



# NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

ISSN 2744-5380



Photo Credit: John Kovacs, Wellington branch, Scenic, 2021 National Photographic Competition

**Swazi 'Refer a Friend' Promotion!!!**

## Sign up your mate to go in the draw to win!

If you refer a friend to NZDA and they join up between 1 October 2021 and 31 December 2021 you both go into the draw to win a [Swazi Tahr XP Anorak Jacket](#).

For many years the Tahr Anorak has been recognized around the world as the very height of excellence in wet weather jackets.

Swazi have recently upgraded the Tahr XP in Swazi's NEW Generation 4 Whisper Fabric.

Prize draw open to full NZDA membership types only upon joining (Senior, Junior, Student and Superannuant).

Swazi have supported NZDA kids shoots for years and we're super excited to collaborate with Davey and his team on this epic prize.



**REFER A FRIEND MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION**

SIGN UP TO NZDA BETWEEN  
1ST OCTOBER & 31ST DECEMBER

**BOTH YOU AND YOUR FRIEND  
WILL BE IN TO WIN A**

**SWAZI TAHR ANORAK JACKET**

OPEN TO FULL MEMBERSHIP TYPES ONLY

## National Board Reports



**Craig Bendow National President  
Malvern branch**  
E: [craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz)

My highlight this month was attending a meeting in Alexandra to support the formation of a new NZDA Branch to be called New Zealand Deerstalkers Association Central Otago Branch.



With the necessary support and commitment from local Alexandra hunters the process of establishing the branch is well underway and we will welcome the 49th branch into the Association soon.

It was nice to see the interest and then the agreement that forming a branch was a good idea and the benefits being part of a larger collective would bring to all. At the pointy end of the stick that is what we are all about and I was honoured to be able to speak to the group and answer questions they had.

It was also good to finally get a face to face meeting with most of the board in Wellington 18 September. Callum and Dan had to attend electronically being based in Auckland, and I thank them both for the effort. Seven and a half hours online while the house moves around you is not something any of us particularly enjoy but it is fortunate we have these systems so progress can still be made. We had a productive meeting that again propelled us forward. Carolyn and Gwyn were able to fully update everyone on the state of the Association's finances and progress against our Business Plan. Budget preparation is under way and review of the business plan taking place alongside. Growth in membership is a key point and it is satisfying to see engagement increasing across the

country.



Last week applicants for the HUNTS trainer roles were interviewed by Rob Howey and Stephen Small with myself sitting in on 3 nights as well. Quite an effort for everyone involved and really exciting to see the calibre and interest of those putting their names forward. At times in this organisation you find yourself questioning what it takes to keep things going but through an experience like these interviews you soon find yourself in awe of our volunteers and those willing to give to the greater good. Thank you to all who applied for the positions and while the work is not yet done a big thanks to Rob and Stephen for their commitment of time to conduct the interviews into the evening. Further interviews with Gwyn are yet to happen but the process is well along the way now.

Firearms law and regulations continues to be a huge area of discussion, angst and unknowns. I know a lot of people in all firearms related sports

are finding the process of getting to the point where we actually have clear guidance incredibly frustrating. Add into that additional work around firearms safety more broadly and there is a huge amount of effort across New Zealand Police and all the firearms sport bodies to try to distill down all of this to a workable framework. Our understanding is that a pilot program for range inspection certification is to take place late October or early November and from that will flow the training, processes and procedures required to complete range certification. On Friday Dan and I were in on an electronic meeting of Police, GAC, MSC, Professional Guides Association and Federated Farmers discussing firearm safety. The shared views from those discussions should be really helpful in assisting both Police and GAC, who have statutory roles, to provide guidance and material for distribution to all firearm users to enhance safety in using firearms. It was a broad ranging discussion but picked up on some interesting points where opportunities may have been lost over time for varied reasons.

A regional meeting was held in Wellington at Deerstalkers House on 19 September and most of the board who could stayed on overnight to attend. As always with these discussions points of real interest were brought up and hopefully those present went away much more informed around matters from the association side and the board gained some valuable insights into what is important to the branches. On Saturday a regional meeting was held in Tinwald and again a very good wide ranging discussion was held that covered many aspects of what branches are experiencing or wondering about. Notes from these meetings will be distributed to all as a way of informing but also prompting further discussion if necessary. The most important aspect of these meetings is branches coming together and seeing the value that can come from having conversations. One message that is coming through loudly from all involved is that we do not speak to one another often enough and we seem scared to share what our branches are doing. We need to be more sharing of our adventures and work within community, we belong for a reason and why not share that with others so they can decide if they wish to share in that.

Freezer filling is a priority at present, be safe and watch the weather. Consider what is best for the habitat when selecting that animal.

### **Callum Sheridan North Island Rep**

#### **Auckland branch**

E: [callum.sheridan@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:callum.sheridan@deerstalkers.org.nz)

Following on from last month's report, the month of September saw our first Game Animal Management committee meeting

(GAM). Items on the agenda included nationwide aerial poisoning, nationwide goat control and deer control, each in connection with DOC.



Poison operations were discussed in depth in the context of allocating deer repellent. Only a limited number of NZDA board members are given access to the upcoming proposed poison areas and we discussed these areas during the meeting. I want to let members know NZDA is working on a plan to recommend to DOC our preferred areas for deer repellent use, however unfortunately there is not enough available for the total number of areas proposed, currently 50,000 hectares are allocated for repellent use for DOC operations. The GAM committee will focus on RHA's, herds of special interest first and foremost, and areas of high recreational hunting importance.

Gwyn, our CEO, and Craig, National President, both represent NZDA on consultation meetings with DOC and so GAM will give them the best information possible to advocate in the best interest of hunters.



**Wayne Smith South Island Rep**  
**Marlborough branch**  
E: [wayne.smith@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:wayne.smith@deerstalkers.org.nz)

Daylight saving has arrived and my first spring hunting trip was canned due to rubbish weather. I'm rescheduling that now and with a bit of luck I'll get out for a trout fish on the 1st somewhere up in the hills.

We had our first post-Conference board meeting on the 18th of September. We talked about progress on establishing the new subcommittees and our hope that over the coming 1-2 years these will progressively:

- Create a larger pool of subcommittee volunteers

- Allow the Board to delegate more hunting and shooting related work
- Create a bigger pool of potential Board members so we have better the succession planning options
- Deliver some more consistency, where appropriate, to how the various subcommittees operate.

These are worthy overall objectives to strive for in addition to the specific work and outcomes we seek from each subcommittee.

We commenced the 2022/23 FY Business Planning & Budgeting process with the Board. I'm working on the initial draft with Morgan and Gwyn, and this should be back as draft to the Board in December and then out to branches for any input with the final plan approved by the Board in February.

We also as a Board talked about workloads across the NZDA system. There is no one silver bullet and there are a range of actions already underway to try and achieve a better balance over time.

Hopefully subcommittees as we envisage them operating will help spread some of the load, there is a structural review of national office underway that will bring more employee resources online, the business planning process will also look out over a longer time horizon to spread workloads. Finally, my latest article also offers some further thoughts and suggestions. You can read it [here](#).

## **Philosophically Thinking | Part Two: What's best, employees or volunteers?**

As I said in my last article, we all know in 2019 and 2020 NZDA ended up in a bit of a pickle. In my Philosophically Thinking (1) article I suggested that one of the contributing factors was the underlying complexity of our capitation system.

An important second factor in my view has been our historic over reliance on volunteers to do critical work at National Office. This article outlines why I believe we have outgrown that historic operating model and it now damages our effectiveness.

Click [here](#) to read the full article. Part One can also be accessed via the link.

## A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



September ushers in spring and daylight savings time.

We launched the NZDA App mid-month, now with 1,100 downloads, and also released the Research Fund application process. Please take a look at both.

I presented to the board at a recent meeting and it was great to note we are rapidly approaching 9,000 active members. Some branches have grown by 30%. Please welcome all the new faces you see at club nights and events. Being a Deerstalker is all about people and bringing likeminded folk together.

I will be doing a HUNTS Course starting Monday evening, to learn first hand all about what we are sharing with our trainees. There's lots of exciting things happening with HUNTS and I am personally taking the opportunity to upskill over the next 3 years to become an Instructor. I have reached the stage in my hunting career where I want to give something back and help new hunters get the skills and confidence to experience our backcountry in the way I have. I will share my journey with you over the coming newsletters.



I took a week off in September spring hunting in the Nelson Lakes area with a couple of Wellington branch members, Tim and Rick, and a non-member, Josh. We had a superb trip together, enjoyed adventure, successes, rain and snow, and visiting new places. If it wasn't for the NZDA, I would have never met the 3 fine blokes I spent my time with. I achieved a personal career hunting highlight by securing a trophy chamois buck - his horns are 10 5/8" with 3 7/8" bases, to give a unofficial Douglas Score of 29. It's a buck of a lifetime. I'll have to save the full story for an issue of NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine one day in the future. We also stayed at [Nelson Branch's Red Deer Lodge](#) at Lake Rotoiti. It's a place steeped in deerstalking history and an ideal place to take a NZDA branch club hunt to - there's red deer and chamois to hunt, plus trout fishing in the lakes. The Nelson committee were doing a working bee and so we helped out too. In one trip, it summed up what's special about NZDA and highlighted the more you put in, the more you get out.



## Research Fund: Open now; Closes 31st of October

The NZDA National Game Animal Research Fund is now open and on our website we have formalised a process of applying for the funding.

For full details click [here](#), or check out our website.

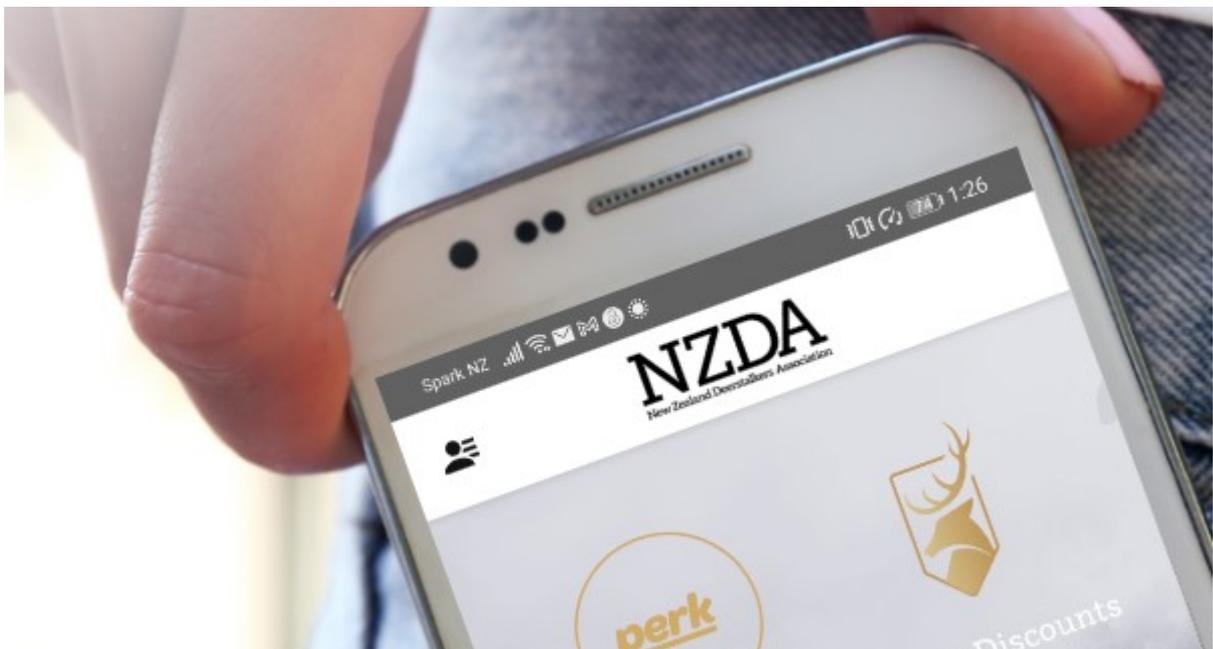
The fund is freely contestable and available to all NZDA members, our branches, and non NZDA members alike.

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!

### Key Dates

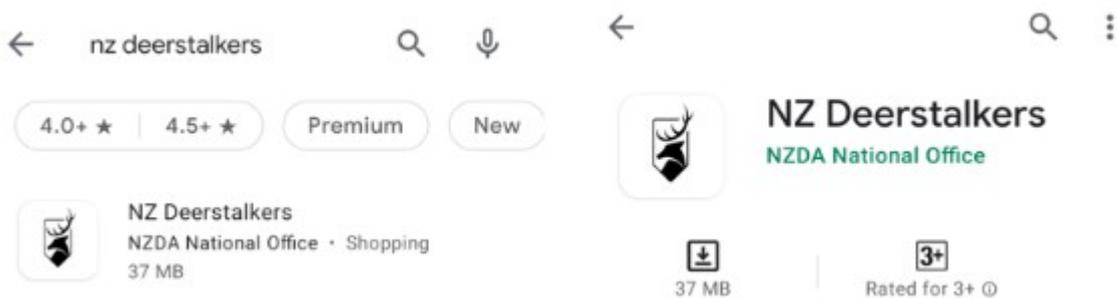
1. **Opens:** 31st July annually.
2. **Closes:** 31st October annually.
3. **Decision Date:** Notice of decision by 15th December, following December board meeting.
4. **Funds Available:** From 1st March the following year.

## REMINDER: NZDA Memberships & Discounts App Live!



### How to download the app

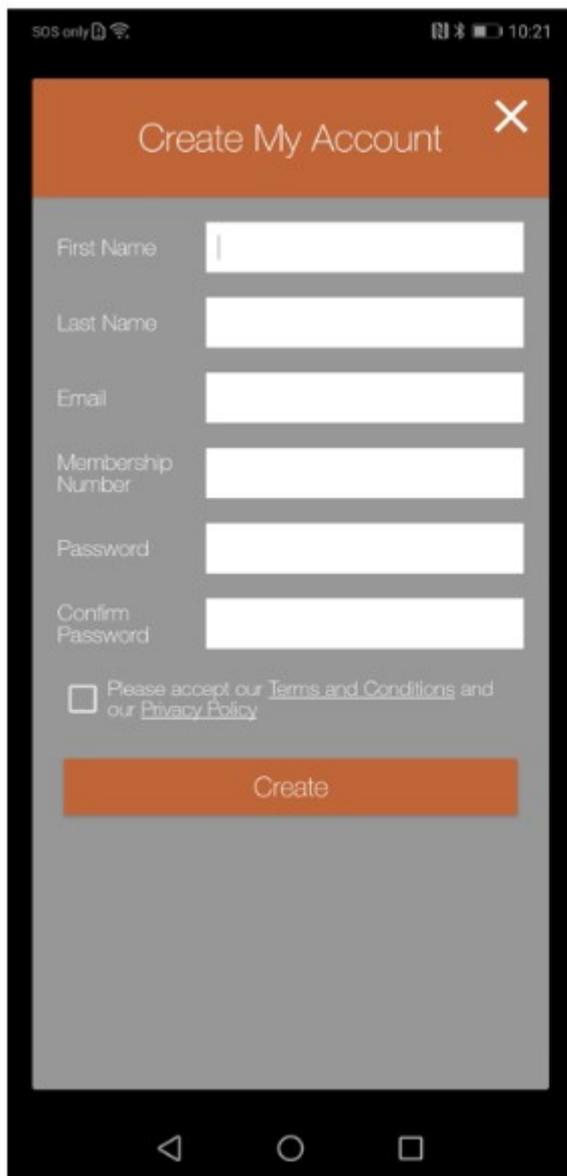
- 1) Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for **NZ Deerstalkers**. Select **Install** or **GET**.



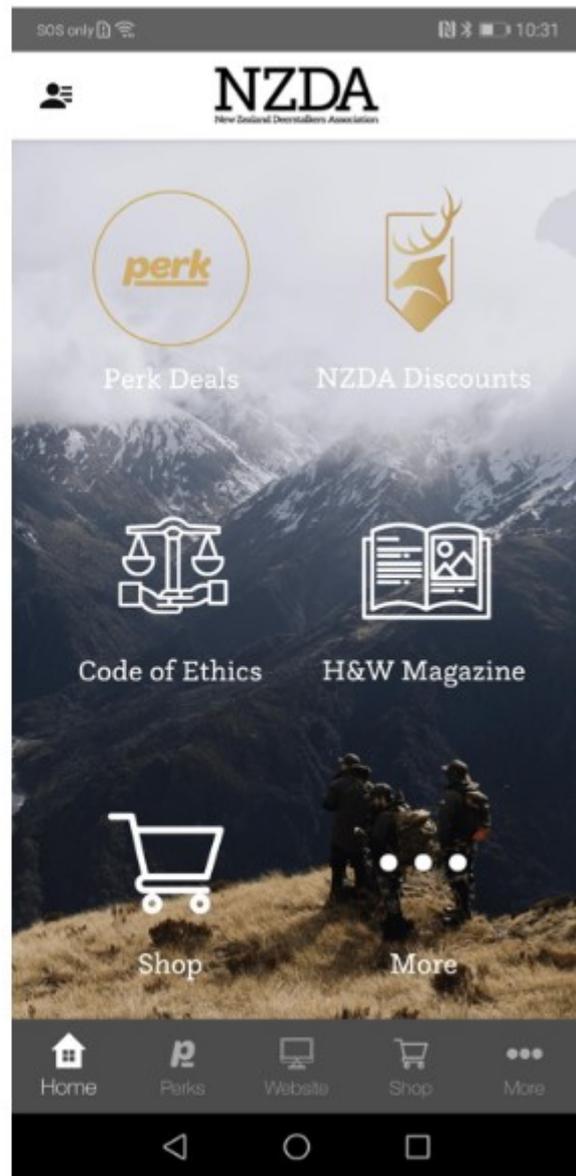
- 2) Once installed, either open via the app or click open. Once in the app,

you will need to register - Click **Register Here**.

3) Enter your membership details into the fields and click **Create**. You will then be able to access the App and the Member discounts. Enjoy!



The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for creating an account. At the top, there is a title bar with the text "Create My Account" and a close button (X). Below the title bar, there are several input fields: "First Name", "Last Name", "Email", "Membership Number", "Password", and "Confirm Password". Below these fields, there is a checkbox with the text "Please accept our [Terms and Conditions](#) and our [Privacy Policy](#)". At the bottom of the form, there is a large orange button labeled "Create". The background of the form is a light gray color.



## Key Information

The app will only permit access to financial members.

- Please contact [membership@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:membership@deerstalkers.org.nz) if you have any invoice or payment queries.

Your membership number is required when registering.

- The easiest way to locate this is by checking your NZDA issued membership card.

If you are a Bay of Plenty member, please place a hashtag before entering your membership number. For example:

- If your number is 12345, please enter this as **#12345**.

## Where to download the app

The app is live now on both the Apple Store and the Android Google Play Store.

- If you have an Iphone or Apple device, use the App Store:



- If you have an Android device, use the Google Play Store:



## Contact

If you are having trouble downloading or using the app, please email the Membership Manager.

Don't forget to quote your full name, branch and membership number when reaching out.

**Niraj Patel**

**Memberships & IT Manager**

[membership@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:membership@deerstalkers.org.nz)

## Recreational Hunting & Shooting during Lockdown



Covid continues to impact NZDA activities, especially in the Auckland region, Level 2 is when club level activities can occur as 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](#)

## **Conference 2022 | Venue Announcement**

### **Waikato branch to host conference at Novotel Tainui Hotel**



The 2022 National Conference will be held at the end of July at the Novotel Tainui Hotel, Waikato, and will be hosted by the Waikato branch.

More details to follow.

## NIWA Parks Weather | Additional forecast sites now live

There are now an additional 22 locations with weather forecast information live on the website, bringing the total number of forecasts available to 71. (Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre has also been added to the initial list of 21 locations).

DOC worked with NIWA on a new and improved 'Summary' feature for each Park and location page. This feature allows visitors to get forecast information condensed into a format that can be printed or saved on a phone to allow access outside of cell phone coverage.

Thanks to data provided by Mountain Safety Council, a summary of the relevant avalanche advisory can now be viewed on [NIWA Parks Weather](#).

The additional 22 sites now live are:

<b><i>Location</i></b>	<b><i>Park</i></b>
<i>Mt Arrowsmith</i>	ArrowSmith Range, Canterbury
<i>Mt Cheeseman</i>	Craigieburn Forest Park
<i>Mt Heale Hut</i>	Aotea/Great Barrier
<i>Woolshed Creek Hut</i>	Hakatere Conservation Park
<i>Mt Tapuae O Uenuku</i>	Inland Kaikoura Range, Marlborough
<i>Ghost Lake Hut</i>	Kahurangi National Park
<i>Waitawheta Hut</i>	Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park
<i>Kaweka J Summit</i>	Kaweka Forest Park
<i>Devilskin Saddle</i>	Lake Sumner Forest Park
<i>Christopher Hut</i>	St James Conservation Area
<i>Ida Railway Hut</i>	Oteake Conservation Park
<i>Mt Oxford</i>	Oxford Forest Conservation Area
<i>Mt Pirongia</i>	Pirongia Forest Park
<i>Ben Lomond Summit</i>	Queenstown
<i>Double Cone</i>	Remarkables Conservation Area
<i>Rangiwahia Hut</i>	Ruahine Forest Park
<i>Huxley Forks Huts</i>	Ruataniwha Conservation Park, Canterbury
<i>Roys Peak</i>	Stack Conservation Area
<i>Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua Lighthouse</i>	Te Paki Reserve
<i>Pioneer Hut</i>	Westland / Tai Poutini National Park
<i>Welcome Flat Hut</i>	Westland/Tai Poutini National Park
<i>Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre</i>	Arthur's Pass National Park

## 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).

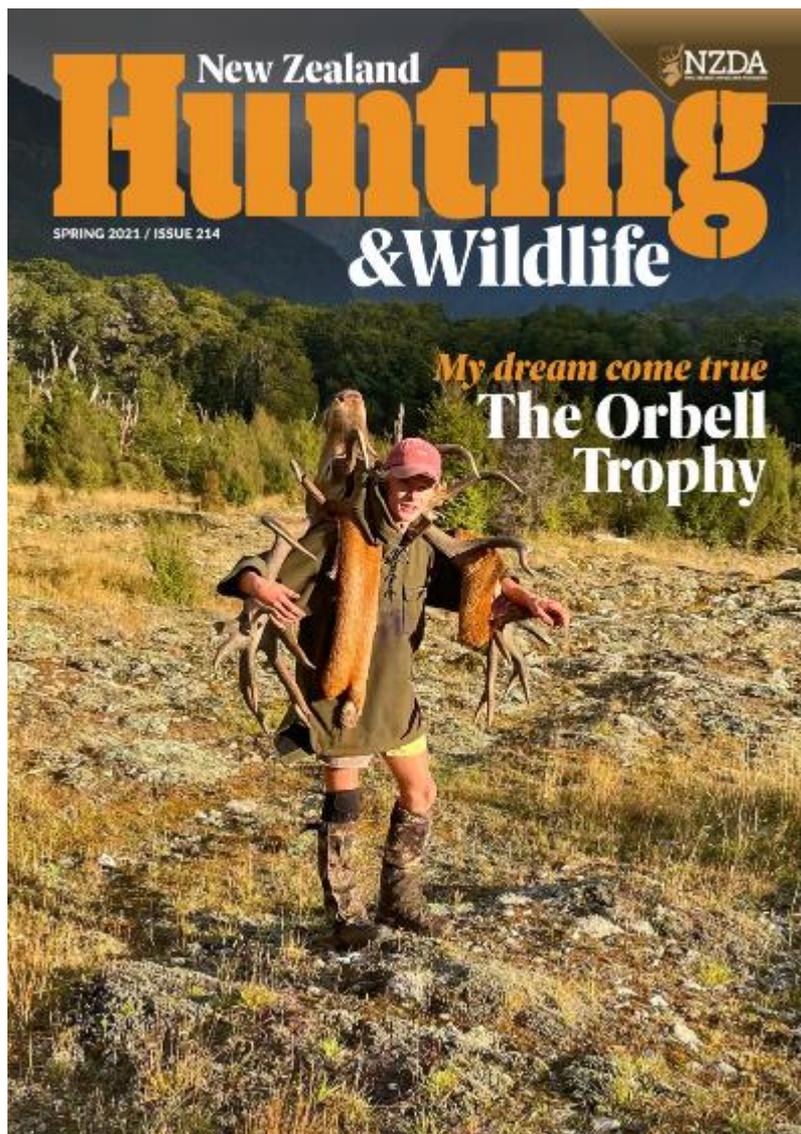
We also have high quality NZDA bumper stickers for sale at \$15.00 (including domestic shipping).

## Pre-Order the Upcoming Spring Issue Today!

**Shipping October 8th, so pre order now!**

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

Visit the NZDA shop and order your edition before Monday the 4th of October and we'll ship this out on the 8th.

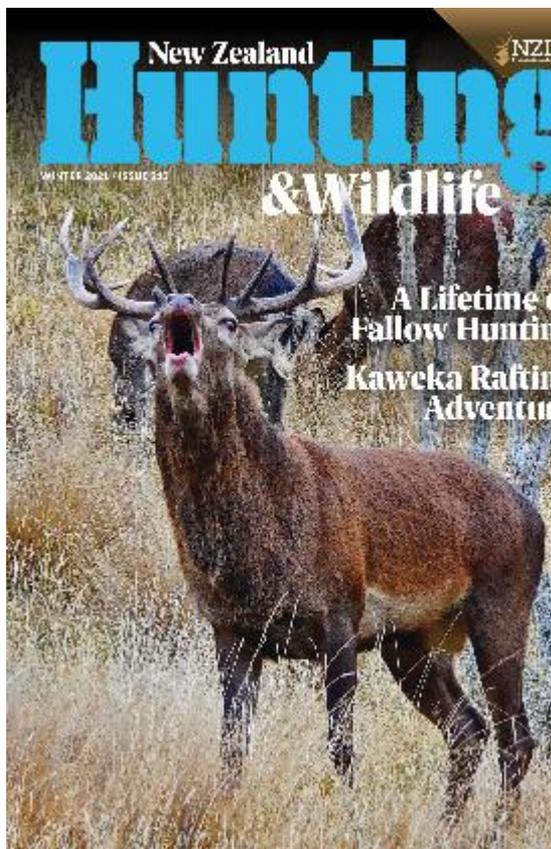


Cover image on our upcoming Spring Issue 214 - Ready for Pre-Ordering now.

Order/pre-order your printed editions here!

## NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine | Winter Issue 213

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



### Printed Copies

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

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



## Counter Terrorism Bill

## Report back from Committee

In May 2021, the Government introduced the Counter-Terrorism Legislation Bill. This bill amends three Acts:

- A) the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002;
- B) the Search and Surveillance Act 2012; and
- C) the Terrorism Suppression (Control Orders) Act 2019.

In the opinion of COLFO's legal advisor, the Bill (as reported from Select Committee) would not specifically affect firearms owners. However, they have outlined below some areas where firearms owners' activity could be captured by the Bill.

To read the full legal opinion from Franks Ogilvie, click [here](#).

## Press Release: COLFO

### Uncomfortable lessons from Auckland knife attack

COLFO Spokesperson Hugh Devereux-Mack says the organisation was dismayed at news of the attacks last week, and felt deeply for all those affected.

"New Zealand is a place that felt safe from extremist ideologies, yet we have now experienced two terrorist attacks within three years, and seen dramatically different Government responses in each case," Devereux-Mack says.

Click [here](#) to read more.



## Plan My Walk App | Q&A Session

The NZ Mountain Safety Council are excited to show a 'behind the scenes' update of their "Plan My Walk" app.

They have entered the final week of additional development and upgrades. Having launched on 7 May 2021, they've had four months over winter to build an 'early adopter' userbase and most importantly gather helpful user feedback.

Click [here](#) to read the full article and book yourself in for a session at one of three Microsoft Teams Meetings.

## Press Release | OSPRI refining TBfree operations at Molesworth Station

OSPRI's TBfree programme is continuing to innovate and improve its operational effectiveness with the successful trialling of aerial low sow baiting and deer repellent bait at Molesworth National Park.

This winter at Molesworth and adjoining private land, the animal disease management agency completed two 1080 aerial operations over 70,000 hectares and the outcomes were excellent for possum control and deer survival in the high-country environment.

Read the full release [here](#).



Photo: John Sanders, South Canterbury branch, Section B2, 2021 National Photographic Competition

## In the News: Pest numbers on the rise

"A recent aerial cull of 80 feral deer from an Otago farm indicates a burgeoning game animal and feral pest problem."

"The biggest increase appears to be in feral deer, due to a collapse of venison prices and restricted hunter access, and wallabies, where the Government last year allocated \$27.4 million over four years to eradicate the pest."

"The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) and the Game Animal Council (GAC), which encourage the sustainable management of deer, tahr and chamois, say numbers are not yet out of control but are calling for landowners to improve hunting access and for changes to the management of feral deer herds."

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

## In the News: Councils weigh pest impact



Photo supplied by Farmers Weekly.

"Successive mild seasons, reduced hunter pressure and growing resistance to rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD), is leading to increased numbers of deer, goats, wallabies and rabbits in many areas, it's claimed."

"Eradication will require new technology and innovation. The complexities and problems of effectively dealing with a largely secretive, nocturnal, highly mobile vertebrate pest with the currently available toolbox, cannot be understated."

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

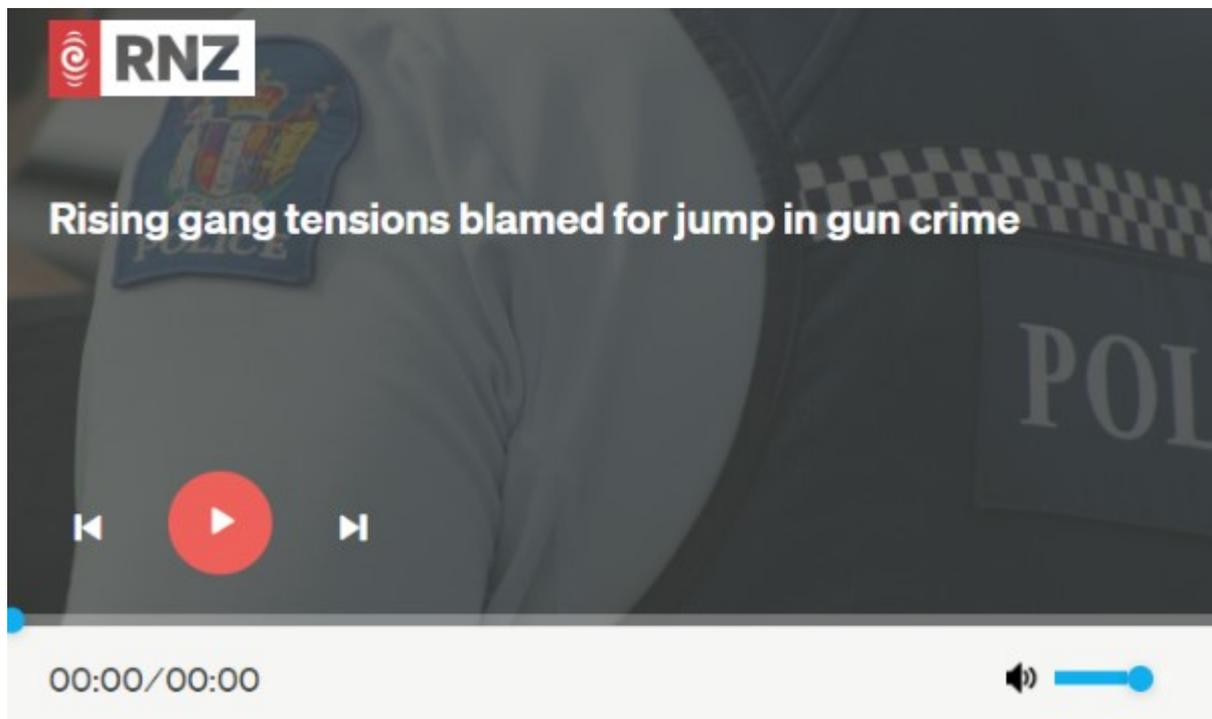
## Sika Show 2021 | November 20th & 21st



Click the poster above to check out their website.

## RNZ Morning Report | Radio Interview

### **Rising gang tensions blamed for jump in gun crime**



Click [here](#) or the play button above to listen to the full report.

## In the News: Wairarapa woman is hunter, forager and one of our only wahine Māori winemakers



*Rickards out hunting in the Wairarapa. Photo supplied by Stuff.co.nz*

Being one of the few Māori women winemakers in Aotearoa New Zealand, Rickards has a strong interest in foraged eating-plants, from watercress to nettle. Hunting deer and other introduced animal species is just part of the package. Her own personal wine label is named Huntress.

"Last week I saw a yearling in the bush but it just looked at me... and I had a connecting moment with this animal. I didn't need to shoot it – and maybe I should have for environmental reasons – but it was just that morning, and the energy, and it looked at me and I looked at it, and it took off..."

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

## In the News: Learning to hunt could mean full freezers for \$2 and a walk in the bush



Locals group set up by Tui Keenan to teach whanāu how to prepare and cut up meat from the freezer. *Photo supplied by Stuff.co.nz*

Tui Keenan was a police officer until about 2010. She left policing to work with the force's family harm team. Around this time, her husband Comrie introduced her to hunting and the benefits of living off the land, and it completely changed her life and perspective.

Now the family rarely if ever buys veges, and never buys meat. Their freezer is usually stocked full of cuts she and Comrie have hunted and butchered themselves.

One family that has already felt the benefit of full freezers and a connection with the land are the Reedys.

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

**In the News: Real Country's Laura Koot on her mission to help women build their confidence**



Five years ago, Laura Koot swapped finance for farm life, and set up workshops to build women's confidence while teaching them practical skills. Now, she tells Sharon Stephenson about pandemic panic and her new training institute.

This is Real Country, the business she established in 2016 to share what she calls "the real New Zealand" and help women and girls build their confidence.

"I set up Real Country to teach practical skills to Kiwi girls and women," says Laura, her conversation thick with the rolling Rs of the deep south.

"Confidence isn't something you're born with, but it can be learnt.

Read the full article [here](#).

## @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.

## **Hutt Valley HUNTS Course Action**







**Follow the branch Instagram on [@hvnzda](#)**

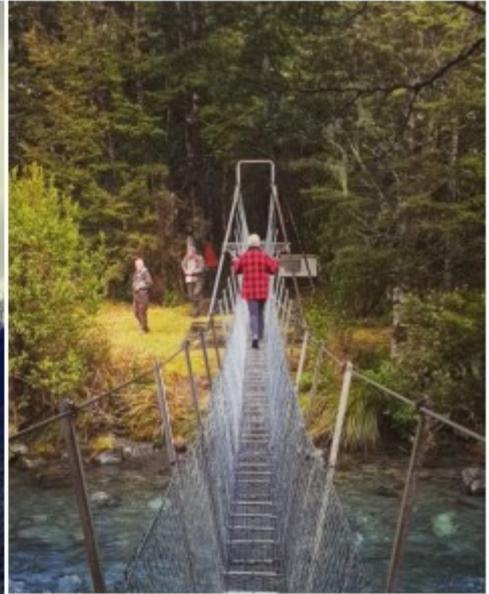
## **Bay of Plenty HUNTS Course Action**





**Follow the branch Instagram on [@deerstalkersbop](#)**

**North Canterbury HUNTS Course Action**





**Follow the branch Instagram on [@northcanterburydeerstalkers](#)**



**Instagram - @chasingpeaksnz**

## 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 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.

You also have the option of updating this via the app. Just click the "More" button, and then click the "Update your details" button. From here just fill in any changes you wish to make into the form and click submit.



[NZDA Facebook](#)



[NZDA Instagram](#)

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

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

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