

## The southern hunter



February 2007  
Southland branch  
NZ deerstalkers association

### Noticeboard:

Next meeting  
Wednesday: 21 Feb

Executive: 7pm  
General: 8pm

### Guest speaker

There will be a couple of video's to watch for the evening and cup of tea to follow to catch up with others to see what's been happening over the Christmas break.

### 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   John Patton   Roger Stratford   Steven Long  
Brendon Bell   Davey Craig   Murray Barkman

### EDITORS COMMENTS

If you can get your newsletter by e-mail please let myself know or committee know so we can save the club money and make the editors job easier, and on the other hand if you not getting e-mails let me know so I can mail out the newsletter to you so you know what's coming up, cheers Nathan  
nathan.adrienne@xtra.co.nz or 03 235 8852

## Christmas Village Trip

On Saturday 27th January 12 members sailed to Christmas Village on the north Coast of Stewart Island. A couple hours work saw a new toilet installed, the fire replaced, new vents installed and a few other jobs completed at the hunters hut. The day was one out of the box, hot and sunny with no wind. The sea was flatter than the proverbial millpond and we stopped off at Murray River for a fish. We caught some cod, trumpeter and three sharks. Everyone got a couple of feeds to take home and we were back in Bluff about 5p.m. A great day. Thanks to all who came and helped.

## MSC Courses coming up:

River Crossing

Sun 28 January – Winton - \$15 inc pack liner

Sun 25 February as above

NEW!

Women's Bushcraft – a course for women, run by women

Wed 7 Feb – Ingill – pre-course eve (can be avoided by out of towners)

10-11 Feb – Takis - \$70 inc bushcraft and pack liner

Navigation

17-18 February – Takis - \$80 inc bushcraft manual and pack liner

Map, compass, gps

Outdoor First Aid

Full course

Fri eve 23-25 Feb – Mokotua - \$110 inc food, bed, manual and cert

Refresher

Sat 21 April – Ingill - \$40

Abseil for Beginners (pre-req. for Advanced course in October)

Sat 31 March – Lorneville - \$30

Sally Duston

Admin Officer - Mountain Safety Southland

Box 1239, Invercargill

ph/fax 03.221.7212

[southland@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:southland@mountainsafety.org.nz) [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)

COURSES: River Safety 28 Jan 07 & 25 Feb 07: Women's Bushcraft (for women, taken by women) 7(eve) and 10-11 Feb 07: other courses include Outdoor First Aid, Risk Management, Abseiling, Alpine - contact me for a programme:

For a Mountain Radio contact Ray on 03.216.3751  
[rkphillips@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rkphillips@xtra.co.nz) or Locator Beacon contact John on  
03.226.6341 [beacons@ihug.co.nz](mailto:beacons@ihug.co.nz)

### **WANTED**

The club has been given some 223 rifles for the HUNTS programme. they are in very good order but need scopes. If anyone has a scope in good order that they are willing to donate to the club please call Roy Sloan 021 900 423.

### **HUNTS**

Needed helpers for the next HUNTS programme. Please call Roy Sloan 021 900 423.

Protect yourself from the cold and harsh  
environment....leave the house and go hunting or fishing!!

## Deep in Goats 06

It was Friday mid November, some of us have got the day off as we are off goat hunting. It's another Southland Branch Goat Hunt. About 11.30am Paul Howden pulls up the drive to collect me and my gear and once loaded it is off to Queenstown to check in with the Helicopter Line as to what is happening? As expected no Rafters, the weather is a bit marginal but typical of this spring. So plan B, one load is to go in from the airport, the second load from the Shotover at the pipeline at Jerry's. While the rest fly in, Paul, Nathan, Ant, and myself take the vehicles in to Jerry's. This takes three quarters of an hour even leaving the few goats that we see across the Shotover alone. Gear loaded into the Helicopter and three minutes later we are in at the terraces just above Parkers Creek, in Deep Stream.

Camp is soon completed. Then the ten of us form into two groups of five to go for the evening hunt. My group leaves heading up Deep Creek under thickening skies that soon turns to drizzle, then rain. Though as the party I am with moves off the camp terrace, a goat is spied across the side creek about 150 metres away. As I am convenient I take no Second bidding, use my day pack as a rest and dispatch the first goat for the trip, a lone Billy.

Once across the side creek we are soon into goats and the score starts to mount. With the onset of a heavy shower we take cover under a rock face. This is where we find goats once we get going again as the rain eases. One group results in fifteen goats shot a second bluff results in a dozen.

As we reach the head of the valley the bluffs get smaller. We turn and climb then retrace our steps higher up the face. This was a wrong turn, the returns are poorer. But camp is reached before dark as the rain really sets in again. We have 63 goats the other party got 25.

A fly is erected for cooking, and after tea we mainly drift off to our tents as it is a raw cold, wet, night.

It rained most of the night and there was still some drizzle in the morning. By the time we had got breakfast out of the way, Dave and four more keen hunters had joined us and set up their tents. The chopper took a load back down the valley and up onto the tops on the south side. The rest of us split up and head out, some up the valley, some across Deep creek, the rest up Parkers Creek.

Dave and I head off together for a tributary that we had hunted previously. Stefan and Alec head around and come in the other side. Getting into the valley we shoot nine goats. Over the radio we hear Stephen and Alec have got 12 on their side of the mouth of the creek.

Then it went dead, nothing for over an hours walking. Presently some goats are seen on the far side of the valley grazing on the face low down some distance off. As we approach them on our side we are confronted with another side creek. Peering over the ridge into the side creek I see four goats that become six. Then there is two nannies sitting down about twenty metres away that are looking in my direction. Dave and I park up out of sight of the near goats and study the situation. There are more further up the valley on the other side. Dave gets on the R/T to the boys who are still some distance off, and directs them to the goats on their side. The waiting is hard but eventually they get onto the goats and open up.

The ones close behind us have got wind of things and have disappeared. Never mind, goats appear very close below us climbing. We both start on these and get a few before they disappear, why have I got the scope on seven power?

Turning around we get onto some up the gully, getting a few before they get into

bluffs up a valley which stretches below us. I peer over and see three to my right at an angle that I can't shoot at right handed. So I transfer the rifle to my left shoulder and shoot, taking it off to work the action. The three goats are soon down. They are three that I will remember shooting.

The shooting quietens down, so we head up the side gully where we see some goats have gone, as we go I discover a couple more that I have shot. A group of six come down the other side of the gully and stop on a rock outcrop. Dave and I shoot them from a bit over 100 metres across the gully. Then a Billy comes out from under the outcrop, he is shot.

I see what appears to be more under the outcrop. So I line up on the target and fire. The object moves its another goat now shot. This spurs more into action, When we have finished we have six more including the Billy.

Going on up the side creek we shoot a few more. Meanwhile there is the intermittent sound of shooting coming from up the valley in the basin. The boys are into goats. We decide on moving up the ridge to see what is higher up. We come on a sheep with a black nanny and kid attached. This proves to be a difficult shot, as we have to avoid hitting the sheep. It takes a few shots at the running animals to get the nanny, then the kid.

Another three goats are seen across a basin, this will be a difficult stalk, so we leave them and head on up, and in time peak the ridge. Here Dave sees a goat and gets it, I see three more moving off and get two. The third is over the ridge and gone. A fourth then appears which Dave gets.

Going on we are looking down into Maori Gully. We see a heap of goats but they are too far away to go after today. Soon we find a few closer, and get three of them, this makes the others scatter a bit.

Time for home. Back across the face we come on a mob, the rest head down into deep creek fast. Nothing more is got as we get down to deep creek. Other parties heading back to base are below us, and across the creek.

Dave and I cross the creek not far from where we crossed that morning. Then on climbing out onto the camp terraces find another three, which soon are also dead. Back at camp our tally for the day is sixty three for the two of us. When everybody's is tallied it is over four hundred for the day. At least the weather has turned fine, so we can enjoy the evening, unlike the previous night. We are entertained by a Black goat that comes down to have a look across the gully. It dances out of sight with lead around it. The dumb thing must have been shell shocked as it was still around next morning. This time it wasn't so lucky.

Sunday dawns fine. Some climb behind the camp. A couple decide to walk out; they go well and run out of ammo. A few of us go up the valley a bit, but only get one, so climb higher then turn back and split. Dave and I get nothing, but Stefan and Paul climbing higher meet up with the boys that climbed up behind camp and get a few. A couple of more are shot by the boys back at camp. One goat tried to walk through the camp. We are all back in camp for lunch, before packing and cleaning up, then flying out when the chopper arrives. The trip out is interesting in that we see the goats that have avoided us, yes there are still a few there. The final tally was six hundred and twenty three goats.

Doc

#### **GAME AND FOREST FOUNDATION**

The Game and Forest Foundation is concerned that there is no clearly enunciated statement on the use of 1080 in New Zealand. It urges all agencies with statutory responsibility for

conservation and pest control (ERMA DoC, Ministry for the Environment, MAF, Animal Health Board, Regional Councils) to establish a common policy and operating protocols to ensure consistent application and defensible standards. The absence of a national policy has resulted in:

- Different agendas between agencies.
- Public confusion and concern.
- Inconsistency of application.
- Pressure to halt use of 1080 before alternatives found

A national policy for the use of 1080, must have regard to animal welfare, residue safety, marketing and tourism perceptions, consistency of application and adoption of best practice. Until alternate instruments for control (or preferably, eradication) are implemented, the Foundation requires assurance that the application of 1080 is carried out in ways that:

- Are consistent nationally by all agencies.
- Ensures that there is no possibility of residues entering the food production system or food consumed from recreationally harvested animals.
- Is species specific and eliminates or minimises the killing of game animals, including the use of repellents where applicable
- Ensures humane standards in the kill of target species, and avoids sublethal doses in non-target species.
- Minimises negative effects on the environment.

**To this end we recommend the following:**

A policy for reducing over time the amount of 1080 used in our environment.

The application of 1080 should always be subject to RMA scrutiny and not be allowed to be a permitted activity under regional plans.

An independent panel that represents the community of interests to hear all applications.

Consents cannot be for longer than five years

There must be separation between agencies responsible for approvals and delivery of services.

Objective criteria for assessing the need for aerial application of 1080

Pellet bait strengths should not exceed .08%

Sowing rates should not exceed 5 kg per hectare

Paste baits of 10g/kg and all gel baits should not be reregistered.

All target species should be specified and approvals sought for these species.

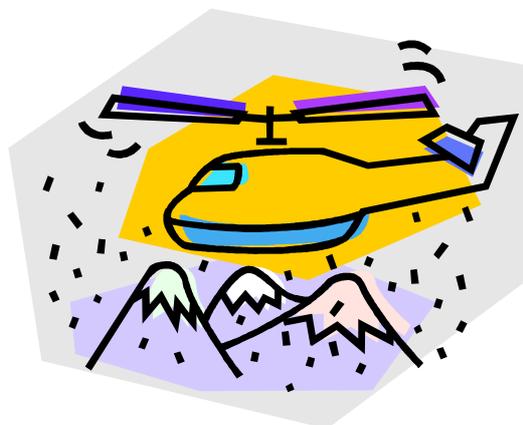
If methods are available to eliminate or significantly reduce non target deaths then they should be used.

1080 should not be approved for use on Game Animals.

If 1080 is approved for use then a partial reassessment of 1080 should take place every 5 years

The allocation of significant resources for research into alternatives to 1080 poison

Game and Forest would like to thank ERMA for the opportunity to make this submission and wishes to be heard in support of it.



2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007

## **Blue Mountains Hunter Liaison Group**

### **Balclutha**

#### **Update on the proposed 2007 deer repellent 1080 vector control operation for the Northern Blue Mountains.**

Brief background.

In late November 2005, the AHB and SPM (the vector managers in Otago) advised our BMHLG that further vector control work was considered necessary in the Northern Blue Mountain. And they were seeking the support of hunters for a proposal to use deer repellent cereal 1080 baits in an aerial operation in the 06/07 year.

After considerable discussion and consultation with hunters and interested parties and further negotiation with AHB and SPM we arrived at a position of qualified support. This position was conveyed by way of letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2006 to Dr Garry Knowles, AHB and Mr Joe Bayley, SPM.

As the use of deer repellent on cereal 1080 bait is not yet an approved activity. The next step was for AHB and SPM to apply to ERMA (the certification agency) for approval to use the deer repellent cereal 1080 bait, in what would be a monitored trial in the whole Northern Blue Mountains block. (Some 6000Ha.)

The present position:

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, I received notification by way of a phone call from Mr Joe Bayley of SPM. He advised that ERMA has declined giving approval for the proposed operation on the grounds that they did not wish to compromise or conflict with the whole 1080 review process which is currently underway.

Mr Bayley then advised the options they considered in view of this decision,

1. They could proceed with the operation as planned but use carrot as bait instead of cereal (repellent on carrot bait has approval). But as SPM and AHB have concerns about the effectiveness of carrot baits and carrot/repellent baits they have decided that this is not a viable option.
2. They could proceed with the operation utilizing untreated 1080 cereal baits as used in 2001.

Mr Bayley further stated that as they have given an undertaking that this method will not be employed, this also is not a viable option.

3. They could delay the operation until the 07/08 year and re look at it once the 1080 review process is completed.

I am pleased to advise that this is the option that SPM and AHB have gone with. The feeling being, that as the Northern Blue Mountain block does not boundary directly onto farmland there is no immediate threat of a break down in there TB eradication program by a one year delay. As long as the four other buffer blocks on the Blue Mountains (which are currently undergoing ground based vector control work and are at various stages of completion) attain the required success rate.

Regards

Stuart Murray

Spokesperson for BMHLG

# **Around the South**

## Hunters set their sights on two Stewart Island targets



Deerstalker Member Caleb Honiss with DOC Staff member.

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.

## **DOC, hunters deal `could keep lid on deer numbers'**

By PHIL MCCARTHY - Southland Times | Wednesday, 10 January 2007

**A deal struck between deer hunters and the Department of Conservation could keep the lid on deer numbers in Fiordland and potentially revitalise the wild venison market, those involved say.**

Fiordland Wapiti Trust member Ron Peacock said the Wapiti Area Management Team, organised by DOC and other stakeholders in Fiordland and deer hunting, was collecting contributions from hunters who take part in the ballot for places in the annual bugle shoot.

Last year Southern Lakes Helicopters was contracted to cull deer in the park, killing about 400, he said.

Culling in the wapiti area of Fiordland, which encompasses about 10 percent of the park, was done in a restricted manner so that recreational hunting stock were not affected, Mr Peacock said.

DOC Te Anau spokesman Murray Williams said the Wapiti management team was playing a vital role in keeping deer numbers down in Fiordland as DOC believed numbers could increase by as much as 25 percent a year. There are about 50 concessions for commercial deer recovery in Fiordland.

"What these guys are doing is just fantastic for the park."

Te Anau helicopter pilot Dick Deaker, who is involved in the commercial side of the operation, said deer numbers in the park were a bit higher than a couple of years ago but were "nothing like it used to be".

Venison from recovered deer is being processed by Mountain River Processing at Ashburton. General manager Ian Stewart said the company was processing a small amount of wild venison, amounting to about 5 percent of its total processing.

The majority comes from farm-bred deer.

The wild, or feral, venison market collapsed in 2002 after the recall of 16 tonnes of wild venison suspected to have been contaminated with 1080 poison. The scare prompted fears across the venison industry.

Mr Stewart said there were now tighter restrictions on processing wild venison, so the market was small. Mountain River was dealing with only a small number of Te Anau and Haast operators running tight operations, he said.

"We also have to be protective of the whole deer industry."

Mr Deaker said it was hoped numbers culled in Fiordland could continue to increase to supply the rebuilding wild venison market.

New Zealand Deer Industry chief executive Mark O'Connor said the industry was supportive of wild venison recovery as long as it was done properly.

### Don't Forget:

The AGM is coming up in May, so for all those people who have been taking photos and videos over the Christmas break, get them dug out ready to be judged.



For all new and existing members of southland branch remember our meetings are every third Wednesday of every month, It's always good to see some new faces there.

Be safe when hunting and always remember to identify your target.