

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Winning photo Stalking Interest Nathan Dawson

## SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

### August 2016

Branch email is: [enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz)

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

### Monthly Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

### Wednesday 17th August 8pm

### Executive Meeting 7pm

No Guest Speaker, but a General Meeting on future directions for the Branch.  
Bring your Ideas and Concerns

## Club Office Bearers

**President:** S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** (**vacant**)

**Secretary:** D Howden 213 0962 **Treasurer** T Smalley 03 236 9960

**Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President** N Dawson 235 8852

**Executive:** N. Miller (Huts) R. Phillips (Membership) 216 3751 A. Nesbit, W. Muir .



## Presidents Report

Hi All

In the past few weeks the Government and DOC announced a massive amount of funding for a Predator free New Zealand. This is great news you would say. But this year only weeks before that announcement we learned that the funding for the Rat program at Homestead block, Masons Bay, has been suspended. The program has been ongoing for a number of years and was very successful, with many members, generously volunteering their time over the years. (Put a Price on that.) With great results being a noticeable drop in the rat and cat population. This low population of predators has had a noticeable and positive impact on the native bird numbers. Seems confusing to understand.

Hunts Course 2016.

Nathan and myself have got this year's course under way now.

Possible Hut refurbishment.

In the coming months Ray Phillips and myself will be working closely with DOC, about the Southland Branch and Doc under taking a Hut refurbishment. This will require some volunteer work from branch members over a weekend or two.

With the cold weather upon us make sure if you are going out for a hunt that you take extra precautions and pack a few extra things and take care.

Steve Robinson

A Link that may be worth a look

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/protectwhitetaildeernz>



## Editorial

The days may be getting longer but over the last week or so the weather has been getting colder. Not the best time of the year to have time to get out and do something! Unfortunately the modern world in which we live takes little account of the seasons, the weather, or the tide in allocating one their time off. But if the weather clears enough for a friend to say go I intend to get out and do something. Then I may be able to write you a fresh story for the newsletter. Tim chipped in this time with a few words on the Wallaby hunt. It was a pity that more weren't able to go on this. Come on with over 300 members someone must have a good story to tell!

For anybody who is looking no Quiz this month I am all quizzed out at present! Glad to accept some questions for the next issue though! Currently besides a Vice President (still no hands up for this job) or a secretary, we could do with someone with the technical knowhow to assist on the Branch website.

Doug G

A big thanks to Yunca for their recent support



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Freeze Dri

## **BACK COUNTRY** *Cuisine*

**Still available at a great price to Branch Members**

**Contact Gus Ronald [gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz) 03 213 0351 for a price list**

### New Members

Please welcome them

Roger Strang, Foster Price, Mathew Harrison

# MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

## SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

As the Branch now operates through the centralised membership system ALL new and renewal subscriptions must be made through the national office not the Branch.

Postal payments to NZDA PO BOX 6514

MARION SQUARE

WELLINGTON 6141.

### Electronic payments to NZDA HQ ACCOUNT

03-0558-0139562-04...

Please ensure that the correct details are entered when renewing IE name and address on postal and Name and Branch on electronic payments .and the CORRECT BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER IS ENTERED

This reminder is being put out as some members have paid direct to the branch account, as the account is not now checked on a regular basis for membership renewal a time lag will occur before any incorrect payments are picked up, and then forwarded onto Wellington.

### Notice for members

**If you change your address or your contact details like email address you must notify the branch and the national office.**

If we do not have correct contact details how can we keep you informed from the branch, and national office cannot send out membership cards or the magazines, so it is important to have correct Postal as well as Email Addresses.

**POST the AGM UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS  
WILL NOT RECIEVE THE NEWSLETTER or  
*Hunting and Wildlife***

### Vacancy

Branch is still in need of a Vice President post the AGM anybody interest please contact the president or a member of the Executive.

## **Wanted to Acquire**

We need 3 twelve foot gates one to replace one at Red Stag Lodge two for Wapiti Lodge. Any type now considered. Any donations will be appraised to confirm suitability Phone Neville 03 216 8654. If you have some that you can spare.

**Fiordland Lake hunt** this has been rescheduled for October if there is enough interest.

If keen contact Steve Robinson 027 747 8109 or Tim Smalley 03 236 9960.

## **Tahr Ballot**

For the next year's ballot, all the information will be live on the DOC website from 1<sup>st</sup> October, and the applications for the Tahr ballot will open on 19<sup>th</sup> October, close on 18<sup>th</sup> November, with the draw happening a week later. The results and expected confirmations of sites will happen before Christmas this year. Please let any of your fellow hunters know of these changes in dates; the changes will be well publicised on the DOC website plus other media.

We have brought forward the dates for the initial stages of the Tahr ballot to help us better manage the workload at the Visitor Centre. We are also working towards having online ONLY ballots and if this is the case, this will be publicised on the DOC website.

Regards,

Mauryne

Ranger, Visitor Centre - *Kaitiaki - Whare Pae Manuhiri*  
Department of Conservation — *Te Papa Atawhai*  
Awarua / Haast Visitor Centre  
Southern West Coast District  
P O Box 50, Haast 7844 South Westland  
T: +64 3 7500 809 | VPN: 5340 | F: +64 3 7500 832

## **For Sale**

New Alloy Pontoon Dinghy on trailer, 4.2 metres, \$5,800 Contact Steve Robinson 0277478109



## Sponsors

Southland Branch would like to thank its regular sponsors and recommend them to its members.

Hunting and Fishing Invercargill

Southern Adventure

Stewart Island Flights

### **Douglas Score Training**

Expressions of interest in Douglas Score training are asked for, from members.

Now's the chance to learn Douglas scoring.

Learn how to score that trophy.

If interested Please contact Ray at 03 216 3751

### **The Wallaby Hunt-21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2016**

On Thursday afternoon, around lunchtime, Steve, myself and our respective daughters, Ella and Rachael left the farm armed with rifles, food, gear and the Polaris on the trailer hooked up to the Hilux. We were heading up to Neville Powell's farm in the Waimati district. His farm is one that our Southland Branch has been helping with Wallaby control for a number of years now.

On arrival, we met up with the other members of the team. Three of them had come down from Christchurch and the others, like us, had all travelled up from Southland. Murray Alan and his two sons decided to go for an evening "reccy", the rest of us stayed in for the night, and try to keep warm. Friday morning came; breakfast eaten and we were away up the hill for the day. We shuttled everybody who needed a ride up the hill on bikes, and then split into 4 teams.

Steve, Rachael, Ella and I, teamed up and headed for the back end of the property. We had some good sport and a good walk. It was great to get out and about again and all the better having Ella with me for the first time. Ella is presently enrolled in the current HUNTS course. What a great experience!

Saturday was a different beast altogether. The day started well, but then became extremely windy. Some of the places where we were hunting had become a bit too dangerous, but that was not an issue because we still had a fantastic time and had some real success, hunting. Eventually though, we had to make the decision to stop and head home a day earlier than expected. However, we tallied 54 altogether. It was noted that the numbers were lower than previous years. There appeared to be more feed on the hills for wallabies and farm stock alike.



The weather forecast was for rain, wind and snow. Time to hotfoot it out of there! We then cleaned out the hut, said thanks to Neville and headed back to Southland; it rained most of the way home. After a good night's sleep, I woke to a few inches of snow all over the farm. I think that we made the right decision to come home when we did.



Rachel with her first Wallaby



Team: Steve, Tim, Rachael, Ella, Ant Flynn, Ant's mate (sorry unaware of name), Ivan, Pete, Thomas, Murray and his two sons.

*Tim Smalley*

## **Notes taken at the meeting of the Blue Mountains Hunter Liaison Group Balclutha 06JUL2016**

**Opening:** 1933 hrs

Meeting chair, Stu Murray, welcomed everybody and gave a brief history and overview of the functions of the BMHLG from its inception in the late 1990s to the present.

**Present:** Paul Jacques (DoC Invercargill), Phil de la Mere (Ernslaw One Regional Manager), Brent Rohloff (OSPRI), Gary Knowles (Regional Veterinarian, TbFree NZ), Steve Hurring (S Otago Hunter), Rodney McCraw (S Otago Branch NZDA), Roy Swales (Otago Br NZDA), Ron Topping (Otago Br NZDA), Chaz Forsyth (Acting secretary), Benji Perry (Blue Mountains NZDA), Chris Brough (Blue Mountains NZDA), Kevin Baxter (Blue Mountains NZDA), John Park (Blue Mountains NZDA), Gail (last name unk) and Jett Black (Anti animal cruelty), Tony Guyde (visitor), N Dawson (Southland NZDA), Stephen Dixon (Southland NZDA), Shelia Bond, Alec Butters, Ivan Hopper. Rosalind Cole (DOC Southland) arrived later.

**Apologies:** Murray Burns, (Upper Clutha NZDA), T Chittock, (S Otago NZDA), R Webb (Otago NZDA), A Mackie (S Otago NZDA), R Phillips (Sld NZDA).

**Reports:** **Paul Jacques (DoC Southland)** then outlined the situation with respect to the Battle for our Birds (BFOB). He briefly summarised the two beech mast years (2014, then 2016), outlining the annual predator-plague cycle, noting that over 800,000 ha where rats had been monitored, birdlife had been placed in jeopardy. (The southern Blue Mountains is one of four strongholds for Mohua.)

Ron Topping asked about the development of repellent baits for birdlife as well as deer, but was advised that none had been developed yet. Other questions were put by Messrs Black, Gyde and others.

A map was displayed showing the concentration of work around the southern end of the Blue Mountains, and the meeting was advised that DoC was awaiting an assessment of rodent presence, and that the threshold value for triggering a poison operation was 30%. It was noted that other sites in the Murihiku area were Waikaia Bush and Beresford (Catlins), as they had been in 2014, the previous mast year.

The meeting was referred to articles in the Journal of the American Medical Association ("JAMA") about 1080 residues in humans by Messrs Black and Gyde.

At this stage, **Gary Knowles, Regional Veterinarian for TbFreeNZ**, presented to the meeting. He observed that wild deer seem unable to maintain BTB infections in the wild. (The identification of the strain of BtB found begs the question of vicariance over time, but was not raised by anyone at the meeting).

Questions which did remain were:

1. Is BtB still in the Blue Mountains? Solution is to use a sample from the feral pig population to determine its presence and incidence.
2. 1 or 2 years will be needed to gather sufficient data (some 200+ pig carcasses needed, head plus upper two vertebrae needed to ensure collection of appropriate throat/neck glands).
3. Following that sample and data collection and analysis a decision will then be arrived at about the extermination of BtB from the Blue Mountains.
4. The BtB status among the feral possum population remained unknown at this stage.

**Brent Rohloff, Regional Manager for OSPRI** then spoke about the proposed pig survey in



the Blue Mountains. Other such survey operations had previously taken place in the Otago area, where three species were under surveillance for BtB: pigs, possums and ferrets. Akatore-Tokomairiro-Kaitangata where some 1516 captures had been made Otago Coast Forest, in 2015/2016, where approximately 72 pigs had been taken, Timaru Creek (nr L. Hawea), where an R22 helicopter, hunting with dogs were used, Western Catlins (Beresford Range) 2015/2016, some 19k ha, and approximately 40 pigs were taken, operation costed at roughly \$30K.

The proposed Blue Mountains operations would take place 2016/2017, and required some 200 pigs from the 20k ha area. The offer of recreational hunters supplying suitable heads was accepted, branches and clubs to be advised accordingly, OSPRI would arrange collection of suitably frozen pig heads.

Brent noted that pigs were viewed as definite end hosts and did not infect other species, as possums do and even infected deer might. However, leftover pig carcasses could infect carrion eaters which foraged upon them. These included mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels). Assurequality was undertaking the autopsying of suspect carcasses and body parts. Many questions came from the meeting floor, all were answered by Brent.

**Reports from DoC (Southland) staff Paul Jacques and Ros Cole, about operational matters relating to the Blue Mountains were then presented.**

- It was noted that even in open permit areas where no charging prevailed, hunting interest, on the basis of hunting permits issued, was less than noted in earlier years.
- Since the inception of fees for the Blue Mountains, permit numbers issued were approximately 20% of those of earlier times (pre-permit charges).

Ron Topping and the rest of the meeting sought a breakdown of spending of the monies recovered from permit fees, as had been agreed at an earlier meeting of the BMHLG when permit fees were initially discussed.

- Most permits were issued for groups of two hunters.
- Approximately ¼ to 1/3 of hunters send in a permit return.
- 15 to 15% of deer reported seen were reported as “shot”.
- Unauthorised hunting (“poaching” remains a problem, and 6 incidents had been reported to DoC by the end of April 2016.

At this stage, **Phil de la Mere, Regional Manager for Ernslaw One Ltd**, took the floor. He advised that a web-based hunter permitting system, as used by Wenita Forest Products Ltd, had failed and was unlikely to be implemented in future. He gave a brief history, where the allocation of 12 hunting blocks for 2 days had effectively doubled hunting block availability when blocks were made available for only one day.

He expressed concerns about poaching, urging the prompt reporting of vehicles, suspicious vehicle movements (particularly after dark) and if possible, with vehicle rego numbers, was always useful even if immediate results seemed not to take place, because they were added to a database of reports being compiled by the Police.

It appeared that the costs of the present security system, which was partly focussed upon the changing of lock combinations on Fridays, amounted to approximately \$50k p.a..

**The meeting ended at 2153 hrs.**

A flyer about the field identification of BtB was handed around and was made available.

### Last Month's Quiz

1. Who wrote "Hunter by Profession" **Philip Holden**
2. In relation to target shooting what is a "Bug Hole"? **A target shooting/ benchrest term for a tiny group.**
3. What is a MOA **a measurement used to describe accuracy of a rifle it is 1/60<sup>th</sup> of a degree or 1.047 inches at 100yards**
4. When reloading where would you find an "Anvil" **In the primer, the firing pin crushes the priming powder onto it.**
5. Which heats quicker a new billy or a fire blackened one and why? **The fore blackened one as black retains heat.**

## Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora

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



email [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto:nandc43@gmail.com) or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Note **Wapiti Lodge Xmas ballot**

**Bookings for this time must be in writing between 15th to 30th September to Neville & Carol Miller**

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

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is required to have firearms at the site.