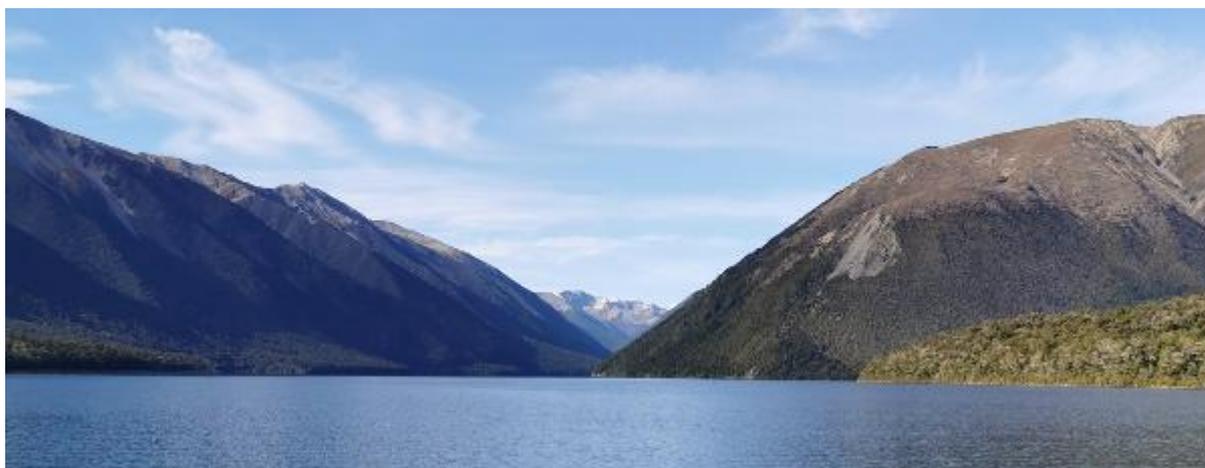




# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park

### National Executive Report

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

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

It has been a mixed bag of activities this past month and I am going to say that your executive has been working



particularly effectively on many advocacy and governance items and I am pleased with the increasing engagement and interest in really starting to take our organisation forward.

My wife, Pam, and I managed to sneak away for a few days tramping after negotiating a snowstorm and closed roads to walk the lower Abel Tasman track during the first week of school holidays. Lots of families were out and enjoying our beautiful country. It was an eye opener for us because we are not usually exposed to tourism operators and I must say the people operating the water taxis run a truly well-oiled machine that we were left in awe of - great Kiwi's doing wonderful work sharing their corner of the country. It was heartening to hear locals are filling much of the space left by foreign tourists. Life is different now but adjusting and getting on with it seems to pay dividends. There are people hurting out there but hopefully recovery is now in motion towards the new normal. Distribution of the FWF venison to those who need it has been worthy initiative you have supported.

We are soon to have a new government with Labour pulling off an impressive win that hopefully means we need only deal with one party in power but that is yet to be revealed. Regardless of what your desired outcome was, we need to work with what we have and how difficult or easy that is will also be revealed soon. Although ACT's success results in them still being in opposition it appears they will be a strong force questioning government actions and are possibly the only party in parliament that share our desire for fair and effective handling of firearms ownership. Vigilance and being prepared to involve ourselves in development of policies and fair regulations is required. We will do all we can but you need to be prepared, as the people doing the mahi, to stand up and be counted.

Morgan Rogers, National Executive North Island Rep, has done a wonderful job of coordinating a review of NZDA's strategic direction and working with the executive and CEO to ensure what we are proposing in terms of key objectives and smart goals will guide us in alignment with NZDA's purpose. To some this may seem a narrow focus but it has become increasingly clear we must put the house's foundations in order before we can continue building.

At our last board Zoom meeting we resolved to form a National Game Management Committee. Terms of reference are being drafted and further

information will be distributed to branches shortly. In short, we wish to have information on all our hunted game coming together in one place from all involved in hunting. The deer control policy of DOC and more recent work has signalled a renewed interest in the impacts of deer on habitats and we must all act to ensure we fulfil our own policy:

*"Participate in the management of New Zealand's wild animals in numbers consistent with adequate conservation of water, soil and vegetation resources of their habitat on public land"*

Greg Duley told me I should encourage taking of hinds if there are plenty about. Hard to disagree but consider time of year please, you are the only judge of ethics in the bush and we all rely on that judgement.

## Introducing our new National HUNTS Coordinator

**Rob Howey National  
HUNTS Coordinator**  
**Porirua branch**  
E: [info@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:info@deerstalkers.org.nz)



I am honoured to introduce myself as the new National Coordinator for our HUNTS programme. I would like to thank the National Executive for accepting my nomination to this role.

Taking over from those that have come before me - Jim Peffers, Bill O'Leary and others - is a big task and I know I have big boots to fill and a huge amount to learn but I am keen to keep progressing the development of HUNTS and seeing what we can do to help the instructors, assessors and trainees get the most out of the programme.

A little background about me, I am a member of the Porirua branch. I have been running the branch HUNTS programme since 2013. I was formerly National Treasurer (please don't hold that against me!). I have 4 kids (3 boys and a girl), unfortunately only one of them hunts. I personally started hunting late in life and got involved with HUNTS as a way to help other newbies get a good start and to continue my own learning.

Obviously this year has been challenging with Covid-19 lockdowns impacting the running of courses but hopefully that is behind us and you are all able to get on with planning and running HUNTS courses, I know I am for the Porirua and Wellington branches, and making good use of the updated Manual.

It is great to have such a wonderful resource back in print and I wish to thank Jim for his long hours getting the manual updated, designed and published. It was a long journey and Jim has earned a well-deserved break.

Also, it's not just me that is new to HUNTS. This year the National Executive have appointed a Deputy HUNTS Coordinator, which I think is good recognition that these volunteer roles need to be shared among multiple people to ensure one person doesn't get overloaded/overwhelmed with work. My partner is Stephen Small from South Canterbury branch. You will see his bio in the next Newsletter.

### **HUNTS Instructor re-warranting commencing soon**

Now, down to business, HUNTS Instructor warrants are due to expire (following the 12 month extension granted last year) so shortly I will be sending out emails to the current list of Instructors asking you to complete a small amount of paperwork to confirm you meet the revalidation criteria.

Your revalidation must be supported by your branch so plan on getting the form signed by your branch Secretary or President.

Following receipt of your paperwork we will reissue the warrant cards - watch this space.

### **New HUNTS Instructor**

Finally, congratulations to Peter Britnell of North Auckland branch for being accepted as a HUNTS 1 Instructor, well done.

## **National AHT Conference Competition Results**

Here are the 2020 AHT Competition results. The spring edition of Hunting & Wildlife showcases some of the pictures and winning heads too.

Updated AHT Results 2020



Photo Credit: Kapiti Branch October Newsletter

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow

Spring has arrived and the days are getting longer. I hope many of you managed to get out hunting or shooting over the long weekend or, if you didn't, you managed to find some time to read the epic Spring edition of our NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine.

At the time of writing this we are yet to learn what our Government and its Cabinet looks like for the next three year term. Will Labour include the Greens and, if so, to what extent?

What is now certain is our firearms laws will not change for the next three years at least and the transitional period under the amended Arms Act,



where our NZDA operated ranges are exempted from certification and regulation, will come to an end so there will be lots of red tape to navigate. Fortunately, NZDA are involved in helping Police understand the rifle range and shooting clubs landscape.

NZDA branches and members need to lead by example and our Range Officer re-certification process currently underway is an example of how we lead the way in providing members with a safe place to practice shooting and for sighting in our rifles.

The tahr hunters among us have seen the outcome of a Conservation Minister who promotes a vision of removing big game animals from our public lands, with the sustained culling of tahr over the past three years. While we are getting signals from DOC that it will now switch to a data-led approach where research and monitoring are implemented, what actually happens remains to be seen. My view is the lack of data is a convenient excuse and so we need to insist data is collected and applied in the context of the 1993 Plan.

What's next? Well, in short, deer are DOC's next mandated target. Many of you will have seen reports and heard rumors that DOC have been instructed by the Minister of Conservation to assess the "deer threat" where emotive and unsubstantiated language like "imminent forest collapse" are used to cause alarm. New Zealand hunters need to be prepared to voice our views and actively participate in consultation processes. Deer are certainly a valued introduced animal and it is going to take a NZDA lead effort to work constructively with DOC to ensure our game animals are managed sustainably in the years ahead. I'm personally up for the challenge and will advocate hard for recreational hunters. NZDA has been up for the challenge since 1937!

I was fortunate to spend Labour long weekend hunting backcountry bush for red deer. The deer were in prime condition and so was their habitat. I chose to apply the current theme of harvesting a young hind and passing up the stags. It's certainly not easy to override a long-held attitude of leaving females but the current recommendation is hunters need to proactively help manage our herds by applying game management principles. All our hunting organisations are aligned on this - managing our herds should be hunter-led.



Healthy big game herds and healthy habitats are what hunters want.



The right animal at the right time. I harvested a yearling hind over the long weekend.

## Bird of the Year - Hunters Should Vote

We ask you to help choose the "hunters' champion" for Bird of the Year.

NZDA, Game Animal Council and Hunters for Conservation are asking New Zealand hunters to choose their champion to back in the 2020 Bird of the Year competition. Last year's hunter's choice, the kārearea/NZ falcon is up against a backcountry hero and another hunters favourite, the whio.

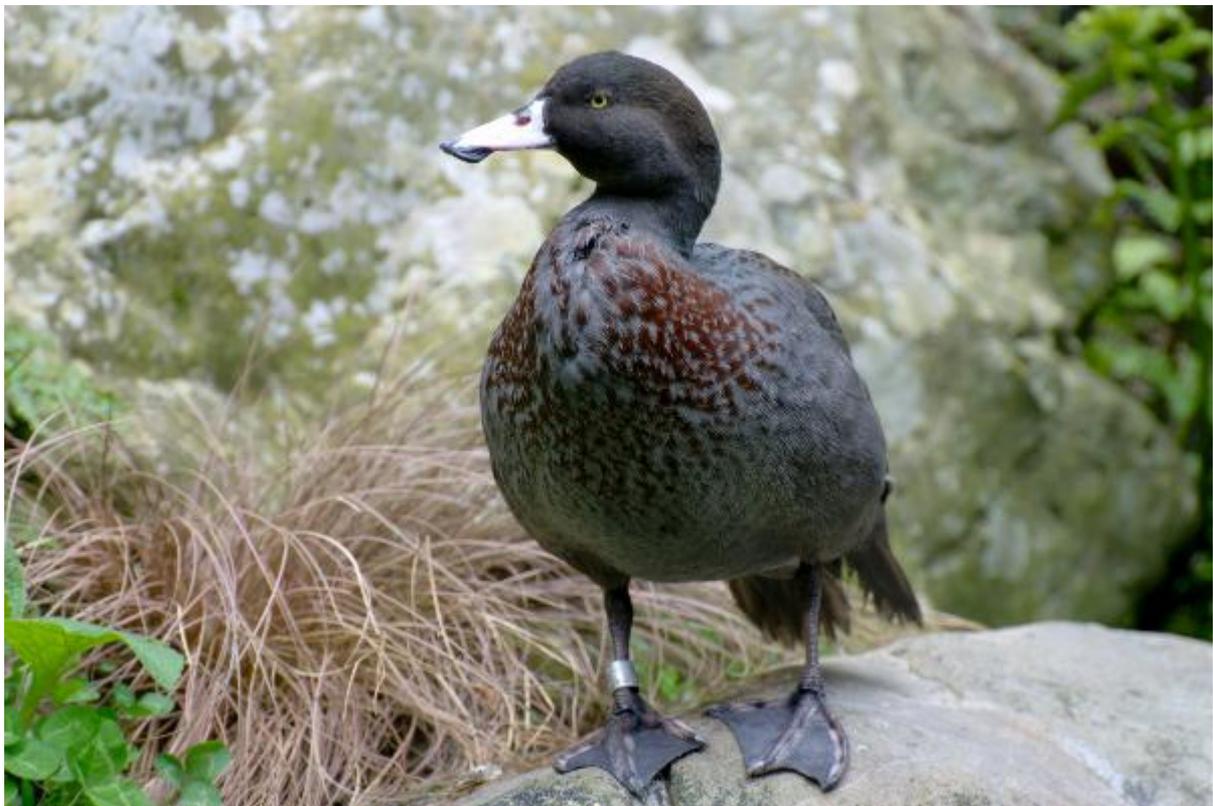
The winner will be announced on Monday 2 November and hunters can then get in behind the winning bird as it goes up against our other native birds in the 2020 Bird of the Year competition.

Choose who you are backing at <https://forms.gle/bidNwdVtdTCsvXoi8>

Then vote for the hunters' choice at <https://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz/>

GAC, NZDA and Hunters for Conservation Press Release - [click here](#)

Stuff Article - [Bird of the Year gets political](#)



Whio / Blue Duck



Kārearea / New Zealand Falcon

## NZDA Long Service Badges



Long standing member Will Rickerby (left), and Gwyn Thurlow CEO (right)

Will Rickerby, active Nelson branch member and branch life member of the Waikato branch, popped into the office and Gwyn presented him with his 50 year service badge. Will was in Wellington to receive his Queen's honor QSM from the Governor General for his conservation work. Will has been a hard working NZDA member for a number of branches and currently lives in Nelson. Will certainly embodies the saying "Hunters for Conservation".

You can read all about Will's work on his website/blog on [www.willrickerby.com](http://www.willrickerby.com), particularly his amazing "Will's Gully" project.



Long Service Badges can be ordered by branches for their members

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.



## NZDA Attends DOC's Tahr Workshop

On the 15th of October, NZDA attended a DOC Tahr research and monitoring workshop in Christchurch.

NZDA were represented by Dave Keen (Tahr Rep), Craig Benbow (National President) and Gwyn Thurlow (CEO, by Zoom).

Pictured below are the hunting organisations' reps, left to right: Geoff Kerr (GAC), Kaylyn Pinney (SCI), Craig (NZDA), Greg Duley (Tahr Foundation), Dave (NZDA), Tim Gale (GAC), James Cagney (NZ Hunting Guides), Snow Hewetson (Tahr Foundation).

Together we are stronger!



Our hunting organisation reps standing shoulder to shoulder - one good thing to come out of the tahr cull.

## Blood Origins Film: A Difficult Treasure

Thanks to Blood Origins for supporting Kiwi tahr hunters on an epic video collaboration with Hunters Journal and Kiwi hunters about tahr and our backcountry.

Click [here](#) or the image below to watch the full video.

Please share this to all your hunter and non hunter mates. Get the word out about how precious our tahr herd is and how much we value them as a recreational asset.



Himalayan bull tahr are our much loved Kings of the Alps.

## NZDA Coordinates Venison for Charity

More wild venison made its way to charity for our community! NZDA has been a big supporter of getting the wapiti meat harvested by FWF in Fiordland to needy families. On October the 16th, we teamed up with NZ Food Network to move 3 huge pallets of organic, free range venison mince to Auckland. NZDA members Callum and Courtney helped make this happen. Callum is a new National Executive board member and Auckland Branch President. Well done team (love that you guys are rocking the new logo on your t-shirts too!).

The NZ Food Network is a NGO founded just this year to provide people in need with healthy food, through sharing bulk surplus and donated food.

NZDA is passionate about our big game animals, sustainable game management, and sharing our vision with the public. This initiative ticks all the boxes!



Fiordland Wapiti meat update



We have had a further donation made by the Te Awamutu branch, thanks to all those who helped pay shipping costs to ensure venison reached needy Kiwi families across the country.

- Te Awamutu
- Southland
- Rakaia
- Waikato
- Hutt Valley
- Taupo
- Bay of Plenty
- Marlborough
- Wellington
- National Office (on behalf of all members)

[Check out the website for more on the project.](#)



2020 Otago Newsletter - Theo Thompson, Otago branch

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine

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

### **Printed editions also available**

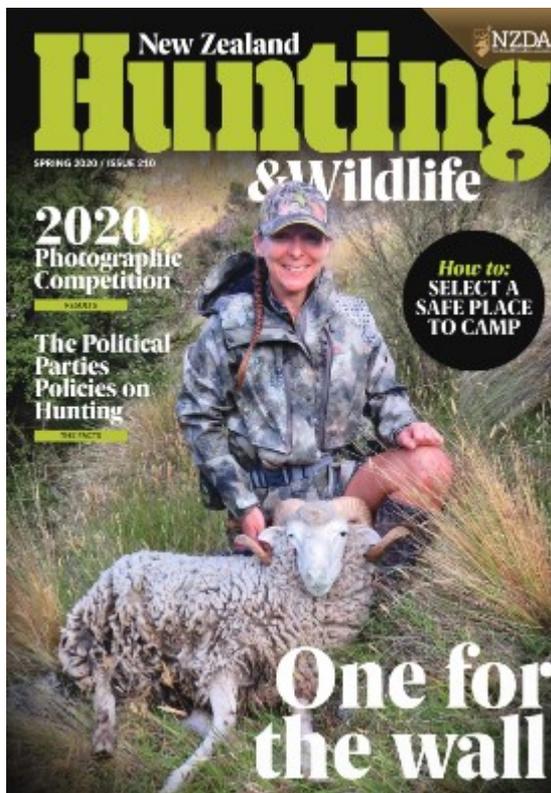
There is still the ability to order your printed copy of NZ Hunting and Wildlife Magazine and have it delivered to your home address.

**\$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!

Eat Venison to Help the Environment

# 'Eat venison to help the environment'

## Conservation

Damian Rowe

A Southland Conservation Board member said it should encourage people to eat meat for sake of the environment after hearing how the low price of venison may be blamed for high deer numbers in Fiordland National Park.

During a Southland Conservation Board meeting on Thursday, Department of Conservation senior ranger George Ledgard was invited to deliver a presentation on deer populations in Fiordland National Park.

A report written for the meeting by Ledgard showed there were two main external agencies involved in deer eradication in Fiordland; Wapiti Foundation, who undertake deer management in the Wapiti area and Wild Animal Recovery Operators (WARO) who recovered deer commercially in wider Fiordland National Park.

In general, the deer population was largely controlled by WARO and low venison prices was strongly linked to the number of deer shot at the Fiordland National Park, Ledgard said.

If commercial operators



A Southland Conservation Board member wants to encourage people to eat wild venison to limit deer populations in Fiordland.

BARRY HARKOULT

achieved a removal of 3500 deer per year there would be low levels of deer eating vegetation on sensitive species in alpine ecosystems, he said.

Last year, there were 900 deer removed in the WARO access area, and they expected that trend to continue for the next couple of years.

Although, it was the Wapiti area which had the highest percentage of vegetation eaten by deer, with a deer browse of 17 per cent.

Browse in the Fiordland National Park could reach 30 per cent for the rest of park in the next couple of years, he said.

Southland Conservation Board member Claire Jordan asked what the price of venison would have to be to achieve a removal of more than 3500 deer.

Ledgard said the current price

the operators received was around \$4 per kilo when it needed to be around \$6 per kilo, market price would be \$2 more than what operators receive.

"Maybe we could encourage the general public, you know all these people who want to eat in a more sustainable way, eat green and have venison for tea," Jordan said.

A lot of pilots have asked the department why it did not subsidise them but Ledgard said it was more an issue of demand.

Pilots would take a pricing and shoot as many deer as they could but often would have products waiting because the demand was not there, Ledgard said.

It could be a job for the venison industry to develop a marketing strategy for wild, free-range venison, he said.

Southland Conservation Board wants to encourage people to eat wild venison to limit deer populations in Fiordland.

## Douglas Score Training Seminars: Waikato & Otago, Wellington coming soon

**Otago:** Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Registration form is [attached](#)

**Waikato:** Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Registration form is [attached](#)

These are only a one day course, so a great opportunity for those of you interested in learning or enhancing your measuring skills. It will cater those wishing to attain Level 1 standard and those already at Level 1 wishing to progress to Level 2.

Completed forms must be emailed to [info@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:info@deerstalkers.org.nz) by the 1st of November. This is so that merchandise and the required reading

material can be sent out before the course commences.

**Wellington:** A DS course will be held in Wellington early December, overseen by Bob Badland. Details are to be confirmed.



## Upcoming North Island Competitions

# Scoped Rifle North Island Championships

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



**NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association



**Venue:**

Tokoroa Shooting  
Sports Complex  
205 Newell Road  
Tokoroa

**Start Time**

**Range Opens:**

8.30am - Saturday & Sunday

**Briefing:**

9.30am - Saturday & 9.00am - Sunday

**Shooting:**

9.45am - Saturday & 9.15am - Sunday

**Refreshments:**

Coffee & Tea provided



**Enquires:**

Malcolm Perry

M: 027 625 9608

E: [mpmalcolmperry@gmail.com](mailto:mpmalcolmperry@gmail.com)

**Registration:**

Names to be with

Malcolm Perry

by Friday

20 November

2020



**All Welcome**

**Graded, All Equipment**

**Hunter Class** (Rifle must be a factory hunter style, trigger weight no lighter than 1.5 pounds, No scope restrictions, No target gear, eg shooting jacket, pants, shoes, gloves, etc.)



# Scoped Rifle Nationals

5-8 March 2021

Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex

205 Newell Road, Tokoroa



### Hunter Class Rules

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

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

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

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

Download 20/21 Competition Entry Form Here

## Go Native - NZDA 25% Discount Offer

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

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



## InterIslander Ferry - NZDA 'Group Booking' Discount



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

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

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

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

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