

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA | September 2023



(Photo: M. Curtis)

Max. Curtis with a 15 point 40" x 39" Red Stag shot in the Cropp River.

Times Past - Great picture of one of our famous members Max, and a fantastic stag taken with trusty .303.

Club Night Tuesday 26th Sept

Cups for Winners and Great Tips for Hunters

AHT trophies will be presented to all winners present.

Mark and Aaron will demonstrate how to Plan and Pack for a "mystery location" 3 day hunt.



THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

PHOTO-COMP
WINNERS

NELSON LAKES
SPRING HUNTING
OPPORTUNITY

GOOD DOG!?! KIWI &
WEKA AVERSION
TRAINING

FLYING? AIRNZ
RULES FOR
TRANSPORTING
FIREARMS & AMMO

CURRY UP

WEST COAST 2024
ROAR BALLOT

LIGHTEN UP

CLUB NIGHT Tuesday
SEPT 26TH

MEMBER BENEFITS

IMPORTANT LINKS

Editorial

Well, Fathers' Day passes and I remember mine and all he taught me about hunting (and everything else). I try to follow his example with my children. I'm guessing many of you will feel the same. If your Dad is still ticking and kicking then spend time with him, if not treasure the memories and pass them on. PS Mums matter at least as much!



We have reproduced some of the winning photos from this years competitions...as noted last month it seemed the old timers were doing most of the clicking this year...so hopefully next year we will see more youngsters having a go in these events. Also above a great picture of Max Curtis from the past, taken from Max's book beyond the rivers bend. The head can be viewed in the flesh at Red Deer Lodge in the corner closest to the lake. Eric Hall has been uncovering some important club history from years gone by also which we look forward to sharing. If you are in the possession of old club photos, history or property please get in touch with Aaron to archive at aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz.

The folks at DOC Nelson Lakes have listened to feedback and re-arranged how the booking system for heli-access to the blocks available for control hunting (which have been increased in number). The blocks are available alternately to rest them between parties, landing is at pilot's discretion now and a site has been agreed to heli-operators to use nearer the area. Hopefully this excites some interest to hunt in this relatively hard to access area. Note this access is not exclusive, it relates to ability to fly in only. Normal permit conditions apply to foot access hunters.

Thanks to Ian Cox and Brent Hartshorne of DOC, supported by Mike DeGray, for getting more dogs kiwi aversion trained. Recent headlines up north show dog attacks on kiwi causing real concern, so getting your hunting dog trained and certified is a good thing to do.

This month we have our first open day for the National Goat Competition, I look forward to that and will be interested to see how we go. There will be spot prizes on the day! Below is the table of our open days and link to all the rules and information: [Goat Competition](#)

Nelson	• 17 September 10am-3pm	Murchison DOC Field Base, 116 Fairfax Street, Murchison	richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz	8 December 2023
	• 29 October 10am-3pm	Motueka DOC Office, 406 High Street, Motueka		
	• 19 November 10am-3pm	Murchison DOC Field Base, 116 Fairfax Street, Murchison		
	• 26 November 10am-3pm	Nelson NZDA Meeting Room - Fish and Game Rooms, 74 Champion Road, Stoke, Nelson		



The South Westland-Haast roar ballot is open (that came round quick!). Info at end of Echo. If you have any queries that the DOC website cannot answer, the Editor is happy to take emails.

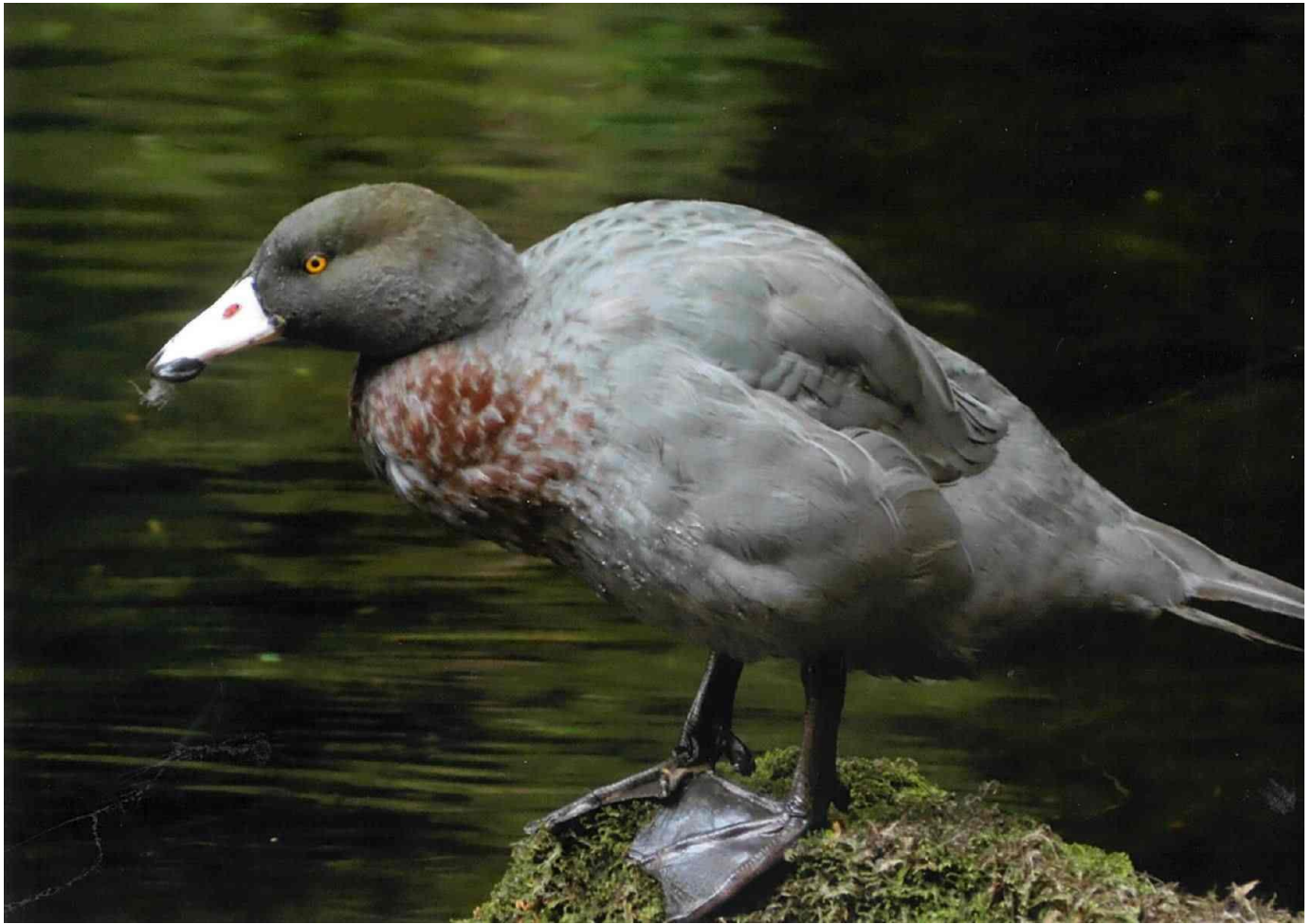
Finally, the news story about issues from AirNZ about travelers falling foul of rules for transporting firearms, parts and ammo raised my eyebrows so thought it timely to raise awareness.

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - *Richard Wells*

Photo-Competition Winners



Warren Plum's great photo from his tahr ballot block comes 1st in Worsely Cup – pretty steep.



Paul Peychers' who won 1st prize – Livingston Trophy



Hunting Memories - Mike DeGray came second with this pic of Tia and a deer....



Warren Plum wins with this photo in the Insects category and good on him for getting that close and surviving.....



Paul Peychers' sea lion on Rakiura winds "Other Mammals" section



Carina Jackson's picture entitled Nature Supporting Nature won the Flora section

Nelson Lakes National Park Ungulate Control - Terms and Conditions

Background

The primary objective of this hunting is to reduce the effects of deer browse (by reducing the deer population) threatening the indigenous flora and fauna in Nelson Lakes National Park (NLNP).

Deer numbers in the southern part of Nelson Lakes, including the Spenser Mountains, Ella Range and Nardoo area, are rapidly increasing. Reports suggest walk-in hunting is not controlling the numbers with herds upwards of 15 hinds in these areas. In the Nelson Lakes National Park Bylaws 2006 helicopters are only allowed to land in the national park for management purposes, search and rescue and WARO at certain times of year. The Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes district is facilitating heli-assisted recreational hunter access further into the park as a method of controlling deer numbers.

For those that have taken part in this initiative before please read carefully as some of the conditions have changed. We will trial new aspects this year and reserve the right to change how this program is run at any time.

The Proposal

The block is the southernmost section of Nelson Lakes National Park including the area west of the D'Urville River, the Ella Range, the Spenser Mountains south of Thompson Pass and Nardoo Creek. This area is outside the most popular tramping tracks (the Travers-Sabine Circuit and the Te Araroa trail) in Nelson Lakes National Park.

The target is to remove as many deer, goats, chamois and pigs as possible through recreational hunting during this period. Helicopter access allows hunters to target their efforts, remove meat from kills and minimise waste. With the help of hunters, we can reduce animal numbers and allow the vegetation to recover providing a healthy ecosystem for all our native species.

More intensive game animal management in the park will also be beneficial for future hunting potential. When the sex ratio becomes more female biased (when only large stags are targeted) this can reduce genetic variation and reduce the future viability of the population. Additionally, when the density of deer is lower the individuals in the population are healthy and larger. The Game Animal Council New Zealand has useful information about herd management.

This year we will run blocks from Saturday to Saturday and we will be alternating blocks. Blocks start/change over date: 21st October (even), 28th October (odds), 4th November (even), 11th November (odds). The 18th of November will be the final flights out.

Kill returns are required through a hunting diary (and photos appreciated) as a means of monitoring the success of this hunting activity. **If hunting parties do not provide DOC Nelson Lakes with a hunting diary, they will not be considered for this program for the following 2 years.** Checks will be carried out on landing sites to ensure there are no unfavourable impacts.

Conditions of Entry

- All hunters entering must hold a current firearms license and obtain a hunting permit prior to entering Nelson Lakes National Park huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz
- The focus is on hunting game animals and is not for those who seek aircraft access into the National Park for other purposes – no fishing is permitted by those flying in.
- Parties must be flown in but can have the option to walk out from a block.
- All equipment flown in must be taken out, along with all rubbish. Checks on landing sites will be carried out to ensure they have been left tidy with campfire sites dismantled.
- Campsite and landing sites are not designated but will be recorded.
- Each party leader must make their own transport arrangements and pay for helicopter access with one of the authorised operators.
- **A hunting diary is required for each party.** Each party MUST provide a hunting diary to DOC at the conclusion of their trip. Photos of kills would be appreciated.
- Maximum party size is up to six hunters.
- Hunters must only hunt within their allocated blocks for the duration of the hunting trip.
- All hunting parties are required to carry an inReach device.
- Changeover of hunting parties will be based on helicopter availability (or arrangements made with pilots). Seven-day (six-nights) blocks of time have been identified for hunting parties.
- No spot lighting or night vision gear is permitted.
- This is not to facilitate paying client's entry – individual recreational hunters only.
- No chainsaws, building materials or structures (other than tents) are permitted.
- If using huts, these are on a 'first come, first served' basis so all parties must also be prepared to camp if the huts are full and have purchased the appropriate hut tickets/backcountry hut pass for those huts.
- Carcasses or offal must not be left at, or in the vicinity of tracks, huts, campsites or in waterways.
- No damage to vegetation is permitted and only dead wood can be used for campfires.
- All toilet waste needs to be buried at least 50 metres clear of running water.
- No hunting dogs will be permitted. No dogs are permitted in Nelson Lakes National Park.
- Nelson Lakes National Park is relatively free of introduced weeds. You are asked to CLEAN gear and boots carefully, so no seeds or dirt is accidentally introduced. Special care is needed to clean tents, day packs, pack pockets, socks and Velcro fasteners that often carry seeds. Random gear checks may be carried out before you leave the hangar.

Heli ferry options: We have secured a location at Mt Ella station where hunting parties could park up and it can be used as a site to ferry groups to and from hunting blocks. This will hopefully reduce times and cost of helicopter flights for the groups.

Safety Information

Pilots will brief all passengers on helicopter safety prior to take off – decisions around flights, landings and weight will be made with the helicopter operators.

Ensure all group members have adequate backcountry skills for the terrain. This is rough terrain where good navigation skills are essential. Ensure the hunting party has adequate first aid supplies and each group has the ability to quickly call for help if required (e.g. inReach device, PLBs are available for hire from the NLNP Visitors Centre).

Weather can change quickly, and snow can fall at any time of the year. Heavy rain may make streams dangerous to cross. Ensure provisions are made in the event helicopters cannot pick you up on the designated date.

Carry additional food in case flights are delayed due to adverse weather conditions. Hunting parties will be permitted to stay in their block for longer or over the permitted period for helicopter landings if the weather conditions delay helicopter pick-ups.

German and common wasp numbers are expected to be high within the beech forest. Carry adequate medication if you are at risk. You need to manage your own wellbeing within your limits.

Other trampers, fishers and hunters may have walked into the hunting area. You do not have exclusive access to your hunting area from such users – this hunting permission provides individuals with the opportunity to fly further into the park and access areas with low hunting pressure currently. Usual firearm safety codes need to be followed at all times.

Please notify nelsonlakeshunting@doc.govt.nz directly of any incidents or 'near misses' during your hunting period, so we can make any necessary changes to prevent incidents.

The Process

1. Read through the conditions of entry.
2. Fill in the attached form with required information on each of your hunting party members.
3. Indicate your top 3 choices in this table for blocks and time period (circle first choice, write in 2nd and 3rd choice):

Flight in date	Block number
Sat 21st October	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14
Sat 28th October	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13
Sat 4th November	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14
Sat 11th November	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13
Second choice:	
Third choice:	

4. Send to nelsonlakeshunting@doc.govt.nz **on or after 10th September 2023.**
5. Take the unique code and allocated block you receive from Melissa Griffin at Nelson Lakes Hunting to book with one of the approved helicopter operators (a list will be provided)
6. The party lead will be emailed a form with the necessary data to be collected on the hunting trip.

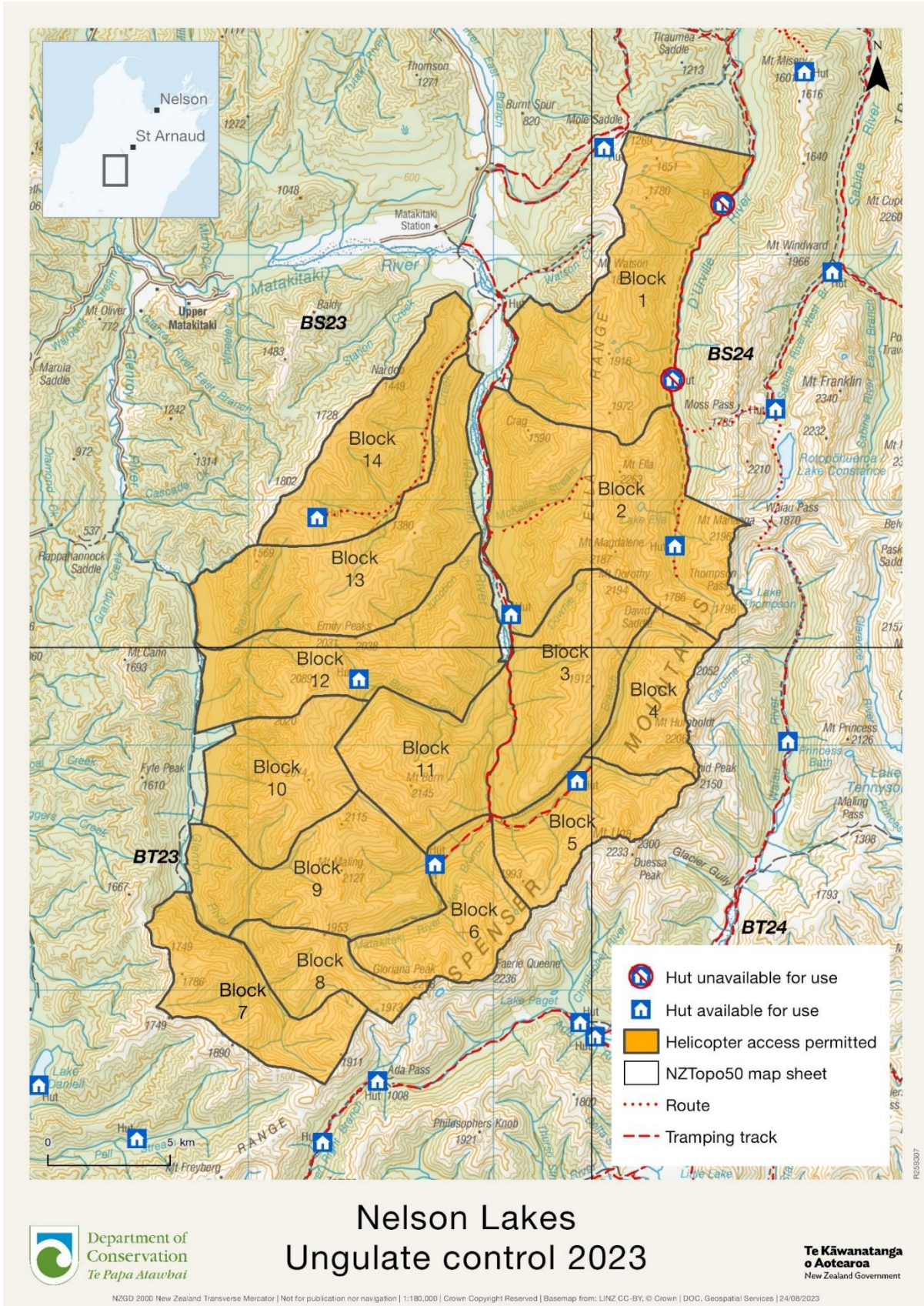
Please **fill in the table** to acknowledge that the hunting party has read and understood the Conditions of Entry and understands the Safety Information provided, for helicopter access to Nelson Lakes National Park. Provide your Open Hunting Permit Number (huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz) and Firearms Licence number:

Name (*identify party lead)	Email	Phone	Firearms Licence No.	Open Hunting Permit No.

Please indicate if the team lead gives permission for their email address to be shared with other groups for the purpose of organising backloading flights or acquiring information about blocks.



_____ (team leader) gives permission for their email address to be shared with other hunting parties in this program.



Great Day Getting NZDA Member's Hunting Dogs Kiwi and Weka Aversion Trained



Thanks! Ian Cox for creating the opportunity to get more hunting dogs “made safe” for our precious groundbirds such as weka and kiwi. And thanks to supporters (Mike and Brent) and all dog owners for attending.



Sam the dog (Shannon Shattock)



Sam, Shannon and interim aversion trainer Brent Hartshorne (DOC Ranger Nelson Lakes and Nelson Branch NZDA).



Ted (dog), David Bowman & Brent Hartshorne.



Kiwi prop (plastic kiwi with pungent bedding material) Troy Newton, Fern and Brent Hartshorne.



Troy, Brent and Fern a split second before the kiwi bites!!!

The day went really well. **15 NZDA dogs, 3 DOC dogs, and 3 incidental dogs trained, tested or certified.**

Brent is part way through the comprehensive 'Save the Kiwis' trainer programme, being mentored and coached by Ian Cox DOC Ranger Motueka District Office and 'Save the Kiwis' avian avoidance trainer/mentor.

Cheers

Coxy

Biodiversity Ranger - Motueka Office

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

Mobile 027 243 5592

www.doc.govt.nz

Carriage of Firearms on Domestic Airlines

This is pay attention stuff...

Stuff ≡

business

Live shot gun cartridge found in overhead cabin locker on Air NZ aircraft raises concern about aviation security

Amanda Cropp · 05:00, Aug 10 2023



Travelling with firearms or ammunition

You're welcome to fly with us when you have firearms and ammunition, as long as you follow our requirements.

To carry a firearm and/or ammunition, you must hold either:

- A current Firearms/Visitor Firearms Licence
- A valid Import Permit
- A Law Enforcement ID

Copies of documents will not be accepted.

The [New Zealand Police website](#) has more information.

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- A valid Import Permit
- A Law Enforcement ID

Copies of documents will not be accepted.

The [New Zealand Police website](#) has more information.

You must advise us before you fly if you plan to carry a firearm:

[I will be carrying firearms](#)

[Let us know before you fly](#)

On this page

[What firearms can I carry?](#)

[How do I pack my firearm for air travel?](#)

[FAQs for travelling with firearms](#)

[What ammunition can I carry?](#)

[How do I pack ammunition for air travel?](#)

[FAQs for travelling with ammunition](#)

[Information for travelling internationally with firearms or ammunition](#)

What firearms can I carry?

- Sporting firearms
- Air rifles, air pistols and BB guns
- Soft air pellet guns and paintball guns
- Imitation firearms
- Decommissioned firearms

How do I pack my firearm for air travel?

You must ensure your firearm is:

- Packed in a locked, hard case
- Unloaded and any fitted magazines emptied
- Rendered inoperable e.g. bolt removed, trigger guard(s)/trigger lock(s) fitted etc
- Not packed with any ammunition
- Not packed with the bolt (if applicable)
- Is declared to a Customer Service Agent when you check-in

Checked-in

✓

Goats Starting to get a Good Curry-Up



Essentially a fool-proof recipe for cooking goat curry that you can adjust to your taste. The key is cooking it for a few hours on low and then adding ingredients to balance flavours to your taste, as well as adding butter/oil to add richness to your wild game meal (according to the fattiness of your goat).

Ingredients:

- Goat (cut into bite size pieces, can have bones in)
- Onion x1
- Garlic x1 Tbs
- Ginger x1 Tbs
- Spices: Garam Masala 1x Tbs, ground coriander 1x Tbs, ground cumin 1x Tbs, Turmeric x1 Tsp, chilli x1 Tsp, bay leaf
- Stock (vegie, beef or chicken) 500ml
- Tomatoes x1 can (or use some tomato paste or fresh tomatoes)
- Vinegar x1 Tbs or tamarind paste x1 Tsp
- Salt + Pepper
- Oil/butter

Optional:

- Coconut cream/milk x1 can
- Tomato sauce/ sugar
- Fresh chilli



Optional:

- Coconut cream/milk x1 can
- Tomato sauce/ sugar
- Fresh chilli

Method:

1. Fry off goat chunks and put in slow cooker or big pot
2. Fry off onion, garlic, chilli, ginger in plenty of oil and butter
3. Add spices and seasonings and fry around 5 mins until onions are soft then add to pot
4. Add stock, tomatoes, vinegar or tamarind, add coconut cream if you want a milder taste to your curry otherwise leave out



1. Cook for 4 or more hours in slowcooker or less time if pot on the stove until meat is tender
2. When it has been cooking for a few hours, do a taste check. To balance out the spice of the curry (sour, sweet and salty) add either more vinegar or sugar/tomato sauce or salt to your liking
3. Keep cooking with the lid off to reduce it to thicken it and skim off fat as desired. Serve when it tastes good enough for you.
4. Serve with rice and/or roti.

Courtesy *Ros Wells*

West Coast Roar Ballot – Open Now!

Link here: [DOC HAAST ROAR BALLOT INFO 2024](#)

Haast roar block ballot system

Find out about the Haast roar block ballot system for hunting red deer in the Haast area.

On this page:

[Roar 2024 updates](#)

[Hunting period dates](#)

[Ballot process](#)

[How to fill out your application](#)

[Restricted blocks](#)

[Overview maps and individual block maps](#)

[Aircraft concessionaires](#)

[Permit conditions](#)

[Know before you go](#)

[Contact](#)

This ballot is to ensure hunters have access to an area, with the knowledge that only one hunting party will be in each of the blocks for a seven-day period.

Hunters using a firearm must abide by the New Zealand Police Arms Code and the Arms Act 1983 and have a valid firearms licence.

Roar 2024 updates

- A one-off non-refundable fee of \$40 will be charged for each application.
- Children / youths may not apply unless over 16 and holding a valid firearms licence.
- Bow hunters wanting to apply in the ballot must contact the Haast Hunting Ballot team before putting in an application.
- Party leaders:
 - can only enter one application
 - who apply for a ballot must be intending to hunt the block with their party
 - need to supply a photo of their valid New Zealand firearms licence with their confirmation
 - are responsible for all party members adhering to permit conditions.

Important: Party leaders applying and successfully gaining a ballot on the behalf of others but have no intention of attending will not be tolerated. Party leaders and members found doing this will have all permits cancelled.

Ensure all correspondence or enquiries for the Haast roar hunting ballot are sent to haasthuntingballot@doc.govt.nz

Hunting period dates

In 2024, the roar ballot hunting periods will run from Sunday 24 March 2024 to Sunday 21 April 2024.

Available periods:

- **Period 1** – Sunday 24 March to Saturday 30 March
- **Period 2** – Sunday 31 March to Saturday 6 April
- **Period 3** – Sunday 7 April to Saturday 13 April
- **Period 4** – Sunday 14 April to Saturday 20 April

Ballot process

Apply

Applications open 9am Tuesday 5 September 2023 and close 4pm Monday 2 October 2023.

All applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of the draw by Monday 16 October 2023. If you haven't been contacted by this date, email haasthuntingballot@doc.govt.nz or phone 03 750 0809.

Confirmation form returns close 4 pm Monday 30 October 2023

Confirmation forms are emailed out as part of the successful email notification process.

If you need to update your party details, do so on this form and return by email. All successful ballot holders must respond by email that they accept the ballot. Unconfirmed blocks will be cancelled and made available for rebooking by other parties.

Next Club Night - Tuesday September 26th



If you weren't at our last club night you really missed out! Aaron presenting on hunting in Nelson region.

So be there this time on Tuesday 26th Sept!!!!

Trophy Night – Presenting the Cups to Winners of AHT

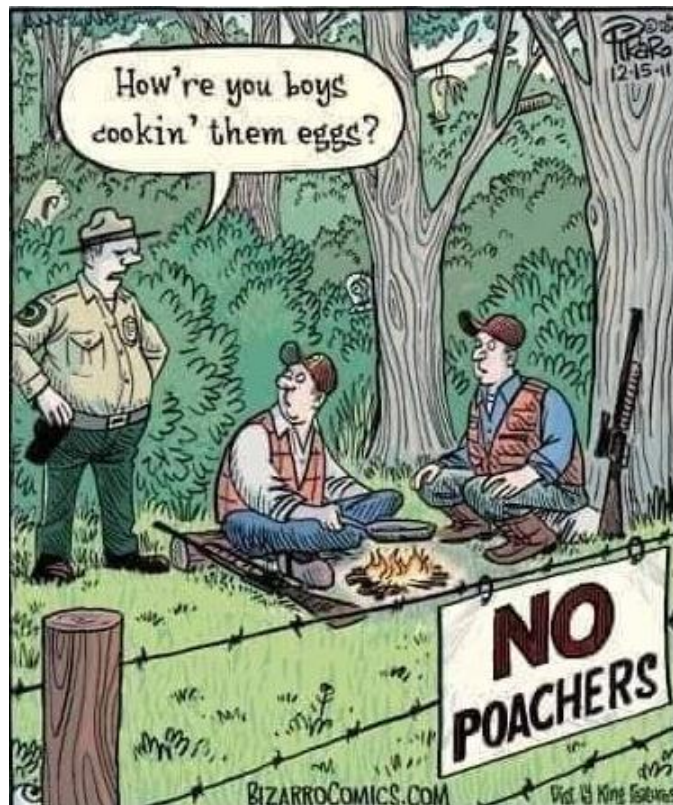
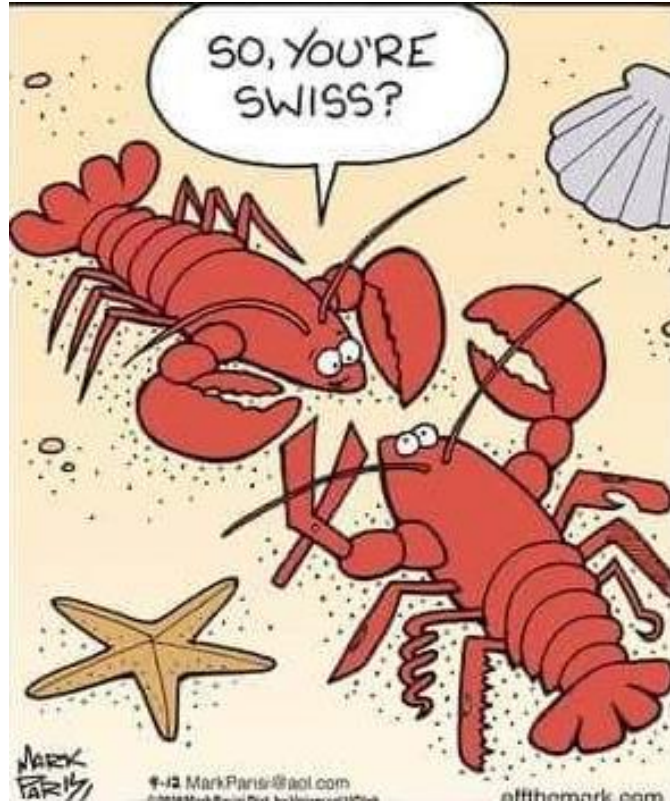
&

Plan & Pack demonstration based on a hunting location that will be disclosed on the night.

Mark and Aaron will present their whole process from choosing a hunting location to planning a three day hunt and what goes in the bag. Interactive evening with a real life example of process and planning.

Where and When: Saxton Field TSN Smallbore Range @ 7pm


Lighten Up



Member Benefits

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

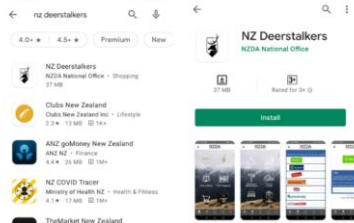
NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP Available Now!



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](#)



MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Interislander group booking code: FA5474

Best of both Acc. No. 10001670

Big save Acc. No. CSC001 (Retail)

CARTERS Acc. No. 3058225

mico Plumbing Acc. No. 1651951

MILLENNIUM MUST BOOK ONLINE AT www.millenniumhotels.com/csc

Torpedo Quote Acc. No. CSC Buying Group www.torpedo.co.nz

PlaceMakers CSCB4

Repco It starts with the parts 5000029

CSC GROUP NZ is proud to support NZDA

For full insurance, benefits and discount lists visit www.deerstalkers.org.nz

*subject to terms and conditions

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 orange](#)

- NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)
- DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)
- Game Animal Council [GAC](#)
- Walking Access NZ [WAMS Maps](#)
- LINZ Basemaps [MAPS Link](#)

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](#)