



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA August 2021



Paul Peychers' gorgeous pic of crested grebe carrying chick. This never won a place in photocomp but as grebes are amongst the Editor's favourite birds it gets front page billing! and thanks Paul! Look for them on Lake Lyndon and especially southern lakes such as Dunstan



Last Club Night was great! – Warren Plum demonstrated 60 years' experience in trophy preparation in a fun and informative way!

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

Contents Overview

Editorial

Photographic Competition Special

Range Matters – Events Calendar 2022-23 and National Competition Results Nelson Winners!

Notes from NZDA Regional Meeting

Trapped!

Fish & Game Report

Club Night - Tuesday 30th Aug – Doors open 6.30pm
Hunting and Fishing Tech Talk

Important Links and Contacts

Editorial

Hi All,

This month's Echo highlights the wonderful results from our photographic competition. Great range of pictures across all themes that show what NZDA is all about....many thanks to all entrants! Also of note Paul Peychers took out several prizes in the National competition too! Next year we will run the competition entry as a digital event with online entries, the photos look better than scanned prints and the reduction in workload for the organisers is massive, I bet National Competition follows suit! Thanks to those this year who used the online system.



We had a regional meeting recently (notes below) and great to see Golden Bay along, we hope to continue to improve these lines of communication amongst upper South Island Branches for mutual benefit of all.

Times are tough economically and may be so for some time. At Conference several people remarked how much they had saved using the discounts available from their membership, like saving their membership fee 3 times over!. Now true confessions...I have NEVER used what's on offer and now realise I'm a damn fool! Over the last several years I have bought ute tires, a TV, a kayak and DIY hardware and never thought! Doh! Obviously discounts don't apply to sales goods etc and you might be able to thrash out a deal...but clearly some are onto this real \$\$ membership benefit and from now on I am getting with the programme!

Greg and I attended National Conference and this was the 7th consecutive time for us! The gathering was positive and forward looking, while acknowledging some difficult conservation, access and firearms/range policy to negotiate through. There were some great speakers, Nicole McKee (who has been aa NZDA member for 22 years and is a staunch supporter of our ideals and principles) and Cam Speedy were energising standouts. DOC had an exhibition stand near the meeting room with a map highlighting all the conservation work undertaken by branches throughout the country with Nelson well represented with is goat and wilding pines control work locally. We cannot underestimate the value of this work. More on Conference in the next newsletter and keep an eye on information from National Office.

Yours truly was accepted onto the National Board which I take on with some pride and am now getting sorted for the communication systems and processes required. Immediate learning is that everything is very well organised and there is a lot of work and issues in constant discussion via email etc. A bit daunting but I look forward to being of service to the Association at the national level. This means doing less at branch level and while I will remain as a Committee member for as long as this makes sense to both our Club and myself, my focus must now be the National perspective.

It is excellent to see the organisation of the hunting access via Rainbow Station. I acknowledge the work done by Aaron (and other Committee members) to achieve this and then organise it operationally. Uptake was swift and solid so obviously people are keen. This access is for NZDA members only so please accept the responsibility of showing our brand in a good light! Any poor behaviour can only be by an NZDA member so exclusivity brings even more responsibility. And good luck to all who are going.

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

Photo Competition Results

Overall Winner – Wildlife Cup (and 1st Place Tantrum Cup)



Aggressive Stag

Warren Plum's fantastic shot of an amp'd up stag.....surely those eyes have a red glint?

Tantrum Cup



Second Place Paul Peychers' "Bambi"



Third Place Paul Peychers' "Whitetail Doe"

Worsley Cup – Stalking Country



First Place Cory Jones – “Reflection”



Second Place Warren Plum – “Nelson Lakes”



Third Place Richard Wells – “Dalgety Range - Spring Snow”

Livingstone Cup – Native Birds



First Place Warren Plum – “Robin”



Second Place Cory Jones – “Kingfisher”



Third Place Paul Peychers – “Whio”

Hunting Memories



First Place Richard Wells - “Meg Hut Candlelit”

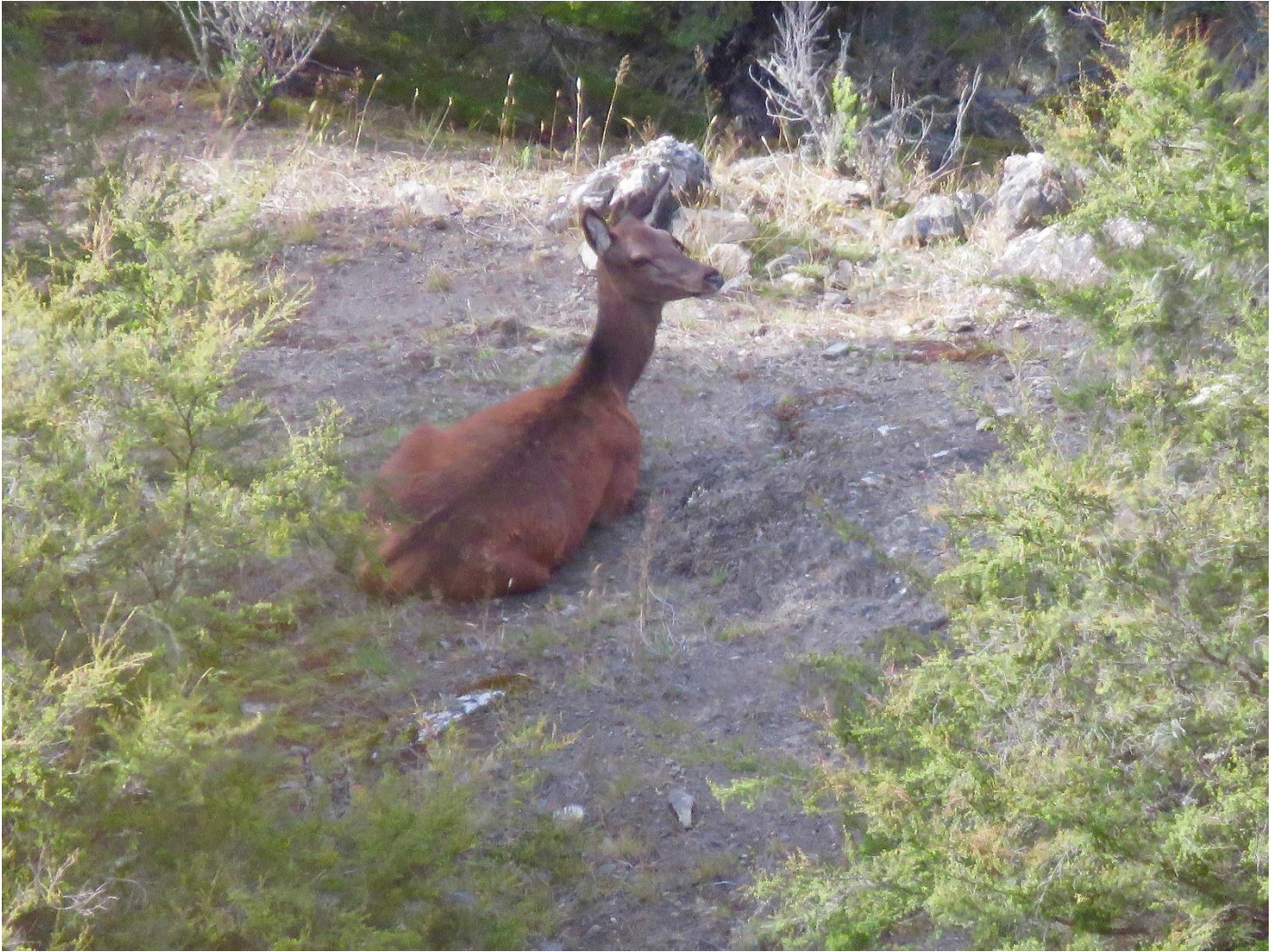


Second Place Aaron Tapper - "Alpine Camp"



Third Place Richard Wells - "Coffee break @ Molesworth"

Tex Stratford Memorial Cup – Under 18 YO



First Place Tom Cliffe - "Hind Lying Down"



Second Place Tom Cliffe - "Hind Looking Back"

Insects and Reptiles



First Place Paul Peychers – “Resting Bellfrog”



Second Place Paul Peychers – “Red Admiral”



Third Place Paul Peychers – “Copper Butterfly”

Other Mammals



First Place Paul Peychers - “Sea Lion”



Second Place Paul Psychers - "Sea Lion Pup"



Third Place Paul Psychers - "Don't Come any Closer!"

Flora



First Place Paul Peychers – “Kepler Track Fungi”



Second Place Richard Wells – “Twin Towers”



Third Place Paul Peychers – “Fungus 2”

Range Matters – 2022-23 Events Calendar

Time to get your diary put and mark up these dates for coming seasons great shooting events!! Also available on our website.

2022-23 Benchrest – Summer Outdoor Program

Sunday 11 September 2022	1pm	5 x 50m Hunter Targets	Nelson
Sunday 16 October 2022	11am	2 x 50m International Targets	Murchison
22-24 October 2022	<i>NZDA South Island Centrefire Champs</i>		<i>Nelson</i>
Sunday 13 November 2022	1pm	5 x 100m Hunter Class Targets	Nelson
Saturday / Sunday 10-11 December 2022	<i>Canterbury Rimfire Champs McLeans Island (Best Guess)</i>		
Sunday 18 December 2022	1pm	5 x 50m Group Targets	Nelson
Sunday 15 January 2023	1pm	5 x 50m Hunter Class Targets	Nelson
Sunday 12 February 2023	11am	2 x 50m International Targets	Murchison
20-26 February 2023	<i>TSNZ Nationals</i>	<i>Venue unknown (best Guess)</i>	
Sunday 12 March 2023	1pm	5 x 100 yd Group Targets	Nelson
18-19 March 2023	<i>South Island Outdoor Champs</i>	<i>McLeans Island (Best Guess)</i>	
7-9 April 2023	<i>NZDA Nationals</i>	<i>- 9 April Rimfire Champs (3 International Targets)</i>	
Sunday 16 April 2023	1pm	5 x 100m Hunter Targets	Nelson
Sunday 7 May 2022	1pm	2 x International Targets	Nelson
14-16 July 2023	Matariki Rimfire Challenge		

As always – all welcome and any questions or advice for newcomers to this sport please don't hesitate to contact

Graeme Smith Phone **03 544 7138** or email lvhvbr@gmail.com

National Shooting Competition Results - Nelson members impress!

Benchrest Nationals

Light Varmint Grand Aggregate

1st Peter Haxell Auckland 0.3059"
2nd Greg Couper Nelson 0.3089"
3rd Ian Owen South Canterbury 0.3113"

Heavy Varmint Grand Aggregate

1st Greg Couper Nelson 0.4237"
2nd Ian Owen South Canterbury 0.4358"
3rd Tony Titheridge Nelson 0.5286"

2 Gun Grand Aggregate

1st Greg Couper Nelson 0.3663"
2nd Ian Owen South Canterbury 0.3735"
3rd Tony Titheridge Nelson 0.4431"

Rimfire

1st Carina Jackson Nelson 736.32
2nd Greg Couper Nelson 730.28
3rd Sue Gavin 728.23

3 Gun

1st Greg Couper Nelson 250
2nd Ian Owen South Canterbury 210
3rd Peter Haxell Auckland 180

Benchrest Shooter of the Year (2021)

Tony Titheridge Nelson 132 points

Top of the South NZDA Regional Meeting

Venue and Time: Red Deer Lodge, St Arnaud 11/06/2022 10:30-5:00 pm

Present:

Nelson; Neil Cliffe, David Haynes, Richard Wells, Greg Couper.

Golden Bay; Jo De Vos.

Marlborough; Trevor Dibben, Mark Sloper, Snow Hewetson, Bill Frost.

Guests; Anthony Phillips (OSPRI), John Wotherspoon (DOC)

Marlborough Branch report/overview:

- Branch has spent \$230k on helicopters to conduct ungulate control operations from 2010 to 2021 & \$7625 over ANZAC weekend 2022
- Branch runs Newbie hunter scheme, which has been very popular and well subscribed. Camphill Station now appears to be not available, so additional properties being looked at to continue initiative.
- A number of organised member hunts conducted each year, Goulter, Upcot Station, Ferny Gair, Lake Rotoroa
New trips - North, Mid & South Big Glory Bay-Stewart Island Nov 2021, 12 members went into North Arm & Rakeahua blocks Stewart Island May/June 2022, 3 Stewart Island blocks booked for club hunt in 2023. Also looking at organising future Molesworth hunts for members.
- Branch put in a submission on proposed changes to Range Rules, Branch shares range with Marlborough Fullbore Club.
- Molesworth OSPRI 1080 operation in eastern Acheron area will be conducted in October 2022, repellent will be used over entire station. OSPRI have informed us that due to success of operations (i.e. very low residual possum numbers) to date and no positive test results in cattle, OSPRI have now decided to conduct only one more poison drop in each of the 3 operational areas.
TB has been found in possums and mustelids in the Mt Alexander (Clarence) area and on the adjoining Rainbow Station.
Repellent will not be used on the Rainbow Station, due to possible enhanced risk to kea. (David Haynes circulated DOC policy paper regarding kea and 1080) [DOC Kea Policy - Aerial 1080](#)
- The Rainbow Station poison operation was discussed, do we want to be involved and push for use of repellent?
- Membership up 20%
- Molesworth access was highlighted as being an on-going problem for hunters, in particular the difficulty in trying to gain concessions to use station roads. Noted need to get more information and continue dialogue re access.

Nelson branch report/overview:

- Murchison & Packers Creek ranges agreements being developed with landowners etc.
- New range rules and associated problems with certification were discussed.
- HUNTS course with 10 people underway
- Red Deer Lodge, lease renewed for another 30 years
- Branch has held a couple of national range shoots
- Branch membership growing
- Kahurangi animal management hunt carried out, 60-70 goats culled, DOC paid for helicopter.
- Branch has made 3 game meat donations to Nelson food bank. A local butcher had made this possible by agreeing to process the meat, once a month at cost price.

Golden Bay branch report/overview

- COLFO submission put in
- Modernising Range details and working on recertification
- Cobb hut lease renewed for an additional 10 years
- Hunter intentions sign on Cobb ridge finally in place
- Membership up 10%
- Low deer numbers being reported across Kahurangi, on going “battle for the birds”, 1080 poison operations being the most likely reason. Deer repellent has only been used in relatively small areas where the Fallow herd is located.
- No secretary has been found yet for branch
- Branch members involved in RHA operation in Lewis Pass area with Nth Canty. 126 breeding hinds culled during operation. Very positive feedback received on successful initiative.

Guest speakers

Anthony Phillips from OSPRI

Anthony spoke to meeting, provided an overview of current and pending poison operations in the top of the South Island.

- **Willow flat area** 5,395ha (Hawkes Bay- dry land country); Objective being to determine possum control efficacy and deer/pig by-kill incurred during aerial 1080 operation using Prodeer repellent.
Trail cameras were used to determine pre & post deer densities, rather than relying on collaring deer. Evidence suggests that minimal deer by-kill resulted, but for some reason pigs seem to have been affected.
96% reduction in possum activity in poison area.
- **Molesworth** TBfree operation 2021
Low sow trials and use of Prodeer was extremely successful in both possum control and deer survival.
100% of radio collared possums died and 95% of collared deer survived. 351 live deer and 7 dead deer observed in treatment area.
- **Hari Hari** TB response update;
Three-year response plan developed, which is out for consultation in the community.
\$9 million investment planned over next 5 years, towards pest control work in Hari Hari area.

South Westland/Upper Wanganui possum control operation (23,000ha) completed in March 2022

Anthony provided a handout with maps showing the upper South Island provisional control plan over next 5 years.

John Wotherspoon from DOC St Arnaud (Melissa Griffin an apology)

John spoke about the concessions to open up the wilderness area in Southwestern corner of the National Park, specifically for ungulate management, to two helicopter operators. The objective being to allow hunters to access hard to reach locations and control perceived high ungulate numbers. He discussed positive and negative feedback from hunters involved and expressed a desire to find ways to make the collaborative effort between DOC and hunters as effective as possible in the future.

Data provided:

27 Oct - 11 Nov

	Deer	Chamois	total
Seen	330	83	413
Shot	78	14	92

Deer- 51% female, 49% male

Chamois 21% female, 79% male

13-28 April

	Deer	Chamois	total
Seen	249	88	337
Shot	52	23	75

Deer- 44% female 56% male

Chamois 65% female 35% male

We thanked both guest speakers for talking to us and continued with recap of days meeting and any general topics not covered.

- Marlborough Branch will meet with Phil Bradfield to discuss:
 1. Molesworth access issues and why hunting permits only allow 5 persons? Surely 6 hunters would be a more practical and safe number?
 2. Rainbow poison operation, could we have some involvement? Kea mitigation issue.
- Restoration of the Te Hoiere/Pelorus river catchment funding, could we tap into this project it somehow? Whio?
- Possibility of organising a joint range shoot between our 3 branches

Meeting closed at 5:00 pm

Trapped!



A-maizing – weasel gone vegetarian but who cares?. Caught at Packers Creek Range

Another great story from the Drake family trappers.....Piebald rats?

Despite it being winter, a time when I would've thought foods would've been at a bit more of a premium for all things 'Rodenty', the kill rate at Alan's place in central Nelson suburbs was a big fat donut (that's slang for zero)!

The kids duly lost interest in checking the traps and it would appear that the vermin must've put the word out to stay away from the place with the wooden boxes around the perimeter fence. You can even see the mycelium (fungus / mould) starting to claim the peanut butter in this picture – totally safe from the waiting springs of the Victor.

Then one windless night at 11.30 pm, I heard the unmistakable SMACK! Of a trap going off. Close inspection in the morning revealed a ship rat, but one that I'd never seen such a weird colourway on before. I can't help wondering if some ones "pet" rat (if there is such a thing these days) had escaped and got together with *Rattus rattus* to create 'Rattus-weird-colouris'.

Anyway...moral of the story?

Well – there isn't one – other than to say don't give up completely, and use Pic's Peanut butter, as the lower sugar content actually makes the bait last about 10 times as long as the other brands.

PS I agree Pic's Peanut butter is the go for rat traps! As well as a great sandwich! The Ed.



Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



TROUT HATCHERY: We are in the middle of trout spawning season, and hatchery staff are currently stripping ripe females for eggs in order to create next years' release stock. Typically we fertilise around 10K eggs with the milt from jack fish, with the aim to release 5000-6000 1kg+ fish into selected waterways over the season. Around 4000-5000 of the excess trout fry are surplus to requirements and are released into Lake Argyle.

GAME BIRD HUNTERS IN THE NEWS: Recently Nelson Marlborough gamebird hunters have been in the headlines for two great causes. Firstly, proceeds from the Wakapuaka pukeko drive and from private Marlborough hunters were converted into sausages and have been given to Kai Rescue for distribution to individuals and families in need - similar to what the NZDA have done recently with big game meat. The bird carcasses were then given to the Marlborough Falcon Trust, which will feed the falcons over the coming months. We consider this a triple win - time spent in the outdoors hunting, meat provided to feed people and the carcasses to the Falcon Trust. The story and video was on stuff, and Radio New Zealand also interviewed David Haynes (NMF&G & Nelson NZDA), as well as game food chef, Phil Hazeldine

ORGANISED HUNTS: The busy season of organised gamebirds hunts has concluded. All told we had very strong attendance at all hunts, going to show how popular facilitated access is here, especially in this region where access is getting more difficult as the region grows.



And we luv.....



Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue **More info here:** [Meat Solutions](#)

Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out

Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: [Benefits and Discounts](#) and NZDA Benefits APP as per email from NZDA HQ on 17 Se

NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

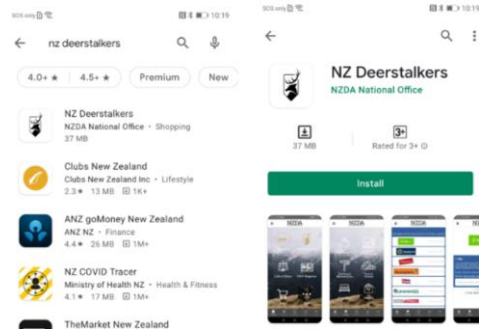
Available Now!



We are excited to announce the NZDA Membership App is now live and can be downloaded today!

How to download the app

1) Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for **NZ Deerstalkers**. Select **Install** or **GET**.



Exclusive NZDA discounts:

- Interisland Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
- [Go Native](#) outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
- [SWAZI Pro Deal](#), sign-up with your valid NZDA membership
- [Napier of London](#) shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
- [AJ Productions](#) - electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
- [Kilwell Sports](#) hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
- Hunting with [Huntahr Guiding](#), 10% discount
- Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
- [Murchison Heli Tours](#), 10% off your flights
- [NZ Taxidermy Ltd](#), 10% discount on mounts
- [Bullivant Taxidermy](#), 10% discount on mounts
- 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual [Backcountry Hut Pass](#) or 'Hut Pass'. [See the DOC website for more details](#)



Club Night – Hunting & Fishing Tech Talk

More great and useful info from Laura and the Team at Nelson Hunting and Fishing!



AUGUST CLUB NIGHT



HUNTING & FISHING 50 ACHILLES AVENUE, NELSON AUGUST 30TH DOORS OPEN AT 6.30PM, STARTS AT 7PM.

WHETHER YOU'RE TOO COLD, TOO HOT, OR THE GROUND IS ALWAYS TOO HARD, COME LEARN HOW TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES WHEN IT COMES TO SLEEPING IN OUR BIG BACKYARD.

JOIN US INSTORE FOR AN **NZDA EXCLUSIVE** DISCUSSION ON SLEEPING BAGS, MATS, LINERS, AND PILLOWS.

THE STORE WILL BE STAFFED AND TILLS OPEN, PLUS THERE WILL BE **SPECIAL VIP PRICING** ON THE NIGHT!

GUEST SPEAKER NEIL STICHBURY
FROM BRANDS RAB & KLYMIT



Time and Date:

Doors Open 6.30 – Starts 7 pm Tuesday 30th August

Venue:

Hunting and Fishing Store Achilles Avenue & Carpark **Nelson City**

Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

All details can be found on our refreshed website: [Nelson Branch Committee](#)

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

COLFO [COLFO](#)

Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)

MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)

Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

NZ Police (Firearms Law) [Firearms](#)

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

Also see here for firearms storage and carriage: [NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms](#)
