

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Upper Greenstone Lake McKellar

Southland Branch NZDA News Letter

February 2017

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Monthly Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

Wednesday 15th February 8pm

Executive Meeting 7pm

Guest Speaker,

Not sorted at time of publication of Newsletter

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.

A new year is now one month old. Not much of a summer was had this year, let's hope Feb will be more suitable for us. In no time we will be starting to make plans for some hunting trips over the next 2 to 3 months. Southland has many places for hunting opportunities. Doc land, Forestry blocks and also even private land. They all need permission, the later by consent from land owner. Doc and Forestry blocks require you to obtain permits. Mid December I had a meeting with Rayoniers. They are considering changing how they will issue permits for hunting within their forestry blocks. This may be only be months away. I don't have many details yet, so we need to keep an eye on this.

Rat program at Masons Bay.

Over the last 10 years or so there has been a number of members not only from the Southland Branch but other branches as well. The effort that these NZDA members have put in over there has made a very noticeable different on the rat population. Last year Doc reduced the amount of funding to the program, this meant there was a short fall. I can say there has been a very generous offer made to the Branch to continue with the program. I will be working with the local firm shortly and Who and How much will be revealed later

Hunts Course.

Nathan D and I have put a lot of our time into this. With around 60 plus members having done the coarse now. Its great thing and should be supported by other members. This week I had a visit from one young chap who attended our first course. He came with his photo album, as we spoke I looked at page after page of photos he had taken of trips into the back country. Some nice animals taken, some great back drops a smile on his face in each frame. At this point I knew that Nathan's and my time had not been wasted, but invested. Thanks Lachie. So this year around end of July we will most likely be starting another course.

Firearms License.

CHECK THE EXPIRY DATE ON YOUR LICENCE. It will cost you more the next day if your late in paying.

Steve Robinson.

Vacancies

Vice President

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

Lost & Found

Found at Red Stag Hut Mavora at the end of January two small items that had been left on the window sill on the right hand side of the door

Phone Ray on 03-2163751 if you think you left something at the hut.

Hunting Block Martins Creek Mason Bay Stewart Island

Due to the people having to cancel their trip to Martins Creek, the block has been offered to me to see if anybody wishes to take the block over ,

The period booked is 14th to 21st of March , please contact me on 03-2163751 as soon as possible if you would like to go .

Ray Phillips



Editorial

The New Year has come and already a month has gone. The winds of change appear to be blowing strong around the world. People in a lots of places want change, need change. This has resulted in the election / referendum results of last year. Is there more of this to come, perhaps at home this time?

As they say change is constant! With change some species thrive and change to take advantage of the changes, some become extinct. While one may have a soft spot for the native species of our land and want to save them as they were. Unfortunately it is not always possible in a changing environment.

As hunters it is in our interests to promote the maintenance of huntable numbers of deer in our public conservation estate, while promoting the reduction of out and out pests like rats, mice and stoats.

It is there for alarming to hear of a likely plague of these pests in the Murchison Mts (home of the Takahe). The only good news is that a significant proportion of the population have already been moved elsewhere. Perhaps the question needs asked as to whether the

Murchison Mts are the best place for Takahe. It is not likely the ideal habitat just the last place in which they survived.

The Round the Mountain bike trail is in the news again, has either of the two parties to this dispute given any thought to the Hunters who use the area? Do either want them in the area?

More thought needs to be given to sharing this land so that all get a bit for their use. Many years ago now Recreational Hunting Areas were created even these have been eroded by other interests.

New Members

J Bythell, J McDonagh, M Hartstonge & G Hegan

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

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017--2018 YEAR

Subs. are due as from January 1st ,if you have not received an account as yet please E MAIL National Office

membership@deestalkers.org.nz attention Kirstie or phone them on 04-4996163

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

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.

8th February Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

22nd February Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

1st March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

8th March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

From: "Adam Cowie"

[<adam@animalskintanningservices.co.nz>](mailto:adam@animalskintanningservices.co.nz)

Hello All, Just a timely reminder that wild game skins are now in their summer coats and it is an ideal time to be out sourcing some meat for your freezer and a skin for your floor. We continue to offer our tanning service to all our clients and this time of year the skins look great. My favourite in particular at this time of year is the spanish mennal fallow deer skins.

If you are out getting some of these and don't want the skin for yourself I will be happy to buy it off you. That said please try and head shoot it and get it either salted or frozen asap. Bacteria love heat and so summer is a time when you need to be very careful in preparing your skin for tanning.

If you have any questions about skin preparation or our tanning services ,please look on our website for full details or contact us directly.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2017.

Regards,

Adam Cowie

Animal Skin Tanning Services Ltd

177 Lorn st,

Invercargill

Hm: 03 2171269

Mob: 027 281 3026

e-mail adam@animalskintanningservices.co.nz

www.animalskintanningservices.co.nz

Freeze Dri

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

Book Review

The Deer Cullers

A Celebration

By

Hans Willems

Though this book was first published in 2009 I did not acquire a copy until the Christmas just past.

The book basically set out in two sections. The first deals with the history of culling from the start in 1930 until its demise being replaced by venison recovery. The second part consists of personal histories / biographies of a number of the longer serving and well known cullers. Even then the text mentions heaps more of well-known cullers who did not get their own chapter. Two of whom were personally known to me, Allan Duncan and Tony Hazeldine.

Dunc I ran into at several of Tim Wallis's famous staff Christmas parties, first at Wanaka then at Queenstown. Dunc true to form often had no sox on. While the likes of Hannibal Hayes and Doug Maxwell, sported the latest in three piece suits. Allan Duncan had taken the path followed by several Cullers, ground shooter for venison, fixed wing hunter in a piper cub, then helicopter pilot.

Tony Hazeldine was a culler until the end of his working life, one of the last so employed. In his later years he mainly hunted the Takitimu Mts. I got to know him when he was in retirement in Mossburn. He had some interesting stories to tell. With the hut set up in the Takitimu Mts, He used to travel from hut to hut, just carrying a sleeping bag and some personal affects, hunting as he went. All the huts had food lockers (often hidden nearby) for the cullers use. One of his tale's involved a bushman's mousetrap, (Bottle with cheese on it set up over a four gallon tin half filled with water). He set it up when leaving the hut, when he returned over a week later the cheese was gone. There being so many mice that there was not enough water to drown them all. He just re set it and caught the rest before his next visit to the hut.

The other story of Tony's that I remember concerns him possum hunting at Te Anau downs Stn. He was trapping the scrub and was following the phone line. Attaching a trap to every second telephone pole. On checking the traps he found one missing, the chain had broken! After a good and unsuccessful search, he moved on to the next trap. Only to find a sad and very apologetic possum with a trap on each front paw!!

Interestingly while famous culler Authors like Barry Crump and Rex Forrester are mentioned, others like Philip Holden are not. The same applies to well-known Deer Culler's come Helicopter pilots like Dave Saxton and Dick Deaker, neither are mentioned. Which leads me to the conclusion that those mentioned or not mentioned, stand on their contribution as Deer Cullers not elsewhere.

Overall an interesting book as far as I am concerned. It does little in the way of highlighting great hunting exploits. It simply tells part of the stories that come from this period of our hunting history. For me another good book to add to the collection of hunting books that tell it as it once was and most likely never will be again.

Doug Gordon

Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Red Stag lodge after a good frost

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

email nandc43@gmail.com or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Hut Fees will increase as per the agreement reached at the Special AGM held in November as from the start of the financial year.

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.

