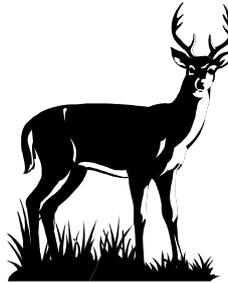


The southern hunter



September 2007
Southland branch
NZ deerstalkers association

Noticeboard:

Next meeting

Wednesday: 19th September

Executive: 7pm

General: 8pm

Executive and committee members (2006-2007)

President	Roy Sloan	235 2813
Vice.	Nathan Dawson	235 8852
Secretary	David Howden	2130962
Treasurer	John DeLury	217 5890
Immediate	Ray Phillips	216 3751
Huts	Neville Miller	216 8654

Executive:

Jim Ridley Roger Stratford Steven Long Brendon Bell
Davey Craig Murray Barkman Wayne Cook Murray Colson
Euan Butters

Guest Speaker

Maurice Rodway of Fish and Game Southland is speaking about the upcoming fishing season and the developments on the didymo in the lakes and rivers around the Southland Region.

Octobers Guest Speaker
Steven Boyle from Outdoor World

UP COMING EVENTS

DOUGLAS SCORE

1. Douglas Scoring Course

The Gore & Districts branch will be hosting a Level 1 and Level 2 Douglas Score course at their McNab clubrooms (7km east of Gore on State Highway 1) at Sunday 18th November 2017 at 8.00am.

Members wishing to attend should contact John DeLury wtd243@xtra or 2175890

Search & Rescue are pending to carry out monthly training sessions:

These will occur on the first Thursday of the Month (excepting January), 7:30pm, meet at the Police Station:

Many of these will later be fully confirmed but the below is to give you an idea of what is coming up.

To be further confirmed:

4th October - Sandy point or Queens park - Practical, hands-on using GPS's and Radios

Oct / Nov - LandSAR Exercise - Date and place to be announced

1st November - Track and Clue (TCA) - Demo of Dog Handling etc

6th December - 'Good Ideas Night' Bring along any good ideas you have that would assist in getting ready for a SAR (or for that matter your Tramping Trip or Hunting Trip). The sort of things that make your pack lighter, that make the trip safer, that shorten the down time between getting called out for a SAR and getting to the pick-up point.

Also a look at the changes to the radio system SAR are using
Possibly finish off with a social hour?

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New Zealand

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The next stage of the Stewart Island National Park plan process is a workshop to be held on Hunting and hunter huts.

Invercargill workshop - Tuesday 25 September, at 7pm at Elwood Gardens, next to Avenal Tavern

This is one meeting all interested hunters should attend. Time to stand up and have your say.

FIORDLAND

On Sunday the 9th Sept 3 of us put 16 stoat traps in the head waters of Expectation Creek, Mt Tanilba Wapiti hunting block of Fiordland. I intend to check these traps every 6 to 8 weeks. I intend to leave at first light on the Saturday by helicopter and return at dark on the Sunday the same way. If anyone wants to have a weekend hunt in the area on these trips please contact me on 021733129.

I intend doing these trips in good weather, "so the dates will be when the weather suits"

This has nothing to do with the Department of Conservation, so the helicopter cost is with the passengers. They are around \$260.00 per person. This is a CHEAP way of having a weekend hunt in the heart of Fiordland and the unreal views in and out.

Jim Ridley

SOUTHLAND BRANCH UP AND COMING HUNTING EVENTS

<p>September 2007 Organiser: Jim Ridley Phone No: 021 733 129 Destination: Wapiti 101. Fiordland. Lake Te Anau end. A good opportunity to get a look at some Wapiti country.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 29th and 30th</p>	<p>October 2007 Organiser: John DeLury Phone No: 03 21 75 890 Destination: Trout fishing Mavora Lakes. Help will be given to member wishing to master the art of fly-fishing. Accommodation Red Stag Hut.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 13th 14th</p>	<p>November 2007 Organiser: Steve Long Phone No: 03 217 8508 Destination: Blue Mountains. If you haven't hunted Fallow deer, then there is no better place to cut your teeth on the animals.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 10th 11th</p>	<p>December 2007 Organiser: Nathan Dawson Phone No: 03 2358 852 Destination: Yet to be confirmed</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 8th and 9th</p>
<p>January 2008 Organiser: Roy Sloan Phone No: 03 2352 813 Destination: Hunts weekend Bush craft, River crossing. All done fly camping in red deer, fallow and Chamois country?.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 12th 13th</p>	<p>February 2008 Organiser: John De Lury Phone No: 03 21 75 890 Destination: Lake Houroko. Accommodation Thicket Burn Hut. Some of our best red deer hunting is in this area.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 16th 17th</p>	<p>March 2008 Organiser: Murray Barkman Phone No: 03 236 2730 Destination: Borland. Some very good open tops hunting. Good red deer country.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 1st and 2nd.</p>	<p>April 2008 Organiser: Alex Kidd Phone No: 03 217 4638 Destination: Longwood's, some very good hunting if you know the area and Alex knows the area. And to top it of the Stags will be rutting.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 12th 13th.</p>

<p>May 2008 Organiser: Wayne Cook Phone No: 0272 232 049 Destination: Mystery tour. Give Wayne a ring.</p> <p>Date: Weekend of the 10th and 11th</p> <p>:</p>	<p>June 2008 Organiser: Phone No: Destination:</p> <p>SOME ONE NEEDS TO STEP FORWARD!</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>July 2008 Organiser: Phone No: Destination:</p> <p>SOME ONE NEEDS TO STEP FORWARD!</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>August 2008 Organiser: Phone No: Destination:</p> <p>SOME ONE NEEDS TO STEP FORWARD!</p> <p>Date:</p>
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Landsborough River, Thar Hunt

In mid May Steve Long, Nathan Dawson, Nick White and myself headed off for or winter Thar hunt

This seasons Thar hunt was the Percy creek block in the Landsborough River.

Steve had made arrangements for James Scott to fly us in from Fox at 1pm. Two loads later we where all in and setting up camp at the D.O.C designated landing site. At \$300 (each, return) James certainly runs a value for money operation. A stroll that evening revealed loads of old sign, and evidence of browsing in the valley floor leading up to the ballot period. High up on rocky peaks 12 or so Thar where seen on the opposite side of the Landsborough river in the evening sun. Guess where we are going tomorrow?

The Landsborough is one of the biggest and meanest rivers in NZ and even way up at the head waters we could not find any where to cross at the camp site or down stream the next morning. Trying or luck Nathan and my self set of up stream for an over night fly camp. An hour and half upstream we where able to find a waist deep, slower flowing spot to cross. Then 2 hours up hill to set up the fly for the night. What a spot, not far from camp was a couple of nanny's feeding, up stream a bull and four nanny's where feeding their way up to the sky line as darkness fell.

We where up at day light, the area where the bull and four nanny's where, now had two groups of Thar, bulls holding 6 to 8 nanny's each with an out laying group of 4 bulls hanging about. The rut was well under way. A rock face meant they where safe from us getting in to range for a shot. Directly up hill another bull and 12 nannies where feeding on the upper limits of a fell

field. We headed of to stalk this group. But as fast as we could walk up hill we where left behind as the herd retreated up into the crags for the day. We where no match for Thar in their element. After 27 years hunting all over NZ, 14 for a living, this morning with mature the Bull Thar in their winter coats holding groups of nanny's was up there with one of the best sights I've witnessed in the back country. By mid morning the first clouds of an approaching front had started swirling past. Nathan and myself where carefully sidling round to shoot a nanny and juvenile in a small cave at 1600m altitude when in the mist 8 heads peered over a bluff 100m above us. The bull and nanny's had descended as the mist had come in. Hot barrels time. I shot a bull which free fell off the bluff to crash land and roll to a stop 20m up hill from us. An untypical easy walk uphill was all that was needed to recover the head as a reminder of the hunt.

The mist had turned to light rain and snow, so it was time to get down to the fly camp, pack up and get across the Landsborough before it came up. We did not like the idea of camping on the wrong side of the river for the next 5 days till the chopper came back in.

By the time we got down to the river the streamlets on the opposite face had increased in volume and the river had discoloured and risen 10cm. After crossing it was an hour and half back to the tents. The next day was a wet tent bound day.

Wednesday, (day 5) the boys headed out for a hunt, with Nathan and Nick shooting some animals for their skins and meat to take home. The mountain weather forecast at night was for another front to come through, so we called Ray Phillips back at Invercargill to contact James to pull us out. At 8 o'clock the next day we where lifted out just beating the front which arrive at Fox by 9 o'clock. The crossing from the west coast Kairangarua valley to the Landsborough head waters is over a 2000m ridge, so low cloud later in the morning would have prevented us getting out.

We all agreed it was a great trip. The flight in and out had allowed a glimpse at miles of country that just begs exploring,
We will be back!



Southland Branch Members

You may remember last year the branch was involved in a project to create an Island within an Island free of rats. The idea was to eliminate rats from a small area at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. A report on this is printed below.

Well the good news is the DoC have come up with some funds for transport so we are back in the rat killing game.

The idea is for two people to visit the area every couple of weeks and clean out the traps and reset them. We are optimistic the program will be ongoing so there will be the chance to go more than once.

The following dates have been set aside for the program. Can you spare three or four days to visit Homestead Block at Mason Bay. This must be one of the most popular hunting blocks on Stewart Island. This exercise is a great way to get familiar with hunting whitetail deer. Ask Bevan, he shot one on the last rat kill trip.

The allocated dates this year are: 1 - 4 October 15 - 18 October
1 - 4 November 15 - 18 November 4 - 7 December
18 - 21 December

Similar trips will be available throughout the 2008 year and these will be advised later. Preference will be given to people who will be able to go more than once. There will be the opportunity to carry a rifle. You will learn the good spots to hunt through the season.

Each person will go down with someone who has been on the project previously. We want to be able to train up a pool of people. If you can spare the time, fly down and land on the beach, return the same way, contact Jim Ridley dnbrown.ltd1@clear.net.nz 021733129 or Murray Barkman muzzasweetaz@hotmail.com 03 2362730

Around the South

September 13, 2006 Issue #170

Hunters set their sights on two Stewart Island targets

Local hunters and the Department of Conservation have joined forces to take aim at two ruthless, introduced predators at Mason Bay, Stewart Island.

The Southland branch of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association has made a commitment to reducing the impact rats and feral cats are having on the birdlife around the Mason Bay Homestead.

This commitment saw a group of hunters spend four days at Mason Bay,

volunteering their labour to assist with the initial set-up, cutting about 17.5km of tracks, making 350 rat tunnels and setting 350 traps.

Deerstalkers from all over Southland and South Otago are lending their support to the initiative which aims to increase the native bird population by reducing rat numbers.

The Southland Branch of the NZDA chair Roy Sloan said the branch has a long history with Stewart Island and members had developed an affinity with the island.

"Hunters are big users of Stewart Island with several thousand hunting there each year and this project is a great way for us to help out the environment." Just months into the three year project and nearly 50 rats have been killed, a tally that is expected to increase as groups of hunters carry out small trapping campaigns at peak times.

DOC biodiversity ranger Malcolm Wylie said Mason Bay was a priority for rat control because it contained a diverse range of vegetation and native species. It was also a high visitation site, popular with hunters and visitors keen on seeing a kiwi.

Mr Wylie said it was fantastic to be able to work along side the NZDA to provide an area where several species would benefit, something which might not have happened had it not been for the hunters.

Comments from the editor

Daylight Savings just around the corner, cool!

More light for evening shooting.

So be safe out there and make sure you identify your target,

On those evening walks in the bush

Good to see a few stories come through

Of what our hunters have been getting up to in the south

Great to see hunting program up and running,

Don't be shy to get involved in our monthly hunts

Great guys involved, lots to learn

Great Experience

Until next Month

Be good out there, be seen

Cheers

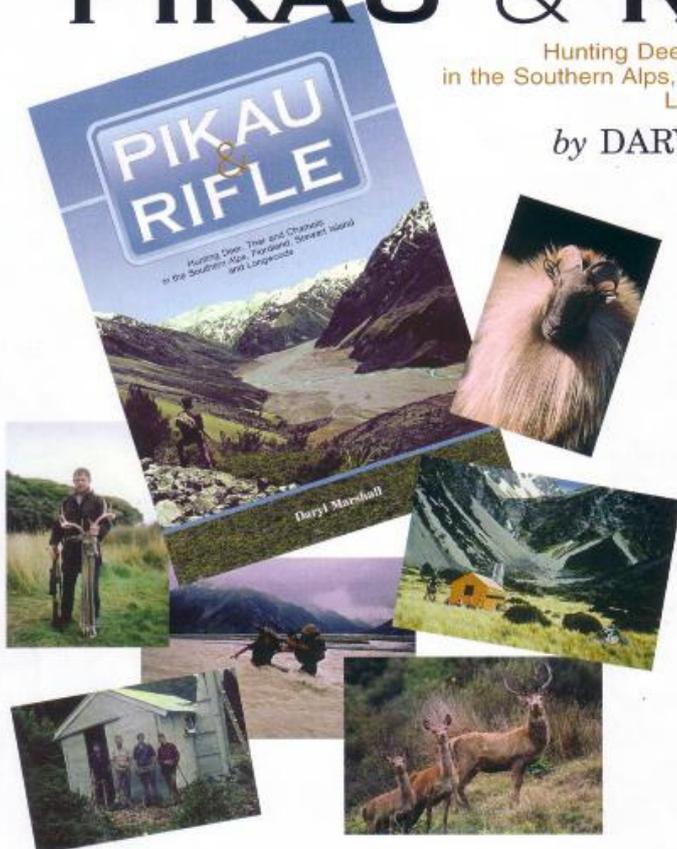
Nathan

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PIKAU & RIFLE

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by DARYL MARSHALL



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