

April 2026



Final Written Warning!

Yes folks, it's time to think about our great **AHT and Photo-competitions**. Get your camera cranking and the grapevine says some good heads have been measured locally already.....but the best months of hunting are still before us.

Don't forget **you must be a paid-up member** at time of taking (pic or trophy) and on the night of entry.... don't dilly-dally with getting it paid (before you forget....). Both pics were placegetters in our 2022 Photo-competition.



THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

Farming Our Big Back Yard – Who's Next?

Molesworth Game & Conservation Trust

Molesworth Goose Shoot

Range Matters

News from DOC & GAC

A Hunting Rifle

Trapped

CLUB NIGHT

OAC and MGCT

**7pm Weds
29th TSN
Saxton**

MEMBER BENEFITS

IMPORTANT LINKS

Editorial

Hullo Hunters and Shooters,

April is a big month in the hunting calendar.....and there's plenty of big news in this month's edition of the Mountain Echo.

I've just returned from a trip into Molesworth where Ros and I shot a stag each, retrieved a lot of meat, saw a hummel (Google it if unsure!) and had plenty of interesting adventures.

There are three bits of news regarding Molesworth below, one is linked to the expiry of the current farm lease that has been held by Pāmu for over 20 years; the other is about the formation of a Trust which, due to the potential for a change in farm license holder, the stagnation of the Reserve's Conservation Management Plan review & renewal process and coupled with the obvious values for game hunters (and other recreational interests), seeks to support the enhancement of those values not their erosion in the future. The picture in this editorial (taken on St James actually!) depicts what will be needed by hunters in Molesworth and elsewhere (similar Trusts and Foundations are Rakiura Whitetail Trust, Wapiti Foundation and Sika Foundation) as well as public land in general – strong bodies, good supports (and maybe a few barbs!). Finally, a good goose round-up from Mike Gane on the great work the dedicated goose shooters do each year by removing these unwanted birds from the flats, waterways and gullies of Molesworth. Good job! and an invite from Mike to join the next one!



DOC have provided us with information which is useful and informative' and I urge you to have a read, especially the FAQ sheet on hunting, permits and permit conditions. There are well over 30,000 Open Permit holders in NZ and the first turnover on the new system commences this month as those nearly 12 months in are due to expire. In high activity hunting areas, DOC (combined with Police) are commencing to check hunters for having a permit at public land entry points as per snip here.



NZDA Hutt Valley Branch

25 March at 19:01 · 🌐

...

A Message from Wairarapa Police:

Wairarapa Police want to let hunters know officers will be carrying out compliance checks, with Department of Conservation staff, at the main access points to Aorangi Forest Park over coming weeks. The checks are to ensure that hunters entering the park have a current DOC permit.

Please ensure you have that if you are entering a DOC area you have the relevant permit. A permit can be accessed online at:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/.../permits-and.../hunting-permit/>

Wairarapa Police are also reminding hunters using the Forest Park to stop and think before trespassing onto private land to shoot. With the roar approaching, Police have again had reports of people spotlighting and shooting from the road as they access the Forest Park, via Haurangi Road. We don't want you to make a mistake that costs you your firearms licence.

Information on the rules around hunting can be found on Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority: Hunting access and unlawful hunting activities | Firearms Safety Authority New Zealand, or via NZ Game

Don't get caught out wherever you are, permits are free, easy and last 12 months. Understand the rules regarding handheld thermals...they're OK but NOT in hours of darkness where they equate to a spotlight and therefore the act of hunting – it's a NO on public land at in the hours of darkness. GAC also provide excellent guides and advice to better and safer hunting.

Thank you Will Rickerby for a bit of humor, in troubling times here and globally, it can be easy to forget to have a good laugh.

Happy and Safe Hunting – **Richard Wells**

Farming Our Big Backyard – Who's Next?



NEW ZEALAND | 1NEWS

Five applicants seek to operate NZ's largest farm

By 1News Reporters | Monday 3:27pm

The search for a new operator to manage commercial farming at New Zealand's largest farm has moved a step closer, with applications officially closed.

Stacey Wrenn, Department of Conservation South Marlborough Operations Manager, confirmed there were five applications to run [the commercial farming at Molesworth Recreation Reserve](#).

"We're really pleased with the response we've had here. Given the scale of the reserve and the specialised type of farming, we think this is a good level of interest," Wrenn said.

"We appreciate the effort that has gone into preparing the applications."

At 180,787 hectares, Molesworth is slightly larger than Rakiura/Stewart Island and bigger than 10 of New Zealand's national parks.

The Marlborough land held cultural importance for iwi including Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kurī, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira and Rangitāne o Wairau, and was valued for its biodiversity and public recreation.

Applications would be assessed against a set of criteria, including farming capability, environmental protection, and how cultural values would be upheld. Public access to the reserve would also be a key consideration.

Wrenn said the department expected the preferred operator to be selected by the end of May. That operator would then need to apply for a concession, which would be publicly notified to allow for submissions.

The current leaseholder, state-owned farmer Pāmu Farms of New Zealand, would continue operating the property until its lease expired on June 30, 2026.

“As the incumbent, Pāmu continues to engage closely with the Department of Conservation regarding the future of the Molesworth lease, and we’re committed to working constructively through their process,” a spokesperson said.

The Department of Conservation said it was working with Pāmu to ensure farming operations continued smoothly during the change over. – *Source TVNZ 1NEWS*



Molesworth Recreation Reserve (Source: Department of Conservation) (Source: Supplied)

Introducing the Molesworth Game & Conservation Trust

A new chapter in the stewardship of one of New Zealand's most iconic landscapes has begun with the formal establishment of the **Molesworth Game & Conservation Trust**.

Formed by a dedicated group of hunters, conservationists, and high-country enthusiasts, the Trust is committed to the long-term health and sustainable management of the Molesworth Recreation Reserve, New Zealand's largest. Its primary mission is to foster a collaborative environment where highly valued recreational hunting and robust conservation thrive side-by-side.



Partnerships for a Shared Legacy

Molesworth is a landscape of national significance, valued for its vastness, its ongoing farming heritage, and its unique biodiversity. The Molesworth Game and Conservation Trust seeks to enhance this legacy by providing a structured, community-led partner for the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the station's farming stakeholders to engage with.

"Molesworth belongs to all New Zealanders," says Trust spokesperson Bill Frost. "Our goal is to support the management of this impressive and vast landscape by providing on-the-ground expertise and resources. We believe that by working together, we can ensure that the deer and chamois populations are managed at levels that support a healthy, regenerating ecosystem while maintaining a high-quality recreational resource for future hunting generations."

Key Objectives

The Trust will pursue several core objectives focused on balance and transparency:

1. **Collaborative Management:** Building a strong working relationship with DOC, the farm lessee, and other stakeholders to ensure management activities align with the unique needs of the station.
2. **Scientific Data Collection:** Investing in research to better understand animal population trends and habitat conditions, ensuring that management decisions are based on the best available information.
3. **Enhancing Biodiversity:** Supporting active conservation projects that protect native flora and fauna, recognizing that a healthy habitat is the foundation for a healthy game resource.
4. **Sustainable Frameworks:** Exploring long-term management models, such as those provided for in the Game Animal Council Act, to ensure the station remains a premier destination for hunting and recreation.

A Community-Led Future

The Trust is designed to be self-sustaining, utilising donations and community support to fund its monitoring and management programmes. This model ensures that those who are most passionate about Molesworth are directly contributing to its protection. “This is about positive, proactive stewardship,” says Bill. “We want to bring people together—hunters, trampers, fishermen, farmers, and conservationists—to ensure Molesworth remains a crown jewel of the New Zealand back country.

Trust Principles and Values

Molesworth Station Recreational Hunting Values:

1. Trophy hunting particularly red deer and chamois
2. Meat hunting (range of species)
3. Hunting experiences in relatively safe but interesting and challenging outdoors
4. Unique combination of large-scale South Island high country with isolated yet relatively accessible landscapes and culture and heritage.





High Level Objectives:

The fundamental purpose of the Trust to advocate for hunting is to:

- Protect, promote, and enhance public recreational hunting on Molesworth Recreational Reserve.
- Support sound management and conservation to sustain hunting, pastoral farming, and the broader environment.



Principles:

Strongly Supported

- Molesworth Station remains a designated Recreational Reserve [Gazette Notice](#).
- Game animals present are recognised, valued and managed for recreation.
- An adaptive, evidentially based game animal management plan (including specific herd management e.g. red deer HOSI, where relevant) guides all actions involving game animals on Molesworth.

- The current prohibition on general WARO is maintained.
- Any use of 1080 (or other toxins) is in conjunction with repellent or other mitigation methods and sound planning to reduce incidental mortality of non-target species.
- Recreational hunting activities are managed wherever possible in harmony with the Reserves ongoing farming operations and conservation objectives.
- DOC, any lessee, and other Government agencies being required to communicate and engage with the public in a timely, honest and transparent manner on any matters affecting hunting, access, and general recreation values in Molesworth.
- Recreational hunters have a representative(s) on any Molesworth Steering Committee or other such governance body as may be formed.
- Extensive pastoral farming continues in the Reserve to support maintenance of landscape and heritage and generate revenue to support land management and infrastructure
- Controlled and managed access supports the values of users.



Conditionally Supported:

- Considered and agreed variations to hunting access and permits that would aid game animal/herd management, allow more meat harvest, improve hunting experiences and provide more certainty.
- Consideration of hunting fees for use to support game animal management activities led by a hunters' body.
- Goats recognised and managed as pests.
- Managing hotspots of biodiversity significance and the broader landscape at reasonable levels.

We Strongly Oppose:

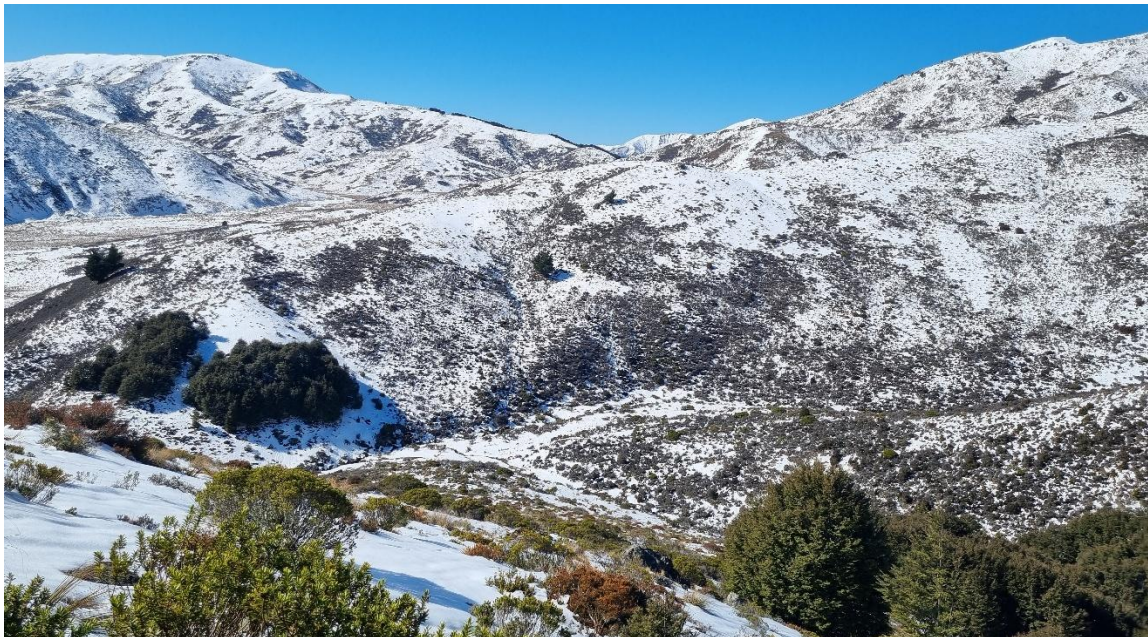
- Changes to the Reserve's legal designation or sale of all or parts.
- Any removal of WARO prohibition or significant control/eradication of game animals under a "pest" principle.

- Unmanaged and unconstrained general access that degrades the values of Molesworth including an Open Permit hunting regime.
- Access fees of any type that flow to the general Government coffers.
- Fee gathering from recreational hunters by any lessee, partner, or management structure creating farm/land revenue.
- Any, body, lessee or other organisation creating areas of exclusive (on whatever basis) or nil access beyond current frameworks.
- Carte blanche planting of exotic trees or plants beyond need for stock fodder.
- Managing the entire Molesworth Station landscape based solely on biodiversity protection objectives.

Founding Trustees:

- **Chair:** Bill Frost – Marlborough NZDA Committee, National NZDA Game Management Committee
- **Treasurer:** Wayne Smith – Marlborough NZDA Committee, former National NZDA Board member
- **Secretary:** Richard Wells – Chair National NZDA Access Committee, former National NZDA Board member
- Craig Benbow – Chair National NZDA Game Management Committee, Secretary Rakiura Whitetail Trust, Immediate National Past President NZDA
- Ben Williams – Barrister/Solicitor/Hunter with expertise in natural resources
- Ian Brabbs – Past President North Canterbury NZDA, HUNTS instructor

Contact: trust@molesworth.org.nz



Molesworth Goose Shoot – *Mike Gane*

June, 1999, the Hard Yards Hunt of the Molesworth Goose Hunt.

In a borrowed Hilux five of us “newbie” hunters went on our first Canada goose hunt. Snow and ice greeted us at the Upper Wairau hut, our designated block. All of us were seasoned duck & deer hunters so we were sure we had this hunting thing sorted.



Crawling, then bellying through the snow to try to get close enough to a small group of geese sitting on the tarn below the road up to Island Saddle brought a couple down. But, by and large, the geese taught us how to eat humble pie. Nothing like duck hunting, more like deer stalking into close range.

Such a canny bird with eyesight that would be the envy of many in the natural world. And way smarter than I ever gave them credit for, they are very fast learners. (I think I would beat one in a game of chess but I wouldn't put too much money on me just in case).

And that was it, we were 'hooked'.

Fish & Game ran these hunts until 2011 when the Canada goose was removed from the game bird schedule.

Fast forward to March 2026.

We are heading into the Redgate tarn block with about 125 other hunters heading into various other parts of the Molesworth.

The forecast is for settled weather while we are in there. Settled? It was like summer. 30+ degrees on the Thursday when we went in and just bloody hot through to Sunday.

And totally out of character for the season the tarn itself is almost full of water – normally it is bone dry at this time. Recent rains have made their mark with the Molesworth being as green as I have ever seen in March.

Last year the tarn was bone dry so I took my own water in. “Water” in the form of a 9m x 9m silver tarpaulin and spread that out hoping to lure some unsuspecting geese to this small oasis in a parched land. My mate added his 3m x 3m tarp to it so we spread them out and held our water down with rocks and decoys. It worked to a degree but with no natural water in the tarn we up against it from the start. Had to try it and was going to try again this year but the rains put an end to that thought.



When we were setting up camp there a midge hatching. Millions & millions of the little blighters. Not biting just covering your arms, legs, face and crawling into every crevice they could find, and some they couldn't! Damn, it was impressive! Annoying yes – but an awesome experience as it only lasted an hour or two and it was over.

Our 5 hunters were sharing the block with a group of 9 out of Christchurch and North Canterbury. For the Redgate Tarn block this is an easily managed number of hunters. The tarn itself needs at least 12 lay-down blinds manned during the important hours and there are also lots of opportunities for stalking on the swamps & gullies, and decoying on the rivers.

Despite the tarn having as much water as I have ever seen in March it did not attract many geese. Mobs flew over at altitude without even showing any interest in it at all. Weird. Maybe they are used to not being there at this time of year? Who knows?

But other blocks shot very well with the total tally of 988 geese shot being the 3rd highest March total that I can find in my not totally complete records.

Hunters from Invercargill to Palmerston North made the journey to experience the magic of the Molesworth.



Molesworth Goose Shoot Tallies for March 2026

Block	Tally	Block	Tally	Block	Tally
Alma	56	Homestead	143	Saxton	Not shot
Carters Yards	158	Isolated Flat	111	Sedgemere	84
Crimea	63	Leaderdale	Not shot	Severn	Not shot
Dillon & Half Moon	6	Opposite the Hossack	23	Tarndale	153
Fowlers	6	Pudding Hill	Not shot	Upper Wairau	
Guide	105	Redgate	46	Grand Total	988

When I took on the running of the MGH in 2015 Fish & Game gave me the records that they had of tallies from the mid-eighties onwards. These were never totally complete and combined with the very incomplete tallies from 2011 to 2015 and my own it shows that well over 93,000 geese have been taken off Molesworth over that time. Imagine if they'd been left to breed? (Since the June hunt of 2015 my records show 22,242 geese being taken off the Molesworth Station)

The next Molesworth Goose Hunt is the Hard Yards Hunt, June 4th – 7th.

The Spring hunt is October 15th – 18th.

If you wish some info on it email me – mike.gane@xtra.co.nz – and I will send it all through.



News from DOC & GAC



A large advertisement with a sunset background. The main headline 'HUNT AND EXPLORE NZ'S WILD PLACES.' is in large white letters. Below it, two paragraphs of text describe the opportunity to hunt on public conservation land and the importance of getting a permit. A yellow speech bubble contains the text 'ALWAYS BE → NATUREING'. At the bottom left, it says '→ GET OUTDOORS. HUNT. HELP NATURE.' and 'Visit: [QR code]'. The bottom right features the Department of Conservation logo and the Māori name 'Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa'.

Weblinks:

[DOC Hunting Portal](#)

[Apply for a Permit](#)

[Pesticide Info - Know before you Go](#)

Frequently asked questions

Permits and compliance

Q: Do I need a permit to hunt on public land?

A: Yes, it's a legal requirement. All hunters on Public Conservation Land must hold a valid DOC hunting permit. You can get a permit through the DOC website, which is a quick and easy process that only takes a few minutes and can be done on your phone.

Q: Why do hunters need to get a permit to hunt on public conservation land?

A: Permits help keep hunters and other visitors safe, create an agreement about how hunters will behave based on the permit conditions, and provide hunters with permission to use a firearm and take wild animals from Public Conservation Land.

Q: What are the conditions of the permit?

A: Conditions vary depending on the type of permit you have and are available on the [DOC website](#). Conditions typically include safety requirements, equipment use, and environmental protections. These are outlined clearly when you apply for a permit.

Q: What's expected in terms of hut and visitor etiquette?

A: Leave huts clean, respect other users, and follow Leave No Trace principles. Everyone deserves a safe and enjoyable experience on public land. Some visitors may find dead animals and firearms confronting so please be considerate of others. We remind hunters the permits have conditions about not firing a gun or leaving carcasses near huts, tracks and other public places.

Q: What's changing with compliance?

A: DOC and NZ Police are increasing joint operations to check that hunters are complying with permit conditions. The focus is on education and safety.

In May 2024, a change was announced that hand-held thermals can be used on public conservation land during daylight hours. This is another chance to raise awareness the rules around hand-held thermal equipment use as it is a relatively new change, and to make sure people know some types of thermal equipment still can't be used.

Q: Why haven't you been doing compliance checks before now?

A: DOC regional offices have done compliance checks periodically as issues are raised by the public or others in the rural community.

Q: Will I be fined or prosecuted?

A: The goal is to educate first. Enforcement may occur depending on the severity of the offense or repeated non-compliance.

Q: What are the penalties?

A: This can vary depending on the type of offence. Penalties are detailed in the relevant legislation, for example the Conservation Act 1987, Wild Animal Control Act 1977, Arms Act 1983, National Parks Act 1980 or Reserve Act 1977.

This initiative is about education first — helping hunters understand their obligations and promoting legal, safe, and responsible recreation. People may receive an education letter, warning letter, infringement or prosecution. For example, a more serious offence could lead to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

Hunting access

Q: You say there's access to public conservation land, but then restrict hunting because of 1080?

Currently, we control predators on a sustained, rotational basis over about 1.8 million ha which is nearly 20% of public conservation land. DOC acknowledges that temporary restrictions due to 1080 operations can be frustrating for hunters. These operations are carefully planned and targeted to protect vulnerable native species in areas against predators. While some areas may be temporarily closed for safety reasons, most public conservation land remains open and accessible for hunting. We aim to give hunters as much notice as possible and provide alternative options where we can. Hunting continues to play an important role in conservation, and we're committed to supporting safe and responsible access.

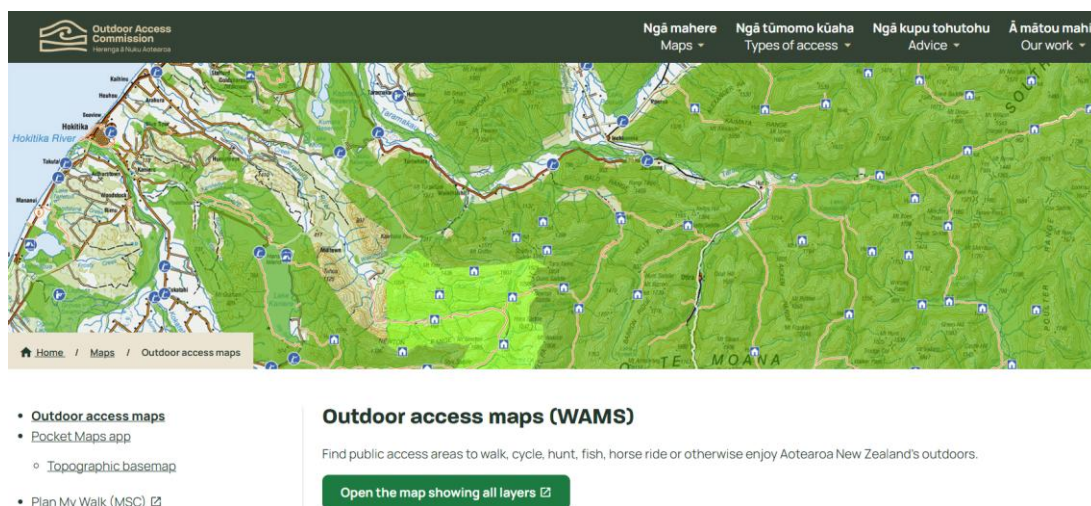
Q: But I can't access x,y,z areas very easily?

We understand that access can sometimes be tricky. DOC works with landowners, and other partners to maintain safe and fair access for hunters wherever possible. Many public conservation areas are open to hunting, and there are ongoing efforts to improve access and share information about where hunting is allowed. If you're having trouble getting into a particular spot, check DOC's online hunting maps or contact your local DOC office — they can help with up-to-date access information or suggest alternative areas nearby.

Q: What are you doing about access across private land?

DOC encourages landowners to consider access arrangements where appropriate, such as through the National Wild Goat Hunting Competitions Landowner Category. But access across private land is at the discretion of the landowner. Hunters should always seek permission before crossing private property.

As the lead agency for public outdoor access, [Herenga a Nuku – Outdoor Access Commission](#) is best placed to negotiate recreational access across private land on behalf of the public.



HUNT AND EXPLORE NEW ZEALAND'S WILD PLACES

HUNT IN SOME OF THE MOST STUNNING LANDSCAPES IN THE WORLD.

All hunters on public conservation land need a DOC hunting permit — it's quick, easy, and available online.

Before you head out, make sure you know the rules and where your hunting block boundaries and access points are.

Hunters need to:

- ✓ Get a permit
- ✓ Hunt safely, ethically, and responsibly.
- ✓ Respect huts and other visitors.
- ✓ Leave no trace.
- ✓ Identify your target beyond all doubt. If in doubt, don't shoot.
- ✗ Not hunt at night (prohibited).

ALWAYS BE
→ NATURE

REMINDER: ARE YOU USING THERMAL OR NIGHT VISION GEAR?

You may use:

- ✓ Handheld thermal devices to search for and locate animals

You may not use:

- ✗ Thermal devices to identify targets
- ✗ Rifle-mounted thermal or night-vision devices (even during the day)

Check your permit and learn more at:
www.doc.govt.nz/hunting-permit



Game Animal
Council
NEW ZEALAND

We provide information
and education to the
hunting sector

Click here for: [Game Animal Council Website](http://www.gameanimalcouncil.co.nz)

Range Matters – Summer Series Results

25-26 Outdoor Summer Series

		5 x 100yd Benchrest					
		Targets					
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Agg.
1	Graeme Smith	1.155	0.701	1.276	1.239	0.506	0.9754
2	Graeme Vallance	1.252	1.020	1.732	2.005	1.313	1.1464
3	Simon Cotton	0.964	2.063	1.661	0.995	1.403	1.4172
4	Michael Kidson	1.923	1.499	1.696	1.217	1.081	1.4832
5	Ian Harper	2.224	0.775	2.45	1.521	0.720	1.5380
6	Warren Hitchcock	1.074	1.861	2.034	1.321	1.520	1.5620
7	John Ronaldson	1.086	2.200	2.424	1.346	0.778	1.5668
8	John Mitchell	1.893	1.211	2.380	1.738	1.236	1.6916
9	Anne Marie Kidson	2.532	1.854	2.484	1.342	1.618	1.9660

Series Points

								Agg.
Graeme Smith	6	10	9	8	9	7	9	58
Graeme Vallance		7	8	7	7	6	8	43
John Ronaldson	5	5	7	6	3	1	3	30
Simon Cotton		8	5	5	5		7	30
Michael Kidson	3	6	3	2	6	3	6	29
Ian Harper	4	3	2	4	2		5	20
Anne Marie Kidson	2	2	4	3	1	4	1	17
Warren Hitchcock					4	5	4	13
Greg Couper		11						11
David Hill		4	6					10
Chris Shelton					10			10
Carina Jackson		9						9
Jim Love					8			8
Warren Smith	7							7
Chris Turner	1							1
David Quick		1						1
John Mitchell			1			2	2	1
Donald Jaffray				1				1

Any competition and event queries please:

call **Graeme Smith - 03 5447138** or email lvhvbr@gmail.com

When is the last time you refreshed yourself with our Ranges' Standing Orders?

Always be aware of and comply with our **Ranges' Standing Orders** – they are posted at the Ranges, but you should refresh yourself from our website:

Packers Creek – [Standing Orders](#)
Murchison Community Range - [Standing Orders](#)

Friendly reminder regarding the bringing of guests to use the [Packers Creek Range](#).

You are welcome to bring along a friend/family member to be introduced to and use the Range. **But this should be on a “one-off” basis.** If your friend enjoyed it then they need to be encouraged to join our Branch and thereby properly support our Range. They should as it's a very good range! Constantly using Packers Creek Range as a non-member by “slipstreaming” is not allowed.

If intending to using the Range always check the calendar on our website (or follow our Facebook page):

[Nelson NZDA Range Info](#)

Range Use Etiquette - [Etiquette and Golden Rules Click Here](#)

Packers Creek Range Access Reminder:

1. Check website for opening days and hours
2. Be at gate **before** 0900 hrs not after
3. All vehicles **must have** headlights on and conform to convoy (i.e. **follow** the duty officer in and out on Sharlands Road – these rules are set by landowner/operator and are compulsory
4. Ensure you have your membership card (fill in the logbook) and hviz & hearing protection
5. When it's wet up there, avoid driving on the grass as it makes the mower's job that much harder.

Make Sure You Comply with Carriage of Firearms Law When Coming to the Range (and at all other times, of course)

Link to All Rules Here:

[NZDA - Te Pureke Firearms Rules - Transport and Storage](#)

A Hunting Rifle – *by Will Rickerby*

It's so much more than just a rifle - according to Will Rickerby.....

When wandering in the bush or on the mountains, without a rifle; it's like wearing pants; one feels naked without them. Some hunters even name their rifle such as Old Faithful, Deerslayer, The Walking Stick...

Which reminds me, many years ago, I was thinking of a name for my rifle I came across an item about President Roosevelt. During a bear hunting trip in 1902, Roosevelt's assistants cornered and tied a black bear to a willow tree. They suggested he shoot it' but he refused, believing it was not sporting. The news spread quickly and it became known as the 'Teddy Bear Incident'.

A cartoonist made fun of it and a Brooklyn shop owner, inspired by the cartoon, created a stuffed toy bear and named it 'Teddy's Bear'. The Teddy Bear has since become a worldwide symbol of Roosevelt's refusal to shoot the bear. Of course, no-one ever tied up an animal to a tree for me though, even in my old age. Anyway, I thought that Ted would be a good name for my rifle; sporting and all that. But...

However, once when I was packing up, my hunting mates were waiting and my wife asked, 'Right, got your hearing aid, ammo and Teddy, Will?' Imagine the reactions of my friends for that trip and others after that and in the following damn years.

Around the campfire before bedtime "Got your Teddy, Will?" Caring mates after bedded down, one was bound to whip my sleeping bag open to 'just checking to see if you had your Teddy!' Sometimes they would make convincing Teddy bear imitations and place it on my pillow.



On one occasion the camp was visited by a possum with the inevitable happened. One could bet your boots; something would be hatched up but I forgot about it. Three mornings later I woke up and I was cuddling this furry bit of possum skin wrapped around a stick. It could have been worse; I could have been cuddling the dead possum. I crawled out of my sleeping bag to see my fellow hunters sitting around the campfire with stupid grins on their faces. Good mates always look after you?

However, my rifle has been a reliable companion on numerous hunts; one might say some really good Teddy Bear Picnics?



Anyway, I don't call my rifle Ted anymore.....

Trapped!

March 2026 pest control results at our Packers Creek Range (results from September 2021 in brackets)

21 Rats (508)

8 Mice (610)

21 Possums (312)

2 Feral Cats (16)



A couple of possums “just hanging around”. Big ones too!

Club Night – Last.....



Checking out the great gear at the March Club Night hosted by BMG at their 4WD accessories store.

.....and Next



Ange van der Laan, our local OAC field officer will talk about Herenga a Nuku's work, plans and services, especially regarding maps and legal access. If you have questions regarding specific areas of access to public land email them to richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz in advance so Ange can look into it prior.

Ngā mahere
Maps ▾

Ngā tūmomo kūaha
Types of access ▾

Ngā kupu tohutohu
Advice ▾

Ā mātou mahi
Our work ▾

Richard Wells will talk about game management in general terms and, on behalf of MGCT, talk about then take questions, ideas and views for the future in terms of Molesworth game, hunting and access management.

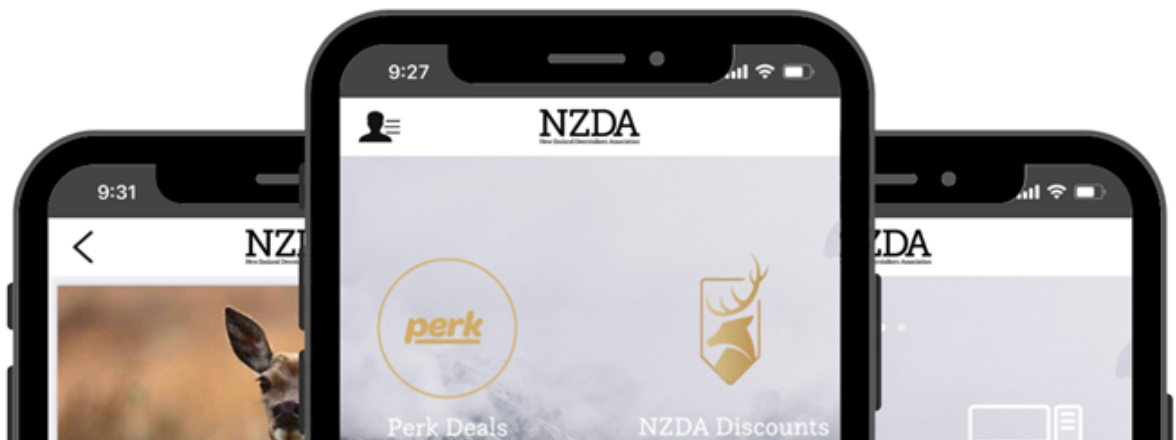
When and Where: Wednesday 29th April starting 7pm @ TSN Saxton Field Smallbore Range

Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!



New App Update

Download or Update the NZDA Member App to Access Your Digital Membership Card



Save your membership fee by using the NZDA discounts - click here:

[NZDA APP Discounts and More](#)



SUPPORTERS OF NELSON NZDA HUNTS COURSES AND KAI RESCUE [MORE INFO HERE:](#)

[MEAT SOLUTIONS](#)

Important links

Red Deer Lodge

- Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)
- Contact for Accom: info@rotoitibaches.co.nz
- **Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**

2025 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 orange.**

Advocacy and Access

- NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)
- DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)
- Game Animal Council [GAC](#)
- Outdoor Access Commission [OAC](#)
- Walking Access NZ [WAMS Maps](#)
- LINZ Basemaps [MAPS Link](#)
- 141 Forest Access Information [141 Access and Permit Info](#)

Ballots

- [Haast Ballot](#)
- [Wanaka Ballot](#)
- Southland [Waikaia](#) [Leithen Bush](#) [Wainakarua](#) [Catlins](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)
- Caples & Greenstone [RHA Ballot](#)

Firearms and Safety

- COLFO [COLFO](#)
- NZ Firearms Safety Authority [Te Pureke](#)
- Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)
- MSC Videos on [everything](#) safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)
- Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)