

July 2025

Newsletter of Nelson Branch NZDA



Great Heads from our AHT Night in June – Who got these beauties!?

Photo-Competition Winners August Edition



Club Night Wednesday July 30th 7 pm at the Saxton Field Smallbore Range – Listen to club member Matt Nesbit share his experiences hunting in the Western USA. Also prize giving for AHT, Photo-Comp Trophies and Certificates as well as recognizing our veteran members with badges to be awarded!

THIS MONTH

EDITORIAL

AHT Results

Great Work on Bushline Hut NLNP

Range Matters - Matariki Event Results & Report

Whanganui Hunt

Lighten Up!

CLUB NIGHT

Competition Awards plus Veteran's Badges

Hunting & Fishing July Specials – Two Pages of Great Discounts!

MEMBER BENEFITS

IMPORTANT LINKS

Editorial

Hi Hunters and Shooters,

Very impressive line up of trophies were presented at our June Club night with results from AHT available in this edition. Photo-competition results and pics will be next time to keep the size of the newsletter to a manageable level.

The spread of provinces hunted is always important to note and Marlborough features heavily. This is why your Branch stays close to Marlborough Branch on matters to do with game animal management in that neck of the woods.

Note that Trev Dibben, current president of Marlborough Branch, is sole nominee for SI Representative on the National Board. You have some very safe hands there in terms of all the public lands “over the hill” including Clarence, St James, Awatere, Molesworth, Waihopai and more. I look forward to handing over all my files from three years on the Board to Trev and helping him in his transition.



Good news story below regarding renovations to Bushline Hit – teamwork at its best.

I hope by now all hunting members have updated to the new 12 month **DOC Permits** - A real way to “show you care” about access to public land is to ensure your DOC permit is current and valid. This is the only real headcount of those intending to hunt our community estate whether it’s once a year or relentlessly like me. And it’s never been easier! The new DOC permit process is easier, quicker and the permit is for 12 months.

Plus, you get a reminder 2 weeks from expiry with a simple roll-over option. You don’t have to think hard about where...apply for all of NZ, or North or South Island....saves thinking too hard.

Go here and do it if you haven’t already [DOC Permit Portal](#)

Already many thousands of hunters have been permitted via the new system, and it is very good for New Zealand hunting that everybody does. Show your support and desire for hunting the public lands by getting your new permit. And yes...it is free. Do it!

AHT, Photo-competition and “Long Service” Awards night Wednesday 30th July.

Recognizing the long-term support and service from what I like to think of as our Veterans is important. There will be badges for 25 and 50 year membership issued. Please attend and support your club!

Finally and on behalf of those hardworking guys and gals that look after the state of our Packers Creek Range – its VERY, VERY wet up there so:

- Where appropriate footwear
- DON’T drive on the grass or etc

Good Hunting & Safe Shooting – **The Editor**

PS Check out the TWO PAGES of great July specials for members from Hunting and Fishing.

Antler Horn Tusk 2025



I am sure all who attended the AGM and head measuring night would have been impressed by the quality of photos and heads on display. It's the greatest number and quality of heads I can recall having ever been displayed in our local competition. Of note how close in score some of the bigger heads were, with the two largest reds being superb specimens. The only area where there were no entries were for Whitetail deer and Women's section. Remember you need to be in to win as I am aware of success by members in these categories over the last year. A further comment would be how important Marlborough's hunting resources are to Nelson branch; it's clearly the biggest contributor to our members success.

Warren Plum Nelson DS Scorer



Species	Member	DS	Points or Length	Region Taken	Trophy or Scorer's Comment
Red deer	Brody Parkins	319 6/8	18	Marlborough	Shuttleworth Trophy
	James Bartlett	319	13	Marlborough	
	Alistair Ching	288	15	Marlborough	
	Chris Burton	279 6/8	12	Marlborough	
	Aaron Shields	279 1/8	11	Marlborough	
	Mike Grant	273 4/8	13	Nelson	
	Chris Webber	270 1/8	8	Nelson	
	Scott Mirfin	258 3/8	15	Marlborough	
	Ben Dallas	251	12	Marlborough	
	Finn Dallas	242	11	Marlborough	
	Aaron Shields	234 5/8	12	Marlborough	
	Finn Dallas	223		Marlborough	
	Graeme Ching	207 6/8	9	Nelson	
	Gary Grey	143 6/8	8	Marlborough	Character head – very unusual
Fallow	Peter Downing	227 1/8		West Coast	Best Fallow & Eddy Trophy
	Warren Plum	203 7/8		Nelson	Peoples Store Trophy
	Eric Hall	170 2/8		Otago	
Chamois	Steve Wilson	25 6/8	10"		Sports Depot Cup - "very nice head"
	Brody Parkins	25/6/8	9 4/8"	Marlborough	
	Aaron Shields	25 2/8		Marlborough	

Chamois (cont.)	James Bartlett	25		Marlborough	
	Eric Hall	24 6/8		West Coast	
	Eric Hall	23		Otago	
Tahr	Craig Wallace	44 2/8	13 5/8"	West Coast	Best Tahr & Bob Baigent Trophy
	Eric Hall 40 2/8	40 2/8	11 7/8"	West Coast	
	Eric Hall	38	11 3/8	West Coast	
Boar	Karl Puklowski	20 1/8	undrawn	Nelson	Williams Cup
	Aaron Shields	15 3/8	undrawn	Marlborough	
Ram	Finn Dallas	75 3/8		Marlborough	Bob Baigent Cup
Goat	Karl Puklowski	101 4/8		Nelson	Best Goat
	Finn Dallas	46/2/8		Nelson	Best taken with Bow - "and one horn half broken"
Whitetail	No entries				



Brody Parkin (R) and James Bartlett (L) – top reds.



Peter Downing and his fallow trophy



Finn Dallas – red (above) and ram (below) - in case you didn't know! That's a very clean sheep!



Bushline Hut Revamp above Lake Rotoroa

A Team Effort Story - Correspondence from three sources regarding this great piece of work.



Bushline Hut high above Lake Rotoiti with its great new deck.

1) Morning team,

Attached are the photos that John got yesterday.

John and the Rec Team got up the hill yesterday to sort a new water tank at the hut and tidy up a few other bits, they got out before the rain...it's pretty miserable up there right now I'm guessing.

We are absolutely stoked with the new deck – the way it looks and the way it has really opened up a comfortable and usable space for hut users and day walkers. A real asset to the hut and to the park and the people visiting.

We've been so lucky to have this opportunity with Biform, BCT and the other generous donations to be able to make this happen. It simply wouldn't have happened without you.

And thanks to Bill O'Leary too for putting Tau in touch with me too.

The rec team did a fantastic job getting this job done in some really challenging weather. Rain and wind and snow! Legends.

It's been a pleasure working alongside you all on this project. I'm looking forward to the next one already.

Kind regards, Daryl Stephens, Senior Ranger at Rotoiti

- 2) Tau Aupaau graduated on a Nelson HUNTS course three years ago and offered the services and product of his company Biform: [Biform Website](#) for a project that would benefit outdoor recreationalists.

After discussion, Bushline Hut was selected as the project and involved the Nelson Lakes DOC team and Back Country Trust (NZDA) among others.

Nga mihi Bill O'Leary

- 3) If you could acknowledge Ken Robinson as the architect who designed and drew up plans for construction (free of charge) it would be appreciated too.

Ken has a bach in St Arnaud and has designed a number of the newer houses in the village. [Ken Robinson Architects Ltd.](#)

Regards John Wotherspoon Operations Mgr - DOC Rotoiti



Location of Bushline Hut, bottom & slightly west of centre.

Range Matters

Matariki 2025 - Rimfire Event

Over Matariki weekend Nelson Branch held a rimfire shoot with 6 Nelson rimfire shooters and 4 from Christchurch. The weekend started with an indoor shoot Friday afternoon at TSN Saxton target shooting range. For the indoor 22 shoot we shot 2 x double targets.



Shooters ready waiting both in Benchrest and prone up the top – view down range with targets up

Saturday's shoot was held outdoors at Packers Creek range, the weather was very fresh, no wind and a lingering fog. Shooting was delayed by an hour due to the low sun hitting our scopes. Once the sun was at the perfect height, wind flags all set up along with the targets we started the first shoot which was 5 x hunters targets at 50 meters with the aim of the game to take out the centre dot fives times per target, sounds easy hahaha it's NOT.

After lunch we shot 5 x Benchrest targets with the aim of getting 5 bullets in the same hole (just like we do in centrefire) Once the day was wrapped up, we meet up at Joe's Garage for dinner and drinks.

Sunday morning rocked around quickly and again we found ourselves back at Packers Creek, the weather was bloody freezing as we had a heavy frost and tricky wind conditions, we shot 2 x 25 International targets, at the end of the shoot while waiting for the results we enjoyed fresh scones jam and cream washed down with a hot cuppa. Later that night we meet up again for dinner at club Waimea.



Winners for the 3 gun

1st place was a tie with Tony Titheridge CHCH and Carina Jackson NN.



Tony and Carina accepting their trophy from Graeme Smith

Sunday afternoon most of us returned to Saxton indoor range to partake in Target Shooting New Zealand South Island champs, it was run kinda like a postal shoot with shooters across the South Island all shooting at the same time and results calculated to produce the winner. TSN Branches had shooters shooting from Nelson, Christchurch and Oamaru.

Winners for the TSN Benchrest division.

1st place Carina Jackson NN

2nd Place Ian Inwood NN

3rd Place Greg Couper NN

Benchrest					
	Venue	Grade	1st x 20	2nd x 20	Total
1 Carina Jackson	Nelson	Bench	200.19	200.16	400.35
2 Ian Inwood	Nelson	Bench	200.16	200.17	400.33
3 Graeme Vallance	Nelson	Bench	200.15	200.16	400.31
4 Greg Couper	Nelson	Bench	200.13	200.17	400.30
5 Sandy Bennett	Christchurch	Bench	200.14	200.16	400.30
6 Noel Cobb	Christchurch	Bench	200.18	199.17	399.35
7 John Mann	Oamaru	Bench	200.14	199.18	399.32
8 Gordon Wright	Christchurch	Bench	199.14	200.17	399.31
9 Ian Dore	Christchurch	Bench	200.14	199.17	399.31
10 Russell Henshaw	Christchurch	Bench	200.13	199.12	399.25
11 Murray Reeves	Oamaru	Bench	199.10	200.14	399.24
12 Annaliisa Farrell	Nelson	Bench	200.10	199.11	399.21
13 Tony Titheridge	Nelson	Bench	198.13	200.17	398.30
14 Graeme Oakley	Nelson	Bench	199.17	198.14	397.31
15 Tim Greenhough	Nelson	Bench	199.12	198.14	397.26
16 Ross McQueen	Christchurch	Bench	199.11	198.13	397.24
17 Graeme Smith	Nelson	Bench	194.05	195.10	389.15

Matariki 2025 Results

Saxton

		Double	Double	Total
1	Tony Titheridge	200.17	200.20	400.37
2	Ian Inwood	200.20	199.18	399.38
3	Carina Jackson	199.17	200.20	399.37
4	Graeme Vallance	198.16	200.19	398.35
5	Greg Couper	200.16	198.17	398.33
6	Annaliisa Farrell	198.14	200.19	398.33
7	Nigel Farrell	200.16	196.13	396.29
8	Graeme Oakley	195.10	198.14	393.24
9	Graeme Smith	194.11	197.17	391.28
10	Michael Kidson	195.08	196.12	391.20

Matariki 25

International

		T1	T2	Total
1	Graeme Oakley	239.02	246.1	485.12
2	Carina Jackson	239.09	245.13	484.22
3	Graeme Vallance	242.09	241.11	483.20
4	Tony Titheridge	241.08	241.1	482.18
5	Greg Couper	241.11	234.07	475.18
6	Graeme Smith	236.07	238.08	474.15
7	Annaliisa Farrell	232.05	240.08	472.13
8	Nigel Farrell	216.00	214.04	430.04
9	Michael Kidson	220.02	207.01	427.03

MATARIKI

Group Scoring

		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Total
1	Carina Jackson	0.483	0.502	0.206	0.250	0.197	0.2826
2	Tony Titheridge	0.326	0.371	0.285	0.362	0.242	0.3172
3	Graeme Smith	0.241	0.480	0.441	0.320	0.189	0.3342
4	Greg Couper	0.401	0.451	0.259	0.223	0.411	0.3490
5	Graeme Oakley	0.388	0.592	0.552	0.174	0.163	0.3538
6	Annalissa Farrell	0.406	0.311	0.421	0.449	0.210	0.3594
7	Graeme Vallance	0.571	0.252	0.639	0.252	0.301	0.4030
8	Michael Kidson	0.660	0.432	0.434	0.349	0.485	0.4720
9	Nigel Farrell	0.410	0.583	0.419	0.259	0.833	0.5008

MATARIKI

Hunter Class

		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	Total
1	Greg Couper	50	50.03	50	50.02	50.05	250.10
2	Graeme Vallance	50	50	50.01	50.03	50.05	250.09
3	Graeme Smith	50.04	50.03	50	49	50.03	249.10
4	Tony Titheridge	49.02	50.03	50.02	50	50.02	249.09

5	Carina Jackson	50.02	49.01	50.02	50.01	50.02	249.08
6	Annaliisa Farrell	50.03	49.01	50.01	50.02	50.01	249.08
7	Graeme Oakley	49.03	50.03	50.02	49.03	50.03	248.14
8	Nigel Farrell	50.02	49.03	48.02	49.02	47	243.09
9	Michael Kidson	48	46	47	50	48	239.00

Matariki 2025 Placings Information

		Saxton	Hunter	Group	Int	
1	Tony Titheridge	10	6	8	6	30
2	Carina Jackson	8	5	9	8	30
3	Greg Couper	6	9	6	5	26
4	Graeme Vallance	7	8	3	7	25
6	Graeme Smith	2	7	7	4	20
8	Graeme Oakley	3	3	5	9	20
7	Annaliisa Farrell	5	4	4	3	16
9	Nigel Farrell	4	2	1	2	9
10	Ian Inwood	9	0	0	0	9
11	Michael Kidson	1	1	2	1	5

Always be aware of and comply with our **Ranges' Standing Orders** – they are posted at the Ranges, but you should refresh yourself from our website:

Packers Creek – [Standing Orders](#)

Range Use Etiquette - [Etiquette and Golden Rules Click Here](#)

Murchison Community Range - [Standing Orders](#)

Packers Creek Range Access Reminder:

1. Check website for opening days and hours
2. Be at gate **before** 0900 hrs not after
3. All vehicles **must have** headlights on and conform to convoy (i.e. **follow** the duty officer in and out on Sharlands Road – these rules are set by landowner/operator and are compulsory
4. Ensure you have your membership card and hviz & hearing protection
5. Its wet up there, avoid driving on the grass

Any competition and event queries please:

call Graeme Smith - 03 5447138 or email lvhvbr@gmail.com



Whanganui Hunt *by Carlna Jackson*

Over King's Birthday weekend Greg and I made the trip back to Whanganui for another fallow hunt, feels like this trip may fast become an annual pilgrimage up north , great hunting, great friends and great memories.



Arriving in Wellington



Sunrise on the ferry, front row seats

The weather this time was not on our side with the rain, it had been raining for the best part of a week before we got there BUT this didn't stop the hunter in any of us, we dropped off our gear, got our wet weathers on and headed out for an afternoon early evening hunt.

My transport for the week was a side-by-side, in the back of my mind I was heck yeah piece of cake I have experience driving one but oh my days was i wrong. The tracks are what they call papa, it is a volcanic sandy surface, when its dry its finer than talcum powder, but when it gets wet becomes muddy & extremely slippery, let's just say there was a lot of butt clenching and the odd turtle head moment with all in the group, I think I had my jaw clenched the whole weekend.

At the start of the track I was going great guns for about ten minutes then all of a sudden the side by side started drifting sideways into the bank, a few wheel spins and a turtle head moment I was sliding backwards, sliding down the track - just had to go with it, eventually made it up the track and on our way again and just an FYI it wasn't just me that struggled up and because of that we had to find an alternative way back down in the dark and to top it off it started pouring down - no deer but fun memories.



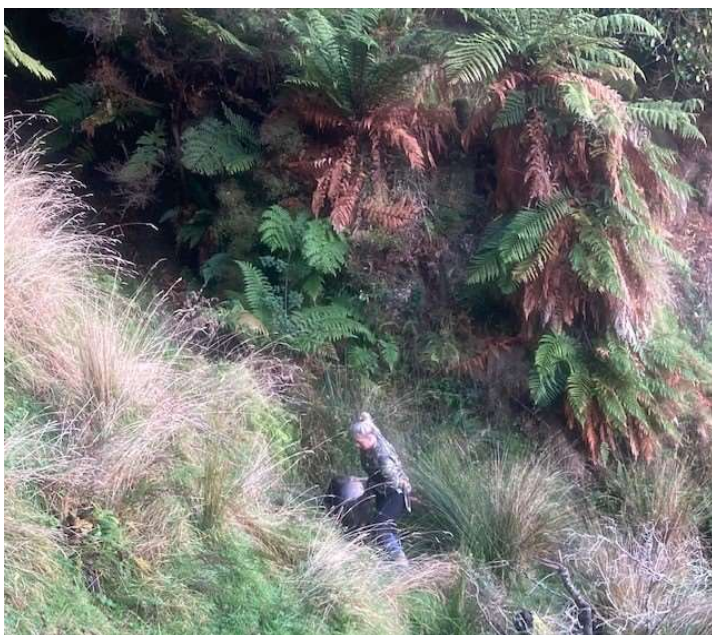
Pretty muddy side-by-sides

Day 2, a bit of a game plan was made after our hair-raising trip the night before, so with wet weathers on, fuelled up we set off again. The hunting was great and the scenery amazing, some of the younger members shot their first animal and it was so awesome to see that rush of excitement after a nerve-racking stalk.

The day got away on us a before we knew it it was getting dark and we still had 5 deer to find and clean and drag back to the side by side, after all deer found and again was good to see the young lads both grab a leg of a little fallow and team drag it back to the side by side. By the time we had found and cleaned up the deer it was dark, not just a little dark but "dark dark" and this is where my 2nd night got worse - the fuse in the side-by-side blew and out went the lights, no spare fuse, so dark, no lights, raining and slippery as hell.

Thank goodness Greg has these amazing torches, so got a driver and I jumped in the passenger's seat with my hand hanging out on the roof lighting the way - how good. Looking back once safe and sound at the hut I guess having limited lighting, missed out seeing the dodgy drop offs and sketchy as hell hairpin turns and steep tracks. Back at the hunt, screaming shoulder but we had 11 deer for our efforts.

Day 3 Greg & I got up early for a quick hunt, we got another 3 back in the chiller & skinned before the others got there to begin the butchering before the trip back to Wellington



Found this deer up a crevasse



Loaded up and ready to go home

All up just another amazing trip in an amazing place, no trophy heads but lots of meat for all the freezers.

No undies permanently harmed in this weekend

Lighten Up!

Belly laugh.....



Impolite as they were, the other bears could never help staring at Larry's enormous deer gut.

Club Night -

Wednesday 30th July from 7 pm at the Saxton Field Smallbore Range – Club member Matt Nesbit will share his hunting experiences in the Western USA.

Plus prizegiving for AHT, Pictures and long serving members.

Members' VIP Hunting and Fishing July Deals



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A special insurance package has been developed by NZDA for members*.

As a NZDA member you and your family can feel safe knowing you are personally covered in a hunting related accident or while undertaking NZDA activities.

Insurance only covers financial members, and is often a requirement when hunting on forestry blocks, so with our insurance cover you can access more hunting opportunities.

NZDA and all our members are covered by [AIG Insurance New Zealand Limited](#) insurance when hunting and undertaking NZDA activities.

The insurance indemnity cover includes:

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[MEAT SOLUTIONS](#)

Important links

Red Deer Lodge

- Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti [Red Deer Lodge](#)
- Contact for Accom: info@rotoitibaches.co.nz
- **Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.**

2025 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

- 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 orange.**

Advocacy and Access

- NZDA National Association [NZDA](#)
- DOC Hunting Portal [Hunting Conservation Land](#)
- Fiordland Wapiti Foundation [Wapiti](#)
- Game Animal Council [GAC](#)
- Outdoor Access Commission [OAC](#)
- Walking Access NZ [WAMS Maps](#)
- LINZ Basemaps [MAPS Link](#)
- 141 Forest Access Information [141 Access and Permit Info](#)

Ballots

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