



MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA September 2017

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Hi All.

Springs on its way and a bit of grass is starting to green up in the odd sheltered spot, so warmer days if all this rain finally stops, should see the odd animal moving about.

The keen young members in the club are already reporting some success.

I am always looking for items for the newsletter, so if you can help by sending items to the editor (Me) at plumstone@xtra.co.nz that would be much appreciated.

Historic Heads.

Our Club has recently come into possession of some historic Red stag heads which we will place with the others at Red Deer Lodge.

The big 15 point Red Max Curtis took in the Cropp, and a 12 pointer Norm Livingston shot in the North Clinton in 1960. It's the head he talks about in the little book he produced years ago.

Once cleaned up I will put some photos in the newsletter, as they look a bit worse for wear at the moment. The other stag was taken at Lake Rotoiti about 1913 by Jock Ingram and would have to be one of the best early heads taken in Nelson District. He is being remounted currently with a new head skin, and the tale of his taking will be published in our next newsletter.

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Next Club Meeting

Tuesday 26
September 7.30 pm

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

Hunting News

Thanks to Ben McLaughlin for the item below.

About half a year ago I met Bill O'Leary at the Nelson Deerstalkers range on a couple of occasions - once while helping my cousin sight in his new .308, and again while helping sight in my friend's .223 (first rifles for both of them).

Firstly, I want to say thanks to Bill for the assistance you gave us on that day. The day after you helped my friend Conal sight his .223, we went hunting in Murchison. Conal shot his first animal (a 100lb pig) - he was absolutely thrilled! Unfortunately, he wasn't in the right position to take a shot on the spiker we'd encountered an hour prior, so I had to take the shot for that one. Needless to say, it was a fantastic first hunt for Conal, and likely wouldn't have been as successful without your help. I've attached photos for your interest.



Any advice you could offer on how to get started reloading would be much appreciated, and if you know of anyone in the Nelson Deerstalkers who's looking to part with some reloading equipment please let me know



Kindest regards and thanks again
Ben

And another story from Eric Hall.

Hi There.

Just thought I would share a photo of a really good trophy chamois buck that I shot at my favourite hunting area last weekend. Measures 10 inches no more no less .I've measured it three times; it may shrink, but in the meantime its 10 inches. I was pretty darn happy when I found it after I climbed up to it following a great 330m steep uphill shot.

The weekend was full of action after I shot a red at 269m only 20minutes below my camp site.

The interesting thing about the trip was the 3 deer I saw were up real high. .The creek was full of thick ice on Saturday afternoon making it real slippery and tricky for the last ½ before I got to my top camp site at 5.30pm .The overnight the temperature must gone up a couple of degrees as in the morning virtually all of the ice was gone making for easy travel early Sunday morning.

All up a great weekend.

(Thanks Eric)



This is the Chamois you will need to beat for next year's local competition!

National Conference Report

Many thanks to Richard Wells for his report on the recent National conference.

Report on NZDA 2017 National Conference

Conference Theme: Growing the Business

Opening Night

This year the national Conference was hosted by the North Canterbury Branch in Christchurch where unfortunately foggy conditions prevailed, disrupting travel for many members and some guests. However the venue and hosting was great so thanks to North Canterbury for that.

Nelson branch was represented by Greg Couper, Graeme Smith and Richard Wells.

The Friday night opening function was notable for political representation from stalwart hunting rights supporter, the Right Honourable Peter Dunne (whose arrival was somewhat delayed) and Don Hammond Chair of the Game Animal Council (GAC). Also present in numbers were DOC and it is good to see them come and engage on a variety of issues (some positive and some more difficult topics e.g. backcountry hut and track improvement, game animal management programmes, access to public lands, WARO and pesticide use).

Bill O'Leary opened the evening by highlighting the need for us to understand the community's perceptions of firearms ownership and hunting and their potential impact on our "license to operate", i.e. carry and use firearms for legitimate recreation. He noted how the major population centres, e.g. particularly Auckland, had relatively very low levels of firearms ownership and hunting activity per household compared to regional and rural centres but that Government policy was likely to be influenced by the concerns of "non-users" unless we both operated in a fit and proper manner when hunting and shooting as well as well as ensured effective lobbying (which requires a significant, solid and mandated support base. This led to his introduction of the Conference Theme of "Growing the Business" meaning seeking more new members, retaining existing members and increase activities within the Association and enhance advocacy (both of these topics were reported in the Winter issue of Hunting and Wildlife #197)

Some highlight guest speakers were Peter Wilson of Federated Mountain Clubs (have a look: www.fmc.org.nz) presenting on benefits of collective and collaborative actions on back country management, access and hut and track maintenance. He noted the Crown funding of \$700k for next two years for the Outdoor Recreation Consortium (learn more: www.hutsandtracks.org.nz) of which NZDA is an important part. Craig Benbow of Malvern and Dave Keen from South Canterbury branches received recognition of their work on backcountry huts.

The Right Honourable Peter Dunne was supportive of the Conference theme and advised that to "Grow your Business" you need to "Know your Business" which was an interesting and useful challenge.

He endorsed the GAC and its work and growing stature and importance as well as making a point about hunter safety and the Mountain Safety Council report "A Hunters Tale"

https://issuu.com/nzmountainsafetycouncil/docs/msc.hunter_s.tale.web.2017?e=2922887/44292171 .

His message regarding safety was driven by need for hunters to maintain a good image with the wider community to engender their ongoing support in sharing the outdoors.

Don Hammond highlighted five key areas of importance:

1. Recreational hunters have a statutory body (last seen 80 years ago) noting the issue of funding requires resolution
2. Resources have been limited but progress made and there is expectation of rapidly increasing traction in near future, GAC has created obligation for Government to consult
3. Urged NZDA to continue to support changing attitudes between recreational hunters and DOC
4. The Herds of Special Significance model was proving successful as a model (e.g. wapiti and sika)
5. Battle for the Birds was going to mean continued aerial 1080 drops and managing these to mitigate effect on game animals by timing, area and deterrent needs to be the norm

A more comprehensive report from on Opening Night speeches should be able to be found on the NZDA national website in the near future.

The following one and a half days were all about NZDA business proper and as usual consists of getting administrative matters and AGM dealt with, hearing the President's Annual Report and General Business.

On Saturday Bill's annual report highlighted areas of importance from the past year.

One obvious issue was the forced removal of staff and functions from the new National office by the November earthquake which lead to quite some difficulties in maintaining all the regular functions of HQ. Staff did a great job whilst working from home etc. for several months. Amongst this NZDA HQ has been working to improve the membership database system, and office admin in general as well as getting Facebook and the website revamped and operating better.

Also notable were the engagement with the Chasing Great team (reported in previous Hunting and Wildlife) which following Conference 2016 developed a strategy to support NZDA moving into a better future, ongoing advocacy and engagement with relevant bodies and Government offices regarding firearms ownership, access to hunting land, track and hut improvement (as per discussion on opening Night) pesticide use (1080) and animal welfare. Many of these issues can be seen in more detail on the NZDA website under News:

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

In particular Bill noted the Association's response to the 2016 Battle for the Birds campaign <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/battle-for-our-birds.html> and how strong engagement on mitigating effects on game animals and Herds of Significance (official or otherwise) by direct contact with Ministers, the Director-General of DOC and application operators is the current and future model.

Some challenges noted by Bill included how to ensure effective communication with branches. To enable a clear and solid mandate Natex needs open and frequent communication with all branches. In some years and for a variety of reasons, not least cost, attendance at national Conference e can be less representative than desirable. It was noted that a new model may be forthcoming to improve branch participation in policy discussions, perhaps at a regional level culminating in a national summery. Similarly the delivery of the Antler horn and Tusk competition at a singular annual meeting was becoming logistically and financially challenging for judges and entries. A new way to continue these important processes is needed.

Finally the invigoration of the Natex and potential appointment of an operating officer would aid the Association by allowing Natex to act more as a board of directors than a group required to carry out many and varied tasks. This concept has its own challenges in terms of funding and indeed reviewing the base rules in our constitution etc.

Changes in accounting systems, accountants and the quake disruption meant that there were some deficiencies in the annual accounts presented and it was agreed by Conference that these be reviewed and represented in the near future before final approval.

Several remits and notices of motion were put and discussed with the usual vim and vigour. Some of those that were of notable significance included:

- The vote to have Hunting and Wildlife magazine be circulated in digital format only in the near future (which means branches will need to make their own consideration of printing copies at a cost). This has been a long and hotly debated topic, now finally concluded by a majority vote and change will lead to great savings in costs to the Association
- Also important was the carrying of the notice of motion supporting the Chasing Great strategy and action plan presented to Natex in October 2016
- Continued to support with funding the activities of the Coalition of Licensed firearms owners (CoLFO).

Chaz Forsyth, long standing member of NZDA and Natex and stalwart firearms safety expert was given special recognition for his contributions and received a heartfelt standing ovation. On Sunday Kaylyn McKinnon updated the audience on work tracking the hoped for recovery of the Wakatipu whitetail herd that was badly battered in 2014 by 1080 and has suffered ongoing further decimation by overhunting especially of juveniles and females. While the outlook is currently fairly bleak, the tracking and research undertaken by Kaylyn with funding from NZDA and others means that the nature of the herd is now better understood, any future pesticide plans can be managed by deterrent (as it was last year) and area spread. Most importantly it shows how further hunting removals need much tighter control if herd is to recover to be something of trophy and sporting value.

Jeremy Severinson from DOC spoke about the success of the collaborative and structured model being used to improve hunter access to Crown land via paper roads, private landowner approvals to transit property and etc. This has been successful and could be expanded.

Finally a short sharp breakout session was held with groups asked to consider how to improve connection between branches and Natex as well as ways to improve both recruitment and retention of members.

Groups reported back to the meeting and Natex have the task of collating these ideas for feedback to branches and future actions.

Summary:

The Conference was notable in its content regarding the Association's steps towards being a more modern and effective body both in its administration and finances as well as communications, advocacy and determination to operate in a collaborative rather than combative way when the benefits of doing so are clear.

Bill O'Leary's closing remarks noted the importance of conference as a vehicle to confirm or review policy and there may need to be a different future model for Conference to be efficient and fully be able represent the views of branches.

He noted that improving the business administrative structure and delivery was important in regard to improved communication as well business growth.

The strong debates on collaborative versus combative stance with Government 9especially DOC and the vote to finalise electronic version of national magazine were both important in their own right and indicative of NZDA moving forward in its approach and effectiveness. It was noted that the next Conference may be different in nature and how it is conducted in the hope and plan to be able to include more branches and ensure a stronger mandate. This is to be worked on in coming months. Regardless of how the next conference pans out, HQ is determined to deliver an improved model of branch communications. Bill also announced that this would be his last year as National President.

Who won what?! Trophies for Trophies.

As usual the Antler Horn and Tusk (AHT) Competition as well as other national competitions were judged.

The winners of AHT and other competitions can be seen on the national website here:

AHT: <https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/files/MEMO.pdf>

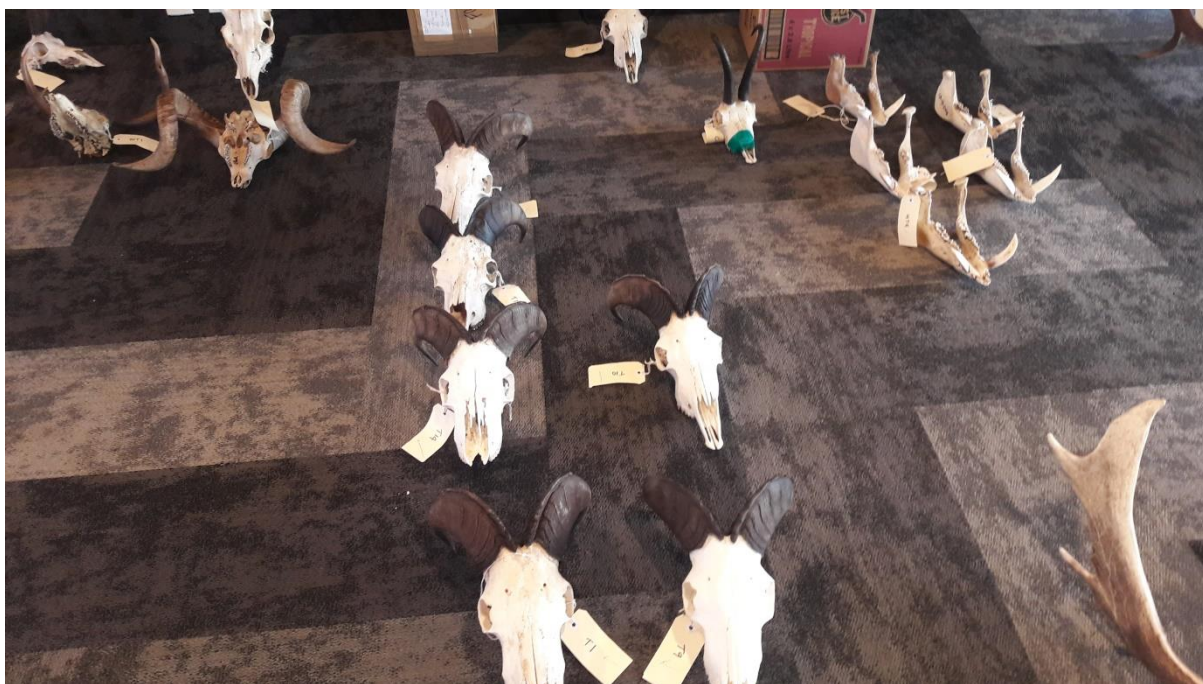
Photographic and other awards:

https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/files/Comps_winners_2017_1_.pdf

There were some massive tahr heads and some great reds too. Local member Paul Peychers achieved recognition for some of his great photography.

Can Nelson branch do better next year? Look at the number of trophies up for grabs!





Tahr very muchly! Great line up of winning trophies; it was clearly another great tahr year!



Monster stags! Clearly there are some great animals out there...or in this case were out there.....!



Here are winners of AHT trophies, well done those hunters!

Range News

Next Organized Club Shoot. (Remember range is not available for casual sighting in etc on club days, and different opening hours apply.)

Sunday 17th September

Rimfire 20 rounds at 50m

Centrefire 10 rounds at 100m

Gate opens at 9.30am Club shoot so no open range,

Shoot itself starts at 10.00am, Followed by a BBQ at 12.30 and then a working bee on main range. All welcome.

Club Night

Snow Hewetson gave a very interesting report on the Tahr Management group at the August meeting, and we will just have to hope that progress with the Game Management Council and the Tahr plan are not lost, now that the prime supporter Peter Dunn has left parliament.

Next Club Night. - September 26th

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

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

2017 Committee

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

Richard Wells **Vice President**

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: Special AGM Meeting

Minutes of Nelson Branch NZDA SPECIAL AGM MEETING AUGUST 2017

Venue: Fish & Game Rooms, Champion Road, Richmond.

Tuesday 29th August 2017 Club Night.

At the end of presentation by Snow Hewetson on Tahr management the meeting then moved to hold a Special Meeting.

Apologies: Richard Wells, Neil Cliffe

Present: 35 Persons attending, including, Warren Plum, Bill O'Leary, Bevan Walker, Eric Hall, David Hobson, Zane Mirfin, John Noakes, David Haynes, Adrian Douglass, Bob Scheifer, Owen Claridge, Greg Couper, Mike Grant.

Warren as secretary explained reason for this special meeting. That in our existing constitution we had provision for a Vice President, and had in past years filled this role.

This role is important for continuity and succession plans in both the branch structure and committee, and also provides a path way for position holders who may at some further date wish to proceed to a National executive position. To be eligible for a National position, one has to have served as either a Branch or Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. However in recent times this position had not been filled and no one had been appointed to the role at our last AGM.

It was then moved by our Nelson Branch President Greg Couper that a Vice President be appointed at this meeting and called for nominations. This was seconded by John Noakes and subsequently Richard Wells was nominated for this position.

It was noted Richard Wells being away with work was not present and had put in an apology, but had indicated he was prepared to fill this role.

As there were no other nominations it was put to the floor, and a unanimous vote of acceptance of Richard Wells was passed, that Richard Wells be appointed to the position of Vice President Nelson Branch.

Special Meeting closed at 9.35pm, and then reverted to club night activities.

W Plum Secretary 29.8.17

Minutes: September Committee Meeting

NELSON NZDA MEETING MINUTES 5th of September 2017

Held at Warren Plums home, 7.30pm

Apologies: Richard Wells, Bill O'Leary & John Noakes, Graeme Ching

Present: Warren Plum, Graeme Smith, Don Harris, Greg Couper, Neil Cliffe, Immo Neumann.

Last Minutes: Accepted. Moved Warren Plum /Greg Couper

Inward Mail:

National Office newsletter, emailed out to all committee.

Waikato Newsletter

Doc Re Murchison Range fee increase

Letter reporting issues at Red Deer Lodge.

Advice from Accountant that 2015 and 2016 year audits had been completed.

Outward Mail:

Items to accountant.

Letter to person reporting issues at Red Deer Lodge acknowledging receipt of their advice.

Accepted: Moved Warren Plum / Greg Couper

Financial:

Payments made;

Refunded G Couper conference expenses of \$404.49

Fish and Game \$103.50 for use of rooms

Waimea print \$44.00 re newsletters

Stihl shop for blade on brush cutter at range, \$169.84

\$509.55 Direct debits power at Lodge Contact

Approved \$60.00 for petrol voucher to go in letter of thanks.

Investment A/C at Westpac has now been opened and \$50,000.00 deposited to it for 6 month term. Bank statements last 2 months received. Last o2 account \$39133.48 and 00 \$33186.94.

Approved: W Plum/ Don Harris

Range:

Next shoot Sunday 17th of September. 9.30 am. No other access while shoot being held. To be followed by a BBQ at approximately 12.30 and then a 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.

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

Mower, still exploring options, N Cliffe has checked out the Kart club mower and tractor and found underpowered for our needs. G Smith authorised to have existing mower repaired and to go ahead with a purchase of a suitable mower now urgently required up to \$15k in value.

Dept of Conservation has advised that concession fee for Murchison Range will increase from \$100.00 plus GST to \$250.00 plus GST from June 2018.

Packers Creek Range update, Greg Couper expecting to meet Tasman Pine Forests representative at Range this Thursday to discuss long term resolution around use.

World Bench Rest Update:

Graeme to provide Warren a wish list for helpers etc. that can be sent out to members enlisting help around running event.

Need to improve lining inside roof on shed. Solution proposed, subject to getting sufficient people for working bee.

Membership:

Welcome along to new members, Blake Gilmour, Aaron Shields, Oscar Perks.

Approved: W Plum / G Couper.

Newsletter:

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

Health and Safety:

No issues identified this month.

Red Deer Lodge:

Have received letter as circulated to committee, identifying a number of issues. Nigel Calder who looks after Lodge and bookings was immediately contacted, and provided an update on issues.

Additional work around trees and undergrowth taken up with Parks Board who look after native vegetation on site . They advised they would trim at next opportunity. 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:

August 29th. Snow Hewetson from Marlborough came over and gave some insight into the Tahr Management Plan. How and what the Tahr interest group aims to achieve and process. Very interesting evening with approx 35 members attending. Also held a special meeting where Richard Wells was appointed to role of Vice President Nelson Branch.

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 has collected, currently with engraver, hope to present at September club night.

General Business:

Need to provide National Office sub details etc. for next year, by end of November 17.

General business concluded. Meeting closed 9.05pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 3rd of October 2017.

Warren Plum. Secretary 7.9.17

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>