



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA October 2021



Leading from the front – our patron Neil came all the way over to help mop up after the lockdown “pitch invasion” by pigs at Packers Creek. Thanks Neil and it is good to know that pitch invasion is a capital offence here for pigs and these marauders have felt the “full weight of the law”.

OBITUARY

I have the sad duty to let you know that Walt Berger, a legend among Benchrest shooters, passed away a few days ago, at the age of 92. Walt was the founder of worldwide known Berger Bullets.

He was also a great Benchrest competitor and Hall of Fame member.

Walt Berger was the founder and first President of the World Benchrest Shooting Federation, and managed to organise, together with Hervé Duplessis of France, the first Benchrest World Championships in Fréjus, France, in 1991. Now, Walt has left the range, he rest in peace.



may

Our sincere condolences go to his family.

François Luciani - President WBSF

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Editorial

Good news is always good news and seeing the initial results from OSPRI (as circulated to members) with regard the 1080 campaign against possums in the Molesworth is heartening. All the participants in the programme (inc. of course OSPRI, but also LINZ, DOC, the station management team and Marlborough NZDA) are to be congratulated on progress made since the sobering event several years ago when a “perfect storm” resulted in unacceptable deer by-kill.

We should not underestimate the effort and costs involved in this improved situation nor the valuable precedents it has set for the future both in the Molesworth and elsewhere. This month’s feature story just happens to be a grand piece from Eric Hall on a Molesworth hunt!



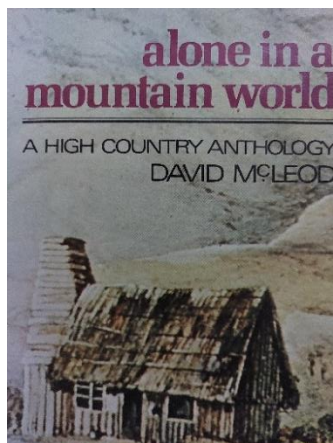
We are pleased to put up the list of shooting events looming both “home and away”. We are really keen to see more involved in this sport so please! Graeme awaits your call and there is nothing he does not know about the sport and how to get started.

Another pat on the back is deserved for Mike DeGray and Aaron for putting together the survey on what we call “organised” hunting and other activities. Given the need to have certainty and safety assured for such activities, getting absolute clarity about availability and competence means we can approach landholders, be they Crown/public, local govt or private, with some surety about what we can deliver in a fit and proper way.

It’s a big step forward in being able to administer what many people want but which at an operational level is pretty hard without the background data, which we can now hold thanks to the survey. **If you have not filled it out yet, please do!**

Daring suggestion from The Ed...[read a book!](#) In line with our stories on Molesworth and horse treks, the book pictured below is a collection of very readable short stories from early South Island explorers, farmers, musterers and drovers with many great memories of long rides and walks around the South Island High Country. By David McLeod, previous owner of Grassmere Station (available in Nelson library).

Hunt, shoot, stay safe, be happy
The Editor Richard Wells



Range Matters – Shooting Events for All

The sun has now risen above the peak on the left of the range during the day so this last weekend we kicked off the Summer Rimfire Benchrest Series with results below:

NZDA Summer Rimfire Benchrest Series Sunday 12 September 2021

Scores

	Target 1	Target 2	Total
Terry Farnham	243.07	241.04	484.11
Greg Couper	241.08	241.10	482.18
Graeme Smith	241.09	241.08	482.17
Anne Marie Kidson	213.02	238.07	451.09
Michael Kidson	204.01	213.01	417.02

Only 5 willing starters but no doubt more will join as we go along. We are keen to see more enjoy this sport

A full program of events has been developed - we have plenty of room (and time) to assist new shooters so if you fancy the idea come along, bring your .22 if you have one and give it a go.

Benchrest – Summer Outdoor Programme

Sunday 12 September 2021	1pm	2 x 50m Targets	Nelson
Sunday 17 October 2021	11am	2 x 50m Targets	Murchison
Sunday 14 November 2021	1pm	5 x 50m Hunter Class Targets	Nelson
Saturday / Sunday 11-12 December 2021		Canterbury Champs	McLeans Island
Sunday 19 December 2021	1pm	5 x 50m Group Targets	Nelson
Sunday 16 January 2022	1pm	5 x 100yd Hunter Class Targets	Nelson
Sunday 13 February 2022	11am	2 x 50m Targets	Murchison
19 – 26 February 2022		TSNZ Nationals	Trentham
Sunday 13 March 2022	1pm	5 x 100 yd Group Targets	Nelson
19 – 20 March 2022		South Island Outdoor Champs	McLeans Island
Sunday 10 April 2022	1pm	2 x 50m Targets	Nelson
16-19 April 2022	NZDA Nationals	Monday 19 th Rimfire Championship	Nelson

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

We Love the Neighbour's Place! - Molesworth Hunting

by Eric Hall

After receiving a couple of confirmation emails from DOC saying “You have been unsuccessful in your application this year” I was still thinking about plan B for the Red Roar when Warren Plum called me and asked if I was interested in going to the Molesworth in mid-March as he had a ballot block. The block had been carried over from 2021 due to Covid 19. Dave Hobson couldn't make the new dates that DOC had set for the Molesworth ballots. Awesome, we were off to the Lake McCrae Block on the 13th March with high hopes of finding some good stags.



On the afternoon of the 13th March saw three of us, Dave now included as his reason for opting

out had changed so three happy hunters headed for the Robinson saddle our access route to the Lake McCrae water shed. After a good walk, day two saw us camped up high overlooking the Lake McCrae block with the lake glistening in the distance on a very hot and calm evening. As the sun dropped down to the West we were all glassing looking for reds when Dave spotted two stags a couple of spurs over from us. It was to be Warren's stalk, so he and I proceeded to close the gap to 180m. Both stags had laid down in a very high tussock finger making them very difficult see. Nearly an hour passed by before Warren had a clear shot knocking over the bigger of the two stags.



A nice 13 pointer for his efforts, the other stag needed a couple years on it. One antler was a beauty the other side a little deformed with the bottom tine was sticking straight up. With the stag's
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head removed and back steaks on board we headed back to camp on dark. Day three saw us dropping down to the river as we had run out of water and the green grass beside the creek in the valley floor looked very appealing to us and hopefully heaps of deer. By the time we set up camp that evening we had glassed a good number of deer, a few pigs and heaps of goats. The biggest stag was only 8 pts so was safe from us as we had set our goal of something a lot bigger. Of interest we watched a small 6 point stag going crazy in big wallow hole on evening while holding 5 hinds. Day 4 saw Dave and I do a big walk around the southern boundary of our block overlooking into the Half Moon block. The Half Moon block was a lot more barren than our block with shades of green in the side gullies and main creek.



We saw a number deer including 2 stags, one a beautiful big 8ptr on the ridge as headed up onto the main spur and another good 8 pointer with four hinds an hour later tucked up in head of the main creek feeding Lake McCrae. Warren in the meantime a few kms away had shot at big pig but

was not able to find it in a big patch of briar. Day 5 saw us relocating camp about an hour from Lake McCrae. The willows on the main valley allowed us to camp in the shade, a welcome respite after days out in the otherwise treeless landscape. We even had goats walking into our camp, no doubt enjoying the cooler climate under the trees. We all split up for an evening hunt but saw nothing worthy of closer inspection. On day 5 we decided to head for the Robinson Saddle and camp the night, giving us some elevation in which to glass from. We had only been climbing for an hour when Warren spotted a nice size Blue Boar down on the flats. A great 320 metre shot from Dave dropped the boar in its tracks. It dropped dead on the spot.



Great shot Dave!

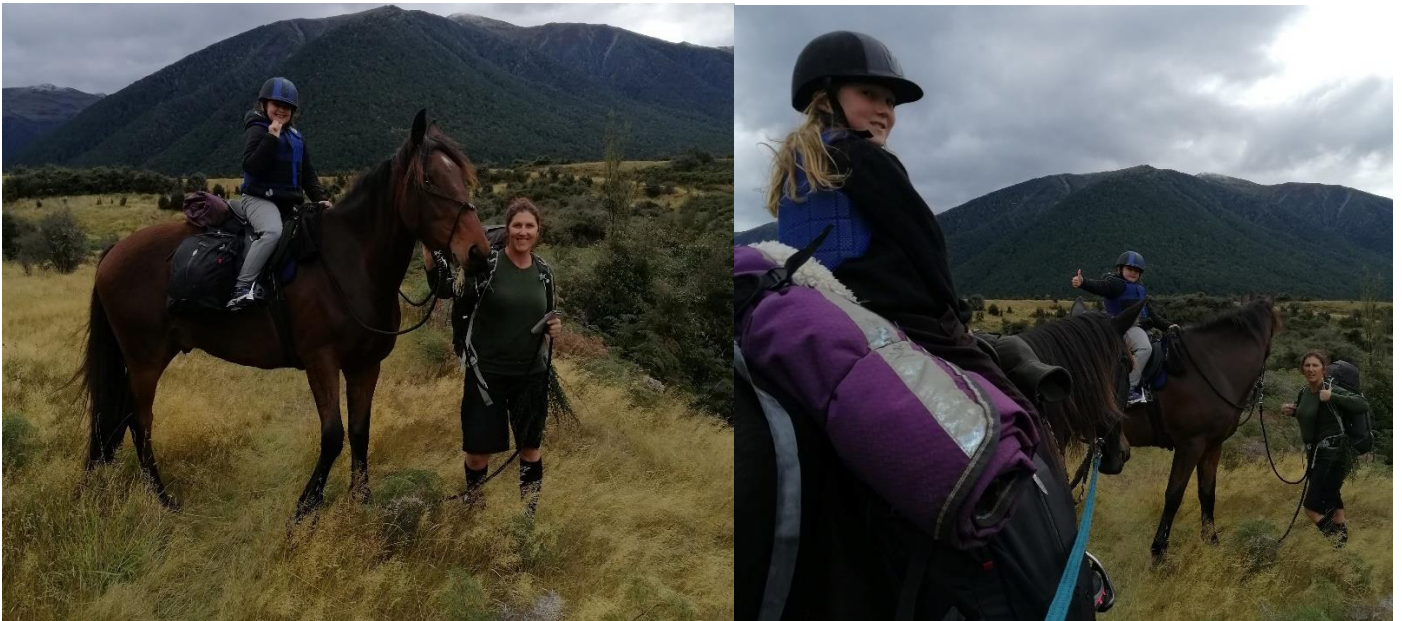
Pigs can be hard to put down at times as Warren had found out a couple of days earlier. Dave and I climbed back down and took some photos and topped up our water bottles as the weather was very hot and had been since the beginning the of the trip. Late in the afternoon of day six saw us back at the ute and a cold beer. A Speights had never tasted better. A great trip and enough animals sighted and dropped to make it really worthwhile.



Happiness is.....

Horsing Around in the Lewis

The Grant family decided to do a trek into the Lewis Pass area on horseback.....it is pretty hard to imagine that this mode of transport (or the option of “poor man’s horses” i.e. being on foot) was how everybody got about 150 years ago.

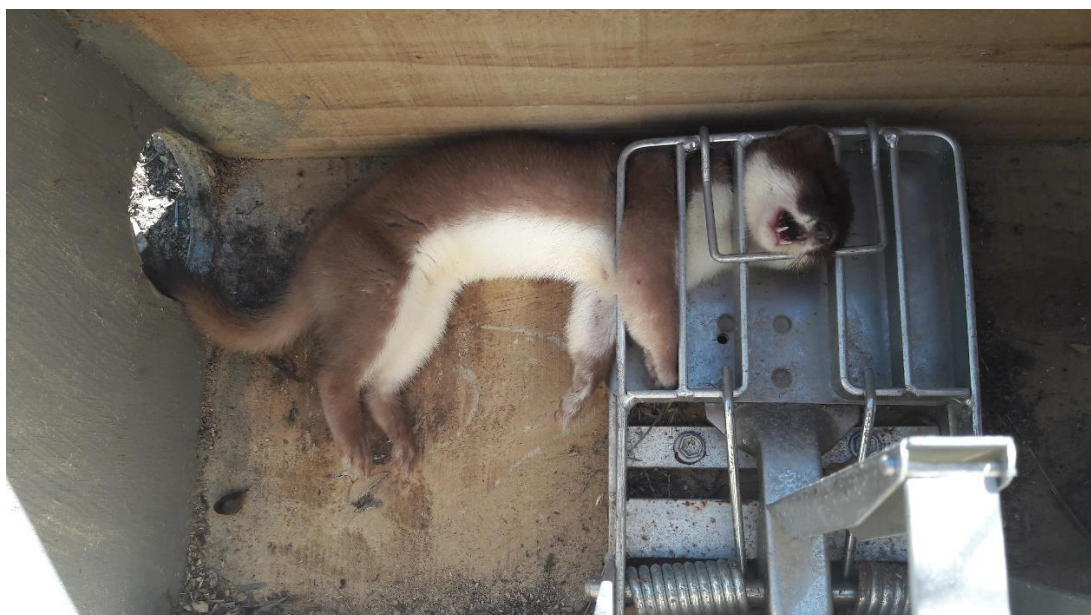




Great pics thanks Mike and the next generation getting to enjoy our fantastic local public land

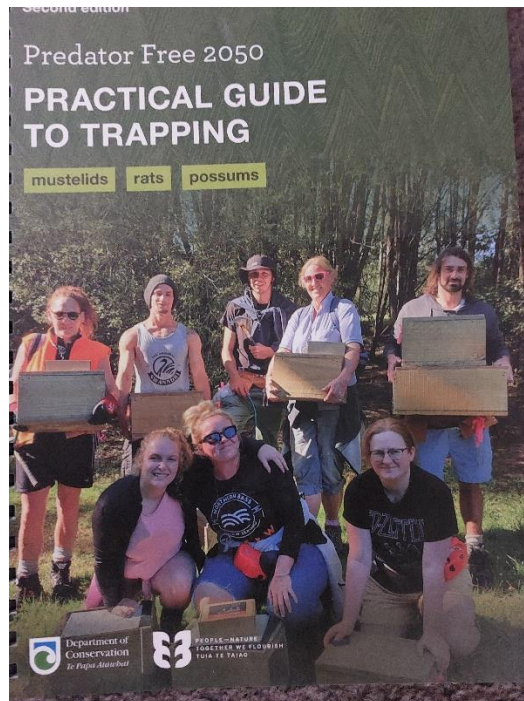
Trapped!

Spring heralds the increase in presence of stoats and weasels. It's a good time to get your traps sorted if you have a block that is prone to these vicious characters.





Always get approval!!; here local DOC Inspector checks out the latest traps!



We have two free Guides to pest trapping - be in to win! First two members who email our Secretary will receive free booklet on all you need to know for safe and effective pest trapping. Winners can collect at next Club Night



Double trouble – two DOC 150s with extra-long space between entrances and traps as this is weka country. The DOC 150s are great on hedgehogs, rats and weasels too.

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

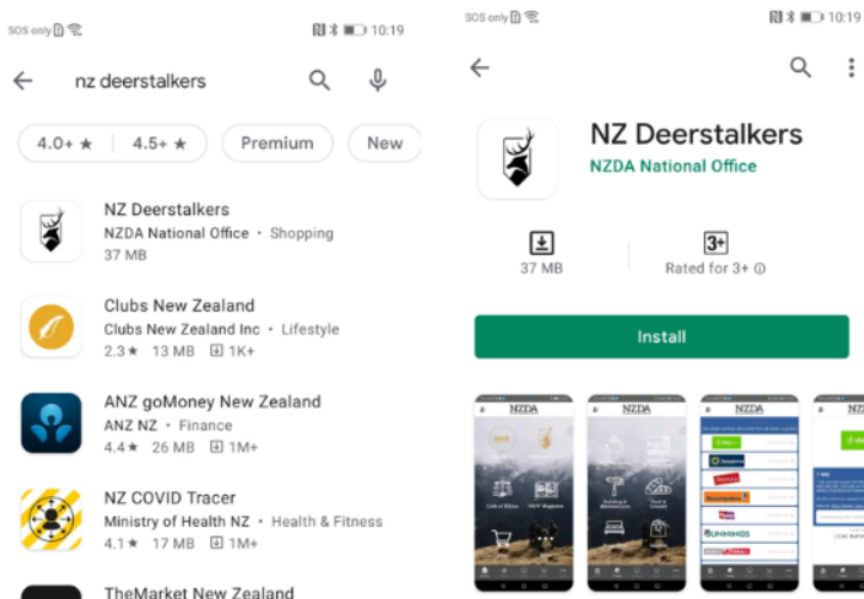
Available Now!



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

Fish News.....



Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **NEW FISHING SEASON COMMENCES:** The new trout fishing season commences on October 1. Staff have released 500 rainbow trout into Lake Argyle and the new Family/Adult pond at Waimea Park in time for the new season.
- **CATCHMENT ENHANCEMENT & FRESHWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:** Fish & Game staff member Lawson Davey has been working with TDC as part of these projects, specifically creating new wetlands within the region. This has involved visiting wetland sites and assessing their values, weed threats etc, providing advice to landowners. Lawson is also designing and project managing a new Wetland at Eves Valley which will be constructed by Christmas, and will become a F&G balloted hunting pond.
- **WETLAND MAINTENANCE:** Staff have been visiting a number of Fish & Game managed wetlands and spraying for weeds.
- **DOC GAME BIRD PERMITS FOR 2022 SEASON:** Staff are working with DOC Renwick to assist with issuing gamebird permits for hunting the Wairau Lagoons, and also upland game hunting on DOC land in Marlborough. For the upland game, there are a number of Conservation areas in Marlborough where it is possible to take dogs and use shotguns for upland game hunting, i.e., Branch/Leatham & various blocks within the Awatere Valley.

Taking levels for the Eves Valley wetland

Waimea Park Fishing Ponds

WELCOME TO THE THICK OF IT.

WAIMAEA PARK EDUCATIONAL FISH PONDS

The Waimea Park educational fishing ponds have been created with junior anglers, new anglers, families or other anglers in mind.

This fishery is funded through the provision of fishing licences—please make sure you have a current licence and carry it on you while fishing. Fish & Game Rangers will be frequent at the ponds undertaking compliance.

You can get your fishing licence at any sports shop, or online at fishandgame.org.nz/licences

Please remember the following:

- The ponds are not exclusively for trout anglers. This is a public area and there may be others using the ponds for recreation.
- Fish & Game will try to keep ponds stocked. However fish numbers will fluctuate and releases will depend on numbers of available fish.

For more information contact Fish & Game: 03 544 6382

JUNIOR ONLY PONDS

- 5-17 years of age
- Open from 20th of December to 30th of March, and from the 1st of June until the 30th of September
- 1 fish per day
- Youth Fishing events will be run during closed periods
- Licence required to fish (outside of organised events)
- If you are open fishing, please do so only in the large ponds, and be aware of people walking around you.
- For information on upcoming lake fishing events, visit www.youthfishing.org.nz

FAMILY/ADULT POND

- Open to all ages
- Licence required
- Open all year
- 1 fish per day
- May close at times for special events
- Once daily limit of 1 fish has been taken, you must cease fishing. Any anglers caught fishing while in possession of 1 sports fish are committing an offence.

GET YOUR LICENCE HERE: fishandgame.org.nz/licences

Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game | 03 544 6382

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](#)