



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA October 2017

## NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Hi All.

Welcome to the October Newsletter.

Like many other hunters, I must say I am getting sick of all this wet weather and itching to get out in the hills.

Those who have used the range recently will have noted the grass is certainly coming away.

The bigger stags have dropped their antlers and I have seen photos of several local hunters posing with animals with velvet buttons, so it's certainly the start of the season to get those meat animals for the summer BBQ's.

### **Stewart Island Trip.**

John Noakes advised he still has a couple of positions available for a Stewart Island trip later this year, well at least at time of writing.

If interested approximate dates 27 November to 6 December on Island plus travel to and from before and after those dates.

Approximate cost \$1000.00 per person for food boat accommodation etc. Pegasus area.

If interested flick John an email at [noakesjc@gmail.com](mailto:noakesjc@gmail.com) For further details.

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### **Next Club Meeting**

**Tuesday 31 October  
7.30 pm**

Presentation of Cups  
and Certificates to this  
year's Competition  
Winners.

Tahr Hunting Video:  
Rob Shuttleworth.

Show Historic Heads  
recently presented  
to the Club.

# Hunting News

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Lucas is eight years old now and has proven to be quite a natural at fishing starting from an early age. Over the last couple of years he has, much to my annoyance, been out-fishing his old man. Therefore I had to come up with a plan on how to put him back into his place. My idea was to start taking him hunting as I was pretty sure that he won't out-hunt me anytime soon.

Earlier this year I pulled the 22-250 out of the gun cabinet, dusted it off and pulled the spider webs out of the barrel, then I took Lucas out the range. First we did basic firearms safety and I explained how a rifle works. Being an eight year old his mind started drifting off not long after we began so I set him up ready to fire a few shots.

His arms where just long enough to reach the trigger and off he went shooting a few rounds. He did show a lot of interest after our initial induction and we continued to visit the range several more time over the winter month until he was shooting some nice groups at a 100m. The 22-250 also receive a tidy up and was now preforming very well.



On a nice warmish Saturday in July it was time to take him out the field. We drove to Seddon where we hunt a farm back block with a healthy goat population.

On the drive over Lucas received another lesson on the importance of shot placement with a small calibre rifle and again like a typical eight year old he told me that he knows all this.

Once we got past the farm it didn't take us long to spot some goats. Lucas set up, loaded the gun and missed. The nanny goat stood about 80 yards away and was extremely patient looking at us only walking a few steps once the first shot was fired. After some quick advice from the old man he reloaded, shot again and missed. "For someone who knows it all you miss a lot, son" I said. Lucas had already chambered the third round and this time shot the nanny straight into the neck, she dropped on the spot. Despite a couple of clean misses he was very impressed with himself to have shot his first goat and who could blame him.





After taking photos and cutting out the meat we continue driving along the farm track in search of some more goats. While driving through some scattered pine trees I stopped the car looking out the window and said to the kids: "Look at those pine cones they look like the ears of a deer." Taking a second look we realised they actually

yearling which ended up in the back of the Ute with the goat.



We now had several trips hunting and Lucas is getting very good at shooting. Just about all his shots are neck shots and clean kills up to 250m. If he does botch up a shot then dad quickly backs him up with the 270. I can already see that once his legs grow a bit stronger, it won't take him long before he will out-hunt his old man. At least it will give me a couple more years before I have to come up with something else that he can't out do me at. What a great way for a kid to grow up.

# Molesworth. 1080 Aerial Poisoning

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Below are details of the current year's program. While one can understand the need to try and eradicate TB in this vast area, hunters most certainly have concerns about the effect this will have on the resident Red deer herd which in recent years have proven to be some of the best public land hunting in the country. To help better understand the effects, a number of South Island branches are looking at supporting monitoring and scientific analysis of by kill in this latest drop. More details next month around how Nelson branch is helping in this regard. We know how important this is to many of our local members who have been hunting this and areas adjoining Molesworth, which are reliant on animals coming out of it.



## Aerial possum control – Molesworth

This is to notify you that Vector Free Marlborough Limited has been contracted by TBfree New Zealand to carry out the Molesworth aerial possum control operation using sodium fluoroacetate (1080) cereal pellets. The Molesworth aerial forms part of OSPRI's TBfree programme.

The treatment area spans over 61,200 hectares of public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) known as Molesworth Station. It encompasses the areas of the Wards Pass to the Acheron Accommodation House, then downstream of the Clarence River to the Spray Stream. Deer repellent coated cereal pre-feed and 1080 bait, brown in colour will be applied over approximately 2,000ha within the Guide area.

Please click on the links for more information regarding the [map](#) of the operational area and the [key facts](#) about the toxin being used and the precautions that should be taken.

We wish to advise that this operation is due to take place as soon as practicable **from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 onwards, weather dependent.**

We will first apply non-toxic pre-feed to increase the effectiveness of the operation. This will be followed by toxic 1080 baits (green in colour) usually after 7 - 10 days. Warning signs will be erected at all points of public access and will remain in place while toxic baits are present and/or poisoned possum carcasses may be present. All instructions on the signs should be carefully followed.

Vector Free Marlborough Limited has completed the consultation process with the affected landowners and neighbouring landowners to explain the operation and gather information on matters such as water supplies, fencing and grazing areas.

If you are no longer the land occupier at this address, or have any questions, please contact our *Communications Manager* on 0508 548 008, or email [communications@vectorfree.co.nz](mailto:communications@vectorfree.co.nz).

**Barry Polson**

**Director**

**Vector Free Ltd Approved contractor to TBfree New Zealand**



# Range News

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## Packers Creek Range Shoot 17/09/2017

The weather certainly wasn't in our favour on Sunday but we persevered and went through with the shoot in between the torrential downpours. We shot a range of targets at 3 distances from 50m – 200m with both centrefire and rim fire rifles. After the shoot we all pitched in and helped out with the working bee followed by a BBQ and hot cuppa to end the day well.

### Scores were:

Name	Possum/ Target 50m	Thar/Possum 50m	Deer 100m	Target 200m	Total
Alister Ching	80	93.2	43	38	254.2
Reece Parkins	92	96.1	45	46	279.1
Malanie Ching (L)	84	97	45	41	267
Warren Plum	88	96	40	34	258
Graeme Ching	90	97.2	42	30	259.2
Richard Wells	87	93	44	41	265



# World Bench Rest Competition

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It's not long now before the big event, with the opening on the **2<sup>nd</sup> of November**.

It's hard to believe how quickly the 4 years has passed since this event was first planned.

Graeme Smith and his team are to be congratulated on their efforts at the Packers Creek Range which must now rank as one of the best facilities in the country.

## **Just a reminder around the Range.**

It will be full occupied by the international and NZ competitors for the period **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of November**, so range will not be available for casual sighting in etc. over that period which includes the 2 weekends (4-5 November and 11-12 November).

# Club Night

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## **Next Club Night. – Tuesday 31 October**

Usual venue Fish and Game rooms, Champion Road, Richmond. 7.30pm.

Presentation of cups and certificates to winners of this year horn antler and tusk competitions, and photographic.

Also plan to show Rob Shuttleworths video entry of a successful tahr hunt this year, and would welcome any other recent footage members might be prepared to share.

A good turn out to our September meeting, with a very entertaining and interesting talk by Simon Wyatt from Blenheim. His use of hearing protection devices with built in hearing aids which can be turned up to amplify sound in the bush was quite enlightening, and I am sure some of those of us attending will be endeavouring to emulate his techniques, which clearly are very successful.

# Historic Deer Heads

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For those of you who have not visited Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti, we hold a collection of some of the finest deer heads ever taken in New Zealand in earlier times.

These include Newton Mcconchies big Wapiti heads. A huge 58 inch long 13 pointer from the Pitt and his big 17 point crossbreed bull of the Lugur Burn beach.

Stan Jones big 14 point Wapiti from the George tops, one of the last 50 x 50 inch bulls taken.

Temple Sutherlands great 18 point Red from Haupri area, Newtons big rough 18 point Red which held the record for weight from the Rakaia, along with several other of his heads,



The great heavy Red head from the Hokitika taken by Gordon Atkinson , and a number of heads from the Shuttleworth family along with others.

Just recently the Curtis family donated the 15 point head taken by Max in the Cropp, and a 12 point head taken by Norm Livinston in the North Clinton in 1960.

The great thing around all these heads is that the hunters all now sadly deceased, took the time to write about the taking of these animals, which meant so much to them, and we can still read about those fabulous adventures in the books they published.



Max and Norms heads prior to being cleaned up for display.

While the Lodge is not open most of the time for casual visits, there will be an opportunity to visit this November.

**The club is holding a working bee to do some maintenance and painting over the weekend 25 -26 Novembe**, so you are most welcome to come along and have a look , a chance to take the family for a ride and day out, or better yet come along and wield a paint brush for an hour or two. For more details contact Warren at [plumstone@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plumstone@xtra.co.nz)

# 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: October Committee Meeting

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## NELSON NZDA MEETING MINUTES 3rd of October 2017

Held at Warren Plums home, 7.30pm

**Present:** Warren Plum, Graeme Smith, Don Harris, Greg Couper, Neil Cliffe, John Noakes.

**Apologies:** Richard Wells, Immo Neumann, Bill O'Leary

**Last Minutes:** Accepted, Moved. Warren Plum /John Noakes

**Inward Mail:** National Office Newsletter, emailed out to all committee.

Waikato Newsletter,

Richard Wells email distributed to committee re items for Committee meeting.

Marlborough Branch seeking help with monitoring of Molesworth 1080 drop.

Gift of heads belonging to Max Curtis and Norm Livingston.

**Outward Mail:** Items to accountant, Thanks to John Crone regarding help with Audits,

Thanks to Simon Wyatt re club night presentation.

Accepted. Moved Warren Plum / John Noakes

### **Financial:**

*Payments Made.*

Forwarded chq 887 to accountant for payment GST.

Paid Stihl shop \$10995.00 new mower and \$333.70 repairs old mower.

\$50.00 petrol voucher and \$100.00 cash as thank you re auditor and guest speaker travel costs reimbursed to W Plum.

Waimea print \$44.00,

W Plum reimbursed for engraving and meeting \$106.21.

*Bank Statements*, Last 02 account \$33083.89 and 00 \$22012.65

Approved W Plum/ John Noakes

**Range:** Last shoot Sunday 17th of September followed by a BBQ and working bee.

Disappointing turn out but works complete moving crushed glass into 100 metre bullet stop.

Plan to hold a Swazi prize shoot for junior members before late October?

Need to complete another range opening Roster. Warren to send out this week. Mower has been purchased a Big Dog mower as noted in expenditure. Still to obtain a trailer. Still to do a test run of setting up target frames, may seek help via email to do this.

To invite Ngati Koata representative as guest to opening of World Bench Rest shoot in November.

Richard Wells to help set up awards function. Berger bullets have arrived.

Graeme Smith to follow up about a couple of new red flags.

Graeme has been approached about possibility of holding Pacific regional shooting champs in Nelson.

Roof on shed still to be resolved, temporary resolution discussed. Secretary and President have met with Tasman Forest representative regarding range access. Other issues still to be resolved.

**Membership:** Welcome along to new member Joe Hay . Approved W Plum / G Couper.

**Newsletter:** Still looking for articles. Next issue out this coming week.

**Health and Safety:** Identified issue with existing BBQ at range, suggested replacement. Richard hopeful documentation with Brian on clubs plan can be completed in next month or so. Need to be aware of people with hearing impairments when giving instructions and seeking to move forward at range.

**Red Deer Lodge:** Warren to follow up with Nigel Calder regarding issues identified last month and any progress. Also to advise DOC will be dealing with Native vegetation on Site. Weekend for working bee to complete painting etc has been booked Friday afternoon 24th to Sunday evening 26th of November 2017, Warren to advertise in Newsletter. John Noakes advised he will be away that weekend, so someone else will need to clarify what needs to be done.

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

**Club Nights:** September 26th Simon Wyatt from Blenheim branch gave a very interesting an illustrated talk on bush stalking Red Deer, and ‘circle of sound’.  
Next meeting Tuesday 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.

### **General Business.**

Need to provide National Office sub details etc. for next year, by end of November 17.  
Molesworth. discussed at length request from NZDA Marlborough branch, supported by costs etc of proposed monitoring of effects of aerial 1080 drop in Eastern part of Molesworth Station to be held in next few weeks. Club recognizing how many of our members are now hunting in this and adjoining areas ,which are subject to movement of deer out of Molesworth, felt we should support.

Moved W PLUM seconded by JOHN NOAKES that \$3000.00 be contributed to this cause. Passed Unanimous. To this effect have advised Marlborough branch representative Bill Frost that we have agreed to support by immediately offering \$3000.00 , with additional note that we would be prepared to consider additional funding in need depending on how their funding works out.

Discussed further items in Richards email not resolved already as above.

John Noakes advised he is running a trip to Stewart Island in November, that still have a couple of positions available if anyone interested. On Island 27<sup>th</sup> November to 6 December. Pegasus area, probable cost per head around \$1000.00. Give him a ring or email if interested.  
General business concluded. Meeting closed 9.05pm.

Next meeting won’t be until after World Bench Rest Champs.,  
Warren will advise a date and venue closer to time.  
Warren Plum. Secretary 3.10.2017

# 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>