



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

**Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA December 2017**



Hi all and season's greetings.

I hope you can manage some outdoors activities around the family commitments at this busy time of the year.

In this month's newsletter, a report on the very successful World Bench Rest shooting competition that was so ably run by Graeme Smith.

Something the club can be very proud of, and resulting in further improvements to our rifle range that will benefit all club members.

Also an update on the OSPRI 1080 aerial drop in Molesworth and the large deer kills reported by the general public as a result. I have seen many reports about this on social media and I have to say I am terribly disappointed about how twisted and distorted some of these ill-informed comments have been. Reading them you would think because NZDA has actively and independently gone in after the drop to obtain some proper scientific research about outcomes which can only be to the benefit of hunters to support our arguments going forward, that NZDA are somehow complicit in the drop, despite opposing it from day one! More about this below.

Cheers Warren

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## ***Next Club Meeting***

February 2018.

Time and Venue to  
be advised



# Molesworth

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Two photos of some of the area that was recently poisoned in Molesworth, to give you an idea of just how open and interesting this country is.



You may have read the Marlborough newsletter which I had sent out to the Nelson membership via National Office, with Marlborough's permission. I felt it to be of importance to Nelson members, as I am aware a very large portion of our membership have been hunting this country for the last 3 or 4 years. The area has provided possibly the best public land hunting in the top half of the South Island in recent times. Iconic scenery, open country, trophy stags, no helicopters and good numbers of game by today's standards. So when Ospri announced their plans for poisoning to continue on a rotational basis over 9 years in what must be one of the most intense 1080 aerial poisoning campaigns ever, to rid Molesworth of TB, hunters were naturally concerned. Hence the plan to try something different, and to do the survey after the drop to gain some real facts. Marlborough branch on their give a little page have advised as follows

"Here's the latest update from Marlborough NZDA for "Post Poison survey for TBFree NZ 1080 Poison Operation on Molesworth Station".

The data is being collated by scientists. Lab testing of samples is also being performed. So now we must wait for the final report.

Marlborough NZDA are fielding many queries from reporters and speculators asking for results or opinions based on anecdotal evidence or rumour, we wish to say that in order to have a credible unbiased report then we won't be making any official statements or comment on findings until we have the report in hand. Thanks for your donations and patience."

If you would like to help fund this survey, here is the link and their initial request again.

"Marlborough NZDA have initiated a major undertaking. We are conducting an aerial survey to assess the impact of the recent 1080 drop on the Red Deer herd in the Molesworth. We ask all members to seriously consider giving financial support to this project. Snow Hewetson has generously given a prize of a guided Tahr hunt to the value of \$5000 to be drawn from anyone who contributes \$100 or more to our give a little page. If you give \$200 you get two chances!"

There is a link below and lots more information in the newsletter.  
[https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/molesworthsurvey?\\_ga=2.231221146.464805147.1510195959-1020872785.1510195959](https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/molesworthsurvey?_ga=2.231221146.464805147.1510195959-1020872785.1510195959)





## World Bench Rest Report from Packers Creek

*United States wins most, but Australia takes the big one*



*Flags and competitors at shooting station.*

The World Bench rest Shooting Championships have concluded at the Packers Creek Rifle Range in the Maitai Valley with the United States of America Team taking most of the honours. However, the most sort after event, the 2 Gun Championship Teams Match shot over four days of competition was taken by the Australia 1 Team. This is only the second occasion over 14 Championships that the most prized championship has not gone to the USA.

Championship Organizer Graeme Smith said that the Championship got away to a cracking start with Nelson shooter Greg Couper winning the Light Varmint Small group contest with a Group of .076, just over the current world record.

Overall the day was won by USA Shooter Wayne Campbell, who was in hot form having just won the USA Nationals 3 weeks ago.



*Stalwart local Don Harris , Chief Range officer for event*

Day 2 provided the only new World Record shot at the Championship with Australia's Steve Sori shooting a new Small Group record at 200 yards of .138 well under the existing record of .160. Mike Conry of the USA led the field home for the day

The next two days were to follow the previous pattern with Wayne Campbell taking the Heavy Class 100 Yard contest and Mike Conry the 200 Yard event.

The most sort after medals to be awarded is for all the 2 Gun aggregate, the combining of 4 days of competition. Mike Conry dominated the field with Gold Medal success, followed by Wayne Campbell for Silver and David Kerr Australia for Bronze. Teams for this Championship are four shooters and the combining of all aggregates results in Team scores for all 4 days of competition.

Light Gun Team aggregate was won by USA 2 followed by Australia 1 and USA 1. Heavy Gun result was similar with USA 1, Australia 1 and USA 2 dominating. Over all aggregate for Teams went to Australia 1, USA 1 and USA2.

Day 5 was a separate Championship for Individuals shooting 10 shot groups at 200 yards. 66 Shooters took up the challenge with the same individuals coming to the front. Mike Conry won smallest group with .388 and Wayne Campbell with the Smallest Aggregate of .3107.

So ended a great Championship. Graeme Smith said the weather for New Zealand spring time could hardly have been better with one wet day in 10. The competitors from many parts of the World make a significant contribution to



our community with the travelling partners enjoying many tours around our province, visiting the Saturday market and generally leaving behind the much needed foreign currency.

Nelson Branch can well be proud of its efforts in staging a World Class event and hopefully showed to our land owners and forestry friends what this organization is about.

If you would like some more information about how it was viewed by our visitors, have a look at the following web site, where its given a very positive write up.

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<http://bulletin accurateshooter.com/2017/11/world-benchrest-shooting-championship-in-new-zealand/>



*Inside the loading marque*

## Nelson Deerstalkers – Swazi Junior Shoot 29/10/2017

Great turn out for the Junior Swazi shoot this year, 10 juniors and some of the parents shot and a good time was had by all. A range of targets shot on the day – 50m rimfire on Deer and Possum targets and 100m centrefire on larger deer targets.

Congratulations to Quaid, Brody and Ben who each took away a Swazi goodie bag for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placings. 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> got a yummy packet of Swazi chocolate ‘moose droppings’.

Scores were:

Name	Deer 50m	Possum 50m	Deer 100m	Deer 100m	Total
Brody	47.2	50	25	25	147.2
Gus	36.1	49	25	19	129.1
Hunter	46	48	24	25	143
Ben	47.1	47	25	25	144.1
Clay	47.1	49.1	21.2	25	142.4
Trinity	37	45	24	25	131
Alexander	45	44	20	24	133
Sol	45	41	11	10	107
Quaid	48.1	50.3	25	25	148.4
Brin (adult)	46	50.1	25	25	146.1
Carina (adult)	45	47.1	25	25	142.1
Fiona (adult)	42	43	21	24	127





# RANGE HOURS OVER HOLIDAY PERIOD

**Subject to Forest not being closed due to fire risk.**

Saturday 16th December

Gate unlocked to let people through at usual hours 9.00am and 10.30am out at noon.

Sunday 17th Open as above

Saturday 23rd. Open as above.

Sunday 24th.

Will not be open, nor will it be on Christmas & Boxing Day.

Saturday 30th . Open as above.

Sunday 31st December.

Will not be open, nor will it be on statutory New Year holidays immediately following

## 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're a member



# 2017 Committee

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

Richard Wells      **Vice President**

Lester Bowden      **Patron**

Warren Plum      **Secretary:** ph. 547 9143 [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:graeme-doreen@xtra.co.nz)>

**Newsletter:** Any items for publication please forward to the secretary

**Membership:** Graeme Smith ph. 544 7138 [LVHVBR@gmail.com](mailto:LVHVBR@gmail.com)

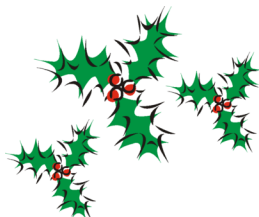
**Hunting:** John Noakes ph. 0274464413 [noakesjc@gmail.com](mailto:noakesjc@gmail.com)

**New Members:**      Warren Plum ph. 547 9143 [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)



# Minutes: December Committee Meeting

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## NELSON NZDA MEETING MINUTES 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2017

Held at Warren Plums home, 7.30pm

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

**Apologies:** John Noakes

**Last Minutes:** Accepted.

Moved; Warren Plum /Don Harris

### **Inward Mail:**

National Office newsletter, emailed out to all committee.

Waikato Newsletter.

Marlborough branch seeking help with monitoring of Molesworth 1080 drop.

Bank statements.

Advice on work to be completed at red Deer Lodge from Nigel Calder..

### **Outward Mail:**

Items to accountant,

Correspondence with Marlborough branch re survey,

Thanks to Simon for club night,

Thanks to Ingram family re Historic stag head presented to the club.

Financial information and receipt as required by Lion foundation in relation to their grant related to World Bench rest event.

Advised National office of subs amounts required as requested for mail outs next year.

Accepted.

Moved, Warren Plum / Greg Couper

### **Financial:**

#### Payments made.

Repairs to mower chq 100891 \$187.60 to Stihl shop,

Refunded Bob Schiefer \$158.95 costs re alterations at range chq 100890,

Waimea print \$64.00 chq 100894 Newsletters,

Elgas \$165.00 Range gas chq 100892,

Contact power lodge \$199.01 and \$186.00, 8.11.2017 direct debits.

Paid Marlborough Branch \$3000.00 as donation towards survey costs chq 100893,

refunded W Plum for glasses purchased for Red Deer Lodge kitchen \$26.00 chq 100895,

Stihl shop \$2820.00 for trailer for range mower chq 100896 ( Note registered in name G

Smith trading as NZDA Nelson Branch. Moved and approved that Don Harris be reimbursed for all his trips to Range over last two years to prepare site for World bench Rest shoot. Approved and \$500.00 awarded chq 100898.

\$40.00 for Engraving Centre for cups re Murchison shoot chq 100897.

It was moved by G Smith that \$1000.00 from World Bench Rest Donations received be forwarded to National office, to be added to the existing sum there to accrue interest to fund annual subscription to World Body for NZDA . Seconded by W Plum. Passed unanimously.

#### Deposits.

Donation of \$2600.00 relating to World Bench rest.

Donation \$5000.00 also related to WBR Comp 2018.

Approved G Smith / W Plum

#### **Range:**

Swazi prize shoot for junior members has been held with 13 youngsters shooting, details will be in newsletter along with recent Ken Horner Memorial shoot in Murchison.

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

Club has been asked if it would be available to host the Oceania shooting champs late in 2018.

Warren Plum, Graeme Smith and Greg Couper met with Ngati Koata on 5<sup>th</sup> of December and are comfortable progress is being made and would be in a position to host with expectation a new licence will be in place before then. While a 10 year term was desired by club, appears a 3 year term would be the maximum indicated something we could work with.

World Bench rest shoot considered a resounding success, much thanks to Graeme Smith and Don Harris and their team. Details in newsletter.

#### **Mower:**

Have purchased trailer for the Big Dog mower as noted in expenditure.

#### **Membership:**

Welcome along to new members Aaron Keenaway and Emma Newcombe.

#### **Hunts Course:**

Finished for year but several inquiries have been forwarded to coordinators for coming year.

#### **Newsletter:**

Still looking for articles. Next issue out this coming week.

#### **Health and Safety:**

Expectation that Brian, Richard and Warren will meet in next month to further document plan. Richard had circulated details about the new items at range, eg Mower etc and requirements around training relating to their use.

*Merry Christmas*





**Red Deer Lodge:**

Warren followed up with Nigel Calder regarding issues identified last month and any progress. Working bee to complete painting etc that had been booked Friday afternoon 24th to Sunday 26th of November 2017 was a non-event as no volunteers. Warren Plum did go, did some minor tasks and checked requirements around others. Agreed that if we cannot get volunteers will need to look at other options, so Warren to approach Nigel about paying a tradesman in St Arnaud to provide quotes for some of the more urgent tasks. Neil / Warren

**Club Nights:**

31 October. Presentation of cups and certificates to this year's competition winners, plus playing Tahr Hunting video entry Rob Shuttleworth, and talk about and show some recent historic heads presented to the club was last event for year. Plan for Feb to be next event, topic etc still to be decided upon.

**General Business:**

Molesworth. Discussed at length, agreed if needed will help Marlborough further with Survey costs if approached. Disappointed at misinformed social media etc around the drop, clear there has been many deer deaths, consider it is important that this survey be released in manner that cannot be challenged as being rushed, so need to ask membership for patience around release of findings

**Next meeting:**

February 2018, time and venue to be advised.

Agreed if needed for progress with range or Molesworth survey, email will be forwarded around committee.

Warren Plum. Secretary



## Websites of Interest

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### 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](http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.aspx)

### Walking Access Mobile Maps

[http://www.wams.org.nz/wams\\_mobile/index.html](http://www.wams.org.nz/wams_mobile/index.html)

### Kea Sightings

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

### South Island Kokako Sightings

[www.southislandkokako.org](http://www.southislandkokako.org)

### Wasps

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

### Falcon Survey

[www.nzfalcon.org.nz](http://www.nzfalcon.org.nz) Email [nativebirds@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nativebirds@xtra.co.nz)

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