

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
February 2025



Lake Manapouri

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 19th February at the Branch Club Rooms
Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between
Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Alan Key to speak about the Mainland Fishing App that has been
launched for recreational fishers.

If members want a bit of background then they can check out the
Mainland Fishing app website

<https://www.fishmainland.nz/mainland-catch-app>

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.

**Reuben Smith, John Hawkins, Conor McAuliffe, Reuben Ford, Kori Horrell,
Steven Gibbs**

Wapiti Lodge Easter Ballot

Due to the interest from Members, it has been decided to hold a ballot for the Wapiti Lodge for the Easter period.

Dates are 18th to 22nd of April inclusive (For the whole period not part thereof.)

Applications in writing or by e-mail to

Neville & Carol Miller

e-mail nandc43@gmail.com or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Before the 18th of March

Presidents Report



Feb 2025

Seasons Greeting to all, I hope the holiday break was good to all.

This year is going to be a big one for the Southland Branch were hosting the National Conference in July at the Ascot Hotel if your keen to help out or would like we'd love to hear from you. This year's starting off with a bang we are running the Hunts course over Feb, it is a great way to learn and refine your hunting skills. Our aim is to get the branches 5 provisional instructors signed off so we can run hunts courses without assistance from national instructors. I would like to thank all the guys that have put their hand up it is a big-time commitment helping run the hunts course, So thanks Andy, Tom, Luke, Wayne and Tony.

Rayonier's is ticking along nicely if you'd like to become part of the ballot get in touch.

At this stage Southwoods hunting is still in limbo they are hopeful to have the tech sorted to have it running very soon, as soon as we know we'll be sure to let you know, I'm hopeful with less pressure on the Southwood blocks they should provide some good hunting when they are opened back up.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Shaun

Editorial



Time seems to fly it's a New Year and under two months too the Roar. They say change is constant. Well, it used to be it seems to accelerate these days. A lot of change, proposed change, and dissatisfaction out there at both National and International levels. There will be changes, it could affect hunting access and firearm usage. Also, firearm and ammunition availability out of USA. (Another reason the popular Tika Rifle may be a good bet)

This week a story appeared in the Southland Times that the first Predator Free Poison drop on Stewart Island is now to be on the mountain spine of the Island to protect the Dotterel of which there is reported only 101 left, from Cats. As they are in grave danger of extinction. There was two meetings with members of the public on Stewart Island at the end of last month, the locals concerns remain. (As should the concerns of all who hunt or fish there remain). Watch the news there will likely be more developments. For those who hunt the Island or hope to hunt the Island. Express your concerns to National Office, your MP, the Minister of Hunting & Fishing. Make a noise.

Some still think 1080 is the conservation wonder drug. Anybody remember or heard of DDT?

Doug Gordon

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



Spare bullets for sale

6.5 Creedmoor x40 mixture \$100

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Inquiries

Phone Thomas on 0274283770.

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

2024 Wyndham A&P Show Kids Hunt



Thanks to all the Sponsors, Volunteers & everyone that took part in the kids hunting and fishing competition this year the weather definitely made it challenging to get out and about hunting and fishing, strong winds and rain made for difficult conditions. We had a great turn out and the weather turned it on down in Wyndham for the day. Thanks to the volunteers from Southland NZDA and Gore & Districts NZDA who helped out on the day Tony, John, Wayne, Shaun, Mya, Mark, Koren, Rachel & everyone else that helped us get organized before the day. Big Thanks to the Sponsors without them we couldn't put together such awesome prizes for the kids. Invercargill Hunting and Fishing, Herberts transport, Vetco Edendale, Fonterra, Backcountry cuisine, Southern Adventure & Shooters world Gore.

Results for the day were

Senior Hare Ben Geary 4.92kg
Senior Rabbit Luke Smith 2.38kg
Senior possum Benji Herbert 3.68kg
Senior Fish Ellie Mckelvie
Senior Possum throw Fletcher Morton
Junior Hare Marty Clarke 4.74kg
Junior Rabbit Jake Tay 1.46kg
Junior possum Beau Bolstad 4.23kg

Junior Fish Beau Bolstad 1.24kg
 Junior possum throw Theo Cupido
 Senior spot prizes went to Jessica Scobe
 Junior spot prizes went to Ted Rabidge
 And the only one to get all 4 species Jake Tay
 Well done to all the kids and Mums & Dads that got out and braved the weather chasing
 the target species great effort by all , Hope to see you all again next year.
 Thanks again Shaun Mckelvie



Jake Tay
 junior rabbit and all 4 species

Children getting spot prizes



Ellie Mckelvie
 1st senior fish

Fletcher Morton
 1st senior Possum
 throw

Beau Bolstad
 first Junior Fish
 & first Junior possum

Benji Herbert
 Senior possum

Joke of The Month



Bob loved the outdoors. Wound up with quite a collection.

Obituaries / Bereavement Notices

David (Dave) Robson Asher.

It is with much sadness I report the death of former Southland Branch member Dave Asher, on 31 January 2025. A quite unassuming guy who has done much to record on film our hunting history has passed after illness. Dave founded South Coast Productions from his home in Riverton. <https://videosouth.com/> Together with Dave McCarlie he produced a huge array of DVDs ranging from "Wapiti" "The Wapiti War" "Jack McKenzie Wapiti Hunter" to aerial recovery and live capture, "The Venison Hunters" "The Last Great Adventure" "The Whitetail Deer of Stewart Island" to name a few as well as numerous diverse subjects such as Fiordland Fishermen, Titi Islands, Whitebaiters and numerous other back country tales as well as some military history. Dave told a lot of stories no one else wanted to tell, especially around Southland.

Dave and two of his army buddies undertook several trips to Mason Bay as part of Southland Branch rat/possum control program on some occasions with his granddaughter. I joined him on several trips to the Island while he was filming the Whitetail DVD. On one occasion at Mason Bay, we were setting up a remote camera which was powered by a car battery. I carried that battery for an hour to the hut and then up into the bush where Dave realised that the cable to connect it to the camera was still on his kitchen table. Dave thought that was funny. To make matters worse, when it came time to get picked up in the fixed wing, the wind was so bad the pilot would not land at Duck Creek and we had to walk four miles down the beach carrying our gear and the damn battery. Although not as well-known as hunting writer Phillip Holden, what Dave Asher has left the hunting community maybe even better. One of our hunting treasures has gone.

John Delury



Dr Chaz Forsyth, National Life Member NZDA



It is with Deep sadness that I must inform you that Dr Chaz Forsyth passed away on 20th January. In NZDA circles Chaz was a Past National Secretary and National Life Member a stalwart of the Otago Branch. Strong advocate for the firearms community, Provider for the last while of articles on Firearms for the Southland Branch News Letter, (*we will miss them*). I have known Chaz firstly as a fellow member of the Bruce Rifle Club in the early 1970's then of late through NZDA. Where we have communicated on firearms matters. I / We will miss him and his knowledge of firearms.

RIP Chaz

Doug G.

Book Review

SAM THE TRAP MAN

By Sam Gibson

This book was a birthday gift, not a book I may have selected to buy myself? But it was here so I read it. The more I read it the more I enjoyed it. An interesting book an autobiography. Written in an original and for me a much readable style. An insite into the life of a modern hunter/ conservationist (though not a tree hugger). A different prospective on out there doing it. Well worth reading. It takes his life from that of a DoC wage worker to that of a contract trapper, with some hunting and family life mixed in, plus some fishing. This book covers some of the lattest chapter of profesional hunting, which started it 1930 with the deer cullers, followed by the meat hunters. No doubt more books will be written on this chapter of our evolving history. Great to see some one put something on paper about this part of the evolving story.

The book is a keeper for my collection.

Doug Gordon

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.

26th February Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

5th March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

12th March Tom Mead 027 847 1882

26th March Doug Gordon 0276372206

2nd April Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

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 has a background image of animal fur. 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

Makarewa | Invercargill



HYPERCORE
High Performance Heat Pumps



