

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Mason Bay run country looking toward Big Sand Pass.

Southland Branch NZDA News Letter May 2020

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

No Monthly Meeting May
**AGM will be held as soon as we are able once
out of lock down.**

Likely June but will be advised.

This Year's Trophy and Photo competitions have regrettably been cancelled due to Covid -19 lockdown

FACEBOOK:

AS YOU MAY KNOW THE CLUB HAS MOVED WITH THE TIMES AND NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK. CHECK IT OUT, YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THERE AND IT WILL HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB INTERACTION. WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMEBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome them.

(none this month)

Club Hunts

All hunts for Southland Branch NZDA Members (with full NZDA membership) as Public liability Insurance required).

Wallaby Hunt Late June 26th to 28th Depending on National situation
Details to follow if we proceed contact Tom 027 847 1882 or Shaun 027 635 0490 if interested

Kids Hunt Rabbits, hares, Possums, Magpies and other small game.

Looking at holding 11th & 12th July will be advised once finalised.

Social Weekend Wapiti Lodge

(Covid -19 permitting the gathering)

The Weekend of 13th -14th June a social gathering at the Wapiti lodge to evaluate needed maintenance and renovations.

For Members, BBQ tea Saturday night at lodge.

Expressions of interest to Tom 027 847 1882 or Shaun 027 635 0490

Wanted

Stories, adds, 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.

Firearms Licence Renewal under Covid -19 Lock Down

The latest info from Federated farmers (Please check accuracy with Police)

1/ Extension of expired firearms licences while under COVID-19 restrictions

There is currently a hold on firearms licence processing by Police because of the COVID-19 restrictions. The COVID-19 Response Legislation Bill announced today includes proposed changes to the Arms Act to allow a temporary extension to existing firearms licences which have, or are due to, expire while the COVID restrictions are in place.

The proposed extensions are:

1. If a licence expired on or before 24 March 2020 and a new licence was applied for before the expiry date, the licence will be extended for 12 months from the original expiry date or until the renewal application is processed.
2. If a licence expires between 25 March 2020 and 25 September 2020, the licence will be valid for another four months after the expiry date.
3. If you apply to renew a licence in that extended period, the current licence will be valid for 12 months after the original expiry date or until the renewal application is processed.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the proposed changes are expected to take effect from mid-May. As soon as processing begins, applications will be considered on a case by case basis with priority given to employment-related firearms applications such as being a farmer

Presidents Report

May 2020 Lock down



Looking forward to getting back out in the tent.....

I hope everyone has stayed safe and well over the lock down, as I'm sure you would have imagined we have been unable to have our April meeting and May is unlikely to happen to , We did however manage to run a executive Zoom meeting which went really well considering it was for most of us the first time on zoom but like most things lately we have had to adapt to the situation we find ourselves in and make the best of what we have available. Normally we would hold the AGM in May but given the current situation **We will hold the AGM in the First month after we go into level 2** so all going well if we drop to level 2 in mid-May then we will hold the AGM in June, that way we have a month to advertise and organise, If you would like to get more involved in the running of the club we will be looking for a new Vice President and a couple of new committee members you can nominate yourself or get someone to nominate you at the AGM, if you'd like to no more about what's involved contact myself or any of the executive members .

Unfortunately, we have had to **cancel the annual Photo and Trophy competition**, if anyone has any heads from prior to lock down that they would like Douglas scored we can arrange this at level 2.

We are planning to run a **Kids Rabbit, possum & pest hunt** once we are in level 2 we will have prizes for the kids and have a BBQ and prize giving at the club rooms. There will be more info once we can set a date for this. It will be a great chance to get the whole family out after lock down blow the cob webs out and come along for a get together at the club rooms.

As you'll be aware Doc blocks Southwood's blocks have all been closed Doc land should open up at level 2 Southwood's are reviewing there permits at the end of May as soon as we no anymore we will let everyone no. Rayonier's forestry blocks have been closed to and their offices shut I have been in contact with them and am hopeful at level 2 we will be able to have them out to run a induction meeting then we can get hunting, At this stage we do not have enough people signed up and paid to run the Rayonier's ballot. We need 20 to make it viable and run at no extra cost to the branch as that would be unfair for those not involved we have 11 paid up now, I have sent out the info again to those who registered interest if I have missed you please email me on the branch email and ill add you onto the list.

The firewood cutting fundraising at Rodger McNaughton's has been postponed until level 2. Thanks for your patience Rodger.

Tom has been working on branch Shirts that he had some samples of at the March meeting and we are getting some polo shirts made up to which we will have available at cost price to members watch this space .



The Wallaby trip is still going ahead late June I am sure most people will be busting to get out so get your name on the list and get amongst it. There are a few other hunts in the pipe line will keep you posted as we get more dates and info.

Stay Safe and Hot Barrels

Shaun



Editorial

As I write this the Government is looking at relaxing the lock down requirements inforce to fight Covid-19. While the prospect of more hunting looms with going to level 2. This virus and its affects will be with us for a long time yet. The world will never return to what it was. (In passing the world never returns to exactly what it was, despite a lot of people putting a lot of effort into doing this i.e. removing all introduced species from New Zealand).

It will affect hunting for ever in New Zealand. Currently the demand for venison both overseas and locally has dropped, unlike other meats. As venison is a meat that is sold at restaurants not the supermarket. The gloss was already gone last year as venison was no longer flavour of the year in the USA Pet food market. Thus commercial hunting is again on the short term decline. The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation will be taking a hit with getting less for its culled animals.

As an organisation we should be putting our hand up to say we can kill some of these animals. This is sadly not likely due to the sad state NZDA finds its self in, this needs turned around any time yesterday will do.

A lot of people have or are going to lose jobs, this must affect NZDA member numbers. This can also have an effect on legal firearms ownership, if the Government goes ahead and grossly increases licence fees for firearms ownership. People who are hungry are less fussy about the letter of the law when it comes to put food on the plate.

As long as there is no or restricted access for overseas hunters, guided hunting (and fishing) will be taking a big hit.

I could go on (with more detail) Covid -19 is here to stay a vaccine will not eliminate it but only help control it. Modern medicine has only managed to eliminate one significant bug worldwide (Smallpox). Even TB is out of control in parts of the world, including I am told Russian prisons. The World has had a significant change there is no going back, Biology is not an exact science. We must go forward trying to improve things as we go.

Doug Gordon

Branch Trophies

This is a series of articles on the branch trophies as found in the club rooms, with two other at Wapiti Lodge. (*Note I thought there was only one trophy at the Wapiti lodge until staying at it this year*)

John Hawkins – Wild Boar

New Plymouth Coast 1972 Douglas Score 26 ⁴/₈



RECORDING BIG GAME TROPHIES BY SYMMETRICAL SIZE

EXTRACTED PIG Tusks (DOUGLAS SCORE)

OWNER John Hawkins

KILLED BY " " " "

LOCALITY & DATE New Plymouth
1972

*Steel Tape Measurements of	Left	Right	SCORE Shorter measurement only.
LENGTH	7	7 ¹ / ₈	14
Girth at Base of Tusk (A)	2 ¹ / ₈	2 ¹ / ₈	4 ² / ₈
Girth at Base of Grinding (B)	2 ¹ / ₈	2 ¹ / ₈	4 ² / ₈
Length of Grinding	2	2 ¹ / ₈	4
TOTAL SCORE			26 ¹ / ₂

*A Fabric tape may be used if it has first been found correct by test with a steel one; measurements by inches and eighths.
Qualification: Tusks to be drawn and to show signs that they have been naturally and normally ground upon the top tusks of the boar.

For details of measuring see THE DOUGLAS SCORE Handbook

Photo from The Dominion 26 October 1972. "Mr John Hawkins of Wellington has every reason to look happy after shooting this wild boar. The animal scaled in at 6ft 3 inches (1.905m) and stood 35 inches (.889m) high. Shot without dogs on the east coast north of New Plymouth this week, the boar is believed to be the second biggest shot in the area in recent years. The boar had tusks protruding 3 inches (.076) out of the jaw and the shield on the shoulders was 2 inches thick."



Trophy on loan from J Hawkins

HUNTING AND WILDLIFE



Preorder the next 4 issues posted for \$29.

For those of you who still want your wildlife magazine in hard copy delivered conveniently by post go to the link below and order it now.

This is a much more convenient way to receive this magazine.

https://nzda.shop/?bx_sender_conversion_id=508806&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=membership_updates_19th_nov_2019

BOOK REVIEW

Hunting

(A New Zealand Story)

By Kate Hunter

This book first published in 2009 was found by me in a second hand book store while waiting for my car to be serviced, it turned out to be a good find.

It was not at all what I expected, it covered various aspects, of hunting as have occurred since the arrival of Europeans in New Zealand. Some of the goings on surprised me, like the debate as to when to have the Native Bird hunting season. In the autumn as per European tradition or when plump and full of berries as traditionally hunted by the Maori! Hunting in the early days was mainly pigs and birds, with some wild cattle thrown in. A lot of it being done for food for the table, not enjoyment.

Anyway this book covers the various reasons for hunting from for food to recreation and on to the professionals who do it for money, be it paid for the animals killed or for the value of the animals killed. The book is not full of the great trophies shot, no heaps of stories of Venison recovery. But explores how and why hunting has occurred in New Zealand without being judgemental about it.

Yes for me it was interesting, a worthwhile read, a book for the collection, a reference work to go back to. Though not for someone who wants to enjoy stories of hunts. Something the politicians, could have benefited from reading before making declaration's on hunting and locks downs in respect of our fight with Covid 19. The word "Hunting" covers a lot more than recreational hunting or commercial hunting, try adding pest destruction?

The book was and is an eye opener to the wider aspects of Hunting as has occurred in new Zealand.

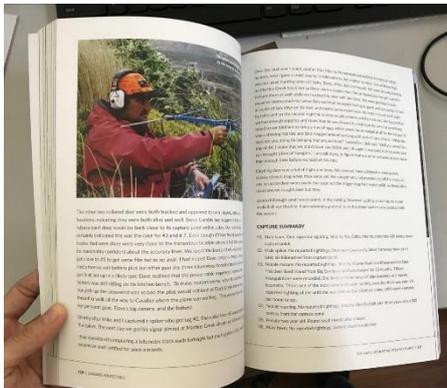
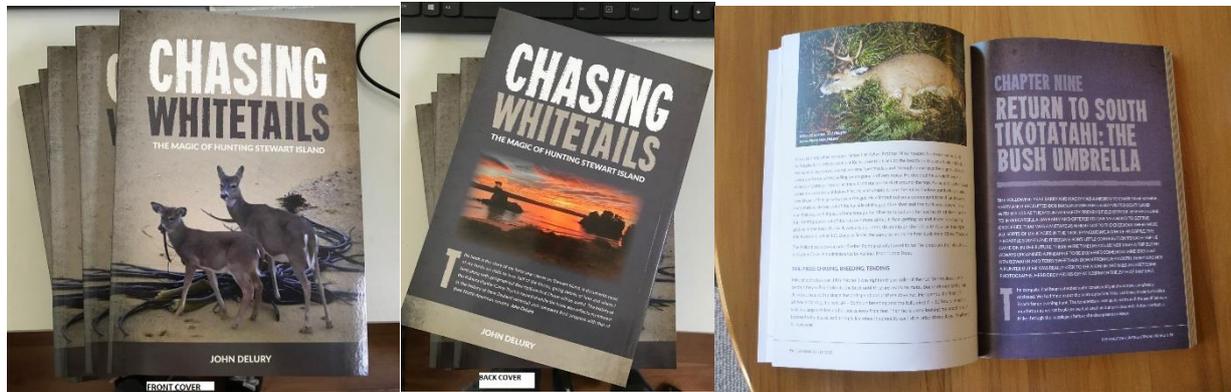
Doug Gordon

Book for Sale

"Chasing Whitetails" The magic of hunting Stewart Island.

"Chasing Whitetails" The magic of hunting Stewart Island. by John DeLury

Essential reading for all Stewart Island whitetail hunters.



John still has a few copies for sale email him at wtd243@gmail.com or you can purchase a copy from Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store.

For an independent review see

<https://thefishingpaper.pdfmobile.nz/the-fishing-paper/february-2020-issue-173/hunting-news/chasing-whitetails-the-magic-of-hunting-stewart-island>

For more details on the book.

See: <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/chasing-whitetails-book>

Donation for Rat Programme

Gerald MacRae at Invercargill Hunting & Fishing offered to sell a box of John DeLury's book "Chasing Whitetails, The Magic of Hunting Stewart Island" in the store. Gerald is selling the books at full retail price of \$49.95. Gerald has donated the difference from

Johns book price of \$40 to the Branch rat control project at Stewart Island. This is a donation of \$238.80. This money has been spent on 2020 season traps and lure which cost total of \$364. John has donated the balance of \$125 from sales of his book.

A big Thank You to Invercargill Hunting & Fishing.

Coronet Peak Weekend.

Pete, my hunting mate, had arranged a goat hunt to the back of Coronet Peak station for the club, and as a suggestion from an aging hunter, had arranged to fly in by helicopter. Advertising in the club mag. produced only one reply, so after a phone around and some fast talking from Nathan, we managed to arrange 11 hunters for the weekend, a number which made the chopper trip viable.



Deep Creek

Saturday morning saw us all at the chopper hangar about 8 am. The skies looked promising, but Coronet Peak and the tops were all shrouded in fog, making our proposed flight somewhat dicey.

About 9 am, the chopper pilot told us to load up as much gear as we could into the helicopter, and five guys would fly out from the airport, the other six were to drive to the Skipper's saddle, where the helicopter would return and shuttle them to our hunting area.



We took off from the airport and flew over the Skipper's saddle, down Long gully, round Greengates and on up Deep creek, dropping down to the 8 mile creek and landed on a small terrace just above the creek. Dumping our packs and tents, we boarded the chopper again and were ferried up the side of the hills above Eight mile creek, landing on a small flat about 3500 ft, just at the fog line. We piled out of the chopper, and it took off

back to pick up the other crew.

Within a few minutes the chopper was back, landing to disgorge the other six members of the party.

By 10.15, we were ready to hunt goats, and split up into 4 groups to cover the ground. The fog was just starting to lift, and we could see a small group of goats about 600 metres away, towards the Macetown road. Nathan and swampy went after them, while two other groups climbed up the hill in different directions to traverse the gullies. Pete, Doug and I, being the older members, decided to hunt back towards our campsite at the level we were on (cunning eh) and proceeded to wend our way around the side of the hill. Shots could be heard from Nathan, and we heard the sound of goats bleating from somewhere below. Suddenly, three goats appeared from below and we were firing at them. They disappeared round the hill and we chased them over a ridge, only to find they were out of range. A war was going on over the next ridge, several barrages of shots being fired. Alec, Stefan and Kent had got on to a fair sized mob, and had taken out about 25, though a number had got away.

The next two hours saw us walk a number of gullies, shooting a small number of goats, but seeing animals ahead just out of range. We stopped for lunch, and shortly after spied a small mob of billies feeding their way up the hill. Stalking our way closer, we prepared to attack, but the goats saw us and took off. Some average shooting dropped three goats but the rest got away. We carried on round the hills, dropping the odd goat here and there, until we came over a ridge and saw some 15 goats in a small gully way below us. We managed to stalk closer and lined up on a ridge above them. When a shot rang out, I squeezed the trigger on a billy and saw him topple over, then swung on to another running down the hill. Down he went, another took his place and was also hit. Shots were being fired in quick succession by all, and after the shooting died down, goats could be seen crossing the creek at the bottom of the valley. Some of the boys took off after them, bringing down a number on the opposite side of the creek. We made our way back to the campsite, setting up camp before it got dark.

Two goats were seen further up the creek, and Alec and Stefan decided to go after them. After about 10 minutes, three or four shots were heard, and we all thought that was the end of it, however after a small break, another volley of shots rang out, being repeated on a regular basis, though getting further away each time. About 1 1/2 hours later, two elated hunters returned, out of ammunition, but having bagged 42 goats between them. The final tally for the first day for all hunters was 200.



Dave Howden & Alec Butters

The next day was my birthday, and I was suitably ribbed about being an “old bugger”. Needless to say, I told them they would keep, and we set off again after a good breakfast. Five of us went up the valley floor, while the remainder climbed up towards a promising looking gully on the Deep creek side. As we passed the spot where Alec and Stefan had stopped the previous evening, two goats were seen about 100m away, they were soon dispatched. Climbing further around, we sat down and glassed the opposite faces, spying some 30 odd goats on a steep ridge and around rock pinnacles. We discussed going after them but then saw a lone goat coming down the creek. The boys told me to have first crack at him as it was my birthday, and at about 80 m, one clean shot put him down. Two of the other group were sighted on the skyline, and we shouted directions to them until they came down to where the mob of goats were.

When they started firing, all hell broke loose. There were goats running in all directions, too far away for us to shoot, but the boys at the top were having a ball. Barrage after barrage was heard, and goats could be seen dropping off rocks, down tussock faces and over sheer rock walls. One of our group, Doug, had gone further up the valley, and shortly after we heard a volley of shots from his direction, followed by several more shots on the other side. Alec, Stefan and I decided to head around towards Doug, but saw some goats just below us and fired on them, taking several out. Three more appeared above us and were dispatched, along with two on another face. We spied another three high above us on a ridge and climbed to intercept them. They disappeared around a rock outcrop and we split up, Stefan climbing up to the top of the rock. Just then, the fog closed in again, and I couldn't see a bloody thing, however three or four shots from Stefan's rifle put paid to the goats.



Kent (?) and Pete Simpson

It was now getting cold, and after donning jackets, we headed back towards the camp again. Reaching the valley floor, we heard goats bleating, and after sighting two, polished them off with a couple of nice shots. We arrived back at the campsite about 2.30pm, and packed up tents and packs, as the chopper was due around 4.15 to 4.30. Swampy had a ball today, clocking up some 70 goats, and his companion 55.

Nathan had shot over 50, and all the others had contributed to a lesser degree. All up, the tally for the day was about 248, giving a total for the weekend of around 450. The station manager should be pretty happy with that number, as for every goat shot, .7 of a sheep unit can be put on the same country.

About 4.20, the chopper could be seen flying down the valley and after landing, was loaded with the boys for the Skipper's saddle, along with most of their gear. Some of Doug's gear was offloaded as he is a big boy!!!! The chopper took off and returned in about six minutes. We loaded our gear in the chopper, squeezed into the seats hugging the excess gear from the first flight, and took off down the valley to gain some speed and altitude before climbing to the top of the range and winging our way back to the airport once again. The ride in the helicopter was exhilarating, especially after cresting the top of

the range, as the ground dropped away almost immediately, leaving you with your heart in your mouth!, and was , for me, one of the highlights of the trip.

We will certainly be planning another of these trips, using the chopper, for the spring or summer months, as you can reach the more distant country where the animals are without having to expend half your time and energy walking in.

Dave Howden

Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654 email

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.**

Note Cannot be used while in lockdown.