

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

ISSN 2744-5380



Photo Credit: Garth Haylock, Marlborough, Scenic, 2021 National Photographic Competition

Swazi 'Refer a Friend' Promotion, Final Month in December!!!

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.

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



National Board Reports

Craig Benbow National President Malvern branch

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For me it's been a month of struggling to keep up quite frankly and the coming month looks much the same on both an advocacy and operational front.



The constant call for input into a multitude of initiatives across many fields is incredibly hard to respond to and be fully across. It is somewhat frustrating to see the amount of resource and energy going into box ticking for government departments when delivery on the ground is actually non-existent or immeasurable at least. Gwyn, our CEO, has worked hard representing NZDA at all the many meetings we are asked to attend and give input to ensure the voice of recreational hunters is heard.

One area I am frustrated by, and get a lot of member feedback on, is the changes to firearms related work and lack of delivery by those charged with doing it - Police. The Minister of Police has now gone against the collective wisdom, and hindsight gathered over decades, and failed to deliver an independent firearms authority as recommended by the Thorpe Report, and requested by the firearms community after the atrocity of the Christchurch attack. To say NZDA is disappointed is an understatement. This news compounded by failure of Police to process and issue firearms licences in a timely fashion is not sitting well with the licenced firearms community. I'm left wondering when, or if, anyone will actually be accountable. In my view, it is time the Arms Act was re-written so it serves the needs of all people through a credible, workable and, above all else, evidence based process, that the public can have confidence and trust in.

Covid-19 continues to change the way we live. The new guidelines and mandates will dictate how our branches operate. I have heard many conversations around groups and families that are struggling to deal with the mixed views people hold around vaccination. There are no easy answers. Whilst many businesses and other entities are mandating vaccination, it is not the place of the NZDA to make any judgements beyond recommending people follow the health authority's guidance. It is not our role or desire as the national board to set down a mandate for branches. Branches are separate entities who represent their members and have their own governance structures. Branch committees will be required to make decisions that reflect their alert levels. Please support your volunteer committees as we look to hold meetings and events that are safe and enjoyable.

Photo Credit: Terry Austin, North Canterbury, Game Animals, 2021 National Photographic Competition

Volunteer input is what keeps NZDA and its branches functioning and hopefully flourishing. The demands on volunteers have never been greater with increased accountability and the myriad of things that make up our lives. However, the benefit of volunteer contributions are many fold. We as an association need a constant stream of individuals willing to contribute, if we are to complete our mission.

At a high level, come our 2022 AGM we will need nominees for the positions of:

- National Treasurer; and
- In respect to the Backcountry Trust, someone to take my NZDA seat as a trustee.

I'm also on the lookout for people to join our Sub-committee spaces on:

- Access
- Firearms

Everyone working together to achieve our goals is a powerful force. Pease email me if any of these roles interest you.



COVID-19 Update - New Zealand moves to the traffic light system on Friday, 3 December

On Friday the traffic light system will be engaged for all of New Zealand.

There will be no regions moving to **Green** immediately, with the following initial settings:

- Northland, Auckland, Taupō and Rotorua Lakes Districts, Kawerau, Whakatane, Ōpōtiki Districts, Gisborne District, Wairoa District, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Ruapehu Districts will move in at **Red**.
- The rest of the North Island will move in at **Orange**.
- The whole of the South Island will move in at **Orange**.

Life at Red

Red is the highest setting in the new system. Click <u>here</u> to learn about the Red light.

Life at Orange

Click here to learn about the Orange light.

Helpful Resources

- Official Covid Government Website
- Traffic Light Map
- My Vaccine Pass

Morgan Rogers North Island Rep Hastings branch

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It's nearing the end of another year. I'd like to personally acknowledge the progress and great work of the NZDA National Office team who shed blood sweat and tears for us all!



For me the year has been full, not only in hunting terms but also in business terms. I have learnt a lot this year – "you're only here once, make time", being the most important.

For the NZDA National Board it has been a full year too. The passionate and committed team has governed and supported our CEO to deliver a great deal of improvements, transparent information, and significant value to the organisation. However, I feel there's so much more to do. We are facing land access challenges, firearm and range reforms, health and safety challenges, conservation reforms and an aggressive pest management approach from regional and national government – fires on

all fronts! We are under immense pressure as hunters and unfortunately we are still not large enough to command financial sway. We are, however, smart enough and supported enough to sway the opinion of the people, but not dictate it (yet).

It's more important now than ever to come together as one, communicate to New Zealand the value we add as hunters and conservators of the backcountry. Gwyn, our only paid advocate, has been tireless in his crusade in this space - the organisation and hunters nationally need to unify and move forward together as one.

I encourage every member to get out there and communicate your success and endorse others to join the NZDA!

Yet another learning for me over the last two years on the National Board is: you get out of an organisation what you put in! The board and your regional branches need your support. Make 2022 the year you give back, even if only a small contribution of time. Anything will be greatly appreciated. Even if it's just taking out a new hunter and explaining NZDA's aims and purpose.



Experience of a Lifetime!

NZDA members helped provide Morgan with a once in a lifetime experience for his son's first hunt.

"It was the NZDA that provided me the opportunity and a special combo of hunters that made it EPIC! This has been a common theme during my time in the NZDA.

"Get to your local branch meetings, get involved and meet like minded individuals that could feature in your own experience of a lifetime!"

Click here to read Morgan's full story.

Get Outdoors Week

Last week hundreds of hunters participated in sharing photos on social media for 'Get Outdoors Week'. From your efforts, NZDA was able to showcase what hunting is all about to the wider outdoor community.

What stood out was the diversity within hunting, of style, age, gender, and where particular passions lie within.

Big thank you those who participated and supported NZDA in promoting hunting!

See more photos, click here.

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National Board Reports (cont.)

Callum Sheridan North Island Rep

Auckland branch

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Another month has shot by with a mountain of behind the scenes work happening. Unfortunately being stuck in Auckland has meant I haven't been able to

make face-to-face meetings.



With the new HUNTS employees in place I have been gathering potential HUNTS instructor Trainees for the Auckland branch. We currently have 12 CVs ready to go and this means the Auckland branch will be able to offer much more training for new hunters once we have our qualified instructors in place. I'm expecting Auckland branch's first HUNTS courses to kick off late 2022 or early 2023, once we have brought our instructors up to speed. Having the assessor team to help us is going to be a game changer for NZDA.

As part of the Game Animal Management subcommittee (GAM), I have been in talks with DOC's director of operations around National feral goat control and how NZDA can contribute. I started by gathering a number of branches I identified as being near high density goat areas or with a large base of active members. Once I reached 10 interested branches, I thought that would do for now! With proper engagement from the Department, I hope to add substantially to that number.

The following branches have been put forward to DOC to assist in formal goat control and report back:

- Auckland
- Thames Valley
- Taupo
- Taranaki
- Hutt Valley
- North Otago
- Upper Clutha
- Nelson
- Southern Lakes
- Marlborough

A few of these branches already partake in a very respectable amount of goat control using their own resources and volunteer hunters. The hope is we can work to get better access and put hunters into areas that result in win-win for hunters and conservation.

As an example, Marlborough branch, who recently featured on our NZDA social media, carried out animal control work for DOC on an inaccessible

conservation estate block over Labour weekend 2021. They flew in 24 hunters. 448 goats, 53 deer (48 pregnant hinds) and 3 pigs were taken. Total hunting hours were 593. The trip cost the club and its members \$11,280.00 (just for the helicopter time), and this excludes other direct costs like ammo, food and vehicle travel. NZDA would like to see in future some funding support for this type of volunteer conservation work by branches.

It was noted that a conservative estimate of costs to Marlborough branch for these operations, since 2012, is \$130,000.00 (not including this most recent hunt).

It will require a collaborative approach. Currently I have made my submission of branch recommendations and I am excited to hear back from the Department. My main message was that we need "access" and "locations", surely not too difficult!?

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Photo Credit: Peter O'Driscoll, Wairarapa, Game Animals, 2021 National Photographic Competition

Ian Owen South Island Rep South Canterbury branch E: jan.owen@deerstalkers.org.nz

It has been a busy year, well except for the forced holiday during lockdown. I have organised regional meetings for the Southern branches which have had good participation, it is great to see members interacting and sharing information, experiences and collaborating on various activities.



I have found that not all branch clubrooms have internet or mobile phone coverage which inhibits the ability of being able to host a Zoom meeting for some distant branches. Luckily both meetings I organised in Canterbury did have sufficient mobile coverage and I was able to help Nelson and Marlborough to attend via Zoom.

It is great to see the success of Gore & Districts "Take a kid Hunting Program". There were 38 kids taking part and 21 shot their first animal. There were 33 deer, 2 Chamois, and 2 pigs shot for the weekend. These kids will be the future of our sport.



Take a Kid Hunting a great success at Gore & Districts

Another highlight, of many this year, was attending the Gore & Districts prize giving. There were some awesome heads this year, with what most agreed was a record number of entries. Due to the timing of the branch scoring some of the trophies weren't entered into the National AHT this year, but after a vote at the meeting the branch scoring will now be held prior to Conference so members will be able to better evaluate if it's worthy of entering into the National competition.

With the National Board progressing the adopted business plan we have been forming some sub committees. These will be important and enable the Association to better cover the huge number of interests that affect the members of NZDA and all hunters and firearms owners of New Zealand.

The terms of reference are being formulated for a Competitive Shooting

Committee, and once these are finalised requests for nominations for positions on the committee will go out to branches. If you are interested to promoting competition shooting events, when the time comes please put yourself forward for roles on the subcommittee being formed.



A great turnout at the Gore & Districts AHT Prizegiving night

A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow

November has been busy on the advocacy front as well as hunting for me. I've managed to also onboard our new HUNTS team who are now working diligently on our rollout plan for the next 3 years.



There's some exciting new industry collaborations - to be announced soon - that will result in more member benefits.

I've been focused on the following key issues:

- Police consultation on the Arms Code updates, updated Regulations, and Firearms Arms Safety Workshops alongside GAC, Fish & Game, DOC, Fed Farmers and MSC.
- Land Safety Forum led by DOC and NZSAR.
- Hosting a GAC council meeting.
- Hosting COLFO's meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration.
- Onboarding our newest branch, Central Otago, and updating the systems.
- Updating our 3-year Business Plan and Budget Forecast for the upcoming December National Board meeting.
- Attending 1080 poison drop consultation meetings with DOC and OSPREY.
- Attending a hunting NGO sector all day meeting in Christchurch to talk about the future of recreational hunting interests.
- Upgrading our office furniture donated to us by my old law firm.
- Boosting our social media presence and awareness campaigns in response to Forest & Bird's propaganda early in the month.

All work and no play makes people dull, so I also squeezed in the last modules of my HUNTS course and made time for a Sika deer management hunt coordinated by the passionate team at the Sika Foundation.

Sika Management Hunt

After Cam Speedy spoke to the Wellington Branch members for a club night about the sika herd and habitat earlier this year, I was determined to walk the backcountry myself and organised to be part of a fly-in of club members (who are also Sika Foundation members by the way, including me). I've not hunted sika in recent years as much as I'd like, so I relished the chance. We flew in with Helisika for 4 days. The hunting was not easy but our group secured 3 animals. I was fortunate that my crosshairs landed on 2 of them!



HUNTS Course | Joint Wellington-Porirua Branches

During November I finished off my HUNTS Course. We focused on big game hunting theory and carried out the hunting weekend where all the modules are applied in practice.

We hunted on public land in the Southern Rimutakas. A farmer gave us permission to access the Forest Park because the trainees would target feral goats.

I joined Les, an Instructor, who also guided Justin and Matt. We saw a few goats and in the late afternoon on Saturday a red deer happened to fall to my rifle. I'm pleased to say that Rob Howey, our HUNTS Coordinator, told me it was the first red deer shot by a "trainee" under his time. The deer was taken back to basecamp whole and all the trainees got to watch a full butchery session.

I'm looking forward to seeing my fellow trainees at club nights and events for years to come. I hope they all participate in club life!



New Antler, Horn & Tusk NZDA National Medals Landed!

How do you motivate a trophy hunter to enter and score their trophy head in the national competitions? Why, provide an epic medal if it's a great head, that's how!

As part of the general operational update and rebranding to a professional standard I've commissioned new gold, silver and bronze medals.

These new medals will be issued to those who gained the requisite Douglas Score at Nationals this year in Queenstown.



NZDA Hosts COLFO Meeting and 25th Year Celebration

I was pleased to host and represent NZDA, along with National Life Member and COLFO Rep, Chaz Forsyth, for COLFO's 25th Anniversary Celebrations. We rubbed shoulders with all the advocacy giants and likeminded NGOs who have worked hard in the interests of shooters and licensed firearms owners. NZDA is a big supporter of COLFO and we need them watching Police and Politicians now more than ever as the laws change and create uncertainty.





Upcoming Changes to Clubs and Ranges

As you are aware, the new statute from June 2022 requires all shooting ranges to be certified by the Commissioner of Police. The new regulations contribute towards Police's vision of a safer New Zealand.

It is expected that in mid-2022 every shooting range in New Zealand will need to commence making application for certification of their ranges. As part of the range application process the range needs to be inspected by a trained Shooting Range Inspector (SRI). The inspector will conduct a physical inspection of a range and produce a report for the Shooting Range Operator (SRO) in order that all matters required to meet the certification have been considered and recorded.

Read the changes and full information sheet <u>here.</u>

Delays in Renewing and Processing Licences.



At the moment, all new firearms licence applications currently have a **processing period of approximately 12 months**, or 6 months if you are applying to renew your existing licence.

In the News: A lot of law, but where's the order?

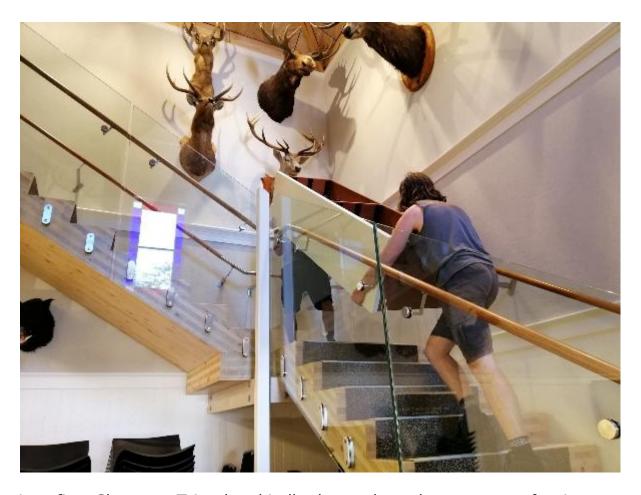
Opinion Piece: Nicole McKee, Act MP

With more patched gang members have come the stories of increasing gang crime and intimidation. Whole parts of towns are shut down as patched members hang out of cars and take over streets. Reports of violent crime and illegal firearm use become more regular. Even when New Zealanders were doing their bit to stay home while we suffered the current COVID-19 outbreak, we saw reports of gangs not abiding by the rules.

Unfortunately, the thuggishness of gangs has been met by a soft government with no real strategy to keep New Zealanders safe. We've seen a lot of law from this Government, but not a lot of order.

Read the full article <u>here.</u>

Law Firm Supports NZDA's New Jobs for Nature Staff With Furniture Donation

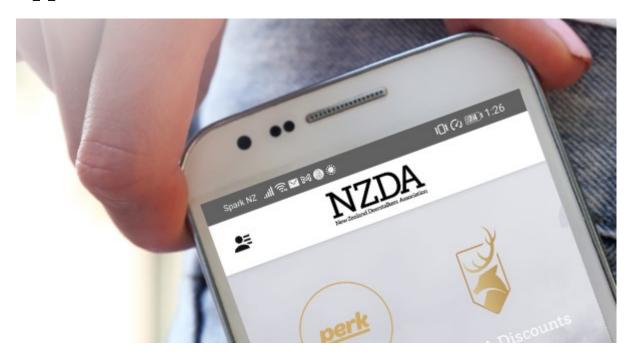


Law firm Chapman Tripp has kindly donated surplus corporate furniture to NZDA. This supports our HUNTS Staff as they deliver on recreation and conservation outcomes.

The office furniture will allow the team to focus on the delivery of their Jobs For Nature grant which seeks to train more hunters to safely, ethically and effectively hunt and harvest our valued big game animals across New Zealand.

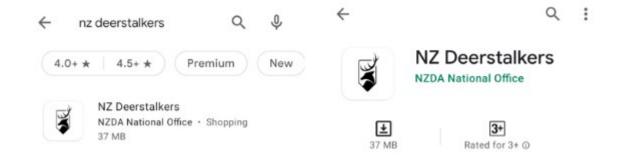
See more pictures here.

REMINDER: NZDA Memberships & Discounts App Live!



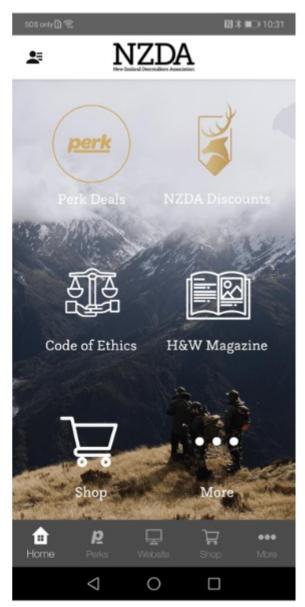
How to download the app

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!





Key Information

The app will only permit access to financial members.

• Please contact 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



Photo Credit: Kerrin Burnnand, Southern Lakes, Other Wildlife, 2021 National Photographic Competition

NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!

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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 your Copy of the Upcoming Summer Issue Today!

Shipping mid-December, so pre order now!

The next edition, Summer Issue 215 can be pre-ordered today.

Visit the NZDA shop and order your edition before Tuesday the 14th of December and we'll ship this ASAP.



Cover image on our upcoming Summer Issue 215 - Ready for pre-ordering now.

Did you miss Reading our Spring Issue 214?

Only 25 hard copy issues available, so order quick!

Click here to read the Spring 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.

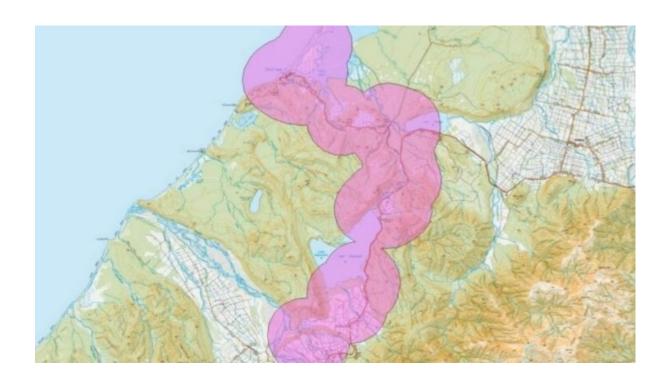
Order your printed editions here!

In the News: 'A needless loss': Over 400 native gulls, dog poisoned in Westland

A \$45 million project to eliminate pests in South Westland area killed 400 native gulls and a dog whilst remaining unfit for recreational hunting.

"The area where commercial hunting will be banned, and recreational hunting will not be recommended for three years following a rat eradication programme in South Westland."

Check <u>here</u> to read the full story.





Media Statement | GAC Promotes: Get outdoors and harvest from nature's food basket this summer

The Game Animal Council (GAC) supported Get Outdoors Week.

"Get Outdoors Week is about encouraging people into the outdoors and to enjoy all the health and wellbeing benefits that go along with active recreation," says GAC General Manager Tim Gale.

To read the full statement, click here.



Govt Announces There Won't Be An Independent Firearms Authority

COLFO spokesperson Hugh Devereux-Mack says the decision let down everyone.

Devereux-Mack says the new unit is "the exact opposite" of what the Government previously said it would establish: an independent firearms authority, separated from the Police and Government, with a dedicated regulations structure outside of enforcement.

To read the full article, click <u>here.</u>

COLFO News Issue #6

Click <u>here</u> to read COLFO's latest news.



Stay up to date with where aerial pest control operations are and have been taking place: https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/pest-control-regions/aerial-operations/

Southern Lakes Ladies Tahr Hunt

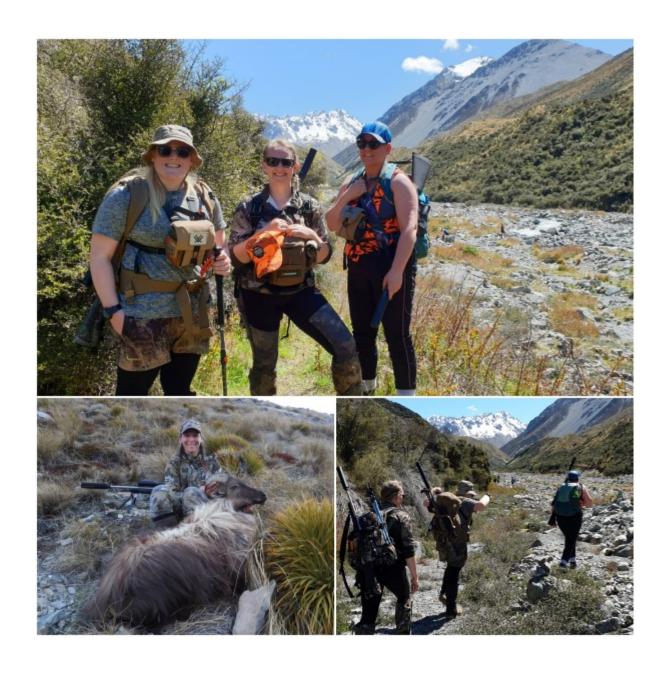


After a very successful ladies hunt hosted by the Southern Lakes Branch earlier in the year, the requests were coming in for another. So key organiser and branch HUNTS co-ordinator Katie Dugan swung into action and organised another ladies hunt - this time for Tahr in the Mount Cook area.

Fifteen ladies signed up from branches across the South Island. The weekend included an "intro to tahr hunting" session including education on tahr behaviour, where to spot them and how to hunt them, a "clinic" on uphill shooting and sighting in, concluding with 4 parties heading off to hunt in the Ruataniwha Conservation Area, Mount Cook.

Unfortunately it was a stinking hot Canterbury weekend so the Tahr that normally drop down to feed lower in the late afternoon, headed up to the cooler temps instead. However those that put in the elevation gain and hard work were successful. A good number were seen and a nice bull Tahr was shot by Kate Aynsley and celebrated that night by all with venison sausages from the April hunt and a good measure of cold beverages.

Next years trips are already in the planning for ANZAC and Labour weekends 2022, further info for the ladies in your branch on southernlakes@deerstalkers.org.nz



Sika Show 2021 | POSTPONED | New Date February 2022



Click the poster above to check out their website.



DOC Annual Report 30 June 2021

What does the Department of Conservation's (DOC) annual report mean to hunters?

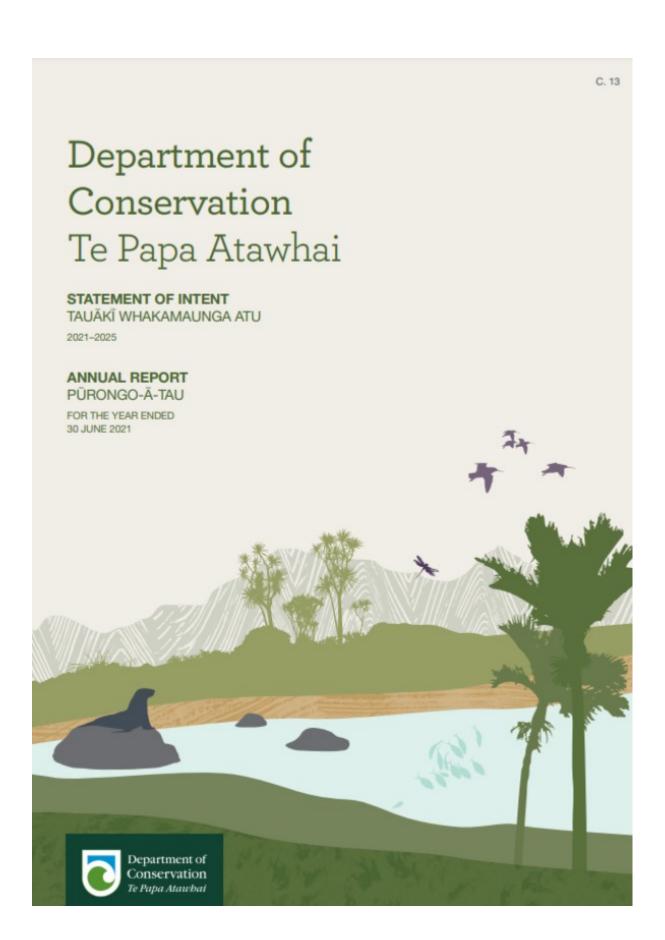
DOC's goal is to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, subject to a principle that the use of any natural or historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with conservation.

A simple search of the document tells us that 'recreation' is mentioned only 53 times compared to 'conservation', a whopping 334 times.

Hunting is a major recreational activity on public land. Is the department fulfilling their role of fostering recreation in nature? You could argue they aren't doing a very good job for hunters overall, particularly as hunting results in direct conservation benefits.

Hunting is recreation, hunting is conservation.

Learn more and find links to their report here.



In the News: Ammo Shortage

The current ammunition shortage was covered by Stuff NZ this month.

NZDA CEO Gwyn Thurlow was interviewed and gave insight on the situation. Ammunition is an essential part of hunting, have you been affected by the shortage?

The New Zealand mainstream media are picking up on the affairs of hunters.

Have a read of our recap and find a link to the stuff article <u>here</u>.



Photo supplied by Stuff.

Nelson Lakes Opens Access for Recreational Hunters

A big success for hunter led game animal management and collaboration with the Department of Conservation in Nelson Lakes! NZDA alongside

Nelson and Marlborough branches have collaborated to utilise recreational hunting access into Nelson Lakes National Park. Have a read here.

- Hunting Access
- Supporting the Economy
- Hunter Led Conservation
- Successful Collaboration with Doc
- Alliance with Murchison Heli Tours
- NZDA and other Hunters Achieved Win-Win Outcomes

This is a great result and is the sort of outcome NZDA strives for. Recreational hunters need more access into remote areas and particularly National Park exemptions! Hunters are keen to be part of our conservation story, which feeds our families and friends along the way. Deer and chamois are valued introduced game animals, as opposed to pests. Feral cats are a real issue in Nelson Lakes and it's great to hear hunters helped remove them. Cats are on the Department's radar and are a bigger threat to our biodiversity than deer and other game animals.

Read about NZDA member Warren Plums trip into the national park here.



A PLB Could Save Your Life

NZDA encourages all hunters to carry a PLB whether hunting near or far from civilization and reception. The ability to summon help in a life-threatening situation is invaluable.

You can buy or hire a beacon from a range of retailers, click <u>here</u> to view retailers. You can register it at <u>www.beacons.org.nz</u>

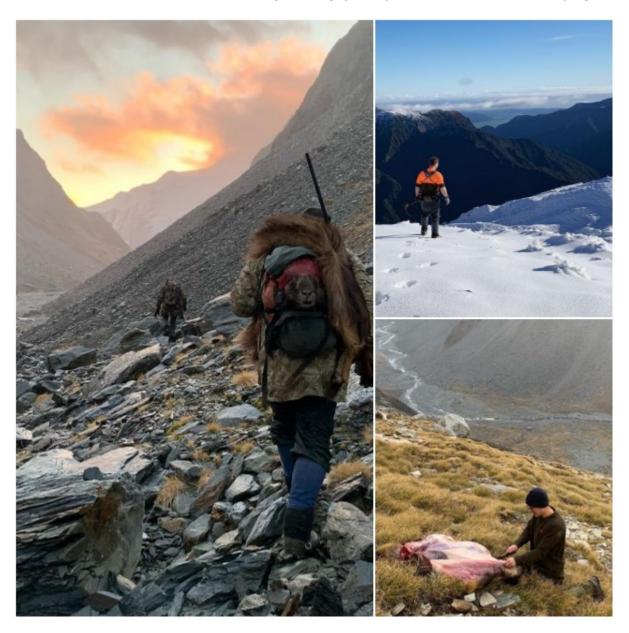
More information is available at: https://www.adventuresmart.nz/distress-beacons/

A hunter was recently found safe and well after two nights lost in Kaweka Range. Read more about it <u>here.</u>



@NZDA on Instagram and Facebook

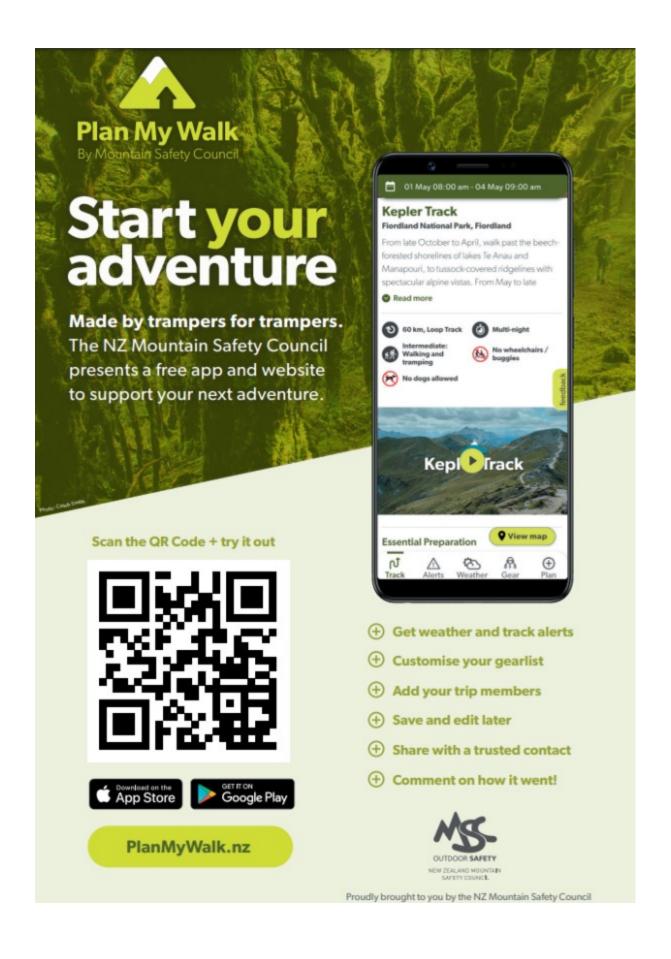
In this section we showcase our supporters content posted on social media so, for your chance to be featured, follow @NZDANational and @nzdeerstalkersassociation and just tag your photo to either of the pages.



Instagram - @waynelemin



Instagram - @dale_sato



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 <u>Go Native World</u>.

Visit www.gonativeworld.com today!



Interislander Ferry NZDA Discount Code



IMPORTANT - From 15 December you will need to show your My Vaccine Pass or negative COVID test to

travel on the Interislander

Read their full COVID update here.

NZDA 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 <u>here.</u>

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 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.



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NZDA Instagram

Protecting Hunters' Rights in New Zealand Since 1937

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

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