

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

May 2015

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

Next Meeting **AGM**

Wed 20th May 7.00pm



Presidents Report

PRESIDENTS REPORT. 2014-2015

This year seems to of flown by so quickly it's hard to believe all the things we have been able to achieve.

The monthly speakers we have had, have been awesome, we have been very lucky to of heard an extensive range of different topics such as,

Buffalo hunting and general hunting in OZ. Greg Hudson

Advanced photography. Donald Buckley's

Wild boar hunting in Europe. Aim point, plus many more.

The auction night was a success and appeared to go down well with those wanting to sell and buy.

Club fundraiser, thanks to our past president Nathan and wife Adrienne. We were able to clear some pine trees from their property and sell the firewood. Many thanks to those that took the time to arrive all geared up with chainsaws etc. to chop and split the wood.

Working bee at the hall was attended by some old faces but also some new members turned up to help with the cladding.

Club hunts We had three hunts this past year. Two Wallaby and one Tahr hunt. Some other hunts didn't eventuate for some reason or another.

Stewart Island has seen members donating their time with the construction of a hut, and helping with the rat program with some great results.

Invercargill pistol club We have been able to get access to the 100 metre range for the purpose of sighting in, or a small amount of practice for members only.

Hunts course 2014 Nathan Dawson and myself have put another group through the course, with help from Doug, Neville, and Dave when we had the final hunt at MT Nick. This resulted in some mixed success, some managed to put their first animal on the ground. I hope that all who did the course have gained enough so they can build on it.

This is the last newsletter before our clubs AGM. As president I would like to thank all those members who have helped over this past year, the many long hours that goes into this club is countless, emails, phone calls, organising, all the running around, which is all voluntary. I myself didn't realise until I was on the committee how much work goes into running such a club. I would also like to thank all the partners that have had to put up with us, your support has been awesome without all these people a club would not be able to achieve so much. So a big THANKS to you all.

Cheers

Steve Robinson

AGM & Trophy night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 20th of May at 7.00pm.

A spot prize on the night for all entries Trophy's and Photos.

The measuring of heads for the Branch Annual Trophy Completion will be held on Sunday 17th of May at 1.00pm at the Branch Clubrooms,

Be aware of the branch rules regarding entries and all heads must be CLEAN .

Remember all entrants go into a draw for spot prizes last year this was a \$200.00 voucher ,a spiker has just as much chance to win the spot prize as a 16point head ,or a 14 inch Thar .so all heads deer, pig ,goat thar ,chamois , all game species.

.Photo competition entries to Doug Gordon 254 Centre St Invercargill 9812 by 5pm Wednesday the 13th of May.

Photo Categories are

Game Animals : Living Deer, Chamois, Tahr, Goats and pigs

Other Wildlife : Any other living Animals

Scenic : Preferably Hunting Country

Topical: Should contain some evidence of human activity and hunting related. eg hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 size

Remember you must be a financial member when you took your trophy/ photo and to enter.



Editorial

In a bit over a weeks' time (at time of writing) the branch has its AGM starting at 7pm. I would like to be able to say get there early as there is only 50 plus seats for the 390 odd names on our membership list. Unfortunately going by the recent attendance at meetings of under 20 member's average, it is not likely to be a problem.

So I am asking what are we doing wrong? As this is the AGM come along and give us some constructive ideas to make the branch stronger, or better still, put your hand up to do something constructive for the branch.

It is your Branch as much as it is mine, the more we collectively put in the more we can get out.

So hopefully I will see you all there, even if it creates a seat shortage.

The Southland Branch would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their sponsorship over the year.

Hunting & fishing Invercargill

H& J Outdoor World (& Gun City)

Southern Adventure

When visiting ask about any members discounts

Also

Stewart Island Flights

For their support of the Mason Bay rat programme and other flights to Stewart Island

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

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.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

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 ACCOUNT 03-0558-0139562-00 ..

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 .

Remember you must be a financial member of the branch to be entitled to the branch facilities and the NZDA public liability insurance, this means you must have your membership card for the current year which will only be sent out when National Office receives your subs...Payment

New Members Please Welcome Them

Sid & Judy Crombie Tuatapere, Thomas Duggan Invercargill, Peter Forde Invercargill, Christopher Hickey Invercargill, Garry Hoyle Invercargill, Michael King Winton, Allan & Logan McLean Tuatapere, Richard McPherson Invercargill, Samnel Scott Winton, Greg & Wayne Singh Invercargill, Christopher Turner Invercargill

Keeping Up With DOC

This is just a reminder that if you want to keep up to date with what the Department of Conservation is doing subscribe to the following web site. Has good information on changes to tracks and huts.

whatsup@DOC.GOV.T.NZ

CLUB TAHR HUNT – March 2015

Matt arrived Friday morning to pick me up, I threw my gear into his truck and we headed out to Willie's place which was the other side of Edendale. We loaded up his vehicle and headed to Twizel.

(Matt and Willie attended last year's hunts program so were excited to be able to go on a Tahr hunt.)After hours of driving and some storytelling, and a few stops along the way we arrived at Twizel.

We met the pilot who was going to fly us into Ben Ohau Range, our hunting location, we loaded the chopper with our gear which was to last us for the next 3-4 days. After a short flight and the pilot telling us about the lay out of the country we touched down. We set up camp, I have been lucky enough to of been here before so was familiar with the surroundings. We discussed our plan on what to do.

The three of us split up and went in different directions to scope out some animals. Upon returning to camp we shared our findings and made a plan for the next day. The next morning we awoke to a fine cool day. We had breakfast and set off up the valley to where Matt had seen some Tahr the previous evening. Having walked around 2 hours to cover 3ks we arrived at the location and were able to shoot 2 tahr. The weather started to pack up so we decided to head back to camp where we stayed for the next 14 hours as the rain didn't let up making us tent bound. A whole day lost. We were hoping to get out on our last morning but that wasn't to happen due to low and thick fog, sad as it was we had to pack up and head out. Those are the chances you take, you either strike it lucky or not with the weather, we enjoyed what we could, and on the way home we were making plans for the next trip. It was a great trip with 2 really great guys, thanks Willie and Matt.

Steve Robinson

White-tailed Deer Research in Paradise

HOW WOULD YOU DO IT????

While reading literature and speaking with interested parties, I have been considering potential future scenarios for Wakatipu whitetail. There are a number of directions that this species or herd could take. But we are confronted with a major dilemma.

The hunting factions of New Zealand often do not have common goals or shared opinions. The meat hunter rates success as taking meat home. The trophy hunter sees success as bagging that big buck and the guides, well that would be getting the client a buck and making a buck, be it by air or ground. No single group should consider itself above the others, as the animals were released for all kiwi's to enjoy. It is likely to be extremely difficult to develop a management plan for a single New Zealand game herd to encompass the expectations of all of these factions. To give a better idea of the expectations of New Zealand hunters it would be great to have some feedback as to how you would like to see the Wakatipu whitetail herd managed as a hunting resource in the future.

This research is aimed at understanding a particular deer species and what limits it so something may be done to ensure the herds continued survival and hopefully, future prosperity. Hunting is without doubt a limitation to all species if conducted inappropriately. However, when undertaken as a cohesive effort, hunting can be used to increase animal health, body size, and trophy size, prevent boom and bust cycles by maintaining population equilibrium, keep habitat destruction to a minimum and ensure the future of the herd for your children's enjoyment.

So I pose some questions to you all, from all walks of life, with all different perspectives, with one major thing in common " our love for wild NZ, the animals it carries and the lives we lead"

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN NOW, IN 5 YEARS IN 10, 20 OR 50 YEARS IN TERMS OF HUNTING NEW ZEALAND WHITE-TAILED DEER?

WHAT WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO DO TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF NZ WHITETAIL HUNTING FOR ALL OF US?

I know these are big questions which some of you may think to pass on as other people's responsibility to answer. Of course it is absolutely fine to pass up your right to an opinion so long as you are content to pass up your right to complaint.

I will compile every suggestion, opinion and interest into a single document. I will discuss from a scientific angle the viability of suggestions and how they may fit into a larger picture. This will be released for public comment and author response to comment before being finalized. If you are not comfortable publicly posting please feel free to privately message me. If you ask for anonymity your identity will not be disclosed.

I look forward to hearing all of your ideas, thoughts, opinions and interests.

Responses can be sent to:

<https://www.facebook.com/wakatipuwhitetail>

Or

kaylyn.mcbrearty@lincolnuni.ac.nz

Safety with Shots guns for duck shooting

A hyper link on the dangers of steel shot in some old shotguns

<http://www.themancave.tv/video/4JXr0yY0BcA>

Young Hunts Course 2015



This course is for anyone young or old.

**Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid,
Bushcraft, Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing
and more**

**Includes 8-9 Tuesday evenings at the Clubrooms and 2
weekend hunts / bushcraft skills as well as sighting rifles
and river crossing.**

**Starting Mid July, maximum of 12
Contact Nathan Dawson 0272358063
nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz or
Steve Robinson 0277478109
sldgrobinson@woosh.co.nz**

Mason Bay Rat Control 2014

Mason Bay Rat control team results 2014 year.

You will have read Doug Gordon's report about his rat control team in the February newsletter. Doug reported the low number of rats killed as a sad tale. Well more about that later.

Party 1. Gus Ronald, John Hogg, Roedie OPrinsloo & Jamie Pay 74 rats (124)

The 74 includes 49 rats caught prior to arrival which are really from 2013 year.

Party 2. Rodney McCraw and team 17 rats (129)

Party 3. Dave Asher and team 16 rats (107)

Party 4. Euan Butters & team 28 rats (33)

Party 5. Doug Gordon, Tim Smellie, Peter Balchin, and Brian Winsloe, 26 rats (53)

Party 6 Andre deVilliers & team 9 rats (25)

2013 figures shown in brackets.

Total kill for the year was 170 compared to 471 for the 2013 year.

Dave Asher set four traps outside our control area and caught 3 rats. Euan set four traps outside the control area and caught 7 rats in three nights. Doug trialed 4 traps at Island hill for no kills. Dave trailed a mixture of flour & cinnamon, peanut butter, and orange cinnamon paste without any noticeable difference.

This is the 9th year Southland Branch has been undertaking this rat control program at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. This is a year which has been reported as a mast year on the mainland for rodents. So why the low number of kills. Kills in the control area declined with each party. So much so that the last party caught only 9 rats in their first round of 315 traps and in their last round a few days later caught absolutely zero. So what does this mean? When we first started this project in conjunction with DoC in 2006 I asked one of the DoC staff how we were going to measure with the success of the project. His reply was that we would know we have been successful when we did not catch any rats. Well we did achieve that but clearly it does not mean that we have eliminated rats from this area. They will be back! What it does mean is that we have given the native birds that breed in this area their very chance nesting and fledging without the predation of rats.

2015 will be another challenge. A full report on 2014 will be available later on the website.

John DeLury

To give away

To a good Home two mixed age wapiti cross hinds, these have been hand reared and are big girls, contact Ray on 2163751 in the evenings

This Months Quiz

Match various Burns with their Mountain Ranges.

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Iris Burn | Eyre Mts |
| Garnock Burn | Humboldt Mts |
| Mid Burn | Franklin Mts |
| Spence Burn | Livingstone Mts |
| Caroline Burn | Kepler Mts |
| Billy Burn | Stuart Mts |
| Trench Burn | Hunter Mts |
| Route Burn | Thomson Mts |
| Ashton Burn | Princess Mts |
| Winton Burn | Takitimu Mts |

Last Month's Quiz

Match the following list of hunting personalities with the appropriate description. As to what they were known for.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Jim Muir | Early Hunting Guide |
| Philip Holden | Forrest Service Culler and Hunting book Author |
| Barry Crump | Forrest Service Culler and Fiction Author |
| Graeme Marshall | School Teacher and Hunting & Fishing Author |
| Rex Forrester | Forrest Service Culler /Ranger/ Trophy Guide and Author |
| Evan Meredith | Venison Industry Pioneer |
| Dave Saxton | Forrest Service Culler and Venison Recovery Helicopter Pilot |
| John Von Tunzelman | Forrest Service Ranger |
| Goodwin McNutt | Pioneer of live Recovery with Helicopters |
| Ray Tinsley | Venison Industry Pioneer |

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

President: S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** B. McNaughton 216 3365

Jnr Vice President: S. Gainford 03-234-8487 **Secretary:** D Howden (Acting) 213 0962

Treasurer: C. Stevenson 027-415-4633 **Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383

Immediate past President N Dawson 235 8852

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