



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA May 2020



Graeme Smith

Greg Couper

At the Target Shooting NZ Inc 22 Rimfire Outdoor National Championships, in February at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex.

Editorial

LOCKED DOWN and over it

After the weeks of confinement on my small section I am hanging out for the Prime Minister's announcement on 11 May.

All my hunting years have centred on opening day for ducks and chasing deer in autumn. In all that time I have missed one opening when I was locked down in Burnham.

I cannot argue with the rationale for the "lock down" and I appreciate the way we are "all in this together" but I am so looking forward to breaking loose.

In the meantime, the world has coped, and this newsletter includes a mixture of material related to making the most of the situation whether by honing cooking skills, experimenting with a new skill or simply finding something to laugh at.

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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To Be Advised

The situation has required Fish and Game to make decisions about the duck season and the plan to delay the opening is a pragmatic response to a no brainer question. Thirty-five thousand duck shooters want a duck season and we need time after the lockdown ends to access retail outlets for ammo and licences. The decision to avoid Queens Birthday weekend reduces road traffic, inter regional movement and does not conflict with gypsy day when 20,000 farmers will move 1300 – 2000 fame businesses.

While most of us have complied with the ban on hunting some individuals have not and the advisement that Federated farmers have put out is pragmatic (that word again) and has been discussed with NZDA and Fish and Game. The guy who wrote the document is a duck shooter and a hunter and knowing him I bet that he was reluctant to acknowledge that there are firearm owners out there who don't follow the rules and need to be guarded against. NZDA would support any approach that does not penalise genuine hunters and nails the offenders.

Our Nelson range is still locked down at least as long as Level 3 is in force but when it is open we will be able to zero rifles in the anticipation that there will be deer out there and almost certainly on Molesworth where the planned poison drop is on hold. Interesting and encouraging is the advisement from OSPRI that research into deer survival under poison operations was planned and in considerable detail. The lasting lesson from the last Molesworth operation is that deer are valued animals and no one (almost no one) wants to see them wiped out. Well that is all from me – Next month's newsletter should have seen me duck shooting and with some meat in the freezer.

Stay safe

Bill O'Leary

Membership Time!

Dear Members

We recognise that we are in a period of uncertainty due to Covid-19 but wish to urge you all to continue your membership.

Thanks to all those that have paid to date, reminders are automatically set for every 3 weeks so if you have NOT received your invoice yet, do let us know so we can check we are using the correct email address. (**Also please check your spam folder**)

We have a small handful of members mention that the link in the email has not worked for them to pay by debit or credit card - see below
Those that do not have an email and rely on posted invoices, these have been delayed as Covid lockdown occurred and the printers were closed. We understand they are going out this week.

We are working with the team working to support the membership system
Last but not least - the Hunting and Wildlife Magazine is available in printed format for \$29 for the year.

Please order on this website www.nzda.shop

Paying your invoice

If you are using an older computer (e.g. Windows 2007 or XP) on your computer then there could be a problem getting the credit card payment option to work in the invoice

If that happens - try the following:

- Forward the email to a smart phone or another computer - yours or maybe a tech savvy family member and it should work there
Pay via Electronic banking (Make sure you quote the **invoice number correctly** in the reference)
- Phone National Office - and they can take your credit card or debit card over the phone (business hours only) **04 499 6163**

If you have any further queries or need a paper invoice mailed or etc then contact your local Branch - details below

If you have any queries please email (preferred) or text/call

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Tokoroa TSNZ

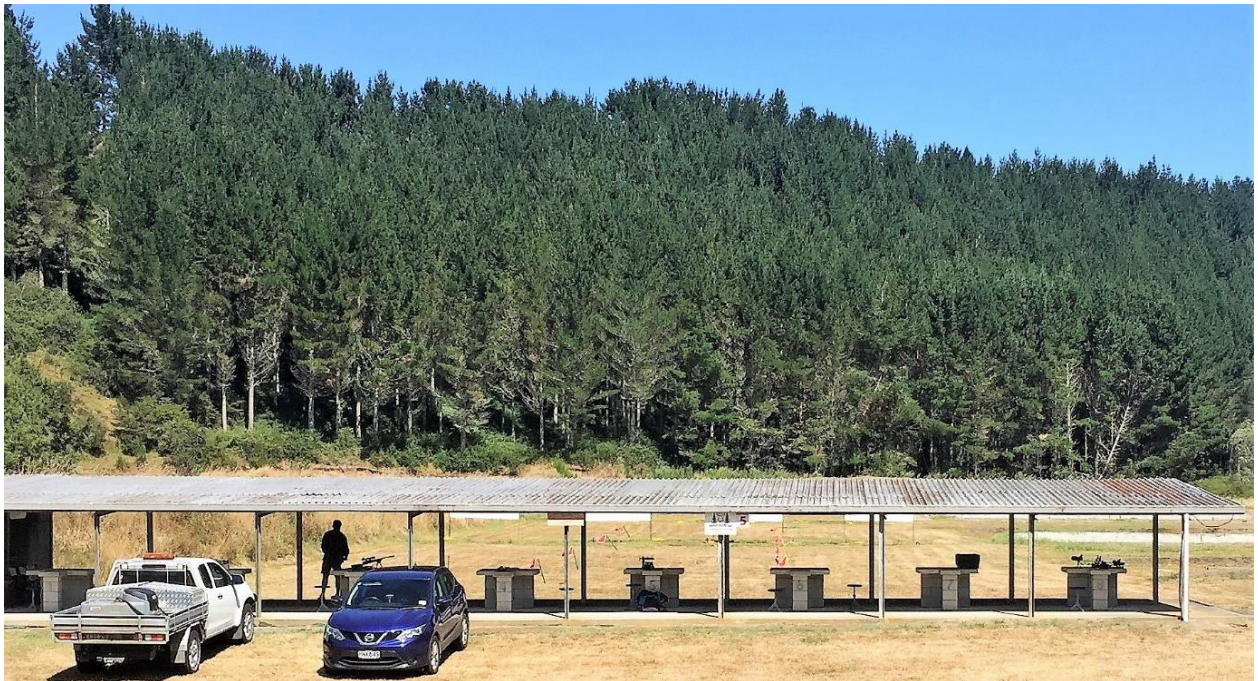
By Greg Couper

In late February Graeme Smith & myself went on a 4-day road trip to attend the Target Shooting NZ Inc 22 Rimfire Outdoor National Championships at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex

This event is held over a week comprising of 50m Prone, 3 Position & 50yd Benchrest, (should have been 50m but range constraints necessitated reducing it to 50 yds)

There were 62 competitors including 2 over from Aussie, with 13 of us competing in Benchrest

The Tokoroa weather was as to be expected with enough wind & mirage to make conditions challenging



As the event is so long a number of competitors chose to stay at the range, there are great facilities on site showers, kitchen etc



We chose to shoot 3 x 25 shot targets over 2 days, to limit our time up there with only at least 1 on an afternoon, the mornings were not any calmer than the afternoons

We had a great time away Graeme shot extremely well for the win & I shot my personal best score on a single target on my way to third,

We are looking forward to competing at more of the TSNZs outdoor events to supplement our local 22 rimfire benchrest competitions both indoor & outdoor.

If you are interested in competing, please feel free to contact Graeme or myself.

OSPRI Update from Chloë Dear

OSPRI will be undertaking radio collaring of deer to test the effectiveness of the deer repellent bait.

Up to 40 free-ranging wild deer will be radio-collared in the Molesworth operational area. Deer in the central core of the operational area will be targeted to minimize the risk that they will move out of the operational area before toxic bait is sown.

Radio-collaring of deer will be carried out when deer are most likely to be active and visible. The capture team will aim to collar a mix of adult/sub-adult and male/female deer to ensure there is a representative mix of ages and both sexes.

The collared deer will be radio-tracked using a fixed-wing aircraft immediately (within 1–3 days) before both the application of non-toxic prefeed and the application of 1080 bait. This is to ensure they were still alive and present within the areas to be poisoned and were present during pre-feeding. They will then be tracked within one week of the 1080 baiting to determine survival and again one month later, and the date of death of dead deer will be determined from the radio-collar time-since-death function.

The research will be undertaken by Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, the same agency which has undertaken other deer population studies for us.

Approval will be sought from DOC and from Jim Ward.

Duck Shooting Delayed Until Level 2

Farmers and gamebird hunters are reminded that the opening of the duck shooting season will be delayed until the second weekend after we go into COVID-19 Alert Level 2, except if that date falls on May 30. The game bird season will not open at Queen's Birthday weekend to avoid Moving Day on the 1st of June. The new opening day will be the same for everyone including landowners, and Fish and Game rangers will be out making sure no one jumps the gun on the delayed opening weekend. Fish and Game have been actively seeking reports of anyone shooting early and there are serious consequences if prosecuted. Gamebird hunting has been delayed until Level 2 in recognition of the important social aspects of this rural/urban tradition and the need for a collective opening weekend to help keep bird numbers under control. Anyone suffering substantial crop damage from gamebirds should contact their local Fish and Game office. Regional office contact details are available [here](#).

Illegal hunting (information taken from Federated Farmers)

With the return of recreational big and small game hunting on private land there have also been reports of an increase in illegal hunting activity. No one should be out hunting except those with permission to hunt on private land. The Department of Conservation estate and the majority of forestry lands remain closed to hunting, so no recreational hunters should be accessing these areas. Police are taking these restrictions seriously and have arrested and charged a man for hunting on the DOC estate during Level 4.

As a landowner with game animals on your property there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of illegal hunting activity:

- If you see trespassers on your property with firearms dial 111. Police want to know
- Lock gates or block vehicle access points to 'at risk' areas on your property
- Investigate any unknown vehicles or suspicious activities. Remember to act cautiously when approaching people or vehicles, particularly when alone
- Install surveillance cameras/signs warning of surveillance cameras on road frontage
- Remove temptation. Shoot or disturb any game animals that are regularly sighted on your property near public roads or access ways
- Poaching activity often takes place at night. Occasionally leave lights on in buildings and be active at different times of the day
- Take caution when working at night in known spotlighting areas. Wear reflective high visibility clothing and remove your headlamp if you are lit with a spotlight
- Give access to trustworthy recreational hunters if appropriate. Their regular presence will deter others and they will act as another set of eyes on the property

- Form a neighbourhood support group to share information. Let neighbours know when you have hunters on your property and insist that boundaries are respected
- Insist that recreational hunters, contractors and others who access your property are discrete about the number and location of game animals present.

If you have ongoing concerns with poaching in your area, organise to meet with your local police. If you observe illegal activity on your property and suspect the offenders are still present dial 111.



No duck hunting until further notice

Source: Fish and Game NZ

(we know this is late but the message for the rest of the season is very clear)

Duck hunters are reminded that this weekend is not the start of the annual game bird season.

Traditionally the first Saturday in May is the opening of the annual game bird season, but the Government decided last week to delay the start of the game bird season to support the fight against Covid-19 and this was supported by Fish & Game New Zealand.

The game bird season will open on the second Saturday following the introduction of Alert Level 2, except if that date falls on May 30. The game bird season will not open at Queen's Birthday weekend specifically to avoid Moving Day on the 1st of June (an important date in the rural calendar when large numbers of farmers move to new farms).

Based on current Government projections, we are likely to see an opening day mid-May or early June. An example of how this would work is:

- Level 2 introduced between May 11 & 15 = Opening Day May 23

- Level 2 introduced between May 16 & 29 = Opening Day June 6

Fish & Game Rangers will be active throughout the country this weekend to ensure hunters comply with the delay to the game bird season start.

The Health Act Amendment Order published today (Thursday) states that the hunting or killing of game birds is prohibited from being undertaken as permitted recreation.

The penalty for anyone breaching the Health Order by failing to comply with the restrictions on game bird hunting is a maximum of 6 months imprisonment or a fine of \$4,000. Compliance failure resulting in enforcement will be taken into account by Police when determining if a person remains fit and proper to possess a firearms licence.

Game bird hunting is a national tradition and an important population management tool. It's great that all New Zealanders will have an opportunity to hunt ducks, after we move to Alert Level 2.

CONTACT:

Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive, Martin Taylor - 027 453 5348

Fish & Game Communications Advisor, Brian Anderton - 021 026 35538

Fish & Game South Island Communications Adviser, Richard Cosgrove - 021 646 245

WHAT IS FISH & GAME?

Fish & Game New Zealand manage trout, salmon and game birds to provide healthy recreation for Kiwis.

We work to protect the environment that anglers and hunters have enjoyed as a tradition for over 150 years.

2019 HUNTS Trainee Emma

Emma is one of the 2019 HUNTS trainees and spent some of the Lockdown working on her trophy skins





What Goes Round Comes Around

I remember when Mike was a hungry teenager. I guess there is a saying about the apple not falling far from the tree.

Wolds PI Lockdown Pie

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1kg Small chunked veni or tahr | 1 diced red onion |
| 1 tbsp Paprika | 2 tbsp crushed garlic |
| 3 tbsp plain flour | 1 tbsp thyme |
| Salt and Pepper | 1 tbsp parsley |
| Cooking oil | 1 ½ cups pinot noir |
| 2 diced carrots | 1 cup beef stock |
| ½ diced red capsicum | 2 tbsp tomato puree |
| 50g chopped mushrooms | 2x 300g puff pastry or 2 pre rolled sheets |

Coat meat with paprika, flour, S and P

Heat oil in wok and brown meat

Add everything else, mix well and simmer on very low heat for about 1 ½ hours or 2/3s of another afternoon movie!

Recommended to cordon off kitchen from pecking family seagulls-especially 17yr old males.

After movie and reminds of bottle of Pinor Noir turn off heat and allow to cool.

Dust clean work area with flour and roll pastry. Pastry to be 1 cm bigger than pie tray.

Grease pie tray and place pastry. Place ingredients in base. Roll top pastry and lay on top. Trim edges and skilfully roll top edges of pastry together.

With off cuts of Pastry make a cool pattern, Glaze top of pie with whipped egg, place cool pattern on top, put a few cuts in surface of pie to allow steam to escape.

When you're ready to cook, pre heat oven to 220 fan bake and bake pie for about 15mins or until pastry is nut brown.

Turn Oven down to 180 and cook for further 5-8 mins.

Serve with Garlic mashed potatoes and another bottle of Pinot Noir.

Serves 4 with some piece left over for 17yr old seagulls' breakfast next day at 11.30am!

Sorry no photo-you will have to take my word for it-AWESOME

Rats, Cats and Rough Recreation

By Philip Bianchi

These happenings happened (if you follow my meaning) in England during the long, hot summer of 1976, so coming up for a half century ago.

New Zealand is exceptionally lucky in having public land that people are allowed to wander across and, more importantly, hunt if they want. Not so in the UK.

All land in the UK is owned by someone (farmers, landowners and estates) and only in exceptional cases will the public be allowed onto the land and even then, you are likely to be charged an admission fee. Hunting and shooting rights belong to the landowner and jealously guarded. You may be lucky to be able to persuade the farmer or landowner to allow you to shoot over the land, but you will invariably have to pay for the privilege. Normally a group of people will form a syndicate and buy the annual rights to shoot over the land and spread the cost. It is a sellers' market so you can guess it is not cheap.

The Government does control fairly substantial chunks of land – the Ministry of Defence and the Forestry Commission, for example - but the MOD does not like civilians on its properties and the Forestry Commission permit few shooters on their land, preferring to employ professional deer cullers to keep the deer numbers down and prevent damage to the trees from the deer.

However, for the more – shall we say - enterprising and resourceful characters, free and “interesting” shooting can be had, if you are careful.

Note that air weapons, although restricted to 12 pounds-foot energy for rifles and 6 pounds-foot for pistols for spring types (not so for CO₂ types and, nowadays, pre charged pneumatics or more powerful air weapons which needed a Firearms certificate) only had an age restriction on their purchase and use. So, the preferred weapon was a quiet air rifle for such characters. Such as Dave and myself.

Dave Adamson and I used to go to an open cast, landfill rubbish tip which was called Wylam rubbish tip. There are two towns called Wylam in Northumberland – Wylam lies on the north bank of the River Tyne and West Wylam lies on the south bank of the Tyne and slightly to the west of Wylam. The rubbish tip was located between West Wylam (on the south bank of the Tyne, remember?) and the river and close to the town. Do not worry about the naming conventions. This is England and they are often confusing so unless you grew up there, nothing to be worried about. There is a road bridge crossing the Tyne at Wylam itself and another road bridge at Ovingham but for tactical reasons Dave and I never used these bridges.

Britain had a detailed and intricate network of railway lines that connected many of the smaller villages and towns with the bigger urban centres – this was long before cars were so common or cheap – but in the 1960's the railways were rationalised and many of the smaller branch lines were closed, never to reopen. At the time this story occurred, the tracks were long gone but much of the civil engineering works were left, including a disused single track rail bridge crossing the River Tyne between the two Wylams and the southern end was only about half a mile from the rubbish tip. The tracks and wooden sleepers had long since been removed but the shallow steel trough that ran the length of the bridge to catch any burning coals and cinders from the steam trains to stop the wooden sleepers from being burned was still there and provided a convenient walkway across the river. This was our preferred option as no one used the disused railway route and we could approach unobserved. More importantly, it

provided an escape route if any investigation of our activities by police in cars and/or anyone else and we did not have to use the roads. I had learned in the Army that roads are for people that like being ambushed. Neither of us wanted that option, for some peculiar reason.

The council operated the land fill rubbish tip and, during the week, by 4PM, the workmen had left and of course at the weekend it was unattended. This meant that we could go shooting rats with air rifles whenever we liked, and you can bet that we took the opportunity to do so whenever possible.

Perhaps to give you, dear reader a flavour of the rat shooting expeditions I should describe a typical "shoot".

Dave and I would drive his father's car to Wylam (on the north bank of the Tyne, remember) and parked it up in the car park of the Fox and Hounds pub in the village. We then walked about a mile along the route of the old railway to the disused railway bridge, crossed the river and approached the rubbish tip across the Newcastle to Carlisle rail tracks across some rough ground. When we reached the rubbish tip, we unbagged the air rifles, selected our positions on the most recent "edge" of the mounds of rubbish and looked out for rats. Now, rats have the hand of man and the jaws, claws and talons of every living thing against them. Badgers, foxes, stoats, weasels, feral and domestic cats, hawks and owls all regard rat as fine dining. Naturally with all the food scraps around plus the cover of the uncompacted rubbish, the rats were attracted to the rubbish tip and the place was lifting with them. However, they are natural infantrymen and took advantage of every scrap of cover so any rat you glimpsed was just that – a glimpse. Think of the film about the battle of Stalingrad and the way the soldiers lived and operated, and you will not be far wrong about how the rats used the cover to their advantage. They were exposed for quite literally a second or two as they went about their routine, so you needed to be fast, accurate and deadly with your chosen rifle. Five or six rats a session was good going and both Dave and I developed speed, accuracy and a fine eye for any movement. If anything was in range and could be killed by an air rifle, it was dead meat. You better believe it! We would shoot until it got too dark to see the rats and/or got thirsty and go back to the Fox and Hounds to have a pint and then drive home. There was little on TV that either of us were interested in and being Batchelors both, no girlfriends or wives to answer to. The simple pleasures of life were ours to enjoy.

During one rat shooting expedition, we noticed that there were quite a few feral cats about the place – and why not? Plenty of rats for them, plenty of scraps of food and the rotting rubbish generated heat so they were nice and warm during the winter nights. Feral cats are as much of a problem in the UK as they are here in New Zealand but if rats are nature's natural infantrymen, cats are the Ninjas of the animal kingdom and, of course, the rubbish tip. They kept out of range and were far too wary and wild to stalk. I know this because we tried on numerous occasions, trying a variety of tactics and methods, none of which were successful. A problem if you wanted to add a moggy to the trophy list.

The summer of 1976 was a particularly hot and dry summer which is very unusual for Northumberland – I am convinced that God only put Northumberland there to keep the wind off Denmark and we always said if you could not see the hills, then it was raining. If you could see the hills, it was about to rain. So, a rain free period of 10 weeks was virtually unprecedented.

This gave Dave and I a potential opportunity to cull the cats. There was a bulldozer scrape at the west end of the rubbish tip and ground water had seeped into the excavation, making it the only standing water for miles around (excluding the river, of

course). The cats had to drink but would not come out of cover during the day. We decided that an evening shoot with shotguns was in order so one evening, we collected our shotguns and as usual parked up in the Fox and Hounds car park, crossed the river by the disused railway bridge and approached the rubbish tip. We dragged an old wardrobe and a settee to within 20 yards of the bulldozer scrape and set them up between the setting sun and the water as a sort of maimai type hide, except we did not have cat decoys like the duck shooters use. When I come to think of it, I doubt that the cats would have been fooled by cat decoys, no matter how realistic. Putting a battery powered motor into a stuffed cat with a wire up its tail to make it twitch was not really an obstacle to the execution of the idea but getting the cat to stuff in the first place was the problem. We would have to go in cold, so to speak, and stake out the watering hole.

Dave hid in the wardrobe with the door ajar so he could watch the water and I lay on the settee with my loaded Sable double barrel box lock ejector along my body with the muzzles over my right shoulder and three spare cartridges between the fingers of my left hand for a fast reload. Dave had a borrowed Mossberg pump action with 5 rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber. We agreed that Dave would be "Master of Ceremonies" and I would take my cue from him.

Dusk came and I lay on my back watching the daytime swallows and swifts catching their supper and the nocturnal bats gradually taking over and enjoying their breakfast. Contrary to belief, bats WILL fly in the daytime but prefer the dark to avoid predators and to hunt their favourite food, moths, which are larger and easier to catch than flies. Your mind wanders a bit in situations like that. Or at least mine does.

After a while, a movement caught my eye. A grizzled cat had partly emerged from the long grass surrounding the water. Dave had spotted it too and a hiss and whispered warning to stay still confirmed that he had seen the cat.

The cat knew something was up. I deliberately concentrated on the swallows, swifts and bats so that I was not tempted to look at the cat directly. They can somehow sense your eyes on them and it would have disappeared in short order if it thought I was looking at it so I watched it in my peripheral vision. The wind was blowing from the puddle of water towards us and the cat was to the right of the puddle so could not scent us. I could hear it softly growl to itself and after a few moments it retreated back into the grass. What had happened to spook it? I lay still and after about a minute its head emerged again. After a while, it slowly and carefully emerged from the grass and stopped. Its tail swished back and forth and I could see it scanning the area looking for the danger it could sense. I was in shadow, motionless and my clothing blended in with the settee so I was reasonably certain that it would not identify me as dangerous. Dave, in the wardrobe and in deep shadow, was invisible to all intents and purposes. Still the cat would not relax and approach the water. By fits and starts, it took about 20 minutes to cover the distance between the long grass and the water. It was still very wary and it took its time to check and re check the surroundings before thirst overcame its caution. Eventually, its head went down and it started to lap the water.

That was the moment the rest of the cats were waiting for. By now it was quite dark and the ground was in deep shadow from the setting sun but it seemed that hundreds of cats broke cover and ran across the ground towards the water like some kind of lumpy, moving magic fur carpet. They eagerly joined their pathfinder at the pool and started to lap up the water.

Once they were settled, Dave kicked the door of the wardrobe open, screamed something (Geronimo? Death to cats? I do not know and can't remember but it was definitely his war cry) and he opened up with the Mossberg. I rolled off the settee to

my knees and shot into the packed mass of cats. Two shots thumb the top lever and the empty cartridges pinged over my right shoulder, stuff another two cartridges into the chambers from between my fingers, shoot and repeat for the last spare cartridge. I was dry and a moment after, so was Dave's Mossberg.

Recall that Dave was in a wardrobe. Recall too that a wardrobe is tall, wide and narrow back to front. On uneven ground it was not a stable sort of item. The wardrobe slowly toppled and brained him on the back of the head. He collapsed to his knees but the adrenaline was pumping strongly in him so he pushed the wardrobe off, jumped to his feet and still yelling, charged the cats. I followed, not knowing what he intended. However, he was merely interested in the number killed. We counted over 30 dead or dying which we dispatched with lumps of wood used as clubs. We decided not to take a few as trophies or to stuff to use as decoys for future use. They were probably lifting with fleas and no doubt, infesting the car with fleas would not have been a popular thing to do. Fathers are totally unreasonable when it comes to flea infestations in cars, for some reason. I can't understand why.

The nearest houses were about 100 yards away and the rapid series of shots must have sounded like the opening salvo of the Battle of the Somme to the occupants. On a hot, sticky night, no doubt windows would have been wide open and so the residents would have gotten the full effect of the shots. Dave and I decided that discretion was the better part of common sense so before the Police could arrive on the scene to investigate what would probably be reported as something like the St. Valentine's day massacre, we set off for the railway bridge at a brisk walk. We crossed the bridge and followed the route of the disused railway track between the river and Wylam village to avoid using the roads (time spent on reconnaissance is never wasted) and this brought us to a point just across the road from the Fox and Hounds pub. The shotguns were put in the car boot and we went into the pub for a pint. I got the beers in and Dave sat at one of the tables. As we had walked rapidly about a mile and a half (or about 2.5 kilometres) on a hot humid night we were both fairly dripping with sweat. My hair was plastered to my head and the sweat was dripping down my neck. Under those conditions, the scalp wound that Dave had acquired and was bleeding freely had gone unnoticed by him. But in the well-lit pub, it was obvious that he was bleeding – though by that time, not badly. Scalp wounds always bleed a lot and a little bit of blood goes a long way in staining a shirt back. We quickly finished the beers (I had paid for them and we were not going to waste them) and I drove the car to the hospital, dropped Dave off at the casualty department and delivered the shotguns back to my place before returning the car. I left it to Dave to explain the blood and clean up the car. His fathers car, his blood, his problem. But what are mates for in a situation like that, eh? So there you have it. We may not have gone on an expensive African safari but wildlife hunting, cat shooting and all the danger, thrills and spills of the hunt were ours for the cost of an air rifle, a tin of pellets and a few shotgun cartridges. There ARE shooting and hunting opportunities available in the UK to the financially embarrassed, just not the conventional ones usually thought of. You just need strong nerves, some lateral thinking and determination to seek out alternative pleasures.

New Zealand shooters? You lot do not realise just how lucky you are!



This is a picture from World War II - a soldier carrying a donkey. It is not that the soldier loves donkeys or has some sort of perversion. What's happening is that the field is mined and that if the donkey was free to wonder as it pleased, it would likely detonate a charge and kill everyone.

The moral of the story is that during difficult times the first ones you have to keep under control are the jackasses who don't understand the danger and do as they please.

God's Plan for Seniors

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

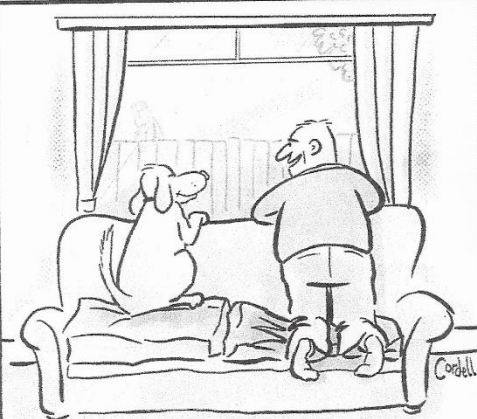
Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest (even though you mutter under your breath).

They said a mask and gloves were enough to go to the supermarket.

They lied - everybody else had clothes on.



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."

Welcome to New Treasurer

It is with some pleasure that I can announce the appointment of Aaron Shields as our new Branch Treasurer effective 8th May 2020.

We have put the proposal to our Committee after Warren advised he was keen to reduce his workload somewhat (we have tended to “overlook” the fact that Warren has “double-downed” as Treasurer and Secretary combined !).

Aaron speaks for himself below in his “application” for the role:

Dear Committee,

Throughout the three years I have been a member of the Nelson Branch I have witnessed your ever-present commitment to our collective passion of hunting. Thank you for that commitment on behalf of all Nelson members.

I wish to formally reduce your workload and put forward my interest in joining the Committee in the role as Treasurer at the earliest opportunity. My desire to be involved in NZDA on an organisational level is the result of the developments over the last 12 months that have seriously threatened what I love doing. I have involved myself at arms-length with the Nelson Branch Action Group until this point establishing basic organisational capabilities for us to communicate and share documents.

I spend my working time as a financial investment adviser and am constantly attached to a computer. I have some experience with Xero but will develop that further. I currently sit on the board of the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce which has similarities in that it is a member funded organisation with a strong history. Right now, I would rather be sitting high on a West Coast ridge glassing the scrub below me for Chamois and Tahr but that will have to wait.

In summary, hunting sits high on my priorities, I am caretaker for the life savings of individuals and community groups and can demonstrate the essential skills of trust and fiduciary duty required in a Treasurer.

I have experience in member funded organisations. Treasurer is also a role I can reasonably commit the time to.

Aaron Shields



This news must be followed by an enormous vote of thanks to Warren for his unstinting work as Treasurer for, as Warren puts it “oh...decades...” !!! His diligence and attention to detail has been great and we all know that organisations such as ourselves struggle with such duties.



Obviously, his presence to assist in handover to Aaron will be invaluable and appreciated. Our Branch's recent transition into internet banking and Xero accounting system will mean less paper shuffling and simplified reporting for Aaron but the responsibilities remain the same. So, on behalf of the Branch welcome Aaron and Warren thanks again for remaining as Secretary!

Greg Couper

Red Deer Lodge

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

Contact the Calders: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz
Use the website at www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Saying you are a member

2020 Committee

Committee:

President: Greg Couper gregc@nzdanelson.co.nz

Vice President: Richard Wells richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz

Secretary: Warren Plum warrenp@nzdanelson.co.nz

Members: Bill O'Leary, Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Mike DeGray, Neill Cliffe, John Noakes, Mike Grant, David Haynes, Immo Neumann

Range Committee:

Convener: Graeme Ching, graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz

Members: Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Bill O'Leary

Hazard or Incident Reporting: website email (nelson.nzda@gmail.com) or contact member of Range Committee

Access, Rules and Safety: see website <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/range.html> and check your emails for updates or changes to range opening times

Branch Hunts and Activities:

Convener: Mike DeGray miked@nzdanelson.co.nz

Hunts Courses:

Website: <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/hunts.html>

Convener: Bill O'Leary b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz

Members: Lawson, Alistair Ching

New members:

email nelsonnzda@gmail.com or go to webpage <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/index.html>

The Mountain Echo

Bill O'Leary and Richard Wells