



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA April 2017

Note from the Secretary

Hi all Warren here, with the April newsletter. A busy month with many of our members and committee members of in the hills.

Hopefully a few stories will be forthcoming for future newsletters, as word is quite a number of hunters have had successful trips.

Hunting News

Been a good roar in the South Island with plenty of stories of stags seen, and quite a bit of early roaring around the Nelson district from about the 20th of March onwards.

Lots of reports of deer being seen in unusual places as well including Main road Stoke and Nayland Road. That one made the paper and even got its photo taken.



Only a young stag by the look of him.

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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Next Club Meeting

No Club night in April

Tuesday 30 May 2017

7.30 pm

Annual General Meeting

Any way hopefully a few stories from members in the next few months editions, and some interesting heads at the next competition night (27th of June). So still plenty of time to get one if you have not been successful to date.

Social media has been full of photos of great stags , so the expectations from what was considered a great velvet growing season have been proven to be correct.

Interesting too also note the effect of new genetics on the Nelson and Marlborough stags. Until about 10 years ago top of the South stags virtually never had bey tines. That's the next tine up from the brow tine. The exceptions were the odd small area where a better stag had been known to have been released in the earlier days.

Now the majority of the better heads have these, and the old upright u shaped narrow heads are being replaced with the more attractive wider spread type.

Animal body weights have also increased, and that's not all linked to better feed alone. The shape and size of skulls has also changed with the new genetics, and the better animals tend to have a lighter coloured coat.

So if you have a chance and see several stags, take the dark coated big wild type 8 pointer with a bit of age and no bey tines, rather than the more attractive multi pointed young light coloured stag who is only a youngster.



Example of a nice mature typical original Wild Blood top of the South stag, and a younger well-formed 12 pointer of more recent blood lines. Note the bey tines which were typically missing in the original herd.



Photo of big stag at helicopter

This is an example of a very big stag of obvious game farm genetics taken on DOC land in Marlborough this year, apparently shot by a family group of 3 generations enjoying the opportunity to hunt together, hopefully the stag has passed on some of those genes.

WASPS – YOU HAVE TO HATE THEM

It was noted at our branch committee meeting last week that wasps seem to have got BUSIER at the range lately, at a time in autumn when they should be slowing down for winter – but it has been pretty warm and wet as those out for the roar would have noted at times – not too many frosts about.

We discussed the option of getting someone with a license to dish up some Vespex.....the new wonder drug for extermination wasps <https://www.merchento.com/vespex.html>. This is simply Fiprinol mixed at a careful ratio with some protein based lure (and when I say simply it took a lot of work to develop, Vespex was developed by local researchers because to a large extent wasps are a very Nelson problem). The active ingredient is what is in many flea treatments for cats and dogs at the supermarket. For a long time beekeepers were concerned about widespread use of this as bees are also susceptible to it. The solution to this was to create a lure that bees have no appetite for but wasps (at certain times of their life cycle) very much do. I feel there is a message here for DOC and Landcare re 1080

However it is mostly in February and March that wasps are particularly attracted to meat (especially fish and lean red meat) so we may be a little late to dose the range – but will run some tests with sardines etc. to see.

I noticed in the Glenhope area much fewer wasps this year; I normally kill off 80-100 nests each summer with "magic dust" blown into nest holes. This year only found 8-10, i.e. a 10th the usual. Has anyone else noticed less around Nelson this season?

My pet beekeeper put some Vespex about and that certainly cleared the skies around his hives and much of our bush block. However we had one nest which unusually was attached to the outside of a large red beech; they would not come and take the Vespex for some reason and so more direct methods were called for (not involving a ladder!!).

The pics below show the nest and "before and after" it copped a magfull from the Beretta 12 gauge (only to be undertaken in the privacy of your own forest!).

Noisy but satisfying and very angry wasps gone by next morning....



Nest on old dead red beech



Do not touch



Be Gone!! Foul Beast!!

CLUB SHOTS AT PACKERS CREEK RANGE.

NELSON DEERSTALKERS – PACKERS CREEK RANGE PROGRAMME 2017

Please note on these shoot days range gate will only be opened at 9.00am.

You are still welcome to come and sight your rifles in as shoot does not commence until 10.00am. And after that if not involved in competition use the 50 metre range across the creek. Exit as usual at noon

Sunday May 21st - 10:00am Rimfire: Silhouette targets at 50m Centrefire: 10 rounds, Thar target

Sunday June 18th – 10:00am Rimfire: Silhouette targets at 50m Centrefire: 10 rounds at 200m target

Sunday July 16th – 10:00am Rimfire: Silhouette targets at 50m Centrefire: 10 rounds at 100m target

Rifle Range News

RANGE USER DECLARATION 2017 / 2018

Last Page of this Newsletter

I have attached again this month and ask that you ensure you take the time to print off and return to Warren

It does not matter that you may have completed one in the past, to be seen to be actively complying with our Health and Safety plan you need to complete one again if wishing to use the Range.

To date I have only had 29 returned, and am certain that does not reflect the number of users of this facility.

RANGE INFO WHEN USING.

Plan is to include in each future edition of the newsletter some information around the range. E.g. safety and simple rules on how best one can use the facility taking into account the other members present.

Club Nights

Next important club night is our Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday 30th of May 7.30pm

Usual venue, Fish and Game Rooms, Champion Road Richmond, 7.30pm

This is your chance to get involved, help set direction and have your say. If interested in the committee let us know on the night, or give Warren a ring and he can give you an overview of what is involved. Phone 03 5479143 or email plumstone@xtra.co.nz

Annual Head Measuring and Photo entry evening Tuesday 27th of June,
same venue and time as above.

Will include entry forms with next month's newsletter.

Bits and Pieces

Off social media



A wild White Red stag taken this year in the deep south.

Hope the hunter kept the head skin, quite a unique trophy

Committee & Coordinators Contacts

- President:** Greg Couper terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz
- Secretary:** Warren Plum ph. 547 9143
<plumstone@xtra.co.nz>
- Range:** Graeme Ching <graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz>
- Newsletter:** Any items for publication please forward to the secretary
- Membership:** Graeme Smith ph. 544 7138
<LVHVBR@gmail.com>
- Hunting:** John Noakes ph. 0274464413 noakesjc@gmail.com
- New Members:** Warren Plum ph. 547 9143
<plumstone@xtra.co.nz>

Red Deer Lodge

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

Contact the Calders: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Use the website at www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

saying you're a member

Minutes April Committee Meeting

NELSON BRANCH NZDA APRIL COMMITTEE MEETING.

7.30pm Tuesday 18th April, Warren Plums Home Stoke.

Apologies: Bill O'leary, John Noakes, Don Harris

Present. Warren Plum, Immo Neumann, Greg Couper, Neil Cliffe, Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Richard Wells.

Last Minutes accepted as sent.

Inward Mail

- Copy financials from accountants for AGM.
- Newsletter from National office, distributed electronically to committee.
- Range declarations being returned completed.

Outward. Items to Accountants.

Accepted: passed W Plum / G Smith

Range.

Bench Rest shoot was run successfully over Easter. Range roster need to complete for coming month

Disappointing response , with limited return of Range declarations.

Organized shoots. Details provided for inclusion in Newsletter. Sunday May 21st, Sunday June 18th and Sunday July 16th.

Graeme asked if we had any programmers in branch who could help with a scoring program that he needs to modify. Will send secretary details to include in Newsletter.

Working bee. Need target frames, backers and dry run for World Bench rest. Suggested ANZAC day 25th, as need to be there when shooting not occurring.

Still need to paint club house, but good progress with work for World Bench Rest Champs later in the year.

Concern about wasps, to look at options to deal with, suspect to late in year to have poisoned.

RANGE SIGN. Agreed that the old sign at entrance with letters falling off in orange be removed, as untidy and confusing. Need to get a copy of standing orders laminated and put up in area with book at Range. W Plum / G Ching

Saxtons field Small bore range now almost complete. Graeme Smith suggested a visit as we had supported its construction to the Council.

Financial.

Financials received from Accountants. Discussed overview. To send out electronically to committee, will discuss again at next committee meeting prior to AGM.

Banking, two sets of Range fees from Bench rest shoots. \$61.00 and \$342.13 banked to 02 a/c.

Refunded G Smith \$103.03 range fuel costs. \$10.00 to Warren meeting costs, paid \$132.50 to National office for Hunts course work books, and \$52.00 to Waimea print for newsletters W Plum / G Couper

Next club nights: Tuesday 30th May,. AGM. Tuesday 27th June Head Measuring night.

Health and Safety: Brian has set up initial page for our Health and Safety plan in Microsoft account. Pass words etc. sorted. Agreed will have a meeting, probably Richard, Warren, Brian and any other interested persons, to flesh out items to include and have loaded.

Disappointing response to Range user declarations. To date only 30 returned. Will have sent out again to membership and include in Newsletter.

First aid kit to be obtained and sited at Range. Hopeful it won't be stolen, will see how it goes, but needs to be accessible. Update Richard has now purchased and left with Warren.

Newsletter: All consider working well. Warren still seeking items of interest to include.

Membership: Welcome along to new members. Alan Coman, Cory Jones, Paul Marsden, Ryan Nicholls, Mark Redwood. Approve W Plum / G Ching

Training: Hunts course has started tonight, hence Bills apology. Numbers down on last year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Discussed filling positions, need for additional committee members. Who will stand, who we can encourage to become involved.

General Business: Discussion about Range access and new license to occupy. Requested Greg Couper makes every effort to have clarified with contact with Nelson Pine Forests. If no resolution by next committee meeting formal letter to be forwarded seeking clarification and a meeting.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday 2nd May. Venue: to be confirmed.

Warren Plum Secretary

Websites of Interest

National Deerstalkers' Website

<http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/>

Like the NZDA National Heritage Trust Facebook page for great historical deerstalking photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/nzdaheritagetrust?ref=bookmarks>

Department of Conservation Information

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

DOC maps. You can select a Topo view and to have DOC hunting areas highlighted

<http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=dto>

DOC hunting permits can be applied for at:

<https://huntingpermits.doc.govt.nz/huntingpermits/start>

Game Animal Council

<http://www.nzgameanimalcouncil.org.nz>

Walking Access

<http://www.wams.co.nz/>

Walking Access Maps

http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.aspx

Walking Access Mobile Maps

http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_mobile/index.html

Kea Sightings

www.keaconservation.co.nz

South Island Kokako Sightings

www.southislandkokako.org

Wasps

<https://www.merchento.com/vespex.html>

Range User Declaration 2017/18

Packers Creek Range

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Inc. (Nelson Branch)

I _____ Phone _____

NZDA member ship number _____

Have read and understand the Range Standing Orders for the Packers Creek Range.

I understand that any breach of the Range Standing Orders may compromise safety and the continued operation of the range.

I understand that on the range I may be asked to produce my NZDA membership card.

I understand that before using the range I will sign the Range Book

Signed _____

Dated _____

Handed to _____ Nelson Branch President/Secretary

Or posted to c/o Warren Plum
 35 Leicester Street
 Stoke
 Nelson _____

This declaration will be required annually.