

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
May2023



Looking into the Whitestone from Kiwi Burn Track

Monthly Meeting THE AGM

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17th May at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

BRANCH FACEBOOK:

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK, , YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THE PAGE . WE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT <https://www.facebook.com/southlandnzda/>

BRANCH CONTACTS

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Wanted

Stories, ads, letters to the editor, or whatever for the newsletter, send to or contact the editor. Guest Speaker's needed, Ideas wanted, who do you want, and names needed, suggestions to Executive

Club Hunts

Wallaby Hunt 21st, 22nd, & 23rd July Contact Tom 0278471882

All hunts for Southland Branch NZDA Members (with full NZDA membership) as Public liability Insurance required).

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Tyler Young, Caleb Lemkus, Nathan David Ford, Dustin Mckay, Cole Frew,
Dylan Cullen, Benjamin Maw, Samuel Scott

Office Bearers

Club Office Bearers

President: S McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** T Caldwell

Secretary A Nesbit : **Treasurer** T Mead

Magazine Editor: D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

Membership A Nesbit **Huts** N Miller

Executive: W Ashmore, N Dawson, D Howden, J. McCallum, L
Payne, R. Phillips.

Life Members (National) Roger McNaughton (Branch) J DeLury, D Howden, N Miller, R
Phillips (Branch) Sub committees

Membership, Andy, Luke, Ray

Rayoniers blocks Shaun, Andy, Luke, Jamie

Lodges (Rename from Huts) Neville Shaun
Hall (to include Library-Library committee Luke, Jamie, Wayne
Club Hunts Tom Tony Luke
Ranges to include the Rifle club and Pistol Club Doug, Tom
DOC Liaison, Ray
AGM to include Trophies and Douglas Scoring Luke, Shaun, Wayne, Ray, Doug
Competition Committee to include Kids Hunting and Wilkinson Postal shoot Shaun, Tom
Hunts Course Nathan Tom Andy Shaun Wayne Luke



May 2023



For many the first weekend of May is a pretty special time. Time with family and friends chasing the elusive mallard duck it seems every year is different one ponds shoot really well others not so much. It's really about getting out and having a go. The weather this opening was perfect if you wanted to go to the beach ☐ . Little to no wind and clear blue skies , a lot of birds seen flying high with no intention of slowing down no matter how loud out long the calls made to try entice them in. But all in all we had a great day out myself Dad and the kids we all got a duck I hope everyone else's shoot was successful in whatever way you measure success.

This month is the annual AHT & Photo competition and AGM which marks another successful year for Southland NZDA hopefully you've had more luck than me and got something on the deck with antlers to bring along and some photos to drop off to Doug. We'd love to have some new faces on the committee so if your keen don't be shy to stick your hand up or give me or any of the committee members a call prior it's always great to have new ideas to bounce around the meetings.

I'd like to thank everyone that's helped out this year we've been pretty busy again with kids hunt Rayioners rat program Stewart island, submissions, wallaby hunting, working bees and in general running the club. There's too many to name but Thanks everyone and we'll see you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun

SOUTHLAND Branch Report for 2023

This year had been another packed full great for Southland NZDA were very lucky to have such a great Committee and club, membership numbers have steadily climbed and branch participation had been great with good numbers turning up to meetings and club events.

Our annual wallaby Club hunt was a success and always attracts new members along which is great. We held the Wilkinson postal shoot early Feb and our ongoing affiliation with the Invercargill Rifle club has been great for both clubs allowing us access and use of their range. We ran our first hunts course for a few years with the help of Gore & Districts 5 new provisional instructors Myself, Andy, Luke, Wayne, Tom & Hamish and Glen from Gore. There's a great deal goes into running these courses and it was great to get it up and running again. Thanks to everyone that helped make it happen. We ran two kids club hunting Competitions this year and our own kids hunting comp in June which was another successful weekend. And then in December We joined forces with Gore to run the Wyndham A&P show kids hunt which we had awesome community support and sponsorship for and a great turn out with over 70 kids bringing Rabbits possums and fish in for weighing. It's awesome to see kids getting out and enjoying the outdoors.

Southland manages two huts/ lodges and our Hall at Longbush. Red stag in Mavora & Wapiti lodge in Te Anau were always quietly working away on maintaining these assets, they are really an awesome asset to the branch, Dave Howden with some help has been working quietly away at the porch area, I'm looking forward to sitting out there with the BBQ on day soon thanks Dave .Special thanks to Neville and his wife for the work they do co-ordinating hut bookings and looking after these assets.

John Delury oversees the Stewart Island Rat trapping program in Masons Bay which is a massive undertaking and always runs extremely well. Thanks again to John it wouldn't happen without you taking your time to organize it all.

Hunting & firearms is always under the spotlight. It feels like we are fighting a losing battle but my personal view is if as reasonable Firearms owners act in our best interest the minority will slowly be weaned out of the system.

I'd like to personally thank everyone on the committee and branch members who have helped me and the club over the year. And I look forward to another successful year.

Shaun Mckelvie Southland NZDA



Editorial

Well its Sunday night the opening of Duck Shooting is over for another year. Not a great success numbers wise for me but a good weekend away in Northern Southland, with a long-time friend, enjoying that country again. Numbers come and go as seasons are different and farming practices change. A full moon did not help, nothing duck wise turned up Saturday evening, but they were fed on the grain put out and ready to fly when I arrived out Sunday morning. A pity the pond is not currently stalk-able.

I was keen on Duck shooting long before deerstalking. I can still remember the smell of the freshly fired Blue/ purple CAC Long Range cases that my Father brought home, from duck hunting. I used to fold the crimps back down and use them for toy soldiers. Come 16 I shot my first duck, one of the few ducks that I can still remember having shot. Over fifty years and I am still at it come opening weekend.

Going by the traffic I saw on Friday night a lot of Southland is at it too, great to see the numbers. Good to see positive articles in local newspapers, unlike what I saw on TV1 News Sunday night. Where a small minority are getting heard in their objections to duck shooting, something that has been banned in some Australian States!

What has this to do with Big Game Hunting? Well a lot, most deerstalkers are at some time of their lives Duck Shooters and visa versa. But more importantly all are Firearms users and hunters. We need to grow our numbers whatever firearms one uses and what one hunts. (It could be said we are brothers in arms!) Today's young duck hunter may be tomorrow's Deer Stalker.

Next week back on the Deerstalking front it is our AGM. It would be good to have a good turnout of members. Along with a good collection of Trophies, (I stuffed my chance there, shooting was better at the ducks though) and photos so get those entries in. A few good keen ~~men~~ people for new blood on the executive would be nice (some women would be especially welcome). See Shaun or an Executive member if you think you have something to offer.

See you at the AGM can we make it standing room only?

Doug Gordon

AGM & Trophy Night

The AGM will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 17th of May at 7.30pm.

Entries in trophy competition Sunday the 14th of May 1pm at the Clubrooms. When the trophies will be Judged and scored. No late entries accepted. (If you can't make it in person arrange for someone to get the trophy there on time. Or ring Ray 216 3751 to arrange a drop off) Please bring Membership card (to speed up processing entries) Heads must have the whole skull attached.

Heads must be clean or they may not get scored

[No Maggots]

Remember all heads are up for the spot prize so bring your trophy along, spikers to 18pointers, goats, sheep, pigs, tahr, chamois, any wild animal that fits in the branch AHT, antler, horn and tusk lists.

REMEMBER ALL MEMBERS ENTERING AN ENTRY GO INTO THE SPOT PRIZE DRAW SO BRING

ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR
[MAY 2022 TO MAY 2023]

Photo competition entries to

Doug Gordon 254 Centre St

Invercargill 9812

By 5pm Wednesday the 10th of May.

Photo Categories are

Game Animals: Living Deer, Chamois, Tahr, Goats and pigs etc

Other Wildlife: Any other living Animals

Scenic: Preferably Hunting Country

Topical: Should contain some evidence of human activity and hunting related. eg. Hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 size and taken between May 2022 and May 2023

A spot prize on the night for all members entering photos

Name on envelope / folder containing photos not the photos please.

Remember you must be a financial member when you took your trophy/ photo and to enter.

Sponsors

Southland Branch would like to thank its regular sponsors and recommend them to its members.



Southland Branch Polo Shirts



The following are in stock and available for purchase @ \$35 each

5 x Medium

5 x Large

5 x Xtra Large to arrange payment

5 x XXL

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing

enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

Subject line Polo Tee Shirts

Payment prior to delivery by online banking to the Branch Account 06-0925-0270758-000 with details of *your name Polo Shirt and Size*.

(If unable to do online banking contact Tom 0278471882)

First in best dressed

Freeze Dri



Purchase Back Country Cuisine freeze-dri meals direct at special prices, email Tony on info@bcfoods.co.nz to order or find out more information.

Rambling about Firearm Controls

Ideas behind laws controlling firearm ownership are rarely simply stated, but are meant to prevent crime with firearms. (You can tell how that all works out can't you?). The thinking behind such laws runs largely along the lines of:

- (a) restricting the firearms;
- (b) restricting the owners;
- (c) restricting the use(s) made of firearms.

The first relates to regulating the type, number able to be owned, the caliber, the length, whether it floats or not (one of the survival guns which packed away into a hollow plastic stock were for a while, outlawed for this reason) and even whether it has rifling or is smooth-bored.

The second approach deals with the regulation of the firearm owner. At first, this was done on the basis of birthright and wealth, then race, with the ability to write out quantities in words as well as numbers as another form of discrimination.

The third approach is to state that firearms may be used only on certain days of the week, or requiring they only be used for a purpose (such as hunting), which some authorities have argued eliminates their use on ranges when sighting them in!

As an aside, don't expect any great leaps of intellect or of sound reasoning when considering laws relating to firearm ownership. (Remember one of the recent buy-backs, and the many amendments to the amendments as a result of our rushed legislation, after March 2019?)

Now, there are still people around who believe that 'more guns = more crime'. These views, despite their 'common sense' ideology (much like witchcraft), are not supported by numerous overseas studies, nor by within New Zealand studies I have undertaken.

Recent studies have found that measures such as universal firearm registration have not reduced firearm offending (just as motor vehicle registration seems unable to reduce offending with motor vehicles) Nor has the banning of entire classes of firearms (e.g. pistols in the UK); making firearms inoperable; increasing penalties to deter offending; centralised armouries. The United Nations Secretary General (2008) found that "...it seems crucial to...focus on developing sustainable alternative livelihoods for those coping with disempowerment and despair." Chaz Forsyth

JOKES FOR THE MONTH

**If you get lost in the
woods**

**Find a possum, follow
it.**

**You will be in the
middle of a road in no
time**



"He was about five ten, wearing a camo shirt
and one of those funny Elmer Fudd type hats.
He pointed the gun right at me!"

Cobb Road Rifle Range

As honorary members of the Invercargill Rifle Club, Southland Branch members now have the opportunity to use the Cobb Road Range for sighting in of rifles and also participating in programmed Invercargill Rifle club events.

You will need to bring

Firearms Licence and Deerstalkers membership card.

Ear and eye protection

Target capable of being stapled to the target frame

Rifle (bolt out) + ammo – Up to and including .308/7.62 calibre Bipod or other front support and rear support.

The range will be operated by a designated Rang Officer who will make themselves known at the range.

General format will be

Allocation of target frame

Validation of rifle being able to hit target at 100m

Shooting 200m and beyond after validation

Dates: The range is not for casual use but is available for use on the following dates:

Currently over the Summer Range is available Sundays (except over Xmas) 11am to 1pm, 100yards to 200 yards After which there is a NRA style shoot at longer ranges Range fee is \$10.00

If you are interested in attending and for further details please first contact

Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

NRA/F Class shooters – make sure you arrange someone to pull targets and RO, you may be the only shooter at the range.

We hope to have the 500 and 600 yard mounds operational by November

Casual user questions – Message through the FB page or you can call Ben 0272247119 or Foster 021516342

NZDA Members – You have affiliated membership and can shoot for \$5 per session, contact Tom 0278471882 or Andy 021538676

ANIMAL SKIN TANNING SERVICES

-Tannery & Showroom-

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118 Crinan Street

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It recently came to my attention that it is hard to find any blank greeting cards that include wildlife art. Thus, I was asked to sell some of my pencil or paint replicas on cards and thought I would see if there was any interest in these here. A set of 5 for \$30 or \$7 each (including envelope). Contact erin@wildbalance.co.nz or 022 543 1022



Wapiti Lodge, & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654 cell
021 08219528 email nandc43@gmail.com or
43 Bain St Invercargill

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is
required to have firearms at the site. **Deposits for any bookings to be
Received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.**

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