

June 2025

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA



Photographic Competition – Weds 25th June – Get your best pics out and get your entries in! Above is Paul Peycher's winner from last year. You will receive an email with online form and information soon!



Competition Night Weds 25th June – AHT - measure up your trophies from last 12 months.

If you have a trophy, please try and get it measured before the night. Email Warren Plum plumstone@extra.co.nz

THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

New DOC
Permit System

Range Matters
- Matariki
Event

Southern
Rambles

Some Things
Never Change

AHT Entry
Form and
Rules

Lighten Up!

CLUB NIGHT

AGM

AHT & Photo
Competitions!

Hunting &
Fishing June
Specials

MEMBER
BENEFITS

IMPORTANT
LINKS

Editorial

Hi Hunters and Shooters,

Had some hunting on ballot blocks over the last month.. clambering around the rugged Long Gully block with our Secretary Dave (where the deer got the better of us, the pigs and a large feral cat less so.....) and also a trip to the Blue Mountains with NZDA Otago stalwart, but now Nelson local, Vern (who was one of the team building the great NZDA Lodge at Beaumont many years ago and introduced me to Otago hunting). We had an epic time there being outwitted by the crafty fallow present in this wonderful RHA. We renamed the block “Out-Dunn Creek”. However, we got one fat doe for the table.



Public Land - These hunts highlight the importance and joys of these (and all the other) wonderful hunting areas across New Zealand we can, and do enjoy. Despite my stepping down from the Board I wish to continue to support hunting where I can in terms of New Zealand’s very special hunting areas on public land – and that means maintaining, reasserting or enhancing access as well as good game animal management practices delivered by DOC, and other government agencies, as well as ourselves.

Matariki Shooting Event – “Indoor Outdoor Flow!” Contact Graeme Smith and have a go!

DOC Permits - A real way to “show you care” about access to public land is to ensure your DOC permit is current and valid. This is the only real headcount of those intending to hunt our community estate whether it’s once a year or relentlessly like me. And it’s never been easier! The new DOC permit process is easier, quicker and the permit is for 12 months. Plus, you get a reminder 2 weeks from expiry with a simple roll-over option. You don’t have to think hard about where...apply for all of NZ, or North or South Island....saves thinking too hard.

Open hunting permit system improvements

- Open permits now last 12 months instead of 4.
- Instead of ticking a long list of small hunting blocks, you can now pick from 8 large regions (4 for the North Island, 4 for the South Island).
- If your plans change during the year, you can always get another permit for other regions.
- If you have an account for restricted Rakiura hunting permits, you can use the same account for open hunting area permits.
- If you create an account, you can renew your permit next year with just a few clicks.

Already many thousands of hunters have been permitted via the new system, and it is very good for New Zealand hunting that everybody does. Show your support and desire for hunting the public lands by getting your new permit. And yes...it is free. Do it!

See below for more details on Applying for a DOC Permit – every hunting member should have one!

Our AGM (Agenda below) and AHT night Wednesday 25th June. Two important events on the same night! Please attend and support your club!

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting – ***The Editor***

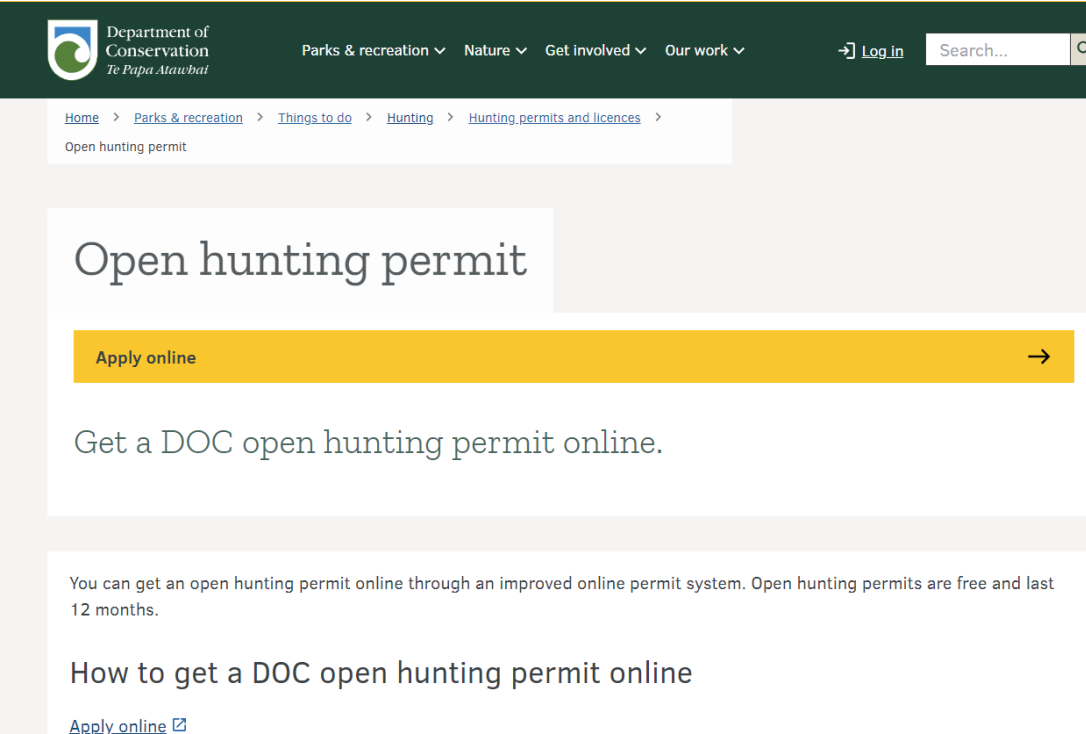
PS Check out the great June specials for members from Hunting and Fishing.

Public Land DOC Open Permits

[Weblink to DOC Public Land Open Permit Application Portal](#)

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Parks & recreation ▾ Nature ▾ Get involved ▾ Our work ▾

Log in Search...

Home > Parks & recreation > Things to do > Hunting > Hunting, permits and licences >

Open hunting permit


Open hunting permit

[Apply online](#) →

Get a DOC open hunting permit online.

You can get an open hunting permit online through an improved online permit system. Open hunting permits are free and last 12 months.

How to get a DOC open hunting permit online

[Apply online](#) 

To get a permit online you will need an email address. This is so we can email your permit to you. If you don't have an email address, call us to get a permit.

Pick all regions or the area you want to hunt on.

You will then need to enter or verify your details. You can choose to set up an account (or sign in if you already have one) or to continue as a 'guest'. If you choose to create a hunting permits account while getting your permit, it will save you time later.

If you choose to check out as a 'guest', you will still need to verify your email address via an authentication process.

Once you have read and accepted the permit conditions and confirmed your details are correct, your permit will be emailed to you.

You don't need to print your permit. Being able to present an electronic copy (for example: showing your permit on your phone) is allowed for compliance.

[Guide to the improved hunting permit system \(PDF, 722K\)](#)

[Expand all](#)

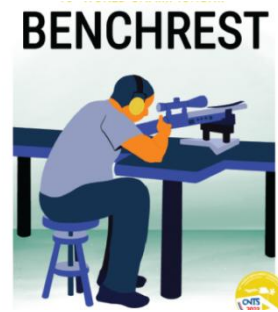
[Guide to the hunting permit system video](#) ▾

[How to set up an account](#) ▾

[How to get a permit as a guest](#) ▾

[How to change your reCAPTCHA](#) ▾

Range Matters



Matariki 2025 Invitation

The 2025 Multi event will be conducted at the Saxton indoor range and Packers Creek outdoor range the weekend of 20,21,22 June. This event is open to all who wish to participate from either NZDA or TSNZ.

The proposed events are:

Friday 20 June	(2pm onwards at Saxton)	2 x Double Card
Saturday 21 June	(Gate at 9am at Packers)	5 x 50m Hunter Class (Score) Targets.
Saturday 21 June	(pm)	5 X 50M Group Targets
Sunday 22 June	(Gate at 9am at Packers)	2 x 50m International 25 Bull Targets.

The Matariki Trophy will be awarded on placings in each event as all events scoring is not compatible.

Entry Fees	Friday only	\$20.00
	All 3 days	\$50.00
Payment on the day or Direct Credit to a/c name	020704 0448567 00	Please show

Please indicate your participation to Graeme Smith lvhvbr@gmail.com or 03 5447138 for setting up shoot details.

Food	Friday evening	light supper will be provided.
	Saturday	Soup and rolls will be provided for lunch
	Sunday	We will have a Cuppa at the completion of the shoot while placings are determined.

The Benchrest Club



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

Any competition and event queries please:

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



Southern Rambles *by Richard Wells*



A bit of meat and a nice cuppa – lovely way to end the day in the Blueys



A nice piece of St James on what was a very windy cold day; Dave regretted the “shorts and no thermals” decision that morning!



Deer poo at the carpark – always encouraging. Big dead red beech with a fungal problem



Blue Mountains - It's the most intense hunting I know where a "sighting" (ie they saw you first!) is a small win and a deer on deck is a VICTORY! This was a particularly fat (and dozy) doe as I got it. Vern just loves those big old crown ferns!



Dragging a piggy out of the prickles, we shot three in this gully after a long difficult stalk towards a deer seen there (it had evaporated, so the pigs felt the heat). Quite a few white pigs seen as well as the usual blues.



Molesworth – height's everything, climb a thousand feet (and some!) and then start hunting....



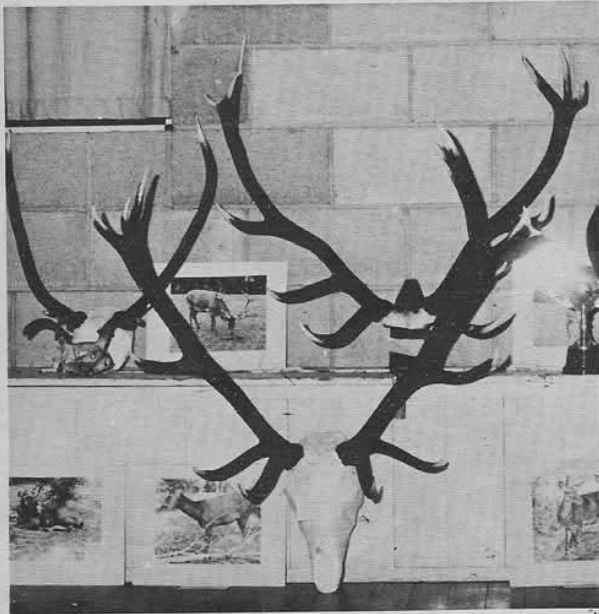
From seeing deer 30 yards in the Blueys to 3,000 in Molesworth.....both mental and physical challenges

Some Things Never Change

Through Hill and Stream



Conservation or Extermination



Very soon now the question of extermination or conservation of the deer in New Zealand is going to have to be faced by the Government. In the eyes of some Government departments, notably the Forest Service, deer are vermin, and as such, they are to be eradicated. Policy at the moment, as contained in the Statutes, is extermination and not control.

Is extermination the only course? We, along with thousands of stalkers in New Zealand feel that it is not. Certainly the deer do a great deal of damage in the forests and hill country, but surely some conservation policy must be adopted to run side by side with the planned thinning of the deer population. And should the activities of the professional shooter, armed with his semi-automatic rifle and shooting from a hovering helicopter, be allowed to continue without any restraint whatsoever? To this question we again give a definite no. The professional shooters and the helicopters have bitten deeper into the deer population in recent years than ever it was thought possible. But they should not be allowed to continue in this manner in the future without some thought being given to conservation of what is, or could be if handled correctly, a major tourist draw.

The deer, in the more accessible areas, are now not as plentiful as they were a few years ago and the trophy hunter, after trekking for many miles, is likely to reach a likely area only to find the helicopter ahead of him. The helicopter shooter kills without discrimination. A doe in fawn is just another deer. A fawn is not worth a bullet and so starves to death.

Why not a conservation policy which allows the professional shooter the right to operate during a specific period? Certainly not during the fawning season nor during the roar when the trophy shooters are out after heads.

SOME POLICY IS DEFINITELY NEEDED.

AHT Rules and Entry Form

Trophy Competition Rules are based on the National Rules see here [National-Competition-Rules-2020.pdf](#) and Ethics



Rules: All Trophies will be taken by fully financial (i.e. paid up) members and in accordance with National rules of Ethics and Fair Chase [NZDA Ethics and Fair Chase Rules](#)

NATIONAL ANTLER HORN TUSK, COMPETITION RULES

GENERAL RULES - applying to all entries

1. (i) Trophies obtained by a non-member or unfinancial member as determined by the Branch Constitution will not be eligible for entry.
- (ii) The competitions are open to all national life and full financial branch life, senior, junior, superannuant, student, endowment members of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Incorporated.
- (iii) Registered eligible family members of the above are also eligible to enter.
- (iv) Entries must have been taken in accordance with the national competition rules.
- 1.2 Members must be fully financial at the time the entry was taken and at the time of the entry into the competition.
- 1.3 All entries must have been taken by the entrant in New Zealand during the year ended 31st May.

- 2 A (i) Definition of wild game animal: -
Entries for all categories of Antler Horn and Tusk competitions be accepted from all feral self sustaining populations of game animals, whether these be from the acknowledged existing feral ranges of the animals or from new or satellite herds which have developed from natural spread, liberations or escapes.
Escapees and animals taken with ear tags or evidence of previous ear tags or other identification markings are not eligible for entry into the Antler Horn and Tusk competition.
- 2 A (ii) Definition of Fair Chase: - Fair chase is the ethical, legal and sportsman-like taking of any free-ranging feral animal that has an unimpeded avenue of escape on both private and public lands.

- 2 A (iii) Eligibility for National Antler, Horn and Tusk Competitions in relation to Fair Chase:
Entries will not be eligible if A TROPHY FEE HAS BEEN PAID.
Entries will also not be eligible for entry if any of the following methods of taking a trophy(s) are used: The animal: -
 - Must not have been taken in an enclosed area ie, behind deer wire or any such fence or fixture that impedes the animal's unrestricted chance of escape
 - Must not have been restrained ie, in a snare, trap, fence etc
 - Must not have been taken with the aid of a spotlight or use of night vision equipment
 - Must not have been taken with the help of a rifle mounted thermal imaging or night vision sight
 - Must not have been taken from an aircraft, powered vehicle or vessel
 - Must not have been coursed by dogs (with the exception of wild pigs).
 - Must not have been taken in a manner where animal behaviour has been intentionally influenced by the use of a powered craft

Requirements:

- Trophies need to be well cleaned and fit to be presented
- Late entries may not be accepted

Must be presented on the Competition to win a trophy

AHT Trophy Competition Entry Form 2025

Name, Signature &



Date:.....

Membership number and email contact:.....

Use table below to select category – a separate form is required for each entry

Code	Trophy	Category	Tick
A	Sports Depot Cup	Best Chamois	
B	Bob Baigent Cup	Best trophy by a junior (under 18 years age)	
C	Bob Baigent Trophy	Horned Game excluding Chamois	
D	Whitcombe Challenge Trophy	Best NZ Deer	
E	People's Store Trophy	Best <u>Nelson</u> Deer	
F	Williams Cup	Best Pig Tusks	
G	Rakiura Cup	Best Whitetail	
H	Shuttleworth Trophy	Best Red Deer	

Note:

- The **Eddy Trophy** will be awarded on Douglas score Conversion from all categories with all entries automatically eligible
- The **Women's Trophy** is the same criteria as above but for female entries
- Entries to have been taken in period since the last event (25th July, 2023)
- By signing you are accepting the rules and requirements further below

Details of trophy:

Date taken.....

Locality.....

Brief account of stalk and taking of the trophy.....

.....

.....

For Branch Use:

Douglas Score: Measured By:

Assisted by:

Lighten Up!



Club Night - Wednesday 25th June 6.30pm

2025 Annual General Meeting and then AHT Competition



Trophies, beer and bulldust - get along to our annual AHT Night and see who scored big this year. You don't have to be in the competition to enjoy this night – bring a friend and family. Pizza and chips are on us!



When and Where: Wednesday 28th May from 6.30pm AGM and 7pm AHT @ McCashins Brewery – Main Rd Stoke



Hunting and Fishing May Deals

for

Members Only



VIP MAY SPECIALS



OCEAN ANGLER G BOMB LURES

30% OFF

(ALL SIZES AND COLOURS)



MARMOT NEVER WINTER

SLEEPING BAG

WAS \$479.99

NOW \$349.99



MARMOT SAWTOOTH

SLEEPING BAG

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NOW \$439.99



KIWI CAMPING WEKA 3 PERSON HIKER TENT

WAS \$399.99

NOW \$199.99

(ONLY 1 LEFT AT THIS PRICE!)



ZEMPIRE TRILOGY 3 PERSON TENT

WAS \$469.99

NOW \$234.99

(ONLY 1 LEFT AT THIS PRICE!)



ZEMPIRE ZEUS 2 PERSON TENT

WAS \$429.99

NOW \$214.99

(ONLY 1 LEFT OF THIS PRICE!)



LEUPOLD VX-5HD 3-15X44 CDS ZL2 DUPLEX

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VIP SPECIALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT NELSON HUNTING & FISHING, NO OTHER HUNTING & FISHING BRANCHES. SPECIAL PRICING APPLIES TO CURRENT IN STORE STOCK ON A FIRST IN, FIRST SERVED BASIS. TO REDEEM DISCOUNT, PLEASE SHOW STAFF YOUR RELEVANT CLUB MEMBERSHIP CARD OR WORKPLACE ID. SPECIAL PRICING ON OFFER FROM 02/05/2025-31/05/2025

99 CADILLAC WAY, ANNESBROOK, NELSON

03 548 1840

NELSON.STORE@HUNTINGANDFISHING.CO.NZ

Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!

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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.

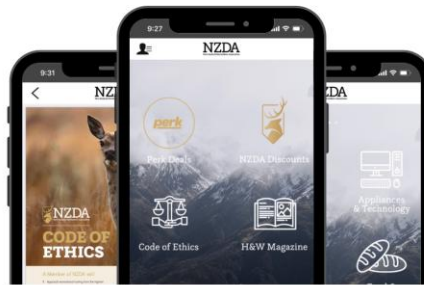
NZDA and all our members are covered by [AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited](#) insurance when hunting and undertaking NZDA activities.

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.**

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](#)