

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Courtesy – Nathan Dawson

## JUNE 2013

SOUTHLAND BRANCH

NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION

## NOTICE BOARD

**Executive Meeting:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm

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

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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	213 0962
	Sam Long	235 7035
<b>Treasurer</b>	John De Lury	214 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

### PRELIMINARY SUB COMMITTEES FOR 2013-2014

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

### LIFE MEMBER(S)

<i>WA (Bill) Bell (Branch)</i>	<i>Ray Phillips (Branch)</i>
<i>Neville Miller (Branch)</i>	<i>John De Lury (Branch)</i>
<i>Roger McNaughton (National)</i>	



NATHAN DAWSON

## PRESIDENTS REPORT...

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Firstly, a big congratulations to all those who won trophies and certificates at the AGM held in May, and also congratulations to John De Lury who won the \$250 spot prize from Hunting & Fishing. We sincerely thank Gerald and his team at Hunting & Fishing for putting up the spot prize and other prizes, their support is much appreciated by the club, so please get in there and support them. Thank you also to Southern Adventure/Scout shop for their donation of raffle prizes, make sure you support these local businesses. Thanks to Janice McLeod and her team for the catering, also much appreciated.

Welcome to the new Executive Committee Members, look forward to your valued input this year. National Conference is coming up next month in Blenheim, I will fill you in on what comes out of it.

Hope you've all been out for some winter hunts, seen some nice pictures of animals taken. I've been braving the cold weather up the West Coast chasing tahr myself.

We are looking at having a club hunt in late July/early August on red deer, a weekend trip away, will keep you posted...

Be safe out there and happy hunting.

Cheers

*Nathan.*

### **OPPORTUNITY**

For the past seven years Southland Branch has been undertaking a rat killing operation on Homestead block at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. Teams of four men spend 5 - 10 days on the block. There are 309 rat traps which are required to be checked and reset twice. This usually takes one day each round. The rest of the time is hunting/looking time. A report on last years work can be seen at

[http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/PDF/Mason\\_Bay\\_NZDA\\_Report%202012-13.pdf](http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/PDF/Mason_Bay_NZDA_Report%202012-13.pdf)

We are looking for one team for the period between 7 - 16 September. If you are interested in this Branch project contact John at 0276925338 or [wtd243@extra.co.nz](mailto:wtd243@extra.co.nz) We have funding applications in but there may be a subsidised cost of \$250 pp plane transport plus food.

ALEX KIDD

# HWAI'S BUCK...

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My friend Hwai Heng started deerstalking late in life and had shot two Red deer but no Fallow deer from one trip to the Greenstone and two to the Blue Mountains hunting them.

On 22 April 2013 I took Hwai to my favourite place in the Blue Mountains. Just after daybreak we were stalking up the main creek when we heard two bucks croaking ahead, one on each side of the creek. The buck on the other side of the creek sounded like the bigger animal but we had no show of stalking across the creek and up the steep bank and the hill to him so took the easier, but not easy, option on our side which was also steep with thick bush and visibility of less than 20 metres.

Hwai only moved when a buck was croaking and he very carefully crept along trying not to make a sound. I followed about 10 paces behind him also trying not to make a sound, which was very difficult on the steep and crumbly slope. Soon we came to a side creek where we stopped and listened and I thought that we were in luck because he was over the other side where the visibility was better.

We crossed over and waited. The next croak was from the thick scrubby bush above where we had come from. What a disappointment! His croak must have travelled across the side creek and bounced off the mature trees back to us.

There was a used deer trail along the side of the main creek so we stalked along it and found two rutting pads which we sat above and listened to the croaking bucks. I decided that we should go back to the side creek and that Hwai wait above this trail while I crossed back over the creek and tried to get the buck to change sides (easier said than done). While Hwai found a good spot to observe from I started sneaking up the ridge on our side of the side-creek but did not get very far before I came to the thick scrub line and spooked an animal I did not see in the scrub. I thought that I had stuffed it, but decided to keep to the plan and cross the creek anyway. Well it was a sheer drop into the creek and I had to head downstream until I found a deer trail leading down into it. When in the side creek I had to follow it down to where the deer were climbing out of it. During this performance I had heard only two short croaks from the buck so thought that he was onto me. I climbed out of the creek and headed upstream on a freshly used deer trail to gain some height and sat down on a rock and listened and had some food, and sent a txt to Hwai (which he did not get) to say I was going to move in to where I thought the buck had been.

I angled away from the side creek and down towards the main creek. When about 50 metres above the main creek I turned and crept towards the side creek. When I was about

80 metres from it there was a loud bang quickly followed by another shot. I yelled out, "Did you get it?" and Hwai replied, "Yes, but it's disappeared over the bank."

When I reached Hwai he told me that the buck had crossed the side creek and climbed up the bank where we did and was walking quietly along the deer trail below him. His first shot (through the heart) had bowled the buck over but with its kicking it was sliding down the hill towards the drop over into the main creek so he fired again but it still disappeared over the side. By hanging onto a tree I leant over further and could see a patch of grey so climbed down and released the buck's antlers from the scrub and it crashed to the creek bed below.

It was a young buck and had five points on one side and four on the other with the fifth showing and the brow tine broken. Hwai was very happy and carried out the head while I carried the meat.

I love it when hunts go to plan.

*Alex.*

The **Greenstone Caples Track** is safer and more accessible to a wider range of people now a ten-year upgrade project by the Department of Conservation (DOC) nears completion.

DOC Wakatipu Works Ranger Richard Struthers said improvements to the track were aimed at attracting more family groups and novice trampers. The easy 3-4 day valley walk 86 km from Queenstown is ideal for people who don't want to tackle anything too strenuous or who are new to tramping.

As it also links to the Routeburn Track, one of New Zealand's Great Walks, the four huts along the Greenstone/Caples are often full to capacity during peak periods (January-March), with the high numbers of trampers wanting accommodation. The McKellar and Greenstone huts have recently been replaced and this winter, the 40-year-old 12-bunk Mid Caples Hut will be demolished and replaced with a new 24-bunk hut.

Accommodation won't be available at this site for most of the winter months during construction, but the Upper Caples hut will remain open, a 90-minute walk further along the Caples Track. Once the new Mid Caples hut is completed, the Upper Caples Hut will be decommissioned.

The section of track between the upper Greenstone and the upper Caples valley has been rebuilt over the past three summers, a major project that has involved rerouting the track to create an easier walk over McKellar Saddle. This raises this section to the standard of the remainder of the track.

The upper Greenstone Bridge has been replaced and several bridges installed in the Caples Valley over critical stream crossings. The car park at the start of the track will be upgraded and enlarged soon.

NATHAN DAWSON

# WEST COAST TAHR TRIP 2013...

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Another Tahr hunt again this year under my belt and an interesting one at that, it started off by getting to Fox Glacier on Friday and meeting up with the third member of our party at the backpackers. We headed down to James Scott's hanger first thing Saturday morning hoping to get in despite the weather. We all piled in the chopper and headed off, only to get so close to going over the pass and the pilot said 'no go boys'

We got the call eventually, early Monday morning and we were in. We met up with our fourth member Nick White who walked in (Keen Bugger)

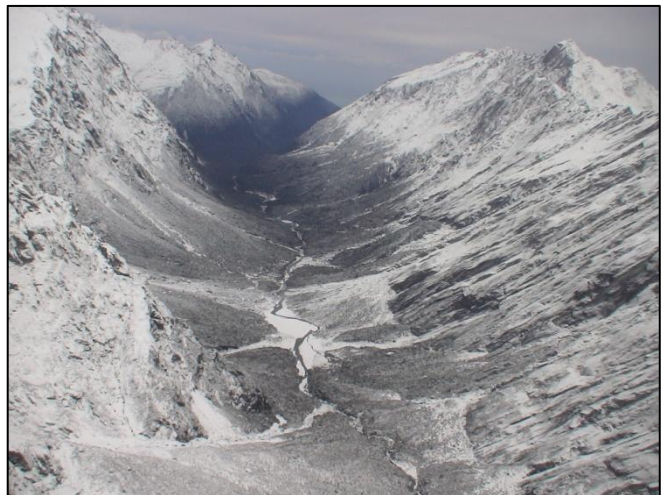
Wednesday afternoon on the tops ready to sneak in on some Tahr when we heard a chopper coming up the Landsborough, hovering gullies and guts around the place he hovered over our camp and nearly came up to us, we were ready to throw snowballs at him, we couldn't figure out what he was doing, then he

buggered off and fired 8 shots down past Kea flat, that was the last we saw of him, thank goodness for that!

James Scott was meant to pick us up first thing Friday morning but the weather turned to custard in the early hours and we didn't end up getting out until Tuesday, i now know what they mean by west coast rain!! Walking's not all that bad, Nick headed out on Thursday and bet us out and back home to Southland. Good work Nick



Had a great trip all the same, shot 24 Tahr and my mate got a nice 13 inch bull, great work Dale.



## Guest Speaker - June

**Greg Hudson** is going to talk and show us some photos of some of the game he use to hunt in the top part of Aussie. Will be a great night and he has some great stories too, will be great laugh so see you all there...



STEVE LONG

## 'HUNTS' IN THE 'BLUES'...

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We left Invercargill in fine weather early Saturday morning, to head to the Blue Mountains, to take two guys, Dave and Sam from the past Hunts Courses to see if they could get to shoot their first deer. Steve Robinson and I, split up taking a block each, Dave with Steve and Sam with me. We unlocked the gate into the Blues and shortly up the road, the first Fallow was sighted [told you guys they can 'handy' so be prepared, eh!].

We dropped Steve and Dave off and wished them well and we travelled to our block 10 mins away. Just after crossing the creek, we put up a Fallow buck, which snorted and moved away, curse the wind! We carried on sidling up the bush covered ridge, listening, looking, hopeful of some more animals, but apart from the odd buck scrape, all was quiet.

Along came lunchtime and we stopped for a spell and a bite and some more listening and looking and nothing showed and strangely no Bucks croaking, being Mid May thought we may have been lucky. Time for a change, I said to Sam this side spur looked good,, out of the cold wind, plenty of good browse and facing the sun and warmth. Sam in the lead, 10 mins later spots the 'target' species, up comes his rifle and a tasty Fallow Doe in great condition is down and ready for the meat bag. Well done Sam!

Back to pick up Steve and Dave, who had put up a few deer, but no meat so far, and headed for the Beaumont Hotel for a feed and beer before settling in for the night in preparation for the next day's hunt.. Another fine day and off back to our blocks for a look around. Sam and I saw another Doe and put up 2x more deer and Steve and Dave saw a buck and a Doe but nothing else to take home. All in all a great weekend, good weather, good company and ready for the next time.

## FOR SALE

**1X Hunters Element**, 35 Litre Pack, 'Elevation' model, rifle scabbard, Air flow Mesh back system, great pack, as new, 6x months old, Retail was \$214, asking \$110.00, reason for selling., have upgraded to a bigger pack for a weekend and day hunt combo.

Also,

**1X PAIR Vasque hunting /tramping boots**, only worn 4-5 times, Size 12, just too large for me, great boots, waterproof membrane lining, cost \$369.00, sell for \$110.00 ono.

Ring after 6.30pm in evenings on [03] 2357035 or email me on [shlong@extra.co.nz](mailto:shlong@extra.co.nz).

**Notice to members:** The July issue of Hunting & Wildlife magazine is due out in the next couple weeks. If you do not received your copy it will be because you have not paid your subscription. The Branch cannot continue to pay to send magazines un-financial members. For a reminder of what or how to pay email [southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com](mailto:southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com) or phone John on 027 692 5338

# PRIZEGIVING RESULTS



## RED DEER

1 <sup>st</sup>	Garry Clarke	254 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Penny Stratford	253 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Roger Stratford	246 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Neville Miller	245 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>





## FALLOW DEER

1<sup>st</sup> Shaun McKelvie 208



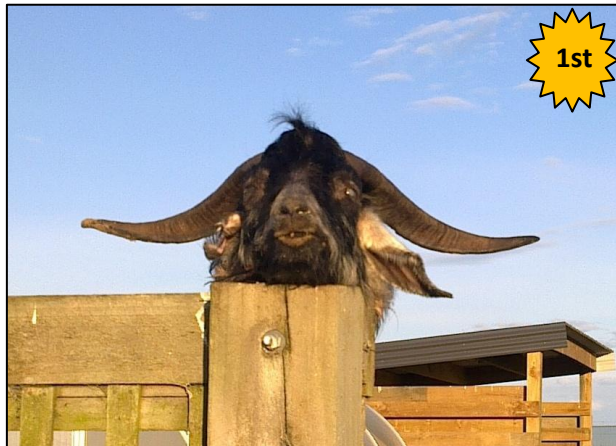
## CHAMOIS

1<sup>st</sup> Greg Herbert 24 ½



## GOAT

1<sup>st</sup> Lachie Wood 69 ¾



**Junior Red Deer** = 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Day (153 ½) 2<sup>nd</sup> Lachie Wood (142 ¼)

**Best Classic Head** = Shaun McKelvie

**Best Junior** = Tom Day

**Young Hunts** = Sam Milne

**Rifle Shooting** = 1<sup>st</sup> Nick White 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Long 3<sup>rd</sup> Doug Corson

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION (WINNING PICS SHOWN)



### ***Game Animals***

1<sup>st</sup> John De Lury

2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Stratford

3<sup>rd</sup> Garry Clarke



### ***Wildlife***

1<sup>st</sup> Bevan McNaughton

2<sup>nd</sup> John De Lury

3<sup>rd</sup> Nathan Dawson



### ***Scenic***

1<sup>st</sup> Ralph Hamilton

2<sup>nd</sup> Nathan Dawson

3<sup>rd</sup> Doug Gordon



### ***Topical***

1<sup>st</sup> Ralph Hamilton

2<sup>nd</sup> Garry Clarke

3<sup>rd</sup> Nathan Dawson

**Many thanks to Gerald and the team at Hunting & Fishing in Invercargill for sponsoring the spot prize which was won by *John De Lury*. Please remember to support these guys because they generously support us – well done John!**

### **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.

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