

**THE SOUTHERN HUNTER**  
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter  
November 2023



Masons Bay

**Monthly Meeting**

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15th November at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

**Guest Speaker**

Still a work in progress will advise

**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](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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**

None currently planned, have you anything to offer? Contact Executive members if you have.

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

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**New Members please welcome them.**

Shane Dwyer, Sean Brown, Gregory Smith, Cyrille Leveque

## **Office Bearers**

Club Office Bearers

**President:** Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** Luke Payne

**Secretary** Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676 : **Treasurer** Tom Mead 027 847 1882

**Magazine Editor:** Doug Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

**Membership** Andy Nesbit **Huts** Neville Miller

**Executive:** Wayne Ashmore, Tony Caldwell, Gareth Coyle, Nathan Dawson, Scott Hall, Dave Howden, Jason Leishman, Jamie. McCallum, Ray Phillips, Ethan Todd.

**Life Members** ( National & Branch) John DeLury, Ray Phillips (National) Roger McNaughton, (Branch), Doug Gordon Dave Howden, Neville Miller,

Sub committees

Rayonier Hunting Liaison

Shaun, Luke & Andy

Lodges - (Red Stag & Mavora) Neville, Shaun, Dave

Hall & Library

Luke, Jamie & Wayne

Club Hunts

Tom, Luke and Wayne

Invercargill Rifle Range Tom, Shaun & Andy Nesbit

Invercargill Pistol Club Doug

NZDA Range Officers Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Andy, Luke & Doug

DOC Liaison Ray

AGM, Trophies & Douglas Scoring Shaun, Doug, Wayne, Luke, Ray & Andy

Competition Committee Shaun, Tom, Andy

Young Hunts Coordinators Andy, Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke, Jamie, Nathan

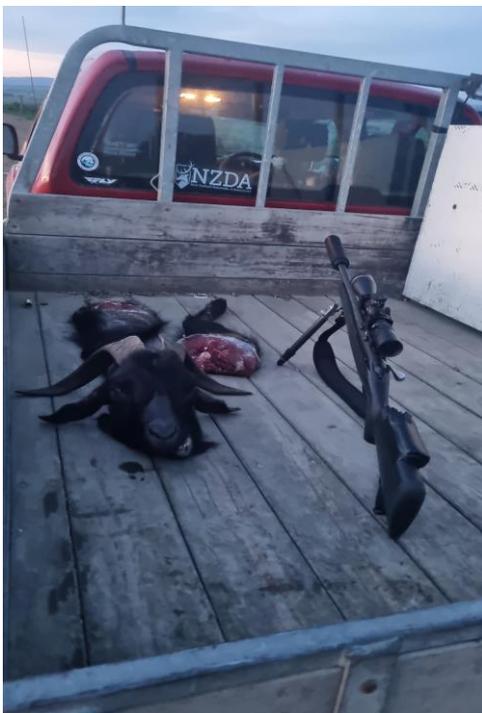
Douglas Score Measurer's Judge/coordinating Tutor, Ray, Judge/ Tutor John, Level One Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke & Andy

Website manager, John Delury.

### Presidents Report



November 2023



The well the year is drawing to a end there will be Xmas decorations up in no time now. There's never been a better time to get out and fill the freezer up this time of year last years young are getting kicked off mum and go out into the world to fend for themselves and they generally make for a easier target and they taste bloody good to 😊. Hopefully you've been lucky enough like us to get the kids out onto a goat for the national Goat hunting

competition is great fun for the kids and a great campaign National NZDA have got up and running so if you can get amongst it and support it.

The Wyndham amp show kids hunt is coming up so save the first weekend of December, there will be some great prizes up for grabs and it's a great day out for the family. We've got a few people keen for the young hunts course next year so if you are keen get in touch as we will have to cap numbers and it will be first in first served. Catch you all at the meeting

Cheers and safe hunting Shaun



### **Editorial**

Nearly Christmas well its beginning to feel that way already, (Commercial influences.) It is good time to be out chasing those young yearlings that mother has cast off in anticipation of having a new young. They make good eating on the summer BBQ if treated right.

Firstly, the yearlings are more tender and tasty (if you like mild flavours). They are more likely to be healthy and disease free, as they haven't been around as long. Not that wild game especially wild deer is likely to have disease problems. As only the fit survive unlike our nursed domestic stock including farm deer. Further Deer as a species have not got the same long close association with us humans to have developed some of the parasite/disease problems of other species. (Note pigs and wild pigs have more disease problems than deer).

But one can still stuff it up if one does not take some care. Decomposition and Contamination are your main enemies. Once you have got to the carcass. Cutting its throat is a thing to do if you are prompt. Watch out for kicking legs if not dead. A round in the head or neck can be a safe option. History is full of mishaps at this stage. Though if you have hit a major blood vessel (as in the lungs/ neck) They will bleed out quite well without any assistance. (Note the only wild deer carcasses I have found not well bleed were head shot where the shot took out the heart activation mechanism, Throat was not cut thus no blood leaked or pumped out.)

If taking the whole carcass gut it and put on your back skin on if not directly on the vehicle skin on.

If cutting it up to cart out if at all practical cut off the four limbs skin on. Place on a clean plastic bag or two, along with the back steaks. One of my pet hates is clean back steaks on a bush or the ground. (remind anybody of a TV programme?) Note hide protects the meat under it from contamination, once removed contamination commences unless you have very hygienic conditions (not normally available in the field!).

Carrying them out once cut up if not too remote. My version is put back steaks in a cotton bag then an open plastic bag in day pack. Front legs in open plastic bag in day pack the two cut surfaces together. Hind legs go around the neck. Don't leave the meat any longer than can be helped in plastic bags as it doesn't cool well. Legs on a stick between two hunters has been known to work if the going is good. (allows good cooling too.)

Once at camp or home these new game bags as found in Hunting & Fishing are good to protect from fly's and allow the carcass to cool and set. But if carcass has been cut up

double mutton bag or pillow case (inside out) will do. Of course a killing house or walk in chiller are great.

Ageing for a few days before freezing is always better. But not always practical lacking a carcass chiller in warm weather. The same result can be achieved if once set it is processed and the processed product stored in a fridge for the same time period. (Always trim not wash off any contamination when processing, and don't trim minor contamination prior to processing as this will reoccur resulting in more product wastage.) The same works with farmers cutting up a home kill sheep in summer. (They should kill it in the evening, cut up while cool in the morning then store in a fridge to age). (Note you don't have to actually 'hang' the product Just store at a cool temperature, to age it.) As for how tender one likes one's steak could depend on your origins? Americans like no resistance as tender as, Europeans like to know they are eating something so want some resistance. Historically Chinese eat all meat well done so steer away from steak as such. (Thus the lot of lower grade cuts of meat NZ puts on that market.)

I could go on, (with a lot more detail) but a lot of this is old hat to the experienced, you will know what works for you especially depending on where you are hunting. Whatever have a plan to get it out before you shoot it. Take care of your meat and have some good eating. It is a healthy meat if taken care off.

Happy hunting, do your bit to keep game numbers manageable.

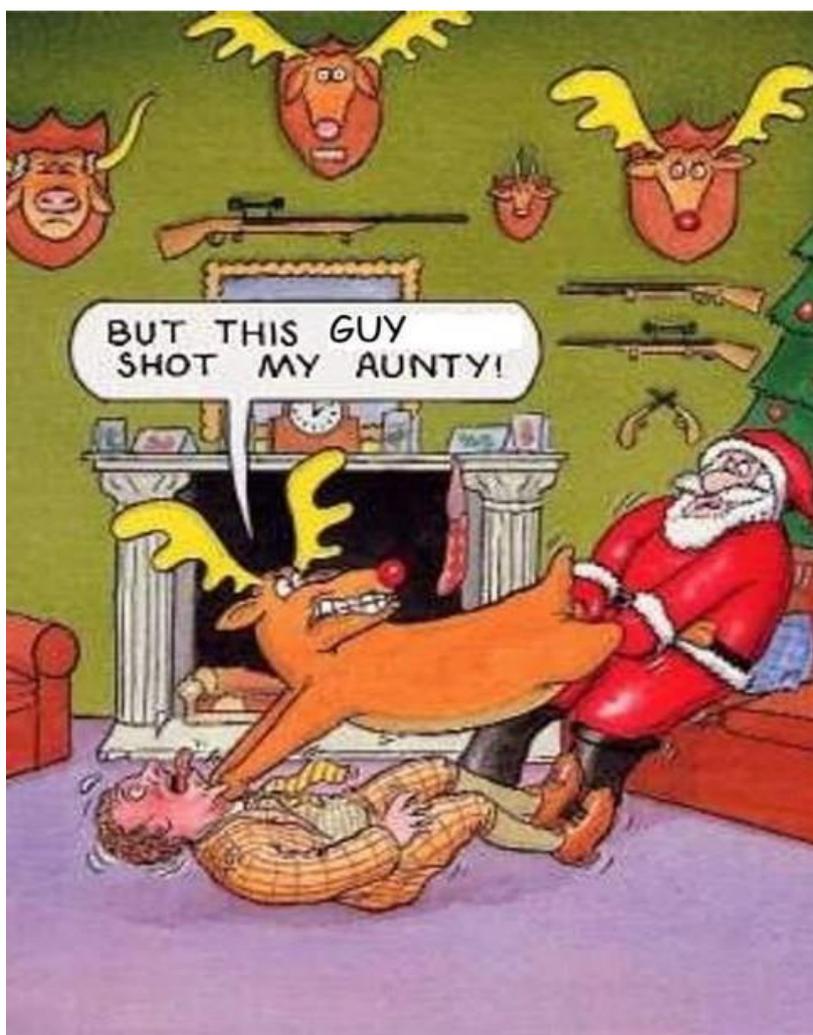
Doug Gordon

## Sponsors

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



## JOKE FOR THE MONTH



### **Mason Bay – Stewart Island Rat Trapping**

Since 2006 Southland Branch has undertaken a pest control program at Mason Bay on Stewart Island targeting rats and cats. We have 309 rat traps and 14 cat traps spread over 14 kms of tracks. We send six trapping parties to the area each year by aeroplane. We are generously supported by Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store with their sponsorship toward flight costs.

#### **Rat team 3**

Went to Homestead block on Mason Bay on 23rd September and comprised of Jason, Caleb and Kyle.

"We had a great trip but very low on the rat numbers though and we only got 15 in the traps. So basically 618 trap checks for 15 rats, we did not catch any cats. Noted on some of

the rat traps the bait was gone but the trap had not sprung. Maybe some wet and dry paper is needed on the plate staple as that seen to be the issue On the plus side plenty of deer were seen and a couple whitetail and four red deer were shot."



Jason & a red

#### **Masons Bay 19 - 24 October team 4.**

Left Invercargill airport at 8 am with Simon and Lyndon, neither who had hunted Stewart island before. The flight across was one of the roughest I'd had in 15 years. The only time I've had the pilot aborted his first landing attempt 2 metres above the sand. Second attempt saw us on the beach at Martins creek. An exciting start for Simon and Lyndon.

On my advice of an easy hour to the hut, we had packed extravagantly so we're pleased to drop our heavy packs at the hut. Not so pleasing was the supplies cupboard broken and raided. First by a person unknown and then by the resident opossum. We patched the door as best we could but really only possum proof now.

3 of us set off around the duck Creek traps to get Lyndon and Simon up to speed before leaving them to duck creek while I did Big Sand Hill traps. Day 2 saw the rest of the traps cleared. The traps and tracks were generally in a well maintained condition so well done by the previous teams. Our total rat tally was only 15. We set the cat traps on the second day but no results there. Plenty of cat prints in the sand dunes though.

Bird life seemed about average apart from an abundance of Tui. I didn't note any tomtit or Robins. We did see and hear numerous kiwi.

Hunting was good with approximately 18 animals seen and 5 whitetail taken. The weather was the best I had experienced there, apart from the first day! Never had the fire going at all. Looks like whoever broke into the supply cupboard may also have taken the hut book. Thanks to Invercargill Hunting & Fishing for their sponsorship

Rodney

The Branch appreciates the support of Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store



# Wapiti Lodge

Christmas / January Period

Neville informs me there are still some weeks vacant

So contact him

Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528

e-mail [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto:nandc43@gmail.com)

or 43 Bain St Invercargill

# Gwyn Thurlow to Visit

## Gore and Districts

Hi there

Just a bit of a heads up that Gwyn Thurlow (our National CEO ) is coming to our next general meeting **on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**, with the venue to be confirmed but it will be somewhere in Gore.

We thought this would be a good opportunity for a few of the other clubs to come along and hear what he has to say.

Cheers

Mark Heaps      Gore Secretary

If going could you please reply to this message by **13<sup>th</sup> of November** to [enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz). (so that we can give Gore our numbers going)

# Young Hunts Course 2024

This course is for anyone young or old.

**Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid, Bushcraft,  
Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing and more**

**Current planning is to run a course Around February 2024**



**Looking at expressions of interest in this course to Shaun  
Phone 0276350490**

### **Invercargill Rifle Club** **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**

## **Rifle Sighting In At Invercargill Pistol Club**

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available. To Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required Bring one's own targets with staple gun or on cardboard box.

**Please Note with the changes to the Law NO Semi Automatics allowed. (Other than .22R)**

To use this facility you **MUST** contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

22<sup>nd</sup> November Tom Mead 027 847 1882

29<sup>th</sup> November Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

6<sup>th</sup> December Doug Gordon 0276372206

13<sup>th</sup> December Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

20<sup>th</sup> December Tom Mead 027 847 1882

## **Wapiti Lodge, & Red Stag Lodge Mavora**



Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

**Bookings to  
Neville & Carol Miller  
Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528**

e-mail [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## **Southland Branch Polo Shirts**



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

Sizes Medium, large, Xtra Large, and XXL.

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing  
[enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:info@bcfoods.co.nz) to order or find out more information.



# WYNDHAM A&P SHOW

## KIDS HUNT & FISH

**ENTRY FEE \$10**

**Prize giving 1.30pm**

**Prizes for  
Heaviest**

**Hare  
Rabbit  
Possum  
Trout**

**Spot Prizes!**

**All Entries go in the draw**

**Seniors \$500 hunting  
kit pack**

**Juniors \$400 fishing kit  
pack**

**Entry forms available from Southland and  
Gore & Districts NZDA branches.**

email: [kidshuntnzda@gmail.com](mailto:kidshuntnzda@gmail.com) or find us on facebook

Juniors 11 and under      Seniors 12 - 16

T&C's Apply

**Swap gathering 21 JANUARY 2024**  
**0900 to 1400 (ENDS ABOUT 2 PM,) at**

# **61 Victoria Road, DUNEDIN**

(UPSTAIRS)

***FOR Licensed firearm owners ONLY***

Solely for the purposes of

**BONDING, TRADING, BUYING, SELLING,  
SWAPPING** Firearms and accoutrements.

[If it fits through the doors, you can bring it!]

You can also exchange tall stories, keep the company of like-minded, fit & proper people and enjoy ***NOT*** being demonised, marginalised, abused and derogated by the negativism of politicians, the mass media and other hangers-on.

**You *will* need your firearm licence, and \$10 to contribute to hire of venue.**

**Endless tea, coffee available**

# ANIMAL SKIN TANNING SERVICES

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Dan Dawson - 027 281 3026

**118 Crinan Street**

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