



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA September 2021



Passed in flying colours! ...HUNTS trainees with their completion certificates. The weather Gods played hardball on graduation night so only 7 of the 12 trainees (who all passed) were able to make it. The rest knew it wasn't safe to cross rivers that night eh?! Congratulations to you all.

Club Night Tuesday 28th Sept (Covid permitting)

Our very own member, Nick King will provide great insights into assessing animals on the hoof.....a must for all keen, budding or experienced trophy hunters.

Please note Covid and we will update by email nearer the time of this great event. Saxton Field Smallbore venue.

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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Tuesday 28th
Sept 7.30 pm

Assessing trophy animals on the hoof – Nick King

at

TSN Smallbore Range Saxton Field

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Editorial

Covid again.....Barry Crump said it once so I don't need to repeat it. At least this time around we are better versed and we have a bit of a feel for what is likely to happen as information comes out daily.

This month's Echo focuses on the recently completed 2021 HUNTS course. Cancelled last year due to Covid, we now know we were lucky to sneak one in the gap this time around. Much more on this important area of NZDA work in an unashamedly pictorial feature story below.



Until there is more certainty our usual activities and services will be constrained by Covid like everybody else's. It was a pity to cancel Club Night but that is how it flows, we hope the Ballot Information posted on our website is of use and please drop a line if there are technical issues (of course, apart from where the 12 pointers are) that you may need help with. Obviously, the Range is shut till further notice too. Keep an eye on emails and our website for updates

Stay safe, Richard Wells

Range Matters- H&S and Vehicle Access

Presently we are reviewing all the documents we use to manage health and safety at the Packers Creek Range. This will be followed up by an on the ground audit and confirmation of health and safety procedures as well as Hazard ID and management in early October before the start of shooting events.

Expect to see in October refreshed paperwork by email and on our website (Range section).

When Driving to the Range from Security Gate

- Have your membership card ready for gate opener
- Headlights on
- Look out for other traffic, cyclists and walkers, keep to moderate speed

Vehicle Third Party Insurance: One aspect which we want range users to note is the need to ensure you have third party liability insurance for any vehicle you drive up to the range. This is because we pass through forest for which the main concern of owners is fire. Whilst they control access during high fire risk, if any vehicle accident were to occur while transiting to our range then third party is very important. Most vehicle cover has this cover and to a surprising level (to cover vehicle owners against just such events). Please take the time to check yours if you use the access road.

HUNTS – We are Back!

After a Covid enforced break last year our local team have put in the work and delivered another HUNTS course to 12 keen recipients (now hunters!).

So, what is HUNTS? Our very own Hunter National Training Scheme, a nationwide, NZDA led programme delivered by Branches in collaboration with other associations (e.g., for us here in Nelson it's our regional Fish and Game folks, who help train in gamebird shooting). Interested? see more here: [HUNTS](#) .

The course focuses on the key skills and knowledge sets required to hunt successfully, safely and lawfully. That's why the syllabus is wide ranged, hunting is a complex sport when all facets are considered, so the topics covered are:

- Regulations
- Ethics
- Ecology
- Equipment and food required
- Travel and navigation
- NZ's game animals
- Upland game - birds
- Range shooting and firearm set up
- Use of firearms in hunting context
- Hunting techniques
- Caring for your meat and trophies
- Preparing for when "things go wrong"

Of course, under all these headings there are a wide range of things to learn. Our local HUNTS team are Bill O'Leary, Lawson Davey (F&G - game birds, which half the trainees took advantage of), Garry Dunn, Alister Ching and Alex Monahan of Doughboy Safaris, all pitching in their considerable time, expertise and resources to this programme. This year we had 12 trainees enrolled, with a range of ages from teens to "middle aged" (whatever that means!) and two women hunters this year. Good to see a wide cross-section, it speaks well for the future of hunting! One trainee travelled regularly from Golden Bay to attend each session and such an attitude will sure see them be a great hunter too.

Desktop parts of the course are undertaken at the Fish and Game rooms in Richmond, but as can be seen in the pictorial part of this feature, much of the cool stuff happens outdoors.



Alistair provides coaching on sitting position freehand shooting.



One more river to cross....essential skills in getting to your hunting grounds....and back.



Catch and Carry.....After "range time" trainee Israel puts practice to the test, successfully too; meanwhile Felix carries a load



Trainee Andy getting the harvested animal to look more like meat.....he may be learning how “fluffy” winter fallow are?!



“Scalpel.....!!” Karen is supported by Bill, as dressed and skinned animals become cooking cuts



“.....and this is what it’s all about, innit?” When your sport can fulfil you AND fill you, then that’s a winner for dinner.

Shout out for our HUNTS Sponsors

The HUNTS programme doesn't work without 3 key ingredients.... dedicated work by the Course leaders, the trainees of course, but also support from sponsors. Stoney Creek (who are national programme sponsors - providing a HUNTS pack of clothing etc), local homekill and meat processor Meat Solutions run by James Fairbrass on Salisbury Road Richmond, and Alex Monahan (NZDA member too) of Doughboy Safaris help make this all possible, our thanks to them and support them eh?

More info here: [Stoney Creek](#)



Meat Solutions of Richmond - turning your hunting success into ready packed meals!

More info here: [Meat Solutions](#)



More info here: [Doughboy Safaris](#)



Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out

It's easy to forget!! Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: [Benefits and Discounts](#)

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

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.

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Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT

- FISHERMEN HELP FARMERS:** There has been a terrific response from members of the Nelson Trout fishing Club, who over the course of three weeks gave hundreds of volunteer hours to help out landowners affected by the July flood. Up until the Level 4 lockdown, considerable work had been undertaken on six badly affected properties. One working bee (which was on a small farm which regularly provides anglers with access to the river), had in excess of 20 volunteers, and the farm was completely transformed that day. More work is in the pipeline once covid restrictions are relaxed, mostly in the Motueka Valley where this flood was the largest since at least 1983. If you wish to assist, get in touch with Jacob Lucas (jlucas@fishandgame.org.nz | 021 811 253).
- FISHING SEASON COMMENCING SOON:** The 2021-22 fishing season commences soon, and staff will be busy preparing for this season's release programme, with fish scheduled to be released into Lake Argyle and the new Waimea Park adult/family pond.
- ANNUAL FISHERIES REPORT:** The 2020-21 annual fisheries report is out and you can view it here: fishandgame.org.nz/dmsdocument/1882



Rural News
TOP OF THE SOUTH
Wednesday 11 August 2021

Wanting a straight forward chat about Real Estate?
Lydia Heyward
027 412 9662
lydia@realestate.co.nz

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Fishermen help farmers

They Zentveld, left, Timothy Savelle, middle, and Steve Perry helping to fence at a local farm. Photo: Graham Kewitt.

Jeremy Nicholson
A group of fishermen are restoring the goodwill they have earned from local farmers by helping with the clean-up from recent floods.

They often rely on the goodwill of farmers for access to the river. Now they are returning the favour with working bees on several farms that were damaged in the July floods.

About 11 to 20 staff and volunteers from Nelson Trout Fishing Club, Fish and Game and fishing guides from NZ Professional Guides Association have been involved with the clean-ups.

"It is amazing how many hands do indeed make light work," says Jacob. "Usually it looked daunting."

A lot of the work has been removing debris from streams and installing those that have been flattened. There is also a lot of work with native plants that were swept and surrounded by all. "They have been dug out and replanted with gentle animals."

"They have been working alongside the local support and will have a few farms lined up to help."

Farmer George Ormrod was overwhelmed that the group helped clean up his farm, mostly helping with drains.

"When the flood it was quite traumatic," he says. "It was brilliant that they helped."



F&G and the Nelson Trout Fishing Club helping out farmers with the clean-up.

Website: [Fish and Game Nelson](https://fishandgame.org.nz)

Club Night **(Covid Level Dependent)**

Assessing Game Animals on the Hoof with Nick King



Time and Date: 7.30 pm Tuesday September 28th

Venue: Target Shooting Nelson Small Bore Club Range, Saxton Field

Please park in Football Club carpark as grounds around building very waterlogged

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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](#)