

August 2026



[Link to DOC Goat Competition Website](#)



National Wild Goat Hunting Competition 2026

Turn your wild goat hunt – whether it's your first or your fourth, solo or with mates – into meaningful action. Help reduce pressure on New Zealand's landscapes and go in the draw to win.



[Link to Your WINNING Ticket Here!](#)

THIS MONTH

**EDITORIAL -
Conference**

**New National
Patron**

**Range
Matters -
Matariki
Results**

**About a
Fish.....**

**Molesworth
License
Process
Update**

Club Night

**Awards &
Have-a-Go
Rimfire**

**TSN Range
Meeting
Rooms Weds
26th August
@ 7pm**

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**

CONTACTS

**IMPORTANT
LINKS**

Editorial – Conference Report *by Carlna Jackson*

This year's 78th NZDA conference was hosted by the Nation office in Lower Hutt alongside another successful NZDA hunting expo. It is always nice to attend conference as you get the low down on how the organisation is going as a whole and to hear from other branches on what they are experiencing both positive and negative.

This year there was quite a lot of business to get through in the way of NoMs and remits, this can be a bad or a positive situation and conference is a great platform to get these things sorted. (you have all been sent an electronic copy of the conference hand-book but this didn't include all the information).

This year's conference was very special for the Nelson Branch as our very own Bill O'Leary was honoured with becoming National Patron - congratulations Bill.

Bill succeeds Sir Mark Dunajtschik who has been the National Patron for the last 8 years and now at 91 years decided that it was the right time to stand aside. Sir Mark has done so much for not only his local Wellington Branch but for the whole organisation from paying every member's levies for one year to supporting the Wellington community building Hospitals. Trevor Chappell was also awarded the honour of National Life member.

Currently there are 50 branches around New Zealand with Gisborne being the newest, roughly equating to 13,0000 members Nationwide.

So trying to keep this write up small I will bullet point the highlights.

Trevor Dibben, our newest National President gave his president's report, big ups to Trevor who had only been in the role for about 4 weeks after Callum Sheriden stood down as President to pursue his Act party nomination.

Security was discussed, investing in computer security to keep members info secure etc.

Leading on from security was online membership cards - we all have access to this via the NZAD App, Willy who was in charge of security confirmed that the only info attached to you online membership cards is your name and membership number nothing else.

Online magazine is growing from strength to strength and is now covering operating/publishing costs by selling ad space. Physical copies are available to purchase from the NZDA website.

- Hunts - Had a reduction in paid hours from 70 to 30 a week, they said 30 hours is working out and they changed focus from growth to sustainability. 25 Hunts courses have been run for 2026 and every course has been a great success.
- National Party - the minister of Hunting and Fishing gave a speech recognising that Hunting and Fishing forms a huge part in many New Zealand families lives and community, He covered his policy goals if re-elected, focus on a youth campaign, the many HoSI's, advocacy, education and hunter access etc.

- Act Party - Nicole McKee spoke about her policies and the arms reform, she had 9 key points in her policy and you can find these on her website.

Awards night went off without a hitch with Leah Panapa the MC for the night, she was amazing and she learnt a few things as well throughout the night, the main awards had been awarded, unfortunately with some disciplines that are usually awarded missing.

So, all up the conference was ok, few highs and lows both positive and negative but this is why we have conferences for branches to be able to discuss issues that may be relatable to many branches.

The Mountain Echo Editor Contact richardw@nelsonnzda.co.nz



New National Patron

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association is pleased to announce the appointment of William “Bill” O’Leary, of the Nelson Branch, as our new National Patron. The appointment was confirmed to resounding applause at the NZDA National Conference in Lower Hutt on Saturday, 25 July 2026.

Bill succeeds Sir Mark, who stood aside after eight years of distinguished service as National Patron. Sir Mark was elected a National Life Member in 1999 and served as National Patron from 2018 to 2026. At Conference, Sir Mark personally nominated Bill as his successor and expressed his wholehearted support for the appointment.

NZDA sincerely thanks Sir Mark for his longstanding service, leadership and contribution to the Association. His commitment to recreational hunting, our members and the protection and advancement of hunting rights has been deeply valued.

Bill is a National Life Member since 2007, Past National President (2014 to 2018) and longstanding member of the Nelson Branch. He has an extensive history of volunteering for NZDA and supporting the Association’s governance, including serving as National President and in several other important national roles.

Bill is a HUNTS Instructor and Assessor and also served as NZDA’s National Volunteer HUNTS Coordinator, so he has been instrumental in championing hunter training and education, with a particular focus on firearms safety and responsible hunting practices. Bill has also trained hundreds of our members as NZDA Range Officers.

Bill founded and established both the **HUNTS Trust** and the **Backcountry Trust**, which have grown into nationally important organisations supporting hunters and other recreational users of New Zealand’s backcountry. He has also contributed significant time and expertise through his service on Fish & Game councils. His contribution extends well beyond NZDA, and is more than written here.

Bill’s lifetime of leadership, volunteering and advocacy makes him an outstanding choice to serve as National Patron. We congratulate Bill on his appointment and look forward to his continued guidance and support of NZDA, our branches and New Zealand’s hunting community as our National Patron.



Range Matters – Matariki



Overall winner - Annaliisa Farrell of Christchurch



Warren Smith of Christchurch finding it a bit cool but finished 2nd overall



Day 1 at Saxton - Indoor Range



Day 2 – Outdoors at Packers Creek, fog and all



Cuppa tea and a biscuit always welcome afterwards.

Matariki 2026 Final Aggregate Placings

		Saxton	Hunter	Group	Int	Agg.
1	Annalissa Farrell	14	12	13	9	48
2	Warren Smith	8	11	8	13	40
3	David Quick	9	13.5	5	10	37.5
4	Graeme Oakley	3	13.5	9	11	36.5
5	Graeme Vallance	7	6	11	12	36
6	Nigel Farrell	13	9	7	4	33
7	Graeme Smith	10	3	6	14	33
8	Greg Couper	12	4.5	10	6	32.5
9	Tony Titheridge	5	8	12	7	32
10	Ian Inwood	11	7	4	8	30
11	Sam Wearne	4	10	0	5	19
12	Michael Kidson	6	4.5	3	3	16.5
13	John Ronaldson	1	2	2	2	7
14	Anne Marie Kidson	2	1	1	1	5

2026 Matariki Challenge Day 1 Saxton Range

			Single	Double	Total
1	2027	Annaliisa Farrell	100.09	200.16	300.25
2	2026	Nigel Farrell	100.06	200.17	300.23
3	1001	Greg Couper	100.09	199.17	299.26
4	2003	Ian Inwood	99.07	200.18	299.25
5	2013	Graeme Smith	99.08	200.14	299.22
6	2115	David Quick	100.10	198.15	298.25
7	2104	Warren Smith	100.10	197.14	297.24
8	2105	Graeme Vallance	98.07	199.15	297.22
9	2106	Michael Kidson	99.08	198.14	297.22
10	2012	Tony Titheridge	100.09	196.14	296.23
11	2116	Sam Wearne	97.05	198.15	295.20
12	2020	Graeme Oakley	97.05	197.15	294.20
13	2010	Anne Marie Kidson	97.05	197.12	294.17
14	2110	John Ronaldson	99.07	194.11	293.18

		Hunter					
MATARIKI		26	Class	50 m			
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Total
1	David Quick	50.01	50.01	50.04	50.03	50.02	250.11
2	Graeme Oakley	50.01	50.02	50.04	50.03	50.01	250.11
3	Annaliisa Farrell	50.02	50.01	50.03	50.02	50.00	250.08
4	Warren Smith	49.03	50.02	50.03	50.02	50.05	249.15
5	Sam Wearne	49.02	50.02	50.01	50.01	50.02	249.08
6	Nigel Farrell	50.02	50.01	50.01	50.03	49.01	249.08

7	Tony Titheridge	48.00	50.00	50.04	50.03	50.01	248.08
8	Ian Inwood	50.02	50.03	50.04	48.00	49.02	247.11
9	Graeme Vallance	48.01	50.03	50.03	50.01	49.00	247.08
10	Michael Kidson	48.01	49.00	49.01	47.02	49.00	242.04
11	Greg Couper	50.00	40.01	50.01	50.01	49.00	239.03
13	Graeme Smith	44.00	50.01	48.00	48.02	48.00	238.03
13	John Ronaldson	33.00	47.00	47.03	49.00	49.01	225.04
14	Ann Marie Kidson	39.01	38.02	49.03	46.02	46.00	218.08

MATARIKI		Group Scoring					50 m
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Total
1	Annalissa Farrell	0.204	0.146	0.244	0.495	0.364	0.2906
2	Tony Titheridge	0.432	0.352	0.228	0.610	0.227	0.3698
3	Graeme Vallance	0.261	0.505	0.238	0.250	0.623	0.3754
4	Greg Couper	0.299	0.544	0.225	0.479	0.369	0.3832
5	Graeme Oakley	0.380	0.466	0.535	0.340	0.314	0.4070
6	Warren Smith	0.354	0.595	0.630	0.309	0.216	0.4208
7	Nigel Farrell	0.470	0.176	0.350	0.738	0.403	0.4274
8	Graeme Smith	0.250	0.550	0.544	0.402	0.515	0.4522
9	David Quick	0.523	0.635	0.314	0.315	0.576	0.4726
10	Ian Inwood	0.528	0.442	0.512	0.505	0.430	0.4834
11	Michael Kidson	0.377	0.450	0.675	0.506	0.595	0.5206
12	John Ronaldson	0.599	1.061	0.588	0.534	0.419	0.6402
13	Ann Marie Kidson	0.497	1.285	1.132	1.399	0.430	0.9486

Matariki 2026

International

		T1	T2	Total
1	Graeme Smith	249.14	244.08	493.22
2	Warren Smith	248.18	244.13	492.31
3	Graeme Vallance	246.13	245.09	491.22
4	Graeme Oakley	247.10	244.08	491.18
5	David Quick	245.13	245.15	490.28
6	Annalissa Farrell	239.08	249.14	488.22
7	Ian Inwood	241.11	245.14	486.25
8	Tony Titheridge	241.08	244.10	485.18
9	Greg Couper	240.07	243.07	483.14
10	Sam Wearne	242.09	236.08	478.17
11	Nigel Farrell	240.11	236.07	476.18
12	Michael Kidson	233.09	241.05	474.14
13	John Ronaldson	218.03	236.04	454.07
14	Ann Marie Kidson	222.05	215.02	437.07

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](#)

About a Fish.....Warren Plum

*I have been approached by Robert Vennell at the Auckland Museum. He is doing research on the only protected Freshwater fish in New Zealand, the extinct Grayling. The Museum now hold the stuffed specimen **we used to display at Red Deer Lodge**, which we passed on via Fish & Game due to its importance and rarity. There are only about 20 specimens held in research centres and they have been doing genetic studies on them. With only a couple from the South Island they are extremely interested in where they may have originated from.*

Does anyone know the history of how the club came to possess it?

Was it passed on with the mounted native birds?

Did it come from a local family?

I have asked around many of our older members, but none can recall. Any way worth putting out there in case some collective memory might turn something up I can pass on. Any information to be passed onto myself by phone or email.

035479143 plumstone@xtra.co.nz

Thanks Warren

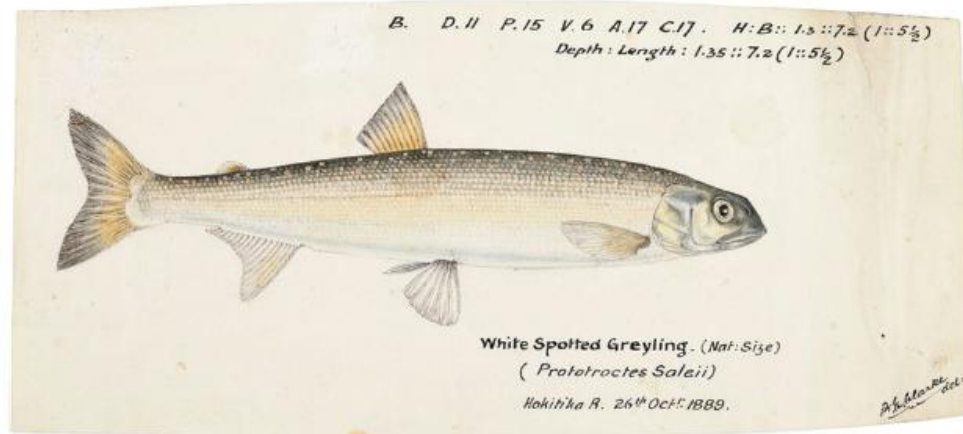


Figure 1. The extinct New Zealand grayling (*Prototroctes oxyrhynchus*). Artwork by Frank Edward Clarke. Annotations in figure contain a nomen nudum. Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

Hi Warren,

Good to hear from you and thanks for getting back to me.

I know since it's arrival the fish has already been used in a research paper trying to understand the cause of the grayling's extinction - I've attached the pdf in case you are interested.

I'd be interested to know about any leads that might help shine a light on this specimen. If there is anyone that remembers this fish in the lodge or other written evidence. For example any historic photographs of the Lodge which show the diorama mounted there. Especially if they show any display labels, Lodge inventories or NZDA annual reports / insurance reports that might mention the donation of this fish.

The main pieces of information I have to go on at this stage are:

- a comment in Craig Potton's History of Nelson lakes - which listed this specimen as "one of the last" graylings caught in Lake Rotoiti, but where that came from I'm not sure.
- The taxidermist label that was on the back of the case. The name is Frederick J. Liley, and he appears to have been active from his home practice on the corner of Waimea Road between roughly 1900 - 1914, which tracks with a very late grayling capture.
- My current thought is that it was collected by someone in the local acclimatisation society / deer hunters club and held in a private collection and then was donated on the opening of the Lodge.

Interested to hear if you can shed any light on this fish.

Cheers,

Rob.

Ancient DNA from the extinct New Zealand grayling (*Prototroctes oxyrhynchus*) reveals evidence for Miocene marine dispersal

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³Behavioural Studies Group, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

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Molesworth License Renewal Process Update

Ngāi Tahu Farming chosen to operate country's largest farm, Molesworth Station.



Caption: Molesworth Station. (File photo) Photo credit: RNZ/Sally Round

Ngāi Tahu Farming has been chosen by the Department of Conservation to operate the country's largest farm.

[Molesworth Station](#), an iconic 180-thousand hectare high country farm that spanned Marlborough and North Canterbury, was run as a cattle farm by state-owned Pāmu Landcorp.

The area, known formally as the Rangitahi/Molesworth Recreation Reserve, covers 180,000 hectares of land owned by the Crown and administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) .

DOC announced on Friday afternoon it would invite Ngāi Tahu Farming - a subsidiary of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Group - to apply for a concession to manage the land.

Four other bids, including one by former farm manager Jim Ward, were unsuccessful.

DOC deputy director-general regional operations Henry Weston said farming would remain the core commercial activity at Molesworth but it was also a nationally important drylands ecosystem with significant biodiversity, heritage, recreational and cultural values.

"This decision ultimately came down to Ngāi Tahu Farming, a wholly owned subsidiary of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Group, having the strongest experience of farming at scale in the high country of those who applied. They have strong financial and business foundations offering long-term security for the Crown, making them the best applicant for the opportunity to negotiate the concession," Weston said.

"Ngāi Tahu Farming currently farms three high country stations, spanning 36,000 hectares, as part of the 100,000 hectares of farming and forestry land it manages across the South Island.

"Final details of the farming operations will be determined through the concession process and will need to deliver on our high expectations regarding public access and weed and pest control.

"DOC ran a thorough process, weighed up a range of expert advice and materials, and made a decision in the best interest of Molesworth, one of New Zealand's truly special places."

DOC expected public access and weed and pest control would be maintained or improved and details would emerge during the concession process.

Jim Ward told RNZ he was informed of the decision during a short phone call about an hour and a half before the announcement was made publicly on Friday afternoon.

"I'm absolutely gutted. The last 12 months have been a huge body of work getting it in front of people. We are all a bit deflated at the minute to be honest," Ward said.

"My wife and I put 24 years into Molesworth plus this last year. It was looking to the future, looking to cement Molesworth as a place for mum and dad and the kids of New Zealand, to build on what we had started. It was a totally different concept - a station for the nation - making it into a charitable trust. It was quite a bold concept, but it was the right thing to do."

DOC had not told him why his bid was not successful.

"I'm still pretty numb but the decision's been made and I'll just have to go find myself something else to do," Ward said

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu welcomed the news.

Chief executive Ben Bateman said DOC's decision reflected the iwi's proven capability in farming, conservation and commercial management.

"We are committed to making sure the terms of any concession we negotiate are good for all New Zealanders. Public access, biodiversity and ecological stewardship are central to how we would manage Rangitahi Molesworth," Bateman said.

"For us, Rangitahi is not simply a farming opportunity. It is an ancestral landscape woven into the whakapapa of Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kurī, Ngāti Māmoë and Waitaha. To be entrusted with its stewardship is a responsibility we approach with humility and determination."

Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura chairperson Hariata Kahu said it was an important milestone for her hapū, Ngāti Kurī.

"For many generations we have longed to play a more active role in protecting Rangitahi Molesworth. Growing up, we learn the pūrākau of Rangitahi and the journeys our people made through this landscape. The Awatere and Waiautoa rivers are part of those stories and even the name Rangitahi speaks to the coming together of those waters," she said.

"To know that if we are granted a concession we would have the opportunity to help care for this whenua is incredibly significant. For Ngāti Kurī, this is about ensuring future generations can experience Rangitahi, much like our ancestors did, with its landscapes and stories protected."

The iwi would now work through the details of its concession application



News ▾

To Note from DOC

We have decided to invite Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (on behalf of Ngāi Tahu Farming Ltd) to apply for a concession to farm Molesworth.

Ngāi Tahu will now be invited to apply for a concession. Their application will be publicly notified, which will allow the public to have their say on the application.



Club Night Past..... and Next

Pack Light & Travel Light!

At club night last month Greig Caigou presented on his experience with light weight hunting equipment. For 90 minutes Greig captivated the members with facts and figures on different options available to reduce pack weight while staying safe.

A full hunting pack for a 3-day hunting trip weighing in at 7 kg was pulled out item by item. Tarps, footwear, clothing, toiletries, sleeping gear and first aid all analysed for weight and effectiveness. A highly entertaining and informative session for all who attended. Greig is local to Tasman and active on Instagram with his tips and adventures.



Instagram



caigou

10.7K followers

3,005 following

Greig Caigou
God first
Hunter & Author
UL ambassador/fastpacker
Conservationist... more
📍 www.youtube.com/user/HuntingCreed



Awards Night for our winners in AHT and Photo-Competition

Plus

Give indoor .22 Rimfire benchrest shooting a go!

A small cost for everyone who shoots to cover the range use and targets - **\$5.00**

Ammo is being sponsored by Greg Couper from Terminator Products, rifles coaching and supervision will be provided.



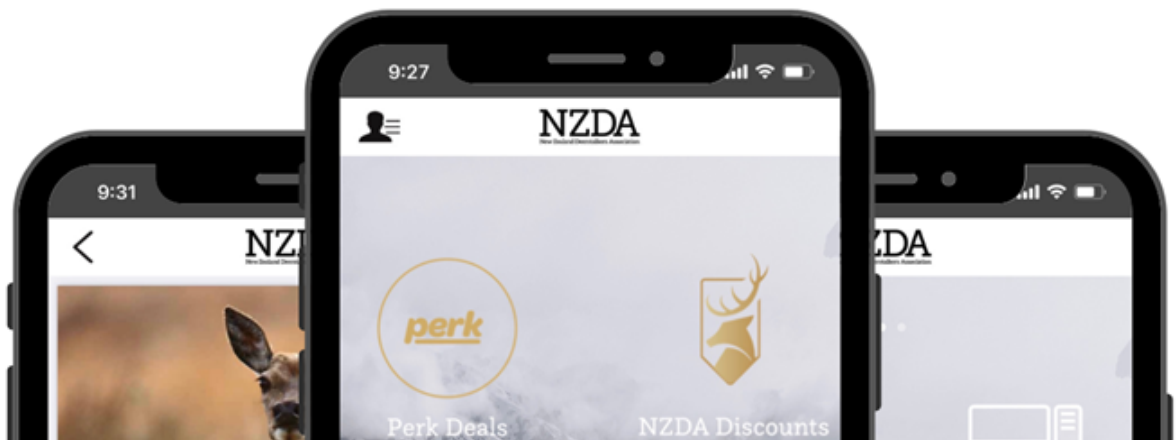
When and Where: Wednesday 26th August starting 7 pm @ TSN Saxton Field Smallbore Range

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](#)

Contacts & Important links

Key Branch Contacts

President Greg Couper gregc@nzdanelson.co.nz

Secretary Dave Woods dave@nzdanelson.co.nz

Membership Secretary & Events Carina Jackson carina@nzdanelson.co.nz

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](#)

Hunting Permits

- [DOC Hunting and Permits Site](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation 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](#)