



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA August 2017

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Well the National conference has been and gone, and I will publish a report from Richard Wells who attended this in next month's issue. Thanks Richard.

You will also see a few photos from this year's local competitions, as reported in our last newsletter.

Paul Peychers had some success with a couple of these in the National competitions, so well done Paul

It is amazing how the quality of photos has changed over the years, and the number of game animal photos one now sees. No doubt digital gear, smaller and cheaper cameras and simpler point and shoot models have helped.

I also think there has been a gradual change in mind set. When I joined the club 40 odd years ago hunters tended to immediately shoot everything they saw, and from my own experience and mates, did not take the time to record anything other than obligatory dead animal shots.

Now days all those other experiences seem to be just as important as the hunt, and seem to be of far more interest to other family members.

So if you get the chance, and obtain a nice photo, remember to enter in next year's competition.

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Next Club Meeting

Tuesday 29 August
7.30 pm

Snow Hewetson
talking about Tahr
Management Plan

Special Meeting

To elect a
Vice President

Fish & Game Rooms
Champion Road



A lovely photo of a Native Pigeon taken by Paul Peychers that had success at both local and National level.

David Hobson won our local competition for horned game with a nice Tahr this year, and a report on his hunt follows below. Thanks David

Whataroa Tahr Trip

It was Saturday morning May 27 2017 as Scot and I flew into our shady campsite on an improving weather outlook for the week. We were greeted by 16 kea as we set up camp and a pair of Whio in the noisy rough water nearby.

We were heartened by the lack of snow, other than on the high peaks and glaciers in the head of the valley. Our first young bull was spotted sitting atop impossible bluffs up valley. That afternoon we explored a couple of basins on the sunny side after scrambling up a steep gut through the scrub. We spotted four bulls high above on a rocky sunny face late that afternoon. Also spotted was a group up high on the opposite side of the valley.

Next day saw us heading for a closer look at the bulls from the previous afternoon. We climbed through the sunny basin and up a predetermined gut that would put us up in the area of the bulls. We were now on a very broken edge of serious bluffs that dropped sheer into the glaciated valley below. Saw a rock wren hiding out in a high horizontal little rock crevasse and heard two others. Spotted a bull above sitting on a bench with a couple of nannies, closer

inspection he looked reasonable .Assessing bulls can be tricky when you are not doing a lot of it, that said, the big boys do stand out!

After getting within range, and waiting for him to get to his feet, a 300 yard shot luckily tipped him into a sharp gulch in front of where he was sitting. Scots experience in that broken terrain was invaluable in recovering him and arriving back at camp an hour after dark, to complete a very satisfying and full day.

The bulls were rutting, notable was the low number of nannies observed and difficult country to get around in. With only one wet day we had a most memorable week in that magnificent alpine environment.



If this gets you keen, details of when to apply for next year's Tahr wilderness ballot blocks follow.

DoC Tahr Hunting Blocks - 2018

Information on the DOC website

www.doc.govt.nz

Applications open **Monday 2nd October 2017**

Applications close **4pm, Wednesday 8th November 2017**

Ballot is drawn **Wednesday 15th November 2017**

Confirmations close 4pm, **Wednesday 13th December 2017**

Tahr Stage 2 10th January 2018

Tahr Stage 3 17th January 2018

Open to all 1st February 2018

BALLOT HUNTING DATES:

1st – 28/04/18 to 4/05/18

2nd – 5/05/18 – 11/05/18

3rd – 12/05/18 – 18/05/18

4th – 19/05/18 – 25/05/18

5th – 26/05/18 – 01/06/18

6th – 02/06/18 – 08/06/18

7th – 09/06/18 – 15/06/18

8th – 16/06/18 – 22/06/18

Next Club Night

July 25th Eric Hall gave a presentation on a hunt he had experienced after Sika this April, during the peak of the Sika rut. His mates had taken some great footage, and it was interesting to see how the animals behaved, and the body size of some of the mature stags they encountered. A really good evening, and something I am sure all members would have found of interest.

August 29th.

Snow Hewetson from Marlborough is going to come over and give some insight into the Tahr Management Plan. How and what the Tahr interest group aims to achieve and process. All Members with any interest in Tahr and game management are urged to attend.

Special General Meeting to be held in conjunction with the next branch meeting Tuesday 29th of August.

The purpose of the Special General Meeting is.

1. To elect a Vice President.

The Rationale

Primarily this is to provide for succession on the resignation (or otherwise) of the Branch President.

Secondly it provides an additional branch executive position that meets the criteria for eligibility to be elected to the National Executive.

Limited Agenda

The agenda will be restricted to the one Purpose. No other business will be addressed at this Special General Meeting.

Nominations for the position of Branch Vice President will be called for from the floor of the meeting.

September 26th

Simon Wyatt from Blenheim branch is going to give an illustrated talk on bush stalking Red Deer, and” circle of sound.”

So put a ring around those dates on the calendar, as you won’t want to miss these opportunities.

Range News

Next shoot Sunday 17th of September. To be followed by a BBQ and working bee

A Couple More Photographic Entries from Paul Peychers



Whitetail



White Fallow

TBfree Information Meetings

For those of you who hunt the Molesworth area, some aerial poisoning is planned this year.

Please see notification of meetings around this on the last page of this newsletter..

-Photo of yellow Admiral by Paul Peychers.



Hunting News

Heard a theory that there are more pigs about this year as a direct result of last year's warm damp summer, and that the young ones apparently do better than in dry years. Not sure if this is true, but have certainly seen more activity myself, and been told by other hunters that they have been experiencing the same. Even a report from the Marsden valley pest trapping group having killed 44 pigs in pig traps, May being a record month with 21 pigs caught. Just shows how effective traps can be.

Poaching. Disappointing to hear there is still a fair bit of this happening about the place, and note there was a recent article in the Marlborough Express daily. A few key points were Hunters in Marlborough are being shut out by private landowners disgruntled by the actions of poachers, depriving those who hunt by the book with places to shoot.

Poachers were ruining things for hunters who sought permission, and often caused damage to farm property or killed livestock during their illegal raids

"Over the past 20 to 25 years there's been a real lack of respect for private property, like people cutting fences and gates to gain access.

"Some of the younger hunters coming through have no respect for anyone or anything, not even the animals they're hunting. They've devalued a culture that was once the Kiwi way."

But legitimate hunters were fighting back. Watson, the owner of The Gunshack Blenheim, was recently approached by a landowner who had caught two poachers on camera.

Watson posted the image on The Gunshack Blenheim Facebook page. It was shared hundreds of times and received thousands of views. Within 10 hours, the hunting fraternity had identified the culprits.

"It's a clear indication that the 95 per cent of good hunters today are fed up with what's going on around them by the 5 per cent that are ruining it for everyone," he said.

The landowner that shared the photos had installed cameras after being repeatedly hit by poachers sneaking in and shooting animals on their property in the Pelorus/Mangatapu area.

As well as the impact on property, Watson said poaching also made it more dangerous for hunters who did have permission, as they would not know others were in the vicinity.

Marlborough rural constable Beau Webster said police conducted patrols around the region to check if hunters had the necessary permission or permits.

If they did not, poachers could be charged for unlawful hunting under the Wild Animal Control Act, which carried a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine or two years in jail.

"It could also involve the forfeiture of the equipment used in that offence, that could mean the vehicle, firearms, or dog tracking collar," Webster said.

"Should anyone be found unlawfully hunting it's highly likely that they will lose their firearm's licence."

2017 Committee

Greg Couper **President:** terminatorproducts@xtra.co.nz

Lester Bowden **Patron**

Warren Plum **Secretary:** ph. 547 9143 plumstone@xtra.co.nz

John Noakes, Bill O’Leary, Neil Cliffe, Graeme Ching, Graeme Smith
Immo Neumann, Rob Shuttleworth, Richard Wells

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: August Committee Meeting

NELSON NZDA MEETING MINUTES 1st of August 2017

Held at Warren Plums home, 7.30pm

Apologies: Immo Neumann & John Noakes

Present: Warren Plum, Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching, Don Harris, Greg Couper, Neil Cliffe, Bill O'Leary, Richard Wells

Last Minutes: Accepted. Moved: Warren Plum / Graeme Ching

Inward Mail: Advice of approval grant application for World bench rest from Lion foundation.

Outward Mail: Items to accountant, plus return completed on Charities web site.

Accepted: Moved: Warren Plum / Greg Couper

Financial: Payments made: Refunded R Wells \$618.73 made up of \$203.73 for Tag weed control spray at range and balance Conference expenses.
W Plum refunded \$51.11 for fee to lodge charities commission report for club.
\$115.00 to DOC for Range Licence to use at Murchison.
\$10.00 to W Plum re meeting costs. Waimea Print \$76.00 newsletters.
Direct debit, Power, Contact, Lodge \$355.19

Still to complete forms for investment a/c at Westpac. Bank statements for current month still to be received. Last 02 account \$15100.22 and 00 \$90126.36.

Approved W Plum/ Don Harris.

Range: Discussed approval of Lion Foundation Grant for \$6784.00 for cost of hire of Marquee to run World Bench rest event at range. Last club shoot held two weeks ago. Next shoot Sunday 17th of September. To be followed by a BBQ and working bee. Need to move some crushed glass into 100 metre bullet stop. Plan to hold a Swazi prize shoot for Junior members before late October.

Weed eater has been serviced and a wood cutting blade acquired.

Need to complete another range opening Roster. Warren to send out this week

Warren to follow up on possibility of gaining one more key for Range to be held by Graeme Ching

Mower. Still exploring options, N Cliffe to have a look at Kart club mower and tractor which may be available.

Membership: No changes this month.

Newsletter: looking for articles. Next issue out this coming week. Will include Photography comp entries.

Health and Safety: .First aid kit still at range. No issues identified. National office health and safety plan has been forwarded to us. Distributed to committee. Nelson committee to try and convene before end of August to complete ours and check how intergrade's into National plan.

Red Deer Lodge: no report. weekend for working bee to complete painting etc has been booked Friday afternoon 24th to Sunday evening 26th of November 2017.

Training: Last hunts course for year has now been completed.

Club Nights: July 25th Eric Hall evening and footage of recent successful Sika deer hunt. Very good evening, enjoyed by all attending, disappointing turn out, and members really missed out

August 29th. Snow Hewetson from Marlborough is going to come over and give some insight into the Tahr Management Plan. How and what the Tahr interest group aims to achieve and process. All Members with any interest in Tahr and game management are urged to attend. September 26th Simon Wyatt from Blenheim branch is going to give an illustrated talk on bush stalking Red Deer, and "circle of sound."

Competition Trophies: Warren collecting up at moment, still to be engraved and will be issued at either August or September club nights.

Conference: Richard to put together a report for newsletter. Noted future issues of Wild Life magazine will only be available in electronic format going forward. One item of discussion was how to grow branches.

General Business: Clear we should have a Vice president, agreed this would be brought up as a special meeting at next meeting, and a call for nominations is made at following club night.

Meeting closed 9.05pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5th of September.

Warren Plum. Secretary 1.8.17

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>



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26 July 2017

New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association
Via email

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR **TBfree** INFORMATION MEETINGS

Dear Sir/Madam

OSPRI is hosting two public information events for those interested in learning more about the North Canterbury Marlborough bovine tuberculosis (TB) control programme.

These evenings will provide an opportunity to consult with OSPRI on:

- Our pest management programme for the region, including information on wild life surveys, possum controls and the methods that will be implemented
- The new TB plan and our objective of achieving TB eradication in New Zealand
- Our plans for achieving TB freedom on Molesworth Station, including the possum control and surveillance programme

Venue	Date	Time
HANMER SPRINGS Five Stags 2 Fraser Close HANMER SPRINGS 7334	Wednesday, 9 August 2017	2pm – 4pm Presentation: 2.30pm
BLENHEIM Brydan Conference Facility 2 Rose Street, Springlands BLENHEIM 7201	Thursday, 10 August 2017	5.30pm – 7.30pm Presentation: 6.00pm

You are cordially invited to attend these information meetings to discuss any aspect of the TBfree programme. If you are unable to attend but would like to provide feedback directly to OSPRI, please do not hesitate to contact OSPRI's Greymouth office on 03 769 9098 or email vectorsi@ospri.co.nz

If you know of anyone who would be interested in coming along, please feel free to pass this invite on.

Yours sincerely

Josh King
Programme Manager



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