



NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

JUNE NEWSLETTER

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Dave Godsall, North Otago Branch - 1st Place, Scenic, 2021 National Photographic Competition

NZDA's 73rd National Conference

NZDA thanks our members, hosts and guests for making our 73rd Conference and AGM held in Queenstown a success. Our theme this year was 'Hunting is Conservation'.

We had 170 present at the very successful functions and we heard our association is going from strength to strength during a year of change. We celebrated our women hunters, learnt about the potential of being involved in predator trapping projects, backcountry hut projects and being outwardly engaged as a sector - as both clubs and members - on social media platforms. We hosted Members of Parliament, Government officials, NGOs, international speakers and networked with New Zealand's hunting sector leaders. Our women and juniors achieved success in our national competitions when we celebrated our Antler, Horn & Tusk and photographic competitions.

The future is bright, engagement high, and the mood positive.

A full set of the photos can be found on the Southern Lakes Facebook page, click [here](#) to view.

Friday Event hosted by Hunting & Fishing



Pictured (Left to Right): Grant Dodson (GAC Chair), Mike Knowles (SCI President), Tim Gale (GAC GM), John Cook (Sika Foundation President), Lou Sanson (DOC Director General), Roy Sloan (FWF President), Snow Hewetson (Tahr Foundation Chair), Craig Benbow (NZDA National President) and Gwyn Thurlow (NZDA Chief Executive).

Conference kicked off on Friday night, where members met at the local Frankton Hunting & Fishing store. The food was hot, the drinks were cold

and many hunting stories were shared.

It was great to meet with key government organisations - Department of Conservation and Game Animal Council and also kindred NGOs: Safari Club (NZ Chapter), Sika Foundation, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, and NZ Tahr Foundation.

Thanks to the team at Hunting & Fishing for hosting us in their store and providing us with excellent deals and spot prizes.

Thanks to Big Fellas BBQ - who supplied an endless BBQ on tap - by cooking up a storm.



Saturday AGM



The AGM kicked off at 8:30am Saturday and spanned two days, formally closing at approximately 12:00pm on Sunday.

In addition to official business, we were grateful to have guest speakers such as Lou Sanson and Ben Reddix from DOC, and Andy Glaser who leads DOC's Blue Duck trapping work. We also heard about women's hunts and the success such events can bring to clubs embracing them. We then heard about the work the Game Animal Council undertakes when their General Manager, Tim Gale, took the stage.

On Sunday, live from North America, we were inspired by Robbie Kruger from Blood Origins. Finishing off the speakers were Police who covered the incoming ranges regime and Geoff Spearpoint from Backcountry Trust.

We must also acknowledge MP Nicole McKee who attended the whole conference and spoke, as well as Michael Dowling from COLFO.

Finally, we got to mix and mingle with Game Animal Councillors and many hunting sector leaders.



Saturday Night Gala & Awards Dinner

The awards night was held during a gala dinner, hosted at the iconic Skyline Gondola and Restaurant. The event was a sell out, and tickets were in hot demand up to the last minute.

Dave Shaw from The Hunters Club talked on the Saturday night and entertained us with his stories of filming hunting adventures and learning to hunt himself at the same time.

Later that night we heard from Game Animal Council chairman, Grant Dodson, who explained his journey to being a councillor, its challenges, and vision for the future.

All councillors from the Game Animal Council were present as well as representation from the Tahr Foundation, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and

Sika Foundation. Also attending were Safari Club International (NZ Chapter) President, Mike Knowles, and Back Country Trust trustee, Geoff Spearpoint.



Prize giving went well with the overall winning red deer trophy (pictured below), measuring DS 407 3/8, being taken by 16 year old Patrick Howes from the Gore & Districts branch - an awesome effort.



2021 National Competition Results

In case you've missed it - we are pleased to share the 2021 National Competition Results. Congratulations to the winners and place getters.

Results

To view the results, click [here](#).

You can also use this link: <https://portal.deerstalkers.org.nz/~OL7S3>

Photographic Entries

The photos will be uploaded to our website, and will be available to view in the near future in the next issue of NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine (Issue #214 Spring 2021).

Norman Douglas Memorial Award

A special thanks must go to Vern Pearson (pictured below) for his contribution to measuring heads and for the promotion of the Douglas Score system over many years. Vern and Louise (both pictured) also donated their time and skills as taxidermists to repair this old Wairarapa mount shot by well known deerstalker, T. E. Donne, in 1909. Donne was responsible for introducing many of the big game animals we love to see and hunt today. The head is on display at the National Hunting Museum in Wellington. You can get Vern and Louise to mount your head if you contact them at Sika Country Taxidermy.



National Executive Updates

2021/2022 NZDA National Board

There is no change to the National Board for the 2021/2022 year. Our governing board comprises:

- **Craig Benbow**, National President
- **Alec McIver**, National Vice President
- **Carolyn Heffernan**, National Treasurer
- **Callum Sheridan**, North Island Rep
- **Morgan Rogers**, North Island Rep
- **Ian Owen**, South Island Rep
- **Wayne Smith**, South Island Rep
- **Dan Friedman**, National Secretary

Congratulations to each board member for being re-elected for another term. We thank the board members for volunteering their time and willingly putting their hands up for another year. It is going to be exciting to see their energy and ideas put into action in the year ahead.

Farewell Trevor Chappell, Past National President

An enormous debt of gratitude is owed to Trevor Chappell, who will be leaving the board as his term as Immediate Past President has ended after 3 years of dedicated service.

Trevor was always 'the go to person' if anyone needed help and guidance with any queries at National Office. Enjoy the spare time, Trevor, it's well deserved! Trevor will still be involved with AHT/Douglas scoring, helping with the Sika Show, and being NZDA's lead on the annual Pureora Forest Park hunting competition in partnership with DOC.



National Board Reports



Craig Benbow National President
Malvern branch

E: craig.benbow@deerstalkers.org.nz

Well, it's been a busy month. Our 73rd Annual Conference has been completed. I have heard plenty of tired but happy reports from the organisers, attendees, guests and our renamed "National Board" members (the result of a notice of motion).

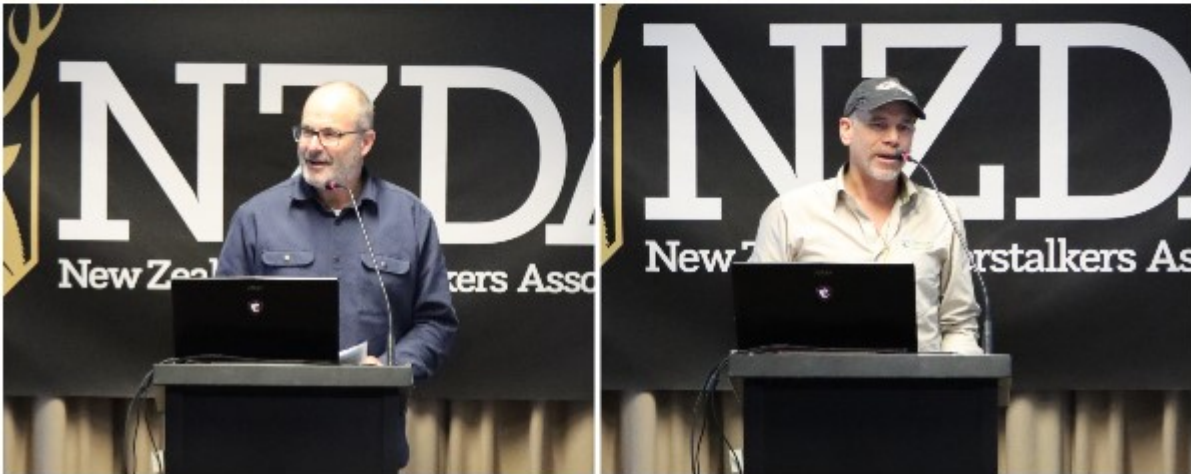
Our conference was a great event for all attending and a very positive and progressive mindset was expressed in all the conversations I had.

I think we all came away from Conference weekend pumped at what the association can be and, for the board and our CEO, the support, encouragement and agreement with what we are doing was a huge and rewarding confirmation of our actions over the past 11 months.

It is a shame more members cannot attend conference and so are unable to experience the presentations because there were some truly inspiring and informing speakers.

One of my personal visions is to see conference transformed into an informing, educating and networking opportunity for whoever wishes to attend. I think we are moving in that direction quickly and I look forward to seeing each consecutive conference grow in its content to fulfil the needs of members for information, inspiration and peer support to grow their branches and their engagement with the communities they exist within.

Being part of communities is a crucial part of ensuring our longevity and relevance and many of the discussions we have recently had are oriented at communities associated with areas we hunt and their well being. Similarly, the conversations we have with others involved in politics, firearms legislation, animal management, species protection and habitat preservation are all about commonalities and how we can work together to support each others work for better outcomes for all New Zealanders.



DOC staff present at Conference Saturday event. Pictured: Lou Sanson (bottom left), Andy Glaser (top and bottom right)

We were honoured to have Lou Sanson, Director General of Conservation, attend our conference both on the Friday night and Saturday to speak. While we have had some tough discussions with DOC staff over the past few years, the presence of Lou and his staff, Ben Reddiex, James Holborough and Andrew Glaser at our conference, freely mingling and talking with anyone who wished to engage with them, tells me the relationships are strong and respectful and just because we differ in our views on many matters we all retain that close care and concern for our wonderful country and the animals and plants that exist in it. As an association we are utterly committed to the principles of land management that preserve it for future generations.

At conference we have re-committed to protecting Whio as our national bird and while branches and other organisations associated with us have programs in place and running we are hoping to see a lot more effort put into protecting the birds with trapping and monitoring programs. How that is resourced is something we wish to explore with the department but Andrew Glaser shared some of his extensive knowledge with us and I am sure some went home with ideas to get something started.

To all those who attended conference a big thanks for your considered input and I hope you all went home with some better knowledge and more contacts you can keep in touch with and perhaps get away for a hunt with when you are in their neck of the woods!

A Word from our Chief Executive, Gwyn Thurlow



It was a pleasure to be part of my first face to face conference as CEO. Bringing hunters together is one of the key roles that I believe NZDA plays in our sector. A personal thanks to the volunteers that made their time available to organise and run the three day event. I also extend many thanks to the attendees, speakers and guests. Finally, I want to thank our members because we had high quality entries in our competitions this year.

Our AGM is when we tick off our governance and administration functions and account to our branches and members on the financial and operational performance of NZDA, so it was great to receive positive feedback.

A major announcement made at Conference was that NZDA will soon have it's own membership app!!!

The app is currently under development, and will allow members to access various discounts and other information through an easy to use mobile phone app (on Android and Apple platforms).

More details to follow.





Firearms Licence application process improvements

Police have said to use digital PDFs to speed up your firearms licensing process.

Police are working towards modernising work around firearms and becoming an effective regulator of the Arms Act 2020. Part of this work includes improving the process of applying for a firearms licence online.

Police still receive a high percentage of hardcopy firearms applications. These hardcopy applications require additional processing steps that increase the time it takes to process the application. To identify some of the challenges that applicants face when applying online, Police have contracted user experience specialists to review the application process

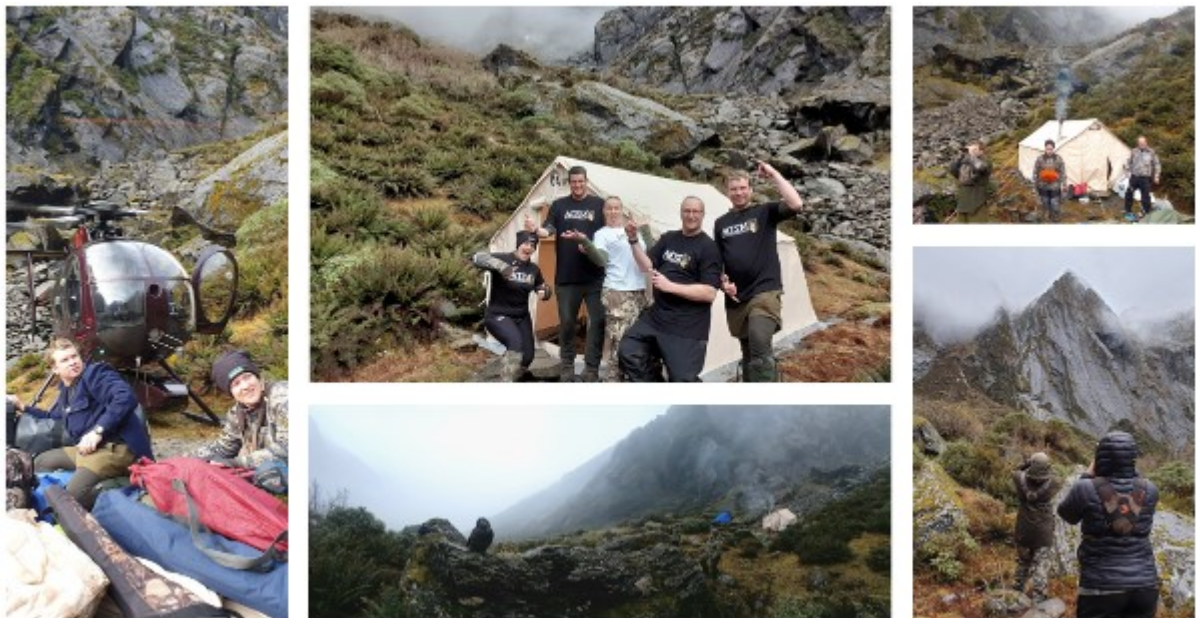
and recommend improvements.

The review took place this June and involved analysing the firearms licence application instructions, the application form, and the process to submit through the upload portal. Police know the importance of listening to and considering the needs of applicants in our firearms community, so their specialist team will be reaching out to recent applicants to discuss their experience.

So, if you have recently been through the process, consider giving the Police some feedback.

NZDA Tahr Survey Winners Fly-in Trip

Well, who ever said tahr hunting was easy. It's not even that simple to get into the Alps! After re-scheduling a few times the team flying in got dropped off deep into South Westland backcountry in search of the Kings of the Alps by the famous James Scott of Heli Services. However, the weather was terrible and so very little time outside the tent was enjoyed. Tahr were seen however not secured. One sleepless night was spent holding the tents down! There might be a Part II of this tahr hunt... More to come.



In the News: Hunting organisations ask for changes to tahr control programme

Hunting organisations still want the “zero density” policy for tahr control in New Zealand national parks to be stopped, documents show.

Documents released to Stuff under the Official Information Act show that in submissions to the Department of Conservation’s tahr control programme for the 2021-22 season released last month, there was much debate among members of the Tahr Liaison Group.

The group, which features a mix of conservation and hunting interests, met in December 2020 and March this year in order to progress the tahr control programme for the upcoming season which begins next month.

The control programme is informed by the 1993 Himalayan Tahr Control Plan, which stipulates there should be “zero density” of tahr within the Aoraki/Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Parks.

It is not known what the exact tahr population is, although the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1993 has set a limit of 10,000 tahr within the feral range. To read the full article, click [here](#).



Photo supplied by Stuff.co.nz.

NZDA Rakaia Postal Shoot



Team photo, both shooters and range officers present.

A branch Wilkinson Postal Shoot was held on the 5th of June which involved juniors and ladies shooting at a deer silhouette target from 75m with a .22 rimfire rifle, while Senior members shot at the same deer silhouette target with a centrefire rifle.

Also included in the event was the Hawkes Bay Challenge, where juniors shot at the same silhouette target at 100m with a centrefire rifle.

The firearms used were hunting rifles weighing not more than 4.5kg with a maximum scope magnification of 12x.



DOC Update: Tahr Hotspots - Maps Based on Surveys Published

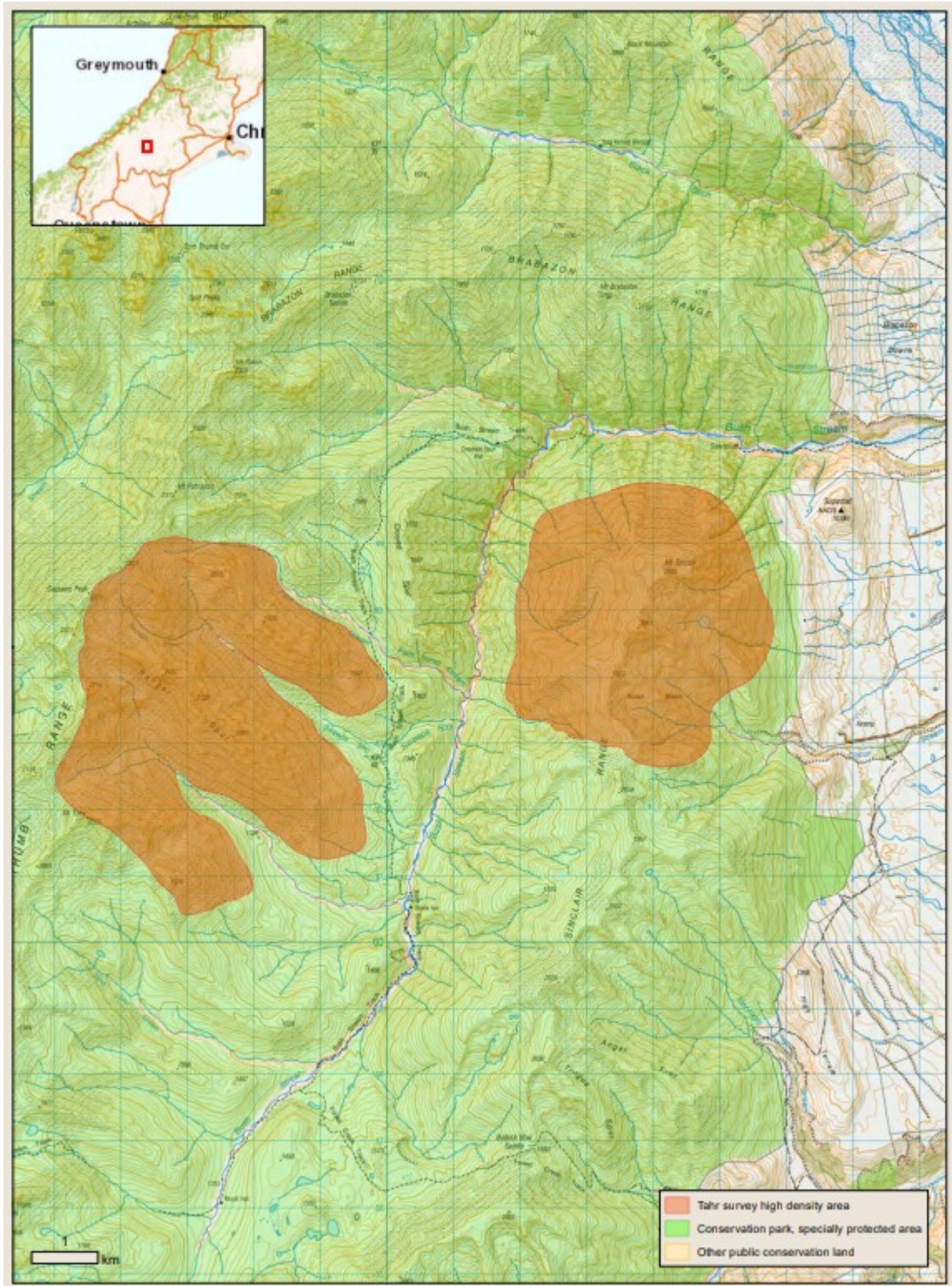
DOC have published new maps to help Himalayan tahr hunters.

They are on the DOC website [here](#), and the social media post is [here](#).

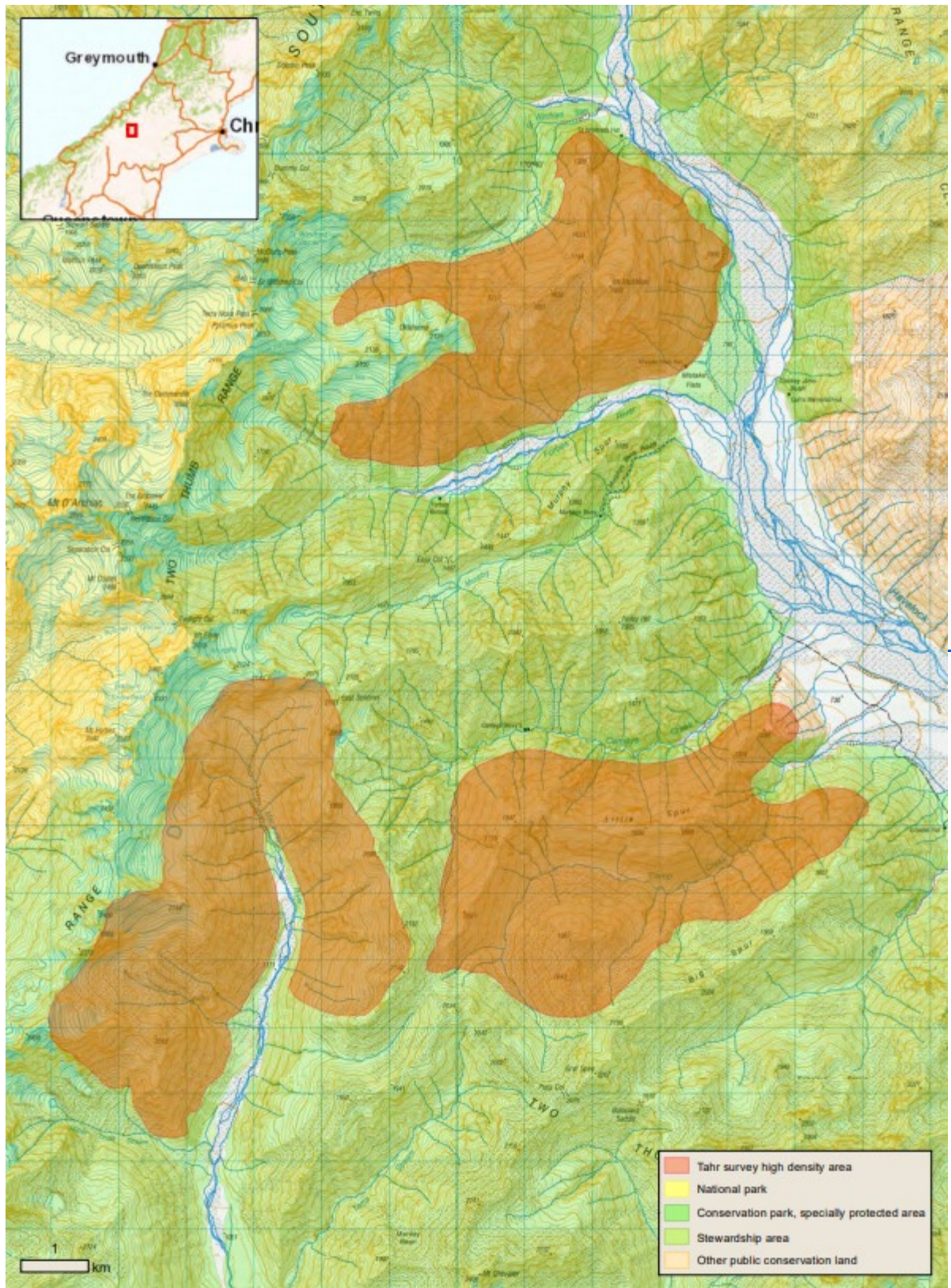
The maps show where large groups of tahr have recently been observed near popular hunting spots.

These observations were recorded over late Summer and Autumn this year as part of tahr population surveys in the South Rakaia/Rangitata and Gammack Two Thumb management units, east of the Southern Alps.

These maps are being published to encourage hunters to contribute to tahr control.



Upper Havelock / Macauley



Two Thumb/Sinclair Range



Upcoming Douglas Score Courses

Manawatu: To be held on **Sunday 18 July** at clubrooms – 251 College Street, West End, Palmerston North 4412. Level 1 & Level 2 can be taught at this course.

NZDA Merchandise - Order Yours Now!



NZDA T-shirts and stickers can now be purchased at our online [shop](#).

There are two T-shirt versions available, black or white, in mens and womens sizes. More options to come. The price is \$45.00 (including domestic shipping).

We also have high quality NZDA bumper stickers for sale at \$15.00 (including domestic shipping).

COMING SOON!!! NZ Hunting & Wildlife Magazine - Winter Issue #213 | PRE-ORDER NOW!!!

Pre-order available, to be published mid-July.

Printed Copies

There is still the ability to order your printed copy of NZ Hunting and Wildlife Magazine and have it delivered to your home address.

\$10 a copy

or

\$29 for 4 x editions



The back issues of the magazine are also available for purchase.

Order/pre-order your printed editions here!

Click here to read the previous Autumn Edition!

Upcoming Event: Southland NZDA Kids Hunt

Long Bush Hall, 1-2pm Sunday 25th July.

Prizes for heaviest Hare and heaviest Possum.

Click [here](#) to open flyer.

Rules

- Children to be 16 years or younger.
- Children's Rabbit/Hare and Possums do not need to be gutted.
- Children must be NZDA members or accompanied by an adult NZDA member.
- One Hare, Rabbit and/or Possum per hunter to be entered.
- All Firearms regulations must be obeyed.
- All Firearms must be secured and stowed in accordance with the

Firearms regulations when not being used.

- Necessary permits, licences, and landowner's permission must be obtained.
- Hunting may commence 5.00pm on Friday 23/7/2021 . NO hunting is permitted before this time.
- Catchment area is Southland region

For more details, please contact:

Shaun Mckelvie | 027-635-0490
Event organiser



In the News: Hunting a family pastime

Hunting is not just a sport. It is also a time to have fun with the family and pass on some knowledge.

From Friday to Sunday, people from all over North Otago headed out to catch the heaviest boars and deer, while under 14-year-olds hunted rabbits, possums, stoats, wallabies and hares.

NZDA North Otago president David Hay said there were plenty of professional pig hunting competitions, but going out with family was exactly what the competition was about.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



Photo supplied by Otago Daily Times.

In the News: Hunters rescued from steep terrain in South Westland

A father and son had to be rescued after they got stuck in difficult terrain while hunting on the West Coast.

A Maritime New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre spokesperson praised the pair for "doing everything right".

They activated a personal locator beacon in the Landsborough Valley, inland of Haast, at 12.40pm on Tuesday.

"A search was undertaken to locate a father and son hunting pair. The pair has been located and are uninjured," the spokesperson said.

The pair were stuck in an area of high and steep terrain.

They were flown out by helicopter at 4.30pm, the spokesperson said.

“We would like to commend the hunters for doing everything right. Activating their locator beacon and staying in place meant rescuers could find the pair quicker.”

[Article](#) supplied by [stuff.co.nz](#)

New Weather App: Met Service App Refreshed and Enhanced

MetService have made some changes to how they present mountains and parks weather forecasts. The most significant change is the introduction of mountain weather hazards.

The screenshot shows the MetService weather app interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search for a location" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar, the location "St Clair Beach" is displayed. Below the search bar, there is a list of locations: "Fiordland National Park Forecast", "Milford Sound", "Mackinnon Pass", "Luxmore Hut", "Harris Saddle", and "What to expect on Fiordland National Park walking routes". The main content area displays the weather forecast for "Fiordland National Park Forecast". It shows a 4-day forecast: "TODAY 25 JUN" with a rain icon, "SAT 26 JUN" with a rain icon, "SUN 27 JUN" with a rain icon, and "MON 28 JUN" with a sun icon. Below the forecast, there is a section titled "Fiordland National Park Forecast" with the following text: "Rain with heavy falls, easing to showers in the evening. Snow to 1800 metres." Below this, there are three sections: "WIND AT 1000 METRES" with a wind icon and text "Northwesterly gale 70 km/h, easing to 30 km/h in the evening.", "WIND AT 2000 METRES" with a wind icon and text "Northwesterly gale 80 km/h, easing to 35 km/h in the evening.", and "FREEZING LEVEL" with a triangle icon and text "About 2200 metres." Below this, there is a section titled "Mountain Weather Hazards" with a warning icon and text "Heavy Rain Warning" and "Valid: 9 hrs from 9:00am to 6:00pm Fri". At the bottom, there are three expandable sections: "Rain", "Wind", and "Wind Chill", each with a diamond icon and a downward arrow.

Mountain weather hazards lists five different weather impacts, wind, rain, thunderstorms, snow and wind chill. Due to increased risks in mountainous terrain, thresholds set by MetService to issue a mountain weather hazard are often lower than official MetService Severe Weather Watches and Warnings thresholds. Mountain weather hazards are reviewed every afternoon and identify weather related risks across the 12 mountain and parks forecast areas and they are issued up to three days in advance. There's a number of other changes made, and you can [find out more here](#)

These recent changes are hot on the heels of an upgrade to the MetService app, which introduced a new 'share' feature, allowing app users to share and send severe weather information via their preferred app, text or by email.

In the News: Call for tougher laws against South Island poaching

A Dunedin man wants a crackdown on poaching, as it is revealed the South has the highest rate of illegal hunting in the country.

Professor John Knight is lobbying the Government for a law change to increase the penalties in a bid to deter poachers after getting fed up with people hunting illegally on his land.

Over the past five years, 82 proceedings have been initiated by police for unlawful hunting in the South.

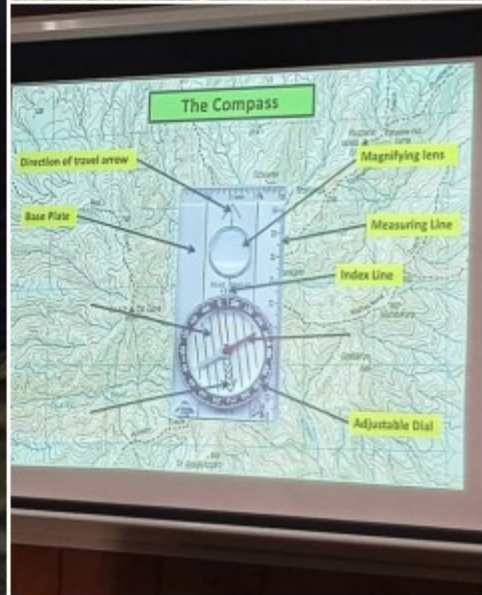
Click [here](#) for the full article.



A still from a security camera on John Knight's property, showing a man hunting unlawfully. Photo supplied by Otago Daily Times.

@NZDA on Instagram and Facebook

In this section we showcase our supporters content posted on social media so, for your chance to be featured, follow [@NZDANational](#) and [@nzdeerstalkersassociation](#) and just tag your photo to either of the pages.



Instagram - @nzdawaikato

The Outdoor Store NZDA 10% Discount Offer

10% DISCOUNT



Go Native NZDA 25% Discount Offer

Remember to visit Go Native and use the NZDA member discount code to get 25% off your next order thanks to the team at [Go Native World](#).

Visit www.gonativeworld.com today!



Interislander Ferry NZDA Discount Code



NZDA are pleased to offer financial members a discount when using the InterIslander Ferry.

Enter the code **FA5474** under the "Book using a group code" tab on the website. For more info, please [click here](#).

Other NZDA Supporters Offering NZDA Members

Deals and Discounts



Update your Contact Information

It is important we have your most up-to-date contact information. If you have recently changed your email or postal address now is the time to tell us, please email membership@deerstalkers.org.nz to let us know.



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