

Newsletter to Branches and Members



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Inc®

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General Notices

Welcome to the new Monthly Newsletter format!

We have switched sending the monthly newsletter from the old (clunky) PDF format to something that can be read on phones, internet and email.

Many members requested this change as it is more accessible and easier to read. We value your feedback and appreciate any suggestions or thoughts you may have. Have your say using the "Feedback" button at the bottom of the email.

National Office Premises - Temporary Closed

Due to the recent circumstances around Covid 19, like many of you, we are working from home and have temporarily shut our office here in Wellington.

Although the landline has been redirected, we are still able to function for most of the work. However email is the best and most efficient form of contact at the moment.

We appreciate your patience as April means an increase in work load due to the end of the financial year and there will be a few delays in processing queries due to the large quantity at the moment.

If the matter is urgent, please contact 04-499-6163.

NZDA appoint a CEO

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association has appointed keen hunter and highly experienced lawyer Gwyn Thurlow as the organisation's Chief Executive and General Counsel.



An enthusiastic and active hunter, Gwyn Thurlow joined the Deerstalkers' Association – the NZDA - in 2003. He is currently the treasurer and vice-president of the Wellington Branch and secretary of the NZDA National Heritage Trust.

National Office look forward to working with Gwyn and are excited for the road ahead.

Invoice Update

2020/21 Renewal invoices are almost complete. We are finalising the last few branches as we speak and should be fully complete by the end of next week. If you haven't received your invoice yet, this should be with you soon. If you still haven't received yours by end April, please contact membership@deerstalkers.org.nz

South Island Hunting areas

Due to the current Covid 19 situation, we have been advised that as of 31st March 2020, all Southwood Export owned and managed forests are closed until the 1st of June 2020. Subject to any future directions of Govt re Covid 19, the closure of the forests may be extended.

Membership Cards

Due to the current level 4 Covid19 situation, our printing partner has informed us that membership cards unfortunately cannot be printed or posted out until the lock-down is lifted.

Contributions needed for NZ Hunting and Magazine

Please send contributions to the editor Simon Gibson at: editor@deerstalkers.org.nz or mail on a memory stick to NZDA, PO Box 12015, Wellington 6144.

President



Trevor Chappell

One of the major influences that affects most recreational hunters is having access to the Public Conservation Estate. There are many areas that have been out of reach even for NZDA members, often due to landowners closing legitimate access via legal or paper roads for a number of reasons. A meeting with DOC in Tauranga in early March highlighted this.

While access to the Kaimai Ranges from the eastern side (Tauranga) is good, access for hunters on the western side is extremely difficult.

The NZDA branch that would most benefit from better access however, Thames Valley, did not even have a representative at this meeting.

I had a very informative meeting with Ric Cullinane, CEO of Walking Access NZ, about access issues in the Southern Pureoras and the Northern Ruahines. Whilst the access into the Ruahines via the Kawhatau area is recognised as a difficult and ongoing problem, he is confident that Walking Access will be able to assist with the Pureora issue.

There has been limited discussion with Peter Moreton of DOC who is leading the Battle for the Birds poison programme. The suggested areas for this years pest eradication will now probably be put on hold due to Corovid 19 outbreak.

The proposed Tarh Liaison Group meeting in Christchurch last week was also cancelled.

I trust NZDA members are abiding by the governments instructions of not going hunting at this time. If all public follow these safety rules the sooner we can all get back into the hills.

Take care, look after your families and stay safe.

Vice-President

Geoff Feasey

SIAC has been quiet with no new major issues, with this being an election year we intend to ask (as part of the NZDA letter to the political parties) the major parties their policy positions on the future of the Tenure review and ensuring better outcomes for future access across these lands.

Access generally to be raised and questioned as central and local government seem reluctant to become involved leaving it up to non government organisations (NGOs) to lead the debate.

NGOs do not have the resources nor clout to pursue many of these issues and while some can be resolved more resources are required to tackle some of the more intractable cases.

National Treasurer



Rob Howey

It's been a very busy time in Wellington this last month, on multiple fronts.

- I have been working with our Accountant and office staff to get together a package of information to share with branches in lieu of the SGM.

- This includes finishing off the 18/19 accounts and getting them audited, getting reconciliations up to date so we can get draft accounts for the 19/20 FY.

- Getting membership invoices going out.
- Attending the NATEX meeting 15th and 16th March.
- Multiple NATEX Conference calls.
- And being locked down at home by COVID-19.
- We hope to get the financial information package out to branches this weekend so watch this space.
- Once that has been sent we will schedule an online Zoom call for branch delegates that want to discuss and ask questions.
- At the meeting will be the NATEX team and our Accountant to help answer questions from the branches.

National Secretary

Chaz Forsyth

- Secretary work consequent upon receiving notice of Special General Meeting.
- Drafting responses for approval.



- Preparing for National Executive meeting of 14 & 15 March.
- Drafting minutes of National Executive meeting of 14 & 15 March.
- Undertaking actions resulting from decisions of Executive meeting of 14 & 15 March.
- Researching and writing history of firearm safety instruction in New Zealand since 1965.

Lower North Island Representative



Tim Watson

Hi NZDA members,

My activities as follows:

- Multiple Zoom and quarterly Natex meetings and emails
- Deerstalker house building management and committee meeting
- Social media posts for NZDA & Heritage Trust
- Hunting the Karangarua (went in on level 2 and came out to level 4 lockdown!)

My best regards go out to all our members and their families over this difficult time. Look after each other and think of how you can help those who may be in less fortunate situations.

Best regards,

Tim Watson

Upper South Island Representative



Snow Hewetson

Hi all,

I have been liaising with Tahr Foundation and GAC on input to the meeting of the Tahr Liaison Group which was to be held on the 24th of March. This meeting was changed to be an online meeting and then cancelled due to the lock down.

I prepared a response to the TVNZ news article on tahr control earlier in the month and am currently preparing a post on the tahr ballots and the future of tahr control under the new realities post covid 19 lock down.

Regards,
Snow

[Click here to read the latest edition online](#)

Hunting and Wildlife Magazine



Printed editions now available

There is now the ability to order your printed copy of **NZ Hunting and Wildlife Magazine** and have it delivered to your home address. Please note that due to current circumstances with COVID-19, this should arrive around mid April.

\$10 a copy
or
\$29 for 4 x editions

Due to high printing costs, it was voted at a previous NZDA conference that the hard copy of the magazine would cease. It was replaced with a digital version. Since then however, it became clear in your feedback that this was not popular with a number of members.

Some branches ordered copies to sell at the branch meetings. However, not everyone can get to meetings - under current circumstances this is definitely not an option.

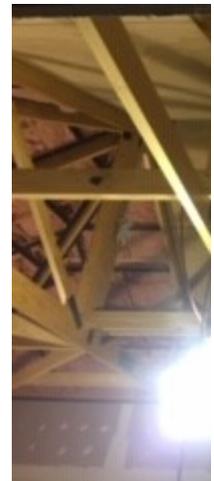
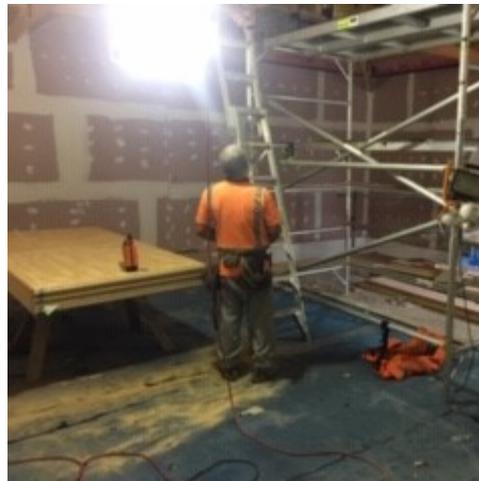
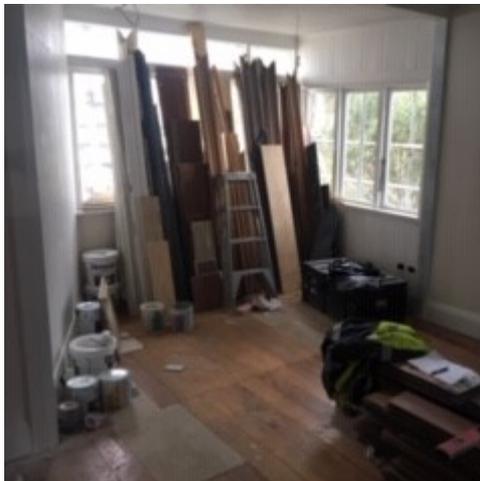
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Order your printed editions here!

Deerstalkers' Museum Update

Due to the Level 4 COVID-19 status taking effect, the building site has been shut and progress has been postponed until the lock-down is lifted. Latest updates below.



Sponsors Advert

South Island Taxidermist

We are particularly fortunate in having one of New Zealand's up and coming taxidermists becoming one of NZDA sponsors. Based in the South Island, Daniel Van Bijon, as have our two North Island

taxidermists, been a consistent winner in the NZ Taxidermy competitions in recent years.

We welcome Daniel, and look forward to the great service he will provide to our NZDA members.



Game Animal Council

While NZ is at COVID-19 Alert Level 4 hunters are urged to “do the right thing, stay at home.”

The Government and NZ Police do not want people heading into the hills or backcountry during this time. Doing so will expose them and others to higher levels of risk and put pressure on emergency services if they have to respond. The Game Animal Council, NZDA, Fish and Game NZ, the Mountain Safety Council and DOC support this position.

Full details on the GAC website



News Issue 2 - March 2020

Fair and Reasonable Campaign - Update on Court Challenge

COLFO's application for judicial review of Stuart Nash's regulations preventing fair compensation for now prohibited ammunition had been allocated a hearing date in the Wellington High Court of 4 & 5 May. However with the Covid19 lock down there is likely to be a change either in the date of the Hearing and/or the way it is conducted eg. Via video link. Once there is an update we will advise through our Fair and Reasonable campaign e-mail blasts. Meanwhile we continue to work at assembling expert witnesses evidence.

Our lawyers are currently investigating a second claim which has wider implications than just ammo. Should this be deemed viable we will let you know. You can follow the progress of the legal action on our website:

Arms Legislation Bill 2019 and SOP 408 The Final Cut

At the second reading of the Bill National and Act voted to oppose it. Although NZ First voted to support the Bill through its second reading, they had some serious reservation about it. During the committee stage of the whole house that followed NZF went into negotiation with Labour to make some changes, the outcome of which has yet to be seen. Meanwhile with parliament in recess due to Covid 19 the whole process is on hold for the foreseeable future.

Proposed Increase in licence and other fees announced

The next piece of work for the lawmakers is the update to Regulations. We expect this to include an introduction to some new fees. User pays no doubt. Our expectation is that fees for applications for permits will be introduced. There will also be a raise in the licensing and renewal of licence fees. These have yet to be announced. We are keeping an eye out though and will keep in touch on any changes we see on the horizon.

Royal Commission Inquiry Report

The Royal Commission Inquiry report is due on 30 April 2020. Again with the lockdown we can expect there may be a delay in the presentation of this report. What will be of interest to all though is that now Tarrant has plead guilty to all charges laid against him, there will be no need to keep the findings of the RCI secret. There was some thought that if he plead not guilty, the findings of the RCI would be held back from the public while the trial took place. We expect that outcomes relating to matters of national security will be redacted but see no reason why any other findings should be kept from public scrutiny. We await the Commission's report with interest.

Auditor-General audit of the firearm buy-back scheme

Originally the Auditor General's report into the running of the firearms "buy-back" scheme was due in February 2020. It was delayed to March 2020. As COLFO writes our newsletter we are at the end of March so expect the report to be delayed a further month, at least. With the lockdown in place, we would not be surprised if the delay is extended past April 2020.

Another data breach and cover up exposed

National MP Shane Reti has exposed another data beach that was covered up by the Prime Ministers Office. He revealed that firearm licence details were among the personal data breached in the massive Tuia250 digital security failure and the Government kept it secret.

It appears that the Government deliberately withheld publicly advising that firearms licences were also part of the data leaked. COLFO believes the explanation for the cover up was that it occurred just before the government announced their plan for a full firearm register.

Firearm Prohibition Orders

In addition to the Police's call for comment on the governments proposed FPOs, National Party Brett Hudson has had his Private Members Bill drawn from the ballot to be included in this terms parliamentary business. While COLFO agrees in principal with FPOs we do have concerns that some of the content will be prohibitive against law abiding licenced owners. We have reached out to the National Party offering assistance to formulate a robust FPO that does not impede too greatly on the law abiding.

Police Raids

Leading up to the Covid 19 lockdown Police have continued to raid unsuspecting and innocent LFOs. In the most recent incident a family with a small baby were raided by four armed police searching for 4 firearms that their own records should have told them had been handed in. This highlights our already raised concerns about the Police's ability to manage firearm records. Please get in touch with us if you have been the subject of a raid where armed Police are trying to locate firearms you have already handed in, or armed Police are in your opinion getting heavy handed. Remember to take names and details of officers who come to your home and don't forget we have some advice on what to do if you are raided on our www.fairandreasonable.co.nz website under the "Resources" heading.

COLFO Exposes more Police Lies

In justifying new harsher restriction on shooting clubs and ranges police claimed that they had evidence of numerous examples of range safety and noise issues reported by local authorities. Following Official Information Act requests to all Councils it has been shown that of the 75 councils that responded only two had received noise complaints and one of those was when the range was in use by police out of authorised hours.

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New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Inc
Protecting Hunters' Rights in New Zealand Since 1937

Website

Feedback

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