

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
June 2023



Frist Place Topical Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 21st June at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Planned Speaker is not available working on replacement will advise by e-mail

BRANCH FACEBOOK:

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK, , YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THE PAGE . WE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT <https://www.facebook.com/southlandnzda/>

BRANCH CONTACTS

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Wanted

Stories, ads, letters to the editor, or whatever for the newsletter, send to or contact the editor. Guest Speaker's needed, Ideas wanted, who do you want, and names needed, suggestions to Executive

Club Hunts

Wallaby Hunt 21st, 22nd, & 23rd July Contact Tom 0278471882

All hunts for Southland Branch NZDA Members (with full NZDA membership) as Public liability Insurance required).

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Mike Schuurmans, Jeffrey Smith, Carey Bryson, Alex Tibshraeny, Joshua Irvine, Kyle Morrison

Office Bearers

Club Office Bearers

President: Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** Luke Payne

Secretary Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676 : **Treasurer** Tom Mead 027 847 1882

Magazine Editor: Doug Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

Membership Andy Nesbit **Huts** Neville Miller

Executive: Wayne Ashmore, Tony Caldwell, Gareth Coyle, Nathan Dawson, Dave Howden, Jason Leishman, Jamie. McCallum, Ray Phillips, Ethan Todd

Life Members (National) Roger McNaughton (Branch) John DeLury, Doug Gordon
Dave Howden, Neville Miller, Ray Phillips (Branch)

Sub committees

Membership, Andy, Luke, & Ray

Rayoniers blocks Shaun, Andy, Luke, & Jamie
Lodges (Rename from Huts) Neville, & Shaun
Hall (to include Library-Library committee Luke, Jamie, & Wayne
Club Hunts Tom, Tony, & Luke
Ranges to include the Rifle club and Pistol Club Doug, & Tom
DOC Liaison, Ray
AGM to include Trophies and Douglas Scoring Luke, Shaun, Wayne, Ray, Doug
Competition Committee to include Kids Hunting and Wilkinson Postal shoot Shaun, Tom.

Hunts Course Nathan, Tom, Andy, Shaun, Wayne, & Luke



Presidents Report

Hi all I'm just back from a week away in the Lansbrough ballot block so this report is a little rushed as I unpack and organise myself to get back to work. We had a successful trip, numbers seen were low but most of our hunting was in the bush & slips from the creek beds, it's a bloody awesome experience hunting in the wilderness area, a great test of gear and fitness Tahr are a pretty special animal to hunt we're lucky to have the opportunity to do so.

After A few long days on the hill the legs are ready for a rest now and a nice warm bed. Few things coming up National conference is coming up and we're proud to have 2 of our branch members entering in the AHT competition. The wallaby trip is coming up to and looking very popular Toms doing a great job organising that. I'd also like to welcome our new committee members Jason, Ethan and Gareth. As always look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Hot barrels Shaun



Editorial

The word I have heard is that the Police are taking strict action in enforcing the new regulations on transport of Firearms. So make sure the firearm and case are out of sight. (Cover it), unloaded, and if you can't put the bolt of other vital part in your pocket or stored separately out of sight. Lock it in a case or apply a trigger lock. For the full instructions google "Fire Arms Safety Authority." As there are requirements for overnight stays etc. in there.

Though not spelt out leaving firearms unattended in a Hut or camp while on a hunting trip is likely a no-no. I suggest looking at Wire Cable locks as (used to secure push bikes). To be used to secure the firearm to some fixture. (Of course one will have unloaded the firearm and taken the bolt if possible with you or hidden it.) One needs to have been seen to have taken steps to prevent casual theft or misuse. Don't take casual chances with your Firearms licence.

Recently in the news I found a story of a trumper plunging 16 metres through a suspension swing bridge into the Collier Gorge on the West Coast SI in 2020. (Fortunately the trumper survived with minor injuries.) The Netting used on this bridge (and others) was Polyethylene. (Instead of Metal). It being easier to install and does not rust. Mention was made of Doc having funding problems in maintaining tracks, bridges and huts.

To me these Doc funding problems have two causes, One Doc's concentration on the preservation of the natural, eating up whatever funds the Department gets. Any increases in funding being used by this desire to preserve New Zealand. The second comes from the High Country Tenure Review. This increased Doc land to about a third of New Zealand, Did the government think of and increase the funding appropriately when it gave them this land? Currently this third of New Zealand is managed by a Minister who is not even in Cabinet! (Me think's something is wrong there?). Does Doc it's self needs reviewed.

Doug Gordon

Sponsors

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



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The following are in stock and available for purchase @ \$35 each
5 x Medium

5 x Large

5 x Xtra Large to arrange payment

5 x XXL

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing

enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

Subject line Polo Tee Shirts

Payment prior to delivery by online banking to the Branch Account 06-0925-0270758-000 with details of *your name Polo Shirt and Size*.

(If unable to do online banking contact Tom 0278471882)

First in best dressed

Freeze Dri



Purchase Back Country Cuisine freeze-dri meals direct at special prices, email Tony on info@bcfoods.co.nz to order or find out more information.

Antler Horn & Tusk Trophy Competition

Red Deer 1st Trevor McMaster D/S 352

2nd Roger Stratford D/S 284 & 1/4

3rd Penny Stratford D/S 231 & 3/8

Fallow 1st Roger Stratford D/S 228 & 3/4

2nd Paige Hodge D/S 219 & 1/4

3RD Jamie McCallum D/S 161 7 3/4

Pig undrawn tusks 1st Jamie McCallum D/S 5

Best head by lady Penny Stratford Red Deer D/S 231 7 3/8

Best head by junior Paige Hodge Fallow Deer D/S 219 & 1/4



Trevor McMaster and his winning Red Deer Head

Photo Competition

Game Animals

1st Luke Payne

2nd Douglas Gordon

3rd Luke Payne

Topical

1st Luke Payne

2nd Gareth Coyle

3rd Luke Payne

Scenic

1st Gareth Coyle

2nd Douglas Gordon

3rd Gareth Coyle

Other wildlife

1st Douglas Gordon

2nd Douglas Gordon

3rd Gareth Coyle

Life Membership

At the AGM Douglas Gordon was made a life Member of Southland Branch NZDA.

Doug Joined the NZDA with South Otago Branch in or around 1971, transferring to Southland Branch after moving to Mossburn in 1975. He has been on The Executive since 2013 on moving to Invercargill, and the Newsletter Editor since 2014. Prior to that he wrote numerous articles for the Branch Newsletter. He has done 13 trips to Stewart Island as part of the Rat Control Programme at Masons Bay. He organises and is on the roster for sighting in rifles at the pistol club range over the summer months. He is active in advocating for hunters and hunting.



Andy Nesbit presenting the award to Doug.

Potted Broadleaf trees and others Surplus to Requirements

Hiya Allan has about 30 potted Broadleaf trees (approx. 1 to 2 feet) a few self-seeded Pittosporums and one or two Cabbage trees that are surplus, would be happy to give to a club member planting a lifestyle block, duck pond or whatever, For which a modest donation to the club funds would be appreciated.
Allan Craig. Text to 027 374 6779

JOKES FOR THE MONTH

**Mahatma
Gandhi said If
there is an
idiot in power,
it means
those who
elected him
are well
represented.**



Linking firearms with crime: amazing coincidence or some other form of reality?

I have just completed an analysis of newspaper items where firearms are mentioned - that is, news reports, court news, advertorials, even advertisements. I undertook this for five calendar months from the Otago Daily Times, my local/regional daily newspaper, to which I subscribe.

A total of 144 items were found over the five months, and of these, 93 were found to be linked with crime, violence, unlawful behaviour, criminal shootings and/or drugs. That's 65% of the news reports connecting firearms with these adverse aspects of society.

While the news media obviously have a symbiosis (mutual interdependence) with unlawful behaviour, the failure to mention that possession of the firearm was in all but one report, unlawful (in that the possessor of it was no longer licensed) is, to put it politely, unfortunate, because it implies that firearm ownership is always connected with lawlessness, or at least, anti-social behavior.

This reinforces impressions I gained from earlier research, where I sampled headlines from the Otago Daily Times. I examined newspapers at five-year intervals, not decadal intervals as had originally been planned. A sample of 1.7% of the available newspapers was undertaken for the period from 1975 to 2019 using the arbitrarily chosen months of May for much of the study, and October 1990 was also selected because it preceded the mass-homicide at Aramoana which took place in November. Analysis of results involved the sorting of headlines relating to firearms in any context, for example, legal, sporting, industrial, environmental or social, into the broad categories of positive, negative or neutral, depending upon whether violence with firearms ('negative'), was reported, as were reports of environmental and property damage by avian and mammalian pests. The outcome of court trials, where a firearm was involved, depending upon whether an acquittal or a discharge was arrived at, was usually listed as "neutral". Those with guilty outcomes or findings were listed as negative for the same reason as before, the involvement with crime. Discoveries of illicitly held firearms, munitions and explosives were also regarded as "negative", as were reports of thefts of firearms and ammunition. This was because the reports were of offending. "Positive" headlines about firearms and firearm-related matters included, for example, the inspection of soldiers by royalty before their departure for an outpost of the Empire and images of trophy armaments captured by victorious armed forces from the "100 Years Ago Today" column. Reports of club shoots, although arguably neutral in content, were treated as "positive", although it is noticeable that their number has dwindled sharply over the past decade, because of concerns among LOUFs about the loss of anonymity for anyone identified in the results.

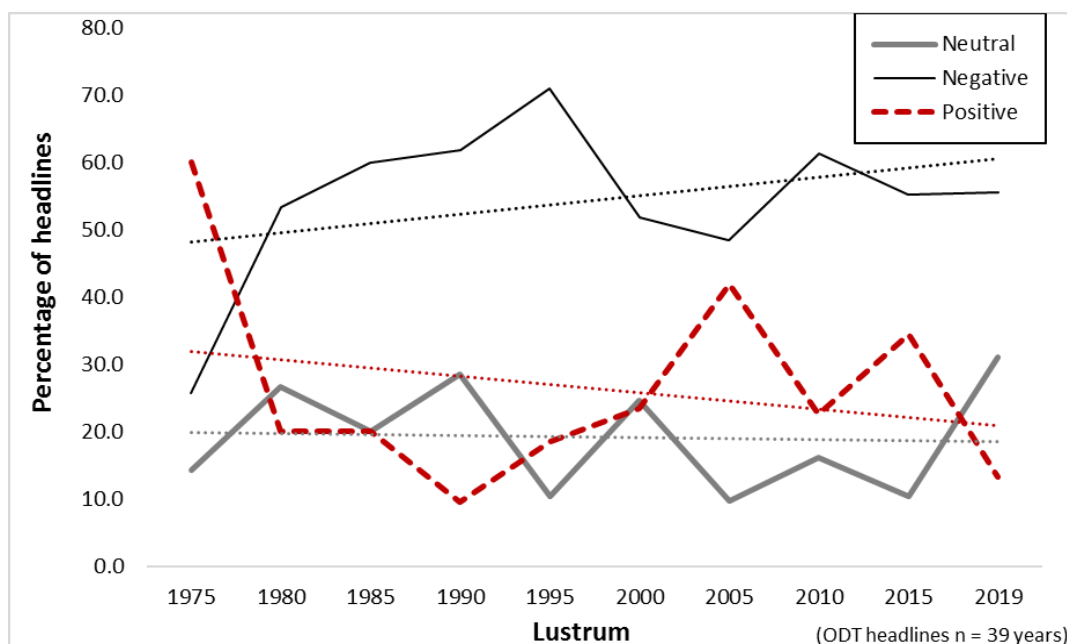


Figure: Headlines in Otago Daily Times about firearms and shooting-related matters: trend lines of neutrality, positivity and negativity of tone are shown over eight lustra. (These data

include the high-visibility events of the Bain family murder trial and the mass-murders in Christchurch of 15 March 2019.)

Reports of hunting successes were generally treated as “positive” although “Shooters well behaved” was listed as “negative” headline because of the connotation of anticipated law breaking likely to be inferred from that headline.

Analysis of results suggests that more than half of the headlines were negative in content, a fifth were neutral, and a quarter were positive. The chart shows an increasing trend in the percentage of negative headlines observed from the sample over the almost 25-year study period. Peaks in negative headlines coincided with the requirements to use only steel shot for water-fowl and game bird hunting which took effect in 1996.

The influence which the news media can have upon public viewpoints, allied with political influences, has long been recognised.

Chaz Forsyth

(Cantor *et al.*, 1999; Krzanich, 2010; O'Brien *et al.*, 2012; Schildkraut, 2014; James, 2017; Houlahan, 2018; Luca *et al.*, 2020; Every-Palmer *et al.*, 2020).

Rakiura Update #14 June 2023 (feel free to share)

Click here for the latest [Predator Free Rakiura May Newsletter](#) Have a look at the Mouse eDNA section in the Wilderlab link, wait for the map to open and look at the eight sites surveyed. Click on explore the batch and look at Taxon Results page. Some weird animals identified as living around Halfmoon Bay but no mice. Now they are moving on to Hedgehogs supposed to inhabit the same area. Having been to most blocks over the last 45 years I have never seen a hedgehog, but no-one bothers to seek information from hunters.

More Misinformation:-

The former DOC DG is now employed by Rakiura Maori Land Trust. He addressed their AGM in April.

You can listen at the 35 minute mark. [RMLT AGM video](#)

As a result I have written letters to RMLT trustees. I also wrote the following letter to Stewart Island News.

“The former DOC Director General Mr Lou Sanson spoke at the recent Rakiura Maori Land Trust AGM.

Mr Sanson made a number of statements relating to hunters, hunting and previous activities on Stewart Island which are factually incorrect or misleading.

He said, “*Recent data shows whitetail deer in record numbers.*” I am unaware of any research to ascertain population density or any evidential record of numbers of Whitetail deer. The source of Mr Sanson’s data is unknown and is in sharp contrast to reports from hunters.

“*Hunters shoot one deer in ten days*”, he said with no further explanation. This is correct from hunter reports on Conservation Land. RMLT does not collect data from hunters so to generalise this applies to RMLT land could be seen as misleading. What Mr Sanson did not say is that in those ten days each hunter encountered only four deer, one deer seen every 2 ½ days hunting. One Whitetail deer killed for every four deer seen is probably the best hunter result for any of New Zealand’s deer species across the country.

In answer to a question about 1080 from the floor Mr Sanson said: “*Predator Free Rakiura is going to have to use 1080. Cost is in the order of \$70M. The last use of 1080 was 2018 ground based.*”

My Sanson was asked a question from the floor “So why is it that 1080 has not been used since 2018?

Sanson replied “*Opposition from Hunters!*” This is blatantly untrue. The ground based 1080 program on Stewart Island ended in 2018 when DOC diverted the funding that was required to continue the poison program to the “Battle for the Birds.” Mr Sanson was the Director-General of Conservation at that time. Hunters did not oppose this use of ground based 1080 poison on Rakiura, in fact many hunters supported poisoning possums using this method.

Sanson also reported “*RMLT are the most popular blocks on the Island*” This statement is factually incorrect. 620 parties were issued DOC permits to hunt on 35 Conservation Rakiura blocks in 2022 (April – March). The majority were issued for 10 days.

- Six blocks were booked for more than 200 days.
- Two were booked for more than 270 days.
- Three were booked for more than 300 days.

Best usage estimate of 9 RMLT hunting blocks is a total of 103 weeks booked (721 days total). Clearly Mr Sansons statement does not stack up when just three Conservation blocks have more bookings than all nine RMLT blocks.

Such comments cannot be left unchallenged, and I trust your readers who attended the meeting or listened to the online recording will get a better understanding of the facts as a letter to the RMLT trustees has not been acknowledged.”

Very similar to the views of the Southland Conservation Board chair I mentioned in my last update.

What follows is the National Party poison policy. If you want to influence this policy, make your view known to National and their MPs. It seems to fly directly in the face of National appointing a spokesman for hunting & fishing interests and will be applicable on Rakiura.

National and Predator Free 2050

National supports the ongoing Predator Free 2050 policy. Introduced mammalian pests such as stoats and possums have had a profoundly negative effect on New Zealand's native and productive environments. As imminent threats to New Zealand's taonga species, as well as vectors for dangerous diseases, we support the eradication of all introduced pests.

We also support the application of 1080 and Brodifacoum where its use is appropriate and balanced against considerations for any possible negative impacts on the environments where it is dispersed. Predator Free 2050 is an ambitious but achievable goal, and we believe that, in conjunction with other methods, baits can play a role in the realisation of the predator free goal in a safe and effective manner. To this end, we also strongly support the use of traps, hunting and other supplementary methods to lower pest numbers in our native environments. We look forward to announcing further policy relating to this space in the coming months.

Kind regards, Jamie Allen | Communications, Research and Policy Advisor
Jamie.Allen@parliament.govt.nz Ian McKelvie MP/Barbara Kuriger MP

Valuing Whitetail Deer.

The Game Animal Council with support from the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust, is seeking to understand what white-tailed deer on Stewart Island/Rakiura mean to the New Zealand hunting community. This will not only help inform our knowledge of hunting on the island, but also help us raise awareness of the views of white-tailed deer hunters.

If you have hunted on Stewart Island/Rakiura we would love to hear about what the white-tailed deer hunting experience on the island means to you. The questions will take about two minutes to answer and all feedback will remain anonymous.

Click for the survey:- [Valuing Whitetail Deer](#) I urge you all to do it now, this survey will close on 16 June.

Invercargill Rifle Club **Cobb Road Rifle Range**

As honorary members of the Invercargill Rifle Club, Southland Branch members now have the opportunity to use the Cobb Road Range for sighting in of rifles and also participating in programmed Invercargill Rifle club events.

You will need to bring

Firearms Licence and Deerstalkers membership card.

Ear and eye protection

Target capable of being stapled to the target frame

Rifle (bolt out) + ammo – Up to and including .308/7.62 calibre Bipod or other front support and rear support.

The range will be operated by a designated Rang Officer who will make themselves known at the range.

General format will be

Allocation of target frame

Validation of rifle being able to hit target at 100m

Shooting 200m and beyond after validation

Dates: The range is not for casual use but is available for use on the following dates:
Currently over the Summer Range is available Sundays (except over Xmas) 11am to
1pm, 100yards to 200 yards After which there is a NRA style shoot at longer ranges Range
fee is \$10.00

If you are interested in attending and for further details please first contact

Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

**NRA/F Class shooters – make sure you arrange someone to pull targets and RO,
you may be the only shooter at the range.**

We hope to have the 500 and 600 yard mounds operational by November

**Casual user questions – Message through the FB page or you can call Ben
0272247119 or Foster 021516342**

**NZDA Members – You have affiliated membership and can shoot for \$5 per session,
contact Tom 0278471882 or Andy 021538676**



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Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller

Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528

e-mail nandc43@gmail.com

or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is required to have firearms at the site. **Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.**

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