

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

November 2014

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Next Meeting Wed 19th November 8pm

Executive Meeting 7pm

Guest Speaker Greg from Outdoor World

Video on Buffalo Hunting Australia



Presidents Report

This being the last newsletter for 2014. Next will be February 2014.

Some of us may reflect on our hunting year over the Xmas break.

Over the last year I have been busy with building my business and helping Nathan with the Hunts Course, while also trying to spend time with Rachel (my daughter) and teaching her as much about the sport or hunting as possible. Success doesn't always happen but no hunting trip is a waste of time, only more reconnaissance for another day. Next roar will be when she takes a stag if not before.

We have had some good guest speakers this year and we hope you have learnt a thing or two from them. If anyone knows of someone who they think might like to come along and talk etc. at our monthly meeting please let committee members know.

There will be a Wallaby hunt on the 16, 17, 18th January 2015. I will be working on a club Tahr hunt in February 2015 possibly a fly in.

Pistol club range night has been ok with only 2 or so members each time. Remember members must contact the duty person the Sunday before if they are wishing to sight your rifle, you cant just turn up.

Remember to identify your target. We want to see you all back next year. Have a Merry Xmas and safe New Year.

Steve Robinson



Wallaby Hunt

January 16th to 18th. Be at the next meeting or contact Steve Robinson 0277478109 / Nathan Dawson 027 2358063 for details if interested.

WORKING BEE CLUB ROOMS

There is a working bee to finish cladding the outside of club rooms, and a general tidy up. Sunday 30th November 9.00am. Bring your hammer, ladder and other handy tools that you have and be there. Many hands make light work. There will be a BBQ lunch provided



Editorial

The Labour Day Southland Times, had a front page headline “Deer Recovery Under Threat”. Interesting reading! Talks about the use of 1080 locking up areas from recovery and the current low price for venison v the always rising cost of operating helicopters. Then goes on to talk of the need to limit the number of operators so as to make it viable. An interesting line of thought coming from Doc! Currently there are about 40 operators nationwide down from 80.

It is also noted that recreational hunter numbers are up (is this another threat to venison recovery?) I don't see it as a bad think that more people are out getting some exercise. Should improve the health of the nation?

Now let's go back about forty years, there were three main players in the venison industry at this time. The two smaller ones between them had the rights to venison recovery in Fiordland National Park. They contracted one large operator to do the recovery for them. He was using three helicopters to do the hunting and a forth to supply them and remove the carcasses from the hills. Deer numbers were reducing with this operation.

The other main player wanted in so pulled the unfair playing field, why can't the small private helicopter operators have a go. (Most of these happened to supply guess who and some were financed / owned by the same.) Along with the more helicopters would reduce the deer numbers further card.

The current operator upped the numbers of helicopters he was using to about seven, but the calls continued. Threats were made other operators hunted there anyway. The authorities then opened the park up and there were 12 helicopters on they was supposed to be a block system.

The industry boomed for a short time, then numbers were no longer there, things were falling apart. The big player departed the industry for personal reasons. Then came live recovery. A decade when operators could make money from getting few deer. That died down and by the early nineteen nineties there were only four helicopters doing venison recovery in Fiordland. The others were either dead from pushing the envelope or had given up and done other things. Three of the surviving operators had other strings to their bow to keep them flying. But they were struggling as were operators nationwide. Doc came round the venison processors to gauge their commitment to the industry and talked of limiting the number of operators, giving then a block each etc.

What happened, venison prices lifted again, and operator from up north liked the grass (No of deer etc.) down here in Fiordland. He demanded a permit, threatened court action. The Minister of Conservation ran for cover, and it was all on again.

So we continue with more choppers chasing fewer deer etc. until early this century, when the fat hit the fan up north. Operators were caught hunting where 1080 laid and making false declarations. After a few years quiet venison recovery starts up again, with more hoops for the operators to go through. (This in passing eliminates the casual ground shooter from the legal commercial market. A good thing for the true recreational hunter). But numbers of operators are again not controlled, roll on to the current day.

Has anything been learned. For commercial recovery to work there needs to be a buck in it for everybody. This points to the need for continuity of supply of animals. If the dream of killing the last deer is thrown out. I believe deer can be controlled by commercial operators, at a level that makes their operations viable, with the deer doing nothing in the way of serious damage to the environment. While leaving sufficient deer around for the recreational hunter to be encouraged to get out and enjoy their sport. Which would be a win for most, the only loser's being those who dream of killing the last deer.

Does the article in the Southland times signal a change in Doc policy or does the dream of killing the last deer remain. Is there a role for the Big Game Council to play in this? Time will tell, here is hoping!

HUNTING BALLOTS

Greenstone:

GREENSTONE CAPLES BALLOT INFO

Applications for the April/May 2015 ballot will be made available on the DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/hunting/where-to-hunt/otago/greenstone-caples-recreational-hunting-area-rha/permits/> from 1 November until 1 December 2014 - you'll be able to apply and submit directly online. Before applying please ensure you have the following information ready for each member of your party – full name, address, phone number and firearms licence number – as well as your preferred hunting blocks (in order of preference from 1-5) and preferred month. Party leaders will also need to provide their email address. The draw will take place in December and party leaders advised of the results by late-January 2015.

Stewart Island

If you are after any information about some of the hunting blocks at Stewart Island, try

www.manacharters.com

More content is slowly being added monthly but it includes a lot of photos and brief descriptions on each DoC Block.

There is also a Google Earth map which can show the block boundary overlays too.

2015 Wapiti Ballot Draw.

The 2015 Wapiti Ballot was drawn on the 1st of November with up to 286 parties entering. Although some were disqualified from being drawn due to not following the conditions of entry, all 75 beats were filled/drawn in a couple of hours.

The results can be found on the FWF website (www.fwf.net.nz).

Another Hyper link that may be of interest.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/newsletters/behind-the-scenes/spring-2014/#chamois>

Hunting Wallaby's 2014

Next morning we head back to the main ridge in the 4x4. The plan is for a morning wallaby shoot. I stalk down a gully while Peter works over the head basin.

The first few hundred metres as I sidled down the side of the valley didn't look to good. Small patches of frozen snow on frozen ground and a definite lack of sign. But still I stop and scan the slopes below me some of which now, have the first rays of the morning sun now on them.

So I see one then two wallaby's moving around. So I have a think then move off to try to get closer. The only problem is that the Wallaby's have also moved off into cover.

Presently another appears on a saddle on a ridge leading out to a mid-valley point. It's a bit over a hundred metres so I go for it. Sit down and carefully squeeze of the shot. The wallaby is unimpressed and slowly lopes down about ten metres to some low scrub sits there momentarily head up then disappears.

I descend in that direction to get closer. Another appears between the saddle and the scrub, I give it a shot it hops off a bit I give it another It stops, a third has it down I think in some tussocks. I move over to investigate. My route will take me past where the first one disappeared. I am about five metres short of this when it pops up, hops off ten or so metres and stops. One shot and it's down and out. I move about two metres and there at my feet I find the first wallaby dead at my feet. With blood on its chest. That's a bit more like it. I go over too where the second one was last seen (well where I now think it was) nothing is found. So the score is two plus a possible.

Nothing more is seen on the trip down other than a glimpse of a big buck wallaby only a couple of hundred metres short of the hut. Pete comes back haven seen a couple but had no luck. The middle of the day is spent in camp tidying up.

The evening finds us in what is new country to me looking for some wallaby's emerging from the high Tussocks for an evening feed. The same shady patch halts our progress that stuck us up on the first night. So its shanks pony over the fence and onto the sunny faces. Pete spooks a couple early on, but has no luck. Then he gets some better luck and drops one. We hit a nice gully and stop for a good look. I spy a buck that appears near its head. A shot trips it over, then another comes out of the same patch and slowly hops a few metres to disappear into some low scrub. A third appears which I drop. We walk over no sign of the one that hid in the scrub, nor the one I flipped over. Though the last one was easily found. Could it be thinking of the mornings experience that the first two were in fact one, and it is dead somewhere in the thick scrub. Any way we count them as two and move on to the next gut.

Here Peter gets one as we head up onto the ridge above in the now descending twilight. We then follow the track up there back in the direction of the vehicle. Coming down onto a flat plateau by a gate we spook up to a dozen Wallaby's in the half dark. One stays behind I drop it. I then proceed to miss another in the semi darkness before we make the vehicle. It's been a good day out there hunting wallaby's. We will shoot another eight by spot light before we make the hut for tea.

Most of my wallaby hunting prior to this trip was driving them in the middle of the day. Something a lot of the locals don't do much of. They just hunt them when they move about at dawn and dusk. Not a bad way to hunt if you can find something to fill in most of the daylight hours.

Thinking about the hunting I am fast coming to the conclusion that those wallaby's that just slowly hop away post your shot are in fact badly hit and are likely to die. Is this slow hop in fact a good indication of having hit them hard? It needs further study so I will have to go back hunt more wallaby's.

Doug Gordon



One of the mornings wallabys

November Quiz

Match the Ammo brands with the countries of (normal) manufacture

Norma	USA
Sellier& Bellot	Italy
Federal	New Zealand
Eley	Serbia
Rio	South Africa
Fiocchi	New Zealand
Scorpio	Sweden
Mirage	Mexico
Aguila	Czech Republic
CAC	England
Falcon	Australia
Prvi Partizan	Spain
Highland	Italy

Octobers Quiz

1. What is the major difference between Caribou and most if not all other deer species? **With Caribou the females also have antlers.**
2. Who wrote "Call of the Moose"? **Ray Tinsley**
3. Name the large stream between the Timaru and Hunter Rivers? **Dingle Burn**
4. Sako Produced the Finwolf Rifle what was different about it? **Leaver Action**
5. Where would you find Clark (or Clarke) Hut. **The head of the Grebe river between Monowai and Manapouri.**

Freeze Dri

BACK COUNTRY

Cuisine

Still available at a great price to Branch Members

Contact Gus Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz 03 213 0351

For a price list

Sighting in Rifles

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

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

Roster Nov 12th Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Nov 26 Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

Dec 3rd Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 After 4pm

Dec 10 Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Dec 17th Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

Feb 4th Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 After 4pm

Feb 11th Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Wapiti Lodge

We have the week 11th to 19th January still available at Wapiti LODGE for Xmas period

Red Stag Lodge Mavora



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

email nandc43@gmail.com

43 Bain St Invercargill

Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.

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