



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA November 2021



Our CE Gwyn has been sneaking around in our backyard....took this astounding and magnificent chamois in Nelson (yes Nelson.....) region last month. Driven off the tops by bad weather he and his mates holed up at Red Deer Lodge...where we managed to get some "hard labour" from them during our working bee there.

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Club Night

**To Be Advised
depending on
Covid Level**

**Important Web
Links**

Club Night (Covid Dependent)

Sorry Folks but it is what it is.....To Be Advised – watch your emails or our Facebook page – we are [planning but cannot confirm anything yet.

Editorial

October had several highlights top of which must be the great work by David and team organising a donation of venison products to local Kai Rescue and achieving great media attention for this good work. Local and national recognition of the nutritional value of our wild game resources is undersold; this was a major step forward. Already plans are afoot to try and cement this initiative into a business-as-usual model for our region. Can't say enough good things about it!

Two working bees were undertaken on two of our key assets, Packers Creek Range and Red Deer Lodge; while these may seem a bit remote to those of you that don't use them, they are core to Nelson Branch in many ways and put simply, irreplaceable due to cost and consent processes that would apply in these modern times. Maintenance of them is so important and thanks to all those that turned to. Note there will be another bee at Red Deer this month to finish off the "gardening" there. Great chance to meet, talk hunting and contribute a bit!



While he was at Red Deer Lodge, Gwyn delivered our fantastic Nelson Branch banners (see pic showing them off in RDL under Working Bee section below). Not only do these look great and featured in the media event for Kai Rescue but they were designed by our very own Committee member Malanie Bartlett and a real show of her skills and contribution! National have accepted this design for all Branches, well done Mal!

And speaking of our ranges, two shooting events were held at each of Packers Creek and Murchison. Results are below or in next edition. We are very keen to see more entrants in these and newcomers will be welcomed and supported – the Ken Horner Shoot in November a great place to get started with your hunting rifle!

Mike Grant's photo essay is a reminder of the great hunting opportunities in Nelson (as is Gwyn's chamois above!!). It also serves to remind folks to start getting some good pics for next year's photographic competition and that to have a story in the Echo you don't have to be Shakespeare!!....get a few good shots out there doing it and we can publish....they are inspiring!

Because the editor likes trapping the Trapped section may become a regular feature.....you trappers out there please send us a pic or two....and if you want to get started, get in touch, its simple and good conservation from garden to great outdoors (the only good rat is a dead rat right?).

Hunt, shoot, stay safe, be happy....

The Editor *Richard Wells*

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Range Matters

Shooting Event Results, Packers Creek Working Bee & Ken Horner Memorial Shoot Notice

Benchrest – Summer Outdoor Programme

Rimfire Benchrest Challenge Series at Murchison Community Range 17 October

Results from Oct 17th - Rimfire Benchrest Match in Murchison

Another excellent day's shooting - a little wet and light winds but overall no issues.

Welcome to Maurice Horner who came to see what we do and have a little experience.

As always all newcomers are welcome and will be supported.

Graeme Smith

Results:

1	Greg Couper	244.08	242.06	486.14
2	Carina Jackson	239.07	244.07	483.14
3	Graeme Smith	242.06	239.07	481.13
4	Anne Marie Kidson	239.07	235.04	474.11
5	Jude Peacock	236.03	233.05	469.08
6	Michael Kidson	218.03	212.03	430.06

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



Murchison Rimfire Benchrest Event





Mark MacDonald with the modern shovel gets among the recycled glass stash.



Two places really matter at the range...the area one shoots from and the stops that ensure your projectiles are safely prevented from going further than necessary. These stops need to be regularly maintained and rebuilt (with recycled glass) to ensure the range and surrounds are safe.



The finished product – 100 metre stop with fresh recycled glass in place to absorb the next lot of projectiles.

Many thanks to the members that showed up for the Packers Creek Range working bee: Mike, Craig, Murray, Nathan, Rob, Ross, Ian, Mark and Greg.

As they say many hands (and a digger!!) make light work and we had it all easily done inside 2 hours with some staying on to sight rifles in for upcoming hunting trips after that.

We got the pig damage turned over and resettled to ensure mowing is not a nightmare, the 100 metre mound built back up & the glass pile tidied up for future use.

Greg Couper

Ken Horner Memorial Shoot @ Our Murchison Community Range

Challenging and Fun

This is the competition for hunters!!

When: Sunday 5th December starting 10 am

Where: at our Murchison Community Range West Bank Road (just sth of Murchison over Mataki River bridge)

Terms and Conditions:

- Hunting rifles only, slings allowed
- \$5 range fee and \$2 “guess your score”
- The event:
 1. Two sighter shots from rest
 2. 200 metres - 5 shots prone @ metric target
 3. 200 metres - 5 shots prone @ deer shape target
 4. 200 metres - 5 shots sitting @ deer shape target
 5. 100 metres – 5 shots standing @ metric target

Organiser: Maurice Horner (Murchison)

Nelson based members please contact Bill O’Leary

Ph. **0274 305 008** or email b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz

Shared rides can be organised if you contact as above

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

So, get along this year and see if you can stop all these trophies falling into Alister's hands like they did last year!



Looking Back on Winter Hunts

No flies.....!!! How quick we forget the discomfort of winter but also the blessings it brings. Spring is here, kind-of.....and summer soon to be, long days and battles to keep your meat fresh and free from passengers.



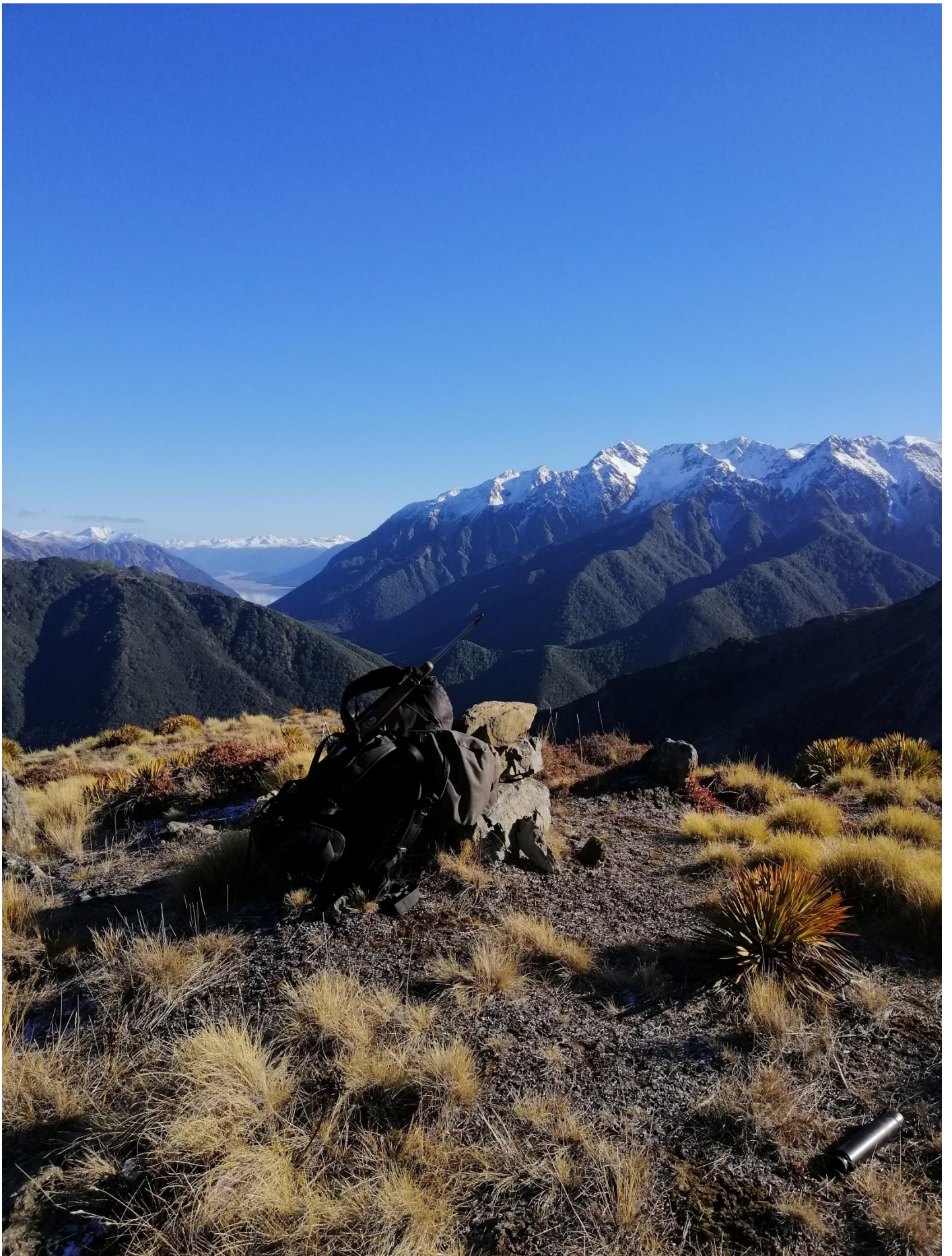
It was so cold here that the legs of meat froze solid overnight on the verandah.



Leave only footprints (and frostbitten toenails.....)



Mike Grant was out and about locally over winter.....







Great pics thanks Mike and a real reminder about what opportunities there are in our region, hot or cold!

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Trapped!

Snapped and trapped! Greg has been using trailcam to monitor our range pig trap (on a cold night!) and behold a cat waits its turn at the bait pile as ferret gets its fill.....



.....and comeuppance!



Another “Trapped!” Story

Rattus rattus

Yet another school holiday period rolled round and given we'd only just come out of lockdown it seemed the kids were hardly ever at school and kindy. Myself and better half were already getting low on 'entertainment ideas', and my two wee guys (2.5 and 5 yrs) were already starting to dismantle both the house and each other, as only combative young boys can do. The missus wasn't too keen on giving them head gear and boxing gloves and setting them loose on the trampoline (besides, they don't make mouth guards for 2 year olds) so I needed another plan.

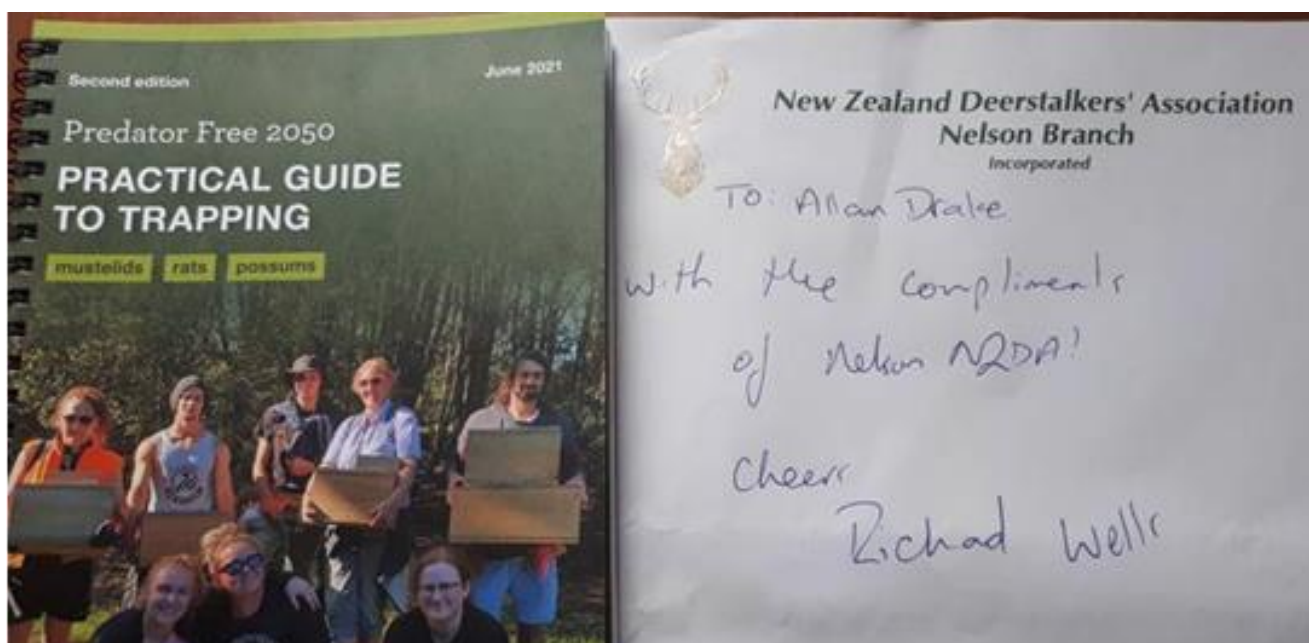
Enter, the latest Nelson Branch Newsletter.

Fortunately, I was sitting in front of my computer when it popped into my inbox, and always keen on any distraction from work, I naturally opened it immediately.

Excellent! Free stuff! A book – Practical Guide to Trapping, second edition, 2021.

Available to the first two folks to email a response. One of those was me – yay!

Before I knew it, a fella called Richard Wells had dropped it into my letterbox (nice embossed NZDA Inc. paper by the way) and I now had a project to occupy the “critters” who were robbing my wife of her sanity.



I had some timber off cuts and even a bit of mesh large enough for the task. A self-tapping screw for the lid to swing on. And I resurrected a rusty old Victor double spring trap from the garage. Too easy. The use of saws, pliers, hammers and nails, was just the ticket to occupy the lads for as long as I cared to persevere. The interesting thing here is, there was no sign of any rodent action on our suburban section in central Nelson.

One week passed and just as everyone was giving up on checking it each day, I couldn't believe it...success!

We do have a bushy hill close by and large water drains, but I didn't honestly think we'd have a 'win' so it just goes to show what's passing through!

As I said when I emailed Aaron Shields to thank him:

- **Got the book.**
- **Built a box.**
- **Caught a rat!**

Now of course the boys and I are in full production mode. I've built more boxes and have 2 that will fit DOC 150 plate traps – for that added 'squish' factor – excellent 😊
I reckon have a go. You might be surprised just how satisfying trapping is – I know I was!

Allan Drake



Editor's Note: *We still have that other trapping book folks! Same terms and conditions, free delivery - locality dependent!*

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

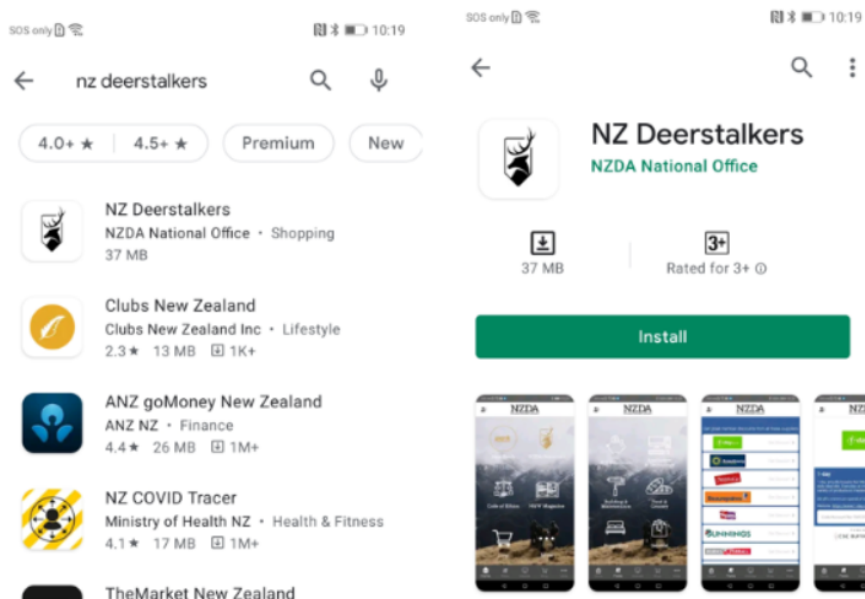
Available Now!



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**

NELSON/RICHMOND

Hunting & Fishing
NEW ZEALAND

**OUT THERE
DOING IT**

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

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

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

Red Deer Lodge Working Bee



Mr Chips in action as 20 years growth gets a trim (front, back and sides!)



Malanie's marvellous banners, to be seen at all NZDA events!

Next Working Bee @ Red Deer Lodge Saturday 13th November 9 am-3 pm

Jobs for everyone! We need 10 able people please!
Last week we got a lot done, a bit more to go.

Tasks:

- Finish cutting and removal of scrub
- Install two fenceposts as bollards at rear of section
- Fix new cupboard handles in kitchen
- Drainage work in our "damp spot"
- Assist builder in tank stand reno and some fascia fixes
- Attach some anti-starling netting
- Assess roof painting

To Bring:

- Lunch and tea/coffee – full kitchen facilities for lunch and afterwards
- Shovel/spade/loppers/secateurs/chainsaw and assoc. safety gear/rake/broom
- Ladders and wheelbarrows (need 2-3)
- Sense of humour

To help manage please advise intention to help to: richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz



Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **NEW FISHING SEASON COMMENCES:** The trout fishing season commenced and fishing has been better than expected in some areas. After the massive July flood, hopes were not high leading into the season, however angler reports suggest there are OK numbers of fish around, and the condition of these fish is fairly good.
- **WAIMEA PARK ADULT FISHERY POPULAR:** The new family/adult pond at Waimea Park is proving to be a hit, with plenty of anglers using the facility on a regular basis. We have undertaken two releases there so far this season, so there have been plenty of fish available. Pink softbaits have proven to be deadly, and for the fly angler a sunken woolly bugger to put the fly in the zone has been working well, made easier if used with an intermediate or sinking fly line.
- **WETLAND CREATION:** Staff have been undertaking multiple site visits for future wetlands, most of these are on private land and will become duck breeding areas in the future.
- **UPLAND GAME HUNTING - ONEFORTYONE(OFO) FORESTS:** Staff are in the process of negotiating access to large areas of OFO forest estate for upland game hunting in time for next season. Currently, access to these forests does exist, however it is up to the individual to apply and pay an annual fee for the access - a reasonably cumbersome process and one not generally taken up by bird hunters. If all goes to plan, we expect there to be free access for up to 30 hunters for one weekend per month to hunt the 'General Access' areas in Golden Downs, North Bank Wairau and Rai/Pelorus/Wangamoas.



The fishing has been better than expected this season.



The new pond at Waimea Park is proving popular with anglers

Website: Fish and Game Nelson

Club Night (Covid Dependent)

To Be Advised – watch your emails or Facebook page

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](#)



More info here: [Meat Solutions](#)

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