

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Nathan Dawson, warming up for the roar

APRIL 2013

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

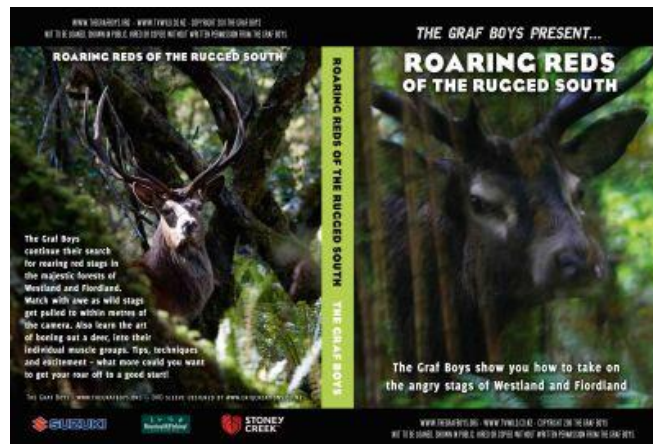
NOTICE BOARD

Club Executive Meeting: Wednesday 17th April at 7pm

Club General Meeting: Wednesday 17th April at 8pm – **All Welcome**

(Clubrooms – Longbush Hall, McKerchar Road, Just off SH1 between Woodlands & Kennington)

Guest Speaker this month will be a viewing of 'Roaring Reds of the Rugged South' the new DVD from The Graf Boys, find out everything you needed to know two weeks ago!



Welcome to our newest members...

Simon Jukes, David Paterson, Geoffrey Jukes & Roy Wells

IMPORTANT CLUB DATES COMING UP

10th May – Photo Competition entries close 7pm

12th May – Head Measuring Day at clubrooms 1pm

15th May - AGM at the clubrooms 7pm

All trophies need returned to Gus Ronald before the AGM please

YOUNG HUNTS

The new Young Hunts course will start in June so if you know of anyone who is keen?
You must be over 16 for this and the course is limited to 12 people.

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Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

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NATHAN DAWSON

PRESIDENTS REPORT...

Well the roar is now upon us and I hope you all got out or will get out for a shot before our great summer comes to an end. I managed a couple of animals myself and roared a few in on video which was exciting, we had a great time with lots of laughs.

A big thanks to Adam Cowie for speaking last month about tanning game animal skins. Anyone who missed out can see Adam at the AGM as he will have a display there.

Speaking of the AGM, this is coming up on the 15th May, if anybody is wanting to stand for committee please put your name forward before or at the AGM as we are looking for new applicants so please don't be shy. Also you will note we have a great spot prize up for grabs at the AGM for anybody who enters a head or photo for the annual competition, remember, this is not necessarily for the biggest or best so no bring along what you've knocked over or snapped and be in to win. From the cover photo this month you will see the bench mark has been set and I will shout a beer to anyone who bring along a head better than that!

As always we are looking for contributions to the newsletter, especially photos and/or stories, this helps make the newsletter our own so don't be afraid to put pen to paper. Any contributions or ideas for guest speakers can be sent to our newsletter editor Greg Herbert (gregandsonya@woosh.co.nz). Keep your eye on the newsletter as we will be having hunts over the winter months.

Duck shooting is just around the corner so get your eye in at one of the local duck shooters shoots and best of luck for opening weekend.

Regards
Nathan.

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

65th National Conference, Blenheim, July 12th – 14th 2013

www.deerstalkers.org.nz

NZDA SOUTHLAND

ANTLER, HORN, TUSK & PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Open to all financial members of Southland Branch NZDA:

Antler, Horn, Tusk:

Red Deer

Wapiti

Fallow Deer

Chamois

Tahr

Pig Tusks

Goat

Whitetail Deer

Sika Deer

Rusa Deer

Sambar Deer

Wild Sheep

Heads will be scored at the Longbush Clubrooms on Sunday 12th May at 1pm. If you are unable to get there please give your head to somebody who can. All welcome.

Photographic:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Game Animals | <i>Live wild animals in their natural surroundings</i> |
| Wildlife | <i>Any wildlife other than game animals in their natural surroundings</i> |
| Scenic | <i>Of a scenic nature relative to stalking or stalking country</i> |
| Topical | <i>Containing some evidence of human activity related to hunting or hunting country</i> |

Photo competition judge will be Bruce Smart, all entries should be posted / delivered to him at 19 Highfield Terrace, Invercargill by Friday 10th May at 7pm



Remember although this is a competition to find the best, participation is just as important for the club and club spirit. Hunting and Fishing have come on board again this year with \$250 voucher spot prize for all head and photo entries. So what you might think is good only for knife handles could score you \$250, but, you have to be in to win, all welcome on Sunday 12th May, 1pm.

STEWART ISLAND – DUNNY RUN...

On 14th March twelve Branch members travelled to Stewart island on the Ferry to install toilets on six hunting blocks which do not have huts. This was a joint project organised by Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust and Dept of Conservation who paid for the toilets and transport. Parties of two were flown to a block by helicopter which was a first for some members. Fibreglass Norski toilets and a base were taken on site and teams were required to dig a toilet hole with minimum dimensions of 1.8m long, 800 wide and 2 m deep. Pleased to say in most cases the depth was exceeded.

Four parties were fortunate to strike sand at their site and digging was straight forward. The team at Lucky struck rocks while the South Big Glory team hit the usual Island hard pan. My thanks to all who took part. JD

PS I had been to Little Hellfire three weeks previously and amount of sign seen there was incredible. I kept talking it up and feel bad that Brian & James missed getting a deer there. As we dropped the Ruggedy team off a whitetail ran across the landing site and through their camp. That was a good omen. Individual team reports follow.



Team Photo From left.

Noel Clayton, Ralph Youngman, Brian Berquist, Sam Milne, James TePari, Mark Casserly, Roedie Prinsloo, Tamati Maere, Garry Clarke, Taylor Graham, Peter Graham John DeLury.

James TePari and Brian Berquist at Little Hellfire.

We arrived at Little Hellfire with high hopes, expecting to be beating the deer away with the shovels we took for the dig. Upon arrival a mad dash was on to find the location for the toilet install, in the end we had Zane (pilot) drop the toilet at the newly formed campsite and thought we would just drag it to its new home. After searching around for the elusive double pink masking tape, we made an executive decision on placement that was until we went to pull the pink flagging tape down and noticed that someone had put 2 pieces onto of each other, eureka. Now we just had to drag the toilet through a "small" amount of scrub and we were set, we pulled out the doc supplied saw and started to cut a path, only to have the saw left in the tree and handle in our hand. Back to the drawing board, and the mini saw brought along buried in the bag to get our track dug. Luckily that was the hardest part of the dig for us, once we cleared the top of the site, digging was nothing but sand right the way down to 7 and a half feet at that point we thought we had gone down far enough (it had nothing to do with the rock base we hit). So scrambling out of the hole, we installed the base, toilet and breather and still had a couple hours to head out for a stalk, so up to the high ground we went to see what was about. Night rolled around with not a thing seen, But hopes were high. The next morning we proceeded to a previously recceyed location for the wait, however the weather had turned in on us so made it less than desirable with nothing moving once again, back to camp for breakfast and to map out a plan of attack, the rest of the day was spent recceying around and a hike towards little hellfire, a lot of sign but no movement about. Day 3 we had a little success with a moving target spotted just before 8am, ducking behind a dune just as the scope was brought up onto her. After a brief track and coming upon bush that would have taken heavy machinery to get through we called of the hunt and thought we would stalk up the dunes and head inland for the afternoon, with no luck until that evening when the same whitetail was spotted high on a dune, James in the lead dropped to his knee to line the shoot up just as she took off for cover, that was the end of our deer spotting for the trip. Monday with the weather returning back to sunny, an early morning trip to the same dunes was in order, with hopes she was out and about again, but no such luck, after a camp tidy up, we headed to the high ground in wait for extraction, hoping an elusive whitetail would stroll by.

Weather and whitetail didnt want to play the game this trip, but that just gives us an excuse to make sure we head back over.

Noel Clayton and Ralph Youngman at West Ruggedy

We managed two deer, a yearling hind and a spiker. We probably saw about ten although a couple may have been the same deer but different location, on the Saturday around midday we were watching a hind feeding on the low tide mark for some time and were getting ready to sneak up on it, when we noticed a tramper coming along the beach walking towards the deer, the deer kept an eye on the tramper but continued to feed, till the tramper got within about 50 meters at which point the deer slowly walked back up into the bush, an amazing sight.

Once again thank you for trip, extremely enjoyable.

Garry Clarke and John DeLury at Smoky.

We got dropped off in the early afternoon on a beautiful day. Put the tent up, organised a fly and got stuck in the digging a hole. By 5.30pm. we were done, having struck the easiest digging in hard sand once we got through the root layer and old rubbish pits. Pleased to be out of the hole as the sandflies drove us nuts. Off for a shot until dark. No sign along the beach. Next day we put the trail cameras out and found an old tree stand in a rata behind the sand dunes about 500 metres from camp. Next night Garry sat on the stand while I went 100 metres further along the ridge and shot a yearling heading down (sorry Garry) There had been a shower and by the time we got out on the beach in the dark were amazed to find two whitetail had walked out over our footprints and walked along the sand past our campsite. Sunday afternoon turned into steady rain and John got another yearling across the river while Garry went for dive for half dozen paua and speared some greenbone and

moki for dinner. Sandflies forced us to wearing our headnets and gloves around camp. Several deer (two buck and a doe on one camera and two does and fawn on the other) were caught on the trail cameras but all during the hours of darkness. The only two deer we saw were shot.

Sam Milne and Mark Casserly at Lucky

We had the awesome opportunity to build something where great thoughts were had and why what we eat hours ago smells like that, a crapper for Lucky block. It was 7 hours of hell digging the hole to China and not to mention the warmish beer that we had contemplating on how to get the massive boulders out of the hole.

The flight was awesome and walking to our camp site from the beach we noticed crap on the track, awesome there are deer in Lucky block and the challenge is to see if we can get it in our crosshairs. We both had 2 things in common, to shoot a whitetail and see a kiwi. Sam did both, well done Sam.

Sam's special moment - Sam was talking to his mate on his cell phone when Sam looked up and about 10 metres away was standing a white tail. Talking to his mate he said that he has to put him down (phone that is) and run back



to camp for his rifle. I was sitting back relaxing chewing on sand flies and seeing if I can break the world record for killing the most sand flies in one slap. In came Sam running like no tomorrow, grabs his rifle, I follow and we both couldn't believe it, it was still standing in the same spot that Sam left it, just metres off the walking track. As you know the end result, Sam was proud of his shot.

Tamati Maere and Roedie Prinsloo at South Big Glory

Our block was Big South Glory no luck with the deer but manage to get the toilet done and man was it a bloody hard dig. It took us about 5 hours to get the hole finished.

The camp site had been occupied week before by another group of hunters. They unfortunately had left the camp site in a bit of a mess, leaving rubbish such as plastic tarpaulin. I was also little disappointed with the rubbish left on the surrounding beaches. Note the toilet was damaged during transit so carried out a temporary repair to the door sill requiring a bit of fibre glassing to fix. Also during transit the venting cap had fallen off so this would also need to be replaced.

I all most forgot to mention we got lost the first night we went out for a hunt. Let's say New Zealand and South African relationship got a lot closer that night. But we survived and laugh about it later, but that is another story.

Peter and Taylor Graham at Murray River

My first trip hunting on the island I spent a bit of time online and scouring the library for information on the Murray block and whitetail habits, but flying into the block with Zane of Rakiura helicopters I realised just how beautiful the beach was. My son Taylors first chopper flight certainly adding to the excitement, The camp is situated near the Murray river in a large stand of Manuka just off the beach, very sheltered as is the block in general. Good open bush slopes drop right onto the beach.

Putting the rifle aside we concentrated on the task at hand, digging the hole and placing a shiny new toilet on the Murray river camp site, digging the seven foot deep hole took only

forty five minutes, thank god for soft sand, temperatures in the mid-twenties and thousands of starving sand flies did their best to drive us out of the hole.

Finished with enough time for a short hunt, avoiding the noisy dry bush we headed up the Murray river, plenty of sign in the river bed and surrounding flats but large patches of fern and supple jack sure make for slow going. Returning to the beach just on dark we could just make out a yearling playing on the bush edge but beaten by the light she would have to wait until tomorrow.

The next morning after a not so early start we climbed high behind the camp again with plenty of sign but nothing to be seen, getting back to camp we broke out the fishing lines and spent an hour on the beach, while Taylor fished I walked back to camp thinking of a cup of tea, I was surprised to find a yearling standing in a small glass clearing licking her flanks, shame the rifle was back at camp, given we had been digging, hammering nails and driving home pegs not an hour before I was not expecting to see her standing thirty meters from the shiny new dunny.

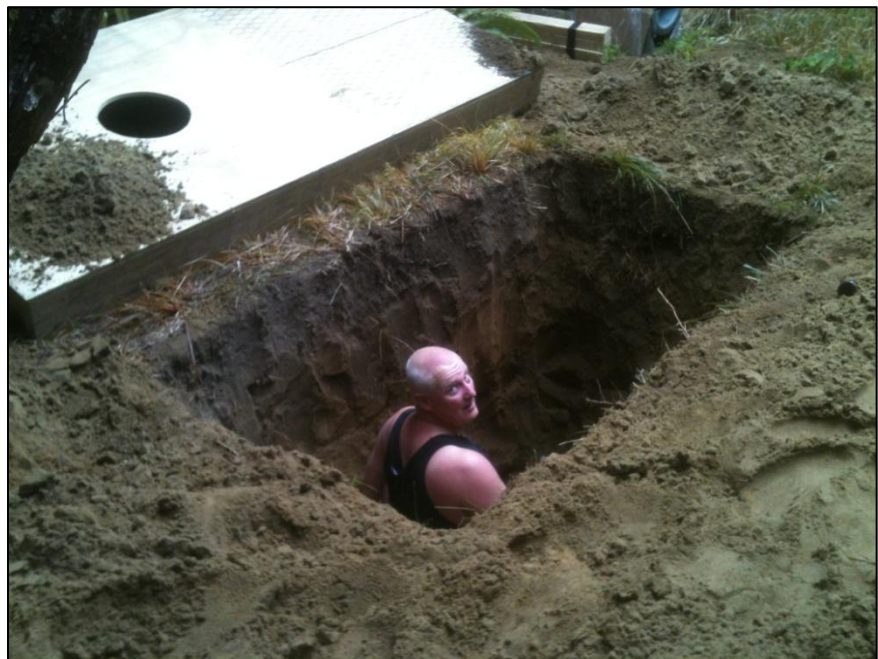
We spent the rest of the day walking along the beach and marking areas where deer had been coming out of the bush, four spots in all on the 1.8km beach, that evening picking the first spot we sat in a small open area just inside the bush only to be rewarded by a hind and yearling walking into the clearing about five minutes later, the first shot felt good but saw the hind jump off into the fern leaving the yearling standing there wondering what was going on, quickly dispatched I had my first white tail, be it a small one, too dark for pics we marked the spot and headed for the tents, a quick look in the morning found the hind thirty meters away, hanging her in a tree we again walked the beach checking for fresh sign.

At the south east end of the beach we located a large set of stag prints over the top of our path from the previous day, he appeared to be following our path and re-entered the bush on the walking track heading towards Bungaree hut, he didn't seem put off by the tourist activity or hunters alike.

Three days revisiting this and other spots along the beach with no further sighting, unfortunately. On our

last day an early morning water taxi pickup to catch the tide saw us back at Oban by 8am, We saw four deer, shot 2 (only 327 meters from camp). The only other kill was a small possum who decided to walk up the beach as we did.

Thanks for opportunity to assist in the great work done by the Trust and Doc and spend four days hunting in paradise at the same time, special thanks to Dale (Doc) for the loan of the pup tents and cuppa on the way home.



CONTACTS...

EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2012-2013)

President	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Vice	Steve Long	235 7035
Junior Vice	Steve Robinson	215 7897
Secretary	David Howden	213 0962
Treasurer	John De Lury	213 1430
Immediate P.P.	Jim Ridley	215 9649

EXECUTIVE

N. Miller, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg, D Craig, J. Ridley
G. Ronald, S. Byrne, K. Watson, B. McNaughton, G. Herbert

PRELIMINARY SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2012-2013

Hall	N Dawson, J Hogg	Huts	J De Lury, N Miller, K Watson
Branch Hunts	G Ronald, J Hogg	Young Hunts	N Dawson, S Long, S Robinson
AGM	N Dawson	Trophies	G Ronald
Poisons & Toxins	R Phillips	Stewart Isl.	J De Lury, R Phillips
Hokonuis	K Watson	Longwoods	S Long
Sth Coast	R Phillips, S Robinson	Fiordland	B McNaughton
Caples	J De Lury, N Miller	Blue Mtns	S Long
Rifle Range	D Howden	Newsletters	G Herbert
DOC Liason	N Dawson		

LIFE MEMBER(S)

WA (Bill) Bell (Branch) *Ray Phillips (Branch)*
Neville Miller (Branch) *John De Lury (Branch)*
Roger McNaughton (National)