



Warren has been out and about a lot this autumn, not answering emails and such!.....and multi-tasking we see.......

Club Night – Survival of the Smartest

Julian Malcom from LandSAR gives practical advice on survival skills for that time you get caught out.

Target Nelson Smallbore Range and Clubrooms Saxton Field



7.30 pm Tuesday 31st May

www.nzdanelson.co.nz

Contents

Editorial

HUNTS Training Opportunity May 2022

Range Matters – Easter National Benchrest Champs and ALL NEW! Matariki Weekend .22

Hunting – West Coast Meals

Competition

Chammy! Chammy! Chammy!

Trapped!! Of mice and men...

Bringing back the kiwi to our Lakes!

Fish & Game Report

Club Night
Survival Tips

Benefits & Important Web Links

Easter Comp Benchrest Scores

Editorial

Opening weekend for the avid duckhunters and we hope all enjoying good and safe shooting.

Has it been the best roar period for fine weather ever? Surely feels like it and I know many are making the most of it as my emails do not get answered! Fair enough! I managed to get out with family to DOC ballot blocks in Otago (Pisa), Blue Mountains and Molesworth and had some great adventures with a few deer caught up with along the way.

Your Branch Committee were involved in drafting and sending a submission to NZ Police on the proposed new laws for shooting ranges and Clubs. The expert advice available from our experienced team (especially Bill O'Leary and Graeme Smith) meant we were well equipped to make reasoned arguments against the impractical and costly details proposed. Obviously, we support all the principles of safe management and running of ranges and shooting in all its forms; and of course, have practically done so safely for many decades. Thanks to those who gave their time for this important process.

Also, a subgroup of Committee has been working hard in discussion with Nelson Council regarding access for managed hunting on some of their reserves. We have been disappointed to learn that this has so far not come to anything and that a planned cull by contractors is occurring soon. However, we will persist in a reasoned discussion with NCC to pursue an outcome where members can help control game animals locally and provide meat to community groups.

The Easter Bench Rest Championship went well despite some windy weather with results featured below and at the end of Echo. Our benchrest enthusiasts are ON FIRE! and have organised a brand new and exciting .22 calibre competition over the 3 days of Matariki long weekend. This is a fantastic opportunity for those (young and old) keen to have an entry into this sport, to try their hand - so be sure to check out the information below.

Great to see the kiwi population being boosted at Nelson Lakes and thanks to Melissa for this good news story. I look forward to the day I see a kiwi in the wild...........

As for the mice....I can imagine a few wondering about Trapped this month but.....nothing is better for kids to learn the arts of hunting than by trapping pests – animal behaviour and whereabouts, patience and cunning – all these are learned when trapping and we all have to start somewhere. Trapping is an art and skill; it also reduces pests without toxins. So encourage your kids to get into it and check out where community trapping schemes (for example see Nelson-Halo) are running and join in! Don't forget there are animal welfare rules for trapping MPI Trapping Rules and Information and always seek permission for public land.

National Office has sent out its annual member survey and I urge all to check your email and then fill it out, its quick and gives real feedback to head office about what they are (and are not) doing well on your behalf. There is strong interest in delivering what the members want and the survey is a rapid way to get a better understanding of direction and progress.

There will be more information soon reminding everyone about our Competition night and how to enter both the trophy and photographic sections – be ready!

Happy and Safe Hunting – *The Editor.* www.nzdanelson.co.nz

HUNTS - Hunter Training is Back!

Are You Interested in Taking Up Hunting? HUNTS

Hunter National Training Scheme



Training hunt 2021 - with proof it works!

Nelson Marlborough Fish and Game and NZ Deerstalkers Association are again offering an introductory course in hunting (both game bird and big game) that is designed to help and encourage **new and potential hunters** (minimum age 16 years, conditions apply) into the sport.

This course is "hands on" and a great opportunity to gain practical skills and information from experienced instructors.

The course will cover the Hunter National Training Scheme (HUNTS) programme plus an introduction to Game bird hunting. Topics will include Hunting Ethics & Wildlife management, Equipment & clothing, Navigation & safety around water/river crossings, Game species - biology, habitat and behaviour, Firearm safety and shooting technique, Hunting techniques for different species, skinning and meat processing, when things go wrong.... And much more!!!

The course (held at the Fish & Game Rooms in Champion Road, Richmond) involves 8 evening sessions held Monday evenings starting 30 May 2022. (7 - 9 pm) plus two weekends.

Membership of NZDA is a requirement to enrol in the course. Membership and Joining Link here

Cost:

- Current NZDA member (any category) \$200
- New members joining June 2022. NZDA membership subscription that provides access to the NZDA Rifle Range and Public Liability Insurance.

Senior - \$340
Junior (under 18 yrs) - \$257
Student - \$275
Family (Partner or child of an adult course member) - \$213

Hunting trip costs (\$25 - 50) are extra and are determined by the hunt location.

For more information contact:

Fish and Game NZ, Nelson Marlborough Region (03) 544 6382 or

Bill O'Leary, NZ Deerstalkers' Association 027 430 5008



Last Year's Happy Graduates

Range Matters Easter National Benchrest Champs at Packers Creek

Easter is time for the traditional 4 days of shooting which make up "The Nationals". Easter Friday is setup and practice Day which gives the out of towners the chance to get familiar with our range. This year we had shooters from as far North as Auckland and South to Dunedin.

It was a nice warm mild Packers Creek Day that we all wish for but how thing was going to change. Easter Saturday for the Light Varmint Championship was ok. The wind picked up by shooting time but well manageable.

After the first 5 groups at 100m Auckland's Peter Haxell led the pack with an aggregate of .2712 followed by Greg Couper (Nelson) and Ian Owen (Dunedin). At 200m Ian Owen held his nerve to take out the yardage, followed by Couper and Haxell. Overall winner being Peter Haxell with a Grand Aggregate of .3059.

If Saturday was a bit breezy, Sunday was Packers in full flight. It was one of those unusual Easterlies blowing – strange there was little wind in town we are told. But in outdoor shooting you have to face whatever the weather gods throw at you so on with the business.



Ian Owen surveys the scene – about to start

There were some remarkably good groups shot with smallest of the day .180 by Ian Owen, Largest 3.534 by Graeme Smith at 200m (yes it all went wrong!). By the way a 1-inch group at 100m is 1.000 to make comparisons. At the end of the 100m Greg Couper was holding the lead with a .3298 aggregate followed by Ian Owen and Graeme Smith.

200m was where it was all to be decided with any error severely punished. Greg held his cool (home range advantage) to finish with a .5176 aggregate (current National record is .1819) to take the overall 1st place with an Aggregate of .4237. Evidence of the winds impact on proceedings. That completed the Centrefire match and when all was tallied the sought after **2 Gun award went to Greg Couper** followed by Ian Owen and Tony Titheridge (Christchurch).

Easter Monday was to be our largest event with 12 Shooters facing the starter for the Rimfire Championship. This was to be 3 x 25 Bull International Targets shot at 25 metres. After the previous days "train wreck" conditions we arrived at the range to find no wind movement at all. By start time a small drift had started and although looked great, experience at Packers Creek tells us some damage would be done with these conditions. A little wind would be helpful. However again you have to face the reality.

The first series was won by Ian Owen on 248.14 out of 250 followed by Sue Gavin (Auckland) and Carina Jackson (Nelson) on 244. Round 2 saw Carina top the list with 247.14 followed by Greg Couper and Terry Farnham (Nelson). The final target was topped by Graeme Smith on 246.16 but not enough to hold off the **winner Carina Jackson**. With a total aggregate of 736.32, followed by Greg Couper 730.28 and Sue Gavin 728.23 the event was concluded.

Graeme Smith



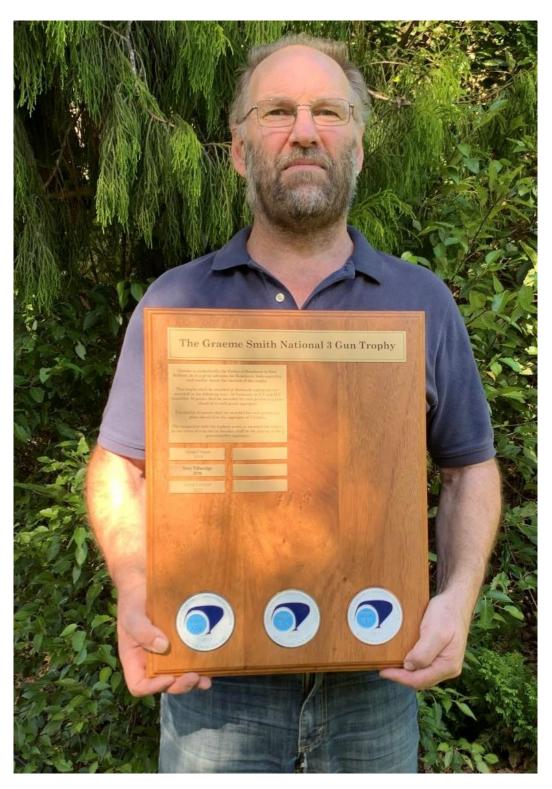
Loading on the go in our Packers Creek Range building



National Scorer Graeme Smith deep in his work

The final play of the day was to tally the points achieved over all 3 events to award the 3 Gun Trophy. Final results showed Greg Couper the Champion of the weekend on 250 points, lan Owen on 210 and Peter Haxell on 180, That put the Nationals to bed for another year when it will all happen again. No new records were set but guess that is hardly surprising. Graeme Smith

All scores tabulated below at the end of The Echo.



Three Gun Top Gun – you are allowed to look happier than that, Greg!

Interested??!! Phone Graeme Smith 03 544 7138 or Email: https://linear.nlm.nih.gov/length/<a>

MATARIKI THE RIMFIRE CHALLENGE [™] - 26[™] JUNE 2022 TINERARY: Friday 24th @ indoors at Saxton smallbore range match - supper provided!! Sunday 26th: 2 x international 25 bull targets @ 50 mtr COST: Friday only indoors \$15.00 Friday, Saturday, Sunday \$40.00 BBQ lunch Sat and Sun Competition is open to all 22LR shooters, no gear no worries We have limited gear available to use and heaps of good advice Come along and try something new For all enquires please contact: Graeme Smith: ph. 544 7138 - email whybr@c Packer's creek outdoor range AXTON FIELD INDOOR RANGE Tony t from CHCH ready to go

West Coast Meat Hunt

I'm a very lucky bloke as I have a mate down in Westland who occasionally invites me for a hunt, providing I behave. He took me to one of his many secret spots, the details and co-ordinates of which can be found at http://www.mysecrethuntingspots.co.nz. [note the Editor is suspicious of this link]

Here's a yearling hind I shot in the morning and could not find after a one hour search, so I called on my mate's dog Drake and he found it in less than five minutes. The great thing about such an animal (the hind, not Drake) is that I can easily carry out the whole carcass and ensure nothing goes to waste. That evening we ate the heart and liver and the dog got the kidneys.



"and the smile on the face of the tiger....' As they say

Back at the bach, after hanging in the shed for a couple of days, the carcass was dressed out and the skeleton broken down and roasted and used to make stock (since renamed bone broth by young people).

The flanks were rolled and tied for braising in a slow cooker with soy, pickled ginger, vinegar and honey. Once cooked the meat was pulled into shreds with a pair of forks, the sauce reduced and stirred into the meat producing a perfect pulled venison.

Shanks were taken off and rather than mess about trying to separate tendons from meat, they are thrown into a slow cooker with wine, venison stock, herbs and tomatoes to produce a falling-off-the-bone venison shank stew. The whole neck, bone and all can also be cooked the same way. This is a quick and simple early morning task before going off for a fish or hunt, knowing you will be coming back to a heart-warming meal with only some spuds and veg to prepare.

Ribs were cut off the spine using tree loppers and frozen for later use as a substitute for pork ribs in a Chinese spicy spare ribs recipe (care of Ken Hom).

One of the back straps was brined with pickling spices for four days, dried and rolled in crushed peppercorns, coriander seeds, juniper seeds, paprika and dried chillies and then hot smoked over kanuka chips for thirty minutes to produce an excellent venison pastrami.

The hind quarters were cut into fat steaks and forequarters dressed out for stew and mince and the whole lot vacuum packed and put in the freezer.

How very lucky are we hunters to have the bliss and challenge that hunting brings, along with free range, organic, nutritious, healthy and delicious wild game meat.

David Haynes

Chammy! Chammy! Chammy!



Mike has been chamois hunting and he seems to know how to crack a deserved smile alright!

In his words "When your mates claim after 10 am you may as well put the binos away as it's bloody hard to spot bedded animals it was somewhat taken as a challenge! Persistence pays off as with these two chamois bucks. First two of more to come. Great trophies and skins to boot!

Happy hunting, Mike."

Going Places? - Show Me a Sign!



This sign is a disgrace; and it is the third set I have seen placed at the top of the Haka Pass in 15 years.

It reflects extremely poorly on the reputation of all legitimate firearms users in NZ, and sad to see.

Seen a sign? Send to The Editor richardw@nzdanelson.co.nz

Trapped!



What about the Mice?

WARNING: May contain Graphic Content – if you like mice, give this a miss.

After being encouraged by our first foray into rodent removal (see Nov 2021 Mountain Echo article where my boys and I built a box and caught a rat), we continued to monitor our section with a number of traps being set - a couple of DOC 150 traps among them. We were excited about the prospect of wide scale Rattus rattus removal (the scientific name is *Rattus rattus* in case you're wondering what all the Rattus talk is about).

Well let me tell you, since that first effort, we have caught...wait for it...absolutely nothing! Of course that is the goal of any rodent removal operation surely, and a sign of great success. I imagine the Brook Sanctuary folk are delighted to find lines of empty traps – as long as there's no other sign of rodent impact of course.

I did a bit of reading and it occurred to me that we might be ultimately hunting 'big game' in small game terrain and a change of approach was needed.

So we left the arsenal of rat traps in place and added three mouse traps. And...in the words of that great Flight of the Conchords comedy duo, Bret McKenzie and Jemaine Clement – it was business time!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGOohBytKTU

We caught five in a week - excellent! 'The Better Mouse Trap' is also superior – much more sensitive activation plate than the standard wooden ones. I've had all bait eaten off the wooden ones without them going off! A mouse is around 16 grams (yes, I have weighed some©) so you really want a sensitive trap.

For those of you who feel sorry for mice and wonder, 'why be concerned about mice anyway'? Read on...

"Researchers have discovered that the main impact of mice is on ground-living invertebrates. There were about twice as many litter invertebrates (all kinds combined) in the block studied with no or few mice, including twice as many beetles, wētā and spiders, when counted and considered as separate individual groups.

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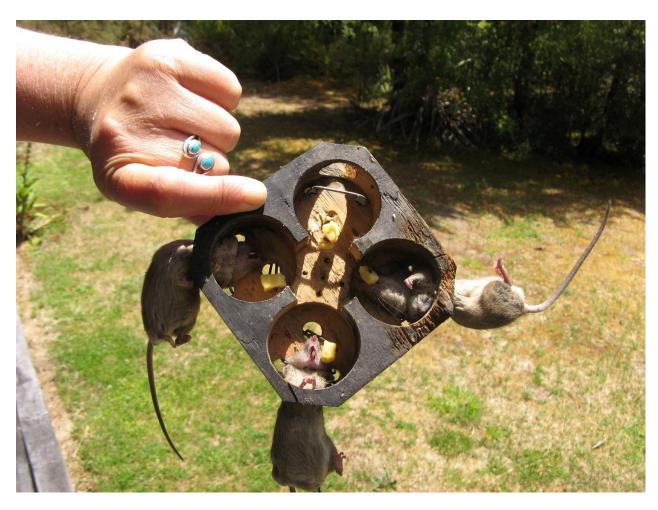
What's more, mice seem to have a preference for 'big and juicy' rather than making a meal of smaller individuals. On average, beetles and wētā were about half as large in the block with mice, showing that mice removed many larger individuals."

It seems that mice are also fond of eating earthworms – a result the researchers weren't expecting. There were also significantly fewer earthworms in the leaf litter and surface soil layers when mice were abundant.

Mice are also great seed-eaters" 1

While we're not in the upper echelons of rodent removal like our esteemed president and pest removal extraordinaire, Mr Greg Couper...we're still doing our bit. So get involved...you might be surprised how you look forward to checking your traps and the feeling of success when you catch something!

Allan Drake



The Editor, who is not above a competitive streak especially when he knows he's gonna win (and would like to see Allan and his boys up the pace a bit!) provided the above pic.

Note: Several mice were hurt in the production of this story.

¹ Predator Free NZ - Mice – should we be worried? AUGUST 11, 2017 / BY KATE GUTHRIE www.nzdanelson.co.nz

More Kiwi Back to Nelson Lakes

Nelson Lakes National Park roroa/great spotted kiwi supplementary translocation

- The Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project (RNRP) is a 5000ha mainland island with intensive mustelid and possum control. The RNRP is a research site in which several conservation techniques have been pioneered, including the first translocation of Roroa (Great Spotted Kiwi).
- In 2004 and 2006 a total of 16 adults were introduced successfully to the mainland island.
 From 2011 to 2015 nine chicks as part of Operation Nest Egg were introduced, of which five survived to adulthood. Operation Nest Egg is no longer used as a conservation technique for great spotted Kiwi, because of poor outcomes at Rotoiti and some other sites.
- In 2015 it was identified that 40 unrelated founders are required to establish a new population
 of kiwi. Therefore, the purpose of this translocation is to boost the genetic base for the already
 translocated population to 40 to 50 founder birds. This work is supported by the Kiwi Recovery
 Group and will contribute to increasing the national population of this taonga species by 2%
 annually.
- Two source sites in north-western Kahurangi National Park have been identified and the translocation will take place over two years. The first being in May 2022, where 10-12 birds will be moved from Ngati Waewae Takiwae Gunner Downs. The remaining 8-10 birds will be moved from the Ugly River in May 2023.
- After the birds are transferred, they will be monitored using VHF transmitters for 2 years to ensure they survive and don't disperse outside the trapped area.
- The translocation is being undertaken in partnership with the Friends of Rotoiti (FOR) community group who have received funding for the project from the DOC Community Fund. The Friends have spent many hours training up on how to undertake radio tracking as it is intended for the FOR to do most of the post translocation monitoring.

Melissa Griffin - DOC Nelson Lakes





Figure1. Roroa/ great spotted kiwi

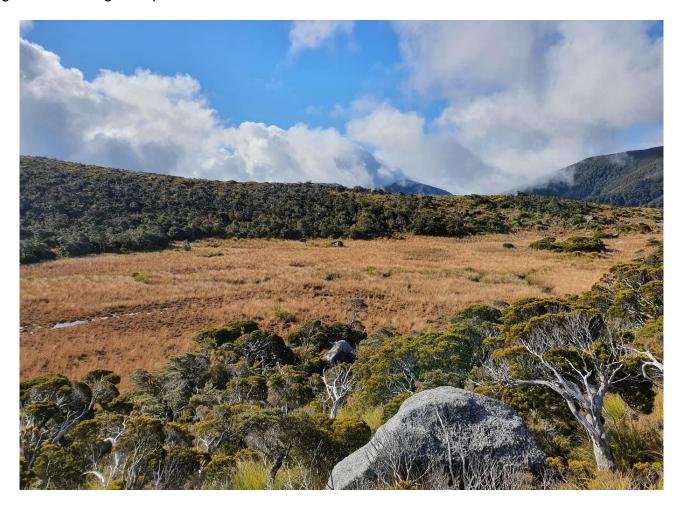
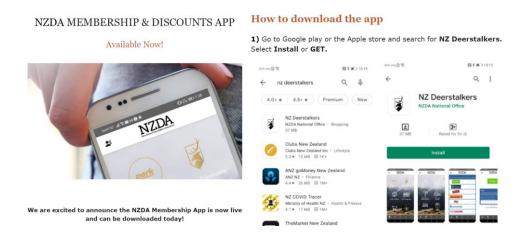


Figure 2. Gunner Downs; the source site for the 2022 Roroa translocation

Member Benefits - Don't Miss Out

Remind yourself of NZDA membership benefits and supplier discounts by clicking here: <u>Benefits</u> and <u>NZDA Benefits APP</u> as per email from NZDA HQ on 17 Se



And we love.....



Supporters of Nelson NZDA HUNTS Courses and Kai Rescue More info here: Meat Solutions

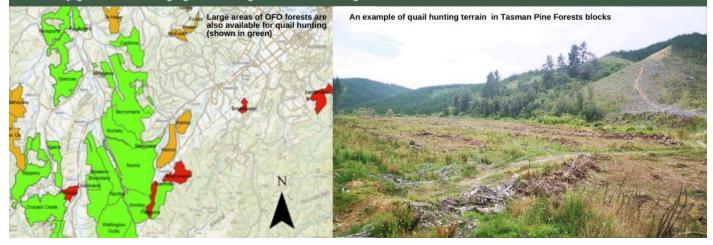
Fish and Game News

NELSON MARLBOROUGH FISH & GAME REPORT

• GAME SEASON IS HERE: The 2022 season is here. Prospects for Marlborough look fairly decent, with a ~30% increase in our recent mallard counts, while Tasman/Golden Bay saw a small increase in birds. Paradise shelduck numbers are down in the Tasman/Golden Bay sub-region also, which will be welcome news for farmers and also notable through having far fewer crop issues over the past summer.

Fish & Game₹

- QUAIL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES: Quail hunting opportunities abound this season, with a continuation of the successful Tasman Pine Forests hunting arrangement, and a new access agreement with another major forest management company, OneFortyOne. Bookings for both forest areas are available through the Richmond office.
- MAIMAI MATTERS: Staff are working hard behind the scenes to try and ensure the continued ability for hunters to continue to use and create hunting maimai's (duck blinds) on public land. Currently there are moves afoot by Councils which are requesting that maimai's require a resource consent to be there. This is a serious concern for hunters, and Fish & Game are spending considerable resources at the planning level on behalf of hunters.
- FISH RELEASES: Rainbow trout have recently been released into Lake Argyle, and the Waimea Park ponds. The fish are all very good size, averaging around 2kgs each. We have good numbers to stock into both these destinations over winter.



Website: Fish and Game Nelson

Club Night – 7.30PM Tuesday 31st May

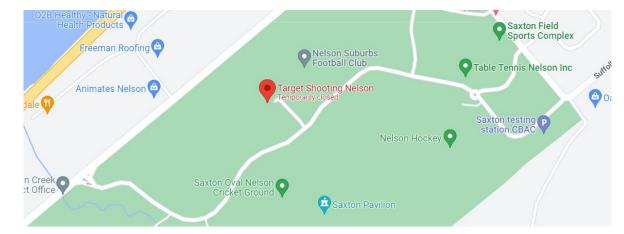
Survival Tips for when things don't go to plan



No one wants to get caught out but.....it can and does happen! That's why we have a whole professional organization to "pick up the pieces'. Make their job easier and ensure better outcomes by knowing the basics.

Julian Malcolm from LandSAR (see more here <u>WWW. LandSAR</u>) gives practical advice on survival.

At Target Shooting Nelson's Saxton Field Smallbore Range and Clubrooms 7.30 pm Tuesday 31st May



Red Deer Lodge

Information on costs and bookings of the Red Deer Lodge at Lake Rotoiti Red Deer Lodge

Contact for Accom: info@starnaudholidaycottages.co.nz

Always remember to advise you are a Nelson member.

2022 Branch Committee, Information & Contacts

All details can be found on our refreshed website: Nelson Branch Committee

Website Nelson Branch NZDA

Facebook <u>Facebook Nelson NZDA</u>

Other Key Links - click on the blue

NZDA National Association NZDA

DOC Hunting Portal Hunting Conservation Land

Fiordland Wapiti Foundation Wapiti

Game Animal Council GAC

COLFO COLFO

Mountain Safety Council MSC

NZ Police (Firearms Law) Firearms

Scores from Easter National Benchrest Championships

Date: 16/04/2 Range: Nelson		S.I.					Nationa t Benchre			
Name	=======	W A	В	C	D	E	Agg	===	GAgg	PN
Peter Haxell	N.I. 100 1013 200	.235 .691					.2712 .3406	1 3	.3059	1
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200	.316 .915				.266 .609	.2900 .3278		.3089	2
Ian Owen	S.I. 100 2004 200	.269 .602		.297 .429	.210 .766	.432 .362	.3192 .3034		.3113	3
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100 2012 200	.330 .613		.287 1.064			.3270 .3881		.3576	4
Adina Vlad	N.I. 100 1015 200	.254 1.233		.257 1.030			.3314 .4901		.4108	5
Helen Owen	S.I. 100 2005 200	.323 1.316			.329 1.296		.3592 .4724		.4158	6
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200	.349 1.184				.540 1.529	.3990 .4597		.4294	7
Michael Kidson	S.I. 100 2106 200	.536 1.442		.468 .862		.613 .782	.5392 .4740		.5066	8
Sue Gavin	N.I. 100 1014 200		3.060 .695	.302 1.069			.8372 .4043		.6207	9
Best Scores 100			Best Scores 200							
A P Haxell B G Couper C G Smith D P Haxell E G Couper		.235 .229 .149 .180		B F C 3	I Owen P Haxell I Owen G Couper I Owen		.602 .518 .429 .515			
SG G Smith Agg P Haxell		.149 (Rec .2712 (Rec	.065) .1812)		I Owen I Owen		.362 .303		Rec .133	

Light Benchrest (16th April)

Date : 17/04/2 Range: Nelson		S.I.			Clas	s: Heav	National y Benchre	st	- I	
Name	=======	W A	В	C	D		Agg	===	GAgg	
Greg Couper	S.I. 100 1001 200	.393 .580	3 .438 5 1.038			.225 1.813			.4237	1
Ian Owen	S.I. 100 2004 200	1.87	7 .594 3 .348	1.565	.915	.705		2	.4358	2
Tony Titheridge	S.I. 100	.362 .772	2 .518 3 .980	.444	.560	.307 1.877	.4382	4	.5286	3
Peter Haxell		.44	2 1.317 3 1.447			.309	.5674	8	.6969	4
Sue Gavin	N.I. 100 1014 200	.870 1.842	.693 2 1.024					5	.7035	5
Helen Owen	S.I. 100 2005 200	.884 1.760	.244 5 1.121				.5384	6	.7407	6
Adina Vlad	N.I. 100 1015 200	.578 1.51	3 .549 L 3.756						.7550	7
Graeme Smith	S.I. 100 2013 200		3 .371 3 2.390				.4066 1.1283		.7674	8
Michael Kidson		.718 3.53							.9009	9
Best Scores 100			Best Scores 200							
A I Owen B H Owen C A Vlad D G Couper E I Owen		.287 .244 .222 .274 .180		B 1	Couper Owen Couper Couper Owen	·	.586 .348 .982 .757			
SG I Owen Agg G Couper		.180 (Red	.068) .1622)	•	Owen Couper		.348 .517		Rec .20	

Heavy Benchrest (17th April)

Date : 18/04/2022 Title: 2022 National Rimfi S.I. Range: Nelson Class: Int. R/F Benchrest ______ C/F State/No A/D B/E Total G Total PN Name Carina Carina S.I. 50 Jackson 2103 0 736.32 244.06 247.14 245.12 1 Greg S.I. 50 242.08 245.11 243.09 730.28 Couper 1001 0 ______ N.I. 50 244.08 242.10 242.05 728.23 1014 0 ------S.I. 50 248.14 241.06 238.06 727.26 Owen 2004 0 ______ Graeme S.I. 50 237.07 243.06 246.16 726.29 2013 0 Smith -----S.I. 50 242.10 243.11 240.08 725.29 Terry Farnham 2107 0 ------Peter N.I. 50 241.06 240.12 240.08 721.26 1013 0 Haxell 234.04 241.07 241.07 716.18 S.I. 50 Tony Titheridge 2012 0 Robert S.I. 50 McDonald 2018 0 238.05 238.06 240.06 716.17 ------John S.I. 50 231.04 229.07 238.07 698.18 Ronaldson 2110 0 ------Anne Marie S.I. 50 Kidson 2010 0 230.08 235.04 206.01

Benchrest rimfire .22 (18th April)

Michael S.I. 50 Kidson 2106 0

MULTI GUN RESULTS (Group) - 22Nat2gun

==========	============	-=========		=========
		17/04/22 HBI	16/04/22 LBI	2 Gun
1 Greg	Couper	0.4237	0.3089	0.3663
2 Ian	Owen	0.4358	0.3113	0.3735
3 Tony	Titheridge	0.5286	0.3575	0.4431
4 Peter	Haxell	0.6969	0.3059	0.5014
5 Helen	Owen	0.7408	0.4158	0.5783
6 Adina	Vlad	0.7550	0.4108	0.5829
7 Graeme	Smith	0.7674	0.4294	0.5984
8 Sue	Gavin	0.7035	0.6208	0.6621
9 Michael	Kidson	0.9009	0.5066	0.7037

207.00 208.03 221.04 636.07

Two Gun

	LV	HV	RF	TOTAL
Greg Couper	70	80	100	250
lan Owen	60	70	80	210
Peter Haxell	80	50	50	180
Tony Titheridge	50	60	40	150
Sue Gavin	0	40	90	130
Carina Jackson			110	110
Graeme Smith	20	10	70	100
Helen Owen	30	30		60
Adina Vlad	40	20		60
Terry Farnham			60	60
Robert Mc Donald			30	30
John Ronaldson			20	20
Michael Kidson	10	0	0	10
Anne Marie Kidson			10	10

Three Gun - Graeme Smith Trophy for best aggregate across heavy, light and rimfire rifles.