

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

April 2025



Big Sand Hill Mason Bay

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 16th April at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush
Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington &
Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Duck calling contest, bring your duck call.

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

Wallaby Hunt

18th to 20th April (Easter) 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.

Dave Barraclough, Tavana Henry, Harrison Chapman, Sharon Richelle Janssen, William Hollands, Meah Somerville, Damian Stirling, Vickie Johnstone, Matthew Ellis, Steven Garron,

Presidents Report



April 2025

Hi all as I'm writing this the stags are going flat out Roaring, Hopefully you've had a chance too get out and chase them around the bush or the mountains, I recently went into one of the Catlins blocks post 1080 drop surprisingly there was plenty of deer about and the bird life was going strong the only deaths we encountered were 1 possum and 1 rat. Southwoods seem to be going well I've been into a couple of blocks; I've been speaking to Southwoods and they have had cases of poachers which have been followed

up with the police if you do have anyone in your blocks please report it directly to Southwoods so they can deal with it ASAP.

National Conference at Invercargill July it would be great to have a good showing from Southland members, for those that just want to come for a look to we are organizing a trade display for the Saturday at the Ascot with lots of local suppliers that'll be great to have a look through and I'm sure they'll have some great deals going.

Don't forget your duck caller for the duck calling comp this month it will be a great chance to dust the caller off before opening weekend.

Catch you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun

Editorial



April by the time you read this the ROAR will (well should be) underway, all quiet when I was out last week. So, stay safe out there, be careful with the firearms, boats, helicopters, well anything to do with hunting. Also renew that membership, if you burn the hut down with no insurance well, (you are warned).

Speaking of membership, besides the insurance, there are various benefits including having a national body to represent our interests. From what I am told when Australia enacted gun reform being a member of a firearms club was a condition needed to get your licence. This resulted in much increased membership of such clubs, including hunting ones. End result a more powerful pro firearm & hunting Lobby. The Anti firearms groups here dare not suggest such membership this equals a very good reason to renew your membership and keep the numbers up.

Some may want to see more for their membership at Branch Level. Well, that depends on the Members starting with themselves (yourself). Come along to meetings, raise suggestions, put ones hand up to help implement them, join the executive. The AGM is next month talk to the President (phone number is in the newsletter as always) or other executive members about coming on to the executive. The current executive like most such bodies needs new input.

Come July 18th to 20th the National conference and AGM is being held here in Invercargill, the Branch hosting. Put the dates aside come along and have a look. The details will be advertised in due course.

In the meantime, clean that head you have shot, enter it details below, you may win the spot prize. The same regarding any photo you have taken. To get more from your Branch Membership you must become more involved. The Branch is only what the members make it.

Happy hunting, avoid sandfly's.

Doug G.

AGM & Trophy Night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 21st of May at 7.30pm

Entries in trophy competition **Saturday** the 17th May 1pm at the Clubrooms. When the 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. Shaun is happy for them to be dropped off with him Phone 027 635 0490 or with Ray Phillips Phone 03 2163751) Please bring Membership card (to speed up processing entries)

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

[No Maggots]

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 2024 TO MAY 2025]

You must be a financial member when you took the Trophy and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2024 to 2025 as well as this year 2025

to 2026. (unless Trophy taken since 1st March then only 2025/26 year)

. Photo Competition

Entries to

Doug Gordon 254 Centre St

Invercargill 9812

By Wednesday 14th of May at 5pm

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 must be 6x4 or 7X5 size and taken between May 2024 and May 2025. Entry's must be actual photos (hard copy) not electronic versions e-mailed.

A spot prize on the night for all members entering photos

You must be a financial member when you took photo and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2024 to 2025 as well as this year 2025 to 2026. (unless photo taken since 1st March then only 2025/26 year)

Sponsors

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



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



Booklets for Sale

Allen Harnett (Branch Member) has copies of three booklets he has produced
@ \$50.00 each

Two on Carvings & Design and one on Hunting

All three are in A4 format (magazine size)

Phone Allen at 027 450 5108



Report On Rat Trapping Masons Bay 2024

Open the Hyperlink below for a copy of last years Rat Trapping report.

<https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/images/pdf/rats24.pdf>

Joke of The Month



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	Blackjack 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	Blackjack 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**

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.

**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

The advertisement is set against a background of animal fur. The text is in white and bold, with the company name at the top, contact information in the middle, and a promotional offer at the bottom.

**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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