

# The Southern Hunter

June 2026



Jacob Finlayson with the winning red deer head

**Club Night**



**MENTAL HUNTS**

## **Guest speaker**

**Glen Thurston  
with "Mental Hunts"**

**promoting better health  
and wellbeing amongst  
hunters**

**Click the logo for more  
info**

17th June 7.30pm

Club Hall 24 McKerchar Rd,  
Longbush

Glen will have hats for sale on the night with  
mobile eftpos, It would be great to show him  
some support and purchase a hat!

## **AHT and Photo Competition Results**

### **AHT Competition**

#### **Best Red Deer Head**

1st Jacob Finlayson

2nd Roger Stratford

3rd Nigel Renton

#### **Best Fallow Deer Head**

1st Caleb Ashmore

#### **Best Pig Tusks**

1st Mya McKelvie

#### **Best Head Taken By a Female**

1st Judy Duggan

2nd Penny Stratford

#### **Best Head Taken By a Junior**

1st Ellie McKelvie

### **Photographic Competition**

#### **Game Animals**

1st Simon Neilson

2nd Paul Fitzek

3rd Shaun Mckelvie

### **Scenic**

1st Mia Hurst

2nd Norton Graham

3rd Wayne Ashmore

### **Topical**

1st Lachlan Browne

2nd Lachlan Browne

3rd Casey Lawson

### **Other Wildlife**

1st Doug Gordon

2nd Wayne Ashmore

3rd Doug Gordon

## **President's Report**

Firstly, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Shaun McKelvie for his seven years of service as President of Southland NZDA. Shaun has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to the branch during his tenure, and we sincerely appreciate everything he has done for the club and its members.

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Ray Phillips and Dave Howden, who are stepping down from the committee after many years of dedicated service. Both Ray and Dave have made significant contributions to the branch over very long terms on the committee, and their commitment, experience, and hard work have been greatly valued. On behalf of all our members, thank you both for everything you have done for Southland NZDA.

I would also like to welcome Simon Neilson and Calvin Jenkins onto the committee, its great to have some new members come onboard and provide some fresh ideas.

Our recent AGM was a great success, with an excellent turnout of members. It was fantastic to see so many people attending, catching up, and enjoying a social

evening together. A big thank you to Club Southland for hosting us and providing a great venue for the night.

The trophy and photographic competitions once again showcased some outstanding entries. There were some fantastic heads on display along with a great selection of hunting photographs. Congratulations to everyone who entered, and we hope to see even more entries next year.

As I step into the role of President, I'm looking forward to working alongside our committee and members to continue building on the great work already being done within the branch.

Happy hunting and stay safe in the hills.

Luke Payne  
President  
Southland NZDA









## **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

**A short time ago, earlier this year I came across an interesting Web site. While following that old adage keep your friends close and your enemies closer. It is**

the Predator Free NZ website [www.predatorfreenz.org](http://www.predatorfreenz.org) . One can subscribe to it which I did. I have found the information I have received interesting/ useful. (more friend than enemy). Though with what hunters would call a green tinge, there is nothing about exterminating deer and other game animals. One useful tip I picked up was to use egg-based Mayonnaise as a bait for cats, among other species. This is a progressive web site worth looking at not your extreme green hate game animals one, worth your looking at.

Egg-based mayonnaise [attracts possums](#), rats, and stoats, as well as feral cats, because it's fatty and protein-rich.

"A good way to both enhance [the mayo's] appeal and to extend its field life is to give it a generous spray of white vinegar. Insects dislike vinegar, so the extra application is a good way to deter them for as long as possible. The extra vinegar also creates a stronger, longer-lasting smell, which increases the chances of predators finding traps."

This is but one section of one of the interesting articles. Another one was on PAPP poison in a meat sausage bait. Trials using a low dose rate per hectare are showing good kill rates for Stoats, 95% on one trial. I understand DOC is now applying to use the poison for Stoats. (Why not cats also Australia uses it for cats then there is rats and possums?) It is stated that various native wildlife are resistant to the poison or not interested in this form of bait, which is good. But no word regarding our game animals' resistance, though I understand they are little interested in the baits to start with. There was no word on the trials of 1080 using the same bait form. No word on rat and possum uptake of these sausage baits, though I would expect an uptake as both species eat meat. Also, both these poison bait combinations would be better than the current large doses of 1080 being used on Stewart Island to protect the Dotterels, which currently kills a large percentage of the deer even with deer repellent, from a hunter's point of view.

In my opinion this poison should be considered to kill all the feral cats on the island, plus reduce the possums and rats. Gett

ing rid of the rats, the second most successful species on the planet. May be beyond anything less than massive amounts of 1080 that would do equivalent damage to the environment to a nuclear bomb. I trust modified rats are alive and well in Chernobyl !

The art of trapping and poisoning predators in New Zealand has come a long way this century but has further to go if we are to selectively cull out the unwanted and leave the desirable. Though in respect of Game animals what is desirable remains controversial as the core green movement is very much against anything introduced. This must not stop hunters becoming more involved in removing predators, we all can do our part starting with where we live, (getting rid of Feral cats & ferrets is good for ducks and duck shooting so a trap around your duck pond). Become involved with and expand the Branches efforts in this direction.

We must encourage DOC to use these new sausage baits more instead of the normal doses of 1080. To which end the NZDA National Office policy of opposing

the aerial application of any poison should be looked at, in light of developments, things change. The government needs to change to regarding who uses poison's expanding who can use the 1080 version of the sausage may be a step too far, but could there be a way that the NZDA Branches, Wapiti Foundation and other volunteer groups would be allowed to use the PAPP version, under certain conditions? (licenced perhaps with the cost of licences subsidised?). After all is PAPP any more dangerous than the rat poisons like brodifacoum, we are currently all allowed to use, which have environmental impacts for years? One problem being the general public are frightened of new poisons like they are afraid of firearms (especially semi auto ones.) It is the danger that they could be used on them or their pets. Poisons are already out there things do get poisoned by either desire or accident. The recent incident of Pukeko poisoning in Christchurch highlights this. Poisons are actually easier to make from what is out there than firearms, if one has the desire to try.

The big change that New Zealanders (especially those of the green movement) need to make is to be more tolerant of our introduced species. We are fed a diet of native is best kill the rest, but a lot of what has been introduced is useful and even necessary for our lifestyle.

It is good that the government is going to do more to attack the wilding pine population, (Though Environment Southland desires more yet.) One has to laugh at a Douglas Fir being cut down on TV One News, When reporting this calling it a pine tree. (Unfortunately, this is typical though of the quality of reporting these days.) There are actually several species of problem trees out there. The worst being Pinus Contorta, and dwarf Mountain Pine as found on Mid Dome, Mt Bee and the Takitimu Mt's etc not fit for timber or even good for pulp, its only credit being is that it sucks up carbon (and water), I prefer a tree that you can get some timber from at least if a tree is to grow. I remember my return to Skippers after being absent for 30 plus years, the trees I did not recognise the place. From recent travel through to Queenstown, I was taking note, Northern Southland is going to have more problem sources than Mid Dome. There is large plantations in the Mataura Headwaters, with tussock run country downwind! (in passing who has the hunting rights to these plantations?) Further if one looks across to the hills on the True right of the Mataura River between Athol and Garston stray pines spreading. Should the Branch become involved in the removal of such trees. It would be good if a station was to offer us hunting in exchange for our tackling the unwanted trees, just a thought, if we could find the right landowner or two. Another conservation string to our bow other than trapping. New Zealand needs to be kept a place that is good to live in and enjoy, for all, whatever one's interests.

## Douglas Scoring

Have you shot a head you would like scored?

The club has several Douglas scorers that would be happy to run a tape measure over them.

For more info contact Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

## Club Contacts

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

[Southland Branch Website](#)

### Office Bearers

President: Luke Payne 027 828 2619

Vice President: Wayne Ashmore 027 810 1814

Secretary: Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676

Treasurer: Scott Hall 027 859 3533

Membership: Paul Fitzek

Newsletter Editor: Luke Payne [ssj4\\_luke@hotmail.com](mailto:ssj4_luke@hotmail.com)

## 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 where you can!



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