



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA June 2021



Nothing like a roof over your head!! Some of Lyle and Noksee's team spotting from the deck in Two Thumb Range....story below

Branch AGM 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm  
&

Range Officer Course 10am-4pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June

[www.nzdanelson.co.nz](http://www.nzdanelson.co.nz)

## **Contents Overview**

Editorial

Game Animal Council – Tahr Plan

Range Matters – Range Officer Course Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June

There Will Be Tahr

Competition Night

Communication with Our Members

OSPRI Kaikoura poison Drop

Fish & Game Report

**Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm**  
Fish and Game Rooms

Red Deer Lodge Information

# Editorial

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For anyone not paying attention, suddenly it's winter! This brings the ease of later starts when hunting and less battles with the eternal enemies of blowflies and meat decomposition. But also fresh hazards of icy roads and hills, swollen rivers and avalanches. Mountain Safety Council do a pretty good job of posting alerts [Avalanche Warnings](#) and on Facebook [MSC FB Alerts](#)

It is nice to be able to include in this edition some relatively positive news re tahr. I use the term "positive" guardedly, but a Plan as described by the GAC below and an organised conversation with the powers that be is better than the chaotic situation was over the previous few years with some fairly uncontrolled and un-inclusive policy interpretation and implementation. It will be interesting to see feedback once the ballot block hunting is over but with one eye on various Facebook hunting blogs it's not all bad news. That said...en garde! The battle is not over. In the meantime, as described in the hunting story below, if you want to shoot a tahr, get yourself organised and do it! And remember to get a few nannies for meat...there is more to controlling total numbers than just talking about it; and record your kills [Tahr Kills APP](#). You can read more at Tahr Foundation [Tahr Foundation](#)

The Competition Night was very well attended and great to see hunters of all levels bring in their trophies and pics. There are a few photos below but these do not do justice to the number and standard of the top heads presented but the fact many young or new members and hunters brought in their first ever trophies is as important to hunting as the "best and biggest". Two clear messages from the evening were "we need a bigger venue!" and we need to train more "measurers.

Communication with member is a key component to holding the Branch and organisation as a whole together. We on the Committee are tasked with a range of administration roles and poor communication greatly adds to our workload. As they say, it takes two to tango but as we up our game we seek your support to do the same and stay alert to information flows via the Echo, email, website and Facebook if you are a user. As a point of fact, we (several of us) are spending a large amount of our personal time chasing the few members who simply have not "got round to it" with regard paying their subs for membership. The systems that were poor have been fixed, we know that the emails have gone out and been read and yet for some reason 3 months later some of these still sit unattended to despite the fact that the recipients intend to remain members. If this sounds a bit grumpy it is cos it is! We would much prefer to donate our time on your behalf strengthening the Branch by recruiting new members and organising interesting activities etc...not chasing late payers! Having got that off my chest, fair to say we are really pleased with how both our own and the National Association's systems have improved (more below).

Great to see HUNTS back on track this June after Covid deferred last year, led by Bill O'Leary and Lawson Davey, ably assisted by Alister Ching, Garry Dunn and Alex Monahan; taking 15 newcomers into the classroom and hills over the next few months in this important programme.

Please remember our AGM at end of June and bring any matters that are relevant to along or this meeting email the Secretary prior. Obviously. it is open to all (paid up!) members and your attendance is welcomed.

Good hunting! Richard Wells







## 2021-22 tahr plan reflects pragmatic management approach

The Game Animal Council (GAC) is welcoming the release of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan 2021-2022 as a pragmatic approach to tahr management but remains committed to developing a long-term management programme for New Zealand's tahr.

“The Game Animal Council has worked closely with the Department of Conservation and stakeholder groups in the development of this plan and provided constructive science-based recommendations to help inform it,” says General Manager Tim Gale. “We believe the more collaborative process the Department has embarked on has resulted in a better balanced programme of tahr management for 2021-22.”

“The GAC is pleased to see the majority of control work will be concentrated on areas with remaining higher densities of tahr and which are extremely difficult to access for recreational hunters. Most of these areas are west of the divide where we know tahr can have significant conservation impacts.” “For the more accessible eastern parts of the tahr range we continue to work towards greater hunter-led management that will enable official control work to concentrate on where it is most needed.”

Halfway through the control period the GAC and DOC will conduct a review to ensure remaining operations are appropriately targeted. Control operations will also avoid areas close to huts popular with hunters and working in proximity to any ground hunters encountered. “There are aspects of the Plan that we recommended be changed, such as the priority to remove all recognisable male tahr from national parks,” says Gale. “Attempting to eliminate the odd male tahr in the national parks is basically a waste of resources when the effort could be better spent controlling breeding animals in areas where tahr are having significant negative impacts on vegetation. However, outside of this the overall shape of the plan is pragmatic and proportional.”

[www.nzgac.org.nz](http://www.nzgac.org.nz)

“The GAC remains firmly of the view that the Department and stakeholders should be working towards a revised Himalayan Tahr Control Plan and a longer-term management programme that provides for better protection of the habitat, a viable tahr herd and quality hunting opportunities through aligning permitted tahr densities with the environmental capability of different locations.” “This requires an investment in monitoring herd density and vegetation impacts across the tahr range, which, if done properly, will take a number of years to complete.

The Game Animal Council and broader hunting community can play a significant role in these activities.” “The longer we put off doing this work the longer we limp along relying on potentially divisive annual control programmes based around the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan – a plan expressly set up as ‘experimental’ way back in 1993,” says Gale.

The Game Animal Council's advice on the development of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan 2021-2022 is available at <https://nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz/submissions/>.

The NZ Game Animal Council is a statutory organisation responsible for the sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation.



Tim Gale, Game Animal Council  
Phone: 021688531  
[tim.gale@nzgac.org.nz](mailto:tim.gale@nzgac.org.nz)



We love tahr hunting! – Photo: John Noakes



# Range Matters

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A good crowd of informal shooters at the Packers Creek Range in May. Great to see Hi-Viz becoming the norm too.

The Packers Creek Range is a Nelson branch key asset to support hunters and shooters alike. In June we wrote about the benchrest shoot event there in April, however obviously the Range has much use for casual shooting.....whether its training new shooters, testing new scopes or rifles, getting the last ounce of accuracy from handloads, or a simple check of a tried and faithful firearm prior to a hunt, the range is an essential place to allow for these activities. Obviously increasing pressure regarding firearms use (how, where and when) is placing stress on ranges, we intend to do all we can to maintain what is one of the better NZDA facilities in the country.

You can support this by both using the Range as much as possible (within your needs) and undertaking the Range Officer Course (to support supervising of shooting there which is a likely prerequisite to Range use in the future. If interested in doing the RO Course look at past emails from the Branch on the matter and email Bill O'Leary to join on 12<sup>th</sup> June (see below).

## Next Packers Creek Range Officer Training Course

**Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Where:** Packers Creek Range (Maitai)

**When:** 10am – 4pm on a Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Bill O'Leary is running another course for potential Range Officers, open to all paid up members.

**The purpose** – to qualify Range Officers to supervise shooting activities on a rifle range.

**The reasons:**

- to comply with the legislated requirement that range activities must be conducted under the supervision of a trained range safety manager. (Arms Act 2020, Part 6, 38Q, (1) (b).
- to increase the pool of Range Officers available to carry out duties at Packers Creek.

### Course Content

- will include
  - Legal considerations
  - Range design and certification
  - Range operation and Range Standing Orders
  - Conducting a Live Fire activity
  - Safety procedures including serious incident management

**Assessment** - will require completion of a written assignment/test

**Warranting** - candidates who satisfactorily complete the course and receive the nomination of the Nelson branch will be warranted by NZDA with revalidation required in 3 years.

**Please advise your intention to attend.**

You must advise your intention to attend on above date by email to Bill O'Leary at [b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz) and you will be provided with the required documents etc by return email.

**This is a great opportunity to be fully trained and shows commitment to our sport and range.**



# There Will Be Tahr...

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TAHR HUNTING IN THE TWO THUMB RANGE IN MID-MAY 2021 by John Noakes

Four of us flew in from Tekapo with McKenzie Helicopters. I hadn't been in here for 3 years so was good to check out the country again after the Tahr cull last year. With everything covered in snow and a heavy frost on the ground when we landed. The 2 Mikes got dropped off up high to hunt their way back to the hut that night. We saw quite a few animals on the way in and a couple of good bulls. Mike and Mike got back to the hut in the dark absolutely exhausted from not having much water with them, but they got in amongst the Tahr taking one bull measuring 11¼ and getting some good photos.





Heavy rain during the night cleared all the snow so was a lot easier going the next day with clear skies and a bit of wind.



A Plan was hatched to go 2 different ways to see what animals were about. Mike and Lyal headed down stream after I'd picked up a few animals in the spotting scope. Four wallabies popped their heads up and got levelled. Onwards and upwards the Tahr were moving around in smaller groups, the biggest being a group of 16 animals with 3 younger bulls, but if you wait the big fellows appear out of nowhere.

Another big day was had, 1 bull and a few others for meat. The last day we had seen 3 good bulls in different areas and decided to have a crack at them.



Mike going high after one good bull. Patience is the name of the game, but it got the better of him and he took a shot only to miss him. Frustrated he headed on up and got in amongst a few animals but the best one high tailed it to safety. He managed to shoot another reasonable bull but couldn't retrieve it as the day was running out. Thats hunting!

We kept in radio contact and the other Mike who finally managed to catch a glimpse of another big fellow in the scrub making his way up hill. After crossing the river and making his way past some nannies and a couple of young bulls and climbing around rocks and keeping out of sight, he got within 50 metres of the big fellow but couldn't see him. Then the big fellow got a whiff of wind and was gone to live another day! He was a 14" plus big bull. By the time Mike got back to the river late in the day, the big fellow came out again with a couple of nannies way up high in the bluffs. He'll be there for next time.

With animal numbers down from last time to a more manageable level, it was good to see plenty of animals about and there are still some big bulls out there. They are cunning and you have to be patient.



After high winds overnight we were wondering if we would get out. We woke to snow everywhere again and were able to fly out early afternoon back to Tekapo. A great trip with friends and time out which is good for your health and well being. We will be back!!

Cheers Noksee.

**PS.** if you want to do a trip contact Mark Pridham at McKenzie Helicopters: phone number 021 685 011. He is great to fly with and will put you in some great hunting spots.



# Competition Night

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These pictures do not do justice to the number of trophies (they were also stacked around the walls), people or hard work by Warren plum (with assistance) to measure and record everything presented.

We need a bigger room and a wide angle lens! Best way to see is to come along next time!

Winners will be announced in next edition of The Echo.







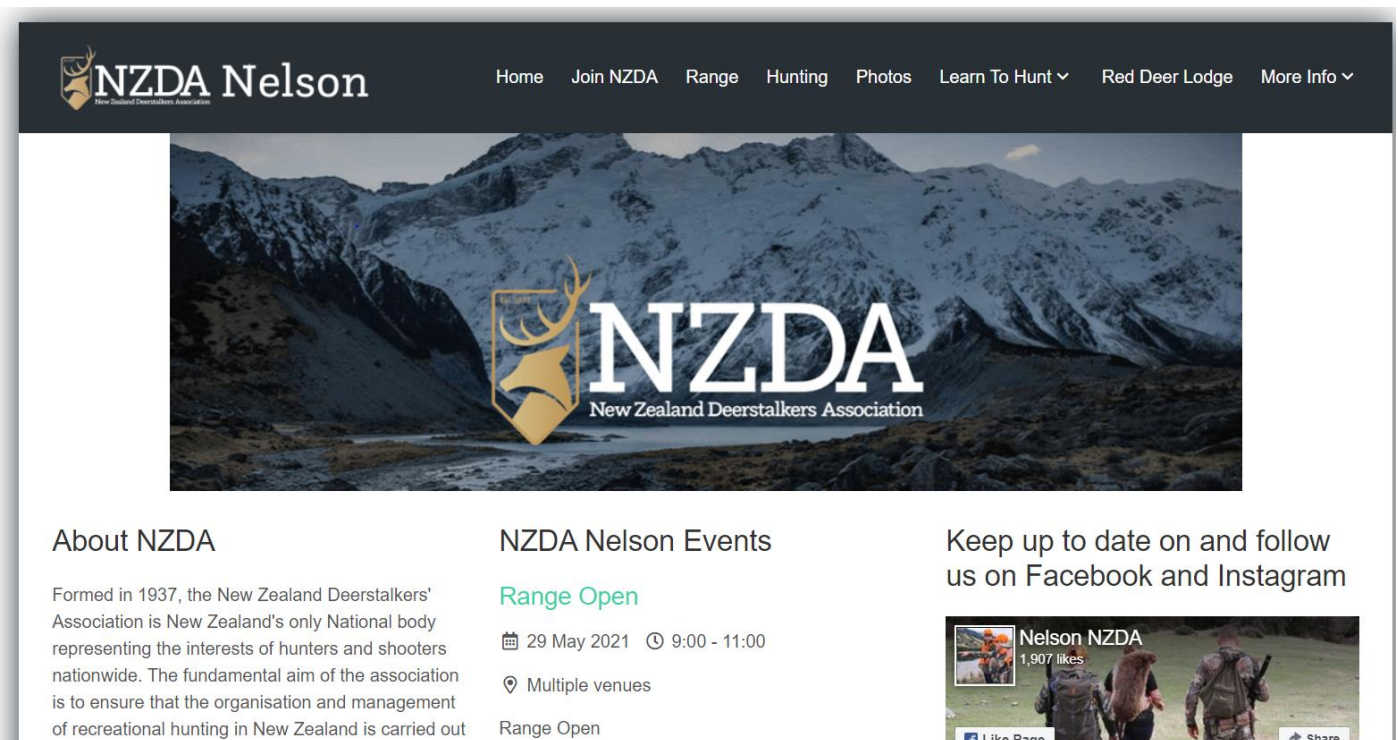


# Communicating with Our Members (spoiler alert!)

Much of the work in administering our Branch affairs and activities is in communication. We have made big in-roads into simplifying our financial systems using Xero and internet banking, greatly reducing the TIME and costs spent in getting invoices approved, GST paid and monthly and annual reports ready. Similarly, we are working on systems and processes to reduce the level of time spent by Committee in keeping you, our members informed with the expectation that this too will reduce the time needed by you to be certain and up to date on various aspects of Branch activities and operations. Our key tools are email, website and Facebook. We recognise not all members are on email and thus the Mountain Echo is printed and posted to a small group of members noting this is a significant time and cost process. The one thing we are seeking to avoid is the need for more snail mail or phone call contact in the first instance.

To this end Mike DeGray and Aaron Shields have been leading the charge to revamp/upgrade our website and Facebook pages as for the majority of members we expect these to be frontline first port of call for information. A snip below shows a face of the new website which will be live shortly. We plan to be more equipped and diligent in keeping this up to date with events, organised activities, range access, aerial poison and similar notices etc. with these repeated on Facebook as appropriate. This will mean you have current information at your fingertips and not have to rely on chasing Committee to confirm things. As usual we will keep such matters at the forefront in the Echo and also National matters are in the newsletters and emails from Wellington HQ.

And your part in all this? Please keep an eye on your emails and read the information provided when relevant to your interests! Post cool things on our Facebook page but remember it is a public site and we should not use it for pictures or comments that do not support our vision of safe game animal hunting and shooting in NZ.



**NZDA Nelson**  
Home Join NZDA Range Hunting Photos Learn To Hunt Red Deer Lodge More Info

**NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

### About NZDA

Formed in 1937, the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association is New Zealand's only National body representing the interests of hunters and shooters nationwide. The fundamental aim of the association is to ensure that the organisation and management of recreational hunting in New Zealand is carried out

### NZDA Nelson Events

**Range Open**  
29 May 2021 9:00 - 11:00  
Multiple venues  
Range Open

Keep up to date on and follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Nelson NZDA  
1,907 likes  
Like Page Share



# OSPRI Notice to Hunters who Frequent Kaikoura Area



## Constitution Hill Bovine TB Control Operation



### Osprl's TBfree programme

OSPRI manages the TBfree programme through the National Pest Management Plan under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Controlling disease protects the international reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products, prevents livestock production losses and protects our ability to safely consume wild meat caught while hunting. The TBfree programme aims to manage and eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand's domestic cattle and deer and wild animal populations. Possums are identified as the main carrier and transmitter (vector) of

TB resulting in infected farmed cattle and deer herds across New Zealand if not controlled. We use vector control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve our eradication goals. Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historic findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results and the operational history of the region are used when planning operations.

TBfree eradication goals are:

- TB freedom in cattle and deer herds by 2026
- TB freedom in possums by 2040
- TB freedom in all wildlife by 2055

There is a long history of TB infection in cattle herds and wildlife in the Clarence Area. Monitoring has shown that further aerial control work is needed in this area to reduce the possum population and minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and into farmed cattle and deer.

OSPRI is planning an aerial possum control operation in the Constitution Hill area (see map over page). It will cover 9,500 hectares and aim to effectively reduce possum numbers to a level where TB cannot be sustained in the wildlife population.

*Continued over page...*



TBfree is an OSPRI programme







**Our goals**



**2026**  
TB freedom in cattle and deer herds



**2040**  
TB freedom in possums



**2055**  
Biological eradication



**What to expect from the operation**

Aerial control effectively treats large areas in a short timeframe. It is often used in rugged and remote areas that are otherwise difficult and expensive to treat.

1080 is biodegradable which means it is broken down by micro-organisms in water and soil into harmless elements. It does not leave permanent residues in water, soil, plants or animals once broken down.

The Constitution Hill aerial operation is subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements. Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and exclusion zones avoided.

Possums are the main target of this operation, deer repellent is used to mitigate other non-target species by kill.

**Deer repellent**

In recent years there has been significant investment into research for a deer repellent suited to the open nature of dryland habitat found in this high country region.

Deer repellent will be used in all prefeed and toxic bait across the entire Constitution Hill treatment area to support better deer population survival rates and reduce by-kill.

**Methodology**

A standard aerial operation uses the Broadcast Method to disperse bait. For the Constitution Hill Aerial, the intention is to use the Strip Sow Method of application.

In this terrain, the possums forage more widely and have greater home ranges than possums in forested habitats. This allows the use of untreated zones, knowing that possums within the untreated zones will forage into

the treated strip areas during the toxic period. This behaviour has been reported in the Northern South Island High Country and allows OSPRI to achieve disease management outcomes with lower bait densities and is unique to this habitat type.

**Timeframe**

The aerial operation will begin in August 2021 with the distribution by helicopter of non-toxic, tan-coloured cereal pellets

containing deer repellent. This "prefeed" gives possums a taste for the pellets and overcomes bait shyness. At the same time, the repellent component of the bait assists in mitigating the interest of non-target species such as deer.

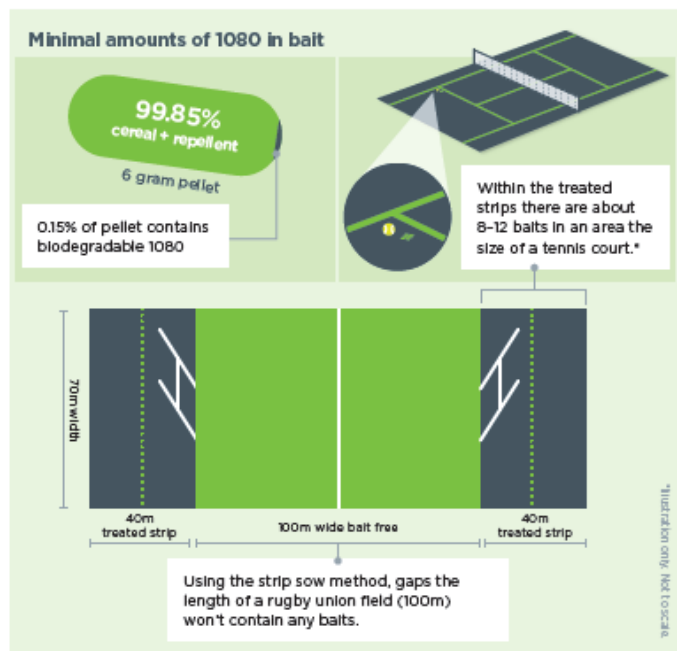
One to two weeks later (weather dependant), toxic, green cereal pellets containing repellent are applied via helicopter.

**What happens now**

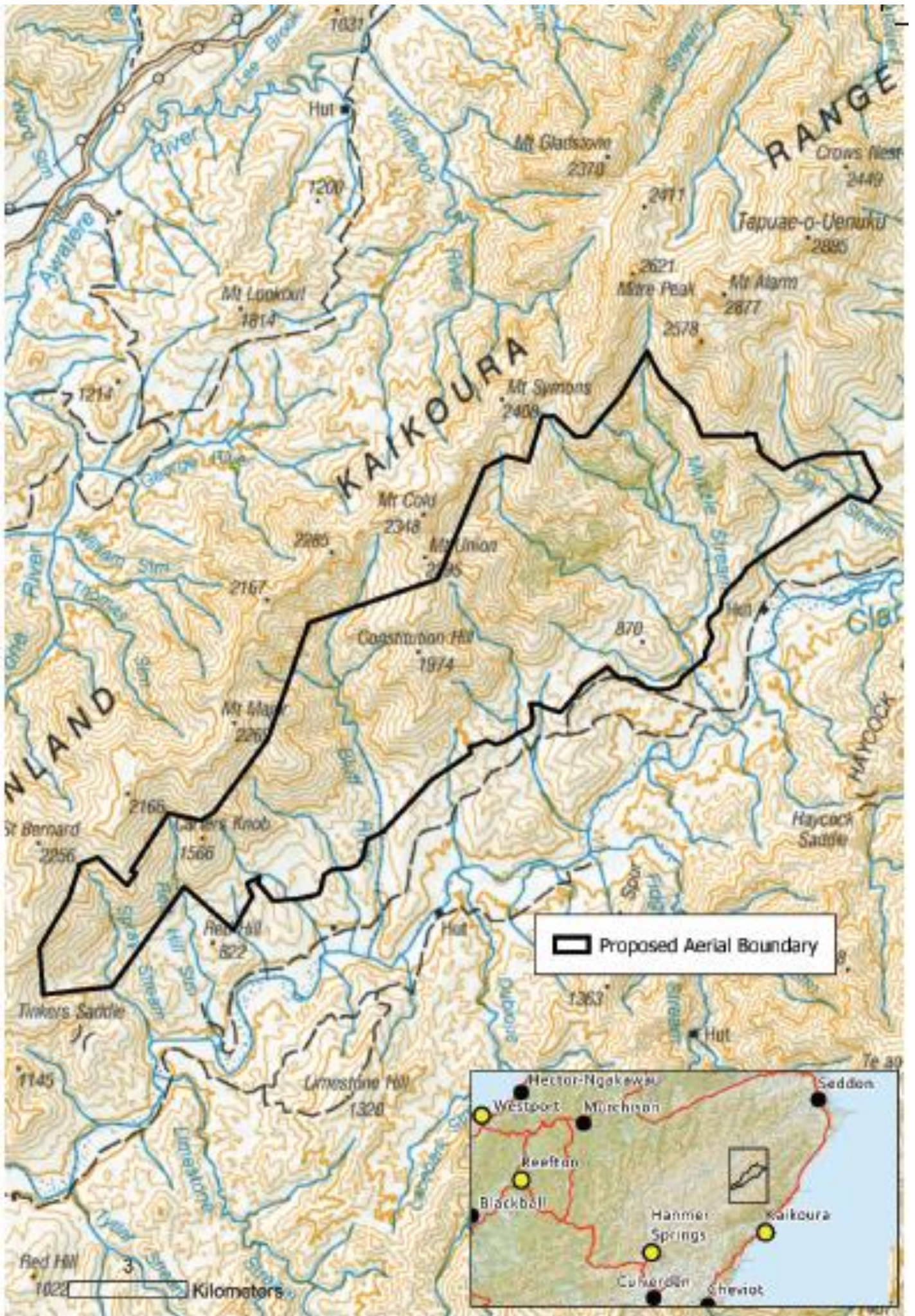
This operation is planned for August 2021. A contractor will be doing the control on behalf of OSPRI's TBfree Programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be visited by the contractor. They will discuss boundary concerns, water supply safety and the management of any risks to dogs and livestock.

Consents from the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Health are required for this operation.

Affected landowners and occupiers as well as interested parties will be contacted again before the operation starts. Notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.









## Important information

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long you follow these instructions:

**Do not** handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Cereal baits containing 1080 are dyed green.

**Do not** hunt or take game from within a two kilometre radius of the operational area for human or pet consumption. It's an offence to sell meat products that have been

exposed to 1080. Hunting can resume approximately four months following the control work.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in the baits or carcasses. When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area.



### Please note that dogs are prohibited on Constitution Hill.

Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed.

Dogs must not be brought into treatment areas until the warning signs have been officially removed.



### Drinking water recommendations

While toxin application takes place, and for 72 hours afterward, avoid taking water for drinking and cooking purposes from streams, lakes and tarns.

Where provided at huts and campsites, use alternative water supplies or bring in your own supply.

Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that public drinking water supplies are not contaminated, and testing of public supply is undertaken.



### What to do if you suspect poisoning

Contact your local hospital or doctor, or dial 111

National Poisons Centre  
**0800 POISON (764 766)**

If a domestic animal is poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.



### Further Information

#### OSPRI Christchurch Office

PO Box 8674, Riccarton,  
Christchurch 8440

**P** 03 363 3090

**E** vectornsl@ospri.org.nz

**W** ospri.co.nz

#### Contractor

Vector Free Marlborough

PO Box 5171, Springlands 7241

**P** 0508 548 008

**E** communications@vectorfree.co.nz

**W** www.vectorfree.co.nz

For more information on controlling bovine TB and how and why 1080 is used in New Zealand, visit [1080facts.co.nz](http://1080facts.co.nz)

For guidance on recreational hunting see our factsheet 'TB Information for Hunters' at [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)

For guidance on commercial hunting see the Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation websites.



# Fish and Game News

## NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **ORGANISED HUNTS COMMENCE:** A busy two months of facilitated hunting ahead with three organised Rabbit Island/Moturoa upland game hunts, and the annual pukeko drive at Wakapuaka on July 11.
- **UPLAND GAME HUNTING ON ONEFORTYONE (OFO) FORESTS:** Staff have been working with OFO to come up with some managed upland game hunting within OFO forests. OFO are responsible for much of Golden Downs forest, as well as plenty of estate in the Rai/Pelorus and Wairau Valley. There is some great opportunities within these forests, mostly for quail hunting. We are also hoping to set up a permit system for quail hunting on DOC land (i.e., Marlborough Forest Parks), for areas which hold huntable populations of quail.
- **WAIMEA PARK KIDS PONDS OPEN:** The kids fishing ponds are now open to the public for junior anglers under the age of 17. There should still be plenty of trout and salmon in the ponds from previous releases.
- **GAME HUNTER DIARY:** Fish & Game run a game harvest diary with around a dozen of the regions most successful and prolific hunters. The members of this group provide great information on all aspects of their hunting, which provides some complimentary data to the regular telephone game harvest surveys (GHS), as well as some important other information the GHS does not capture.

Duck diary contributors showing how it's done.



Stop Look Laugh



# Nelson Branch Annual General Meeting

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## **Time and Date:**

7.30 pm Tuesday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## **Venue:**

Fish and Game Meeting Room, Champion Road,  
Richmond

## **Draft Agenda:**

- Apologies
- Previous Minutes
- Matters Arising
- Financial Report
- President's Report
- Health and Safety
- Patron's Report
- Election of Committee members and officers
- Other business



# Red Deer Lodge

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## Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti

Contact for Accom: [info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](mailto:info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

Use the website at [www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](http://www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

**Remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**



# 2021 Branch Committee

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**President:** Greg Couper [terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz)

**Vice President:** Richard Wells [richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz)

**Secretary:** Warren Plum [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)

**Treasurer:** Aaron Shields [aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz)

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

## **Range Committee:**

**Convener:** Graeme Ching, [graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz)

**Members:** Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Bill O'Leary

**Hazard or Incident Reporting:** website email ([nelson.nzda@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.nzda@gmail.com)) or contact member of Range Committee

**Access, Rules and Safety:** see website [Range Info](#) and check your emails for updates or changes to range opening times.

## **Branch Hunts and Activities:**

**Convener:** Mike DeGray [miked@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:miked@nzdanelson.co.nz)

## **Hunts Courses:**

Website: [Hunts Training Courses](#)

**Convener:** Bill O'Leary [b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz)

**Members:** Lawson Davey, Alistair Ching

## **New members:**

email [nelsonnzda@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonnzda@gmail.com) or go to our webpage [Membership](#)

## **The Mountain Echo:**

Bill O'Leary and Richard Wells

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)