

The southern hunter



2009

Southland branch  
NZ deerstalkers association

**Noticeboard:**

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 7.00pm

General Meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 8.00pm

Executive and committee members (2008-2009)

President	Jim Ridley	2159649
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Jnr. Vice	Murray Barkman	2362730
Secretary	David Howden	2130962
Treasurer	John DeLury	2131430
Immediate	Roy Sloan	2352813
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654

Newsletter Editor Nathan Dawson

**Executive:**

Roger Stratford, Steven Long, Brendon Bell, Ray Phillips,  
Murray Colson, Euan Butters, J. Hogg, D. Craig, G. Ronald.

WA (Bill) Bell - Life Member

Branch email is [southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com](mailto:southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com)

**Guest Speaker for August:**

No guest speaker this month but we do have the Graf Brothers DVD of their research of DOC 1080 poisoning up north, should be good viewing.



Prospective member,  
Rowan Cox 14yrs, shot his first Deer on the Mt Nicholas club hunt.  
Also successful were Sam Hodsell, Kieran Henshaw and Mike Pritchard.

**Big Congratulations to all**

### **Weaned calves wanted.**

The club is looking to continue this fundraising project. If you have a weaned calf you would like to donate please contact Roger Stratford phone 2304388. Roger has a number of properties who will then take these animals through to sale as a fundraiser. thank you.

### **Mountain Safety first aid course**

Course runs from Friday 7.30pm -9.30pm, Saturday 8am - 9pm and Sunday from 8am - 4.30pm at a cost of \$25 per head, food supplied. Dates have not yet been set any inquiries to Jim Ridley 2159649

## **SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS**

	General Committees were formed for this year.
Hall:	B. Bell, M. Colson, M. Barkman, D. Craig.
Huts:	N. Miller.
Young Hunters:	M. Colson, G. Ronald, N. Dawson.
Branch Hunts:	N. Dawson, D. Howden.
Speakers:	N. Dawson, S. Long.
AGM:	President.
Trophy Custodian:	G. Ronald.
Poisons/Toxins:	R. Phillips, D. Howden.
Stewart Island:	R. Phillips, J. De Lury.
Longwood/Hokonuis:	J. Ridley, R. Stratford.
South Coast:	R. Phillips, D. Howden.
Fiordland:	R. Sloan, E. Butters.
Caples/Mavora:	J. De Lury, N. Miller, G. Ronald.
Blue Mountains:	S. Long, M. Colson.

## **Animal Skin Tanning Service**

Adam Cowie

Hm:03 2182977

Mob: 0276314462

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

## **DOC links that may be of interest**

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/west-coast/south-westland/south-westland-hunting/where-to-hunt/>

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/historic/by-region/southland/te-anau/caswell-sound-hut/new-zealand-american-fiordland-expedition/>

I think some Southland Branch members were involved in restoring Caswell Sound Hut referred to

### **Southern Adventure Store**

If your not a VIP member of Southern Adventure at 31 Tay St fill out this form or email them on [southernadventure@paradise.net.nz](mailto:southernadventure@paradise.net.nz) and become one. The discounts will benefit you greatly, it doesn't cost anything and you get specials emailed / posted out to you every month you get discounts off most things in store sometimes up to 25%

## Club hunt result to Mt Nicholas, for junior members

On Friday the 24th of July, 7 of us headed to Mt Nicholas. We were forced to take 2 vehicles plus a truck to get Kieran Henshaw's food supplies into the stone homestead where we were roughing it for the weekend. Arriving late in the afternoon we unpacked Kieran's food (while he was away with our hosts and being forced to drink beer and the odd whisky), we got a fire going to ward off a very cold frost.

At 6.00am our alarm (Chef Andy Cox) whizzed around getting the Billy on and breakfast ready (as I said we roughed it). Just before light we were waiting to get under-way.

Kieran and Craig and Sam Hodsell headed north to hunt the East facing slopes while Mike Pritchard, Rowan Cox and myself headed south to hunt, dropping Andy Cox off a few kms down the road so he could thaw out by walking back to do the dishes and cut every fallen branch available into firewood (anyone staying in that hut over the next couple of years, you can thank Andy for the dry wood).

When we dropped Mike off to hunt a big sweeping gut I spotted 1 deer from the road, but it must have been a loner as Mike walked halfway back to Mavora Lakes and only saw tens of thousands of sheep.

Rowan and I were a bit luckier, seeing 11 deer and a NZ Falcon (xw model) high up on the snowy, rocky out crops. A bit of Heli-Mustering was going on at the time as well.

We ended up running out of hunting area as more, tens of thousands of sheep were grazing in front of us on our block as well. I have found it is normally a waste of time hunting in those conditions so we dropped off the tops about 2.30pm and drove to another area stopping for a brew at the hut on the way. We walked into this spot for 20mins or so and found round the corner the remainder of Mt Nicks 35 000 stock units. So back to the hut for the night.

When Craig, Sam and Kieran arrived back with two animals ( 1 from Sam and 1 from Kieran, but Kieran's one was from Craig's rifle, because Kieran's rifle is a sporting rifle. "It shoots that far out that everything has a sporting chance" ) anyhow, It made me want to get Rowan into some more chances to shoot an animal.

After being on the hill for the best part of the day Craig decided to go for a bike ride, he bloody near peddled out to the Te Anau / Mossburn highway and back, so make a note to yourself if he invites you hunting. " BE FIT " !.

Another freezing cold night outside but not too bad inside with another big meal under our belts and a good fire going.

Next morning, 6.00am the same alarm went off in the same way as did breaky.

Craig and Sam went for the walk with us and Mike, Rowan and myself visited the spot where Craig had been the day before. Bugger all stock at that end, it was good and fruitful. Rowan and I went high while Craig, Sam and Mike went low. From our vantage point we watched Mike shoot one and we saw a few more.

It was getting close to heading home time, I suggested we sidled off the slopes on an angle. Two guts latter, 2 deer popped up and on the far side of the gut. In one movement, Rowan raised his rifle, sighted and squeezed in good duck shooting fashion. That moment gave me the biggest buzz of the trip (for that matter a lot of trips). Rowan Cox 14 and 7/8 yrs shot his first deer.

We took a few photo's then dragged it down a very steep bit until the slope eased. Craig came round to meet us at that point and we watched and helped Rowan gut and make the deer into a carry pack. Rowan loaded the deer on his back and carried it out (about 3 kms), He never put it down for a spell, complained once about the weight and was a pleasure to take out.

Once we got back to the hut we had another brew, loaded the vehicles and a tidied up and headed home.

Jim Ridley

For any other inquiries or if you have something to put in the newsletter please contact Nathan Dawson [nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz)

## **CONFERENCE 2009**

Well done to the North Otago branch for hosting a memorable conference in Oamaru 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009. A big thanks to all involved, especially for that wonderful Red display.

**CONFERENCE 2010** - To be held in Palmerston North, jointly by the Tailage and Manawa Branches. The actual date will be advised as soon as possible, but as per the rules it will be the first available weekend in July 2010.

### **CURRENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

President	Alec McIver
Vice President	Roy Sloan
National Treasurer	John Crone
North Island Executive Members	Steve Corlett and Sandi Curreen
South Island Executive Members	Chaz Forsyth and Harvie Morrow
Patron	Hong Tse

Up and coming hunts

We are hoping to get a wallaby trip on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September.

If you are instead in going let me know or watch out for the e-mail close to time

Cheers Nathan

03 235 8852

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[nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz)

On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August we had a rabbit shot up on two Blackmount stations

We managed to miss the rain but the ground was very wet!!!!!!.

It was great night had by all lots of laughs and stories of the one that gone away and the one that lots to many shoots!!!!!!

Looking forward to going back and they are keen to have us back.

There was about 150 shot for the night.

## **A few yarns from Clark Hut**

Deer culler William Deer was based at Clark Hut in 1947 when a Proctor Percival aeroplane crashed at the mouth of Jaquiery River. Deer walked out to Monowai to get assistance, but this came too late to save the passenger and pilot.

Over the summer of 1966-7 the hut was used by Forest Service research for a red deer culling programme under scientist Graeme Caughley. The first lot of supplies for this operation were dropped into Clark Hut by Bill Black in a De Havilland Dominie on 11 October 1966. Jim Kane had just started meat shooting from Clark Hut, taking carcasses out to Lake Monowai by horse and then down the lake. He was most disconcerted when



the Forest Service supplies began to rain down unexpectedly, followed shortly afterward by the Forest Service hunters on foot. Forest Service hunting was focussed further afield in the Florence and Jaquiere, but must have had some impact on the deer available to him.



Aerial view of Lake Monowai where Clark Hut is located

The second drop for the Forest Service hunters was made on 7 January 1967 and was no less of a surprise! One of the hunters recalls that Jim Kane was in the hut sleeping off a night's spotlighting when he was woken by the roar of the Dominie. Staggering to the door he was almost bowled over by the first sack, which entered the hut door, shot across the floor, and tipped up his camp oven of stew from above the fire. The second run put a sack of food (including tins and potatoes) onto the hut roof leaving a dent that still remains.

Another tale has it that a later culler, Lindsay Dickson, had complained about how far away supplies were dropped for him. The next time pilot Bill Hewitt dropped the supplies in by plane the bag of flour dented the roof, and the chimney was destroyed by a box of ammunition. The chimney was reputedly repaired with the engine cowling of the wrecked Proctor Percival plane.

" YOU CAN'T FIX STUPID"  
What are they thinking????



