

SPECIAL COLLECTORS ISSUE INZOUTDOOR HUNTING

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TRUE RESCUE
STORIES

"I never saw
it coming!"

SENSITIVE
SIKA

WHY DO HUNTERS SHOOT HUNTERS?
"The hunt I will never forget!"

THE
SAFETY
ISSUE

11

Bush Remedies
Nature's First Aid Kit

WIN A PLB
It could save
your life

33 $\frac{1}{3}$

Tips for the
Outdoors

Learn how to
forecast the
WEATHER



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IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET – **beyond**

My name is Nicole McKee. I am the Firearms and Hunter Safety Programme Manager for New Zealand Mountain Safety Council. I am also a target shooter and meat hunter. I'll often refer to myself as a meat hunter as meat gathering to feed the four kids has always been the priority of my hunting experiences. The benefit of hunting is the opportunity to get exposure to the outdoors. I enjoy listening to the bush, to the birds. I enjoy smelling the fresh air and relish taking the time to watch clouds pass by. The bonus of your successful hunt is the whanau enjoying a meal and leaving the table with full tummies.

I have taken advantage of the great opportunities within target shooting as well. My passion is with Service Rifle which is where it all began. I have a love of "served" .303s which I enjoy shooting with Wellington Service Rifle Association and New Zealand Service Rifle Association. I am the current President of Karori Rifle Club where I compete in fullbore target shooting at Seddon Range, Trentham. I am also the President of Melrose Smallbore Rifle Club based in Newtown, Wellington. My membership with the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association also extends to my family. NZDA have shown foresight in structuring their club membership to include all family members. They are including in their membership the opportunity for the next generation of hunters and firearms users to gain the love and experience of the outdoors and ethics of hunting in New Zealand.

I have represented my clubs, my region and my country in target shooting disciplines. Anything is possible with passion, dedication and discipline. When it comes to me and a firearm I have all three attributes and in that order too.

Whether we are on the range or in the bush here is one of the seven basic firearms principles that we all need a reminder about. That is to identify your target, beyond all doubt.

When on the range, failure to identify your target can cost you a winning place in a competition. That split second decision can be the difference between winning and losing. This can be particularly harsh when preparation for the competition could mean hundreds of dollars on components as well as hundreds of hours reloading time and practising only to lose your goal from lack of concentration or impatience at the last second.

When in the bush failure to identify your target can cost a life. The result of this failure will effect more than the shooter and the victim's family. An entire community will feel the effect of that split second decision for years to come.

I am often asked what precautions should hunters take to keep themselves and others safe?

Join a club. Learn from like-minded people responsible hunting techniques and ethics. Learn tips and skills from the safe and experienced members of your local hunting clubs.

Sight your rifle in accurately before you hunt. Set the distance you're comfortable of shooting within and sight your rifle appropriately. You don't want to lose an animal because your shot went over the top or fell short of its target.

Choose the appropriate colour for the environment you are going into.



View your target as being human until you've proved that it is not.

all doubt

Ensure that the colour is maintained and is not dulled by over washing or sunlight. The colour you wear should contrast with the environment you are in so that you can be seen. Make an informed and well thought out decision.

Hunters are also questioning whether there is a need to be seen by other hunters. I have been approached by some who state they will not wear one colour over another for fear of being seen and misidentified because they are wearing that colour. This is usually followed by well-argued opinions about which is better; blaze orange, NATO blue, yellow or camo. I will always argue that we should wear colours that contrast with the environment you are in because no-one can tell us how many people have not been shot while wearing a contrasting colour.

The precautions you take should not only be based on what you can do to keep yourself safe, but what you can do to keep others safe as well. That one needs literal thought. Identify your target. You are responsible for the shot until the projectile from the round you fired from your firearm comes to rest. Before you pull the trigger, pause, close your eyes briefly, think about your "happy place" then open your eyes ... what do you see? Is it your target or another hunter?



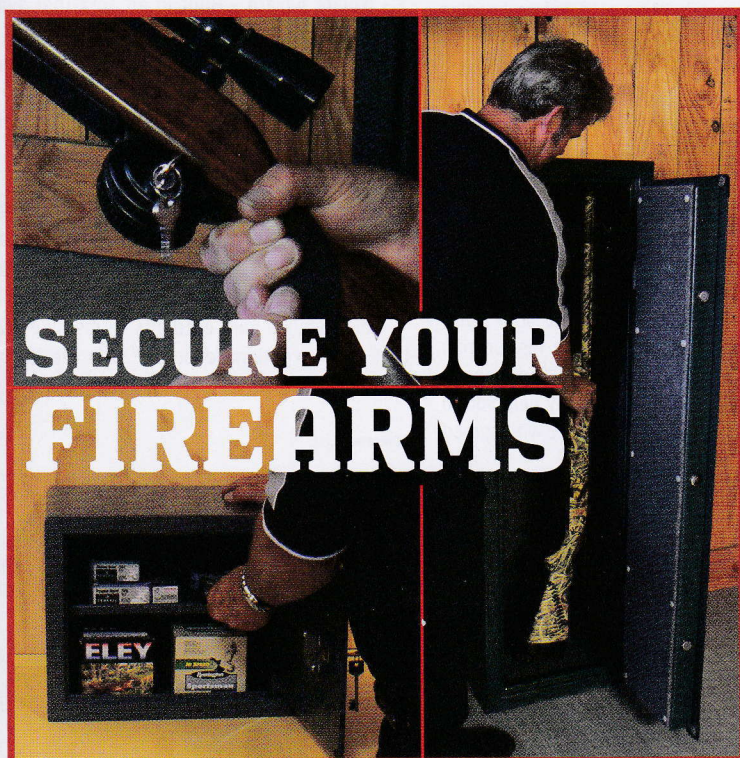
Hunters are shooting other hunters so view your target as being human until you've proved that it is not. Don't allow your mind to play tricks on you. Focus your mind and thinking processes to properly identify your target before you pull the trigger. Ensure those you hunt with are on the same page with you. That you stick to the plan the hunting party makes.

If you lose sight of a member of your party, unload your firearm and cease the hunt until you find them again.

Remember that movement, sound, shape and colour can all deceive you. The pain of being shot can last a lifetime, both for the victim and the shooter. Forgiveness is a luxury the dead don't have.

These are important safety messages. Identify your target, beyond all doubt. Wear a colour that contrasts with the environment you're in and the animal you are hunting. Join a club. Sight your rifle. Learn safe and ethical techniques for successful shoot placement. Take a PLB with you in case of emergency.

And finally have a trip plan that includes some of these safety thoughts so you not only enjoy success but you get to share the adventures and teach the next generation.<<<



SECURE YOUR FIREARMS:

A young child must not be able to gain ready access to firearms.

Store firearms and ammunition separately, or, make sure the firearm cannot be fired.

Firearms must be secured against theft.

Never leave a firearm in a vehicle that is unattended.



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL