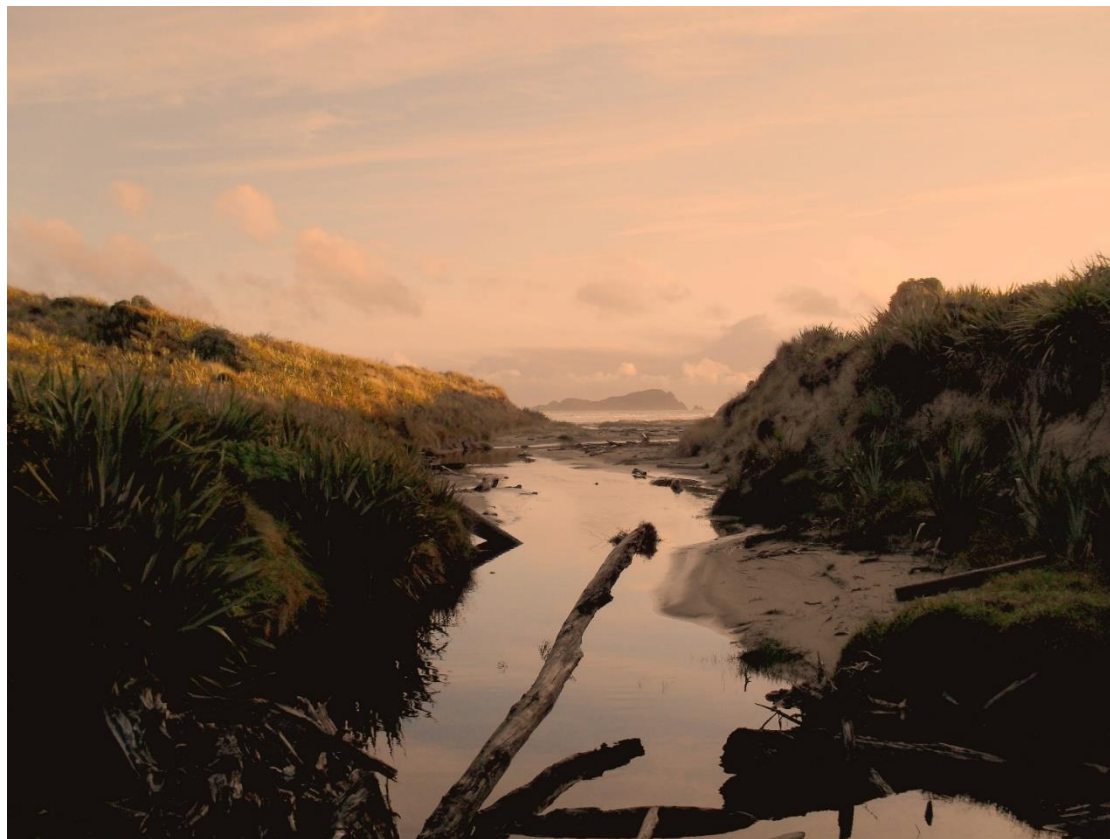


**THE SOUTHERN HUNTER**  
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter  
April 2024



Martins Creek Masons Bay

**Monthly Meeting**

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

**Guest Speaker**

Zane Moss of Fish & Game

Duck Calling Competition with prizes sponsored by Dawson Electrical  
(bring your duck call)

**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](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

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

None currently planned, have you anything to offer? Contact Executive members if you have.

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

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**New Members please welcome them.**

**Jacob Finlayson, Michael Brewster, Adam Smith**

## **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, Scott Hall, Dave Howden, Jason Leishman, Jamie. McCallum, Ray Phillips, Ethan Todd.

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

Sub committees

Rayonier Hunting Liaison Shaun, Luke & Andy

Lodges - (Red Stag & Mavora) Neville, Shaun, Dave

Hall & Library Luke, Jamie & Wayne

Club Hunts Tom, Luke and Wayne

Invercargill Rifle Range Tom, Shaun & Andy Nesbit

Invercargill Pistol Club Doug

NZDA Range Officers Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Andy, Luke & Doug

DOC Liaison Ray

AGM, Trophies & Douglas Scoring Shaun, Doug, Wayne, Luke, Ray & Andy

Competition Committee Shaun, Tom, Andy

Young Hunts Coordinators Andy, Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke, Jamie, Nathan

Douglas Score Measurer's

Judge/coordinating Tutor, Ray, Judge/ Tutor John, Level One Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke & Andy

Website manager, John Delury.

## Presidents Report



April 2024



Whitetail Rees Valley



Young Chamois @ 20m

I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and about over the last month its prime time for hunting right now the Roar in full swing the rut and duck shooting coming up. I've been pretty lucky and snuck out more than normal in the last month chasing reds, chamois, fallow and soon to be out on the ducks. If you manage to down a decent specimen keep in mind the branch AHT competition is in May, we'll have the measuring day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May at the club rooms if your unable to make it get in touch your welcome to drop of to myself of one of the other committee members to take along on the day. Please make sure they are cleaned up. If you do want a head scored outside the AHT comp were more than happy to help just get in touch. I'm based just out of Edendale, and we have more than one in Invercargill area that can score heads for you.

With Duck shooting coming up if you're like me your duck caller will be living in the truck with you and you'll be getting plenty of practice there's lots of videos on you tube to help if you're not sure where to start. Well, be having a duck calling comp at the April meeting so make sure you bring your caller along it'll be a great chance to blow the cobwebs out if you haven't already.

By now you should have received your membership renewal if you have any issues or haven't received it get in touch with Andy (branch membership officer) or myself.

As always Safe hunting and Good luck for the Roar and Rut's

Cheers Shaun



### **Editorial**

Recently while catching up on the news online I came across the headline Botswana wants to send 20,000 Elephants to Germany! Curious I had a read, they also wanted to send 10,000 to England.

Why they have 130,000 of them they need controlled or they damage farmers crop, endanger humans. Trophy hunting controls numbers, and provides employment and food for the local population. European countries are under pressure from environmental groups there to ban the importation of any game trophies from anything they consider endangered. Sounds a bit like Forrest & Bird's latest move to remove Wapiti from Fiordland. Reported to you by the National Executive.

Yes, the cost of being an NZDA member costs subscription wise, but we need our voice heard (numbers count!), or these superficially great schemes will rule. The world needs balance, not animal rights, (Unless the animal is not a native in the case of NZ according to such people).

Protecting hunting and increasing its enjoyment can start with involvement in the NZDA. This starts at Branch level. We need new ideas, and people to enact these to progress. Is there something you think we should be doing?

The AGM is a bit over a month away, The Executive comes up for election. If you feel that you have something to offer, to give back to the sport that you enjoy. Something you would like the branch to do contact Shaun, or any of the Executive or e-mail

[enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz) .We as always need new ideas and people to move them forward, and to replace those who in the past have done their bit and are moving on.

Doug Gordon

## **AGM & Trophy Night**

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30pm

Entries in trophy competition Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1pm at the Clubrooms. When the trophies will be Judged and scored. No late entries accepted. (If you can't make it in person arrange for someone to get the trophy there on time. Shaun is happy for them to be dropped off with him Phone 027 635 0490 or with Ray

Phillips Phone 03 2163751) Please bring Membership card (to speed up processing entries)

*Heads must be clean, and dry, free of strong odours or they may not get scored*

*[No Maggots]*

Remember all heads are up for the spot prize so bring your trophy along, spikers to 18pointers, goats, sheep, pigs, tahr, chamois, any wild animal that fits in the branch AHT, antler, horn and tusk lists.

ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR [MAY 2023 TO MAY 2024]

**You must be a financial member when you took the Trophy and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2023 to 2024 as well as this year 2024 to 2025. (unless Trophy taken since 1<sup>st</sup> March then only 2024/25 year)**

Photo competition entries to  
Doug Gordon 254 Centre St  
Invercargill 9812

By Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of May at 5pm

Photo Categories are

Game Animals: Living Deer, Chamois, Tahr, Goats and pigs etc

Other Wildlife: Any other living Animals

Scenic: Preferably Hunting Country

Topical: Should contain some evidence of human activity and hunting related. e.g. Hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 or 7X5 size and taken between May 2023 and May 2024. Entry's must be actual photos (hard copy) not electronic versions e-mailed.

A spot prize on the night for all members entering photos

**You must be a financial member when you took photo and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2023 to 2024 as well as this year 2024 to 2025. (unless photo taken since 1<sup>st</sup> March then only 2024/25 year)**

## Sponsors

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



## e-mail addresses

All you xtra customers will have received a notice that you are to be charged for your e-mail address.

So now is the time to give you a reminder, If you change this you need to let National Office know at [membership@deerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:membership@deerstalkers.org.nz) . Letting the branch know is also advisable , either to me at [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz) or the branch at [enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

As otherwise you will miss any messages until we get a new updated list from National Office (Please let us know that you have notified National office to avoid double ups)

I get sick of messages bouncing back from people who have not notified us when they change their e-mail addresses.

I also am sick of people who don't tend to their e-mails when I get failed to deliver messages due to full mail boxes. **I do not chase up such cases**, it is a member's job to keep such operational.

Doug Gordon

## Joke of The Month



To give away to a good home

## **Clay Bird thrower**

To give away if you've got a young fella or young lass getting into duck shooting and you want something to get them confident in there shooting. free to give away to a keen young Hunter. Homemade clay thrower spring loaded. Great speed for starting out not to quick. Get in touch if your keen pick up 5 min out of Edendale

Cheers Shaun 0276350490



## **CHAIRS**

Chairs to give away X Branch Clubrooms

Suitable for Duck Shooting Mai Mai, or other activities.

The Branch has acquired better seating from Southland Boys as they upgrade.

Contact Ray 03 2163751

*The following is the second of a series of articles on hunting in New Caledonia written by John Berry (who has had to sadly give up hunting due to old age) and provided to me by his friend Geoff Jukes.*

## **The Night Of The Chook**

Dick Cabela cornered me on the Thursday afternoon of his hunt with us at the Gouaro Deva Camp.

“I want to take the guys to dinner Friday night after the hunt is finished” he said.

“The guides would really appreciate that” I replied.



“No, no, not just the guides – all of the guys, the rest of your clients and guests, everyone”

Dick was a gentleman, a great person and WEALTHY. He was also humble and didn't flaunt his money, this was him (and Mary his wife), being nice to all the people they had met during the past days hunting.

“Well Dick there is a very nice little restaurant out on the beach, just down the road from the main gate, that we have been to, but it's damn expensive”.

“No problem let us get into the van and go book in.”

And so began what was to become known as:

### **“The Night Of The Chook”.**

Friday dark saw the little Hyundai wagon loaded up with the guides, myself, Ron Spanton (NZ life member), Stan Peterson (of Stan's Hut), Tom Condon (a top Sika guide from Taupo), PJ (a taxidermist from home, who had come up to help with head skinning etc.), clients and of course our benefactors Dick and Mary). The trip down the rough access track is about 10 Ks. It was a fairly tight packed ride!

The actual restaurant was a beautiful local stone building run by a couple who originated in Tahiti and this was reflected in their menu (and prices). They had a full bar as well as the dining room, so this was very quickly put to good use. No 1s (local beer), all round, plus wine for the “sophisticates” and a good few shots of hard stuff for PJ and Ron.

Everyone was very happy and enjoying themselves, all scrubbed up in their very best going out (hunting) rigs.

Guide Tom Condon, who had been with me for several seasons, was especially interested in a little blonde drinking at the bar.

“John” he says, “Look at that. I have been here for 6 weeks and there is the love of my life, but I don't know what to say.

“No problem Tom” says me and I draw on my vast knowledge of French, gained in two wasted years at Linwood High. “Just go up behind her and murmur. ***Je tu adore mon cheri.***”

“What the hell does that mean?”

“You don't need to know, just do it.”

Standing just behind her Tom murmurs the fateful phrase, then leaps back as the reply comes.

“That will be enough of that sport.”

Turns out that she was an Australian teaching English at the Bourail high school. Anyway she wasn't too offended and if I remember correctly joined Tom for dinner.

Stan Peterson, who also guided for several seasons, was sat at the bar, in an intense conversation with the local Kanaka road repair guy – neither could speak their respective language, but the shouting of various heavy machinery company names was sufficient to keep them occupied and happy. From then on the local guy became “Komatsu”.

Madam hostess finally herded us into the dining area and that is where the fun really began. The menu was in FRENCH, no English equivalent – confusion!

PJ pointed towards “Poulet” and asked “what is this”? Madam had no English but picked up on what PJ was asking and so burst onto a series of clucks, walking round with her arms folded doing the chicken dance.

“Bouerf” was accompanied with much mooing and soon everyone had made their order (I had Tahitian Salad, which was cold, marinated, tuna, very good).

Entertainment then, was everyone participating in the chicken dance, until the food came. Hence the night’s title.

Saturday morning saw a sorry group of camp leavers being packed up by Frank and Silvia, who acted as camp Father and Mother, for me. The trip back south the Tontouta airport would have been “difficult” for some.



Mary Cabela with her stag she took with Ron Spanton. The back ground is typical of Deva – grass valleys, hills and heavy thorny scrub.



Busted, sometimes even Camo will not work.



An acceptable stag making off to safety.

### **Notes from late March 2024**

A recent visit to Wellington for the AGM of COLFO, and a subsequent meeting of its executive, provided the following outcomes:

1. There is a strong interest in encouraging young people into shooting sports. This is to ensure the future of the sports, and to provide opportunities for promoting outdoor pursuits, firearm safety, competitive shooting and of course, hunting.
2. An international seminar is planned for 2026, the thirtieth anniversary of COLFO, venue somewhere in the middle of the country, with international guest speakers as well as some experienced locals.
3. Research into gauging the costs and benefits of recently introduced measures to 'make us safer' show that unless a reduction in unintentional shooting casualties of 80% or more takes place on ranges operated by NZ shooting clubs, the costs of the operation will not equal the benefits. (At present, the annual casualties are less than one). This means it is a waste of public money, and worse, most casualties have taken place on ranges already approved by the police!
4. Research into the costs and benefits of full firearm registration show a massive spend on registration, with 70 staff engaged on this activity. Unless casualties from firearms misuse (of unintentional shootings, crime and suicide) are reduced by more than 90%, the cost do not equal the benefits, so this is another waste of public money. (The Treasury issues specific advice indicating the need for analysing benefits and costs, an activity omitted by the police when introducing this measure).
5. We may recall that Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms) Nicole McKee stated that the first part of the Arms Act to get thrown out would be Section 6, dealing with police administration of clubs and ranges. Unfortunately, because of the complexities of this section (which tie it in to other parts of the Act), she has found it cannot be dumped and must be included in her overall review of the Arms Act 1983.

This proves that the Act is such a mess that it can only be resolved by a careful review, which is taking place now. Minister McKee assures us that she wants the revised arms bill to endure for several decades (as the 1983 Act has done) and so has begun consultations with other political parties about the review.

That's about all for this month!

Happy hunting, take care out there!

Chaz F

# Young Hunts Course 2024

This course is for anyone young or old.

Includes Firearm safety, Navigation, First Aid, Bushcraft, Equipment and trip planning, Meat processing and more  
Current planning is to run a course in 2024



Looking at expressions of interest  
in this course to Shaun Phone 0276350490

**NZDA Ladies hunt Mavora Southland arrive 25th April  
- depart 28th April (ANZAC weekend)**

I am organising a Ladies hunt in Mavora Southland arrive 25th April - depart 28th April (ANZAC weekend) on behalf of Southern Lakes branch.

I would love it if you could pass this onto your members to spread the word.

All the previous ones have been wonderful experiences for the ladies involved making lasting friendships.

All they need to do is click the link below to sign up 😊

<https://www.southernlakesnzda.org.nz/event-5670828>

IT WAS A COLD, WET EVENING AS 17 LADIES FROM AROUND THE SOUTH ISLAND ARRIVED AT THE DESIGNATED HUT FOR A WOMENS HUNT, ORGANISED BY KATIE DUGAN AND HOSTED BY THE NZDA SOUTHERN LAKES BRANCH.

# Mavora: A South Island Ladies Hunt

Lisa high above the valley floor taking in the awesome scenery.

WORDS BY: KATIE DUGAN

**A**ges ranging from 22 to 67, homes ranging from Waitahu in the north to Invercargill in the south, each with a bit of cautious excitement wondering what they were getting themselves into. Quite a few of them admitted to me later that they weren't quite sure how that many women together in a hut would go and whether they wanted to be part of such a "girly thing". But on that first night at the safety briefing when we went around the room and said a bit about ourselves, our hunting experience and what we were here for it quickly became apparent that this was an amazing group of women eager to learn and grow and get amongst it.

Speak to your local NZDA branches, your friends and family or observe social media and it's clear the appetite for women in hunting and this sort of trip has been growing for a long time. The inaugural NZDA National Womens Hunt was advertised at the beginning of the year and the comments came in thick and fast "when is the South Island one?". Not wanting to waste the momentum, or the upcoming autumn of pine hunting season (and ok a little bit of prodding!) I jumped into action. It was a tricky task to

find an area of public hunting land where you could send a large group of huntresses into safely, with accommodation for such a large group, accessible enough to go back to each night, had a variety of animal species on offer plus a reasonable chance of success. Mavora ticked all the boxes, and the plan quickly came together.

I made a number of scouting trips over March and April to get a good understanding of the area and how to draw up separate hunting blocks, how to access and hunt them, grade them in terms of terrain and difficulty and of course to spot animals and fresh signs. It was on one particularly ill-fated scouting trip that I learned which of the local 4wd tracks NOT to send the ladies on. My truck has since been recovered, CV arms flexed, and I made sure to include 4wd-ing as part of the trip Risk Management Plan after that.

After the safety briefing Friday night and a big feed of venison sausages the ladies were put into groups of 3 based on species interest, experience and fitness levels. Saturday morning, we were all away by daybreak, each group armed with a mac, radio and a healthy dose of determination. Liz, a keen conservationist, spent the morning setting trap lines around the hut. As the Trip Coordinator I decided not to hunt myself and instead rove between the blocks

slopped on, determined to secure some animals. But who is new to hunting but super keen, took her first ever animal that day - a chamois buck - we were all so chuffed for her (and relieved to have broken the dry spell!).

Back at the hut that evening we had a great slow-cooked stew for dinner and the hut was abuzz with hunting stories and celebrating Liz's triumph. I kept glancing at the clock as we were approaching the agreed return time and was getting nervous about the last group still out there in the dark - our youngest and our oldest huntresses who had gone out for an evening hunt together. At long last there was a knock on the door and the girls were standing on the stairs with cheery grins. They mumbled something about seeing animals and maybe I should come check out what they had in the truck. Moments later my hoisting and hollering of elation would have been heard for kilometres! They had hit a home run with a trophy each that were also personal bests for both of them - Tash's first ever Fallow buck and Joan's biggest ever red stag. The rest of the evening was a blur of joy and celebration of everyone's successes and how much they'd learned and enjoyed the weekend.

When I originally announced I was putting together a lady's hunting trip, the comments I got from men ranged from "I'll wear a wig can I go too?" to "be honest, it's just an excuse for you to drink wine and do each other's nails" and "see what

you need to do is [insert manipulating comment here]". But at the end of the day these women showed that they are just as passionate about hunting and the outdoors as the men, and they can bring home the meat and trophies too. The experience for most women is they hunt with their dad or partner and they're primarily just tagging along. There's definitely nothing wrong with that but we found out that hunting with other women is a completely different dynamic and very empowering. This was really the first time the ladies were in charge - they were reading the weather and the map, making the decisions about how to approach the hunt, taking the shots and processing the animals themselves.

We all came from different walks of life but immediately made new friends over a common interest. The hunting experience is so much more than just the harvesting of animals (although that also made for plenty of yahooping). We celebrated each other's achievements and shared our insights and experiences. And we took time to appreciate the little things - there were some ladies that had never seen rubs on trees before, trapped a possum or eaten snowberries. Tash was so excited to share her hunting success with her dad when she got home. I followed up with her the following week and she said, "He was very stoked, set out a big whoop, stomped his feet and gave me a bear hug". All the hard work and prep was worth it to see these girls absolutely fizzing at the

end of the hunt, screaming more missions and asking "when's the next one?" I will definitely be planning more ladies' hunts and hope to get better at writing about them for future articles. I asked the ladies for some input/soundbites for this article and a few of them ended up writing short stories of their individual experiences which was bloody awesome. The first of them is included in this issue. "When's the next one?" **NZDA**



Liz, a keen conservationist, spent a morning setting trap lines around the hut which enabled some of our group to learn about pest control and help pluck possums.



Participants in the first South Island Ladies Hunt after a very successful weekend.

Thanks,

**Lisa Moffat**

## 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**

## **Wapiti Lodge, & Red Stag Lodge Mavora**



Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

Bookings to  
Neville & Carol Miller  
Phone 03 216 8654 Cell 02108219528  
e-mail [nandc43@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## **Southland Branch Polo Shirts**



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

Sizes Medium, large, Xtra Large, and XXL.

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing  
[enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto: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

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