



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

**Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA August 2020**



## Editorial

It was great to be at Club Nite the other day (more below) and heartening to see young and old bring along their trophies to be measured. Given the loss of much hunting time to Covid there was plenty of evidence that hunters had found their mark regardless. Especially pleasing to see young faces in the line-up, the major activity both here and nationally to support game animal management and access is for their future.

We attended the National Conference and AGM this year by video link from the Fish and Game rooms (thanx again F&G). It must be said it was a long process with about 16 hours 'in front of the telly' but the systems worked pretty well and certainly allowed the business of the meeting to be carried out properly (see pic below and yes, our President IS running two laptops!!).

There was intense interest in the administration of the organisation (getting our business systems such as membership etc) at a National level. Our desire to grow the association and give it even more

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political clout and resources hinges on getting these things operating perfectly. There was quite a change in NATEX with Craig Benbow from Malvern becoming new President and many other new members too. We welcome them and thanks for the massive contribution to those who stepped back or missed in the polls.

Recently our Branch had a meeting with Nick Smith to express our concerns re effects of the planned 1080 drop in “our backyard” of Nelson Lakes as well as other matters such as Firearms Law Reform and its potential effect on our ranges as well as versing him with the work we are doing locally regarding pest animal and tree control. It was interesting to get his perspectives and we learned a thing or two about the realities of Government. Certainly, he was supportive of our ambitions to be a part of animal control locally and understood our concerns re ranges with some useful advice proffered. Whomever wins in the coming election, our meeting with Nick suggests we should ensure we meet our local MP on a regular basis, being well armed with facts, being clear what we are seeking, if anything from our Member and making sure we are firm, considered and consistent on any concerns we raise.

At time of writing the Covid alert levels have been raised and all should take the extra precautions required and consider potential effects on any hunting plans you may have.

Hunt Well and Be Safe

Cheers Richard Wells



**Zoom National Conference and AGM at the Fish and Game rooms**

# Club Nite – Trophy Nite!!

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There was a good turnout for Club Nite with a great range of entries across the spectrum of our game animals.

Great to see the old timers turn out and also the next generation coming in too.

Many thanks to the scorers Warren and Noksee who laboured into the night to score all entries



**That's some goat, Noksee!**



**Warren with a nice fallow**

# NZDA NELSON BRANCH 2020 GAME HEAD TROPHY WINNERS

## **Peoples Store Trophy - Best Nelson deer head.**

1st Cory Jones (Fallow)  
2nd Mike DeGray (Red)

## **Williams Cup - Pig tusks.**

1st Kieran Hall DS 18  
2nd Greg Couper DS17 7/8  
3rd Cory Jones 16 4/8  
Mike Grant 15 6/8

## **Eddy Trophy - Best trophy on Douglas score conversion.**

1st Mike Grant (Chamois 325DS conv)  
2nd Aaron Shields (Fallow 323)  
3rd Jody Stow (Goat 321)

## **Sports Depot Cup - Best Chamois head.**

1st Mike Grant 27  
2nd Mike Grant 26 6/8  
3rd = Eric Hall & Liam Boshoff 26 4/8  
David Hobson 25 4/8, Mike Grant 25, Cory Jones 24 6/8, Mike Grant 24 6/8

## **.Bob Baigent Cup - Best head taken by a junior.**

1st Jody Stow (Goat) 119 5/8  
2nd Locky Mirfin (Red stag and Goat) 200 3/8  
3rd Ryan Mirfin (Red stag & Goat) 181 4/8

## **Bob Baigent Trophy - Horned game other than Chamois**

1st Jody Stow (Goat) 119 5/8  
2nd = Aaron Shields (Tahr) 42 Warren Keoghan (Tahr) 42  
3rd David Hobson (Tahr) 40 6/8  
Locky Mirfin (Goat) 94 4/8, Ryan Mirfin 75 7/8

## **Whitcombe Challenge Trophy - Best NZ Deer Head. On DS**

1st Aaron Shields (Fallow)  
2nd Cory Jones (Fallow)  
3rd Alex Davies (Whitetail)

## **Rakiura Trophy- Best Whitetail**

1st & 2nd Alex Davies best scored 118.5DS

### **Shuttleworth Trophy - Best Red deer head.**

1st Cory Jones 283 7/8

2nd Cory Jones 272 2/8,

3rd Alex Davies 255 4/8, Rikki Brown 248 7/8, Locky Mirfin 200 3/8, Ryan Mirfin 181 4/8, Mike DeGray 173 6/8

Other nice heads measured but not eligible for competition (Time of shooting, historic, or non-member, or non-financial on competition night):

Jarod Mclaughlan 286.5, David Renwick 277 7/8, James Bartlett 247

A good spread of heads again this year, particularly taking the lock down into account. Pleasing to see increase in pigs, goats and junior entries this year. Stag antlers were well represented with some very nice heads, with the majority of the Reds and Chamois coming out of Marlborough, showing the importance of the hunting opportunities on Molesworth for Nelson members and the need to retain this resource.

### **RETURN OF COMPETITION CUPS**

Could all members still holding cups from last year's competitions please return same to Warren Plum or another committee member. Or alternatively drop of at next club night. Thanks Warren.



**Young guns! Locky and Ryan Mirfin looking well pleased (as they should be!) with their efforts**



## A Couple of Thank You's....

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**Kelly Country winner of great Spika guncase**

Thanks Kelly Country for your spot prizes!



And recently Greg "got lucky" with a few deer and generously donated them to be available to supporters and others in the Branch less able to get a bit of meat. Thanks to Meat Solutions for processing and packing all this for us!!



# Club Nite Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Fish and Game Rooms Champion Road

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## Chopper Chopper Chopper!!!!



Come along and hear from Lyal Mudford.....  
A hunter and chopper pilot flying all round the world,  
catching animals,  
lifting logs,  
fighting fires.....  
with a lot of stories and adventures to tell!!!!



All Members and their Friends Welcome

# Joke of the Month

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Even when you are stripped off it pays to keep your rifle handy.....

## Cheeky boar leaves nudist grunting in laptop chase

🕒 5 hours ago

[f](#) [💬](#) [🐦](#) [✉](#) [🔗 Share](#)



A nudist in Berlin got too close to nature for comfort when a wild boar snatched his plastic bag - which had his laptop inside.

## “When in the Roar.....”

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# Coxy's Corner - Notes for Hunters from Motueka DOC Office

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Hi Nelson NZDA members.

I hope everyone has been keeping well and have been out and about walking off the Covid kilos.

I'd like to give members a brief update on the goat ground control planned for this spring and summer that I will be managing.

We have 1000 hours of ground control planned for Kahurangi National Park and 600 hours ground control planned for Abel Tasman National Park. This control is to be delivered by contractors. As a part of this control some volunteer opportunities will be available where possible.

The areas in Kahurangi National Park we will be targeting are the Leslie/ Karamaea valleys, Mt Arthur Tableland, Cobb valley, Mt Owen/Wangapeka and South Riwaka valley.

I also have resources (chopper time) available to continue the wilding pine control in the Hackett valley so will be looking for teams (including NZDA guys and girls) to participate in this. As a part of this we will do some much needed goat control further to the east.



Contact me by email if you need any hunting info. [icox@doc.govt.nz](mailto:icox@doc.govt.nz)  
Cheers Coxy!

## NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



- **GAME BIRD FOOD NIGHT** - Another stellar game bird food celebration last night put on by legendary chef and hunter, Phil Hazeldine. 12 epic dishes, with the underrated pukeko featuring in half of them. Fan favourites were the GBHD (game bird hot dogs), pukeko taco's, and canape with pukeko, kumara and a bourbon relish. We can't say enough about Phil and his incredible feast, his passion for gamebird food cooking is infectious and hopefully provided the 80 strong crowd with plenty of inspiration.
- **WAKAPUAKA PUKEKO DRIVE** - A Pukeko drive at Wakapuaka was held in mid July. This year, due to the drive not being held the past two seasons, bird numbers were very high, however the relatively poor hunter turn out on the day meant there were too many gaps, which the birds exploited well. Around 230 birds were taken (all meat taken for game bird food night), however this could have been triple this with 60+ hunters. Fish & Game will try and promote this better next season for increased participation and better harvest.



Legendary hunter chef, Phil Hazeldine, in the thick of it

- **LAKE ARGYLE RELEASE** - Another Lake Argyle fish release was carried out in August. 100 large rainbow trout (8-12 pounds) were liberated, much to the delight of some anglers who were there at the time. A number of fish were caught in the following days, with feedback from one angler " "We had a superb trip. We both managed to crack the 10lbs club. All fish were in really good nick. Also I just want to give you guys a big thanks for the job you guys do. In particular providing a superb fishery around that pond."
- **HUNTERS MAKE THE MOST OF FACILITATED HUNTING OPTIONS** - Both the Rabbit Island upland game hunts, and the Molesworth chukar season were well utilised. A group of North Island hunters harvested 12 chukar and 12 quail in a few days hunting, and loved the experience.

## Did You Know???

If you prefer to read our National Magazine in hardcopy ( I know I do) you can order anytime online from head office – go to NZDA shop here <https://nzda.shop/>

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Membership Magazine



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Issue 209 - Winter Edition

\$10 including postage

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# Red Deer Lodge

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## Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti

Contact the Calders: [info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](mailto:info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

Use the website at [www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](http://www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

Saying you are a member

## 2020 Committee

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### Committee:

**President:** Greg Couper [terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz)

**Vice President:** Richard Wells [richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz)

**Secretary:** Warren Plum [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)

**Treasurer:** Aaron Shields [aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz)

**Members:** Bill O'Leary, Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Mike DeGray, Neill Cliffe, John Noakes, Mike Grant, David Haynes, Carina Jackson.

### Range Committee:

**Convener:** Graeme Ching, [graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz)

**Members:** Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Bill O'Leary

**Hazard or Incident Reporting:** website email ([nelson.nzda@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.nzda@gmail.com)) or contact member of Range Committee

**Access, Rules and Safety:** see website <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/range.html> and check your emails for updates or changes to range opening times

### Branch Hunts and Activities:

**Convenor:** Mike DeGray [miked@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:miked@nzdanelson.co.nz)

### Hunts Courses:

Website: <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/hunts.html>

**Convenor:** Bill O'Leary [b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.f.oleary@xtra.co.nz)

**Members:** Lawson Davey, Alistair Ching

### New members:

email [nelsonnzda@gmail.com](mailto:nelsonnzda@gmail.com) or go to webpage <https://www.nzdanelson.co.nz/index.html>

### The Mountain Echo

Bill O'Leary and Richard Wells