



Lest We Forget – beautifully built and maintained memorial at Millers Flat, Otago, a credit to the community who gave so much in the conflicts and keep the memory alive.

### "Wanted Known" - Range Officers

We are seeking interest from members to go through our course to be warranted NZDA Range Officers for Packers Creek Range. Some members have expressed interest and so a course will be held in the near term (this winter). If you are keen or wish to know more please contact Carina Jackson carina@nzdanelson.co.nz

### **Competitions**

Don't forget that to enter your great autumn hunts trophies and photos into our competitions you need to be a paid-up member!

#### Contents Overview

Editorial

Roar Safety

Range Matters

– Winners and
Wood

It's a Gas

WWW Great Southern Land

Reminder to
"Log In" When
Hunting the
Cobb

Trapped

Club Night -

No Club Night in April

F&G Report

Important Links and Contacts

### **Editorial**



April, a favourite month. As I prepare for my annual family roar hunt in South Westland my mind is already somewhat preoccupied! As usual I place importance on ANZAC day and the costs paid by our forebears to allow us to enjoy the democracy and society we do today. It puts a lot of matters into a sharper perspective and a gives rise to a better appreciation of our lot.

Thanks you those who donated gear for our mates in Hawkes Bay and especially Maarten who locally co-ordinated the collection and packing of the gear (see more below).

A big thanks to Gwyn and the team at HQ for all their advocacy and work over the past 12 months of our business year; the latest email from HQ on advocacy undertaken in the past year is a direct result of your investment as members and the skills, dedication and passion of the team at National Office. If you haven't read that yet then DO! Check your emails or see the short version here <a href="Advocacy Summary">Advocacy Summary</a>.

Hunting is reliant on three main things – the legitimate ability to own and use firearms, game animals being in existence and access to those animals. Whilst easy to think it's tough (it is getting tougher...) in NZ we are blessed with a very large public estate mostly administered by DOC but also other agencies with constraints on hunting less than many other nations. But that doesn't mean it's a perfect world by a long stretch, and some striking anomalies and concerns both already exist, and have the potential to arise. This is an area that is a focus for NZDA and other organisations who value the outdoors for recreation and sport. Usefully there are improving tools for understanding where access exists now and notably this link (and more below) from Walking Access NZ WAMS Access "How to" Video Guide

Make this link a favourite and use it to ensure you know where you are entitled to be (and not). As always, even if a map shows a legal passage through private land, try to advise the landowner of your plans.

A recent drive about hunting trip to Southland and back was notable in many ways, not least the fact that no animals were harmed despite best endeavours! However, it had other joys. Whilst staying in a DOC hut in South Westland we had some great visitors, firstly a young Scot who was enjoying the bush and ability to stay in DOC huts. He had a DOC annual hut pass to give him ability to stay anywhere. He said the hut system in NZ is the best he has encountered anywhere and superior to the so called bothies (have a look here - Mountain Bothies) in the Scottish Highlands which are a mixed lot of public and private huts, barns and shelters for trampers over there. Message? Appreciate what we have, maintain and protect. On the second night a group of keen young guys arrived from the other direction, they were doing a traverse but hoping for a deer too. Up from Otago where they all worked, they were enjoying the walk and hunting opportunity. It brought home to us the value in these tracks, huts and hunting access on public land.

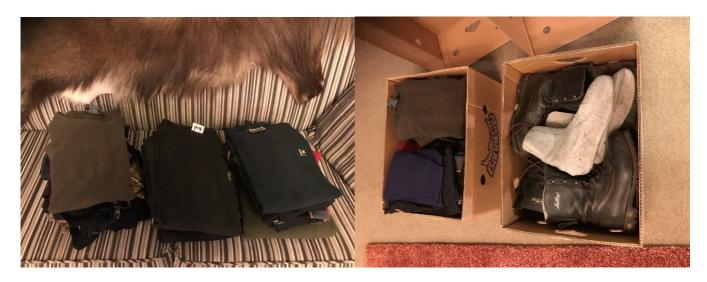


Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - Richard Wells

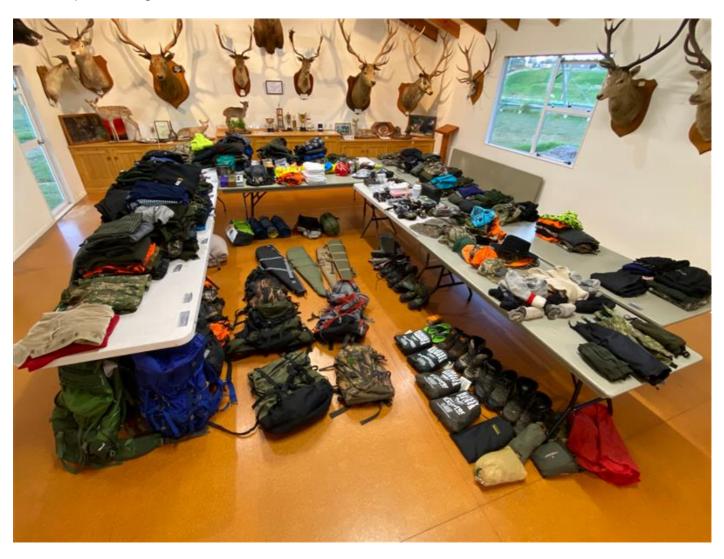
www.nzdanelson.co.nz

# Donations to Hawkes Bay Flood Victims

Thanks Maarten for collecting gear from local members, these were recently dispatched north thanks to Mainstream Freight who are aiding the cause nationally.



And a big thanks to North Island National Board member Tim Taylor who has led the overall effort. Below a pic of the gear that has been collected from all over NZ – wonderful effort



# Roar Safety.....Look - Think - Act

#### These words from Mike Spray - Pics from The Echo

With the roar approaching, many of you will be planning your annual trip into the backcountry to spend time with your mates and hunt stags. It is an exciting time and one we always look forward too. It seems every year at this time, we hear of a tragic accident where one hunter has mistaken his mate for a deer and serious injury, or death has followed. Tragedies such as this are devastating, and it is particularly sad to realise that all of them could have been avoided if the shooter had followed one vitally important basic rule of firearms safety. 'Identify your target beyond all doubt'.

We will all acknowledge that this rule appears common-sense and is easily understood, however in the heat of the moment, it is one that is sometimes unheeded, and alongside other contributing factors has been the cause of one hunter firing at another thinking he was a deer. Let's look closely at this rule. To properly identify a deer, you must see enough of it. You should take the time to see the head, neck and shoulders of the animal all at the same time so that positive identification can be achieved. This can often be challenging when hunting in bush environments. If you don't see enough of the animal, then do not load your rifle. Be aware of buck fever, an emotion that can cause loss of control like that of a panic response. Also be aware that peer pressure from a hunting companion can influence your decision making. Visual illusion is where the brain can trick the eyes into thinking you have seen a deer when you haven't. This is caused by you not taking the time required to see enough of the animal to positively identify it.

Never fire at sound, shape, colour or movement or any combination of these. Assume it is a human until you prove otherwise.



Note the DOC track marker, never assume you are alone in terms of other hunters or other users of the backcountry such as trampers or fishers.

It is important as you hunt to evaluate yourself. Are you fatigued, feeling frustrated or stressed? These factors can also lead to poor decision making.

Do not use your rifle scope to either search for animals or to identify an animal as you could inadvertently point your firearm at your mate endangering them. Use your eyes or binoculars as these provide a wide field of view unlike a rifle scope which will restrict your field of vision. A wise hunter will wear high visibility (hi-vis) clothing especially for early morning and late evening low light conditions. Hi-vis is more likely to be easily seen at some distance in open country and close in when hunting in bush environments. Hi vis should automatically be associated with a human.



Be seen by humans but not deer.

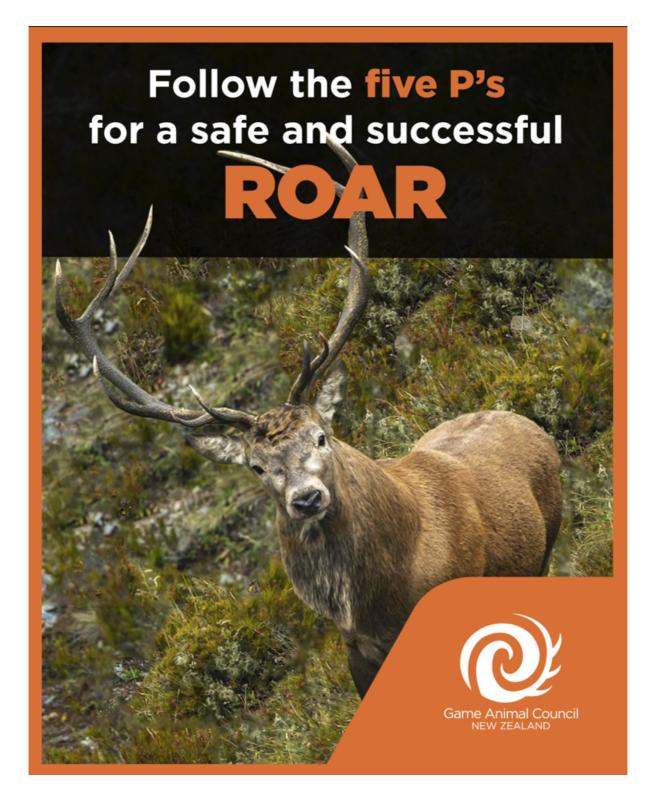
History tells us that most hunting incidents occur within the same hunting party, where separating for whatever reason, can be the beginning of a tragic end. If you do intentionally separate from your hunting companion, make sure you discuss a plan that will ensure you and your mate cannot be mistaken for an animal by the other. Do not be tempted to deviate from the plan. If you separate unintentionally, cease hunting until you regain and confirm visual contact. Even the most experienced hunter has made the fatal mistake of not identifying their target which has resulted in them pulling the trigger on another person. Most will say, I thought it would never happen to me, but it can so do not be complacent and accept it could happen to you. If you remain aware of all parts of Rule 4, to identify your target beyond all doubt when hunting, it will significantly minimise the possibility of something going wrong. Before leaving on your trip have a get-together with your mates and discuss Rule 4 and the other basic rules of firearms safety so everyone is aware and on the same page. Set it up as part of the trip rules and all agree to commit to safety first.

For more detailed information about firearms safety, read through the New Zealand Firearms Safety Code which can be viewed on the Firearms Safety Authority website on <a href="https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/firearms-safety-code">https://www.firearmssafetyauthority.govt.nz/firearms-safety/firearms-safety-code</a>

**From the pen of Mike Spray** (North Island HUNTS Assessor Range Inspector and many other good things...)



#### 5 P's for a safe and successful Roar



With thousands of hunters about to head into the hills for the annual deer Roar, the Game Animal Council is reminding them to follow the 5 Ps for a safe and successful Roar; plan for the best, prepare for the worst, provide your intentions, positively identify your target and pick the right animal.

"The Roar is the highlight of the hunting year and as I often describe it, bigger than Christmas for deer hunters," says Game Animal Council General Manager Tim Gale. "While I definitely want to encourage hunters to get out and enjoy some great hunting, I also want to remind them to take the necessary precautions to make sure they have a safe and successful trip."

The *5 Ps*, focus on the preparations and decisions hunters need to make before and during their hunts.

"The fact is if you undertake the right planning, carry the right gear, take a personal locator beacon and leave your intentions then you significantly improve your chances if something goes wrong," says Gale.

"Likewise, positively identifying your target, treating every firearm as loaded and chambering a cartridge only when ready to fire significantly reduces the likelihood of a firearms incident. I also strongly recommend wearing high-visibility clothing, particularly if you are bush hunting."

"When out hunting, we also want hunters to take a judicious approach to the animals they target. Knowing how to identify younger stags from mature males that are ready to be harvested now is important, as these young stags still have so much potential and will provide great Roar hunting in the future. Targeting and harvesting hinds as meat animals hinds will also positively contribute to management."

"Finally, there will be a lot of hunters out and about over the next couple of months so always assume other people are in the area," says Gale. "If you come across other parties, share information of where you intend to hunt as this will reduce the safety risk and mean there is less chance of getting in the way of each other's hunting."

The 5 Ps for a safe and successful Roar are:

#### Plan for the best

- Plan where you'll go and what you'll hunt
- Carry the right food, clothing and equipment
- Check the forecast

#### **P**repare for the worst

- Carry a beacon
- Take a first aid kit
- Be prepared to wait out a storm or high river levels

#### **P**rovide your intentions

- Let others know where you are going
- Inform them of when you plan to get out
- Give a date and time to raise the alarm

#### Positively identify your target

- If you are bush hunting, wear high visibility clothing
- · Treat every firearm as loaded
- · Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
- Be absolutely positive of your target

#### **P**ick the right animal

- Improve future Roars by leaving younger males
- Know how to identify and target mature males
- If you are meat hunting, target females.

The promotional video for the 5 Ps is available at <a href="https://youtu.be/XR53hVKbi7E">https://youtu.be/XR53hVKbi7E</a> as well as through the GAC's website, Facebook and Instagram.

The NZ Game Animal Council is a statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, communities, commerce and conservation.

#### **Contact:**

Tim Gale

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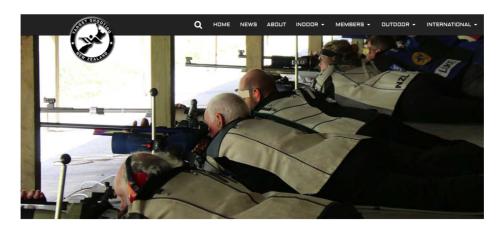


# Range Matters – Winners and Wood

All Packers Creek Range users note that this Range is once again open as usual but always check our website and your email for important updates plus shooting events schedule Nelson Ranges - Information and Updates

Note!!! Packers creek Closed for Easter Champs Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th April

**Newsflash!** Grame Smith sweeps South Island benchrest championship events in March competition. Well done Graeme!



Aiming for Shooting Success

Target Shooting New Zealand

2023 South Islands - Benchrest

1 Graeme Smith	Nelson	99.6	98.7	99.5	99.8	395.26
2 Russell Henshaw	Canterbury	100.7	100.6	98.7	97.4	395.24
3 Graeme Oakley	Canterbury	99.7	99.7	100.7	95.3	393.24
4 Tony Titheridge	Canterbury	99.6	100.7	97.2	96.4	392.19
5 Graeme Valance	Nelson	99.3	97.4	99.6	97.4	392.17
6 Murray Reeves	Waitaki	96.0	97.3	98.4	100.7	391.14
7 Rhonda Booth	Canterbury	98.3	98.5	98.5	95.5	389.18
8 Ian Pottinger	Canterbury	99.7	96.5	96.6	94.2	385.20

#### **Benchrest - South Island Champs**

1 Graeme Smith	Nelson	99.7	100.9	100.9	99.8	398.33
2 Rhonda Booth	Canterbury	100.8	100.6	99.8	99.7	398.29
3 Graeme Oakley	Canterbury	100.8	100.9	98.5	99.7	397.29
4 Graeme Valance	Nelson	100.4	99.6	98.4	100.7	397.21
5 Russell Henshaw	Canterbury	100.10	98.4	100.9	98.5	396.28
6 Murray Reeves	Waitaki	100.8	98.5	100.5	98.4	396.22
7 Ian Pottinger	Canterbury	100.5	99.8	98.4	98.8	395.25
8 Tony Titheridge	Canterbury	100.6	98.6	99.6	97.4	394.22

### Summer Series .22 Benchrest Latest Results – March 10<sup>th</sup> Shoot 100 Yard

1	Carina Jackson	1.292	0.426	0.719	0.630	0.775	0.7684
2	Greg Couper	0.877	0.931	0.848	0.663	0.848	0.8334
3	Graeme Smith	0.576	0.945	0.657	1.037	1.040	0.8510
4	Thys van biljow	1.512	0.689	1.294	1.036	1.155	1.137
5	John Ronaldson	1.838	0.981	1.467	0.753	1.171	1.242
6	Terry Farnham	1.879	1.661	0.777	0.906	1.167	1.278
7	Michael Kidson	0.996	1.317	1.183	1.375	1.615	1.297
8	Dante van Biljow	1.847	0.986	1.248	1.229	1.353	1.332
9	Graeme Vallance	1.307	1.322	1.225	1.214	2.153	1.444
10	Anne Marie Kidson	0.915	2.310	1.138	2.329	1.619	1.662

Carina's 2nd group at .426 equals current record

#### **Latest Summer Series Standings**

	11-	16-	13-	18-	15-	12-	12-	16-	7-	
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Carina Jackson	7	6	7		9	8	10			47
Greg Couper	6	5	8		10	7	9			45
Graeme Smith	5	4	3		8	6	8			34
John Ronaldson	3.5	3	4		6	4	6			26.5
Graeme Vallance			5		7		2			14
Rex Charlesworth			6		5					11
Jude Peacock	3.5					5				8.5
Michael Kidson	2	1	1		2	2	4			12
Anne Marie Kidson	1	2	2		1	1	1			8
Terry Farnham					4	3	5			12
David Hill					3					3
Thys van Biljow							7			7
Dante van Biljow							3			3

Carina Jackson holds onto her lead in the Summer Series with 2 shoots to go.



A mess made into money – downed trees now drying as firewood and destined for Red Deer Lodge to offset purchase cost of wood for its logburner. **Many thanks** to the helpful, but all too few, that turned out to do the work.

# HELP OUR FOOD BANKS FEED THOSE IN NEED

Since learning of the extent of food poverty nationally and in Nelson, your committee has begun donating venison to Kai Rescue and other food banks in the Nelson region. The last count in 2020 estimated 14% of New Zealanders experienced food poverty and over the last two years it's got a lot worse.

Our first donation was in October 2021 where we donated over forty kilograms of venison patties and sausages. Kai Rescue told us that meat was a rarity in their donations, wild, free range, organic venison especially so.



Since then we have provided roughly 250kg more venison as either sausages, patties or mince.

In March 2022 we successfully applied for and received a grant from the Dept for Internal Affairs for \$4,500 to pay for the costs of processing and packaging donated animals. This should enable us to process and donate around 20-30 more deer.

Since we started donating meat, food prices have sky rocketed and now even more people face the threat of food insecurity through no fault of their own.





So far all of the venison has kindly been provided by our President Greg Couper and committee member Carina Jackson, but now:

we want you, our members, to be part of this worthwhile initiative.

If you are willing and able to help provide meat then please contact committee member David Haynes who will let you know how to go about it.

David can be contacted on 0272 351 833 or david@solumconsulting.co.nz.



#### Venison Provision Protocol For Meat Donations To Food Banks

#### Before leaving for the hunt

Give James at Meat Solutions a call (03 544 7297) to check he has capacity to process the meat.

#### Check your hunting area

Ensure the area being hunted is outside of any withholding period and buffer zone of any aerial 1080 or other poisoning operations (<a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries/">https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries/</a>).

#### Assess the animal prior to shooting.

Check it is healthy in body mass and posture. Don't shoot hinds with fawns at foot.

#### Ideal shot placement

Avoid all risk contamination of meat by lead fragments or gut contents, think about the exit point of your shot as well as its entry.

Using solid copper projectiles avoids risk of lead contamination.

#### Once you have shot the animal

Visually assess the animal again for any lesions or sign of poor health. (https://www.ospri.co.nz/publications-resources/how-to-inspect-wild-deer-for-tb/).

#### When gutting the animal

Ensure this is done so as not to contaminate the carcass with hair, dirt or vegetation. Tie off anus, throat, windpipe and urethra prior to gutting. Keep insects off carcass.

#### Carrying out the animal whole

Keep the animal as a whole carcass with skin on and fetlocks/hooves and head off. Keep the carcass as cool as possible.

#### Carrying out field dressed meat

Keep clean and cool, place in a clean fabric bag, not directly in a plastic bag.

#### **Protection of carcass during transit**

Keep carcass and/or meat covered with a sheet or meat bag keep off insects and dirt during transit.

#### Delivery

Pre-arrange delivery to Richmond Meat Solutions, ensure you have access code and/or key to the walk-in chiller.

#### Labelling

Ensure the donation is labelled as "NZDA food bank donation" with the date and time of kill.

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

## It's Gas

Consolidate your partial fuel canisters. 

Get the hottest product Gear Junkie just tested, "We tested it and came to the conclusion that every backpacker, camper, and hiker should keep one of these with their cooking gear. It will get used."

Check it out here Youtube video on Flipfuel gadget



### WWW - Great Southern Land

Recently enjoyed a road trip to three Ww's - West Coast, Whiskey Gully in Blue Mountains and Waikaia in Southland. Great country, cheap accom (\$5 – 30 per person per night) and crafty deer....anyone with an interest in these Otago and Southland spots can drop a line.



One of the many rivers in South Westland starting with W – recent dry weather makes for easy crossing



Westland.... right?



And even drier – Whiskey Gully block in the Blue Mountains with a view out to the farmland around Tapanui – the extremely dry bush and <u>very</u> crafty fallow deer makes for one of the more testing and frustrating hunting experiences around...



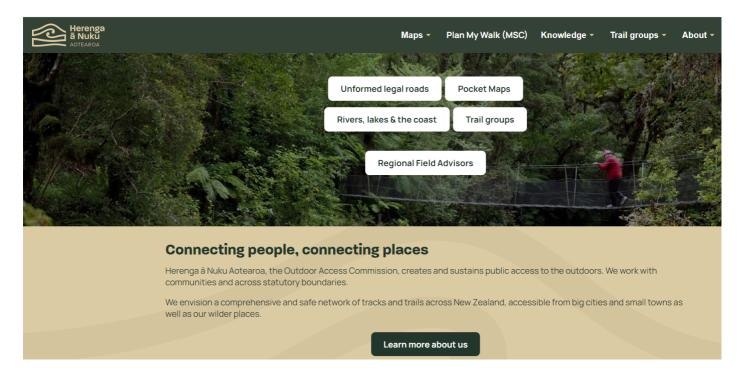
Big double wallow high on a ridge in Waikaia bush.....given low rain for many months it's a testament to the water holding ability of Southland clay! This will be busy in the roar....hot weather made it pretty quiet for us.....

# Access - Know Your Boundaries

It is worth having a thorough look through all the information laid out at Herenga a Nuku Access NZ

#### Access NZ

#### **Unformed Legal Roads**







#### **TRAPPING & ACTIVITY REPORTS**

This month we welcome Greg and Carina Jackson who are managing a trapping line around the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association's Packers Creek Rifle Range, in the Maitai valley.

#### PACKERS CREEK, MAITAI VALLEY

Greg and Carina Jackson carinajackson97@gmail.com

February Catch: 3 weasels, 8 rats, 2 mice, 2 possums

Great to see the Packers Creek Range trapping programme now on the TDC newsletter! And its clear the muttonfat trick works on the rats....flattening them! Thx Greg and Carina



# Cobb Hunting Intentions and LogBook

Please keep in mind to fill out the logbook as per this previous announcement. The number of hunters and days hunted is important data to provide to DOC about the importance of this area to

# A message from hunters to other hunters

Solden Bay

NZDA

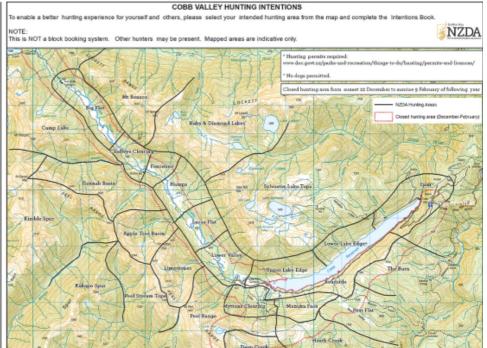
New Zealand Description

You know that feeling when you have just taken three days off work, drove two hours and then walked three hours with a heavy pack and rifle to arrive at your hunting spot and find two or three other hunters there doing the same thing? Now what, do I turn back? What's plan B?

Golden Bay Deerstalkers Association

Here in sunny Golden Bay our local NZDA branch has come up with a clever way to avoid situations like that and give all hunters a better hunting experience. Next time you come over Takaka Hill to go hunting, keep an eye out for the little DoC kiosk when you arrive at the top of the hill entering the Cobb Valley. Inside the kiosk you will find a GB NZDA hunters' intentions book alongside the DoC intentions book. FYI, the hunters' intentions book has been there for more than 10 years! It's a great system for hunters, where you choose the general area you want





to hunt from the map on the wall and write down in the intentions book when, morning or evening, you are planning on hunting this area. By doing this, everyone can see the general area you are hunting and you understand where others are. This way we can avoid too many hunters ending up in the same area and improve everyone's hunting experience.

We have spoken to our local DoC office here in Takaka to get a 'HUNTERS SIGN IN,' sign put up when entering the Cobb Valley to inform, or remind hunters to stop and check/ fill out the hunters' intentions book upon arrival and departure. Obviously we can't force people to use this system but we strongly recommend it if you want to give yourself and others a better hunting experience.

It would be great if hunters all around New Zealand used intentions books, whether they are provided by DoC or NZDA, when hunting on public land because it's not about giving away your favourite hunting spots, it's about having enough information to support better and safe hunting for everybody.

By writing this article we also hope to inspire other NZDA branches and hunting clubs all around New Zealand to adopt a similar system for hunting on public land to help improve everyone's hunting experiences.

Next time you come hunting up the Cobb Valley, please take five minutes to stop in and check/ fill out the hunters' intentions book. This way we can all go home after a successful hunt to have a beer with our mates and tell lies about how far we walked and how many more animals we could have shot!

Happy hunting everyone.

### Fish and Game News

#### **NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT**

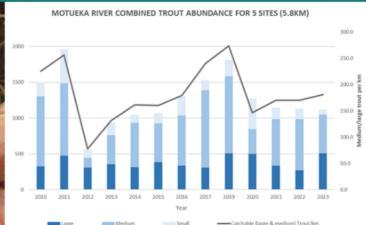


BUSY MONTH FOR DRIFT DIVES: Staff have been active drift diving rivers with the Owen, Branch/Leatham, Motueka, Maruia, Matakitaki, Baton, Rai & Pelorus completed. As can be seen from the graph below, the Motueka River trout fishery showed an improvement on the past couple of years. While numbers of medium and small fish were less than some years, numbers of large fish showed an increase on previous years. Of note was the impressive fish size and condition. The Maruia river was feeling the effects of recent large flood events, with a modest count, and an absence of small fish which are most vulnerable to flood events.

**ELECTRIC FISHING SURVEYS:** A number of electric fishing surveys have been undertaken, mostly within the Branch/Leatham catchment where 18 separate sites have been monitored. The primary aim of these surveys is to monitor native fish abundance, though we also get an idea of trout spawning success through juvenile fish abundance. The Riuwaka River (North and South branches) was also recently surveyed, and it was great to see very good numbers of adult koaro in residence in the North Branch. The high koaro count is similar to last years' high count (though average fish size increased this year), highlighting the importance of flow stability for native fish abundance.

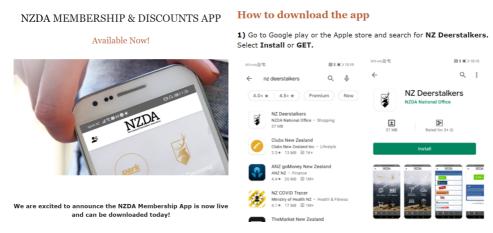
**MOLESWORTH CHUKAR SEASON CANCELLED**: This years' Molesworth chukar season has been scuppered due to the planned 1080 operation. There were plans to hold a 'one off' upland weekend the weekend after the Molesworth Goose Hunt takes place, allowing for vehicle access into the chukar blocks, as well as being able to hunt parts of the main Acheron Valley.





### Member Benefits - Don't Miss Out!

Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: Benefits and Discounts and NZDA Benefits APP as per email from NZDA HQ on 17 Se



#### **Exclusive NZDA discounts:**

- Interisland Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
- Go Native outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
- SWAZI Pro Deal, sign-up with your valid NZDA membership
- Napier of London shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
- AJ Productions electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
- Kilwell Sports hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
- Hunting with Huntahr Guiding, 10% discount
- Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
- Murchison Heli Tours, 10% off your flights
- NZ Taxidermy Ltd, 10% discount on mounts
- Bullivant Taxidermy, 10% discount on mounts
- 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual <u>Backcountry Hut Pass</u> or 'Hut Pass'. See the DOC website for more details



### More Meat for Kai Rescue



Another batch of beautiful, free range and healthy venison mince for Kai Rescue. This was an 80 kg batch. Thanks Greg and Carina for "getting" and James for processing.



Anyone wishing to donate a carcase please touch base with David Haynes who can advise the necessary requirements to ensure top quality. David Haynes david@solumconsulting.co.nz



Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue More info here: Meat Solutions

# Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti Red Deer Lodge

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

### 2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

All details can be found on our refreshed website: Nelson Branch Committee

Website Nelson Branch NZDA

Facebook Facebook Nelson NZDA

### Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association NZDA

**DOC Hunting Portal Hunting Conservation Land** 

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation Wapiti

Game Animal Council GAC

#### **Ballots**

- Haast Ballot
- Wanaka Ballot
- Southland Waikaia <u>Leithen Bush Wainakarua Catlins</u>
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation Ballot

#### **COLFO COLFO**

Mountain Safety Council MSC

MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting Watch Videos

Avalanche Advisory Avalanche Advisory Site

NZ Police (Firearms Law) Firearms

Also see here for firearms storage and carriage: NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms

www.nzdanelson.co.nz