



Southland

NZDA

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

The
Southern Hunter

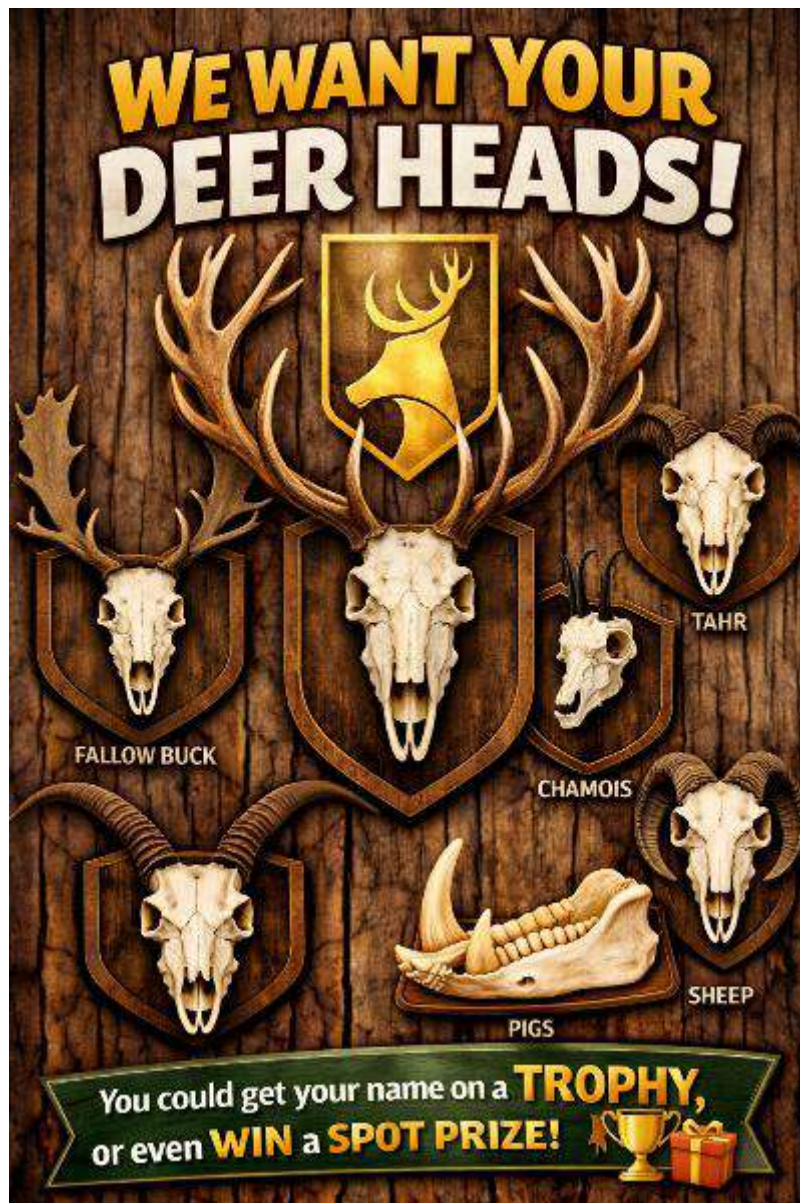
April 2026



Club Night



AHT and Photo Competition



AHT Competition scoring day Saturday 16th May 1.00pm till 2.00pm at the clubrooms [24 Mckerchar road, Longbush.](#)

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.

Heads must be clean, and dry, free of strong odours or they may not get scored!

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.

ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR [MAY 2025 TO MAY 2026]

You must be a financial member when you took the Trophy and to enter.

Photo Competition

Entries close 13th may.

All entries (Digital) to enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org with "photo competition" as the subject line.

all photographs must be attached and titled as to which category they are to be entered in.

Maximum 5 entries per category.

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. e.g. Hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and taken between May 2025 and May 2026

You must be a financial member when you took the Photographs and to enter.

President's Report



ground running.

We'll see you at the meeting — come along and find out where all the stags have been roaring 😊

Hot barrels and safe travels,
Shaun McKelvie

Editorial

Well as I am writing this the stags have started to make some noise so I hope everyone is out getting amongst them.

The past few weeks have highlighted a common theme: hunters are increasingly being recognised not just as participants, but as key contributors to conservation and land stewardship. It's up to all of us to continue building on that momentum.

It has been great to see more younger members along at meetings and getting them involved in things like the kids hunt. This is something we are really trying to prioritise as a club. Bring them along to the next meeting and don't forget to give them a duck caller for the competition!

With the roar now underway, the hills will be busier than usual. It's a timely reminder to prioritise safety—know your target, communicate your plans, and look out for one another.

- Assume every firearm is loaded
- Control the muzzle direction at all times
- Chamber a round only when ready to fire
- Identify your target beyond all doubt
- Check your firing zone
- Store firearms and ammunition safely
- Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Blue Mountains permit system changes

Blue Mountains Ballot Info

Club Wallaby Hunt

26th - 28th June

To register interest or for more information contact
Wayne Ashmore 027 810 1814

On the snowline

With Doug Gordon

It will most likely come as no surprise to you that I feel hunters and firearms owners get a raw deal from our news media. But is it deliberate or just poor and lazy reporting you judge.

Twice over the last month there was articles in the Southland Times from different reporters regarding Wapiti, and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation. Both had the picture below feature as a Wapiti.

No doubt a file photo, the use of which is not uncommon in reporting, sometimes with a mention of the fact that it is a file photo, these one's didn't.

The second article was in relation to Herds of Special interest, looked biased no mention of all the positive conservation outcomes from the Fiordland Wapiti Foundations presence in Fiordland, all about a non-indigenous species being protected in a National Park. There was though mention of the Hon James Meger having declared any free hunting trips etc that he has had with hunting groups. Is the same scrutiny applied to the free trips from those on the other side of the coin?

Then there was the report on Seven Sharp TV1 about the bumper breeding season for Kakapo. Which was short on actual Kakapo footage? But had a postscript about predator free Stewart Island which indicated this needed to happen to house the increasing Kakapo population. This will become a big pushing point for the predator free operation. Any ideas where else Kakapo can go? We need to find them!

Lastly an online Stuff & co article on the Blue Duck being endangered (Blue Duck currently being promoted) More needs to be done to protect it. No mention of the 500 traps the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have in their part of Fiordland or their success. Which could be lost if Herds of Interest don't proceed. Only that some community groups were doing some trapping.

Now quite some time ago (over a year) TV1 Breakfast reported on a stray pig (small) found with no owner in Auckland. It had been taken to the SPCA and they were looking for a forever home for it. When one presenter suggested that the next owner may want to in the future eat it the topic was very quickly changed. Left wondering if some know what people mainly keep pigs for and where bacon comes from.

The question is how much of the above is just poor reporting, how much is a reflection on the reporter's city upbringing, and how much is deliberate policy by influencer's pulling strings? Whatever our side of the story often doesn't get out there. We all need to do what we can to change this. Starting with calmly putting up our case when and wherever we can. Tell the tramper's you may be sharing a hut with that we care for the environment, and act that way. (Especially regarding handling firearms)

Of course, a good start is behaving responsibly while hunting. No shooting of signs, leaving empty bottles or rubbish where you park your vehicles. (All has occurred in the past). Tidy huts before leaving etc. Southland Branch is looking at increasing its predator trapping effort (looking at Mavora area around Red Stag hut). Will no doubt look at involving members. Is there any other good ideas for predator trapping out there in Southland that we can do?

For those who have been or are going hunting at this time of the year hope you had or will have a good trip, enjoy being out there and leave a good impression behind you. Stay safe act safe.



Eyre Mountains poison Notice

A.G.M.

Our AGM and trophy night is planned for the 20th of May at 7.30PM
final details and Venue TBC

Club Contacts

enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

[Southland Branch Website](#)

Office Bearers

President: Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

Vice President: Luke Payne 027 828 2619

Secretary: Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676

Treasurer: Scott Hall 027 859 3533

Membership: Paul Fitzek / Jason Leishman

Pistol Club sighting in

Closed for winter.

Andy working on possible weekend shoots.

Invercargill Rifle Club

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

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

Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

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.

[Click here for full Summer Calendar](#)

Wapiti and Red Stag Lodges

Bookings to

Andy Nesbit

Ph: 021 538 676

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.**



Sponsors

We're proud to be supported by a number of generous sponsors who help make our club activities and events possible. Their backing plays a vital role in keeping our community strong and ensuring members can enjoy the outdoors.

Please support them wh ere you can!



Wapiti and Red Stag Lodges

Bookings to

Neville & Carol Miller

Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528 e-mail nandc43@gmail.com

or [43 Bain St Invercargill](#)

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SOUTHERN ADVENTURE

THE IN STORE FOR THE OUTDOORS

