

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

March 2025



Mason Bay evening

## **Monthly Meeting**

6.30pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

**Note Change of Time**

## **Guest Speaker**

A social BBQ Food provided BYO drinks Members Children welcome and a Roaring Contest, for Both Adults and Children, with prizes for the winners

## **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](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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**

18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **Presidents Report**



March 2025

Hi, all things are getting busy in the Hunting and Firearms Sector i hope everyone put in a submission for the latest Firearms reform if you don't have your say you can't complain about any changes that may happen. There will be more to come so put pen to paper and have your say.

Southwoods have their online access open now I'm interested to know how everyone thinks it is going. Just in time for the roar.

Were flat out in the background getting organized for National conference that Southland is hosting in July is going to be great so watch this space.

The Hunts course has just been run congratulations to all the students that put themselves out there to learn new skills it was a pleasure spending time with your all. Thanks to all the instructors who took their time out to run the course to.

Mya and I got out and Mya got her first fallow deer Weigh was pretty special, I didn't even have to carry it out, I'll take that as a win. God luck to all for the roar Remember safety first identity your target beyond all doubt, hopefully you find that big old stag.

Catch you at the meeting

Shaun

## **Editorial**



The current democratic countries of the world are beginning to realise they need to stand up and be counted, or democracy will be under severe threat. This would not be good for the quality of life we enjoy in New Zealand.

This also applies to hunters in New Zealand we need to stand up and be counted of the hunting we currently enjoy (which could and should be better). May be but a memory.

It is under threat from those who think 1080 is the cure for all the endangered species in New Zealand. They are about to start large scale on Stewart Island. Not your normal suppression drop but large amounts designed to kill all 100%!! of the target species, no doubt there will be by kill!

Then there are those who desire further restrictions on firearms use. With ideas like no one under 16 to use firearms or should it be 18 passing the voting age that those of the same ideological group want lowered to 16. No rifles over 30 Cal was another of their suggestions.

Time for some standing up and being counted, how many of us stood up when The Hon Nicole McKee called in for our input into the new Arms Act. Who made a submission. How many have done any small thing about the many e-mails about 1080 other than deleting them?

How many of you have made any noise about the restricted access that hampers hunters getting better hunting.

Time to stand up and be counted, pay your subscription, attend Branch activities, help out the Branch, put your hand up for the Executive, pester NZDA (National Office) for more action. Make submissions, write to your MP.

BUT all these actions that we can greatly improve on will count for ZERO. If we poach and act like hoodlums when we go hunting. So, hunt safe and legal this Roar, leave no mess behind you. Respect other users of the outdoors that you encounter.

Enjoy your hunting and come back keen to do more to keep this enjoyment being available to you and your children.

Be a Hunter that counts. (In the right way)

Doug Gordon

## Sponsors

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







# HUNTS COURSE 2025



Last weekend was the hunt weekend for the hunts course trainees. Unfortunately, only three of the six trainees were able to attend, however those that did had a great time.

Leading up to the hunt weekend we have had several classroom sessions discussing Equipment, Navigation, Game animal species and backcountry travel among other topics, followed up with a day at the Invercargill Rifle Club range to hone some shooting skills. A great facility available to Southland NZDA Members. Thank you, Invercargill Rifle Club.

All trainees were successful in taking a great meat animal to provide beautiful free-range venison for their friends and families, this was testament to the great work put in by both the instructors and trainees alike.

We were fortunate enough to have Paddy Curtin the national HUNTS assessor along to both assess our instructors' abilities and to provide some insight on how to tweak and improve the future courses, Thanks again Paddy.

Also, an extra mention to Tom for arranging access to the property with owner Lloyd. Without we wouldn't be able to run great courses like this, Thank you both.

If you would like to be part of the next course, please get in touch.

Luke.

## **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](mailto: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





## **Stewart Island**

### **Information on the proposed Predator control Operations there and 1080**

See below two hyper links with information please read if you haven't already done so.

<https://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz/about-us/stories/community-korero-summary-january-2025/>

<https://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz/about-us/stories/1080-information-sessions/>

## **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	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.

26<sup>th</sup> March Doug Gordon 0276372206

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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)

First in best dressed

## Freeze Dri



Purchase Back Country Cuisine freeze-dri meals direct at special prices, email Tony on [info@bcfoods.co.nz](mailto: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**

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