



# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER



Photo Credit: Otago Branch Newsletter

### National Executive Report



**Craig Benbow National President**  
**Malvern branch**

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Summer hasn't quite arrived despite the odd bit of heat we have experienced in the last month or so. I note many have been out filling freezers for Christmas get together and to share around with others.

If you are heading away please consider taking with you someone newer to the branch or just starting out in hunting. Passing on skills and showing what hunting really looks like to others is an integral part of what we do and how we build understanding. In this age of knee jerk over reactions, virtue signalling and distorted narratives some reality goes a long way to encourage some balance.

I am hearing reports of members having difficulty getting a new firearms licence or even renewing their expired licence. We are informed that the Police have a long backlog and the change to a new system of processing and vetting, with an accompanying 35 pages of questions, has resulted in 1,800 applicants being used to test the system. My own daughter is one of those people and her reaction to the change in process, when she had in good faith already applied 4 weeks prior, left me in no doubt there would be quite some frustration building out in the community. After reading stories on our hunting forums it was quite clear there are some real troubles with the licencing process currently. My advice is to follow COLFO's advice and be courteous and patient, follow the process and help the Police by filling out the forms as best you can. If you find yourself out of time for renewal and you have firearms in your possession please pass them to a trusted family member or friend who can store them legally and safely until you get your new licence. Regardless of how you ended up without a valid licence you must accept that you cannot continue to hold firearms until you get that licence back.

Yesterday the Royal Commission delivered its report on the Christchurch Mosque shootings to the Governor General and it now lies with the Government. This is a long awaited explanation of what occurred and why and I know many of us have been part of the submission process both directly to the royal commission and through the process of select committee submissions on firearm laws. Thank you for engaging in both those processes. We are fortunate to live in a country where we can contribute to these deliberations and convey directly what we experience or how changes are likely to impact us and our sports.

Our new website is going live 1 December. It's been a while coming but we should now have a modern platform to support NZDA members and attract others to our association and branches. It will be a work in progress and we look forward to some constructive and helpful comments to guide changes as we make enhancements over time.

## Introducing our new Deputy National HUNTS Coordinator

**Stephen Small Asst. National**

**HUNTS Coordinator**  
**South Canterbury Branch**  
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It's a pleasure to introduce myself. I'm Stephen Small the new Deputy National Hunts Coordinator.

My expertise is looking after the technical aspects of the HUNTS programme - instructor qualification pathway, range officer certification, SOPs, assessment and re-assessment processes, etc.

I'm just passing on what was taught and hoping that the next generation will do the same. Despite being born on the West Coast, with hunting and tramping being a big part of my life, my NZDA journey started in North Canterbury (thanks to Karl Schasching and Dave Hodder). For the last decade I have lived just north of Timaru and failed spectacularly to avoid being on South Canterbury's committee for most of this time. I am grateful for the many mentors, teachers, fellow members, and friends that have put up with me for so long!

I spent 25 years as a Mountain Safety Council Instructor gaining multiple qualifications which, in turn, led to working as a paramedic, outdoor education instructor, and professional hunting guide (both here and on the North American continent). Nowadays my professional life consists of dabbling in risk management, compliance, health & safety, emergency response management, and other boring topics in the electricity supply industry.

I look forward to meeting all those branch volunteers (not just the instructors but also those who provide much wanted support to us poor souls standing up the front) who make HUNTS the good thing it is - initially in the South Island anyway.





Southland November Newsletter - Bevan Walker

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow

November was a busy month for the National Office team and volunteers. We have been working on the branding and merchandise rollout, building our new NZDA website, re-certifying our range officers, hosting likeminded organisations for their important meetings, attending advocacy meetings for sika and tahr, and making sure we keep enhancing our systems so we can serve our members and branches.



I'm getting continued positive feedback that people are noticing the transformation of NZDA. I'm certainly proud of what has been achieved since I started just five months ago in June, and grateful for the continued support and guidance from Craig (our National President) and the board.

I especially want to thank four volunteers, in no particular order, for their commitment, time and effort this month:

- **Ash Etchell**, Wellington branch, for developing our new website and its amazing functionality.
- **Bill O'Leary**, Nelson branch, for helping with the Range Officer re-warranting process.
- **Callum Sheridan**, Auckland branch / North Island National Rep, for being our "brand ambassador" and co-ordinating the distribution of T-shirts and stickers.
- **Sharon Salmons**, Southern Lakes branch, for maintaining our [online Shop](#) and making the merchandise sales logistically possible.

I got my hands on the new NZDA T-shirt and took it out for its first hunting trip over the weekend. Like many of you, going hunting is the best way I know how to unwind and destress from our daily lives. I packed my gear and set myself the challenge of hitting the Tararua tops to bring home some spring venison. For all my effort to walk in, I was fortunate to locate a yearling hind high on the mountain tops in the early morning (the ideal animal to harvest at this time of year, if you have the choice). It was a good walk out under load and I had plenty of time to reflect about hunting - it means many things to many people but we all gain a sense of challenge, satisfaction and, sometimes, reward for our efforts. As a hunter you can always seek improvements on many levels - stalking technique, target species, trophies, locations and equipment. But one of the best things about hunting for me is the reward we get from sharing our experiences and passion with others.





## NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!

The long anticipated 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 introductory price is \$45.00 (including shipping)

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

These would make for an excellent Christmas gift!



## Our Range Officers are Re-Validated

We have just completed the re-validation and warranting of our unsung

heros, the branch Range Officers.

Thank you to those members who have helped run our ranges and shooting competitions and made our ranges accessible and safe to use. You are the people that put up the flags, help new shooters "get on paper", and make sure we all have an enjoyable time on the range.

This year we've issued a new high quality plastic card. The cards have been posted out to branches, so please check in with your branch to get yours.

We hope you are proud to be a "card carrying" NZDA Range Officer!



## Wellington/Porirua Range Officer Course

Bill O'Leary (Nelson branch) recently trained a batch of new Range Officers from Wellington and Porirua branches. It involved an evening theory session then a practical day on the range. This was followed up by a written paper. Branches can contact National Office to organise a course for members.





## 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

## South Canterbury Deerstalkers Hall Relocation



Jim Kroening and David Keen check out vandalism damage to South Canterbury branch's meeting hall.



The hall on its new piles and well on its way to hosting meetings again.



## Important changes to Firearm Licencing Processes

Members must be aware that NZ Police have just updated all of their various application forms and released them online.

You can review these forms [here](#).

We are hearing many reports of members experiencing delays in Police processing of applications and renewals. This is due to a new system being implemented by Police. Delays are no fault of the applicant, however there are practical outcomes, namely the inability to lawfully possess your firearms (in the strict interpretation of the Arms Act).

**What do I do with the firearms in my possession if Police have not renewed my licence, and my current licence has expired?**

NZDA and COLFO both advise people in this situation to hand their firearms to someone with a current licence for safe storage until Police issue your renewed licence and card.

**What is NZDA doing?**

We are part of a Police lead advice group called FCAF. We have the opportunity to pass on our members' feedback directly to Police. The next meeting is in December and we will communicate to Police any feedback we receive. If you have any concerns you would like passed on, please email [info@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:info@deerstalkers.org.nz)

## New Labour Minister of Conservation



Introducing the new Minister of Conservation, Kiri Allan. NZDA welcomes

Kiri Allan to a portfolio that is important to recreational hunters and we hope for a positive and collaborative next three years.

**Read more below:**

- [New Zealand Parliament](#)
- [Department of Conservation](#)

## Kākāpō - Bird of the Year 2020

The votes are in and the result is conclusive - the kākāpō has won bird of the year for an unprecedented second time.

The hunters choice for 2020, the kārearea / New Zealand falcon, placed 4th.

The NZDA's choice of bird, the whio/blue duck, placed 9th.

Read more about it [here](#).

## Douglas Score Training Seminar

**Wellington:** A DS course will be held in Wellington on Saturday, 12th of December. The course will be overseen by Bob Badland.

For more details click [here](#).



## Frank Boenders Memorial Plaque

A member recently sent through a photo of the below plaque which was nailed to a tree somewhere in the Gisborne region. We've searched our records and have found that it was placed in memory of past member Frank Boenders, 28-09-1929 - 11-02-1985.



## NZDA Hosts Firearms Safety Council AGM

On the 11th of November we proudly hosted the Firearms Safety Council AGM at Deerstalkers House, Wellington. It's great to be able to support our shooting organisations. NZDA was represented by Gwyn Thurlow (CEO), Joe Green, Bill O'Leary and Nicole McKee.



NZDA reps from left to right: Nicole Mckee (Act MP), Joe Green (Chair), Bill O'Leary

## Tahr Cull Update



Here's an update on the tahr cull:

DOC has now completed aerial tahr control under the Tahr Control Operational Plan 2020/21 on public conservation land in the tahr feral range.

They have culled 7,481 tahr this year.

Information from recent control will be verified and maps published on the tahr web pages next week. DOC will also communicate summary information and the outcomes from the season shortly.

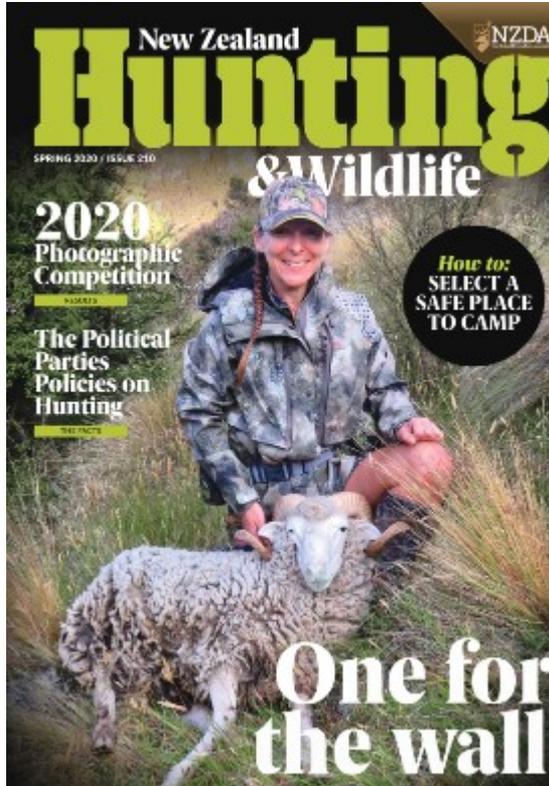
DOC will be engaging with the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group, which includes NZDA, on the results from the last two years and plans for research and monitoring at a meeting in December 2020.

You can read more about Doc's operations [here](#).

## National Office Holiday Hours

The National Office will be officially shutting down for the holiday period on Tuesday the 22nd of December. We will officially re-open on Monday 18th of January.

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine



### 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.

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

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 - @chaseandgather



Instagram - @jasonckelly

## 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.

## HUNTS Manuals

The new HUNTS Manuals are on sale (\$35.00 + GST + pp). Please contact National Office to arrange orders. We only have 500 copies, so preference will be given to qualified HUNTS Instructors orders.



## 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 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)		

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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

# Tahr Foundation 2020 Annual Report and AGM

David Keen and Gwyn Thurlow represented NZDA at the Tahr Foundation's recent AGM. NZDA is pleased to announce that David was re-appointed as the NZDA rep on the board of the foundation.

Snow Hewetson, Foundation chair, gave a special thanks to the NZDA for all the hours our team have put in.

You can read Snow's full report by clicking on the image below, but during the meeting he noted that he was proud of what was achieved and was grateful for NZDA's official update emails and communications to our membership.

The Foundation has a new award being made for the best tahr trophy head shot each year, which you can see and read about in their annual report. It will reward mass and age, not just length and symmetry.

At the meeting it was hoped that the new Minister of Conservation may offer a different path forward.

If you see Dave in person thank him for his tireless efforts advocating for our tahr. Thanks, David.



## 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](#).

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

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