



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA July 2021



A winning shot! Young Tom Cliffe's evocative photo which won best overall in our Photographic Competition. A picture speaks a thousand words alright, well done Tom.

More from the Photo competition including all winners in the August Echo.

Club Night 27th July at 7.30pm

Members meet and information night at the **Nelson Target Shooters Wood Club Range Saxton Field.**

A chance to meet, mingle, talk and ask questions with a good range of experienced members prepared to answer almost any question...almost!

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Tuesday 27th July at 7.30 pm

Woods Smallbore Range Saxton Field

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Committee

Editorial

Greg Couper and I attended the 73rd National AGM and Conference. The event was well organised by Southern Lakes and head office and equally well attended by Branches, members and a great variety of speakers and dignitaries.

New vigour and excellence in the base business of the Association were evident and there was a buzz in the air that was great to behold and be a part of. There were some interesting presentations, many relevant to us here in Nelson and more will come forth from this over time.

At a local level we also held our Branch AGM. It was a privilege to farewell Warren from his long and unswerving stint as Secretary (and Treasurer until last year). We owe him a huge debt of thanks for his work and welcome Aaron Shields to the role. Also, our patron Lester Bowden stepped down and this role has now been filled by Neil Cliffe, another longstanding member and supporter who brings the sort of mana to the role that is required. Also, a welcome onto the Committee to Malanie Bartlett! Great to have another young person aboard with skills and enthusiasm to keep us moving forward! The rest of the Committee advised they wish to stay at their posts so thanks for your work last year and I look forward to working with them for another year!

We were pleased to be able to provide a complete Annual Financial Report to the AGM, this testament to both our improved systems and hard work from Aaron, our Treasurer. It was good to see that Covid has not badly affected our membership levels or financial base.

Attending the National Conference and AGM in Queenstown gave me the opportunity to continue on a road trip south with my wife. We love Otago, Southland and the West Coast and despite some bits of wintery weather had an absolute ball driving up the Eglinton Valley to the Greenstone/Caples RHA, down to Mavora Lakes and out to Milford. Then via Haast homewards. For any that have held off a break into some of the most scenic countryside we have, I suggest do not delay. The roads are very quiet, the hotspots devoid of tourist due to travel restrictions and its unlikely to ever be better to visit some of these wonderful places. PS and Hint: we saw deer sign nearly everywhere we went!!

We are looking forward to a different and more social (rather than lecture type) approach to next Club Night with an opportunity for members (new and not so new) to network amongst themselves as well as seek some experienced opinions and knowledge on hunting and shooting matters locally and nationally. We encourage you to attend and if successful we can run this style of meeting more often. **Note the change in venue!!**

Please all take the time to have a look at our new website and for those that can face it, join us on Facebook and post some pics and activities; please remember it's meant to promote hunting, fun and a sense of community.....not be a gripe centre!

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting. Richard Wells



Range Matters



In June, Bill O'Leary instructed another group of members training to be certified as Range Officers for our Packers Creek range.

Our Patron

As noted above Lester Bowden decided to step down as Patron. Thank you Lester!

Our Patron is a designated member whose experience, long membership, ideals and principles support and bring mana to the Branch.

Lester has these attributes in spades, being also a great hunter and great guy. We also note his name associated with the initial Committee group setting our Packers Creek Range in motion.

Warren provides the following insights:

Lester has had a very long involvement with the club and continuous membership since the early 1960's when he was involved in the building of Red Deer Lodge and the committee. At that time, he did a number of trips with other local club members into South Westland hunting tahr & chamois, all on foot so major expeditions. I gather the tallies and number of shots fired were the goal in those days! He went on to become Branch President in the 1970's, and was still serving on the Committee in the 1980's. He is a great asset to the club being a very successful businessman and having a very clear idea and ability to deal with authorities and to achieve the Club's goals. He was made a Life member of Nelson Branch in recognition of this service. On the passing of our previous Patron Bob Baigent, Lester took on the role of Patron in 2003.

A Long Term in Office.....

At our AGM we paid tribute to the long and solid service that Warren Plum has provided the Branch over literally countless (we cannot find when he started!) decades as both Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch. His humble and selfless manner meant that over time he was lumbered with most of the work which he has carried out quietly and diligently all this time. Our debt is huge and thanks profuse. As a quiet but stalwart supporter of NZDA, its objectives and principles, Warren has always kept us on track with what the Club is about. And obviously he has spent a lot of time hunting all over the South Island to good effect! Can't say enough good things, thank you so much Warren (and we will still have some jobs for you!).



Competition Night – and the Winners Are.....

This year saw the highest number of antlered entries ever at a club night which was great to see. Obviously, the lock down last year had allowed numerous stags that critical extra year's antler growth and ability to grow a few more points, helped also by the reduction in helicopter activity. A good range of heads again this year.

Although a notable drop in chamois and tahr entries (partly as Competition night was moved forward and we hope to see winter trophies appear at next year's event!) and only one pig. Clay and Brody Parkins did the junior hunters proud with red, fallow and goat entries being entered by both of them.



Antler Horn and Tusk Competition Winners

Peoples Store Trophy (best Nelson deer head)

1st **Alister Ching** (Red 16 points 287 7/8)

2nd **Warren Plum** (Fallow 17 points 287 2/8 on conversion)

3rd **Clay Parkins** (Fallow on conversion)



It's not just about paper! Alister Ching shows he's a great shot on more than the range! Great winning red stag.



Warren Plum's nice local buck.

Sports Depot Cup (best chamois head)

1st **Cory Jones** 27 2/8

2nd **Cory Jones** 22 2/8 (very unusual horn structure and took prize for most unusual head)



Cory Jones' chamois trophies – the sublime and the unusual

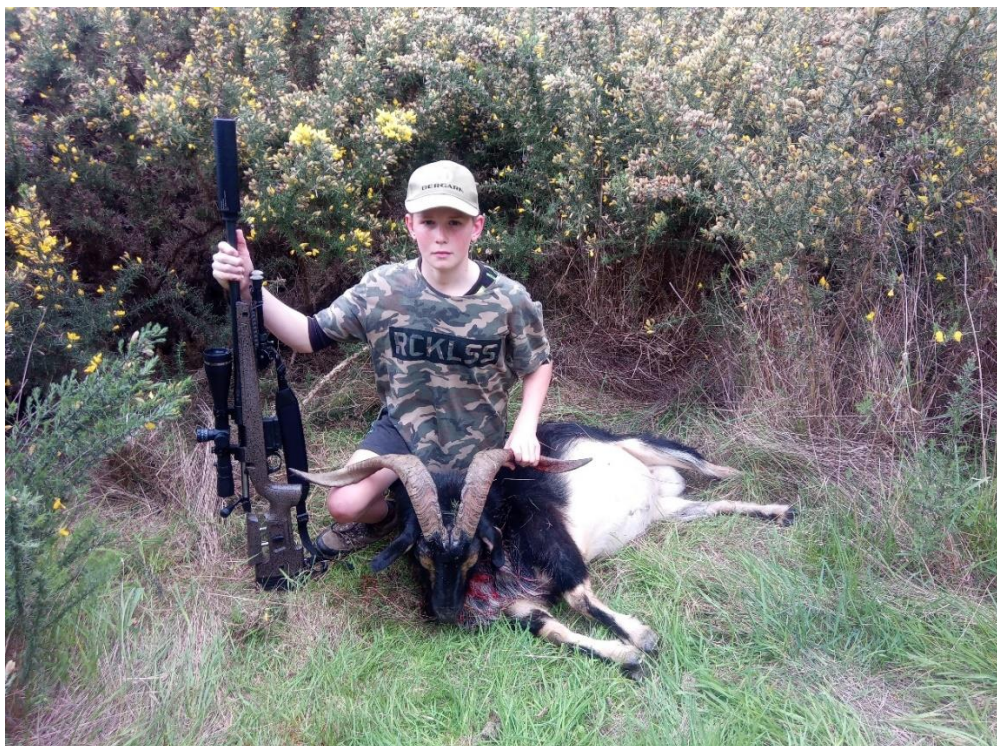
Bob Baigent Cup (best head taken by a junior)

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- 1st Clay Parkins Fallow
- 2nd Brody Parkins Goat
- 3rd Clay Parkins Goat



Clay Parkins with his first place getter in Bob Baigent Cup and third in people's Store Trophy...a very nice fallow.



Brody Parkins and his goat which placed in two sections (Bob Baigent Cup and Bob Baigent Trophy) – great effort.

Bob Baigent trophy (horned game other than chamois)

- 1st **Matt Vincent** Tahr 44
2nd **Gary Brown** Tahr 40
3rd **Brody Parkins** Goat



Matt Vincent and his magnificent tahr trophy.....epic.

Whitcombe Challenge Trophy (Best NZ Deer Head on Douglas score)

- 1st **Aaron Shields** Fallow 211 2/8
2nd **Aaron Shields** Fallow 204 3/8
3rd **Peter Downing** Red 295 3/8



Two great fallow trophies taken by **Aaron Shields** in Otago (helped by Cloud)

Rakiura Trophy (best whitetail deer)

1st **Eric Hall** - 118 6/8 DS



Eric Hall gives another master class in taking top trophies, this year a cracker whitetail from the Mainland.

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Williams Cup (pig tusks)

1st **Cory Jones** (16.75 undrawn)

No other entries

Eddy Trophy (best trophy on Douglas score conversion)

1st **Matt Vincent** (Tahr 44 = 334.77 on conversion)

2nd **Cory Jones** (Chamois 27 2/8 = 328.853 on conversion)

3rd **Aaron Shields** (Fallow 211 2/8 = 321.459 on conversion)

Shuttleworth Trophy (best red deer head)

1st **Peter Downing** DS 295 3/8

Another notable head was from Karl Puklowski, a 13 point Wapiti - 309 1/8 DS after a 30 point deduction for overspread.

Over all entries and DS scores:

Reds

Peter Downing 20 points 295 3/8, Alister Ching 16 point 287 7/8, Matt Vincent 12 point 287 4/8, Anthony Cliffe 13 point 242 2/8, Aaron Shields 12 point 241 4/8, Graeme Ching 10 point 235 6/8, Aaron Shields 11 point 223 7/8, Warren Plum 13 point 218 6/8, Jody Stow 13 point 218, Troy Adamson 11 point 217 6/8, Liza Vass 13 point 215 7/8, James Bartlett 8pt 214 7/8, James Bartlett 12 point, Gary Brown 11 point 203 6/8, Aaron Shields 12 point 193, Malanie Bartlett 10 point 185 2/8, Brody Parkins 185, Grant Unsworth 10 point 174 6/8, Clay Parkins 171.

Fallow

Aaron Shields 3 bucks 211 2/8, 204 3/8, 196 4/8, Warren Plum 188 6/8, Clay Parkins 186, Cory Jones 184, Murray Brydon 164 6/8 and Brody Parkins 120 4/8

National AGM & Conference



This year's AGM & Conference in Queenstown was beautifully hosted by Southern Lakes Branch. They pulled out all the stops to ensure attendees had a great time. Attendance was well above recent years, the picture above of opening night at Hunting and Fishing's store in Frankton doesn't show the half of the crowd!).

The NZDA Board (as the AGM agreed to rename our National Executive or NATEX) did great work in preparing the schedule and processes for the business side of things. The financial report was well received and accepted, a few small but important changes to some rules agreed and the current Board reinstated without change noting the retirement (with expressions of gratitude) of Trevor Chappell as his term as Immediate Past President on the board ended.

A range of speakers kept the members interested; Lou Sanson on his term as Director-General of DOC, where NZ has been environmentally and what the future may hold. Andrew Glaser spoke on stoat trapping along rivers to recover whio (blue ducks), this created a lot of questions, and it was noted that NZDA are adopting whio as our icon bird. Southern Lakes massive raffle was aimed at funding their trap replacement plan in Steele Creek. Nicole McKee spoke strong and clear on firearms law, the realities of life as an MP and her and her focus points for the next year or so on other aspects of her role.

Two ardent organisers of the NZDA Clements Mill Womens' Hunt [NZDA Women's Hunt](#) presented on the need to better recognise the need to engage with women who wished to join or learn more about hunting and shooting. There were some strong and important messages about some of the hurdles and how barriers can and need to be broken down to be a more inclusive organisation and sport.

Tim Gale from Game Animal Council and Ben Reddiex of DOC spoke to game animal management in principle and how it is manifesting itself in operational policy in the Tahr control Plan for 2021-22.

NZ Police gave a presentation on what we may reasonably expect from changes to laws governing ranges and their use; while it is clear that lawmakers (and regulators/enforcers) see the need for ranges to improve shooter training and proficiency, there are going to be more stringent rules to abide by. Managing and retaining existing ranges will be paramount to their ongoing availability.

All in all a great Conference and some messages for us here in Nelson; as they say..”more to come....”

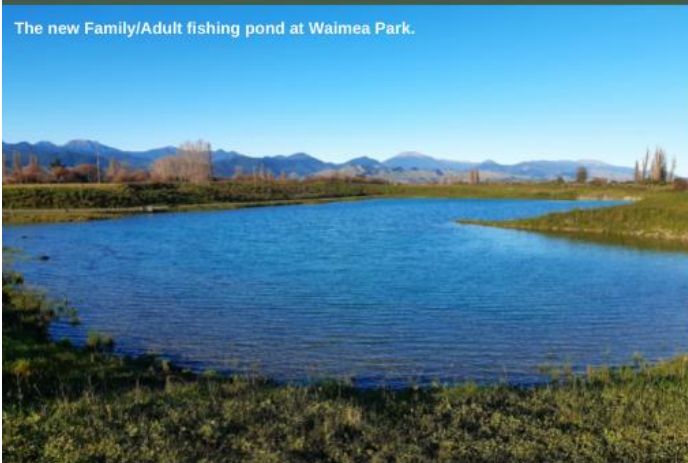
Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **ORGANISED HUNTS IN FULL SWING:** At the time of writing we have held two Moturoa/Rabbit Island upland game hunts and a swan cull at Bells Island. The swan cull was required to address the rising swan numbers in the Waimea Estuary area and to minimise their potential aviation risk. We are also holding a pukeko drive at Wakapuaka on 11 July, followed by the 3rd and final Moturoa hunt a week later.
- **GAME FOOD NIGHT COMING UP:** The highly popular game bird food night is not far away. This is an exceptional evening made possible by chef Phil Hazeldine, who puts in many hours of his own time to make the evening possible. The concept is that hunters supply Phil with game bird meat and Phil serves up around 12 dishes on the night from the proceeds. This is the fourth year we have held this event, and it is a real highlight for those that attend.
- **NEW FAMILY/ADULT POND AT WAIMEA PARK:** Staff are preparing for what will be a busy year at Waimea Park, with the new Family/Adult pond created and ready for fish stocking prior to the start of the new fishing season. It is expected this pond, which is approx 180m x 70m, will be very popular with anglers. The new pond (as well as the three junior ponds) will receive regular releases of fish throughout the season, and as a result, we are doubling the number of fish we are growing at the hatchery to fulfill this demand.

The new Family/Adult fishing pond at Waimea Park.



Chef Phil Hazeldine in the thick of it.



Club Night – Meet, Mingle, Q&A

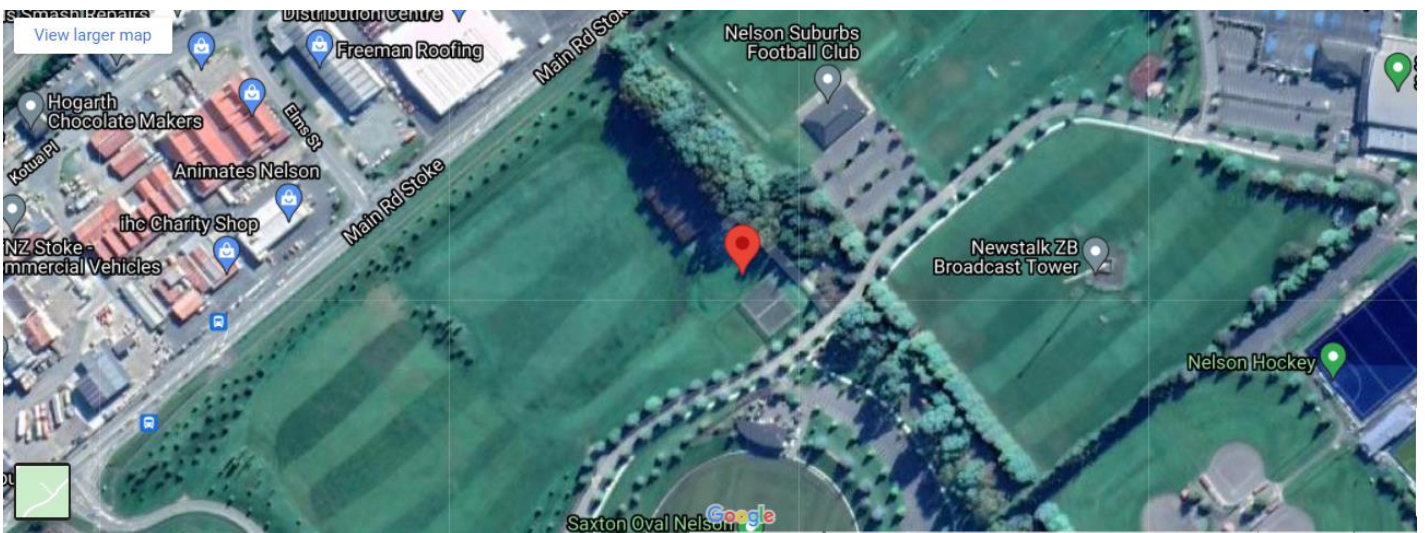
Time and Date: 7.30 pm Tuesday July 27th

Venue: [Target Shooting Nelson's Smallbore Range Saxton Field, Stoke](#)

Come along to our information and networking night Tuesday 27th. This new concept includes a different venue at the **Target Shooting Nelson's Wood Club's range building at Saxton Field** to provide a bit more space. Map below.

Various Committee members and others will be available to answer your questions on hunting, best gear, reloading, DOC ballots, NZDA advocacy and much more.

It will also provide the chance to meet and mingle, talk hunting and shooting. While originally developed with newcomers in mind this is for all members, and we encourage participation. The smallbore folks will be invited to attend too so they can have a look into our world and us into theirs.



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 new website: [Nelson Branch Committee](#)

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#) Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

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