

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Hind and fawn, Tuatapere April 2012 – G Herbert

## AUGUST 2012

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

## NOTICE BOARD

**Club Executive Meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm

**Club General Meeting:** Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm – **All Welcome**

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

**Guest Speaker** this month is **Zane Moss** from Fish & Game who will be talking about duckshooting and obtaining walking access to hunting areas.

Welcome to our newest members...

*Joel Barnes, Anthony Bruce, Henry Buckingham, Tom Day, Alan McDonald, Dave Lett, Colin McDonald, Luke McSoriley, Duan Zhou, Rachel Robinson, and a welcome back to past president Tamiti (Tam) Maere after a few years in Queenstown*

We look forward to meeting you all some time

The **2013 Wapiti Ballot** is open as of the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 and closes 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Ballot is drawn Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Details go to [www.fwf.net.nz](http://www.fwf.net.nz)

### **REMINDER...**

This Southland NZDA branch owns 3 huts / lodges around the region

- Wapiti Lodge (Te Anau) *see feature further on...*
  - Red Stag Lodge (Mavora Lakes)
- Thicket Burn Hut (Lillburn Valley, Lake Hauroko)

Bookings / enquiries can be made by contacting Neville Miller at 03 - 216 8654

Members take preference over non-members for bookings and discounted rates are available to Southland Branch members.

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

Newsletter Address is: [newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz) or [gregandsonya@woosh.co.nz](mailto:gregandsonya@woosh.co.nz)



NATHAN DAWSON

## PRESIDENTS REPORT...

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We now have our young hunts course underway for the year, looking forward to our first weekend away at the end of this month. We have a good bunch of participants again this year.

Thank you to Colin, Jessyca and Liz from DOC for reporting back on our Chamois information, and other issues that are of concern to them. Some of these were lack of hunting permits being returned from the Blue Mountains, also looking at bringing in a fee for Blue Mountain permits. The Chamois hunt that was held last year showed good results from the findings we bought back and there is still improvement to be made from both sides if we are to look at doing this again, but in general a good success all round.

Recently been up to the Tahr show that was held in Christchurch on the 4th/5th August, bumped into a few familiar faces and also talked to a couple of the Canterbury Branch members, was great to meet them. The venue was packed with hunting and fishing gear and it was very hard not to spend any money, there were some great heads entered and some great prizes. Also talked to one of the DOC guys from Twizel who gave me good information on where the high numbers of game animals are. If you were after a bargain it was the place to be, Great show!

We are still on track to have Stoney Creek in conjunction with Hamills speak at our September, will be some great specials on the night so get along.

### **Club Hunts:**

One hunt is coming up in September, keep an eye on the newsletter, and make sure you get in contact with the person running it so you don't miss out. These are great fun and a great way to meet new people.

There will be at least one club hunt a month from September onwards; these will be advertised in the Newsletter and/or via email. These will cover wallabies, goats, rabbits etc.

Hope you all had a great final weekend on the ducks.

*Nathan.*

ALEX KIDD

# CUTTING THE BIG RIVER TRACK

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When the Conservation Volunteer Projects 2000-2001 booklet came out, I volunteered to help cut the Big River track during January 2001.

I met the others, John and Wayne (DOC) and Paul and Glen at the Tuatapere DOC Field Centre on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>. After lunch it was off to Clifden and load the helicopter then Doc Sutherland flew us first to the Waitutu Hut where Paul and some gear was dropped off, and then to Westy's Camp. The weather was windy and wet and when the helicopter hovered above the small beach it was being buffeted about. Then it was lowered in front of this huge rock face than had a large opening at the bottom with a hut in it and another one further back under the rock. Impressive! We unloaded our gear then Doc flew us to Big River where Wayne, Glen and I started cutting and marking the track back to Westy's Camp, arriving at 7.30pm. Wayne set up in the front hut while Glen and I made up two beds from the rubbish in the back hut.

Up at 5.30am on Wednesday with the thought of going deerstalking before breakfast, but it was raining so went back to bed. A deer recovery helicopter went past at 6.40am then landed at 6.45am so Glen and I got up. Wayne was already up and had made his lunch. We left camp at 9.00am and climbed up the cliff face to the track and started cutting and marking it back to Waitutu Hut. It came out sunny and very hot. We swapped the work around and had two of us on slashers out front while the other carted the gear, marked the track and tidied up with the pruning saw. Any tree falls that we could not shift Wayne would chainsaw them into manageable lengths. I nailed up some possum bait bags on trees. We stopped at 6.00pm and went down to Price's Harbour and got some paua for tea. Back at camp at 7.30pm and had cold showers. After tea I went deerstalking around the coast but the sandflies got the better of me and I soon returned.

Up at 7.00am on Thursday to a fine day. Left camp at 8.25am with more fuel, nails and markers. It took 20 minutes around the beach and up to where we finished on Wednesday. While Wayne and Glen were using the slashers, I was carting everything, and doing three trips to their one. First trip forward I carried two day bags of gear and the chainsaw. On the way back I cleared some slashed debris from the track. Second trip I carried Wayne's pack that had in it the chainsaw fuel, oil and safety gear, plus axe, file, toolkit, possum baits, extra markers, nails, lunch and parka etc. I also had on a belly bag with nails and markers in it and a hammer hanging from its belt. After delivering the pack I would mark the track on the way back by nailing orange plastic triangular markers on trees so that they could be seen from a distance and showed the direction that the track took. On the third trip forward I would slash or saw scrub with the pruning saw and clear all the scrub and trees from the track as well as nailing up the markers required in this direction. Then I would start all over

again. I lost a lot of sweat that day. We stopped at 5.00pm., got three paua for tea and back to camp at 6.30pm. We lit the water heater and had hot showers.

Friday was fine when we got up at 7.00am but it rained off and on later in the day. Left camp at 8.30am and on the track at 8.55am. I was doing the same as on Thursday except that Wayne was using the chainsaw on the scrub, (and catching the No. 8 wire telephone line), and I was using a slasher instead of the pruning saw. We stopped work at 4.40pm and back at camp at 6.20pm and had hot showers.

On Saturday Glen and I were woken at 6.30am by a stone hitting the roof of our hut, but we still stayed in bed till 7.00am. Had breakfast, made lunch, packed gear into our packs and cleaned the huts. Left camp at 8.30am for Waitutu Hut. Wayne and I got 9 paua for tea. On the track at 9.30am and started cutting at 10.30am. We carted our packs forward, then went back and Wayne used the chainsaw while Glen and I used the slashers and I marked the track. After the footbridge across the Grant Burn the track had been trimmed and marked by John and Paul, and we had less to do, mainly cutting tree falls with the chainsaw. We arrived at Waitutu Hut at about 6.15pm and had hot showers from a bucket hanging in the bush. There were four women there doing flora surveys plus John and Paul. We had a lovely three course meal and I over-ate and did not get a good night's sleep.

Sunday was another fine day and I went deerstalking in the morning and spooked a hind that barked at me, but I could not see her. A helicopter landed at the hut and dropped off two women and a man from Landcare. They left the hut at 2.30pm to do tree surveys. The man used a shotgun to blast down leaf samples from the tops of trees. Wayne was away with the other women. I helped John, Paul and Glen do repairs to the swing bridge. We then repaired boardwalks near the hut while John trimmed ferns and grass with a scrub cutter. Paul and Glen got some paua which we added to a great meal complete with wine.

On Monday I got up and had a bath in the very cold river. Wayne, Glen and I left the hut at 9.00am and filled in some boggy parts of the track back towards the Wairauahiri Hut. We visited the two girls that were plotting the positions of trees on one side of the track, then crossed to the other side and helped the other two girls measure and tag young trees. We were back at the hut at 1.00pm and packed up our gear. Bill Black flew in a couple of people at 2.00pm then took the five of us out. A lovely flight with good visibility. We could see the mountains, lakes, rivers and the sea. Bill kept us entertained with stories of his experiences in the area. We were back at the Tuatapere DOC Field Centre at 3.00pm.

These are the main facts of what happened on this project. The rest are best left untold.

*Alex.*

WAPITI LODGE – TE ANAU

# HUTS AROUND THE SOUTH..

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Southland Branch owns Wapiti Lodge.

The Lodge is situated 2km south of Te Anau township on the Te Anau - Manapouri Highway, opposite the Wildlife Park.

Wapiti Lodge proves an excellent base for anyone visiting Fiordland. Overlooking Lake Te Anau our Lodge has excellent views of the Fiordland Mountains.

Completely private, the Lodge contains three bedrooms (twin, double, bunks).

An upstairs loft provides mattress sleeping for 10-12 people.

Heating: A heat pump is installed but the lodge has an open fire - fuel is not provided.

The Lodge is fully electric, microwaves, barbeque, colour TV with VCR & DVD, all crockery, cutlery etc. Linen is not supplied. All other bedding provided.



Members take preference over non-members. Southland Branch Members may book three months ahead. Other Branch Members may book two months ahead and non-members, one month ahead.

Discounted rates are available to Southland Branch members.

Attractions and activities close to the lodge include:

- Wildlife Park
- Ivon Wilson Park
- Lake Henry

# OPPORTUNITY ON CAVALIER...

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Last year the Southland Branch began a ongoing program to eliminate gorse from a small area on Cavalier block at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. We are going to follow this up again this year from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> November and we have a vacancy for one Branch member who is prepared to assist.

We are going to undertake spraying of gorse where it is growing and is too small to control by cut and paste method. We need someone to help with ferrying 20 litre containers of water to the sites. There is three/four days work involved in spraying and there will be time to hunt. Fly in, landing on the beach, fixed wing transport costs will be subsidised. Staying in the Cavalier Hunters hut.



If you are interested contact John DeLury [wtd243@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wtd243@xtra.co.nz) or ph 0276925338

# SUBSCRIPTIONS...

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We still have a number of members who have not paid a subscription for this year. If you are one, please get the gorse out of your pocket. If you are unsure of what or how to pay email us at [southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com](mailto:southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com)

## THE FIREARM SAFETY CODE

1. Treat EVERY firearm as loaded.
2. ALWAYS point firearms in a safe direction.
3. Load a firearm ONLY when ready to fire.
4. **IDENTIFY** your target. **IDENTIFY** your target. **IDENTIFY** your target!!!
5. Check your firing zone.
6. Store your firearms and ammunition separately and securely.
7. Alcohol impairs judgment.

# CONTACTS...

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## EXECUTIVE & COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2012-2013)

<b>President</b>	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
<b>Vice</b>	Steve Long	235 7035
<b>Junior Vice</b>	Steve Robinson	215 7897
<b>Secretary</b>	David Howden	213 0962
<b>Treasurer</b>	John De Lury	213 1430
<b>Immediate P.P.</b>	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

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

## LIFE MEMBER(S)

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