

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter
September 2024



Winning Other Wildlife Photo Branch Competitions Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 18th September at the Branch Club Rooms
Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between
Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Chris Dore Fishing guide to talk on Trout Fishing

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/>

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.

List of the Branch winners at Nationals

website <https://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/new-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

Wapiti Lodge Xmas ballot

See add in this newsletter

Club Hunts

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Matthew Roubos, Mervyn Carnie, Brendon Frew, Christopher Dore, Jacob McAnally, Sam Unahi, Campbell Alan Carr, Blair Campbell

Presidents Report



Red stag hut Mavora



Hi all I've been pretty quite with calving but I did manage half a day away to head up to Mavora and help replace the water tank at the branches hut. The old tank got frost damaged and was irreparable unfortunately so myself and Neville organized a new tank and with the help of my plumber mate Calum sourced all the parts required to plumb it all up. Thanks to Neville and Doug and the tractor driver from the local station who helped remove and sit the new tank in place and Calum and Phil who plumbed the new tank in the red stag hut is open for action again. It's a pretty special place to get away for a day or two plenty of hunting and fishing right at the doorstep.

Other things coming up the branch is running a Hunts course next Feb if your keen please let us no numbers will be limited we are aiming to run most of the course in the evenings and just the weekend time spent on the practical hunting skills.

We're also planning the 2025 national conference for next July that is going to be a pretty special event for Southland.

We're lucky enough to have Chris coming to talk about fishing with the opening of the season coming up quickly it'll be great to get one step ahead of the fish.

Hope to see you at the meeting

Cheers Shaun



Editorial

You all should have got the August National Office Newsletter; it is great to be getting a lot of stuff from National office for a change over the last few years. But for many the finding time to read and study it all can be a problem.

What I am going to discuss is Huts and the articles on them in the newsletter. They have been close to my heart ever since Doc removed the Acton Base hut in the Eyre Mt's around 1990. We were told it was being transported for use in the Auckland Islands. From evidence left behind most was left in a heap where it once stood. The local community rallied and replaced it.

There is we are told over 900 huts on Doc land. And a list with a grading as to current state is provided. To put it bluntly not all of these huts are in the same category, there are Great walks huts and other major walks huts. The standards expected of them I would have thought been different from your average back country hut. They have hut wardens in the season, who should help with maintenance.

Then there are those belonging to those who have various concessions with the Department to have huts on Doc land. From what I know the concession huts are subject to regular inspections and maintenance as conditions of the concessions. The Clean-up and Surveying talked about in the National NZDA newsletter is irrelevant to these two Groups, a waste of time and effort, agree?

Doc is talking of removing 67 of their huts (the ones given the worst scores of 4 or 5.) How accurate are there scores when a hut built in 2018 (Which I have called past twice since and found it in excellent condition as one would expect) gets an average 3 only. One of the ones in danger is close to my heart the George sound hut I stayed there in 1970 on a school trip, a trip that sold me on the outdoors, (we walked in and back how many school parties would do that now).

The reason is money Doc like everybody does not have enough and wants to spend what it has on conserving native species and the environment. This is not helped by the accounting practices being used where Doc must pay depreciation on assets (to Who?). Then if they upgrade something they have to pay more to who on the increased capital value. Sounds like smoke and revolving mirrors to me. I assume this money goes back to the Crown who paid it to Doc in the first place. Looks like a con and fraud.

Perhaps whoever gets this stream of money can pay the hut maintenance? The Department I assume is given various lots of money for various given purposes, (If not it should be). They should not be allowed to use one lot to pay for activities in another field! I understand from what I have found out this is too common a practice in Govt Depts, one of raiding Peter to pay for Paul.

Now a deep thought about Doc and its endangered species list, which I understand is increasing in size, correct? But why, is it all because more of the species on the original list are becoming more endangered? Or could some of it be from changing the criteria of endangered, or because Doc is actively looking for and succeeding in finding new species

a lot of which are then declared endangered? It needs a bottomless bucket to fund this as some desire it to be funded. New Zealand has no such bucket.

The Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand have a good idea with their November Love our Huts campaign. But as I have explained above their list needs somewhat refined to target the huts of concern. (*Going by the TV1 News 7th Sept Doc's desire for funding may have been a reason for the increased visitor levy of now \$100 for tourists as the Minister of Conservation suggest an increase would help Doc funding, will this take the pressure off the huts*).

Meanwhile thanks to the various NZDA Branches, Permolat and others who go out and help maintain the back country huts that are a (Govt) undervalued asset. Plus, a Special mention for Lou Sanson who when in charge of Doc did not allow the removal of any of these vital huts.

Doug Gordon

Its Conservation Week (was) 2 – 8th September 2024

Southland Branch NZDA conservation contribution.

For the last 18 years Southland Branch NZDA has undertaken a rat control project around a hill section of the Homestead hunting block at Mason Bay on Stewart Island. We have 309 traps set around 14 kilometres of tracks. We send six parties to each year between August and December while the birds are nesting and fledging. Our aim is to give the birds the best chance of survival by removing rats at this time. Up till 2023 we have killed a total of 6008 rats, an average of 353 a year, but in one mast year the total was 1150 rats. The first party for 2024 has just completed and accounted for 73 rats. In recent years we have targeted feral cats with 14 cat traps. We are very grateful to Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store for their generous sponsorship towards the cost of the 6 return flights.



Sponsors

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



Inter Club Range Shoot

10 November 2024 10 am.

@ Fairlight South of Kingston

For those interested

They will need to sign up via the event link for registration so we can get their FL and details to make it much easier on the day for registration.

\$10 for the range fee.

It will be a fun day out with plenty of challenges and family fun, BYO BBQ for lunch.

All the details are at this link so send it out to the mailing list please and promote it at meetings etc etc.

[Southern Lakes NZDA - Interclub Firearms Competition Shoot SLBNZDA v SNZDA](#)

Any Q's please come back to me.

Cheers Dave Rider

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Hunts Course update

New Course Dates



Course now to be held in February 2025. The course is now going to be run over 3 Wednesday Nights 5th 12th and 26th 6pm to 9pm

(missing the 19th which is club night)

finishing with a hunting trip on Saturday and Sunday 1st & 2nd March

If Interested Ring Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490 or 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/>

For Sale

Two packets of projectiles 100 Speer & 65 Barnes projectiles

Both .22 cal left over from Silent Auction

Best offers considered (but not necessarily accepted) for the two packets individually or together. Proceeds go to Branch funds.

Reply to douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz



Spare bullets for sale

6.5 Creedmoor x40 mixture \$100

6.5x55 x79 mixture \$ 150

223 x65 \$60



Inquiries

Phone Thomas on 0274283770.

(Expect him to want to see your Firearms Licence as one is required)

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.

Ron's Stag

Ron Spanton, (SCI NZ life member), had been guiding for several weeks and doing a sterling job – one of his most notable hunters was Mary Cabela, of the famous sporting goods store. He had guided her to a nice stag, as can be seen in her photo.

On this occasion he came to me to confess, that he had never taken a trophy outside New Zealand, and he had spotted an old stag that he would like to shoot.

It was my pleasure to accompany him the next morning into a grassy valley, where he stalked and took a fine old trophy stag, at close range, with one shot. O to have clients like that!



Joke of The Month



Press release from the office of Nicole McKee: “Rushed gun laws haven’t made New Zealanders safer” – 24AUG2024

This month we are going to talk politics again. It was quite entertaining watching journo-flack Jack Tane on TV1 two Sundays ago trying to railroad Nicole McKee, the Associate Minister of Justice (Firearms) into making mistakes during his interview. Nicole knew what she was talking about a lot better than Mr Tane did.

Pathetic whinging from groups opposing any loosening of the controls on firearms and their users suggest Nicole is gaining traction to remove some of the more ridiculous constraints under which we now operate when we use our lawfully held firearms. She is determined to get input from opposition parties to make sure the Arms Act doesn’t change every time there is an election. (Heck, back in 2019, we only got a token look in when everything was done so hastily, many amendments had to be made to fix the stuff-ups.)

More politics (sorry!)

Something good from an Australian: David Leyonhjelm served two terms as a Senator in the NSW Parliament, and was chairman of the Shooters Party for six years. He argues that most people don’t have a clue about firearms apart from what they see on TV news and in movies. Most of these people (more than 90% of the population) won’t know about the noise level of a shot. They do not realise that a sound suppressor just makes things a bit quieter, not totally silent as Hollywood would have us believe. The same goes for police, who are just a subset of the total population. Many of them have few clues about firearms apart from the six hours of so they spend on a range while training.

What this means is that most of our law making about firearms is by people who don't have a clue, part from Nicole McKee. What can we do? COLFO has invited members of Parliament to a range, and they've all enjoyed themselves there as they discovered the fun of shooting (even on a range). The MPs gained more insights into range safety, firearm safety and the joy of firing a good shot. There is no reason our NZDA branches around the

Spring hunting

country could not invite local MPs (don't be shy, even opposition MPs appreciate the friendship and entertainment to be found there. Why not give it a go?

Soon, with spring coming, the forest edges will be attracting hinds/does and their soon-to-be 'kicked out' fawns from the previous season. Easy hunting for young meat? Possible, but remember that road edges may not be the best place to linger when hunting, and the forest management may not like it either.

I have recently learned of an intentional shooting tragedy near Tauwhareparae. I have hunted there for trophy goats and you may have seen some of the country there in the news recently after the cyclone washed roads and hillsides away.

Take care, and identify your target.

Chaz F

Rifle Sighting In At Invercargill Pistol Club

With the start of daylight saving the Invercargill pistol Club range will be again available. To Financial Members for the sighting in of Rifles on Wednesday nights from 5.30 pm finishing 7pm. At the cost of \$10 per person. Ear & Eye protection required Bring one's own targets with staple gun or on cardboard box.

Please Note with the changes to the Law NO Semi Automatics allowed. (Other than .22R)

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge **no later** than the previous Sunday night.

2nd October Doug Gordon 0276372206

9th October Andy Nesbit 021 538 676

23rd October Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

30th October Tom Mead 027 847 1882

6th November Doug Gordon 0276372206

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

Swap gathering 19 JAN 2025
0900 to SOON AFTER MIDDAY) at
61 Victoria Road, DUNEDIN
(UPSTAIRS)
FOR Licensed firearm owners ONLY

Solely for the purposes of
BONDING, BUYING, SELLING, SWAPPING
TRADING, Firearms and ANY accoutrements.

[If it fits through the doors, you can bring it!]

You can also exchange tall stories, keep the company of like-minded, fit & proper people and enjoy ***NOT*** being demonised, marginalised and derogated by the negativism of politicians, the mass media and other hangers-on.

You *will* need your firearm licence, and \$10 to contribute to hire of venue.

Endless tea, coffee available

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.**

Wapiti Lodge Xmas ballot

Applications for this period must be in writing(Including e-mail) and inbetween 15th to 30th September to Neville & Carol Miller Members only, Period of hire 7 days

Starts 20th December runs to 24th January.

Changeover is on Fridays

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)

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