



## President's Report

At our last club meeting we had a guest speaker Frank Pavitt speaking on 1080 which was very informative.

Our up and coming event is the Wilkinson shoot on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March which is after our club meeting so those that are interested we would love to see you there.

For our March club night we will be having a head skinning demonstration. With the roar being only a few weeks away it is a good opportunity to see how it's done.

Today is a sad day. This morning I got a phone call telling me that one of our hunting mates died in the hills doing what he loved. Gavin Hall was taken from us too early, hunting up the Ngaruroro River on Saturday 22 Feb. Gavin has been a club member for the last 30 years. Jack, his father, is a founding member of the Hastings Club and has been a member for the last 50 years. We will miss you Gav!

Hot barrels, Mal



## Editor's Corner

The club is currently operating without a newsletter editor. Volunteers are welcome and strongly encouraged. The role is pretty simple – this Microsoft Word template has already been prepared and all advertising is organized. Please contact any committee officer if you are interested to help with all or some of the newsletter.

Submit a backpage story for a chance to win \$330 toward a heli trip with Chris Crosse. This is a great opportunity for new members to introduce themselves and for old members to reminisce about the old days in the club.

## Events Calendar

### Next club meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> March

- Head skinning and butchering demo

### Wilkinson Shoot: 9<sup>th</sup> March

- Ben Lomond Station, Hwy 50, 9 am start

### Committee Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> March

### April club meeting: 2nd April

- Game Animal Council update with Steven Shaw

### AGM: 7<sup>th</sup> May

**General reminder:** Club and committee meetings start a 8 pm – committee meetings are open to any members interested to help run the club.

**Reminder:** Club hall is available to hire for birthdays, work functions or other events.

## Committee Officers

Patron	Max Motley	
President	Malcolm Ingpen	878 7795
Vice President	Dustin Murdock	836 5478
Treasurer	Neil MacLean	874 3018
Secretary	Angus Richards	877 9422
Newsletter Editor	EMPTY	Your # here

## Hall Contacts

Hall Bookings	Guy Te Kahika	879 9598
Groundsman	Grant Richards	878 4467
Trophy Custodian	Graeme Withey	878 6161
Hall Caterer	Brian Salisbury	027 8969 626

## Clubrooms

1534 Maraekakaho Road, Bridge Pa,  
PO Box 2155, Stortford Lodge, Hastings

**Phone:** 06 879 9396

**Email:** [Hastings\\_nzda@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Hastings_nzda@xtra.co.nz)

**Web:** [www.nzdahastings.org.nz](http://www.nzdahastings.org.nz)

## **Hand Loading Press 6**

From Neil MacLean

### **Hand Load Pressure Variables.**

#### **Part 1 – Cartridge Pressure and Traditional Pressure Estimation Methods.**

Pressure inside the cartridge case and rifle barrel is what sends the projectile on it's way toward the target. The objective of all who load cartridges is to keep that pressure in the Goldilocks zone, high enough to give good performance but not so high that we enter the zone where bad things happen, very quickly! Just right in other words.

Commercial cartridge manufacturers use sophisticated pressure measuring equipment to ensure that their cartridges are safe to fire in the rifles they are intended for. Different countries have different units and different ways of measuring it. However each manufacturer is familiar with their system and manages to produce safe cartridges almost all of the time.

Hand loaders don't have sophisticated pressure measuring equipment so we must rely on data published by projectile and powder manufacturers. If we dabble with wildcats or use traditionally under loaded cartridges however we are on our own.

Over the years hand loaders and earlier loading manual authors have used various methods to estimate (some say guess) pressure. Let's have a look at some of them.

#### **Bolt Lift and Primer Appearance.**

These are traditional methods for estimating pressure. The degree of force needed to raise the bolt handle and cratering or flattening of the edge of firing pin impression are considered to show the level of pressure. Unfortunately both are unreliable and can be very misleading. Bolt action type and cocking ramp smoothness effect bolt lift and an enormous range of variables effect primer appearance. A friend's wildcat rifle had normal bolt lift and primer appearance but expanded the heads of cases with one shot and could not be reloaded. Another shows primer cratering with mild loads.

I used to use these methods but no longer

#### **Case Expansion.**

There are two case expansion methods that have been used for estimating pressure. Unfortunately the terminology is becoming muddled in some articles I've seen so take care.

#### **Case body or Pressure Ring Expansion.**

This method relies on measurement of the expansion of the case wall just ahead of the solid case head and comparison with measurements of factory cartridges fired in the same rifle. For this method a series of factory cartridges (3 to 5) are fired and the pressure ring measured. Next the projectiles are pulled and powder discarded from remaining cartridges from the same box or at least manufacturer and lot. Your loads are now assembled in these cases, fired and expansion measurements compared with the factory cases. New cases only are used for measurement but can be reloaded for hunting or whatever.

This method does have merit. Ken Waters used this method, combined with considerable experience, to produce his Pet Loads series for Handloader Magazine over a period of some 40 years. His loads are my first reference for any new cartridge I load for.

Unfortunately the method is limited to factory cartridges loaded to reasonable pressure so is no help with wildcats or under loaded cartridges. I have not used this method preferring to rely on Ken Waters body of work and current pressure tested data.

### **Solid Case Head Expansion.**

This method relies on detecting the start of expansion of the solid case head. The case is measured at the front edge of the extractor groove. Loads in new cases are increased until a small amount of expansion is detected. The method is quite technical and requires measurements to 0.0001inch or 0.0025mm tolerance. The method relies on uniform hardness of case heads which may or may not be the case. I haven't seen it mentioned for a while. I did briefly use this method a few years back but not since.

### **Summary.**

All of the above methods, and the copper crusher factory method, rely on the yield strength of metal is some way or other and are limited by the tolerances of manufacture. If anyone wants more information on these I can source some reliable articles for you. Next time load pressure variables.



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## History of Hastings Clubroom Heads



**Locality - Blue river, Makarora valley. Shot 1923.**

Herrick and guide Jim Muir were returning to camp on the first day out when they sighted a fine stag on the river flat. Due to other animals and wind direction they withdrew from the stalk. Some days later the pair were forced to return off the tops onto the river flat due to thick fog. While on the river flat they heard a stag close by in the merky conditions. So they dropped into a dry water course and waited. Shortly out of the gloom loomed the same stag they had sighted days before. A magnificent animal. One shot from Herrick's rifle secured this fine trophy. Jasper Herrick gifted his fathers trophy to our club in the 1970's. Max Motley remounted it in 1999. D.S. 349 3/8.



## My First Deer

By Oliver Wiggins-Crowe

The constant drone of the helicopter rings in my ears as I get out of the heli. "Go stand over there" Dad shouts. My brother Henry, my dog Outlaw and I walked over to the edge of the heli pad. Dad, Paul and Chris Crosse were grabbing bags and gear and coming and putting them beside us. When the heli took off, Dad got some footage of it flying away. When it was gone we grabbed our bags and headed for the hut. The hut was only 50 metres away from the helipad so we went and set up our gear in the hut, had a feed, grabbed our bags and headed out for a hunt. After about a dozen river crossings, we finally made it to a clear area with no scrub on it, so we decided to set up camp there. We set up our fly and went for a trout fish before we went hunting. On the walk we saw about a dozen large trout, feeding in the pools. Once we set up camp, we decided to go for a hunt. We walked along the river for a



bit before Dad decided we should

climb up the hill and glass from there. After about ten minutes, we found a spot where we could glass from. After a while, we haven't spotted anything, so Dad said "I'm going to go over there and glass from there ok?" A few minutes later, Dad came back and said he saw a deer. We followed him and when we got there, we spotted the deer. It was a yearling, feeding on a slip. Dad set the gun up for me and I got into position to shoot. I aimed it up and BLAM. The deer dropped like a stone and fell over. "yay" I said. I was so excited about shooting my first deer, I was shaking.

But while we were occupied, the deer slipped of the edge and fell 200 metres down into the river, where it slowly drifted away. I was a little distraught, because my first deer just floated down the river. "hurry" Dad said. "we need to go get it" We raced down the hill through the bush, before we finally got to the river. We went down the river, looking as we went. When we got to too deep spot to cross, Dad said he would go around the corner to look for it. We waited about five minutes before we saw Dad coming back around the corner. "Is it there?" I ask. "yeah" he says. I race across the river and run around the corner. Dad told me he had dragged it out of the water. I run around and see it lying beside the river. We get some photos and film, then we cut it up and walk back to camp. We had dinner and hit the sack. In the morning we go for a hunt and spot a stag, but it was too far away to shoot. When we got back to camp, I decided to have a trout fish in the river. After a few casts, I felt a big tug and saw a big trout swim in the water in front of me. I half wing, half pull it onto the rocks. Dad came over and killed it and gutted it. We got some photos. It weighed about 4-5 pounds. A large fish. We walked back to camp and smoked the trout for lunch. It was yum. We hung around the hut for a while, before heading out back to the fly camp. when we got there, we went for a hunt but saw nothing before getting a feed and going to sleep.



Hi Club,

As promised the change of shop name has not altered my interest to support the Hastings NZDA. Rivers to Ranges will again sponsor the back page story. All back page story authors go in a drawing at the end of the year. The winner will receive a \$330 voucher toward a heli flight with Chris Crosse.

Thanks again for your business over the years. Mitch, Nick and I look forward to seeing you in the shop.

Regards, Jeremy Hanaray  
Jeremy Hanaray Rivers to Ranges



The next day we went for a hunt in the morning and went to the same spot and glassed from there for a bit and after a while Dad said he spotted a stag feeding across the river on a slip.

He got ready and shot it, then we went to go get it. Dad went up the steep hill to find it while we stayed down the bottom. He came down to us about twenty minutes later and said he'd found the stag. We cut it up and packed up, ready to head back to camp. When we got back to the hut, we put the meat in the meatsafe and started making a stew out of my deer's meat. When Inky and Paul got back, they had shot two deer and two trout. We had some of their trout and later we ate the stew. We hung around the hut until the next day before the heli picked us up the next day.