kapiti	7	7
Malvern	3	3
Manawatu	9	8
Marlborough	9	10
Napier	4	3
Nelson	17	16
North Auckland	12	17
North Canterbury	25	27
North Otago	8	7

North Taranaki	4	5
Northland	2	2
Otago	14	15
Palmerston	2	2
Porirua	3	3
Rakaia	5	5
Rotorua	11	11
Ruahine	2	2
South Auckland	5	6
South Canterbury	8	9
South Otago	2	3
South Waikato	3	N/A
Southern Lakes	9	10
Southland	21	19
Taihape	2	2
Taranaki	5	5
Taupo	13	13
Te Awamutu	6	6
Thames Valley	16	17
Upper Clutha	13	12
Waikato	11	11
Wairarapa	7	7
Wairoa & Districts	2	2
Wellington	12	13
West Coast	3	3
Western Southland	2	2
Whangarei	4	5
Total Votes	398	414



Appendix E: Officers, Life Members and Members' Roles

National Officers (2023/24)		
Patron	Sir Mark Dunajtschik	2018
NZDA Board		
National President	Craig Benbow	2020
National Vice President	Callum Sheridan	2020
National Treasurer	(Position Vacant)	
North Island Members	Tim Taylor Trevor Gratton	2022 2023
South Island Members	Richard Wells Ian Owen	2022 2017
National Secretary	John Taylor	2023
Honorary Auditor	S. Danson	2008
Honorary Solicitor	P. Barrett	2010

National Life Members	
J. C. Bamford	1993
Sir M. Dunajtschik (MNZM)	1999
G. Smith	1999
W. O'Leary	2007
R. Badland (QSM, M St J)	2010
R. McNaughton (MNZM)	2010
D. W. Hodder	2011
A. E. Frampton	2016
C. I. H. Forsyth	2017
J. Crone	2020
B. Witton	2023
K. Theobald	2023
R. Phillips	2023
J. Delury (QSM)	2023

NZDA Members on other bodies (2023/24)	
Council of Licenced Firearm Owners	C. Forsyth
Police Firearms Community Advisory Forum	G. Thurlow
Land Safety Forum	G. Thurlow, M. Spray, P. Curtin
Police Recreational Firearms Users Working Group: Forum for Firearms Safety Framework & Roadmap	G. Thurlow
Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Liaison Group	B. Hansen, C. Benbow
Firearm Safety Council	J. Green, W. O'Leary
Mountain Safety Council	C. Benbow, T. Gratton
NZ Game Animal Council	G. Dodson, S. Salmons, T. Keenan, C. Sheridan, M Jackson
Stewart Island Liaison Committee	R. Phillips
Fiordland Wapiti Foundation	R. Sloan
Tahr Foundation	B. Hansen
Woodhill Fallow Management Committee (WFMC)	C. Sheridan
Rakiura Hunter Camps Charitable Trust (Stewart Is Huts)	D Howden, K Butson, R Phillips, J DeLury
NZDA National Heritage Trust Inc	B. Badland (Chair), A. Frampton, B. Insull, J. Riley, T. Watson, G. Thurlow, Sir M. Dunajtschik (Patron)
Kaweka Hunter Liaison Group	Hawkes Bay branches

NZDA HUNTS Trust Inc	R. Howey (Chair), C. Benbow, C. Heffernan, D. Keen, P Henderson, M Spray, and, G. Thurlow (Secretary)
HUNTS Course	Volunteer: R. Howey (Co-ordinator) Staff: M. Spray, P. Curtin, H. Deverau-Mack
Central North Island Sika Foundation	G. Harwood, A. Jackson
Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation Incorporated	G. George
Backcountry Trust	G. George and J. McBride

Branch Life Members

Ashburton	R Burton, G Horrell, D Howden
Auckland	P Kuiumdjian, P Margison, T Mason, B McAuslin, J Shepherd, C Watson, B Witton, A Winterton, D Friedman, D Wong
Bay of Plenty	L Nelson, K Theobald, S Lowe, G Hammond, J Jefferson, A Whitehead
Blue Mountains	W Sheddan, D Baxter
Bush	A Rowden
Central King Country	K McCann
Gore & Districts	G Cuthbert, L Duncan, I Grant, G Milne, L D Peat
Hastings	H Johnson, G Richards, G Te Kahika, G Withey, (M L Cameron, Deceased)
Hutt Valley	R Badland, R M Blake, D Davies, G George, N McAlpine, J Leith, I Morrison, J Riley, D Riley

Branch Life Members	
Kapiti	B Curran, B Davis, A Jones, I Wilson, L Jones, R Canham
Malvern	C McRae, J Snoyink
Marlborough	P Gibbons, R Paton
Manawatu	G Bennett, N Carter, S Penny,
Napier	G Armstrong, R Clark, A Morrison, T Rood, H Lock, S Perfect
Nelson	P Hedwig, W Plum, G Smith, W O'Leary, N Cliffe, J Crone, (L Bowden, Deceased) (D Harris, Deceased)
North Auckland	T Coleman, B Elder, F Ferguson, P Keeling, G Ogier, A Smith, A Van Driel, M Nobilo, W McLeod
North Canterbury	V Burke, D Hodder, D Saunders, Z Veronese, K Schasching
Northland	E McIntyre, C Page
North Otago	J Sanders
North Taranaki	S Corlett, R McGregor, M Redshaw, L Stolte, G Lilburn
Otago	T Arthur, C Forsyth, S Smith, R Webb
Palmerston	P Chave, M Sutherland
Rakaia	A Kent, K L Hydes, P Oldham
Rotorua	(R Houghton, Deceased), M Perry, D Price, G Winslade, C Petersen, E Browning
South Auckland	R W Bremner, R F Holmes, M Miers, (J Spence, Deceased)
South Canterbury	P Brown, T E McCarthy, A K Thomson, J Young, K O'Rourke, J Kroening
South Otago	J C Bamford
Southern Lakes	(E Lewis, Deceased)

Southland	J DeLury, D Howden, N Miller, R E Phillips, D Gordon, R Mcnaughton
Taihape	K Livingston, (L Thurston, Deceased)
Taranaki	J Fleming, R Williams
Taupo	T Chappell, D Comber, E Comber, E Elmigerl, V Pearson
Te Awamutu	M Dench, S Oates
Thames Valley	N G Avery, W Bennett, G Clark, M Deane, J Spinks, M Coleman, K Caddy
Upper Clutha	M Burns
Waikato	D Bull, M Holden, W Rickerby, V Wilson, J Voorend,
Wairarapa	H Egan, P Cunningham, L McKinstry
Wellington	Sir M Dunajtschik, A E Frampton, W Potts, P Whitelaw, R Mailman, G McIntyre
West Coast	J Prince
Whangarei	P Cross, A Webster, D Yearbury

Schedule One: Conference Minutes 2023

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Schedule Two: 2024 Audited Financial Statements

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Schedule Three: Branch Reports

Central King Country Branch

Bob Kendrick President: Melissa Jackson, Secretary

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Bob Kendrick

Vice President(s): Laurie Riesterer

Treasurer: Travis Carter

Secretary: Melissa Jackson

Another year gone by, and I think the local goat population have suffered the most!

Many thanks to Melissa Jackson for doing a great job as secretary etc. on behalf of our branch. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by all, I'm sure. We give her our support in her ambitions to help with things hunting and game animal management related.

Laurie has done his usual good job on behalf of our branch and worked away supporting me and the branch. Ken has been contributing in the running of our branch as usual especially around arranging goat shoots and around firearm matters. Thanks also to Travis who stepped into the Treasurer role and is doing a great job.

Our branch continues to be involved in conservation efforts through our partnership with local farmers assisting with goat culling. This work has given some opportunities for our members to get out and about as a branch. Hopefully we can keep these going for as long as the support is there. With the national goat hunting competition happening again, I would hope we get involved again, and get out and get some tail tallies going.

We have gained a new active member this year. It would be nice to find some more. We are all eagerly waiting to see what eventuates out of the firearms review etc. Hopefully we end up with some common-sense changes and a more workable set of regulations and guidelines.

Hopefully all members are looking out for any new hunting opportunities, any new range options and working on recruiting some new active members.

I think we have had a good 12 months in our branch and I am looking forward to some new activities and a good year ahead. Hot barrels!

Central Otago Branch

Reid Gare, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Reid Gare

Treasurer: Santilal Parbhu

Vice President(s): Stefan Filer

Membership Officer: Simon Neal

Well another year has passed and things are ticking along quite nicely. There has been lots happening with the main thing being the Landsborough trap line in conjunction with the Department of Conservation. It has proven initially to be very successful with our 57 traps initially catching 25 stoats, 8 rats and 2 mice. Followed up by second clean out of 62 Stoats, 8 rats and 2 mice, then next time 61 stoats, 6 rats and 2 mice, then suddenly down to 11 stoats, 4 rats and 2 mice. We have had a brilliant start to our 5 year programme so let's hope that the catch numbers stay low. As well as this D.O.C have just completed a 32000 HA poisoning operation encompassing the Landsborough and the Clarke valley's for the control of Rats, Stoats, opossums, mice and probably a few deer. A very recent inspection of the trap line showed quite a lot of fresh deer sign in the upper reaches of the lower valley area, this is hopeful for the future.

We have developed a very good working relationship with the D.O.C staff at Haast and this relationship must be nurtured into the future. Their co-operation on the trap line has been excellent, their assistance in getting the lease for our Landsborough hut extended for 30 years is another plus for which we are grateful, and recently they sent in 2 qualified Arborist's to cut down a significant number of trees that were shading and overhanging the hut.

Work has progressed very well on the establishment of the firing range on Galloway Station to the point that I believe we are awaiting Police sign off. We have the generosity of Galloway Stations Andrew Preston to thank for this.

We attended a seminar on funding sources that was run by Central Otago District council, which was informative, we have applied through several different sources.

The hut upgrade is a work in progress, and this urgently needs some attention to get it completed with the

relining of the outer wall to be done and perhaps a new water tank. Membership is still growing, not quite as fast as it was initially but we are very close to hitting the 100 mark.

As Lex Coutts stands down from his position as Club Secretary, I would like to especially thank him for his contribution and for the amount of work that he has put in that has made my job so much easier. Lex and I attended the National Conference in Ashburton where we were well received and had the opportunity to have direct contact with Todd McLay and Nicole McKee also the rep's from the Council of Licensed Firearms Owners as well as the head staff from NZ Police Firearms Unit. One cannot calculate the value to face to face engagements such as these.

We have been involved in several club events this year including, Social Shooting event with Alexandra Clay Target Club, Two Wallaby hunts, Thar hunts (thanks to Phil Wilson) and a Hunts Course that was organised by Kelsey Gare, Melissa Jagger, Stefan Filer and Pete Henderson.

At this point I wish to thank those who have involved themselves at Committee level and to those who have participated in the organised hunts, without your involvement none of the aforementioned events would have been successful.

Thank you all for your involvement over the past year and I trust and hope that the coming year is as successful or more so.

Gore and Districts Branch

Hamish McLean, President

Chairman/President: Hamish Mclean

Vice President(s): Mark Brady

Patron: Ivan Grant

Treasurer: Tim Sanford

Secretary: Mark Heaps

Membership Officer: Mark Heaps

It has been another busy 12 months in the Gore and Districts Branch with our yearly annual events. We had some members taking part in pest control operations such as the goose shoot with good results and attended the Wapiti Weekend with some members having Wapiti heads on display at the show. Once again we joined forces with the Southland Branch and together hosted the Kids Hunt at the Wyndham A&P Show with good support from sponsors and a great turn out of kids of all

ages, all leaving with some very generous prize packs. Our annual Take A Kid Hunting TAKH held on Waitangi weekend on Glenaray Station was again successful and a highlight for kids and members alike. Despite challenging weather conditions 41 kids took part in TAKH with good results. It is great to see the younger up and coming hunting generation getting involved in these events teaming up with friends and family members and enjoy the hunting and back country we have on offer.

Being very lucky to continue our long relationship with Glenaray Station for our TAKH and ballot for March and April is something we are very thankful for and appreciate as a branch again this year.

The Deer Park located in Gore is proudly run by our patron Ivan Grant and helpers, with red and fallow deer providing many children and members of the community lots of viewing pleasure and opportunity to interact with these wonderful game species we have on display which is a long serving asset to the branch. We had a member kindly donate a wooden sign which is proudly on display to acknowledge the Gore and Districts club members and volunteers that started and continue the Deer Park.

We have had some great input from club members with ideas and improvements to make the club better for our members and had some great guest speakers including Gwyn Thurlow at our monthly meeting with a good turn out from members and Gwyn giving us a good insight to the hard work that he and the national executive team put in.

Concerning times ahead with Forest and Birds attack on DOC and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation years of work maintaining the wapiti, trap lines and other continuous work that they do in Fiordland national park. It is important that we come together as hunters to support the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation as future game animals may also become under threat.

I would like to personally thanks all of those on the executive and members in our branch for the support, hours, hard work and assistance throughout the year to make our club successful with great turn outs to meetings and club events. Also, a big thank you to the sponsors and non-members that support us and our annual events. This will be my last year as president due to work commitments overseas but am leaving the club in good hands and looking forward to still been active in the club when time allows.

Hastings Branch

Morgan Rogers, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Morgan Rogers

Vice President(s): Malcom Igpen

Patron: Grant Richards

Treasurer: Paul Muir

Secretary: Sal Bredankamp

Membership Officer: Morgan Rogers

2024 has been a much less disrupted year for the region and the Hastings NZDA Branch however the effected families and businesses are still firmly focussed on cyclone recovery even one year out.

Whilst Hastings is maintaining membership its notable that the members are lighter in attendance for the branch nights and in discussing attendance with a number of them noting the extra workload during the day over the past 18 months has meant what little energy and time left over is being mostly prioritised for family.

Due to a year of limited hunting access however, the region has seen a surge in good animals being shot over the 2024 Roar due to animals been given an extra year to age.

Feedback from branch membership is positive towards the advocation activities and presence at a National level. There is an element of "fine to pay but prefer to be silent" culture forming which could be considered a direct impact from the lack of free time and energy by the region's membership but we at the Hastings Committee continue to work on this.

Willy Marsh Kiwi Aversion training demand continues to grow, with more than 200 dogs being trained through events hosted by the Hastings NZDA. We are working diligently to support further resourcing and smart IT to enable our Branch to expand this volume to more than 500 per year. Willy Marsh Kiwi Aversion training is the best in New Zealand and is endorsed by DOC. Willy is looking to share his knowledge and train up some support staff to ensure the sustainability of the program long term. So, if any of you are interested in supporting this great national service, please feel free to contact Hastings NZDA.

A number of the Hastings members are now starting to feel the financial pinch of increasing cost of living and increased costs of subscriptions like the NZDA. Whilst

members do feel value from the membership, we are now fielding questions as to how they can continue to support but pay a cheaper form of subscription. We are concerned continued increases in subscription may impact membership.

Thanks to all of our members, officers and volunteers, without you all we could not be doing what we are doing.

Hutt Valley Branch

Trevor Gratton, President

President: Trev Gratton

Vice-President/HUNTS Co-ordinator: Danielle Connole

Secretary: John Taylor

Treasurer: Ross Nava

Hunting Co-ordinators/DOC Liason: Jason Voller/
Warwick Gibbs

Membership Officer: Rhonda Fitzpatrick

Patron: Bob Badland

As another busy year draws to a close, it's important to take a moment to express our gratitude to all the members of the committee, the HUNTS team, and other branch members who have dedicated their time and effort to the running of our branch over the past 12 months. Without their contributions, our club wouldn't be in the healthy state that it is today.

We are thrilled to report a significant milestone in membership growth, with a remarkable 14% increase in the 2023/24 year. Renewal rates for the 2024/25 year have surged to 89% and are on a continuous upward trajectory.

Our branch successfully navigated the process to formalize our status as a shooting club. Furthermore, the Kaitoke Range Complex not only secured range registration but also passed its inaugural annual audit with flying colours. This success paved the way for a significant capital expenditure project to upgrade our range facilities. The enhancements included re-engineered bullet backstops, wheelchair-accessible pathways, and improved lighting and audiovisual facilities in our range clubrooms, enabling us to host well-attended workshops throughout the year.

Our Hunting Coordinators re-negotiated our goat control management agreement with the Department of Conservation for the Mukamuka Stream, underscoring our commitment to conservation and allowing all members to participate in this important branch

commitment. While weather hindered some planned hunts in the Ruahine Ranges, trips to Wanganui were well-received, providing valuable hunting opportunities for our members.

The HUNTS course continued its success with 25 members graduating in November. In our ongoing commitment to this valuable program, the branch invested in new .22 rifles for the program. We were proud to see two senior members attain their HUNTS instructor qualifications it was well earned. This investment and dedication continue to yield positive outcomes.

Negotiations with Upper Hutt City Council led to a long-term commitment to become part of Te Kupenga o Rongomai - Maidstone Sports Hub. This partnership will provide state-of-the-art clubrooms, secure storage, and meeting facilities for the branch, allowing us to showcase our passion for the outdoors to the wider Hutt Valley community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host the 2024 NZDA national conference, combined with a one-day Hunting & Wildlife expo open to the public. This endeavour represents a significant commitment but also a tremendous opportunity to showcase not only our branch but the whole NZDA and our shared passion for hunting and conservation.

Mark your calendars for the NZDA Hunting & Wildlife Expo on Saturday, July 13th.

Kapiti Branch

Adrian Regnault, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Adrian Regnault

Patron: Bruce Curran

Treasurer: Sarah Canham

Secretary: Horia Slusanaschi

Vice President: Steve Coburn

Membership Officer: Melanie Hobbs

Kapiti Branch has had a successful year with the key achievements being completing:

the physical improvements required to bring our range up to certification requirements and completing the paperwork required for certification. At this point in time we haven't received our range certificate but we are told that we are low risk by Clubs and Ranges and are therefore at the bottom of the pile.

the maintenance of Nichols hut in the Tararua ranges which required the installation of an additional water tank and spouting. We also painted the inside and outside of the hut. We have now formally relinquished the maintenance agreement that we had with DOC as the hut is effectively no longer a hunter's hut as it's in the Te Araroa Trail, as well as being too difficult to get to in order to undertake regular maintenance. The Greater Wellington Back Country Network has taken over the maintenance agreement for the hut. We are continuing to maintain Kapakapanui Hut, where we completed a major upgrade a few years ago, which is much more easily accessible.

two HUNTS courses, one of which was completed at the end of March. The HUNTS courses have proved very successful, and we currently have a waiting list of 30 people for the course we are planning to run in August/September. We currently have 3 instructors and 3 trainee instructors and are looking to have the trainee instructors all accredited by mid next year.

One of our instructors is also working through the process to be able to train and accredit instructors. Running two HUNTS courses per year is very time consuming and requires a significant investment from the instructors, so doubling the number of instructors will help.

Our membership numbers remain relatively stable at around 150 members per year, and we are getting a more diverse membership than in the past. Active use of social media has proved to be very effective in raising the club's profile. We also participated in a local Hunting Expo, along with the NZDA chief executive, which has also helped raise our profile. However, it is proving more difficult to recruit to the committee, particularly the officer roles, and to find people to play active roles in the club (e.g. range officers). We are currently investigating the feasibility of putting in place a programme that rewards active participation in the club.

The club runs an active range competition programme, which is hotly contested. We run at least one club competition every month as well as an open range day. We also have regular inter-club shoots with Manawatu NZDA and the Horowhenua Hunting Club, and I'm proud to say that we won both. In terms of hunting trips over the last year the focus has been on local hunting opportunities, particularly for the HUNTS course graduates. We had some really good entries

for our annual heads judging night including a 13 inch tahr head, and some good Tararua reds, fallow and sika. Luckily 3 of our members has recently completed the NZDA Douglas Score training as it was a very tight competition for the best Tararua red.

Our focus for this year is to keep on raising the profile of the club, complete the training of the additional HUNTs instructors, recruit and train more range officers, implement a rewards scheme for our members, and renew our search for a new range as we only have limited tenure at our present site.

Finally, I would like to thank our committee members, HUNTs instructors and range officers for the time and effort that they put into the club.

Malvern Branch

Shannon McAleer, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Shannon McAleer

Patron: John Creamer

Treasurer: Ed Trotter

Secretary: Craig Benbow / Andrew Bell

Malvern Branch has continued to make a valuable contribution to our community in providing opportunities for hunting, shooting and outdoor experiences for our members. We have a mostly new Executive with enthusiasm and energy. I look forward to seeing what this team can achieve in the next 12 months. Sadly, Mark Taylor resigned his 6-month-old presidency for personal reasons which meant I have now filled the position.

Membership numbers remain static, and the committee has chosen to focus its attention on making sure our current members are well catered for. Logically, new members will come, and numbers will likely increase due to our efforts in providing a valuable club experience and in part due to the work the National Executive is achieving on everyone's behalf.

We continue our Community Agreement with the Department of Conservation which see's us maintain several huts in the Poulter catchment and the Benmore Hut at 13 Mile Bush which branch members constructed in 1975, along with the predator trapline along the 5km track to the hut. We are grateful to the Selwyn Environment Fund and Good Nature for assistance in funding the trapping project.

A very successful and fun working bee was held last winter where 8 adults and just as many kids spent half a day checking, clearing, and resetting traps. I'm sure the local Kea appreciate the effort.

A near full branch events calendar has been drafted comprising of guest speakers to our meetings and a hunting opportunity every month outside of the busy summer period with trips planned for or already completed to the upper Rangitata, and Rakaia rivers, Stewart Island, South Westland, Chatham Island, and junior focused hunts locally and in South Canterbury.

Our traditional fundraising efforts continue but as the costs of operating a branch increase, I believe this model urgently requires attention and must be supplemented with funding grant applications and sponsorship to enhance projects outside of our normal operations.

My sincerest thanks go to our committee members for the energy and valuable ideas they contribute not just at meetings but throughout the year when the opportunity is presented. Whether it is working bees, shooting competitions, branch hunts, maintenance or administration, your effort is appreciated.

Your branch can be whatever you wish it to be. If you have a big idea, please share it. Remember, little acorns turn into big oak trees.

Malborough Branch

Trev Dibben, President

Over the past year the club has been very active. Our two Animal Management Fly-in Hunts over ANZAC and Labour Weekend were very popular again, controlling 430 goats, 61 deer and 10 pigs. Hunting hours totalled at 807, and cost to club and members was \$25,693 for helicopter alone. This year we expanded south of the Awatere River for the first time.

We ran a highly successful club Trip to Stewart Island chasing the formidable Whitetail in late May for 12 hunters, including 3 from Nelson Branch and 1 from Malvern Branch.

A private station goat and pig hunt in July was another regular trip for our members. This one primarily caters to our junior members, enabling families to get out in a controlled and safe environment. This bagged 140 goats and 2 pigs.

There was plenty of behind the scenes advocacy. Of particular note was the successful submission to OSPRI on getting Prodeer Deer Repellent included in the last Aerial 1080 Drop on Molesworth Station.

Our entertainment team was thrown in the deep end a little as they were both new. However they resumed our Casual drinks nights which continue to be well received by both long time and new members. The year culminating in an extremely successful Trophy Night that had lots of awesome prizes for club members.

After our program to take new hunters and members out hunting (Newbie Hunts) stalled for a couple of years due to losing access to the area we had, we now have that back up and running for suitable candidates. This teaches them the basics of hunting in a controlled environment in lieu of having an official Hunts program.

The club carried out a large Wasp Wipeout program in the Branch/Leatham and Lake Alexander areas of conservation estate. Lots of volunteer time and effort, with many members being involved.

Our membership continues to grow, which goes to show we must be doing something right.

Nelson Branch

Greg Couper, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Greg Couper

Patron: Neil Cliffe

Treasurer: Gilbert Robertson

Secretary: Aaron Shields

Membership Officer: Carina Jackson

Some sad news first - the loss of two Nelson Branch stalwarts and Life Members, both of whom passed away last December. Lester Bowden was a member for over 60 years and Nelson Branch's Patron for nearly 20. Don Harris, a member for over 50 years and a strong supporter of our range and benchrest shooting, helped to get international benchrest events occurring at Packers Creek Range in Nelson. Our condolences to friends and family, they will be greatly missed by all, and their contributions to our organisation are, and will be, well remembered and appreciated.

The year was highlighted by finalisation of Range inspection and certification processes which saw both the ranges we manage (Packers Creek and Murchison Community Ranges) pass muster. A lot of work in the

process, remedial actions and documentation so a big thanks to all that helped with this especially Brian and Bill on paperwork and members at working bees.

Nelson once again ran successful HUNTS courses with the dedicated team (Bill, Lawson, Mark, Alex and Gary) delivering 2 courses and 18 graduates. We suffer from a shortage of suitable hunting grounds to take trainees to for their practical field hunting experience and this is a focus.

Nelson was very involved in the Goat Competition holding several regional open days (Murchison, Motueka and Richmond) in conjunction with DOC staff from the region. Great collaboration and chance to talk to hunters. It was successful (over 500 tails and many happy local and National prize-winners) and we look forward to the next event.

Once again, Nelson held a successful stand at the local A&P Show which has been a great way to showcase our Branch, organisation and activities. This was also used as a goat Competition Open Day. This is likely to be a regular feature in our calendar with Carina leading the way and doing a lot of work for which we are grateful.

All of our usual local and National shooting events (4 National Benchrest and 8 local rimfire events) took place without disruption (although at times in poor weather) and our more dedicated shooters travelled to Tokoroa and Christchurch for events and were well represented in some top placings. The annual Ken Horner Memorial shoot was held as usual at the Murchison Community Range and was very well attended this year.

Pest control and animal management continued at Wairoa Bike Park with a more goats, possums and pigs removed. Some of the deer shot there and elsewhere have been processed and donated to the local Kai Rescue and other Community foodbanks. This year we provided 1200 kg of processed meat with processing costs funded by MBIE grant.

Nelson, in conjunction with Golden Bay Branch developed an MOU with DOC to allow strictly controlled vehicle access into Kahurangi National Park for purposes of animal management hunting. This area has fallow deer and the access reduces the walk in time by a few hours and was designed to help meat hunters take more animals here. While a ballot system before Branch members saw some parties go in,

however, the programme has been disrupted by the Kahurangi 1080 drop: due to this it is in abeyance till the withholding period is over. It is a good example of practical collaboration with DOVC and another Branch to increase hunting opportunities and conservation, noting quite a lot of work to set up.

It has been a reasonable year as we get better at reaching our members and endeavouring to develop activities that they advise an interest in (from our surveys) and some Club nights have been particularly well attended especially those focussed directly on better hunting gear and planning (where to hunt). Membership is reasonably stable although we are concerned that cost-of-living pressures may be an issue for membership this coming year.

Our Committee remains strong and well attended: I want to thank the Committee, Patron and members for their work, ideas and support.

Assets: Red Deer Lodge - St Arnaud and available for hire through usual accommodation websites and Nelson NZDA website

Packers Creek Range (all infrastructure owned, on Ngati Koata land) and Murchison Community Range (Operator and infrastructure owner, on DOC land).

North Canterbury Branch

Geoff Feasey, President

Branch numbers continue to grow, an active programme of HUNTS continues development, club finances have been refocused to provide sustained income streams for the future. Hunts course continues to attract new members and record interest, the challenge is how to encourage them to stay.

Palmer Lodge is receiving more visitor numbers following refurbishment. Fishers, trampers and hunters, schools and clubs are making more use of our facility located on SH7 at the confluence of the Nina and Lewis Rivers. Reaching out to other branches in the region is the now underway and hopes are to increase its utilization level further.

At 2023 Conference the branch was vocal in urging additional financial resourcing for National Office to promote hunting and conservation. Since Conference the branch developed two models for consideration prepared funding options and models for national consideration. Following feedback from the Board a

further paper set out the detail model and the branch agreed to lead for implementation and action. The branch will underwrite the proposal sharing the risk with other branches that both willing are financially able to do so.

The Mclean's Island range continues to attract good support from members and the wider Christchurch community of hunters and target shooters. Over the year public days have increased in number and this is proving popular with users. Additional range officer courses are generating sufficient competent and qualified members to sustain the shooting day increase. Additional interest from schools and community groups is encouraged while continuing the relationship with Burwood Spinal Unit where target shooting days complement their community programme.

Blessed with high country hunting target species of deer, tahr and chamois at our doorstep the branch continues to develop opportunities for newer and experienced members. The last year included trips to Kaikoura and Westland as well as valleys and hills closer to home. Unsatisfactory weather conditions plagued us and placed significant strains on trip leaders with the go- or no-go decisions always challenging when people have booked time off work. Our ambitions to make aerial access more available to members adds additional factors to the 'go' decision. The branch is continuing to develop 'club contributions' to the aerial access club hunts. These opportunities are available to all members but limiting repeat opportunities for those who have participated in the financial year.

HUNTS Programme for 2023, was again heavily subscribed. Blessed with the proximity of the high country and Palmer Lodge the programme is well supported by newer members. We lean on our hunts coordinators and instructors too and are grateful for their commitment and support in numbers that make the offering possible: without their continued support diligence and competence this flagship NZDA offering would founder. The branch executive monitors the hunts course participation in the branch in the years after participation: the cycling of members joining and leaving is no different to other voluntary organisations it is hoped that those who fall to the side come back to hunting and NZDA membership when their busy lives permit.

Trap Line and bird counts: Our work in the Nina valley as part of pest control operations in the Lake Sumner RHA continues. We have been fortunate to attract new volunteers from the branch as some of our senior members are less able to undertake the checking and relocating of the traps. The trapping team collate all data submissions for the Nina and feed this information into DOC. The trapping team undertake bird call monitoring and create data sets to provide to DOC. The team suffers from trap theft particularly the automated variety that are attractive to miscreants for whatever reason motivates them. Funding travel and traps remains a key focus for the branch and encouraging additional volunteer support.

Proving for long term financial viability of the branch took a significant step forward last year. The branch was conscious of the need to provide an income stream and protect the hard earned and managed capital generated by past and present members. Several branch executive members and expert help led the review and made recommendations to the full executive on the way forward. The Branch was kept informed of where the advice and approach took decision makers and the decision outcome. The plan was implemented in the first quarter 2024.

This year we are focusing on range enhancements. Range and site works dates from the 1974 Commonwealth Games period and improvements to make the shooting experience more appealing are in the early stages of thinking. Finally, a vote of thanks to my executive member colleagues who turn up to guide the branch and its future and do put in the hard effort to make sure our decisions are thought out and rigorous.

North Otago Branch

Harry Gibson, President

President: Harry Gibson

Vice President: Daniel Heslin

Secretary: Pip McIntosh

Treasurer: Pierre Franois

Patron: Barry Wilson

Life Member: John Sanders

Membership Officer: Harry Gibson

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee members for their time and effort in helping run the club. The club would not be able to function as well as it does without their skills and knowledge that they bring to the club.

Secondly, thanks to all the members who come along every month to our monthly meetings. Some meetings have been very well supported, and some evenings the show of support has been very disappointing. Without feedback from our members it is very hard to know if we are providing the right entertainment or not but some feedback would be appreciated. Also, thanks to all the speakers who give up their time to come along to our meetings.

The Kahikatea Lodge is being used regularly not always by hunters but often walkers with family's having a few nights in the reserve and will hopefully continue to be the success that it presently is.

The club rooms are being well looked after, the sewage pipe that runs under the building was replaced and appears to be working as it should, there are still a few ongoing issues that are being addressed. Thanks to all of our members who are helping out and Daniel O'Brien for the work he is doing.

Port Blakley's hunting block Waimate still proves to be a popular hunting spot for some of our members. The Waianakarua access only block is being well used but extreme care needs to be taken when driving through the forest due to another party now having access to hunt the exotic forest. There will be serious consequences for anyone who is found to be hunting within the exotic forest or on or from the roads. Again a reminder that we are allowed to hunt only DOC land

We continue to try and organise group hunting trips. With more interest slowly coming from our members this is something I hope we can continue to work on. We are also trying to build relationships with other branches which will provide more hunting opportunities.

The membership has been relatively constant for the last several years sitting at around 214. We are down a bit this last year but I'm sure as with all clubs we have a few drop off every year however we also have more people than ever applying to join. The new memberships take up a lot of the committee's time. All applications are rigorously scrutinized with not all applicants becoming members.

The membership subs unfortunately have had to be increased this year, most of those increased costs are not within our control and have been imposed by the National Office. I still feel it is good value for the cost that we pay. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that there will not be more increases in the future.

Future projects - Some time ago the Mackenzie District Council approached our branch to see if we would be interested in taking on a lease of the "Greta Lodge" on the shore of Lake Ohau. This is still in the early stages of negotiations as there are a few other likeminded groups also interested in this. At the moment we are pursuing an interest, but we still don't know the full terms of the lease. If we are successful in our bid, NO decision will be made until we have fully consulted with all members of the branch and disclosed all information required for the use of the lodge before making a final decision.

Being on the committee - The people who do step up to be on the committee should be appreciated a lot more than they are. They do so for the benefit of all members. Without them our Branch would be very dysfunctional. They willingly give up their time. I know most of our members have already served on the committee however many have not and it is always a struggle to fill some roles within the committee. If any of the newer members think that they can spare a few hours a month, please come forward for a nomination for a position on the committee you will be surprised how rewarding it can be.

So ends my report. I am happy to continue in the role of Branch President, but I am also happy to step aside should someone else wish to accept this position.

North Taranaki Branch

Stuart Langslow, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Louis Ferens

Patron: Steve Corlett

Treasurer: Grant Lilburn

Secretary: Ian Swan

Vice President(s): Robbie McGregor

Membership Officer: Grant Lilburn

This last year has been a very successful year for the club.

We finished the year in a good financial position and in this regard are well placed for the coming year. Our membership has remained solid this year, and we have attracted new members, which for a smaller branch is awesome to see.

Thanks to all our committee members - Robbie, Laurence, Steve (Stumpy), Grant, Ian, Mike, Jacob, Tom, Neil, and Louis for making this another great

year, I couldn't do it without you all. Both major social functions in our year, the Christmas BBQ and the Prizegiving Dinner, were well run and successful.

Club nights were well attended, and we have had some great nights.

We ran our first HUNT's Course in many years which was a great success much in large to the experience of Paddy Curtin, it was a great pleasure to help out and be of some value to this course, all going well these will be a regular part of the club calendar.

Neil once again ran a successful range calendar with the assistance of Ian.

We have done well this year with organized club hunts and they should increase in frequency onto a mix of private land and public. These are a great way to get out and really get to know people, and who knows maybe meet a new hunting buddy.

On the trophy front, we had good representation of all of the species regularly hunted by members and the measurers had a bit of work to do, thanks heaps Steve for your time with this as I am sure it took you a while to work your way through the pile that turned up.

The photographic competition was again hotly contested and seems to get better each year.

The Taranaki Range is open and running, this has been a lot of hard work by Robbie, Ian and the Team its awesome to see that we are well on the way to having a great Taranaki wide asset

Our Monthly newsletter is getting better and better due to the efforts of Louis with the support committee members which has been awesome to see. We just need to boost member contributions.

Our regular newsletter advertisers have once again provided valuable support and income for the club and I sincerely thank them for that. We were also extremely fortunate to once again receive the support of the Toi foundation in the form of an administrative grant & with help in purchasing gear needed for the HUNT's course.

Unfortunately I am having to step down as president this year due to the family and I moving out of the Region, its be great pleasure to see the changes in the club over the last few years and I wish I could be around to see what lies in the future for North Taranaki. The next person to take over will have a

solid committee supporting them. All the best and hot barrels.

Rakaia Branch

Liam Hydes, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Liam Hydes

Patron: Brian Digby

Treasurer: Mark Spicer

Secretary: Perry Costen

Vice President(s): Ash Foley

Membership Officer: Mark Spicer

It's fair to say, it has been an eventful year for the Rakaia Branch, following on from our joint running and organising of National Conference last year.

A major win for us this year has been the completion of some hut maintenance and building work. With 3 huts based in the Rakaia Catchment, we have had the constant struggle of working with the major river flows to get equipment and manpower up to the huts when required.

Rakaia Branch finally managed to make a trip work, for 5 members to spend a week hunting Whitetail on Stewart Island. Along with Branch trips to the Blue Mountains and working bees at the range, the calendar has always been full.

The Branch stepped into new territory this year and set up stalls at 2 local A&P Shows to showcase NZDA to the wider public. This had a profound effect for us, with the resulting growth in membership numbers and hunting opportunities, ensuring us that we will be doing the same next year.

Our Branch is looking to beat our 2nd place result last year for the AHT. And with members submitting trophies from several species as well as literature submissions, we are fairly confident that we will have a successful outcome across the board.

This year we have seen an increase in pests being dispatched by our members. These include hedgehogs, possums and feral cats.

Several members in fact joined this year's Upper Clutha Goose Cull, and some members shot hundreds of pigeons as a pest control operation in Central Ashburton.

As any organisation would agree, getting new

members, members that will fight the fight alongside you, is paramount to the survival of any Association.

The growth of NZDA is encouraging, and we need to keep the momentum going, and keep the membership numbers growing.

I'd like to thank our Branch officers, Committee members, our Range officers and HUNTS Instructors, along with our entire Branch for their commitment this year. It is hard at times to juggle NZDA with our everyday lives, and our members do this day in day out without seeking praise. For this we are very grateful.

Rakaia Branch Facilities include: Reischek Hut, Mathias Hut and Evans Hut (known as Cattle Creek)

South Canterbury Branch

Stuart Humphrey, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Stuart Humphrey

Patron: Allan Thomson

Treasurer: Chris Humphrey

Secretary: Kerry O'Rourke

Vice President(s): Hamish Norton

Membership Officer: Chris Humphrey

Business plan required a continuation with fund raising towards the rebuild of the club rooms along with growing membership numbers with particular attention to younger and diverse membership with succession in mind.

The highlight for 2023-24 period is undoubtedly the almost completed club rooms. A daunting task and project. Raising the funds (external of membership money) managing the project with the many pitfalls we had along the way. A couple of minor points to complete before sign off and planned official opening later 2024.

Empathise being placed onto retention of membership and growth identified ongoing initiatives such as regular club hunts. Variety of species, areas and access methods appealing to a broader membership. 2023-24 saw initiatives with trapping undertaken by many of its members in a variety of localities with the last being in the Mt Cook National Park. Hunters have a great skillset in trapping and this is reflected in our online kill tally. Of note was the wallaby eradication undertaken of this past year with staggering numbers removed at no cost to the rate or tax payer.

AHT comp continues to see quality heads entered. Of interest are the comments from the Douglas Scorers who are seeing a consistent improvement in the quality of trophies being measured. Shooting competitions while these are encouraged are still light in numbers attending. It is reasoned that with a new local range coming online and a push from within the branch it is hope that competitors will increase across the membership. Photographic continues to hotly be contested with some remarkable photos being submitted for judging.

Management of our back country remains a priority for the branch. It's a continual discussion point on club nights. Current trapping of Mt Cook National Park where we have taken over 3 abandoned lines. Members of the branch approached local carer's of a penguin colony after seeing mustelid in nesting area. No consideration was given at the time by the conservationist and through the efforts of a member we have traps along the recognised nesting area. Back country lake area where branch members attend monthly over 132 traps for the past 7 years consistently remove a wide variety of recognised pest.

190hrs spent on hut maintenance for the same period above. This is recorded through online portal.

Retention and growth of membership a big focus for 2024. Keeping what we do relevant and of interest. Catering for both young and old and importantly attracting interest in our female colleagues to join. Exploring all social avenues of promoting NZDA. HUNTS course is a significant initiative in promoting the branch along with activities demonstrating the enjoyment and importance of the organisation. Interacting with other branch heads in sharing ideas, finding solutions has been of immense value. We hope to continue doing so and thinking about the future of NZDA.

It is here that I thank the committee, range officers, HUNTS instructors who have contributed an immense amount of their personal time to get us to where we are. The newer members to the committee this term we the branch thank you. For some of our aging serving committee it's time pass the baton over and take time to relax and enjoy their efforts with the membership.

Tahr Lodge at Mt Cook village is our Jewel in our crown. It is said every branch member would like to retire there! Stefan Hut in the Murchison River valley,

Eade Memorial and Red Sag huts both in the Godley valley and Veli Biv at the head of the Havelock River are all well look after and strategically placed huts for trophy game animals.

Southern Lakes Branch

Andy Pearson, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Andy Pearson

Patron: N/A

Treasurer: Roger Slow

Secretary: Sharon Salmons

Vice President(s): Alasdair Gay, Katie Dugan

Membership Officer: Melissa Jager

Trapping and working-bees: David Rider

HUNTS coordinators: Katie Dugan, Shaun Maloney

This past year like all others has been a busy one. The club has been riding a wave and looking back it's a wonder members find time to actually get out and hunt outside of club events. But as they say with success comes challenges-and for us a reminder that promoting the ethics of hunting is just as important as promoting hunting itself.

We have unfortunately lost Eon Lewis our last life member of the club who past away peacefully a few months ago in Queenstown. He was founding member of the club and our condolences have gone out to the family and our appreciation for his life time of effort and support of the club.

In partnership with a local farmer and through the tireless work of dedicated members we have managed to secure access to a new field rifle range with shared facilities that will see us able to shoot out to 600 meters. We believe this will be a big draw card for the club and hope that it will bring in new members and give us the chance to host training and competitions.

This year we have managed to pull off two ladies hunts, two conservation management hunts, two hut working bees, two goat shoots, a hunts course, an Introduction to Thar hunting weekend, a trip down to support the Wapiti weekend, a competition shoot with the Fiordland firearms club, 6 trap monitoring rounds and a blinder of a Christmas party.

Competitions this year: 1 competition shoot in Te Anau against the Fiordland Firearms club, the annual roaring and AHT and photographic competitions and the

national goat shooting harvest competition.

We have a conservation management agreement with the Department of Conservation to manage the old Mid greenstone and Upper Caples huts as well as operate a 7.5km predator control line in the greenstone and steel creek valleys, with traps at 200 to 100m spacings.

Due to the longstanding (nearly 15 years operation of this line we are down to a minimal trap kills each year which seem to be holding the numbers in check. This year we have completely rebuilt the entire trap line with replacement mechanisms/ boxes etc and now have 6 AI controlled AT220 possum traps operating full time. So far these have dispatched 80 Possums since activation in September.

As part of our management agreement with DOC we supply an activity report annually and last years figures are as follows: A total of 4,572 hours recorded on volunteer efforts for this management activity. So at \$23.15/hr as the minimum adult wage this equates to \$105,841.80 of contributions to the conservation estate. The club spent a total of \$59,500.31 during the year under the management agreement and hut repairs/ consumables/helicopters/trap expenses, with funding from Club members, grants and the cash flow from the hut accommodation activity. This does not include the other club activities it undertakes.

The huts received some major renovations with the Greenstone hut double glazed, underfloor insulation and new internal layout and deck spaces. The Caples has new flooring, new fireplace and underfloor insulation. The public feedback on the huts is amazingly positive and they are becoming the go to places for the valley trampers and hunters.

Aaron Shaw a club member has created a solid relationship with the Wakatipu youth trust who now use our huts for troubled youth rehabilitation and mentoring work and outdoor skills training.

While we continue to promote a good working relationship with the local Department of Conservation we are frustrated by the constant use of 1080 in the Dart and Caples catchments and see this as a bone of contention going forward. That alongside the Forest and Bird attack on the Fiordland Wapiti foundation will be the big issues to navigate this year, as that case could have damming effects for our own management agreement.

I would like to thank our Board members and the club members who have given their time to promote and support the club this year. Of special mention, Sharon Salmons our secretary who holds all things club related together. Katie for running the hunts courses. Roger Slow for keeping the accounts in order and looking after the hut bookings/keys. Dave Rider for his work in organising the hut renovations, the refurbishment of the trap lines and clearing the Steel Creek Track after significant treefall. Shaun Maloney for his dedication in getting the range up and running. Al for keeping me on task during committee meetings and helping to arrange managements hunts. Nathan for his eagerness to create and star in a new role of social engineer. Dave and Sarah Veitch for their dedication to the club by helping out with anything and everything and to Aaron Shaw for getting the Wakatipu Youth wilderness weekends of the ground.

It's easier when you have a great team.

Te Awamutu Branch

John Gunn, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: John Gunn

Patron: Barbara Dench

Treasurer: Carolyn Heffernan

Secretary: Phil Watson

Vice President(s): Steve Oates

Membership Officer: Carolyn Heffernan

Our year has been steady, not much has changed. Our executive has stayed the same and we have had a couple of new members step onto the committee, which is always good. We have endeavoured to run regular club hunts away, support of these has been variable. The best attended club hunt was an organised Goat hunt during the Goat hunting competition. If I remember correctly, we had 15 members attend, and the best thing about that was around half of them were juniors. All up we accounted for 59 Goats that day.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas for our social nights, again the attendance of these by members can be variable, although we do have a couple of non-members attend these on a semi regular basis. We have also been involved in the upgrading of the Te Awamutu Smallbore Rifle club range and clubrooms, both of which we use. The range is now a much better place to shoot on, thanks must go out to

the members who volunteered their time. Next on the improvement list is new windows and security bars for the clubrooms.

Once again, Te Awamutu has worked with DoC on the Pureora Hunting competition. We organise the Douglas scorers for the event. We have members from Te Awamutu, Waikato and Thames Valley branches measure the heads at this competition.

We ran our second HUNTS course at the beginning of the year, which we again ran alongside Waikato's course. This works really well, allowing us to pool resources, especially on the range/river crossing weekend. We started our course with 12 but had 6 drop off, 4 were with work commitments, which changed after the course started, which meant they couldn't complete all the course. The other two were personal reasons. A bit disappointing, but we had 6 very happy guys who did complete the course. The other win we had was Phil and myself are now warranted instructors, so next year we can concentrate on bringing at least two of our three provisional instructors up to warranted standard.

We are still running the Trapline along the Maramatāha river. We have been involved with this for the last approximately 12 years. This has been driven mostly by one of our life members, Steve Oates. Over the year, he will usually check and rebait the trapline every two or three weeks. This is basically a full day for Steve and who ever might go with him, including two hours of travel each way. We installed the first traps December 2010. Another 66 were added at the end of 2011. We unfortunately do have the odd trap vandalised or stolen. So far this year from 5 checks the totals are 78 Rats, 1 Weasel, 3 Stoats, 1 Hedgehog, and 1 Cat. Overall total since the trapline was started (13.5 Years) are 4008 Rats, 177 Weasels, 105 Stoats, 20 Hedgehogs, 37 Mice and 14 Cats

In closing I want to thank all the members in the club that volunteer their time. Most importantly, the executive, without them there would be no club. I also need to thank, not only, the rest of the committee, but also all the HUNTS instructors, Range officers, Douglas Scorers and any other members who have volunteered their time and properties over the last twelve months.

Finally, thanks to the HUNTS management team for their support of Phil and myself in getting us warranted. Waikato HUNTS team for their support in getting us

up and running on the HUNTS journey and finally to Thames Valley for allowing us the use of their range and clubrooms for part of our course.

Thames Valley Branch

Maureen Coleman, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Maureen Coleman

Patron: Basil Morrison

Treasurer: Lisa Daly

Secretary: Elizabeth Millington

Vice President(s): Keven Caddy, Wayne Stachurski

Membership Officer: Maureen Coleman

The year has been very much in two distinct parts - the first being up to our eyeballs in mud and storm damage as we did major upgrades on our existing ranges to future proof them, and the 2nd part has been all about using the ranges and getting back into holding club trips and events.

Range and Shooting Club Registration was also fully accomplished during this period and that was all signed off and completed within about 2 weeks of it being submitted to Police. Another excellent accomplishment all round for our hard working team.

We have had 2 club fly in trips since the last conference - each one with 20 plus people flying into various areas in Te Urewera. Youngsters, new members, those with many trips under their belt, men and women alike. Hunting trips for juniors only, family hunting trips and those open to all members have been great to have ticked off in this time - the next one is just a couple of weeks before conference 2024.

Predator Pest Control work is a large club activity that we have underway here. We currently monitor in excess of 400 traps on DOC land, 300 traps on the Hauraki Rail Trail (HRT) and there is work in place to completely fill the remaining 300 double ended trap boxes for along other various sections of the HRT. We have a predator training seminar is also planned for during the winter months.

We will have contributed approx 5000kms and about 700 volunteer hours to date this year on our various trap lines, and there will be another 400 DOC 150 traps going into circulation over the next 12 months. Catch counts have been varied depending on the areas - the Thames to Kaiaua area sees predominately mustelids being caught while the 2 lines in the Kauaeranga area

catch almost 100% rats. The rail trail traps that have recently gone in are catching mustelids and hedgehogs.

King's Birthday weekend 2024 - we will be hosting the National Bowhunters Annual Tournament over the course of the full weekend. Archers from all round the country attend this event. New 3D targets have been purchased through successful fundraising, many hours of work and planning have been already been done and the last 4 weeks will see all of this work being fine-tuned to ensure a top quality event for the competitor and sponsors alike.

In June this year we will be holding a Sporting Clay Target Coaching day for Junior NZClay Target Assn (NZCTA) members under the guidance of highly acclaimed shooter and Coach Des Coe. This is all being funded (tuition and targets etc) by the NZCTA Sporting Clays Coaching programme so it's great to be part of this.

Prior to our actual measuring night this year we are also holding a couple of informal training sessions for new measurers to hone their skills but also as an intro for a number of members who are keen to learn more about DSing and who are looking to do a DS course later in the year.

Hut maintenance work in the Kaimais continues as well. A dedicated group look after this work and we are in the process of collating materials for extensive upgrade work to be done on the Kauritahi Hut this coming spring.

Huge thanks to the committee and club members at TVDA who have contributed thousands of hours this year on all aspects of the club happenings. It really is so truly humbling to pick up the phone and have a positive and willing response when asking for help with these jobs. Thank you all so much once again.

Other things that are of priority and in the planning phase for us in this coming year will be holding open and introduction days on the ranges, hosting a significantly revised kids hunting competition in conjunction with the very popular annual Swazi Shoot, holding our HUNTS course that begins in July, Kids Survival Camp and drop in sessions at the clubrooms for lunches on set days over the winter months - particularly for the elderly. We see the social aspect and interaction here as invaluable and it will be coupled with junior members helping to prep the meals which is great to see.

Upper Clutha Branch

Mark Elliotte, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

President: Mark Elliotte

Patron: N/A

Treasurer: Michael Davies

Secretary: Murray Burns

Vice President(s): Scott Gillam

Membership Officer: Murray Burns

The 2023/24 year saw Branch members exposed to multiple pressures on their hunting areas.

DOC continued with 1080 drops in the Makarora, the Landsborough, the Holyford & Caples, Reese / Dart & MacKenzie Basin areas.

Under WARO, Alpine's helicopter's shooters again culled stags & hinds in the Wanaka Roar blocks in the weeks immediately prior to the Roar ballots. Whilst legal this is poor form.

The Wapiti Roar blocks may have had their last ballot with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation being a co-defendant in a High Court action brought by Forest & Bird, seeking to stop the management of the wapiti herd in Fiordland & treat the Wapiti as a pest to be eradicated. This is a total waste of money & sees F & B stoop to a new low.

Receiving a response from our local DOC office on Access issues among other things continues to be frustrating.

Several Branch hunts for wallabies, deer & tahr were held during the year & more opportunities to go on organised hunts were provided to members for goat & deer hunts, through our collaboration with our neighbouring Queenstown & Alexandra branches.

Our 4th February Goose shoot at Patearoa saw 2,350 graylag geese shot by 41 hunters. This is a great weekend shoot & saw hunters come from Blenheim to Invercargill.

Another successful HUNTS course was held over September / October & thanks again to Tony Higgins, our HUNTS Coordinator & his team of Instructors & Assistants. Scott Gillam is taking over as our HUNTS Coordinator & we have trainee Instructors in the pipeline.

Members volunteered in conservation pest trapping

activities, clearing trap lines up the East branch of the Matukituki River, as well as for the 4rd year in a row, the daily clearing of wifi monitored cage traps, over two, 6 week periods. Unfortunately, this work may not continue as it is becoming a conflict of interest for us through the rift being created by Forest & Bird locally & the Lakes Sanctuary Trust lobbying DOC to apply 1080.

The Annual Photo & Video Competition was well supported, as was the Antler, Horn & Tusk Competition. Rimfire & Centrefire shooting competitions were held in April & May. Our General Meetings were well attended with the highlight being the butchery night in February.

Thank you to Richard & Sarah Burdon for the ongoing access to Glen Dene Station for our HUNTS course hunt, other training & meat hunts.

Our Branch could not operate without our selfless volunteers. Thank you to the members of the Committee for your contribution over the year involving meetings, raffles & other fundraising activities.

Our monthly newsletter "The Hindsight" keeps our members informed of Branch news & activities, & thanks again go to Russell Duff for his ongoing dedication in producing this.

The Branch is in good stead financially & thanks to our Secretary Murray Burns who continues to ensure the annual operations & administrative demands are efficiently & effectively met.

Waikato Branch

Simon Hickton, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Simon Hickton

Patron: Trevor Chappell

Treasurer: Charles Penney

Secretary: Peter Donaldson

Vice President(s): Terry Playle

Membership Officer: Peter Donaldson

I am pleased to report that the Waikato branch continues to thrive and prosper.

Earlier this year we celebrated at a very well attended dinner our 75th anniversary. The evening was a great success seeing old and new friends from our branch.

Our HUNTS team delivered a great course to 17 new

members and hunters. Also supporting Te Awamutu branch as they successfully got there two provisional instructors over the line. It is great to see the two branches working so closely to achieve a joint aim.

Our measuring team continues to grow and deliver Level 1 and 2 courses around the upper north island. Also being here at the conference to ensure that the measuring of all competition heads is carried out to the high standards set and expected of this body.

Our club hunts and range days are well attended, and we hope to see them grow over the next 12 months.

Yes we most probably have some of the same problems other branches experience hopefully these will be discussed at this year's conference.

Wairarapa Branch

Andrew Dennes, President

President: Andrew Dennes

Patron: N/A

Treasurer: Sean Roberts

Secretary: Liz Nickelson

Vice President: Gary Warren

Membership Officer: Liz Warren

Things have been ticking along quietly this past year which has allowed us all to get more hunting in. Membership is still increasing at a steady rate of growth and it's great to see new members getting involved in club activities.

Progress has been a little slow on our plans to expand the enclosure at Masterton Memorial Park for the Deer, but recent meetings with the council have a solid plan in hand so we are looking forward to breaking ground later this year.

Again our organised hunts have seen many new members secure their first big game animal, so a huge thank you to the team for putting these together. Our fly in trip with Heli Sika saw 12 members spend a brilliant 5 days in the Kawekas at the start of the roar.

We have rearranged the dates for our shooting events so they don't conflict with other key hunting times. This has seen more participants turning up to compete and some great social gatherings.

Our Annual Dinner and prize giving had another great turnout with a good number of Trophy Heads and

photos being entered. The Clubs fundraising efforts this past year have been outstanding once again. We marshalled the National 4wd local event and supplied a bbq for the contestants afterwards for some extra pocket money. Team building at our many firewood working bees sees everybody getting good quality wood and much needed revenue for the branch as well as subsidising our fly in trips.

Regular trapping excursions to White Rock during the nesting season for the Banded Dotterel sees a handful of members servicing trap lines. This year's goat shoot was a worthwhile and rewarding event as my two sons learnt some valuable stalking skills and won a prize from Huntech, Thankyou Cam for setting that up.

I would like to thank all those involved in running the club, the committee has a great commitment to everything they do.

The maintenance on Sayers Hut in the Waiohine Valley is now complete and we are now looking at giving Neil Forks Hut a good tidy up in the spring.

Lastly, thank you to Gwyn and the national office teams for all of your hard work thus far.

Wellington Branch

Tom McCowan, President

Key members/Branch contacts are as follows:

Chairman/President: Tom McCowan

Patron: John Hume

Treasurer: Gwyn Thurlow

Secretary: Deb Simon

Vice President(s): Mark Heath

Membership Officer: Peter Thurlow

The Wellington branch has sustained its membership at around 300, but it is great to see participation and attendance at club events and club nights increasing, with a good number of new faces each time. We have been fortunate to have a great array of guest speakers at our club nights, a particular highlight was the presentation by Prof. Roger Lentle on 'Tracking and Finding Deer in New Zealand'.

For just over a year we have been running workshops on hunting-related topics every couple of months to offer a bit more to our members. These have covered topics from Firearm Safety to Alpine Hunting to Handloading.

The Branch coordinated five club hunting trips in the last year spanning all the major forest parks in the lower North Island. These are another core part of branch activity, and we are grateful for the efforts of James McKenzie and Deb Simon in coordinating these. The Branch clubrooms were also used as a hub for the National Wild Goat Hunting Competition entries.

Over the past couple of years, the HUNTS course has continued to grow and become one of the branch's key pillars in terms of education and training and attracting new members to the branch. This year, we successfully ran two courses (in conjunction with the Porirua Branch), seeing 23 new HUNTS graduates across both courses. Significantly, we have had four new instructors signed off, which is a massive jump in our capacity to run courses year to year.

The Hume Range is one of the key foundations of Branch activity. In the last year the Branch was registered as a shooting club and we had successful certification of the three shooting ranges at the Hume Range. Another vital aspect of ongoing range compliance is the training and activity of certified range officers. The branch has continued to host range officer training courses in conjunction with other neighbouring branches.

The photographic and AHT competition was well attended as usual last year. Of particular note was the very high calibre of red stags taken and it is always great to see a high number of tahr and chamois heads entered from Wellingtonians making an effort to get down for their South Island missions. It was a privilege to be able to award Graeme McIntyre and Phil Whitelaw with their NZDA Branch Life Memberships at the December prizegiving.

Members of the committee continue to be actively engaged in consultation regional bodies' decision-making that may affect branch activity or hunter's rights. This year, in particular we have submitted on OSPRIs 2024/25 Aerial Operation plan for the Remutaka Range and the WCC's Proposed District Plan.

The value we get out of the branch is only as good as what the members put in, so thank you to all who have participated in branch activities throughout the year and in particular the committee and others who have volunteered their time to organise events and keep things running behind the scenes.

Schedule Four: 2024 Reports

These reports have been compiled in alphabetical order, sequenced from their bold type headings.

Antler, Horn, and Tusk (AHT) & Douglas Score

Mark Sarjeant, Antler, Horn and Tusk Competition Manager

The 75th annual NZDA conference was held in Ashburton and hosted by Malvern, North Canterbury and Rakaia branches. The AHT competition attracted a total of 48 entries. Of these, two were withdrawn by the judging panel as they were in breach of the competition rules. One entry was taken in velvet and then stripped for the competition: the other had the back of the skull removed, making it unable to have a skull measurement recorded. Two other heads failed to arrive at the conference, bringing the total of entries down to 44.

There were entries for all species with the exception of Wapiti and Sambar. The entries consisted of:

Species	No.
Chamois	4
Drawn Tusks	4
Fallow	10
Wild Goats	4
Red deer	7
Rusa	1
Sika	1
Tahr	7
Undrawn Tusks	4
Whitetail	1
Wild Sheep	1

Of the 44 entries, 29 were Record Book. There were entries from 9 Females, 5 Juniors, 5 over 65s and 1 Bowhunter.

Two branches had entries for the Norman Douglas AHT trophy (a combination of Drawn Tusks, Antlers, and

Horns). These were then converted to the DS Red Deer equivalent and combined. The 2023 Norman Douglas AHT trophy winner was Otago branch, with a combined Douglas score of 935.08 points.

The Fallow just keep getting better, and this year, one Fallow scored 243 1/8 DS, good enough to be awarded a Silver medal but not good enough to be placed in the top three.

A major highlight of this year was having three of our National AHT judges awarded National Life membership for their contribution to NZDA and not just for measuring. Ray Phillips and John Delury have contributed countless hours to the Rakiura Trust (Stewart Island). The third to achieve National Life membership was Brian Witton, a stalwart in the judging room, one of the custodians of the Douglas Score, and a foundation member of the Woodhill Fallow Management Committee.

Council of Licensed Firearm Owners (COLFO)

Chaz Forsyth, NZDA Representative

Report from the NZDA representative on the COLFO Board of Management 2024

The changes in publications, arms laws and procedures affecting licensed firearm owners continue apace. The change of government has led to changes in departmental administration of the Arms Act, moving it from our Police to the Ministry of Justice. At the time of report writing (22APR2024), a state of flux exists, with uncertainty in the minds of some who are involved with the operation of the legislation.

We have been advised that the 'four Es' applies to the operation of the FSA, these being 'Engage, educate, encourage, enforce (if required)' as it interfaces with its clients (that us, the licensed firearm owners). However there are several who have found to their dismay that enforcement has been their first experience of this regime, inhibiting the build-up of trust desired between the public and regulatory agencies of our central government.

The backlog in firearm licence issue has been almost entirely eliminated, and full firearm registration

continues with approximately 3,500 firearm owners registering their firearms each month. (An average number of firearms per licensed owner of 4.8 is discernable so far).

The Coronial Inquest phase two, into the factors relating to the issue of a firearm licence to the perpetrator of terrorism in Christchurch five years ago will have a bearing on the review of the Arms Act and it is important that the views of all firearm users are heeded in this facet of then proceedings. The Arms Act (reprint version of 24 June 2023) is now 173 pages, (it was just 44 in 1983), and the Arms Regulations (reprint of 28 July 2023) are now 149 pages, (they were just 15 in 1992). These total 334 printed pages, a lot to read, even more to understand.

It is most important that revisions to the Arms Act endure for as many administrations as the current one has, and gaining multi-party input to ensure this is essential. Our Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms) has assured us that she wishes to retain the best parts of our firearm control legislation, and to reject the less useful parts when she reviews the Arms Act (1983).

The support from the NZDA membership has long been recognised by COLFO as helping to provide the essential stepping stone towards gaining sensible firearm control laws. COLFO continues to assemble expertise in law and firearm use for advising Police and politicians. NZDA members are assured that discussions around firearms and their use in New Zealand are welcomed by members of the COLFO Board of Management.

NZDA Game Animal Management Committee (GAM)

Craig Benbow, Chair

The committee members are as follows:

Chair: Craig Benbow

Secretary: Graeme Blanchard

Our committee has now been running over 2 years and has recently reviewed its terms of reference in preparation for seeking new nominations from branches for members who may be able to assist.

Over time it has become clear the ability to actually provide much in the way of practical physical outcomes or collation of data from our branches and members activities is extremely limited despite best intentions.

Through the year the committee members have discussed and provided guidance across many aspects of wild animal management. We are fortunate to have a diverse group of people in various locations and branches. They offer quite different approaches to working collaboratively with agencies, private companies and individuals. That diversity has informed many initiatives nationally and while it is hard to quantify the actual outputs at times its the oversight and insights provided by individual committee members that really matter.

Through the year work was undertaken accumulating as much information as possible on kill return forms and the data they provide. One of the first work streams the committee attempted was pulling together a way to gather more data, and while a slow burner, the committee continues to refine the approach to that problem by observing and seeking input from others attempting the same.

A broad range of topics have come across the meetings' agendas, including the National Goat Competition, DOC's Deer Control Policy and its impact on working with others, emergence of a conservation plan for the upper South Island with implications for ungulates, management hunts in both Nelson Lakes and Ruahine's, various pest control operations, DOC landing fees for volunteers, future of Rakiura, Lake Sumner RHA access, tahr control plans and many other matters of more local importance.

It's fair to say the committee functions more as a sounding board and advisory group than an operational group. At present with the scarce resources of both people and finance to drive anything more involved the committee will continue to operate that way but we are looking for new people and nominations are being sought for placements on the committee to fill up to the 4 NZDA subject matter experts and 4 non NZDA subject matter experts.

Many thanks to Graeme Blanchard for holding the secretarial role and keeping minutes and meeting reminders going out and to all the committee members who give freely of their time, knowledge and experience.



NZDA National Heritage Trust Inc.

Robert (Bob) Badland, Chairman, QSM, MSJ

Members of the NZDA National Heritage Trust are as follows:

Chairman: Bob Badland

Vice-Chair: Alby Frampton

Patron: Sir Mark Dunajtschik

Treasurer: Alby Frampton

Secretary: Gwyn Thurlow

Librarian: John Riley

Building Partnership Rep: Barry Insull

Trustees: Tim Watson

Co-Opted Members: Dulcie Riley, Neville (Weka) Carter, Peter Thurlow, Joe Hubmann, Lance Barnard

2023 was not a happy year for some trust members. Some were forced to take leave because of medical problems. The basis of the Trust's library archive is mainly established, so most of the planning and work on the museum was where the work was needed, and 2024 will see a burst of activities on this project. Work on the library is mainly transferring all the photographic stock onto digital format, receiving incoming books and information and selling off surplus books and double-ups. Barry Insull has been making steady progress on the digital work, while John Riley and Bob Badland were away on medical leave. Gwyn Thurlow and the National Office staff were in control and we thank them for that. We also thank the membership for the financial levy received for the day-to-day running of the Heritage Trust. Tim Watson, a trust member now based at Wanaka, managed the collection of firearms

with the dealer's licence requirements and security. Lance Barnard has transferred glass slides held in the collection into digital format. Neville Carter from Palmerston North is a valuable addition to the team, and he knows how the library functions. Peter Thurlow is planning the needs of the museum displays and its growth and curation. Our Patron, Sir Mark, is now a knight and we are grateful to have his advice. I am grateful to the trust members for their contributions as our team all make time to volunteer. We look forward to 2024 and the opening of the museum displays.

North Island Executive Representative

Trevor Gratton, NZDA Board (North Island)

Serving as the Lower North Island Representative on the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) board this past year has been an extraordinary privilege, albeit accompanied by a significant learning curve. Witnessing firsthand the dedication of the Wellington-based team led by Gwyn, as well as the tireless efforts of fellow board members, has been truly inspirational. Travelling to meet with other branches and passionate hunters and conservationists across the North Island has reinforced my belief in the NZDA's mission and the pivotal role we all play in preserving our cherished outdoor lifestyle for future generations. These interactions have provided invaluable insights and strengthened my commitment to our organisation's goals. Attending events such as the Mountain Safety Council AGM and Hunters for Conservation's relaunch on behalf of the NZDA has been enlightening.

Hearing firsthand the positive feedback from these organisations regarding our work and the value they place on our efforts has been encouraging and motivating. Participating in the negotiation process with the Department of Conservation to initiate the Ruahine Ranges Deer Management Project has been a highlight of my tenure. Collaborating with various stakeholders to gain access to previously inaccessible areas for conservation efforts has been immensely rewarding. I eagerly anticipate discussing this project with branches in the coming months and encouraging their participation. The HUNTS national hunter training scheme holds a special place in my heart, and the opportunity to witness enthusiastic HUNTS teams sharing their passion with new members has been incredibly fulfilling. I am eager to continue visiting local North Island branches and supporting their efforts to promote responsible hunting practices and conservation awareness. As we continue to grow as an organisation, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. The dedication and hard work of passionate individuals and branch teams are evident at all levels, and I am confident that we will continue to see the benefits of these efforts in the years to come. Serving as the Lower North Island Representative on the NZDA board has been a rewarding and enriching experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to our organisation's mission and to work alongside dedicated individuals who share a common passion for hunting, conservation, and the outdoors. I look forward to the continued growth and success of the NZDA and am committed to playing my part in securing a bright future for our organisation and the outdoor lifestyle we cherish.

NZDA South Island Representative Report

Richard Wells, NZDA Board (South Island)

It's been a positive year in many respects for me, in particular, because I learned a lot more about the mechanics of WARO, Pesticide (1080) Programme planning, and access issues.

I feel we have had some steady gains (while it's always easy to focus on the losses).

I would like to thank the collaborative Branch work that has seen effective lobbying and submissions regarding the deterrent application in 1080 in the Molesworth/Acheron blocks and the Cobb, where DOC Kea Policy threatened to prevent that: also the Caples/

Greenstone. It took work, but it did work. Of course, there is disappointment regarding the Landsborough and applications in the Wanaka road blocks pre-roar as well as other areas.

The National Goat Competition was a success, and I fielded many calls from Branches across the South Island with advice/complaints about the framework for it. These were all documented and passed on to DOC in the hope that some of the issues could be sorted for this year's event. This year, I will be supporting better access for Goat Competition hunting in the South Island.

As I noted in a monthly newsletter, it was a great step forward in principle and detail to co-opt and welcome three new skilled members to the Board. Our need for skills beyond a knowledge of hunting and policy is significant, and harnessing these from within the membership is a huge advantage we have with potential still to be realised at a Board and, I hope, also direct operational level.

Late but not forgotten was the development of a National Access Committee. Whilst this languished for a while, we finally launched a request for members to express interest in helping on the Committee. At the time of writing, the long list of candidates is far from long, but we will play with the cards we have been dealt. Regardless, we now have a system of logging issues, filing all relevant documents, and communicating relevant for current and future use, and we will forge on. There has yet to be a better opportunity to make real inroads in this space. I wish to thank especially Craig, who has been patiently tutoring me in this space (I still don't know how he seems to know every gully, road end and gate in NZ) and those members across both the North and South Island who have engaged and given information, advice and raised issues. Access remains a major focus and is clearly as much an issue on the North Island as it is on the South.

I have found it very difficult to round up the Branches for any regional meetings: the reasons are clear enough.....people are busy, distances are great and immediate needs are not pressing. While I personally am a bit disappointed in this, as per above, I see increased communication between Branches occurring across a range of themes. I especially congratulate West Coast for getting themselves right back in the swing, and Golden Bay are also doing really well. This is my opportunity to thank branches for engaging

when need be and remind them that it's my job to facilitate any communications if needed. After talking to more branches across the country, I am even more convinced of one theme - every branch is different in personality and philosophy, so some things are smart and clever, and some things are comparatively less so. These things are subtle but meaningful. Branches have huge potential to be slicker in their admin and general management (reduce workload and risk) and more attractive to existing and new members by swapping ideas. That means picking up the phone and talking to other Branches!

This year, I achieved a new first by getting seven ballot blocks across Marlborough, West Coast, Southland and Otago. What an absolute treat! I have had epic hunting experiences alone, with friends, and with family. The current permit system, including ballots, is being reviewed by DOC, and as a "habitual user" of the general permit and ballot/allocation systems for deer in the South Island, I am being used by DOC to help review much-needed improvements in the system. What I consider to be relatively low numbers of open permits for DOC land are symptomatic of a system that's not easy enough for the average hunter to use. A permit is not only a legal requirement: it is an expression of the desire to hunt the public lands of New Zealand, an important metric.

Its going to be a great year going forward with more opportunities than threats on the horizon. Enjoy your hunting legally, safely and ethically.

NZDA Research Fund: Under the Microscope - NZDA Funded Research Report

Richard Wells, NZDA Board (South Island)

It has been a busy year in our research space. One project, Will Ferris' Firearms Policy thesis, has been completed, another is underway, the Upper Rakaia Game Animal Values Assessment, and a major one on Sika has been approved.

Will's work was a first for us in that it was a purely academic look into not only Firearms policy and law and how it affects the rights of New Zealanders but also lifted the lid on the value and basis of mahinga kai (the harvesting of food from our community environment) and where the Treaty sits in these matters which pertain to "new taonga" species, that being

introduced game animals, which have a food and recreational value for us all.

Pete Caldwell's major work on Game Animal Values in the Upper Rakaia became a stretch for us all (Pete, not least as he added another child to his family, suffered COVID-19 and increased workloads during his work). But we all stayed the course, and we hope you feel as rewarded as we do with his work and presentation of what we learned at this conference. Never could it have come at a better time, given the litigious process being undertaken by an eNGO to explore the Fiordland Wapiti situation. A significant piece of work from a "community up" perspective is incredibly valuable. This is the sort of work that should and must inform discussions on game animal management rather than judicial reviews. Having this study in hand with a new Government focused on the value of hunting is perfect. It was always envisaged that this project would be a case study focused as much on the methodology as specific outcomes for such a highly important area and herd of red deer in the Upper Rakaia catchment. We have certainly learned about the process (which was more complex and had a longer duration than expected: that's social science for you).

There has been plenty of media coverage of the Sika Stag Tracking study. Again, this is a collaborative effort that we are co-funding instead of fully funding. The Sika Foundation Team are a known quantity and quality proposition for delivery, with Cam Speedy being involved in previous such studies. While logistical issues have delayed the timelines of this project (delivery of the tracking collars from the USA has been fraught), everything else is in order, and the Sika Foundation will give us regular updates as this long-term (several years) project gets underway - this will be reported in our monthly newsletter. Again, given our aspirations for delivering on the HOSI process, gathering empirical data on candidate species and herds will serve as a solid basis for delineating and managing such valued herds.

We also assessed and discussed a project proposal on tahr genetics (using genetic markers to assess diet and population sizes) throughout the year, but despite a lot of work by us and the proposer, this one never flew.

Finally, as usual, please be aware that we still have a significant budget of \$50,000 and welcome any concepts, ideas, or plans. My job is to support any valid ideas through to a proposal fit for Board consideration, so contact me with any thoughts you may wish to

discuss. We have approved projects ranging from \$2,000 to \$25,000, so scale is not an issue. So, don't hesitate to email Richard Wells (South Island Rep) at richard.wells@deerstalkers.org.nz with your bright idea.

NZDA Limited Partnership / Deerstalkers House

John Kovacs, General Partner, and Facility Manager, NZDA Limited Partnership

The NZDA Limited Partnership is a joint venture between the NZDA Inc, National Heritage Trust and Wellington Branch to own, redevelop and operate the national office building, known as Deerstalkers House, at Wellington. The Partnership, and therefore the building, is owned in the following proportions: NZDA, 21.49%, Heritage Trust, 28.01% and Wellington Branch, 50.50%.

The Partnership is managed by John Kovacs, Wellington branch member, alongside a "facilities advisory committee" of:

- › Wally Potts, Wellington Branch representative
- › Barry Insull, National Heritage Trust representative
- › Gwyn Thurlow, NZDA Inc representative

The building is occupied by the National Office staff, Heritage Trust archives/office and national hunting and shooting museum, and Wellington Branch. Carparks are leased to local workers. The meeting room is hired to corporates and public. The cost of the building is shared by the occupants and offset by carpark rentals and hall hire fees.

The construction of a 12 story office tower at the adjacent site at 61 Molesworth Street by the owner Precinct Properties (a listed public company) has been ongoing and disruptive to the office staff, guests and impacts ability to hire out our hall. The contractor is L.T. McGuinness who have leased parking spaces. Precinct continues to pay the agreed retainer. The development started in November 2022 and is set to complete by the end of 2025.

It was pleasing that the building made a slight deficit this financial year. However, rents will need to increase to establish a long-term maintenance fund for cleaning, repairs, and repainting. If rents are not increased, the three limited partners need to be prepared to provide capital investment when called on.

For the financial year ended 29 February 2024, the following is the financial result (unaudited).

NZDA Limited Partnership - Profit and Loss for the Year Ended 29 February 2024

Income	
Deerstalker House Hireage	6,350.02
Interest Received	489.93
Rent Received - Carparks	25,449.14
Rent Received - Heritage Trust	7,043.52
Rent Received - NZDA Inc	9,130.44
Rent Received - Wellington	16,434.84
Sundry	6,000.00
Total Income	70,897.89
Operating Expenses	
Accountancy Fees	4,214.98
Cleaning & Laundry	5,974.05
Depreciation	5,497.77
Freight & Courier	-
Insurance	30,511.10
Interest on Loans	12,507.50
Interest Other	7.08
Light Power & Heating	5,222.50
Non deductible Expenses	50.32
Rates	2,062.79
Repairs & Maintenance	5,157.77
Security	1,163.80
Total Operating Expenses	72,369.66
Net Profit/(Loss)	(1,471.77)

Total equity in the limited partnership at year end was \$2,580,741.76 represented by:

Current Year Earnings	(1,471.77)
NZDA National Heritage Trust	710,000.00
NZDA Inc	548,455.89
NZDA Wellington Branch	1,286,964.13
Retained Earnings	36,793.51

Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group (TPILG) and New Zealand Tahr Foundation Inc.

Bruce Hansen and David Keen, NZDA representatives

My first full year as the NZDA Tahr representative has now been completed, and it has certainly been an exciting one. I would like to thank Dave Keen for his years of dedication in this role prior to my coming on board and for his continued work within the NZ Tahr Foundation. Several other NZDA members also helped to support me in this space, and I thank all involved for their assistance.

As the NZDA Representative, I hold a stakeholder member position within the NZ Tahr Foundation and actively engage where there are common interests. An important piece of work the NZ Tahr Foundation is part of is the Hunter Led Management in Management Unit 1. A Community Agreement with DOC is now close to being finalised which should enable this to get underway by

the end of the year. So, watch this space. The NZ Tahr Foundation continues to run the tahr reporting app and shares messaging of selective bull harvesting to ensure a sustainable trophy resource remains in the future.

NZDA and NZTF have continued regularly participating in the TPILG meetings over the last year, and the 2024/25 TCOP is in the final stages of formation. DOC recently informed the TPILG that they have completed a Tahr abundance survey, which is now available on their website along with a fact sheet explaining the process and intent.

The 2023/24 TCOP is coming to a close and has seen a higher cull rate than usual, bumped up by AATH offsets, which require the AATH operators to cull 5 nannies or juveniles for each trophy bull taken.

The 2024 NZDA membership renewal promotion prize pack included an NZDA-organised East Coast Tahr Hunt, with James McKenzie claiming the win for this exceptional package and trip valued at \$10,000.



Schedule Five: Competition Shooting and Range Activities Report

The committee members are as follows:

Convenor: Ian Owen

Administrator: Sandi Curreen (acting)

Scoped Rifle: Malcolm Perry (acting)

Benchrest: Dougall Cameron

Sporting Rifle: Paul Carmine

It is great to see some new branches running Wilkinson Postal Shooting events, this is a family event that caters to all members of the family and growth in competitors competing in NZDA competition shooting, not only new competitors but previous participants returning.

There is one addition to the NZDA Shooters Hall of Fame, Greg Couper of Nelson has attained 50 points and will be presented with a certificate at conference.

There were also a number of new records set this year: congratulations to those who achieved this. It was also great to see Graeme Smith shoot a teen aggregate at the Benchrest Nationals. This is where the aggregate of his 5 x 5 shot groups measured between 0.1000" (2.54mm) and 0.1999" (5.07mm): it measured 0.1624" (4.12mm). Well done.

Ian Owen was the Benchrest Shooter of the Year for January - December 2023, with 262 points. Greg Couper was a close second with 231 points, and Tony Titheridge was third with 129 points.

New Zealand was represented at the 16th World Benchrest Championship competition, which was held in Chateauroux, France, in 2023. This is an event where the world's best Benchrest shooters have qualified to represent their country, compete as individuals and also as part of a four-person team: many consider this a great honour. Our representative had a fantastic result and managed to bring home a gold medal.

The NZDA qualification process for the next World Benchrest Championship, which will be held on the St Louis range, USA, in 2025, is almost complete. Just two qualifying Benchrest matches remain. The results will determine the team position for those who qualify to represent New Zealand.

The North Island Scoped Rifle Champs, which were scheduled to be held in November 2023 were

cancelled due to the organiser having a medical event, thankfully he made a good recovery. While the Scoped Rifle Nationals have been held on the Tokoroa range for the last few years the event was hosted by Rotorua branch this year. Thanks to a number of members who carried out some needed work this was a success and hopefully will lead to some new competitors.

The Sporting Rifle Championship in 2024 was held on the North Auckland range this year and there was a good turnout of senior and junior competitors. Sporting Rifle Nationals has not paid any levies to the Competitive Shooting Account since inception, the income from the competition has been used to purchase prizes and cover all costs of the competition in the hope that this would encourage the participation to grow, and with a growth in participation this would enable levies to be contributed.

The only funding the Competitive Shooting Committee receives is from target sales and levies from National/Island competition shoots (competitors). These funds are set aside in the shooting account to purchase target stock, pay NZDA representatives entry fees for International events, and for other uses as outlined in rule 27.7 in the NZDA constitution. We receive no funding from the National Association even though all the NZDA competitors pay capitation.

Website

The upcoming shooting Competition dates have been added to the website which should give members and competitors an easy way to access this information.

Additional information, National and Island records and Hall of Fame information was provided for the Shooting webpages in February this year, hopefully it will be added to the National website soon.

Upcoming National Competitions

Benchrest competitions dates are set, and are as follows,

- › Zuppa Shoot, Kings Birthday weekend 31st May - 2nd June 2025 in Nelson
- › Matariki Rimfire Challenge 28th - 30th June 2024 in Nelson
- › South Island Champs, 26th - 28th October 2024 in Nelson
- › North Island Champs, 25th - 27th January 2025 in Tokoroa
- › Benchrest Nationals 18th - 21st April 2025

Scoped Rifle

- › North Island Champs - TBA
- › Nationals - TBA

Sporting Rifle

- › Nationals - TBA

Benchrest Report

Attendance at Benchrest competitions is increasing, and we have seen some new competitors participating. This is great to see as Benchrest is the only NZDA competition that is truly a National event, and competitors regularly participate from Auckland to Dunedin.

The South Island Champs last year had some really challenging conditions when the LV 200 & HV 200 were being shot, this is noticeable by the aggs that were



being shot. The LV top 3 places went to Sue Gavin 1st, Grant Hammond 2nd and Ian Owen 3rd. HV saw Greg Couper taking the top spot followed by Ian Owen and Sue Gavin in 3rd, with the final results in the two gun being Greg 1st, Sue 2nd, and Grant 3rd

The North Island Champs in Tokoroa, held over Auckland Anniversary weekend, saw a change of organiser and host branch. Malcolm Perry, who has run the North Island Benchrest Champs for many years, has passed the reins over to Baden Prentice from Bay of Plenty, who organised and ran the competition on the Tokoroa range.

The weather was much better than the previous year, when we had a lot of rain. Even the groups reflected the improvement in conditions, but we did have one day of rain to give us all a bit of a challenge.

This year saw Grant Hammond win the LV grand agg, this was a fantastic result as it was the anniversary of Grant's entry into Benchrest competition. Peter Haxell was 2nd and Tony Titheridge a very close 3rd. Ian Owen had a good HV 200 which contributed to his HV agg win with Grant Hammond in 2nd followed by Peter Haxell in 3rd. The 2 gun saw Grant with a 0.2859 (7.26mm) take top spot followed by Ian (0.2887 (7.33mm)) then Peter in 3rd with 0.3111 (7.90mm).

All Benchrest competitors look forward to Easter Weekend when the Benchrest Nationals are held, and Nelson turned on some fantastic weather for the 2024 Nationals. With Competitors from Dunedin to Auckland attending it was a fantastic weekend with some social time spent with friends and some excellent competition.

Carina Jackson won the LV 100yd agg while her partner Greg won the LV 200yd agg. Ian Owen through some consistent shooting managed to win the LV grand agg, followed by Greg and Carina was 3rd. HV saw some fantastic shooting. Graeme Smith won the HV 100 with his first ever teen agg, 0.1624 (4.12mm) this is a fantastic achievement. Greg Couper won the HV 200, also with a teen agg 0.1689 (4.29mm) and set a new HV 200 National record, congratulations Greg.

At the completion of the HV grand agg, Greg is in the top spot with a 0.1717 agg (4.36mm), which is also a new National record. Graeme is in second, and Ian is in third. Congratulations, Greg and Graeme: that was some awesome shooting.

The coveted National 2 gun champion was none other than Greg, with a 0.2139 (5.43mm), followed by Ian

0.2376" (6.03mm) and Graeme 0.2654" (6.74mm). That is some pretty impressive shooting twenty-five-shot groups.

Rimfire Nationals on Easter Monday had 15 competitors competing in some pretty challenging conditions. Rimfire has a way of humbling everyone. Just when you think you've got it worked out, the next shot brings you back to earth. Graeme Smith took top honours with a total score of 744-37X, followed by Greg with 742-35X and Carina in third with 740-41X, some pretty impressive scores given the conditions.

There is a 3 gun trophy awarded at Nationals, this is for the competitor who competes in all three events, Light Varmint, Heavy Varmint and Rimfire Nationals and accumulates the highest number of points, this year it was Greg Couper of Nelson branch who won this trophy with 400 points, Graeme Smith 2nd 350 points and Carina in 3rd also with 350 points. Due to Carina and Graeme having a tied score the tie breaker was who finished ahead of the other in the LV-HV 2 gun, and Graeme placed ahead of Carina. Congratulations Greg on your new records and your 3 gun win.

Scoped Rifle Competitive Shooting Report

Malcolm Perry

National Scoped Rifle Champs - Hosted on Rotorua Range March 8th - 11th

The main event for the end of 2023, the North Island Championships to be held in November, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the organiser and R/O having a medical event. The other main competition, the National Scoped Rifle Shoot which is held in March went ahead with a change of venue.

This year, the Rotorua branch hosted it for the first time. Having been held at Tokoroa for several years recently, the change was decided because the manpower to run the event at Tokoroa had diminished considerably.

As some of the specifically designed target frames used for this event were not easily set up at Rotorua, we found some work needed to accommodate them. Members of the Rotorua committee were very willing helpers to achieve this work and indeed to help run the event over the four days. A big thank you to those folk: you know who you are.



The Nationals, a four day event was held on the 8th to 11th March 24. Entries were not massive on the Fri & Mon particularly, probably as people were likely unable or not keen to take time off work but the Sat & Sun had better attendance. The matches held are Fri, R/F Metallic Silhouette: Sat, R/F 3P @ 50 & 100M: Sunday, C/F 4P100 & 200M (kneel @ 100 & Sit @ 200M): Mon am, 60 shot C/F 200M Prone: pm 60 shot R/F 100M Prone. The Sat & Sun events have two classes, open class, full competition rifles and clothing and Hunter class as the name implies, hunting style rifles and clothing. Medals for 1st 2nd & 3rd were issued in each class & event.

We are looking forward to hosting a two-day regional shoot in August and the North Island Scoped Rifle Champs in November at Rotorua.

Overview: At club level, some branches seem to be getting a good number of club shoots while others appear to be struggling. Unfortunately, some branches have not got a range or have lost their range due to the new regulations.

At an international level, I have not heard of an upcoming PRSC competition, and the apparent lack of interest in serious competition shooting has me wondering if we could manage to field a team. Sorry for the gloomy outlook but judging by the attendance at nationals that's how it appears.



2024 National Sporting Rifle Shoot Report

Paul Carmine

The National Sporting Rifle Shoot took place on the weekend of February 17th and 18th. There were 21 entries, and everyone had a great time at the event. The entries totaled \$1260, with prizes amounting to \$480. The profit of \$780 has been deposited with North Auckland Deerstalkers.

The rimfire competition was held on Saturday, and the centrefire competition took place on Sunday. Special thanks to Gavin Green for serving as the range officer on both days, and to Malcolm for handling the barbecue. I was the shoot organizer and director, and also took care of arranging the prizes and medals. The bar tab was covered by the shooters, and beverages were paid for. The BBQ was provided at no cost,

utilizing club sausages and supplies. Additionally, I contributed leftover prizes from the Christmas shoot and donated two fallow deer meat hunts to augment the prize pool.

A meeting was convened with shooters, resulting in unanimous agreement to introduce a supported class involving the use of bipod in prone position and monopod in all other positions. This initiative is scheduled for trial at the North Auckland Deerstalkers NSRS shoots. I propose further diversification of events, encompassing various shooting disciplines, to generate substantial revenue for the branch and to advance shooting as a recognized sport. Now been completed, and it has certainly been an exciting one. I would like to thank Dave Keen for his years of dedication in this role prior to my coming on board and for his continued work within the NZ Tahr Foundation. Several other NZDA members also helped to support me in this space, and I thank all involved for their assistance.

As the NZDA Representative, I hold a stakeholder member position within the NZ Tahr Foundation and actively engage where there are common interests. An important piece of work the NZ Tahr Foundation is part of is the Hunter Led Management in Management Unit 1. A Community Agreement with DOC is now close to being finalised which should enable this to get underway by the end of the year. So, watch this space. The NZ Tahr Foundation continues to run the tahr reporting app and shares messaging of selective bull harvesting to ensure a sustainable trophy resource remains in the future.

NZDA and NZTF have continued regularly participating in the TPILG meetings over the last year, and the 2024/25 TCOP is in the final stages of formation. DOC recently informed the TPILG that they have completed a Tahr abundance survey, which is now available on their website along with a fact sheet explaining the process and intent.

The 2023/24 TCOP is coming to a close and has seen a higher cull rate than usual, bumped up by AATH offsets, which require the AATH operators to cull 5 nannies or juveniles for each trophy bull taken.

The 2024 NZDA membership renewal promotion prize pack included an NZDA-organised East Coast Tahr Hunt, with James McKenzie claiming the win for this exceptional package and trip valued at \$10,000.

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NZDA Photo entries 2023/2024

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