



# BUSHNELL BROADHEAD 1500

*By Kadin Willis*

**Bushnell is a household name here in New Zealand with a great, affordable optics range used by many. What's perhaps not so widely known is that Bushnell were the first to produce a laser rangefinder for hunters - back in 1996 - which took the guesswork out of ranging and allowed generations of bowhunters to become more accurate.**

Fast-forward to present day and Bushnell are arguably the leaders in bowhunting-specific rangefinders. Their products feature some industry-leading technology.

In this review, I'll be testing the new Bushnell Broadhead 1500.

## **UNBOXING**

The rangefinder arrived in a clean, tidy box with loads of information on some of the features. Inside was the Broadhead with a good pouch with a belt loop - so it could go on your belt or bino harness - as well as a neck tether if that's

how you prefer to carry it. Underneath was an easy-to-follow set of instructions so that even a simple bloke like me could have this rangefinder up and running in just three steps.

## **IN HAND**

I was met with a very lightweight (only 167.26 grams), easy-to-hold rangefinder. The battery is positioned in a different place to what I'm used to with other brands - it sits on the outside of your thumb securing the rangefinder in your hand. Most of the Broadhead is dark olive green, and it has several plastic panels ►

## **ABOVE:**

*The Broadhead 1500 is a sleek-looking, very well-thought-out design.*



REVIEW :: OPTICS

RIGHT:

*This wee unit sits great in the hand, perfect for one-handed ranging while bowhunting.*



ABOVE:

*With the battery pointed down behind your thumb as you hold the rangefinder, the buttons are easy to reach.*

**RRP** \$879.99  
**MORE INFO** [e.ampro.co.nz](http://e.ampro.co.nz)



that sport a sleek carbon-fibre-type appearance giving it plenty of grip.

FEATURES

With a 6x magnification and a 24mm objective, this rangefinder really punches above its weight class. The awesome lens sets it apart giving it a vivid image that's 2x brighter in low light. But the main feature that should be mentioned is the industry-leading 0.3-yard distance accuracy on any target colour, which is truly incredible. In bowhunting, this can be the difference between a successful or failed hunt.

The Broadhead also has ARC (Angle Range Compensation), which means it can work out the angle of the shot on a hillside in the blink of an eye and show you the distance you should be aiming for. I know I've certainly sent plenty of arrows over the backs of critters in the mountains due to misjudging the angle.

Another neat feature is the ActivSync display, which changes colour depending on the light. In the heat of the day when it's very bright, the display is black; then in the evenings when there's less light, the display automatically changes to red allowing you to be able to see well any time of the day.

LEFT:

*Tasty post-rut stag taken with the help of the Bushnell Broadhead 1500.*

OUT IN THE FIELD

The time had come to get this rangefinder out into the field to look for a post-Roar red stag to fill the freezer after a quiet start to the year. The country I was hunting was very open, being newly planted in trees, which results in challenging bowhunting. I knew this rangefinder was going to be the key component of any success.

I set off up the hill with the Broadhead 1500 on the neck tether in my top pocket to minimise movement if I got in close to a critter. As I neared the area I was hunting, I spotted a small stag further up the hill feeding across towards the manuka cover.

Racing up the ridge, I closed the gap to within bow range. He was feeding just behind the spur above me as I waited behind a manuka tree for him to edge his way over the spur. As he came around, I eased the rangefinder out of my top pocket and held the button in scan mode, which updates the range 4x per second. He stopped to feed broadside on an uphill angle at 34.2 yards.

Having confidence in this being accurate, I dialled my sight to that range and slipped an arrow through the top of his heart sending him straight down into the manuka. I was stoked to get my range spot-on with a challenging uphill shot.

CONCLUSION

Compact and lightweight with great features, the Broadhead 1500 would be a great asset to any bowhunter's kit, especially for us down in the Southern Alps hunting in such steep country.

With a RRP of \$879.99, this feature-filled rangefinder is well priced. ■

BELOW:

*The ActivSync display adjusts automatically from black to red, depending on the light, for best readability in all conditions.*

