

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

November 2024



Hope Arm Manapouri

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 20th November at the Branch Club Rooms
Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between
Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Sorry hoped for guest Speaker not available this month.
Any alternative found will be advised

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.

Paul Lotter, Mofazzalur Rahaman, Zane Leslie, Lucas Robson, Ding Liang

Wapiti Lodge New Year

The Wapiti Lodge is still available Mid to late January as no one took up these periods in the ballot.

Contact Neville & Carol Miller

Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528

e-mail nandc43@gmail.com

or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Presidents Report



November 24



Well spring is finally over I think it's definitely been one to forget, the grass is starting to grow which means the deer will be out and about a lot more getting onto the fresh growth, hinds will be feeding up to fatten and feed their young and stags to grow velvet. It's a great time to get out and do the freezer up. I managed one evening away from the farm and Mya managed to bag a nice big hind the first deer we've got with her pup so that was a great experience. The Wyndham Amp show is coming up and we'll be organizing the Kids hunting and Fishing comp again keep an eye out for more details. The club is also running a Hunts course next Feb if you're interested in get in touch.

Will catch you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun

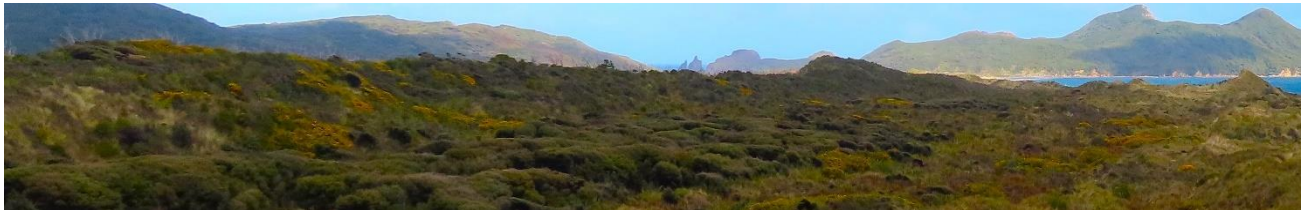
Editorial



Last Month I took the opportunity to hunt Cavalier Block on Stewart Island. A place I had always wanted to have a good look at. It was good to be there while the hunting is still worthwhile. Don't expect it to be so once 6kg of 1080 per hectare is laded there. Deer not being the target species is not valid. They will be collateral damage like civilians in the war zones around the world. Good deer repellent may reduce the damage. But a dosage of 1080 designed to kill each and every rat, cat and possum will have an effect.

Moving on the weather was mainly shit, but great to be there and get away from the troubled world.

Though I had heard about it before the amount of gorse there surprised me. Why has Doc not sprayed it while the area is limited? It is only going to get worse. I consider it a far worse weed than the marron grass they have been spraying at Masons Bay for some years.



Gorse

Some Southland Branch Members did some work on Gorse removal with six trips to the Bay a few years ago but gave up as Doc was not interested. See conservation work on Southland Branch web site for more details.

Gorse and other weeds/ pests will continue to arrive at the likes of Stewart Island by sea (or with human help). Such pests need removed before established. (One only has to see what floats up on the high tide line like a plastic CAC Shot gun case. How long since it was manufactured?)



(how long in the sea how long since CAC existed?)

For my money Doc should be spending their money on preventing new pests becoming established and spreading, before attempting to eliminate the well-established, widespread and hard to remove, by spending the millions of dollars Doc claims it does not have. Perhaps there is no glory in removing gorse, but rats, cats, and a by kill of the deer now that is something?

On an unfortunate but positive note we found a dead Turtle on the high tide line. Took a photo and reported it to Doc who appreciated our reporting the sad event. Turns out it's a juvenile green Turtle.



Turtle

Wire Rope

Further on stuff washed up we found a large cut log. It had the remains of a wire rope sticking out of it, well weathered by the water, of how long at sea? Where from?

On other matters there are moves to harvest 50,000 more deer a year in Scotland and sell the meat. Something that may affect current moves to expand the Feral Venison Industry here in New Zealand again, as the effects of Covid to the European Restaurant trade wear off. This remains main market for NZ venison both Farmed and Feral. We need a controlled and responsible feral venison industry to keep the deer numbers here in balance with the environment. We don't need an over exploitive industry that reduces numbers to a level that makes its operations and recreational hunting not viable.

Any chance of some good news come New Year we must be due?

Merry Xmas

Doug Gordon

Sponsors

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



Hunts Course update

New Course Dates



Course now to be held in February 2025. The course is now going to be run over 3 Wednesday Nights 5th 12th and 26th 6pm to 9pm

(missing the 19th which is club night)

finishing with a hunting trip on Saturday and Sunday 1st & 2nd March

If Interested Ring Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490 or Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676

For more information on the course and content please click on the link below

<https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/what-we-do/training-courses/>

For Sale

Two packets of projectiles 100 Speer & 65 Barnes projectiles

Both .22 cal left over from Silent Auction

Best offers considered (but not necessarily accepted) for the two packets individually or together. Proceeds go to Branch funds.

Reply to douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz



Spare bullets for sale

6.5 Creedmoor x40 mixture \$100

)



Inquiries

Phone Thomas on 0274283770.

(Expect him to want to see your Firearms Licence as one is required)

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.

My Last Hurrah

The client was from Maine and had hunted in New Zealand the week before, we both flew to New Caledonia for his Rusa hunt on the Air New Zealand Saturday flight. He, his wife and myself were met at Tontouta airport by John Francois and taken back to La Foa to settle in.

Sunday produced nothing of note and as it was quite late in the season there was little or no roaring. The best plan seemed to be to place ourselves between the night feeding areas and bush cover that provided shelter during daylight hours.

There is such a place within a few minutes of La Foa, so Monday saw us heading towards a suitable spot before daylight. It is not hard to get up early in La Foa – you are not faced with freezing cold like New Zealand and you get a breakfast of coffee and croissants before you leave.

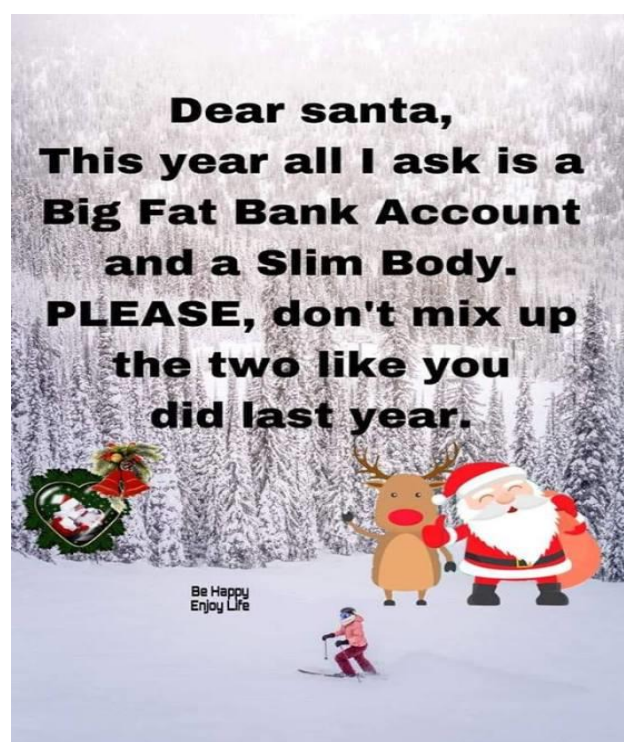
The plan was to ascend a grass spur, which separated the bush cover from a large area of rolling grass land, the night feeding area. I had used this strategy several times in previous hunts and it worked well.

On this occasion, we were about half way to our glassing point, when we came upon a stag laying asleep 50 metres in front us. I was not convinced that he was “A Shooter” but before I could make a call my man had dispatched him. A very good shot – the stag never woke up.

It turned out later when the head was scored in the US that due to a 7th non typical point it was the new # 2 free ranging Rusa! Not too bad for my last hunt.



Joke of The Month



Since last month (October) a lot has happened:

Sika Show – last weekend at Mystery Creek, Hamilton (new venue) New Zealand's largest outdoor show got under way.



Scene from the 2024 Sika Show at Mystery Creek, HNZDA and COLFO were there among 259 of other exhibitors, if you can ever get away to the North Island for a look, it is well worthwhile. Politicians were there in strength of course, both with their party booths and mixing and mingling with exhibitors.

Coronial inquest, second phase just completed, examined the police firearms licensing process, Tarrant's online radicalization, and future responses to violent extremism. Its relevance to us is its findings are very likely to determine our future firearm laws. We were ably represented by former COLFO chairman Michael Dowling.

“The Council of Licensed Firearm Owners says the responsibility of closing the MSSA magazine loophole used by the Christchurch terrorist sat with Police and Government, and no one else.

Any assertion by the media that the firearms community are to blame ignores the obvious: the Police drove discussion on the issue and failed to change the rules.

COLFO Spokesperson Hugh Devereux-Mack says Police are shirking responsibility for their failure to close the MSSA loophole, and the media are aiding them.

“It pains us to have to make this clear to the ‘fourth estate’ of journalism, but COLFO and the firearms community has never had a policy or decision-making role, so had no responsibility to seek an end to the loophole.

“Neither are we responsible for the failure by Police and Government to close the MSSA loophole, because we hold no power.

Arms (Shooting Clubs, Shooting Ranges, and Other Matters) Amendment Bill (2024)

This Bill seeks to undo some of the changes made by the 'second amendment', the Arms Legislation Act 2020 which among other matters, required police approval of all small arms ranges. Unfortunately the Bill still requires, not police approval, but simply requires us to "enroll" our non-pistol ranges. Unsure of what that means!

With an injury casualty rate of less than one a year, it is difficult to figure how the Commissioner can see his way to reduce injuries when they only rarely occur.

Please take care when you are driving, the police are working to suggest that driving offending indicate you may no longer be a fit and proper person to have firearms. This may mean you lose your firearm licence.

Take care, and **LOOK TWICE!**

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

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.**

**Important: Range Re-certified – Make sure you check the new Range Standing Orders.
All shooters must validate zero at 100M before shooting further back.**

All shooting subject to the presence of a Range Officer. RO's may arrange shooting any day of the week outside the schedule below. RO's please note new range book format.

All shoots are open to casual or prospective club members – please come along and shoot - \$20 unless otherwise stated!. Shoots start at 1.00 PM unless otherwise noted.

Saturdays	Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm	NRA/F Class Shooting followed by hunter style shooting, Range and targets at RO's discretion
Sundays	Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm	As per below, otherwise PRS/Hunter Shooting, range and targets at RO's discretion
Wednesdays	Validation and Sight-in 5.00pm, starts at 100M, longer distances at RO discretion	
Series – We are offering two series, a “500 yard Blackjack” Challenge and a “MOA Challenge” at 600 yards Shoot at one MOA day and one Blackjack day to qualify for the finals.		
20 Oct 2024	Backjack Challenge 500Y – 13-20 rounds	
28 Oct 2024	Custom Guns Labour Day “Backfire TV MOA” Challenge – Does your rifle shoot MOA to POI – come along and prove it! 5 rounds, 100M. gongs afterwards	
10 Nov 2024	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
24 Nov 2024	“MOA Challenge” 600Y – 11-20 rounds	
8 Dec 2024	22 RF Shoot – bring a 22 and box of ammo	
15 Dec 2024	End of Year BBQ Shoot - Centrefire and Rimfire. 11.00 AM start	
5 Jan 2025	Backjack Challenge 500Y – 13-20 rounds	
19 Jan 2025	MOA Plate Challenge – 100M,300Y, 400Y CF - 20 rounds	
6 Feb 2025	Waitangi Day PRS Shoot – Course to be advised.	
9 Feb 2025	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
23 Feb 2025	22 RF Shoot – bring a 22 and box of ammo	
9 Mar 2025	MOA and Blackjack Series Final – Format to be advised. 11.00 AM start.	
16 Mar 2025	Roar sight in open day. Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm. Casual shooters \$20	
23 Mar 2025	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
Check the Facebook page for changes/updates !!		
Long Range Coaching Clinics – Dates to be advised, contact Custom Guns		

**Casual user questions – Message through the FB page or you can call Ben
0272247119 or Foster 021516342**

**NZDA Members – You have affiliated membership to use the range (no fees)
but must have an RO present, 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.

13th November Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

27th November Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

4th December Tom Mead 027 847 1882

11th December Doug Gordon 0276372206

18th December Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

29th January Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

5th February Tom Mead 027 847 1882

12th February Doug Gordon 0276372206

Swap gathering 19 JAN 2025
0900 to SOON AFTER MIDDAY) at
61 Victoria Road, DUNEDIN
(UPSTAIRS)
FOR Licensed firearm owners ONLY

Solely for the purposes of
BONDING, BUYING, SELLING, SWAPPING
TRADING, Firearms and ANY 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 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

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 skin. The text is as follows:

**ANIMAL SKIN
TANNING SERVICES**

-Tannery & Showroom-
Dan Dawson - 027 281 3026
**118 Crinan Street
Invercargill**
100% NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS

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

**Give your friendly local electrician a call
today!**

Qualified Electrician

Qualified Refrigeration Engineer

Heatpump Specialist - supply, install (all brands)
and maintenance

Thermal Imaging



Nathan Dawson
027 235 8063

dawsonelectrical55@gmail.com

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HYPERCORE
High Performance Heat Pumps



