

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter

May 2025



Tarn Victoria Range North Westland

AGM & Trophy Night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday
the 21st of May at 7.30pm

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

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.

Simon Neilson, Joseph Carson, Carlos Gin, Gregory Templeton, Ngawaka West, Angus Macdonald, Michael Atwill, Samuel Burr, Ben Fletcher, Nigel Spencer, Caleb Ashmore, Ian Robert James, Cory Orloski.

Presidents Report



May 2025



Mya carrying out her Stag from this Roar.

Another year has passed another successful year for the branch. We had a great turn out for the Wyndham A&P Show Kids Hunt, a couple of successful Wallaby trips, The Hunts course was run in Feb, not to mention maintaining our hunting ballot with Rayioners And working with Southwoods to get their new online system up and running. The committee has been busy getting organized to host the National Conference in July 18-20th

Dates to keep in mind are the opening night of Conference event Friday 18th Saturday 19th trade display all at the Ascot Hotel. Tickets are on sale now through the National website or click the link below.

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

Keep an eye out very soon the online raffle will be going live, we've been donated a MIA Tipi tent a Backlanz bipod, \$500 Backcountry Cuisine & a Tatonka Bison pack to raffle. Thanks very much to all the Sponsors who donated items to the club.

This month is the clubs AGM and AHT & Photo competition make sure you come along have a look at the trophy heads and photos taken by branch members over the last financial year. AHT measuring is 17th May the Saturday before the AGM 1pm at the club rooms if you can't make it your welcome to organized getting your trophy to one of the committee members beforehand so it can be measured. Also photos to be delivered to Doug's 254 Centre St Invercargill By Wednesday 14th of May at 5pm.

The Lady's from the Invercargill Highland dance club will be putting on a feed for us after the AGM to

Come along and we'll see you there.

Cheers Shaun

Editorial



Were into May the opening of duck Shooting is behind us. A pity the ducks preferred the neighbour's ponds to ours on the opening weekend. The fine calm conditions in Northern Southland did not help. I hear 30 plus reappeared on Monday morning to say a pity we missed you, when is the next feed.

When you read this, it will be just over a week to the AGM. An important day for the Branch, a chance to refresh the Executive. To move the Branch in new directions that it's members may desire. With 350 plus members (nearly 500 with family members) the Branch needs to be doing more, for the members. Correct that "The membership should be doing more for itself (its members)" Is what I am trying to say. The same executive re-elected year after year tends to do the same things. This is according to their interests and abilities. Don't blame them for their individual interests and skills this is what they have to offer and what they have and are giving to the NZDA.

We all have our expectations of the NZDA both at Branch and at National level. Sorry the Branch is volunteers, and National Office has a large number too. Can we change the

words of John F Kennedy "*Not think what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country.*"

You can get "*Not think what NZDA can do for you but what you can do for NZDA and the future of hunting.*"

Think where would hunting be without NZDA, yes, we may not have won a lot of battles, though we have had some wins, but we are still in the fight for hunters' rights.

If you think you may have something to offer, contact Shaun or another Executive member prior to the night (or even at the meeting prior to 7.30pm). Any good ideas are likely to find willing Executive members keen to help you run with them.

At the very least if you are reading this and have not paid this year's subscription, do so every member less is a small victory for Forrest & Bird and the Green Party.

Come to the AGM see you there fill all the seats!

Doug Gordon

Ps remember the Newsletter stops come June for those who have not paid their Sub by then.

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

AGM & Trophy Night

This will be held at the Club Rooms on Wednesday the 21st of May at 7.30pm

Entries in trophy competition **Saturday** the 17th May 1pm at the Clubrooms. When the trophies will be Judged and scored. No late entries accepted. (If you can't make it in person arrange for someone to get the trophy there on time. Shaun is happy for them to be dropped off with him Phone 027 635 0490 or with Ray Phillips Phone 03 2163751) Please bring Membership card (to speed up processing entries)

Heads must be clean, and dry, free of strong odours or they may not get scored

[No Maggots]

Remember all heads are up for the spot prize so bring your trophy along, spikers to 18pointers, goats, sheep, pigs, tahr, chamois, any wild animal that fits in the branch AHT, antler, horn and tusk lists.

ALL THE HEADS YOU HAVE SHOT IN THE LAST YEAR [MAY 2024 TO MAY 2025]

You must be a financial member when you took the Trophy and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2024 to 2025 as well as this year 2025 to 2026. (unless Trophy taken since 1st March then only 2025/26 year)

Photo Competition

Entries to

Doug Gordon 254 Centre St

Invercargill 9812

By Wednesday 14th of May at 5pm

Photo Categories are

Game Animals: Living Deer, Chamois, Tahr, Goats and pigs etc

Other Wildlife: Any other living Animals

Scenic: Preferably Hunting Country

Topical: Should contain some evidence of human activity and hunting related. e.g. Hunter and his kill.

Photos must be taken from land not air or boats and must be 6x4 or 7X5 size and taken between May 2024 and May 2025. Entry's must be actual photos (hard copy) not electronic versions e-mailed.

A spot prize on the night for all members entering photos

You must be a financial member when you took photo and to enter. That is financial member for last year 2024 to 2025 as well as this year 2025 to 2026. (unless photo taken since 1st March then only 2025/26 year)

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



To Give Away

To give away 12 high density foam mattress inner [these have no covers] .

They have come out of hunter huts on Stewart Island .

Have some marking on them due to covers being cracked and ripped , hence the markings from dust etc.

Sizes are 1900 L x 750 W x 100 Deep .

Prefer to have them all go at once , so don't just ask for one .

Contact Ray 027 2980539

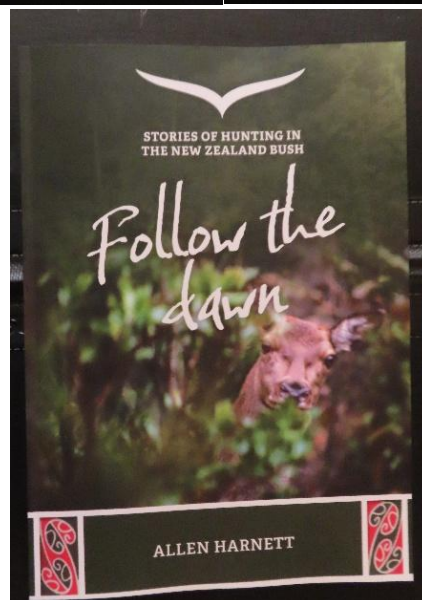
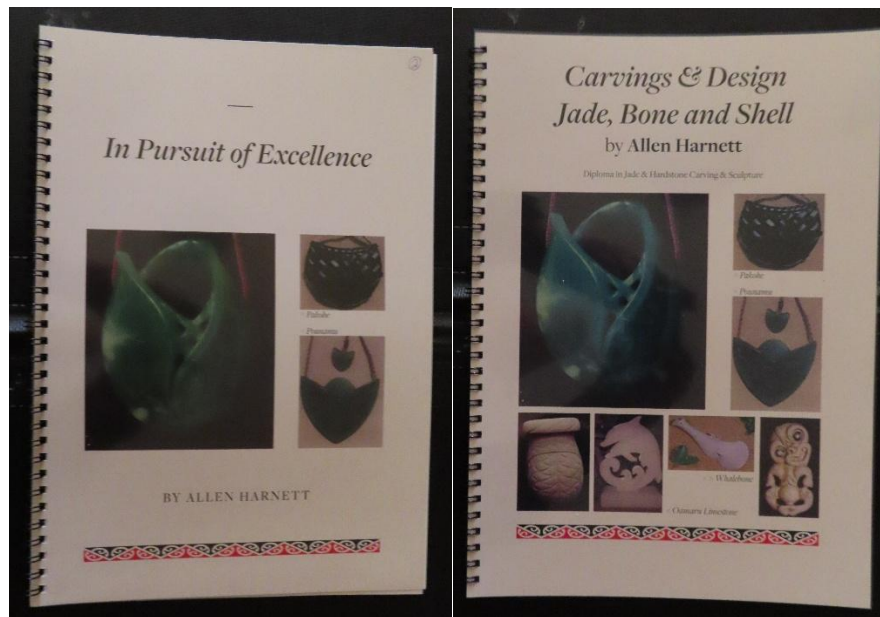
Booklets for Sale

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	Blackjack 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	Blackjack 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 06-0925-0270758-000 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.

**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 animal fur. The text is in white and bold, with the contact information and address clearly visible.

**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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