

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
June 2024



Winning Game Animal Photo Branch Competitions Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 19th June at the Branch Club Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Nelson List on knife selection and sharpening,
(A good speaker for newer hunters to hear and then
get the right knife).

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/>

List of the Branch winners at Nationals
website <https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/newsletters/winners-at-national-level>

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

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.

Club Hunts

Wallaby Hunt

July 25th to 28th If Interested 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.

Josh Blackley, Gert Janse van Rensburg, Cade Meikle

Presidents Report



June 2024

Well usually this time of year I'm planning a winter Tahr trip and a few weekends away chasing Reds or chamois, But we've just moved farms and with that comes a lot of unknowns, new learning and some new challenges. It's been a full on month leading up to the change over and going to be not much different for the next month. So likely not much hunting for me.

Were on the lookout for guest speakers for meetings if you or anyone else has any great ideas let us know. National conference is coming up in July once we have the conference Handbook is out we'll bring up any important issues at the meeting.

I have been made aware that Southwoods are looking at implementing their new electronic system the new system is not finalised and running; however, work is in progress to get it implemented. All going well this system will be implemented, at the start of or during the course of next month.

I'm not sure exactly how this will work but will ask Southwoods to come along to a meeting when they have it up and running to give us a better understanding of the system.

I'll catch you at the next meeting

Cheers Shaun.

Presidents Annual Report

Well another year has passed, another Roar, another rut, another Duck Shooting, I hope your hunting has been successful whether it be taking a trophy or a meat animal or just getting out in the outdoors with mates or family and enjoying what the outdoors has to offer. I think the branch is going bloody well. We've got more and more members getting involved in the Rayioners ballot and in doing so helping members get out and into some good hunting in Southland. It's a win-win for the club and members. It gets people along to meetings involved with the club and is helping people connect and grow some new relationships within the branch which is great to see.

The young hunts committee is gearing up to run another hunts course June/July which is another great way to help share knowledge, get new people to the sport out and a good grounding to hunt safely and grow relationships within the branch.

The club has accomplished a lot this year. The hall has had a bit of a spruce up the veranda over the kitchen area, new door exiting the kitchen, new seating and new curtains. Also the Wapiti lodge got the new kitchen installed which is looking great. We are very lucky to have these assets as a club. Also Owen from Green acres has started looking after the lawns for the club and it's looking great give him a buzz if you're needing any work done. John Delury has run another successful Rat trapping programme down Stewart Island well done to him and all the volunteers that make it happen there are countless man hours that go into running such a program thanks to everyone involved.

The Wallaby trip is coming up this winter if you're keen to get in touch with Tom. That's also a great way to get to no more people in the club and enjoy a different type of hunting not available in the southland area.

I'm sure everyone has seen the FWF's battle with forest & bird that is unfolding at the current time. If you are able to, I suggest you head over to the FWF facebook page or website and donate what you can every little bit counts and all goes towards protecting what the FWF has worked so hard to build already for future generations to come.

With the AGM this month it would be great to have one or two new faces on the committee. I think it brings along some new ideas and different thinking which is great to challenge what has been done in the past and try new things. Or if you'd just like more insight into how the branch runs don't be shy to put your hand up on the night or give me or any of the committee members a call or a message after all it is your club and you will only get out of it what you put in. It also helps grow depth in the committee which helps the club in the future keep running smoothly and progressing.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone that has helped over the year's club member's committee members and all the local businesses that support us without all of you we couldn't continue to do what we do. Thanks everyone

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun Mckelvie



Editorial

Recently it came to my notice while studying the online news. That some members of parliament in England wanted the much-increased deer population of Great Britain harvested to provide meals for School lunches and Hospitals. They want a compulsory percentage of meals supplied to contain venison like there is currently for fish there. Apparently, the deer population there has much increased due to a lack of the normal harvest during covid-19 lockdowns. The increased deer numbers are starting to damage the environment in the countryside the article stated.

It is standard practice for farmers/ estate managers in the UK to harvest surplus animals and process them in small processing facilities for sale. A lot like the feral game processing done in NZ. But the plants are much smaller operated part time seasonally only. With Inspection by visiting inspectors as required. Their labour and actual plant costs are likely more than ours, but they don't have to freight the product across the world to sell.

If UK has experienced such a build-up due to covid lockdown, what about the rest of Europe? This remains the main base market for New Zealand Venison, both Feral and Farmed. The wholesalers in Germany are likely to prefer the fresh local product when available, topping it up with imported product like they always have.

So how does it affect the Kiwi hunter? For starters the FWF will not be generating the same income from their culling operations in Fiordland. There will be less Venison recovery for export generally in New Zealand. Also, what helicopter recovery that occurs will be of more handy animals. A chopper is not going to fly past shootable deer to hunt remotest Fiordland, just to look at the scenery!

This means that the increase in numbers reported here of late is set to continue, in at least the short term. We need a national deer management plan. That commercially harvests the more remote areas, to manage them. Currently we have a much increase population on privately owned land (with restricted access). Remote Fiordland and similar areas are joining this. With a belt of lesser numbers on the Doc (readily accessible) land in between. Deer are a national resource we need a plan that harvests the surplus and leave a huntable population for the recreational hunting of New Zealanders. Perhaps some of the surplus should go into school lunches, like proposed in the UK. (Like the FWF mince packs to food banks during covid). It would get a few more to taste venison. It could increase the percentage of the population that appreciates Venison as a meat. Unfortunately, in New Zealand the supermarket price for venison is above that of Beef, as is the price paid to farmers for farm deer over beef. But perhaps if more people get a taste for venison there will be an increase the numbers of recreational hunters out there. Remember the more hunters the better our voice on game animal and firearms related matters.

Doug G.

Advanced Notice

We intend to hold a silent auction at the August Meeting.
So think about any surplus gear you may want to sell.

Sponsors

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



Trophy Competition Antler Horn & Tusk

Red Deer --

1st Greg Singh D/S 293& 1/8th
(this head lost 15 points because of overspread)

2nd Roger Stratford D/S 276 & 1/2
3rd Tom Mead D/S 240& 7/8th

Ladies , Red Deer 1st Penny Stratford D/S 250 .

Chamois 1st Shaun McKelvie D/S 23 & 3/4

Junior, Male , Fallow 1st Riley Mead D/S 221 & 7/8th

Junior, Female,, Red Deer 1st Mya McKelvie D/S 166 & 1/2

Junior, Female, Goat 1st Mya McKelvie D/S 66 & 1/8th

Best Junior Trophy Riley Mead

Photo Competition

Game Animals

1st Luke Payne 2nd Luke Payne
3rd -----

Topical

1st Luke Payne 2nd Luke Payne
3rd Grant Wilkin

Scenic

1st Luke Payne 2nd Grant Wilkin
3rd Luke Payne

Other wildlife

1st Luke Payne 2nd Douglas Gordon
3rd Douglas Gordon

Hunts Course update

Course delayed



Course now to be held in July. The course is now going to be run over 3 consecutive weekends starting Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of July finishing with a hunting trip on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st July

There are still **vacancies** so if July suites.

Ring Andy Nesbit 021 53 8676

For more information on the course and content please click on the link below

<https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/what-we-do/training-courses/>

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 . Letting the branch know is also advisable , either to me at douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz or the branch at 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

Hunting Lillburn Valley

The following is an offer from Johnny Broughton (one of our members) who lives in the Lillburn Valley at 1150 lillburn valley Road.

If anyone has vehicle or boat problems or stuck in local tracks etc I'm handy to help if needed. I can also give advice to young hunters on places to hunt my pH is 0278558855

I suggest it could be an Idea to add Johnny's Cell phone number to your phone if you are hunting in this area, just in case, it is better a back up plan than sorry if one is available.
(Note any response depends on Johnny being available at any given time)

Branch Policy on adds in Branch Newsletter

Due to an increase in demand the Branch has reviewed its policy on adds in the Branch Newsletter.

1. Commercial adds Pay \$25 for per half page and \$50 for full page or parts there of.
Or \$5.00 for a single issue
2. Sponsors advertising free when their sponsorship exceeds fees charged in one above.
3. Free half page were add gives sufficient 5% discount to members.
4. Free page for sufficient 10 % or more discount.
5. Free category for non commercial personal adds from members such as For Sale, wanted to buy, hunting party member vacancies etc.

The year will run first of June to 30th May to align with the AGM year.

To give away to a good home

CHAIRS

Chairs to give away X Branch Clubrooms
Suitable for Duck Shooting Mai Mai, or other activities.

Contact Ray 03 2163751

Joke of The Month



The following is one 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 Camo Man

The Camo Man was a big guy in every sense. He was physically large, had a huge reputation as an international hunter, and was extremely wealthy. He was a nice guy, but believed that a set of camo overalls made him invisible!

They didn't.

I had the pleasure of guiding "The Camo Man" when he came to New Caledonia to hunt free range Rusa.

Now Rusa in New Caledonia were (are) plentiful – it was not unusual to see 3 to 500 deer in a day, stalking on foot. Most of these are of course, females or young deer and they act as an alert screen for the stags, the desired target. The deer in New Caledonia also experience a fair degree of hunting pressure – both by the locals for meat and overseas hunters for trophies. They are watchful for danger from humans and also feral dogs.

Consequently to be successful, one has to employ plenty of hunting skill to approach a mature trophy stag and to get within a realistic shooting distance. I would consider 300 metres as a maximum and 150 or less as a preference.

The stags are tough, often heavily coated in dried mud about their shoulders and chest area – the vital part, and the preferred target. This mud layer can be almost impenetrable to all but the best of projectiles fired from a powerful gun.

Several times I observed a stag, hit by a good shot, knocked down, jump to its feet and run off, never to be seen again.



Ron and client Bob Keagy, with a stag – note the mud armour and the typical coastal hunting country in the background.

Anyway the best chance of successfully taking a large trophy stag is to use a powerful calibre, premium projectiles and get CLOSE!

This ushers in “Camo Man”, fully decked out in camo bib overalls, he considered himself invisible I believe.

Certainly in the right situation and background, camo is great and does help disguise a hunter. It does not work however when the hunter stands silhouetted on the sky line to glass the (rapidly departing) stag, this was the case with “Camo Man”.

I had taken him up a valley know by us as, “The Valley of 1001 Does”, (an exaggeration, but there were a hell of a lot of deer in it), and saw nothing of note. At this point nothing bad was happening, we were travelling through scattered Malaluka scrub, camo was working a treat.

The “Valley of 1001 Does” ends in a low grassy saddle with scattered scrub in the lee side, so I crawled over and disguised myself behind some bushes to glass. To my surprise deer were taking flight immediately,. Then on looking behind me, I saw “Camo Man” standing in full view on the sky line – camo does not work silhouetted against a blue sky.

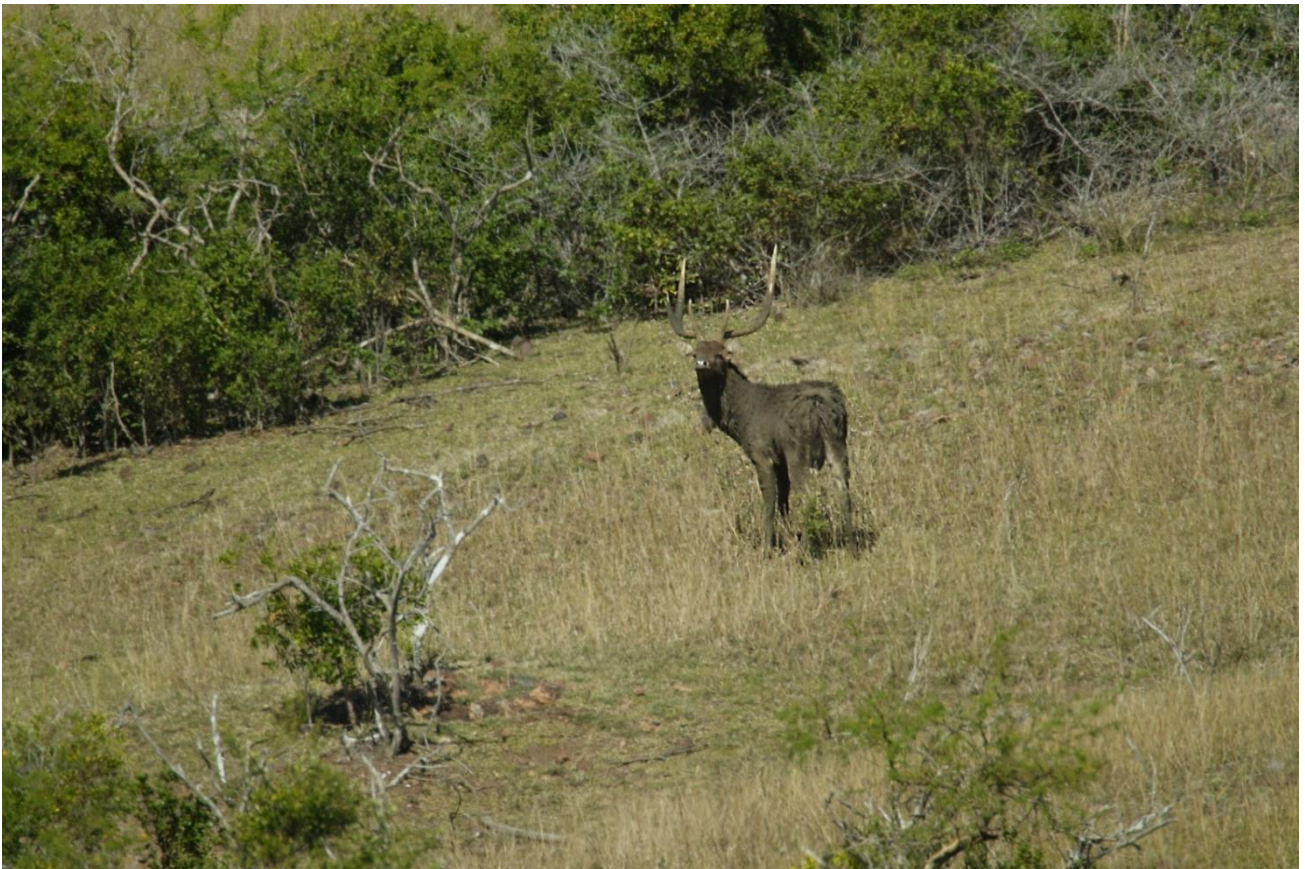
Oh well anyone can make a mistake once in a while, so I proceeded to sidle round the near gully head, below the skyline on a game trail, looking to get to an undisturbed adjoining valley.

Excellent - we should be well placed to take a satisfactory shot if a suitable stag is resident in the small head basin. But no, deer are still taking off at high speed! They should not be noticing me, as I was not presenting a large and fast moving figure. WHY?

Yes, you guessed it "Camo Man" felt that it was easier to walk along on the crest of the ridge, where it was nice and flat. And it was, so I followed his example for the rest of the morning.

We scared a lot of deer that morning but I am pleased to say that "Camo Man" was successful later in his hunt, perhaps not on the best possible trophy that he should have got, but a satisfactory one none the less.

If I remember correctly, we placed him in some bush cover at a suitable spot, where deer were known to frequent. Camo works well in this situation and so, despite the frustrations of the earlier part of the week, "Camo Man" did successfully get his trophy Rusa stag.



More about full firearm registration

Recent news item

The Aussies, basking in the success of their state by state arms registries (introduced more than 20 years ago after the Port Arthur murders) which we were told would solve a lot of things, have now decided to introduce a “Federal” (nationwide one). This may be because some 14,000 firearms go missing from annually the state databases during interstate transfers.

When New Zealand abolished shoulder arm registration in 1983, what happened?

We undertook the only known comparison of firearm-armed offending before and after the abolition of shoulder firearm registration. All we found was a slight increase in robberies with firearm in the second five-year period after the abolition of shoulder arm registration, but many changes in the New Zealand social fabric took place then too, including a major shift in social security (benefit) payments. In later five year periods, the rates for violence fell away (Figures 1 and 2).

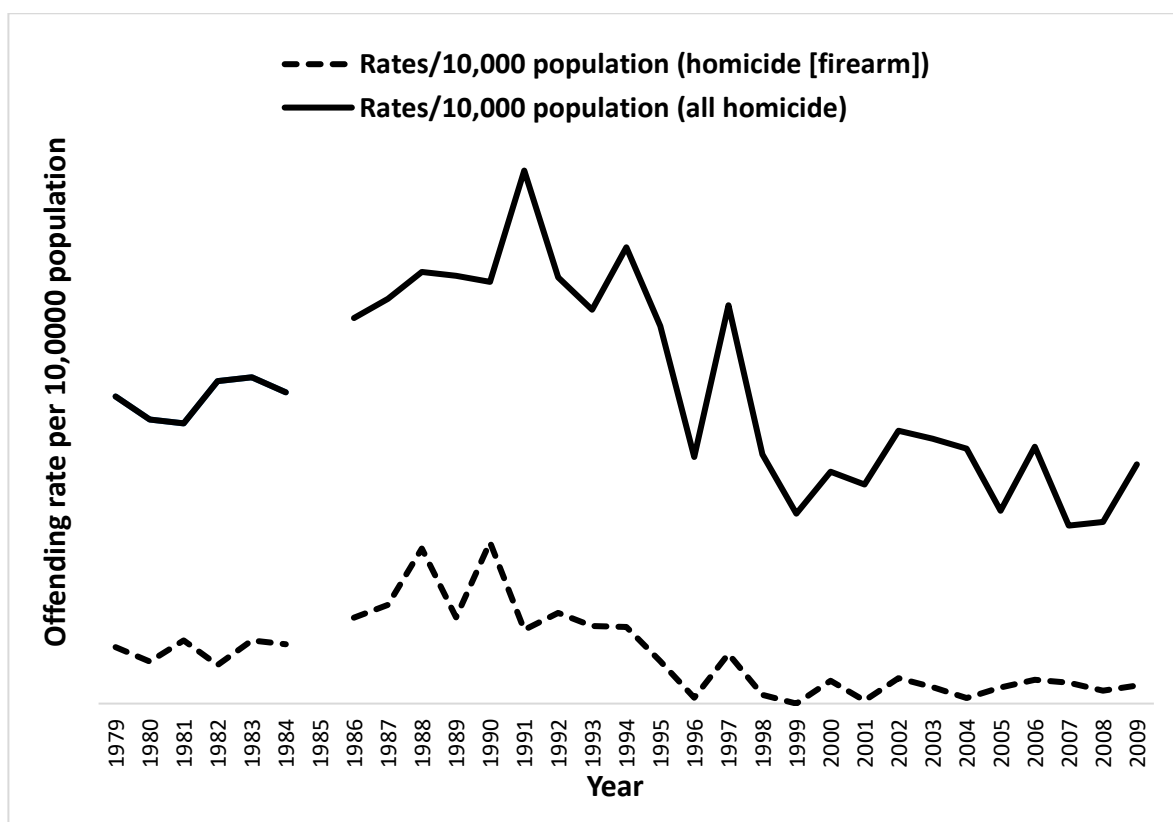


Figure 1: Offending rates for homicide, 1979 to 2009. Data were missing for 1985.

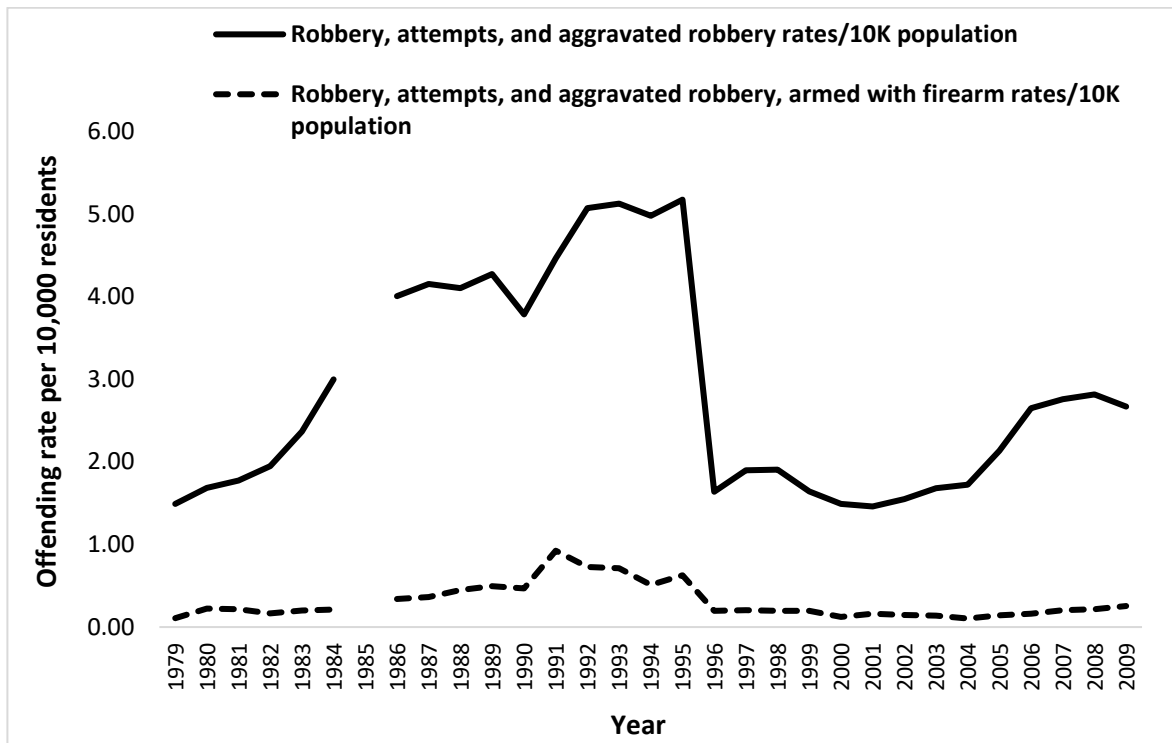


Figure 2: Offending rates for robbery, 1979 to 2009. Data were missing for 1985.

In countries around the world, firearms feature in a fixed percentage of violent offending, as these two charts show. A problem with showing data from historical series such as this is they do not show any other changes which affect the data – such as changed policing methods. (The sudden drop in robbery rates in 1996, for example, may reflect this).

Comments

The late Colin Greenwood, a former British police superintendent, found more than 40 years ago that the way to reduce firearm misuse in violence was to reduce violent offending. That has been ignored and New Zealand Treasury advice to test the workability of firearm registration by simple analytical methods has been ignored.

The recent New Zealand registry is costs \$10.5 million to set up, and is expected to cost \$8.5 million annually to operate. The spending of public money without formal analysis relating benefits to costs is a disgraceful waste of public money, diverting funds from policing criminal (as opposed to that of licensed firearm owners), public health, education, conservation, transport, energy generation.

Chaz

Sources:

Crime data are from Annual Reports of the NZ Police (Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives (AJs)), 1980 to 2010.

NZ population data are from Statistics New Zealand (1996) and more recent census data.

Sourced from www.policedata.nz, downloaded 05/11/2019.

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
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

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.

The advertisement for Animal Skin Tanning Services is set against a background of brown, textured animal skin. The text is in white and black. At the top, "ANIMAL SKIN" is in bold white, followed by "TANNING SERVICES" in a larger, bold white font. Below this, "-Tannery & Showroom-" is in white, followed by "Dan Dawson - 027 281 3026" in white. The address "118 Crinan Street" and "Invercargill" are in bold black. "100% NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS" is in bold black. At the bottom, a dark brown banner contains the text "Now offering 10% Discount on all contract tanning services to members of NZDA" in white.

**ANIMAL SKIN
TANNING SERVICES**

-Tannery & Showroom-
Dan Dawson - 027 281 3026
**118 Crinan Street
Invercargill**

100% NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTS

Now offering 10% Discount on all contract
tanning services to members of NZDA



GREEN ACRES

Lawn & Garden Franchisee
 021 774 984
 peattie.greenacres@gmail.com

0800 803 200 greenacres.co.nz

Owen Peattie Denise Peattie




Give your friendly local electrician a call today!

Qualified Electrician
 Qualified Refrigeration Engineer
 Heatpump Specialist - supply, install (all brands) and maintenance
 Thermal Imaging



Nathan Dawson
 027 235 8063

dawsonelectrical55@gmail.com
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