



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA June 2022



Stag Rampant

Wonderful picture of a stag “let go” by Warren...what a great hunter and photographer who has done enough to appreciate an animal like this and leave him to strut his stuff....see more below!

Club Night – AGM and Competitions



After the AGM our annual competition on night for antlers, horns and tusks as well as photos! See end of Echo for more detail.

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and 30 to come!

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**Club Night
AGM &
Competition
Night 6.30 pm
22nd June @
Saxton
Pavillion**

**Benefits &
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Editorial



Hey! It's winter! After the phoney May period. No better time to get a brush up on survival skills and Julian from SAR (and NZDA!) gave a great talk at Club night. For those that missed this I have added into our Important Links section at bottom of Echo a MSC Watch link...this is a direct link to all their excellent plain language guides to everything to do with bushcraft, safety, alpine and much more. To the Tahr hunters I highly recommend checking out the alpine info and Avalanche Advisory site too!

It is with some happiness we have a story on Red Deer Lodge and announce it's Licence renewal for 30 years. Testament to the value placed in the building and its utility by us and DOC (some of the happiness stems from my knowing I don't have to draft another application in my lifetime!) Like all things these days, the building and its license comes with responsibilities, however none are too daunting.

Please take note another place where our responsibilities are required, that at our Ranges and particularly noted this month is Packers Creek. It is so important we maintain collective performance in meeting the standards (whomever they are set by and including our own) to ensure we can have and hold these for as long as WE want. Nothing is happening in the news re illegal and irresponsible firearms use (at home and abroad) to give any comfort that authorities need to be able to confirm to the public that ranges are operated scrupulously to their rules. Again, and as per our Lodge asset, care, maintenance and keeping the paperwork up to date and adhered to are mission critical to their future.

Some lovely pics from Warren remind us about the great hunting out there.....anybody else with some pics of their adventures please send them in.

This year we are combining our AGM and Competition night at Saxton pavilion 22nd June, 6:30pm. The AGM is expected to be straightforward and where we report back on last year as well as accept members to the Committee. I know Aaron (who currently is doing both Secretarial and Treasury functions) is hoping someone will take the Secretary job off him. C'mon, it's a good skill to have and you will be well supported by the Branch.

With the Competitions there will be email out soon regarding entry forms and other detail. See more at end of this Echo.

Our Branch is meeting with Marlborough and Golden Bay representatives later in the month to discuss matters "Top of the South" and general; we do this annually to keep each other up to date and support each other as best we can. It will be great to have Golden Bay along for the first time.

Finally, but by no means least, thanks to our local Arms Officer Derek who promptly responded to my request for the facts on when you must be able to produce your firearms license. There is no shortage of concerns and chatter on Facebook and such on such matters but the facts from those tasked with enforcement is best! Some questions were raised at Club night too.

Again, the Police link at end of Echo will take you to good guides on all matters Firearms Law and Safety

Happy and Safe Hunting – *The Editor.*

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Red Deer Lodge

The Next 30 Years



Our Lodge at St Arnaud, nestled in the National Park adjacent to the DOC Visitor Centre

We are very pleased to be able to advise members that our work with DOC has resulted in us having our Lease and Licence for Red Deer Lodge renewed for another 30 years! DOC have been very supportive in what is a fairly significant application and review process, as one can imagine given that the Lodge is situated within the Nelson Lakes National Park. We are thrilled that DOC recognise the value of the building and its use by all visitors to the area and where good basic group accommodation is needed for those wishing to pursue the myriad of recreational and other opportunities the region offers.

Red Deer Lodge has a long history as shown in the pictures below, and now a long future ensured.

Over the last several years we have invested in such as interior and exterior painting, upgrades of safety plans, mattresses, and general maintenance; plenty of which was well overdue. It is critical that we keep the structural integrity of the building; that's why last week we laid better stormwater drainage to ensure roof runoff gets well clear of the building. Also ensuring the basic amenities are fit for purpose for paying guests.

While these days the use of the Lodge by members is much less than days gone by (in the 60's I suspect the womenfolk and children stayed at the Lodge while the gents went hunting!) it is still there for our use and members get a discount. Couple that with the fact that hunting in Nelson

Lakes is far better than it was post the 60s and 70's first helicopter WARO onslaught it's worth a thought.



Founding fathers.....a plan is hatched amidst the manuka to build Red Deer Lodge in 1961



Voluntary labour and donated materials.....our Lodge is born.



More than just accommodation – Red Deer Lodge houses some of the top, internationally recognised trophies shot in New Zealand by some of our finest hunters of yesteryear.



Getting our stormwater sorted!

Range Matters – Access, Care and Matariki



Packers Creek Range - Sunday morning May 29th. A great asset to be used, respected, cared for and defended.

Access Changes

Recently Greg has been working hard engaged in a significant process working with the forest and landowners to ensure everybody's safety while logging operations are undertaken from the surrounding forest. This is essentially ensuring no traffic conflict between laden log trucks and our range users' vehicles.

As from midnight **Tuesday 24 May 2022 to midnight 12 August 2022**, there is a full closure of all of Hira Forest north of the Maitai Valley Road, due to forestry operations.

We Deerstalkers can still use our Packers Creek Range for shooting during the weekends as we have been doing.

However, access now will be by vehicle convoy only (no cycling or walking to Range) using a forestry channel radio for communications, by the range gate opener in the lead vehicle, to advise of convoy movements to any approaching trucks.

Please remember:

- to arrive punctually at Sharlands Creek security gate (10 minutes before 9am)
- have your membership card and we recommend firearms license also
- have your seat belts & lights on when in forest
- stick in close convoy with the other vehicles and behind the Range gate opener lead; no driving elsewhere
- ensure your vehicle has 3rd party insurance

A further forest closure will likely be required from October 1 through to mid December 2022, and closures similar to these are likely to be on going for the coming 5 years.

Care of Our Range

This note is a reminder that a relatively few people work diligently to maintain the range and its assets as well as access to it. It is OUR range, and we are invested in it, especially all who use it. Ranges around the country are under pressure from proposed new rules (which we submitted in detail our views on but which we hope in the worst event we can meet) and also, we must recall that Packers Creek is one of New Zealand's best NZDA ranges. We are fortunate to have it and that fortune is due to those who planned and built it and those who maintain it today (and tomorrow). So **please** be considerate to the rules, grounds and infrastructure.

On that note, we have had another recent occurrence of somebody pinning their target to the target stand itself with result of it being shot to bits; Somebody aka Greg will now need to procure timber and rebuild it. This is either careless or thoughtless (see pics below).

As winter is upon us, be careful where you drive and park as maintaining the grass if churned up is no fun.

Use the toilet provided, wear your protective gear (earmuffs and Hi-Viz), know the rules and Standing Orders.

Above all, safely and carefully use and enjoy our great facility at Packers Creek.



NO! Not good enough.



Plywood and MDF only for placement of targets

MATARIKI

THE RIMFIRE CHALLENGE

24TH - 26TH JUNE 2022

ITINERARY:

Friday 24th @ indoors at Saxton smallbore range match - supper provided!!

Saturday 25th: 5 x hunter class targets @ 50 mtr

Sunday 26th: 2 x international 25 bull targets @ 50 mtr

COST: Friday only indoors \$15.00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday \$40.00

BBQ lunch Sat and Sun

Competition is open to all 22LR shooters, no gear no worries

We have limited gear available to use and heaps of good advice

Come along and try something new

For all enquires please contact:

Graeme Smith: ph. 544 7138 - email lvhvbr@gmail.com



SAXTON FIELD INDOOR RANGE



PACKER'S CREEK OUTDOOR RANGE

TONY T FROM CHCH READY TO GO

Firearms Rules Explained – Licences

A recent spate of conversations on Facebook re Police requirements when asked to provide license when in possession of a firearm (this was due to snap inspections of hunter camps on Rakiura) led us to seek the facts from our local Arms Officer. Derek has very usefully provided the letter below (reproduced in full) on this matter and will cover off other matters of frequently arising questions in future Newsletters. Also see here for storage and carriage: [NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms](#)



Good Morning Richard & fellow deer stalkers

Some confusion does exist regarding if you are required to carry a firearms license with you when in possession of a firearm. The exact details are contained in Section 26 of the Arms Act as follows:

- (1) Every holder of a firearms licence —
 - (a) shall produce the licence for inspection whenever required to do so by any member of the Police;
 - (b) shall maintain the licence in such a condition that it may be produced in an undefaced and legible condition.
- (2) The holder of a firearms licence issued pursuant to this Act shall be deemed to have complied with subsection (1)(a) if, within 7 days after having been so required to produce his licence or permit, he produces it at a place specified by the member of the Police.
- (3) Every person commits an offence fails to comply with subsection (1).

What this means is that if you don't have your license on you, you can be directed to produce it at a specific Police Station within seven days of being requested to do so. In the case of the recent Rukiura Island joint compliance operation with DOC, Police and MPI, where hunters could not produce their firearms license to the Police Member, they could have been required to present the license at the Invercargill Police Station. For some of those hunters, the logistics of complying with that direction would have been very difficult to do (and ruined their hunt). Hence, they may have been given a warning. If they did not comply, technically it is an offence, and is non-compliance with the Arms Act which then meets the legal justification for revocation of license. Once you are revoked, you have a minimum stand down of 5 years before you can apply for a new license which then would be assessed on its merits i.e., not guaranteed to get it approved.

Moral of the story, if you are going for a short hunt, you do not need to take your license with you. If you are hunting for any extended period of time, it pays to take it. You never know when or where you may bump into an Arms Officer or Constable. We like hunting too!

With regards to your DOC hunting permit, you definitely need to take that with you as it is a condition of the permit. If no permit, then you have no authority to hunt and may be "Unlawfully Hunting" which opens up another can of worms.

Regards

Derek Coffey Arms Officer Nelson

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Warren's Wanderings.....



Stag on the rocks



Billy boy.....



Well spotted fallow deer

Warren told us at Committee that he was “away hunting” for much of March and April.... indeed he was, and what great pics and trophies resulted. A dedicated hunter of few words but many deeds Warren shows what can be achieved on public land with rifle and camera.



They didn't all get off.....

When a plan comes together, after 50 years trying to get a decent public land buck. Back at base camp after 3 days fly camping. Team's trophies.



A challenge for the Douglas Score system!

Well not quite 3 antlers, but one extra point growing out the side of a Marlborough sounds stags head, who had suffered extensive damage to one of his coronets at some time earlier in life , before being shot this year.

Warren Plum

May Club Night Review

A great couple of presentations on a stormy night. Member and SAR man Julian gave a straightforward and practical insights into the difficulties and techniques of search and rescue; also what gear is best to meet demands of weat5her, accident of becoming “disorientated” aka lost.

The basics:

- PLBs save time and money. Take one and use wisely
- Plan your gear and ensure the necessities
- Know your area and have a map
- Leave clear and detailed intentions with next of kin
- Be visible

A question was asked about the relative merits of inReach mini and PLB...see MSC video discussing this here [MSC PLB vs inReach](#)



Julian says....."It's easy mate....when in trouble push the button....."



Gimme shelter.....Aaron and Mike (yep they're in there) model Julian's favourite emergency shelter. Great for best friends and non-fartars we reckon.....but the new thing in keeping hypothermia at bay.

Carl (also a member) provided a talk on a new type of shooting activity – precision rifle shooting. Precision means being able to repeat something regularly so this style of shooting is about placing several (10-12) rapidly fired (from a variety of situations/rests) shots into a sizeable target (as opposed to chasing accuracy i.e. tight groups) Learn more here about the local opportunity to explore this sport [PRS at Peak View Range](#)





Carl with one of his favourite precision shooting rifles (PRS)...yes that's a tripod, bipods are old hat now! Look on Carl's face suggest satisfaction.....



Another PRS rifle.

Trapped!



Waffled weasel

Greg's trapping campaign of terror on pests at Packers Creek Range continues.....

Pest control figures for May 2022 with total since September 2021 in brackets

- 2 weasels, (9)
- 20 rats, (130)
- 8 mice (14)
- 10 possums (30)
- 0 ferrets (4)
- 0 feral cats (4)

Epic..... and a reminder of the nearly invisible "background noise" abundance of these predators in some areas.

Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out

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

NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

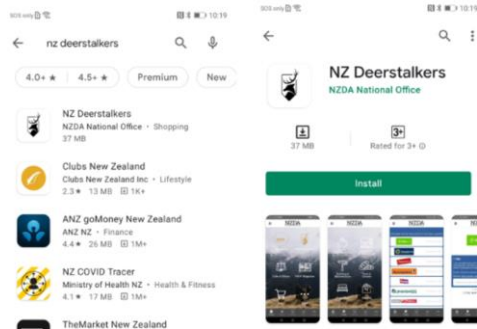
Available Now!



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

How to download the app

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



And we love.....

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From the
Farm
to the
Freezer

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

Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **OPENING DAY COMPLIANCE:** We had two teams out on what was a very typical top of the South Opening Weekend – fine and calm. One team in Marlborough focused mostly on public areas, including at Grovetown Lagoon – a place where hunting takes place next to a popular public walking track. The team caught up with 14 hunters here, all were fully compliant, with no issues between walkway users and hunters. A further six hunters were spoken to at Para Wetland – all fully compliant. Hunters had moderate to good bags, reflecting our March mallard counts which showed a ~30% increase in birds. The Tasman based team focused on the Motueka/Wangapeka catchment. The day didn't start well with the first pond having two un-licensed hunters, both also using lead shot. One or two hunters were then checked on the Motueka River, before we called in on a number of private ponds in the lower Wangapeka Valley. There were some fairly happy hunters with some good bags of birds.
- **FIRST OFO HUNTING WEEKEND:** The first OneFortyOne quail hunting weekend went well with some decent bags of quail harvested. Hunters enjoyed the freedom of being able to drive around forest blocks, and some Marlborough teams also enjoyed hunting forests that were likely shot for quail for the first time.
- **FISH RELEASES:** 600 large (2KG av) rainbow trout have been released into Lake Argyle over the past month with a further 400 into Waimea Park.



Happy dogs and happy hunters for the OFO hunting arrangement.



Happy hunters on Opening Day.

Website: [Fish and Game Nelson](http://FishandGameNelson.co.nz)

AGM and Club Night – 6.30PM Saxton Pavillio

All information for the AGM will be sent out to Members by email

Competition Time!



It's all up for grabs again!

So Please:

- Get your forms online
- Make sure your entry meets the rules (paid member, entry taken this year, fair chase
- If you want you can get your trophy measured before Competition night – this will reduce pressure on our qualified Douglas Score judges. Email Warren Plum plumstone@xtra.co.nz to take advantage of this and make the night easier for all!
- If you received a trophy last year **please return** to Warren Plum 35 Leicester Street Stoke (at a minimum bring on the night)

At Nelson's Saxton Pavillion from 6.30 pm Tuesday 22nd June.



Red Deer Lodge

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

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

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

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

COLFO [COLFO](#)

Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)

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

Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

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

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