

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA | **December 2023**



Noah's Park – More on this in the story below from Warren Plum



Duncan Higgins with a nice trophy for Goat Competition

## THIS MONTH

### EDITORIAL

**More Molesworth?**

**Jasper Curries  
Flavour in Goat  
Competition**

**Community Kai – Last  
Chance!**

**Range Matters –  
Working Bee,  
Summer Series #3,  
Ken Horner Memorial  
Shoot**

**National Goat  
Competition – Its  
Prize Time**

**A & P Show – A  
Scorcher**

**Fish & Game News**

**Lighten Up**

**Go On! Admit It!**

**Next CLUB NIGHT Feb  
27<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**MEMBER BENEFITS**

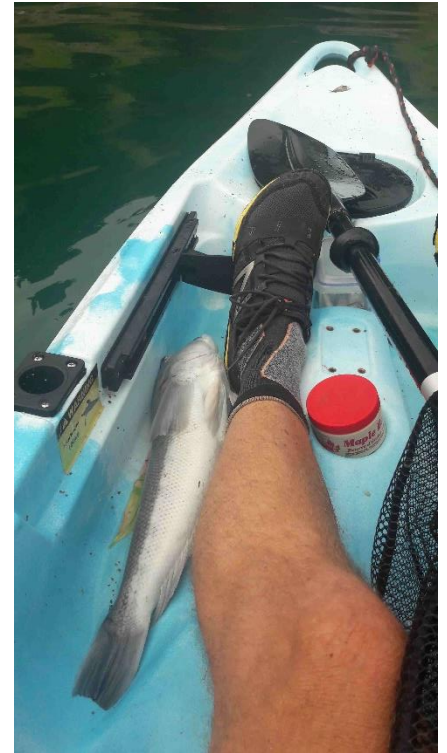
**IMPORTANT LINKS**

# Editorial

Christmas.....coming ready or not!

This is last Echo for 2023 and next Edition will be in February. The stories highlight the end to a great year here in Nelson and further abroad.

Obviously, the Goat Competition has been a big thing here and nationally. Locally we recorded well over 500 tails, measured some good heads and seen an uptake in people getting great goat meat into the pot. We hope some locals get a share of the National Prizes. Local Branch prizewinners will be reported in the February Echo. Many thanks to participants (young and old) and support crews (members and DOC) at all the Open Days. Hopefully this will become a regular event and we have provided hunters' feedback on how to improve things a bit if and when it is run again.



Great to see the Ken Horner Memorial Shoot well attended despite rain forecast the weather was not too bad and a good time had. Nice to see a family member take out first place. Recently Greg and Carina did some remedial work on the target frames at the range (which can be seen in the picture below) so many thanks to them for this and their work at Packers Creek; also, to Graeme Smith who is battling the fast growing grass there with our big red mower – the predicted spring dry hasn't happened so its heavy work mowing. Further, a thanks to the Range Duty Officers who give their time to enable access and safe shooting at Packers Creek Range.

We ran the first ever NZDA member vehicle access ballot into the Flora. This is small steps initially but once we have heard back from those lucky winners for Dec and Jan openings) we will revise for next periods available later in the year, You all will receive an email on this in the new year.

A thanks to the Committee and members who have organised and participated in our Club nights and other events this year as well as the considerable work to administer our club. You can all have a month off...kind of!!.

Cheers to local DOC offices and thanks for your support on several projects – you are about to have your hectic season so our sympathy on that!

So..... enjoy the festive season, play safe and see you all in the New Year!

I'm going fishing for a bit.

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

# Yes.....More Molesworth

The usual short but excellent summary from another of Warren's adventures in the Molesworth recently with a variety of animals!:

*In general, was a trip for two old age pensioners who used to hunt as teenagers. Mate lives in Melbourne but comes over each year for a catch up and adventure.*

*Caught a few trout, most released, saw pigs deer and chamois. Took stag for steaks to bring home that had no trophy potential. No beys and despite being middle aged would never be more than an 8 pointer. Left a lovely young chamois buck to grow. Fly camping not so comfortable these days, either stinking hot or freezing with a couple of days of rain and hail.*

Warren Plum



As far as the eye can see.



Now that's a glossy stag that is going to BBQ pretty well!



A stand out in his field.....and a nice fish below



# Jasper Curries Flavor in Goat Competition



Raw material.....



.....slow cooked.....



.....to a great end result. Great job Jasper.

# Community Kai – Last Chance to Drop a Beast

Our grant to pay for the processing of venison comes to an end this month so this is THE LAST CHANCE for members who wish to donate an animal. So far we have donated 920 kg of venison and with your help we hope to reach 1,000 kg!!



So, if you can bag an animal and drop it off to James at Meat Solutions and let him know it's for the food bank donations, it would be much appreciated.

Cheers

David Haynes

0272 351 833



# Range Matters



## Packers Creek Range

**10<sup>th</sup> December 9.00 am meet at the gate**

**Early start before it gets too hot.**

**Tea, coffee and snacks provided, BYO water.**

**What to bring:** Sunblock, spade/shovel, wheelbarrow, weeder eater or just yourself

**What's happening:** painting, re-glassing of the mounds and general tidy up around the range.

**Many hands make light work, if you can make it, please let Carina or Greg know.**

**Any questions or to confirm you are able to help please email [carina@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:carina@nzdanelson.co.nz)**

**or call Greg Couper 0272450452**

**If it's is raining and just awful then we will postpone so please confirm your attendance so we can keep you up to date.**

## Results from the Nelson Outdoor Summer Series Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

Results in table below

		<b>T1</b>	<b>T5</b>
1	Greg Couper	243.08	242.06
2	Carina Jackson	238.07	237.06
3	Graeme Smith	240.09	232.06
4	Graeme Vallance	240.05	231.07
5	Anne Marie Kidson	220.02	234.02
6	Aiden Brown	210.03	219.00
7	Chris Turner	210.00	216.03
8	John Ronaldson	210.06	215.01
9	Terry Farnham	229.04	193.00
10	Michael Kidson	206.03	214.04

	17-Sep	16-Oct	12-Nov	18Dec		<b>Total</b>
Graeme Smith	8	6	8			<b>22</b>
Greg Couper	10		10			<b>20</b>
Carina Jackson	9		9			<b>18</b>
Graeme Vallance	7	1	7			<b>15</b>
Anne Marie Kidson	3	5	6			<b>14</b>
Michael Kidson	4	4	1			<b>9</b>
Terry Farnham	6		2			<b>8</b>
Aiden Brown		3	5			<b>8</b>
John Ronaldson	2	2	3			<b>7</b>
Craig de Winnaar	5					<b>5</b>
Simon Cotton	4					<b>4</b>
Chris Turner			4			<b>4</b>

**Running total with one shoot left this year and 5 more in 2024 to complete the series.**

**As always** – if interested in having a try at benchrest shooting contact Graeme Smith by email [lvhvbr@gmail.com](mailto:lvhvbr@gmail.com) He will support you!

# Ken Horner Memorial Shoot at Murchison Community Range



Getting down to business at Ken Horner Shoot. 17 participants had a great day!

For those who don't bother with the editorial!:

This year 17 shooters participated in the event despite a heavy rain warning which fortunately fell elsewhere, so drizzle was the order of the day.

Mitch Horner (grandson of Ken) won the 100m Standing and overall competition on aggregate across the events. Couldn't be better!

Alec dropped a couple of shots on the 100m standing but won the "Guess your own Score" with 108.

Same time next year please!!

<b>Shooter</b>	<b>Final Total Score</b>	<b>Place</b>
Damien	91.3	
Spiro	45	
Harry	63.3	
Ben	67	
Jason	19	
Alex	59	
Lynley	110.1	Bronze
Gabriel	74	
Alister	97.2	
Graham	99.4	
Alec	108	
Matt G	111.1	Silver
Cory	103	
Matt F	56	
Ant	26	
<b>Mitch Horner</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Jumbo	76	



One of the many crack shots at Ken Horner Memorial Shoot, 2023

Here is the schedule of Shooting Competitions in New Zealand this year. **Yellow highlight** shows days when Range will be closed to general shooting.

Always check the calendar on our website: [Nelson NZDA Range Info](#)

## Benchrest – Summer Outdoor Programme 2023-2024

<b>Saturday / Sunday 9 – 10 December 2023 (RF)</b>			<b>Canterbury Champs</b>	<b>McLeans Island</b>
<b>Sunday 17 December 2023</b>	1pm	(RF)	5 x 50m Group Targets	Nelson
<b>Sunday 14 January 2024</b>	1pm	(RF)	5 x 100yd Hunter Class Targets	Nelson
<b>27-29 January 2024 Tokoroa</b>		<b>NZDA</b>	<b>(CF)</b>	<b>North Island Benchrest Championship</b>
Sunday 11 February 2024	1pm	(RF)	2 x 50m Targets	Murchison
18 – 24 February 2024		(RF)	TSNZ Nationals	Palmerston North
<b>Sunday 10 March 2024</b>	1pm	(RF)	5 x 100 yd Group Targets	Nelson
<b>16-17 March 2024</b>		<b>(RF)</b>	<b>South Island Outdoor Champs</b>	<b>McLeans Island</b>
<b>Sunday 14 April 2024</b>	1pm	(RF)	2 x 50m Targets	Nelson
<b>29 Mar – 1 April 2024 NZDA</b>		<b>(CF + RF)</b>	<b>Nationals</b>	<b>(Monday Rimfire Champs)</b>
<b>Nelson</b>				
<b>1-3 June 2024</b>	NZDA	(CF)	Zuppa Shoot	Nelson
<b>28-30 June 2024</b>		(RF)	Matariki Challenge weekend	Nelson
CF	Centrefire	RF	Rimfire	

# Goat Competition Update



## Nelson Branch Prizegiving

Prize Giving will be at Fish and Game on Champion Road, Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> – 4-6pm with winners notified prior

Category	Prize
Highest Scoring Goat Head	Hunting & Fishing Camo Rifle Bag 48" + Gerber Gator 154 Folding Knife
Highest Scoring Goat Head by an NZDA Member	Hunting & Fishing Universal Gun Cleaning Kit + NZ Hunter Annual Subscription
Highest Scoring Goat Head by a Junior (under 18)	Hunting & Fishing 126pc First Aid Kit + \$100 Hunting & Fishing Voucher
Most Goat Tails	\$300 Huntech clothing voucher
Most Goat Tails by an NZDA Member	Lansky Quick Fix Pocket Sharpener + \$100 Backcountry Cuisine Pack
Most Goat Tails by a Junior (under 18)	Traverse TR5 Headlamp + \$100 Huntech voucher



Craig Wallace with his head



Karl Puklowski conjured up another beauty



Another nice head from Tony Firth, while our measuring man Eric Hall describes "one that got away"!!

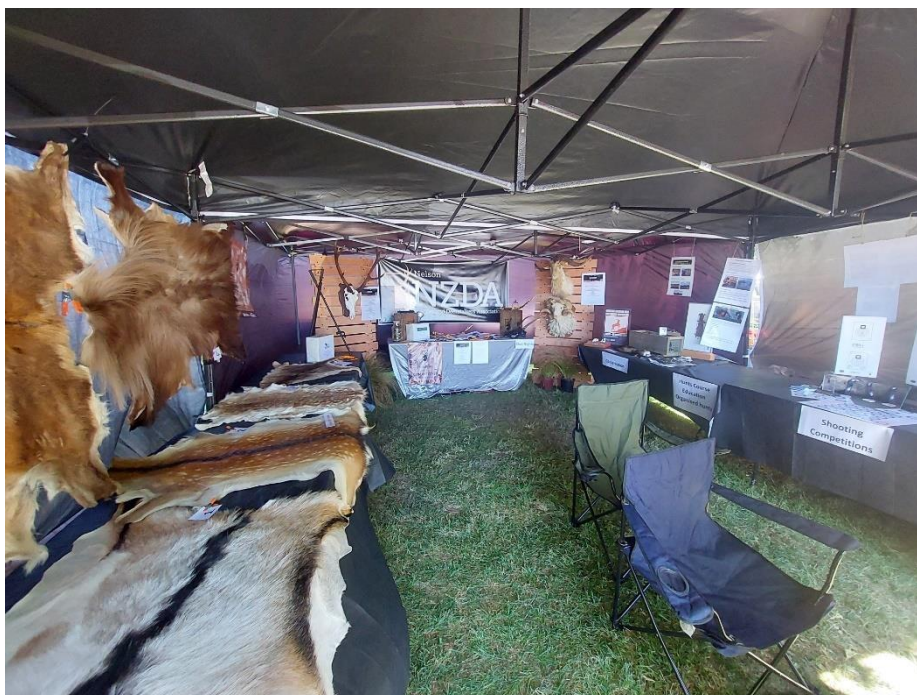
Left: George Baigent reluctantly poses with his great spot prize, the PLB from last Goat Open Day – now he's gonna learn how it works. After a long time hunting this is a well earned reward for his goat tails!



# A and P Show! A Scorcher this Year



Carina and Greg with Nelson's beautiful stand at the Richmond Showgrounds – thanks guys!



# Club Night –Next One (Tues Feb 27<sup>th</sup>)

## Fish and Game News

### NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



**DRIFT DIVE UPDATE:** Staff have been busy floating rivers during the past month with the Pearse, Lee, Kaituna and Motupiko completed. Coming up before Christmas are the Wangapeka and Riuwaka, with larger rivers to be targeted in the new year when river flows are lower.

**BRANCH RIVER FISH RELEASE:** 250 rainbow trout (1kg+) were released into the Branch River by vehicle at two sites: May Stream & Alan Stream. Due to the road being upgraded for logging trucks, it is now possible to get a tanker up to Griegs Hut. We hope to undertake future heli releases in the upper Branch and Leatham next year. We will be releasing a tanker load of fish in the mid-Leatham before Christmas.

**KIDS FISHING EVENTS:** We have just finished a string of great kids fish-out events at Waimea Park. The Youth Fishing Trust ran a number of organised events on recent weekends, and we also had Tamaha Sea Scouts and Parklands School visit - with nearly all kids catching fish at these events.

**RESTRICTED ACCESS UP BRANCH RIVER:** Due to logging operations commencing recently, access up the Branch River will be restricted for the foreseeable future. A significant road upgrade has been completed, and a private contractor is now harvesting wilding conifers from the area around Griegs Hut, which is likely to extend further upstream. This means recreational access is only possible on weekends and public holidays, as logging trucks will be active on this road. For more information, check out the DOC website.



Smiles all round during the Parklands School visit.

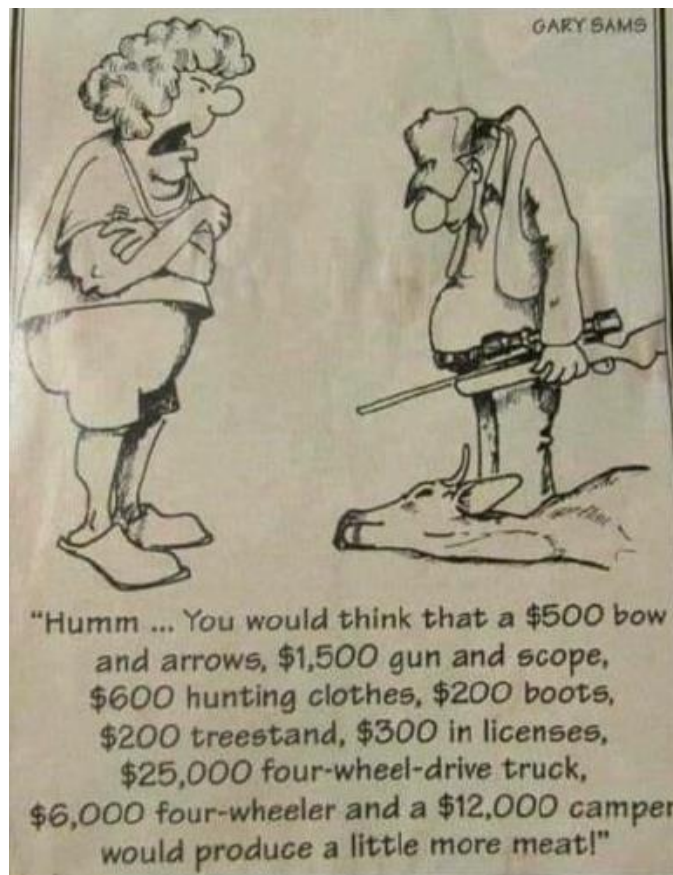
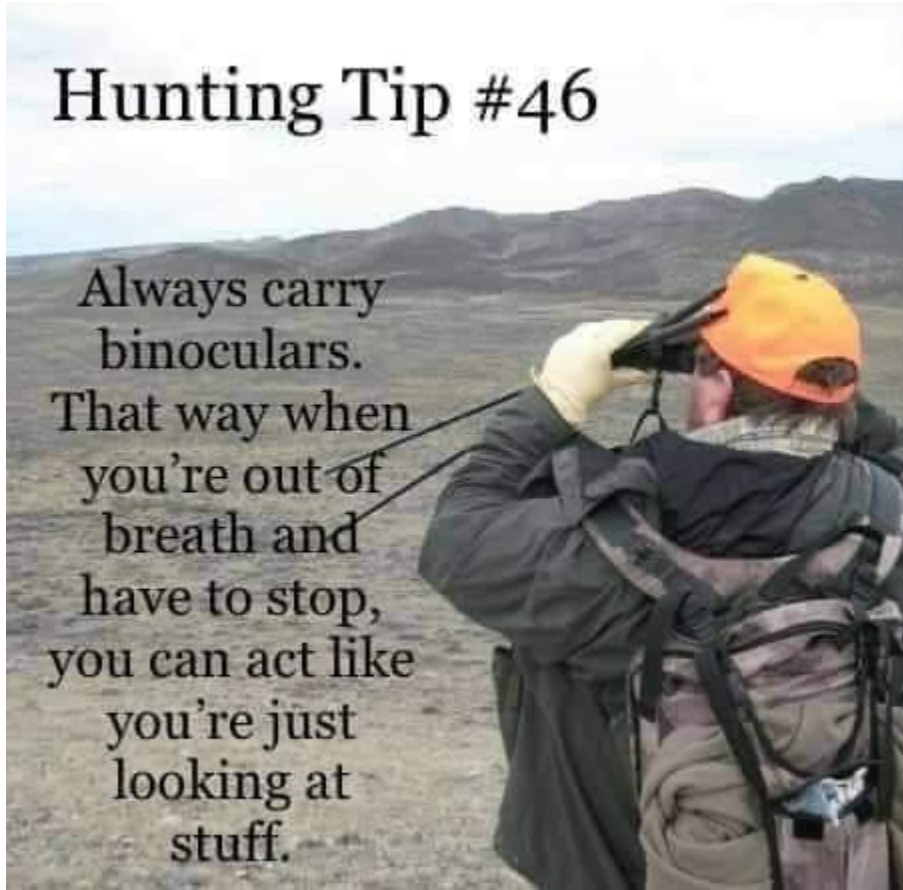


Fish liberation in the Branch River

# Lighten Up

## Hunting Tip #46

Always carry binoculars. That way when you're out of breath and have to stop, you can act like you're just looking at stuff.



# Go On - Admit It!

*Mike Gane is asking to be bagged for this brrrrrrrrrrrr story!*

In the June Molesworth Goose Hunt I got into my sleeping setup on the first night after a great meal and just a couple of medicinal whiskies. My setup consists of an older merino lined bag and a damned good outer bag. The merino bag for the sheer comfort of it and the outer bag for the warmth. This has served me well for over 20 years, and then some probably.

We had seen -12 degrees before going to bed so it was a chilly night. I was straight to sleep but I woke after a very short time shivering my tits off. I readjusted the bags and tried in vain to go back to sleep. I added another layer on me and tried again. Sort of successful, but no real sleep was had. Socks on and yet another layer. Again, sort of successful but not really. I was on a camp stretcher with an insulating layer under the mattress so I knew that was not the issue. I suffered through to the morning, only sleeping in fits & starts.

In cold light of dawn I could see that the down in my "good" bag had balled up was of no real use at all. So, there I stood thinking how could I make it better for the next two nights? I thought of this way, I thought of that way. Then my mate reminded me that at the last October hunt I had said that was the last hunt I was going to take that bag on as it was not quite up to the task. DAMN! BUGGER! DAMN! I had totally forgotten that. The bags had been used in January on a wallaby & rabbit hunt in the McKenzie Basin and had also done the March hunt with them. Not very cold on either of those hunts, eh? So, there I stood, feeling like a right plonker.

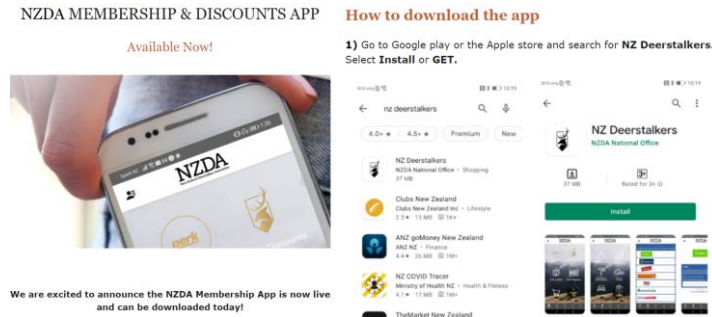
I suddenly decided on the answer and put it into action. After a 5 ½ hour return drive I was back from Hunting & Fishing, Blenheim, with a brand new Rab sleeping bag. The cost of the bag and the extra fuel was for out-weighed by the quality of sleep I got the next two nights and the nights to come as I look forward to more trips targeting fur & feather. Safe journeys to all.

Cheers, Mike Gane.



# Member Benefits

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



## 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
- 
- 30% discount of Department of Conservation annual [Backcountry Hut Pass](#) or 'Hut Pass'. [See the DOC website for more details](#)



SUPPORTERS OF NELSON NZDA HUNTS COURSES AND KAI RESCUE [MORE INFO HERE:](#)

## [MEAT SOLUTIONS](#)

### 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](mailto: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 orange](#)

- NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)
- DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)
- Game Animal Council [GAC](#)
- Walking Access NZ [WAMS Maps](#)
- LINZ Basemaps [MAPS Link](#)

#### Ballots

- [Haast Ballot](#)
- [Wanaka Ballot](#)
- Southland [Waikaia](#) [Leithen Bush](#) [Wainakarua](#) [Catlins](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)
  
- 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](#)
- Police Firearms Safety Videos [FSA Safety Videos](#)

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