

The southern hunter



October 2008

Southland branch

NZ deerstalkers association

Noticeboard:

Executive Meeting: Wednesday 15th October 7pm

General Meeting: Wednesday 15th October 8pm

Executive and committee members (2008-2009)

	President	Jim Ridley	
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852	
Jnr. Vice	Murray Barkman		
Secretary	David Howden	2130962	
Treasurer	John DeLury	217 5890	
Immediate	Roy Sloan	2352813	
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654	
	Newsletter Editor	Nathan Dawson	
	Executive:		
Roger Stratford	Steven Long	Brendon Bell	Ray Phillips
	Wayne Cook	Murray Colson	
	Euan Butters		

GUEST SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Ken Tustin

He will cover the New Zealand Wildlife Trust and give an update on the moose project, camera's etc.

Also talk on Thar with a recent visit to Nepal, homeland of the Himalayan Thar with some great footage of them in their natural environment,

plus some great footage of Thar while Ken has been doing a behavioural study at Ben McLeod Station up the Rakaia River, this might help some members going on the next Thar hunt???

HUTS

These dates are still available at the Wapiti Lodge for the Christmas period.

28th December _____ 4th January

17th January _____ 25th January

25th January _____ 21st February

they could either ring us on 2168654 or email us at nandc43@xnet.co.nz with their intentions.
Neville Miller

New Members

A Warm welcome to new members Scott Balneaves
and Mark Potter

Animal Skin Tanning Service

Adam Cowie

Hm:03 2182977

Mob: 0276314462

E-mail ajcowie@woosh.co.nz

Wild Food Safety

Check out the new wild food safety DVD by going to
www.nzfsa.co.nz and requesting a copy or phone 0800 693
721. Also available with Spring edition of Hunting &
Fishing

August rat trap laying trip

7 members of the Deer Stalkers Assn flew into Mason Bay on Sat 9th Aug for 5 days. They were made up of the following members Gus Ronald, John DeLury, Dennis Greenland, Dave Craig, Ernie Pringle, Chris Dehair and John Hogg. We were met by 2 DOC workers Matt and Letitia. Matt being one of the original DOC guys that set up the lines back in 2006. Four of us stayed in the hunters hut whilst the other 3 stayed with Matt and Letitia in the old homestead.

As we were the first group in for the year there was a lot of time spent not only cleaning up the traps (that really weren't in too bad a condition with only a few having to be replaced) but clearing all the tracks much to the benefit of the future groups. In all 241 traps were cleaned with a wire brush, peanut butter placed on for bait and reset, as well as setting up 2 new lines with an additional 40 traps set up.

I think all members of the group were well entertained by an on going English history lesson from Dave Craig with added quips from John Hogg and with them having an extremely strong English (Raw Scottish) accent, understanding them was a daily challenge. If you ever get a chance ask Dave what a "hoot on your heed" is.

As we had Letitia with us who cooked all the evening meals, it was always a pleasure coming back to the homestead to a well cooked meal every night.

As a lot of time was spent working on the lines and traps not as much time was spent hunting as past years hence only about 5 deer were seen and none shot. I suppose you can't shoot 4 every trip like our party got last year. The time of the year also meant that there was only about 12hrs daylight each day. But apart from that, the weather was great the company even better, so I'm looking forward to my trip next year.

Gus Ronald



Nah nah nah nah nah didn't catch me!!!!

Rat trip 30th Sept 4th Oct

Party Dave Asher Murray Cleaver Neville Cleaver

Flew in to Duck Creek and covered most of the lines on 30th and finished the Cat line

on the 1st .

Whilst there were several decayed rats there were also several recently caught rats.

Trap lines were rechecked on the 2nd and Duck creek on the 3rd.

70 rats in total.

We did notice several traps had the trip rod bent down preventing the trap from being

sprung and all the bait taken.

I have sent a note with return to DOC regarding bait stations.

My own view is traps are not the best use of available resources.

Once a trap is sprung it is of no value.

Bait station continues operating.

Secondary kill of cats with poison.

There is small amounts of possum sign on all lines.

Would only have to be looked every month or two.

We have 400 bait station for rats and possums in Mores reserve here in Riverton

beside tracks in regular use and much closer than the trampers would be at Masons.

This has worked very well with very low levels of both rats and possums recorded in

tracking tunnels. In fact no rat tracks were recorded.

It is a mistake to kill the rats and leave the cats.

Dave Asher



This one wasn't so lucky, good work team keep it up!!!

United Future Delivers for Hunters - Fact Sheet:

Big Game Hunting Council (BGHC)

The BGHC will be an overarching body, covering the entire sector, and able to operate cooperatively with existing sector bodies. It will be owned by its membership and be self-funding (such funding may come from membership fees, industry levies and contracting with landowners and managers to undertake hunter management).

The Establishment Committee will recommend to the Minister of Conservation the appropriate structure, functions, funding and operation of the BGHC as a non-statutory body that will address the following issues:

- ① To advocate for the interests of its membership directly to the Minister of Conservation and to the public generally.
- To encourage participation in hunting and farming of deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs and gain increased recognition of their agricultural and recreational resource value.
- To co-ordinate recreational hunting, guided hunting, carcass recovery and live capture to reduce conflicts.
- To establish agreed national standards for hunting activities including unsanctioned releases of wild animals and hunting ethics.
- Develop codes of practice for recreational, guided and commercial hunting.
- Conduct research to find where the resource value of wild animals can be enhanced without causing any increase in harm and collaborating with hunters, deer farmers and conservation interests for the best overall outcomes.

The Establishment Committee will comprise of the following membership, chosen through consultation within each sub-sector:

Recreational deer, tahr and chamois hunting.

Pig hunting.

Commercial hunting.

Safari park operation and deer farming.

Guiding services to recreational hunters.

The Establishment Committee will be provided with a budget not exceeding \$200 000 for a period of not more than two years in order to establish the BGHC.

Wild Animal Control Advisory Committee (WACAC)

The WACAC will provide the Minister of Conservation and relevant agencies with high-level guidance aimed at reducing the harmful effects of deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs, by providing advice into policy and planning of wild animal management. It will consist

of stakeholders and groups with a mandate in wild animal management.

The WACAC will address the following issues – illegal releases, management of commercial hunting, the effectiveness of recreational hunting areas, the circumstances under which deer repellent should be used, regional pest management strategies, optimal conservation/hunting trade-off, data-informed management and recognition of big game animals both as a resource and a threat to indigenous biodiversity.

* **United Future delivers for hunters**

United Future Leader Peter Dunne scored a major victory for the recreational hunting community through the creation of an Establishment Committee to oversee the formation of a Big Game Hunting Council (BGHC).

“United Future has worked extremely hard under the Confidence and Supply Agreement to have the interests of hunters better recognised,” said Mr Dunne.

“I am thrilled for the long-neglected hunting community that we have managed to achieve the foundation of a truly effective and far-reaching advocacy organisation.”



Editors Comments

We still need people to step up to take on the monthly hunts for the club so if your interested let me know nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz or 03 2358852

***We would like to have more stories and/or photos etc. would be appreciated.
Don't necessarily have to tell where you've been ☺***

October Hunting Tips:

Always let someone know what your hunt plans are so if anything happens someone knows where to send the rescue!!

Always point your firearm in a safe direction, you never know who or what's around.

Good Footwear is important, having sore, wet feet isn't much fun!

Always sight your rifle in before you go, the 'big one' might be just round the corner