



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA December 2019



Aaron Shields, Mike Grant, Alister Ching dealing to pines (the enemy)

## From the Editor

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### - and the last echo for 2019

2019 has been the year that we did not want but somehow, we have survived it and the new year will roll around as it has done throughout all human history.

The Christchurch massacre set in train a sequence of events that impacted on firearm owners not just in that many were required to surrender firearms but seriously changed the way in which firearms and related activities are regarded in this country.

Regardless of this firearm activities will continue in whatever modified form and restrictions the legislative process delivers. In this regard the impact on firearm owners will be less than the trauma suffered by those caught up in the Christchurch tragedy.

[www.nzdanelson.co.nz](http://www.nzdanelson.co.nz)

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As we meet up with family and friends over Christmas it will be worth reflecting on how tragedies can come out of the blue and how important it is to enjoy the good times. In this regard Greg Cooper and the branch committee wish all members and their families a very happy and safe Christmas.

### **What has happened in the branch this year?**

- Red Deer Lodge has had a makeover thanks to the Back Country Trust and some serious input by branch volunteers
- Opportunities for hunting and helicopter training have been delivered through a closer connection with DOC
- Access to the Packers Creek range has been maintained through committee and other members opening the gate at the weekends.
- The range has been maintained and looks as though we value it as our major asset.
- The branch constitution is being reviewed and updated.
- The HUNTS program delivered another course in association with Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game and several members have committed to instructing on future courses.
- The club nights have been given a “shot in the arm” by new committee members.
- New supporters have been found among Nelson’s business community. – Kelly Country and Meat Solutions have been joined by Absolute Wilderness in providing enhanced opportunities for branch members. – details to follow.

What have I missed?            apologies to those left out.

**The Christmas BBQ had to be cancelled with impending bad weather and an expectant birth, it is expected to be rescheduled for late January.**

### **Our best supporter bar none---**

Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game and the Nelson branch of NZDA have a history going back many years and the relationship is as close as ever. The obvious connection is that we hold our monthly meetings and other functions at the F&G complex in Champion Road. In addition, Field Officer Lawson Davey has delivered the HUNTS course for over twenty years and is not permitted to stop. Many of our deerstalking members have interests in trout fishing and duck shooting. And most important of all Karen Crook the office administrator is managing the production of the NZDA newsletter.

Bill O’Leary  
Guest Editor

# NZDA & CONSERVATION



For a while the Nelson Branch of the NZDA have had their eyes set on giving something back to the community. The above picture demonstrates just that with a group of volunteers dropped off by Helicopters Nelson to assist DOC with the reduction and hopefully eventual control to zero density (no coning pines) of wilding pines in the Nelson/Tasman Region.

The task - immense. The outcome - worthy of setting our sights on.

Over a six hour period the volunteers dealt to over 1700 pines (by cutting but mostly poisoning) of mixed species (Douglas fir, *Pinus radiata* and the dreaded *Pinus contorta*). An area of 30.8 ha was covered with a pine density of 56.3 per ha. 70% of the pines were coning which means there is now going to be a significant reduction in seedlings coming from that area.

From a hunter's point of view there is no better way to carry out volunteer work than in our own backyard in a physically active but spectacular fashion. Nelson/Tasman really is a special place and maintaining the natural landscapes is everyone's responsibility.

DOC and Nelson Branch's relationship continues to grow with mutual understanding of the bigger picture of hunters and conservationists assisting each other on a daily basis in the NZ backcountry.

The Nelson region is fortunate to claim Toby of Helicopters Nelson as their own due to his extensive piloting skills and local knowledge of the Nelson Region. He lays claim to countless hours working with DOC and hunters dropping them into rather isolated locations.

He recently took Nelson branch through a Helicopter Safety Refresher Course at the hanger. This training involved many aspects of the health and safety around Helicopters and the surrounding areas, equipment, common sense and what to do in case of an emergency. It was a very interesting afternoon and the group vibe was fantastic with everyone engaged and learning.



Further trips are being organised for 2020 (when it cools off a little), all with conservation being the driving factor behind any joint operation.

If you are a Nelson NZDA Member and would like to get involved please get in touch.

Nelson NZDA would again like to thank the DOC Rangers, special mention to Ian Cox, who are helping bring this initiative to life with many more trips to come.

Mike De Gray

Nelson New Zealand Deer Stalkers



# We need more stories, even as brief as this!!!

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## Chilly Few Days But.... Worth It!

Our esteemed Branch Secretary/Treasurer was finally allowed a few days out of the office and went south by south east to some place.....

In his few, but meaningful words

*“A few photos from last few days. Damn cold, got caught in a blizzard, fly camping is getting tougher, we shot 2 red spikers and 5 Billy goats to thin them a bit. Cheers Warren”*



Behind that spiker's rump are several fine meals



Leave that damn tree alone. or else! (and it was or ELSE!)

Thanks Warren and from this we can all learn that a very few words can tell a great story (with a couple of pics thrown in)!

**So please....** if you can write 2 sentences and send two pics (not gory) we will publish your yarn!

While we sort out who our next Editor is send them to me!  
[richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz)





# **GUNS = CASH!** **BUY, SELL, TRADE** **AND SALE ON BEHALF.**

## **A True Gun-Store With Guns!**

We specialize in secondhand firearms of all types and have new stock arriving from all over the country daily.

Why? Because we offer one of the most competitive commission rates in the industry which means more money returned to our customers. Our comprehensive sale on behalf of service is all based around getting the best return for our customers.

We also offer a comprehensive selection of new gear from the latest in firearms, optics, reloading and ammo to a full range of clothing and general hunting accessories to get you sorted.

**New Stock Arriving  
Daily!**

**SAKO Centrefire  
Ammunition Arriving  
Soon. Huge Range Of  
Calibers.**

**Huge Ridgeline Sale  
On Now Up To 40%  
Off!**

**All New Firearms  
Arriving Daily!**

**As Always Our N.Z.D.A  
Discount Is Available  
To All Cardholders**

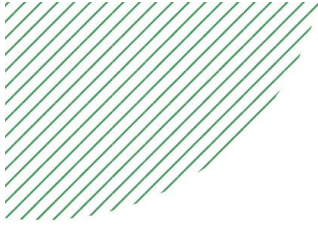
### **KELLY COUNTRY**

67 Ellis Street  
Brightwater, Nelson  
03-542-3575

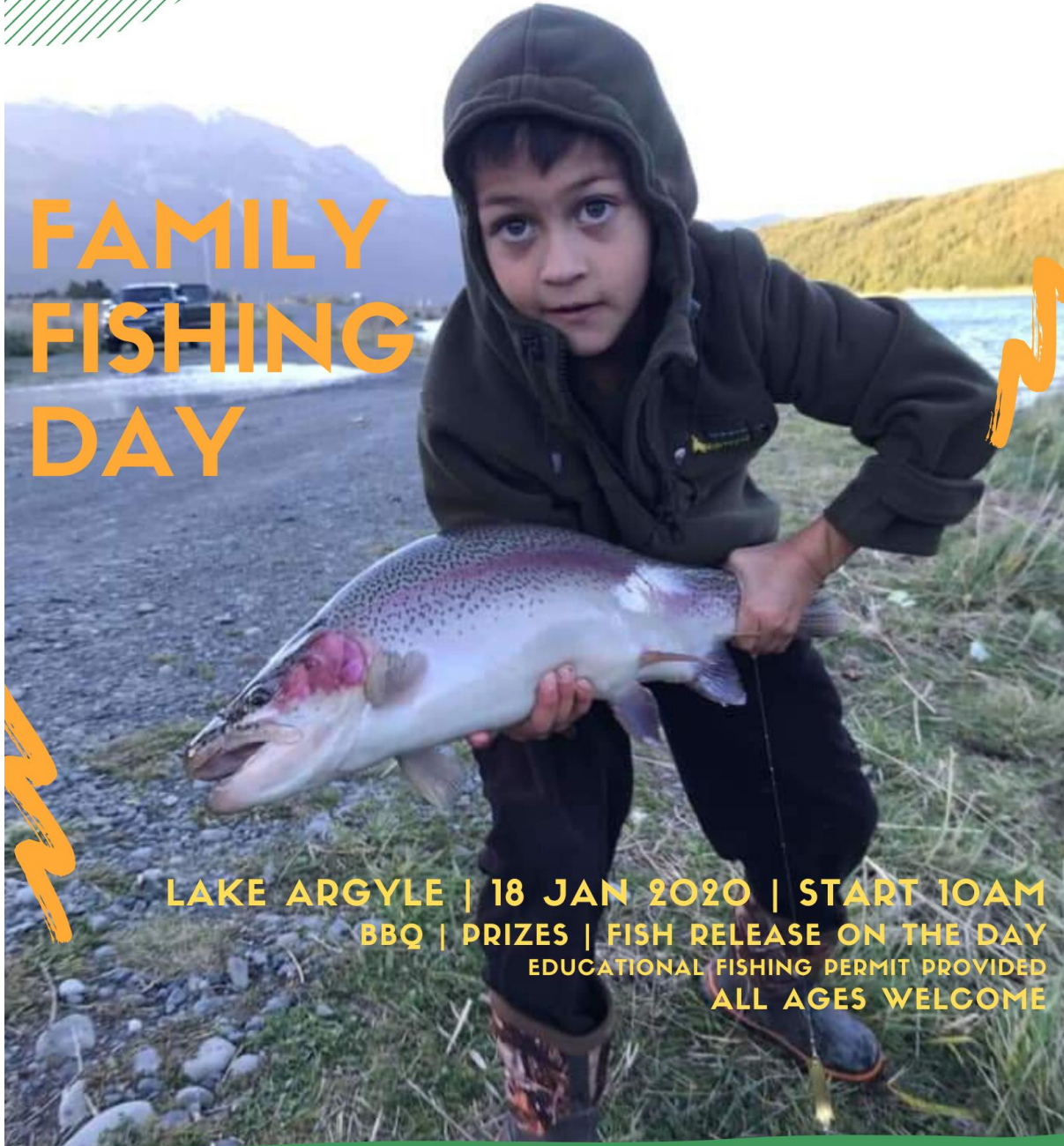
[www.kellycountry.co.nz](http://www.kellycountry.co.nz)

Mon-Sat: 9:00am-5:30pm

Sundays: 9:00am-4:00pm



# FAMILY FISHING DAY



**LAKE ARGYLE | 18 JAN 2020 | START 10AM  
BBQ | PRIZES | FISH RELEASE ON THE DAY  
EDUCATIONAL FISHING PERMIT PROVIDED  
ALL AGES WELCOME**

**COME AND LEARN HOW TO FISH FOR RAINBOW TROUT AT ONE OF THE REGIONS BEST FISHING SPOTS!  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY; SOME GEAR PROVIDED: IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN RODS - BRING THEM ALONG.  
FISH & GAME WILL RELEASE A TANKER LOAD OF FISH ON THE DAY FOR YOU TO SEE.  
YOU'LL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO CATCH SOME TAGGED TROUT AND BE IN TO WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES.  
PRIOR REGISTRATION APPRECIATED | CALL 03 544 6382 OR EMAIL FISH AND GAME  
IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER THE RESERVE DAY WILL BE THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY (25 JANUARY)**

[nelsonmarlborough@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nelsonmarlborough@fishandgame.org.nz) | Brought to you by Fish & Game, Department of Conservation & Henderson's  
Postponement will be notified via email (if registered) or Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Facebook page



# Fish and Game Report

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- Fish & Game are looking to band 100-200 mallard ducks from the Waimea area in order to monitor duck movements, and whether the urban/semi-urban ducks distribute widely enough to become available to hunters.
- To see what game related work we've been up to in the past 12 months, you can download a copy of the Annual Game Report from the Fish & Game [website](#).
- There is a holiday tag competition being held at Lake Argyle, with some great prizes for anglers who catch some of the lucky tagged fish. There are 2 x \$500 Henderson's vouchers up for grabs, plus a heap of other great prizes.
- The Kids Fish Out ponds are open for junior angling from 20 December through to the end of March. Visit [youthfishing.org.nz](http://youthfishing.org.nz) for current updates.
- Fish & Game is holding a free fishing day at Lake Argyle on January 18, with the aim to introduce new people to the sport, and provide instruction to new anglers so they can catch more fish.
- The recent rain event in early December was widespread and likely had significant impacts on a number of fisheries including the Wairau, Branch, Aorere & Goulter, as well as smaller important rearing streams such as the Motupiko.
- We've recently released a heap of rainbow trout into Lake Argyle, as well as a heli-release into the Branch/Leatham catchment.



Tasman Helicopters flying a Eurocopter to transfer rainbow trout into the Branch Leatham



# Coxy's Corner - Notes for Hunters from Motueka DOC Office

Coxy's gone on leave perhaps hunting, back in 2020.

## Buy & Sell

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Stoeger shotgun 5 shot semi auto  
Ammo belt  
Heaps of ammo  
2x duck callers  
1x cammo net

I would like to see it go to someone starting out as it's a great setup.

\$700 All up

Contact Mike DeGray [miked@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:miked@nzdanelson.co.nz) if interested.

## Red Deer Lodge

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### **Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti**

Contact the Calders: [info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](mailto:info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

Use the website at [www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](http://www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

Saying you're a member



# 2019 Committee

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Greg Couper      **President:** [terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz)  
Richard Wells    **Vice President**    richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz  
Lester Bowden   **Patron**  
Warren Plum      **Secretary:** ph. 547 9143 [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)

John Noakes, Bill O'Leary, Neil Cliffe, Graeme Ching, Graeme Smith, Immo Neumann, Rob Shuttleworth, Richard Wells, Mike DeGray

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**Membership:** Graeme Smith ph. 544 7138 LVHVBR@gmail.com

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**New Members:** Warren Plum ph. 547 9143 [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)