



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA February 2017

## Note from the President

It's been a busy start to the year, already February.

On Nelson anniversary weekend I went up to the North Island bench rest champs, with locals Graeme who came 2nd, Steve 9th and myself in 7th place, us new fellas need plenty of practice before the world champs being held here in Nelson in November this year.

On Waitangi weekend, it was great to see a few of the guys helping Graeme and Bob pour the concrete slab for the new Range extension ready for the benches to be installed, thanks for your help.

We are still working towards getting the range access issues addressed...please watch this space!!!!

Good luck hunting the tops, don't melt .....

Cheers Greg



Photo of a great stag from a recent social media post, reputedly shot for meat from a helicopter in the Whitcome pass area. Very disappointing to think it was shot for about \$500 value in meat. Certainly it adds weight to the requests for the Rakaia deer herd to be considered one of National significance and managed. Surely something as simple as a rule that no stags with say forked tops are to be taken commercially would achieve both animal control, commercial and recreational objectives

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

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### *Next Club Meeting*

Tuesday 28 February

7.30 pm

Fish & Game Rooms  
Champion Road

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### *Red Deer Lodge*

Booking for 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

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# Some Thoughts on Wild Pigs.

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Do you know why those wild pigs you shoot can look so different from one area to another? Well in part it's their genetics, based on who let go what and when, and what genetics become dominant.

Over the last 100 years or so people have continually let pigs go, to improve their local pigs in some way. Some with the objective of bigger and fatter meat animals and others larger wilder boars.

With concerns around TB, hopefully this practice will now cease, and certainly is illegal in this day and age.

If the pig just has bristles and no under hair then its ancestors will be of one of the domestic breeds.

In Nelson the original pigs tended to be Captain Cook type black pigs that then crossed with released or escaped animals.



If your pig is black with white feet it's likely to have a fair bit of Berkshire blood in it.

If it's just black then it may have Large Black breeding.

If it's large and Red, Duroc pigs have been released in a few areas in recent years, and a few like this come from Golden Bay.

If it has white shoulders and white front feet while the rest of coat is black then Hampshire genetics. Often called saddlebacks, these used to be fairly dominant in the Hackett area years ago, but seem to be being replaced by black animals in recent times.







If its ginger and tan or multi coloured with patches then it's likely to have some Tamworth blood. These multi coloured pigs used to be a feature of the Murchison area, and anywhere there was gold mining in the early days.

If it's got a short nose and tassels / wattles under its throat, is fairly fat and relatively small then it's got some Kunekune in it. There used to be a few of these in the Aniseed area.

If it's a Blue pig, like those through the Clarence and Canterbury regions, then it will have quite a lot of true wild boar genetics. The colour is claimed to be because of an equal number of white and black hairs. But many are now reverting to more browner and white hairs which are closer to the true wild pigs. The bristles will be split at the ends and it will have a dense under coat of softer hair which is absent in most domestic breeds. This undercoat can be almost wooly in the winter. No doubt this helps with their survival in the cold areas, and along with their reputation for being more aggressive may be why they have become the dominant colour in many areas. These pigs have a low forehead and flatter skull than the domestic types.



The young Blue pigs have the same colour scheme as the True wild pigs, dark longitudinal stripes at birth. Whether they are spreading, or as a result of liberations this colour is now turning up in many parts of Nelson where previously they did not exist. Murchison the Maitai and Richmond foothills as examples in recent times.

Any way would be good to get some feedback from other hunters on what they are experiencing.

# Rifle Range News

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## **Range help.**

Help. We really need some more people involved in the Packers creek Range. We are keen to get more people trained as Range Officers, and around the roster for gate openings etc at this point of time. Contact Warren Plum at [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz) for additional information.

## **Range standing orders.**

As part of our Health and Safety review, please find enclosed a copy of the updated Range standing orders and Range User Declaration 2017/18

Please ensure you read before next using the Range, as there have been some changes, and complete the Range User Declaration form which must be done annually.

# Newsletter Update and Bits and Pieces

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## **Newsletter.**

Welcome along to Karen Crook who has taken over the position of Newsletter editor from Greig Caigou. Any of you who know Greig, will be aware just how busy he is, so would just like to say again, a big thank you Greig for all your efforts over the years. Karen will be looking for items for the newsletter, so please, if you have anything of interest, whether a trip report or some interesting facts or photo, please forward on to Warren at [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz) for inclusion in future editions.

## **Website for Kea Lovers**

If you are interested in these iconic birds here is a place where you can help by registering sightings. [www.keaconservation.co.nz](http://www.keaconservation.co.nz)

## **Marlborough Branch NZDA**

The Marlborough Branch is holding a club night in April that might be of interest to Nelson members, you are welcome to attend if you would like to make the trip over to Blenheim more details in our next newsletter.

## **South Island kokako**

*The South Island Kokako Charitable Trust is offering a reward of NZ\$5,000 for information leading to confirmation that the South Island kokako is still alive and we need your help to spread the message.*

South Island hunters and backcountry enthusiasts will no doubt know that the South Island kokako is an ancient bird once widespread in southern New Zealand forests. It was listed as extinct until 2013 when its status was reclassified as 'data deficient' following credible sightings and it is likely to be the rarest bird on the planet. The re-classification gave the Trust renewed hope and energy to continue the search for this melodious and secretive bird and we're asking for help from you and your members.

The search is urgent. If South Island kokako still exist there will be very few left and they need to be found and conserved appropriately. Our Trust's aim is to confirm that this remarkable bird still exists. We need you all to be our eyes and ears.

Any evidence provided will be considered by the South Island Kokako Charitable Trust and independent expert confirmation of the bird's existence in the field will be sought before the reward is paid. As evidence, the Trust would prefer a verifiable photograph of the bird but will consider other compelling evidence.

If you hear the South Island kokako, it is so distinctively different; it will stop you in your tracks. Even so, the song of a tui has been known to come close. Sound recordings have yet to provide the evidence we need so now we're appealing to back country users to find the proof.

The Trust is inviting you to record possible encounters through its website. It has already received encouraging reports over the past few years and from these has produced a map of sites where South Island kokako are most likely to be found. The map and further information about the search and the reward is available on the Trust's website

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

PLEASE FORWARD AND SHARE THIS MESSAGE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE, through email, social media (please share our facebook post!), newsletters etc – thank you!

If you would like to be on an e-mail list to receive ongoing updates of subsequent sightings to assist in your searches, please e-mail [info@southislandkokako.org](mailto:info@southislandkokako.org).

Thank you very much for your interest and your support.  
Inger

Inger Perkins |South Island Kokako Charitable Trust | c/o 231 Revell Street, Hokitika 7810 |  
03 755 8600 & 027 370 1876



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

## Committee & Coordinators Contacts

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

# Minutes Committee Meeting

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NZDA Nelson Branch Minutes Tuesday 31st January 2017  
Combined meeting for January and February

**VENUE.** Fish & Game rooms Champion road Richmond. 7..30pm

**APOLOGIES** Dean Russ, Graeme Smith, Greg Couper, Rob Shuttleworth.

**PRESENT.** Warren Plum, John Noakes, Immo Neumann, Kevin Wilson, Richard Wells, Neil Cliffe, Bill O'Leary, Don Harris, Brian Hore ( Welcomed Brian along to meeting, as member of Health & Safety team)

**LAST MINUTES.** Moved acceptance. passed. W Plum / J Noakes

**INWARD MAIL.** National Office minutes and newsletters including Waikato and Marlborough. Health and Safety plan report for circulation. National office queries re memberships and subs for invoicing for New Year.

**OUTWARD MAIL.** Financial items to accountant Crowe Horwath. Emailed Morgan Rogers re Health and safety plan templates used in past for club hunts. Provided copy of pricing template to National office and answered queries re membership transfers.. Passed W Plum / D Harris

**FINANCIAL.** Paid last month \$92.36 Contact Power at Lodge, Moved \$129.33 from 00 to 02 a/c to cover chqs processed on wrong suffix. Reimbursed G Couper for purchase weed eater and gear for range \$1267.50 chq 844. Banked \$80.00 being Network Tasman power refund. Paid for hunts course training items, Hakapou Enterprises, \$305.00 chq 841.Banked \$165.40 subs reimburse from National Office. Paid Waimea Print \$56.00 for Newsletters. Chq 843. Latest year's subscription payment advice's likely to be emailed out this week. Payments moved and accepted. W Plum / B O'Leary.

**NEWSLETTER .** Warren been in contact with Karen Crook our new editor. First issue to be out in February. To put a piece in newsletter seeking regular items. Photos, stories etc.

**RANGE.** Ongoing issues with access. President G Couper has recently had discussion with Tasman Pine Forests representative. Will report back when further information available, evidently they are looking at access issues for multiple users. Possibility of a swipe card gate at valley entrance being considered among other things. Next shoot planned for Sunday 19th February 2017. In meantime need to continue with a Range Roster, see more info under Health & Safety. Concerns expressed around the existing King Cat mower. Bill O'Leary moved that a Kill switch be retrospectively fitted. Seconded by John Noakes and passed . Bill moved and Kevin Wilson seconded that John Noakes investigate the purchase of a new mower. Passed. Don advised that the concrete pad was likely to be poured this weekend. That had been further confirmations of persons attending the World Bench rest event and had now reached targeted number. Painting had started in club house.Bench rest table had been placed on .22 range.

Discussed possibility of working bees. Agreed list of jobs to do, type of help needed with tasks etc, and tools required if appropriate be advertised to members, and this could be done via email or news letter if Warren was advised in time.

**HEALTH & SAFETY.** Discussed Health and Safety report, Range standing orders and Declaration form will be sent out with the February News letter. Warren had investigated, but found could not be incorporated with current year subscription advice from National office due to be sent out shortly.

**RANGE COMMITTEE.** It was moved by Bill O'leary and seconded by Don Harris and then agreed that a specific Range Committee be set up, reporting to the general committee. Suggested this group have the ability to coopt interested people, but in the interim to get underway it was moved by Bill O'leary and seconded by Kevin Wilson that Greg Couper be asked to act as chair having a broad range of experience around this range and in his capacity as president. also that Graeme Smith, Graeme Ching and Don Harris be invited to be part of this. This group to have the mandate to oversee the development and operation of Packers creek Range while answerable to general committee. Further to the Health and safety aspect, that in March some Induction days at Range occur. Bill O'leary agreed to run these where best practice around use of the Range, understanding of Standing orders etc would occur. Also could be opportunity to get User Declaration forms returned and signed from those attending.

Brian Hore then gave a presentation on Health and Safety, having considerable knowledge around this process, being heavily involved in such in his employment. After running through this it was agreed we would make use of the electronic hazards register he had developed, and that this could be linked to our web site once completed. That we needed to have a more formal process than currently existed around all our activities such as use of Red Deer lodge, Packers creek range and our club hunts. Running out of time agreed to discuss at next meeting the further items on Richards list.

**RANGE CALENDAR.** Next shoot Sunday 19th Feb 2017, Rim Fire shoot 50m 20 rounds varmints, and Centrefire shoot 100m Chamois Targets 10 rounds.

**RED DEER LODGE.** A few small repairs identified. Warren authorized to be completed by local handy man. Broken waste pipe from shower basins. Filters on both feeds of water to tank, 2 bolts on French doors. Painting still needs to occur before winter. Suitable dates to be considered for a working bee.

**MEMBERSHIP.** NEW Members, Welcome along to Dean Cranness and John Foy who is transferring in from Thames Valley branch.. Approved W Plum/ B O'Leary.

**CLUB NIGHTS.** Next meeting 28th February 2017, Topic and venue to be advised by email advice as still negotiating around speakers.

**CLUB HUNTS.....**No report. Agreed needs to be an area to pursue.

**TRAINING.** Nothing to report other than Next Hunts Training course will commence in April.

**BRANCH WEBSITE.** Some small changes made around links, overall appears to be running well, nothing else to report other than need to update current president etc in contacts .

**GENERAL BUSINESS.** Obtained electronic copy of club hunts safety plan and emailed to B O'leary and R Wells.

**MEETING CLOSED** 10.30pm. Next Committee meeting 7th of March. Venue still to be set. Warren will advise closer to time. Warren Plum. Sec



# 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)

# **RANGE STANDING ORDERS**

## **Packers Creek Rifle Range January 2017**

### **Location**

The range complex is located at Packers Creek within the Hira forest at GR E1629009, N5430293 on NZTopo50 – BQ26 Nelson. Access is via Sharland Creek Road off Maitai Valley Road.

### **General**

- 1 The Nelson Branch of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association is responsible for the control and maintenance of the Packers Creek Range.
- 2 Nelson Branch NZDA has a licence by the occupier of the Hira Forest, Tasman Bay Forests Company (now Tasman Pine Forest Ltd.). Access and security is managed on Tasman Pine Forest's behalf by Action Forest Management Ltd.)
- 3 Hira forest is a production forest and forest operations and fire are identified hazards. Logging trucks, forest operational vehicles and recreational motorcycles and mountain bikes on narrow forestry roads are identified as hazards. Intrusion by motorcyclists into the range safety zone is an identified hazard  
Access to the forest and therefore the range is subject to operational and safety priorities.
- 4 Access to and use of the range requires the express consent of Nelson Branch of NZDA communicated directly to its members. In the case of non-member organisations a permit is also required from Action Forest Management LTD.

### **Description**

There are two firing ranges

- The 200 metre range with a centre line of fire of 68 degrees Grid. This range is a Reduced Danger Area Range with bullet capture berms at 100 and 200 metres. The range has a markers gallery with 10 target frames.  
The 100 metre berm serves as a firing point.  
The 200 metre firing point is covered and contains 20 bench rest positions.
- The 50 metre range with a centre line of fire of 338 degrees Grid. This range is a Reduced Danger Area Range with a near vertical hill immediately behind the target line. There is a raised firing point at 25 metres and two sighting in benches at 50 metres.

The main range building has toilet facilities accessible from the outside and unlocked.

### **Communications**

Cell phone reception is possible at the Sharland Creek gate and at the range hut (beside the range flag).

### **Restrictions**

- 1 The range is restricted to small arm calibre firearms and shotguns. Maximum muzzle energy of 7500 joules applies.
- 2 Practices involving military and police weapon systems must comply with Annex A (automatic weapons) Annex B (moving targets) Annex C (hand guns)
- 3 Only firearms and ammunition in a safe condition may be used.

- 4 Incendiary or Tracer ammunition is categorically prohibited.
- 5 All projectiles must be captured by the bullet stops at the 200 metre butts or the 100meter bund. All targets must be constructed to avoid ricochet and positioned so that projectiles do not ricochet off the range floor and compromise the safety template.
- 6 Cross firing is prohibited  
Note—Firing at a target other than one squarely in front of the shooter’s designated position on the firing mound may compromise the safety template.
- 7 Poles (red painted) are sited to indicate the left and right limits of bullet stops. NO projectiles must impact outside those poles.
- 8 An Air Danger Height of 500 meters will be observed. If aircraft are observed flying in a manner that would intrude on the range or its danger zone, ALL FIRING MUST CEASE until the aircraft has passed.

### **Priority of use**

The following is the order of priority for the use of Packers Creek Range.

- 1 NZDA Nelson Branch members.
- 2 Local rifle and gun clubs, including Nelson College, by arrangement.
- 3 Armed Services, including Police, by arrangement.
- 4 Other groups as approved by the Range Committee.

**NB** All users of the range will comply with the requirements of these Standing Orders as laid out in the following paragraphs.

### **Appointments**

- 1 A range officer will be designated when the range is in use for organised events and be responsible for range safety.
- 2 Any individual using the range must comply with range standing orders and ensure the range is safe to use.

### **Range Signs and Flags**

- 1 ‘Warning Signs’ are permanently positioned on the three access roads.
  - a. 100 meters before the eastern entrance gates
  - b. 1100 meters up the 4WD track E1629635: N5431137 to the north east
  - c. 1100 meters up the 4WD track E1629949:N5430697 starting to the south of the entrance.
 Both a and b have locked gates in addition to the permanent signage.
- 2 ‘Range Status Signs’ are positioned at the entrance gates and must be displayed when the range is open for use.
- 3 Red Flag is to be flown at the 200m firing point when the range is open for use.
4. Red Flag flown at the butts signifies that - NO FIRING MAY TAKE PLACE AND ALL FIREARMS ON THE FIRING LINE ARE TO BE CLEARED.

**NB.** No personnel will be in the butts during live fire unless the Butts flag is available and all personnel at the range have been briefed on the significance of the flag,

### **Safety Rules**

The following safety rules must be complied with on the range:

- 1 No firearm may be loaded unless the user is at the firing point and then only when under the orders of the Range Officer.



1. Cease firing and clear all firearms.
2. Render first aid
3. Seal off the area.
4. Secure but do not remove or strip the firearm involved in the incident.
5. Advise the NZ Police that there has been a firearm incident on the range.
6. Advise the participating organisation's President or Commanding Officer
7. Advise the Nelson Branch of NZDA ph. 03 5476202 027 2450452
8. Make a list of all participants present and remain present until cleared by NZ Police.
9. No media interviews are to be conducted. Refer all media to NZ Police.

## **REPORT ALL INCIDENTS OF INTRUSION OR INJURY TO THE RANGE COMMITTEE**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Greg Couper  
President  
Nelson Branch NZDA

### **Annexes to Packers Creek Range Standing Orders**

Annex A	Automatic Weapons	(Restricted)
Annex B	Moving Targets	(Restricted)
Annex C	Handguns	(Restricted)

Nelson Branch of New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Inc

Phone contacts                      03 5476202  
    03 5479143

January 2017



# 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.