

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
August 2024



Winning Topical Photo Branch Competitions Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 21st July at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Silent Auction See add in Newsletter

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/>

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.

List of the Branch winners at Nationals

website <https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/new-newsletters/winners-at-national-level>

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Henry South, Max South, Aidan Febery, Mark Cross, Sam Matthews, Samuel Cronin

Presidents Report



August 2024

Hi all it's been a very busy winter for NZDA National Conference had been Congrats to the New Executive members and Our new National president Calum Sheridan and a big thank you to previous president Craig Benbow and our local Southern rep Ian Owen for all the time they have put in over the years they put in so much time to keep the organization running as well as contributing to their local clubs thanks guys. And all the best to the new Executive.

The War on Wapiti Road Show has been we had a great turn out at the Ascot about 120 or more turned up for the night, great to hear about the Wapiti Foundation and all the work they have put in to protect the herd.

I haven't been out hunting much been very busy on the new farm and now getting into calving the next couple months will be pretty quiet but got those lucky enough to have time it's a great time to fill the freezer and reduce hind numbers if you have a Chance were still a month away from too much growth but those warm faces will likely hold deer.

Hope to see you all at the meeting bring along your items for the silent auction, you know what they say one man's junk is another's treasure.

Cheers Shaun



Editorial

The daffodils are starting to flower, the national Conference is over, with its Trophy and Photo competitions, its winner's, and those who tried to win thus give those who won a higher status of achievement. Congratulations to all who had something to enter and did so.

The grass will soon grow above the frozen valley floors, and hunters will set off on a spring hunt, for some meat and perhaps a photo or two. We say we are going out to get meat for the BBQ! But is this the main reason, how about the silence of the hills once the vehicle is turned off or the helicopter gone. The fresh air which seems to be free of the pollen that gives me hay fever in civilisation. The joy of being out of cell phone coverage (or is this a joy)? No clock to work to just the change of light at dawn and dusk.

Humans have hunted since before they ever planted crops to harvest, lived in villages which became towns then city's. They say it is in our DNA?

Last month there was a meeting around the Fiordland Wapiti, and the way hunters, through an interest in trophy hunting have turned the wapiti block into a shining example of how hunting and conserving the environment, can go hand in hand.

Something some do not want to happen and succeed, as it is not their vision of conservation.

Is their vision of nothing introduced in large tracts of New Zealand, practical? I think not.

Tough we have had a Minister of Conservation to suggest such, with recreational hunting confined to exotic forests. The climate is changing and will change but they will try to revert our land to times past, and likely damage the environment further in their attempts. They organise as we sleep. We need instead need to look forward, to protect our land against future damaging change. To allow future generations to enjoy the best of what we have hunting and all.

The current government is more hunter friendly than most I have seen in living memory, but it can change, and change quickly / violently going by happenings currently happening in the world and here in New Zealand. Remember the squeaky wheel gets the oil. We need to be vocal on the issues that concern us. Things are going to change we need the changes to be the right ones.

Doug Gordon

Sponsors

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



To give away to a good home

CHAIRS

Chairs to give away X Branch Clubrooms
Suitable for Duck Shooting Mai Mai, or other activities.

Contact Ray 03 2163751

Silent Auction

Hunting, Camping, Fishing Gear

NZDA Clubrooms, McKerchar Road, Longbush

Wednesday 17th September 2014 at 8pm

Look out your old hunting magazines, old or unwanted hunting books etc!

Bring along your surplus gear and sell it on the night. Tables will be available from 7.30pm to display your items.

The auctions will start at 8pm and bids will finish at 8.30pm. On completion, the highest offers will be put to the sellers for confirmation. Payment is required on the night.

Donations of items to the Branch for sale will be gratefully received.

Rules

All sales will attract a 10% selling fee paid to the Southland Branch NZDA.

Firearms or ammunition We are no longer going to sell these at this auction (Due to changing firearms laws)

Larger or more expensive items may attract a reserve. At the end of the auction, any of these items that have not reached their reserve may be referred to the buyer and seller for further negotiation.

Note

Firearms or ammunition for sale can still be advertised for sale in this news letter.

Accommodation Tuatapere

At July's meeting reference was made to hunting out Tuatapere way and how far it was etc.

Could you please pass on the following to my fellow branch members.

I run a basic hut style bunkroom in Tuatapere that members are welcome to use for \$25 pp a night. (Usually \$30) Sleeps 4.

I get busy over summer with Airbnb guests etc but winter and shoulder seasons it's often empty.

Ph Greg Wilson 0276830670 to enquire or book.

"PLB's and Dogs

One of our members raised the issue with me of what happens with the dog of a solo hunter who is helicopter rescued after setting of their PLB

He had inquired regarding this when the "Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ)" (I assume) Contact him to update his contact information.

Their advice was to tell your listed contacts (As listed for when your PLB is used) that you are likely to have a dog with you, that will need rescued also.

I made inquiries with local SAR Rep and another SAR Member who is an old hunting, Friend.

I Also inquired of National Office

In summary what I found out is that telling your contacts to tell the Rescue Centre if they are contacted "*that you are likely to have a dog*" is a good advice and makes the ability to remove the dog more likely.

But on the day, it will depend on a lot of variables.

- The helicopter type used
- The equipment available to the rescue crew
- Whether it can land or has to winch
- The nature of your injuries
- How many to be rescued
- The weather
- The dog its size and temperament

To name a few.

In the finish the decision on extracting or not to extract the dog is in the hands of the pilot who is captain of the ship.

Other than letting your contacts know to mention a dog. The only suggestion I have come up with is to have a muzzle, and possibly a harness for the dog with you.

These items could be the difference and make the dogs rescue more likely.

Doug Gordon"

Joke of The Month



Branch Wallaby Hunt



It was a great weekend away in unusually warm weather. It was like hunting in summer!

We had 13 hunters in total with 80 wallabies and 1 pig shot, a solid tally

Caleb Mattsen and Caleb Ashmore had a good go at the long-range shooting and Caleb A. managed to pull off one of the longest shots of the weekend at 500 yards.



Sam Winsloe and Caleb Mattsen



Greg Wilson



Ethan Todd

The following is one of a series of articles on hunting in New Caledonia written by John Berry (who has had to sadly give up hunting due to old age) and provided to me by his friend Geoff Jukes.

The Long Way Home

I really didn't take much notice of the boots the Aussie hunter was wearing, just looked like typical Australian stockman's boots. Not ideal for hunting in New Caledonia, where there are some reasonably steep climbs on slippery grass and rocks, but adequate.

We were having an evening hunt on an isolated hill towards the main homestead and all was going OK, when we saw a suitable stag some distance away. Then it started to turn to custard.

The stag was some distance off and the sun had set so dark was coming fast, this required us to cover the distance as quickly as possible if a shot was to be taken.

To my dismay my hunter did not keep up, in fact he stopped several times and the stag was lost in the gloom. On enquiring "What the Hell is wrong", he showed me his boot soles. There were large holes in both and he was stopping to remove thorns.

Now, while that made the way home a painful experience for him it was not the long way home. It was to be saved for the next day's hunt.

When your client has holes in his boots and thorns in his feet; you have to take pity on him and try to use a nice soft grassy route for the hunt.

Now Stan Peterson was what I would term a "clever" hunter and guide, so he has sorted out an area for his clients, that required no climbing, in fact generally he strolled them along a nice flat 4 wheel drive track and took their trophies from it. (Experience does count!).

He was gentleman enough to allow the use of his area for my holey friend the next day. And so began.

“The Long Way Home”.

It started fairly normally with an afternoon walk along “Stan’s Track”, some stags were heard roaring in the bush beside the track, but none presented a shot, so we continued on over a low saddle and into a wide grass valley.

Finally, late in the evening a suitable stag was seen on the side of the valley and a successful stalk was made. The head was taken and everything was proceeding according to plan, even if it was now fully dark, (it comes quickly up there). Of course we had no torches.

No problem, there was enough light from the stars to see our way across the open grass in safety. I had noted a deep washed out, dry creek bed, which we crossed during the stalk, and knew that once we crossed that, the track was only a 100 or so metres further on.

Turn left at the track and trot home, no worries – until it started to seem like a long way, but being confident of (my) direction finding, we carried on until we came on a fence round an old garden!

Damn! I remembered Stan saying that he had seen, what he took for an old abandoned market garden, in the distance from the furthest point he had travelled.

Yep we were going 180 degrees the wrong way, left had somehow become right and it was not alright at all. My holey hunter was by this time foot sore even though we were travelling on flat grass.

It was going to be **“A Long Way Home”**.

And to rub salt into the wound, my camp mother (and mother in law), Sylvia, scolded me for being late for dinner! I got cold turkey pie and NO Guava crumble desert. Served me right for being a silly B.



A scene that is often seen – stags fighting while the females look on.

ACT with the Coalition Government makes few changes

This month we are going to talk politics. Boring, I know, but there we are.

1. The Ministry of Justice, which takes over the administration of firearms from 01 July this year, has invited submissions from selected (meaning informed) stakeholders' about reviewing section 6 of the Arms Act, which among other things insists on the approval of the Commissioner of Police for your clubs and your shooting ranges.

We all thought it was rubbish at the time, but I gather it was there were beliefs among our MPs that clubs were 'breeding grounds' for extremism, and that the ranges for smallbore, full bore, NZDA, long ranges and clay targets, not previously needing approval from the Commissioner of Police, suddenly did.

Public submissions will be invited for this review soon, but the nay-sayers have already cried foul about having only 6 days to make submissions, they were left out, and so on. (Funny, they never protested when we licensed firearm owners got 2 days to prepare our submissions opposing the semi-auto rifle ban. Prime Minister Ardern seemed quite proud of that situation).

And there will be a review of the registry, eventually to be for public consideration but at the moment, the views of informed stakeholders are also being sought; don't hold your breath here though, in my view, there has been tens of millions invested in the registry and I don't like saying this, but the monstrosity will probably stay even though it's useless, again in my view.

2. This won't affect club members immediately, but in future, the reporting requirements for shooting clubs from 28 June, are relaxed. Pistol clubs are not affected by this relaxation (they have had to comply since they were formed in the 1960s), but other shooting clubs, like NZDA branches, if their annual membership year ends 30 June 2024 onwards, are now exempt from reporting to the Police. (They still need to undertake their duties under the Incorporated Societies Act though, as usual.

Comment

This means that your volunteer club officers are relieved from some duties –making it easier to attract branch committee members and officers!

At last, some Good news! Took a while, didn't it?

That's all for this month,

Chaz F

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

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
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

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.

The advertisement for Animal Skin Tanning Services features a background image of animal fur. The text is as follows:

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Now offering 10% Discount on all contract
tanning services to members of NZDA



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