

# THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



South West Arm Paterson's inlet Winning Scenic Photo branch Competition D Gordon

## SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA

September 2016

Branch email is: [enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz)

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

Monthly Meeting Club Rooms Long Bush Hall

Wednesday 21st September 8pm

Executive Meeting 7pm

No Guest Speaker, the planned one unavailable, will have DVD. So in October we will now have Brent from **BACK COUNTRY Cuisine** Talking on product changes and new products.

## Club Office Bearers

**President:** S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** (vacant)

**Secretary:** D Howden 213 0962 **Treasurer** T Smalley 03 236 9960

**Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President** N Dawson 235 8852

**Executive:** N. Miller (Huts) R. Phillips (Membership) 216 3751 A. Nesbit, W. Muir .



## Presidents Report

Hi All.

Spring is now here. Opening of a new fishing season next month. And still some time to get that Xmas venison for the BBQ.

Interesting report in the news lately about a couple of poachers from Otago, what is frustrating is who they were. Some very strong opinions coming out on social forums about them not being charged with anything.

I would strongly advise not to try this pass time of poaching you may not be so lucky.

Some welcome news that DOC have not 1080ed our Blue Mountains this time anyway. Hunts course 2016 is almost finished, most likely Nathan can give us a report next month, with a photo or two.

Once again the branch hopes to get access to the In'gill Pistol Clubs 100m range for members ONLY to sight in your rifle. There is a fee for this so remember to bring it.

Branch trip next month will most likely be on Lake Te Anau. Anyone interested please get in touch with Tim or myself as we are looking at heading to the Worsley Hut for some lake fishing and a spot of hunting. This would be before the season opens for the rivers up there.

Steve Robinson



## Editorial

We as a nation tend to concentrate on the immediate and visible not the slow acting not visible.

Take health care if you have a road accident you get immediate attention. If you have cancer the public health system will do something sometime in the future? Then there is Health & Safety, safety gets a lot of attention as the resulting failures are visible injuries. What about health, the chronic damage done over time from working in an environment that over works parts of one body. Not the same attention. ACC even calls it wear & tear in other than the young and walks away.

There is a great deal of concern about misuse of firearms when this occurs. The focus on doing something about this falls on the visible legal user of firearms. One can't control the illegal as it is already beyond the law. We as a Nation are told we must exercise more for health. Recreational hunting is good exercise. Do those wanting to ban firearms consider this invisible effect on the Nation's health when they talk banning Firearms, I think not.

Then there is the use of poison for the short term benefit of endangered species. How much consideration is given to the by kill both visible and invisible and its effect on the environment and us?

Some animal rights types are very anti recreational hunting (visible and seen to be enjoyable) but are OK with poisoning the same animals, or mass shooting in the name of pest destruction as long as out of sight. (The people shooting are not now meant to be getting any enjoyment out of the destruction. Which is not the vibes I get from those who do such activity.)

Unfortunately this trend to react to fix the visible and not be concerned with the invisible is not new thing. We introduced ferrets as stoats to control the visible rabbits!!

But it is something we need to work to change. Unfortunately the political world that tends to control the Nation, is all about appeasing the visible!

A big thanks to Yunca for their recent support



# YUNCA

PART OF THE FAMILY

Freeze Dri

# BACK COUNTRY *Cuisine*

Still available at a great price to Branch Members

Contact Gus Ronald [gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz) 03 213 0351 for a price list

## New Members

Please welcome them David MacKenzie

## 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 HQ ACCOUNT

03-0558-0139562-04...

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.

## Notice for members

**If you change your address or your contact details like email address you must notify the branch and the national office.**

If we do not have correct contact details how can we keep you informed from the branch, and national office cannot send out membership cards or the magazines, so it is important to have correct Postal as well as Email Addresses.

# **POST the AGM UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS WILL NOT RECIEVE THE NEWSLETTER or *Hunting and Wildlife***

## Vacancy

Branch is still in need of a Vice President post the AGM anybody interest please contact the president or a member of the Executive.

**Fiordland Lake hunt** this has been rescheduled for October if there is enough interest.

If keen contact Steve Robinson 027 747 8109 or Tim Smalley 03 236 9960. By the September meeting.

## Tahr Ballot

For the next year's ballot, all the information will be live on the DOC website from 1<sup>st</sup> October, and the applications for the Tahr ballot will open on 19<sup>th</sup> October, close on 18<sup>th</sup> November, with the draw happening a week later. The results and expected confirmations of sites will happen before Christmas this year. Please let any of your fellow hunters know of these changes in dates; the changes will be well publicised on the DOC website plus other media.

We have brought forward the dates for the initial stages of the Tahr ballot to help us better manage the workload at the Visitor Centre. We are also working towards having online ONLY ballots and if this is the case, this will be publicised on the DOC website.

Regards,

Mauryne

Ranger, Visitor Centre - *Kaitiaki - Whare Pae Manuhiri*  
Department of Conservation — *Te Papa Atawhai*  
Awarua / Haast Visitor Centre  
Southern West Coast District  
P O Box 50, Haast 7844 South Westland  
T: +64 3 7500 809 | VPN: 5340 | F: +64 3 7500 832

## *Haast Roar Ballot*

Due to popular demand the Department of Conservation South Westland Weheka Office has developed a ballot system for hunters wishing to hunt during the Roar period. The ballot is to ensure hunters have access to an area with the knowledge that only one hunting party will be present in each of the blocks for a seven-day period.

## Updates and changes for Roar 2017

This year there are a few changes to the Roar that hunters need to be aware of:

- Applications open from **9:00 am 19 September until 4:00 pm 14 October 2016**.
- Applications will only be accepted through the new online application form.
- A one-off non-refundable fee of \$40 will be charged for each application regardless of success.
- Ensure all correspondence for the Haast Roar hunting ballot is sent to [haasthuntingballot@doc.govt.nz](mailto:haasthuntingballot@doc.govt.nz).

## Dates

In 2017 the Roar system will run from Sunday 26 March to Saturday 22 April with the available periods being:

- Period 1 - Sun 26 March to Sat 1 April
- Period 2 - Sun 2 April to Sat 8 April
- Period 3 - Sun 9 April to Sat 15 April
- Period 4 - Sun 16 April to Sat 22 April

## Restricted blocks

There are 65 restricted blocks available for allocation by ballot draw. These are limited to one party per block for a 7 day period (Sunday to the following Saturday) as indicated in the period dates above.

(More Info on Doc website)

## Wapiti Ballot

Closes 9<sup>th</sup> October

To enter go online <https://www.fwf.net.nz/ballot/2017/>

## WANTED

One red Deer head skin ( for learner taxidermist) Phone 027 637 2206

## The latest word on the Blue Mts

The August rodent monitor has been completed for the Southland Battle for our Birds sites.

Good news - rats have dropped in the Blue Mountains, from 6% in May down to 1% in August. Only moderate beech seed is now present. This means we are not seeing a rodent plague driven by beech seed at this site. Our modelling tells us rodents will not pass trigger levels for pest control this spring. We are only triggering pest control at sites where it is essential, consequently we have cancelled the planned Blue Mountains 1080 operation.

The blocks that were to be affected by the 1080 operation will be closed during the weekdays in October to allow TB Free to safely carry out the pig survey that was discussed at the meeting in July. The ballot for the weekends in October will be drawn next Thursday or Friday. Block bookings will return to normal for November.

Word has it that the Waikaia operation has also been cancelled for a lack of Rats, good work Doc!

## Rifle Sighting In

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available to Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

5th Oct Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

12th Oct Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206 after 4pm

19th Oct Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

26<sup>th</sup> Oct Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

## Mountain Monarchs

By Ken Tuskin

Though first published in 2011 I have only recently acquired a copy of this interesting book. This book is a mixture part study and guide to Tahr in New Zealand part Autobiography of Ken Tuskin. Who must be considered one of if not the foremost authorities on Tahr in New Zealand, (and more so now that Graeme Caughley is no longer with us).

I found the book to be an interesting work on Ken's time with Tahr, an animal that he freely admits has dominated his adult life (along with the Moose). He gives the reader an insight into the extent of the effort he put in to acquire this knowledge including his time in a hut perched high up a mountain.

The closing chapters of the book that deal with the possible future of Tahr I found especially interesting. I hope they are listened too by those that currently manage Tahr and those that would like to (or miss manage then as the case may be).

It is well known a lot of so called conservationists have no time for any big game animals in New Zealand. But in Tahr here is a magnificent animal, that on the world stage its existence is under threat. It is too valuable to be considered vermin to be exterminated.

Enough said read and enjoy the book. It is a good attempt to make a readable story out of the Tahr in NZ. More interesting for the common Kiwi to read than some scientific paper on the subject.

Worth a read if you are a hunter more so if you hunt Tahr.

Doug Gordon

## Sponsors

Southland Branch would like to thank its regular sponsors and recommend them to its members.

Hunting and Fishing Invercargill

Southern Adventure

Stewart Island Flights

## Gates

We have the required gates donated by AB Lime “Thanks”

## Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654



email [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto:nandc43@gmail.com) or 43 Bain St Invercargill

## Note

### Wapiti Lodge Xmas ballot

*Applications for this period must be in writing between 15th to 30th September to Neville & Carol Miller*

Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is required to have firearms at the site.