

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER

Southland Branch NZDA



North Arm Port Adventure

News Letter March 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 18th
of March at 8pm. Club Rooms
Executive meeting

7pm

Guest Speaker

Dennis Collins Taxidermist demonstrating head Skinning.

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. Thomas Turner, Shane Harris, George Novis, Alan Gibb, Brian Harris, Gerard Anderson, Jason McCallum, John Parmenter, Marie Strathern, Michael Tunbridge, Morgan Thacker, and Shaun Bickley.

Club Hunts

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

Wallaby Hunt Late June 26th to 28th Details to follow.

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

March 2020

Hi all by now you should have received your Membership invoices???. Please if you haven't contact national office and give them your details so they can get you in the system.

We are making headway with Rayonier's hunting blocks and are still aiming to be hunting by April. You will have received an email with more details if you registered your interest last year if you have not please contact me.

The red Stag lodge now has a new gate hung and swung, there's always something to be done at the huts so if your heading in ask Neville if there's anything you can do to help while you're there it keeps the clubs assets in the best condition possible for everyone's use and they are awesome asset to have available.



The Mavora Trip was Bloody awesome Took my eldest Daughter up who caught an awesome trout of the lake edge 6.7pound not quite beating her old man's best but getting pretty close... We headed in Friday evening and while the weather was fine drive up the lake to find a spot to pitch the tent. We parked up just through the bush and got organised headed up the hill to see what was about, with the wind blowing up you back we didn't hang around long not wanting to scent the area for the morning so we headed back the tent for a back country tea and got the fishing rods out not expecting much of the side of the lake after 2casts Ellie thought she was snagged on weed when a big brown jumped out of the water lucky he didn't put up to much of a fight and Ellie made quick work of reeling him in with a quick flick of the line he was up on the beach I still don't know who was more excited myself or Ellie. That was defiantly the highlight of the trip as the next morning we headed back up the hill with the wind changed after a quick hour climb sat down to glass with nothing seem for the morning we headed back and the weather closing in we packed up the tent and retreated back to the red stag lodge for the night before heading home to skite about Ellies big fish.

There are a few hunts in the pipe line so get amongst it in put your name down come meet some new people and have a go. And if there's a species or hunt you want to have a crack at let us no and we'll do our best to make it happen.

Finally, with the days shortening and mornings getting colder I'm sure plenty of people will be planning where they're heading for the Roar Just Remember Stay Safe IDENTIFY your target beyond all doubt.

Happy Hunting

Cheers Shaun Mckelvie



Editorial

The days are getting shorter and the nights colder, that time of the year that excites a lot of deer hunters is upon us "THE ROAR". Time to check the hunting gear and sight in the rifle. Travel to that ballot block for those lucky enough to have one.

A time of excitement, but also a time of danger, time to identify that, that Roaring stag actually has four legs and antlers before firing that shot. You don't need another hunting accident, the person roaring doesn't need one either, nor do any other hunters need another black mark against hunting.

So be careful not only with your use of your rifle, but with the terrain you are hunting in, the weather, and not getting bushed or lost.

All of which is not new but worth reminding of. Now one will perhaps have to upgrade one's hygiene, in light of recent world developments.

Having said all of the above still get out there and do it, what is life for if one doesn't do things. But be responsible as you do it. You want you and your mates to come home OK, likewise for any fellow hunters you meet. Even if you don't get a trophy take a couple of photos for the photo competition, come on we need more people entering branch competitions.

I hate repeating myself BUT NZDA needs to be doing more to control Wallabys. Doc tell us they are getting out of control and spreading, this message has been repeated again lately.

Here we are an organisation of keen hunters, of which Southland Branch currently has difficulty, getting access to Wallaby hunting. (We will hunt the same farm twice in twelve months) National Office through the Branches that contain the Wallabys should be making available NZDA's services to assist in control. We should be advertising our services. I mentioned this last year, nothing has happened, WHY. Another reason to **Shake up** National Office. Whenever Doc has a problem such as this we need to be

putting our hands up, and been seen doing so. Good for hunting and firearms ownership.
Good Luck for the Roar
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)

lease 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!)

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.

11th March Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

25th March Andy Nesibit 021 917 808

1st April Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

Sponsors

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



SOUTHERN ADVENTURE

THE IN STORE FOR THE OUTDOORS



Blast from History (The past)

Supplied by John Bonn

Extract from Otautau Standard & Wallace County Chronicle, 31 March 1908:

Lake Hauroto. The Gem of the National Park.

"The loveliest lake in New Zealand" was the appellation given to this, the nearest of the cold lakes to the busy centres of settlement, by the late Mr. John Hay, Commissioner of Crown Lands for Southland. It is 28 years since Mr Hay made this discovery at the time of his survey of the lake, and although its situation is within a few hours travel of Invercargill, it has remained, during all these years, practically unknown except to a few adventurous spirits, who have struggled through the almost impenetrable forest to its shores. Without, however, the facility afforded by the use of a good boat, it was impossible, during that time, to view to advantage the unsurpassing loveliness of this lake. Thanks to the enterprise of a number of settlers in the Lilburn valley, beyond the Waiau, the attractions of this exquisite sheet of water are now made available to the outside world. Forming themselves into the "Lake Hauroto Shipping syndicate", these hardy spirits turned to and cleared a track through the seven miles of bush separating the lake from civilisation. Many days were spent with compass and slasher in first ascertaining the route that afforded the least resistance to moderately easy transportation of passengers or goods. This having been settled, application was made to the Government for a grant in aid of clearing the track, and the munificent sum of £10 was donated from the Treasury, which was far more than absorbed in the payment of the first tucker bill, so that the country has the benefit of the work of some eight or ten hardy men in accomplishing this good work for nothing. Recognising that a visit to the lake is of no service without the means of getting up and

down it, the syndicate have built a first-class boat, capable of comfortably carrying ten passengers, which was conveyed from Mr Mathers', Clifden, to the lake on a sledge, and occupied the labour of six men with two horses for eight days in transporting. A goodly number of visitors made the trip to the lake this year, but in most cases in small parties, with limited time and camp equipment, so that very little exploring of the lake was done, except for limited distances, round the camp. A fortnight ago a party from Otautau was organised with a view to traversing the lake from end to end and penetrating up the little known Hauroto river. The party, as originally contemplated, fell through, but finally the following seven persons succeeded in making the trip :— Messrs J. Fisher, 'Standard, Otautau, G. J. Scott, Henderson and Co. Otautau, S. Gardner, sheep farmer, Lilburn, R. L. Bush, Gas. Co. Christchurch, S. Gerrard, D. Benjamin and Co., Christchurch, J. Murrell and J. R. Murrell, Manapouri. Owing to heavy rain prior to the journey the track had become impassable for horses, and nine miles of the journey had to be taken on foot, the party swagging camp equipment and provisions. The lake was reached at 6.30 in the evening, camp pitched, and a hearty meal made, as anyone who has done a hard day's march in hilly country can imagine. To the uninitiated it may be stated that Lake Hauroto is situated well in the centre of New Zealand's national park, and lies just within the confines of the Fiord County. The country leading to it presents much that is of interest to the naturalist, the sportsman, and the ordinary tripper. Nature has been lavish in the distribution of plant life, inviting the botanist to the study of the beautiful.

Wild cattle and wild pigs roam in freedom and in plenty, and their destruction would be welcome to settlers living on the Lilburn side of the forest ; good bags are available at any time. Native birds are found all through the bush; here the wild pigeon and kaka have remained unmolested for generations, the inquisitive weka comes round the camp without any exhibition of fear, and the smaller members of the feathered tribe are found everywhere. The traveller taking a short respite in going through the bush, is immediately visited by the New Zealand robin, who will perch on his boot or shoulder. Fortunately, being within the precincts of the National Park, the many interesting creatures to be found there are protected, and outside of the wild cattle and pigs mentioned, and in time the deer, which, are rapidly increasing, and often come down to settlers' properties, it is to be hoped that all shooting will be de-barred, otherwise the greatest charms of this interesting place will be removed; the very tameness and fearlessness of the birds would lead to their rapid extermination. Coming to the lake itself, there are found black swan, paradise, grey, teal and blue mountain duck, crested grebe, dab chick, bittern, and kiwis, certainly not in large numbers, still all were seen on the present occasion, and at certain times goodly numbers appear about the lake.

[Continued in edition of 14 April 1908:]

Jerome K. Jerome has afforded untold pleasure to many readers in his description of "Three men in a boat." There is not so much room for fun with seven men in a tent x10, part of the floor space being taken up with sundry small stumps, which are about as peasant to lie down on as the Indian Fakirs bed of spikes. Notwithstanding such bed fellows, however, it was not long till every man was sound asleep, the bush tramp under a heavy swag, and the beautiful clearness of the atmosphere conspiring to make the traveller enjoy his night's repose. Going to bed with the knowledge that if the head of the lake was to be reached next morning there was to be no sleeping in, was responsible for the anxiety of one member, who roused up his neighbour with a poke in the ribs to jump as it was broad daylight, and was told to shut up as it was only 3 o'clock and bright moonlight. 5.30 a.m. saw the cook on the job, and soon a roaring fire was going and the billy boiling. Bedroom ware was not required, each man getting down to the lake and performing his ablutions as best suited his taste. Six o'clock in the morning, with the sharpness of autumn

tinging the atmosphere and water, did not appear conducive to much sporting in the deep. Still one member seemed to relish it, and later in the day several of the party were disporting themselves in a sunny little bay. A hearty breakfast and then camp was shifted, the tent pulled down and stacked away in the boat, provisions, enough to last over several days in the event of being wind bound up the lake, were stowed away forward, blankets rolled up in topcoats or water proof sheets, and at seven o'clock we pulled out into the lake, which was like a sheet of glass. The sun was just showing over the hills, and the whole place flooded in beauty, the tops of the mountains just now and again showing above the fleecy mist, which hung about their summit. With a good steady stroke, under guide Murrell, we made fine headway to Gardner Pass, a narrow neck of water separating Mary Island from the main land, and fairly out into the lake we were favoured with a fine leading wind, and soon had the sail up and bowling along in great style. We were at liberty, in sailing, to admire the beauties of the lake as they opened up, and paid little attention to the pessimist who reminded us that with a fair wind up we would get "Jarroh" pulling back. Lake Hauroto is the antithesis of Lake Wakatipu, the latter is grand and rugged, set amid towering mountains, which cleave the sky and inspire one with a feeling of awe and majesty. Lake Hauroto is softer in its surroundings. There is a sense of repose and cheerfulness, a blending of harmonious colours and a profusion of plant life, opening up a field of unlimited possibilities for the research of the botanist. Without a proper map we were at a loss as to names of the various points of interest. In fact many of them have never yet been named, so little has this beautiful lake been visited.

One of the charms of Lake Hauroto is to be found in the many little cosy bays and sloping beaches of white pebbles. Every three or four miles easy landing can be effected, and picnic parties camp with abundance to interest on every side. Between these beaches the voyager rows or sails past almost precipitous faces clothed to the water's edge with trees, and flowering plants, which he can pluck as the boat glides by. Lack of time prevented the party from making the ascent of one or two peaks from 4000 to 5000 feet high, which appeared to afford magnificent views of the country away towards the West Coast Sounds, and up which there seemed fairly good climbing.

At 12.30 noon the head was reached, and all had landed, the first party of tourists known to have got to the head.

The occasion was celebrated with a right royal repast, an Otautau lady having provided a roast of beef and a plum duff to fittingly mark the event, while the best of cigars, carefully preserved till the psychological moment, were dealt out by one of the party, and far from the madding crowd, their aromatic fragrance now soothed the weary travellers at the head of Lake Hauroto.

Having satisfied the cravings of the inner man, we started up the Hauroto river, about which little or nothing has been known. In entering the lake, the river is banked up on both sides with great masses of logs carried down in some landslip and flood, a bar being formed across the mouth, with very little depth of water. This passed, however ; there is a good depth for a short distance up ; care had to be exercised to avoid snags, one of the party standing in the bow and poling of dangerous places. Less than half-a-mile up stream, we were compelled to leave the boat, owing to rapids and shallows, and the rest of the exploring had to be done on foot. The river is a series of smooth reaches and shallow rapids alternating ; the water is beautifully clear, and the banks clad in every variety of tree and shrub and fern. A few good-sized trout were seen, and the river would appear to be a very suitable place for them.

Several members of the party being bound to time for their return, a cherished wish of several others to camp at the head, and spend several days in going up the river to its

source, had to be abandoned, as they were not equipped for a lengthy stay, or tramp overland in the event of letting the boat go back.

The distance between the head of the lake and Dusky Sound does not exceed 25 miles, and it is possible that communication between the two points does not present any great difficulties. From the lake it is possible to see a considerable way up the valley of the Hauroto river, and probably an easy pass exists on the watershed between the head of that river and the one flowing into the head of Dusky. If such should be found, it opens up quite a new round for tourist traffic, and would certainly spur on the Tourist Department to take steps to make Lake Hauroto much more accessible than at present. At the inflow of the Hay river into the lake, some six miles from the head of the lake, there is an old blazed track cut out some years ago by prospectors connecting Lake Poteriteri which lies only about seven miles to the west of Hauroto. To those who can afford the time, and who want to have an enjoyable holiday out of the beaten paths during next summer we commend a trip to Lake Hauroto.

The Member for Wallace is making application to Parliament for a vote to improve the track and make it suitable for traffic, and the work is one that will well repay the country for any money that might be voted. £1000 spent in this direction would open up to the public one of the loveliest health resorts and most picturesque spots in the cold lakes district.

(note the above was not edited for spelling etc. but published as supplied)

Branch Trophies

This is the Fifth 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*)

John DeLury Whitetail

North Lords River Stewart Island 1983 Douglas Score 122 ⁶/₈



New Food offer

Word has it that there will be samples of these meals at the March Meeting

See below

radix
nutrition

Radix Nutrition has kindly donated some meal options for us to share around members to try and give them some feed back on. Which is greatly appreciated.

We hope that your members will all enjoy their meals and would love to get some feedback, please let us know what they loved and if there are any aspects they would like to see improved. If your members were keen to purchase some meals we would be happy to issue you with a short term discount code. Our meals can all be purchased from our

website <https://www.radixnutrition.com/> - please pass this link on to your members so they can see all of our meal options. We have nationwide shipping for \$5.00 per order, free for orders over \$125.

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](#)

Freeze Dri



Available at a great price to Branch Members Contact Gus Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz 03 213 0351 for a price list

Joke of the Month

An old Doberman starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a lion heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old Doberman thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep shit now!"

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the lion is about to leap, the old Doberman exclaims loudly,

"Boy, that was one delicious lion! I wonder, if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young lion halts his attack in mid-stride, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!," says the lion, "That was close! That old Doberman nearly had me!"

Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree, figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the lion. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the lion, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the lion.

The young lion is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old Doberman sees the lion coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?," but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old Doberman says.....

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another lion!"

Moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs... Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery!

Bull Shit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

If you don't send this to two 'old' bastards right away, there will be two fewer people laughing in the world.

Of course, I am in no way insinuating that you are old, just 'youthfully challenged'.

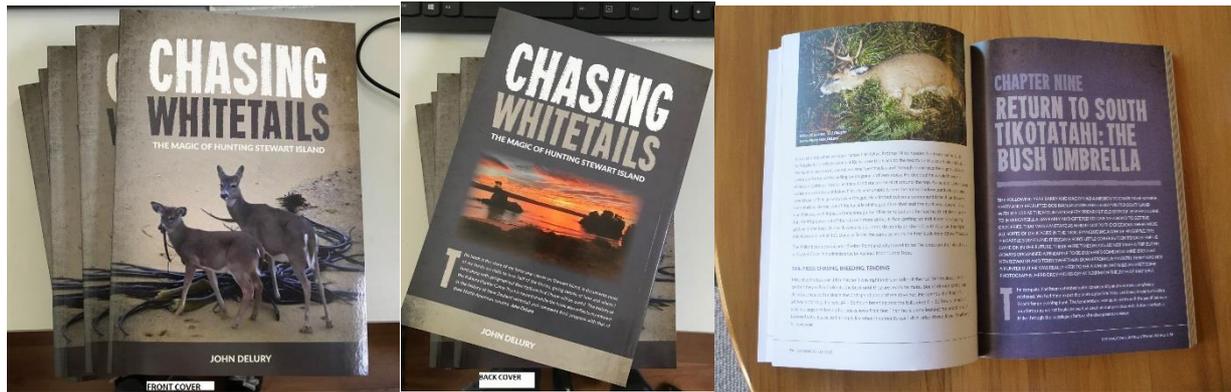
Book for Sale

"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>

Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654 email

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.**

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