

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Wapiti Lodge – Te Anau, available to club members for hire.

## February 2014

Southland Branch

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

# **NOTICE BOARD**

**Executive Meeting:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm

**General Meeting:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm – **All Welcome**

## **Guest Speaker**

Colin Bishop along with Lindsay Wilson (Conservation Services Manager, Fiordland District) A talk about the Waitutu Restoration Programme and the work plan for 2014

### **A Warm Welcome to our New Members**

CASEY LYONS, DAVE PASK, IOANE LETTI, DAVID CASEY, WILLIE MUIR, BRUCE BEST, GEOFF RIVET, KEN SINCLAIR. BRYCE STUPPLES. MICHELLE DELANGE. LUREN ELS & HENDRIK VAN ZYL

Hello all, Well summer has been a mixed bag this year and hopefully it will settle down soon. The good news is that Deer are in their full summer coats. Now is the time to get hunting and get that nice skin tanned for your floor, chair or wall ! Fallow deer in particular are looking great. I am also looking for Fallow deer to tan myself and sell on. In particular the tan spotted variety, so if you have access to these types of deer skins please let me know.

The big thing to remember about this time of year is if you do shoot an animal and want to get it's skin tanned, it is very important to get it washed off in cold water straight away and then either into a freezer or get plenty of salt on it. Bacteria love heat and blood, and at this time of year it doesn't take long for them to get established once the skin is off the animal. So treat the skin with the care needed to ensure a good result once you send it to me. The last thing you want after all your effort is to have the hair falling out!

Best Regards,

Adam Cowie  
Animal Skin Tanning Services Ltd  
[www.animalskintanningservices.co.nz](http://www.animalskintanningservices.co.nz)

**REMINDER: Greenstone/Caples RHA August September Ballot. Must be in before 1 March.**

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/hunting/where-to-hunt/otago/greenstone-caples-recreational-hunting-area-rha/permits/ballot-application-form/>

Branch email is: [southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com](mailto:southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com)  
Newsletter Address is: [newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)



**NATHAN DAWSON**

# Presidents Report...

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Hi everyone, I hope you all had a great break and welcome back to another year. I look forward to hearing some stories.

Our guest speakers this month are Colin Bishop and Lindsay Wilson (Conservation Services Manager, Fiordland District) they will give a talk on the Waitutu Restoration Programme and the work plan for 2014.

## **AGM**

This is to be held May 21<sup>st</sup>, It seems a long way off but it will be great to see a lot of your heads and photographs at this years competition. Makes for a good talking point on the night. Remember you must be a full financial member to qualify for prizes.

## **Club Hunt**

March 13th-16th we are heading to Tekapo area in Tahr country, this will be driving and walking access. Just waiting on a confirmed location from DOC Wanaka. There is a few animals up there and the country is not bad going. Anyone interested in going please let me know [nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz) or 0272358063. Further details once we hear from DOC.

**Working Bee** at Deerstalkers Hall on 23rd February at 8.30am. Looking for help to finish recladding the hall. Be great to see everyone turn up to lend a hand!!

## **Firewood Fundraiser**

March 8th Firewood to be chopped up at 1894 winton lornville highway, trees are already felled. Need chainsaw operators, firewood stackers and help cleaning up. Funds from sale all going back into club.

**NOTE:** We are in urgent need of a treasurer, if you know someone or are keen to do this yourself please let Nathan Dawson or John DeLury know as soon as possible.

**Executive Meeting** will be from 7.30-8pm (Before the general meeting) this year, anyone wishing to attend are most welcome.

Hope you've all been out for a shot this year I shot my first deer for the year on 4th January (not that I'm skiting ha-ha) and have also been talking to a few other hunters who have been getting out as well.

Cheers

Nathan

# Conservation Project..

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## “Rat Control”

December 2013 saw the conclusion of the Branch rat control program at Homestead Block at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. As usual six parties of four men undertook a trip to the Island for up to ten days at two weekly intervals from the end of August to the first week in December. This is the eight year we have been running this program in conjunction with Department of Conservation on the Island. Once again we were assisted by other southern branches and members from Wanaka, Balclutha and Blue Mountains branches took part.



Hunters stay in the Hunters hut on the block and again this year we supplied cooking facilities to help with the trip as well as subsidised transport cost.

The intention has been to kill as many rats as possible to allow the native birds their best chance of breeding and raising their young without the continued predation of the nests by rats.

We have some 315 rat traps spread over 14 kms of tracks around a defined section the block.

The task is to visit each trap at least twice by the party members clearing away dead rats and re-bait each trap with peanut butter.

Kills this year	Party one = 124 rats	Party 2 = 129 rats	Party 3 = 107 rats
	Party four = 33 rats	Party 5 = 53 rats	Party 6 = 25 rats
Total 471 rats			

As well as the rats 43 possums were killed in a series of self-setting traps. Members also recorded bird sightings encountered around the trap lines. All parties shot at least one deer.

Our annual rat kills have been  
2007 = 213    2008 = 276    2009 = 665    2010 = 181    2011 = 342    2012 = 233  
2013 = 471    for some unknown reason I don't have a record of the kill for 2006, if anyone does could that let me know.

Of interest is the new release of the DVD by South Coast productions titled “To the Back of Beyond” Farming at Mason Bay Stewart Island which of course is the area our rat program is centered on.

# Contacts...

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## Executive & Committee Members (2013-2014)

<b>President</b>	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
<b>Vice</b>	Steve Robinson	215 7897
<b>Junior Vice</b>	Bevan McNaughton	214 1487
<b>Secretary</b>	David Howden Sam Long	213 0962 235 7035
<b>Treasurer</b>	John De Lury	213 1430
<b>Immediate P.P.</b>	Jim Ridley	215 9649

## Executive

N. Miller, R. Phillips, J. Hogg, G. Ronald, K. Watson, G. Herbert  
N. Lindsay, S. Long, D. Gordon, H. Williams

## Sub Committees for 2013-2014

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

## Life Member(s)

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