



Dreaming of a white Christmas? Go to the Molesworth! – it just never stops!
Looking up Stroat Creek in the Bullen block, mid-November.

Club Night Weds 26th February

We are hoping to start the New Year with a special Roar themed Club Night so keep an eye on your emails

Note! There will be no Club Night or Echo for January

THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

Goat
Competition-
Branch
Winners

Dillon Hunt

Show & Tell

Range
Matters

GAC Better
Hunting &
News

Trapped –
“Trapawera”
& Pest
Centennial

CLUB NIGHT
To Be
Advised -
February

Lighten Up

MEMBER
BENEFITS

IMPORTANT
LINKS

Editorial

Welcome to Summer in all its heat and glory.

Firstly, thanks to all who participated in the Goat Competition around the region and the rest of the country. We will work to get prizes to winners before Xmas – so stand by for information in that space. Apologies for the mix up in Open Day for Nelson – we always had Sunday as the date but somehow the DOC website picked up same as Murchison and Motueka (which were on the Saturday). More care next year on that front as we recognise the inconvenience caused.



Carina led a great stand at the A&P Show, and I have taken her email to those who supported and presented it to see. This event each year really showcases our branch and what we stand for. I hope more people will support next year because it appears absolutely worthwhile community engagement. Thanks Carina for leading!

At our social night in November there were several HUNTS graduates, which was great and a chance to talk to them. I have provided GAC links to further hunter training because it is tough for those absolutely starting from scratch. HUNTS is an excellent start, but experience then needs to follow. As someone who was skinning possums at age 7 and cutting up sheep carcasses for the family table at 10 (Mum hated doing it and Dad thought killing and dressing the sheep ended his involvement till it landed on a plate in front of him!!), I easily forget how daunting it can be to “make a start” on an animal that has been taken for food. I encourage you “greenhorns” to contact other members and Committee etc. if you need more pointers or etc. We have a contact portal on our webpage [Contact Nelson NZDA](#) and we will help where we can.

A nice story from Waimea Weekly about the local community trapping pests in Tapawera. Great way for people to get outdoors, great way for youngsters to learn hunting skills.

Keep your eye on the Range link on website – if the current dry weather prevails eventually fire risk will close it. If you need to sight a rifle for Xmas we recommend that you get onto it sooner rather than later. If using the Murchison Community Range take note of the new Standing Orders which are on our website and posted at the Range.

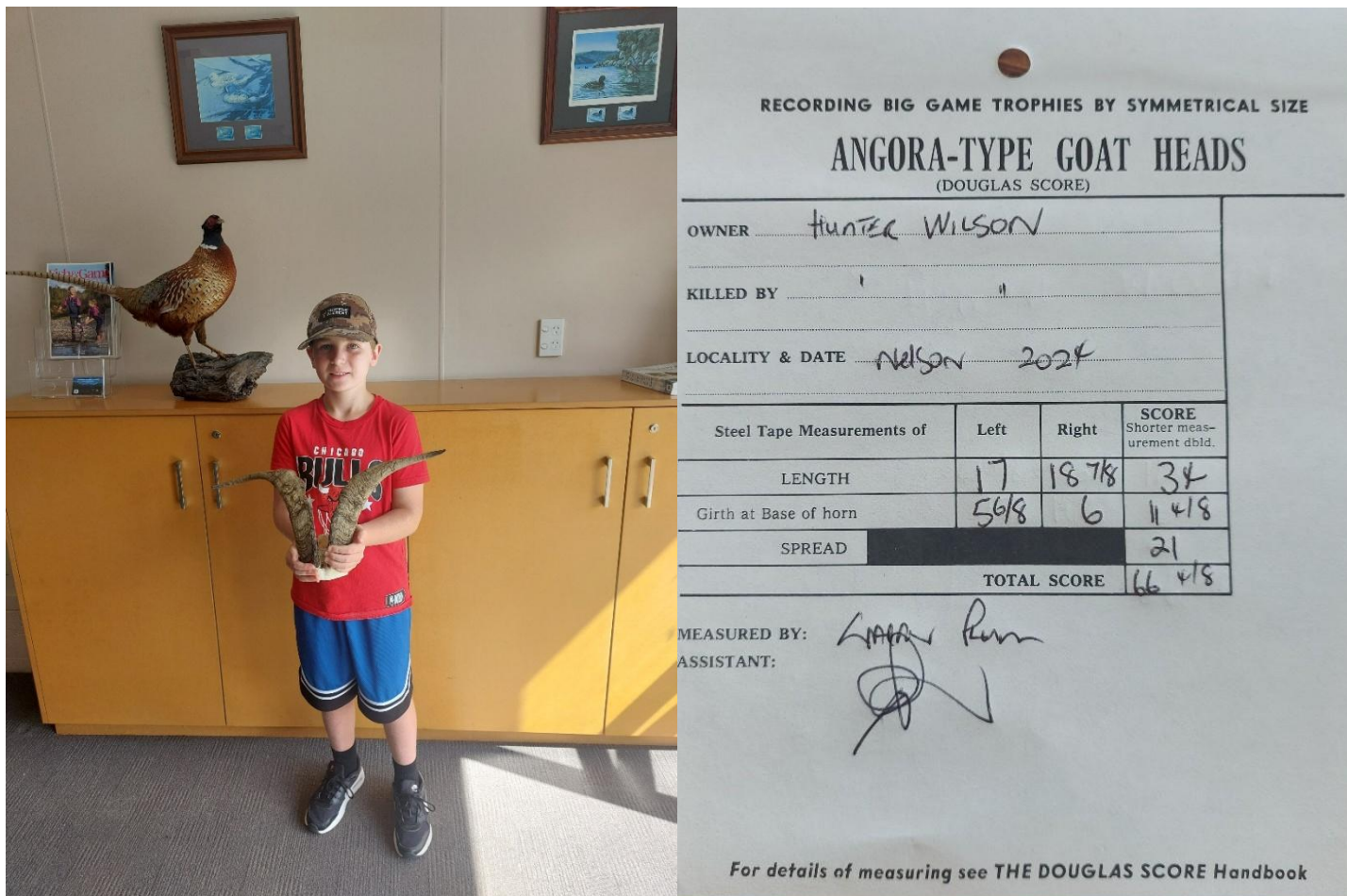
Finally:

- Have a great and safe Xmas break if you're taking time off
- If you're hunting consider that this is the time when most of the non-hunting public are in the outdoors too – **be safe and considerate, be sure to have a permit and check summer period special hunting conditions** (e.g. Marlborough Sounds and Kahurangi)
- We look forward to seeing you in 2025 at one of our Club Nights which we will announce the first on in January
- There is no January Club Night nor January edition of the Echo as the Editor gets a month off.....

Thanks Warren for the great short story from the Dillon – your mission to visit every Molesworth block continues!

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

DOC - NZDA National Goat Hunt - Branch Winners



Hunter Wilson and his goat trophy entered into the Goat Competition. Well done to him and rest of his family who entered. Not quite enough to pip Brooklyn's entry for the under Juniors section.

Below is the table of Branch Winners for prizes donated by Hunting and Fishing and Kea for those entering locally. Well done all!

As organiser of the Goat Hunt locally I have decided to donate my prize pack with the rifle bag being a door prize at our next club Night (be there!) and because both DOC and ourselves drew a name for the one Spot Prize, two items from the prize pack I won will go to the other winner in that category.

We will contact winners and arrange collection of their prize.

Thanks to all the participants and DOC team for supporting and being there on their weekend time.

National results will be advised when to hand by email to all members and if any more winners prize delivery arranged.

Category	Criteria	Prize	Winner	Comment
Got Your Goat	Enter one tail to be in the draw	H&F Rifle bag, 126-piece first aid kit and carabiner mug*	Richard Wells	Rifle bag to be donated as February Club Night Door prize and rest to Spot Prize 2
Great Goat Round Up	Most goat tails entered	H&F \$100 gift voucher	George Baigent	Last year's PLB winner!
NZDA's G.O.A.T.	Highest Douglas Score head	H&F Gerber knife and Lanksy Quick Fix	Karl Puklowski	Second year in a row! 101 7/8 DS
Junior Goat Round Up	18 or under YO most tails	H&F Traverse TR5R headlamp	Zoe MacKenzie	Second year in a row too!
Junior G.O.A.T.	18 or under YO highest Douglas Score head	H&F 65 litre barrel bag	Brooklyn Hovenden	Well done, Brooklyn! 73 6/8 DS
Spot Prize 1	One draw per entry on Open Day	Kea outdoor survival pack	Carlos Thwaite	Hope you don't need to open it Carlos!
Spot Prize 2	One draw per entry on Open Day	H&F First aid kit and carabiner mug	Thomas Schwarzenbach	Enjoy Thomas.



The great prizes donated by Hunting and Fishing



Karl Puklowski has a knack of finding the big ones! Welcome back to the Competition Karl!

Hunting and Fishing donated prizes on show in the background.

Dillon Hunt – Warren Plum



My quest for the Big Blue boar continues. Came out of Dillon yesterday. Went in Wednesday, quite a walk. 12 goats, 2 reds and 2 Blue pigs dispatched. 2 Nice trout on the rod. Good time, cloudy all the time and very windy. Stuff all deer sign, only saw deer on 5 occasions with one exception of 2 together, all individual animals. Pretty disappointing in that respect. think area gets regularly hunted and winded out.



Came out day early as at mouth of Dillon met a very nice chap with a mini jet boat who offered us a ride. Would have been rude to turn down. Exciting ride back in 20 minutes. Great trip all round. Nearly ran out of ammo. Cheers Warren



Love that knowing smile....priceless, thanks Warren – The Ed.

Show and Tell – Carina Jackson



Carina, Greg and Grub at the A&P Show – flying the flag for Nelson NZDA

Afternoon Will, David and Greg.

I just wanted to say thank you so, so, so much for helping out at the A&P show on the weekend, just having someone else there was so supportive for me, and I appreciate you all for that.

Saturday was a busy day, Sunday was steady, and we had some repeat visitors from the day before come in again (same thing on Saturday afternoon, some people stopped back in on their way out just for another look at the display and a chat) Some people just wanted to share their hunting stories/memories etc in which I was more than happy to hear.

Was really good to have so many positive comments and feedback about us being at the show. It is not all just about signing up members but educating them on who we are, what we do etc and just creating a fun and inviting experience for young and old - well apart from one lady who walked and quickly turned around with a shocked look on her face and an a OH! - priceless.

Sunday, I had a lady who works with Mountain Safety asking how and when did we become so fancy with our branding/community engagement and other activities etc, she said it was great to see. The police and the National party next to our site also had really positive feedback too.

- So, my take from the weekend is that people really love the fact that we are getting our name out there and what we get up to,
- I handed out about a dozen cards to people that said they were interested,
- I have sent the gentleman's details to the National office to sign him up as per our discussion on Saturday.
- I don't do well in windy conditions - but I already knew that so thank you for your support and banter around this team.
- Kids love the fact that they can see the animals that they see on TV - they look a bit different when just their skins but still cool for them and the family banter around the "guess the hides" competition was funny, we had deer, badgers, labrador, chamois to a yak.
- It is interesting to see so many people interested in our Hunts courses and advocacy. One man said his wife agreed to him getting his firearms license ONLY if he joins the NZDA.
- I think if I was to do it again next year, I would ask to hire a more robust gazebo from Hirequip etc.
- Grub was a hit with everyone, and they just loved his HI Viz hunting jacket.
- Lighting for our dark tent - power (but our site was changed at the last minute)

Any ideas/what I could do or not do in the future will be positively received.

Anyway, again just a huge thank you all for your help over the weekend team.

Regards Carina



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](#)

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

Murchison Community Range - [Standing Orders](#)

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 and hiviz & hearing protection
5. Its wet up there, avoid driving on the grass

Summer Series Benchrest Results - November

2024-25 Summer Outdoor Benchrest

10.11.24 International Target

	T1	T2	
Carina Jackson	248.12	248.06	496.18
Greg Couper	246.15	243.12	489.27
Graeme Smith	246.14	240.08	486.22
Graeme Vallance	237.08	240.07	477.15
Simon Senior	237.06	237.08	474.14
Michael Kidson	240.10	225.01	465.11
Simon Cotton	226.07	237.05	463.12
Donald Jaffray	211.04	193.00	404.04

Points

Carina Jackson	8	7.5	8	23.5
Greg Couper	7	7.5	7	21.5
Graeme Smith	6	5	6	17
Michael Kidson	4	2	3	9
Graeme Vallance		4	5	9
Anne Marie Kidson	5			5
John Ronaldson	2	3		5
Simon Cotton	1	2	2	5
Simon Senior			4	4
Jan Newton	3			3
Donald Jaffray			1	1

Next shoot 22 December at Nelson Range
 5 x 50m Group Targets
 Followed by Cuppa and bikkie

Any competition and event queries please:

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

Game Animal Council Better Hunting



Know someone who's curious about hunting?

The free Better Hunting platform from the Game Animal Council is a great resource for new hunters.

Developed with support from NZDA HUNTS instructors, it covers theory at home, so you can focus on hands-on skills in the field.

Better Hunting courses are intended to provide a pathway for those hunters who go on to do practical training such as the NZDA HUNTS courses.

The two main courses, [Hunting Essentials](#) and [Firearm Essentials](#), cover foundational hunting and outdoor skills. More experienced hunters will find valuable tools like [maps](#), forecasts, a [hunting and ballot calendar](#), [intentions form](#) and games.

Each module includes a short quiz and assessments to help track your progress. The courses are mobile-friendly and can be downloaded for offline use.

Visit betterhunting.nz to explore the platform and, if you find it helpful, share it with others!



Best practice firing



There are four key aspects to good shooting. Take a look:



Aim

Breath

Trigger

Follow-through

Once you've identified your target beyond all doubt and decided you're going to shoot it, aim the rifle at the target. You want your position as natural and comfortable as possible.



Remember your ethical shot spots. New hunters should stick with the hilar zone until you're proven capable.



Don't close one eye. Keeping the other one open helps with your situational awareness around the target AND your shooting position, with no detriment to your aiming.

Your rifle should be in the ACTION state. That means there's a live cartridge in the chamber, the bolt is closed, and it's just the safety stopping the trigger.

Continue

**"The most useful
educational tool
I have seen
in years & years"**



More GAC News



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

02 November 2024 Media statement

NZ Game Animal Council welcomes Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and Waters

Todd McClay, Minister for Hunting and Fishing, has announced a nationwide Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and waters.

The Charter outlines principles and commitments to ensure that recreational hunting and fishing on public conservation land and waters is recognised and safeguarded for current and future generations.

These principles include public right of access, uniform standards and procedures, safety and responsibility, cultural respect, and balancing recreation with conservation.

Game Animal Council (GAC) General Manager Tim Gale says it's a positive step in the right direction for hunters and other recreational users of public conservation land. It shows the Government's commitment to providing more consistent access to public conservation land.

"The GAC undertook a survey of hunters in 2022, with 67% of respondents telling us that access was the thing that most impacted hunting in their region," Tim said.

"We commend the Minister on his commitment to resolving some of the challenges faced by hunters and fishers when accessing public conservation land.

"Thanks to the Department of Conservation for leading this work, and Fish & Game, Federated Mountain Clubs, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, and Outdoor Access Commission for their work supporting the development of the Charter.

"It's been a collective effort. Involvement from groups and agencies across the hunting, fishing and outdoor sectors means the charter is shaped to meet the needs of many public conservation land users.

"While access to public conservation land has been fraught with challenges for a while, the Charter won't solve all the access challenges that hunters face, but it's a big step in the right direction, ensuring hunters can continue to play their part in managing game animals across our public conservation land. www.nzgac.org.nz

“We are lucky here in New Zealand that we have such a wide range of year-round hunting opportunities and incredible landscapes with few of the restrictions common overseas.

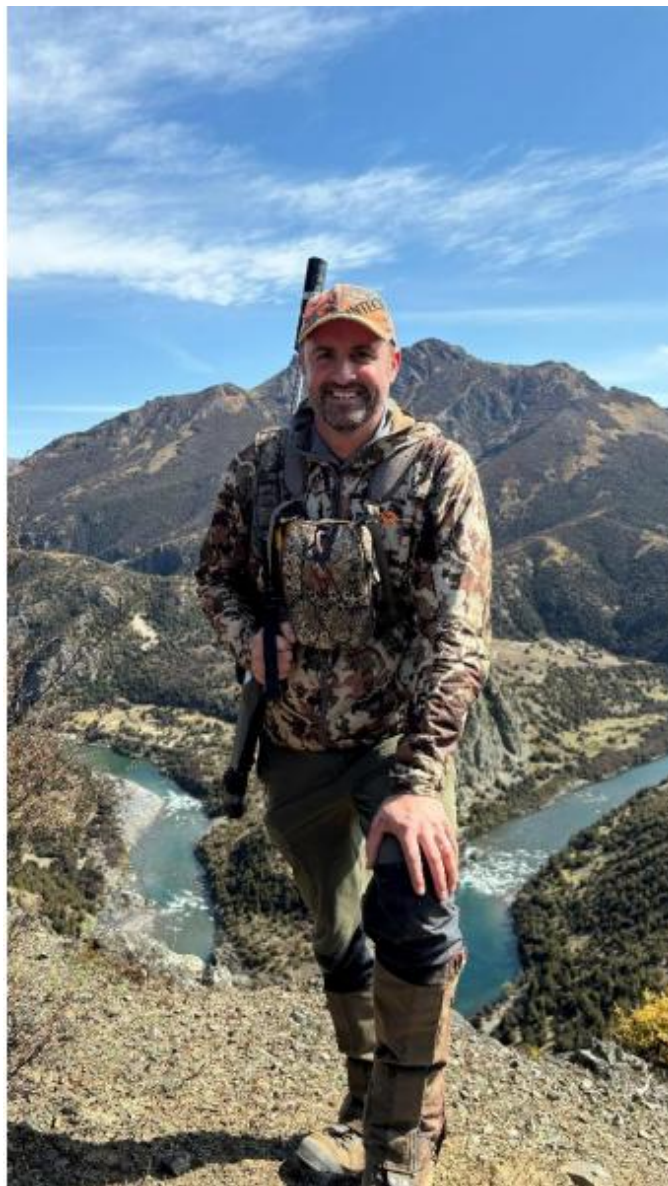
“The GAC looks forward to continuing work with other agencies to strengthen public conservation land access opportunities for hunters.”

See the Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and Waters at www.doc.govt.nz/access-charter

See the 2022 GAC hunter survey here: www.nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-GAC-Hunter-Survey-Results-Report.pdf

Contact:

Kim Whitwell Communications Advisor NZ Game Animal Council



Tim Gale – retiring from the GAC and he will be missed!

Trapped in “Trapawera”!

Pest trapping happening in Tapawera – Story Reproduced courtesy of the Waimea Weekly



Garden vegetation, gumboots or bare feet often feature in backyard trapping, a favorite activity for Kiwi kids. Now, thanks to the support of local groups, the Tapawera community has the chance to give it a go. Photo: Supplied.

The Tapawera community has the opportunity to step up to help create a Predator-Free New Zealand by 2050, where our native species thrive alongside us.

Local groups the Motueka Catchment Collective and Tapawera Connect are working together on a project to protect native birds, frogs, lizards, and crops from the damaging effects of introduced pests – and everyone has a role to play.

Predator Free New Zealand 2050, a part funder of this project, warns that native species are disappearing at a rapid pace. Rats, stoats, and possums kill an estimated 25 million birds each year, threatening around 4,000 native species with extinction—one of the highest rates worldwide.

In response, Motueka Catchment Collective and Tapawera Connect are supporting the Tapawera community to start trapping these harmful predators.

“Pest control is important to help maintain and enhance our native biodiversity,” Jacob Lucas, who volunteers for the Motueka Catchment Collective, explains.

“We are hoping this will be the start of building a trapping network to benefit both the residential and rural area around Tapawera.”

Backyard biodiversity is the plants and animals that live in your backyard. Backyards can provide food sources and safe refuge for native species, and act as ecological ‘stepping stones’.

Kate Radloff, a Tapawera local and member of the Motueka Catchment Collective, stresses the importance of backyard biodiversity.

“It’s really important we acknowledge what biodiversity is and realise that a loss of biodiversity is equally important as climate change. By working together, the Tapawera community can help bring back insects and birds to places like Shedwood Bush, farms, the river, the school, and even the town.”

Eloise Martyn - The Waimea Weekly November 2024



Not pretty but.... a personal milestone for the Editor – after trapping an 8 hectare block in the Sounds since August 2019 I have caught my **100th** mustelid – a weasel which, like many weasels got caught going out, back over the trap rather than on the way in. The fur is rabbit. The DOC150s are a simple but very effective trap when checked regularly and I do plenty of changes to bait types – pilchards, mutton fat, rabbit, maize. Over 130 possums and nearly a hundred rats in same timeframe. The Ed.

Lighten Up

Media: The average adult spends \$255 per year on their hobbies.

Hunters:



Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!

Home / What we do /

MEMBER BENEFITS

Home / What we do /

HUNTER INSURANCE

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.

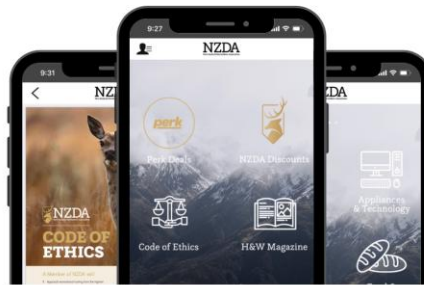
NZDA and all our members are covered by [AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited](#) insurance when hunting and undertaking NZDA activities.

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](#)