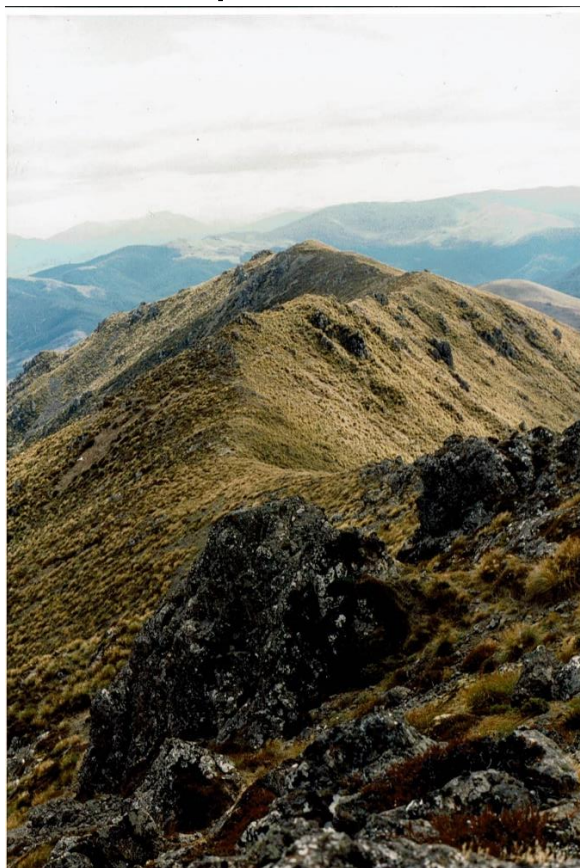


**THE SOUTHERN HUNTER**  
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter  
April 2023



Looking West from top of West Dome

**Monthly Meeting**

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

**Guest Speaker**

Lyndon Norman to speak and judge duck calling comp.  
Lyndon is a Local serious duck hunter (features on facebook)  
There will be a senior and Junior Duck Calling competition  
There will also be a Dollar raffle so bring some gold coin

**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**

**Wallaby Hunt** 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 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.**

James Collinson, Laurence Rogers, Connor McDermott, Benjamin Febery, James Thompson, Greg Dowling, Chris Dunn, Allan James Craig, Pete Longstaff, Peter (Glen) O'Connor, Leigh Mutton, Hayden Milne,

## **Office Bearers**

Club Office Bearers

**President:** S McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** T Caldwell

**Secretary** A Nesbit : **Treasurer** T Mead

**Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

**Membership** A Nesbit **Huts** N Miller

**Executive:** W Ashmore, N Dawson, D Howden, J. McCallum, L Payne, R. Phillips.

**Life Members** ( National) Roger McNaughton (Branch) J DeLury, D Howden, N Miller, R 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



April 2023

Well the Roar is in full swing as I'm writing this, I was out last night chasing roaring stags around unfortunately nothing wanted to come in close before we ran out of daylight. But we were lucky enough to have a patch of public land to ourselves for the evening which can be pretty hard to find at this time of year. Just remember safety first no stag is worth a stray bullet. So far I haven't heard of any incidents but it only takes one for the media to jump on board and paint all hunters with the same brush. We can

only control or own actions . So look out for your hunting mates if you see something not quite right



don't be afraid to point out it to them.

Hopefully all your duck pond are full of water now I've got to go check mine again. If you're like me the duck caller will be living in the glove box of the Ute now so I can dust the cob webs of my calling before opening weekend.

And for anyone that's interested the Wyndham fire brigade run a Anzac day sporting clay shoot as a fund raiser for the local brigade. That's always a good chance to test the spring skills out.

On another note next month May is our AGM and if anyone is keen on getting to know more about how the club runs out has ideas that 'they'd like to share get in touch with me or any of the committee or even better put your hand up to come in the committee yourself. The more the merrier it is a great chance to see more into how NZDA runs and do your bit to protect and preserve our hunting heritage.

Best of luck for the Roar and look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Don't forget to bring your duck caller

Cheers Shaun



## Editorial

April the month for deer hunting, the Roar will be near its peak (depending on weather) when you read this. The Fallow rut is yet to come and its nominal peak is around 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Whitetail is later again, while the Wapiti are into it from late March. Why the differences? The smaller species have a shorter gestation period. It is all times for the fawns/ calves to arrive at the desired point in spring growth in that location. Thus both North Island and Farm deer are slightly earlier due to the history of earlier growth.

Next Cell Phone coverage over all of New Zealand sounds good great for hunter safety. Some tramper's don't like the change could destroy their peace and quiet. They may have a point if a hut is full of people staring at small screens. But some rules like those for smokers should take care of that, it worked with smoking. Interesting how the reporters never asked some hunters what they thought when they wrote their articles!! We don't as usual count for much in the eyes of some latte sipping woke self-centred politically correct. Most likely the same types who don't like Helicopters disturbing there recreation time. (Except for WAR operators and Doc Staff using Helicopters.) How come NZDA was not asked what they thought,). Farmers, Inshore boaties, SAR and Doc all mentioned and asked for comment.

Small bottles of hand sanitizer are everywhere with the arrival of covid. Worth taking one with you if you are unable to wash ones hands out there. More so as the stuff makes a good fuel for fire-starting. One word of warning it burns with a clear invisible flame in some cases. So one may not know its burning. That for me was a recent discovery.

AGM next month, we as always are on the lookout for New Executive Members, do you fit the bill? A chance to give something back, and help hunting. Contact an Executive Member if interested.

Lastly be safe out there, even if on private land there may be others or other hunters out where you are. Having another legal hunting party in your area can happen (I have had it happen) It only takes an administrative stuff up a broken line of communication. Take care ID that Target.

Doug Gordon

P.S. Have you tried to light the sanitizer yet, bet you want to!

## AGM & Trophy Night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.30pm.

Entries in trophy competition Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of 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.) Please bring Membership card (to speed up processing entries)

*Heads must be clean 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.

REMEMBER ALL MEMBERS ENTERING AN ENTRY GO INTO THE SPOT PRIZE DRAW SO BRING ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR [MAY 2021 TO MAY 2022]

Photo competition entries to  
Doug Gordon 254 Centre St  
Invercargill 9812

By 5pm Wednesday the 10th of May.

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. eg. Hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 size and taken between May 2021 and May 2022

A spot prize on the night for all members entering photos

**Remember you must be a financial member when you took your trophy/ photo and to enter.**

## Sponsors

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





**SOUTHERN  
ADVENTURE**  
THE IN STORE FOR THE OUTDOORS

## Southland Branch Polo Shirts



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](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

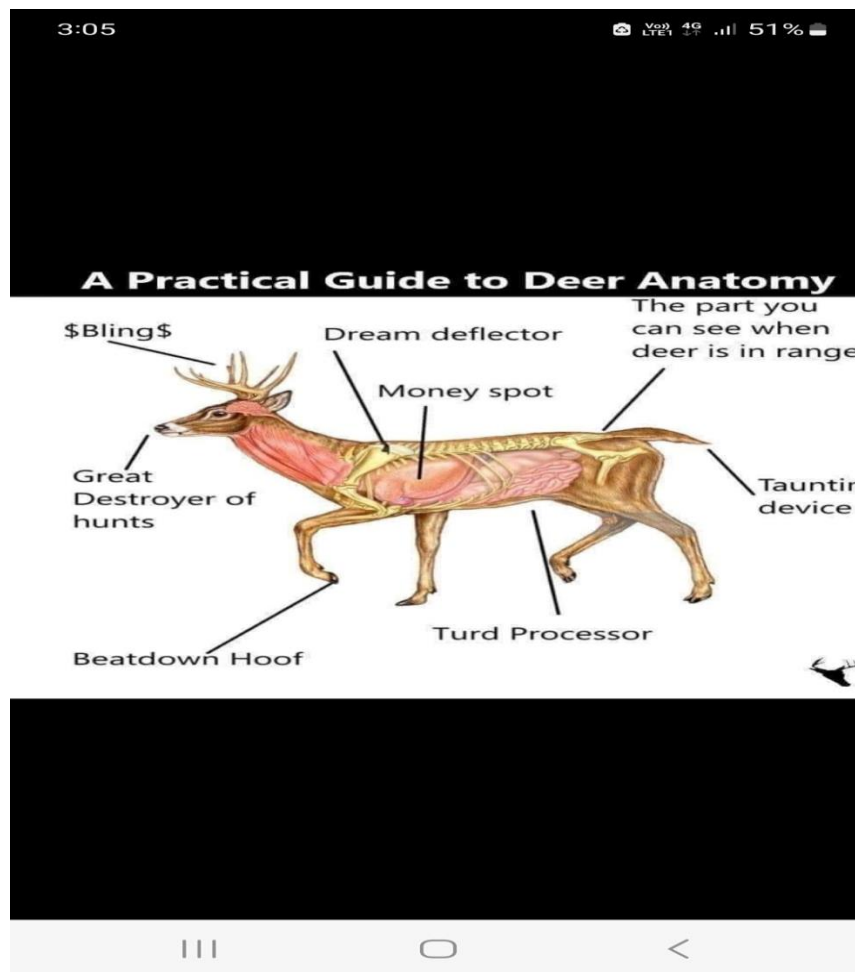
## Freeze Dri



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



## JOKES FOR THE MONTH



## AVOCADOS

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk and if they have avocados, get 6."

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. The wife asks him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk"

He replied, "They had avocados."

If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again! Men will get it the first time.

## WATER IN THE CARBURETOR

WIFE: "There is trouble with the car. It has water in the carburettor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburettor? That's ridiculous "

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburettor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburettor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool".

### **Hyperlinks of useful information**

#### **Rat Patrols Masons Bay 2023 Annual report**

Covers the work of the Southland lead NZDA rat control parties  
See hyperlink

<https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/images/pdf/2022.pdf>

#### **Upper Clutha Goose Cull Waitangi Weekend**

This was successful four branch members attended. But it sounds as though there is a lot of geese still there.

They propose to hold it again over Waitangi weekend next year and will give it more publicity, earlier to encourage greater attendance. They had 20 shooters, needed 50 but still shot 1097 birds.

See Hyperlink <https://youtu.be/7Wnhi2zhcTU>

### **2022 Southland & Gore and Districts Kids Hunting & Fishing Competition**

*( Editors appologies this was missed from the February news letter, lost over Xmas)*



Hi there I was approached by the Wyndham A&P Committee this August to see if we would be interested in running a hunting competition on the Wyndham A&P show day this December. The Southland Branch saw it as a great opportunity to get the NZDA name out into the community and also work with our Neighbouring branch Gore and Districts branch to build the NZDA brand and get as many Kids and parents as we could out hunting and fishing and out enjoying the outdoors it was too good of an opportunity to miss.

We would like to thank you all. We were overwhelmed with support from all our local Sponsors and the number of entries we received which helped us make the Wyndham A&P show Kids hunting and fishing competition the success that it was.



Who we had 24 sponsors that helped make the day what it was

The Businesses that supported us were

Herberts Transport, Back Country Cuisine, Southern Adventure, Hunting & Fishing Invercargill, Shooters World Gore, Swazi, Fonterra, Dawson Electrical, Animal Tanning Services, Vetco Edendale, BNT Gore, Repco Gore, Ewan Allan Honda, Harrison's Supplies, BnB Sports, Southland Farm Machinery, PGG Gore, Regional Ford, Fordes Pet Food, Mcknrye & Dick, Southland Honda, Jumping Fun, Caldwell Contracting. Remember to get along and show them your support.

Thank you very much.

We had 68 Entries which was such a great turn out we're bloody proud to have welcomed so many kids and parents to the Hunting and Fishing Competition and give them a small insight into what our clubs have to offer.

I'd also like to thank all the guys from both clubs that helped out on the day and leading up to the event is great to work together to achieve such a successful event. You all know who you are. Cheers guys.

It was also great to be a part of such an awesome community event. We would also like to thank the Wyndham A&P committee for inviting us to be a part of the day.

Results from the day

Seniors

Heaviest Hare Taryn Huges

Heaviest Rabbit Nia Woodford

Heaviest Possum Renee Crump

Heaviest Fish Floyd

Juniors

Heaviest Hare Jack Geary

Heaviest Rabbit Clay Mckenzie

Heaviest Possum Hannah Pirie

Heaviest Fish Louis Woodford



Major Spot Prize Senior  
Renee Crump

Major Spot prize Junior  
Jack Geary



We had lots of smaller spot prizes for the kids on the day thanks to all our sponsors

A Total of     30 Possums  
                  46 Hares  
                  29 Rabbits  
                  18 Fish

Were weighed in on the day and I'm sure there were plenty more pests taken care of over the evenings Hunting, A great effort by all involved. Until next time.  
Cheers From the Southland & Gore Kids Hunt Team.

### **More thoughts on the Current Firearms situation**

After listing all the paperwork the police have supplied last month (oops, "Firearms Safety Authority (*Te Tari Pūreke*)", we must keep asking ourselves if we are feeling safer?

The present central government seems wedded to the idea that passing laws means offenders will cease offending, but the news reports, if they are to be believed, suggest otherwise. And the police, having been saddled with the enormous tasks of regulating ranges

by the 'do gooder' MPs, are now finding hundreds of ranges of which they were unaware, ranges on which almost no injuries by firearm have occurred since the 1970s. Seemingly, the thinking is that if ranges are approved by the Commissioner of Police, they'll somehow be safer. History does not support this story, because of the records I have, a total of 29 injuries have taken place on ranges from 1989 to 2012, including 23 injuries on ranges approved by either the Commissioner of Police or by a defence area or defence range. This suggests that approval by senior public servants and/or defence officials hardly makes range users safer!

I wonder how much safer the Commissioner of Police approval of shooting clubs will make us all?

### **Recent visit to Member of Parliament**

I recently had a meeting with a Member of Parliament (MP), and when I explained how over-regulated I thought shooting clubs had become, he suggested there was a need for the central recording of range details because he was aware of a shortage of club administrators which meant that these details might be lost to the community. I was a bit surprised, because shooting clubs have not only had responsibility for administering themselves and their ranges since the 1970s, and this was an extra layer of bureaucracy (for which we are all paying).

I guess we are all meant to be enjoying this extra work, as well as paying for it, but it seems 'up the nose' to me, and whether it makes us all safer seems doubtful.

Have you considered having a meeting with your MP to discuss your concerns about hunting, about firearm ownership, or anything? They are human, they're approachable, and even if we disagree, they are civilised about it (as mine was) and are always pleased to meet their constituents. Give it a go!

Chaz Forsyth

### **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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It recently came to my attention that it is hard to find any blank greeting cards that include wildlife art. Thus, I was asked to sell some of my pencil or paint replicas on cards and thought I would see if there was any interest in these here. A set of 5 for \$30 or \$7 each (including envelope). Contact [erin@wildbalance.co.nz](mailto:erin@wildbalance.co.nz) or 022 543 1022





## Wapiti Lodge, & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Wapiti Lodge



Red Stag

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654 cell  
021 08219528 email [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.**

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