

## The southern hunter



August 2008

Southland branch

NZ deerstalkers association

### Noticeboard:

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 7pm

General Meeting: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 8pm

Executive and committee members (2008-2009)

	President	Jim Ridley	
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852	
Jnr. Vice	Murray Barkman		
Secretary	David Howden	2130962	
Treasurer	John DeLury	217 5890	
Immediate	Roy Sloan	2352813	
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654	
	Newsletter Editor	Nathan Dawson	
	Executive:		
Roger Stratford	Steven Long	Brendon Bell	Ray Phillips
	Wayne Cook	Murray Colson	
	Euan Butters		

### **Guest Speaker for August : Ron Peacock**

Ron Peacock from the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation giving an up date on what is happening with Culling in the Wapiti area. There will be DVD's on the area and animals, all so a power point on where the culled animals have come from. Ron is one of the shooters and organisers of the cull and leave, and recovery operations.

### **Reminder**

There are a couple of spots left for the Wallaby hunt, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August, get in quick. [Nathan.Adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Nathan.Adrienne@xtra.co.nz)

# **An Incredible Story of Coincidences**

- by Zeff from North Canterbury Branch newsletter

**“Going back to about 1964, I went to sell some deer skins at Collyer and Watson in Orbell Street, Christchurch. At the time we used to get approximately two pounds 10 shillings each.**

**While there I saw a large pile of deer horns. Among them was a big old mounted head of a stag, much bigger than all others. I asked the buyer what they were going to do with those horns. He said “that they were going to China to be ground up and used as aphrodisiacs”. I was astounded that such a big head was going to be ground up and lost to New Zealand. I asked “how much he paid for it”, he replied, “three pounds”. I paid him that sum and took the head home. As the old mount was fairly shabby, I cut it off and kept just a bit of skull with the horns attached. I hung the head on one of the rafters in my garage upside down. It has remained there since.**

**About a month ago, my son Roy, who works at Snowdon Station (a high country sheep farm near the Rakaia River), rang my wife and asked her to go in the garage and have a look at the deer head. He had been reading one of Bruce Banwell’s books on the Deer heads of the Rakaia and some how he thought that one of those heads, shown in a photo with George Gerard, was the same stag that I had. By phone he was asking Gwen, is the second horn on the left missing on the right? Is the third horn so long? And so on. To all those questions the answer was always affirmative.**

**Later on, I had a similar discussion by phone with Roy and confirmed everything. This George Gerard had once owned the Snowdon Station and was a keen hunter. Apparently he shot this 15 pointer up the Mathias River from across the flooded river in 1923. It was his best head, he had it mounted and kept it at his pride of place at the Snowdon Homestead. Eventually he died and the farm got sold. All his trophies and belongings got disposed off at a big auction. This head somehow finished up hanging for a few years at the Dalgety building in Moor house Avenue in Christchurch. Then, from there to where I bought it from.**

**Here is another incredible thing: how come Roy remembered 15 years after he left home, how this stag’s head, hanging upside down, looked and compared to the photo??? It all has a bit of mystique about it and the coincidences are extraordinary. One wonders whether the spirit of George Gerard had the power to influence the events.**

**The good thing is that now Roy, and partner Annabel, are going to have it re-mounted and put it back at the Snowdon Station Homestead.**

**At the Tahr Show we had the head officially scored and even though three points did not count because of no counterparts, it scored 343 on the Douglas Score.”**

## **GUEST SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**Your N.Z.D.A. National President Alex McIver will be speaking at this meeting, Plus Colin Bishop from DoC and either Dave Taylor or Jessica Bernard will accompany him, They have some serious issues to discuss and I'm sure if you hunt the Waitutu Forest (or for that matter, just hunt) then YOU need to have an input here.**

## **An even bigger coincidence**

Hanging in Southland Branch clubrooms is another head, not quite as old but even more historic as far as New Zealand Deerstalkers are concerned. 10 years ago we heard that some of the McRae heads were being offered for sale in Thompson's auction rooms in Invercargill. We were aware that Willis & Findlay McRae and Andrew Cowie hunted throughout the Wanaka country in the 1930's and among the first members to join NZDA when it was formed in Invercargill in 1938. At the deerstalkers dinner held that year the Chairman Mr A E W McDonald said "I would like to congratulate McRae Bros. & Mr Cowie on the fine collection of deer heads brought out from the Minarets. Three of those are on view here tonight." An inspection before the auction revealed led a 15 pointer marked Willis McRae, Minaret Burn. The head looks suspiciously like the one in the photograph of that famous 1938 dinner held at Elmwood Gardens in Invercargill. Andrew Cowie, who was present at the dinner confirmed it was the same head in the photograph. Needless to say, we had to buy it. We opened at the reserve of \$300 and moved ahead in \$20 bids to \$360 and it was ours. We later found the other bidder was one of our members on the other side of the room who didn't know we were bidding. The photograph referred to can be seen facing page 16 of Phillip Holden's book The Deerstalkers and has a Douglas score 334 ½.

JD

**Congratulations to Roger Stratford** for this awesome photo that won 1<sup>st</sup> place for game animals in the AGM photo Comp



## New Huts at Mason Bay, Stewart Island

**ARE YOU INTERESTED? Dates Set.**

Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust will be building two replacement hunter huts at Mason Bay on Stewart Island during October this year. The huts at Homestead and Martins Creek will be replaced. Building will commence on Saturday 4th October next .

All materials will go down in the week previous by freight boat and be helicoptered onto the site. We expect that building will take 5 - 6 days to complete and you can stay on and hunt until Sunday 12th.

There is no cost to builders as food and transport is provided by the Trust. You will be flown from Invercargill airport to Mason Bay beach and back by fixed wing plane. You supply your time. If you think you can help with building contact John on 2131430, 0276925338 or

[huntercamptrust@hotmail.com](mailto:huntercamptrust@hotmail.com)

For the information of new members the Hunter Camp Trust has built 15 huts on Stewart Island in the last seven years. This is about hunters doing something positive for their sport as well as taking care of issues like vegetation damage and rubbish. Southland Branch NZDA members have been involved in building most of the these huts.

## August Hunting Tips: IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET,

Better to not shoot any deer, than shoot 1 hunter.

**On the tops, get high and sit and watch.**

Always let someone else know your hunting plans, better to  
be safe than sorry

### New Members

A warm welcome to new members Anthony Stirling, Ernie Pringle and John Hogg.

## **Animal Skin Tanning Service**

So you've been out hunting and shot that Animal. It was a special hunt for you and you want something to remember it by. If it's a Trophy head then you keep that or have you ever thought of getting the skin tanned ?

Wild game skins can be used for things such as floor rugs, wall hangings, furniture throws , bedspreads and cushions and are just that bit different. They make a great addition to your trophy room. Once tanned a skin can last for many years. It can be washed or dry cleaned if necessary and gives you a permanent reminder of a great hunt.

I have many years experience in tanning skins and am offering a service to hunters and farmers who would like to have a skin professionally tanned.

A couple of things to note that will help me tan your skin to a high a standard are as follows. Firstly if skinning straight after shooting then it is important to cool the skin down quickly once taken off the animal. This ensures bacterial action is slowed down and helps prevent hair slip which occurs due to bacteria getting a hold on the skin. Secondly roll the skin up and put it in the freezer until you can bring it to me. This will completely stop any further degradation of the skin. If you are out in the bush for a few days then take salt with you. Apply salt liberally to the flesh side of the skin and roll it up and keep it cool until you get home and can put it in a freezer. Lastly bacteria love meat and fat and these are the first places for them to take hold and multiply. Make sure you remove as much of these materials as you can when skinning. The cleaner the skin the better the final result will be.

I am able to tan Thar, Chamois ,Deer ,Calf ( \$80/ Skin) ,Possum and Rabbit( \$10/skin). I would invite you to contact me if you are interested in using my service.

Adam Cowie

Hm:03 2182977

Mob: 0276314462

E-mail [ajcowie@woosh.co.nz](mailto:ajcowie@woosh.co.nz)

## **Editors Comments**

We still need people to step up to take on the monthly hunts for the club so if your interested let me know [nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz) or 03 2358852

***We would like to have more stories and/or photos etc. would be appreciated.  
Don't necessarily have to tell where you've been ☺***

