



**NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Sean Johnson, Hutt Valley, "Hunger Games"

2021/22 Membership Renewal Promotion

# RENEW YOUR NZDA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH



BE INTO WIN  
A FULL  
HEAD-TO-TOE  
PACKAGE

BY  STONEY  
CREEK

Big thanks to you for helping support NZDA's advocacy work!

If you are an existing NZDA Senior, Super Student or Junior member for upgrade this year! and you renew your membership by 31<sup>st</sup> March you're in the draw.

Terms and conditions apply. See the NZDA website for more info.

Next month is membership renewal time!

NZDA and Stoney Creek have teamed up to give one lucky renewing member a head-to-toe clothing package, including:

- Stow it Jacket (mens or womens)
- Dreambull Overtrousers
- STC Patch Cap
- Microplus Long Sleeve Top

We at NZDA really appreciate our members and so want to give something back to one lucky member who renews their membership by 31 March 2021. Terms & conditions apply, see [NZDA website](#).

The National Office team will be hard at work getting out membership invoices from Monday, 1st of March 2021. Non-Centralised branches will also be working hard to invoice the members on their databases.

## **What do you have to do?**

Just wait for your invoice, pay it promptly using the correct reference information, and make sure NZDA receives your membership fees in cleared funds by 31st of March 2021.

## When will you get an invoice?

All invoices should be in people's inboxes by Friday, 5th March (check your spam folder). Non-centralised branches may have a different timetable so do check in with them. Please do not contact the National Office team before this time unless your matter is urgent. We will do a paper mail out of unpaid invoices in early March.

**For further information and for full terms and conditions please visit our website.**

## Update your contact information

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

We know there are heaps of keen NZDA members who want to renew ASAP but please wait for your invoice to make payment (do not set up automatic payments or pay for your subscriptions in advance). We kindly ask this because it helps streamline the busy membership renewal period for our office team and allows us track your payment in order to get your new card in your hands quicker.

## National Executive Reports



### **Craig Benbow National President**

**Malvern branch**

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

Summer is on the wane and I've had reports of farmed wapiti starting to bugle already, so it's an early sign that autumn is near and we'll all soon be out there for the roar.

With the increased activity in the bush over the coming months we must remind ourselves, and our fellow hunters, to heed the rules of safe firearm use. That means identify your target beyond all doubt and if you

have any doubts the old adage holds as true today as it ever has: "**Better no meat than no mate!**"

This month seems to have been particularly hectic for me and with February being a 28 day affair you always feel a bit cheated for days of summer.

This past week I have been involved with the Target Shooting New Zealand Outdoor National Championships being shot at the Burnett Range, Macleans Island (just out of Christchurch). Our best women smallbore shooters take part in the Randle Trophy match shot on the North Canterbury Branch NZDA range that sits alongside the Burnett Range. I would like to thank North Canterbury branch for being so helpful and for accommodating the shooters' needs by providing NZDA Range Officers to assist. Cooperation between likeminded organisations with common interests is beneficial to the members of those organisations. I also noted with pride the presence of NZDA shooters on the benchrest tables this week.

I am passionate about protecting our shooting sports and seek to present politicians and officials with a solid demonstration of the NZDA's commitment to shooting and firearms issues this coming year.

Lastly I hope NZDA members enjoy the first days of autumn - personally I welcome the longer, cooler nights.

**Carolyn Heffernan National Treasurer**  
**Te Awamutu branch**

E: [carolyn.heffernan@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:carolyn.heffernan@deerstalkers.org.nz)

Well, it is the end of the financial year for our Association and I'm sitting here at the NZDA's Head Office as I type my report - I've taken annual leave to meet with Gwyn (NZDA CEO), our Association's Accountant, and to engage our Auditor in order to get some accounting work done and plan the way forward so that we have a seamless audit ahead of Conference reporting in June.



It was great for me to see the National Office team having everything organised and prepared for my arrival, which allowed me to get on with the important business of preparing the Association's annual performance report and accounts.

I'm happy with the processes and professionalism I'm seeing from the National Office team. I'm certainly sure we will avoid the delays experienced in finalising the accounts last year.

The non-centralised branch year-end submissions are due at the end of the coming week and once those membership figures and invoices are included in the 2021 year-end accounts we'll be good to go to produce a draft set of Financial Statements for the upcoming board meeting on March 13th.

The week after that I intend sending to our 48 Branch Committees the Associations' end-of-year quarterly reporting with some commentary.

It has been a busy first few months in my role as National Treasurer and I hope that I have served the Deerstalkers well to date and that I am living up to the task requested of me by branches and members.

**Wayne Smith South Island Member**  
**Marlborough branch**

E: [wayne.smith@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:wayne.smith@deerstalkers.org.nz)

It's the end of February and the work across NZDA is at full steam already. Gwyn our CEO, and the National Office team, along with Carolyn, National Treasurer, have done a superb job in getting our database (Bitrix) and accounting system (Xero) operating as originally intended.



Hopefully all members will see a solid improvement as you receive your annual membership invoice, not just in the process itself, but also in the range of new benefits now attached to your NZDA membership. Gwyn is already working on additional benefits which creates real value for your membership.

If I look across the National Executive (NATEX) (or the NZDA Board as I prefer to think of it) everyone seems to be flat out on NZDA work. Dan is assiduously working on AGM improvements. I'm confident that a lot of that will flow through for Conference and this will help free this up to be something that is a really enjoyable, value-added event. Remits and NOMS will always play a part (hopefully smaller) but we have had overwhelming feedback that this aspect of Conference was tedious and actually turning members off attending. It was ripe for some major

improvements.

Morgan didn't take a breath between leading the Strategy on a Page and was then straight into chipping in with Conference ideas and then 2021/22 FY business planning with Craig and Gwyn. Callum has been the main driver behind the logistics of our new branded Tshirts which I think will build through the coming year. Alec, Ian and Trevor have been involved in all the above plus bringing their "corporate memory" and knowledge of the past so us newbies don't reinvent the wheel or cock up too badly!

Poor Craig as Chair has had the unenviably task of trying to stay across all these workstreams to make sure they stay on track and are co-ordinated where necessary. So far he has managed what is a tough juggling act.

For my part I've contributed with the odd email and Zoom meeting - 4 in one day being my current record. In my downtime I like to read a lot of history, so I've gone back through the 2016 Chasing Great report which I thought was full of common-sense ideas when I first read it some years back. I'm stealing a few of those ideas, that haven't yet been actioned elsewhere, and reforming them into a couple of Board papers targeting our March face-to-face. The first is on how we might better utilise a subcommittee structure so that the NZDA Board can continue its slow shift away from operational management work (now that we have a small genuine executive in place) to more of a governance role. The second is how we might get better strategic value from direct branch and hunting & wildlife.

Hopefully the ideas will resonate with the rest of the Board and if accepted can be squeezed into what is already a very full business plan.

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



February has been a productive month at the NZDA National Office - both in terms of admin but also advocacy.

We've been working on rolling out our new look membership cards and co-labing with our long-time sponsor, Stoney Creek, to give away a head-to-toe prize pack to a lucky renewing member.

There's some more promotions coming soon with other sponsors, and the hunting industry is really responding to NZDA and our branches - the

support and positivity is overwhelming actually.

It was a pleasure to host Dr Karl Bridges for NZDA's first virtual seminar. Once we got past early technology issues those present were engaged by Karl's research and thesis. As soon as his presentation is edited, we'll make a recording available to view by members.

Staying on the subject of firearms, I'm getting many reports from members of delays in licencing renewals. I have personally met with Police recently to pass on these concerns and express the real impact processing delays are having, and will have, on recreational hunters having firearms not available to them, especially for the roar. Police are on notice that NZDA members are not happy. You will see statements from COLFO and GAC further below in this newsletter.



Dr Karl Bridges with CEO Gwyn Thurlow on the night of Dr Bridges' presentation. NZDA was presented with a copy his thesis.

I attended a Game Animal Council meeting held in Wellington last Friday 19th in order to listen to our new Minister of Conservation's (Kiri Allan) address the Councillors. I was impressed by GAC Chair, Grant Dodson's introduction, and also by the input from Tim Gale, General Manager of GAC. The Minister is open to working with the hunting sector. I left the meeting feeling positive about the Department's new direction under Kiri's leadership because the following were key themes I picked up on - the Minister:

- Recognises the work the hunting community does in the conservation space.
- Is keen for a positive relationship with hunters moving forward, and during her time as Minister.
- Sees there is a way to engage with the hunting community to enable them to become part of the conservation story.
- Understands how hunting is part of Kiwi culture for food gathering and recreation.

My next engagement with DOC under the direction of their new Minister is the upcoming Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group meeting on 16 March in Christchurch. I'm hopeful the tone and messaging from the Minister, which I experienced at the GAC meeting, flows down to her Department's staff on the ground and we have a positive relationship with DOC this year as we work to form an operational plan for 2021/22 which is win-win for hunters and the environment.

## **ALLAN FOOT'S 2020 MONSTER BULL TAHR**

Check out NZDA member, Allan Foot's, film about his successful tahr hunt.

Link: <https://youtu.be/ONsHuiyaGnQ>



MPW 7FAI ANE  
MONSTER 15-inch Public Land Himalayan Bull Tahr.



Allan runs AJ Productions, a NZDA sponsor, and attended Conference in 2019 shortly after securing his bull. Photos thanks to Gwyn Thurlow.

## DOC - Pureora Forest Park Hunting Competition back for 2021, with local NZDA branches helping

DOC's annual Pureora hunting competition starts on the 12th of March and is open to all hunters with current permits for the Pureora hunting blocks.

Full terms and conditions can be found on their website [here](#).

The rules can be found [here](#).

NZDA is helping this year by providing Douglas Scorers and will have a

stand onsite.



*Photos supplied by DOC*

## Bowhunters, NZDA runs a National AHT Competition just for you!

With the roar/rut not far away, we remind those members who bow hunt that our National AHT competition offers a dedicated section for you.

In 2002/2003, the National Executive approved three categories of competition for bowhunters:

- 1) Senior (18+)

2) Female

3) Junior (under 18 years of age)

We are aware branches such as Hutt Valley, Thames Valley, Central King Country and Palmerston have many successful bowhunters among their ranks. Indeed, a CKC member took a magnificent fallow buck (DS 250) which never got to ATH Nationals, an awesome trophy which deserved to be recognised at national level.

We strongly encourage that animals taken with a bow are entered into this year's National AHT competition. The stalking and successful taking of a trophy by bow is in a class of its own, and is recognised accordingly.

So, bowhunters, get out there and take those great trophies this year and then enter them into your club and national AHT competition.

## **NZDA Womens Hunt - A Huge Success!**



NZDA was proud to organise an event that brought over 20 women from all corners of the North Island together for a weekend of chasing sika and connecting. Although no deer were taken, a few were seen including a promising young stag, plenty were whistled at and a first solo hunts for some achieved. The success of the weekend were the connections made and future hunts now planned, that the weekend was not a one-off hunt for any of those women but a fire starter for those who needed it to keep pursuing the chase.

Our official NZDA sponsors, Stoney Creek and Go Native meals generously supported this event alongside other brands well known to most of you. Each huntress got to pick out a Victory Knife, were fuelled by Hunt Smart and Dog&Gun coffee, and well equipped by S L Outdoor bags, Hamills - RAB emergency blankets, Aotearoad deodorant and facial oil from Beekeepers Daughter, own and run by attendee Ashlee herself.



Major spot prizes included magazine subscriptions from Rod & Rifle and a dozen meals from Go Native. Ledlenser provided 2x headlamps going to ladies who were yet to acquire this essential item in their kit. Stoney Creek awarded Katerina (who succeeded at the biggest solo mission of the weekend) a Suppressor Jacket that will keep her well in the worst of conditions, as well as Active tights going to a couple of awesome up and coming huntresses. S L Outdoors not only gave each hunter a small gear bag but also awarded a full set to a hunter in need of better gear management! Last but not least, a bottle of Port from Hamills Taupo will be keeping Veronica happy for the next while.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support, its safe to say all gear will be well used by this time next year as we plan to run this event

again! Stay tuned.

NZDA would like to thank the organisers - Courtney Pellow (Auckland branch) and Sarah Cotching (Bay of Plenty branch).



## NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!

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

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

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



## 2021 NZDA Annual Conference, Queenstown



The upcoming AGM will be hosted by Southern Lakes branch from the 11th to 13th of June 2021 in Queenstown. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza. For more details, visit the Southern Lakes Website [here](#). Conference paper one was sent to branch committees by the National Secretary, Dan Friedman, on 25 Feb 2021 - check your inboxes.



## LICENCING ADMIN MESS BIGGER THAN GANG MEMBERS

The Council of Licenced Firearms Owners (COLFO) has released details of the ongoing delays in processing licence renewal applications, that is forcing owners to pass their firearms to others while they wait for licences to be renewed. To read the full Media Release [click here](#).

## COLFO SURVEY REQUEST

**COLFO request the assistance of endorsed firearms owners to assist them with the collection of data regarding their police inspections.**

Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021, have you had a serial number check by police, or their agents where any of the following may have occurred with a firearm you currently possess?

Your firearm was missing completely from your B, P, or C endorsement.

Your firearm was showing as sold or otherwise removed from the register.

Your firearm had an incorrect serial number recorded.

Your firearm was entered incorrectly into the police records (type, calibre etc).

A firearm you have sold is shown as still being possessed by you.

A firearm you have recently bought is not shown as being possessed by you.

Any other instances of irregularities you have experienced.

If you have had any of these issues over the past 2 years COLFO would like to know about it. Please email details to COLFO at [secretary@colfo.org.nz](mailto:secretary@colfo.org.nz)

COLFO will have your full details but your names and details will be removed from any reports so as not to disclose any firearms or firearms owner's details into the public arena.

## North Otago Deerstalkers seek approval for Reserve Hut



Looking through hut plans at the North Otago branch hall in Oamaru is hut project co-ordinator Barry Wilson - *Photo credit Rural Life*

The North Otago branch after two years in the making have submitted their application to build a hut in the Waianakarua Scenic Reserve to DOC. The effort was made in the hope of "opening up the area" for hunters and members of the public, by granting better access to the back part of the reserve.

An awesome incentive by the branch, to read more about it click [here](#).

## Game Animal Council welcomes extra effort to process firearms licenses

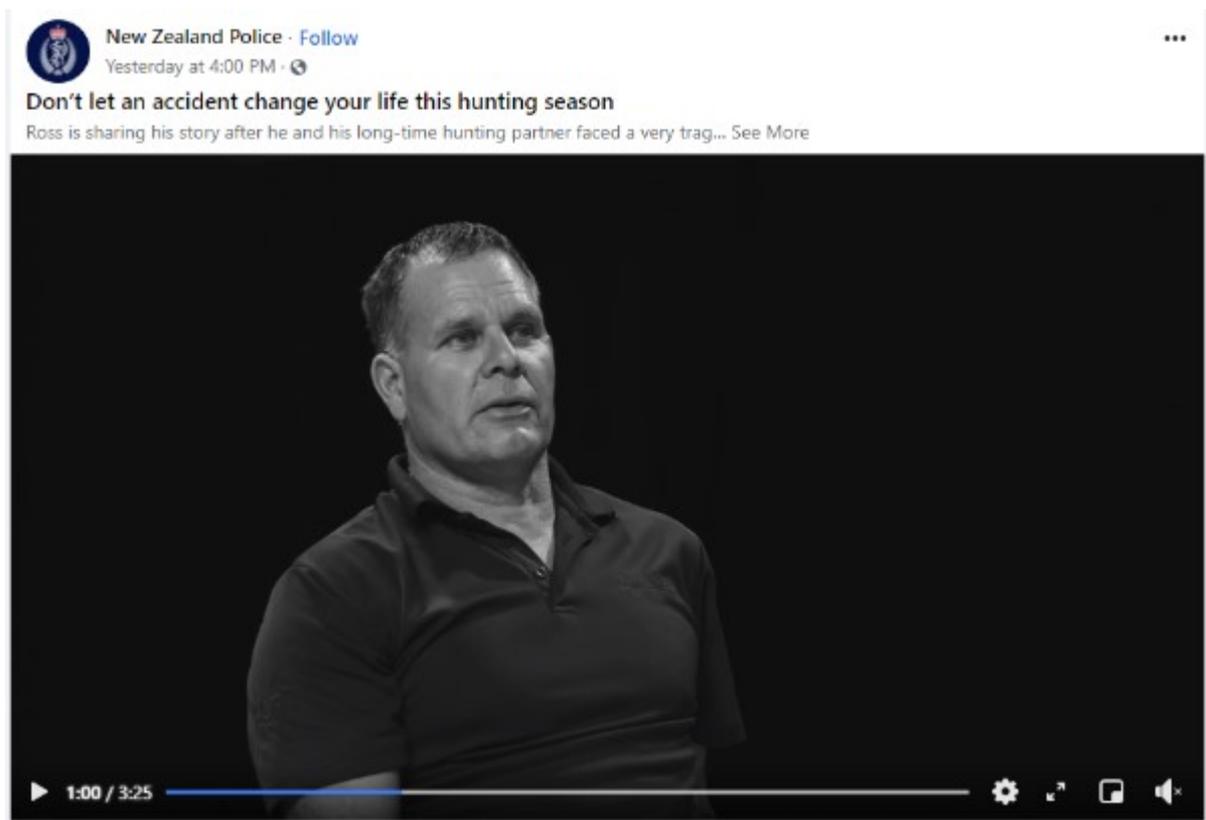
The Game Animal Council (GAC) has welcomed a commitment from the NZ Police to put more resources towards processing outstanding firearms licenses. As of December 2020, 9,800 new licence applications and 2,940 licence renewals sat outstanding.

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

## Don't let an accident change your life this hunting season - NZ Police Safety Video

The NZ Police have shared a hunter's story after he and his long-time hunting partner faced a very tragic lesson on a hunting trip in 2008. It is a timely reminder ahead of the roar. Click on the image below or [here](#) to watch the full video.

The timing of this release overlaps with the presentation by Dr Karl Bridges to NZDA members regarding his thesis - Failure to Identify Hunting Incidents - which showed in his research that external peer pressure and/or making snap decisions is a material factor in the failure to identify your target. The real key is *taking time* to make a 100% identification of your target. To read more about Dr Bridges' research, [read here](#). We'll upload his full presentation in the March NZDA Newsletter, just in time for the roar.



## DOC and NIWA team up for detailed weather forecasting from 2 March 2021

On 2 March 2021, DOC's new weather forecasting website goes live.

Some of the key information you will be able to access from the site is:

- New Zealand's highest resolution weather model (1.5km) which better captures Aotearoa's complex terrain, allowing for a more detailed forecast with a higher accuracy.
- Tailored video animation forecasts for each national park displaying the forecast weather conditions and river flows to be displayed at visitor centres.
- Daily video presented by a NIWA meteorologist giving a national overview of the weather and any potential weather hazards.
- Links to MetServices Severe Weather Watch and Warnings and Mountain Safety Council's Avalanche Warnings.

Go to the [DOC weather page](#) on 2 March to access NIWA Parks Weather.

## Climate Change Commission

Climate and carbon reduction will be a topic affecting hunters as the Department of Conservation will be required to implement Government imposed measures by 2025.

For those interested here's an extract from the Climate Change Commissions draft that can be located by an online search. You'll see there's reference to wild animals in the draft. Read a full copy of chapter five [here](#) and you can also go to the Commission's website [here](#) for a deep dive.



Malcolm Hogg - Bay of Plenty

## Department of Conservation reveals new visitor strategy

The Department of Conservation's new visitor strategy acknowledges more work needs to be done to manage iconic sites under pressure, but does not spell out what it will implement.

On the 17th of February, DOC unveiled its first heritage and visitor strategy in a quarter of a century.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## NZDA Heritage Trust: Historical Badge Request



A rare pre-1957 NZDA membership badge

Have you seen this badge? The NZDA National Heritage Trust seeks a donation of the above badge for inclusion on a display board of the Association's Badges.

The badge was in existence pre-1957, after that date the date rings were removed and some slight alterations were carried out.

If you believe you have an NZDA badge of value, please send pictures when contacting John Riley from the National Heritage Trust at [museum@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:museum@deerstalkers.org.nz)

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine - Summer Issue

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

### **Printed editions also available**

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

**\$10** a copy

or

**\$29** for 4 x editions



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

Order your printed editions here!

## @NZDA on Instagram and Facebook

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



Instagram - @easternwhiolink



Instagram - @hashtag.dan



Instagram - @amylee\_wild

## Upcoming Shooting Competitions

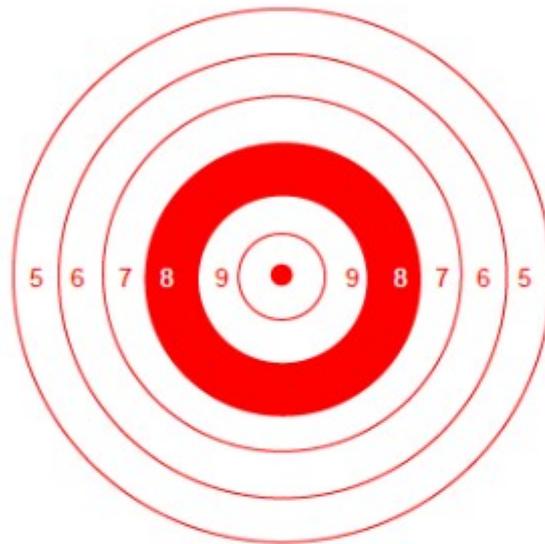


# Scoped Rifle Nationals

5-8 March 2021

Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex

205 Newell Road, Tokoroa



### Hunter Class Rules

- Rifle must be a factory hunter style non heavy barrel type, hunter type stock. May have an aftermarket barrel (eg Trueflight) as long as it is a hunting profile not heavy (Bull)
- Trigger weight no lighter than 1.5 pounds
- No scope restrictions
- No target gear, eg shooting jacket, pants, shoes, gloves, etc. Only a shooting matt.

	Entry Fees	
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> 80 Shot Metallic Silhouette (Rimfire)	\$30	<b>Registrations by:</b> Friday 26 February 2021  <b>Refreshments:</b> Coffee & Tea supplied  <b>Camping on Site:</b> \$5 per person per night
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Rimfire 60 Shot @ 50 & 100m	\$35 per event	
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Centrefire 60 Shot @ 100 & 200m		
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> 60 Shot Prone C/Fire @ 200m (am)		
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> 60 Shot Prone R/Fire @ 100m (pm)		

• Enquires: Malcolm Perry • M: 027 625 9608 • E: mpmalcolmperry@gmail.com

Registration Forms available on request or found on the website at: [www.deerstalkers.org.nz](http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz)

Download 20/21 Competition Entry Form Here



Willis Macbeth - West Coast branch

## Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier Discount

We are pleased to announce a new members discount with Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier.

A great deal for those looking for a place to stay during their trip to Fox Glacier, or if you are planning on travelling to the West Coast for the South Westland ROAR being organised by DOC in the next couple of months.

The property offers a complimentary hanging shed, freezer space is available (this will need to be pre-booked and there will be a small fee) plus of course, the hotel offers full restaurant and bar facilities, pool table and large screen TV etc.

The offer is \$120 per room (i.e. \$60 per person twin share) per night and this will be available to book until 31 October 2021.

To make a booking, call 0800 69 69 63 or email



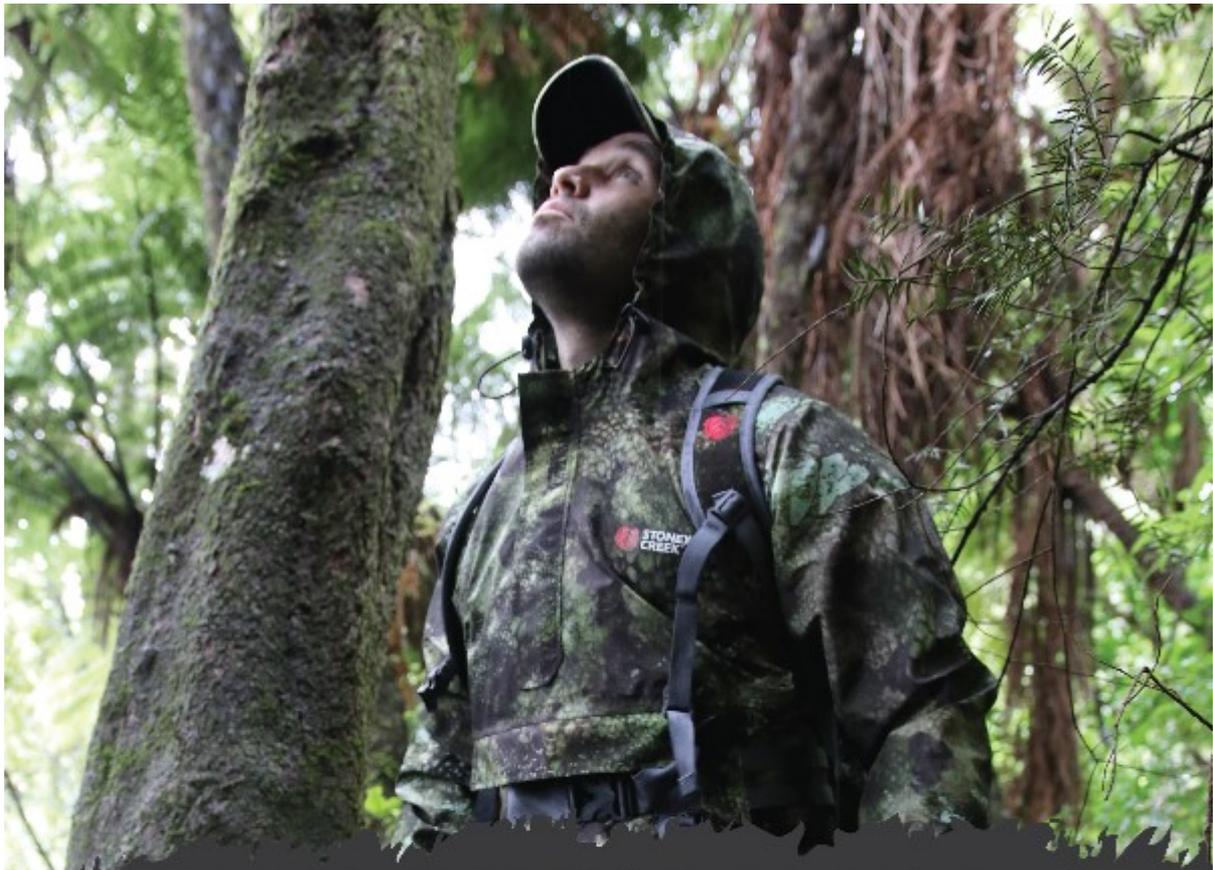
**Stay at Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier for only \$120**  
incl gst / per room / twin share / max 2 pax

Complimentary hanging shed | Freezer space available (additional cost, butchered meat only, limited space).  
Enjoy a well deserved meal at the onsite White Pub Café & Bar – open for breakfast, dinner & bar meals  
with a large screen TV & pool table.

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Bookings available on: **0800 69 69 63** or [reservations@scenichotelgroup.co.nz](mailto:reservations@scenichotelgroup.co.nz)

24 hour cancellation policy applies. Offer is net non-commissionable and available to book & stay until 31 October 2021.  
[View the full terms and conditions here.](#)



# RENEW YOUR NZDA MEMBERSHIP BEFORE MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

BE INTO WIN  
A FULL HEAD-TO-TOE  
PACKAGE BY  STONEY  
CREEK

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY  
See the NZDA website for more info



TRADITION. ADVOCACY. ETHICS. EDUCATION

[WWW.DEERSTALKERS.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.DEERSTALKERS.ORG.NZ)

Go Native - NZDA 25% Discount Offer

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

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



## InterIslander Ferry - NZDA 'Group Booking' Discount



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

InterIslander Ferry.

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

**NZDA Facebook**

**@NZDANational**

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

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

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