

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



The Windon Burn, Upper Mararoa river, and Shirkers Bush

Southland Branch NZDA News Letter July 2020

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Monthly Meeting Wednesday 15th July 8pm
At the Longbush Clubrooms
Executive Meeting 7pm

Guest Speaker

Don Paul in as our guest speaker From Rayonier's He is going to run their induction into the forest for people intending on being a part of Rayonier's ballot.

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

New Members please welcome them

Gregory Dennison, Tim McRae, Andrew Forde, Bradley South, Nicholas Dennis, Paul Bickley, Gavin Harland, Jason Kenneally, Herbert Bradley Townshend, Richard Lindsay, Chris Sinclair, Ben Mclellan, Trae Aitken, Megan Entwisle, Stuart Tripney, Wayne Ashmore, Nicholas Novis, Brent Corcoran, Sean Drummond, Cameron Blanks, Rodger Manson

Club Hunts

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

Southland NZDA Kids Hunt

July 12/7/2020 Weigh in at The Long bush hall 12-3pm BBQ lunch provided

Prizes For

Heaviest Hare

Heaviest Possum

Overall winner

Proudly Sponsored By **Hunting and Fishing Invercargill** And **Dawson Electrical**

Registration to enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz Name & Phone number or you can Turn up on the day with your catch and Membership card

Weigh in to be held at [Longbush](#) Hall 24 Mckerchar Road 12 - 2pm Sunday 12 July

Final weigh in time 2pm. Animals to be presented or in the queue before 2pm deadline
Points will be worked out from the weight of the Rabbit/Hare or Possum. The heaviest of each Rabbit/Hare or Possum will be allocated 100 points (each), the second heaviest Rabbit/Hare or Possum will be given 99 points, third 98 points and so on.



Rules

- Children to be 16 years or younger
- Children's Rabbit/Hare and Possums do not need to be gutted
- Children must be a NZDA member or accompanied by an adult NZDA Member
- One Hare Rabbit Possum per hunter to be entered
- All Firearms regulations must be obeyed.
- All Firearms must be secured and stowed in accordance with the [Firearms regulations](#) when not being used.
- Necessary permits, licenses, and landowner's permission must be obtained
- Hunting may commence 5.00pm on Friday 10/7/2020 . NO hunting is permitted before this time.

Catchment area is Southland region

Event Organiser Shaun Mckelvie 0276350490

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 .

INVOICES for SUBS

It was recently brought to the Executives attention that a Member has failed to receive an Invoice for this year's Sub.

If you have received this e-mail message and have failed to receive an Invoice.

Please

Contact National Office phone 04 499 6163 or e-mail membership@deerstalkers.org.nz for an Invoice.

Could you also Please e-mail Tom Mead (Branch Membership Controller)
At enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

So that he can get an idea of the extent of the problem

Presidents Report



July 2020

Hi all just got back from a week away chasing Thar and Chamois over the west coast these are the trips I look forward to all year allot of planning and time and money goes into getting there getting the right gear to stay warm dry and safe to hear the latest plans from doc regarding Thar management plan are disheartening to say the least so if you have a chance go to the NZ Thar foundation Facebook page and sign the petition to stop the culling, until some actual monitoring and science has been done and had a real chance to monitor the actual effects on Thar and the environment they habitat nothing should be happening. They are in my option a massive resource to NZ to hunters and the associated economic benefits to NZ as a whole. I would also encourage you to write to or local MP forward your thoughts to myself or any of the national executive the old saying together we stand divided we fall.

Things are looking positive on the Rayonier's front we have Don and Ilona coming along to run the induction into their forests at our July meeting so please if you're interested make the effort to get along you should have received a email from the branch with some info to

read up on this will save us a lot of time come meeting night. All going well we should be away hunting soon after. We can run our own induction if anyone can't make it but we'd prefer to do it once with Rayonier's if possible.

The Southland Branch donated \$250 to help towards transport costs of the meat the need initiative created by the FWF & GAC initiative to utilize the animals culled from the wapiti area as part of the ongoing herd management and the fall in the overseas venison market largely due to covid 19 they came up with a brilliant idea to with DOC funding keep people in jobs and help those in need by processing and donating the mincemeat to food banks over the country. It is great to be a part of a positive story.

The kids hunt is coming up 12th of July hopefully we have a great turn out and get some young enthusiastic boys and girls out and about and maybe getting there first insight into hunting and firearms safety, I'm defiantly taking my 2 eldest girls out hopefully we can get something on the board .

Cheers Shaun



Editorial

Recently there has been a series of Government adds on TV concerning young children viewing inappropriate programmes. I was concerned to see the one relating to hunting, which featured a person with a double barrel shot gun pointing the firearm at two persons in rabbit suits. Firing into a cake in front of them.

My point is if hunting programmes are of concern and a problem for the young to view. What is this add featuring what I described above doing being viewed in prime time viewing. To me the add is more likely to be disturbing than the programmes on hunting it is designed to prevent the young seeing.

As you should know by now the Dept. of Conservation flush with money to boost employment by doing conservation projects intends to spend a large lump on 400 hours of helicopter time shooting Tahr. If carried out and they succeed in decimating the Tahr population. How many less hours of helicopter hire will occur by recreational Tahr hunters? Most likely 400 plus? If so what employment has the spend created? Would it not be better to leave the Tahr to the recreational hunters who beside's employing the helicopters. Would spend money on food and accommodation in the area, which is in need of visitors lacking the normal supply of overseas tourists.

Hiring helicopters gives few employment, most of the money quickly goes overseas for fuel, and maintenance parts for the helicopters. The money needs spent where it will bring employment for many and circulate in New Zealand.

The secret of spending money to prop up the economy is to do it in a way that each dollar circulates through many hands, with a little going back to the government in tax at every usage. This also could be said to be misappropriation of Government funds.

Money to be used to increased employment instead used to replace employment. But what do you expect when there is not even a Cabinet Minister in charge!

I trust you have all signed the current Tahr petition? (40,000 have).

Currently world wide the restaurant trade is sick due to covid-19. With it the market for venison which is a restaurant meat is sick. How long before there is talk of an explosion in the deer population? Remember only hinds have young deer and only at the rate of one a year. The reality is hunting needs encouraged, it provides employment, food, and needed healthy recreation. With a better result for the country and its people than search and destroy that the greens seem to love.

Doug Gordon

HUNTING AND WILDLIFE



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Sponsors

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



Branch Trophies

This is 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*)

John Hawkins Tahr

Rangitata River 1970 Douglas Score 41 $\frac{1}{4}$



Insert Score sheet

John was hunting on Mesopotamia Station in the winter of 1970 when he encountered this bull tahr in heavy snow.

Doc Hyperlinks on Poison Please check before hunting

[Battle for the Birds](#)

[Pesticide summaries interactive map](#)

[OSPRI Hyperlink poison](#)

Aerial Pest Control Operations underway or planned

Memories of Half a Century of Duck Hunting

Just recently I realised that it is now just over half a century since I shot my first duck. It was on the second weekend of the season my father had taken me out, with him and his normal hunting companion Bert Webb has not come. Previously he has let me have a couple of shots out of his single shot Harrington & Richardson shot gun. Dad had been having a bad morning missing more than he had shot. (Little did we know that this was the first sign of eye sight problems in that eye). We had left the pond and were heading home when a lone duck circulated the pond and landed. Dad (who could not be bothered at this time walking back for another likely miss) offered me the gun and a couple of cartridges to have a go.

I walked back up to the creek to the dam face, loaded and cocked the hammer on the gun. Peered over between the tussocks and spied the duck at rest in the middle of the pond. I took aim and fired. The water erupted where the duck was, when it calmed down the duck was still there. I had my first duck not exactly sporting but it was a duck. The year was 1970. I got the loan of my Fathers single shot for the rest of the season, and ended up with a never to be bettered 23 ducks from 23 shots, a few misses but some pairs being taken with one shot.

Before this event I remember smelling the burned powder smell in the paper walled Longrange CAC spent cases that my father brought home in his pockets from shooting. (I can almost still smell them now). Then in my early teen age years I was allowed to go with him and Bert around the various small ponds and water holes they shot later in the day. The pond at the far end of the farm was next some bush. One could look into it from the neighbouring hill. Which we did this morning ripples. I stayed put while they did the long walk to stalk the pond. Presently action one shot from Father followed by two from Bert at three departing ducks that kept on going. I ran down the face to the pond. There were four dead ducks on it. Dad had caught them with his single shot on lifting off the water. Bert having seen nothing until after the shot had been caught off guard and missed twice



First Season



First 25 bag note the then state of art Cameo

By next season I had my own Spanish side by side shot gun, (second hand), and my first opening day. Dad gave it a miss (eye problem) so I ended up Shooting with Bert Webb on a pond that had a plantation of pine trees which went to water's edge. A great natural hide. My memories are limited to forgetting the second trigger and barrel on the first couple of mobs. Resulting in my placing a finger in front of each trigger. BANG both went off together one riddled duck, one sore and bruised shoulder. The other memory is of chasing a wounded duck into the pines catching it. Then quickly getting back for the next lot while ringing its neck. I put it down the next lot were dealt too then I looked for my wounded duck, Zero it was gone never seen again. My diary says I got a limit bag the first of several over the years.

In the next few years I remember sitting on a small pond late on opening night having 14 birds wanting one for a limit. It was dark around 6.30pm moonlight only lit part of the pond. A lone duck came in and landed in the dark part (typical). I can't see anything for a chance of a shot. The ripples radiate into the moon lit part of the pond. I continue to wait, then I see a flash of white, (the duck has tucked in its wing). Aiming the shot gun in that direction I give it one then two barrels. There is some splashing, as a now dead duck kicks its way into the moonlight. Success by the skin of my teeth!

Several years later the farm was sold but I was still shooting there with the son of the new owner Garry Craig. There was by now a new bigger pond, the limit bag had just changed to 25. I now has a Russian under and over, just the thing in the era of only two shots. Come opening Garry didn't make it having been heading grain all the night before. So I fronted up on my own and shot 24 by about eleven am. Decided to go and check the several small water holes to pick up the last duck. The first pond had a pair, I dropped one with the first barrel, and let the other go. While having lunch at my parents place in Balclutha, I realised that the only duck I could remember shooting was the last one.

That has brought me to the realisation that it is not the amount of shooting one does but it's the quality that counts. About that time while still shooting at Warepa, I pulled off what was perhaps my best shot, well one that I remember. Garry and I were having an evening shot on a rolling stubble paddock, he was on one face myself on another ridge in-between. Two mallards went over high up in the half-light flying about a meter apart one behind the other. I decided to give them the choke (or should I say chocked) barrel on the Russian. Leading the first by about a metre I fired to my surprise both dropped. That was one to remember and I still do over 40 years later.

The years went by, I was now shooting with Jeff Anderson on his pond under the shadow of West Dome. One evening a magpie made a low pass straight in to go over the Mai Mai. A quick reflex shot and the magpie buried its self into the Manuka just over my head. (I did do a quick duck).

There was one year that I shot on two small ponds next the Acton River with Grahame King. (We had a pond each). There was low fog I started calling blind the ducks started coming. Just appearing out of the fog airbrakes on ready to land. We started and kept shooting as they came in. Calling when they didn't. A memorable morning, fog makes good cover (sometimes). We got limit bags. A pity it was only one year as the property changed hands

The years continued to roll by, I was now shooting with Stuart Felton. It was late in the season, frosty, the pond was half frozen but there was open water in the middle kept there by some resident ducks. We decided to have a go this evening. It went well, especially to start with. Shot ducks would drop onto the ice their momentum taking them to the bank, quite spectacular, but in time the blood trails they left on the ice scared off the late arrivals, Never mind if my memory is correct Stuart & I got 14 between us.

Then there was the shooting on John Healy's stubble fields, some quite good tally's were shot, by the various combinations of shooters at various times, including, John Healy, Stuart Felton, John, Grant and Philip Reid plus Roz Cole. The high shots, good shots and poor shots blend in as usual. My remaining memory of this time was on dark late May (the hunting had been good on the stubble). Seeing a massive mob of ducks fly across high from the direction of Mt Hamilton and disappear over to Five Rivers. The flight would have had to be over a kilometre wide and thick in the middle. Once they were gone the stubble was quiet that night and for the rest of the season.

Also around this time I was in the habit of spending time stalking the Hamilton Burn, I got some hard won ducks from the km walked. One afternoon I wounded one that disappeared into the willows and dived. Only to come up in the burn next the bank under my shot gun barrel. I quickly put the muzzle behind its head and pulled. The whole duck went under, only to refloat minus its head



John Healy & Grant Reid (note no face cameo paint)

Time continued to go by Felton's sold their farm, and I took up an offer of a pond from Russel Drummond. I shot it for about four or five seasons before it silted up.

There were a couple of good memories from this time. Firstly the year I shot it with my daughters Jane and Allison, the limit was 25 ducks at this point in time. We had a good supply of small mobs of ducks, they took birds first and I backed up with the pump action shot gun I had acquired a few years before. Buy about 10.40am we has 74 ducks down. It was a long wait of about half an hour for number 75. Only to find an extra in the middle of a rush bush we didn't know existed on the final count up. Thus we could have gone home earlier.



Jane & Allison with the gear and bags of ducks after our limits

I was back there on my own the next season (daughters having moved off to other places and things). This was the first year for steel shot. I got only 13 ducks but fired only 15 shots using 2¾ Remington Steel. Then one was to finish a wounded duck. That was the swan song for the pond as silting continued. Who said steel will not kill ducks, (if reasonably close that is).

The next season found me on my own up the Aparima River in Boyd's farm. Had a good opening day and got another limit bag, But the next year was poor as land use changed. Grain became dairy farm, the ducks went elsewhere.

From there I got an invitation to join John and Grant Reid, on their big pond. This lasted only a few seasons before splitting up and selling off the farm resulted in the ponds loss. Though it did provide me with another good memory. It was the Sunday of the opening weekend, cloudy with a southerly drizzle. Blowing from right to left across the face of the Mai-Mai. There was only two of us Grant and myself he was on the right me the left .At least three time's a pair approached across the face of the Mai-Mai from the left. I took the second bird grant lined up the first, and Bang Bang two ducks down. Or in one case **BANG** and both dropped when we fired together, another memorable moment was created. We dropped those pairs of ducks using one shot each, wish I had it on video.

Then there have been the not so good moments like a recent opening weekend when I could not claim a duck as having been shot by me alone the pickings were so poor.

This season I was resigned to missing the opening as I had Knee surgery in mid-March. But Covid -19 delayed that and I was back driving in time to make the pond for the opening

day. Gareth Reid and I managed 36 between us, I was rusty and missed a few too many, we had some gear problems so should have made limits



Opening morning current pond

.

As for memories the two I dropped on the far side of the gorse on the other side of the pond were about it. The big thing this year was actually getting there and taking part.

Then there is the satisfaction of making your own gear or improving on it. I have spent numerous hours repainting decoys. I still have some cork ones refitted and painted. As for splashing movement ducks. I have a couple made out of electric toy cars that work most/some of the time. A bit like making one's own fishing fly's or minnows.



The home made models

I have lost track of the number of ducks that I have shot, but it's been a few one year when I was keen I got just over 100. No wonder I have gone off roast duck dinners. One hears of the big tallies some people report shooting, what's the point unless one wants to live on Duck. Would it not be better to say we had our limits and was home by say 11am than we shot heaps over. All going to plan I will be back for another go next season trying to create some memories that will stick.

Doug Gordon

P.S. Any complaints about a duck hunting story in a Deerstalkers newsletter are to be in writing with two good hunting stories for the newsletter attached.

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