



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA July 2023



Club Night – Tuesday July 25th

Competition Night

Please try to get your trophy measured in advance (contact Warren Plum plumstone@xtra.co.nz) and bring in your cups if you were a winner last year.

See here for categories and rules.

[Nelson NZDA Competitions](#)



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Editorial



I wondered how the July edition was going to find much news but it hasn't been a problem! Firstly great to have held our 75th Anniversary (in conjunction with AGM) and play "catch up" with the recogniton of long serving members with their 25 and 50 year continuous membership badges.



Thanks to the team who went back through past records, members who advised of their own or other's long tenure, and most of all the recipients, who also fronted up in force on the night. A good business becomes a great one with loyal customers – your consistent and persistent support is both very much appreciated and heartening.

This plays into the theme of volunteers and how our and so many other organisations throughout New Zealand depend on volunteer support (\$'s, labour and skills). GAC wrote a nice piece in this regard and is reproduced below with a few pictures from past editions of the Echo added as a reminder of some of our own work. Amongst these are HUNTS, range officers, the organised activities and general running of our branch. Of course all branches are doing much the same across the land as well as national initiatives). Also we must commend the local work supplying meat to Kai Rescue (itself a not for profit, distributing food to volunteer groups). Further, in the Wairoa Bike Park our members have over the last several years now logged approximately 1000+ hours removing 238 goats, 57 pigs, 244 possums and 29 deer (plus laid out anti-wasp VespeX). That's epic!

The DOC office at St Arnaud have provided a summary of the April fly-in animal control programme. We are very keen to hear feedback from any who went (and for anyone who did not with reasons) so we can discuss with DOC continuing to make this work better in the future. So, if you have information, please contact me.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation held their first major event in Te Anau at the beginning of July. If you haven't already, see the great Country Calendar episode on their work to maintain and enhance the wapiti herd while delivering on good conservation outcomes for the habitat overall.

[Country Calendar TVNZ](#)

National NZDA decided to take a stand there and show the NZDA flag. It was a fair job to organise long distance, but we had good experience from Sika Shows and also willing and helpful support from locals who are members of Southland and Southern Lakes branches (special thanks to Shaun, David and Sharon!) who made it all possible. I drove from Nelson and collected national President from Darfield and picked up Vice President and our Douglas score man at Queenstown airport. So, despite the cold and fear of major snow the event went well, we engaged with many people some members, many not and were able to promote NZDA, discuss matters of interest and network with other participants. Our conclusion at the end was "bloody long drive...but well worth it!"

Finally, get your photos in to the competition! Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

AGM and 75th Anniversary Event

Great to see the old guard turn out for the 75th anniversary and so many receiving their 25 and 50 year badges. What a stalwart group supporting the organisation over time.



Beer and a chat



50-year badge recipients including current (Neill Cliffe) and past (Lester Bowden) Patron



25-year badge recipients

Membership Badge Recipients

Full List 50 years

Thomas Horncastle
Lloyd Higgins
Tony Titheridge
Lester Bowden
Roger Sowman
Kenneth Curtis
James Stringer
Harry Scoltock
Neil Cliffe
Stuart Mirfin
Bevan Walker
David Baigent
Donald Harris
Graeme Ching
Maurice Horner
Laurence Max
Warren Plum

Full List 25 Years

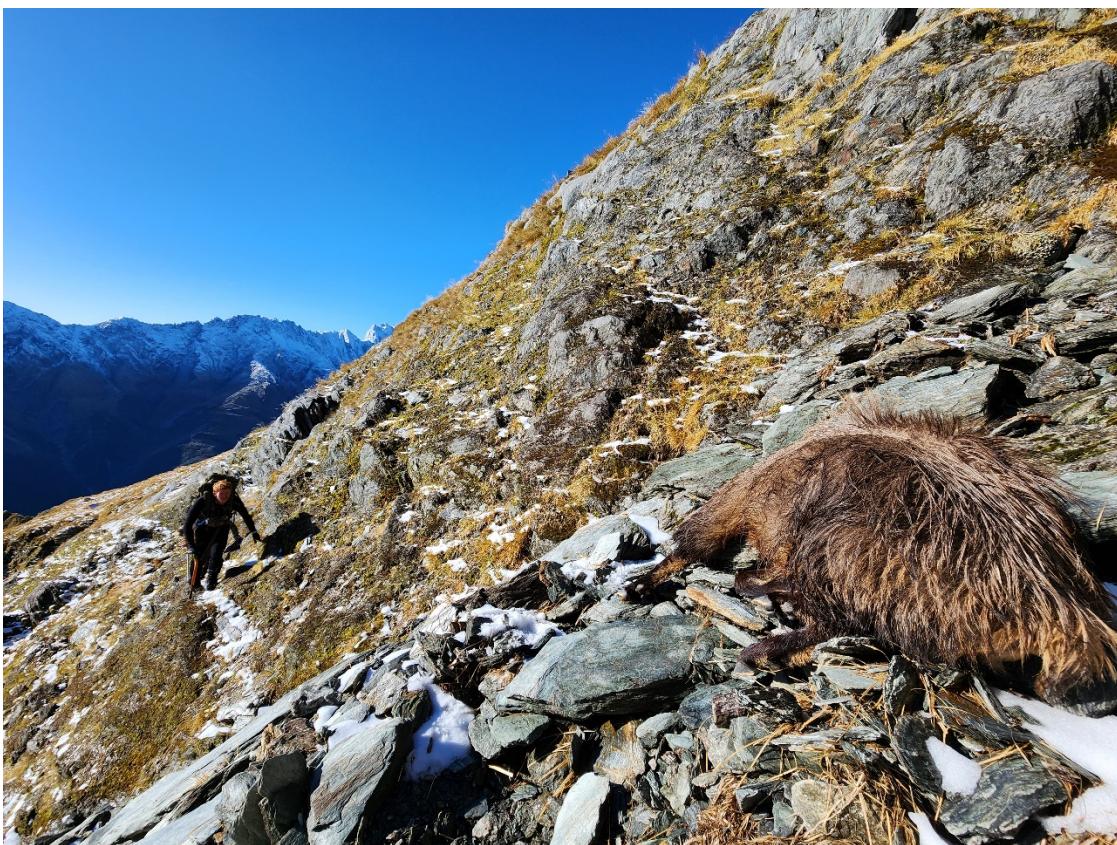
Bill O'Leary
Eric Hall
Phillip Higgins
Graeme Smith
Zane Mirfin
Scott Mirfin
Alexander Monohan
Paul Hedwig
Calvin Cochrane
Stuart Kenny
Shane Goulding
Evan Brown
Cameron Reid
Vicki Reid
Graham Hills

Paul Peychers
Geoffrey Parsons
Richard Pointon
John Crone
Michael Gane
Mike Fisher
Simon McIlroy
Nicholas King
Peter Solly

More Tahr out Thar.....Our Lads' Report



Camp in the clouds



Simon approaches his trophy bull.



West Coast sunset



13" bull – recovered after falling 150 metres over bluff (the bull that is)



Mark drinking it in after big day recovering Simon's bull

Cheers Nelson member *Aaron Shields, Mark McDonald and Simon Theobald*
www.nzdanelson.co.nz

Volunteers – Heart of the Nation

NZ Game Animal Council Media Statement

21 June 2023



Volunteers are the heart of the hunting sector

The Game Animal Council is celebrating National Volunteer Week by giving a big shout out to the hundreds of volunteers that dedicate their time and effort to making a contribution to New Zealand's hunting sector.

"Volunteers are absolutely essential to the success of organisations that make up New Zealand's hunting community," says Game Animal Council General Manager Tim Gale. "Whether it be managing and administrating our clubs and foundations, undertaking game animal management and conservation projects, or running programmes that provide wild game meat for communities; none of it could be achieved without the hard work of volunteer hunters."

"As hunters we are lucky to have so many passionate people who care deeply about hunting and conservation in New Zealand. It is also these volunteers that allow hunting sector organisations to make big contributions to conservation and community support programmes."

In the 2021-22-year members of the Sika Foundation contributed 7,278 volunteer hours to game animal management, whio conservation, the provision of wild venison for local foodbanks, and hut and track maintenance.

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation relies on over 50 volunteer hunters from the small Southland community to help run their management and conservation programmes, as well as administer the annual wapiti bugle ballot process.

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) members contribute to a range of voluntary projects. In hunter training alone, 63 volunteer instructors each give over 200 hours a year to educate new and inexperienced hunters. This sits alongside the unpaid efforts of 521 volunteer range officers who help administer NZDA's extensive network of rifle ranges and make a significant contribution to teaching firearm safety.

Around 20 volunteers are involved in running projects and targeted harvest programmes on behalf of the New Zealand Tahr Foundation.

"In addition to the work of our clubs and foundations, a great many unaffiliated hunters are also involved in helping to fill the freezers of those struggling to make ends meet," says Gale. "This has become really important for families impacted by this year's adverse weather events and has helped get a number of isolated communities through some extremely tough times."

"So, this week, we celebrate all the hunters who volunteer their time and effort for our communities, because it is these people that are the beating heart of New Zealand's hunting sector."

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.

Contact:

Tim Gale, General Manager

Phone: 021 688 531

tim.gale@nzcac.org.nz



Gotcha!! At least they stand still during the stalk – wilding pine work with DOC



Chopper training with toby Reid and Ian Cox



Carina dishing out the “blue magic” VespeX for wasp control at Wairoa Bike Park

Range Matters – Summer Series & Matariki Shoot

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

Summer Series Final Results! We have a Winner!



Carina Jackson – Summer Series Champ!

We lost our last event of our Summer Outdoor series due to the forest being closed.

Here are the final results for the season - Well done to Carina. Her consistent wins made sure the rest of us were left in the dust.

Our final get together before a break is **Matariki Weekend, (14 - 16 July)** with a similar programme to last year - a mix of Indoor and Outdoor.

Look forward to catching up with everyone *Graeme Smith*

	11-Sep	16-Oct	13-Nov	18-Dec	15-Jan	12-Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr	7-May	Total
Carina Jackson	7	6	7		9	8	10	7		54
Greg Couper	6	5	8		10	7	9	5		50
Graeme Smith	5	4	3		8	6	8	6		40
John Ronaldson	3.5	3	4		6	4	6	3		29.5
Michael Kidson	2	1	1		2	2	4	5		17
Graeme Vallance			5		7		2			14
Terry Farnham					4	3	5	2		14
Anne Marie Kidson	1	2	2		1	1	1	4		12
Rex Charlesworth			6		5					11
Jude Peacock	3.5					5				8.5
Thys van Biljow							7			7
David Hill					3					3
Dante van Biljow							3			3
Don Jaffray								1		1

If anybody out there is interested to try our sport you will be made most welcome. Give us a message on lvhvbr@gmail.com *Graeme Smith*

All Note the Range is Closed 15th and 16th July for the Matariki Shoot.

If interested in this mixed indoor and outdoor range event please contact Graeme Smith



Greg is recycling storm damage materials for shooting frames.

DOC Report – Nelson Lakes National Park Roar Hunt



Nelson Lakes ungulate control

For the second year running Nelson Lakes National Park opened the southern part of the park for helicopter access to hunt during the roar, for the purpose of ungulate management. As with previous opportunities there were 8 geographically block and they were open from the 27th of March until the 11th of April (in three periods of 6 days each).

- Of the 24 spaces available only 8 were filled this time around.
- A total of 91 deer and 17 chamois were seen.
- 29 deer were shot (18 males and 11 females) and 5 chamois were shot (1 male and 4 female).
 - o The average animals seen per group is 18 and average animals shot per groups was 4.
- The first week (27 March to 1 April) had quite bad weather, with snow and gale force winds – but this group still managed to shoot 10 deer.
- We have a sighting of 2 yellow crowned kakariki from block 5 (Bob's hut block) which is really great news!
- The feedback I received was generally positive with most groups saying they had a good time and want to sign up for the next round.
- It would be good to get more specific feedback about whether the 6 days is a good amount of time (or do people want 4 days again)? If the times of year suits i.e, the springtime blocks and the roar blocks? Any other feedback is also appreciated.

Thanks to all the hunters that have taken part in this program! So glad to hear that people are enjoying getting out in Nelson Lakes.

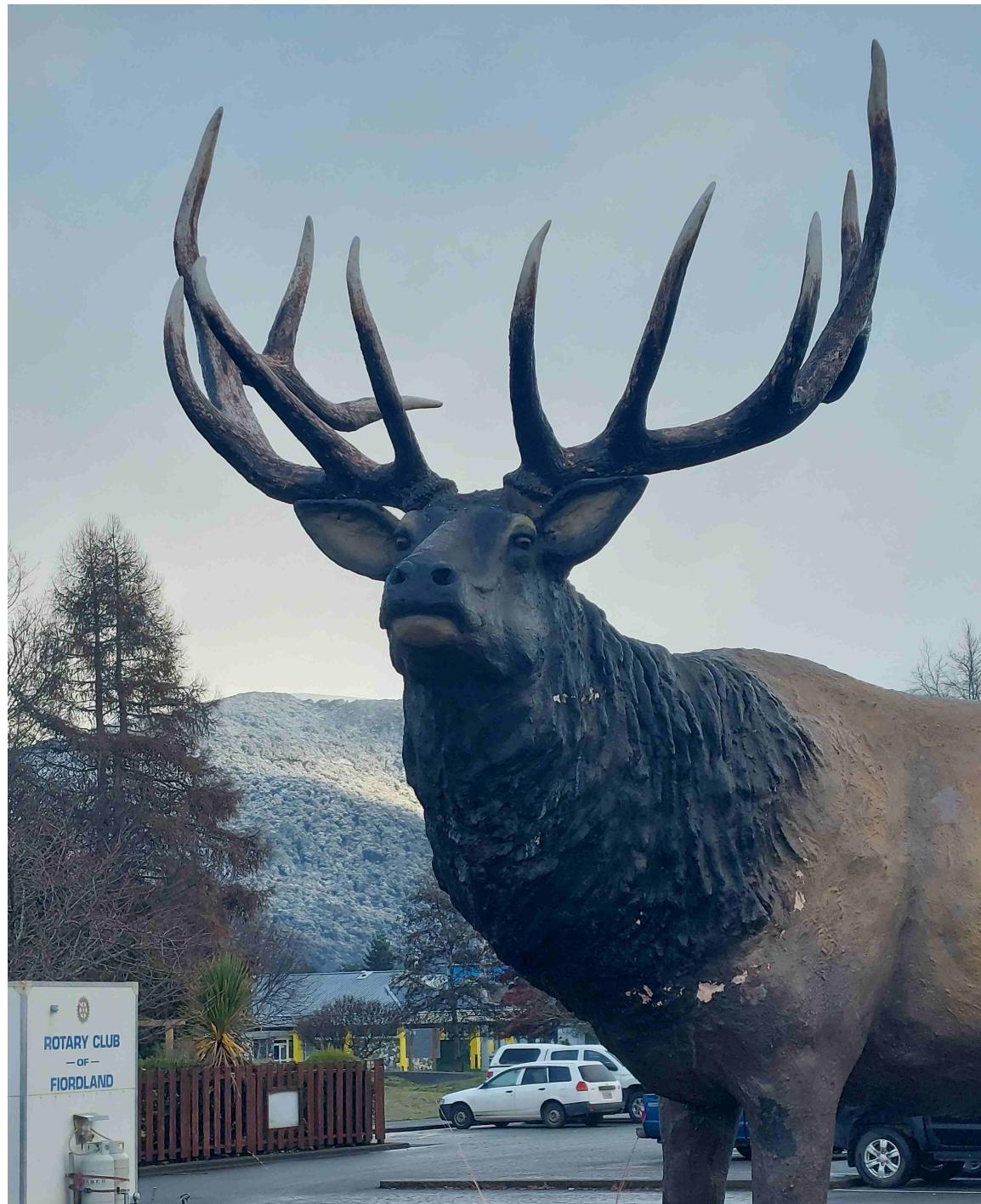
Melissa Griffin
Senior Ranger
Nelson Lakes

Note feedback can be relayed through Richard Wells (NZDA South Island Rep)
richard.wells@deerstalkers.org.nz



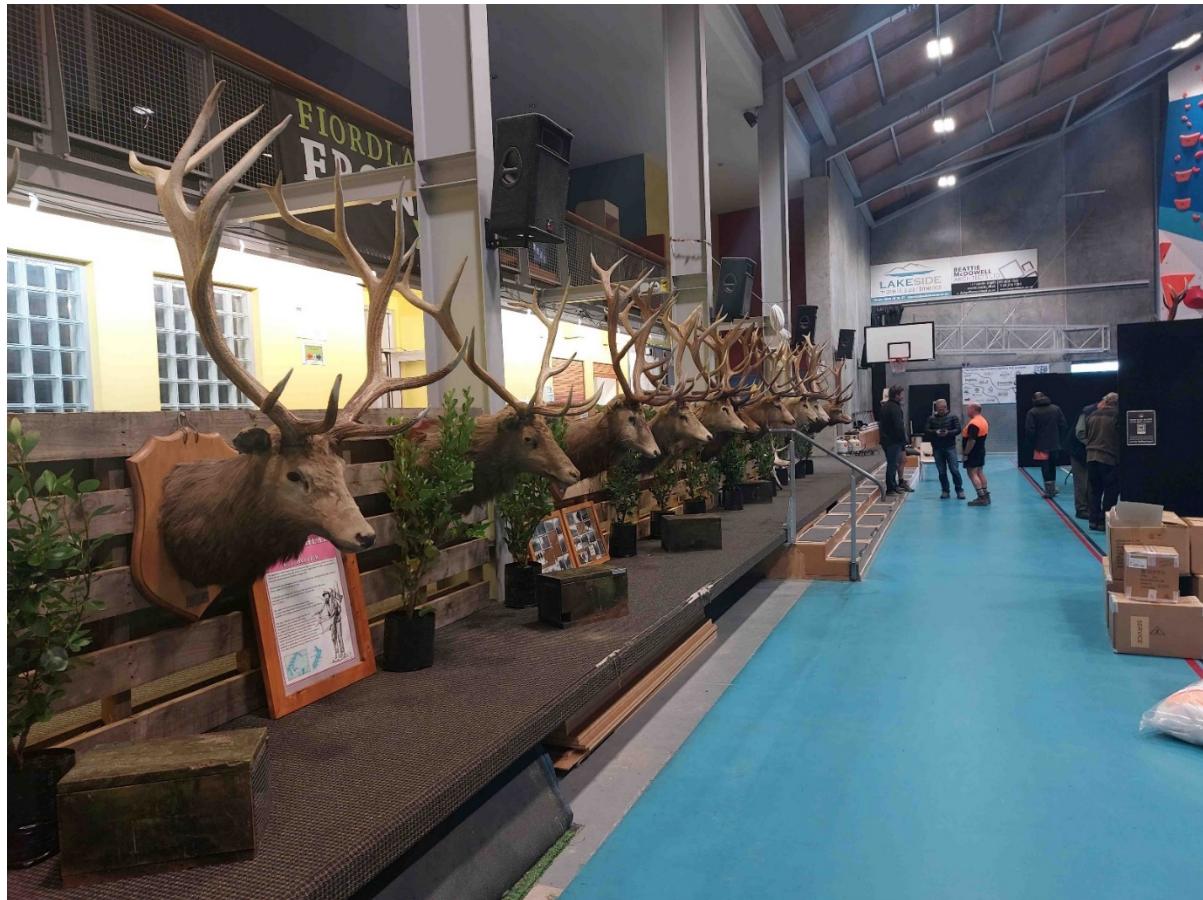
Hunters In Nelson Lakes, April 2023. Photo credit: Gwyn Thurlow

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation – Wapiti Weekend

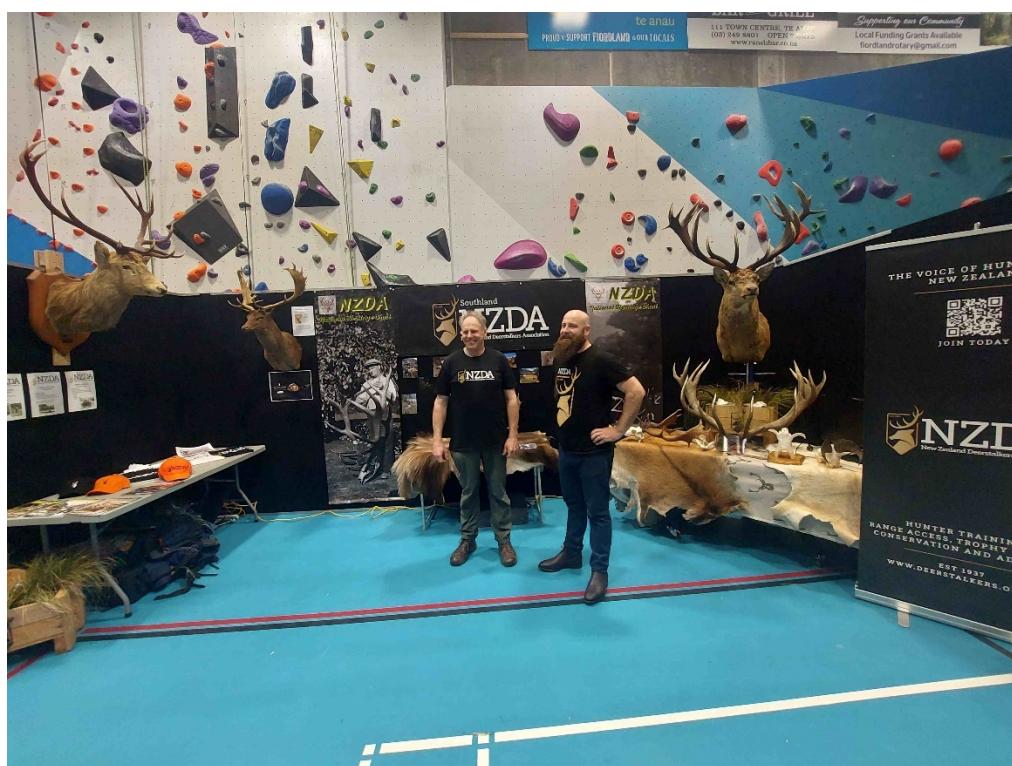


Cold opening day in Te Anau

www.nzdanelson.co.nz



Great line up of historic heads, the first permitted trophy was taken exactly 100 years ago.



Our NZDA stand taking shape with Craig (President) and Callum (Vice-President) looking pleased.



Guess the Douglas Score – 54 entries and 3 were within 3/8 to 4/8s of the correct score! Thanks, David Veitch for the fine trophy (which he secured himself).



Sharon Salmons (Southern Lakes Secretary) Shaun McKelvie (Southland President) and Roy Sloan, head of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (and without who's leadership in recent times neither the current status wapiti herd nor the weekend event would have been possible) - of course Roy has had a great team in support!



Cold but satisfied - Board members and Brian from Auckland branch suffering in their tees (4° C) for group shot. Many local supporters from Southland and Southern Lakes branches made the job possible, worthwhile and memorable!

Club Night Tuesday 25th July

Competition Night



Date & Time: Tuesday 25th July Opening @ 7.00 pm

As always - bring a friend who might be interested in our activities.

Venue: Target Shooting Nelson's Smallbore Range Saxton Field, Stoke.

More info: [TSN Website](#)

No Shooting!



A friend tramping in northern Honshu, Japan, recently sent me this picture. That's a pretty polite if convoluted, "No Firearms" sign!

Access – Know Your Boundaries

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

[Access NZ](#)

[Unformed Legal Roads](#)

Connecting people, connecting places

Herenga a Nuku Aotearoa, the Outdoor Access Commission, creates and sustains public access to the outdoors. We work with communities and across statutory boundaries.

We envision a comprehensive and safe network of tracks and trails across New Zealand, accessible from big cities and small towns as well as our wilder places.

[Learn more about us](#)

Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out!

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

NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

Available Now!

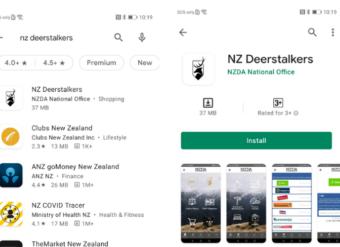


We are excited to announce the NZDA Membership App is now live and can be downloaded today!

How to download the app

1) Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for **NZ Deerstalkers**.

Select **Install** or **GET**.



Exclusive NZDA discounts:

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





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

Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

All details can be found on our refreshed website: [Nelson Branch Committee](#)

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

Ballots

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

COLFO [COLFO](#)

Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)

Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

NZ Police (Firearms Law) [Firearms](#)

Also see here for firearms storage and carriage: [NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms](#)