

**THE SOUTHERN HUNTER**  
Southland Branch NZDA Newsletter  
June 2022



Winning photo Wildlife Luke Payne

Branch email is:

[enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto:enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz)

News Letter [douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz)

Branch website

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

**Monthly Meeting**

Monthly meeting 7.30pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at the Branch Club  
Rooms Longbush Hall McKerchar Road off State Highway 1  
between Kennington & Woodlands

**Guest Speaker**

Ethan from BACKLANDS BIPODS to show us his latest models

**FACEBOOK:**

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 MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT

## **NEW MEMBERS**

New Members please welcome them

## **Club Hunts**

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

## **Wallaby Hunt**

June 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> if interested contact Tom Mead 0278471882

# **Silent Auction**

*Advanced Notice*

To be held at August Meeting (August 17<sup>th</sup>)

Details to follow so sort out the surplus hunting, fishing, camping, and (outdoors) stuff, the clothes that no longer fit could be a good start.

## **Office Bearers**

Club Office Bearers

**President:** S McKelvie 027 635 0490 **Vice President:** T Caldwell

**Secretary** A Nesbit      : **Treasurer** T Mead  
**Magazine Editor:** D. Gordon 216 6383    **Immediate past President**  
**Membership** A Nesbit                      **Huts** N Miller  
**Executive:** W Ashmore, N Dawson, D Howden, J. McCallum,  
L Payne, R. Phillips.  
**Life Members** ( National) Roger McNaughton (Branch) J DeLury, D Howden, N Miller, R  
Phillips (Branch)  
Sub Committees  
Hall                      Luke Payne  
Young Hunts      Nathan Dawson – (Need to confirm this)  
AGM                      Shaun McKelvie & Andy Nesbit  
Trophies              Tony Caudwell & Luke Payne  
Pistol Range      Doug Gordon  
Rifle Range      Andy Nesbit  
DOC Liaison      Ray Phillips & Shaun McKelvie  
Library              Shaun McKelvie & Tom Mead  
Club Hunts      Shaun McKelvie & Tom Mead  
Guest Speaker      Shaun McKelvie & Andy Nesbit  
Photo Competition      Doug Gordon  
Social Media , Tony Caudwell & Shaun McKelvie

## 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.



## **Presidents Report**

### **Presidents report to AGM**

*May 2022*

Welcome everyone to the AGM

We've had another year with plenty of distractions covid still playing a big part in almost everyone's lives. We're lucky enough as a club to have managed to carry on reasonably normally still managing to holding meetings, working bees, range days and hunts.

I'd like to thank everyone that's played a part making this year a success, all the committee members for everything that gets done in behind the scenes, and all the members that

have come along to working bee's and taken part in hunts and range days without all of you the club wouldn't be what it is.

One thing I really enjoy is getting to know new people through the club for me it makes it all worthwhile. I hope that's something everyone can take from the NZDA.

We've ticked some big jobs off this year. The Wapiti lodge got a big tidy up the section and hedges were done and the roof got a fresh coat of paint. Thanks to Luke, Wayne, Jamie, Tom, Ants, It was a busy couple of days, the place is looking great now. We also had a working be at the hall, water blasted the hall and tidied the trees and hedges up, and we had a great turn out for that thanks to all the volunteers that came along that day.

This year we ran a Range day at the Invercargill Rifle range. Our affiliation with the rifle range is working well they have great facility's there and some really knowledge guys that shoot there regularly they're all more than happy to help out anyone wanting to learn.

We held another successful kids hunting comp last July that keeps proving popular. And another successful Stewart island Rat program Thanks to John Delury he does a great deal of work behind the scenes on this programme and all the other volunteers.

Erin is stepping down from the committee I would like to thank her for her time and insights having involvement in the GAC. And working for fish and game she's been a valuable member of the committee all the best with the future

Thanks again for another great year

Cheers

## **Report June 2022**

We are Lucky to have Ethan from BACKLANDS BIPODS coming to show us the latest in his new extendable bipods.

Unfortunately I'll Miss this month's meeting as I'll be away on my annual Thar trip me and a few mates have been heading over the west coast for a few years now were lucky enough to draw a ballot block this year in the Landsborough valley, I'll be interested to see how numbers compare as we had the same block 2 years ago pre Thar cull in the Landsbrough. So here's hoping the weather plays the game for us.

We've got some planning to do on the executive regarding the upcoming National Conference in Hamilton and we will keep you updated on the main topic for change if any arise.

The next 2 months are busy on the club hunting calendar. We have the Stewart Island trip Wallaby trip coming up .And Tom ran a successful Thar hunt up Mount Cook area Thanks Tom for the time and effort in organising these trips.

May is a pretty busy month on the farming calendar so i haven't been out at all since Duck Shooting Hopefully your Duck shooting went better than ours we only managed The 1 Duck but on a dry pond that's probably not too bad,we'll be heading back out soon to try again surely after all this rain most ponds will be full.

Until next time Safe hunting and Hot Barrels

Cheers Shaun



### **Editorial**

June and winter is here, we have had the AGM and Branch Trophy Competitions, so another year starts for the Branch. A great time to go for a Tahr hunt I am told?

The Branch Executive has one less members than last year Erin Garrick having unfortunately resigned due to other commitments, a loss she will be missed. Unfortunately no new talent was picked up at the AGM, sad as the Branch is as always in need of new Executive members to give it new ideas.

For once there was great entries in the Antler, Horn, and Tusk competition, great to see, as for the photos around 70 prints entered from eight members. The Topical / Stalking Interest section having most. Perhaps it needs to be split? Some entries should be going forward to Nationals?

A significant number of members are yet to pay their subs and will be getting no more correspondence from the Branch after this newsletter, unless this happens. The question needs to be asked why this loss?

Around 40 members turned up for the AGM which is better than average. But with a total membership of around 600, this is actually not that good.

One of the positives of the last year is that National Office is more active, their monthly newsletters are good. Their performance has improved, I hope this trend continues. The members need to see the NZDA name out there standing up for hunting. It is part of getting value for their subs.

Those who would like to do hunting harm, have a new flag to wave, environmental harm due to the game's CO2 omissions. Anything to turn the public anti-hunting!

Branch Members if hunting is to have a future it is you that have to stand up, in all things you do regarding hunting. Most of the NZDA is run by volunteers we all need to do our bit if it is to work and support hunting.

Doug Gordon

# Results of the Branch Annual Antler Horn And Tusk Competition

Red Deer	1st	Taylor Graham	d/s 235 & 3/8
	2nd	Blake Renton	d/s 230 & 1/2
	3rd	Tom Mead	d/s 189 & 7/8
Fallow	1st	Nigel Hodge	d/s 221 .
	2nd	Nigel Lawson	d/s 201 & 1/2
	3rd	Nigel Hodge	d/s 186 & 5/8
Chamois	1st	Erin Garrick	d/s 28 & 1/4
	2nd	Tom Mead	d/s 26 & 1/4
	3rd	Luke Payne	d/s 25 & 1/4
Thar	1st	Wayne Ashmore	d/s 42
	2nd	Tom Mead	d/s 37 & 3/4
Pig	1st	Tom Hopkirk	d/s 7 & 3/4
	2nd	Tom Hopkirk	d/s 7 & 1/2
	3rd	Wayne Ashmore	d/s 5
Goat	1st	Calab Ashmore	d/s 38 & 1/4
Junior	1st	Mya McKelvie	red d/s 189 & 3/8
	2nd	Riley Mead	red d/s 180 & m1/4
	3rd	Ellie McKelvie	red to score

## Results Branch Photo Competition

Game Animals

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke Payne

Scenic

1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Ashmore 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Douglas Gordon

Other Wildlife

1<sup>st</sup> Luke Payne 2<sup>nd</sup> Douglas Gordon 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke Payne

Topical / Stalking Interest

1<sup>st</sup> Tom Mead 2<sup>nd</sup> David Wiseman 3<sup>rd</sup> Shaun McKelvie

**Sponsors**

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



## Southland Branch Polo Shirts



The following are in stock and available for purchase @ \$35 each

5 x Medium

5 x Large

5 x Xtra Large to arrange payment

5 x XXL

Available at Branch Meeting or by emailing

[enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:info@bcfoods.co.nz) to order or find out more information.

## **Firearms and Fishing Regulations**

Please read the below it applies if some form where ever you go sea fishing and when ever you go hunting regarding leaving firearms unattended and not secured. So think and take corrective actions before something happens, like it or not the world is changing. Take your licence with you.



Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust Admin

Admin · 20 May at 13:05 · 🌐



This report has been compiled in conjunction with Police & MPI.

In May DOC, MPI, Police and RMLT checked 21 hunting blocks, huts, campsites and a number of vessels along the east coast of Rakiura Stewart Island, interacting with over 80 people.

MPI fisheries officers identified some minor issues that are being dealt with. One offence that required clarifying was regarding the blue cod measurable state rule. Blue cod must not be possessed in New Zealand Fisheries waters unless it is in a measurable state (whole, gutted or headed and gutted on Rakiura). Bringing your vessel to a beach/wharf to 'land' and then going back out to fillet blue cod at sea is a breach of the Fisheries (Amateur) Regulations.

Some hunters did not have their physical Firearms Licence on them. You are required to have your Firearms Licence with you when in the possession of a firearm. Isolation is not an excuse.

At one hut (no hunters present) firearms along with bolts and ammunition were in plain sight unsecured, these people have been spoken to.

Police remind hunters to a common-sense approach to security when away from the hut as any boatie/kayaker could visit unknown to firearms owners.

The Hunter Camp Trust provides a steel cable with a padlock for security at its huts on the tramping tracks.

This is an information post. The group is not intended as a means of bagging enforcement agencies. Comments and questions about MPI rules should be sent direct to MPI. Derogatory comments will be deleted.

## **Hyper link to the 2021 report on the Rat control work undertaken at Masons Bay below**

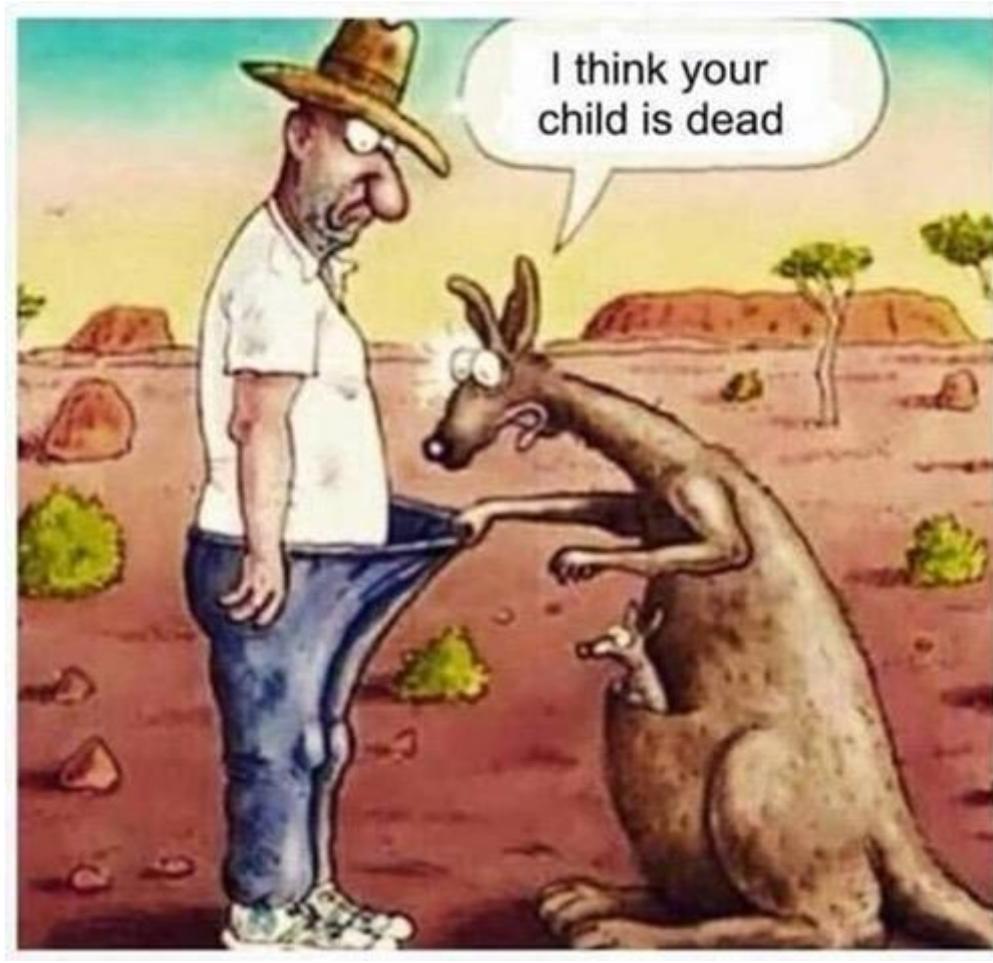
<https://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz/the-project/stories/mason-bay-mahi-supporting-our-predator-free-vision/>

Click on link in first document for the report

JOKES FOR THE MONTH



**When things seem especially rough  
just ask yourself  
"Did I shit my pants today?"  
and if the answer is no,  
you're doing alright.**



## **HUNTING In THE GOLDEN YEARS**

I had to find peace with myself. In my retirement years I wasn't going to spend twelve hours a day wondering the open tops. I could still have success by hunting smarter not harder.

After an hour and half walk in to a DOC hut for a quick rest and a cup of tea it was off to spot x around an hour walk from the hut. Upon reaching my desired hunting area the sun was still high in the sky so the raincoat and black rubbish bag was lay out on the ground making my bed for quick kip Upon waking it was a massive walk of ten feet to the nearest tussock to lean against to hunt hard with my Binoculars. First spied was a large Red deer Stag feeding up after the roar. He never stop feeding for the two hours I kept an eye on him. Though a kilometre away high in the bluffs he was safe from me. Next deer was a hind eight hundred meters away surrounded by impregnate scrub again safe.

The sun had drop below the mountain tops when I saw what I come for right in front of me up on a scrubby face two hundred and twenty eight metres away a red deer hind got on its feet to start feeding. Throwing my day pack on a bush to set up a secure rest for my rifle that's when the comedy happened I got the cramps. I was in full sight of the deer trying to get rid of the cramp without moving isn't easy so after a couple of minutes of rubbing the cramp slowly disappeared. Resting behind the rifle waiting for a clear shot I

could see another hind lying down, ones enough. The shot was true now we all know the hard work begins. No throwing the deer on my back it was off with the back steaks also boning out the back legs for the walk out. What a pleasure it's to hunt now day's good numbers of deer can be found in open river flats slips or just along the bush edge where the grass grows. High quality gear has made it a lot easier for the mature hunters among us. Breathable rain coats reliable scopes comfortable leather boots etc. do get out there.

Michael Ayto

## **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

**Dates: The range is not for casual use but is available for use on the following dates:**

**Currently over the Summer Range is available Sundays ( except over Xmas ) 11am to**

**1pm, 100yards to 200 yards After which there is a NRA style shoot at longer ranges Range fee is \$10.00**

**If you are interested in attending and for further details please first contact**

Andy Nesbit 0215 38676

Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

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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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