

THE SOUTHERN HUNTER



Wattie Smith & Fallow Buck Blue Mts

Southland Branch NZDA News Letter

February 2019

Branch email is: enquiries@southlanddeerstalkers.org.nz

News Letter douglasgordon@xtra.co.nz

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

Meeting Wednesday 20th February 8pm

Executive Meeting 7.00 pm

Guest Speaker Still to be confirmed, will send out a flyer once I know

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 MEMBERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO IT

Club Office Bearers

President: S. Robinson 215 7897 **Vice President:** W.Muir

Secretary A Nesbit : **Treasurer** **Vacant**

Magazine Editor: D. Gordon 216 6383 **Immediate past President** N Dawson 235 8852

Membership R. Phillips (216 3751) **Huts** N Miller

Executive: N. Miller, W. Muir, R. Prinsloo, D Howden, T Smalley, T Mead, S McKelvie

Sub Committees:

Hall S. Robinson,

Young Hunts S. Robinson, N. Dawson.

AGM S. Robinson, D. Howden.

Trophies W. Muir.

Poisons/toxins R. Phillips. Rifle/pistol range D. Gordon.

DOC Liaison R. Phillips, S. Robinson.

Newsletter D. Gordon.

Library S. Robinson.

Club Hunts All executive members.

Guest speakers All executive members, S. Robinson
Areas of interest

S/Island/S. Coast R. Phillips, S. Robinson.

Hokonuis -----

Greenstone/Caples / Blue Mountains N. Dawson.

Fiordland R. Phillips, S. Robinson.

Longwoods R. Phillips.



Presidents Report

Hi All,

Well here we are 2 months into 2019. Hope you all had a great Xmas break and recharged the batteries for the New Year. I wonder what will be in store for us as hunters this year, we know this current conservation minister doesn't appear to be a constructive ally of us hunters and other public land stake holders and interested parties.

With the resounding fire brand and an increasing high fire risk around much of the South Island and the fires in the Nelson region brings home one of the reasons why it is important to have public liability insurance. Full NZDA members have this, which gives us and land owners the peace of mind, provided consent to hunt has been given on that property. If you are an **associate** member, you will need to upgrade to a Full membership this year. The reason being NZDA has been advised by insurance provider that they no longer view those **associate** members as being eligible for the insurance. So please upgrade your membership this year when your account arrives.

The Roar is not that far away, so make those plans as early as possible. Our local Hunting and Fishing store here in Invercargill is well stocked with great products. Gerald and his team have the expertise to point you in the right direction. Support those that support us.

The Branch has access to the Invercargill pistol club for the purpose of sighting in your rifle on Wednesday evening. Check those dates below.

The Southland branch has great assets such as Wapiti Lodge and Red Stag Lodge. These are available to members at a cheaper rate, which are very reasonable, non-members do pay more. Please be respectful when using these huts and leave them in a tidy condition for the next person.

Good luck with your hunting, keep it real and keep it SAFE.

Steve Robinson

New Members Please Welcome them

Benjamin Perkins, Colin McDonough, Gregory Poole, Rhicert Erasmus



Editorial

Christmas means a lot of things to a lot of people. Unfortunately for me it often means writing submissions on various changes that the government and its agencies propose. This year the list included Westland and Mt Cook national parks. One of the big concerns is the increasing visitor numbers and their effect on the environment.

It is proposed that all solid human waste not deposited in approved facilities be carried back out of the park by its producers. This idea has some merit in the high use areas especially in relation to the deposits left next to roads by freedom campers. But is the solution for all deposits as in those left by climbers, trampers and hunters. While trampers and hunters are often able to bury any deposit is left when they are caught short. It is a bit more difficult for climbers. One would not want Mt Cook to become the mess that has been the fate of Everest.

How would hunters feel if the same standards are implemented in Fiordland and Stewart Island? Rubbish needs to be contained and eliminated. The environment is not a waste dump. I have just read a report of rubbish concerns at Lake Waikaremoana in the Urewera's.

Then there is the concerns currently being expressed about plastic (bags). The solution to the above problem may not be very desirable if it increases the use of plastic. Solving one problem is not ideal if it creates another. Faecal matter does decompose. But it must not be left to decompose where it is unsightly or cause health concerns.

How often do you come across a bottle a can or other long standing solid waste when hunting off the beaten track? How long has some of that been there? I have heard that some of the waste collected in some of the early beach clean ups was land filled in the back of some beaches, now to be exposed by erosion.

People's attitude to rubbish has to change not only out there past the black stump but in urban areas also. The amount of broken glass and other rubbish I see on our streets when out for that bike ride to maintain some fitness is shocking. Especially over weekends and holidays. The disposable society has to change.

The problem is obvious the solutions not so obvious, it is a work in progress the solutions need to vary depending on the situation. What may be needed and good at the top of Mt Cook may not be the best at a hunter's camp in the bush.

Doug Gordon

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, names needed, suggestions to Executive

Sponsors

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



MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

SOUTHLAND BRANCH NZDA SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019--2020 YEAR

Subs. are due as from January 1st ,if you have not received an account as yet please E MAIL National Office
membership@deerstalkers.org.nz or phone them on 04-4996163

As the Branch now operates through the centralised membership system ALL new and renewal subscriptions must be made through the national office not the Branch.

Postal payments to NZDA PO BOX12015

Thorndon

WELLINGTON 6144.

Electronic payments to NZDA HQ ACCOUNT

030558-0139562-04...

Please ensure that the correct details are entered when renewing IE name and address on postal and Name and Branch on electronic payments .and the CORRECT BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER IS ENTERED

This reminder is being put out as some members have paid direct to the branch account, as the account is not now checked on a regular basis for membership renewal a time lag will occur before any incorrect payments are picked up, and then forwarded onto Wellington.

For members renewing their memberships just pay to Wellington on the invoice that they send out to you ,DO NOT fill in a new application form as this just leads to a lot of double ups

Notice for members

If you change your address or your contact details like email address you must notify the Branch and the National office.

If we do not have correct contact details how can we keep you informed from the branch, and national office cannot send out membership cards or the magazines, so it is important to have correct Postal as well as Email Addresses.

The Newsletter Editor is sick of chasing people who fail to notify changes of E-mail address, there seems to be new ones most time something is mailed out!!

The Branch e-mail address is on the front page of this newsletter!

Reminder for subscription renewal for the 2019/2020 year

Members please wait until you receive an invoice from National Office and then pay on that, these will come out in Early February,

When paying please quote your invoice number as well as your name and current membership number if possible, This will make it a lot easier for National Office to process your Renewal,

Also if making payment electronically please ensure you pay into the correct account,

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS TO NZDA HQ, ACCOUNT 03-0558-0139562-04,

DO NOT PAY INTO THE BRANCH ACCOUNT

Hut Maintenance

On a Fine Tuesday in Late January I found myself on a day trip to Martins Creek in Masons Bay along with Dave Howden and Ray Philips. Flying "HELI MY WAY" with pilot Dale Green from his base at Orawia.

The purpose of the trip being to replace the nails on the roof of the Rakiura Hunter Camp Trust Martins Creek Hut with screws. The washers on the nails holding the colour steel roofing iron had found to be badly rusted when the hut was inspected at the beginning of the month. They needed to be replaced before the rust spread to the Iron, or worse allowed the Iron to come off the roof. The hut is only ten years old built in 2008. But is exposed to the salt laden sea air in its location. Ray and I were part of the crew that built it at the same time the Homestead Hut was built.



We were soon across the strait and flying down the coast of the Island to land next to the hut. Once the collapsible ladder was extended we were in to it. With the ideal conditions the job only took about an hour. It was thought it could take twice this time, and may have if blowing. As it was the only causality was a fibreglass hammer. With yours truly surprising himself

braking the handle mid shaft so much for old age.

Work finished we enjoyed a picnic lunch of bacon and egg pie and crayfish in the hut.



Martins Creek Hut with new screws

Complements of Ray and Dale. Then it was off home via a visit to the new hut at Little Hellfire (built November 2018). Where we found a party of trampers in residence. They should of / needed to be heading off to Masons Bay if they were to beat the tide at the bluffs at the north end of the beach. Even with the fine weather they had the fire on (must have been doing their bit burning rubbish, hopefully not plastic).

Airborne again we enjoyed the rest of the return flight back all too soon to civilisation.

Doug Gordon

NZ Hunter Adventures

Is Back on TVNZ Duke at 8.30pm Wednesday the 13th

(great to see it on a prime time)

Freeze Dri



Available at a great price to Branch Members Contact Gus
[Ronald gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gus.ronald@xtra.co.nz) 03 213 0351 for a price list

Joke of the Month

FINALLY, equal gender insists it just had to come to this sooner or later!

A blonde man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts: "Did you find the shampoo?"

He answers, "Yes, but I'm not sure what to do... it's for dry hair, and I've just wet mine."

A blonde man spies a letter lying on his doormat.

It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND".

He spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.

A blonde man shouts frantically into the phone, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor.

"No!" he shouts, "this is her husband!"

A blonde man is in jail, the guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.

"Just WHAT are you doing?" he asks.

"Hanging myself," the blonde replies.

"The rope should be around your neck" says the guard.

"I tried that," he replies, "but then I couldn't breathe."

An Italian tourist asks a blonde man: "Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"

To which the blonde man replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

A friend told the blonde man: "Christmas is on a Friday this year."

The blonde man then said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th."

Two blonde men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station.

One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."

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

To use this facility you MUST contact the roistered person in charge no later than the previous Sunday night.

6th February Steve Robinson 027 747 8109

13th February Nathan Dawson 027 235 8063

27th February Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206

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27th March Doug Gordon 03 216 6383/ 027 637 2206

Mason Bay Stewart Island Rat Trapping Summary 2018 year



Since 2006 Southland Branch NZDA has managed a rat trapping program at Homestead block on Mason Bay. We have 315 rat traps set over a series of lines. The aim of the project is to control the rat numbers to give the native birds their best chance of survival over the nesting/fledging period. We also set 14 cat traps.

The traps were all left set in December 2017. The first party check of the traps was in August 2018. They found exactly 100 rats had been caught. Strangely enough, a small number of rats have been recently caught and had not even begun to decompose. We think this is due to the cinnamon based lure we used.

This year all six parties made it safely to Homestead.

Total rats killed was 290 (100 between December 2017 – Aug 2018) The last three of our six parties could only average 14 rats or one rat every 300 trap nights so we must have been having some impact.

Total cats killed = 6

10 Cage traps were set for 37 nights.

4 kill traps were set for 61 nights.

A number of instances were observed where cats had stolen the bait W will look at ways to prevent this happening. Most cats were around the woolshed/airstrip/Hunters line. Interestingly no cats were detected on Big Sandhill line.

Total deer killed = 9 (6 whitetails and 3 red deer.)

Issues

One of the cat cages got lost (it became overgrown with vegetation – but has since been found). Another cage on the airstrip was shifted by a hunting party and took a time to locate. I will get a small sign made up for next year asking hunters not to move the cages.

Traps. This year we bought 10 plastic TR-SNAPR Snap-E® Rat Trap for a trial. One of them lost the catch that holds the spring and the general opinion is we stick with the wooden Victor traps. Gus Ronald has offered to paint new traps to get them to last longer. Over two thirds of the traps now have a roof over them. All have bird proof covers. We will prioritise getting the remainder covered. The chocolate bait goes mouldy between trips but still catches rats. Next season we will use what bait we have on hand and will purchase some GoodNature possum lure which the rats seem to really enjoy.



Cat Kill trap (Brian Winsloe)



Good reports received from most parties regarding bird sightings. Although not a target species all parties reported large numbers of tuis on the blocks. Ie 40 & 50 plus sightings. It is a big year for fuchsia and flax flowers.

Funding thanks to DOC and especially Invercargill Hunting & Fishing store has meant that transport costs were taken care of. JD



Wapiti Lodge, Thicket Burn Hut & Red Stag Lodge Mavora



Red Stag lodge after a good frost

Bookings to Neville & Carol Miller Phone (03)216 8654 email nandc43@gmail.com or 43 Bain St Invercargill

Deposits for any bookings to be received within seven days or bookings will be cancelled.

Please Note the Red Stag Lodge is on Doc land a hunting permit is required to have firearms at the site.