

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA



Grebe Valley

News Letter February 2020

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

Branch website <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/>

Monthly Meeting Wednesday the 19th
of February at 8pm. Club Rooms
Executive meeting
7pm

Guest Speaker

Unfortunately the hoped for speaker is not available this month, will update by a flyer if a replacement found.

FACEBOOK:

AS YOU MAY KNOW THE CLUB HAS MOVED WITH THE TIMES AND NOW HAS ITS VERY OWN FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ON FACEBOOK. CHECK IT OUT, YOU WILL FIND HELPFUL INFO ON THERE AND IT WILL HOPEFULLY ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB INTERACTION. WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMEBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome them.

Cameron Johnston, Joshua Keast, Geoff Dawson, Jason Mcphee, Wayne Lemin

Club Hunts

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

Southland NZDA MAVORA Trip Deer/ Chamois

When February 21,22,23 Fri Sat Sun

Where Mavora

Head up stay in the Red Stag lodge then spread out in the Mavora area bring your Rifle and your fishing rod .Perfect trip to Bring the **KIDS** along on this is a great area that can cater to all fitness levels and abilities txt or email shaun1nzda@gmail.com 0276350490 to put your name on the list



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Wanted

Stories, adds, 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.

Presidents Report

February 2020

Well with the New Year upon us now for me anyway its hunting season the busy period on the farm is over so with I little more free time for pre roar meat hunting trips and get a bit of fitness up before autumn/winter Thar and chamois trips. The club Thar trip has now been and gone I believe it was a great success. The Mavora trip is coming up anyone that hasn't got there name in let me no will be a great chance for all experience levels to get out and about Mavora is a pretty special place to me I've been up there hunting holidaying for over 15 years now and I don't think I'll ever run out of new valleys to check out Ya never Know what's over the next rise.

Were still punching on with getting Rayioners Ballot up and running very soon, the goal by the end of the month. Watch this space.



Mavora Tops

I have recently purchased a copy of John Delury's new book "Chasing White tails" I am only half way through but so far it is a great read and has some great history on the Island if your ever thinking of going to Stewart Island it would be an invaluable source of information, having recently been over for a look around the island its cool to be able to have seen some of the places that John and his hunting buddies have been and some of the huts that the Raikura Hunters Camp Trust have built over the recent years. So if you haven't got a copy contact John via email on wtd243@gmail.com

Were always looking for new ideas for hunts, meeting speakers or other events that are happening that are of interest to us as NZDA members so feel free to contact myself or the branch.

Stay Safe & Happy hunting.

Shaun



Editorial

Late last month there was an add in the Southland Times from “ Friends of Sherwood” which was a petition to Parliament asking for a citizens referendum on using cruel and inhumane poisons. At first glance sounds good, but are there are some fish hooks?

- How is one to poison the Rats in the back shed or under the house now?
- Hand laid poison can be used to target specific pests and not kill all or most unlike the Aerial use which NZDA is opposed to can we do without Poison?
- Who are Friends of Sherwood? What is their attitude to recreational hunting? Is hunting next on their list?

Beware of who and what you support, you can very likely get something different that what you signed up too. Be doubly aware this year its election year.

To continue the protect the environment theme, It is becoming apparent that some of the fire damage, done in Australia could have been reduced if firebreaks had been allowed, and dry vegetation removed before it became dangerous. Auckland seems resistant to cutting down any trees, but is upset when severe storms put trees into power lines and damage houses, even fining the power company for not restoring power fast enough! We need more tree's but not where they can and will do damage.

The world is changing the climate is changing, while reverting the planet to the past sounds good is it practical. We need to save and protect the vegetation and wildlife as much as possible, but be practical about it. Firstly we need a planet that we can live on with a good quality of life, if possible.

Doug Gordon

Benefits of Membership

This is a reminder that you have to be a full member Southland Branch to get public liability insurance and all the other benefits of membership of Southland Branch NZDA. Including any branch organised event, there is now an unacceptable risk associated with having those without insurance on branch organised activities, and times have changed.

(Associate and Affiliate membership having being removed from the Branch classes of membership at the AGM)

Please Read the following Message from National Office on renewing your Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- National Office will aim to have invoices for the 20/21 year out by mid/late February.

- **PLEASE REFERENCE YOUR PAYMENTS CORRECTLY!**
- **PLEASE DO NOT SET UP AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS OR PAY EARLY!** - As branch subs usually increase annually, you will most likely be paying the incorrect amount! This will only lengthen the processing time.

The correct method for direct credit payments are:

BANK ACC	- 03-0558-0139562-04
Particulars	- Your name
Code	- Your membership number
Reference	- Your invoice number or "NEW MEMBER" (please do not use an old invoice number!)

Sponsors

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



Rifle Sighting In

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
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.

26th February Andy Nesibit 021 917 808

4th March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206

11th March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

25th March Andy Nesibit 021 917 808

2nd April Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206

2019 Rat Control Report

For the past 14 years Southland Branch NZDA has undertaken a rat control project at Mason Bay Stewart Island in conjunction with Dept of Conservation. 2019 was the busiest year we have experienced for some time but six teams managed to complete their trap checking tasks between August at intervals between August and December.

Rats were everywhere. Our teams accounted for 1150 rats. This huge number of rats that won't be bothering nesting birds in the target area. Our previous highest total rats killed was 665 rats ten years ago. Due to the number of rats and the wet conditions the earlier teams did not set the cat cages. Only two cats were caught in traps. Cats were taking rats from the rat traps before the trappers could get to them. Most parties caught up with at least one deer during their trip and new member Ashley Bragg got her first whitetail deer.

Thanks to all our rat trappers and a huge thank you to Gerald at Invercargill Hunting and Fishing Store for his sponsorship toward the flight costs to and from Mason Bay.

John Delury

First Rat Patrol

Ashley Bragg is a new lady branch member. When we circulated we were needing a replacement for the September Rat control team at Mason Bay Stewart Island she was the first to put her hand up to volunteer. Here is her report and she did get her first whitetail deer.

'As a proud mainlander with a genuine concern for the future of our native species and landscapes, it was with great enthusiasm I accepted the opportunity to brave weather conditions and be part of the September collective of rat trapping on Stewart Island. There are little opportunities in life that are as rewarding and as fulfilling as rat trapping at Stewart Island has been and will continue to be. Alongside the impressive scenery, histories, kiwi and whitetail sightings this trip was only enhanced by the wonderful company, Karen and Dave are incredible individuals and it did not take long to establish ourselves as a team. As with all rewards, there were a number of challenges including the weather which postponed our return to Invercargill by a day. Overall the trip was a success with over 180 rats depleted from Stewart Island's ecosystem, giving more survival opportunities to local flora and fauna – however this trip by no means eradicated the problem, but the continuation of these excursions can provide on-going relief. This hands - on opportunity, exceeded every expectation and when this opportunity becomes available again I will be first in line, as well as encouraging others to join – as they say it takes everyone to do a little, not one person to do it all before change becomes a reality. Your fitness, footwear and comfort will be tested, but you will be rewarded with a wealth of privileges exclusive to opportunities like this! Many thanks,

Ashley'



Branch Trophies

This is the fourth of a series of articles on the branch trophies as found in the club rooms, with two other at Wapiti Lodge. (*Note I thought there was only one trophy at the Wapiti lodge until staying at it this year*)

James McIntosh Wapiti

Glaisnock 1951 16 point (8 +) Douglas score 413 3/8



THE NEW ZEALAND DEERSTALKERS' ASSOCIATION INC.
OFFICIAL RECORDING SYSTEM FOR
ROUND-HORN DEER HEADS
(DOUGLAS SCORE)

OWNER JAS. MCINTOSH
KILLED BY JAS. MCINTOSH
LOCALITY & DATE GLAISNOCK 1951

SPECIES & POINT NUMBER WAPITI 8+8=16

STEEL TAPE MEASUREMENT OF	SHORTER MEASUREMENT DOUBLED*		FACTORS
	LEFT	RIGHT	
LENGTH	47	47 ⁴	94
SPREAD			41
SPAN			32 ¹
BEAM	6 ⁶	6 ⁴	13
CORONET	11	11	22
BROW	15 ⁴	11 ¹	26 ⁵
BEZ	14 ²	16 ⁴	30 ⁶
TREZ	15 ⁵	15 ²	30 ⁴
TOPS			
INNER ROYAL	17 ⁴	17 ⁵	35
OUTER ROYAL	11 ¹	15 ¹	26 ²
1ST UPPER-OFF	12 ³	12 ⁷	24 ⁵
2ND UPPER OFF	4 ⁷	5 ⁷	9 ⁶
BACKTINE	19 ¹	22	38 ²
TOTAL SCORE			413 3/8

SKULL LENGTH OVER CURVE: MOUNTED
SHOULDER HEIGHT OF STAG:
MEASURED BY: D BRUCE DANIELL
ASSISTANT: RUSS MITCHELL INVERCARGILL JULY 11, 2003

James McIntosh lived in Invercargill and was better known in hunting circles as Jimmy Mac. He had tremendous knowledge of New Zealand flora and was recognised for his studies and knowledge on NZ short-tailed bats. The details of his taking this record book Wapiti have passed into hunting unknown and for many years the trophy hung in Southland Acclimatisation Society rooms. (Now Fish & Game). It did not come to light again until after the record book had been printed. A shame really as it is number 25 on the over 400 Club. McIntosh was a great friend of the late Allan Harrison and the two travelled to Wet Jacket Arm also in 1951 where McIntosh shot a cow moose, much to Harrison's disgust. Prior to the trip McIntosh built a collapsible canoe for their use in the sounds. This was flown in by float plane and assembled. This canoe now hangs in the Southland Branch clubrooms.

Details of the moose hunt can be found in Chapter Five of Allan Harrison's book "A Deerstalkers Paradise"

Go Native

Hi all another great offer from Go Native

www.gonativeworld.com

Get 10% off your Go Native ready to eat meal order and Go Native will also give 10% of your order value to the club as a fundraiser.

Discount code: SOUTHLAND - enter this at checkout.

Doc Hyperlinks on Poison

[Battle for the Birds](#)

[Pesticide summaries interactive map](#)

OSPRI Hyperlink poison

[Aerial Pest Control Operations underway or planned](#)

Jokes of the Month

Aphorism: A short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation:

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
- 2 Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

3. If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m - for example, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print - there's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
18. Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Ford.
19. After 70, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people who matter don't mind and the ones who mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

And REMEMBER...."POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS SHOULD BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON.

Book Review

Chasing Whitetails

By John Delury

This book to summarise in a few words is about Hunting Whitetail deer on Stewart Island. With chapters relating to the various hunting blocks that John has hunted over what amounts to most of his adult life. These blocks are mainly the East Coast Paterson's Inlet and south of and Masons Bay. The book has 256 pages and heaps of good photos of the Island and Whitetail.

John shares his experiences block by block, with some tales of his hunting companions, some of whom have been with him most of his time on the Island. Mixed in with some advice on hunting whitetail that he has acquired from this hunting experience. Not many will have hunted the Island as much as John and his core party has.

John is a Life Member of Southland Branch NZDA, President of Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust, and organiser of the Branch Rat Control Programme at Mason's Bay on the Island. This is the second book written on hunting by a member of the Branch. With Allan Harrison writing "A Deerstalkers Paradise" in 2000.

For me the book is made a lot more interesting as I know John and most of his hunting companions who feature in the book. I have even spent time on the Island with John and some of them. Plus I have hunted some of the blocks that feature in the book. Though I can even claim to have hunted the Island longer. My first trip was in 1977 to Port Adventure, I got my first whitetail then, but only got back twice before this century unlike John. I had other fish to try and fry. John started hunting the Island in 1979.

It is a good read, if one hunts Whitetails on Stewart Island. Also a useful read if one is about to start hunting Whitetails on Stewart Island. Of far more interest to me than reading hunting stories about some country such as the North Island that one has not hunted and can't really envision.

Well done John in writing and publishing this book, I hope it sells out for you and becomes a collectable Hunting Book. Good value at \$40.00 plus postage and packaging from John Delury. Sorry you won't find it at your local book shop or on line other than by e-mail at "wtd243@gmail.com"

Doug Gordon

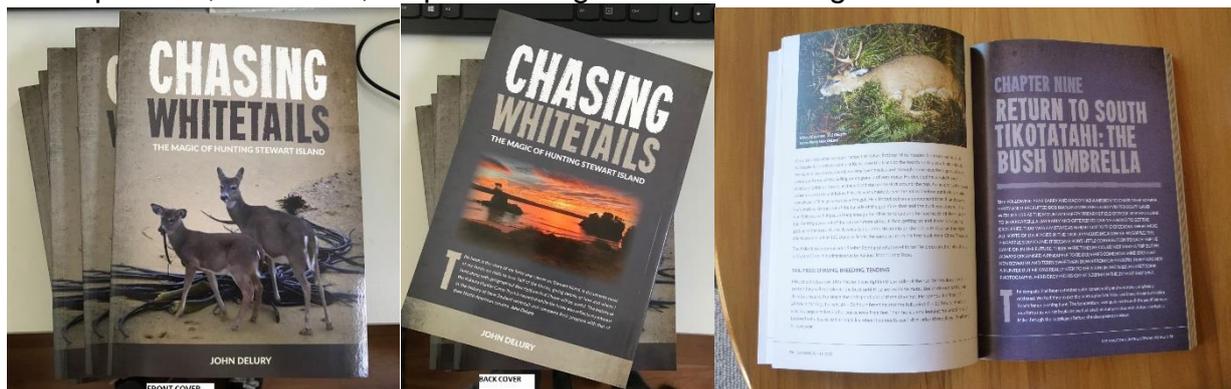
Book for Sale

"Chasing Whitetails" The magic of hunting Stewart Island.

In 1979 I went on my first hunt on Stewart Island and quickly developed a passion for hunting whitetail deer. Since that first hunt I have been to the Island more than one hundred times. This book documents some of those hunts. The history of our whitetail has always interested me and there is reason to question the origins of our deer. There has been a lot of misinformation published over the years about whitetail deer and I have tried to set the record straight by including a section on the habits of the deer themselves at the end of most chapters.

There is a chapter on our study into the movements of whitetails we captured and released at Mason Bay and other research done over the years. It details the history of Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust of which I have been chairman since it began building and maintaining huts for hunters on the Island in 2000. Something unique in New Zealand hunting of which I am very proud and has been universally accepted by whitetail hunters.

My book deals only with Stewart Island and has 256 pages on high quality paper with 158 colour pictures, a few b/w, maps and diagrams. The binding has been stitched.



The book is only available from me. Cost is \$40. All books will be bubble wrapped, cardboard protected and sealed in a NZ Post bag.

Postage costs:- All New Zealand \$6.00 (except RD) Rural Delivery add \$3.90.

Up to three books can be posted in the one bag if you want to share postage with a mate.

Pickups can be made from my home at Pegasus.

Payments can be made to J W DeLury acc 11-7600-0128077-30

Enter your name and phone number with payments and email me your delivery address. wtd243@gmail.com

Feel free to forward to other whitetail hunters. Regards John DeLury

For more information about my book :

- <http://www.southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz/index.php/chasing-whitetails>