

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Rabbit will not eat it's breakfast daddy!

*Photo courtesy of Nathan Dawson*

**February 2010**

**Southland Branch  
NZ Deerstalkers Association**

**Noticeboard:**

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 16th February at 7.00pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 16th February at 8.00pm

**Executive and committee members (2010 - 2011):**

<b>President</b>	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
<b>Vice</b>	Steve Long	235 7035
<b>Jnr. Vice</b>	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365
<b>Secretary</b>	David Howden	213 0962
<b>Treasurer</b>	John DeLury	213 1430
<b>Immediate P.P</b>	Jim Ridley	2159649
<b>Huts</b>	Neville Miller	216 8654
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365

**Sub committees for year 2010-2011**

<b>Hall</b>	D. Craig	N. Dawson	J. Ridley		
<b>Huts</b>	N. Miller	J. De Lury	K. Watson		
<b>Young Hunts</b>	R. Sloan	N. Dawson	G. Ronald	K. Watson	
<b>Brach Hunts</b>	N. Dawson	S. Long	K. Watson	D. Howden	S. Byrne
<b>Guest Speakers</b>	R. Phillips	N. Miller	D. Howden		
<b>AGM</b>	President.				
<b>Trophies</b>	G. Ronald				
<b>Poisons/Toxins</b>	R. Phillips	J. Ridley	D. Howden		
<b>Stewart Island</b>	R. Phillips	J. De Lury	S. Long		
<b>Longwoods/Hokonui</b>	J. Ridley	B. McNaughton			
<b>South Coast</b>	R. Phillips	N. Dawson	D. Howden		
<b>Fiordland</b>	R. Sloan				
<b>Caples/Mavora</b>	J. De Lury	N. Miller	R. Sloan		
<b>Blue Mountains</b>	S. Long				
<b>Rifle Range</b>	D. Craig	D. Howden	J. Ridley		

**Executive:**

R. Stratford, S. Long, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg,  
D. Craig, G. Ronald, S. Byrne, R. Sloan, K. Watson.

**Life Member(s):**

WA (Bill) Bell (*Branch*)  
Roger McNaughton (*National*)

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

Newsletter Address is: [newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

**Postal address:**

P.O Box 1588  
Invercargill 9840

**Presidents Report For February:**

Happy new year to you all, yes another and we into the second month, hope everyone had a safe and happy xmas new year period.

We have been hearing about a lot of good hunting stories out there from different people which is great.

Also a lot of RUBBISH has been seen at different camp sites and hunting spots around the place.

What was that old saying "DONT CARRY IN WHAT YOU CANT CARRY OUT"!!!!

This rubbish gives hunters a bad name, not said that you do it but if you see someone leaving rubbish behind tell them that they are not doing the "hunter name" any good by leaving rubbish at their ass!!!

The club is have rifle shoot on the 19th of Feb as a get back together. So get along and meet some new face and have a shoot and see if you come out the best NZDA shooter for the year, and the tasted the pig on the spit.

Also put a big mark on March the 22nd at 7pm The Graf Boys are in town at the working mens club Roarin in Reds. DON'T MISS IT!!!!

So keep safe out there and we look forward to see you at the up and coming events.

Cheers

Nathan Dawson

## **THE GRAF BOYS - Roarin In Reds**

The Graf Boys holding a per-roar film night introducing their new DVD "Roarin in reds". It shows How to, Where to and What Not to do when Roarin in Reds.

Entry fee \$15.

DVD on sale on the night

Where: At the Working Mens club

When: 22nd of March at 7pm

For further Details Contact: Nathan Dawson 027 602 1821 or [nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz)

Will be a great night so get along and get ready for the roar. Tell as many people as you can that would be keen to come.

## **Guest Speakers**

If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in being a guest speaker at the meetings please contact

Ray Phillips, ([rkphillips@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rkphillips@xtra.co.nz))

Dave Howden ([davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz))

or Neville Miller ([nandc43@xnet.co.nz](mailto:nandc43@xnet.co.nz))

## **AGM Night:**

The AGM is here on the 18th of May and we have a Panasonic camera for a spot prize.

You need to entry a head of any shape or form - big or small, or a picture/video in to the competition to go into the draw.



... Only in America!

## **Rats at Mason Bay. Stewart Island**

Since 2006 our Branch has been undertaking a programme of rat control at Mason Bay Stewart Island. A total of 180 rats were killed during the bird breeding season. This was the lowest number of rats killed in the five years. This years report has not been published yet but the 2009 report can be seen at <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/PDF/Mason-Bay-rat-trapping-report-2009.pdf> or by contacting me.

The project will continue in 2011.

Three of last years parties have already committed to this years program and we are looking for people to make up the parties for the following dates in 2011.

24 Sept - 2 October

12 - 20 October

3 - 11 December.

Ideally parties are four hunters, you are required to pay your own food and about \$100 return airfare. The rest is subsidised. Staying at the comfortable Hunters Hut.

We expect each party to check and reset all the rat traps at least twice during the trip and help keep the tracks open. It is not necessary to stay the full period but it is recommended that you allow at least 5 days to allow for a bit of hunting. Six deer were shot last season.

If you are interested in taking part either with your own team or making up one contact John on 2131430.

Last Newsletter we had a note about the other end of Mason Bay.

Cavalier is a very popular hunting block and is easy access with a 30 minute flight from Invercargill airport where you land on the beach at Mason Bay. Planes land on the beach and it is five minutes to the hut.

Over recent years the amount of gorse and lupin has been increasing. It is particularly noticeable in the sand dune system between Leask and Cavalier Creeks. This system is particularly of interest to hunters. It is full of scrubby shrubs and palatables and is surrounded on three sides by forest and the sea on the west end. Needless to say deer tend to use it extensively.

For some time hunters have been asking DoC to do something about the gorse problem at Mason Bay. Last year they did so and spent significant time and money on the problem. Some areas of large gorse stands were sprayed from helicopter. Shown in Orange on the attached map.

Now is the time for hunters to step up and do their bit. We have decided to adopt the sand dune system mentioned above (in mauve) and see if we can't eliminate gorse and lupin from it. The plan is to cut and poison paste the bigger growth and pull out the smaller stuff. It will all be marked by GPS and future work will involved hand pulling seedlings. As Cavalier is so popular it is almost fully booked up for a year. We want two groups of four volunteers. . Are you interested in this? Transport provided.



Your cost is your time and find your own food/share with team of four. There will of course for time to hunt/have a look around. We have arranged November 2011 will be between 3 – 15 November.

We would like to arrange two parties back to back for about five days each. Again either as a party or a part of one. If you are interested contact John 2131430 [wtd243@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wtd243@xtra.co.nz)



### **Joke for the month**

Pessimist Vs. Optimist:

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks.

If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up. Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom and gloom pessimist.

Just to see what would happen, on the twins' birthday their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game. The optimist's room he loaded with horse manure.

That night the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly. "Why are you crying?" the father asked.

"Because my friends will be jealous, I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff, I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken," answered the pessimist.

Passing the optimist twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure: "What are you so happy about?" he asked.

The optimist replied: "There has to be a pony in here somewhere!"

### 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



With the generosity of Back Country foods we are able to source their goods at cost price – this is the same amount that retail stores buy their product in at!

The owner of Back Country Food indicated that he would prefer to deal with only one person from each club or organisation. Gus Ronald has a current order form and he has been dealing with them for the last 15 years.

Instead of putting the form in the newsletter, anyone interested in getting any, please contact Gus & he will e-mail them a copy. It has all the prices and what is available and he is more than happy to take orders of any quantity from members or if they have friends they could also get it as well. It would also be a lot more easier to place order as quantities warranted it so if members wanted small quantities they may have to wait a short while till Gus gets enough to make a decent size order.

As a guide to the price the cost of a 2 serve which seems the most popular is only \$6.65 + G.S.T. making it \$7.65 inclusive which is about 30% cheaper than most retail outlets. The money would be payable on order as he have no intentions of running an accounting or charging system. There is no making any money out of this and Gus is only doing it to help people out.

You can contact Gus on [gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz)

Please also include your NZDA membership number where possible.





# Southland Deerstalkers Rifle Range Shoot

**LOCATION:** Southland rifle range club.(Which is on the airport straight on the way to Otatara) Will be marked with balloons on the gate.

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> February

**START:** 10am

**COST:** \$20 per person (which covers ammo and lunch)

**DETAILS OF SHOOT:** 2-rounds of 15. 5 at 300m 5 at 200 5 at 100 different shooting position at each range. Bring ear protection

**GUNS:** There are 4x .223 club rifle to be used only.

**BQQ:** There will be a Pig on the spit and tea and coffee there.

**PRIZES:** There will be some spot prizes there for best shooters and a cup for the best club member.

This will be a great club day so bring a mate and meet some new members of the branch and see if you can't out shoot them.

For any other detail please contact: Steve Long 235 7035 Kevin Watson 221 7191

John Hogg's 230 4692

We will set up another date for members to bring there only rifles along to sight in before the roar

**SEE YOU THERE FOR A GREAT DAY SHOOTING  
AND TO BE CROWNED THE BEST NZDA  
SOUTHLAND SHOOTER.**

**DO NOT MISS IT OR THE TARGET!!!**

Ammo sourced from: [www.barnaul.co.nz](http://www.barnaul.co.nz)

## **MY FIRST DEER**

During my apprenticeship I had to work at Monowai Power Station which I did during August/September 1962. Because it was outside the trout fishing season I borrowed a P14 .303 rifle with peep iron sights from an older workmate.

On the first weekend at Monowai I was climbing up through the bush when I came across some animal droppings, which I studied and decided they were not from a sheep, so they must be from a deer. Further on in a muddy patch were footprints which I also studied and saw that they were not from a sheep so assumed that a deer had made them. I climbed on through the bush with no knowledge of a deer's three senses - sight, scent and hearing. I did not see or hear a deer in the bush. After some time I climbed out of the bush onto the open tops on the side of a small valley. I walked to a higher, clear spot and looked around over the top of the scrub. I heard a noise and turned to look in the direction it was coming from. Near the top of the valley, but on the other side, an animal was running down towards the bush. I thought that it must be a deer and pushed off the safety catch and lifted the rifle to my shoulder.

In the past I had been duckshooting, and had learnt to swing a shotgun from behind the flying duck and accelerate it and squeeze the trigger as the gun sights passed in front of the duck. This is what I did with the rifle and deer. The deer kept running. I reloaded the rifle and tried to get another bead on it but the deer was now down amongst the scrub cover and I was only seeing glimpses of it. I could hear it though, and it seemed to be slowing down then it stopped in a clear patch. I centred the iron sights on its chest and squeezed the trigger. The deer dropped from sight before the bullet got to it. The bullet tore up the ground behind where the deer had been standing. My running shot had hit it after all.

I pushed down through the scrub and scrambled up the other side of the valley to where I thought the deer should be. I could not find it, so I returned to where I shot it from and tried to work out scrub and landmarks in the area it went down. Again I crossed the valley and searched for it. I was just about to give up, because I was running out of daylight hours, when I found it. What a relief and joy. It was a spiker stag and I had shot it in the heart area.

I skinned the stag and removed one of the hind legs and headed back, reaching the road just before dark and the worker's hostel after dark. It had been long, hard, but extremely satisfying day and I had learnt a lot. I learnt what deer footprints and droppings looked like; what a red deer looks like; how far a running stag can travel after being mortally wounded; how difficult it can be to find a shot deer; how to skin a deer and cut off a hind leg; how time can get away on you when hunting; how old, dried-up leather army boots can cause blistered feet, and how sore the blisters can be.

Alex Kidd.

## **From the Treasurer**

Subscriptions are due on 1st March. Remember you must be financial to enter competitions and your insurance expired on 28th February.

If you are paying online it would be appreciated if you pay on or after 1 March. Please enter your name with payments. If you want to post it in address envelopes to:

Treasurer,  
Southland Branch NZDA  
P.O Box 1588  
Invercargill.



## INVOICE 2011/12

**Due 1 March 2011**

**SUBSCRIPTION:**     **The Treasurer**  
**SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZ DEERSTALKERS ASSN**  
**P.O. Box 1588, INVERCARGILL**

**SENIOR MEMBERS:**                     **\$90**  
**JUNIOR MEMBERS:**                   **\$30 (UNDER 18 YEARS)**  
**STUDENT & SUPERANNUITANT**   **\$65**  
**ASSOCIATE MEMBER:**                     **\$50**  
**FAMILY MEMBERS:**                   **\$5**  
(Family member = wife/partner, children under 16)

**Payment by cheque or cash to Treasurer NZDA, P O Box 1588, Invercargill**  
**Or if you use online banking:** To National Bank Invercargill Banch Acc 060925 :  
0270758 : 00 NZ Deerstalkers Assn Southland Branch. Include your name for reference.  
(Our Preferred method of payment)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family members names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Post code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where does your subscription money go: (Seniors)**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • NZDA national Capitation             | <b>\$50</b> |
| • Colfo (Coalition of Firearms Owners) | <b>\$3</b>  |
| • Game research fund                   | <b>\$2</b>  |
| • National library levy                | <b>\$3</b>  |

**What do you get - Amongst other things:**

- A national organisation that represents your interests
- A local branch looking after your rights
- Public liability insurance cover of \$10million including \$1 million for the Rural Fires Act.  
Can you afford to be without this cover?
- 4 copies Hunting & Wildlife Magazine (\$30 retail)
- Access to branch huts at TeAnau, Mavora & Hauroko and access to huts and lodges owned by other branches.

Associate members will:

- be able to enter Branch competitions & receive the Branch newsletter
- be able to enjoy all Branch facilities and privileges (huts & lodges, trips etc)
- be covered by public liability insurance

Associate members will not get a copy of Hunting & Wildlife magazine and will not be able to enter National Competitions.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT PAYMENT**