

# **THE SOUTHERN HUNTER**

## **Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter**

### **July 2024**



Winning Scenic Photo Branch Competitions Luke Payne

### **Monthly Meeting**

7.30pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

### **Guest Speaker**

Steve from Southwood's to explain the new permitting system. If you hunt or intend to hunt Southwood's this is of interest to you.

### **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**

**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/>

**List of the Branch winners at Nationals**  
**website** <https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/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

### 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.

## **Club Hunts**

### **Wallaby Hunt**

July 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> If Interested 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.**

**Daniel Jackson, Hayden Hall, Jason Nicolson, Charly Vega, Daniel Zong Zheng Ang**

## **Presidents Report**



Hi all another busy wintery month is nearly over with some exciting times ahead the War on Wapiti Road show is coming to Invercargill on the 27<sup>th</sup> to the Ascot hotel. It's shaping up to be a great night and some awesome entertainment. It would be a shame to miss out. It would be a great pre calving or lambing night out for your fam team or business so go got the boss up tomorrow 😊 an make a night of it. Special thanks to Invercargill Hunting and Fishing they have got right on behind this event and will have some great auction items to help raise funds for the FWF.

This month we have Southwoods export coming along to talk about their new permitting system that's also a must see if you hunt Southwoods forests, it will save alot of individual explanations of you can make it along and get it first hand from Southwoods.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to get it hunting, winter can be challenging on the deer front but it's a great time to chase Tahr, chamois and Ducks. We've been out getting a few possums and looking for a deer with no success on the deer, although a full freezer is nice sometimes just getting out for a walk with mates or kids is just as rewarding.

Hope to see you at the meeting and at the road show

Cheers Shaun



## Editorial

Cats, I am going to talk about cats, (not the musical either but cats in New Zealand). There are millions of them, and a lot of people keep them as much-loved pets.

But one estimate has that there is up to 2.5 million of them living in the wild. (about twice the domestic population) That is a lot of cats. They will eat a lot of food. It is reported in places like Malbrough they breed all year round three litters per female. Yes, they do account for a lot of rats, mice and rabbits. But they are also hard on our native wildlife, and the likes ducklings (for those of us who duck shoot). Fish and Game mentioned this when visiting the branch.

They are an apex predator in NZ only dogs and us humans are a real danger to them. Recently the environmental select committee recommended action on cats. There has been a petition demanding action, the SPCA agrees. The average domestic cat should be desexed.

Some interesting things I have discovered

- The SPCA does not I am told take healthy stray cats in to be euthanized!
- It is a cat owners' responsibility to make sure they are not a nuisance.
- A landowner is liable for the welfare of cats on their property. Cats have a right to transgress your property!
- Submitters in a petition to parliament pointed out that owners had little interest in keeping their cats at home.
- Cats carry toxoplasmosis can kill immunocompromise and causes abortion in sheep costs the industry millions.
- Forrest and Bird estimate over a million birds killed each year. (I think there is more if there are 2.5 million wild cats).
- Predator Free NZ would like a national cat act.
- There is reports of Wild and stray cats being caught desexed then released back into the natural environment. (These animals having no owners.)

Cats can be and are a good pet that provide a lot with a lot of enjoyment. But those who own them need to have more control over them in a lot of cases. They are the only pet /domestic animal that the owners are not required to exercise control over.

There are dangers out there for pet cats who stray. Cars on roads, dogs, (a lot will kill cats.) Then there is the danger of secondary poisoning. From eating poisoned rat and mice carcasses. How many cats die or come home sick sometimes to die from this.

As a group politician's have shied away from doing anything about the problem, to emotive and divisive.

Cats in New Zealand can be divided into three groups, domestic, wild, and the strays that live in association with humans.

For me the only ones that have a definite place are the domestic home loving household cat that stays home. The wild that is easily no place for them.

The hard group is the strays, the in-betweens. I have noticed when their numbers are up, I have no mice problems on my Quarter acre. But they also eat birdlife some of which can be of native species. Then there is what they do to the vegetable garden and the steps I must take to prevent this. (It would be good if they only ate the introduced sparrows and the like?). I noticed that farmers lost interest in having cats around their yards and haybarns (for rats and mice) once the toxoplasmosis issue was raised.



Where does this leave us as hunters. For starters we need individually and as an organisation to eliminate any and every wild cat living the other side of the black stump that we can, (note as an organisation we are say we are conservationists and need to practice such). But where is the black stump? Should we be asking the owners of any privately owned land that we have access to what they would like us to do with any cat found, before we hunt and come across the same. (Perhaps a question for Southwood's at the next meeting? Also, Rayoners?) On doc land as a rule, it is clear they need killed. Whatever we hunters are guests of the landowner wherever we hunt (unless we own the land) and should only hunt and kill what we have permission too.

The Branch has moved to targeting cats in its Stewart Island Rat Trapping Programme along with the rats. We found plenty of sign, and they removed freshly killed rats from the trap line often with the attached trap. (It is no fun looking for the missing trap when this occurs). One that has been killed was big enough to take on any adult Kiwi. (Picture below)



*Photo J Delury*

We have used a mixture of Cage and kill traps. Bait has been a problem as it quickly goes off and then no cats. This coming trapping season a commercially prepared bait is to be trialled. So hopefully more successful.

In summary the problem remains what is wild or a stray when hunting near civilisation, what should be killed and what left, currently it depends on what the landowner wants. I for one are for asking for advice on whether to shoot or not before hunting if there could be doubt. Our birdlife may thank you for it.

Cats have a place, it is home with their owners, not in the wild. Well, that is how I see it. I like to see the wildlife they kill still in the wild for us all to enjoy.

Doug Gordon

**PS** from Rakiura Update #16 June 2024

**Feral Cat Bait Trial** on Rollars, Christmas and Lucky blocks Stewart Island has now been completed with a 78% reduction in feral cat population density in the treatment area, and there were no impacts to non-target species including kiwi and deer.

Click or Ctrl+Click on hyperlink below for report on trial.

<https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/images/pdf/cat24.pdf>

Link to full Rakiura update below  
[Rakiura update #16.pdf](#)

*If One can't open the above hyperlinks try the newsletter page on the website.*

## PPS

Just read on Stuff & Co a North Canterbury Hunting competition this year, had its Feral Cat section for over 14year olds, (after threats about catching cats for under 14year olds at an earlier competition) Traps to be set 10km plus from houses. It yielded 370 Feral Cats. Animal rights protesters were present at the weigh in / count up. About 1200 people entered the various sections.

### Advanced Notice

We intend to hold a silent auction at the August Meeting.  
So, think about any surplus gear you may want to sell.

### Sponsors

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



## Wapiti Road Show



Hi all the Wapiti road show is coming to Town the 27th July at the Ascot hotel. It is a fund raiser for the foundation the Bar will be open. They will be showing a doco about the FWF. They have guest speakers and there will be auctions. Sponsored by Hunting and Fishing Invercargill.



The link below will take you to Ticket sales

<https://events.humanitix.com/war-on-wapiti-the-roadshow-or-invercargill>

### Review of Road Show

This is a review of the event by someone who has been at one of the nights it was on (in Hutt Valley.)

I went to the roadshow recently when it was held at the Hutt Valley Deerstalkers club night. Roy Sloan from the Wapiti Foundation gave a passionate talk about the threat from the

proposed legal action by F&B to cancel the agreement between the FWF and DOC for the FWF to look after the area. If they succeed, there will be no managed WARO to keep the animal number in sync with the environment as its currently not commercially viable. If WARO takes off again, then it will be another boom-and-bust cycle. With no wapiti herd of significance, it is likely that the stoat trapping lines run by the FWF will run out of volunteers. The film put together by Willie Duley was excellent and if watching that doesn't make you want to head for the Fjords then nothing will.

### **Hunting Lillburn Valley**

The following is an offer from Johnny Broughton (one of our members) who lives in the Lillburn Valley at 1150 lillburn valley Road.

If anyone has vehicle or boat problems or stuck in local tracks etc I'm handy to help if needed. I can also give advice to young hunters on places to hunt my pH is 0278558855

I suggest it could be an idea to add Johnny's Cell phone number to your phone if you are hunting in this area, just in case, it is better a backup plan than sorry if one is available. (Note any response depends on Johnny being available at any given time)

## **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



## Joke of The Month



### **Things you can do to help your fellow licensed firearm owners**

This month I am going to mention a few things you as a licensed firearm owners can do to help out your fellows in the club, your shooting mates and your hunting coppers.

Firstly, look out for them, and listen to them and what they're saying. Apart from abusing each other, listening to what your friends tell you is a major part of what friends are for, as well as for listening to great tales of the one that got away, or didn't. Naturally, duck shooting will feature in many of the yarns, so enjoy them!

#### **What to do during a visit from the Police**

If the Police come and knock on your door or stop your vehicle -

1. Be polite but firm.
2. Ask to see identification.
3. Record the name of the officer and their station.
4. Ask why they are there.
5. Ask them to refer to the exact statutory authority they are using to visit your home or to ask you any questions.
6. Record all conversations and interactions, either via your phone or CCTV cameras (for your own notes and records).

7. If they ask you any questions ask “under what statutory authority are you asking me these questions and/or requiring me to answer?” **TIP:** there are none.
8. You do not have to answer any questions from the police at any time or for any reason (unless you are detained or are the driver of a car, then your drivers licence must be given and name, address and date of birth only).
9. Do not answer any questions about firearms or firearm parts you no longer have in your possession or control, ie. firearms, ammunition or parts you have previously owned and sold or disposed of – refer to (8) above. If you wish, you can state “I have always sold and disposed of any arms items lawfully to current, valid firearms licence holders, I do not wish to comment further”. You do not have to answer questions such as who, when, why or how concerning the sale or disposal, and just repeat the statement above.
10. Do not consent to a police search of your home or your vehicle at any time.
11. For more details, visit <https://www.seriousshooters.co.nz/function/file/280E307F-19E5-4779-B0FA-15B0F4C1B020> for more detailed guidance. (This is all from Nicholas Taylor, a barrister experienced in firearm law.

That's all for this month,

Chaz F

*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.*

## **Two Tough Stags**

As I have already said, Rusa Stags often coat themselves in dried mud that can be several centimetres thick. This acts very much like, what is now known, as reactive armour used on tanks!

On impact by the projectile, the mud layer will explode in a cloud of dust and absorb much of the energy of the shot, so no, or very little, penetration occurs. The stag will be knocked down and off its feet, everything initially seems very satisfactory until it springs up and disappears in great haste.

This was not the case with the first “tough stag”.

I was hunting with Dr. Bob Sheldon. Bob had taken Tahr and Chamois with guide Don Greig, free range and on foot, the previous year, tent camping in the head of a major West Coast (NZ) river. He was a competitive kayaker and had won one of the so called Reality Survival TV shows – he was fit and tough and used a .270.

On this particular afternoon Bob and I were hunting in heavy rain, so no armour plating on the stags today, when we spied a nice stag coming towards us roaring for all he was worth – he was well worked up!

The stag was walking in and out of the heads of small gullies and coming along at a good pace so we quickly laid down and waited for him.

He appeared above us but below the ridge top, about 50 metres away – a great shot, side on, fully exposing all his vitals. Bob duly shot and the stag went down, falling out of sight, into a scrubby gut.

Excellent! Just walk over and collect the head skin as fast as possible, then get out of the rain.

Except the deer was nowhere to be seen.

Well wounded animals go downhill don't they? But this guy had not read the script, no sign or body was located in that direction. However a few spots of blood were located UP HILL.

Using my best black tracker impersonation, we followed the scattered spots till we came on a large pool of blood with bits of organs or meat. Now Bob was a cardio surgeon so he knew what heart and lung tissue looked like and he assured me this was what we were looking at. The stag had obviously stood and rested while I was wasting time below. This stag has to be close even though it is still heading uphill.

On the crest another large blood pool was visible, he had stopped again, so he must be just there - except he wasn't. Unfortunately just over the crest the ground had been completely torn up to mud by a large number of deer and between that and the heavy rain it was impossible to track him further.

I was confident that if I returned in a couple of weeks I would find him by smell so we left for the camp. Yes I did go back – several times, but never found the remains.

The second tough stag also involved Bob.

A group of us were travelling out from camp to the main access road, probably heading towards some nice clearings that lay between the road and the sea coast, when a nice stag was seen in cover off to the side.

A quick stalk through scattered scrub gained a suitable shot position and Bob took it. The stag disappeared from view but we were confident that it was "right there", except it wasn't.

The group searched through the scrub and thorny Lantana until it was seen some distance off, standing in cover, but within range. Again Bob shot and the stag disappeared from view. Again it was not there, further searching till dark did not result in it being found so it was resolved to return in the morning.

The animal was found eventually, 2 or 3 hundred metres from the second sighting, only because an old hunter / taxidermist from New Zealand (PJ), was curious enough to wonder why a couple of crows were sitting on a tree. Yes the stag was at the base.

He had been hit with a well-placed shot in the shoulder (first shot) and then the second had traversed his chest from the back and exited under the neck. He ran or walked probably half a kilometre after the first shot and over 300 metres after the second. Just plain tough, (or is a .270 not big enough?).

## **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](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)

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