

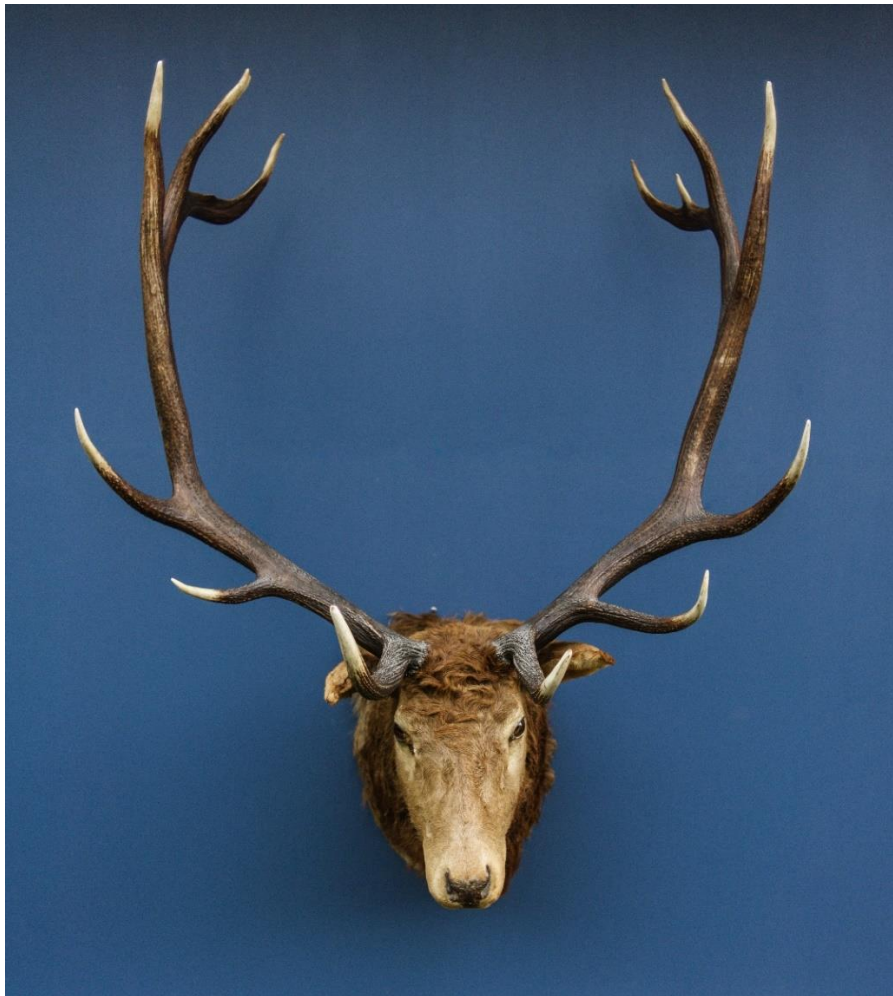


MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA Dec 2021



Christmas Special Jumbo Edition



What better way to end the year with a pic of fantastic head from the past!

Wapiti shot by Newt McConochie in 1951 - Pitt River Fiordland - 401 3/8 DS.

Just one of many world class heads that we are steward of at Red Deer Lodge shot by Newton, a born and bred Nelsonian, past National President and Patron. Newt left his indelible mark on maps in our region, hunting circles nationally and internationally. His book "You Will Learn No Harm from the Hills" is a NZ hunting classic.

See more on this below in RDL Heritage story...

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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Next Club Night will be February 22nd 2022 – watch this space.....

Editorial



The year is all but done! Thankfully, we have had the opportunities, especially in the South Island, to get back out hunting and travel to shooting events.....who knows what next year holds in store?

While the year has been marred by the uncertainties and disruptions to family and incomes wrought by Covid response, it has also been a notable one for NZDA at both National and our local Branch levels.

The National Conference cemented in our great CEO Gwyn Thurlow and demonstrated the strength we have in Wellington and the regions. The focus on greatly improved lobbying and public communication is visible and welcomed. The very professional look and feel of the association is obvious.

At a local level we are lifting our game too. Our own AGM saw more young go-getters step forward to join the Committee and we now have (in my not so humble opinion) an extraordinary mix of experience and institutional knowledge coupled with vigour and new skills brought by the younger members. This is reflected in more ideas, activities and communication. Sure, we will have a few growing pains but it is fantastic to see and I am confident there is more to come in 2022. Thanks to all Committee members and supporting members for their efforts in 2021.

In addition, this year we have undertaken steps to protect our assets and heritage – license re-applications for Red Deer Lodge and our Ranges, significant general maintenance with help from members and collating and photo-archiving trophies, cups and documents. While we are focussed on the future, securing the past is a major and worthwhile achievement.

See the pictures of the barbeque held at Packers Creek on Sunday, a shout out to event leaders Mike DeGray, Aaron and Carina, those that helped them and those that turned up to support a great feed and catch up.

Special thanks to our contributing storytellers this month, great pics and narrative of hunting from different perspectives; both highlighting the great country in the top of the south! See the reminder about our annual photo-comp – last year saw superb entries from our younger members including overall winner. It's also a good way to get published in Echo without having to write an essay!!

We expect more clarity in the New Year on further Firearms Law reforms and we need all members to maintain a close eye on these. Head Office is very good at communication to all members across NZ. At a local level, the need for faultless management of our Ranges is one aspect we all can directly affect and with this in mind, if you are a range user, please, as your New Year's resolution, refresh yourself with the Standing Orders and other rules regarding general health and safety matters as well as access. These can be found here [Nelson NZDA Ranges](#)

So have a good break and all the fun that the festive season brings. Next edition February.

The Editor *Richard Wells*

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

Special Welcome – New President from over “the Hill”

Golden Bay Branch contacted us recently via their brand new President Jo De Vos. We have had a brief introduction with Jo who is keen to increase connections with Nelson and other Branches even with the Takaka Hill barrier. So welcome Jo, we look forward to more shared activities and problem solving. Here is his self-written intro:

My name is Jo De Vos and I have recently taken over the Golden Bay Branch presidency from Wayne Sixtus.

I am originally from Belgium and came over to NZ when I was 20 years old with a backpack full of big dreams. I met a local girl here in Takaka during my travels and nearly 20 years and 3 sons later I'm still here in Golden Bay!

The great outdoors has always been a passion of mine and when I arrived in NZ, hunting became part of that passion. I became a member of NZDA about 8 years ago and I am happy to do my bit to ensure free range hunting in NZ will stay around for future generations to come. I love taking my family into the hills hunting and coming home with delicious free range game meat. Growing up in Europe, sadly hunting is becoming a sport for the wealthy and elite so we are incredibly lucky and privileged here in NZ to be able to head into the hills hunting whenever we feel like it. Let's keep it that way!

Look forward to meeting you all.

Cheers, Jo



Range Matters

2021 South Island Benchrest Championships.

Labour weekend at Packers Creek Range was the venue for this year's event. We were expecting twelve shooters to attend but for various reasons including Covid preventing travel for our Auckland Shooters six was the final turnout.

It may have been small but not lacking in quality. The weather predictions suggested a fine start to the weekend with rain Sunday/Monday. As usual they were wrong and we had fine but wind conditions a little tricky (for some anyhow).

First up was the Light Varmint Championship (gun weighing under 10 ½ lbs). Nelson's Steve Williams set the pace taking the 100yard groups on Saturday afternoon and finishing off a 200yard win on Sunday morning for an overall win. He was followed by President Greg Couper and our Committee member Carina Jackson.

Sunday saw 200 yards Heavy Varmint (gun under 13lbs) and again Steve Williams was doing the business with a win at that range. However close behind was Christchurch shooter Tony Titheridge who produced an excellent string at 100 yards on Monday morning to take overall 1st place. Carina finished 2nd and Steve Williams faded to 3rd placing.

Presentation of the Michael Peacock Memorial Trophy for the Grand Aggregate of both matches was awarded to Steve Williams, followed by Greg and Tony.

See here for interest (**actually, AWE!!**) is the small group of the day shot by Carina Jackson – what we call a zero group or an "Official Screamer". Have a close look and see if you can identify the 5 shots in the hole. Fortunately, we run a moving backer system to catch the number of shots and yes, we can confirm there were 5.

Graeme Smith



Results:

Light Benchrest and multi-gun

Date : 23/10/2021		S.I.		Title: 2021 South Island Be								
Range: Nelson		S.I.		Class: Light Benchrest - I								
Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	PN	GA	PN	
Steve Williams	S.I. 100 2014 200		.279	.375	.158	.325	.270	.2814	1		.2683	1
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200		.224	.272	.288	.303	.321	.2816	2		.2948	2
Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200		.176	.668	.262	.370	.423	.3798	3		.3441	3
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200		.492	.412	.363	.360	.321	.3896	4		.3518	4
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200		.477	.332	.337	.705	.199	.4100	5		.3930	5
Michael Kidson	S.I. 100 2106 200		.498	.527	.313	.474	.506	.4636	6		.4311	6
Best Scores 100						Best Scores 200						
A	C Jackson		.176			A	C Jackson		.569			
B	G Couper		.272			B	G Couper		.460			
C	S Williams		.158			C	S Williams		.482			
D	G Couper		.303			D	S Williams		.408			
E	G Smith		.199			E	S Williams		.433			
SG	S Williams		.158	(Rec .065)		SG	S Williams		.408	(Rec .133)		
Agg	S Williams		.2814	(Rec .1812)		Agg	S Williams		.2552	(Rec .1978)		
Printed: 24/10/2021 03:00 pm				Benchrest Bulletin Scoring				v3.23				

MULTI GUN RESULTS (Group) - 21 South Island Champs 2 G

		23/10/21	24/10/21	2 Gun
		LBI	HBI	
1	Steve Williams	0.2683	0.2849	0.2766
2	Greg Couper	0.2948	0.2918	0.2933
3	Tony Titheridge	0.3518	0.2645	0.3082
4	Carina Jackson	0.3441	0.2813	0.3127
5	Graeme Smith	0.3930	0.4153	0.4041
6	Michael Kidson	0.4311	0.6632	0.5472
Printed: 25/10/2021 12:37 pm		Benchrest		

Heavy Benchrest

Date : 24/10/2021 Title: 2021 South Island Be
 Range: Nelson S.I. Class: Heavy Benchrest - I

Name		W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg		GAgg	PN
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200		.197 .399	.135 .569	.216 .641	.379 .758	.296 .477	.2446 .2844	1 2		.2645 1
Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200		.098 .743	.265 .416	.340 .964	.200 .531	.330 .506	.2466 .3160	2 4		.2813 2
Steve Williams	S.I. 100 2014 200		.240 .604	.291 .483	.339 .518	.295 .570	.370 .453	.3070 .2628	4 1		.2849 3
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200		.166 .459	.265 .830	.400 .603	.290 .567	.328 .478	.2898 .2937	3 3		.2917 4
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200		.777 1.403	.216 .415	.106 1.002	.290 1.415	.230 .833	.3238 .5068	5 5		.4153 5
Michael Kidson	S.I. 100 2106 200		.645 .905	.759 1.626	.894 .878	.890 1.375	.572 .960	.7520 .5744	6 6		.6632 6

Best Scores 100

A	C Jackson	.098
B	T Titheridge	.135
C	G Smith	.106
D	C Jackson	.200
E	G Smith	.230

Best Scores 200

A	T Titheridge	.399
B	G Smith	.415
C	S Williams	.518
D	C Jackson	.531
E	S Williams	.453

SG	C Jackson	.098	(Rec .068)	SG	T Titheridge	.399	(Rec .203)
Agg	T Titheridge	.2446	(Rec .1622)	Agg	S Williams	.2628	(Rec .1819)

Printed: 25/10/2021 12:36 pm

Benchrest Bulletin Scoring

v3.23



Light Varmint Champs: Greg = 2nd Steve = 1st Carina = 3rd



Heavy Varmint Champs: Carina 2nd Tony 1st and Steve 3rd

Benchrest Shooting – “Getting to know you” Training.



Theory first !!

Packers Creek Range was the venue for a recent training session for prospective new shooters to the sport.

The afternoon involved some discussion about the sport, types of equipment used and what options available

This was followed by some practical shooting experience, using competition .22 rifles to get a hands on feel for the sport.

The day was windy which gave a true perspective of what you might expect to encounter in competition matches.

Tutor Graeme Smith said that with 3 NZDA members and an ex Wellington Fullbore shooter, they very quickly came to grips with the conditions with some expected mumblings about the wind. It was a most worthwhile event and a good example of NZDA in action. After the shooters attend a couple of regular competition events a further, more advanced session will be held for them. Our Tutors are happy to hold a further course if there is sufficient interest.



Putting theory into practice.

Interested??!!

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

Marlborough Experience by Ros McCann

Labour weekend animal management hunt with the Marlborough Deerstalkers - 22nd – 25th October.

Early in October, Marlborough NZDA offered 2 spots on their annual management hunt in the Ferny Gair and Glazebrook conservation areas members from the Nelson NZDA. My partner Simon and I were lucky enough to grab these spots within minutes of the email being sent around to all Nelson members – we had to be in quick!



Epic Marlborough Country

There were 26 hunters flown into allocated blocks to manage high deer, goat and pig numbers. Simon and I were allocated the Teme block and alongside 2 members from Marlborough NZDA. We were the nearest block from the fly site so got flown in last out of the 26 hunters. This gave us plenty of time to chat with everyone else about previous years trips. We found a couple of blokes who had been allocated the Teme block in the past and it was great to discuss the high number of animals they had shot and get some good spots to check out. They had been allocated the block last year and shot around 30 odd deer and a huge number of goats.



We were extremely lucky with our teammates, Snow Hewetson - a well known hunting legend/guide for many years, a huge advocate for hunting and president of the Tahr Foundation. His wealth of knowledge and experience that he was more than happy to share made us extremely lucky to be following him around the hills. Mike Crafar - an expert on all things ballistics and one of the nicest people I've ever met, also has many years' experience, owns many different calibres of rifles and does all his own reloading. Anything we wanted to know about rifles Mike was the man to talk to. Myself being a very novice hunter, I attended a women's hunting course last year run by Real Country teamed with Nelson NZDA, this experience was fantastic for my confidence and knowledge.



Ros and Simon in Marlborough hill country

On the first day we flew in after picking and setting up our camp, we went out for an afternoon hunt, we had spotted many goats on the ridge over from camp so figured we would have a successful wander up the Teme river. We first came across 2 deer carcasses and half a dozen goat carcasses within our first kilometre so figured the block had been hunted reasonably recently. We came across our first couple of goats within shooting range in the first half hour of walking, the boys decided I could shoot the first animal and we set me up under a tree where they couldn't see us, Mike offered to let me shoot his 6.5 Creedmoor and helped me get set up with the rifle, Simon and Snow were set up just to the right of us. I took an awesome shot on a billy at 200m, he ran off a few metres and I thought I may have missed him but when he spun around and revealed the great big hole in his shoulder from my shot he dropped pretty quick. Snow got the other billy before he ran too far. Mike and Simon got to clean up the next mob of goats we came across very effectively. We stopped below Ferny Gair and glassed the ridges surrounding, many goats were seen, where were all the Deer? Snow had spotted some more goats higher up on the ridge from the gully we were in, off we went, Snow leading the way, then me and the other two boys trailing and chatting away about ballistics, Si was in his element yarning to Mike! Snow and I must've been a solid 30m ahead of the others when we nearly stepped on a hind, she gave us just as much of a fright as we gave her! I set up for a shot on her but she was most definitely not stopping to let me take one. We carried on up to Snows mob, when in range he let rip, he was only shooting with a 223 at decent distances for the rifle but he was effective, after the second goat hit the deck a hind ran out at around 200m a seriously well placed shot on the run and she didn't go much further, he then added another 4 goats to his tally, not a good day to be a goat!



Deer.....meat.....meals

The second day we split up to cover more ground. We all put in a big day and did some serious hiking. Simon and I got a few more goats with his .338 Lapua, some at good distances, I shot one out at 300m which was the furthest I have shot an animal which was pretty cool! We saw a lot of deer and pig sign but surprisingly not many animals to go with it. Simon spotted a mob of 3 deer which we watched and stalked for a while but they gave us the slip. Getting back to camp and

trading the days stories was great, Mike and Snow had success with goats for the day and basically fell over a pig which Snow put a good shot on, they had also spotted and watched a decent chamois which they seriously contemplated taking but as they have both shot chamois' and they are a rare find in the area they let him be, for Simon and I who have both never shot a chamois he was a lucky fella to not be on our ridge!

Day 3 - we had some pig hunters wander into our camp, interesting for a landlocked block when the farmer knew we were in there. We were all pretty knackered from our efforts the previous day so the four of us went for a shorter walk and after adding a few more goats to our tally and spotting some deer well out of range we returned back to camp mid-afternoon. Simon was itching to get a deer as our venison stocks were low so decided to go out on a solo mission in the next gully where we had been spotting a few deer from camp. I had a wee nap and I was woken up by Simon's 2 gunshots about an hour after he left, so I got up and chatted with Mike and Snow while we sipped on port and relaxed for the evening. Simon returned just before dark, drenched in sweat from his afternoon efforts, he had a successful adventure taking a hind and a yearling. Venison stash now well stocked!

The DOC land we were all on is mostly inaccessible as it is surrounded by private land, hence the need for these ungulate control hunts of the NZDA working alongside DOC. In our block numbers were significantly lower than in previous years, it was clear access had been given to this block more freely, which meant we had to be a little more selective on what we shot. Most deer seen were left on our block as we were lucky to see a total of 20 odd, out of this we shot 3. In total on our block **we shot 41 goats, 3 deer and 1 pig, with around 20 odd hunting hours per person over the 3 days**. Other blocks were holding much higher animal numbers and in total for the weekend the 26 hunters took **448 goats, 52 red deer (47 females), 1 Fallow (female), 3 pigs and 1 Hare, for a total of 593 hunting hours**. This is great data to have as I'm sure most have seen recent propaganda from Forest and Bird. The trip cost the club and members \$11280 just for the helicopter, this does not include other costs like ammo, food and travel etc with no funding from DOC. Marlborough NZDA have been doing this twice a year since 2012, in this time they have a rough conservative estimate of \$130,000 all funded by members and approximately taken 5000 ungulates. This is a huge effort by everyone involved and is a fantastic example of the benefits the NZDA and its members have in conservation. It was a fantastic weekend that we all thoroughly enjoyed and I will most definitely be signing up again.

The Luck of the Lewis by Julian Malcom

There something really cool about hitting the tops. The beauty and view that can be had leave the mind craving for more. We don't know if it's the amount of sweet precipitated from ones skin or the burning feeling and crazy sounds the lungs give out for the first half hour of the climb, but you know as well as me that once the bush opens up and the skyline becomes the new horizon, it's a very surreal and anticipated feeling. Humans have been hunting for hundreds of years, the vision normally is to provide food for the table to feed the tribe, however from what I have seen, there are animals in the bush and river flats at the bottom of the hill so why climb 1000m to try and find one square meal. Seems a very strange thing to do.



Looking North above sea of cloud

However here we are, 3 keen lads 35-45Year young. Fit as fiddles and keen as mustard. Lewis Pass tops is the goal, recon trip, fitness training and Red deer targeted species if we are lucky. Shannon and I leave Nelson with Lewis Pass in our sights. From Nelson 3 hours travelling with a stop to carbo load at the local chippy in Murchison. Relaxed and warm in the trusty ute arriving mid evening to meet up with third member of our hunting party Torran, travelling up from Christchurch. Once packed, sorted and formalities out of the way we decide to start ascending the hill. Head torches on, GPS out and map and compass checked were off.



Shannon & Julian @ 1600m

On-route to campsite, starting at 620m and aiming for bush line at 1250 and tops at 1650m we had a fair way to go. Crossed the river, low flow below critical crutch height and climb starts smoothly with the normal easy light chatter and feet moving well, 1hr into it we are now not chatting, the sound of heavy puffing and looking for something flat no matter how big for our first camp site. With the chicken burger from the chippy being digested at a rate faster than our climbing we decided to camp at 900m leaving an easy climb in the morning. Personally I had a great night sleep however the boys were kept awake by the resident owl making sure they knew sleep was not going to happen for them in his territory. I did make a comment in the morning that at least there would have been no mice crawling over them but did not seem to go down well.

Morning 0400hrs. Wake, eat, coffee, pack, move out. Tops here we come, with JEDS coffee on board we made a start, heading for the bush line to catch up with our old mate "first light". This is the time we usually see our beloved red deer 2km away and then spend the rest of the day trying hard not to be seen, heard or smelt in the hope we can close the gap for the perfect shot. So huff puff and a steady rhythm of great climbing we reached the bush line right on time.....Stop, look listen, creep forward to gain first look at faces just getting the crisp morning sun. Keeping within cover bush behind not to give us away and down off ridgeline we move into first glassing position. A little yelp from Shannon hits my ear drums, key words picked out of his excitement sounded like "get down, deer". That's all I needed to drop and freeze. Ah yes I see them, 3 red skins, range whispered into my ringing ears "230m". With a surprised response of "really" I set up ready to take a shot. Considering we had planned the first part of the journey with such accuracy we hadn't

spoken about what would happen if we saw deer right out of the bush line. Must remember for next time. Across gully, no wind, we in shade, they are in sun, one scarpers it but 2 remain, she looks confused.

Now I'm going to be honest here, yes I have years of bush craft and alpine experience however, I'm not as experienced as most of you seasoned hunters reading this. I have been hunting for about 10 years and I call this fresh as far as most hunters are concerned. It takes decades to master the art of knowing where the animals will be but here we are, stumbling into a treasure trove of free range red deer, it doesn't matter how many deer you have shot there is a certain level of nerves and excitement before the trigger is pulled. Will they scent us and run, is there wind, will the sun blind my view, my shooting position, loading and pulling the trigger all racing through the tiny brain cells overloaded with man juices and caffeine. I set up nice and quick but smooth, quietly but quickly opening the legs on the Winchester M70, lay prone, comfort not an option at this stage, I've just committed the shot, 7mm08 BANG.....Whoomff... Shes down, what about the other one Shannon whispers? Really? Does someone else want to take a shot.....No just do it. Bang....Whoomff... Down. Then it hits me, the daunting realization that our already full heavy packs on day one are about to double in weight.



Shannon, Julian, Torran, and 2 back packers

Congrats all round with the shaking of hands, high fives and I can't confirm but wouldn't be surprised if the boys were secretly sheading a tear after all the excitement. A few hours later after reducing our deer to good pack sized meat packs, we were already planning our night mission.

After a few more hours of climbing to summit and reccy for our evening hunting view point, as luck would have it we bumped into another hunting party up from CHCH. After a bit of discussion and deliberation we decided to leave those guys to it and start heading down the hill for an early morning river flats hunt. With full packs and yet another coffee on board we descended to same camp site as night before. (Hello Owly).

Morning struck way to fast and before we knew it we had dumbered our packs and started stalking the river flats. No luck there but good look around not to mention there wasn't much hope in loading the packs with anything anyway. The boys happy with trip made a B-line for the swing bridge and back to awaiting ute.

A great trip and even more stocked that our wives, partners and kids will probably get more of a surprise than we did to have deer in the back of the truck. The meat will go towards our Christmas holiday BBQs for 3 families and help keep this Red Deer herd healthy by reducing heard numbers. We divvy up meat and head our separate ways, leaving the Lewis in our revision mirror as a closing memory.

Till next trip. J

Trapped!

President Greg has got the trapping bug....getting cats, ferrets and pigs in cages at our packers Creek Range.....recently lent a DOC 150 stoat trap box and jackpot...stoats and rats!

So now Greg has the bit between the teeth and gone into mass production turning this.....



into these logo'd trap boxes ready to rumble!!! How cool are these?



A big shout out to the materials and trap suppliers for discounts and freebies!

Blacks Fasteners (for the fasteners of course!!)

GunCity Richmond for the traps

Placemakers Richmond for timber and mesh

Many of these are now deployed around Packers Creek Range

The tally for Packers Creek since 1 Sept now stands at an amazing:

- 14 pigs
- 13 possums
- 4 feral cats
- 5 rats
- 3 ferrets

STOP PRESS!! Yep! those new traps work alright...another rat added to the list on the very day this story was drafted! Mind you, with the smorgasbord of culinary delights provided (looks remarkably like a Danish hotel breakfast....), what thinking rat could possible resist!!



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 Sept

NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

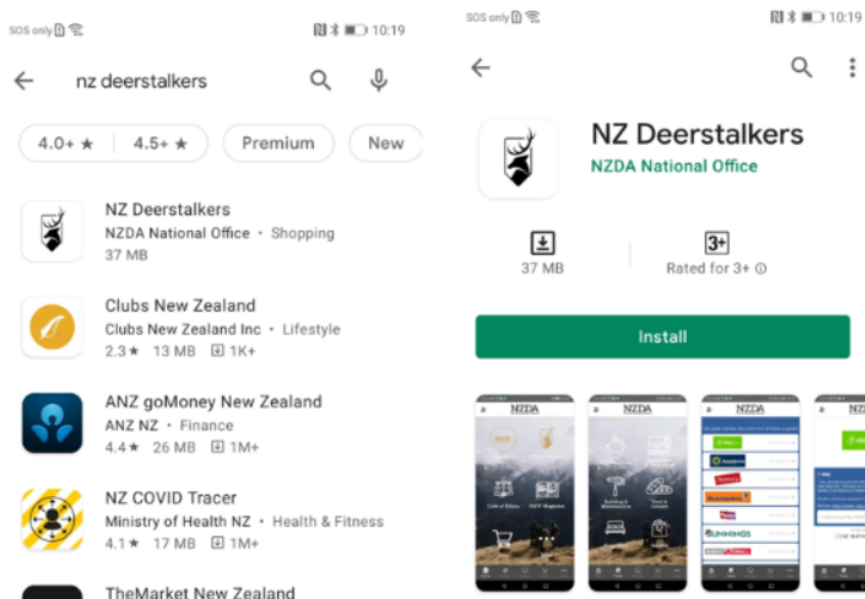
Available Now!



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**.



Also, our local Hunting and Fishing stores (Nelson and Richmond) are offering Nelson NZDA members 10% discount on many items as well as to be in the draw for a PLB – see below

**MEMBERS DISCOUNT
10% OFF**

BONUS!!!
Every purchase made by NZDA members goes into an annual draw to win an ACR Resqlink 400 PLB. Prize drawn 28th February 2022.

NELSON/RICHMOND

Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND

Present your NZDA Nelson membership card at either Nelson or Richmond Hunting & Fishing to receive a 10% discount!

NZDA Nelson membership discount is only redeemable at Nelson & Richmond branches. Excludes all sale & clearance items, Garmin, firearms, & ammunition. Electric reels and thermal imagers are limited to a 5% discount. Terms & conditions apply. Offer valid until 31/03/2022.

HOT DEAL

OUT THERE DOING IT

We love...



Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue

More info here: [Meat Solutions](#)

Red Deer Lodge “Pics and Sticks” Day

Pity about the rain but this didn't stop a keen team to get on with two jobs at Red Deer Lodge, finishing clearing the high manuka around the Lodge and under the power lines and at the same time providing support to a professional photographer to get a fit and proper, enduring record of the trophy heads that adorn the walls within. We also took the chance to photograph some of our longstanding Cups for shooting events.



Keeping the camera dry! Heads were individually (and temporarily) mounted on a specially prepared backboard (thanks Graeme Ching!) for maximum effect.

All the pics have been uploaded into NZDA Nelson's Shared Drive for surety that they cannot be lost. Soon we will also get them onto our website along with their provenance and stories (who, where, when taken and DS scores etc) for easy access to all members and the public.

Many of these heads are truly epic record reds and wapiti shot by our past members.

Thanks to photographer Rachel Brown for enduring the rain and sandflies to support us in this, and Aaron for organising and Graeme and Lee for assisting in the donkey work of bring the heads down off the wall and reinstalling them after their brief bit of publicity! Example pics below.





Meanwhile the last of the overly tall Manuka “bites the mud”.

Keeping the building and power lines clear of this fire risk is very important. Along with the usual suspects of Greg, Neil and Richard, we were blessed with an extra three keen and competent guys (Paul, Neville and Lee) which made a huge difference; we were done by lunchtime and in fact before the worst of the rain (soaked though we were!).

Side story to the RDL working bee...over lunch and after looking at the trophies in the main hall, Neville noted that he and his son had shot a nice fallow in the Greenstone in June, couldn't find it that evening and after heavy rain overnight the river was way up so they had to walk out leaving it out of reach.....luckily the head was retrieved by Neville's son a few days later.....this story pricked my ears as after the National Conference my wife and I decided to walk in and 'take a look' at the Greenstone Caples junction.....well I'll be damned, we spoke to a couple of hunters who told similar story..... Neville then twigged...we had met on the track as they were coming out...small world and all that.....and shows the value and fun of a bit of time for members to catch up!

And yes, the river WAS up and dirty! They were wise not to take the risk that day. See the February edition of The Mountain Echo for the full story!



View off track of the flats at Caples - Greenstone junction

Branch BBQ @ Packers Creek

Fantastic event made good by keen folks leading the planning and delivery, others supporting and most of all...members answering the call (email actually!!) and showing up. When things go good they have a tendency to happen again.....well done all. Thanks to the Butcherette for supporting this BBQ and showcasing her vast array of products for members to try!

And the remaining food was donated to the Nelson Men's Refuge.



A good crowd



A great spread



Let Your Camera do the Talking – Memories as well as Meat

Last year's Branch photo-competition showed up some real talent especially amongst some of our younger members. This is an activity that can be undertaken at any time and not always just hunting related or while you are following along behind your designated shooter..... One of the problem's is often we tend to forget about focussing some good pics until near the competition time.

There are also great opportunities to provide your pics into the National competition but also (and importantly for the Editor!) as simple pictorial essays of your adventures in the outdoors. 3-4 good photos of a great time don't necessarily need a lot of words if writing is not your thing...we all have a good imagination and good pics fire that up.

Here is the new photo entry form [so that you can see what the categories and rules are](#). We hope soon to have this form available online too and of course will recirculate it nearer to competition night next year.



Photographic Competition Entry Form

Name, Signature & Date:.....

Membership number and email contact:.....

Use table below to choose category(ies)

Code	Trophy	Category
A	Tantrum Cup	Game Animals and Wildlife
B	Worsley Cup	Stalking Country (landscapes)
C	Livingston Cup	Native Birds
D	Hunting Memories	Hunting Memories
E	Tex Stratford Memorial Trophy	For under 18 year old entrants - any subject
F	Other Wildlife - Mammals	Mammals
G	Other Wildlife Insects and Reptiles	Insects and Reptiles
H	Flora	Plants
I	Bob Baigent Memorial Cup	Hunting and wildlife related video

Note:

- The **Wildlife Cup** will be awarded to the best overall entry from all categories with all automatically eligible
- You may enter up to three (3) photographs in each category

- By signing you are accepting the rules and requirements attached

Description/Title of Entries and where and when taken

A 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

B 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

C 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

D 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

E 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

F 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

G 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

H 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

I 1.....
 2.....
 3.....

Photographic Entries are based on the National Rules [National-Competition-Rules-2020.pdf](#)

Rules:

- Images are taken by the member submitting
- Images are not doctored or superimposed in anyway subsequent to taking
- Videos are not to be edited or dubbed by other persons

Requirements:

- Photographs are to be printed in 4X6” format (150X100mm) and an electronic copy provided on request
- Your name, membership number, category letter and entry number as per this form to be written on back of each print
- Videos to be provided on suitable medium for replay by judges
- Nelson Branch may use your images for non profit purposes of furthering the aims of the Branch with credit to be provided for all use.

Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **FISH RELEASES:** Recently, 250 trout were released by vehicle into the Leatham River in the mid to lower reaches. The Branch River heli-release was scheduled for late November, where 300 rainbows will be carted into the mid-upper part of the river using a monsoon bucket. Additionally, 300, 1-1.5kg rainbow trout were released into Lake Argyle recently, and another 200 into Waimea Park.
- **UPLAND GAME HUNTING - ONEFORTYONE (OFO) FORESTS:** The deal has been agreed on for upland game hunting next season. OFO have agreed to allow a maximum of 20 hunters into Golden Downs Forest, and the same for North Bank Wairau Forest (General Access area), and also a number of hunters into the restricted access forests of Ngaruru (lower Branch) and Bannochburn (Awatere). This is an exciting opportunity for regional upland game hunters, who will now be able to access these forests at no cost, and all permits done via Fish & Game.
- **ACCESS TRACKS:** Staff have undertaken fishing access maintenance in the Motueka and Pelorus catchments. Track clearing, spraying and sign replacement are common at many points, with some negotiation with landowners over access.
- **DOUBLE DIGIT FROM THE BRANCH:** Recently a double digit rainbow jack (of hatchery origin) was caught in the lower Branch. Likely from an earlier Lake Argyle release, it appeared the fish managed to get itself up and over the finger grills at the head of the upper canal, and flushed out into the lower Branch. The fish dwarfed the four pound rainbow which it was with (which was subsequently caught), and was quite a sight in the small body of clear water.



Website: Fish and Game Nelson

Club Night (Covid Dependent)

To Be Advised – keep an eye on your emails or our Facebook page

Humour

Ewok costume: \$69

Chewbacca costume: \$129

Dressing up to mess with your neighbor's trail cam: Priceless.



NZDA Nelson recommend NOT returning to same trail cam again.....!

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.

2021 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](#)

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