

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Lake Lois Fiordland

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA February 2016

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Next Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

Executive Meeting at 7.00pm

Guest Speaker: Erin a new Ranger with Fish & Game Southland. To speak about Fish and Game, some personal History, and increasing female participation in the sports.



Presidents Report

None available due to electronic difficulties.



Editorial

The Christmas New Year break saw me take Dave upcountry to one of my old fishing haunts the Hamilton Burn. The day was overcast a bit drizzly but other wise not too bad weather for fishing on the morning chosen. As for the fishing we caught three of a good pan size and lost a few more. But the experience as a disappointment for both of us.

We were wearing waders and it was a good job we did. Despite the low river levels, barely shin high at most crossings, and warm conditions.

The place was overgrown the Burn was difficult to reach and to be able to swing a rod to cast in. Why it has been fenced off to keep cattle out and protect the water quality. But at what cost the area is a mess of long grass and tall weeds. Is the cure worse than the problem? I believe so! In bigger bodies of water like the Oreti this fenced off weed problem is controlled by poisoning the weeds, aerial spraying. Heard of DDT and 1080, what will we discover in 20 years about the current poisons in use? (Hopefully nothing bad)

I can remember when rivers were not strips of long grass and weeds, with the water being drinkable, of good quality. We humans have a bad history of creating a new problem in curing an old one. In my opinion the river banks need grazed again, not intensively or with cattle, but extensively with low numbers of sheep. A better solution needs to be found, or perhaps we all should just line up to fish a certain section of the upper Oreti !!

A big thanks to Yunca for their recent support



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 ACCOUNT 03-0558-0139562-00 ..

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.

New Members please welcome them

Errol Maunsell, Jeremy Lewis, Kieran Miskimmin, Meghan Richards, Ross & Andrew Wilson, Jacob Smyth, Lyall Goodwright

Gorse Control Report for 2015

November 2015 saw four branch members fly to Cavalier Block at the south end of Mason Bay on Stewart Island. This is the fifth year NZDA members have been attacking the gorse growing in the area between Leask and Cavalier Creeks. John DeLury & Ray Phillips have been previously and this year the branch president Steve Robinson and new member Boyd Frame came along to help.

This year's target was a stand of old man gorse extending into the bush on the north side of Leask Creek. Steve brought down a small chainsaw and this made short work of these gnarly old bushes. With the other three cutting trails in and dealing with the small stuff we were able to get a heap done before rain stopped work. We spread around some poison prills and it will be interesting to see how this form of control works.



Steve and Boyd checking of the dunes for a deer. The area in the foreground was a stand of gorse targeted last year. No sign of regeneration yet.

Really heartening was to see the dead gorse killed in previous years. In the main we have eliminated large areas of the old man gorse but there will be some big bushes remaining.



Steve Robinson with both the target species.


As you can see it wasn't all work. The first evening John took Steve down to a spot which had been targeted three years previously. While all the big gorse was dead there was a bit of regeneration showing in a few places. They had only been sitting off the skyline for about five minutes when Steve says there's one. John couldn't see it and Steve says it has just moved into a gut. Yeah right. Well a few minutes later it popped out in the open and before John could put his camera onto video mode it went down with neck shot. Easy. Then of all things Steve went out the next evening and got another one. He commented that he could see how whitetail hunting could become addictive. As regular hunters know, it could be a long time before he gets another one. The company was good. The weather was crap. So much so Ray made two trips to the gutter at low tides for a feed of paua to be beaten by high seas both times. Never mind Ray, always next year. JD

Freeze Dried **BACK COUNTRY** *Cuisine*

Still available at a great price to Branch Members

Contact Gus Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz 03 213 0351 For a price list

What's New



NZ HUNTER
ADVENTURES

Season Two
9.30PM
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
Choice^{TV}
CHANNEL 12 FREEVIEW
SKY 24


**10 ALL NEW
HOUR LONG
EPISODES**

EPISODE 1 – FEBRUARY 10
EPISODE 2 – FEBRUARY 17
EPISODE 3 – FEBRUARY 24
EPISODE 4 – MARCH 2
EPISODE 5 – MARCH 9
EPISODE 6 – MARCH 16
EPISODE 7 – MARCH 23

Then we take a break while all the hunters are in the hills for the roar, and start again on April 27, with duck and goose hunting May 4 the Wednesday before opening weekend

EPISODE 8 – APRIL 27
EPISODE 9 – MAY 4
EPISODE 10 – MAY 11

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with promotions and episode teasers!
<http://nzhunter.co.nz/facebook>



Access Queries

Following on from Ange van der Lann's talk last meeting. She can be reached regarding any access queries at Ange.vanderLann@walkingaccess.govt.nz 027-4844-677

Sponsors

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

Hunting and Fishing Invercargill

Southern Adventure

H&J's Outdoor World

Stewart Island Flights

rakiura water taxi (Stewart Island)



Free Phone 0800 725 487

www.rakiurawatertaxi.co.nz

For Transport, dingy's and hunting gear (cookers, plates billys). Inquire as to what they have and save yourself the hassle of freighting your gear over.

This Month's Quiz

1. Who wrote Mountain Monarchs?
2. Who produced the Monarch hunting rifle?
3. Where did CAC make ammo?
4. What breed of trophy deer would you hunt in the Doon River Valley?
5. What is the largest tributary of the Greenstone River?

Last Month's Quiz

1. Who wrote Stags in the Mist? **Connor McKenzie**
2. When would you find caribou in New Zealand **Christmas eve**
3. Where is the Henry Saddle? **Fiordland Between Kathrine Burn (George Sound) and the Rugged Burn (a tributary of the Wapiti River)**
4. Where do the roads Land's End and John O'Groats meet? **In the Blue Mts two such roads meet.**
5. How come the 303 British has a bigger bore than the 308 Winchester? **The .303 is the bore diameter, bullet is .312 The 308 W is the bullet diameter bore .300**

1863 Deer Liberation at Castle Rock Station

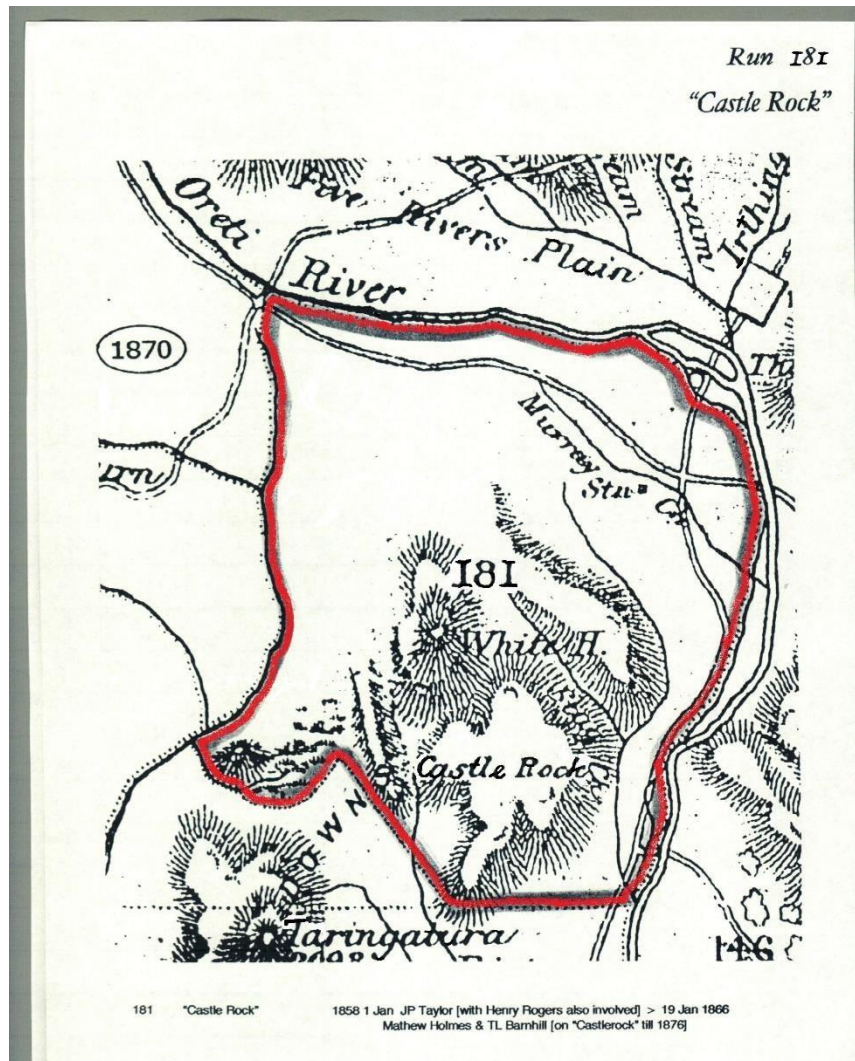
It may interest some readers that one of the earliest attempts to establish Red Deer in Southland involved the liberation of a stag and hind on Castle Rock Station (Run 181) in about 1863. Here are some relevant newspaper reports:

Lake Wakatip Mail, 29 September 1866, Page 2:

“The Southland Times states that, about three years since a pair of red deer were let loose on Messrs Holmes and Barnhill's station, in the Province of Southland, but not having been seen for a long time, it was supposed that one or both of them had died. This, however, appears not to have been the case, as a young deer, only a few days old, was lately observed near the spot where the imported ones were set at liberty.”

Southland Times, 12 April 1869, Page 2:

“ACCLIMATISATION - Many of our readers will remember a pair of fine Scotch deer which arrived in the Province some five years ago, and were on view for several days in the Police Barrack yard. They were a pair of fine animals, the male having magnificent antlers, and promised to be easily acclimatized. They were ultimately liberated on Messrs Holmes and Barnhill's run, near Castlerock, and took up their quarters in a retired corner of the Takatimus. Shortly thereafter, however, - about four or six months - the noble looking stag disappeared, and has not since been seen. It is believed that he must have fallen a victim to the fatal tutu. This supposition is borne out by the fact that the hind remained in the spot originally selected by the pair for their feeding ground, she has been seen quite recently - a thing she was not likely to do had her antlered lord be taken himself to other scenes. Seeing that such is the case, that the female remains, would it not be worth the while of our local society to procure another mate for her. They have quite a herd of deer in Nelson now, we believe, and a young stag would, no doubt, be freely given were the circumstances of the case laid before the proper parties there. It will be a thousand pities if the hind is allowed to live out her existence in solitary widowhood, when a little effort might procure her a fresh mate, and insure to future Southlanders abundant “pleasures of the chase” in pursuit of the noblest of all game.”



Rifle Sighting In

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available to Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

24th Feb Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

2nd March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

9th March Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

23rd March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

30th March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



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

email nandc43@gmail.com

43 Bain St Invercargill

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

Club Office Bearers

President: S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** B. McNaughton 216 3365

Jnr Vice President (vacant) **Secretary:** D Howden (Acting) 213 0962

Treasurer: T Smalley **Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383

Immediate past President: N Dawson 235 8852

Executive: N. Miller (Huts) R. Phillips (Membership)