



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA July 2020



## Editorial

June has been and gone...the shortest day last month and possibly the shortest Echo this month!

It has been in the past, the norm to provide much background into what is happening nationally of interest to members in the Echo, however, NZDA National Office has really stepped up its information flow both with media releases and providing more detail and links in monthly newsletters.

These are now popping up in emails on a more frequent basis – we encourage you to open and read these, and for three very important reasons:

- 1) for years we have sought stronger advocacy from NATEX on matters we deem important especially access, animal control and pesticide use, and firearms law and safety

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- 2) we now have action as well as an executive officer who is also taking this advocacy to heart and his messages to us and to the rest of NZ are on point and needed as of right now
  
- 3) it is what we pay for as members, the “goods and services” from National Office are not free and we should appreciate and provide feedback when need be.

So please don't leave these communications unread in your inbox, keep up with what's happening and send feedback to us or NATEX as need be. Of course, for those of you tuned in to Facebook it's all there too (I have forced myself to be!).

We held our local Branch AGM last week and appreciate the turnout and feedback received on Agenda items. It was gratifying to get the new Constitution approved (welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> century!) which enables us to use modern banking and accounting systems etc. It was also gratifying and significant to have a call from the floor for the inclusion of “environmental management” amongst those things we seek to encourage and advance within the “purpose and objectives” of the organisation.

This was fully supported. The recent acknowledgement in the Queen's Honours of “our own” Will Rickerby for his contributions in this arena as well as the new activities on pine and pest control being undertaken locally by the newer members of the Committee and their supporters show deeds match these words.

Our National Conference and AGM looms and we will be joining the meeting by video link which will be a new and hopefully smooth process. It is some undertaking by NATEX but given uncertainty whilst still on Covid Level 3 was deemed the best option. There are many remits and several new candidates for NATEX so we expect a few new faces at the Board table.

And finally, speaking of new faces.....at our AGM, Immo Neumann declared his retirement after a full 20 years on the Committee – we thank him for his time and dedication. Stepping in to fill the gap we welcomed Carina Jackson. Carina has been very supportive working on our membership follow-ups and performed so well we couldn't afford to let her get away! She is a keen and proficient shooter, winning places at events including winning this year's South Island benchrest championship and getting cracking on hunting as well. Carina was introduced to NZDA via HUNTS...proving of course that the system works!

Hunt Well and Play Safe

Cheers Richard Wells

# Nelson Lakes 1080 Programme

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Department of Conservation Presentation – Nelson Lakes 1080 Drop  
Short report from Aaron Shields

John and Sandra Wotherspoon kindly gave up their evening to present to the Nelson Branch Committee regarding 1080 processes with the planned programme in Nelson Lakes area and answer any questions or concerns the Committee had. The meeting was valuable in that the level of understanding dramatically increased based on the information provided. The Committee was incredibly grateful for the increased communication between the Department and the Nelson Branch.

Unfortunately, finance is an ongoing issue in the use of deer repellent in 1080 baits. Our hunting comrades in Southland have fortunately been granted repellent use in the Hokonui and Waikaia operations in 2020. So, it happens, but hasn't for us this time (we did get it in the Cobb a year or two ago).

Lessons for the future are that hunters and the Department want to find common ground with such operations and there are positive efforts to ensure this will occur in future. As an organisation we need to establish our position that acknowledges operations will continue and that compromises will need to be made in exchange for areas that are particularly sensitive and valued by the Top of The South hunting community. Communication from all parties can and must be improved. As a club we need to organise ourselves to avoid reactionary processes and improve hunting outcomes.

**Get in touch with the Committee if you have interest, skills or time to commit to improving these outcomes in future.**

Key Takeaways:

- 1080 operations are planned up to a year in advance. NZDA representatives are involved in the planning and have the opportunity to make the organisation's concerns known to inform the planning
- 1080 use is well within the Animal Welfare Act
- DOC will not put proposed operations on the Pesticide Summary online until consent for the drop has been granted – this is due to operations changing rapidly in the consenting process
- The upcoming Sabine & Travers Valley operations will not have deer repellent used for two primary reasons **1)** the new Kea protocol is uncertain whether deer repellent increases Kea interest in the baits, more research is needed, and **2)** the area is subject to a much broader red deer catchment that can re-populate the area (compared to other areas nationally where re-population will be very limited)
- The new repellent is not proven in efficacy for Deer aversion
- There was acknowledgement that the D'Urville Valley is to be left unpoisoned for the foreseeable future subject to predator monitoring remaining below trigger points

- The above operation will occur between August and the end of September, date to be determined by weather, bait availability and consent being granted
- Predator monitoring via tracking pads has been undertaken
- There is no scientific knowledge of the Kea population in the area. Monitoring of 3 known nest sites will occur pre and post drop.
- A kea study is to be undertaken post drop – this is unrelated to the 1080 operation
- No pre/post drop bird monitoring to occur

Please note that Mike DeGray will be providing information on an organised club hunt in the areas before the drop. This is still in the planning stages. We will inform you in detail about this by email, Nelson Branch Facebook site and next Echo (timing dependent).

Mike's contacts are at end of The Echo if you wish to express interest in such a hunt and, potentially, a deer count pre and post drop too.

## Club Organised Hunting Activities

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New Committee members Mike DeGray and Aaron Shields, with the assistance of other club members, have been successfully developing club hunting opportunities for the Nelson Branch over the last few months.

Our current local hunting opportunities are collaborations between a private land holder up the Maungatapu Track and the NTMBC (mountain biking club) up the Wairoa Gorge. The team has been diligent in establishing process around team leaders, permits, health and safety and record keeping. The benefits of having processes established has landed us with at least two new opportunities in development currently.

Maungatapu Track is a steep scrubby block with good pig numbers and a large mob of goats that inhabit a creek system above Murders rock. If you are after a challenging days hunting then get in touch with [aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:aarons@nzdanelson.co.nz) to organise a permit. Our primary goal is to reduce the goat numbers on the property. So far 17 goats have been shot and one pig for 68 hours of combined hunting time, they are there but be prepared to hunt slow and stick to the ridges.

Wairoa Bike Park consists of mature native bush that is well tracked from the extensive mountain bike investment that occurred there in the past. Animal numbers are high with 49 goats, 8 pigs and 29 possums taken for 135 hours of hunting time. This block can be hunted with thermal gear and during the week if you have that luxury. A properly inducted team leader **must be present** with you and a minimum of

two hunters at any one time. Keeping to the landowners express rules supports ongoing access. Contact [miked@nzdanelson.co.nc](mailto:miked@nzdanelson.co.nc) for more information.

Looking to the future we are aiming to run regular limited attendance wilderness hunting opportunities across the South Island. If you are interested in being involved or helping with the organisation please contact [miked@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:miked@nzdanelson.co.nz).



A good billy Aaron and Cloud took on a Maungatapu club hunt



A very good boar Kieran Hall shot on a Wairoa Gorge club hunt

# Tahr

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We “can’t not” talk about tahr.....

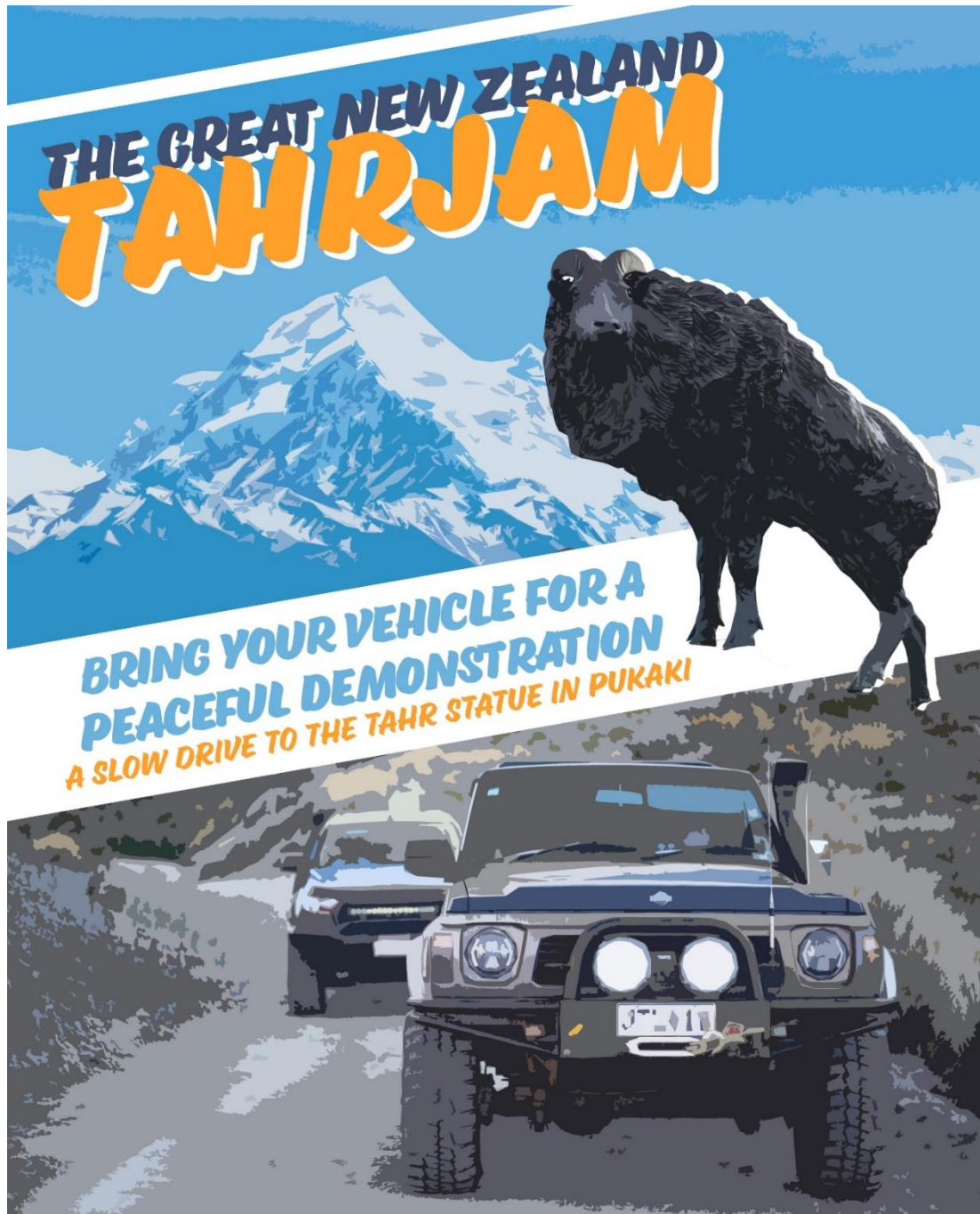
Clearly there is a lot in the media and information from NAT Office regarding Round 2 of tahr eradication-control-management (I can only support the last word there).

The fact of the matter is that there are a small minority of people who would be pleased to see all introduced animals eradicated from all Crown land. The only good thing about this proposition is that it is so intolerable it galvanises action.

The Tahr Foundation, Game Animal Council and NZDA are leading that action. This is the sharp end of a very thick wedge so join the fight!

Check more here <https://www.nztf.org.nz/>

And Here Hot Off The Press From Southern Branches Is An Invite To The Tahr Jam



**Where:** Assemble at the tahr monument, Lake Pukaki

**When:** 11.00am, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

**What:** Peaceful drive to show our support for tahr - from the tahr monument to liberation point at Mt Cook and then a slow drive back.

**Vehicle:** The road from the tahr monument to Mt Cook is suitable for most vehicles, 4x4s are not necessary.



NZDA does not support or endorse any particular political party but provide information that has been provided by parties if likely to be of interest. However, we advise members remain abreast of party political stances and consider all on their relative merits.

Tahr management – Perspective from National Party Spokesperson for Conservation:

*As I'm sure you will be aware, the Department of Conservation has released its draft tahr control operation plan for the coming year.*

*As National's spokesperson for Conservation, I thought it would be useful for me to outline my position on this control operation.*

***I am opposed to Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage giving DOC license to spend taxpayers' money culling prized Himalayan Bull Tahr.***

*I believe the Minister is making the same mistakes she made in 2018, where she also tried to enact a large-scale cull unsuccessfully. She has failed to strike a balance where conservation values are protected, and hunting interests are maintained.*

[\*\*Click here to share my update on Facebook\*\*](#)

*The commercial tahr hunting industry contributes \$17 million to the economy and provides valuable jobs. The Conservation Minister should be mindful of the businesses that rely on this resource and have already suffered through the effects of Covid-19.*

*Once the border re-opens guided hunting operators need to be able to offer these premium experiences again.*

***Recreational and commercial hunters have collectively reduced herd numbers by 18,000 over the past three years. The Minister should leave bull tahr in particular to hunters alone.***

*Protecting New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity is incredibly important, as is maintaining a sustainable hunting resource for recreational and commercial hunters on both private and public land.*

*National believes that tahr numbers need to be sensibly managed but operations should be done in a targeted way. Conservation decisions should be based on science not ideology.*

*Kind Regards,*  
*Jacqui Dean*  
***Spokesperson for Conservation***  
***National Party***

# Out There Doing It

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## Start off as you mean to go on.....

Nelson member Steve Parker with his first fallow deer and a jolly good start in anyone's book! (*and nice ute...The Ed.*) He has already taken good representative red, chamois and tahr trophies so has come to grips with our hunting scene.

Steve joined me on our first post lockdown hunt and was rewarded for the most patient "stalk and wait" on this buck in very open country that I have had to endure from "behind the scenes"!

Hailing from the USA, it is very interesting to hunt with Steve given his background of highly regulated game animal management in USA and Canada and the intentness with which animals are chosen for meat and etc during a day's hunting over there.

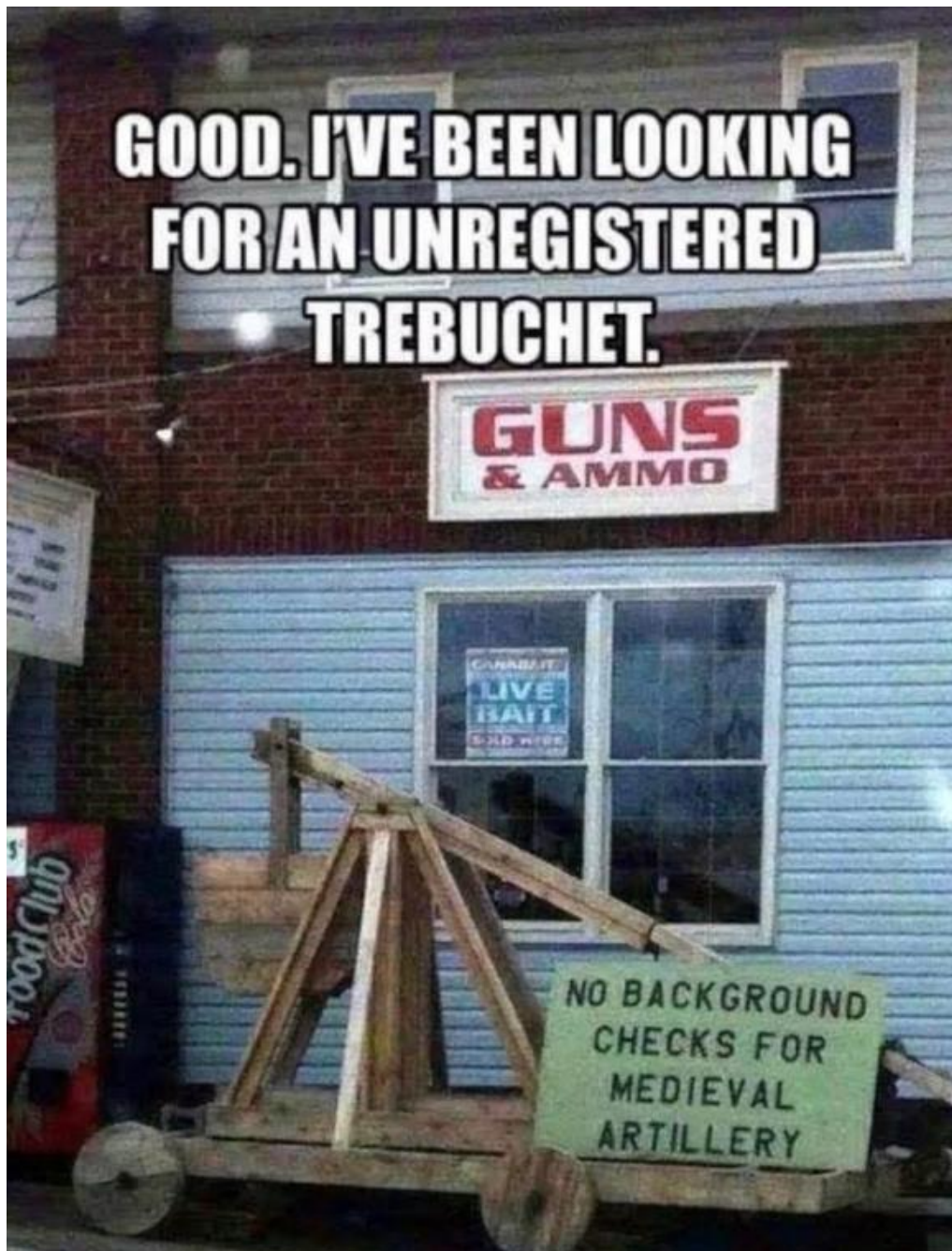
This develops a set of ethics and philosophy which while at the heart of NZDA ethics has been marginalised in NZ in general by the value on wild venison in past decades and the "tragedy of the commons" perception of needing to shoot things "before someone else does". Thankfully, the great hunting shows on TV these days are helping set things on a better path with promotion of considered and selected kills.

Hopefully, Steve will give a talk at a Club Nite soon on his many experiences in the US, it's interesting stuff to hear about where game animals are really valued, hunting tightly controlled and wolves are the issue not pest control!

## Joke of the Month

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There's always those who are prepared to chuck rocks, and those who are prepared to go the extra distance!



# Club Nite Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

## Fish and Game Rooms Champion Road

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How do you measure up?

## Annual Trophy and Photo Competition

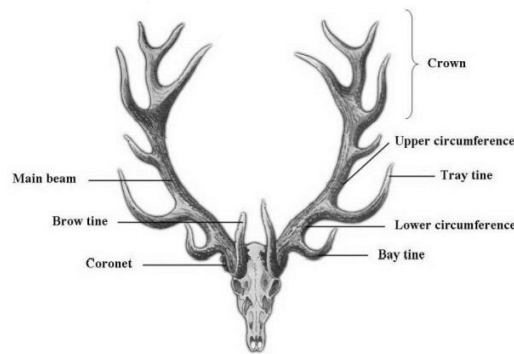


Figure 1  
The measured parameters of a red deer trophy (by Szederjei, 1960)

Always one of our most interesting and best attended meetings of the year, so don't miss this one.

Always great to see whose had some success over the last 12 months (well 9 months!!) and just what sort of animals are still available. Photography competition entry night as well. Many a future hunt is inspired by this event, and tall tales told, so come along and have a yarn with fellow hunters.

For those of you wishing to enter, just a matter of bringing your trophy along, entry forms will be on hand at event.

## Competition Categories

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

**Williams Cup** - Pig tusks.

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

**Sports Depot Cup** - Best Chamois head

**Bob Baigent Cup** - Best head taken by a junior / family member under 18.

**Bob Baigent Trophy** - (Horned game other than Chamois) e.g. Tahr, Goat, Wild sheep

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

**Rakiura Trophy** - Best Whitetail

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

**Photography** - Sections for human interest, stalking country, wild game photo, hunting country scenery, native birds, other wild-life and fauna. Photos need to be printed not digital

### **RETURN OF COMPETITION CUPS**

Could all members holding cups from last year's competitions please drop off at July club night or return same to Warren Plum. Thanks.

## **NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT**



- **ORGANISED GAME BIRD HUNTS:** Staff have been busy with facilitated hunting for regional licence-holders. This includes providing chukar hunt opportunities on Molesworth Station, the Rabbit Island upland game bird hunt, and a pukeko drive at Wakapuaka.
- **UPLAND GAME HUNTING ON LOCAL FORESTRY LAND:** We are in the process of finalising managed hunting on Tasman Pine Estate. Initially this will be in the 2400 burnt area from the 2019 fire, which is now prime quail habitat. Specific catchment sized hunting blocks will be available for hunting on weekends, and will be managed via a booking system through Fish & Game.
- **ARGYLE AND RAI FISH RELEASE:** Winter releases of large rainbow trout (3-5kgs) have been undertaken in Lake Argyle and the Rai River to promote winter fishing. Angler feedback from these releases has been positive.
- **NEW POND CREATED AT WAIMEA PARK:** Fish & Game are excited to announce that a new large pond has been created adjacent to the existing junior fishing ponds at Waimea Park. Once conditions become suitable, this new pond will be regularly stocked with trout and available for all licenced anglers, with a focus on families and anglers who are new to the sport, or perhaps limited with mobility.



Prime, easy access quail habitat, close to Nelson.

# 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> - note postponed this year due to Covid-19

**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