

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



*A curious Kiwi checking up on one of the Ratting guys at Masons Bay
Gus Ronald*



November 2010
Southland Branch
NZ Deerstalkers Association

Noticeboard:

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 17th November at 7.00pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 17th November at 8.00pm

Executive and committee members (2010 - 2011):

President	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Vice	Steve Long	235 7035
Jnr. Vice	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365
Secretary	David Howden	213 0962
Treasurer	John DeLury	213 1430
Immediate P.P	Jim Ridley	2159649
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654
Newsletter Editor	Bevan McNaughton	216 3365

Sub committees for year 2010-2011

Hall	D. Craig	N. Dawson	J. Ridley		
Huts	N. Miller	J. De Lury	K. Watson		
Young Hunts	R. Sloan	N. Dawson	G. Ronald	K. Watson	
Brach Hunts	N. Dawson	S. Long	K. Watson	D. Howden	S. Byrne
Guest Speakers	R. Phillips	N. Miller	D. Howden		
AGM	President.				
Trophies	G. Ronald				
Poisons/Toxins	R. Phillips	J. Ridley	D. Howden		
Stewart Island	R. Phillips	J. De Lury	S. Long		
Longwoods/Hokonui	J. Ridley	B. McNaughton			
South Coast	R. Phillips	N. Dawson	D. Howden		
Fiordland	R. Sloan				
Caples/Mavora	J. De Lury	N. Miller	R. Sloan		
Blue Mountains	S. Long				
Rifle Range	D. Craig	D. Howden	J. Ridley		

Executive:

R. Stratford, S. Long, B. Bell, R. Phillips, J. Hogg,
D. Craig, G. Ronald, S. Byrne, R. Sloan, K. Watson.

Life Member(s):

WA (Bill) Bell (*Branch*)
Roger McNaughton (*National*)

Branch email is: southlandbranchnzda@hotmail.com

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Postal address:

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Invercargill 9840

Guest speaker for November's meeting:

We will be showing a hunting DVD & have a bit of a discussion.

As many are finding the end of year quickly approaching and life not getting any quieter, we are yet to organise the December breakup function – we will contact you all once this is organised.

This is also the last Newsletter until February, have a safe & happy Christmas break & we'll catch you again in 2011!

Presidents Report For November:

Yes the year is nearly over I don't know where it's gone!!!!

Last month's guest speaker John De Lury talk to us about the Rakiura hunters Camp Trusts on the Stewart Island , with some picture of what they have done to the hunter huts over there. John also showed us some great pictures of white tail that he got with his trail cam. Thanks John.

PS If you going to the Island and would like to know anything about White Tail I'm sure that John would help you if you ask him nicely.

Simon Byrne and other club members had great club hunt on the rabbits out of Crowell on the 16th and 17th of October, shooting 350 rabbits for the weekend.

There is a lot of talk this month about the shooting of Rosemary Ives on Labour weekend, shot by a firearms owner. Our condolences and thoughts go out to the family and friends of Rosemary Ives.

This is only making it hard for the hunter out there. It comes back on all firearms owners that guns are bad.

Christmas is just about here so make sure you get all your orders into Father Christmas before it's too late!!!!

Be safe out there and I will be back in the new year.

Nathan

Goat & Rabbit Hunt – 26th – 28th November

Richard Ronald (Gus) has arranged a goat and rabbit hunt around Coronet Peak followed by another trip up to Macetown around the 10th – 12th December. If you're interested e-mail gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz or phone 213 0351 or email Nathan at nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz (Phone: 027 602 1821 or 03 235 8852) and i will forward it to him.

Hunting Permits

Hunting Permits for the Greenstone and Caples close off on the 1st of December so get yours in.

Contact:

DOC Wakatipu area office for more information
03 442 7933

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)

Dave Howden (davidandlorraine@xtra.co.nz)

or Neville Miller (nandc43@xnet.co.nz)

Opportunity for members

At the south end of Mason Bay on Stewart Island is the hunting block known as Cavalier. So named after the wreck of a ketch of the same name on its way to pick up birders from the Mutton Bird Islands in 1901.

Cavalier is a very popular hunting block and is easy access with a 30 minute flight from Invercargill airport where you land on the beach at Mason Bay . Planes land on the beach and it is five minutes to the hut.

The hut is maintained by the Hunter Camp Trust. Over recent years the amount of gorse and lupin has been increasing. It is particularly noticeable in the sand dune system between Leask and Cavalier Creeks. This system is particularly of interest to hunters. It is full of scrubby shrubs and palatables and is surrounded on three sides by forest and the sea on the west end.

Needless to say deer tend to use it extensively. For some time hunters have been asking DoC to do something about the gorse problem at Mason Bay. Earlier this year they did so and spent significant time and money on the problem. Some areas of large gorse stands were sprayed from helicopter. Shown in Orange on the attached map.

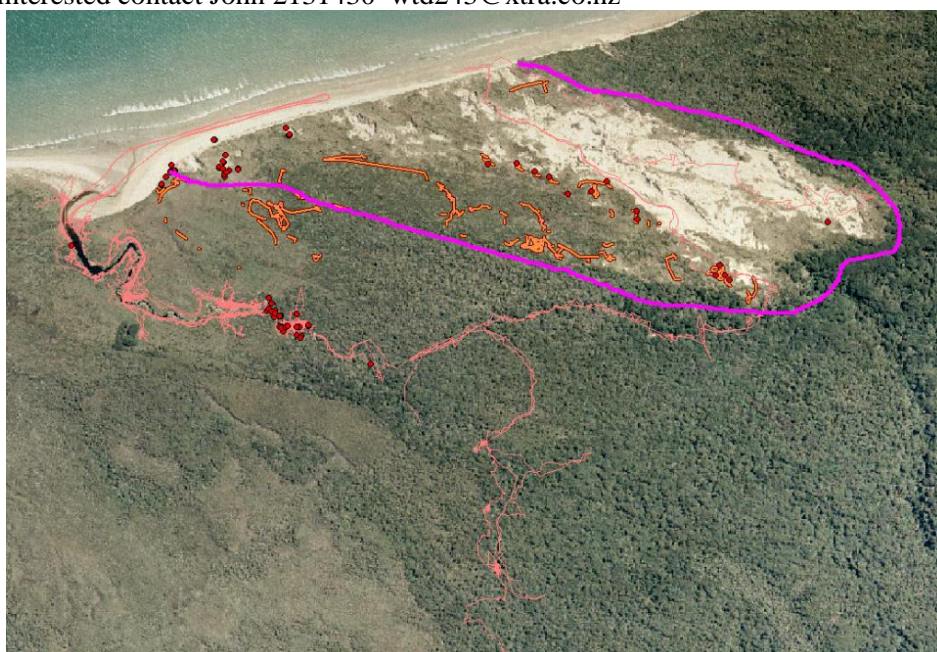
Now is the time for hunters to step up and do their bit. We have decided to adopt the sand dune system mentioned above (in mauve) and see if we can't eliminate gorse and lupin from it. As Rachel says, it won't happen overnight but if we do a bit every year we should be able to get on top of the weeds. The plan is to cut and poison paste the bigger growth and pull out the smaller stuff. It will all be marked by GPS and future work will involved hand pulling seedlings.

As Cavalier is so popular it is almost fully booked up for a year.

There is a window between 10 - 15 January available to us. We want four volunteers to begin the project. I realise that it is close to Christmas but it is all we have. Are you interested in this, transported provided, find your own food/share with team of four. There will of course for time to hunt/have a look around.

We have arranged November for future parties and will be looking for volunteers for those as well. 2011 will be between 3 – 15 November.

If you are interested contact John 2131430 wtd243@xtra.co.nz



Land Search & Rescue

The incident involving Jason Wright & Allan Munro was a tragic event. For many it was unknown until reported in bits & pieces on the web, radio & TV late Thursday 8th October. Due to the type of response and search involved there was initially little direct involvement from Invercargill as due to it being an air (accident) search it was jurisdiction of the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Wellington. I headed in that night to assist where possible and it was then that I understood the immensity of the task at hand. Air & Sea searches were involved with the priority of the searching being carried out by the Air/Sea Coastguard groups. The assistance of up to 3 helicopters from as far away as Te Anau & Dunedin came aboard to help not only with the day searching but also to go deep into the night with their Night Vision gear to do what they could.

Initially it was possible that the search area was going to be quite big being believed to extend into the Awarua/Waituna wetland & west of Omaui. It was the information from Jason's peers & the gathering of police that aided in bringing this search area down from 1250 KM² to around 180 KM² and later smaller still! That's a bloody huge area to cover – especially since you're looking for something that will fit in under 5m²!

It ended up being the Coastguard finding part of the wreckage while cruising around in an IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat – rubber dinghy), a helicopter was then directed to the site and it located the main part of the wreckage. One of the helicopters had flown directly over it earlier that day yet never seen it. All that lay in the difference may have been the height of the tide and maybe the glare off the water obscuring it!

Our hearts go out to the families of Jason & Allan and gratitude to all searchers involved for the assistance they provided.

On other notes the Coastguard have also booked a SAR Team Leadership Skills course for 02 - 04 April 2011 at Borland. Contact me for more details, I mentioned about this course in September's newsletter.

Regards.

Bevan McNaughton

Southland LandSAR Committee Member & NZDA Liaison.

E-Mail: bevan.mcnaughton@southlandsar.org.nz or phone 216 3365 after 7pm.

Joke for the month

An old man in his 80s got up and put on his coat.

"Where are you going?" his wife asked.

"I'm going to the doctor," he replied.

"Why?" she asked. "Are you sick?"

"No," he said. "I'm going to get me some of those new Viagra pills."

So his wife got up out of her rocker and began putting on her sweater.

"Where are you going?" the old man asked.

"I'm going to the doctor too," she replied.

"Why?" he asked.

"If you're going to start using that rusty old thing again, I'm going to get a tetanus shot!"

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



With the generosity of Back Country foods we are able to source their goods at cost price – this is the same amount that retail stores buy their product in at!

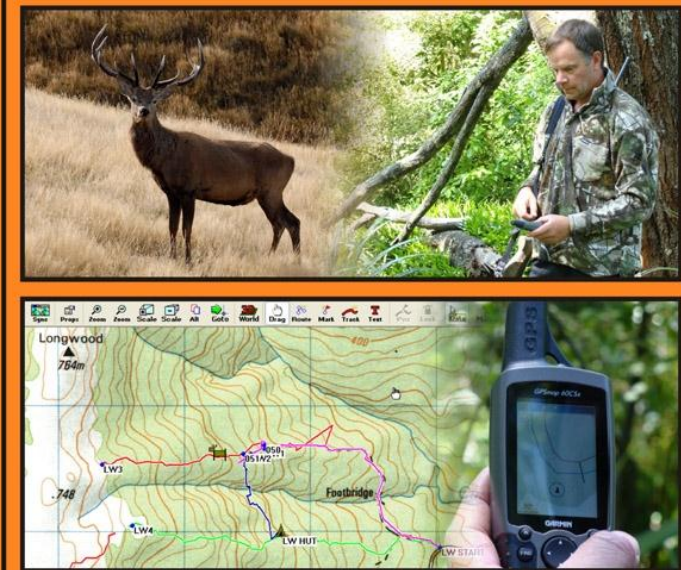
The owner of Back Country Food indicated that he would prefer to deal with only one person from each club or organisation. Gus Ronald has a current order form and he has been dealing with them for the last 15 years.

Instead of putting the form in the newsletter, anyone interested in getting any, please contact Gus & he will e-mail them a copy. It has all the prices and what is available and he is more than happy to take orders of any quantity from members of if they have friends they could also get it as well. It would also be a lot more easier to place order as quantities warranted it so if members wanted small quantities they may have to wait a short while till Gus gets enough to make a decent size order.

As a guide to the price the cost of a 2 serve which seems the most popular is only \$6.65 + G.S.T. making it \$7.65 inclusive which is about 30% cheaper than most retail outlets. The money would be payable on order as he have no intentions of running an accounting or charging system. There is no making any money out of this and Gus is only doing it to help people out.

You can contact Gus on gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz

Please also include your NZDA membership number where possible.



**Expert advice on Garmin GPS's
to suit all your individual requirements.**

Chris at Southland Electronics is an expert on Garmin GPS h/helds. With many years hunting while using a GPS, he has a wealth of knowledge.

Contact Chris for all your GPS needs!

SOUTHLAND
electronics

03 218-2456 | www.nextsouth.co.nz | 294 Dee Street, Invercargill

Wapiti Lodge booking

We still have a couple of weeks for the Xmas period at the Wapiti Lodge still available these are

Sun 19th December - 26th December 2010

Sun 23rd January - 30th January 2011

Contact Neville Miller for more info.

Simulated Field Shoot .22 Rimfire Only

**TO BE HELD SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2010
BY MOSSBURN SMALLBORE RIFLE CLUB**

At Dunrobin Valley Stn Mossburn.

Located off the Wreysbush Mossburn highway on the Dunrobin Valley road. You turn west at the crossroads on the Wreysbush Mossburn road north of the Aparima river one lane bridge at Dunrobin (south of Hamilton Burn) onto the Dunrobin road. Take the first turn left this soon finds you on a gravel road. Which crosses the Aparima River to the south side turn right and follow the road up the Dunrobin valley for about 10km passing a deer farm on your left to the venue.

1 PM start Entry Fee \$10.00

30 plus targets NO .22 Magnums or .177 only .22 Long rifle.

**There may be a chance to try a black powder firearm
A BBQ will be held after bring your own food (and BBQ if desired) There
will be some BBQ's available for use.**

If weather marginal ring Doug Gordon 03 248 6054, Bob McBride 03 248 6371 or Ken McBride 03 248 6266 for cancellation (or more information) or text, Doug 027-637-2206, Tracey 027 227-6064 re cancellation.



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Incorporated

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Media RELEASE

3 November 2010

DEERSTALKERS ASSOCIATION WANTS MANSLAUGHTER FOR MEARS

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association wants to see charges laid against Rosemary Ives' killer, Andrew Mears, upgraded to manslaughter.

Mr Mears appeared in the Taupo District Court this morning to face what NZDA regards as a very minor charge of careless discharge of a firearm causing death.

National president Alec McIver believes the summary of facts read in court today speaks volumes about the quite unaccidental and even deliberate intention on Mr Mears' part, to breach conditions of the DOC permit he had been issued, to hunt in the Kaimanawa Forest Park.

The summary of facts records that:

Mr Mears set up his camp before deciding to go out to find deer close to the roadside, whose presence was related to him by other would-be hunters he'd met before he got to camp;

Mr Mears was in possession of a DOC permit, special condition 3 of which strictly prohibits shooting during the hours of darkness;

Mr Mears believed the LED torch which Rosemary Ives was wearing looked at first sight like the eye of a deer, despite his being close enough to her, (between 15 and 26 metres), to be able to determine otherwise, if he had looked harder.

NZDA observes that quite apart from breaching his permit, Andrew Mears also failed to observe three basic firearms safety rules. He failed to point his firearm safely, to identify his target before he so fired, and to check his firing zone;

NZDA is appalled that Ms Ives died at the hands of a wreckless killer, using a 243 Remington Centrefire rifle, against which she wouldn't have stood a chance of survival at such close range.

NZDA acknowledges Mr Mears has made an apology to Ms Ives' family, which was read outside the Taupo District Court by his lawyer this morning. However heartfelt this is, the apology is no mitigating factor in the association's view. It should not be regarded as a last minute show of remorse, after an event which need not have happened.

NZDA wishes to see Mears' charges elevated to manslaughter, believing the current charge to be too light for a crime as patently preventable as this.

The Association encourages the Police and Crown solicitor, to consider whether his accomplices, (who drove the vehicle from which Ms Ives was shot), should also face serious charges.

NZDA wants to see an example made of this horrific killing, and expects no less than a custodial sentence for Mr Mears.

Please direct all further enquiries to:

Alec McIver, National President, Ph: 07 349 4250 (work), 07 347 4380 (home) or:

Matthew Lark, Advisor, to the National Executive, Ph: 07 377 1302.