



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA March 2023



It's time to start taking those awesome pics for our annual photo competition! This is Mount Glorious...and yes, it is, isn't it.....?

Club Night March 23– “How to” Hunt roaring stags & bucks – animal behaviour, tactics and tips so you can improve your chances of taking a photo or shot like below!



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GAC and MSC
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Something
Fishy!

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– Summer
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Club Night –

**How to Hunt
stags in the
roar – learn
from members
about their
tricks and
traps to avoid!**

**7.30- 9.30
Tuesday 28th
March @
Saxton
Smallbore**

F&G Report

Important Links
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Editorial



First sniff of autumn...mmmmmm. But for those up north who have felt the full wrath of Cyclone Gabrielle there is little joy in that so please take the time to check out NZDA's options to contribute to their revival – click here [NZDA Donation Info](#) . Locally Maarten has agreed to co-ordinate collection; in the first instance email [Aaron](#) to make the connection. Also there are many other organisations to donate something to support the rebuild of the many shattered lives up there. [Donation Advice Link](#)

This month we have some great photos from our Stewart Island hunt, I feel I have missed out and thanks Noksee for organising this trip!

Given the approach of the roar proper there is lots of useful tips and safety information via links and videos below; this is the time to refresh if you are an experienced hunter and learn if you are a newbie; while the record for hunting deaths related to firearms has been very good in recent years, the tragedy in the Dart this month where an experienced, fit hunter and NZDA member fell to his death highlights the need for extreme and constant care at every step and in every part of the hunting process. Take nothing for granted, prepare well and come back safe.

A few pictures of the clean-up at the range in terms of fallen trees highlights the ongoing nature of maintenance and repairs at Packers Creek and the Murchison Range. We are hugely indebted to the few who do the bulk of the ongoing work there, Graeme S, Carina and Greg – mowing, spraying, trapping and clearing and more. Our ranges are not a self-cleaning oven (and I am not sure they really worked either!) – they require ongoing maintenance work. Soon there will be another working bee to sort out the mud, damage and other issues at Packers Creek so please make yourself available to help if at all possible.

When the full impact of the new Range Regulations become felt we will find that there are far fewer ranges in the country and possibly in our region. Packers Creek is a top level range (and Murchison also a very good range), it is absolutely worth maintaining and managing them to the best of our ability.

We are getting some requests from members wishing to become range officers, this is most welcome and we will be seeking to arrange a course after the roar. If you are also keen please contact [Carina](#) Jackson in the first instance and she will log your interest. We will need more Duty Officers for our roster when the new regulations go live in June.

Finally, keep an eye on your email inbox regarding Club Night in March, we are looking to add another item to the evening's activity and will advise in due course!

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

Rakiura Called.....

A few pictures tell it all for those who teamed up on Noksee's Club Hunt on Stewart Island's South Pegasus. Epic country and there's few enough places to encounter a kiwi in the wild. And by the way.....16 deer sight, several missed and 3 in the tuckerbox. Photos and journey credit - *John Noakes*



All aboard for paradise

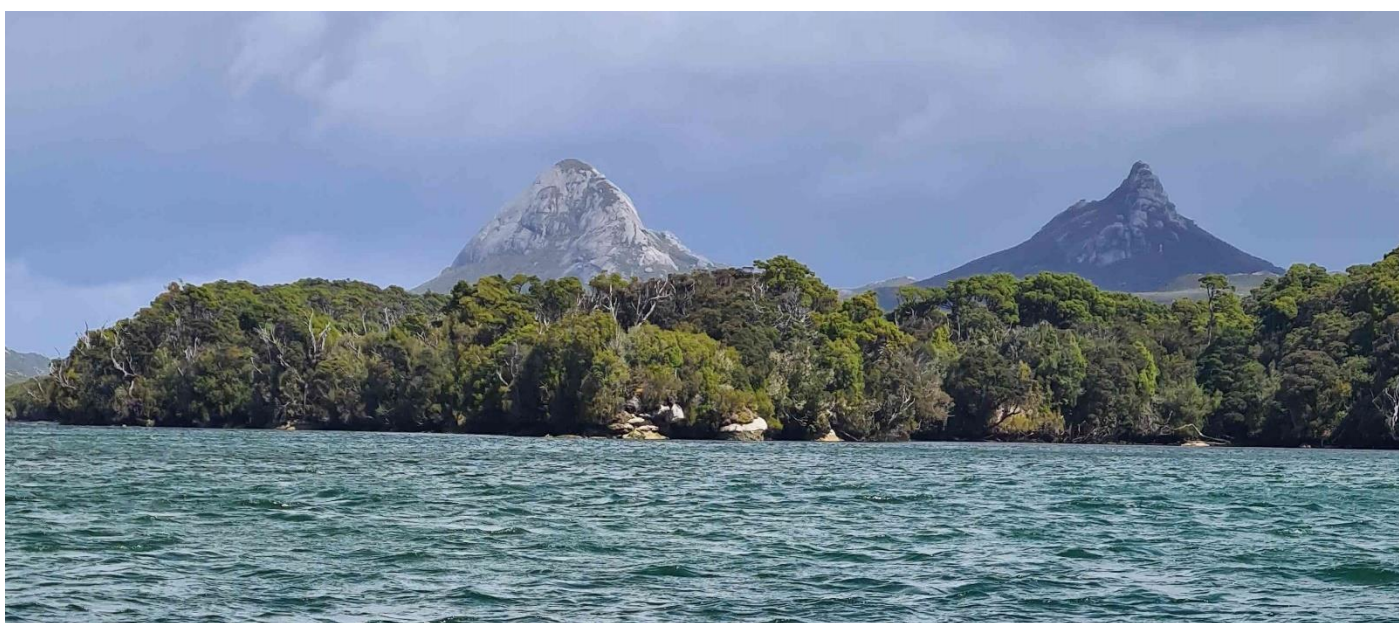




Paradise Found.....



Ripping yarns.....

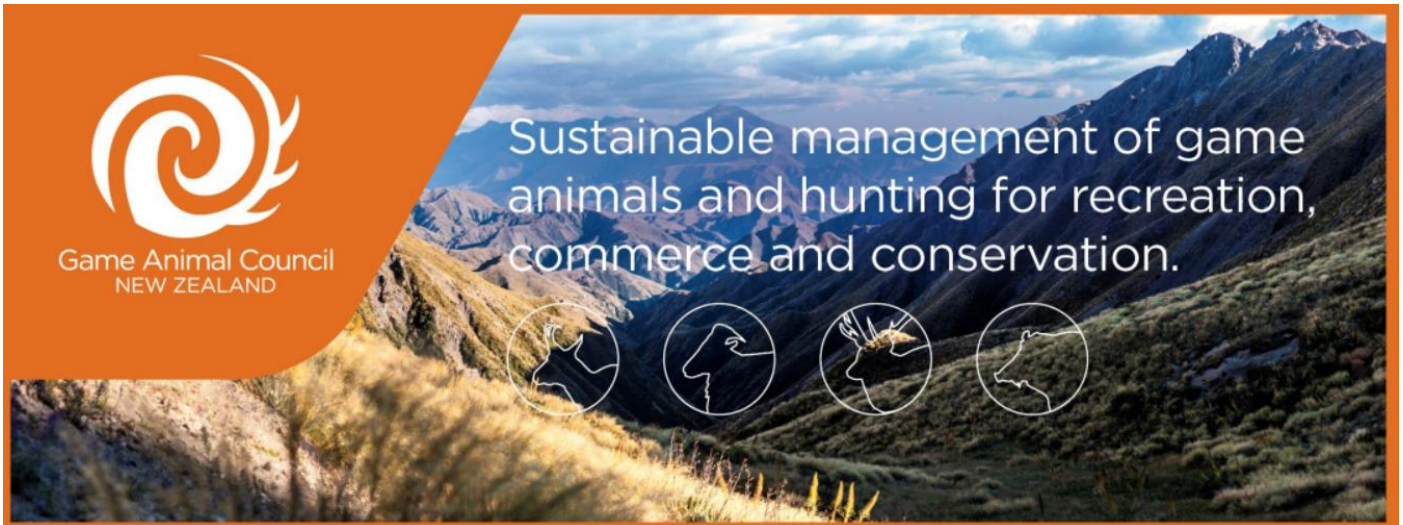


Gog and Magog – twin sentinels of the south



Bigfoot alive and well in South Pegasus

Roar News – Helpful Info from GAC and MSC



Hunter Safety

The Game Animal Council encourages hunters to get out there and enjoy the fantastic hunting opportunities New Zealand has to offer. However, taking the necessary precautions is absolutely critical to having a safe and successful trip. Here are some basic hunting safety tips:



PREPARE

1. Plan where you are going to hunt and how long you will be out for.
2. Before you go, keep an eye on the weather forecast – particularly for any rain and snow that could lead to a rise in river levels – and make your plans accordingly.
3. Make sure everyone has the right clothing, food and equipment for all possible conditions.
4. Take into account the experience and fitness of everyone in your party when planning your trip.
5. Carry an emergency communication device such as a distress beacon or satellite phone.
6. Make sure you have a hard copy 1:50,000 topographical map (and compass) to supplement any mapping apps you may use on your phone.
7. Check the long range weather forecast and plan your trip accordingly. DOC have recently formed a partnership with NIWA and have developed a new weather forecasting tool, that may be of use to many hunters. **You can access it [here](#).**
8. Leave your intentions, including where you are going and when you plan to get out, with a reliable contact.
9. Give your gear (including your first aid kit) a thorough check and repair/replace anything that needs it.

MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

1. Involve your whole party in the decision-making and making sure everyone is comfortable with the plans being made.
2. Take firearm safety seriously, because even if you are hunting alone it is highly likely that other hunters will be around.
3. Positively identify your target. It is not good enough to ‘think’ what you are looking at it is a big stag, you need to ‘know’ it is.
4. Treat every firearm as loaded and if you are sharing a firearm, make sure the person carrying the firearm maintains responsibility for checking it is in the appropriate state of load.
5. If you are bush hunting it is a good idea for everyone in the party to wear blaze.
6. Respect the dynamic environment you are hunting in. Weather can change quickly and river levels can rise fast. Be prepared to wait out a swollen river or storm system.
7. Be respectful of other hunting parties and other backcountry users and share the landscape appropriately.

For more on firearm safety, check out the [Seven Firearms Safety Rules](#).

NZ Red Stag Ageing Guide

The Game Animal Council has developed this simple guide to provide hunters with information on how to judge the age of red deer stags in the field and positively contribute to their management. Click on the cover image to open and download:



Red deer are the most abundant and widespread deer species in New Zealand and can be found in most regions of both the North and South Islands. Red deer are also the game animal species that Kiwis hunt most often.

Good red deer management in New Zealand is about hunters targeting old mature stags as well as harvesting their fair share of breeding-age hinds (to help achieve a high-quality, low-density population and hunting resource). Harvesting younger stags does nothing for herd management and means those animals never get the chance to mature and realise their full potential.

Thanks to Chris McCarthy and Willie Duley for their input into this guide.

For more on why good game animal management is important, go to [Looking After Our Game Animals](#).

MSC LEARN EXPLORE PLAN WATCH READ

Hunting Videos

Big Game Hunting Risks in NZ | ...

We have a selection of Hunting videos that identify key risks to different hunting types in New Zealand and how to stay safe when handling firearms.

Watch them here

[MSC Hunting Videos on YouTube](#)

Wait a Moment...That's a Fish....!?



Committee member David Haynes promised some action pics and behold.....something fishy about them tho.....I think sometimes he also catches them with a rod thing, not just with his hands.



Nice camp Davey but your mate looks like he wants a turn on the camp chair! Looking forward to some four legged creatures in the near future! It is a big fish though!.....I think.

Range Matters – Summer Series Rimfire

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](#)



Rimfire Benchrest Series Murchison 12th February 2023

		Target 1	Target 2	TOTAL
1	Carina Jackson	245.11	241.09	486.20
2	Greg Couper	241.07	242.10	483.17
3	Graeme Smith	243.11	239.08	482.19
4	John Ronaldson	237.06	241.01	478.07
4	Jude Peacock	229.06	225.05	454.11
6	Michael Kidson	199.01	206.01	405.02
7	Anne Marie Kidson	234.05		234.05

Results from February event above and below the aggregate scores for the Series so far

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2022-23 Summer Outdoor Series - Points awarded

	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				37
Greg Couper	6	5	8		10	7				36
Graeme Smith	5	4	3		8	6				26
John Ronaldson	3.5	3	4		6	5				21.5
Graeme Vallance			5		7					12
Rex Charlesworth			6		5					11
Michael Kidson	2	1	1		2	2				8
Jude Peacock	3.5					4				7.5
Anne Marie Kidson	1	2	2		1	1				7
Terry Farnham					4	3				7
David Hill					3					3

Time is running out for those who wish to head off Carina in the Summer series!

Results provided by Graeme Smith

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

Wood to burn....

The August storm saw pines slide off the hill onto the western end of our Packer's Creek Range firing line. Since then Greg and Carina have cut much of this into bite sized pieces and the next process is to get it split; after drying it is destined for Red Deer Lodge, so a win:win.





Thanks for your support guys!

Deer Donations – Getting Even More Value from Our Game Animals



A couple of nice red ones on their way to James at Meat Solutions – [Meat Solutions](#) These will be processed by James courtesy of grant money garnered by the club and the resulting meal solutions provided to absolutely awesome local food charity groups such as Kai Rescue [Kai Rescue](#) . If you want to donate talk to David Haynes on your Committee (contacts below) for info on how to go about it!

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Club Night – How to Hunt Stags in the Roar



Our members have regularly told us they join to improve their hunting skills so we have listened and put together a Club Night that delves into the specifics of targeting roaring stags and bucks. The format will be a discussion/panel setting where presenters will walk through their do's and don'ts with the expectation new members come with plenty of questions and experienced members will be there to offer their thoughts. Fallow and Reds will be covered in this session.

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

Time and Date: 7.30 – 9.30 pm Tuesday 28th March

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

More info: [TSN Website](#)



Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



PARADISE SHELDUCK TREND COUNTS COMPLETED: Staff have completed annual 'parrie' counts across the region. Most count sites are undertaken using fixed wing plane, a big day in the air with plenty of ground to cover. A number of sites are also completed on foot, using binoculars as an aid where pictures of the ponds are taken and images analysed on a computer in order to get an accurate count. Swan counts were also completed at the same time, with numbers of swans at an all time high in the region. Swan numbers were also very high in other central Fish & game regions, so it appears there has been very good breeding conditions in the past year.

NEW ACCESS TRACK FOR LOWER MOTUEKA RIVER: A new fishing access track has been made for the lower Motueka River at Rocky River. The new access track replaces a nearby existing entry point which has become problematic with illegal campers and other undesirable activities.

GREAT COUNT FOR WANGAPEKA: The Wangapeka River was recently drift dived and had a great count at both sites. In particular, the lower site near the Motueka confluence had a record count, with 159 large brown trout and 165 medium trout over a 1km stretch. We have had reports of some great fishing from the Wangapeka this season, which has been one of the form rivers for the region over the past few years.

CROP DEPREDATION PERMITS: Staff have been issuing a number of permits to farmers to control parries, post moult.



A Golden Bay moult site seen from the air.



New access track at Rocky River

Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out



How to enter

Simply renew your NZDA membership before March the 31st and you'll automatically go into the draw.

Prizes

Be in to win either a pair of **ZEISS Terra ED 10x42** or **ZEISS Terra ED 8x42** Binoculars or own very own **NZDA X Svord** limited edition knife.

[Details Here!](#)

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

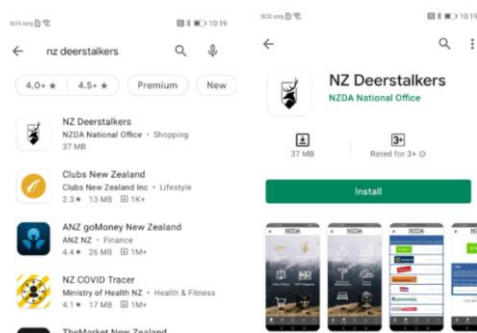
Available Now!



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](#)

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](#)