

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



Frist Place Wildlife Luke Payne

**Monthly Meeting**

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 16th August at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

**Guest Speaker**

Lydia from the Kea conservation group (Doc) to speak on Kea's

**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.**

**Brendon Mathieson, Adam Olive.**

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

**Life Members** ( National) John DeLury, Roger McNaughton, Ray Phillips (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 Senior Ray, Level One Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke & Andy



Presidents Report

## July 2023

It has been a busy month for NZDA the launch of the national goat competition is underway you can enter tails at your local Invercargill hunting and fishing if you are lucky enough to find a goat for more information check out our Facebook page or nationals page.

I recently attended the national conference and was lucky enough to help out in the AHT judging room there were some great heads to be measured with a very strong showing from Southland congratulations to Trevor McMaster and Paige Hodge for the awards they received. Gore also had a couple of impressive heads entered to Craig Cubit and his daughter both had success in their entry's. It was great catching up with other clubs and the national exec also.



It was great to see John delivery and Ray Philips receive their national life membership congratulations to both of them much deserved for the years of effort they have put in.

There was some great entertainment Linda top was the MC and put a great spin on the night with her Comedy we were also lucky enough to have Willie Duley as a guest speaker telling the story of how the NZ Hunter show got started and how it has evolved.

The Wallaby trip has been and gone now I hear it was a success again thanks to Tom and all the others who helped make it happen. If there are any hunts you would like the Branch to aim to plan a hunt please let us know. Goats, Rabbits, Thar, Chamois, Deer. Also if you have a place that would be suitable or know of someone who has a problem with animal numbers where the Branch could help do some management and conservation hunts to help out let us no we'd be more than happy to co-ordinate something to befit both parties.

We are lucky enough to have Lydia coming along to speak at the branch this month Lydia is a senior Ranger at the Te Anau Doc office she has been working with the kea conservation trust for about 6 years now and has recently finished her PhD in Kea ecology she has been involved in fieldwork with Kea and some planning in behind the scenes as well I look forward to hearing from Lydia at the meeting.

Shaun

# CONGRATULATIONS

From the Branch to  
John Delury and Ray Phillips  
On becoming National Life Members at Conference 2023  
Well done good to see their efforts recognised.



New National Life Members (Left to Right): John DeLury, Ray Phillips, Keith Theobald, and Brian Witton.

## **On the above life Membership**

If you are a keen Rakiura whitetail deer hunter, you will most likely know the names John Delury and Ray Phillips. I first met John in the late 70s early 80s when I joined the Southland branch. Starting with a culling trip to Mason Bay, DOC felt there were too many

deer in the area. A lot of sheep were shot but it started a love affair for Stewart Island and its deer. Later an invite to join one of their parties gave me a lot more knowledge. I say this as John was always willing to help the new hunters get started.

Ray also visited the Island and with others, including John, ran the Southland Field Radio. Always a great service.

From the West Coast NZDA and later Southland Branch, John was now closer to the Island!

In 1999 a meeting with DOC at Oban began the development of the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust. This has been hugely successful and both Ray and John have been there from day one.

More was needed to be known about Whitetail and this began with jaw measuring and the permission to capture some Whitetail deer to find out their movements.

Always looking for another challenge, a programme of rat trapping at Mason Bay was started with NZDA supplying the labour and very good support from businesses.

Spring time is a high risk when breeding begins.

Search and Rescue and regular involvement in judging the antler horn and tusk competition have filled many more days of support to NZDA. Both Ray and John have given so much time and effort to the sport and its habitat that we all cherish.

John's two books on Rakiua Whitetail will help fill a need of the knowledge that is required.

Both Ray and John were nominated as NZDA National Life Members at our recent annual conference and these are greatly deserved.

Roger McNaughton

### **Thoughts on This Years National Conference**

Many years ago I had the privilege to be invited to attend an NZDA National conference in the judging room for the AHT competition .

Over the years I have reached the level of National Judge and Co-ordinating Tutor , thanks to John De Lury for his help in training and guidance in the Douglas Scoring system and to the late Bruce Banwell and others on the judging panel for their guidance .

Enough of the history , roll on National Conference 2023 held in Ashburton .

What an honour to be in the judging room to see two of our branch members win the two top trophies for Red Deer and also for a Junior to take out the top trophy for Antlered game and the top Antlered Species by a Female with her Fallow Deer head .

The results are in this newsletter .

Well done to Trevor McMaster and Paige Hodge , the Branch is very proud of these achievements , and so should you .

I am not aware of the Branch gaining wins in these category's before but at the time of

writing we are checking NZDA competition records and will advise you as soon as we can confirm details .

PS I was not involved in scoring either head , I was in the Whitetail and Asiatic section [Sambar, Sika , Rusa ] .

Ray Phillips

## **Results For Southland Members from 2023 National AHT comp. as follows .**

Mel Larritt Trophy for Red Deer 1st Trevor McMaster Douglas Score  
370 1/8

Orbell Trophy for Best Head of All Deer Species 1 st Trevor McMaster  
red deer douglas score 370 1/8

Poverty Bay Branch Trophy - best Game Animal Shot by a Junior Under 19  
1 st Paige Hodge with a fallow Deer Douglas Score 228 1/8

Z Veronese Cup -- Best Antlered Species Taken by a Junior 2 nd Paige Hodge with a  
Fallow Deer Douglas Score 228 1/8

Kaimanawa Branch Trophy -- Best Game Trophy Taken by a Lady Paige Hodge with a  
Fallow Deer Douglas Score 228 1/8

(Note Paige is only 13 years of age , pretty good effort .)

Veronese Trophy – Scenic Photos 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Nelson List “Grebe Valley Floor”

## **NZDA Annual Conference**

Friday night began with a social time and hunting history writer, Kevin Whitelaw speaking of hunting history in NZ.

Saturday began with numerous speakers which included Lake Wakatipu white tail deer research , NZ Game Animal Council, Department of Conservation.. Research and management options for Lake Sumner and the Rakaia catchment.

National MP Todd McClay spoke on his party's new position on protecting the rights of hunting and fishing in New Zealand.

ACTs Nicole McKee was a very informative speaker. Did you know that of all the firearms recovered from crime 43% have no serial numbers?

The team from the new Firearms Safety Authority told us of their role in managing the firearms licensing, registration of firearms, they ensured us that our information was safe. What happened within a few days?

Saturday night was the annual dinner, speakers, and the drawing of the many raffle prizes. Damn I missed out on the guided thar hunt.

Dame Lynda Topp of Topp Twins and Willie Duley of NZ Hunting Adventures the TV programme showed what can be done if you have the desire.

The high light was to us the appointment of John DeLury and Ray Phillips as NZDA National Life Members. Well-deserved chaps. Three Life Members to Southland branch?

What thing I did notice since the last conference I attended two years ago was the fewer grey headed hunters at the National Life Members table. What does this tell you?

A very good get together. Try a conference some time.

Roger McNaughton



### **Editorial**

National has certainly given the issue of the value of certain introduced species some air with the plans it has put forward at this election. Going by the article in the Southland Times 1/8/23.

Firstly, one needs to study what National proposes. There is one area of concern in this and this is access. When one gets down to the bottom line National proposes *“Ensure managed access to public land for hunters and fishers is protected.”*

Sounds good but it says nothing about restoring the access Hunters have lost. A lot of it through Public Easement Access put in at the time of the breakup of NZFS. That can be stopped at the requirements of the manager of this lease land. Then there are arrangements for public access through farm land to Doc estate that are subject to Farmers approval. Even though the access is a legal access. Where access is routinely denied due to farming activities. (When farmers do such they should be made to also say when access will be available again). Over the past thirty or so years Doc acquired a lot of retired lease hold farm land but did little to ensure adequate public access to such lands. Eugenie Sage is most likely right when she says that there is no shortage of deer to hunt in New Zealand. But do the hunters have ready access to these deer. In a lot of cases they do not. Blaming recreational hunters for not controlling what they cannot access is a cheap shot. Is National's plans going to change this? These build ups fuel the Anti-Hunting movement.

Then Southland Green Candidate Dave Kennedy (a trumper) weighs in about his concerns for Pigs, Goats and Deer numbers in Fiordland and Catlins. I don't know where he tramps but goats are gone from Fiordland and only a few in Catlins. With limited pigs in Fiordland also. As for his opposing seats for hunters at Conservation Boards on the basis that it will give them more power and influence than other recreational users. I say give them all representation. Currently these bodies are conservationist top heavy. (There has been no hunter representation on Fiordland this century, there used to be!) This land is for

recreation as well as conservation in my opinion. Currently these bodies only seem to contain those of a certain political bias.

Overall National's is a good offer for the hunter's vote, (one of the best in my lifetime from them) but be aware of the detail. We need to push them regarding access. Which is touchy with them as they do not want to upset their farmer supporters which is only natural. Some other parties don't want the votes of Hunters and Firearms owners. Going by their policies.

Doug Gordon

## Sponsors

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



## 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

## 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.

***The Branch would like to thank Allan Craig for his donation that resulted from the tree seedlings that we advertised for him, much appreciated.***

## **Wallaby trip 2023**

COLD!!!! Was and understatement, the weekend of the 21<sup>st</sup> July saw the first of 2 wallaby trips heading up to our usual haunt at Neville and Vanessa Powell's. because of the strong demand for members to go on the trip I split the trip into two consecutive weekends the 2<sup>nd</sup> being the 28<sup>th</sup> July. An encouraging trip up to Waimate on Thursday saw a bit of sun and a bit of rain. A brief night shoot got the barrels hot picking up 8 for a couple hours.

Thursday night saw a bit of rain down at the hut which was kept well heated thanks to Dean bringing some nice dry wood and a bucket of coal. Friday morning the rain at the hut was actually snow on the hill. The group made their way up the hill to the summit track where we split up into our hunting areas on the way up a quick glance down into a gully saw a few pigs come to an end. It wasn't raining but it was bloody cold.

After we had split up into hunting parties we all went our separate ways, it was nice to be able to cover some new ground having lunch at the Powell's hut at the back of the farm, was pretty cool to see a covey of quail only 10 m ahead of us. All other groups got on the board with 50 odd wallabies for the Friday. Friday evening seen some more new faces to the Powell farm. It must have rained and snowed on Friday night but with a warm fire, good food, beer, people and conversation it was hard to take much notice of it.

By Jesus it was cold on Saturday. The snow had icicles. But none the less we tikki toured around the farm with some awesome long shots taking wallabies, was nice to set the young fellas up on some long shots as well. We could see the weather forecast did not look great so a decision was made to take all the bikes back down off the hill back to the hut. It could have got worse but I am glad that we did it. Saturday night seen the same nice warm hut, good food, good beer and great conversations.

Unfortunately, Sunday was atrocious with a river running down the road past the gate, reinforced our decision to pack up and have a breakfast at Oamaru. All in all, was a great weekend for us 100 odd wallabies and 9 pigs.

The second trip seen a smaller crew and still managing to nab 80 of the little buggers. Thanks to all who helped out and thank you to all of you who come along. I know it is a staple of my hunting calendar and I look forward to next year.

Cheers Tom



Riley Mead

## **Green Ammo?**

I don't know how many of our readers handload their ammunition, possibly not many, given that hunters don't fire many shots and factory ammo (even when hard to find in some calibres) is pretty good for most things.

However, being of paranoid nature (even if the whole world is against you, you can still be paranoid), I have handloaded my ammo for years. Recently (paranoia strikes again) I have been fearful that DoC might force hunters to use only non-lead bullets on DoC controlled land, including National Parks and reserves, so I tried some non-lead hunting rifle bullets in 6.5 and .30 calibres for handloading.

Back in 1991, when the first Barnes solid copper hunting bullets arrived, I tried them out on goats at Glenorchy, using three calibres, 7 mm, .30 and .375. Yep, all bullets worked, resulting in dead goats. (No, I am not suggesting you need a .375 H&H for goats, but it certainly does kill them!) Back then though you had to use handloads reduced from what I normally use for lead cored bullets to keep the pressures at safe levels.

The new breed of copper bullets, besides reflecting the high price of copper, all have driving bands and the three lots I've tried so far have, after careful checking, not only seemed *not* to generate higher pressures than their lead-cored counterparts of the same weight and style, but also (bonus points here!) shot to the same mean point of impact as the 'normal' loads do.

I used 120 gn bullets by Barnes, SAKO and Sierra, all in 6.5 calibre, and 150 gn .308 bullets by Fox, (of Slovenia), in my .308 target rifle and in my Savage M340 bush rifle, a .30-30 W.

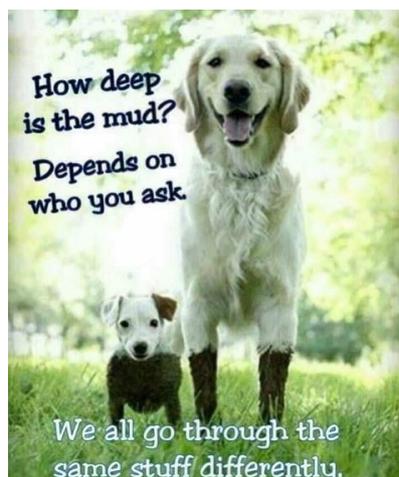
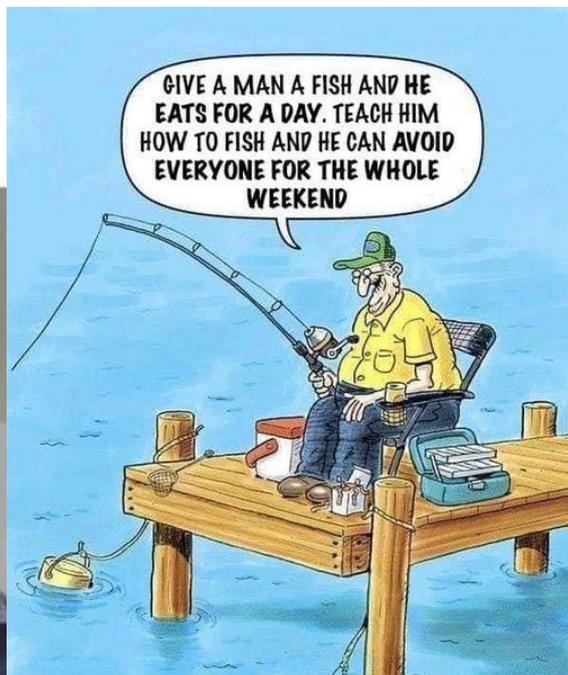
Now, I've heard no rumours, no hint at all that DoC might stoop to banning lead core hunting bullets for deer, but after the furore over the banning of lead shot over Crown-owned waterways I am trying to stay one jump ahead. I hope I am wrong!

Keep laughing, and remember to dish out stress, don't take it!

Chaz Forsyth

## JOKES FOR THE MONTH

A pure-bread



## **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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ph 03-2172893 or 0276162040

## 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.**

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