

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Murrays Hut – Longwood Ranges.  
Photo courtesy of Bevan McNaughton

**May 2012**

**Southland Branch  
NZ Deerstalkers Association**

**Noticeboard:**

AGM Meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm

**Executive and committee members (2011 - 2012):**

<b>President</b>	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
<b>Vice</b>	Steve Long	235 7035
<b>Jnr. Vice</b>	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365
<b>Secretary</b>	David Howden	213 0962
<b>Treasurer</b>	John DeLury	213 1430
<b>Immediate P.P</b>	Jim Ridley	2159649

**Sub committees for year 2011-2012**

Hall:	N. Dawson, J. Hogg
Huts:	J. De Lury, N. Miller, K. Watson.
Young Hunts:	N. Dawson, S. Long, S. Robinson.
Branch Hunts:	G. Ronald, J. Hogg.
AGM:	N. Dawson.
Trophies:	G. Ronald.
Poisons&toxins:	R. Phillips.
Stewart Island:	J. De Lury, R. Phillips.
Hokonuis:	K. Watson.
Longwoods:	S. Long.
South Coast:	R. Phillips, S. Robinson.
Fiordland:	B. McNaughton.
Caples:	J. De Lury, N. Miller.
Blue Mts:	S. Long.
Rifle range:	D. Howden.
Newsletters:	B. McNaughton.
DOC liaison:	N. Dawson.

**Executive:**

N. Miller, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg, S Robinson,  
D. Craig, G. Ronald, S. Byrne, R. Sloan, K. Watson.

**Life Member(s):**

WA (Bill) Bell (*Branch*)  
Ray Phillips (*Branch*)  
Neville Miller (*Branch*)  
John De Lury (*Branch*)  
Roger McNaughton (*National*)

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

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

**Postal address:**

P.O Box 1588  
Invercargill 9840

## **Annual Presidents Report 2012**

Well, where have the last 12 months gone!! Another Roar and Opening weekend under our belts.

### Life Membership

It was pleasing to hand out 3 life memberships at last years AGM, the recipients have contributed a great deal to the club over the years.

They were John DeLury, Neville Miller and Ray Phillips.

### Young Hunts Program

Last year we restarted our Young Hunts program. The 8 participants all enjoyed the course and got a lot out of it from the feedback we had from them. A big thanks to Steve Robinson for helping me run the course, we also got a bit out of it and had a lot of fun running the course for the young fellas. The course covers basic skills such as hunting ethics, first aid, river crossing, bush craft, meat preparation, gun safety and selection to name a few. It also included a weekend hunt which everyone enjoyed with some good animals shot.

A big thanks to all others involved throughout the course.

### Rat Control Program

Thanks to all those members involved in helping out down at Masons Bay. For the last six years members have been undertaking a rat control program at Masons Bay, Stewart Island. Between September - Dec 2011 6 parties involving 26 members spent 156 days checking 300 traps over 14 km of lines. A 342 rats were killed. Significantly high numbers were killed by the first two parties (174 & 87) but the last party killed only 7 which is a good sign. We would only be completely successful if there were no rats left to kill.

### Club Hunts

There were numerous club hunts this year which was great to see, these included Goats, Chamois, Rabbits, and Wallabies. These trips are of great value and importance to the club particularly for the younger ones gaining experience. Great to get to know club members as well. We hope to have the same in the coming year. There was good interest in the Chamois hunt which was good to see. The Chamois hunt was in conjunction with DOC which was a good step forward for the club in establishing a relationship with DOC to get involved in animal control in the South.

There were a few members involved in a Tahr Hunt/Cull on the East coast, was good to see them getting involved and getting a look at new country.

We also held our annual rifle shoot again this year, was a great day, thanks to the southland rifle range for letting us use the facilities again. Cheers to Bob Halford and his team.

### Guest Speakers

We've had a great array of guest speakers in the last 12 months, covering some interesting topics. Roy Sloan talked about the Wapiti foundation and showed us footage/photos of some of the cameras in the area.

Gerald from Hamills talked about his new store and showed us some new products. He has been great to deal with and a big thanks to Hamills for donating the spot prize for the club competition this year. Get in and support Hamills as they've been great support for the club.

Also DOC speaking about CMS, Macpac, Back Country Cuisine, Stephen Logie from the Fisheries, and John Broughton about his DVD Ginge the wonder dog.

General

It would be great to see some new faces put their hand up for the Executives, fresh ideas are always welcome. One of the biggest disappointments this year personally has been the amount of hunting accidents. Highlights it for us all that accidents can happen, better to let a deer get away than shoot your mate. There's always another day for the deer. My thoughts go out to all family and friends of the victims.

A big thanks to all that have helped out through the year, it has been much appreciated, also thanks to Janice McLeod and her daughter Jolie for the supper again this year. Also a big thanks to my wife Adrienne for putting up with all the emails and late nights typing reports. Cheers for a great year and looking forward to the next one, Please do not hesitate to contact me with any new ideas .

Regards  
Nathan Dawson.

**Newsletter Editor**

We are looking for a new Newsletter Editor, if you are interested in taking it on, please let us know at the AGM.

## AGM May 16th

The measuring day for all heads will be 1pm on Sunday 13th May at the club rooms.

Photos need to be to Neville Miller by 5pm Friday the 11th May 43 Bain St, Invercargill, 2168654

Horns, tusks and antlers can be all shapes and sizes to enter so don't be put off if you shoot something that you don't think will win. Every photo and head that is entered goes in the draw for the \$250 Hamills voucher which will be drawn out of the hat as a lucky spot prize, so you need to be in to win.

Would be great to see you all there so make sure you mark it on your calendar.



### NZDA Caps & Beanies

The Southland Branch has sourced a supply of caps and/or beanies that will have the Southland branch logo printed on them.

The ones available are:

Caps: Dark green with a yellow logo on the front. Peaked front to keep the rain off.

Beanies: Two types available - the standard type of beanie, and one that pulls over the ears (good for the cold days).

Both caps and beanies will have the logo printed on them.

If anyone wants them, they will need to pay up front, as the order will not be sent in until we have a reasonable number to purchase. The cost is \$15.00 for either the cap or the beanies. Cheques can be made out to Southland Branch NZDA, or cash is more than welcome.

For orders, please see R. Phillips on a meeting night, or mail to:

Southland Branch New Zealand Deerstalkers Association  
P.O BOX 1588  
Invercargill 9840



### **Club Fishing Trip**

19th May there will be a fishing trip from Waikawa Harbour with Caitlins Marine Encounters. \$125 per person looking for 8 people but if we get more than 8 he will do a second day for us, so first in first served. They fish for Groper, Trumpeter, Blue Cod and Perch. Have been out with them earlier this year and we had great success and even caught some Salmon. Please Contact Nathan on 2358852 after 7.30pm or email [nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz). Your place will be confirmed when your payment is made no refunds if you pull out  
[www.catlinsmarineencounters.co.nz](http://www.catlinsmarineencounters.co.nz)

### **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

### **Guest Speakers**

If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in being a guest speaker at the meetings please contact

Ray Phillips, ([rkphillips@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rkphillips@xtra.co.nz))

Dave Howden ([davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz))

or Neville Miller ([nandc43@xnet.co.nz](mailto:nandc43@xnet.co.nz))

### **RIVER CROSSING**

I have been trout fishing for over 55 years. Invariably the other side of the river looked better so I would try to cross over.

One day I was fishing the Oreti River and decided to cross it so I headed into it angling downstream. Near the middle the water was deeper than I thought and when I went stop it was swifter than I thought, and was going to push me over. I was committed to bouncing along downstream and across. I reached the other side wetter and colder than I had anticipated.

Never again! Now I angle upstream if it looks like it could be deep or swift. If it proves to be too deep or swift I can back out, safe in the knowledge that behind me it is shallower and calmer.

If I am with a friend we hold hands with the bigger person upstream. They take one small step and settle, then the other person takes one small step and so on until across the river. If it proves to be too deep or swift the downstream person takes the first small step back and so on.

I have never been in trouble river crossing again since using this method.

Alex Kidd.

## **News from DOC**

### **New hunting permits for small game**

**Date:** 04 April 2012

The Department of Conservation now has a new recreational hunting permit for small game animals.

The new permit is for small unprotected game animals on public conservation land (PCL). It includes animals such as Canada geese, feral geese, hares and rabbits.



Small unprotected game animals include Canada geese, feral geese, hares and rabbits

"The new permits replace earlier versions and restricts the hunting of unprotected game to specific areas and times," says DOC National Hunting Advisor Ian Cooksley.

"You need your own permit, whether you are by yourself or part of a hunting party."

Anyone wanting to hunt on conservation land requires a hunting permit from DOC. Hunting without a permit is a breach of the Wild Animal Control, Wildlife and Conservation Acts.

A permit can be obtained from DOC Area Offices. Some standard conditions apply and special conditions have been added relating to firearm calibre, ammunition type, dogs and anything else relevant to hunting particular species.

The special conditions will reflect the level of public use at a site, its conservation values, management activities, terrain, boundaries, time of year and the interests of neighbouring landowners.

Hunters are reminded that 'spotlighting' or hunting after dark is strictly prohibited on PCL as it is illegal and endangers others.

-Ends-

### **More information**

The new permits may require that the permit-holder;

- use only a .22 rim-fire rifle, .22 hornet or shotgun
- hunt only between 6 pm and sunset (owing to other activities or public use)
- not hunt within 300 metres of neighbouring properties
- use dog(s).

### **Canada geese**

Canada geese are now listed as 'wildlife not protected' under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1953, so recreational hunters, landowners and culling agencies can now hunt them at any time of the year by any legal, humane means.

Every member of a party hunting Canada geese on public conservation land must carry a small game hunting permit. The permit is not transferrable.

### **Other hunting permits**

DOC's hunting permits authorise access to and hunting activities on PCL only. They do not confer rights of access over private land.

Deer, tahr, chamois, feral pigs, wallaby and feral goats

On PCL, the hunting of deer, tahr, chamois, feral pigs, wallabies and feral goats (i.e. WAC Act species) is authorised through:

- an online Open hunting permit (DOC website or Area Office)
- a Roar Block hunting permit (Area Office; only during the roar)
- an RHA hunting permit (DOC website or Area Office; applies specifically to hunting in a Recreational Hunting Area)
- a Restricted hunting permit (Area Office)

### **Possoms**

Possum hunters using traps on public conservation land require a trapping permit from DOC.

### **Gamebird hunters**

Regardless of where they hunt, all gamebird hunters require a gamebird licence from Fish & Game NZ. If hunting gamebirds on public conservation land, each hunter also requires a gamebird hunting permit from DOC. Area Offices usually issue gamebird hunting permits in the form of a Restricted Hunting Permit, and it is essentially an authority to hunt with weapons on conservation land. A dog is deemed to be a weapon if that is the sole means of hunting.

### **Organised culls**

Where organised culls of Canada geese or rabbits are being managed by another agency or group on public conservation land, a management plan will be prepared to ensure that issues such as animal welfare, public safety and consultation meet required standards.

In addition, each member actively involved in the cull will have to carry an individual small game hunting permit as a legal requirement; the permit is not transferrable.

### **Dogs**

In many areas of New Zealand hunters are required to obtain a Dog Control Permit if they wish to take a dog onto public conservation land. Please check with the DOC visitor centre or office nearest to your planned hunting area to find out exactly what rules and restrictions will apply to you.

### **Safety**

Hunters are asked to always consider the following:

- Public conservation land is open to the public and hunters should expect to encounter other hunters and visitors, at any time.
- Always consider your firing zone - both the zone beyond your target and the ricochet zone over riverbeds and water.
- Identify your target. Some goose hunters surround themselves with decoys and conceal themselves near the decoys.

## Hunters join with DOC to save huts



Hunters and DOC Rangers at Motutapere Hut

By Pete Huggins

Backcountry hut maintenance is being done by local hunting clubs in the Tauranga area through an agreement with DOC. This is great because it means we can do more, using skills that come from outside the Department.

About seven years ago we were planning on removing some of the old Forest Service goat cullers' huts from the southern Kaimai ranges between Tauranga and Katikati. There are several of these basic huts along [the North South Track](#). No longer in use by DOC staff, these huts were in bad shape and the plan was to simply remove them.

One of the local Deerstalkers' Associations really wanted the huts to stay. So DOC embarked on a relationship that has culminated in several hut upgrades and a community partnership to maintain access to the backcountry Kaimai forests. Deerstalkers love these huts and want to protect them.