

September 2026



[Link to DOC Goat Competition Website](#)

Hunting ballots

In New Zealand, **game animals** can be hunted year-round on public conservation land, however in some areas access is managed through ballots or booking systems.

Ballots and booking systems are in place to manage hunter numbers and safety during popular times of the hunting calendar such as the roar, rut and bugle, and to provide landing sites in hunting areas that are hard to reach by foot.

This page has information and links to hunting areas on public land that are managed through ballots and booking systems.



[GAC Ballots Information for all regions and blocks](#)

It's that time again – so put your thinking cap on for Roar 2027



**THIS
MONTH**

Goats

&

Ballots

EDITORIAL

**Range
Matters -**

**A good range
& a wood
range**

Fluffy

Lighten Up

Club Night

**“How to”
Night –
Reloading
with Greg
Couper**

**TSN Range
Meeting
Rooms Weds
30th Sept @
7pm**

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**

CONTACTS

**IMPORTANT
LINKS**

Editorial – Looking Ahead

It's that time of year again already!!?? Yes! Starting in September the ballots for roar hunting blocks across the South Island commence. Not all open for applications in September, they flow through to November so having your wits about you, or better the GAC Better Hunting Calendar in front of you, matters. **Above is the link to GAC ballots** and the calendar and all the ballot block information can be accessed from there (snip below shows how it looks). So now is the time to be talking to family and friends as to your wishes and plans for next year March onwards. If you don't put in a bid you can't win....simple really.



 Home Essentials Tools Maps											
Wellington, red stags											
Molesworth Roar Block <i>Marlborough, red deer</i>					Application period						
Hooker-Landsborough and Adams <i>West Coast winter helicopter Tahr hunting</i>					Application period						
Fiordland Wapiti <i>Fiordland, Wapiti</i>				Application period							
Haast Roar Block <i>Haast, Red deer</i>			Application period								
Wanaka Roar Block <i>Wanaka, Red deer</i>					Application period						
Greenstone Caples <i>Queenstown, Chamois, Fallow & Red</i>	Ballot operating (June/Sept)					Application period				Application period	
Waiānakerua Roar <i>Otago (coastal) Red, sheep & pig</i>					Application period						
Waikaia Roar Block <i>Southland, Red</i>					Application period						
Leithen Bush Roar <i>Southland, Red</i>					Application period						
Blue Mountains Forest Conservation Area <i>Southland, Fallow & pig</i>	Application period									Application period	
	Ballot operating										Ballot operating

A few pictures of our range in use and getting some love – we have a premium range in case you didn't recognise it, due to the foresight and hard work by past, and ongoing, by present members. Please offer to help when you are able to.

And note that at the working bee a few weeks ago, one member turned up hoping to use range for shooting and was not aware that it was closed for the working bee. Always check your emails, Facebook page or Range calendar on our website because it may close for reasons within our control or not.

If you don't receive emails from our Branch, check your junk mail or contact our membership officer Carina. We do our best to keep people informed but it's a two-way street. Sometimes this is at short notice or changes due to weather, so avoid disappointment and wasted time by doing a quick check before leaving.

Safe and Happy Hunting and Shooting

Richard Wells - The Mountain Echo Editor. Contact richardw@nelsonnzda.co.nz

Range Matters – Love It.



Recent pics from one of our dedicated Range Officers showing the queue to access one of the BEST NZDA ranges in NZ!



Working bee – repairing the 100 metre stops and “woodwork” for the Red Deer Lodge logfire.



When is the last time you refreshed yourself with our Ranges' Standing Orders?

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

Friendly reminder regarding the bringing of guests to use the [Packers Creek Range](#).

You are welcome to bring along a friend/family member to be introduced to and use the Range. **But this should be on a “one-off” basis.** If your friend enjoyed it then they need to be encouraged to join our Branch and thereby properly support our Range. They should as it's a very good range! Constantly using Packers Creek Range as a non-member by “slipstreaming” is not allowed.

If intending to using the Range always check the calendar on our website (or follow our Facebook page):

[Nelson NZDA Range Info](#)

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

Packers Creek Range Access Reminder:

1. **Check website for opening days and hours & our Facebook page or email for closures**
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 (fill in the logbook) and hviz & hearing protection
5. When it's wet up there, avoid driving on the grass as it makes the mower's job that much harder.

Make Sure You Comply with Carriage of Firearms Law When Coming to the Range (and at all other times, of course)

Link to All Rules Here:

[NZDA - Te Pureke Firearms Rules - Transport and Storage](#)

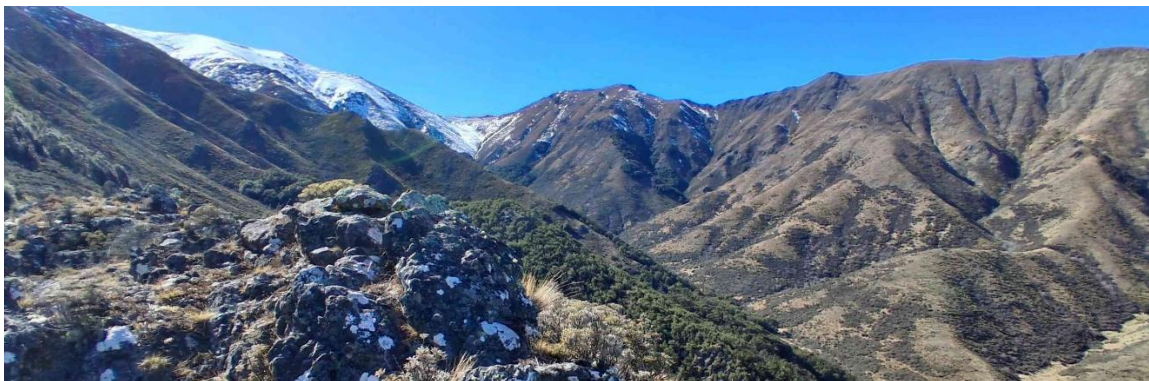
Fluffy *by Richard Wells*



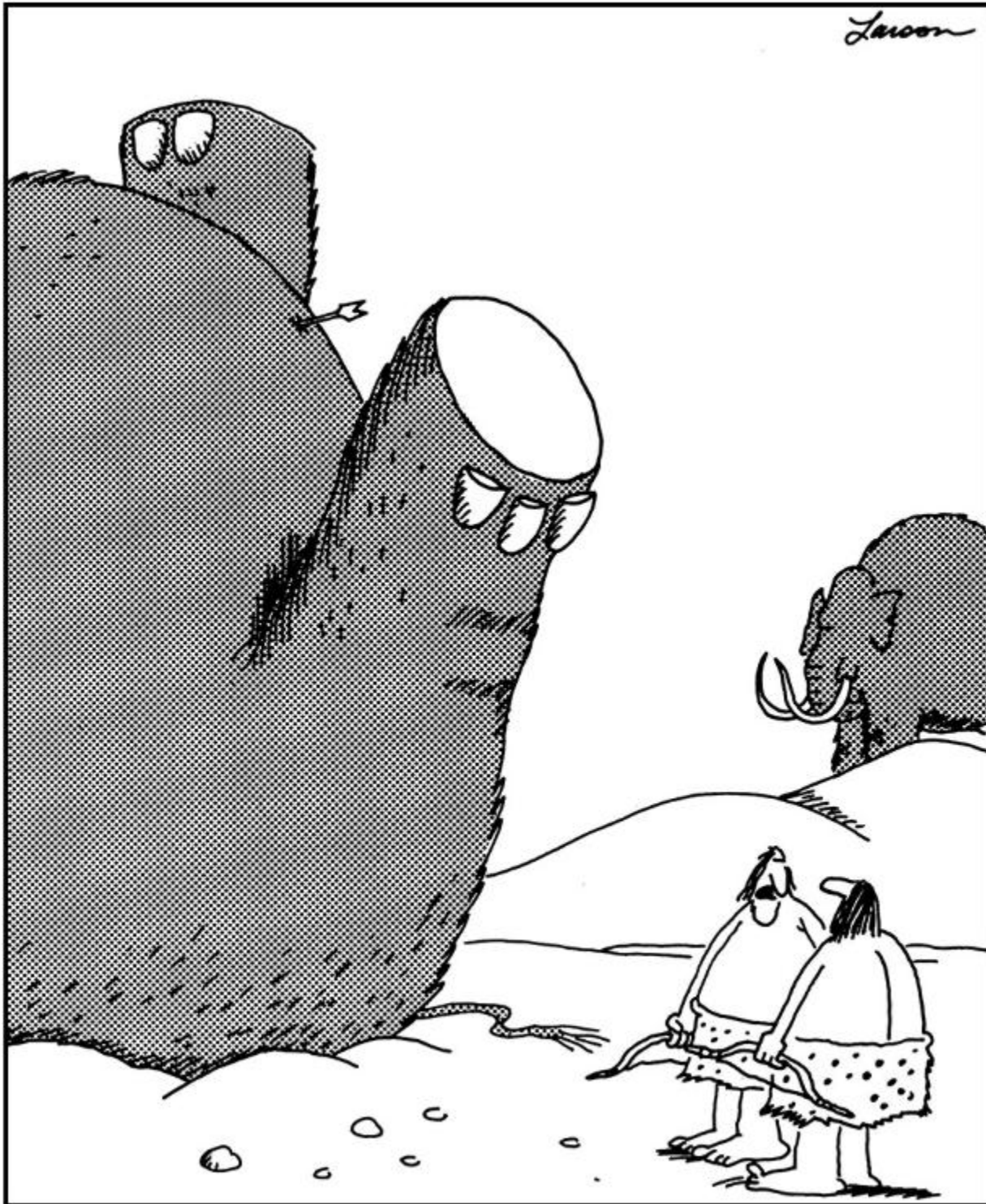
Has to be a pot of gold to the south?.....heading up Spinnaker Gully with my “blind date” Paul, from Marlborough Branch. Gully so named as we had 20 knots of wind up our stern all day!



Always be alert going home..... this fluffy eared pig pops up 30 metres in front of us (x marks the spot) and I did my best to fluff it (even more), forgetting I’m sighted in for 200m not 30 and trying to be a bit clever too. Luckily it didn’t go far, and Paul “saved the bacon” (and my self esteem) by finding it after I had given up hope.....



Lighten Up!



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“We should write that spot down.”

Club Night Past.....

Introduction to Indoor .22 Benchrest



A few newbies having a go at .22 rimfire indoor benchrest – under watchful eyes!



Awards



A couple of our AHT competition winners receiving their recognition (apparently Aaron was called up several times!). Well done!



Hall of Fame! While Greg may be “taking the mickey” a bit with Eric, he’s a champion and also **now a 50 years** serving Nelson member!

and Next.....

“How To” – Reloading with Greg Couper from



Save money, perfect your loads for accuracy & hitting power, and get away from the damned TV!



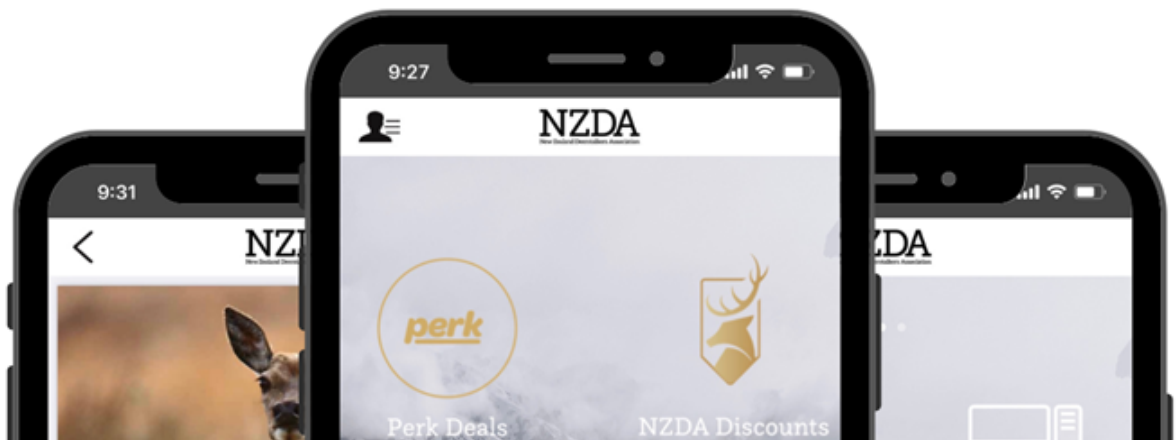
When and Where: Wednesday 30th Sept start 7 pm
@ TSN Saxton Field Smallbore Range

Member Benefits – Know & Get Your Share!



New App Update

Download or Update the NZDA Member App to Access Your Digital Membership Card



[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](#)

Contacts & Important links

Key Branch Contacts

President Greg Couper gregc@nzdanelson.co.nz

Secretary Dave Woods dave@nzdanelson.co.nz

Membership Secretary & Events Carina Jackson carina@nzdanelson.co.nz

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](#)

Hunting Permits

- [DOC Hunting and Permits Site](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation 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](#)