



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA September 2022



Epic Club Night at Nelson Hunting and Fishing – all you could want to know about Rab sleeping bags and great deals on the night from H&F team as well as Rab!



Brody Parkins receives the Shuttleworth Trophy for best red deer head.

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**Club Night**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>  
Sept**

Matt Vincent  
**MTN Gear –  
all the cool  
kit explained**

**Doors open  
7pm at  
Saxton Field**

Important  
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# Editorial

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Hi All,

HUNTS training is a feature of NZDA and another successful year class has graduated following hard work by instructors and participants. The photoessay shows the themes covered in the course. And a big welcome to those joining the hunting fraternity!



Recent colossal rains have badly affected a lot of people and their assets, and our thoughts are with those people. As per below our Packers Creek range was not exempt (as with many other situations it could indeed have been much worse). Obviously, we are working with the right people to get things rectified, accessible and safe as soon as can be, noting huge pressure all round on prioritising damage repairs.

A great Club Night last month at Hunting and Fishing with time to learn and mingle, really appreciated new members fronting up and telling where they had moved from and what they were up to....amazing how many people coming from other parts of NZ to our "sunny" area. Trophies and Certificates from our AHT and photo competitions were handed out, excellent to see so many young successful contestants. Next month's event looks equally interesting (see end of Newsletter) so come along! You are welcome to bring friends and family.

The year is passing rapidly....and for those of you keen on red deer roar ballots, it's time to scratch the head and think about when, where and who with, you want to apply for this year.... I have added the key links at end of the Newsletter and happy to take any queries on the subject.

Conference! It is not great use of my or your time to repeat too much stuff so see again here link to National Newsletter for summary and detail of events at Conference this year [National Newsletter and 2022 NZDA Conference Summary](#)

As per the meeting notes provided in the last edition of the Echo, OSPRI are proposing/planning some significant aerial 1080 programmes to control TB via possum reduction across NZ and some of these plans affect top of the South. We are in communication with Marlborough and Golden Bay branches (as well as OSPRI) on this matter. Whilst it appears that repellent will be used in the Clarence area, at present the draft plan advises that the Rainbow area will not get repellent due to risk to kea. We advocate for repellent in any aerial 1080 drop and note no evidence to support that repellent increases risk to kea, which is the key point here. Submissions are due at the end of the month and we will be submitting on behalf of the branch in collaboration with other Branches and national Office. I encourage people to make considered submissions themselves as individuals, see link here [OSPRI Submission](#)

The Police are issuing more information around Firearms Laws and requirements (see under Range Matters) not least seeking submissions regarding registry which will of course take up executive time...but you can have your say too [Police Firearms Registry Submission](#) Make it considered and make it count!

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

# HUNTS 2022 – Photo-essay from the HUNTS Team

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Pic 1: Safety – Navigation theory. A lot to absorb and put into practice.



Pic 2: Safety - Group hunting protocols – Hi Viz on this Fish and Game pukeko drive.

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



Pic 3: Sharing success - Does it matter who scored?



Pic 4: Valuing the resource – Knife skills tuition with pukeko sausage intended. First aid on hand



Pic 5: River Safety – Dry land drills for solo crossing technique. Waimea River in June



Pic 6: River Safety – Group crossing. Wet suited instructor supervising “centipede turning technique”.



Pic 7: Shooting practice -Packers Creek. - Where more practice builds confidence.



Pic 8: Shooting when it counts. Lining up the shot and waiting for the right moment.



Pic 9: Success and satisfaction. Several stories in this photo but obvious who shot the animal and over heated dragging it out of the scrub.



Pic 10: Field dressing - Just confirming – “the knife cut starts -here”.



Pics 11 & 12: Valuing the resource – Professional instruction to “know your cuts” by James (thanks for your ongoing support Meat Solutions).

**meat** Solutions

From the  
**Farm**  
to the  
**Freezer**





Pic 13: Feeding the whanau. The first skinning recorded for the family album so there is no doubt as to where the next meal came from.  
Note. Other course candidates' deer wait their turn on a marathon meat processing day.



Pic 14: Course completion. – Graduating trainees receive their certificates and Garry Dunn is signed off as a full HUNTS instructor.



Pic 15. What's next?

Well, lots of this - Safe hunting practices  
Meat for the table  
Happy recreational hunters.

# Range Matters – Storm Damage to Packers Creek Range

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The photos above show damage to both the access road and Range itself. Obviously, the forest owner needs to get the access sorted out for themselves and will be engaged in this as soon as they can.

Currently we are unsure when we will have access returned and obviously range is closed till further notice. We will keep you all posted as things progress and may call out for a helping hand to tidy up after the forestry guys have worked their magic.



[Advice & Services](#)[Firearms & Safety](#)[News & regulations](#)[News & updates](#)[Firearms Group Forum updates](#)[Firearms data](#)

## News & updates

### Consultation opens for 6 weeks on proposed regulations to support the new Firearms Registry - 31 August 2022

New Zealand Police is inviting public submissions on the proposals for regulations to support the new legislation for the Firearms Registry.

### Introducing MyFirearms and online forms - 15 August 2022

The introduction of **MyFirearms** is one of the steps we are taking to modernise our work around firearms and become an effective regulator of the Arms Act.

Later this year, we will be launching **MyFirearms**. **MyFirearms** is a secure portal for managing your firearms information.

This will give you the ability to **manage and pay** for your licensing and some endorsements online.

It will also allow you to update your personal information, such as address details, and provide us details on any change of health practitioner. You will be able to log in to MyFirearms via RealMe and be able to save a partially completed application and come back to it later. Payments will be able to made online via a **debit or credit card**.

Next year, once we have established the firearms registry, **MyFirearms** will be the place where people will be able interact with the registry when they will be required to register their firearms

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## New videos and updated guidance for secure storage and transportation of firearms and ammunition - 15 Aug 2022

On 1 February 2022, new [regulations for firearms and ammunition storage and transport](#) came into effect, which affect all standard firearms licence holders.

To help you understand the changes we've released a [series of videos](#) on topics like installation, property security, cable locks, secure ammunition storage, transport and motorhomes/caravans.

The videos demonstrate what set up and the type of equipment you may need to fully comply with the regulations. The videos on transport will be of particular interest if you travel with firearms and ammunitions for hunting or recreational purposes.

We've also updated the [Secure Storage Guidance for Firearms and Ammunition document](#) dated June 2022, with better photos so it's easier to see how to comply.

**Tip:** To open the most recent version of the guide, [open the link](#) for the guide in your browser and then click Ctrl + R to refresh your web browser.

The guidance and videos are available under the [Firearms and Safety section of the Police website](#).

### Resource links:

- <https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publication/firearms-and-ammunition-secure-storage-guidance>
- <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-safety/safety/firearms-and-ammunition-storage-and-transportation>
- <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice-services/firearms-and-safety/what-do-i-need-know/new-firearms-laws-and-what-they-mean/february-2022-arms>

# August Club Night - be there or be square!



Karl Puklowski and fists full of silverware (Williams Cup and People's Store Trophy)!



Neil says "Good sleep means good times"...& happy and safe hunting in other words! Great new sleeping mats by Klymit



Neil Stichbury from NZ Outfitters gives us the lowdown on down - Duck down or goose down???  
Now we know....goose down is best! There is a lot to know about feathers if you want a warm night on the tops and Rab seems to have it covered!!



Thanks Hunting and Fishing!

# Trapped!

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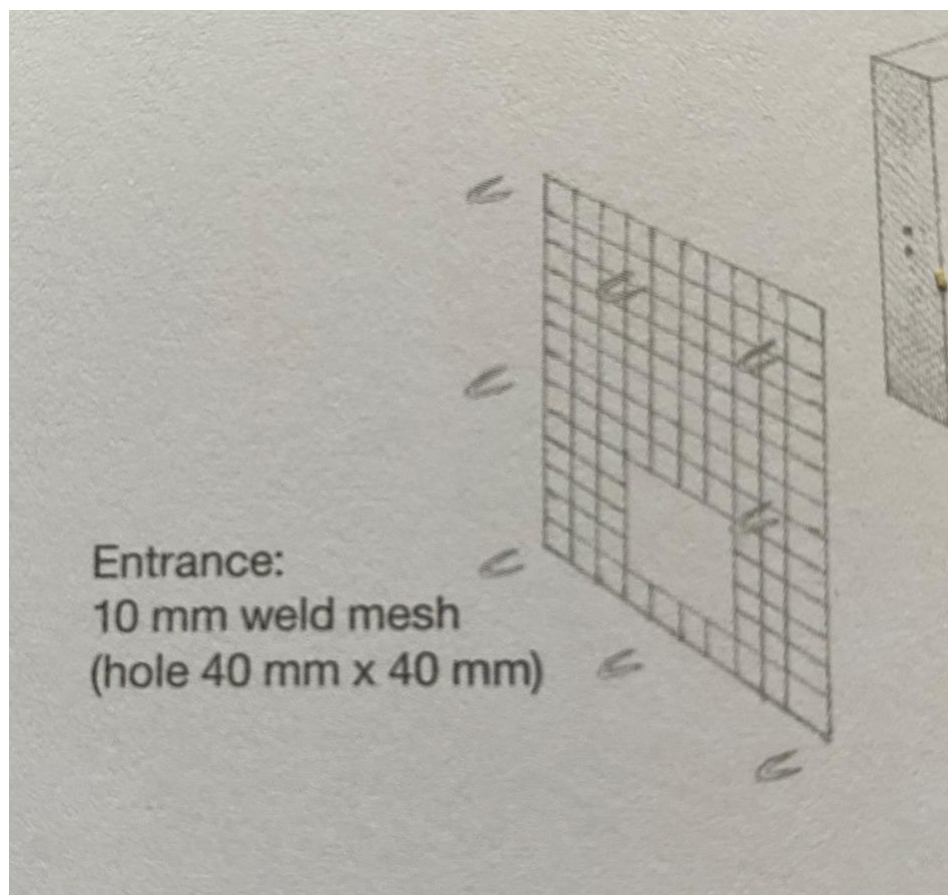
## WHAT NOT TO DO! by *Alan Drake*

Some time back you may remember a couple of books Nelson NZDA made available to members about trapping. These were published by the Department of Conservation in June 2021 and reflect best practice and the latest technical information at this date. The DOC website does not highlight anything contrary by way of updates to what is found in the book.

As such, I was disappointed on one of my many walks in a heavily trapped area to find a few box traps that did not meet these very clear guidelines. Specifically the dimensions of the entrance. This is very important so non-target species (birds for example) cannot enter the trap – and die.

You will see from the photos that the design principles have not been met and the subsequent result. I realise that Blackbirds are an introduced species, and they probably fill a niche that our natives should be filling. However, I cannot help thinking that there are numerous wee native birds hoping around the forest floor that would also love to get at the peanut butter lure in the back of the box and if a black bird can get in...so can they. I would also suggest that DOC or Forest and Bird or other (I do not know who ultimately owns, set, or is responsible for the traps I saw) probably would rather not catch birds of any type in their box traps – hence the very clear construction guidelines – 4 mesh wide x 4 mesh high.

So have a look at the pictures below of what the results can be when you do not follow the code of practice. I am hoping upon finding this bird they change the traps accordingly. I'll let you know.



1.

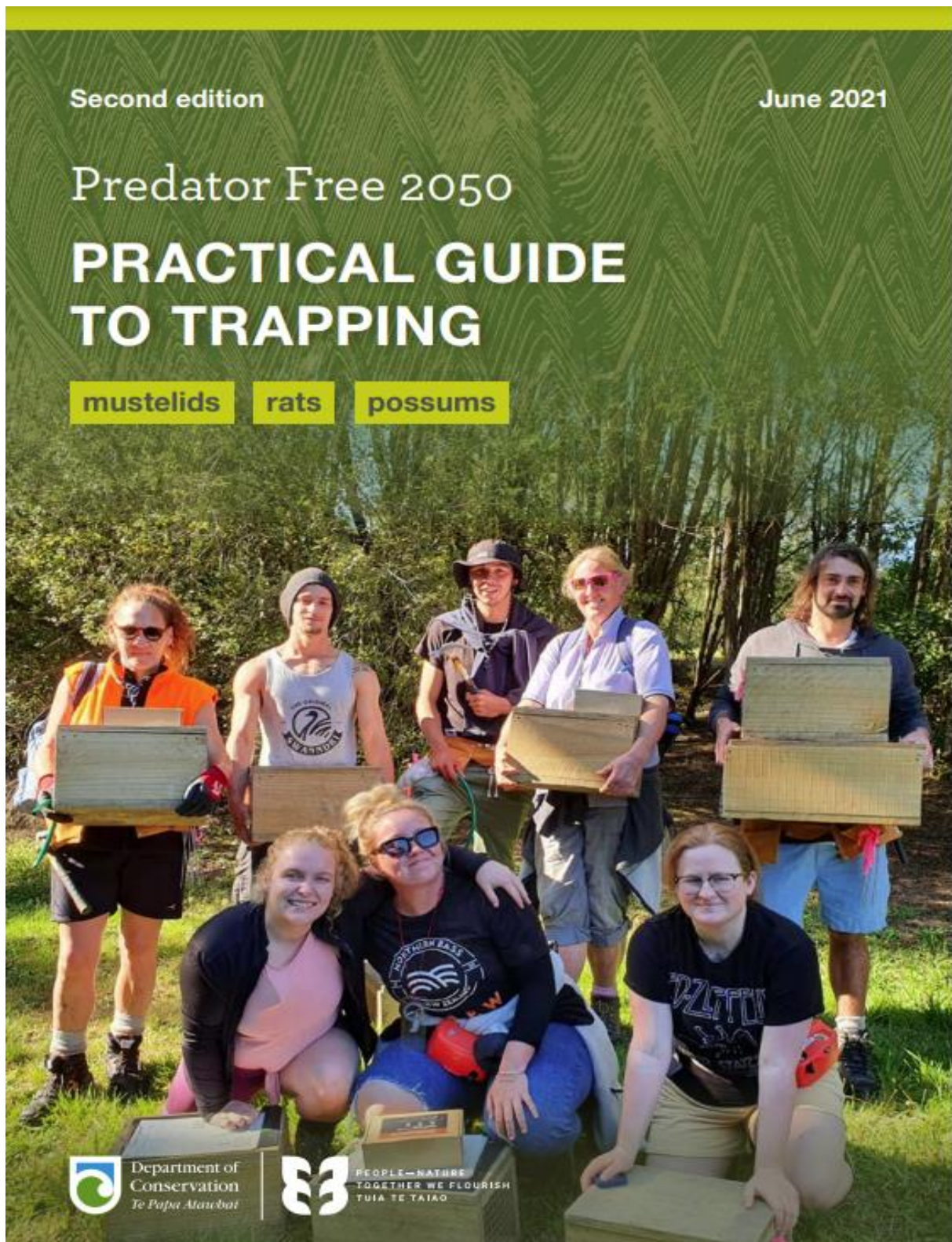


5 mesh wide x 6 mesh high (the downward aspect of the photo appears to show the 5<sup>th</sup> mesh on the trap floor but it's actually the 6<sup>th</sup> one that touches the floor of the box).



Picture of entrance dimensions diagram sourced from, 'Department of Conservation, Predator Free 2050, PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TRAPPING' mustelids rats possums. Second edition June 2021.

We have 4 copies of “A Practical Guide to Trapping” to give away (contact the Editor and can be collected on Club Nights) or you can download it here - [DOC Pest Trapping Guide](#)



# Fish and Game News

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## NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



**ANNUAL FISHERIES REPORT COMPLETED:** The 2021-22 annual fisheries report has been completed and is available on the Nelson Marlborough F&G website. The report provides a snapshot to what F&G staff and the Council has been up to over the year, including results from drift dives, trout releases, RMA advocacy work etc.

**FARM CLEAN-UPS UNDERWAY:** Fish & Game are holding a number of farm clean-up events in the Rai Valley area - helping out farmers who were badly hit by the recent flood event. Last year we held a number of days in the aftermath of the July Motueka flood (totaling 360 volunteer hours), which were very well received by the rural community. More help is needed now, and no doubt with future flood events across the region.

**RANGER TRAINING COURSE:** Every three years our compliance team, made up of 5 staff and 12 honorary rangers, undertake Situational Safety and Tactical Communications training. This tri-annual 'refresher' arms our rangers with expertise in what to do when things go wrong, mostly negative interactions with anglers and hunters. Thankfully, these instances are rare but, on occasion, do happen, and we have to keep the safety of our staff and voluntary rangers at the forefront.

**ACCESS TRACKS:** Staff will be busy over the coming month going around our 200+ angler access points in the region. Work here generally involves cutting/widening tracks, spraying/weed control, replacing signage, and in some cases working with landowners to bring in new access points, or modify existing ones if circumstances change.



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

# 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

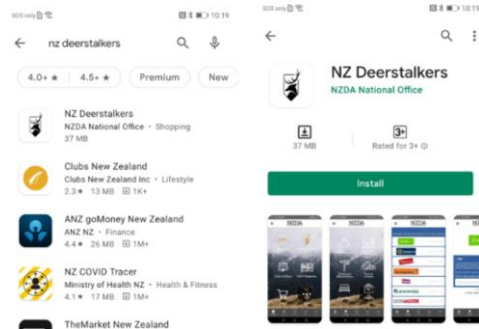
Available Now!



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**.



## Exclusive NZDA discounts:

- Interisland Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
- [Go Native](#) outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
- [SWAZI Pro Deal](#), sign-up with your valid NZDA membership
- [Napier of London](#) shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
- [AJ Productions](#) - electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
- [Kilwell Sports](#) hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
- Hunting with [Huntahr Guiding](#), 10% discount
- Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
- [Murchison Heli Tours](#), 10% off your flights
- [NZ Taxidermy Ltd](#), 10% discount on mounts
- [Bullivant Taxidermy](#), 10% discount on mounts
- 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual [Backcountry Hut Pass](#) or 'Hut Pass'. [See the DOC website for more details](#)



# Club Night – MTN Gear Talk

More useful info from our own Matt Vincent on his great “Nelson grown” MTN Gear range



Webclick [MTN Gear](#)

## Time and Date:

**Doors Open 7 pm** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September

**Venue:** Target Shooting Nelson's Smallbore Range Saxton Field, Stoke.

More info: [TSN Website](#)



# Red Deer Lodge

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

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

**Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**

## 2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

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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

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NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

### Ballots

- [Haast Ballot](#)
- [Wanaka Ballot](#)
- Southland [Waikaia](#) [Leithen Bush](#) [Wainakarua](#) [Catlins](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)

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](#)

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