



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA August 2023



Paul Peychers' great winning photo for the Tantrum Cup - beautiful.



Kieran Hall – third in Flora category.

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

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**August 29<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open  
7pm @ Saxton  
Smallbore**

**Event Topic To  
Be Advised**

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# Editorial

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The 75<sup>th</sup> annual conference was a great event, wonderfully run by the 3 branches (Ashburton, Malvern and Rakaia) and the events, business and entertainment all carried out with vim and vigour. The theme of research resonated as it focussed on game animal management with historical perspectives mingling well with presentations on how we can meet future needs.

The nationwide Goat Competition in many ways embraces where we are at in terms of really coming to grips with game animal management. Firstly, goats are not “on the list” of recognised game animals despite the fact that there are recognised trophies for their horns and obviously goat meat is fine to eat (if you are sensibly choosy....). For some reason goats fall into a limbo-land of edible game, nuisance, feral, domesticated and semi-domesticated, pest and pet.

The certainty is that goats reproduce very successfully in the NZ environment, have zero predators beyond us and like to eat a wide variety of plantlife. Therefore, at some level they need controlling. The Goat Competition is about harnessing hunters across the land to affect a reduction in feral goat numbers on DOC and other public land as well as private land where appropriate. Further below is more information but here it is important to state the obvious – this is to achieve organised, lawful, humane and safe reduction in feral goats. Not a free for all. Our efforts will support collaborative management of animals. And as emphasised below, collect as much meat as possible when they are animals fit to eat.

As we switch from “bad old days” when deer were extremely scarce across the public estate due largely to commercial hunting to a different landscape with more areas of acknowledged high numbers, our ability to recognise, collaborate and control herds will be mission critical. The historical presentation at this year’s Conference on our deer herds from mid-1800’s through to 1930’s really showcased the “good deer-evil deer” policy rollercoaster that we need to seek to avoid in the future. Being a part of the solution of not letting herds get to problem levels (and being a part of the conversation as to what is a “problem”, based on evidence) will be a part of our future. Standing on the sidelines is not an option, research, understanding and collaborative models, often on a “place by place” basis will be needed.

Matariki weekend saw the second running of the Matariki Challenge, good job Graeme Smith for conjuring up this event, and this year winning it! There is a great write-up in the Hunting and Wildlife magazine on Graeme’s massive contribution to competitive shooting in New Zealand and overseas, both in terms of competing and supporting the sport. So, a big thanks!

Competition night showed the quality of heads out there and especially from our region. As noted by Warren in his report below, I too noticed a sad lack of youngsters’ entries into AHT and photocomp compared to last few years – I hope this is a one-off and we see more encouragement given to family members to participate. Finally, thanks to those who organised the event, did the scoring and provide spot and other prizes. More of the photocomp winners will be in next month’s Echo.

Finally, but importantly our Packers Creek and Murchison Community Ranges’ **Standing Orders** have been updated to reflect new regulatory requirements. If you use these ranges, you are required to know and understand them. There will be more information coming to all members but meanwhile go to the link here and review and refresh yourselves please: [NZDA Nelson Ranges Standing Orders](#)

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting - **Richard Wells**

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

# Get Your Goat – National Competition



**ENTER THE NATIONAL WILD GOAT HUNTING COMPETITION**



**1 August – 26 November 2023**

**Compete for national and regional prizes and help protect the environment.**

Brought to you by



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**NZDA**  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

For information on how to enter, visit [www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition](http://www.doc.govt.nz/wild-goat-hunting-competition).

*You can take part anywhere you have permission to hunt. The competition promotes safe firearms use, keeping safe in the backcountry, and ethical and humane hunting.*

Supported by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand and Hunting & Fishing New Zealand.

PHOTO: DOC

See all details here: [National Goat Competition - All Information](#)

## Critical Points to Know and Remember:

- Make sure you are aware of all the rules (see link above)
- Safety first [DOC Safety Information](#)
- Must be a licensed firearms user and refresh on rules for carriage of firearms to your hunting area
- **Only hunt feral goats on public land with permission** (with DOC permit see link [DOC Permits](#) ) or private land with **definite approval of landowner** (ensure boundaries are clearly known see link [Walking Access NZ maps](#) )
- Take goats humanely, collect meat if you can
- Be safe and aware of others at all times and be absolutely sure you are legally hunting wild goats, any doubt, do not shoot
- Freeze your tails for later counting at open days – thaw well before the day

For genuine queries after you have read the rules!! please contact [richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz](mailto:richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz)

**Read all the rules etc available in the link here:** [National Goat Competition - All Information](#)

Local DOC offices may have information on local goat numbers or our Branch hunts convenor (see Branch Contacts at end of the Echo)



**Eat your goat!**

## Competition categories and prizes

There is over \$50,000 worth of prizes kindly donated by the hunting and outdoor sector.

### National categories

Every entry at a local NZDA branch or official recording point will count towards the national categories.

National categories	Entry details	Prize and value
NZ Hunter - Goat Pursuit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every individual has one chance to win.</li> <li>• Enter a wild goat head or tail and tell us in two sentences or less why you should win.</li> <li>• Selected finalists will submit a video to NZ Hunter.</li> <li>• Entries close midnight 31 October.</li> </ul>	Win an unforgettable filmed wild goat hunting expedition with NZ Hunter. Flights and accommodation included. <b>When:</b> Summer 23/24 <b>Location:</b> Likely to be a rural South Island location <b>Duration:</b> 2-3 nights
Got Your Goat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every individual has one chance to win.</li> <li>• Enter a wild goat tail or head and go in the draw to win one of a number of epic spot prize packs.</li> </ul>	Win 1 of 9 spot prize packs. Each pack is worth over \$1400 each.
The Great Goat Roundup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every tail is a chance to win.</li> <li>• The more tails you enter, the more entries you get.</li> </ul>	Win 1 of 10 spot prize packs. Each pack is worth approximately \$1200 each.
NZDA's Greatest of All Time Hunter - The G.O.A.T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highest scoring goat head nationwide. (Based on the <a href="#">Douglas Score</a> of goat head entries received at NZDA branches only.)</li> </ul>	Win a prize pack worth over \$1,300.

Prize packs may include hunting apparel, footwear, vouchers, a Traeger grill, freeze dried meals, personal locator beacons, binoculars, headlamps and more.

### Local NZDA branch categories

There are 15 NZDA branches running local events throughout the competition. Prizes for the local categories will be given out on the specified prizegiving date in December. Local spot prizes will be given out at branch open day. All entrants must be on site to receive spot prizes.

Each NZDA branch will have the following categories and prizes:

Local categories	Prizes
Highest scoring goat head	Hunting & Fishing Camo Rifle Bag 48" and Gerber Gator folding knife.
Highest scoring goat head by a NZDA member	Hunting & Fishing Universal Gun Cleaning Kit and NZ Hunter annual subscription.
Highest scoring goat head by a Junior (under 18)	Hunting & Fishing 126pc First Aid Kit and \$100 Hunting & Fishing voucher.
Most goat tails	\$300 Hunttech clothing voucher.
Most goat tails by a NZDA member	Lansky Quick Fix Pocket Sharpener from Hunting & Fishing and \$100 Backcountry Cuisine voucher.
Most goat tails by a Junior (under 18)	Traverse Headlamp from Hunting & Fishing and \$100 Hunting & Fishing voucher.



Carina (and Greg) off to a flying start in National Goat Competition.

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

# Range Matters – Matariki Challenge 2023

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All Packers Creek Range users note that this Range is once again open as usual but always check our website and your email for important updates plus shooting events schedule [Nelson Ranges - Information and Updates](#)



Our Benchrest Family



Ready to Go

17 Shooters took the start for the 2023 version of the Matariki Rimfire Benchrest Challenge.

It all started at the Saxton Range with a single and double target for 30 business rounds Friday afternoon / evening. After a supper enjoyed by all while scoring finished and tallied, Michael Kidson was the winner, followed by Graeme Vallance and Carina Jackson.

Saturday was the turn of Packers Creek and although cool no frost – how lucky can you be. A full series of Hunter targets at 50 metres and 100 metres was the order of the day. President Greg Couper held it all together for an excellent win followed by Graeme Smith and Graeme Oakley (Christchurch).

Sunday was the third event with 2 International Targets shot which saw Graeme Oakley prevail, followed by Graeme Smith and Carina Jackson.

Again, while all the scores addition was completed all involved enjoyed a scone and cuppa and did what most shooters do talked “what if”

The overall Matariki Trophy was presented by last year’s winner Warren Smith (yes keeping it in the family) to Branch and National Life member Graeme Smith whose consistency produced the result.

More next year – lets hope we can grow the event to become something extra special.

**If anybody out there is interested to try our sport you will be made most welcome. Give us a message on [lvhvbr@gmail.com](mailto:lvhvbr@gmail.com)**  
*Graeme Smith*







All focussed



Déjà vu – kind of, in a reversal of roles from last year Mr Warren Smith says....."Mr Graeme Smith....congratulations on being this year's champion!"

## Final Placings from the Various Events (results from all classes at end of this Echo)

### 2023 "Matariki" Challenge

#### Final Placings

			Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Final
1	Graeme Smith	NEL	299.24	496.13	493.24	1288.61
2	Greg Couper	NEL	300.17	497.16	486.21	1283.54
3	Graeme Oakley	ChCh	298.19	490.09	494.17	1282.45
4	Carina Jackson	NEL	300.24	489.09	487.18	1276.51
5	Ian Inwood	Nel	299.22	485.05	487.16	1271.43
6	Warren Smith	ChCh	299.20	488.19	480.14	1267.53
7	Rob McDonald	NEL	297.18	490.08	479.19	1266.45
8	Tony Titheridge	ChCh	298.18	486.09	479.12	1263.39
9	Michael Kidson	NEL	300.25	475.05	473.14	1248.44
10	Anne Marie Kidson	NEL	298.21	480.11	467.17	1245.49
11	Terry Farnham	NEL	298.15	469.10	451.04	1218.29
12	Graeme Vallance	Nel	300.25	489.06		789.31
13	John Mann	Nel	300.22			300.22
14	Tony Carter	NEL	300.21			300.21
15	Bev Inwood	Nel	300.18			300.18
16	Aiden Brown	Nel	299.25			299.25

# Competition Night – A Year for Reds and Fallow

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Cups to be won at our Competition Night!!!.....thanks MTN [MTN Cool Gear](#) for sponsoring some great prizes (The Editor very pleased with his “cup” this year!).

## **Trophy Night: A few thoughts on our latest head measuring night.** By *Warren Plum*

Very pleasing to see the number of deer heads entered continues to grow. Back in the dark old meat hunting / capture days of 80's and 90's we would some time struggle to have more than 2 or 3 antlered entries locally. This year there were 14 Red deer, and 5 Fallow.





Again, in those days more than one Fallow entry was notable. This year there were 5, and more incredibly 4 were from the Nelson district with 2 being of record book size. The good summer probably contributed to the number of multi pointed heads, although average ages appeared lower than last year.

Chamois and Tahr entries were down, possibly related to the poor weather over the alpine species rut period this year. Disappointingly no entries from youngsters, so remember to keep those small heads shot by your children to enter next year, they are probably trophies to them anyway.

**Reds** Aaron Shields 15 point Molesworth, Chris Webber 11 point Nelson lakes, Aaron Shields 14 point Molesworth, Liam Boshof 13 point Marlborough, Peter Downing 10 point Westland, Steve Savage 12 point Nelson Lakes, Jack Quamby 11 point, Lisa Webber 12pt Nelson Lakes, Aaron Shields 11pt Wairoa gorge, Malanie Bartlett 9 point Molesworth, Karl Puklowski 10 point Nelson Lakes, Aaron Shields 12 point 5 rivers, Maarten Verschuuren 12 point Ruahine, Aaron Shields 11pt Marlborough, Cory Jones 12 point Murchison, Warren Plum 8 point Molesworth.

**Fallow** Peter Downing 22 points 208 6/8 DS Takaka, Jack Quamby 204 7/8 Murchison, Keiran Hall 12 point Hackett Aniseed valley 175DS (This head would have to be one of the best for a long time from this heavily hunted public land. He had a broken trey tine as well which reduced his score) David Hobson 13 point Wanaka, Cory Jones 15 point Murchison.

*Warren Plum*



**Tahr** Warren Plum 39 4/8, Warren Plum 39 2/8, Eric Hall 35Ds, all shot on same trip in Westland Tahr ballot.

**Chamois** Mike Grant. Only the one entry although I know of at least 3 heads shot by other members not entered. You have to be in to win! [\[See picture and story below\]](#)

**Goats & Whitetail**, None this year. May be the nation wide goat hunt will spur some entries next year.

**Ram** Aaron Shields 66 6/8 Marlborough

**Pigs** Craig Barker Rai Valley and Karl Puklowski North Canterbury.



Warren and Eric in measuring mode – thanks so much for your hard work on the night and beforehand.



Spot prizes are cool...Greg hands Greg a nice Sitka shirt. Be there to win!

# Hunting Memories — A Photo Competition Winner

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Aaron Shield's winning entry - Hunting Memories category



# Top Chamois – A Competition Winner

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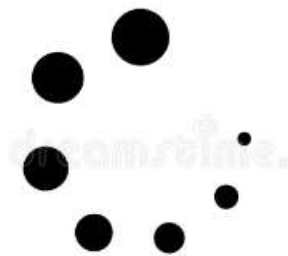


Out on a three-day hunting mission, looking over some new ground I managed to track this guy down. He nearly got away but made the fatal mistake and stopped and looked back after running off after being spooked. Made my day though as he was a really old animal and was just over the magic 10-inch mark on one side and just under on the other. Cheers *Mike Grant*.

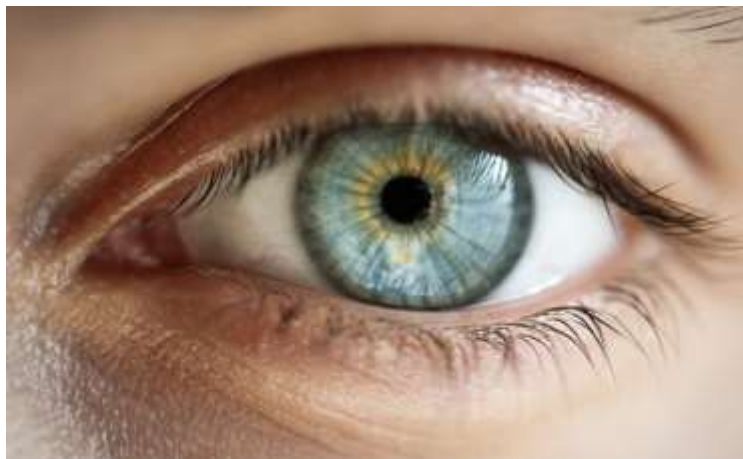
# August Club Night

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**Date & Time:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August Opening @ **7.00 pm**



**We are still organising this event and will advise soon by email of the event activity.**



**Keep your eye on your email!**

As always - bring a friend who might be interested in our activities.

**Venue:** Target Shooting Nelson's Smallbore Range Saxton Field, Stoke.

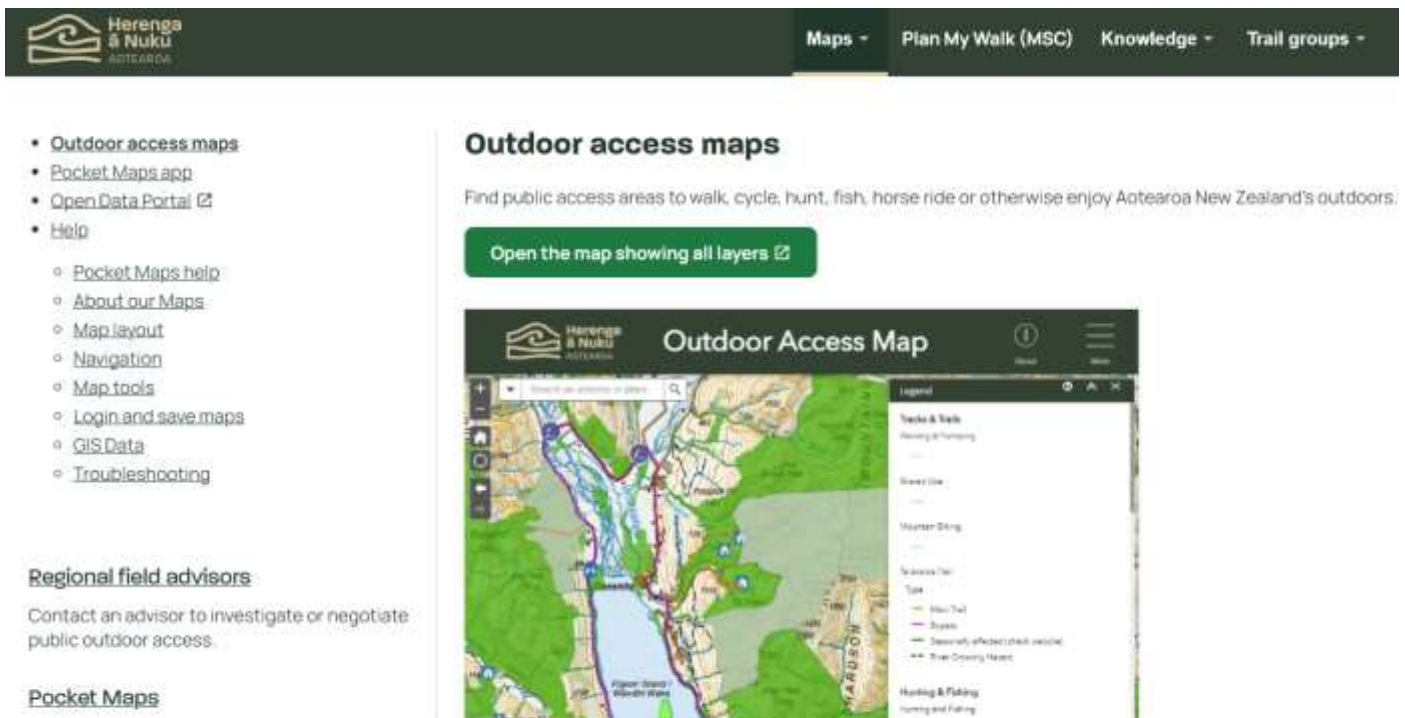
More info: [TSN Website](#)

# Access – Know Your Boundaries

It is worth having a thorough look through all the information laid out at Herenga a Nuku Access NZ

[Access NZ](#)

[Unformed Legal Roads](#)



# Member Benefits – Don't Miss Out!

Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: [Benefits and Discounts](#) and NZDA Benefits APP as per email from NZDA HQ on 17 Se



## Exclusive NZDA discounts:

- Interisland Ferry group booking discount (contact us for the code)
- [Go Native](#) outdoor meals and snacks, 25% discount
- [SWAZI Pro Deal](#), sign-up with your valid NZDA membership
- [Napier of London](#) shooting and hunting goods, 15% discount
- [AJ Productions](#) - electronic game caller and trail cameras, 15% discount
- [Kilwell Sports](#) hunting supplies, 15% discounts on website orders
- Hunting with [Huntahr Guiding](#), 10% discount
- Heli Sika, 10% discount on helicopter flights to hunting blocks
- [Murchison Heli Tours](#), 10% off your flights
- [NZ Taxidermy Ltd](#), 10% discount on mounts
- [Bullivant Taxidermy](#), 10% discount on mounts
- 
- 10% discount of Department of Conservation annual [Backcountry Hut Pass](#) or 'Hut Pass'. [See the DOC website for more details](#)





Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue **More info here:** [Meat Solutions](#)

## Red Deer Lodge

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Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)

Contact for Accom: [info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz](mailto:info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz)

**Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**

## 2023 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

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All details can be found on our refreshed website:

Committee and Other Key Contacts: [Nelson Committee](#)

Website [Nelson Branch NZDA](#)

Facebook [Facebook Nelson NZDA](#)

## Other Key Links - click on the blue

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NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)

DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)

Game Animal Council [GAC](#)

Ballots

- [Haast Ballot](#)
- [Wanaka Ballot](#)
- Southland [Waikaia](#) [Leithen Bush](#) [Wainakarua](#) [Catlins](#)
- Fiordland [Wapiti Foundation Ballot](#)

COLFO [COLFO](#)

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

Mountain Safety Council [MSC](#)

MSC Videos on everything safety and hunting [Watch Videos](#)

Avalanche Advisory [Avalanche Advisory Site](#)

NZ Police (Firearms Law) [Firearms](#)

Also see here for firearms storage and carriage: [NZ Police Guide to Lawful Storage and Carriage of Firearms](#)

AirNZ Firearms Transport Rules: [AirNZ Transport of Firearms, Ammo and Parts](#)

## Matariki Challenge 2023 Results from the Individual Events

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### 2023 "Matariki" Challenge

25 M		Indoor Benchrest				
			Target 1	Target 2	Final	
1	Michael Kidson	Nel	100.08	200.17	300.25	1st
2	Graeme Vallance	Nel	100.10	200.15	300.25	2nd
3	Carina Jackson	Nel	100.07	200.17	300.24	3rd
4	John Mann	Nel	100.08	200.14	300.22	
5	Tony Carter	Nel	100.06	200.15	300.21	
6	Bev Inwood	Nel	100.06	200.12	300.18	
7	Greg Couper	Nel	100.06	200.11	300.17	
8	Aiden Brown	Nel	99.08	200.17	299.25	
9	Graeme Smith	Nel	99.09	200.15	299.24	
10	Ian Inwood	Nel	100.08	199.14	299.22	
11	Warren Smith	ChCh	100.06	199.14	299.20	
12	Anne Marie Kidson	Nel	99.04	199.17	298.21	
13	Graeme Oakley	ChCh	99.05	199.14	298.19	
14	Tony Titheridge	ChCh	100.06	198.12	298.18	
15	Terry Farnham	Nel	100.04	198.11	298.15	
16	Rob Mc Donald	Nel	100.08	197.10	297.18	

## 2023 Matariki Challenge

50m

### Outdoor Score Targets

			Target 1	Target 2	Total
1	Graeme Oakley	ChCh	247.07	247.10	494.17
2	Graeme Smith	Nel	246.11	247.13	493.24
3	Carina Jackson	Nel	238.07	249.11	487.18
4	Ian Inwood	Nel	242.09	245.07	487.16
5	Greg Couper	Nel	239.09	247.12	486.21
6	Warren Smith	ChCh	240.09	240.05	480.14
7	Rob McDonald	Nel	240.08	239.11	479.19
8	Tony Titheridge	ChCh	245.07	234.05	479.12
9	Michael Kidson	Nel	235.07	238.07	473.14
10	Anne Marie Kidson	Nel	234.07	233.09	467.16
11	Terry Farnham	Nel	219.02	232.02	451.04

2023 "Matariki" Challenge

#### Hunter Class Score Sheet

		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	50 m	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	100m	Final
Greg Couper	Nel	50.02	50.03	50.02	50.03	50.03	250.13	50.01	50.00	49.01	49.00	49.01	247.03	497.16
Graeme Smith	Nel	50.03	50.01	50.04	50.02	50.02	250.12	48.00	50.00	49.00	50.00	49.01	246.01	496.13
Graeme Oakley	ChCh	50.01	49.02	49.01	49.01	49.01	246.06	48.00	49.01	49.01	49.01	49.00	244.03	490.09
Rob McDonald	Nel	49.00	50.03	49.01	50.01	50.02	248.07	50.01	48.00	47.00	48.00	49.00	242.01	490.08
Carina Jackson	Nel	49.01	50.03	50.02	49.00	50.01	248.07	48.00	48.01	49.00	47.00	49.01	241.02	489.09
Graeme Vallance	Nel	50.02	49.02	49.02	50.00	50.00	248.06	49.00	49.00	45.00	50.00	48.00	241.00	489.06
Warren Smith	ChCh	50.02	50.02	50.02	50.03	50.01	250.10	50.00	49.00	48.00	44.00	47.00	238.00	488.10
Tony Titheridge	ChCh	50.00	50.04	50.02	49.01	50.02	249.09	47.00	46.00	50.00	48.00	46.00	237.00	486.09
Ian Inwood	Nel	50.00	50.02	50.02	47.00	49.01	246.05	48.00	50.00	48.00	47.00	46.00	239.00	485.05
Anne Marie Kidson	Nel	50.03	50.02	49.01	49.01	50.01	248.08	48.01	48.00	46.00	45.00	45.02	232.03	480.11
Michael Kidson	Nel	50.00	48.00	50.01	49.02	49.00	246.03	45.00	49.01	46.01	45.00	44.00	229.02	475.05
Terry Farnham	Nel	50.02	49.03	49.02	48.00	46.01	242.08	46.00	46.00	47.01	43.00	45.01	227.02	469.10