

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

August 2025



2025 Winning Scenic Photo (Dean Burn) Doug Gordon

Monthly Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 20th August at the Branch Club Rooms
Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1 between
Kennington & Woodlands

Guest Speaker

Douglas Gordon on The Venison Industry in Mossburn & Southland
1975 to 2000 approx..

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** Scott Hall 027 859 3533

Magazine Editor: Doug Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President**

Membership Andy Nesbit

Huts Neville Miller

Executive: Wayne Ashmore, Tony Caldwell, Gareth Coyle, Nathan Dawson, Paul Fitzek, Scott Hall, Dave Howden, Jason Leishman, Jamie. McCallum, Ray Phillips. Scott Thompson, Nic Whyte.

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

Hunts Coordinators Andy, Shaun, Tom, Wayne, Luke, 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

Club Hunts

None advised

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Kenny Marlow, Clive Jordan, Kyle Walker, Joshua Walker, Nigel McArthur, Ryan Milbank, Connor MacRae, Ashton Silcock.

Please do not allow your IN BOX to become full.

As I do not chase up on failed e-mail delivery due to a full
mail box

Doug Gordon

Presidents Report



August 2025

Hi all we're past the shortest day now things will hopefully start to warm up. Southland hosted National Conference over the 18,20th of July at the Ascot Hotel I believe the last Conference was 22years ago so it's been a while between drinks. It was a great weekend catching up with club members from all over the country and the National team. Things kicked off Friday morning with the AHT judging beginning at 10am and going through to lunch time Saturday the Judges had 58 heads to score which is about average no entries from Southland unfortunately. The registration table opened up at lunch time Friday and while that was all happening, we also got the venue decorated with plants from Diack's nursery and Whitetail & Wapiti heads from the clubrooms. Friday was a very busy day thanks to everyone that came along and helped out. Friday evening was the official opening of Conference with Myself Calum and Robb Scott the Southland district council major giving speeches and drinks and nibbles to follow. Saturday kicked off at 830 with Conference speeches from the CEO Gwyn and President Calum, we had various speakers throughout the day MPs GAC, FWF, All were great to listen. The trade display run at the same time on Saturday and was a hit thanks to all the Sponsors who took the day to show off your products and donated for our raffle prizes on the night. Saturday night we hosted the prize giving and had the pleasure of having Eric Roy former MP as our MC and Glen from Mental Hunts as our guest speaker if you haven't heard jump on Facebook and check out "Mental Hunts" Sunday was the final day wrapping up conference.

Thanks again to all the People who volunteered their time to organize and help out over the weekend.

Andy, Tony, Scott H, Luke, Jase, Ray

Scott T, Mia, Mike, Doug, Dave.

Thanks too all the trade display company's

Invercargill Hunting and Fishing



Southland Taxidermy



Animal Skin Tanning Services



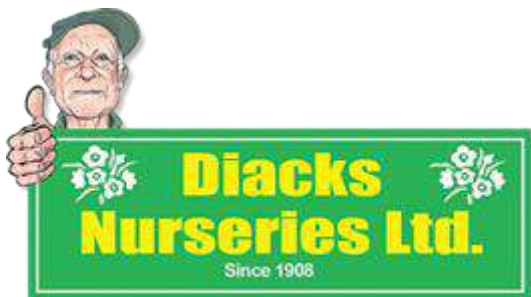
The Grocer



Southern Adventure



Thanks to **Diack's Nursery** for letting us use the plants for decorations



Thanks to the companies who donated to our national raffle

MIA Tents



Back country cuisine



Backlandz Bipods

Backlandz Detachable Carbon Fibre Bipod



Tatonka



And also Dave Loudon for the photography, **McDowells print** for going the extra mile printing name tags, **Bene Footwear** for donating the Crispi boots for the raffle,



PREMIUM BRANDS and GREAT SERVICE

the **Ascot Hotel** for the venue and all extra they did in behind the scenes.

Our Guest Speakers Robb Scott, Eric Roy & Glen Thurston.

I hope in haven't forgot anyone it was a massive effort by everyone involved and a great few days.

Shaun



Gwyn Speaking



Editorial

During the weekend 18th to 20th of July I had the honour of being the branch delegate at the NZDA National Conference in Invercargill. The rest of the executive thinking they had to have someone, and an older executive member who has offered the odd opinion on the odd thing may fill the bill. Perhaps it was to save me working too hard helping them with all they did behind the scenes to make the show work, It was a good effort from all that turned out both branch and executive members.

To call the event a conference may be misleading, as it is several things, first and foremost it is the AGM, secondly it is the judging of the AHT competition, and the announcement of winners for photo and literary competitions. On the Saturday afternoon it becomes a conference with a series of speakers some of whom generally try to say what they think we want to hear.

The headline speakers being the Hon. James Meager Minister of Hunting & Fishing who talked about the need for members support to achieve Herds of National interest. He made big of the Government now having a Minister of Hunting and Fishing. Something that could disappear like a puff of smoke with a new Prime Minister.

The second was the Hon Nicole McKee Associate Minister of Justice who gave an update on her struggle to produce a new Arms Act. She also talked about the need for our submissions for support to get the changes through. Also, that it looks like despite her voice on the matter Arms Registration is here to stay.

Nicole is a different and more old-fashioned politician; she is there because of the cause that she believes in and will likely move on once she can achieve it. She was still there and all attention when the evenings guest speaker Glen Thurston talked about mental problems (for those with firearms licences) and the help for them. She do doubt had several one-on-one discussions with those present during her extended stay.

Corina Jordan the new CEO of the Game Animal Council. Had a serious message. That being for the hunting of Big Game to continue we need the Social Licence of the General Population to do so. This starts with the behaviour of us hunters. Hunting needs to be seen as an acceptable activity by the public. Watch what videos you post online. Road signs are not for sighting in rifles. Only hunt where you have permission, keep your activities legal. Help with vermin control, hut and track maintenance, the donation of meat to food banks through the various operations is a winner as long as the quality of the product is good. Don't revert to what was sold to game depots prior to the appointment of Inspectors at Game processing plants. (Though perhaps I can thank you for this in the past it gave me a interesting job and career). Hunters then sold meat that they would never think of eating themselves.

Ray Phillips (Southland Branch and National Office life Member) talked about Stewart Island and the 1080 being laid there, mentioning the hundred plus meetings he has attended regarding Pest Free Rakiura. He along with John Delury (also a Southland Branch and National Office life Member) have done lots and kept us in the fight. I am now seeing some

more interest from National Office. But they have a lot of catching up to do. There was talk of applying for a herd of National Interest for Whitetail. Good Idea but first we have to get those proposed for Wapiti and Sika into existence and firmly set in place. Remember Recreational Hunting Areas, a good Idea, when was the last new one created! Oh how the existing ones have been eroded!!

Roy Sloan of the Wapiti Foundation (and a Southland Branch Member), talked on the Wapiti Herd of special interest.

Katlyn Pinney talked about CWD (see poster in newsletter) and the GAC training info on donated wild meat.

The NZ Police talked about, the chances to firearms licencing progress, designed to give more options to those seeking licences, while improving the product. (newly licenced persons) Giving recognition to hands on training.

Sunday was back to AGM mode, most of the stuff was routine, A name change is to be investigated, it would be good to have more documentation on the personal liability Insurance, but any such must come from the Insurer for liability reasons.

By lunch time all over and it was a case of clean up and go home.

Note I have to follow more on the conference in a list of points of interest in this newsletter.

Doug G.

Post Script

A final thought on “social licence” CATS. The need to Kill up to 8 million wild cats were mentioned on TV1 Breakfast programme Monday after conference. Where they were interviewing a pest control operator who was using cage traps to be more humane, (near civilisation). They suggested his need to kill those caught humanely, no details! How would those reporters and the cat lovers in the audience view the poisoning of cats!? (note poison not mentioned in the programme). But be aware we hunt & therefore kill. We don’t want to be the pot calling the kettle black.



The set up opening night



Callum Sheridan National President on opening Night

Heads of Interest at Conference

One of the Branch Senior Members Graham Johnston of Te Anau provided two Wapiti heads to the conference for display.

Graham spent years in the farm deer industry, was involved in the Wapiti Foundation. Later farmed livestock in the Te Anau basin. Paradontal research on sheep with Dr Majorie Orr of Invermay Also Briefly DNA research on Red Deer And Wapiti with Colin Mackintosh Invermay Plus some mouthing for age work, proving that a lot of Wapiti shot were young.

The heads relate to the ill-fated crown herd, and created a lot of interest on the Friday night.

Big Wig was farm bread Clyde was a cull from The Crown Wapiti Herd.
For more Info ring Graham 027 249 2453



Big Wig



Clyde

Clyde

Captured Wapiti block. Culled from the crown herd by Jack Mc Kenzie. Purchased by W Schmidt (Takaro Lodge)

On sale of Lodge moved to Glen Monarch. Was a feature for tourists coming to a bucket of nuts. Clyde died age 12. Of interest at the time meat process poor was worth only around \$300 approx. Difficult to sell on the open market

Big Wig

History farm bred crossbreed result of AI programme on Glen Monarch. Hind from W Sommerville (Late Southland Branch Member) Arawata Stud. AI was from White 61 from Donald White Canterbury.

Big Wig lived 17 years was a feature for tourists to feed on nuts out the back of Landrover. Tourists would use flash on camera regardless of instructions. Was offered 17K for him as a trophy

Other Points of Interest from the National Conference

- The new Dept of Conservation online hunting permits good for 12 months. All members ~~should~~ (no MUST) spend the few minutes it takes to get one online and do this as:

The total number of permits in issue is now beginning to be taken as the number of people that hunt by the likes of Government Agencies. It is in our interest to keep these numbers who hunt high. As numbers count with politicians. The bigger our numbers the more weight we have in the argument. Numbers count in Wellington! The permits are free and one does not have to use them, (if hunting plans change)

- NZ Game Animal Council now have a Hunt and Share Guide on their web site for advice on sharing your kill with the likes of foodbanks. Log on the same place as the better hunting guide that follows in this newsletter. Just a new chapter of their programme
- Our Guest Speaker on Saturday night was Glen Thurston of “Mental Hunts”. He talked about his mental health problems that cost him his firearms licence. Then his successful fight to get both his mental health and his firearms licence back. This resulted in his setting up “Mental Hunts” with the object of helping other firearms licence owners who find themselves with the same problem. So that they can recover their mental health and firearms licence.
I easily found them online with google. They are on Facebook, Instagram, and U tube.
COLFO are supportive. They are keen on members and donations. They are selling good caps at \$100 to fund raise.
They worth at least putting in your memory, in case of future need. (Or mates need)



Getting out there doing it is great for Most's mental health but one must be firearms licence fit to do it. His organisation is there to help. His organisation is a positive out there for hunters who find themselves in a bad place.

- A name change for NZDA is being investigated, something more modern and attractive to new, younger members. Early stages yet, no vote for it to happen just to investigate. Around the turn of the century “The New Zealand Smallbore Rifle Assn” became “Target Shooting NZ”. A new name will have to be right or will not work.
- There is no change to capitation for the coming year. A raffle of a Ute is underway to boost funding.
- See Flyer below on CWD chronic wasting Disease

A message to consider from Conference, Statements & reply's

(Sorry about Quality was photographed off the screen)

Global risks and the NZ opportunity

<i>Hunting is archaic and cruel</i> Hunting is part of human culture, it connects people with the natural world and provides physical, mental and spiritual benefits.	<i>Red meat is bad</i> Game animals provide a high quality sustainable and ethical protein source and eating them benefits the environment.
<i>Introduced deer are destroying indigenous forests</i> Deer are valued introduced species that if managed properly can exist within regenerating and healthy forests systems. We don't have a deer problem – we have a deer management problem	

The Winning Heads



Red

Sambar

Sika

Rusa

Fallow

Keep NZ CWD FREE



Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is fatal to deer and there is **no cure**.

It is currently in America, Canada, South Korea, Norway, Finland and Sweden.

If CWD came to New Zealand, it would have a massive impact on hunting. It's unlikely that we would ever get rid of it.

We need to do everything we can to stop CWD from entering the country.

How CWD spreads

GUTS: Infected body fluids and body parts (i.e. semen, blood, urine).

GRIT: Contaminated soil or plant materials.

GEAR: Contaminated hunting or outdoor equipment.

If these items are brought to New Zealand from a country that already has CWD, our deer and hunting is at risk.

Infected deer can take 18-24 months to show signs of infection, so we often cannot tell if a deer has CWD by looking at it.

What recreational hunters can do

Leave the gear there

If you hunt somewhere overseas that has CWD, leave your used gear there. Any gear entering New Zealand that has been used in a CWD infected area should be cleaned with a 50% bleach solution and be declared on your arrival card. This includes bow hunting gear.

Lures are illegal

Do not bring or import urine lures to New Zealand. They are illegal. If you find a urine lure in New Zealand, let MPI know through the biosecurity hotline 0800 80 99 66.

Think before you ship

If you're importing any animal parts such as hides or heads from areas with CWD, get them treated there. Make sure you have the right paperwork to import them.

Spread the word

Share this information with hunters travelling to or from CWD infected areas. They may not be aware of the risk. If you've got a mate coming from a CWD infected area, offer to share your gear or let them know where they can hire or purchase their own.

New Zealand is currently CWD free. **Let's keep it that way.**

For more information go to nzgac.org.nz/chronic-wasting-disease/



Sponsors

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





Southland branch has registered for the National Goat comp this year. Details are below

We will have measuring days at our monthly meetings

August 20

September 17

October 15

At the Branch Hall 24 McKercher road 730pm . Or if you can't make a meeting Invercargill
Hunting and Fishing are also excepting entries

Anyone questions get in contact

enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/national-events/national-wild-goat-hunting-competition/>

Better Hunting

just a reminder for those who have lost their link and for new members



Better Hunting education

The Game Animal Council has an online hunter training platform, Better Hunting. It is free to use for hunters and other backcountry users wanting to develop their hunting and outdoor skills.

Better Hunting can be used on a laptop, tablet or phone. Courses can also be accessed offline through the free mobile app. Just create an account and get learning. The platform saves your progress as you go so you can dip in and out as often as you like.

[Go to the Better Hunting platform.](#)

Available courses

The Better Hunting platform is made up of separate modules across different subject areas:

- **Hunting Essentials** includes New Zealand specific outdoor and hunter safety and skills with everything from weather forecasting, navigation, river crossing, first aid, preparation, access, game animal management and other bushcraft and hunting skills.
- **Firearms Essentials** is about learning safe and successful firearms use. This includes maintenance, sighting in, storage and transport, and technique.
- **Pig Hunting** is an introductory course to pig hunting in New Zealand, exploring important theory and dog handling techniques and how to get into practical training.
- Better Hunting also includes skill-building games, digital trip intentions, ballot calendars and more.

Meat cleaver for sale

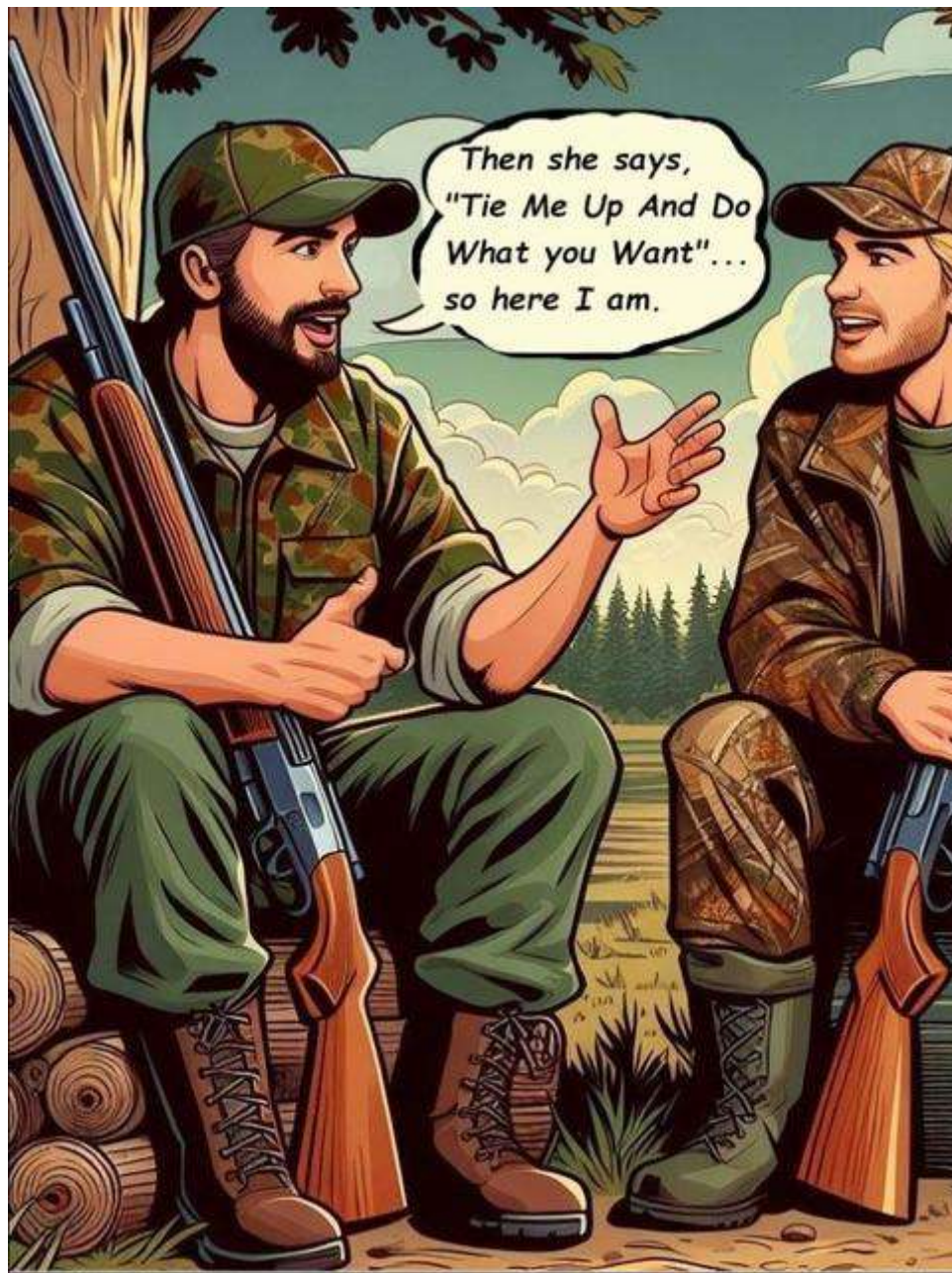
Two purchased by mistake want to sell one \$80.00

Very sharp great for chopping bones

Ph Thomas on 0274283770



Joke of The Month



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

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.

**Important: Range Re-certified – Make sure you check the new Range Standing Orders.
All shooters must validate zero at 100M before shooting further back.**

All shooting subject to the presence of a Range Officer. RO's may arrange shooting any day of the week outside the schedule below. RO's please note new range book format.

All shoots are open to casual or prospective club members – please come along and shoot - \$20 unless otherwise stated!. Shoots start at 1.00 PM unless otherwise noted.

Saturdays	Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm	NRA/F Class Shooting followed by hunter style shooting, Range and targets at RO's discretion
Sundays	Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm	As per below, otherwise PRS/Hunter Shooting, range and targets at RO's discretion
Wednesdays	Validation and Sight-in 5.00pm, starts at 100M, longer distances at RO discretion	
Series – We are offering two series, a “500 yard Blackjack” Challenge and a “MOA Challenge” at 600 yards Shoot at one MOA day and one Blackjack day to qualify for the finals.		
20 Oct 2024	Backjack Challenge 500Y – 13-20 rounds	
28 Oct 2024	Custom Guns Labour Day “Backfire TV MOA” Challenge – Does your rifle shoot MOA to POI – come along and prove it! 5 rounds, 100M. gongs afterwards	
10 Nov 2024	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
24 Nov 2024	“MOA Challenge” 600Y – 11-20 rounds	
8 Dec 2024	22 RF Shoot – bring a 22 and box of ammo	
15 Dec 2024	End of Year BBQ Shoot - Centrefire and Rimfire. 11.00 AM start	
5 Jan 2025	Backjack Challenge 500Y – 13-20 rounds	
19 Jan 2025	MOA Plate Challenge – 100M,300Y, 400Y CF - 20 rounds	
6 Feb 2025	Waitangi Day PRS Shoot – Course to be advised.	
9 Feb 2025	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
23 Feb 2025	22 RF Shoot – bring a 22 and box of ammo	
9 Mar 2025	MOA and Blackjack Series Final – Format to be advised. 11.00 AM start.	
16 Mar 2025	Roar sight in open day. Validation and Sight-in 1.00pm. Casual shooters \$20	
23 Mar 2025	Ethical Hunter Challenge – 10 rounds	
Check the Facebook page for changes/updates !!		
Long Range Coaching Clinics – Dates to be advised, contact Custom Guns		

**Casual user questions – Message through the FB page or you can call Ben
0272247119 or Foster 021516342**

**NZDA Members – You have affiliated membership to use the range (no fees)
but must have an RO present, 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 06-09250270758-000 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.

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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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