

August 2024



Photo Credit Greg Monohan Whistling Frog Media

Great to see a solid turnout to the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation Roadshow event held at the Suter Gallery theatre. Roy spoke ardently to the cause coupled with the compelling movie.



Reloading – Why & How

Club Night Wednesday 28th August – Saxton Smallbore Range 7pm

THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

National Conference Report

DOC NZDA National Wild Goat Hunt on Again!

Goat Skins Wanted

Range Matters

Molesworth Mission

CLUB NIGHT
Reloading – Why and How

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Lighten Up

MEMBER BENEFITS

IMPORTANT LINKS

Editorial

A big thanks to Greg and Carina for attending the National Conference and AGM, where our national business is finalised for the past year and budget approved for the coming one. It was well attended, well run and I think enjoyed by all. Big thanks to Hutt Valley for their efforts in organisation and the Branches and HQ staff who package all the administrative requirements for the event.

A welcome to new president Callum Sheridan (past VP), new Vice President Hamish Orr (Kapiti) and South Island rep. Mark Elliotte of Upper Clutha (that's Otago region!). A farewell to Craig as past President and Ian Owen (thanks for your many years work!). Full report from your team below.

The National Wild Goat Hunt Competition is back on for 2024.

Remember that some locals won some pretty amazing prizes last year and there's even more up for grabs this time around. To reduce work we are planning to hold only three open days to bring in tails. These will be in Murchison, Motueka and Stoke, likely all on the same day. DOC folks will be running the ones away, and NZDA locally in Stoke. Heads need to be brought to the NZDA open day. So, keep your tails in the freezer and read all the details below by visiting the website link provided. The competition is attracting interest as per the request for skins for turning into works of art and cultural heritage, it's great to see folks seeking value from all parts of the animal and I hope hunters can provide a few skins.

Had a video meeting with the OSPRI folks very recently (and with Nelson, Marlborough and North Canterbury branches) so they could keep us up to speed with their work eradicating TB from NZ and in particular the Upper South Island. Key points were that major commercial stock herds such as Molesworth are now testing clear. There is plenty of background monitoring too, especially testing in ferrets (Molesworth have caught 200 for testing) and pigs. The last aerial work in the top of the South is occurring now in the Clarence area with the north end of Clarence receiving repellent. The recent drop in the Rainbow is not planned to be repeated although again monitoring of the stock and vectors (possums) will continue.

The best news is there are no further aerial operations planned for our end of the Island for 2025 or 26. There is however, ongoing work on West Coast and further south (Otago region) and OSPRI will connect with and talk to those regional branches about these ops. It was interesting seeing their maps of the extent of ground trapping/poisoning and monitoring which is a lot more extensive than we had thought, given our focus and concerns with aerial drops. We have asked for more information on this as it provides context to the overall programme, and I hope we can share in the next Echo. In the meantime, if you have a interest their programmes throughout the country can be seen here [OSPRI Pest Control by Region](#)



Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

National Conference *report by Carlna Jackson*



On the weekend 12th – 14th July Greg and myself headed to Wellington to attend the NZDA 76th Conference hosted by Hutt valley Lower Hutt Branch.

Hutt Valley did an outstanding job hosting the 76th Annual Conference, not only that they put together the very first NZDA Hunting and Wildlife Expo. The Expo featured around 26 stallholders and conservation organisations, the Expo saw over 2000 people through the doors on Saturday.

So, What is National Conference?

Well, there is many parts to it the first being the AGM, just like our Branch AGM but It looks at the NZDA as a whole not just at single branch level. Conference covers many topics from Continuing professional operational delivery, Community engagement, Membership, Hunts to the constitution. Also, any NOMS or Remits submitted by branches are voted on, as well as electing new and existing board members.

A reoccurring theme at conference is Membership – How do we increase numbers, how do keep current members, what are we doing as individual Branches to make new and existing members feel welcome and engaged.



125 Delegates and observers from around NZ.

During the two days several organisations and guest speakers presented as follows.

DOC – announced the National Goat hunt is on again this year starting 1st Aug – 26th Nov.

COLFO – new Chair Brad Gallup spoke

Research funded by our research levies:

Rakaia Research – Pete Caldwell and Sika Research by Cam Speedy

As well as:

HOSI (Herd's of Special Interest) research by Kaylyn Pinney – following up on her presentation and work presented at conference last year. Also talk of making the Wapiti a HOSI.

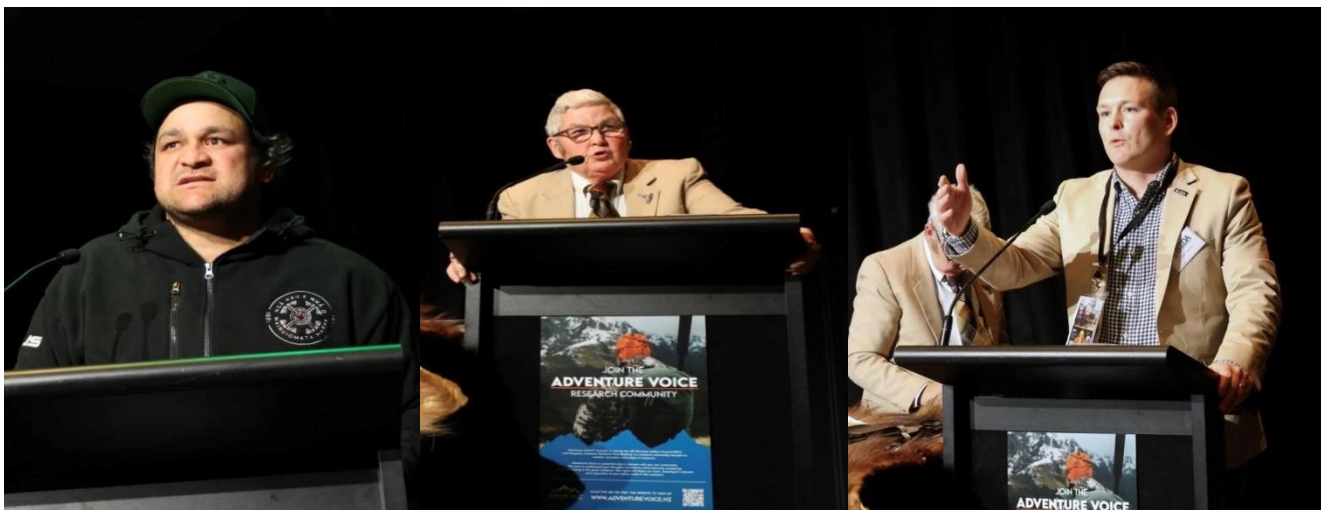
GAC – Game Animal Council

FWF – Fiordland Wapiti Foundation – Roy Sloan and the Wapiti Roadshow

Trapping initiatives in Greenstone by Southern Lakes

Saturday night was a Gala dinner and awards night awarding prizes to first place winners from Competition to AHT, Greg Couper and Graeme Smith Nelson branch taking home some first place awards. We had two amazing guest speakers, Dame Linda Topp AKA:Ken as MC.

She had people in fits of laughter and just created a fantastic vibe for the night. Piri Weepu was our second guest for the night, Piri discussed his TV show, how he got into hunting, getting his kids into hunting and the importance of keeping our New Zealand Hunting Tradition alive as we are so lucky in NZ to have the freedom to hunt where we can and when we can. It's about feeding our Whanau and friends and getting out in nature and the positive influence it has on our wellbeing. The night was great, great people, good food, awesome awards and the sneaky Rugby Game playing on phones.



Guest speaker Piri Weepu Guest speaker + MC Dame Linda Topp AKA: Ken, Gwyn Thurlow NZDA CEO

Sunday kicked off with Nicole McKee Minister of Justice speaking about her work with the firearms forum, Nicole took questions and ideas from the floor and talked about what our part/role as firearm license holders and hunters and what we can do to support her. Nicole said one of the things we can do to help is when called upon for Feedback/surveys Please invest a couple of minutes to do your part, make you voice heard. Nicole mentioned that hunters/firearms license holders contribute only 5% of the voting population yes you read correct only 5% so this is why it is important to band together and have a voice and support Nicole as much as possible. Nicole McKee is an avid hunter, competitive shooter and an NZDA Member of the Lower Hutt Branch. Sunday also saw the sometimes-controversial voting to elect various National Board NZDA positions.

Current elected National Board stands as follows for 2024-25 year

President - Callum Sheridan (former Vice now new President)

Vice President – Hamish Orr

Board member – Immediate Past President Craig Benbow

North Island representatives - Tim Taylor and Trevor Gratton

South Island representatives – Richard Wells and Mark Elliotte



DOC NZDA National Goat Hunt is on Again!

**BE IN TO WIN
WITH THE NATIONAL WILD
GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION**

Unique experiences

- A fully catered wild game banquet dinner for yourself and four of your family or friends, hosted by the NZ Hunter team at their South Island base. Flights and accommodation included.
- A guided hunt with a member of the New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association.

Vouchers

- Hunting & Fishing NZ
- Huntech
- Back Country Cuisine

Gear

- Traegar Ironwood 885 Grill
- InfiRay monoculars
- Personal locator beacons
- Barrel bags
- Binoculars and riflescopes
- First aid kits

AND MUCH MORE!

To find out more, visit: www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition.

Brought to you by

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ataturangi

NZDA
New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association

The DOC NZDA National Goat Competition is on again, with even more great prizes from a range of supporters and sponsors. Read all about it in the weblink below. More to come!

Website: [2024 Wild Goat Hunt Competition](https://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition)

Date: 1st August – 26th November. Entries close at midnight on 26 November 2024.

Location: Nationwide – on both public and private land.

Entry locations: NZDA branches, DOC offices, and Hunting & Fishing NZ Ltd. stores.

Competition categories: Large national prizes, spot prizes, and NZDA branch prizes.

Category	Criteria
Got Your Goat	Enter just one wild goat tail or head and go in the draw to win prizes.
Great Goat Round Up	The more wild goat tails entered the more chances to win.
NZDA's G.O.A.T (Greatest of all Time)	Wild goat head with the largest Douglas Score.
Junior Goat Round Up	18 years or under more wild goat tails entered, the more chances to win
Junior G.O.A.T.	18 years or under wild goat head with largest Douglas Score
Monthly Spot Prizes	Enter just one wild goat tail or head and be in to win



Turn your goats into delicious meals and the tails into lottery tickets!

Put meat and tails in the freezer!



REQUEST FOR GOAT SKINS

Kahu kurī (dog skin cloaks) were made of strips of dog skin taken from the kurī (Māori dog) before the kurī became extinct. Kahu kurī are prestigious garments possessing great mana (prestige) and were highly-prized heirlooms. Sadly, most now remain anonymous in museum collections around the world. The possession of a kahu kurī immediately identified the owner as a rangatira - someone of prestige and position within the hapū (sub-tribe) or iwi (tribe).



Kia ora, my name is Shanell, I am born and brought up in Nelson and a passionate weaver looking to restore cultural practices of cloak making.

An alternative to dog skin for making Kahu kurī is utilising goat skin. I am putting out a request to hunters if you can support this mahi please let me know. I appreciate that it may not be practical to retrieve the skin but if the opportunity arises I would greatly appreciate and come to collect.

Please call or text 0272112465.

Ngā mihi 😊

Range Matters

If interested in using the Range always check the calendar on our website: [Nelson NZDA Range Info](#)

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

Murchison Community Range - [Standing Orders Click Here](#)

Indoor .22 Rimfire Benchrest shooting

If you are interested in Shooting, have you tried the new sport in town?

Nelson 'Sitting Shooters' meet every Tuesday afternoon at Saxton Field Indoor Range for friendly competition. All welcome.

Time 1pm to 3pm

Club equipment is available for new starters to try out with. Once you become involved there is plenty of opportunity to purchase what is needed.

Cost Daily Range Fee \$5.00 Ammunition available on request

How: call at Saxton on club day or

call Graeme Smith 03 5447139 or lvhvbr@gmail.com

The Benchrest Club

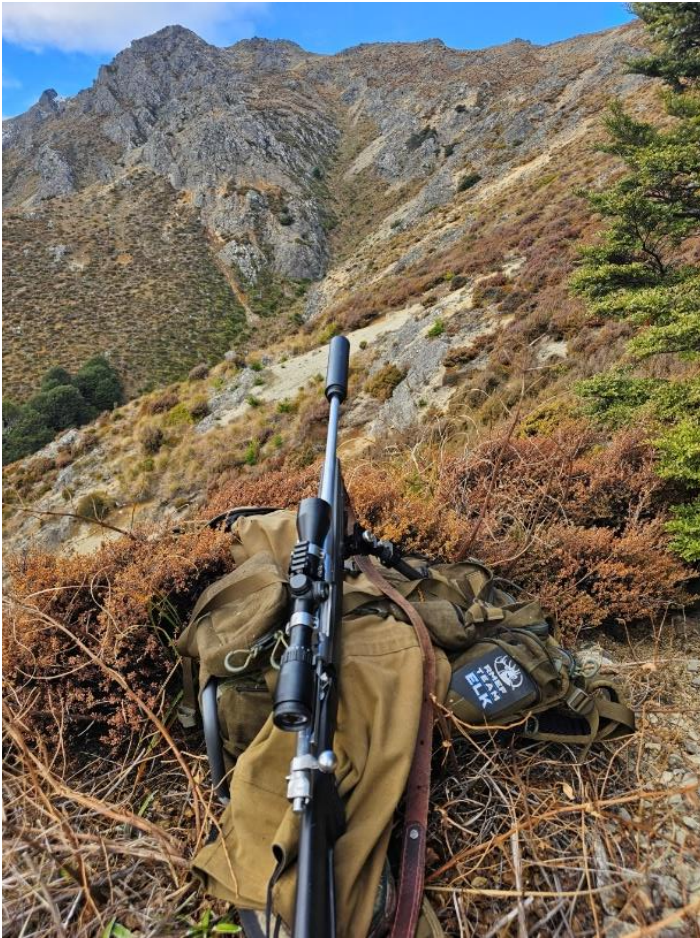
Molesworth Mission by *Dave Woods*



When Richard Wells offered a chance to explore a block in Molesworth station it was an easy “yes”. After an early morning drive from Nelson, a gear dump at the Hanmer Springs Forestry Camp we were on the hill by midday. We made use of the easy rolling access to the higher ground and gave plenty of glass time to the surrounding hills and gullies. There was a surprising amount of fresh sign even on the lower-level access trails. We enjoyed beautiful conditions with a light wind in our face and balmy temperatures for this time of year. [The editor says the photo opposite is not reflective of this “balmy” weather as it was taken next day when it was pretty jolly cold.]



The first action of the day started with a quiet mutter from Richard “chamois”. This was confirmed when I turned my glasses to the gully in question and could count six black dots conspicuous amongst the flax and scree. The dots were in no apparent hurry to move and this then prompted considerable debate as to whether these were actually a target animal for our current stalk.



We eventually gained the high ground on a bluff overlooking the gully. The chamois were still in the same spot approx. 350 mtrs distant. Only two animals were visible and only one offered any decent shot. Decision made and the first shot was taken.....



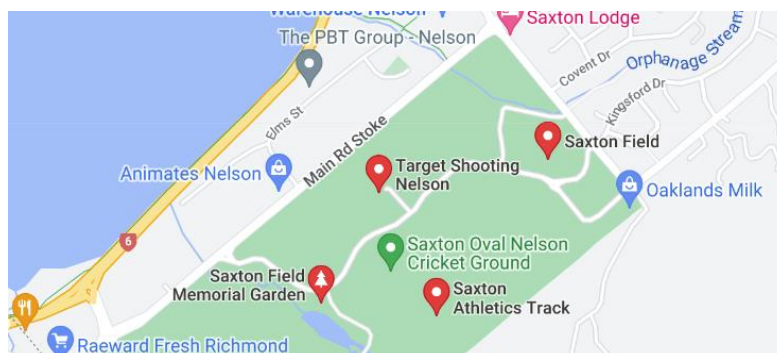
At this point it became like the slow-motion clip from the movie "Matrix". The first chamois dropped and 5 other chamois heads popped up from various positions up the gully. The shot echoed around the gully at which point I distinctly heard Richard say "oh shit". Richard dropped his camera for his rifle, a second round was chambered and a cloistered cluster of confused chamois erupted onto the surrounding scree slopes. Richard tracked a shot into second animal which promptly dropped and wedged behind a rock on the face of a rocky bluff. No trophies, no venison but a great way to spend a weekend and explore a beautiful part of the country. The forestry camp is a fantastic venue – affordable and offering all the amenities while being near the Molesworth blocks.

Club Night – Reloading – Why to? - How to!



Greg Couper provides expert advice on why you would and how you should do your reloading – safely, cheaply, properly.

**Where and When: Saxton Field TSN Smallbore Range @ 7pm
Wednesday 28th August**



Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



BUILDING WETLANDS THAT DON'T NEED A CONSENT: in conjunction with Landcare Trust and funding from Westpac, Fish & Game Officer Lawson Davey has assisted with a couple of demonstration projects in the Moutere Catchment to showcase what can be done under the Tasman District Council permitted activity rules, and how cheaply wetlands can be constructed in the right location. Landcare Trust and Lawson helped select appropriate sites and worked with the Council to confirm the sites didn't need consents as well as providing technical advice & oversight of the wetland construction projects. One wetland cost \$4700 in digger time which used a contractor. The second one the landowner built it himself using his digger at a cost of \$600 in diesel. Mahana School will be helping with planting it up.

BELL ISLAND SWAN/GOOSE CULL: Recently 35 hunters met at Bell Island to try and lower the swan and goose population. Unfortunately, swan numbers were much lower than they had been a few days prior with only 15 or so birds on the pond. After a go at the Canada geese, where around 10 birds were taken, the group also put a dent in the swan numbers, culling another 10 or so birds. A follow up pukeko hunt revealed no birds seen, an unusual outcome considering the high numbers taken on a previous hunt here.

FEATHERS PATAKA: We are setting up a formal feather repository (pataka) for weavers to access feathers from. Ultimately we plan to make this available to all 9 Iwi within this region for sourcing feathers for weaving korowai (cloaks).

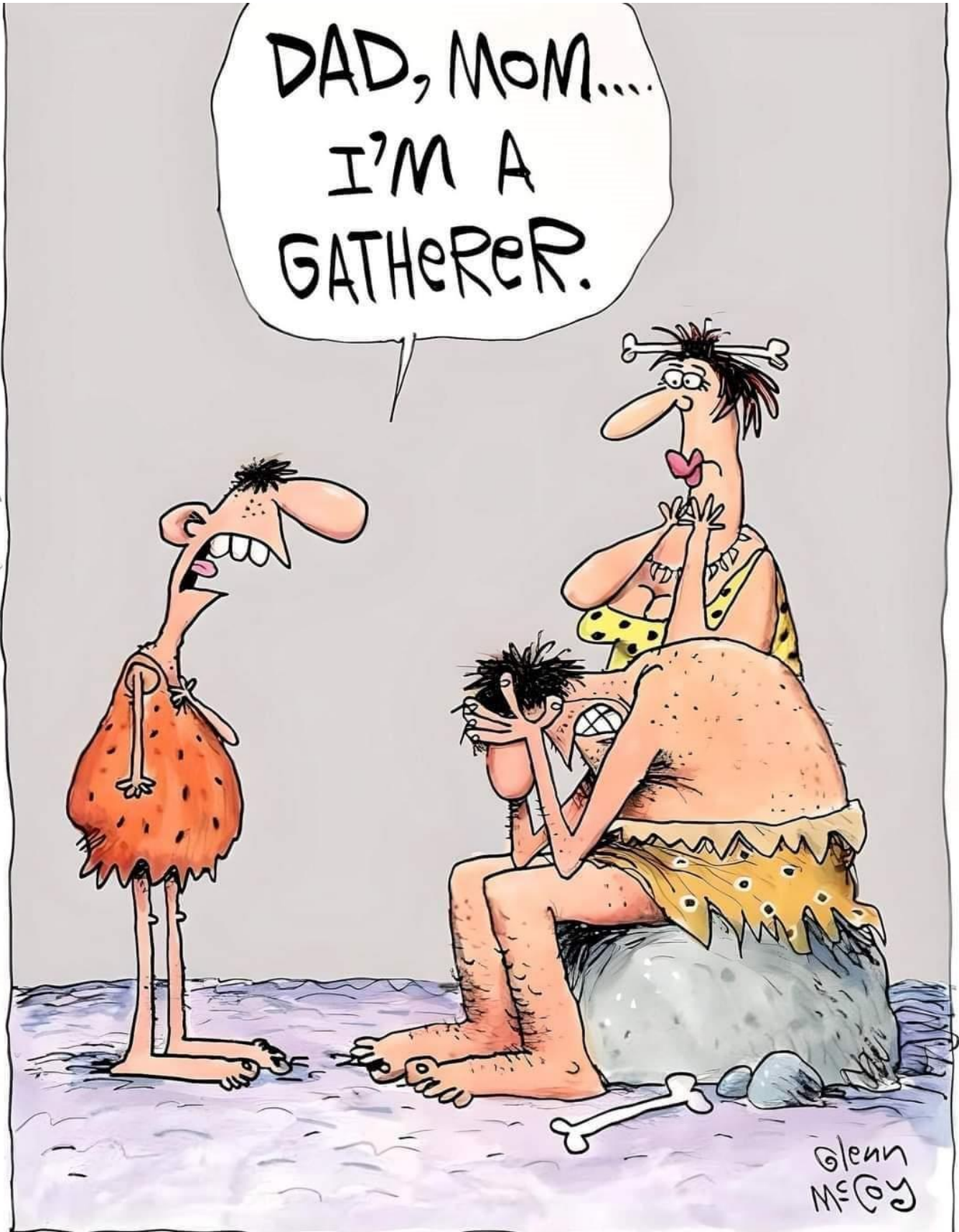
REGULAR SEASON HAS CONCLUDED: The regular season has concluded, however, it is still possible to hunt quail, swan and pukeko during August - check the regulations for exact dates.

Early days after construction of Rose Road wetland. .



Closing weekend hunt in CSI region

Lighten Up



Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!

Nelson Hunting and Fishing August deals for Nelson Members – make sure you have your membership card!

NELSON
Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND

VIP
AUGUST SPECIALS

HOT DEAL

<p>YETI BIG WAVE BLUE - FULL IN STORE RANGE</p> <p>30% OFF</p> 	<p>YETI AGAVE TEAL - FULL IN STORE RANGE</p> <p>30% OFF</p> 	<p>YETI KING CRAB ORANGE - RAMBLER 200Z TUMBLER AND RAMBLER HALF GALLON JUG</p> <p>30% OFF</p> 
<p>COMPANION 16000MAH SOLAR POWERBANK</p> <p>WAS \$119.99</p> <p>NOW \$59.99</p> 	<p>LEUPOLD BX-1 MCKENZIE HD 10X42 BINOCULARS - MOSSY OAK</p> <p>WAS \$499.99</p> <p>NOW \$349.99</p> 	<p>HUNTING & FISHING NEW ZEALAND CLOTHING - EXCLUDES CLOTHING PACKS AND PRODUCTS ALREADY ON SALE</p> <p>20% OFF</p> 

VIP JULY SPECIALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT NELSON HUNTING & FISHING, NO OTHER HUNTING & FISHING BRANCHES. OFFER APPLIES TO CURRENT IN STORE STOCK. TO REDEEM DISCOUNT, PLEASE SHOW STAFF YOUR NELSON NZDA MEMBERSHIP CARD. SPECIAL PRICING ON OFFER FROM 01/08/2024 - 31/08/2024

99 CADILLAC WAY, ANNESBROOK, NELSON 03 548 1840 NELSON.STORE@HUNTINGANDFISHING.CO.NZ

A special insurance package has been developed by NZDA for members*.

As a NZDA member you and your family can feel safe knowing you are personally covered in a hunting related accident or while undertaking NZDA activities.

Insurance only covers financial members, and is often a requirement when hunting on forestry blocks, so with our insurance cover you can access more hunting opportunities.

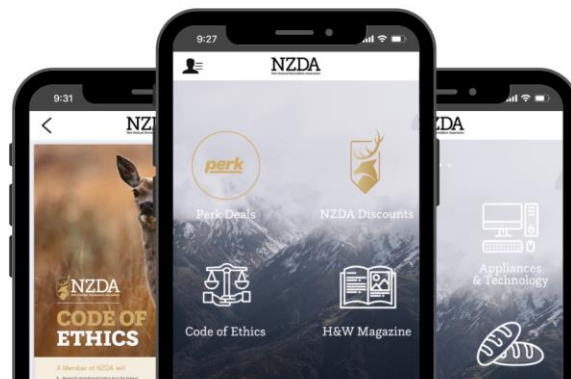
NZDA and all our members are covered by [AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited](#) insurance when hunting and undertaking NZDA activities.

The insurance indemnity cover includes:

- \$10,000,000 for General Liability
- \$10,000,000 for Products Hazard Liability
- \$500,000 for Statutory Liability

*Excludes Associate Membership

A MAJOR PERK OF YOUR NZDA MEMBERSHIP IS THE OFFICIAL APP.



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.**

2024 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](#)