

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

MARCH 2015

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Next Meeting Wed **25th** March 8.00pm

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS THE 4th Wednesday

Executive meeting 7pm

Guest Speaker National President Bill O'Leary

Thus the monthly meeting a week late.

He is available to answer your questions and queries from the floor. So put some thought into what you want to know and come along and ask. Also remember Bill has a seat on the Game Animal Council, a chance to find out more about that.



Presidents Report

With a new hunting season all but upon us now, a trip into your local sports shop should be on the cards for that vital piece of equipment that is missing from your hunting kit.

If you attended last month's meeting there was a good array of options on display from Stuart Geal, Greystone Guns of Christchurch.

Really interesting and well worth attending I thought, thanks Stuart for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend our meeting and give the members the opportunity to view the products and ask questions.

If you are needing to sight in your rifle before the roar you have until the end of daylight saving to do so. This takes place on Wednesday nights. These nights have been positive and all indications are we can build on this opportunity with the I.P.C.

Remember your hunter safety. Identify your target, check firing range. Be safe.

Steve Robinson

SUBS etc.

You should have your account for this year's sub by now. These need to be paid before you shoot that trophy or take that photo. The trophy evening is in May time is flying, all entries must comply with branch rules.

All cup holders (last Years) please return trophies by the April meeting

Editorial



So there has been another collapse of commercial venison recovery. Now there is talk of subsidising the commercial operators. This time the immediate cause is economic woes in Europe. These will pass. There was no commercial hunting for a few years earlier this century. The trees did not fall down. So there is no need of a knee jerk reaction and solution. A permanent solution needs to be thought through.

The economic woes will sort themselves out, there has been and will be orders. The processors don't appear to be prepared to buy for stock on spec at present, a sign of tight times in the meat industry. Can the Game Animal Council have a role to play? I would like to think so.

My vision for the industry is for a limited number of operators, who apply for and are allocated blocks for the season. From which they are required to harvest a number of deer between a maximum and a minimum figure. This figure having been set by the Game Animal Council and Doc, at a level which minimises damage while leaving enough animals to make the operation continuously viable. It also stops the economically wasteful practice of one operator chasing the other around the hills. If the operator doesn't reach the minimum number change them.

A by-product of this should be enough animals being present for recreational hunting.

Be aware there are some mutterings that commercial operators should have first and maybe exclusive rights to the wild game to ensure there viability.

Also that no commercial recovery is likely to lead to search and destroy operations and increased use of 1080.

But it is a chance to sort out the commercial recovery of wild game, and put it on a better basis.

We need to be active, and remind the authorities that the average Kiwi is better off out there hunting, than sitting on a couch watching their sport on Sky and eating fast food takeaways. Even if it means less profits for some big businesses. Hunting is healthy, Kiwis need more of healthy.

Masons Bay Rat Trip 14

Peter and I left home sometime around 6.40 am, heading around to pick up Brian then on to the airport for our 7am flight to Masons Bay. The start of this year's Rat Patrol. I was depositing the vehicle at the hanger post check in when Tim pulled up alongside. He shouldered his pack and rifle, then it was back to the terminal for the flight in. We got an Islander as the Piper was on maintenance so plenty of room.

Thus we were on the beach at Duck creek around 8am. The hour long walk to the hut followed with packs rifles and food bags. A bit after 10am we were organised and off around the trap lines.

It was a sad tale when we met again at the hut late afternoon. Only seven rats found in traps, six of them on the inner spiral. Plus some long sprung traps, how many of them held rats? A good take away feed for the local cats.

After a good tea, I decided to go for a shot, the weather being passable if with a nor west breeze. The others well it had been a big day. On arrival at by desired spot I staked it out from downwind until near dark, then had a look for sign over part of it, not much seen before heading for the hut and a good rest. I hadn't gone far when I noticed a fence post in a strange position down wing at about 30 metres. Up come the binoculars, a white tail deer rear on quartering away to its right. It was the while trim of the tail that I had picked up, with the tail in the descended position.

Up came rifle and score, the bolt closed. Not the best of shots on offer, but with this wind! So I aim for the visible right side of the abdominal cavity. Planning to drive the bullet through this into the chest, for a killing shot. On the rifle recalling upwards, I felt the hold was good and the shot true, but the deer was off over the ridge in about two bounds. I waited for it to reappear on the clearing down the other side, nothing.

So after a few minutes I went to investigate, only to get a wet foot in a hole in the swamp, never mind, I am soon over there, no sign of blood where the deer was. So I followed the escape route over the ridge. Shit it looked thick in places in the fold in the hill on the other side. Still I better have a good look before it's too dark to see anything. A few more steps and I see a funny brown patch. About another ten yards and I am standing over my deer. On mouthing it, it was found to be a rising two year old doe. On examination the shot had gone where I had aimed it into the right flank.

After gutting it was dragged to an easy to find tomorrow spot, before I was hut bound, with a spring in my step. Only to startle a kiwi on my journey home, always good to see them if only briefly this time.

Sunday I gave going for a morning shot, a miss. Tim didn't and was rewarded with a yearling doe. Taken in a neck shot that nearly removed its head, his first whitetail. We had two deer to cart back to the hut now. The freeze dry was having a trip home yet again.

From here it was downhill with no more deer shot, though some were seen. As the westerly's blew and it rained off and on for the rest of the week. But we kept ourselves occupied setting some cat traps, resulting in one caged cat which I shot. A trial line of traps was set and monitored for rats over at the Island hill, with no luck. Some paint was applied to the hut, and firewood cut.

Then it was back around the traps on the Thursday, the weather being passable. This time there was more success, with 19 more rats. I was rewarded with a good look at a Kiwi in the bush above the Homestead, but no good photos.

Then as the Saturday forecast was not good for flying, we managed to contact the airline and came out on the Friday, having had enough of the wind and the rain, but still keen to do it all again next year. To me Masons Bay has become a special place.

Doug Gordon



Tim and First whitetail

Rumour has it that apparently there's a good article in the latest (Feb-March) NZ Outdoor Hunting magazine in Whitetail that members might be interested in?

Duck Pond Wanted

My daughter and I are looking for an old duck pond that is not in use, that we can use for duck shooting or if there is someone who is looking for someone to shoot with.

Roedie Prinsloo <prinsloonz@gmail.com>

Sighting in Rifles

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. **Remember spaces are limited on sighting in nights so book early.**

March 11th Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

March 18th Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

April 1st Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

This will be the last dates as Day Light saving ends.

Branch Range Shoot

For the first time in some years the branch held a Silhouette Shoot. At the Invercargill Pistol club range. Whether due to the forecast or other sporting events on that day only 8 shooters turned up.

Those that did had an interesting shoot, once a few technical difficulties with the targets were sorted.



Steve Robinson won with 23 points from Nigel Davidson on 20 and Bevan McNaughton on 18.

Ladies 1st Georgia McNaughton 2nd Andrea Sparks.

It is hoped that we will be able to hold more silhouette shoots in the future with the co-operation of the Pistol Club. Who I would like to thank for the use of their range.

Doug Gordon



This Month's Quiz

1. What deer Species was released in Dusky Sound in 1908?
2. What three species of rat are found on Stewart Island?
3. What 5 Minerals have been found in the Longwoods?
4. Can you chamber a .243W round in a .270 Winchester chamber?
5. Who Wrote "The Sharp Shooter"?

Last month's Quiz

Match the huts to the Southland Rivers

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Becketts | Waterloo |
| The Mansion | Irthing |
| The Islands | Windley |
| Back Valley | Garnock Burn |
| Thomsons | Wapti River |
| Clarks (Clarkes) | Grebe |
| Lincoln Bivy | Oreti |
| Flaxy | Gow Burn |
| Boundary | Mararoa |
| Slip Flat | Greenstone |

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

Wapiti Lodge & 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

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