



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA October 2020



Mike Grant receiving the Sports Store trophy for the best Chamois head and the Eddy Trophy for the best head on Douglas Score conversion.

Editorial

The Election and other things.

It is pretty hard to feel that bad things don't come singly.

Covid and the subsequent disruption to hunting and duck shooting was bad enough but coming on top of the passing of the Arms Legislation Act 2020 and the culling of tahr it appeared that things could not get much worse.

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Sadly, the implications are that a continuance of a Labour Green government will result in further impacts on firearm ownership and hunting.

There are plenty of rumours that semi autos (shotguns and rimfire rifles) are in the frame for future banning. Currently national shooting associations are putting time and effort into attempting to second guess the regulations that will govern the management of shooting ranges.

NZDA and GAC are seriously concerned that hunting is threatened as the focus of the current (future??) Minister of Conservation is widening from tahr to deer.

NZDA as a national hunting organisation is apolitical and must work with whichever political party is elected to govern. NZDA does engage with the process of legislation through the whole process of participating on expert committees, providing advice directly to ministers, submitting on draft bills and keeping membership informed **but** NZDA cannot directly advise members how they should vote.

In contrast, COLFO is a lobby organisation and has openly advised firearm owners who they should vote for and why.

Individual NZDA members have supported particular parties and will continue to do so and will base their support on a consideration of the many policies that political parties submit to the electorate and as policies change members may change their political allegiance. That is how democracy works in this country. Also in this country, we have MMP and the opportunity to vote strategically making a considered decision to support the party, the candidate or the policy. It is a bit like shopping at the supermarket. I only wish everyone votes the way I will but good luck on that!

Trying to find something to be cheerful about I could argue that the outcome of the two referendums might soften my view of the future or ultimately remove me from all my worries!!

Regards

Bill

Successful Club Night – Recognition Time

The September club night provided the opportunity to acknowledge the loyalty and contribution of two long serving members.

John Crone received his parchment confirming his appointment as a National Life Member and Ken Curtis received his 50-year badge.



The branch congratulates both of these gentlemen and wishes them a continuing and long association with our Nelson branch. On the hunting front, Mike Grant received the Sports Store trophy for the best Chamois head (front page) and the Eddy Trophy for the best head on Douglas Score conversion.



Greg Couper proved he was a hunter with a set of pig tusks as well as being awarded the Benchrest Shooter of the Year. He also showed his versatility by delivering a great presentation on reloading.

Our thanks to all who contributed to the evening.

Range Activities 2020

Packers Creek Range is open at weekends for members except when competition shooting is scheduled.

The main gate at Sharlands Creek is opened at 9 am and 10.30 am.
Movement to the range is possible ONLY at these times.

October 10 - 11

Benchrest competition "Shoot the Triple"
Range not available for normal usage.

November 1

Swazi Sponsored Shoot for Juniors
9 am – 12 pm

This event is sponsored by Swazi and is open to junior members (under 18 on 1 March 2020).

NOTE: A junior member can bring a non-member mate as a guest of the branch.

The Shoot Format will be

1. A fun rimfire shoot on novelty targets @ 50 meters
2. A scoring centre fire shoot on deer/pig targets @ 100meters
 - Mums/Dads/Others? can coach.
 - .22 and .223 ammo and rifles will be provided
 - Prizes will be awarded. Only members will be eligible for prizes donated by Swazi.

Attendees will need

- Drinking water
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Snacks



Organisers Graeme Ching 027 4350594, Bill O'Leary 027 4305008.

The gate at Sharlands Creek will open at 9am and the range is not available for normal usage.



Size does not matter

December 6

10 am

Ken Horner Memorial Shoot at Murchison Range

Hunting rifles only. Slings permitted

\$5.00 range fee. \$2.00 "Guess your score".

- 2 sighters with a rest
- 5 shots prone @ 200 meters, metric targets
- 5 shots prone @ 200 meters, deer targets
- 5 shots sitting @ 200 meters, deer targets
- 5 shots standing @ 100 meters, metric targets

Organiser Maurice Horner

Packers Creek Range is not affected.

COLFO's Guide to Voting

Last night we held our National Firearms Debate in Masterton. As we had hoped, was a mix of tough questions, debate, fun. If you didn't watch it live, you can replay it via our [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#) sites.

And today we are releasing our How to Vote Guide:

[We've prepared a detailed table of the political parties' firearms policies here.](#)

We've also summarised our advice below.

Party Vote

This election, COLFO urges voters who want to protect or affect shooting sports rights, to be bluntly realistic with their party votes. Don't vote for any party that has been hostile to our rights. Do vote for parties that have shown they stand with us. How they've voted in Parliament is critical. What they say they intend for the future is less relevant.

But something else is just as important. Will your vote put someone or keep someone in Parliament? If not, that vote is wasted. Completely. It may actually help hostile parties. If your preferred party is not reasonably sure to get over

5% of the party votes, don't vote for it. They will not be in Parliament. Your vote will be useless.

For this election, it looks as if only ACT and National will be in Parliament, of the parties who respect our rights. Protest votes are hardly ever influential. In this election, do not throw your vote away.

Constituency or Electorate Vote?

It does not matter much for shooting sports rights which candidate gets your electorate or constituency member vote. Of course, we'd hope that you did not support individuals who have been hostile. But for this election no constituency MP vote is likely to make the slightest difference to which party forms the government. And who governs is what matters above all, this time around.

You could use your electorate vote to say 'thank you' to candidates who have shown their respect for our rights. It will not affect which parties' rule.

How not to vote

Do not give your party vote to the Greens or Labour. It would strengthen them.

They've been painting licenced firearms owners as the real villains. A Labour-Green Government unhampered by NZ First could make the existing situation far worse.

A vote for NZ First is likely to be pointless now, even if you think they kept a brake on the worst that Labour and the Greens wanted to do to us. That is not a judgment on their policies. Simply that there appears to be no prospect of them making the 5% MMP threshold for returning to Parliament.

Giving your vote to any party unlikely to be in Parliament just means it is shared among the parties who are in Parliament, in rough proportions according to their party voting success. In short, **a vote for a party unlikely to be in Parliament may mean in effect that most of your vote is shared among Labour and the Greens**, if they get the most votes. At the moment it appears that only ACT, National, the Greens and Labour are likely to be in Parliament.

It is conceivable that the Maori Party will be there, off the back of success in a Maori Electorate. From our experience of trying to interest Maori electorate MPs in the risks of bad firearms law on Maori, there is no point wasting your party vote on the Maori Party, if you are concerned about good law in this area.

Unhappily we also have to caution you when considering a vote for New Conservative, despite them having firearms policy we can applaud. COLFO realises that this advice will be hurtful to some. We wish we could reward the New Conservative party policy, but a 'reward' vote that does not affect who is in Parliament is not a sensible vote. **The brutal reality of the MMP 5% threshold means that for this election a shooting sports vote for New Conservative will be useless unless they get 5%. That looks unlikely on current polling.**

Our role to inform LFOs

COLFO is politically non-aligned. That means we are not members of, or beholden to any political party. But nor can we be politically neutral. We have to urge you to vote for the parties that will have practical power in Parliament to value, protect and advance the rights and interests of our members and supporters.

COLFO hopes that we will be able to encourage voting support for more parties in the next election.

But we cannot wish success for political parties and politicians who are hostile to our rights and interests. And part of our role is to make sure you know which party is in which category.

That does not mean we refuse to engage with hostile parties. We will help them understand unintended consequences to minimise the damage they might do. But for an organisation like COLFO, set up to guard legislated rights, election time is when we need to steer votes to where they will do most good, and avoid most bad.

So our voting guide has to be ruthlessly realistic. At each election, COLFO will not beat about the bush. We will tell you how we think you can have the most influence with your vote. Election time is the only time most of us get to tell politicians what to do, decide who will exercise power over us, and how they treat us.

If you want to understand more about the individual firearm policies of every party contesting this election [see our how to vote guide by clicking here.](#)

Repeated studies show that most New Zealanders still struggle to understand the details of how MMP works. If you're interested, [there is a good summary on our website.](#)

So, let's stick together this election, and make sure the voice of licenced firearms owners is heard.

Thank you for your support,

Michael Dowling

Chairman

Council of Licenced Firearms Owners

Fish & Game Report

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **FISH RELEASES:** 300 supersized rainbows have been released into Lake Argyle in time for the new season. Staff have fielded plenty of reports from anglers who have caught some of these fish.
- **PARA WETLAND WORK CONTINUES:** The Marlborough field officer has been busy in Para Wetland spraying willows and planting more native species. This wetland is really starting to take shape now and provides hunters with a handy hunting option, and has wonderful benefits to waterfowl and an array of native species.
- **ACCESS WORK:** Staff have been getting around fishing access points and will aim to have visited all access points in the region in the next month. Work here includes replacing old/damage signage, building stiles over fences, spraying weeds and clearing tracks. If you notice our access signs are slightly different, we have started adding small stickers to visually indicate to anglers whether the fishery is open all year or closed over winter. This was done to minimise confusion over where fishing is permissible, which is common for some anglers when trying to decipher winter fishing regulations.
- **TROUT SEASON UNDERWAY:** The trout season has commenced and there have been reports of some good fishing, despite high spring flows. The fish population appear to have had a very good winter and are mostly in excellent condition making for some lively fights in the higher than normal flows.



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 terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz

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

Secretary: Warren Plum plumstone@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: Aaron Shields aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz

Members: Bill O'Leary, Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Mike DeGray, Neill Cliffe, John Noakes, Mike Grant, David Haynes, Carina Jackson.

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 Davey, 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