



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA March 2017

Note from the Secretary

Hi all Warren here this month.

Just a bit of an update.

Hard to believe how fast the year is going, and as I write this, there will be stags moving about in preparation for the roar.

While it's really pleasing to see hunting getting more recognition and acceptance by the general public (I think the really well done Hunting shows on TV are helping), it does mean there are increasing numbers of hunters out there in the hills. So please take extra care over the roar at.

As you will see in the newsletter below our Annual General Meeting is coming up in May. Please give some thought on what you would like out of our club and how you personally could help. It's all very well to say more club hunting trips or events, but we need people on the ground to actually run these.

As with nearly every New Zealand club or recreational group I can think of, there is currently a lack of volunteers and people behind the scenes to make them work. Especially as the work load increases.

Of course I know we are all busier in our lives these days, and there are all these other distractions and complications. Forty years ago when I first joined the committee life was simpler, there were nowhere near so many issues, and when something came up, you dealt with it and moved

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

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Next Club Meeting

Tuesday 28 March

7.30 pm

Roar Meeting – See more detail inside

Fish & Game Rooms
Champion Road

Red Deer Lodge

Booking for Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti

Contact the Calders:
info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz Use the website at www.starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz saying you are a member

on. A simple advertised working bee could sort out most issues. The problem is now the sheer volume of issues and expectations from members and the extra work and requirements set upon clubs by third parties.

We have a Lodge, a rifle Range and Bank accounts and try to run club hunts and other events. All are now covered by never ending legislative and financial requirements.

Huge changes to our insurance requirements, Charities Act, GST and Auditing requirements, Health and Safety legislation, Fire plans, need to have written plans for everything, concerns about liability about anything someone could potentially dream up to remove personal liability from themselves and make it "Our fault". The never ending need to put in submissions etc to try and retain or improve hunter's rights and opportunities.

Just look at how many Park plans, Management plans, Tenure reviews, Osprey poison, and 1080 drops are advertised each year. Along with the continual negotiations around leases licenses and access to our assets. All of which impact on our members.

Any way I guess what I am saying is our current committee needs help.

We are no longer representative of our members, with only a handful being less than retirement age, and really need an injection of new ideas and numbers to spread the load.

So please consider how you could get involved, it's no use leaving it to someone else, Someone else is pretty well stuffed.

Cheers Warren

How to Treat Your Trophy

Warren will explain at the next club night, but in case you miss it, a couple of things not to do based on recent examples. Do not cut the animals throat, shoot it again if need, or stick behind the shoulder, and if you are experiencing hot weather, do not immerse uncovered in a creek for three days.

You can also ring Warren at 5479143 or email at plumstone@xtra.co.nz if you have any queries about taxidermy, or a quote for work.

Hunting News

It appears a lot of hunters started early this year, with numerous reports of stags being taken in the late velvet.

Also seems a lot of Nelson hunters are venturing further afield as well, with parties I am aware of on the Coast, South and North Canterbury along with the usual Nelson and Marlborough haunts. All have seen animals, and in a number of cases quite good numbers of young stags. It has been a good year for antler growth with all the damp weather over the summer, so it will be interesting to see what sorts of heads are produced.

To date I have seen a couple of very good Red heads taken over the 300DS mark and another just short of that magic figure. Seems a number of Australians have been targeting the Wakatipu Whitetail as well going by the photos on social media.

I guess it's probably cheaper for them to fly across and hunt them than for us to drive down from Nelson, but the number taken have to be a concern given the very low population currently. One of the bucks was a very nice animal of around 160ds. Evidently it had been seen by a local for the last two years and left to grow for another, so I guess they are not so happy, but that's hunting.

As to the roar, a couple of reports of stags being seen running with hinds this last week, and a few roaring already on the farms. So good luck and hope to see you at the head measuring.

Big Possums

Wondered if anyone else had noticed if the average size of possum has increased in the areas subject to continual poisoning.

Guess just like other species, when in low numbers and plenty of food they are healthier and larger than when resources are low.



The big skin pictured came out of an area with very low numbers and measured over 70cm from tip of nose to base of tail and 115cm overall to tip of tail.

That is a .223 beside it to give some idea of scale.

So let's hear the measurements if you have taken a bigger one, photo would be good as well.

Hunters Call to Action – Support the Red Deer Foundation Legal Challenges

Greetings NZDA Branches!

I am writing to you as a Hutt Valley NZDA committee member helping the Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation (LNIRDF) with fundraising for their current legal challenge relating to proposed WARO changes in the Ruahine Ranges and elsewhere.

This legal challenge will have an impact on hunters, and users of the conservation estate, across New Zealand.

We have created a Givealittle page to raise funds for this important cause and would appreciate you sharing the link below to our Givealittle page with your members and supporters through your newsletters and social media channels. Thank you in advance; together we're stronger!

Have an amazing Roar

Emmet (HVNZDA Committee member)

[Hunters Call to Action - Support the Red Deer Foundation legal challenges - Givealittle](#)

HUNTS COURSE

Do You Know Anyone Who Is Interested In Taking Up Hunting? Hunter National Training Scheme

Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game and NZ Deerstalkers Association are again offering an introductory course in hunting (both game bird and big game) that is designed to help and encourage **new and potential hunters** (minimum age 16 years) into the sport. This course is “hands on” and a great opportunity to gain practical skills and information from experienced instructors.

The course will cover the Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) programme plus an introduction to Game bird hunting. Topics will include; Hunting Ethics & Wildlife management, Equipment & clothing, Navigation & safety around water/river crossings, Game species - biology, habitat and behaviour, Firearm safety and shooting technique, Hunting techniques for different species, Skinning and meat processing, When things go wrong.... And much more!!!

The course (held at the Fish & Game Rooms in Champion Road, Richmond) involves 8 evening sessions held Tuesday evenings starting 18 April 2017. (7pm-9pm) plus two weekends

Cost:

- Adults \$275 which includes the NZDA membership subscription that provides access to NZDA Rifle Ranges and Public Liability Insurance.
- Under 18yrs \$212
- NZDA member \$150.
- Hunting trip costs (\$25 -50) are extra and are determined by the location.

For more information contact

Fish and Game NZ, Nelson Marlborough Region (03) 544 6382 or
Bill O’Leary, NZ Deerstalkers’ Association (03) 5476202.

Benchrest Shoot Tokoroa

A number of Nelson members recently attended the Benchrest Shoot in Tokoroa.



The benches and shooting station which is similar to Nelson,

and of course



the man behind Bench Rest shooting in New Zealand, Graeme Smith NZDA Life member, in the middle.

Rifle Range News

Please note Packers Creek will not be available for use over the entire Easter Weekend, as the Annual 4 day Bench Rest shoot is taking place.

Also please ensure you print of and return a copy of Range declaration as attached in this and last month's Newsletter, if planning to use the Packers Creek range during the current year. These can either be posted to Warren at the address printed on them, or passed on to whoever is opening the range gate. They in turn will pass on to Warren. This is necessary no matter how familiar you are with the Range to ensure we can be seen to be complying with Health and Safety plans.

On that note it is important you also sign in the Range Book, every time you use the Range, it's not just for recording how much use it's getting, which of course is important as well.

Club Nights

All at usual venue, Fish & Game rooms, Champion Road Richmond, 7.30pm

All Tuesday Nights.

March 28th: Roar meeting, General catch up, and advice on what, and what not to do if wishing to save a trophy skin or horns etc.

April: No meeting as clashes with Public Holidays.

May 30th: Our Annual General meeting

June 27th: Our Annual Head measuring and photography entry evening

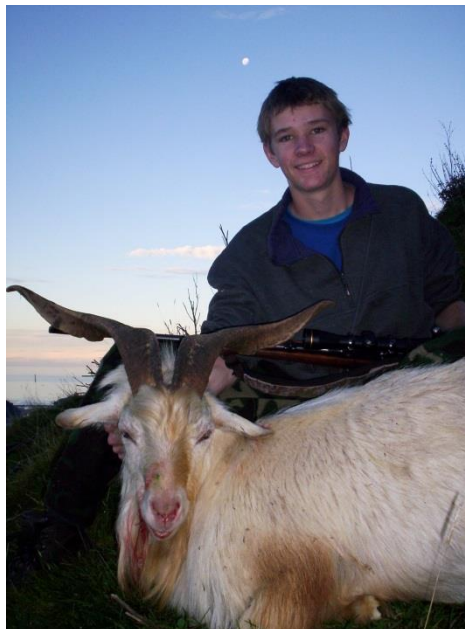
Remember we have a section for youngsters in both the photography and hunting sections.



So a great chance to get them involved in the Outdoors and personally developing a love for your interests.

Means more trips and leave passes for you as well, taking the family out for a bit of bonding.

From personal experience the young people really value the opportunity, and take pride in their entries. And on a number of occasions over the years have won in both their and the adults sections. You would have to say that other than fishing, there are not many competitive situations where youngsters to pensioners can all compete on a competitive basis.



So if out before the end of June, encourage your children to take a photo or two with your camera, and save those goat horns etc. they may harvest to enter, no matter what the size.

Bits and Pieces

Some interesting bits of information picked up from the March 2017 Tasman-Nelson Conservation Volunteers Newsletter.

Drones are being used to locate birds with transmitters saving hours of work.

St Arnaud had a Stoat invasion and got 110 Stoats from 250 traps in 8 weeks in Rainbow Valley.

Well done to Fairfax for the “Wasp wipe out” promotion. They reached the target and talking to people already using Vespex, the results are excellent - providing you time the bait placement when wasps will take it. Well done people!

I’m told 30 Wasps will wipe out a beehive. They attack the bees and eat the bee larvae putting the hive into rapid decline.

In the annual review of ecology in the USA a study estimated that they lose 2.4 BILLION Birds killed by Cats each year (196 Million in Canada) Other bird killers are: #Birds hitting windows (599 million) automobile collision #(14 million) Agriculture poisoning (2.7 Million)

Hedgehog Rescue NZ are busy saving Hedgehogs and we are busy nailing them. Unbelievable that some people just don’t get what an unwanted species looks like. In Rainbow Valley we have taken out over 2000 of them. Rats with spikes.

Remember when Google Earth Street blanked out the face of a Cow to protect its privacy...

Also true is the laundry label on my Granddaughters new school uniform which states: the size, the type of material, does not iron and to “please remove child before washing”. Oh really

A little bit of a joke to finish.

What do you call a deer with no eyes? No idea.

What do you call a deer with no eyes and no legs? Still no idea.

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>

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

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.