

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

June 2025



2025 Winning Wildlife Photo Luke Payne

Monthly Meeting

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

Guest Speaker

Bevan McNaughton From Search & Rescue On how they currently operate in Southland, and how to join the organisation, a good way to help those who enjoy the outdoors.

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

Young 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

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

NEW MEMBERS

New Members please welcome them.

Ryan Charles Fallows, Jason Brown, Ryan Milbank, Lachlan Browne, Matt Foggo,

Presidents Report



June 2025

Hi, all welcome to the new committee members Nick, Paul & Scott great to have you on board . Conference is coming up quick if your keen to come along to the Friday out Saturday night function get you tickets online from the National website. Also don't forgot to come along and support the trade displays on the Saturday 10-4 at the Ascot.

The new regulations are coming into play soon regarding ammunition purchases. Best to be ahead of the game there if you can.

Mays always a hard time of year for hunting deer tend to move around less and concentrate on higher feed areas, tip if I can find the feed and sunny faces you'll likely run into a deer. Thar ballots are well under way if you're lucky enough to draw a ballot good luck. If not, there are plenty of places to get out for a look.

Hot barrels

Catch you at the next meeting

Cheers Shaun

Recently aurora photo below.



Shaun McKelvie

Editorial



As I write this, things are happening out there that affect hunting and our enjoyment of the great New Zealand outdoors.

Moves continue to make the Wapiti heard a heard of Special Interest, something that Forrest and Bird strongly object too, but don't give an alternative plan to achieve the positive outcomes that the Fiordland Wapiti foundation is achieving for the area. Be ready this has to go through a public submission process, each of you need to support this, for the sake of hunting in NZ long term.

The 1080 poison Drop's to protect the Southern Dotterel are going ahead as I write with some hunting blocks impacted. A precursor to poisoning the whole Island with a concentration of 1080 far greater than normally seen in New Zealand over a far greater area. Which will have affects not seen before in New Zealand.

I see on Doc's website plans for more 1080 into the Blue Mt's this spring. Is this the regular stuff or is it the new sausage baits that target Stoats and Cats plus some possums, I hope for the Fallow's sake it is the latter, if the former that good deer repellent is used.

A few days ago, after several years of research by "Milford Opportunities" At great cost (I see a \$18,000,000 figure in one news article) The government made an announcement, which rejects a lot of the ideas the project through up.

The Airfield and flights will remain, public access to the road is to remain, and a new boat ramp for recreational use is proposed, along with some new short walks and other developments. There is to be funding of \$15,200,00 for this. How much more could have been achieved at Milford with less consultants more work.

To me some simple things would solve a lot of Milford's problems.

Encourage tourists to spend one night in Te Anau to shorten the trip, run later ferries on Milford Sound in summer, both of which would reduce the mid-day congestion at Milford. Also ban rental cars and provide a bus alternative from Te Anau which would improve safety.

In the recent past tourists were not encouraged to visit except in the busy part of the day, going by the locked toilets my family found (at the terminal) mid-summer when coming in off the last boat ride for the day.

As it stands the results the Government has come up with will allow us continued access to hunting (& tramping) off the Milford Road, and our kindred fishermen will continue to have access to their fishing. How many of you made a submission on the Milford opportunities project? Have a pat on your back if you put your hand up for sensible!

The take home is if you want New Zealand the way you would like it you have to stand up and say so, don't leave it to the other bloke to do it for you. (He is likely expecting you to be standing up for him, so both loose). Or you will get New Zealand the way someone else wants it, or dreams that they would like it.

Doug G

Branch Antler Horn & Tusk Competition results

Red Deer 1st Leon Ridd - D/S 285 1/2

2nd Shaun McKelvie D/S 259 1/4

3rd Roger Stratford D/S 259 1/8th

Junior 1 st Mya McKelvie

Fallow 1st David Wiseman D/S 211 3/8th

2nd David Wiseman D/S 210 1/8th

3rd Juwle Sufiyan D/S 208 7/8th

Tahr 1st Nick Whyte D/S 40 1/2

Chamois 1st Penny Stratford D/S 24 D/S 229 5/8th Red Deer



Leon Ridd Winning Red Deer

Branch Photo competition Results

Game Animals

No Entries

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

Scenic 1st Douglas Gordon 2nd Nicholas Whyte 3rd Douglas Gordon

Other Wildlife 1st Luke Payne 2nd Nicholas Whyte 3rd Douglas Gordon

NZDA National Conference 2025

Ascot Hotel Invercargill 18th to 20th July.

With Trade displays on Saturday (no tickets required)

Tickets on sale. (Especially for the evening events, actual conference being for delegates etc)

See Hyperlink

<https://www.deerstalkers.org.nz/conference/>

For more information contact the Branch Executive Members

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.

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



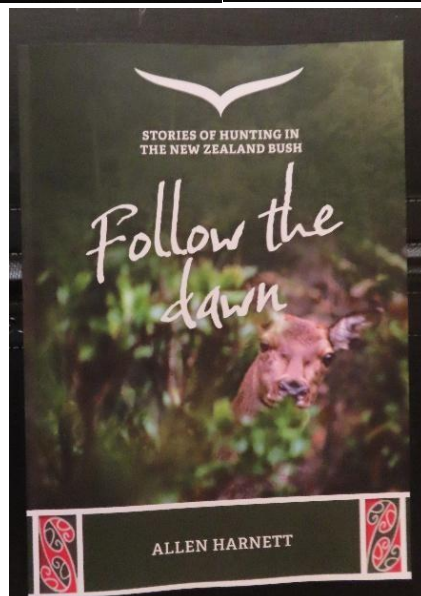
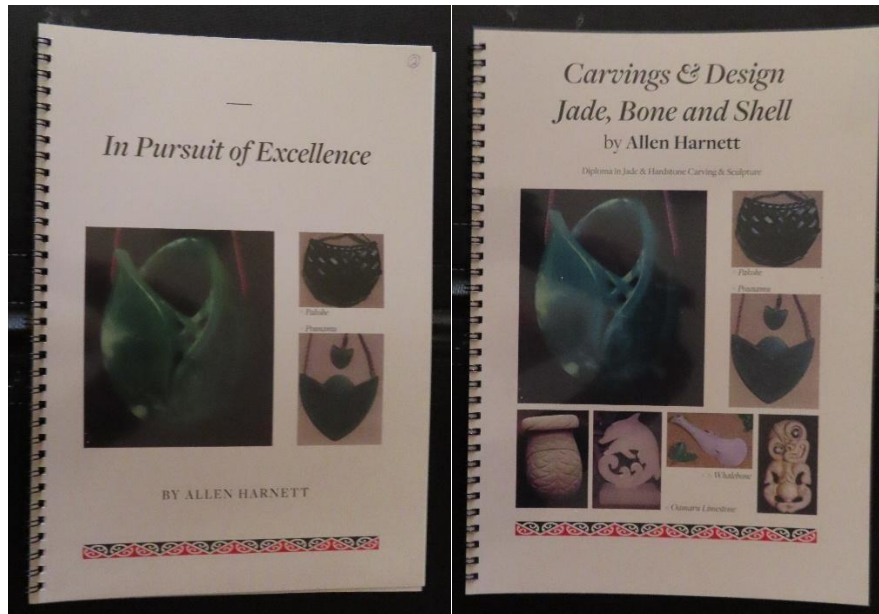
Booklets for Sale

Allen Harnett (Branch Member) has copies of three booklets he has produced
@ \$50.00 each

Two on Carvings & Design and one on Hunting

All three are in A4 format (magazine size) Phone

Allen at 027 450 5108



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.

**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

The advertisement is set against a background of brown animal skin. The text is white and black, with key phrases in bold. The layout is centered and uses a mix of font weights to create a hierarchy of information.

**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



