



By John Kiriakidis

Hunters Element XTR Jacket

It is just about guaranteed that as soon as you leave the house the weather will be lousy. Standing in a maimai or trudging through the bush in a howling gale or heavy rain, the last thing you need is to be wet and miserable because your jacket leaks.

Buying a decent hunting jacket is a serious decision, not only is it an expensive asset but it has to work. So when Hunters Element asked me to test their new XTR jacket, I was keen to see how they stacked up against some of the other brands available.

Rob and his team at Hunters Element have grown steadily over the years and have blossomed into a very successful manufacturing import business, supplying a range of hunting and trout fishing equipment to sports shops throughout NZ. The key factor to that success is their excellent attention to detail. The core team at Hunters Element are avid hunters and fishermen which enables them to design a better product that is suitable for our local New Zealand conditions. These are then field tested here in NZ and when proven, released onto the market.

The XTR jacket is their latest evolution jacket and at first glance it's stylish and full of excellent features. It comes in two versions; jacket and anorak in green and Realtree APG camo.

Material

The outer material is a soft suede like product that is pliable and incredibly quiet. To make the jacket waterproof and breathable they utilise a 3 layer

“ All the seams are sealed and the jacket is rated as 100% waterproof and breathable ”



Available in green or Realtree APG camo.



Detachable duck call lanyards? How good is that!

technology called Hydrafuse Excel. This material barrier has a hydrostatic pressure rating of 20,000mm which means a column of water 20,000mm can be directly applied to the material without it leaking, impressive figures. All the seams are sealed and the jacket is rated as 100% waterproof and breathable – which Hunters Element guarantee. I can attest to that as I wore the jacket in driving rain and snow while wallaby and tahr hunting down south with no leaks.

PRODUCT REVIEW

Hood

This is detachable and can also be folded away neatly into the collar when not in use. Both the peak and hood are adjustable to suit you.

Pockets

Two large chest pockets (big enough for bino's or SLR camera) which also have removable duck caller lanyards (nice one), along with a centrefire ammo holder in the right hand chest pocket.

Down below are two large self closing bellowed pockets with drain holes (never buy a jacket without drain holes if you hunt ducks), which are complemented with integrated hand warmer pockets.

Zips

All zips are quality YKK zips.

Cuffs

The XTR features super tough neoprene adjustable cuffs.

Other novel and key features are that the elbows are articulated which allows greater freedom of movement when using binoculars or lifting your gun to shoot. This freedom of movement continues with the large side splits in the XTR which gives you the ability to bend easily when walking up hill or turn

Below; We managed one fine day on the wallabies, note the side split on the XTR for easy body action. Right; Waterproof underarm zipped vents to pump out the heat-more clever thinking from Hunters Element.



Articulated elbows allow great arm movement.

freely. To reduce your heat build up the XTR has waterproof underarm zippered vents which pump hot air out as you go-just brilliant.

Conclusion

The team at Hunters Element told me that they designed the XTR to be an extreme wet weather hunting jacket that is packed with useful features and allows maximum freedom of movement while keeping you dry and comfortable.

I'm convinced they have achieved their goals.



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