



# MOUNTAIN ECHO

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA February 2023



The roar of water and stags.....coming soon!

Club Night – Social Gathering at McCashin's

Welcome in the New Year with an ale and a yarn with other members and friends



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

## Contents Overview

Editorial

Molesworth Gold

Rifle Racks for the Cobb

Range Matters – Summer Series and Tokoroa “Reigns”

“Once Upon a Time....”

Fit for Purpose

Club Night -

**Social Night at McCashin's  
6:30- 8:30  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
Feb**

Coxy's Corner – Local DOC Report

F&G Report

Important Links and Contacts

Tokoroa Centrefire Champs Full Scores

# Editorial

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Welcome to the New Year.

With autumn looming many will be getting their hunting planned for what I think is the best season for it, of course there are plenty out there now and the strong interest in Molesworth blocks shows that.

We have some challenges ahead for the year - on the national front we will see the finalisation of licence fees, firearm registration and new range rules take effect. Please make sure you submit personally before Feb 16<sup>th</sup> on the proposed increases in license fees: [Police Submission Form Licence Fees](#)

Also, a major issue is the DOC Kea policy which is preventing use of deer repellent in areas of particular importance to us for hunting where pesticide is being used. This is getting strong focus at national level and affects us regionally. There is strong engagement on hunters behalf from local branches and Nat Office, for instance regarding Molesworth, Rainbow and Cobb areas.

On the good news front, great to see Golden Bay getting some secure rifle racks into local huts and some of our gun benchrest enthusiasts did well (very well!) at the National Champs in Tokoroa. Thanks Aaron for some insprtaional (and perspirational) pics from Molesworth.

Further, we see the National Party appointing a Hunting and Fishing portfolio to Todd McLay; this suggests that the value and scale of our hunting and shooting sports has been recognised as politically important (as opposed to expendable) to another, and major party. Recognition as part of the community rather than a problem for it is essential and this is a good sign compared to a few years ago.

Our Packers Creek Range is in the process of being tidied up from storm damage. You will have noted the alert last week on the range closure due to a shortage of ROs to open the security gate. It's a chance to emphasise that a few volunteers do most of the activity regarding range access and duty officer. The requirements of the new regulations will only strengthen the need to have this capability and will also mean our range is even more precious as it is likely many will not pass muster for the new rules (as ours will).

So please, if you value the range and use it, talk to us about becoming an RO, from a membership of nearly 240 seniors it shouldn't be too hard to have some more to both share the load and ensure we are always open for "business".

Some things are more certain than most...we will not get another range, there will be less ranges in the future and increasing pressure against casual sighting in and shooting practice in informal places; certainly on public land and also I suspect on private land. We need to protect and maintain our range so we can be competent shooters and thus good hunters.

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

# Molesworth – Looking for Gold

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A few pictures tell it all as Aaron enjoys a Molesworth hunt.



Grinning because the climbing is over!



Barrel boar - young but could roll him down a hill!



The pot of gold is the Molesworth



Before we renamed the fly the “paper towel” - absorbs water to a point then it pours through

# Rifle Racks Flying in to Cobb Huts

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Golden Bay branch President Jo de Vos looking happy with their rifle racks – ready to be dropped in by DOC via chopper in due course.

Golden Bay have stepped up to ensure hunters are able to safely and clearly secure their firearms when hunting in the Cobb area of Kahurangi National Park by getting rifle racks made for the following huts:

Balloon  
Fenella  
Trilobite  
Sylvester

These were constructed to a standard pattern (now with larger barrel holes to suit suppressors) by Matai Joinery (Greg Couper). DOC will deliver these to the huts by helicopter during routine trips when they occur.

**Of course, hunters need to take a padlock with them to fully secure their rifles. Always check the status your rifle when finished hunting, when approaching a hut, and remove bolt before entering a hut.**

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

# Range Matters – Summer Series Rimfire and Championship Benchrest at Tokoroa

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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](#)

## Rimfire Benchrest Results

### Nelson Packers Creek Range 15 January 2023 Hunter Class 50m

		Target 1	Target 2	Target 3	Target 4	Target 5	TOTAL
1	Greg Couper	49.03	50.02	50.02	50.01	50.02	<b>249.10</b>
2	Carina Jackson	49.03	50.02	50.05	48.01	50.01	<b>247.12</b>
3	Graeme Smith	50.01	49.01	50.01	49.01	49.02	<b>247.06</b>
4	Graeme Vallance	49.01	50.02	48.02	50.01	49.01	<b>246.07</b>
5	John Ronaldson	49.00	50.01	48.01	49.02	50.02	<b>246.06</b>
6	Rex Charlesworth	49.03	48.00	49.02	49.02	49.02	<b>244.09</b>
7	Terry Farnham	49.01	47.00	48.01	49.01	48.01	<b>241.04</b>
8	David Hill	48.01	47.01	46.00	50.01	49.01	<b>240.04</b>
9	Michael Kidson	45.00	49.00	49.02	49.02	47.00	<b>239.04</b>
10	Anne Marie Kidson	48.01	47.00	47.02	47.01	49.00	<b>238.04</b>

## Results from January event above and below the aggregate scores for the Series so far

### 2022-23 Summer Outdoor Series - Points awarded

	11-Sep	16-Oct	13-Nov	18-Dec	15-Jan	12-Feb	12-Mar	16-Apr	7-May	Total
Carina Jackson	7	6	7		9					29
Greg Couper	6	5	8		10					29
Graeme Smith	5	4	3		8					20
John Ronaldson	3.5	3	4		6					16.5
Graeme Vallance			5		7					12
Rex Charlesworth			6		5					11
Anne Marie Kidson	1	2	2		1					6
Michael Kidson	2	1	1		2					6
Terry Farnham					4					4
Jude Peacock	3.5									3.5
David Hill					3					3

Greg and Carina neck and neck and leading the field by quite a margin! *Results provided by Graeme Smith*

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

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

## Tokoroa Champs

Some of our top shooters went north to Tokoroa at the end of January to compete in the National Benchrest Championship event there, as reported below:

The North Island Championship 2023 held in Tokoroa at the Tokoroa Shooting Sports Complex, which is such an amazing complex, the complex covers all types of shooting styles from small to large bore rifles to pistol, the complex has a number of target and silhouette facilities. We had a total of 14 shooters, 7 South Island from Dunedin, Christchurch and Nelson, 7 North Island shooters from Auckland to Tauranga.

The weekend consisted of 4 rounds the first being held Saturday afternoon for light varmint at 100 mtrs, Sunday was heavy and light varmint at 200 mtrs and Monday morning was Heavy varmint at 100mtrs. We had one new competitor from Tauranga who entered the North Island Benchrest competition using his factory class 223 rifle and smashed a couple of factory class records, not a bad result on your first competition.

The weather was horrendous.



One of the many heavy downpours – nice water feature

The rain was so bad that some competitors had asked "how bad does the rain have to be before the match is cancelled" - it was that bad. Our targets stuck to the target frames and disintegrated in our hands when we tried to change them, Graeme was given targets in two pieces or just missing most of the paper, but as long as he had the scoring part then he was all good. Visibility at times was poor but hey all this disruption makes for a great challenging competition you can't have it easy all the time, just when you thought you had your s\$%t together mother nature would be like yeah nah!

So apart from the weather we also had competitors leaving important pieces of their shooting kit at home in the South so a quick mish was had to Rotorua and back, our 3 New shooters from Tauranga had to detour their drive over due to road closures from flooding and slips.

All up we had another great weekend full of some awesome shooting, new records and great banter and the usual afternoon politics convos,

The next Benchrest competition is in Nelson Easter weekend, our North Island shooters are all booked and our fellow friends and competitors from New Caledonia are coming back over after not being able to compete over the last few years due to covid, so the weekend is setting up to be a great one and awesome to have some new Blood taking up the sport.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Benchrest either with the Bench centrefire rifles or even factory class, then please get in touch with Graeme Smith and have a chat about the rules and what you will need etc. Better still why not come to one of our summer 22 benchrest shoots at our Packers Creek Range, give it a go - who knows you might like it, there is a lot more to it than just putting holes in paper LOL.

#### **Other results for the weekend:**

Light varmint overall winners for 100 & 200 mtrs

1<sup>st</sup> Tony Titheridge

2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Owen

3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Haxell

Heavy varmint overall winners for 100 & 200 mtrs

1<sup>st</sup> Greg Couper

2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Owen

3<sup>rd</sup> Dougall Cameron

*Reported by Carina Jackson*



Winners for the 2 gun (overall Weekend winners) Left to right – Greg 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ian 1<sup>st</sup>, Tony 3<sup>rd</sup>

*(The Ed notes that perhaps the camera has made these gents look a little “squatter” than usual....?)*





Wet and Windy.....

# Once Upon a Time.....

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The following came in to us via our website from Eric Jordan.



Bill Andrew's great trophy circa 1920

*I found the Nelson NZDA website just by googling Nelson Red Deer Trophies.*

*I will get my daughter to email the photos of Bill Andrew's trophy (my great grandfather) along with a 12 pointer he shot on Ben Nevis Wairoa Gorge in 1915. I hope these are of some value to you and you are more than welcome to view the heads in person if you wish. Eric.*

Note from Warren Plum:

Thanks for chance to see photos. Pretty sure that 20 pointer (assuming its 20) was shot in Lee's Creek in the Rainbow around the 1920's. Best head ever out of there. Several better blood stags were let go in Marlborough subsequently to the Nelson blood line getting in there. A better stag was let go around same time in Nelson that influenced the deer around the Wairoa Gorge and Gordons Knob.

Bill wasn't in the NZDA to my knowledge, but he was secretary of the Nelson Acclimatisation Society.

**If you have a cool old picture with a story you wish to share, then send it in!**



The Wairoa 12 pointer from 1915

# Fit for Purpose? – Find a Tall Tree

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If you need an excuse to get up a hill for fitness sake or to entertain the kids then here is one...in our own backyard is one of the top five tallest trees recorded in NZ!



Located in Reservoir Creek, Richmond – find Easby Park and you're on your way!

# Club Night – Social Night at McCashin's

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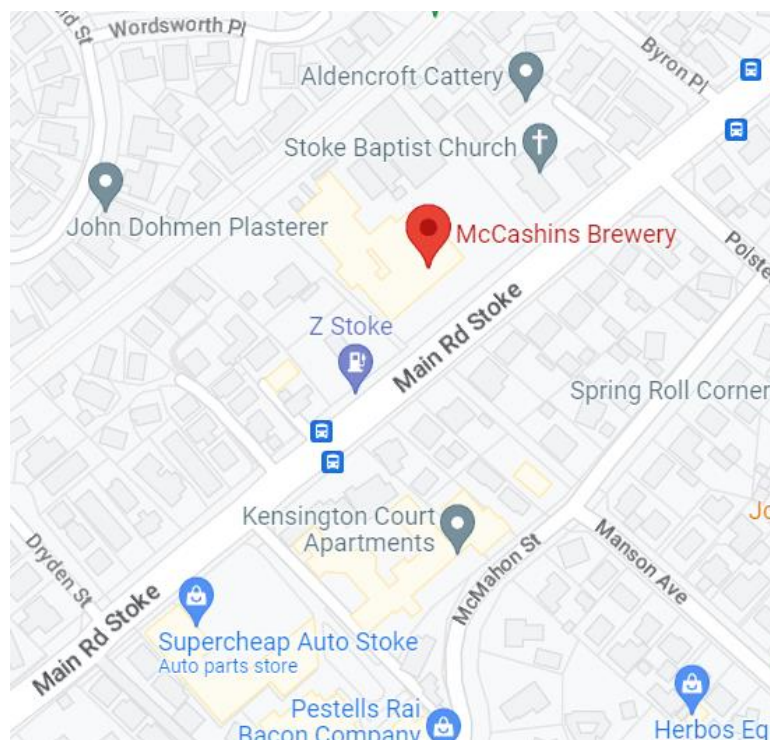


**Bring a friend** and come have a casual social evening with NZDA members. A chance to talk, mingle and ask questions of other members and Committee.

## Time and Date:

**6:30 to 8:30 pm** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Getting There: 660 Main Road Stoke



# Coxy's Corner

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## Notes for Hunters from Motueka DOC Office

Hi NZDA members,

I hope all are well and have had success out in the back country during the year. Here's an update on the progress and results from the Motueka District Office's goat control from July 1, 2022, up to now.

### Ground Control

Devil Anatoki Range/Waingaro and Stanley valleys: 114 goats.

Cobb: 20 goats.

Mt Owen/Wangapeka and Fyfe rivers: 122 goats.

Karamea river headwaters: 61 goats.

Mid Karamea/Leslie River: 39 goats.

### Aerial control

South Branch Riwaka: 118 goats, 19 pigs

ATNP: 93 goats, 3 pigs

Contact me by email for more info. [icox@doc.govt.nz](mailto:icox@doc.govt.nz)

Cheers Coxy!



Cobb: heli safety brief Nelson Helicopters, Backcountry Contracting.



Indicator/Bailing dogs - Cobb.



Drone goat surveillance Luna slips



350 goat tails for destruction



# Fish and Game News

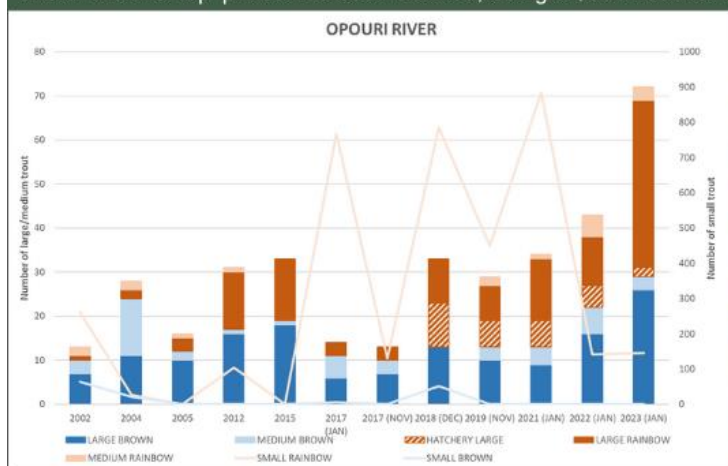
## NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT



**DRIFT DIVE SEASON IN FULL SWING:** Staff are actively engaged in our annual drift diving programme, which aims to survey the trout population in 20+ rivers each year. Recently, the Wangapeka and Opouri rivers were dived, and both locales had good news stories. Despite the huge flood which ripped through the Rai Valley, a record count was noted at this site, with 26 large browns and 38 large rainbows over 2kms, nearly double what a normal count would be. The Wangapeka had even improved on last years' record result, with a highest ever count of large and medium sized trout at the lower dive site.

**WELCOME RAIN ARRIVES:** After a period of hot weather during January, some rain relief arrived benefiting farmers and also underwater dwelling species. At one point in mid-late January, river flows were low and water temperatures high, meaning the trout and native fish were becoming stressed in some rivers. For trout anglers, fishing becomes difficult when the water temperature hits 20 degrees, and it can be also dangerous to fish health for those practicing catch and release. The latest rain brought cooler water temperatures for fish, and a good flush out of algae which was building in many rivers. Successful anglers targeted cooler water rivers and still enjoyed some great fishing.

**LAKE ARGYLE TAG COMP PROVING POPULAR:** The perennial favourite Lake Argyle tag comp is still proving a hit with anglers. 200 tagged fish are released into the lake, with 20 prizes up for grabs to those catching 'lucky' fish. At the time of writing, one of the two 'top' prizes has been claimed, being a \$500 voucher from Henderson's sports shop in Blenheim.



# 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

## NZDA MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS APP

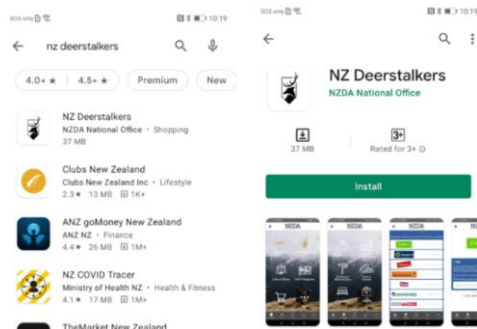
Available Now!



We are excited to announce the NZDA Membership App is now live and can be downloaded today!

## How to download the app

1) Go to Google play or the Apple store and search for **NZ Deerstalkers**. Select **Install** or **GET**.



## 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.**

## 2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

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All details can be found on our refreshed website: [Nelson Branch 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](#)

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](#)

## Full Results Tokoroa Centrefire Championship 2023

### MULTI GUN RESULTS (Group) - 23 NI 2Gun

		29/01/23	28/01/23	2 Gun
		HBI	LBI	
1	Ian Owen	0.2997	0.3402	0.3200
2	Greg Couper	0.2952	0.3890	0.3421
3	Tony Titheridge	0.3794	0.3382	0.3588
4	Peter Haxell	0.3684	0.3705	0.3694
5	Steve Bell	0.3575	0.4184	0.3880
6	Graeme Smith	0.4017	0.4061	0.4039
7	Carina Jackson	0.4103	0.4601	0.4352
8	Dougall Cameron	0.3291	0.5431	0.4361
9	Grant Hammond	0.4164	0.5404	0.4784
10	Baden Prentice	0.4616	0.5381	0.4998
11	Helen Owen	0.5788	0.5323	0.5555
12	Adina Vlad	0.6257	0.5091	0.5674
13	S	0.4149	0.7357	0.5753

Date : 29/01/2023

Range: Tokoroa

N.I.

Title: 2023 North Island Ch

Class: Heavy Benchrest - I

Name	W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Greg	S.I. 100	.165	.411	.214	.190	.399	.2758	3	
Couper	1001 200	.512	.785	.589	.788	.472	.3146	1	.2952 1
Ian	S.I. 100	.250	.239	.215	.230	.380	.2628	2	
Owen	2004 200	.420	.419	1.141	.448	.938	.3366	2	.2997 2
Dougall	N.I. 100	.236	.253	.178	.270	.222	.2318	1	
Cameron	1010 200	.912	.610	.849	.757	1.136	.4264	6	.3291 3
Steve	N.I. 100	.346	.256	.394	.266	.354	.3232	5	
Bell	1020 200	.736	.680	1.104	.861	.538	.3919	3	.3576 4

Peter Haxell	N.I. 100 1013 200	.315 .902	.195 .756	.352 .634	.303 .865	.480 .921	.3290 .4078	6 5	.3684
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200	.445 .837	.474 1.119	.384 .509	.337 .439	.160 1.084	.3600 .3988	8 4	.3794
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200	.227 .718	.459 .915	.355 .944	.591 .942	.229 .794	.3722 .4313	10 7	.4017
Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200	.210 1.067	.388 1.280	.281 .815	.264 .862	.345 1.205	.2976 .5229	4 10	.4103
S	N.I. 100 1014 200	.410 1.122	.352 .633	.449 .392	.239 1.157	.329 1.437	.3558 .4741	7 9	.4149
Grant Hammond	N.I. 100 1019 200	.306 1.449	.216 .826	.324 .860	.587 .916	.398 .616	.3662 .4667	9 8	.4164
Baden Prentice	N.I. 100 1018 200	.475 .330	.244 1.206	.320 1.415	.419 1.351	.416 1.182	.3748 .5484	11 11	.4616
Helen Owen	S.I. 100 2005 200	.326 2.722	.437 1.326	.868 .744	.291 1.326	.477 .660	.4798 .6778	13 12	.5788
Adina Vlad	N.I. 100 1015 200	.370 3.273	.321 1.721	.495 1.571	.309 .750	.817 .575	.4624 .7890	12 13	.6257

Best Scores 100

| Best Scores 200

A G Couper	.165	A B Prentice	.330
B P Haxell	.195	B I Owen	.419
C D Cameron	.178	C S Gavin	.392
D G Couper	.190	D T Titheridge	.439
E T Titheridge	.160	E G Couper	.472

SG T Titheridge	.160 (Rec .068)	SG B Prentice	.330 (Rec .203)
Agg D Cameron	.2318 (Rec .1622)	Agg G Couper	.3146 (Rec .1819)

Date : 28/01/2023

Title: 2023 North Island Ch

Range: Tokoroa N.I.

Class: Light Benchrest - I

Name	W	A	B	C	D	E	Agg	GAgg	PN
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200	.152 .710	.280 .475	.187 1.253	.267 .740	.432 .950	.2636 .4128	1 4	.3382
Ian Owen	S.I. 100 2004 200	.325 .509	.402 .709	.185 1.058	.247 1.275	.220 .495	.2758 .4046	2 3	.3402
Peter Haxell	N.I. 100 1013 200	.296 .959	.354 1.372	.223 .841	.314 .770	.378 .337	.3130 .4279	3 5	.3705
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200	.283 .779	.324 1.365	.231 .706	.436 .668	.614 .486	.3776 .4004	6 2	.3890
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200	.370 .641	.336 .523	.356 .915	.634 1.043	.575 .458	.4542 .3580	9 1	.4061

Steve Bell	N.I. 100 1020 200	.465 1.233	.373 1.117	.286 .617	.368 .964	.341 .771	.3666 5 .4702 7	.4184 6
Carina Jackson	S.I. 100 2103 200	.585 1.314	.459 .777	.265 1.113	.457 .765	.508 .685	.4548 10 .4654 6	.4601 7
Adina Vlad	N.I. 100 1015 200	.307 1.110	.503 1.230	.461 1.251	.676 1.134	.290 .983	.4474 8 .5708 10	.5091 8
Helen Owen	S.I. 100 2005 200	1.044 .547	.637 1.374	.442 1.875	.210 .515	.401 .867	.5468 13 .5178 8	.5323 9
Baden Prentice	N.I. 100 1018 200	.375 .794	.265 1.179	.399 1.415	.610 1.389	.430 1.826	.4158 7 .6603 13	.5381 10
Grant Hammond	N.I. 100 1019 200	.541 1.524	.427 1.292	.493 1.447	.532 1.083	.311 .854	.4608 11 .6200 12	.5404 11
Dougall Cameron	N.I. 100 1010 200	.507 1.198	.296 1.053	.410 2.051	.633 .834	.571 .891	.4834 12 .6027 11	.5431 12
Dean Wilton	N.I. 100 1021 200	.661 .869	.776 1.219	.637 .915	.564 1.126	.842 1.198	.6960 14 .5327 9	.6143 13
S	N.I. 100 1014 200	.264 .700	.338 .916	.273 8.000	.464 .595	.353 1.118	.3384 4 1.1329 14	.7357 14

Best Scores 100

| Best Scores 200

A T Titheridge	.152	A I Owen	.509
B B Prentice	.265	B T Titheridge	.475
C I Owen	.185	C S Bell	.617
D H Owen	.210	D H Owen	.515
E I Owen	.220	E P Haxell	.337

SG T Titheridge	.152 (Rec .065)	SG P Haxell	.337 (Rec .133)
Agg T Titheridge	.2636 (Rec .1812)	Agg G Smith	.3580 (Rec .1978)