

## Gorse Control Report for 2015

November 2015 saw four branch members fly to Cavalier Block at the south end of Mason Bay on Stewart Island. This is the fifth year NZDA members have been attacking the gorse growing in the area between Leask and Cavalier Creeks. John DeLury & Ray Phillips have been previously and this year the branch president Steve Robinson and new member Boyd Frame came along to help.

This year's target was a stand of old man gorse extending into the bush on the north side of Leask Creek. Steve brought down a small chainsaw and this made short work of these gnarly old bushes. With the other three cutting trails in and dealing with the small stuff we were able to get a heap done before rain stopped work. We spread around some poison prills and it will be interesting to see how this form of control works.



*Steve and Boyd checking of the dunes for a deer. The area in the foreground was a stand of gorse targeted last year. No sign of regeneration yet.*

Really heartening was to see the dead gorse killed in previous years. In the main we have eliminated large areas of the old man gorse but there will be some big bushes remaining.



*Steve Robinson with both the target species.*

As you can see it wasn't all work. The first evening John took Steve down to a spot which had been targeted three years previously. While all the big gorse was dead there was a bit of regeneration showing in a few places. They had only been sitting off the skyline for about five minutes when Steve says there's one. John couldn't see it and Steve says it has just moved into a gut. Yeah right. Well a few minutes later it popped out in the open and before John could put his camera onto video mode it went down with neck shot. Easy. Then of all things Steve went out the next evening and got another one. He commented that he could see how whitetail hunting could become addictive. As regular hunters know, it could be a long time before he gets another one. The company was good. The weather was crap. So much so Ray made two trips to the gutter at low tides for a feed of paua to be beaten by high seas both times. Never mind Ray, always next year.

JD