

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

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*Heron River, Abrahams Bay – Stewart Island.*

**2010**

**Southland Branch  
NZ Deerstalkers Association**

## **Noticeboard:**

Next Meeting Wednesday 17th June at 7.30pm

We will be showing a DVD supplied by DOC Called:

1080: Good news for conservation.

And have a General discussion following.

### **Executive and committee members (2008-2009):**

|                          |                  |          |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|
| <b>President</b>         | Nathan Dawson    | 235 8852 |
| <b>Vice</b>              | Steve Long       |          |
| <b>Jnr. Vice</b>         | Bevan McNaughton | 214 1487 |
| <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 | 214 1487 |

### **Executive:**

Roger Stratford, Steven Long, Brendon Bell, Ray Phillips, Murray Colson, Euan Butters, J. Hogg, D. Craig, G. Ronald.

### **Life Member(s):**

WA (Bill) Bell

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

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

## From the Editor

Welcome all to another (financial) year.

We had some great heads entered for the AGM and a few competing with previous records. There were some good photos entered although not as many entered as the year before.

A big thank you also to Janice & Jolie McLeod yet again for the wonderful supper following our AGM last month!

So far 2010 has brought us some very interesting weather.

It seems that many that got into the bush for a hunt ended up either between storms or in general getting a wet arse. Deer didn't seem as plentiful as other years (although I'm sure that some with their magic spots did okay). I myself never got out with having to can a trip to the Island and between work & weather never got out even for a day trip.

We haven't had the worst of what the rest of the country has however the flooding around the place did make for a mixed bag for the opening of the Duckshooting season. Some had a great weekend where other years they would usually be below average and some of the high yield ponds & sits hardly even seen a bird.

Bevan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**15<sup>th</sup> July, 7 – 9pm**

**Gorge Road Country Club**

DOC are holding an evening discussion on the Waituna Lagoons *Ruppia* beds with scientists from the University of Otago, DOC & ES.

Last month (on the night of the AGM) DOC held an open general discussion on Waituna Lagoon with a good turnout.

A light supper will be served during the evening.

If you wish to attend, please contact Polly Bulling on 211 2480 or [pbulling@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pbulling@doc.govt.nz)

## Southland Branch AGM Competition Results

### HEADS

#### REDS

1. Chris O'Connell DS 314 1/8
2. Matt O'Connell DS297 7/8
3. Gary Clarke DS258 5/8

#### FALLOW

1. Roger Stratford DS215 6/8

#### TAHR

- 1 Jim Ridley DS 37
- 2 Jim Ridley DS 36 6
- 3 Jim Ridley DS 36

#### UNDRAWEN DIG TUSKS

1. Chris O'Connell DS 12 6

### PHOTOS

#### GAME ANIMALS

1. Roy Sloan
2. Roy Sloan
3. Roger Stratford

#### SCENIC

1. Roger Stratford
2. Bevan McNaughton

## **Mason Bay Rat Program**

For the last four years members have been undertaking a rat control program at Mason Bay Stewart Island. Between September - Dec 2009 6 parties involving 26 members spent man 156 days checking 300 traps over 14 km of lines. A record number of 665 rats were killed. As well as that 4 whitetail and two red deer were shot. The Community Trust of Southland have supported us with this project which has kept costs to a minimum. We thank the Trust for their financial support. Unfortunately we cannot rely on the Trust for support this year although there are some funds available.

For 2010 we will be undertaking five trips. Four of these already have volunteers from last year but there is one opportunity to make up a party under an experienced leader still exists. That is from 15 - 21 November. Fkly to Mason Bay by fixed wing and land on the beach, walk to the hui and return the same way. If you are interested contact John 0276925338 or email wtd243@xtra.co.nz. It is not all work, each party is expected to check each trap twice, keep a record of where rats are killed but the rest of the time is free to explore and/or hunt.

For a full report on 2009 rat trapping program see

<http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/PDF/Mason-Bay-rat-trapping-report-2009.pdf>

## **Joke of the Month**

An 80 year old man is having his annual check up.

The doctor says "How are you feeling?"

"I've never felt better," he replies.

"I've got a nineteen year old bride who's pregnant with my child. What do you think about that?"

The doctor thinks for a moment and says, "Let me tell you a story. I know a guy who's an avid hunter. He never misses a season but one day he's in a bit of a hurry and accidentally grabs his umbrella instead of his gun. So, he's walking in the woods near a creek and suddenly spots a beaver in some brush in front of him. He raises his umbrella, points it at the beaver, squeezes the handle, and BAM! The beaver drops dead in front of him."

"That's impossible," said the old man in disbelief,

"... Someone else must have shot that beaver!"

"Exactly", said the doctor.