

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

July 2025



2025 Winning Topical Photo Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

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

Guest Speaker

Dawie Breedt of Bene Footwear to talk about Hunting boots.



PREMIUM BRANDS and GREAT SERVICE

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.

website

List of the Branch winners at Nationals

<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.

Chris Roberts, Alfred Guy, Cody Martin

Presidents Report



July 2025

Hi all Conference is fast approaching if you'd like to come along to the Friday or Saturday night events I'd get tickets sooner rather than later. Also, the online raffle for the Mia tent, Backlanz bipod, Tatonka bison pack & \$500 of Back country cuisine meals over \$3000 worth of gear up for grabs get in quick tickets are going to sell out. You'll find them on sale on the National website and Facebook. There's also the trade display that will be taking place on the Saturday in the Ascot be sure to come along and support the club and the locals that are going to be showing off what they've got. Invercargill Hunting and Fishing, Southern Taxidermy, Animal tanning services, Southern Adventure & more to be confirmed. Its been very wet and hard hunting, I'm Hopefully weather permitting heading away chasing Thar next week ☺ , a mate and I are taking the kids in for their first taste of tahr hunting so hopefully we can get something on the around. You should have all revived emails regarding the firearm registry as of last week purchasing ammunition is a triggering event to register your firearms if you haven't already.

I hope you all stay warm and see you at the meeting & at Conference

Shaun



Editorial



They tell us that change is constant, what they did not tell us is that change accelerates as we get older.

This week I had to purchase a new gun safe with hidden hinges for my firearms licence renewal. In the early 1970's when I started hunting, I had to register my rifles, have a permit to procure for a shotgun, and could store them where I liked. Things changed Lifetime licences came at a cost. Secure storage arrived to keep one's kids from having an accident. Every time the licence was renewed security requirements have increased. With the latest renewals of those who had lifetime licences gun safes are in hot demand at the gun shops. Back to my early hunting days deer were hard to come by venison was worth heaps at the local game depots that bought anything that looked like a deer.

Recreation hunting areas had just arrived to give the recreational hunter a chance. (They too seem a thing of the past as change has occurred, how many young hunters know what they are.). This found me hunting in the Caples valley. Then venturing to Stewart Island as Whitetail there were not hammered as much, and one had a better chance to see/ shoot something.

Over the years the island has provided me with some good hunting. But this is changing as DOC releases 1080 on the Island in concentrations never seen before. Meanwhile the amount of Red and Fallow deer available for hunting in Southland has vastly increased. Due to all the changes in the commercial venison industry that have occurred over my working life in that industry. (That is another story). Along with the various forest ranger groups and the police having more interest in enforcing trespass and firearms laws.

Will all this 1080 being laid on Stewart Island Kill all the rats, possums, and cats. And keep the Island free of these species? I would only give it a 50/50 chance of complete success at best, Will it then be worth it? What will the environmental damage be? What is certain is that it will greatly affect the hunting on the Island, and the viability of businesses that service the hunting there. What future for the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust huts?

Change is constant what changes the 1080 poisoning of the island will bring will be revealed in time. As I write this change has started 1080 is being laid. I have enjoyed my times there will today's younger hunters be as lucky; it is a great place to hunt.

What has not changed is the constant battle to get and retain recreational hunting in New Zealand for New Zealanders. The baton must pass to the young hunters if they are to continue to enjoy hunting.

Doug G.

Important Notice for all Members

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

Sponsors

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



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.

NZDA National Conference 2025

Ascot Hotel Invercargill 18th to 20th July.

With Trade displays on Saturday (no tickets required)



NZDA
New Zealand Deerstalkers Association

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Join us for trade displays:

Hunting & Fishing Southland
Southern Adventure
Southland Taxidermy
Animal Tanning Services
NZDA Southland

At the Ascot Park Hotel

**19th July 2025
10am-4pm**



Raffles

**Be in to win lucky draw for a
4 night stay at the Wapiti
Lodge in Te Anau**

Meat cleaver for sale

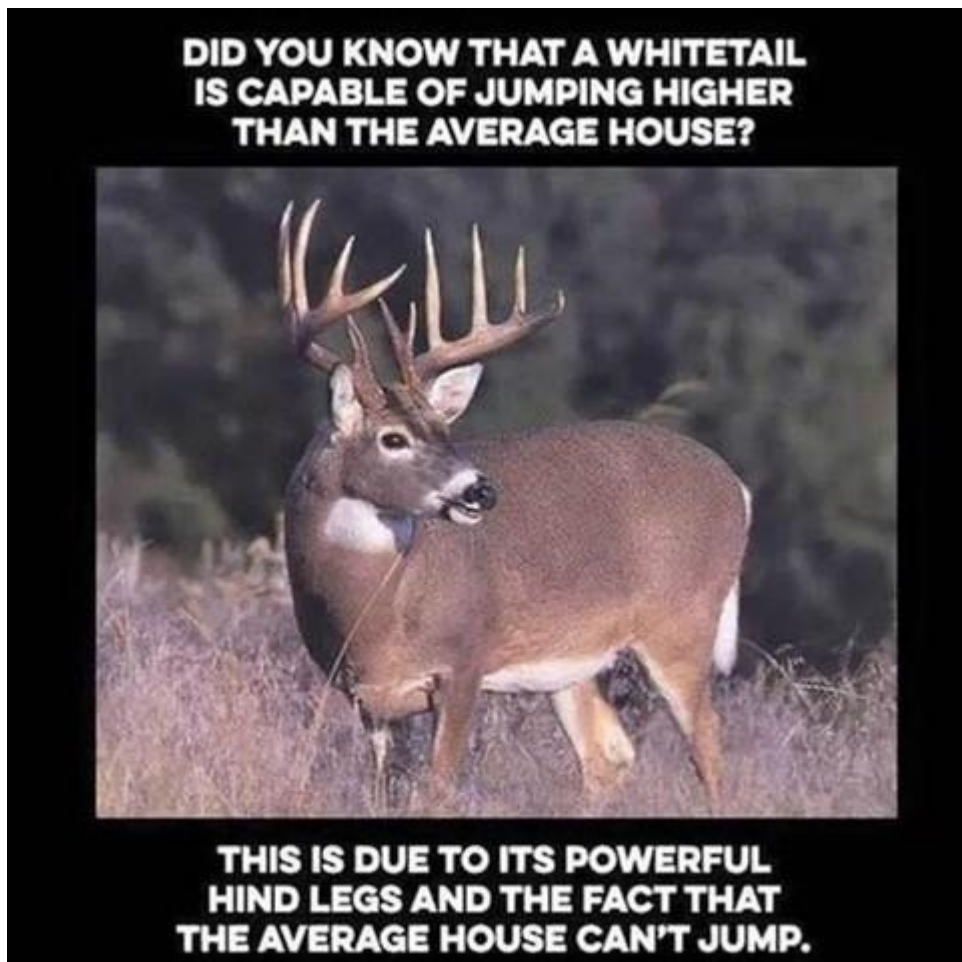
Two purchased by mistake want to sell one \$80.00

Very sharp great for chopping bones

Ph Thomas on 0274283770



Joke of The Month



Outside a second-hand shop:

**WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC.
WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL
BARGAIN?**

Notice in health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS...

**Spotted in a safari park: ??
(I sure hope so.)**

ELEPHANTS, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.

Seen during a conference:

**FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT,
THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.**

Notice in a farmer's field:

**THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE,
BUT THE BULL CHARGES.**

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.

The advertisement for Animal Skin Tanning Services is set against a background of animal fur. The text is in white and bold, with the following details:

**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

**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

Makarewa | Invercargill



HYPERCORE®
High Performance Heat Pumps



