



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: Kerry O'Rourke, South Canterbury branch

Happy Holidays from NZDA

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2020. We're wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the NZDA Team.

We hope you enjoy the break and we will see you in the New Year!

Office Hours: The National Office is officially shut for the holiday period from Friday 18th of December reopening on Monday 18th of January.

National Executive Report



Craig Benbow National President

Malvern branch

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2020 has been a year of challenges and it seems everyone we meet has a different tale of lost opportunity, family tragedy or stress beyond the limit but we are still here fighting for our families, our businesses and our futures regardless. For many, hunting has had to take a back seat.

As tough as it has been on many fronts I hope everyone can look back and take positives from the year. Some of the humanity displayed in pursuit of the greater good must be admired for its selflessness and unyielding commitment to the welfare of others. I know NZDA members have contributed, like many in the community, and I just want to take the time to acknowledge those who mucked in and helped out. You are greatly appreciated and you set a wonderful example.

Our National Office team has produced a string of operational improvements and I thank Gwyn, Sue and Niraj for the diligence and commitment they have made into putting the Association's affairs in order. It can be a thankless task at times but I think all members will appreciate where we have come from and where we are going to. Clearly, Gwyn's presence has enabled a much improved performance and we are all very thankful for that influence.

Summer and the festive season is upon us. Get out there and enjoy all the experiences and natural wonders our country offers. For some, time is short, but for those who can escape for a longer period enjoy the company of the people you are with and the places you go. One thing is for sure, there will be plenty of good Kiwi folk out there doing the same!

I know your executive members have worked hard to get up to speed and pursue the objectives of your Association so I want to thank them for their efforts this year and wish them all the very best for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

The board set a tough task for Carolyn Heffernan, National Treasurer, and Dan Friedman, National Secretary this year and, while I am reluctant to

single out any one person, I think the rest of the Executive will agree with me that they have performed extremely well and delivered on what was asked.

The National Executive has a lot of work to complete in the coming months and we hope to keep delivering on our members' expectations. We will continue to represent our organisation to the highest standard and seek to protect your rights.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and their families.

Wayne Smith South Island Member

Marlborough

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It's been a busy five months in the role of a South Island Rep as a NZDA Board (NATEX) member. I think in that time I've physically attended two regional meetings with other branches and had two other Zoom meetings along with a steady stream of phone calls and emails from branch members.



On top of that, of course, has been the work of the NZDA Board which seems to have come together well as a team since our election in July. "Busy" is also the operative word here but at least now a large component of the day-to-day heavy lifting is taken up by Gwyn with immediate positive effects, including on the advocacy front, since his arrival into the role of CEO. We are starting to see a better separation of executive level (operational) functions from Board responsibilities which is a trend that needs to continue into 2021 and beyond.

Solid progress has been made on a host of fronts but we do as a Board seem to be juggling a lot of work streams at any one time. While everyone on the Board has certainly contributed, Carolyn, National Treasurer, on the finance front and Craig, National President, as Chair have probably done more than their fair share so some acknowledgment of their efforts is probably appropriate. That said there has also been a lot of good work done on business planning, social media, secretariat enhancements to name just a few workstreams that will continue into next year.

We are already looking forward to Conference 2021 and hopefully by then we can all look back on a satisfying twelve months that has put the family of NZDA clubs in a reasonable position to navigate what are challenging times for hunters and shooters.

A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



Phew, 2020, eh! It has been a year like no other.

The global pandemic caused a lockdown, working from home, social distancing, and panic buying. For hunters the timing could not have been worse because we had our hunting trips cut short, cancelled or delayed. We also saw how perceptions of hunting and firearms led government to ban hunting, yet permit relatively more risky recreational sports, like mountain biking.

Remember the feeling of frustration and anger when your right to hunt and shoot was swiftly taken away from you? Remember the feeling of not being able to hunt, for a time, on public land when others with private access could?

I remember those feelings well, and it motivates me to represent recreational hunters and shooters to convey to officials, politicians and government our thoughts and feelings, so we are heard as a community.

I encourage you to speak to your friends and family who are hunters but are not NZDA members and get them involved. Explain to them how fragile our sport really is and how important it is for them to join because it helps build stronger clubs, enhances our collective capability, and allows us to advocate from a better footing. Explain the amazing transformation the NZDA is embarking on and how we are working hard to build a positive and professional association that hunters are proud to be a part of. Explain the benefits of getting together with likeminded people to talk freely about the sport we all love.

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank all members for supporting NZDA. I want to also thank all of those whom have given up their personal time to volunteer for our projects, run our branches and the many events, competitions and club nights that happen across New Zealand.

Lastly, if you are in Wellington next year then please feel free to visit the National Office and see the amazing building and the treasures it holds. It is the home of hunting in New Zealand.



Gwyn Thurlow, CEO, holds T. E. Donne's Red Stag Trophy from 1908 next to modern mounts of big game animals which are part of the new National Hunting Museum at Wellington.

DOC Tahr cull and research/monitoring update



NZDA attended a recent Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group meeting in Christchurch on Tuesday, 15th December 2020. We were represented by Dave Keen, NZDA Tahr Rep, and Gwyn Thurlow, CEO.

The meeting was to receive the result of DOC's official control operations and discuss the Department's 2021 (and beyond) research and monitoring initiatives.

DOC, together with LINZ, have completed a survey to ascertain the number of tahr present on Crown Pastoral Lease land. That survey was carried out in October and November using a fixed-wing plane with high resolution camera technology. The results will be known early in the New Year.

DOC have decided to monitor nine sites to assess the vegetation in plots located on public land. Monitoring of these plots will be carried out over three years. The field work will commence January/February 2021, being the first year. DOC will report back in 2023-24 once all the sites have been assessed, but we expect annual data to be available each year.

The NZDA welcomes this because we have been calling for scientific input for a number of years.

DOC are also looking into a method to best count tahr for surveying tahr numbers annually. In the interim, NZDA has been told at the meeting that DOC will do aerial counts across key sites starting in 2021. These counts are essential to justify and frame-up Official intervention levels which are triggers by tahr densities in the management units.

NZDA has heard many reports that tahr have been heavily culled in areas accessible to recreational hunters, diminishing the recreational experiences of hunters, and so we will work closely with DOC to communicate those locations and request that DOC takes a more targeted and research-backed approach when preparing its 2021-22 "Official" intervention plans.

If members want more detailed information about the results of the 2021 cull, they can be found [here](#) on DOC's website.

NZDA will continue to be the voice of recreational hunters by attending DOC's tahr group meetings and be a two-way intermediary for the

concerns of our members, but also pass on what we have learnt from DOC to our members.

If there is something you want NZDA to know and/or pass on to DOC at these meetings, please feel free to contact NZDA.

NZDA Swag Shipping Today!

NZDA merch has landed and will be shipped out today!!! Thanks to everyone who made orders and for your patience because we know you're waiting to get your hands your swag!



NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!

NZDA T-shirts and stickers can now be purchased through our website. Order 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).

Note: Orders placed over the holidays will be dispatched in the New Year.



2021 NZDA Annual Conference at Queenstown

The upcoming AGM will be hosted by Southern Lakes branch on 11th to 13th of June 2021. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza, Queenstown.

For more details, visit the Southern Lakes Website [here](#).

Schedule

Friday Night

Opening night includes a BBQ and beers, opening speeches, and an opportunity to look round the local hunting shop.

Saturday

8:00am - AGM

10:00am - Morning Tea

12:30pm - Conclusion of AGM/Lunch

1:30pm - Results of AGM

2:00pm - Guest speaker

3:00pm - Afternoon tea

5:00pm - End of day one

7:00pm - Gala Dinner and awards (Venue tbc)

Partners and Guests are invited.

Sunday

9:00am - NZDA workshops (details coming soon)

10:30am - Morning Tea

1:00pm - Lunch

3.00pm - End of conference



Photo Credit: Otago Branch December Newsletter

Royal Commission Report

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 has been published. You can read a full copy here: [Royal Commission Report](#)

NZDA Media Statement:

"Royal Commission of Inquiry Sidesteps Firearms Law Review on Government's Instruction.

"The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association says the Royal Commission of

Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019 has left major questions unanswered because it was too restricted by its Terms of Reference.

"NZDA Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow, says these deliberate restrictions prevented the Royal Commission conducting a proper wide ranging probe into the terrorist attack."

[Read full media statement here](#)

Stuff Article: Firearms Licensing Delays

In an article published by Stuff NZ, both NZDA and COLFO were quoted regarding the growing frustrations faced by Firearms license applicants.

[Click here to read more](#)

Dunstan Downs Tenure Review

NZDA and other organisations have made submissions on a preliminary proposal seeking to turn 77% of Dunstan Downs into conservation land. The Innes family, who have lived at Dunstan Downs for 100 years, have concerns as long running custodians of the land.

Read more about the review [here](#).

Click on the links below to read NZDA's submission and Upper Clutha branch's submission.

NZDA regularly makes detailed submissions on tenure reviews of leasehold land to ensure hunters' voices are heard, access is permitted for hunting, and firearms can be carried across access points. It's just further "unseen" and "unsung" advocacy by NZDA volunteers, and we are now actively sharing this hard work with our membership. Thanks goes to those members involved.

South Island Access Committee Submission

Upper Clutha branch Submission



Dunstan Downs - Photo Credit: newsroom.co.nz

Douglas Score Training Seminars

Southland branch: A Douglas Score course will be held by Southland branch on Saturday, 15th of February 2021. Contact the branch directly [here](#) for further details and forms.



Venison Bolognese - An Amazing Recipe to Try Over the Holidays

Venison is a staple amongst our members and those in need who have received wild Wapiti meat courtesy of the FWF, NZDA & The New Zealand Food Network.

NZDA teamed up with Dariush from Cazador - Game food restaurant, who has put together this Venison Bolognese recipe for you to try at home!

Venison mince is amazing stuff! It has more depth of flavour than your average beef mince. It makes for excellent burger patties, mince pies, kebabs and meatballs.

Here is a quick, super tasty bastardisation of an Italian classic. Don't overthink it, let your instincts take over and cook using all of your senses.

Cazador

DELICATESSEN

Venison bolognese (serves 4)

Venison mince is amazing stuff! More depth of flavour than your average beef mince.

It makes excellent burger patties, mince pies, kebabs and meatballs.

This is a quick, super tasty bastardisation of an Italian classic. Don't overthink it, let your instincts take over and cook using all your senses.

Ingredients:

500g dried spaghetti
500g venison mince
30g butter
30ml olive oil
1 medium onion (finely chopped)
1/2 carrot (finely chopped)
1/2 stick of celery (finely chopped)
2 cloves garlic (finely chopped)
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1 Tablespoon tomato paste
1 tin of tomatoes (chopped)
handful of Italian parsley (chopped)
splash extra virgin olive oil (optional)
50g parmesan

Method:

Brown mince in a hot casserole with oil and butter.

Cook the mince in batches if you have to - Don't overcrowd the pan!

The worst thing you can do is rush this step as you'll end up boiling the meat.

Remove the mince from the pan with a slotted spoon but leave oil and butter.

Add onion, garlic, celery and carrot.

Stir with a wooden spoon to get all the caramelised bits off the bottom of the pan.

Turn the heat down to medium.

Cook until the vegetables have softened (about 5 minutes)

Boil a big pot of salted water for your pasta.

Add the spice and tomato paste to the vegetables and cook for a further 3 minutes stirring so it doesn't burn.

Add the tomatoes and mince back to the pan.

Cook for about 15 minutes until the sauce is nice and thick. Turn the heat down if it's bubbling too much.

Taste the sauce for seasoning. Add salt and pepper if needed.

Cook your pasta while the sauce finishes. When the pasta is just cooked, strain it and mix into the bolognese sauce with the parsley.

Serve and finish with good olive oil and parmesan cheese.

Enjoy with good friends.





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

We've introduced a new section for the monthly newsletter where we showcase some of our members' content posted on social media.

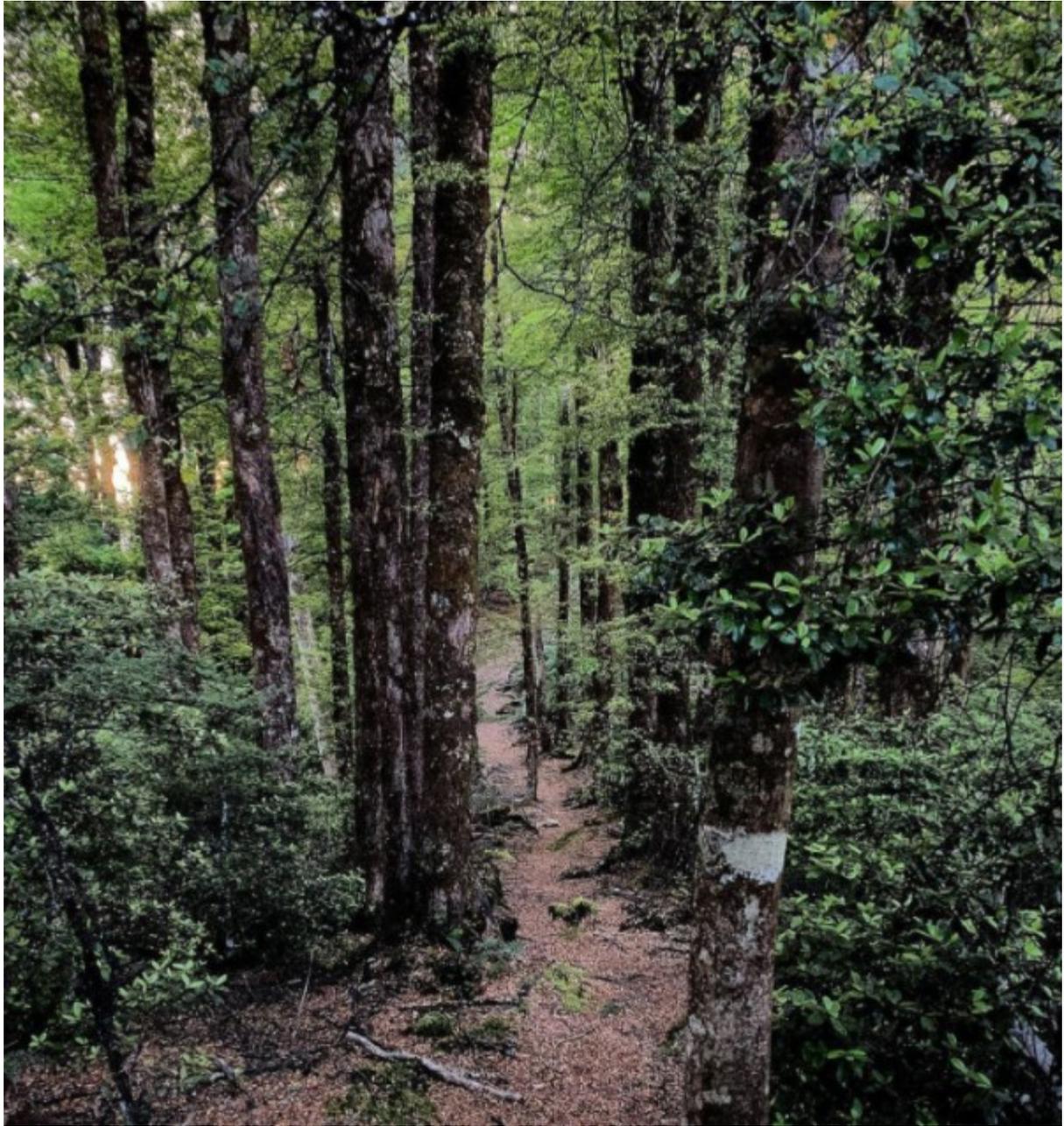
For your chance to be featured, follow [@NZDANational](#) and [@nzdeerstalkersassociation](#) and just tag your photo to either of the pages.



Instagram - @outdoors_with_georgia



Instagram - @the.rosemary and @jess_nz_sikahunter



Instagram - @stagryan

NZDA Long Service Badges



NZDA long service badges are available for order from Deerstalkers House. There are three variations of the service badge available: 25, 50 and 60 years respectively. If you believe you are entitled to one of these badges, please contact your branch. Branches will then be able to order these through the National Office.



Alain Jorion of Direct Branch receiving his long service badge.



Beryl Lang of the Wellington Branch receiving his long service badges, a member since February 1960



Martin Brenstrum of the Napier Branch receiving his 25 year badge. He's just three years shy of a 50 year service badge!



GAC Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Conservation

The GAC advises the Minister of Conservation and because we have a new

Labour minister, the GAC have provided a briefing paper which has been published and is publicly available. You can read that document here:

GAC Briefing



Sika Stag on alert. Photo credit - Peter O'Driscoll, 2020 National Photo Competition Entry

Sika Herd Management

Check out the below video created by the Sika Foundation. Cam Speedy talks about deer management, how healthy habitats support more sustainable hunting and how we can link conservation and hunting in a more positive way.



Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group Meeting

Did you know NZDA sits on an advisory group to ensure hunting interests are heard in respect of Stewart Island / Rakiura? Ray Phillips passed on these minutes and ensures hunters' voices are heard in relation to white-tail deer and the predator free initiative on the island. There's also a great article in the latest Hunting & Wildlife Magazine.

Meeting Minutes

Upcoming Scoped Rifle National Competition (5-8 March 2021)



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

Download 20/21 Competition Entry Form Here



Auckland branch December Newsletter

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 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](#).

Protecting Hunters' Rights in New Zealand Since 1937

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

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