



# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER

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Photo Credit: Anara Hocking, Southern Lakes branch, Scenic, 2021 National Photographic Competition

Hi NZDA Members,

We have an information packed newsletter for you this month.

# Lockdown Rules | Recreational Hunting & Shooting

From Wednesday 1 September, the plan is for all areas south of Auckland to move to Alert Level 3. Auckland, and maybe Northland, will remain at Alert Level 4.

NZDA urge all members to follow the guidelines which have been set by government. We've looked at the rules from a NZDA club and recreational hunter context, and below is a summary of what is and isn't permissible through the various levels.

In regard to NZDA branch activities and events, Level 2 is when club level activities can occur because you cannot mix 'bubbles' at Level 3 or Level 4.



## Hunting During Level 4

Recreational hunting is not permitted or practical during Alert Level 4.

One of the primary reasons recreational activities such as hunting are off the cards during alert Level 4, is that when things do go wrong, the emergency response often involves a large number of people from multiple bubbles which increases the risk of community transmission and unnecessarily puts more people at risk.

In addition, all DOC facilities are closed under Level 4.

While it may be common to think "it won't happen to me", sometimes it just does.

## Hunting During Level 3

Alert Level 3 means COVID-19 is within the community, but:

- Hunting is allowed on both private land and public conservation land

in Level 3. However, you must stay within your region and stick to your bubble.

- Overnight trips are not allowed.
- You can only hunt on foot — using quad bikes, off-road bikes, helicopters and other motorised vehicles is not allowed.
- Local regulations must be followed at all times, i.e. DOC permit terms or regional council access terms.
- Land owner permission is required, and you cannot mix bubbles so it creates a technical issue accessing private land that's not part of your bubble.
- All DOC huts, campsites, lodges and toilets remain closed at Level 3.
- Please check with your branch officials first, but the recommendations are that all NZDA Ranges should remain closed and club activities are not practical due to mixing of bubbles.

## **Hunting During Level 2**

Alert Level 2 means there are or may be COVID-19 cases in the community, but the situation is largely under control.

- Hunting is generally allowed.
- Overnight trips and fly-ins are okay.
- NZDA facilities and events are okay to re-open / occur, check in first with branch officials. There are guidelines to follow that may be too impractical to manage for some branches/events run by volunteers.
- DOC facilities are fully open, including visitor centres, huts, campsites and toilets.
- Bookings for accommodation can continue to be made.

## **Hunting During Level 1**

At Alert Level 1, everyone can enjoy the great outdoors and branch activities, provided it is done safely.

- NZDA facilities re-opened and events can happen.
- DOC facilities will be fully open without restrictions.

## **Helpful Resources**

- [Official Covid Government Website](#)
- [Mountain Safety Council](#)
- [Department of Conservation](#)

## National Board Reports



**Craig Bendow National President  
Malvern branch**

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Bugger, Covid lockdown again! I hope everyone is doing okay. It's frustrating but we'll soon be out hunting our favourite places again.

When we do get back into the bush and mountain tops, we need to apply a management approach when we can. That is being endorsed by the Game Animal Council, and you can see their series of informative articles in our Hunting & Wildlife Magazine. Many of you will be aware of increasing noise around animal numbers across New Zealand. NZDA's position is that we must take a scientific and regional/localised approach.

I note that researchers calculated, over the 2012-2018 period, increases in ungulate occupancy across the country, stating that:

*"Nationally, ungulate occupancy and abundance were higher at woody than at non-woody sites, and overall were higher in the North Island than in the South Island. Occupancy odds increased by 34% and 21% per annum in the North Island and South Island, respectively. Abundance (conditional on sites being occupied) increased 11% annually in the North Island, but did not change in the South Island."*

The occupancy number relates to all ungulates: sheep, goats, deer, chamois, and tahr, where present. I'm led to believe from speaking with experts that we would expect to see increases in abundance of between 10 - 20% per year with no harvest, dependent on feed, herd age structure, etc. In areas lacking a sustained harvest, that does not at least match births, it indicates increasing populations.

If you want good stags with great timber then the feed needs to be present to supply the minerals and protein required to produce quality antlers. If you are a meat only hunter, take more and share the

venison with friends and whanu or, better still, take someone new with you to teach them how to hunt. If we all fail to tend our forests and grasslands we are going to be faced with mass culling and backlash from a largely urban population who will accept the official version or simply have no regard for any of us. We should all be committed to preserving our forests and grasslands, so as NZDA members we each need to do what we can to assist in this. There are confounding variables, of course, as the particular habitat, game animal species, and how many species are present, potential for regeneration within an ecosystem, plant types, environmental conditions, and so on it goes, but the basic premise is that if there are too many things eating plants within an ecosystem it will degrade. This is not what any of us want and the message I want to convey to you all is that your hunting effort is a significant contribution to conservation. I have already stated this previously but we are all agents of control of game animal numbers.

So let this spring be the spring you hunt the hardest, the spring you shoot those goats instead of walking past them and the spring you report back to your branch meeting how many animals you have taken. That information is key to measuring the contribution of our recreational hunters to control work and without it we are completely blind to what is going on. The Game Animal Management Committee needs this information also so we can begin to get a picture of where efforts need to be directed. DOC do not collect it and management of animals in areas requires some baseline measures of the annual take and of course the assessment of the state of the habitat, DOC do do that!

Let's start with the animals and work from there. Some branches have been collating kill numbers from members for 40 years or more. It is simple for a note taker to just record the reported kills at a meeting so the information starts flowing. Non-engagement in this type of fundamental information gathering actually puts our sport at risk so please do your bit. No one wants your Spot-X but we need to know what is being taken in areas to assess our national contribution.

Keep well, All.



Photo Credit: "Round Retrieval" by Callum Sheridan, Auckland branch.

**Callum Sheridan North Island Rep**  
**Auckland branch**

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My second year on the national board has come around quickly and in that time there has been a lot of positive change within the Association, and a lot achieved, although I feel we are just scratching the surface on what could be done.



The board is busy working on a number of projects including formalising a Game Animal Management Committee, which I have spent the last few weeks gathering information for key contacts and seconding committee members throughout the country. We expect the committee will have its first meeting in September. The purpose of this committee is to have an educated view and voice nationwide on game animal issues whether it be Stewart island or Northland. If you feel you could contribute please do not hesitate to get in contact.

During June and July I organised an NZDA promotional hunt to Galatea which took place over the last weekend in July. The idea was to expose people in the hunting and conservation space to the NZDA and how we run our group hunts. This sort of promotion encourages positive communication within the hunting/shooting community about the NZDA and what we do. Our attendees ranged from social influencers, magazine editors, and government employees. I'm hoping this will be the first of many promotional hunts. The weekend was spent chasing Rusa, a species I'm familiar with, however under the pressure to perform not one was shot, just a couple where photographed in the bush. Being peak rut and the relatively warm conditions, the Rusa seemed to be held up tight in the thick cover that is typical habitat at the Galatea foothills, and not presenting themselves on slips, as would be the case at most other times of the year.

All was not lost, two red deer - a hind and yearling - were taken out of Rusa country by myself and NZDA CEO, Gwyn. These are great animals to harvest as they feed our families but also contribute to forest and herd management.

The next project on my radar is the NZDA's Sika Show stand coming up on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November at Mystery Creek, Hamilton. I'm working with Te Awamutu, Waikato and Auckland branches to bring together a professional and interactive stand. So far we have 25 volunteers to help with set up, pack down and running the stand over the weekend. If you are at the show, come and say giddyay!





From our group hunt, Gwyn Thurlow and Ashley Strange with a pair of management red deer hinds from our trip into Rusa country.



**Morgan Rogers North Island Rep**  
**Hastings branch**

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I'm a passionate hunter and enjoy nothing more than getting out hunting deer so this lockdown is hard for me.

I started hunting at a young age but got really hooked during my university days.

Back then in the early 2000s, it was a great time to move from a disciplined sport commitment to a sport where there is no fixed schedule and you were able to clear your head, keep fit, and feed the student whanau.

In my early days animals were scarce, guns were not as sophisticated, and the role hunters played was low key. There was also no social media and only basic TV programs promoted our sport. Magazines were the main form of communication, and remain so now but unfortunately the format

is optional and comes at a cost.

I was taught to make every bullet count and only shoot what I could carry because animals were scarce, incredibly scarce. Fast forward to today and we've had the introduction of the Tikka T3, fleece packages, along with improvements in hunting accessories, all at reasonable prices. Hunting is now popular and growing too. The influence of social media and the engagement of the growing online hunting community is now a key feature of the hunting scene.

We all need to improve the social standing of hunters and make sure we do our bit. These days the conversation is around management of game animals.

It's hard for someone like me to change my thinking overnight and help to reduce overall animal numbers by harvesting the right type of animal at the right time, but when I stop to think it occurs to me that I've noticed an increasing number of animals in my favourite spots, and some great heads are being taken. I've also noticed more goats when I'm out deerstalking.

Today, the public perception of hunting has changed substantially even though we haven't. We need to make sure we are considered balanced outdoors people. We must be political, we must be organised, we must be inclusive, and we must apply our smarts. I have been pleased to see the fantastic job the hunting media has done for us in recent years. I'm also proud to be part of the new-look and professional NZDA.

But - I've been seeing our game animals portrayed as a 'pest' in the media and by NGOs holding extreme views who pen 'opinion' articles. Animal numbers are higher than recent historical lows, but it's not as bad people portray it. They are simply not rampant everywhere. The issue is we might need to help or tolerate control at specific places that need management.

My hunting's changed. It was hard and it took time when I started out, but today it's relatively easier to harvest an animal. I take note of animal populations and I consciously commit to management in areas I have identified as having a higher population than I think the forest can carry or when I see goats. Over the past year I have shot a lot of animals and on all my hunts I will take a 'management animal', be it a nanny tahr, yearling hind or doe, or a mob of goats. I never used to bother to stop and shoot goats, but now I think as hunters we need to shoot those goats in order to help maintain overall forest health for the benefit of our preferred species.

So, get out there, do your part to show hunters are part of the conservation story and help with the hunter led "hunters for conservation" movement. When you then are sharing your stories with friends, family or



on social media, make sure you do so respectfully.



Morgan representing the NZDA Tshirt and harvesting venison.

**Wayne Smith South Island Rep**  
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I joined the NZDA board to help solve the problems identified in 2019 & 2020 and



now that we have done so I think we should take a little time to note the lessons learnt and turn our attention to what actions we might take to ensure NZDA is strengthened in key areas for the long term.

This article will be the first in a series of articles.

### **PART ONE: High-Performing Organisations**

Going back decades I had an academic interest in how it might be possible to build high-performing organisations. Through my executive career I put that knowledge to reasonably good effect. While that knowledge and experience has almost no relevance to how a branch operates it does for National Office operations. However the ideas, most of which have already been articulated by others, need to be brought forward for further discussion in NZDA forums such as branch committee and regional meetings.

To help initiate those discussions I will put together a series of short monthly or bi-monthly think piece articles that, as they build up, can be accessed from this newsletter. My hope is that members and branch presidents & committee's will consider these articles and the ideas and suggestions they contain. Of course there is nothing worse than someone raising "issues" if they don't then offer sensible solutions and more importantly specific, pragmatic actions.

My hope is that we can take "discussion" and turn it into action so if feedback and the collective view from branches is that these ideas do have some merit, then possibly the Board might look towards implementation. The first article asks the question "Can we improved our capitation system?" You can read it [here](#).

On other matters it's been great to see a couple of good regional meetings occurring, one in the North and one in the lower South, and a comprehensive set of minutes. I read them with close interest. Ian Owen is setting up another one probably in Canterbury and hopefully the likes of Nelson and Marlborough branches can Zoom into that meeting.

If you read my attached article, you will understand why it was good to

see that that another branch has moved to align their financial balance date!

Both regional meetings touched on the similar issue of “supporters” or a “cheaper” membership option. That was also an idea floated in the Chasing Great report. I have been working since my arrival on the board to implement a number of the recommendations from that report most of which were common sense suggestions for improvement. I put a paper to the Board in March which didn’t get across the line for various reasons. That said this idea, coupled with a simpler new member onboard system, is well worth further refinement and with a bit of luck make it into the 2021/22 Business Plan.

That leads me to the references to the Business Plan from the regional meetings. This will be an increasingly key document that sets (and then adjusts and resets) our priorities for NZDA each year. You can read it [here](#).

The entire membership now gets detailed financial information from Carolyn our National Treasurer. If you dig into this what’s immediately apparent is that there is no magic pool of unallocated funds. National Office pretty much operates on a pittance and just about every last cost cutting option has been taken.

Likewise, in terms of staff time Sue and Niraj support the business-as-usual administration systems so that leaves one person namely Gwyn to take on almost everything else and his workloads are already unreasonable (servicing the Board, managing the team, dealing with political parties, submissions to Acts and regulations, driving the various communications to branches & members, liaising and meeting with large numbers of government departments and other NGO’s, legal and contract work, making himself available to branches etc to name just a few).

Oh of course he also has to deliver on the bulk of the business plan! The point I’m making here is that there is also no magic pool of employees!

That’s precisely why the Business Plan is so important. As ideas for things that, National Office and NZDA more broadly, should be doing come forward they will have to go into the business planning process. We simply don’t have the freeboard to take up extra work in an ad hoc fashion. Each initiative will need to be properly evaluated, fully costed, and then prioritised. Then if accepted folded into the next Business Plan.





Photo Credit: Shane Hall (West Coast Branch), Section D, 2021 National Photographic Competition.

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



Yet again this month board members Craig, Callum, Morgan and Wayne have provided us with interesting and insightful articles and so I'll keep my section brief and update you on some key projects. My personal highlight this month was speaking at Auckland branch's AGM and meeting up with a bunch of passionate members. Auckland branch is one of the fastest growing branches and offers amazing group hunts, social events, and shooting facilities. It was great to see the energy in the room on the night.

### **NZDA Research Fund**

The board has recently finalised a formal process to make our research fund available. Over the next month information will be posted on our

website and I'll be emailing members. So, you can start planning your applications now. Further information is below.

### **HUNTS Roles Advertised**

The new HUNTS roles are available and we're keen to receive applications.

Visit our website [here](#) for full details and role descriptions.

We're taking applications now until Friday, 17th September.

### **Covid-19 Lockdown**

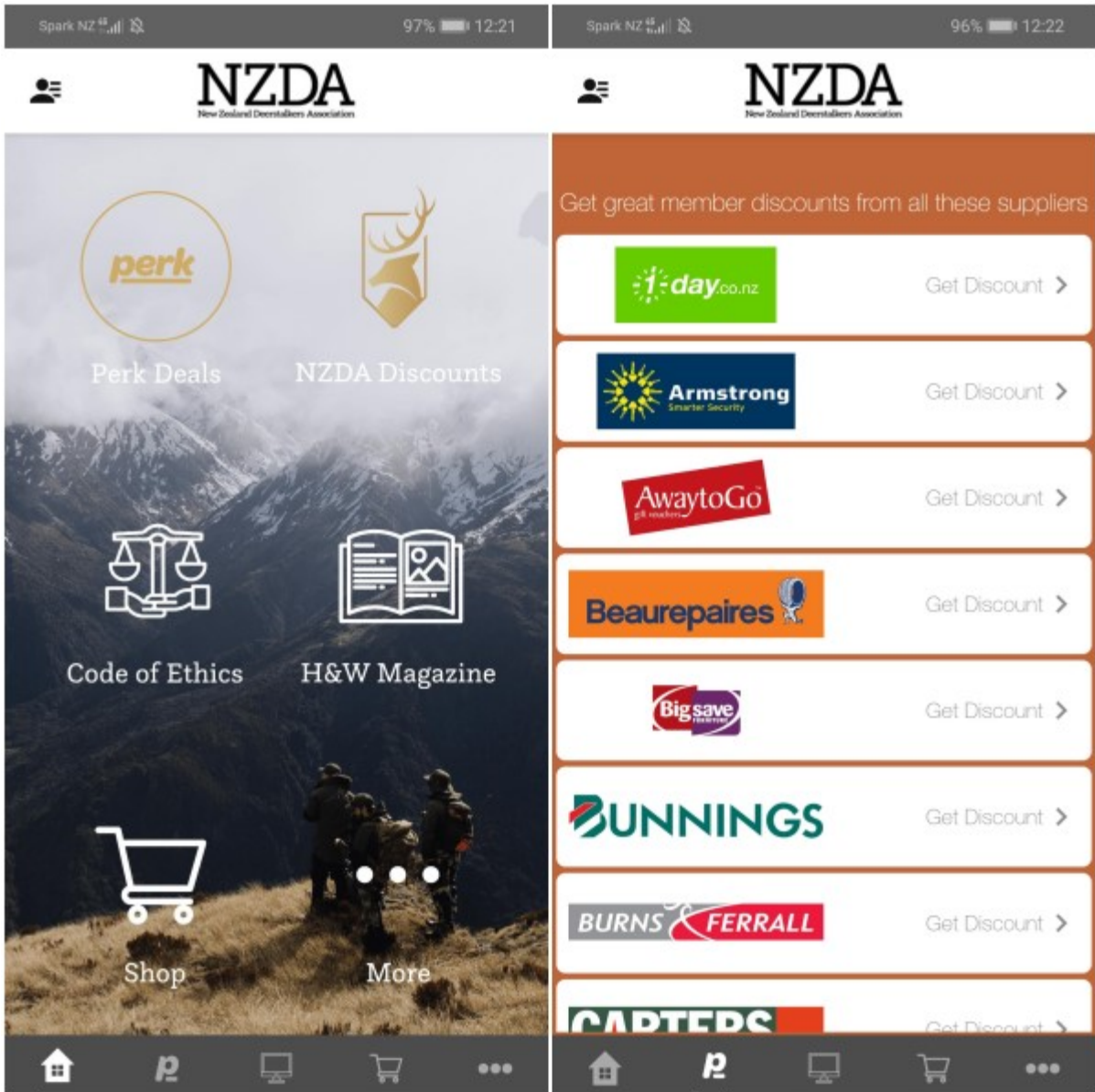
I know many members will have had their hunting plans and branch activities impacted by the latest Covid-19 lockdown. At the start of this newsletter, I've set out the key points to consider. As NZDA members and branches, it is important we lead by example and abide by the rules. Thankfully, hunting is accessible on public and private land at Level 3 and below.

### **NZDA App Ready to Launch September**

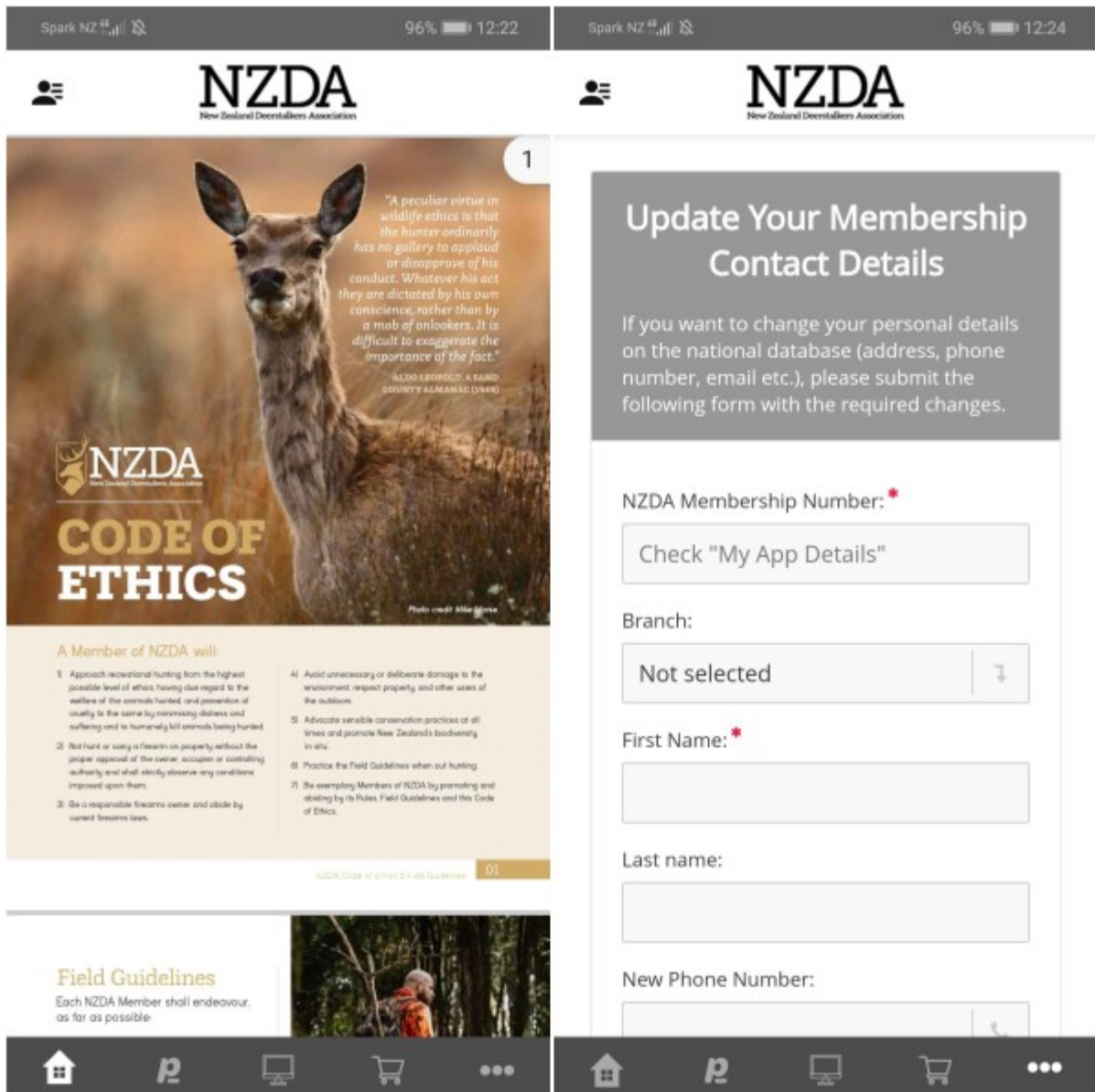
The NZDA membership App has just completed its development phase and we're targeting a roll out to members during September. It will offer expanded member benefits and discounts and will put a lot of information at your fingertips.

More to come soon! Some screenshots are below in the meantime!





Screenshot of the NZDA App homescreen alongside the enhanced Member Perks discounts page.



Screenshots of the Code of Ethics page alongside the new contact membership form.

## Formalisation of the NZDA National Game Animal Research Fund

It's with great excitement that we can announce the NZDA has formalised a process of applying for funding from the Game Animal Research Development Fund.

NZDA Research and Development funds are awarded by the NZDA Board to candidates who support the strategic direction and benefit the NZDA specifically in the area of game animal research. Funds will be allocated in the form of a cash grants.

The fund is freely contestable and available to all NZDA members, our branches, and non NZDA members alike.

**The funds will be awarded on the basis of:**

- The applicant's alignment with the strategic direction and benefit in the area of game animal research
- The applicant's potential for, or record of research
- Applicants may be awarded more than one round of funding
- The granting of funding requires a formal application, grantee accountability and reporting of findings.

**Examples of direct and indirect Game Animal related usage (non-exhaustive) considered within the intent:**

- Social, cultural and political research relating to the hunting of Game Animals
- Ecological impact studies
- Herd of special interest studies
- Systems/processes/technology that support sustainable hunting of Game Animals
- Education resource development and delivery relating to Game Animals

Any grant is approved by the NZDA Board, there is no obligation to award a cash grant in any year that there is no suitable candidate program of work or any year there that there is a suitable candidate.

**Submission Process:**

- The application process will be managed through the NZDA website - TBC and being created.
- Applications are subject to the application timeframes

## **Application Timeframes**

1. **Opens: ASAP once live on the website, then yearly 31st July**
2. **Closes: 31st October**
3. **Notice of decision by 15th December, following December board meeting**
4. **Funds available from 1 March the following year**



The style of funding is open therefore we ask you to get creative, be bold, contact those students who are planning their masters and scratching their heads for a topic and funding source!

If you have a project in mind, please formulate your application and be ready to submit it once our systems are up and running on the website.



Photo Credit: Red deer by Terry Austin, North Canterbury Branch.

## Tahr Control Update: Nearly at the 2021/22 Official Control Mid-point

The Department of Conservation notes that their control operations have commenced and were undertaken over July in management units (MU):

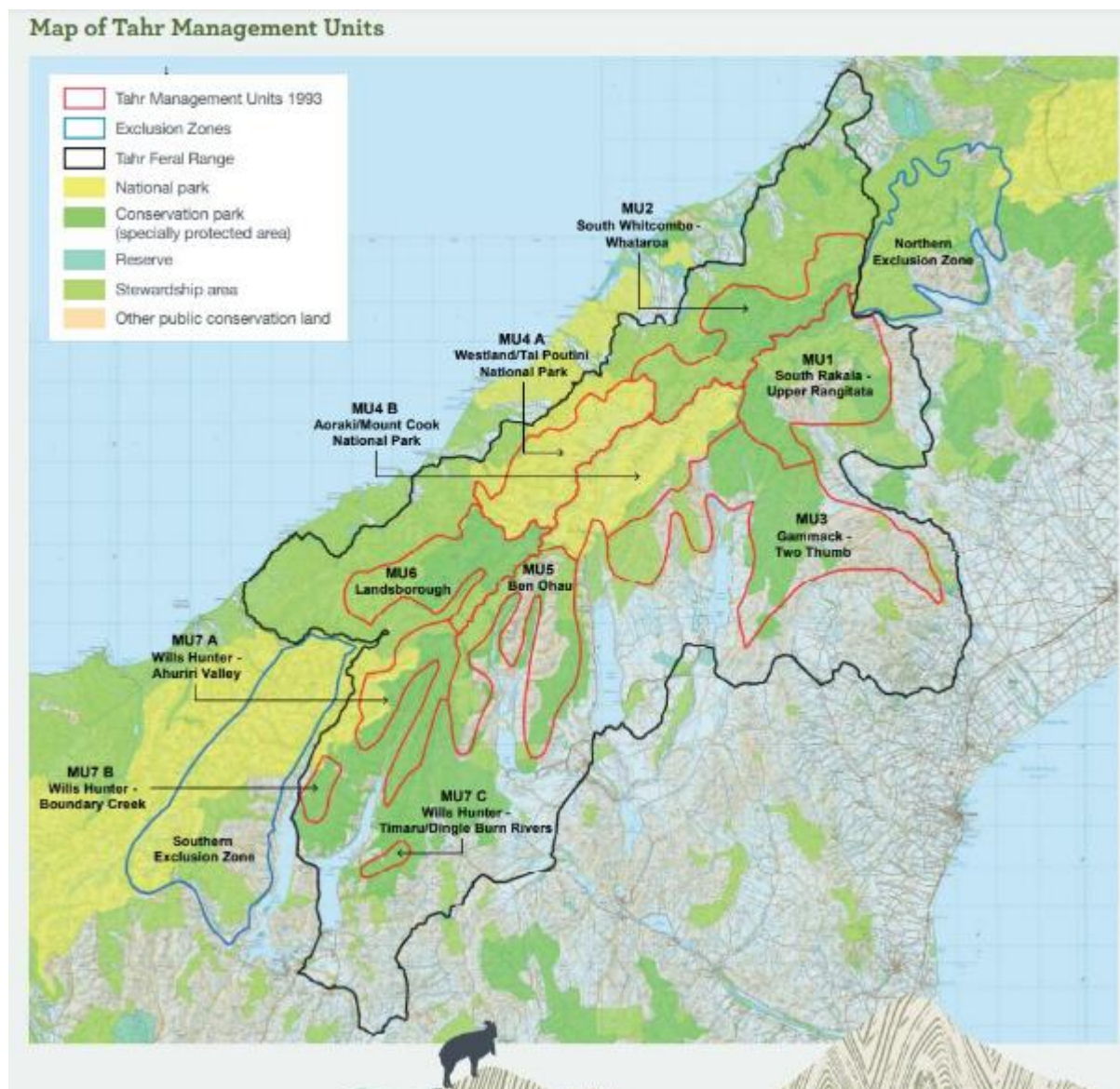
- 3 (Gammack/ Two Thumb)
- 4 (Westland Tai Poutini National Park), and
- 5 (Ben Ohau).

One-third of the planned aerial control for 2021/22 is now complete.

No further aerial control will be conducted in MU 3 or MU 5 under this Operational Plan which runs through to 30 June 2022. This means there will be no further control under the current Operational Plan in four of the management units (MU 1, MU 3, MU 5, and MU 7) as South Rakaia/Rangitata (MU 1) and Wills/Makarora/Hunter (MU 7) are not receiving any aerial control under the 2021/22 Operational Plan.

DOC are currently meeting with the Game Animal Council for the mid-point review. More information should be available soon.

You can read more [here](#).



John Murphy Memorial Award 2021



## Bryce Pratt, Manawatu Branch



Branch President, Neville Carter (Weka), presenting Bryce with his award.

The Manawatu Branch hosted it's annual trophy night and Bryce Pratt was presented with the John Murpy Memorial award for administrative excellence at branch level, which is was awarded at National Conference this year. Bryce is the acting Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Officer for the branch. A well deserved accolade Bryce, from the team at National Office, keep up the great work.

## South Canterbury Branch Clubrooms Update



This time two years ago the South Canterbury Branch were forced to move their building. Coastal erosion at then the old site was quite dramatic. The options were limited however they were presented with a proposal that would work. Unfortunately, the preferred option meant a lengthy disruption to meetings and a need to use all the branch's available capital funds.

The building was separated from the pistol club and located and lowered onto blocks safely away from the eroding shoreline. There it stayed for a period. During this period the rooms were vandalised inside where unnecessary damage occurred that added further cost of the shift.

All trophies and belongings were stored in a container and at times the monthly cost was funded by individual members to help with the branch finances.

The day came for the building to finally rest on its new site. Several working bees by members ensued to reinstate parts of the building from when it was moved (below) and to make it weatherproof.



Photo shows where a row of Macrocarpa trees had been removed, alongside the remains of the road.

We have been very fortunate to have members willing to give their time and in particular a big thank you to Jim Kroening for anchoring this project. Being a retired builder, his skills have been put to good use. Dave Keen also provided a significant amount of input and guidance.

Prior to the shift we were made aware that this was going to be quite a major undertaking as the club rooms were adjoined to the pistol club which allowed us to utilise facilities and amenities that the branch did not otherwise have.

Moving to the new site meant new and further compliance of amenities needed to be provided e.g. toilets etc. It is therefore an opportunity to add on additional kitchen facilities that will find the club rooms more attractive, not only for regular meetings but should it be used by others in the future.





Jim Kroening and Allan Gillespie on the shovels, with Alan's grandson, Harry Gillespie, on the digger.

Two years on there is a little light at the end of what has been a long tunnel. It is hoped that we are in a position to be able to use the club rooms in the next coming month although in a limited capacity.

It's important for the members to gather in their environment and further is important to provide a room for the up-and-coming HUNTS course.

The branch's plan moving forward is one of stability and membership rebuilding and importantly raising funds to undertake the planned and necessary additions.



## In the News: How Hunters are Winning at Climate Change and the NZ Game Animal Council's Response





Photo Credit: Newsroom

*"Hunters have become such powerful lobbyists, they appear to have the Department of Conservation working to serve their interests over the environment, Marie Russell argues"*

The extreme anti-gun and anti-hunter advocate has published a one-sided and unbalanced article stating that hunters want to maintain numbers of feral deer, goats and pigs for their sport to the detriment of the environment, using the extensive tahr cull as an example of hunters "getting their way". It couldn't be farther from the truth.

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

## **Response by Tim Gale, General Manager, Game Animal Council**

### **Portraying Hunters as the Enemy Serves no Purpose:**

Many of you would have read the recent opinion piece by Public Health Researcher Marie Russell and published by Newsroom (<https://bit.ly/3mH9nH1>). The article presented an unfair, inaccurate and extremely simplistic depiction of the work of the Game Animal Council and the New Zealand hunting sector. While I do not want to get in a tit-for-tat with Ms Russell, I believe it is important to address some key issues.

First, is the implication that the Game Animal Council (GAC) is at the heart of a rich and powerful hunting lobby. For many reasons, I wish that were true. However, the reality is that despite representing one of the largest public conservation land user groups, the GAC runs on very limited funding and relies heavily on the volunteer time of our councillors and other supporters. We have one fulltime employee (me) and an annual budget that wouldn't buy you a one-bedroom apartment in any of our major cities. By comparison, Forest and Bird have an annual income of around \$10 million per year and quite a large staff.

Second, I want to address the tahr issue. The reason other organisations in the hunting sector went to court over the 2020-21 Tahr Plan centred around the lack of proper consultation. It was argued that as hunters are a significant tahr stakeholder they deserved an appropriate opportunity to consider and provide feedback on DOC's proposed culling operations. This argument was upheld by the court.

The good news is that lessons from the 2020-21 Plan have been learnt by all parties and the process to develop this year's tahr control programme has been far more collaborative and constructive. This has resulted in a management plan with broad stakeholder buy-in and that is rightly focussed on areas of high tahr density and impacts. This is a positive result.

Finally, let me address the broader issue of hunting, game animal management and conservation.

The fact is that hunting, particularly recreational hunting, is an incredibly valuable contributor to conservation. A 2014 academic study (<https://bit.ly/3DviL6C>) estimated that recreational hunters alone harvest around 135,000 deer, 132,000 other game animals (tahr, chamois and wild pigs) and 230,000 pest goats each year. No government control or commercial hunting operation can come close to achieving those numbers and with the big increase in the popularity of hunting it is likely that the current recreational harvest is even greater still.

Hunter-funded organisations like the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) and Sika Foundation undertake their own game animal management programmes that remove large numbers of animals every year. Anyone who wants to see an example of how hunter-led management can create great conservation outcomes as well as a highly valued game animal herd should take a look at what FWF are doing in Fiordland, it is a real community-conservation success story.

It is worth noting that as keen conservationists and outdoorspeople, hunters are massive contributors to conservation projects. The FWF, Sika Foundation, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Inc, and NZ Tahr Foundation are all deeply involved in predator control, native species surveys and the preservation of our backcountry heritage. I am talking

about proper 'boots-on-the-ground' conservation work here; lugging DOC 200 traps into rugged and isolated country to protect who or track cutting access into a remote hut. A new trust, Hunters For Conservation, has also recently been established to assist more non-affiliated hunters contribute to community conservation projects.

From a societal point of view New Zealand's game animals have, for over 100 years, been a significant source of mahinga kai for many communities and provided important recreational and commercial opportunities for hundreds-of-thousands of Kiwis. Nevertheless, they do require management, which is why the GAC is involved in the development of the Te Ara Ki Mua project alongside DOC. This project, which broadly aims to keep deer out of places where they currently aren't and reduce numbers where they are having a significant impact on the ecosystem, is in its early stages but is something we see as important, not only for conservation, but also to improve the quality of the hunting resource.

Game animal management cannot, however, be left to DOC and dedicated hunting sector organisations. Individual hunters need to take greater personal responsibility for their game animal management decisions. By this I mean more hunters need to actively contribute towards managing the numbers and improving the quality of our game animal herds so that they are maintained below the carrying capacity of the habitat and at a level that allows native species to thrive. This requires hunters to focus on harvesting more breeding age and yearling females as this will result in herds with fewer but better-quality meat and trophy animals. The result of this is a 'win-win' for hunting and conservation.

I firmly believe that positive and enduring game animal management, conservation and environmental outcomes will be achieved through greater stakeholder and community collaboration with the Department of Conservation, not less. I also think it would be a real shame if divisive rhetoric succeeded in pitting environmental and recreational groups against each other. The values we share and the reasons why we love New Zealand's wild places are far more compelling than the issues we may, at times, disagree on.

- Tim Gale, GM, Game Animal Council



Tim Gale, Game Animal Council's General Manager. He's one of the few paid people to represent hunters in New Zealand, we need more like him in our sector.

## In the News: Hankinson Hut, Fiordland National

## Park: A journey to one of the most remote corners of New Zealand



The hut is rarely used because it's so remote. Photo Credit: Brooke Sabin, Stuff

Hankinson Hut is the oldest hut in the national park, built in 1928. It has long been a shelter for intrepid adventurers and deer hunters. But now, for the first time, it's easily accessible to the public.

Ordinarily, a journey to the hut is an arduous three to four-day bush walk on a "very challenging" track. However, a Te Anau-based adventure company has found a way to get people to this magical little spot in just a few hours – involving a trip across a secret lake.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## In the News: How Lee Murray went from 'hopeless in the hills' to a 'hearty' hunter





Lee Murray high in the hills near Garston. Photo Credit: NZHerald

Partly, it's the thrill of the chase. Mostly it's spending hours alone in his backyard - the hills around Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes - that puts a smile on Lee Murray's dial.

"I was hopeless in the hills - I had no idea what I was up to. "I started not enjoying it so much because I was like, 'man, I'm no good at it. I'm not sure what I'm up to here'."

But perseverance started paying off and, in time, he learnt "the tricks of the trade".

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

## 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).





Photo Credit: Pete Henderson (Southern Lakes Branch), Game Animals, 2021 National Photographic Competition

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine | Winter Issue 213

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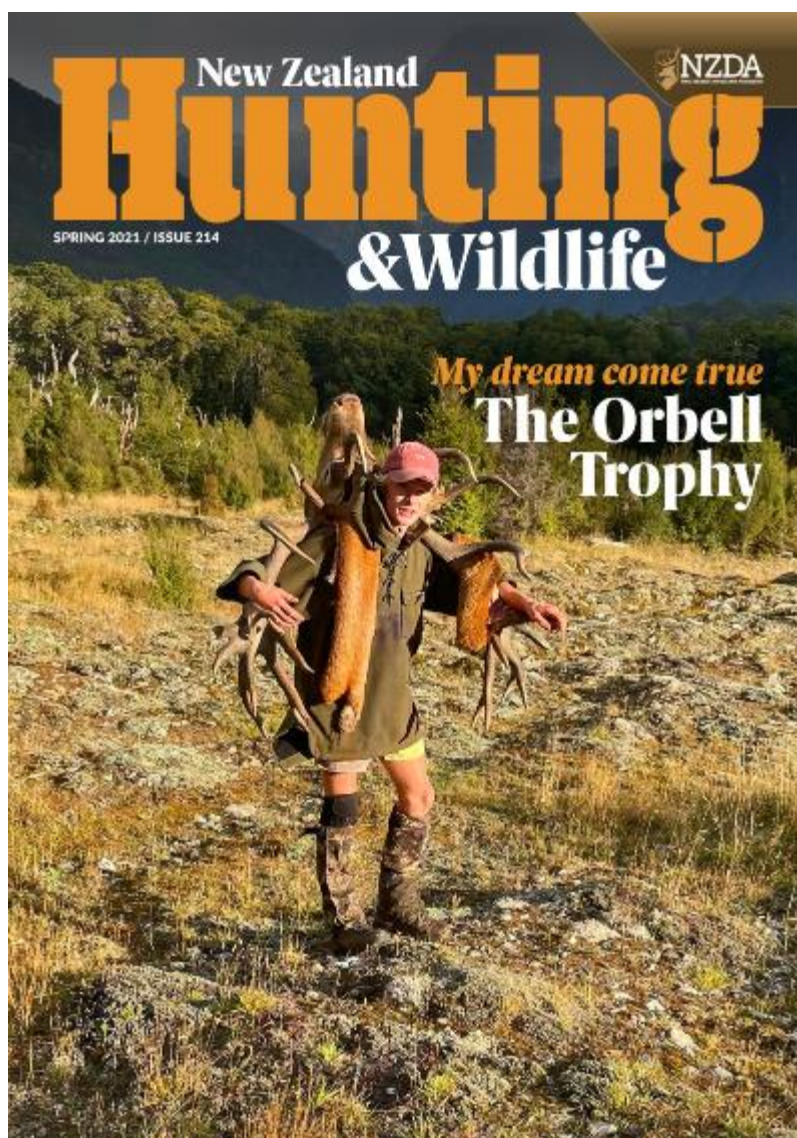
The back issues of the magazine are also available for purchase.

[Order/pre-order your printed editions here!](#)

## Pre-Order the Upcoming Spring Issue Today!

The next edition, Spring, Issue 214 can be pre-ordered today.

Visit the NZDA shop and order your's today, you'll receive your copy as soon as the magazine is finalised and released.



Cover image on our upcoming Spring Issue 214 - Ready for Pre-Ordering now.

## Blood Origins Podcast

### **Snow Hewetson, NZDA Member and Chair of NZ Tahr Foundation**

Full time professional guide, president of New Zealand's Tahr Foundation and long standing NZDA member [Snow Hewetson](#) spoke with the team at Blood Origins about 'Tahrmageddon' and his work advocating for New Zealand's Tahr population, and how we can change perceptions and goals from pest eradication to treasured species management.

Snow was also the guide on a "Difficult Treasure", the film produced out of New Zealand that took non-hunters on a journey to see Tahr for the first



time.

Snow is offering any Blood Origins supporters 10% off a Tahr hunt with him. Take him up on the offer - I can't wait to go Tahr hunting.

Click [here](#) or the image below to listen to the podcast.



### **Erin Hewetson, National Office Staff Member**

Snow's daughter Erin, who works as a part-time Membership Officer at our NZDA head office helps members with joining and queries alike.

Many of you will have spoken with her, have a listen to her unique perspective as a vegan who works inside the hunting industry.



Click [here](#) or the image below to listen to the podcast.



**BACKCOUNTRY TRUST**  
Supporting Aotearoa's Backcountry Heritage

## Update & Annual Performance Report

**DOC Meeting 9 August - Craig Benbow, Dave Keen and Gordon George**

Backcountry Trust is continuing to deliver strongly to recreational users

across New Zealand assisting volunteers and those contracted under the Kaimahi For Nature program to restore and maintain facilities for all users.

A high level meeting was held 9 August with DOC representatives to discuss the future of the trust and what we are both wanting to achieve moving forward with this partnership. BCT was established in 2017 as a formalised partnership between the NZDA, Trail fund NZ and FMC. Two Trustees from each of the three organisations comprise the board.

The Trust is in partnership with, and is primarily funded by the Department of Conservation. The trusts success in delivering results across the country has put us in a good place to go further with the department.

Discussions centred around ongoing funding and the scale of that as well as the alignment or enhancement of our interactions with DOC staff and systems. We are looking for best practice and efficiency gains that will support our work and the work of DOC staff. The developed purpose statement for this ongoing partnership is:

*"A collaboration to inspire and connect all people to places and assist them to preserve and enhance their back country network"*

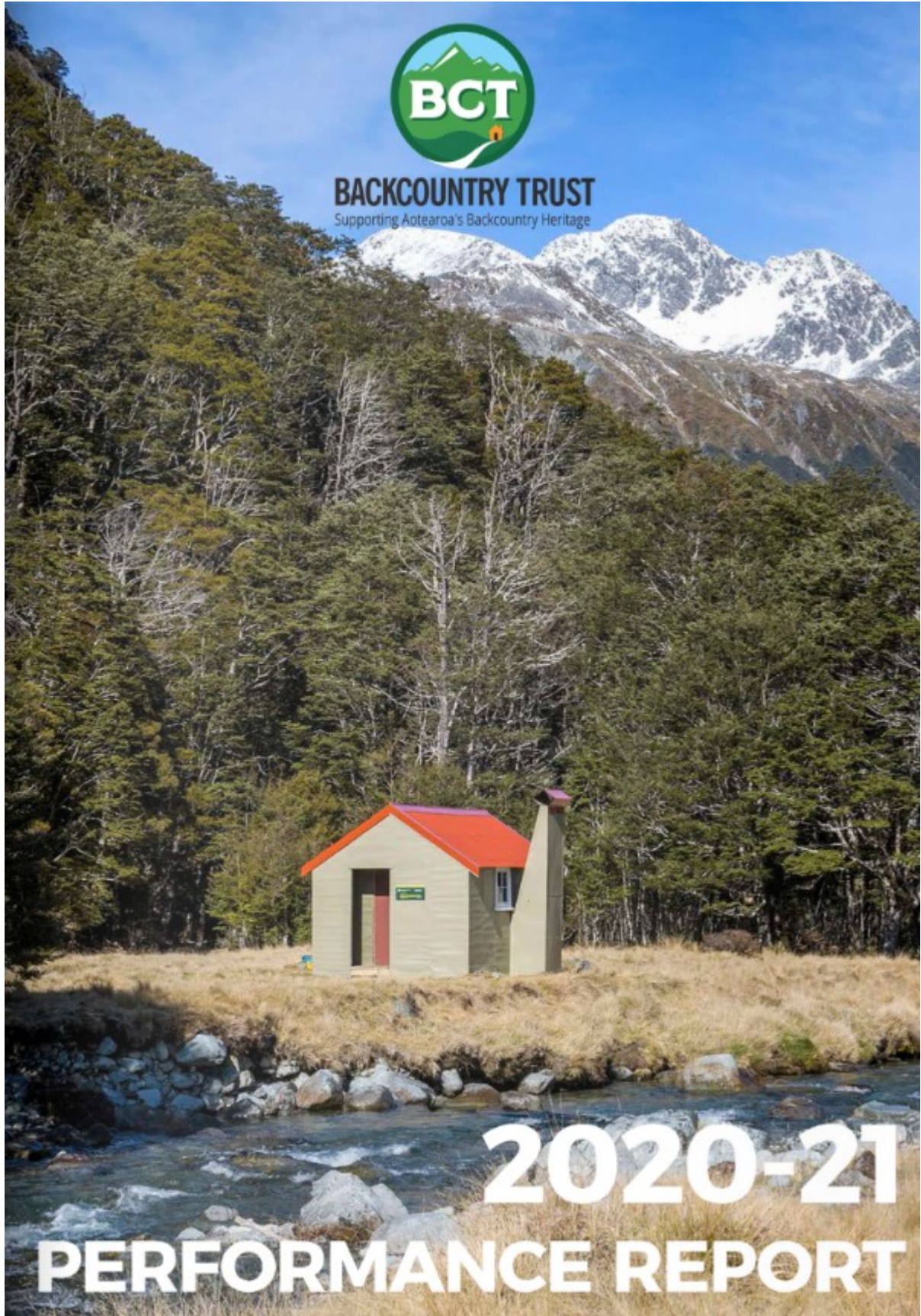
NZDA has been boots on the ground and hammers in hand since the very beginning of this venture and many restorations and repairs have been completed by branches across the country. There are more ready to go this spring and we are keen to see further engagement from NZDA branches or individuals who really want to make a difference in the back country. Our interest in pest control and intensified hunting means we want access to good facilities to stay safe and comfortably in. If you have an interest, take a look at the guidance on our website and talk to your local DOC staff about where you could make a difference. Keeping tracks open and clear is a key role we need everyone contributing to so keep that in mind and take a pair of loppers or secateurs with you when you wander.



From left to right; Gordon George NZDA Intern, Steve Taylor DOC, Kevin O'Connor FMC, Martin Rodd DOC, Jodi Baillie BCT, Jill Hetherington on iPad DOC, Mark Davies DOC, Megan Dimozantos NI project manager BCT, Craig Benbow NZDA, Michele Frank, Facilitator, Steve Peters Trail fund NZ, Kelly Stevens DOC, David Keen NZDA, Geoff Spearpoint FMC, Lou Hunt Trail Fund NZ, Dennis Parker BCT, Raewyn Hutchings DOC, Rob Brown BCT Manager behind the camera ,Absent Igor Milosevic DOC.

## **2021 Performance Report**





[Click the cover above to view the full report.](#)



# Sika Foundation: 2021 Annual Report



[Click the cover above to view the full report.](#)



## In the News: Oh deer: Plenty of stamina in export market for pizzles

For an export most have probably never heard of - and some would rather forget exists - the pizzle has notched up impressive growth since the mid-2000s, even surviving Covid-19.

Pizzles are the penis of male deer and are used in traditional Chinese medicine as a sexual vigour enhancer. They can be exported fresh, frozen, dried, smoked or preserved in brine.

Since 1994 more than 1700 tonnes of deer pizzles have been exported from New Zealand, earning \$68m.

Read more [here](#).

## In the News: Government investing \$700k into training recreational deer hunters



CEO Gwyn, featured on TV3's 6:00 O'clock Newshub.

The NZDA HUNTS grant money comes from a \$34 million allocation under the Jobs for Nature programme. There were 48 other successful projects in the programme's latest round out of 400 applications.

It's the most government money recreational hunting has ever been

given.

Conservation Minister Kiri Allan says it's an "exciting" partnership between the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the hunting community.

Click [here](#) or the thumbnail above to watch the Newshub special.

## Introducing - Fiordland National Park Lodge



## OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Fiordland National Park Lodge provides an ideal venue for any club or group retreat. Nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau, right at the edge of Fiordland, we provide a variety of accommodation options to suit any budget. Our remote location, 90km from Milford Sound, has over 5 acres of field, bush & lakeshore for your use, as well as a number of indoor spaces. We also offer fully catered and self-catering dining options. Our team will work with you to provide the perfect solution to meet your function or event requirements.

**Tramping, Photography, Climbing, Kayaking,  
Hunting & Fishing, Bird Watching**



[Click the picture above to view full details.](#)

## @NZDA on Instagram and Facebook

In this section we showcase our supporters content posted on social

media so, for your chance to be featured, follow [@NZDANational](#) and [@nzdeerstalkersassociation](#) and just tag your photo to either of the pages.



**Instagram -@nzoutdoors**



**Instagram -@nzdaauckland**

## 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 Discount Code



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

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

## NZDA Supporters Offering NZDA Members Deals

## and Discounts



## Update your Contact Information

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



[NZDA Facebook](#)



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