

NZ venison in demand

UNITED States importers cannot get enough New Zealand venison, according to Southland Farmers deer coordinator John South.

Mr South has recently returned from a visit to the US sponsored by Auckland-based venison exporter, Duncan and Co Ltd.

The week-long trip included visits to the processing and packing plant of Duncan's US partner, the Durham Meat Company in San Jose, California, the Durham company's buffalo ranch in Wyoming and an exotic game meat processing company in Denver.

The Durham company was one of the biggest US importers of New Zealand venison, Mr South said.

It also processes and packages to end-user specifications a wide range of game meat such as kangaroo, ostrich, musk-ox, alligator, turtle, boar, rabbit and pheasant.

Products are processed for the US military as well as restaurants and institutions.

"According to Richard Flocchini (a co-president of the company), they can't

get enough of New Zealand venison and they are right behind the Cervena programme," Mr South said.

"But at \$NZ9 a kg, they are starting to get a bit of buyer resistance to New Zealand venison.

"There is also some concern about the continuity of supply," he said.

"But they are well aware of the New Zealand situation and the fact that New Zealand deer farmers are in a herd rebuilding phase and that within two to three years, supply should improve again."

Duncan and Company was able to identify where its venison supply came from and Durham said the most consistent quality product appeared to come out of the lower half of the South Island.

The second company Mr South visited was Denver-based Dales Exotic Game Meats, which also processed game meats to end-user specifications. The range of products included caribou, rabbit, bear, trout, turtle, rattlesnake, buffalo and venison.

The best meat went to the top end of the restaurant trade with the rest going

into specialty smallgoods products for supermarkets and delicatessens.

Three nights were also spent on the Durham company's 22,260ha (55,000 acre) buffalo ranch, which carried 4000 animals. Buffalo not considered suitable for breeding are slaughtered at 16 to 20 months for meat which is sold to restaurants and supermarkets throughout the US.

The entire ranch was ring fenced similar to New Zealand deer farms and split into blocks by New Zealand electric fencing.

Mr South said buffalo ranching was in its infancy in the US — it was on a par with the heady days of the New Zealand deer industry with demand for animals resulting in high sale prices and dry cows sold as a breeding proposition.

Mr South returned home impressed with the US end of the New Zealand venison industry.

"I was pleased to see New Zealand venison being marketed in a positive and well-managed way."

Too few deer killed

HAMILTON — Deer farmers eyeing continuing high prices for venison have held back so many animals from slaughter that the Game Industry Board is worried it will lose markets where it has not been able to maintain supplies.

Board chief executive Rex Moore said although things looked great at this end, consumers and retailers were not happy.

Shortfalls in New Zealand's exports of farm-raised venison had left them unsure whether the product would be available even with diners paying up to \$90 for a top cut in high-class German restaurants and up to \$45 in the United States.

He said the board was getting worried about losing markets where it had not been able to fill demands, and at the same time price rises risked putting people off the product.

The reduced kill had also cut back on the board's levies, leaving less money available for marketing. The board has increased levies on venison and velvet for the 1996-97 season.

Earlier this season, board chairman Richard Riddiford urged deer farmers to slaughter at least 10 percent of stags being kept for antler velvet production to plug the looming gap in venison exports.

In the trade year to 30 September, exporters had hoped to kill 406,000 animals.

But at the end of July, the board calculated only 290,000 would be killed.

Appeals by industry leaders had only limited success. Mr Moore said a total of 307,000 hinds were killed to 30 September, less than three-quarters of the 423,000 the season before.

In total meat exports, the industry shipped 11,700 tonnes of venison this year, well down from last year's 15,000 tonnes.

But the industry made \$220 million in exports from venison, velvet and hides, up from \$211 million last year in spite of a rising foreign exchange rate that eroded returns in New Zealand dollars.

Mr Moore said much of the industry's problem in matching supply to export demand dated back to the 1993 Fortex collapse when many farmers lost confidence in deer and pulled out.

Stud owner Clive Jermy was confident the industry would still look good in a few years when the stock now being bred were sent to the meatworks.

The price might not top this year's schedule but farmers would have more stock to cull. — NZPA

Island hunters want aerial shooting ban

By TINA NIXON

STEWART Island deer hunters want a total ban on commercial aerial shooting of whitetail deer.

The call comes after police started investigating allegations by a hunter that he was nearly shot by a helicopter deer recovery team on Thursday.

Stewart Island Whitetail Club president Martin Pepers said commercial recovery of whitetail deer had far-reaching effects for the island community.

Hunters from throughout the world visited the island to shoot the deer and it was important to the island economy.

Helicopter hunters could ruin hunting on the island, Mr Pepers said.

"It is high time the Department of Conservation changed their attitude to the whitetail herd and regarded them as the asset they are, rather than the pest they (DOC) portray them to be."

Possums were doing far more damage to the island vegetation than deer, he said.

The whitetail deer herd in the Glenorchy area was protected from commercial exploitation and DOC should consider a similar protection for Stewart Island.

DOC believes between 8000 and 10,000 whitetail live on the island and helicopter recovery did not make much impact.

DOC Southland wild animal control officer Peter Willemse said the island could not sustain a deer population of that density. Hunters on the DOC and Maori blocks were killing only about 2000 to 2500 animals a year and two recent helicopter deer recovery operations on the island yielded fewer than 100 deer.

Mr Willemse agreed the possums were a growing problem but said DOC needed more information to develop a strategy to manage all the animal pests on the island, which included the whitetail.

Campbell McManaway, of Riverton, who is involved in a helicopter deer recovery operation on Stewart Island, said they were not making much impact on the whitetail population.

About 50 "fairly runty" deer were recovered in two hunting trips, he said.

Deer-recovery helicopters anger high-country farmers

2/1/97
 BLENHEIM — Marlborough high-country farmers are angered by the number of licences for helicopters to hunt deer in the back country.

The Department of Conservation has issued deer-hunting permits for the Nelson, Marlborough and Kaikoura areas to 16 helicopter operators throughout the country.

Kevin Ryan, of the Leatham Station, said wild deer numbers were low and there was no sense in issuing so many permits.

During farm and muster-

ing work during 12 months, he had seen fewer than a dozen deer.

Mr Ryan said DOC seemed "obsessed with the few deer that remained and seemed hell-bent on trying to exterminate the animals."

He said the department seemed to be influenced by the "extreme loopy green lobby groups" who wanted any introduced animals eradicated.

Mr Ryan said DOC should issue just "one or two" permits to helicopters to operate over a limited season for a limited kill.

Other high-country farmers expressed similar views.

The high activity by helicopters during the spring and early summer is because of deer venturing from cover to feed on new grass growth.

It was also the time when sheep were lambing and cows calving. Helicopters disturbed stock at this critical time, one farmer said.

Bill Lacey, of the Raglan Station, in the upper Wairau Valley, said red deer hinds were carrying fawns or nursing newly born ones.

DOC received \$1200 a heli-

copter for a licence to hunt deer and helicopter operators were required to pay another \$100 every time they flew into another district.

DOC said the fees did not cover the costs in administering the provisions of the Wild Animal Control Act regulations.

Recreational deer hunters are also annoyed at the number of permits.

Deerstalkers' Association Marlborough branch president Snow Hewetson said there was a need for a low controlled number of helicopters operating. — NZPA

Shots fired hunting party

14/1/97
 A SECOND Stewart Island hunting party complained of a helicopter shooting in a block in potentially dangerous circumstances.

Police are investigating a claim by Wairau deer hunter Quintin Quider that he was shot by helicopter hunters at Mason Bay, Stewart Island, on Thursday.

Department of Conservation Stewart Island field centre manager Peter Lowen said another party reported a similar experience on the north-eastern block on the north-eastern side of the island.

In both cases the complainants had permits to be hunting the areas. Helicopter operators are part of their licence to operate over the areas. They were advised of areas where hunters were given permits to shoot on foot, he said.

Senior Constable Bernie Nolan, of the Nelson Bay, said he had spoken to two witnesses in an effort to determine whether a helicopter pilot and the passengers were involved in the incident.

The second complaint was similar to the first in that rifle shots were fired close to the ground on Thursday morning.

Inquiries were centred on a probable breach of the Arms Act and it would be several weeks before any major progress was made.

Investigation launched into shooting incident

By TINA NIXON

13/1/97
 POLICE have launched an investigation into claims by a deer hunter that he was nearly shot by helicopter hunters at Mason Bay, Stewart Island, on Thursday.

Island constable Bernie Nolan said yesterday he was treating the incident very seriously and had launched an immediate investigation.

Quintin Quider, of Whakatane, said the incident had left him so angry he was unlikely ever to hunt on Stewart Island again.

He and a friend, Stephen Loach, of Dunedin, set out from the Homestead hut at Mason Bay for an early morning shoot last Thursday.

Mr Quider said he heard a helicopter approach about 6.45am as he neared a ridge at the Big Sand Pass in the Homestead Block.

It flew over him and then backed up, heading towards the ridge again.

"(It) basically came right at me. (It) wasn't 20m away when someone started shooting, firing four shots in quick succession," Mr Quider said.

He is convinced the helicopter shooter did not see him.

Fearing for his life, he dived for cover under a rotting log and stayed there until the helicopter had gone.

"I was terrified that if the deer they were chasing moved towards me they could have shot me by mistake.

"I was scared to death.

"At one point I thought

"this is it, I am going to get shot."

"I didn't stop shaking for about half an hour."

Meanwhile, Mr Loach also heard the helicopter and the shooting from where he was on the other side of the block.

The helicopter later flew over him while he was hunting in the adjacent Martins Creek block.

Both men are angry about the incident and want to know why the helicopter was shooting in a block which they had booked a year ago with the Conservation Department for their exclusive use.

Apart from the dangers, they said their hunting had been ruined.

Mr Quider said it was obvious a helicopter had been shooting in the area as the hunting was poor in blocks usually noted for a good supply of deer.

He spent more than \$1000 getting to Stewart Island and the whole incident has soured him.

"I won't be coming back but we want to make sure this doesn't ever happen to anyone else and that is why we had laid a complaint with the police about it."

The pair have also complained to DOC.

DOC Stewart Island field centre manager Peter Lowen said he intended calling a meeting of helicopter operators to discuss the incident.

Helicopter operators were informed when ground shooters were in a particular area and were requested not to shoot in the same area, he said.

Hunters want ban on aerial shooting

28/1/97
 TWO deer hunting parties have cancelled trips to Stewart Island because they do not want to compete with helicopter hunters.

Stewart Island ground shooters after the popular White Tail deer say they want helicopter shooting banned or better regulated.

They say the deer are a big drawcard for the island and helicopters can ruin ground shooting.

The calls for an aerial shooting ban follow claims by a ground shooter he was nearly shot by helicopter hunters on Stewart Island on 9 January.

Southern Isles director Herbie Hansen, who flies hunters to the Stewart Island hunting blocks, said he had two cancellations in the past fortnight.

"One guy said he wasn't going to pay \$2000 to come all the way from Auckland (to Stewart Island) if there was a possibility helicopter hunters had been there first," he said.

Mana Charters director Paul Pascoe said the problem had caused some concern among prospective hunters.

"A couple have been concerned — nothing major, but it has made some people nervous," Mr Pascoe said.

Both the Department of Conservation and Rakiura Maori Land Trust issue hunting permits to an estimated 3000 hunters a year.

The Department of Conservation and the land trust issue about 600 permits each a year.

The hunting parties average five shooters.

Conservation Minister Nick Smith said the antics of "a few cowboys" were compromising the reputation of the whole deer-recovery industry.

High prices for feral venison were encouraging illegal and unsafe poaching by some helicopter operators, Mr Smith said.

He was concerned public safety was being compromised by dangerous flying or new helicopter pilots being involved in wild animal recovery work.

There had been a spate of reports from Stewart Island to north-west Nelson and the Gisborne area of pilots poaching areas not covered by access permits, and generally endangering recreational hunters and members of the public, Mr Smith said.

Deer recovery on particular areas of conservation land is licensed under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.

Anyone involved in illegal deer recovery work faced prosecution and fines of up to \$10,000, he said.

DOC was keen to hear of any wild animal recovery activity thought to be illegal or unsafe.

Witnesses should note the time, the make and model of aircraft and if possible, any distinguishing marks on it, he said.

1/2/97 Helicopter operator advised of block

HELICOPTER operator accused shooting dangerously close to a ground hunter at Stewart Island on January was working the area locally, the Southland Conservation Board heard yesterday.

Department of Conservation Southland operations manager Reg Lind told the board police are still investigating the matter with regard to firearms regulations as there was little more DOC could do, other than review procedures.

Several helicopter operators in Southland worked on Stewart Island. The only real restriction to their licence was that they notify the department's field centre manager on the island who told them the blocks grounds hunters were in and asked them not to go there.

In the past, this system had worked well, Mr Lind said.

In this case, the operator phoned the manager before his arrival and was read a list of occupied blocks.

"We know that he was advised that was a block... for some reason

it was not on his list and we've got to take his word for that," Mr Lind said.

The incident has highlighted the need for DOC to clarify its position, he said.

Under the Conservation Management Strategy for Stewart Island, deer eradication was a priority and both types of hunters had a big role to play in achieving that.

The helicopter operator in question had taken out several hundred carcasses in the past, Mr Lind said.

One option was to provide helicopter pilots with a written list of occupied blocks and make them closed to aerial hunting, rather than simply requesting they do not go there, but that would be difficult to enforce.

"The question is: 'Should we be doing it or should we just restrict helicopters to set periods of the year?'" Mr Lind said.

Chairwoman Jan Riddell said the board was interested in knowing the outcome and asked Mr Lind to report back on progress.

1/2/97 Illegal hunting rampant

ILLEGAL flying and poaching by deer-hunting helicopter operators is rampant and needs action, according to the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association.

The venison recovery industry was becoming a "free for all," with rules and ethics tossed out the back door, national vice-president Roger McNaughton said.

He welcomed Conservation Minister Nick Smith's intention to take

stern action against illegal activities by wild animal recovery helicopter operators.

"The Department (of Conservation) entrusted to administer the Wild Animal Control Act is failing in its duty but we are confident the Minister will rectify that," Mr McNaughton said.

Rogue operators were only receiving "a slap with a wet bus ticket," fines were too small and DOC was lethargic, he said.

24/3/97 Hunting as an economic resource

HUNTERS perform the harvesting function as shown by 1988 statistics that 42,174 hunters harvested 240,454 deer, pig, goats, thar and chamois.

They spend annually an estimated \$17,348,000 in carrying out their sport.

To give it a local context, it is estimated \$730,000 is spent by hunters travelling to Stewart Island to hunt the wary whitetailed deer.

Add to this 53,988 gamebird hunters who harvested 736,018 gamebirds for the year 1988 and spend annually some \$7,356,000.

Therefore hunting is an economic resource, generating consumer spending from which regions and the country benefit.

There should be a conscious move to a sound national management plan for wild animals, one that fairly considers the recreational hunting public, the wild animal recovery industry and conservation values.

A sustainable harvest of a managed population would meet the interests of all.

Hunters (deerstalkers, gamebird hunters and anglers too are conservationists at heart and surely see hunting far beyond the quest to kill.

Stories by

ROGER MCNAUGHTON

NZDA vice president

18/2/97 Lessons learned from Chinese industry

By JOANNE MARSHALL

THE Chinese have more knowledge about velvet production than New Zealanders give them credit for, according to entrepreneur Keith Neylon.

Mr Neylon, of Winton, has made several trips to China to uncover tips on velvet production.

Last July, he attended the '96 International Symposium on Deer Science and Deer Products, at Changchun, China.

"For the first time in hundreds of years the Chinese lifted the cloak and said 'we want to be part of the international community'," Mr Neylon said.

"The Chinese have been farming deer since the Yinzhou dynasty (1400BC) and much can be learned from them."

Velvet produced in New Zealand is generally inferior to that produced by the Chinese from the Sika and other deer species, he said.

"We have got a long way to go compared with what the Chinese have achieved."

One Chinese innovation Mr Neylon has been quick to pick up on is wintering deer in feedlots (indoor and outdoor).

Mr Neylon's farms carry about 12,500 head of deer, about 6000 store lambs and 300 cattle. About 4000 head of deer were wintered in feedlots last year — 2400 inside and 1600 outside. This year Mr Neylon expects to increase that number to about 6400.

"This system allows us to take the stock off the paddocks for three months of the Southland winter. They're relaxed and comfortable while on the pad and there's no mud or slush underfoot," he said.



Keith Neylon, of Winton, putting into practise the knowledge he has gained from China about deerfarming.

The deer self-feed on silage in the lots during the winter months and for much of the remainder of the year are left to their own devices.

"We don't interfere. They've had a couple of thousand years on their own and we don't handle them unless we have to," he said.

"Velvet production in New Zealand has a bright future and deerfarmers must ensure they have the knowledge necessary to provide a product the market wants."

The antler is one of the East's "treasures" and like other deer products, is extensively processed and compounded into Chinese medicines and tonics.

"All deer byproducts are aimed at the Asian market and yet very few deer farmers know what the end products, other than aphrodisiacs, are used for," Mr Neylon said.

"We just do not have that knowledge base of herbal medicines.

"We are a sunrise industry and all that will take time. We are not that expert and we still have a lot to learn.

"But the more we understand about our product the better our chances are of diversifying our markets.

"The numbers of Asians and their use of traditional medicines bode well for the velvet industry."

Safety is paramount ^{24/3/97}

A TRAGIC series of hunting accidents in New Zealand continues to happen each year.

The shootings are almost invariably caused by a lack of care with firearms or hunters failing to positively identify targets.

Regardless of the type of hunting, there is an absolute that hunters should positively identify their targets.

Hunters can be better seen by wearing bright-coloured clothing. But regardless of what the hunter wears it is less important than their adherence to basic rules of safety.

If a hunter positively identifies his target — not just that it is an animal but what part of the animal he is aiming at so that the animal will be killed cleanly and not wounded — then no one would be shot.

There is no substitute for the responsibility of a hunter to positively identify their target.



A white tail buck at Toi Toi Flat on Stewart Island.

Photo: NZDA member John Murray

Seven rules for safety

1. Treat every firearm as loaded
2. Always point a firearm in a safe direction.
3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire.
4. Identify your target.
5. Check your firing zone.
6. Store firearms and ammunition safely.
7. Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms.

Hunting has a role in game management

WHY do people hunt?

It's an oft-asked question which can cause heated debate.

Is the urge to hunt a throwback to some primaeval urge? I don't believe it is and nor do the vast majority of the deerstalkers who will be soon entering our mountains this autumn for the roar or those duck hunters who will take to their maimais this May. Hunting has a much deeper meaning to the

individual. It is certainly not for the enjoyment of killing although the taking of a deer or duck is important.

There is a deeper satisfaction in the challenge before the trigger is squeezed and in being there in the mountains, bush or by the wet lands.

Hunters have a role to play in the management of wild animals and game bird populations.

Hunters are in essence harvesters, cropping the renewable populations.

Hunting, therefore has an important place and hunters can perform the harvesting function with a code of ethics foremost.

However, the responsibility for ethical hunting standards lies with the individual.

Aldo Leopold, noted American

conservationist, summed it up neatly in his book *The Sand Country Almanac* when he wrote:

"A peculiar virtue in wildlife ethics is that the hunter ordinarily has no gallery to applaud or disapprove of his or her conduct. Whatever his act, they are dictated by his own conscience rather than a mob of onlookers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this fact."

4 Thursday, March 27, 1997

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Deerhunters angry

By PAUL FOCAMP

A SOUTHLAND man is angry helicopter operators are permitted to hunt deer in areas occupied by balloted deerstalkers.

But the Department of Conservation maintains the risk of an accident is almost non-existent.

Colin Ferguson, of Edendale, and Keith Whitson, of Wyndham, cut short their hunting trip in the Catlins Forest at 7am on Tuesday when a helicopter flew in near the pair and picked up three deer that had been shot earlier. The incident occurred near Mokoreta on the second day of the four days the pair were permitted to hunt in the area.

While there was no danger during the incident, as no shots were fired, Mr Ferguson said the pair decided to cut short their hunting trip because they felt it unsafe to continue when commercial operators in helicopters were hunting in the same areas.

Mr Ferguson was aghast when he learned the helicopter pilot was permitted to hunt at the same time as he and Mr Whitson.

"It's stupid. Someone will be shot one of these days."

Otago acting regional conservator Ian Whitwell said an accident was unlikely as helicopter operators got close to their targets before shooting.

They used shotguns and had to score a direct hit on the deer's head to prevent

ruining the meat on the carcass.

As the operators could shoot only downwards and not sideways out of a helicopter, they could hunt deer only in open spaces and not the bush occupied by hunters, Mr Whitwell said.

During the first two weeks of April, helicopter operators were asked to keep away from main tracks as this was the period of the roar, a popular time for deerstalkers.

The department's policy had been in place for some years and Mr Whitwell said he was not aware of any accidents or close-calls.

It was impractical to ask helicopter pilots to avoid balloted areas because they were small and difficult to differentiate from stalker-free areas, he said.

Deer being dumped ^{24/4/97}

OAMARU — Deer carcasses being dumped on the roadside in the Omarama area of the South Island high country could be farm animals which have tested positive for bovine tuberculosis, Transit New Zealand says.

The deer — including one found with an ear tag — have come from farms in the area and are an illegal health hazard, the roading agency said. — NZPA

Silent killer that stalks deer herds

By John Stirling

Johne's disease is an insidious killer that does not show its hand until the game is won.

Johne's is prevalent in cattle, sheep, goats and deer. The first signs are scouring and rapid loss of weight. Although the disease is picked up when the animal is young in cattle and sheep, the clinical stage is usually two to four years later.

There is no cure for Johnes and tests to identify animals with the disease are still less than adequate. While there is a vaccine that will significantly reduce clinical Johnes, it will not prevent infection, according to Dr Colin Mackintosh, senior research scientist with AgResearch's Invermay deer unit.

He said cattle and sheep had different strains of Johnes and it seemed deer were susceptible to both. Johnes was only confirmed as a disease in farmed deer in the 1980s and it seemed likely to have been picked up from cattle and sheep which had been grazing on the same pastures.

Johne's in deer appeared to follow a different pattern to the disease in cattle and sheep, where the clinical stage was in adult animals. Deer had been known to go down with the disease as young as eight months. At this stage the numbers of properties with infected deer herds was not great, but was increasing rapidly.

The numbers of newly-infected herds between 1992 and 1997 went from four to 40. The majority of cases were discovered at processing works, where Johnes lesions resembled those of both avian and bovine Tb. While unaffected venison from deer with Tb can only go to local markets, meat from animals with Johnes (or avian Tb), where lesions were contained in the abdominal cavity and not the carcass, could be exported as there was no zoonotic risk.

Dr Mackintosh said Johnes, or *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, affected the section of the rumen

where the small intestine joined the large intestine. The infection caused a swelling that resulted in a loss of function and a reduction in food absorption, causing wasting and death.

Johne's was often mistakenly seen by farmers as a form of parasitism and treated accordingly. Unfortunately, by the clinical stage, the disease was being spread through the animal's faeces.

In recent outbreaks of Johnes on deer farms there were mortality rates of up to 12%. The properties had histories of sheep or cattle grazing. With the high prevalence of Johnes in sheep flocks and dairy herds (up to 25%) and the increasing numbers in beef cattle herds, there was an inevitable risk to the deer industry.

The numbers of Johnes infections being identified at deer slaughter premises suggested many clinical cases on farms were undiagnosed or not reported.

The difficulty with the disease was finding a test that identified animals in the sub-clinical stage and developing a more effective vaccine. The present cattle-sheep vaccine was not licensed for deer.

Dr Mackintosh said control or eradication depended on harsh actions, such as depopulation for two years, an Australian technique. The difficulty was restocking with deer guaranteed to be free from the disease. Prompt isolation and slaughter of all clinically affected animals was also necessary.

Preventive actions would include not grazing cattle and sheep on deer farms, maintaining a closed herd and testing all sire stags to ensure freedom from Johnes. Weaners bought in for finishing should be kept on a "quarantine" section of the farm.

At Invermay's deer unit research was under way to find or develop a reliable test to identify sub-clinical conditions. There was also research on diagnostic work, funded by Meat NZ.

Deer

3/3/97

Stephen Paul Ryan, 33, meat worker, of Lumsden, and Glen Donald Woodford, 20, meat worker, of Mossburn, were each convicted of theft and ordered to pay reparation of \$175 after admitting shooting a penned deer on April 7 at Piano Flat.

Counsel Bill Dawkins said the men were on a week-long hunting holiday in the area. They were stalking the deer when it walked into a deer trap on a farm adjacent to the Department of Conservation bush.

They backed away at that point and continued hunting, coming back later in the day.

"They could not resist it and one of the defendants shot it twice."

The men then dragged the animal out of the pen, unaware they were being watched through binoculars, Mr Dawkins said.

Hunter visits south

24/3/97

ONE of the most experienced hunters in the world spent some time in the south recently.

Erwin Himmelesher, 78, of Cologne, Germany, came to New Zealand specifically to take a trophy red stag in Eastern Southland.

Mr Himmelesher, who has his own worldwide insurance company, said it was the second time he had been to New Zealand. He had previously gone on a tahr hunt at Lilybank Lodge, near Lake Tekapo. This time he was a guest at the lodge again.

The stag is yet to be measured but is likely to be the world No 3 or 4 trophy animal in the Safari Club International ratings.

Mr Himmelesher has been hunting for about 35 years and has hunted most places in the world, but he finds New Zealand "so

beautiful and the people so friendly."

"There's not a country that offers hunting that I haven't been to."

"There's not much I haven't done in hunting."

Mr Himmelesher is purely a trophy hunter and the second floor of his home in Cologne is a trophy museum.

He did not hunt for the sake of killing, rather, he helped nature balance itself as he only took older developed animals, he said.

"I'd like hunters to know the trophies at Lilybank are the best I've seen and shot, and I mean what I say."

Mr Himmelesher was travelling in the south with well-known Fiordland flyfishing guide Fred Olde-Olthof, who translated for him as he did not speak English.

Investigation into chopper landing begins

4/4/97

THE Department of Conservation has launched an investigation after a helicopter landed on Codfish Island with live deer on board on March 28.

At yesterday's Southland Conservation Board, meeting District Conservator Lou Sanson said the incident was being treated very seriously.

Codfish Island, classified as a nature reserve, is home to the Kakapo breeding programme, rare short-tail bats and a host of endangered or rare birds.

If the helicopter pilot was found to have acted illegally, the department would consider prosecution, Mr Sanson said.

But if it was found the helicopter pilot had acted within the law then the department would investigate ways to change the law to ensure it did not happen again.

The helicopter was a Robinson.

The Rakiura Maori Land Trust is also investigating allegations a Robinson helicopter took live deer from the privately owned Maori hunting blocks in Lords River on Stewart Island on March 5 or 6.

Trust chairman Rewi Anglem said the only income the trust gained from its land was from hunting permits.

"We take a dim view of any helicopter operators taking live deer from the blocks," Mr Anglem said.

The trust was concerned the chance of hunters shooting a deer would be diminished if helicopter operators poached the area.

"Our blocks are recognised as some of the best white tail deer hunting country in the world and we don't want to jeopardise that."

The trust was looking at issuing a trespass notice against the helicopter operator involved and was also liaising with the police, he said.



To celebrate deer

THE people of Mossburn will stake their claim as the deer capital of New Zealand this Saturday with a festival to celebrate the role the animal plays in their community.

Mossburn Community Development Area and the Mossburn Lions Club have planned the event to coincide with the Celebration of Southland '98 programme.

The theme of the celebration event focuses on the deer industry but is also designed to show the people of Southland what the district has to offer — hunting, fishing, four-wheel-drive and back country adventures.

Back in 1960 the venison processing industry was launched in Mossburn when Irish immigrant Pat Kilgariff and his business partner Ted Thomas processed venison for export to West Germany.

Live deer recovery and deer farming were pioneered in the district and Kilgariff's wife Maria started manufacturing products

made from the suede skins of deer, in partnership with Joan Allison at Wapiti Handcrafts.

The town's major employer, the PPCS's modern venison plant still exports products worldwide; there's an abundance of red deer available to recreational hunters in the surrounding hills; the red deer statue on the main street is the subject of much interest from tourists and visitors to the area and a large number of red deer and Wapiti herds are still farmed in the area.

It is for this reason the people of Mossburn proudly lay claim to living in the Deer Capital of New Zealand and they invite everyone to join them in the festival celebrations in town this Saturday. Bring a 4WD vehicle and join the safari to West Dome Station; take a bus tour around two local deer farms or watch the deer-related activities overhead or on the ground.

Mossburn Deer Festival

April 4, 1998

PROGRAMME

- 1pm At the Mossburn Community Centre there will be displays featuring the deer industry past and present
- 1.30pm GWD Toyota 4x4 Safari leaves for West Dome Station — one of New Zealand's first deer farms. Anyone can join at a cost of \$15 per vehicle.
A helicopter display will feature past and present methods of deer recovery.
Join a bus tour to two well-known Mossburn deer farms — Glenfiddich and Edmonds Elk Stud. Cost \$2 per person.
There will be a full commentary on both the bus tour and the 4WD safari.
Afternoon entertainment includes:
Helicopter joy rides and displays
Displays from the Southland Deer Farmers Association
A video screening and display of Sir Tim Wallis's early deer recovery adventures. Sir Tim and Lady Wallis will be guests of honour at the festival.
- 4pm The safari and bus tours return.
The Community Centre features:
Venison tasting with chefs from Ascot Park Hotel, in conjunction with Corban's Wines.
Isla Bank Butchery barbecue
Family entertainment
- 4.30pm Flying display from the Wanaka Warbirds
- 6.30pm Wapiti Leathers fashion parade at the Community Centre
- 7pm Airspread South Stag Roar contest
- 7.30pm Sponsors auction.
- 5pm The Gore Country Music Club entertain guests into the night at the day's final event The Hands of Fame concert.

Television and radio personality Jim Hopkins will chair the day's events, which all have free entry — apart from the 4WD and bus tours.

Thanks . . .

FESTIVAL organisers wish to thank the following sponsors: Foveaux Radio, Newstalk ZB, Mercury TV, PPCS, GWDs, Lumsden Motel, Sono Sound System, Ascot Park Hotel, Corban's Wines, Duncan and Co, Isla Bank Butchery, Airspread South and Wapiti Leathers.

Research career richly rewarding

By John Stirling

While he enjoyed being a veterinarian, it was the taste of research work in Britain that brought Dr Colin Mackintosh back to Massey University and a PhD.

He said among the research work he undertook in Britain was study of leptospirosis and bovine Tb in wildlife. An important part of that project was research on Tb in badgers. His PhD research at Massey concentrated on developing a vaccine for humans for immunity against leptospirosis.

In the late 1970s, the disease affected between 400 and 500 people each year. It was a debilitation that generally affected people

working with dairy cows or pigs. It could take between six months and a year for recovery. The need for a vaccine was fully appreciated by the ACC, which funded Dr Mackintosh's PhD.

The result was a vaccine that had drastically reduced the numbers affected by leptospirosis.

As a young veterinarian in the early 1970s, Dr Colin Mackintosh spent two years in New Zealand before heading off overseas. He worked as a locum in Australia before heading on to Britain, where he worked in the English Central Veterinary Laboratory. In the late 1970s, he returned to Massey. With his fresh PhD



Colin Mackintosh

he set off in 1981 for a position in the Invermay deer unit.

At Invermay, he started research that would develop a yersiniosis vaccine, joining forces with Dr Frank Griffin, an immunologist with the University of Otago. It was a collaboration that was to reshape the direction of bovine Tb control.

He was involved with the development of Xylazine, the drug that reversed the effects of Rompun (used to anaesthetise deer for vetting). Instead of deer lying semi-conscious for long periods, a shot of Xylazine got them up and away in two minutes.

Parasitic problems and

mineral deficiencies in deer were also researched. The Invermay deer unit developed deer-specific products, such as Parapox for scabby lesions on velvet.

Dr Mackintosh was involved with Tb control for more than a decade, setting up the pioneering experimental Tb-infected deer farm at Table Hill in 1990.

The deer industry had become an important focus in his career. He was the founding member of the NZ Veterinary Association Deer Branch, which began in 1984. His career took him overseas and made him aware Invermay was far ahead in deer research.

"I can't think of a better place to be. It's exciting, stimulating and we've had more than our share of successful research results."

Hundreds attend first deer festival

MOSSBURN laid claim to being the deer capital of New Zealand with the inaugural deer festival in the Northern Southland town on Saturday.

Events included a deer recovery demonstration using a helicopter and a net gun, a four-wheel-drive safari to three deer farms, a fashion parade by Wapiti Leathers, a stag roar and a film presentation of deer and aviation icon Sir Tim Wallis' past exploits.

The festival was based at the Mossburn Community Centre.

Television personality Jim Hopkins played the raconteur while 98 4WD vehicles checked out the stock and territory on West Dome Station, the first deer farm in New Zealand, Peter Swann's Glenfiddich property and the Elk Stud owned by Dave and Dean Edmonds.

A Wanaka Warbird P51 Mustang flew over, adding to the buzz of helicopters.

Guest of honour Sir Tim said he enjoyed the early days of hunting deer from helicopter.

"People would ask me, 'Tim must have been dangerous'.

"Me, I never thought it was. It was a challenge."

Deer farming had grown since then and while deer markets were struggling in Korea, venison was popular throughout the world and should make a comeback, he said.

Festival convener for Mossburn Lions Brian Hayman said more than 1000 people attended and the day was a success.

It could become a biennial event, Mr Hayman said.



Wade O'Kane, nine, of Mossburn, checks out a Wapiti-cross trophy at the deer festival on Saturday. The stag was shot by Tim Healy at Deadwood Lagoon, Fiordland, in 1950.

Picture: CHRISTINE MCKENZIE



Johne's disease in deer herds is increasing and is characterised by animals losing weight and eventually dying. The condition of the animals above typifies the disease.

Deer introduction draws protest

BY JAN LUDEMANN

TE ANAU — Nearly 50 farmers stood their ground at The Key yesterday to stop trucks carting deer into the Te Anau basin from a Tb-suspect region at Motu, in Western Southland.

New Zealand Deer Farms Ltd was carting the deer to its new property in the basin, Burwood Station.

The protesting farmers said the consignment of deer from a suspect area could threaten their livelihood.

Te Anau farmer Chris Hughes said the Te Anau Basin was an acknowledged Tb-free area.

All the farmers in the basin had signed an accord to ensure no

4/8/98
deer or cattle were brought into the region from Tb-suspect areas.

Yesterday, the farmers stood in the way of 17 stock trucks in protest at a breach of the accord.

Russell McClean, of Tower Peaks Station, said NZ Deer Farms was not breaking the law but was not being socially responsible by its attitude.

New Zealand Deer Farmers Association Fiordland branch chairman Russel McDonald said his association supported moves by the Te Anau Pest Advisory Group to maintain the Tb-free status.

"It would have a big impact on farmers' livelihood (in the basin) and eventually could impact on access to world markets if Tb is

not seen to be controlled in New Zealand," Mr McDonald said.

The protesting farmers were angry their efforts to keep the Te Anau Basin Tb-free were being ignored.

The Key farmer James Macdonald, of Davaar Station, said if they sat back and let this happen, it would send signals to other farmers waiting to bring in stock from Tb-infected areas.

New Zealand Deer Farms general manager Jazz Hewitson said from Dunedin his company had complied totally with MAF regulations and the deer moved yesterday were not infected with Tb.

In accordance with regulations, all deer had been tested before being transported.

Mr Hewitson that said he was concerned a group of farmers had taken it upon themselves to stop the legal movement of live-stock.

MAF Quality Management district manager Brian Butcher would not comment yesterday.

Southland Regional Animal Health Committee chairman Lindsay Wards said it was disappointing stock was being moved from an at-risk area after the enormous effort Te Anau farmers had put into establishing a Tb-free status.

Sergeant Lloyd Matheson, of Te Anau, said no one was arrested yesterday. The farmers let the trucks through after their brief protest.



Farmers block the road at The Key yesterday to stop 17 truck and trailer units from carting deer into the Te Anau basin. They eventually let the trucks through to Burwood Station, which is owned by New Zealand Deer Farms Ltd.

Picture: JAN LUDEMANN

Venison plant advertising for staff

By NATASHA HOLLAND

16/9/98
MAIR Venison is advertising for staff only weeks after the entire workforce was laid off at the Kennington plant.

Nineteen permanent staff and 10 casual and semi-casual workers were affected by the closure last month.

Mair Venison started advertising for venison processing staff two days ago and applications close tomorrow.

Mair Venison chief executive Michael Rice said the plant would reopen next month.

He would not confirm if staff made redundant would be re-employed.

The exact number of staff the company want to employ was not known last night.

Mr Rice said the plant closure was forced on the company after an industrial dispute.

The interim closure period would be used to assess the plant's entire operation structure, he said.

Mr Rice declined to say how much the plant closure had cost the company in redundancies or lost business.

Otago-Southland Meat Workers' Union secretary Gary Davis said his telephone was ringing hot from confused ex-employees of the plant.

"They see their jobs being advertised and they have no idea what the company is up to," Mr Davis said.

Attempts to contact Mr Rice had proved futile during the past two days, he said.

News of the closure, last month, had astounded union officials and workers alike, Mr Davis said.

The union, workers and management were in the middle of negotiations when the company decided to make everyone redundant and close the plant, he said.

Since the plant was closed, Southland deer has been sent to a processing plant in Hokitika.

MAF moves to refine feral meat standards

4/2/99
WELLINGTON — Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) officials are looking at restricting the harvesting of feral game meats to accredited hunters.

They are also considering a ban on public access to a popular poison, heavily used for possums and rats.

The plans were discussed yesterday in a meeting at MAF's head office with representatives of the nation's six processors of feral deer.

Improved surveillance of the wild meat industry has shown low levels of 1080 poison in a feral deer carcass processed for meat, and in another deer carcass, thought to have been contaminated when carried on a vehicle previously used to spread 1080 poison.

As a result, MAF is moving to refine industry standards.

MAF criteria for licensed processors of game require declarations from landowners and hunters that deer have not been taken from areas where poisons are laid, or within a 2km buffer zone around those areas.

Hunters have also been required to take account of other factors such as bad weather or hunting pressure that might push deer out of a poisoned area into their hunting zone.

The maximum residue limit under food regulations is one part per billion. — NZPA

Man fined \$12,500 for shooting deer

23/8/99
A Central North Island hunter has been fined \$12,500 for shooting three red deer stags worth an estimated \$46,000.

Mark Quentin Sargent, 37, of Taupo, was convicted in the Taumarunui District Court last week on three charges of theft along with counts of trespass, possession of a firearm with criminal intent, and unlawful possession of a firearm. Sargent pleaded not guilty to shooting the deer on Puketawa Station near National Park on April 13. —NZPA

Council to kill ferrets after deer Tb case

22/5/99
By ROSEMARIE NORTH

THE Southland Regional Council is to carry out an urgent ferret-killing programme on Lumsden Hill after a deer was found with bovine tuberculosis in February.

Traps would start being laid next week over the 12,000ha area because ferrets would not take meat in traps over winter, council biosecurity officer Richard Bowman said yesterday.

It had taken months to decide to act after the hind was found in February on a farm north of Lumsden with the symptoms of Tb when it was slaughtered.

"When an animal is found the samples are sent off to labs to make sure it's Tb," Mr Bowman said.

"Then AgriQuality New Zealand have to go into the herd and find out where the animal could have contracted the disease. It's possible it could

have been brought into the herd by sale."

Ruling out non-feral sources of the disease was important because trapping and poisoning was expensive — in this case \$36,000. But outbreaks of Tb could put New Zealand's \$5 billion a year trade at risk, he said.

This new Lumsden Hill operation would cover extensive riverbed areas along the Oreti River and the Acton, Irthing and Cromel Streams.

Ferrets would be targeted with traps first, the bodies would be examined and then possums would be poisoned.

The operation would create a 3km to 5km buffer zone around the affected farm and join up with the 27,000ha Tomogalak feral animal control area to the east.

The regional council is to pay 25 percent of the cost and the Animal Health Board the rest.

Farmer recalls deer farming's early days

14/4/00
By JOHN CUTT

DEER farming's early years were exciting and challenging times and Southland Deer Farmers' Association's first chairman Peter Ryan, of Gladfield, was in the thick of the action.

Southland deer farmers began flexing their political muscles in mid-1973 — well before the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association (NZDFA) was formed.

Two meetings were held at Mr Ryan's Gladfield home to decide what action they could take to stop the Forest Service from destroying Wapiti found on farms.

At that time it was illegal to keep captured feral Wapiti behind wire, Mr Ryan said.

About 12 farmers who attended those meetings delegated Mr Ryan, Otautau veterinarian Daryl Marshall and Rob Brookes to lobby Members of Parliament Aubrey Begg and Brian Talboys to stop the planned Forest Service action.

A meeting with Agriculture Minister Colin Moyle followed and secured the legalisation of farming Wapiti.

"I attended annual meetings (of the NZDFA) but nothing was co-ordinated," Mr Ryan said.

All changed in 1980 when NZDFA treasurer Rob Brookes and Bernard Pinney, of Dunrobin Station, suggested an informal meeting at the end of the Southland Farmers inaugural deer sale at its Rosedale Selling complex at Tussock Creek.

That meeting elected Mr Ryan — who was at that time an NZDFA council member — as the Southland founding chairman, Herby Whyte as secretary and John Cowie, treasurer.

The new branch held its first field-day at Federated Farmers in Forth Street in August 1981 followed by a visit to the Southland Phosphate Company's deer farm at Awarua.

The Southland A and P Association granted space in the Centennial Hall for a deer farming display in the same year.

A discussion between Mr Ryan and the then Wilson Neill marketing manager John Scandrett at the show led to the first national deer velvet competition being held at the show the next year.

Since then the competition has evolved into New Zealand's premier deer velvet event.

"It's become a real showcase for the deer industry," Mr Ryan said.

"Northern people are jealous of us having it here but they don't have the expertise to run it as we do."

In more recent years the Southland branch had organised a Deer Farmer of the Year competition which was also becoming a showcase for Southland deer farming, Mr Ryan said.

Mr Ryan credited Rob Brookes and Southland Farmers general manager Russell Cull as pioneering the farmed venison industry in New Zealand.

Until Mr Brookes had set up a mobile slaughter facility, which he took from the Lilburn Valley throughout the South Island, only feral venison had been marketed overseas, Mr Ryan said.

Mr Cull had found the markets for the farm-raised venison.

Major issues deer farmers had to tackle in the early days included bovine Tb and the introduction of livestock tax.

Deer farmers had led the opposition to the proposal by the Finance Minister Roger Douglas to impose a tax based on the market value of livestock.

THE New Zealand deer industry contributed more than \$200 million to the New Zealand economy in the 12 months ended December last year.

Figures compiled by Statistics New Zealand and released by the Game Industry Board show:

- Venison production 17.3 million kilograms, valued at \$161.2 million.
- Velvet 169,285kg, value \$25.5 million.
- Hides 567,106, value \$6.4 million.
- Co-products 1.4 million kg, value \$12 million.
- Leather 101,443 square metres, value \$5 million.
- Live exports 32 animals, value \$65,568.



PETER RYAN

Intense lobbying achieved a three-year holding period and a modification to the scheme.

"The tax caused a great deal of uncertainty and caused deer prices to tumble."

An estimated \$45 million of Southland deer farmers' equity in their stock was wiped off, Mr Ryan said.

"A few farmers went to the wall and many investors lost heavily. It was a bit like a sharemarket crash.

"The tax made

animals virtually unsaleable and no banks would lend money on stock."

But in the end the tax took the heat out of the live sales market and put the industry on a sounder more market-related basis.

"I went into deer because I wasn't satisfied with the returns we were getting for lamb and wool" Mr Ryan said.

"I've enjoyed everything I've done. But looking back I should have pulled out the sheep fences a lot earlier than I did."

Mr Ryan is looking forward to attending the 25th anniversary conference of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association in Queenstown next month and meeting people he hasn't seen "for a year or two."

Deer industry experiences strong growth and returns

THE Deer Industry's 25th conference in Queenstown last week was a big success.

The industry is enjoying a period of strong confidence and growth with industry export earnings up 6 percent, farm-gate venison returns up by almost 20 percent and velvet prices having almost trebled since last year's record low.

Demand from the industry's major venison market, Germany, is strong and the Korean economy and market for velvet has recovered strongly.

The conference showed a maturing industry leading the world in areas of production, quality and animal

welfare systems and venison and velvet market development.

However, orderly growth and stable supply remain challenges for the industry.

Guest speakers during the Game Industry Board's formal meeting included Hamish Carter, who talked about the benefits he gets from taking deer velvet, and Sarah Kennedy, from Healtheries of NZ Ltd, who provided a manufacturer's perspective on velvet's potential in the global marketplace.

A keynote paper from European food industry specialist Tom Steele was also presented at the meeting

outlining recent developments and the potential for venison in European retail and food service markets.

Board chairman Clive Jermy said the board had completed a wide range of comprehensive reforms to its structures, programmes and operational philosophies.

A core five-year strategic plan was released at conference.

The proactive and dynamic spirit of the industry was in good heart and well positioned to meet the challenges that sustained growth presents for the future, he said.

Board chief executive Col-

lier Isaacs said the industry needed to manage growth.

The industry had a history of volatility that needed to be addressed to ensure sustainable profitable growth.

While farmers had limited control over industry growth, target guidelines of 10 percent growth in hinds and 5 percent growth in stag numbers were developed to balance supply and demand.

Deer Farmers' Association president David Stevens said based on industry consultation, farmers were supportive of industry research activities.

Farmed deer receive livestock status

FARMED deer now have the same legal status as other farm livestock.

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association general manager Owen Jacobson told delegates at the association's 25th jubilee conference in Queenstown last week that the Government had

granted farmed deer similar ownership status to cattle, sheep and pigs last month.

Any farmed deer outside a farm boundary remains the property of the owner provided the animal is identified by ear tags approved under section 50 of the Biosecurity Act.

There had been occasions when neighbours or passers-by had shot valuable stud animals under the pretext that they were feral (wild) animals, Mr Jacobson said.

The move was good news for deer farmers, he said.

Rowallan Investments buys up South Island venison company

DUNEDIN — A Dunedin company connected to the country's biggest deer farmer has bought Mair Venison, New Zealand's largest specialist venison processing and marketing company.

Rowallan Investments, a privately owned investment company with connections to New Zealand Deer Farms owned by Dunedin businessman Howard Paterson, announced yesterday it had bought Mair Venison from Richina Pacific for more than \$13.5 million.

Christchurch-based Mair Venison is New Zealand's biggest specialist venison processor and marketer, operating processing plants at Kennington, near Invercargill, Hokitika and Rotorua.

Last year it had turnover of \$43 million and a profit before tax and interest of \$4 million.

Mair chief executive Michael Rice said the company had about 20 percent of the venison market and was sold as a going concern.

New Zealand Deer Farms owns several South Island properties, running about 55,000 animals and killing an estimated 8000 animals a year.

Richina Pacific chairman Sir Allan Wright said there were obvious synergies between NZDF and Mair Venison.

"I feel New Zealand Deer Farms will be enhanced as a source of supply for the Mair group," he said.

It was the right time to sell, with the deer industry buoyed by high venison prices, strong overseas demand and the number of farmed animals rising from 1.3 million to 2.3 million in the past eight years and continuing to increase.

Statistics released by the Game Industry Board showed venison exports of \$221 million hit record levels last year, with velvet contributing \$39 million.

Sir Allan said Mair did not fit the company's core business of construction, property development and semi-

processing of leather and was not performing to the expectations of its majority offshore owners.

Last year the subsidiary increased revenue by 27 percent to \$43 million, increasing its contribution to the group surplus from \$233,000 to \$4 million.

It came into the Richina fold about six years ago when Mainzeal took a majority stake in Mair Astley.

Mair started business in 1960 and was one of the original exporters of feral venison.

Sir Allan said the final price for the subsidiary would include a premium over its book value which would be determined once inventory had taken place.

The purchase means two of the country's key venison processors will be controlled from Dunedin, with PPCS, a multi-species processor and marketer, considered the country's largest venison operator. — NZPA

Venison sales 24/7/2001 record \$291m

IT has been a record year for deer export earnings, the Game Industry Board said.

Board chairman Clive Jermy said total exports for the year to May reached \$291.8 million — 36 percent more than the previous year.

Venison exports were a record \$226.2 million (up 44 percent) and velvet exports \$36.4 million (up 9 percent).

Co-product exports were down slightly at \$13.5 million but hides and leather earnings were up 43 percent at \$15.6 million.

The main reason for improved venison export returns was the continued strong demand that extended past the traditional end of the European game season, caused in part by BSE and foot and mouth disease in Europe.

From the start of January until the end of May venison

earned \$112.7 million, 93 percent more than last year.

The gains for the industry also reflected the collaboration of all exporters and their market partners in promoting New Zealand venison as part of the industry's European demand creation programme, now two years old, Mr Jermy said.

Strong venison export results were also reflected in farmgate returns.

Board chief executive officer MJ Loza said that the average schedule of about \$9.20 was a record and up more than 40 percent compared with the same time last year — with the traditional peak season yet to come.

"This reflects the strong market for venison and also the extended period of demand beyond the traditional game season, which have resulted in stock levels significantly below

levels usually seen at this time of year," Mr Loza said.

Slaughter numbers for the past 12 months were up 17 percent on the previous year but the market was under-supplied relative to demand.

With strong consumption in the off-season resulting in relatively low stock levels, the industry looked well placed coming into the peak chilled season.

"We must recognise, though, that some of the drivers behind the current situation are short-term, such as the low New Zealand dollar and animal health crises in Europe," Mr Loza said.

For long-term profitability the industry must ensure that prices were market-related and that increased supplies were in line with demand.

Hunting 12/11/01 face-off brings in squad

By VANEESA BELLEW
AND CARMEN WILSON

A CONFRONTATION between a farmer and two deerstalkers led to an armed offenders squad callout in the Catlins on Saturday.

Sergeant Kelvin Lloyd, of Balclutha, said a Waipati farmer called police about 6pm on Saturday after he stopped two women using a track on his leased property to go deerstalking. They did not have his permission.

The incident followed concerns of farmers and police that deerstalkers were risking their safety by trespassing on Southland farms.

An Eastern Southland farmer said he feared someone would be shot if hunters kept trespassing.

Mr Lloyd said the Waipati farmer had an argument with the women and later told police one of them removed a .308-calibre rifle from their vehicle. This gave the farmer some cause for concern.

The hunters — from Christchurch and Waikaka Valley — would not leave and continued to hunt.

Police from Balclutha, Wyndham and Invercargill set up cordons and the armed offenders squad from Invercargill was called out.

Police spoke to two women as they came out of the area and recovered a rifle and a deer from the bush, Mr Lloyd said.

The confrontation was in an isolated area which had been subject to stock thefts and vandalism.

Mr Lloyd said hunters trespassing was a problem, particularly at this time of year when deer came out of the bush to graze on the roadsides.

Hunters had to get permission from landowners to use access roads and would be prosecuted if they did not leave when told.

Police have charged a 38-year-old woman with trespass and a 51-year-old woman with unlawful possession of a firearm. They will appear in the Balclutha District Court tomorrow.

Meanwhile, a Southland farmer fears someone will be killed if hunters keep trespassing on his property. Lindsay Dickson has had hunters entering his farm near the Dunsdale picnic area.

"It is mainly a concern because I have friends who come out fishing and camping and who go out walking just before dark," Mr Dickson said. "They could be shot."

Mr Dickson said his son had been in the bush a few days ago shooting rabbits when he came across a couple of men with heavy firearms hunting deer.

"He could have become a casualty," he said.

In a separate incident last week, a wild deer was shot in a Lilburn Valley paddock by a hunter on the side of the road.

Tuatapere police said such action could lead to prosecution.

Constable Andy Grant, of Tuatapere, said the farmer was understandably upset after the deer was found in a paddock where he grazed cattle.



LINDSAY DICKSON



Picture: JOHN HAWKINS

Deer farming continues to increase in both numbers and returns. Although most farmers breed deer for venison or velvet, others have diversified into offshoots that include trophy stags — such as this fine example.

Business as usual at plant

1/3/01
IT is business as usual for the Mair Venison's Kennington plant after its sale to PPCS.

The sale of Mair Venison's operations in Rotorua, Hokitika and Kennington was announced yesterday by PPCS chairman Jim Pringle.

About two weeks ago Mair Venison was sold to Dunedin-based NZ Deer Farms Ltd.

Following the sale PPCS had approached NZ Deer Farms

with a view to obtaining additional supply of venison for export, Mr Pringle said.

"It soon became apparent the purchase of the business by PPCS would achieve the best result for PPCS, NZ Deer Farms and Deer Farmers."

PPCS chief executive Stewart Barnett confirmed last night that no changes were envisaged at the Kennington plant. "It's business as usual."

The sale was for an undisclosed sum, he said.

NZ Deer Farms was reported as having paid a little more than the \$13.5 million book value for Mair Venison's processing and marketing assets.

Mr Pringle said the purchase of Mair Venison gave the company access to the North Island and additional venison supply needed to satisfy the company's international customers.

Deer film sparks interest

2/4/01
BY SHARYN PRICE

News about the release of *The Venison Hunters* video has stirred considerable interest and prompted Peter Gazzard of Herbert to dig out slides taken on the first official day of helicopter venison recovery back in 1963.

Peter was working on the Hawea-Wanaka mustering run at the time and recalled the excitement of the day.

"It was something really different and the pressure to turn in a good tally must have been quite high, too."

"There was no way we were going to miss having a good look."

The first area to be shot was a hanging valley on the northwest side of the Matukituki Valley, bounded by jagged tops with a natural main saddle.

The plan was simple.

Ground shooters would station themselves either side of the saddle - "sort of like a main road for the deer" - and the helicopter would encourage deer up from the lower basin as well as taking out the carcasses.

Unfortunately, the mounting excitement apparently got the better of at least one of the party.

Tim (now Sir Tim) Wallis' venture partner Robert Wilson was to ride with the pilot, but found the waiting too much to handle.

Finally he insisted the helicopter leave early, only to find that the frightened deer were over the top before the shooters were in position.

"Probably half the deer shot out before the shooters were ready."

"Not that it really mattered, I suppose, because the tally was over two hundred for the day," Peter said.

Deer were shot from the ground and gutted to reduce weight, with the skin left on to protect the meat.

In the early days the carcasses were carried in "baskets" on each side of the helicopter, rather than slung on a belly hook, and some carcasses had to be dragged or carried considerable distances to a likely spot for the helicopter to land.

Shooters were a select bunch and there were plenty who wanted to try their hand if one dropped out.

Even the dirty and demanding job of "guttie" was sought after, but "if you didn't have the right temperament, you wouldn't last long".

Throughout the day the carcass lines gradually filled, along with separate rows of heads and other parts.

Tails and sinews were removed for Asian medicinal and aphrodisiac purposes, but Peter didn't care to comment on their effectiveness!

Tails had to include glands from beside the root and working too fast could make the tail worthless.

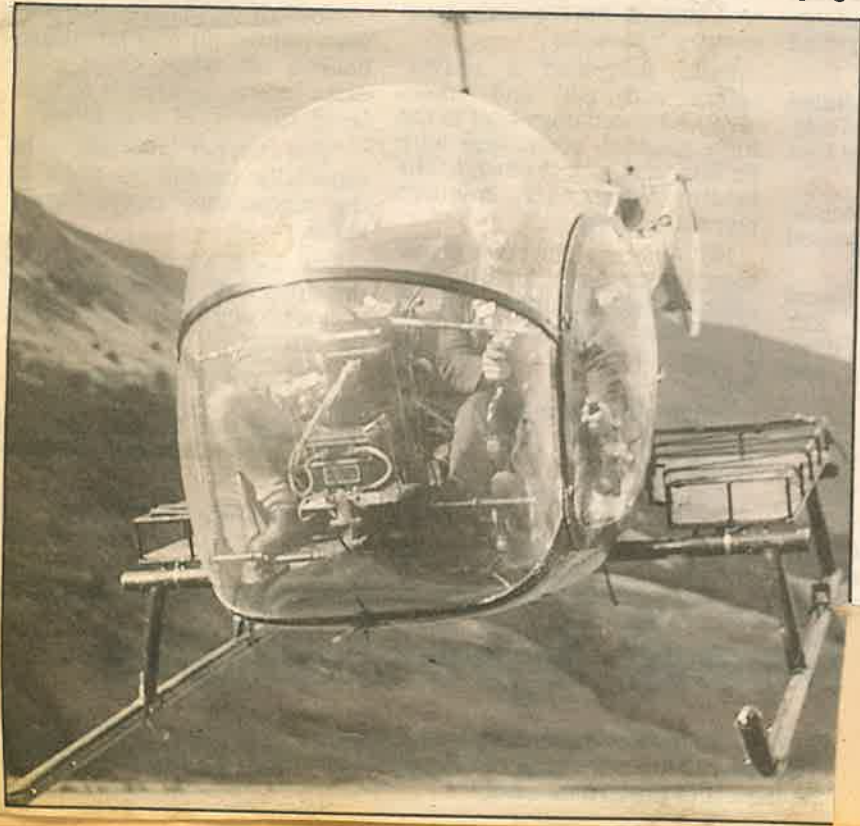
Sinews were stripped from the leg from heel to hock.

Continued, next page



ABOVE: Deer carcasses lined up on the first day of helicopter venison recovery.

LEFT: Lifting off to collect more deer.



Most deer meat was for export

[From previous page]

BEFORE Sir Tim built the processing plant at Luggate, much of the meat was processed through the Wanaka butchery.

But some of the meat also went to smaller plants around the country.

Almost all was destined for export, but Peter recalled that some of the meat was "distinctly gamey, not something I'd want to buy to say the least", by the time it had been recovered and trucked.

Peter couldn't recall the name of the Canadian pilot "who chewed gum like a Yank", who flew on the very first day.

However, he said regular pilot Russell Gutschlag was "the ideal man to fly with", known for taking the machine to its limits without taking silly risks.

Even top pilots could be the butt of shooter humour, though.

In later times deer were slung from a hook under the helicopter and one was fastened to a bluff and left Russell to hold the helicopter in position while he rolled himself a cigarette.

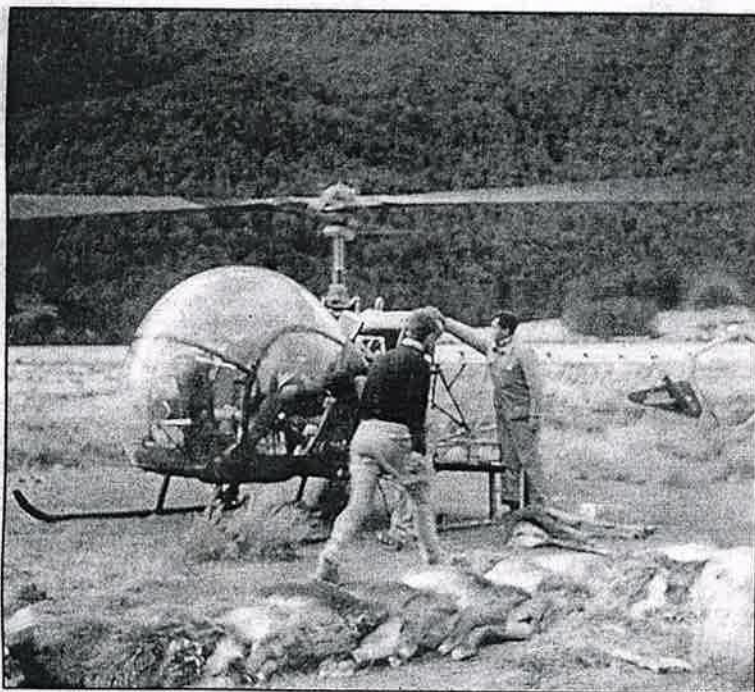
Shooters of the time included Wattie Cameron, Frank Woolf, Bill and Don Crawford and Don Erceg.

Most began with sporterised .303 rifles but as time passed the .243 became popular.

Accurate shooters found good success with the .222, chosen to minimise meat damage, but shot placement was critical.

"Wattie Cameron was a top marksman.

"At one stage he put a hundred-and-something deer through the Wanaka butchery and all either head shot or shot



The tally starts to mount.

high in the neck," Peter said.

Wattie was known for the highest percentage of clean shots of any culler in the Wanaka area and was reputed to have dropped deer at ranges up to 500 metres.

Shooter Bill Crawford was well known for his wry, back country character.

Peter described a conversation with Bill and others about how well dogs kept in the high country, clean and with no fleas, and put it down to the healthy living and frequent river crossings.

Bill reckoned the river crossings did the same for him, but claimed he "still made a point of having a bath at least once a year, whether I need it or not".

Gradually the venison teams moved to other parts of the South Island.

The chopper boys generally got a fine reception on arrival in a new area as people were drawn to the novelty and excitement

of the helicopter, but Peter recalled that the mood often soured when local hunters saw the numbers of deer killed.

"The helicopter could take out in a day the deer that locals would hunt for years.

"It's not surprising that men who hunted on foot got pretty hacked off when these guys came in and apparently slaughtered their local population.

"The chopper boys had to be especially careful to stick to the places they could legally shoot.

"As long as they had permission and shot the right areas, no one could really point the finger.

"They were exciting times and, of course, ultimately developed into the live capture and deer farming that we know today."

A uniquely Kiwi piece of history - and captured by Peter Gazzard's camera back in 1963.

www.stuff.co.nz The Southland Times

Feral venison being recalled from works

WELLINGTON — Agriculture officials are recalling feral venison from some meatworks because of food safety concerns raised by the recent rash of deer poaching in the central North Island.

Agriculture Minister Jim Sutton is looking at banning future exports of venison from feral deer.

Mr Sutton said a series of recent legal charges laid against alleged deer poachers had raised serious questions about New Zealand's ability to provide customer countries with sufficient assurances about the origin of such meat.

The location at which feral pests such as deer and pigs are shot can be crucial if possum poisoning is being carried out in the area. Commercial hunters are not allowed to sell meat from the buffer zones around forests in which possums are being poisoned, because some poisons can accumulate in animals.

Mr Sutton said it was time to look hard at the wisdom of continuing to export feral venison. He recently told hunters that while the Government had no policy to eradicate all feral deer, they should be confined to farms.

About 27,000 tonnes of venison was produced on farms last year, but the 15,693 tonnes exported in the year to June included 1000 tonnes of feral venison, most of it to be sold in Germany as high-priced game meat. Game meats are a traditional seasonal delicacy in Germany and importers do not have to pay the same duties that would apply to beef or lamb.

But now trade officials are worried that poachers who would break the law to shoot illegally on someone else's land would not hesitate to lie about taking deer from areas where poison had been laid.

"New Zealand has an excellent reputation for safe, quality food," Mr Sutton said in a statement.

"We absolutely have to know the true origin of the animals.

"The involvement of people who resort to dishonest tactics in the supply of feral meat introduces a risk that is very hard to manage."

Detective Sergeant John Wilson, of Rotorua, said there had been an increase in poaching since the price of venison began to rise last September.

"There is poaching being carried out by numerous different helicopter operators but they are very elusive," he said.

It was impossible to guess how many animals were being poached but the venison was being sold to

legitimate outlets that routinely bought meat from hunters. They had no way of knowing whether the animals had been poached, Mr Wilson said.

Mr Wilson said he was aware the price of venison had risen to about \$8/kg at one stage.

"It's dropped again now, but there's certainly still money to be made. Once the price (of venison) goes up, the poaching begins."

But Mr Sutton said the amount of wild deer processed was small, compared with the amount of farmed deer meat produced and officials had been asked to report on the issues surrounding a possible ban on feral venison exports.

"I don't like the idea of a few bandits putting a significant industry at risk," he said.

Game Industry Board staff emphasised farmed venison was not implicated in the recall of feral meat supplied by some hunters in the central North Island.

"The issue is restricted to a small number of suppliers of feral venison," said the board's chief executive, Michael-John Loza.

"We applaud MAF's response in recalling suspect feral product from the market for testing to ensure there is no food safety issue," he said in a statement.

"We don't have sympathy for anyone that flaunts MAF systems. Not only have they put New Zealand's reputation for safe, clean food at risk, but they have also placed a strain on the processing plants to which they sold feral deer for processing."

The meat works with product detained by MAF for further testing were caught in the middle and some processing jobs were at risk. Mr Loza said that as exporters developed new markets, younger consumers were developing a taste for the milder farmed venison outside the traditional game season.

No case has so far been recorded of 1080 possum poison getting into the human food chain in New Zealand, or into export foods.

But Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry officials said three years ago that a feral deer carcass was found being processed for export in November 1998 with a 1080 residue level higher than the accepted limit of 0.005 milligrams a kilogram. The animal came from the Kaikoura area and was believed to have a 1080 residue level of 0.018mg/kg. A similar problem was also found in a carcass from Rotorua. — NZPA

Deerhunter tells tales

BY SHARYN PRICE

WATTIE Cameron has had a varied and interesting life as a farmer and farm worker, truck driver, rabbitier, deer culler and commercial meat hunter.

His first season on the job as a government deer culler demonstrated some of his potential as a shooter.

Partnered with Frank Woolf, top deer culler for all of New Zealand in the previous year, Wattie found himself striving to match Frank's tally.

He remembered the ribbing he got when the cullers assembled at the beginning of the summer season in October.

Frank wound him up as the new chum and asked Wattie how many he thought he'd get.

Told that a good hunter would shoot about 1000 deer, Wattie replied, "Alright, it'd be nice to get 1000".

That drew a good laugh, as no first-year shooter had ever achieved this tally.

Wattie was also keen to make first grade hunter, as first grade men got nine per week and second grade on eight per week.

His ambition raised another round of mirth as qualifying as first grade meant shooting 30 deer each week, a standard that usually took several months to achieve.

Not for Wattie, though.

Away at first light on his first day, he soon found deer attempting to cross from the Hunter Valley to the Landsborough, but struggling in soft snow conditions.

He found it relatively easy to position himself so that deer had to expose themselves on a bare ridge or travel slowly in boggy snow.

"I got myself in a good position and shot the lot, so I got 51 the first day.

"I had the laugh on the other guys because I qualified as the first grade hunter the first day on the job."

Wattie went on to collect 2107 tails in his first season, a feat that he credits to the constant push to match Frank.

Throughout his mountain days, he found there was much in knowing what to do at the right time and said a hunter's instincts would sharpen if he let them.

For example, travelling in avalanche country he found "something tells you to move now".

"Out of nowhere you get this sort of feeling that you've got to do that.

"You run like hell for about 100 yards and suddenly hundreds of tons of snow come down where you were standing."

It didn't happen often, maybe three or four times a year, but was too much to be coincidence, he said.

"If you relax and let nature guide you, you can learn to live with nature very easily."

Similar observation and instinct was useful for river crossings and, of course, hunting deer.

Times changed and more deer were shot directly from the helicopter.

Shooting became more difficult as deer numbers dropped and surviving deer became more wily.

Many deer would hear the helicopter and head for the bush long before the helicopter got within range, Wattie said.

"The animals that you're not getting are getting away - they're becoming the breeding stock and so you're breeding up another lot of animals that are very cunning and astute.

"They're more intelligent and more alert to the types of controls."

Wattie has retired to Alexandra, but is still keen to share stories from his high country days.

"It really was a great life and I'm glad I had the opportunity."



Coming in with another load. Deer carcasses were carried along each side of the helicopter rather than slung on a hook underneath.



A quick unload and away for more. No time was wasted in getting as much venison in as possible.

Johnes a deer issue

JOHNES disease represented a major problem when identified in farmed deer herds, University of Otago Disease Research Laboratory Professor Frank Griffin said.

Both strains of the disease found in cattle and sheep infected deer, he told the VetSouth-Wrightson industry seminar in Gore.

Johnes bacteria produces a chronic gut infection that results in the malabsorption of food, weight loss and, ultimately, death.

The prevalence of the production-limiting disease was increasing each year, Professor Griffin said.

The major problem diagnosing Johnes was that the lesions it produced were difficult to distinguish from Tb lesions.

It also caused the skin test for Tb to react in such a way as to confuse routine Tb testing.

But about one-third of all Tb reactors were due to Johnes.

Professor Griffin said the complex nature of the disease meant multiple strategies would have to be employed to control and eradicate it.

A new blood test had been developed whereby Johnes and Tb could be identified at the same time. But, while the test had been approved, it was not yet available for on-farm use, he said.

He suggested a serious attempt to control Johnes in deer should be made without delay.

PPCS venison workers begin strike

23/1/02

By KATINKA PROUDFOOT

STRIKE action would begin at PPCS' Mossburn and Burnside plants today, although slaughter-floor workers stopped work yesterday with no kills to process, Meatworkers Union Otago and Southland secretary Gary Davis said yesterday.

One hundred venison workers would strike for three days from today for an overall pay increase of 5 percent and a bonus system for labourers, Mr Davis said.

It was the second strike in three weeks.

"The reality is, there are workers there working under \$10 an hour and expected to work night shift."

Workers at the two plants received up to \$4 an hour less than workers at PPCS' lamb plants at Silverstream and Kaikorai Valley.

Staff turnover was a problem at the Mossburn and Burnside plants and permanent staff were sick of training new staff only to have them leave because the work was too hard and the pay too low, Mr Davis said.

A PPCS representative had come down from head office and identified the problems and would report back to the company, he said.

Nothing had been resolved after the first strike happened.

"The reality is, there are workers there working under \$10 an hour and expected to work night shift."

"We're hopeful they realise that these workers are meaning what they are saying and, at the end of the day, if we end up in court, it will not be hard to prove how disadvantaged these workers are in relation to others in the industry doing this kind of work... if it's not resolved this time, it will be left unresolved and we'll be looking at further action next season," he said.

Mr Davis declined to comment on the bargaining details but he said Mossburn and Burnside plant workers were not looking for pay equity with other PPCS plants.

Neither plant had had a substantial pay rise for quite some time, he said.

PPCS processing manager Geoff Rowe was not available for comment yesterday.

www.stuff.co.nz The Southland Times

Lack of action by PPCS stirs meatworkers

2/2/02

By CHERIE SIVIGNON

MEATWORKERS' Union members from PPCS' Mossburn meat processing plant were disappointed the company had no new offer of increased wages, union Otago-Southland secretary Gary Davis said yesterday.

The union met its Mossburn members yesterday, following three days of strike action last week and two days of failed mediation talks earlier this week. A meeting with Burnside workers was held on Wednesday.

About 140 workers from both sites walked off the job on January 23 for three days in an attempt to get a pay increase of 5 percent and a bonus system for labourers.

Before the strike action, Mr Davis said some workers

earned less than \$10 an hour and were expected to work nights. There was also a discrepancy in pay rates with other PPCS South Island meat processing plants.

Yesterday, Mr Davis said workers from both sites were disappointed there had been nothing new on the table from the company since it offered an extra \$1 an hour in December.

During mediation, the union reduced its pay increase demands from \$14.80 an hour to \$13.20 an hour.

Further talks with workers were scheduled for Monday "and we'll decide after that, where from here," Mr Davis said.

PPCS chief executive Stewart Barnett could not be reached for comment.

Farm

The Southland Times www.stuff.co.nz

Harsh measures beat ticks

13/2/02

By JOHN CUTT

FOR a deer farmer whose stock becomes infested with cattle ticks, the effect can be worse than bovine TB.

Just ask former Cambridge deer farmer Tom Cruse.

The former New Zealand Forest Service deer culler came to Southland a few years ago on a fishing trip and after inspecting an 800ha Lilburn Valley property decided to shift south.

Facial eczema and cattle ticks had forced him out of his Cambridge deer farm, Mr Cruse said. "The ticks arrived five years ago. I found an adult stag full of ticks in late summer."

Cattle ticks survived the winter to resurface in almost plague proportions the following October.

When Mr Cruse stopped his farm bike on a patch of bare ground, within seconds the ground was alive with ticks attracted to the heat of the exhaust.

"It was like an army of ants moving across the ground," Mr Cruse said.

"They climbed up the wheels and died on the hot exhaust."

That summer he lost 50 percent of his fawns to cattle tick infestation.

"They were just like black puddings, their whole bodies were covered in ticks," Mr Cruse said.

His master stag, which features on the back cover of David Yerex's *Deer - The New Zealand Story*, was also troubled by ticks two years ago.

Its cast antler weighed only 10kg compared with 13.5kg the previous season. In its first season free of ticks at Lilburn, the same stag is a 43-pointer which Mr Cruse estimated would produce 16kg.

In desperation Mr Cruse decided to spray the entire Cambridge farm with insecticide by helicopter but four weeks later the pests reappeared, forcing him to spray every three weeks - a hugely expensive exercise.

The treatment had little or no effect.

He changed tactics and treated his stock with chemicals -



This master stag on Tom Cruse's Lilburn Valley deer farm is thriving in its tick-free environment and he plans to ensure it continues to do so.

another major expense because the stock had to be treated every four weeks. The two-year-olds had been 50kg lighter than they

should have been and some of his velvet antler had had to be thrown out because of tick damage, Mr Cruse said. Neighbouring

properties were similarly affected. Shifting his stock to a clean environment seemed the only answer, hence the move south.

He has taken extreme precautions to ensure his stock are clean before transport.

The animals are treated two days before trucking and again on the morning of trucking.

Mr Cruse wants to see all stock quarantined, inspected and then the stock and trucks sprayed before crossing Cook Strait.

"It's a myth to say Southland is too cold for ticks," Mr Cruse said.

Ticks could also infect sheep, goats, horses, dogs and cats.

Mr Cruse said every farmer should be vigilant in looking out for ticks.

And efforts by Environment Southland to convince the authorities to declare ticks an unwanted organism and introduce border controls at Cook Strait to prevent ticks moving south should be strongly supported.

Farmers reminded of develveting rules

29/11/03
By JOHN CUTT

DEER farmers are being reminded of their legal responsibility to follow the correct procedures for removal of velvet and hard antler.

Slaughter plants often saw the result of incorrect develveting techniques at this time of the year, MAF animal welfare investigator Peter Presland said.

Develveting was a surgical procedure that caused pain and therefore required the use of drugs, he said.

"Farmers should be aware of the legal requirements."

He believed improper develveting was mostly being done by people who were not accredited to do the procedure.

"It's a privilege for New Zealand farmers to be able to develvet their own deer."

In some countries, such as Britain, develveting was banned.

In New Zealand, velvet and antler removal could only be carried out by a veterinarian or a trained and accredited farmer, Mr Presland said.

Accredited farmers were also audited each year by vets acting for the National Velvet Standards Body.

Poor technique was obvious at meat plants and plant veterinarians had passed on their concerns to MAF, Mr Presland said.

Animal welfare was an important issue for the deer industry and people who develveting incorrectly were committing an offence.

Where cases were reported, MAF's special investigations branch would investigate, he said.

"Our primary role is one of education, with prosecution only used as a last resort."

"When vets (at meat plants) sign off venison for export they have to certify the consignment meets a host of conditions, including animal welfare."

Mr Presland reminded deer farmers that deer with hard antlers longer than 60mm above the pedicle (typically spikers) had to be removed before transport because of risk of damage to themselves, other animals and meat-plant workers.

The antlers and velvet also had to be removed at least seven days before transport to allow the wound to heal.

Mr Presland said farmers should also be reminded of the national welfare standards for the transport of deer to slaughter, which required animals to be in sound condition and able to bear their weight on all four legs.

New Zealand Deer Farmers Association national executive member Bill Taylor said he shared concerns about poor velvet removal but added deer farmers wanted to see a consistent standard of inspection by meat-plant veterinarians in the way they responded to the problem.

"The NZDFA executive encourages all deer farmers to comply with the regulations and if they have any queries or concerns they should contact their veterinarian."

Mr Taylor and Mr Presland said they were heartened there had been a large increase in the past three months in the number of Southland deer farmers who had applied to become accredited develvetters.

The Department of Conservation's mismanagement of our public land has created a free for all on large animals. Recreational hunting is therefore being destroyed. Hunting is our heritage, our culture, inspiration... this is what we will fight for.

Anyone who sets out to demoralise New Zealand on such a grand scale should be held to account.

One way DOC is destroying our great animals is by allowing commercial deer hunting. Whitetails especially are getting hammered by commercial hunters.

This year alone we know at least 40 (does and bucks) that were live-captured and then sold as trophies. We think there are 300 to 400 whitetail in the area at the most.

Giving deer "pest" status wrongly justifies DOC to do this happen. Managed hunting fits well with our eco-system and are very important to our communities.

Don't let them steal all the attributes that hunting installs in people's character, the ruggedness, resourcefulness and the love of the outdoors that New Zealanders are known for. James Vein, Upper Wakatipu Recreational Hunters, Glenorchy.

Game animals

RECENTLY, in Glenorchy a meeting was held to form a group — Upper Wakatipu Recreational Hunters.

The aim is to support groups or individuals that would manage game animals for recreational hunting.

Can you help with research, deer?

30/4/04
By YVONNE O'HARA

DEER farmers, your industry needs you.

Recently arrived in New Zealand, German researcher Esther Homfield is working on an investigative study into Johne's Disease, in association with the Johne's Research Group (JRG) and Massey University.

Timaru's group chairman Peter Aitken said 160 deer farmers from both throughout the country were needed to take part in the study to allow Ms Homfield to gather as much

information as possible about the disease.

Ms Homfield will survey each farm and look at all the factors which might contribute to the disease.

"We want to encourage deer farmers to register their interest in participation," Mr Aitken said.

"She will collate as much information as she can, which will then be analysed at Massey University."

"We want to find out about the nature of the disease and when best to use control mechanisms."

He said all the information provided would be confidential.

Ideally, half the deer farms should be infected with the disease and half should be clear.

"The real difficulty will be to find clear properties."

Mr Aitken said Johne's Disease was not notifiable and the evidence to date indicated it did not impact on the quality of product.

Deer farmers interested in taking part should ring Deer Industry New Zealand's Tony Pearce on (03) 489-9221 or 021 719-038.

Leptospirosis cases increase in Southland

18/12/04
By DAVID COSGRIFF

WARNINGS had been issued to Southland venison slaughtermen and deer handlers because of a sharp rise in the number of cases of a serious infectious disease, Southland medical officer of health Derek Bell said.

While the number of cases of the disease leptospirosis was less than 11, incidence of the disease was more than treble what it was two years ago.

Nearly all the extra cases involved slaughtermen at venison meat plants, Dr Bell said.

Until two years ago, only about two or three Southlanders a year caught leptospirosis.

But last year, six cases were reported among venison slaughtermen and this year the number had risen to eight.

Another two deer farmers or their workers contracted the disease this year, which brought the total to 10, he said.

The prevalence of leptospirosis in deer in Southland and Otago appeared to be a significantly growing problem.

The disease was a silent host in deer, which meant it caused no obvious symptoms in the animals.

But humans could catch the disease from infected animals, commonly from urine splashes

entering the eye or through broken or cut skin.

It was possible up to half the animals in a herd might be infected but farmers could be unaware and if they were, there was probably no financial benefit from vaccinating.

Health officials had issued warnings and preventative advice to venison slaughtermen.

It was essential people on killing chains wore protective gear, especially gloves and goggles, Dr Bell said.

Symptoms of the disease, which can last more than four weeks, include headaches, muscle pains, chills, fever and inflammation of nerves to the eye and brain.

Venison movie for a screen near you

4/11/04
THE prospect of producing killable weights in deer before their first winter is being put to more than 2000 deer farmers this week.

The information is on a CD, the initiative of Deer Improvement.

The short video, playable on home computers, explains how the objective of the "100kg weaner" fits the strategy to grow demand for venison outside the traditional European pre-Christmas season.

It also explains how feeding and breeding developments are putting this ideal within reach.

Deer Industry New Zealand chief executive, MJ Loza, and producer-manager, Tony Pearce, feature on the video speaking on market demands; Dr Simone Hoskin, Massey University nutritionist, talks about feeding developments and Dr Geoff Asher, of AgResearch Inver-

may, gives an insight into breeding developments. Deer Improvement's geneticist, Jake Chardon, explains what drives genetic gain.

Director Peter Gatley said the idea of the CD became obvious at farmer meetings where specialists found themselves speaking the same language.

"We'd all like to see the development of year-round demand for chilled venison but, whatever the shape of the venison schedule curve in future, deer farmers have to push for greater efficiency in the conversion of feed to carcass weight," Mr Gatley said.

The crisis in pricing was generating several responses. "The opportunists are getting out. Those who remain tend to have a long-term view and are serious about lifting performance."

Deer farmers hope Landcorp can end row

6/2/04

By JOHN CUTT

THE ANAU basin deer farmers have been fighting a running battle with PPCS and Landcorp for more than two years over what they consider is the preferential treatment the country's largest corporate farmer is receiving.

But a meeting tomorrow in Christchurch may be a step towards reaching a solution.

Not only is Landcorp the country's largest corporate farmer but it is also one of if not the largest deer farmer.

It's 2003 annual report shows the company converted 5700ha of land to deer farming during the year and increased its deer numbers from 87,543 to 109,802.

Landcorp owns 110 farms nationwide covering 369,00ha.

At the time of releasing the 2003 annual report Landcorp chief executive Chris Kelly said: "The company is part-way through an aggressive development programme focusing on conversions to deer and dairying."

Much of the deer conversion programme is taking place in the Te Anau basin.

Deer farmers have become concerned that the company's growth and its demand for killing space at

deer slaughter plants such as PPCS Mossburn, plus premiums, suggested to be \$120/head paid by PPCS — which are not paid to individual farmers — are shutting them out of the market.

Spokesman for a deer farmer action group, Chris Carran of Te Anau, yesterday said he and three other farmers from Te Anau, Sam Robins, Brian Risk and Eldon Coates, plus two Nelson deer farmers, were meeting with Landcorp in Christchurch tomorrow to discuss the issue.

A meeting with PPCS last year failed to reach a solution.

"The feedback we've had from all over New Zealand is that the premium prices paid to corporates is unfair," Mr Carran said.

"PPCS won't listen."

Mr Carran said while his group had received backing from all over New Zealand, it was disappointing that there had been no support from the Deer Farmers Association.

He hoped that after tomorrow's meeting with Landcorp a further meeting would be held with PPCS.

Mr Carran said his group was acting as PPCS suppliers not members of the NZDFA.

Balfour deer farmer and a past president of the Deer Farmers Association, David Stevens said he

had received calls from farmers about the issue.

But the association had always held the view that it was not its role to become involved in commercial industry matters.

"It's a shareholder (PPCS) issue. It's something shareholders need to sort out with their company."

PPCS operations manager Keith Cooper said meetings had been held with the action group where the company had expressed its views.

"We have contracts on all species throughout the year and have done so for a number of years."

Such contracts could be to encourage supply, meet certain market requirements or to spread the kill to ease peak kill periods.

Contracts were available to all suppliers, but because of the often tight specifications and the numbers of stock required, often it was only the large suppliers such as Landcorp which were able to take them up.

"They (the action group) seem to be targeting Landcorp not contracts and we are not prepared to comment on contracts we have with a specific supplier," Mr Cooper said.

10 Wednesday, January 21, 2004

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Disease numbers up

By DAVID COSGRIFF

THREE of five cases of leptospirosis in Southland last year were among deer workers and this has health officials checking to see if the disease is becoming a greater problem for the industry.

Southland medical officer of health Derek Bell said the number of cases was higher than usual and it was the first year deer workers had featured so prominently in the statistics.

It was not unheard of for deer workers to get infected but it was

unusual to get a run of three cases in quick succession, Dr Bell said.

Wellington scientists were reviewing the cases to determine if there was any particular problem that might be emerging with the handling of deer on farms or in venison processing plants.

"It may well be that it's an increasing problem.

"Certainly what we'll be doing is trying to increase awareness among both deer farmers and people in the venison industry," he said.

The number of Southland cases last year was higher than 2002, when just

two were notified, which was about the average yearly number.

Leptospirosis symptoms include fever, severe and persistent headache, chills and rigors, muscular pains, eye irritation and photophobia, nausea with or without vomiting, appetite loss, sweating and jaundice. It is commonly transmitted to humans from urine splashes from animals.

Nationally, more than 100 cases of the infectious disease are reported annually but the true number of cases is probably twice that because leptospirosis is under-diagnosed and under-reported.

Deer farmers staying put in south

20/5/04

By JOHN CUTT AND NZPA

REPORTS coming out of the North Island stating that deer farmers are bailing out of the industry are not being replicated in the south.

Deer farmers have been enduring low prices for both venison and velvet, a situation that is apparently encouraging some North Island farmers to quit.

Deer Industry New Zealand chief executive M J Loza yesterday said across the board venison export schedules are at \$3.89/kg for a 60kg AP stag, 30 percent below the 10-year average of \$5.63/kg.

Last season's velvet prices had been 40 percent below across all grades, he said.

The German market for venison, which provided inflated prices during the BSE scares two years ago, has become oversupplied.

New Zealand's high dollar, combined with an over-supplied Korean market, has hurt the velvet price.

"It is clear that at those prices deer farming is not sustainable and all our efforts are going into improving the situation," Mr Loza said.

DNZ had put together a demand-creation off-season campaign in Europe, starting at the end of this month, he said.

The campaign is retail focused, with articles in magazines, in-store promotions and presentations to food media. Consumer prize draws for trips to New Zealand are also planned.

In Waikato some deer farmers are reported to be reducing their herds, and others are quitting deer and returning to dairying or drystock.

Bob Dunn, a deer agent for 15 years, estimated most agents had lost 10 to 15 percent of their clients in the past year.

They had either converted back to dairy or sold the farm, and the new owners had turned it into a dairy farm.

Deer Farmers' Association Waikato chairman Eric Clark said he did not have to look too far to see evidence of the slump. Several of his committee members have scaled down their operations recently.

Mr Clark said the simultaneous slump in venison and velvet prices was hurting farmers.

"In the past, while the venison price has been low, velvet has been stable or vice versa so it has helped put a bit of food on the table. Now they are both down."

Southland deer farmers were despondent at two years of low prices but there was no wholesale exiting of the industry, past chairman of the Southland Deer Farmers Association, Bill Taylor said.

"Apart from the normal ebb and flow, it's not happening in Southland."

Any people leaving the industry were those with only small num-

bers of animals. Bigger operators were getting bigger.

He believed the problem in the North Island was that some deer farmers were farming land that had higher value alternatives such as dairying, horticulture or subdivision for lifestyle blocks and, with lower product returns, saw an opportunity to pursue a more viable land use.

However, he was confident claims that farmers were exiting the industry in droves had been exaggerated.

Pyne Gould Guinness Southland deer agent John South agreed the problem was nowhere near as bad in the south as reported further north.

Smaller operators might be choosing to get out but the larger farmers were committed to staying with the industry, he said.

Farmers vow to fight

22/5/04

By JOHN CUTT

DEER farmers concerned at what they consider is preferential treatment being given by PPCS to corporates, such as Landcorp Farming, are vowing to continue their fight to gain killing space and fairness.

The group includes several Te Anau Basin and Nelson suppliers who have been critical of premiums

Preferential terms alleged

they claim have been paid to Landcorp.

Late last month, group spokesman Chris Carran, of Te Anau, attended a meeting of deer farmers in Nelson to further discuss the issue.

"A decision has been made to take the case to the Ombudsman's Office

to seek a full investigation," Mr Carran said.

Mr Carran said a meeting had also been held with Associate Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor who had agreed to support an investigation.

In February this year Mr Carran said he had received information that

Landcorp Farming was receiving \$2.20/kg above schedule and on top of which PPCS was paying Landcorp Farming's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry inspection fees and levies amounting on average to about \$18 a head.

"Taking everything into account Landcorp Farming would be receiving 60 percent plus on other suppliers," Mr Carran said.

In response, PPCS chief operating officer Keith Cooper said: "PPCS has explained its position on this issue on numerous occasions, and that is to manage the business to the best advantage to all suppliers.

"All PPCS contracts are confidential to the com-

pany and the supplier involved. We will therefore not comment on a specific contract publicly.

"That said, we are unable to reconcile the figures quoted by the concerned deer farmers."

Mr Carran said his group planned to ask deer farmers nationwide to support the petition seeking an investigation by the Ombudsman.

Thursday, April 28, 2005 15

All VRL targeted

PPCS in bigger venison bid

WELLINGTON — Meat processing giant PPCS is planning to tighten its grip on the venison industry, yesterday seeking approval to buy Venison Rotorua Ltd (VRL).

Competition watchdog, the Commerce Commission, said PPCS, which already owns 19.9 percent of VRL, had applied for clearance to buy the balance of the company's shares.

VRL was formerly known as Mair Venison, which PPCS bought in

2001, an hour after NZ Deer Farms bought it from Richina Pacific.

In June 2001, PPCS sold Mair Venison to a consortium, retaining 19.9 percent, apparently in a bid to satisfy the Commerce Commission.

PPCS now controls up to 70 percent of the national deer kill.

The commission said it would determine whether the proposed acquisition would substantially lessen competition in the New Zealand market. — NZPA

PPCS



KEITH COOPER

Southland company to process game for niche NZ market

By JARED MORGAN

sh/bc

A SOUTHLAND company has found a niche market processing and supplying wild game to restaurants and boutique supermarkets.

The venture has seen owner and former Queenstown-based police officer Callum Hughes go out on a limb.

Mr Hughes said there was a plentiful supply of wild deer and he thought it would be a good idea to start harvesting the resource.

In what is believed to be only the second type of business of its kind in the country, Fare Game New Zealand Ltd has set up to process game, or as Mr Hughes prefers to call it "free-range meat", for the New Zealand domestic market.

While the processing of game was nothing new, other operators concentrated on the export market, Mr Hughes said.

In what is essentially a "small team" operation, the keen hunter oversees the shooting, processing and marketing of the meat himself. However, he has plans to expand the business to meet demand in the future.

The purpose-built plant in Otepunu Ave, Invercargill, began processing meats on May 5.

While he had found restaurants to supply in Queenstown and a supermarket in Invercargill, it was early days for the business, Mr Hughes said.

The venture had been two years in the planning and at "considerable cost" he had worked "very closely" with the New Zealand Food and Safety Authority to meet the required consents to produce cuts of meat for human consumption. "It had been a learning curve", Mr Hughes said.

"There was a lot of to-ing and fro-ing, there was a lot more involved than what we thought when we first started," he said. "But we decided to do it the right way from the beginning."

The authority's technical specialist Bryan Anderson, of Invercargill, said primary processors such as Mr Hughes were required to operate under a Risk Management Programme.

The programme's requirements are set



Prime cut: Angela Black trimming a feral deer at new Invercargill business Fare Game New Zealand.

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BARRY
HARCOURT

out under the Animal Products Act 1999 and involve the development of procedures and controls that recognise various risks to humans such as wholesomeness, chemical contamination in meat and mechanical risk that could render meat products

unsuitable for human consumption.

"The operators need to identify the risks associated with their business and put in place processes to deal with those risks," Mr Anderson said.

DOC, hunters deal 'could keep lid on deer numbers'

By PHIL MCCARTHY

A DEAL struck between deer hunters and the Department of Conservation could keep the lid on deer numbers in Fiordland and potentially revitalise the wild venison market, those involved say.

Fiordland Wapiti Trust member Ron Peacock said the Wapiti Area Management Team, organised by DOC and other stakeholders in Fiordland and deer hunting, was collecting contributions from hunters who take part in the ballot for places in the annual bugle shoot. Last year Southern Lakes Helicopters was contracted to cull deer in the park, killing about 400, he said.

Culling in the wapiti area of Fiordland, which encompasses about 10 percent of the park, was done in a restricted manner so that recreational hunting stock were not affected, Mr Peacock said.

DOC Te Anau spokesman Murray Willans said the wapiti management team was playing a vital role

in keeping deer numbers down in Fiordland as DOC believed numbers could increase by as much as 25 percent a year. There are about 50 concessions for commercial deer recovery in Fiordland.

"What these guys are doing is just fantastic for the park."

Te Anau helicopter pilot Dick Deaker, who is involved in the com-

'What these guys are doing is just fantastic for the park.'

DOC Te Anau spokesman
Murray Willans

mercial side of the operation, said deer numbers in the park were a bit higher than a couple of years ago but were "nothing like it used to be".

Venison from recovered deer is being processed by Mountain River Processing at Ashburton. General manager Ian Stewart said the company was processing a small

amount of wild venison, amounting to about 5 percent of its total processing. The majority comes from farm-bred deer.

The wild, or feral, venison market collapsed in 2002 after the recall of 16 tonnes of wild venison suspected to have been contaminated with 1080 poison. The scare prompted fears across the venison industry.

Mr Stewart said there were now tighter restrictions on processing wild venison, so the market was small. Mountain River was dealing with only a small number of Te Anau and Haast operators running tight operations, he said.

"We also have to be protective of the whole deer industry."

Mr Deaker said it was hoped numbers culled in Fiordland could continue to increase to supply the rebuilding wild venison market.

New Zealand Deer Industry chief executive Mark O'Connor said the industry was supportive of wild venison recovery as long as it was done properly.

Company takes aim at bigger elk market

20/12/06

By JULIET LARKIN

A GROUP of Southland deer farmers have set up their own company processing, marketing and exporting elk after deciding they can do it better themselves.

The newly formed New Zealand Elk Ltd, made up of some members of the Elk and Wapiti Society, has partnered with multi-species processing plant Clover Exports near Gore.

One of the directors Paul Waller, of Lumsden, said the main reason for setting up the company was that elks were penalised at the works because of their larger carcasses.



They could now get about \$450 for an 80kg carcass instead of between \$300 and \$350 for a smaller carcass, which meant the elk could be grown to maturity.

"We were only producing small animals for the works," he said.

Trial elk kills were done at Clover Exports, which had constructed elk purpose-built

yards, in the last few months and elk were now being processed there once a week.

The meat, branded as elk, was exported to Australia, the United States and had just received approval for European Union markets, he said.

Some elk was also sold to restaurants throughout New Zealand.

Another director Tom May

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SONIA GERKEN

Bigger is better: Elk hinds awaiting processing at Clover Exports' plant, in Gore, yesterday.

said elk and wapiti were only 40 percent mature at 80kg at 14 months of age, and the new company meant deer farmers were not penalised for weights above 100kg.

"This niche market is really wanting the bigger weighed animals and the chefs love 'em."

Clover Export general manager Russell Brocks said the plant had a small multi-skilled workforce, which was ideally suited for elk.

Mr Brocks was pleased with the quality of the more than 100 elks that had been processed and said it resulted in "excellent quality venison".

The plant aims to process 2800 animals in the first year.

As part of the formation of the venture, NZ Elk, Clover Export and the Elk and Wapiti Society were launching an inaugural carcass competition for elk and wapiti animals in February.

Hunting as a team

High on the Fiordland ranges a hunter, stands poised to shoot. His finger hovering over the trigger, he leans out the side of a helicopter with his target, a red deer, in his sights. The deer staggers backwards and drops from sight. Deer shooter Jeff Carter and helicopter pilot Dick Deaker give reporter **Susie Nordqvist** and chief photographer **Barry Harcourt** an insight into a friendship that has spanned three decades.



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Helicopter pilot Dick Deaker flying through Fiordland in his Hughes 500, carrying deer shot near Dusky Sound. **BARRY HARCOURT**

MEET 59-year-old Jeff Carter, one of the most experienced southern hunters in the game. Carter's weather beaten face tells the story of a man whose life has been spent outdoors.

Not surprisingly it's here he says he wants to die, among the unspoiled natural wilderness of New Zealand's largest national park.

"I love the mountains. I love the deer."

"There's something that grabs me, I just love it that much," he says.

It's here Carter and helicopter pilot Dick Deaker have forged a 36-year career out of scouring the rugged mountain ranges of the Fiordland National Park in pursuit of wild deer.

Their uncanny ability to spot and shoot deer all the while manoeuvring through sometimes treacherous and tricky terrain, makes for a formidable team.

They are survivors in the truest sense of the word.

Through bulldogging, live capture, and helicopter shooting they have prospered where others haven't.

Deaker got his start behind the controls of a chopper under the guidance of Sir Tim Wallis' company Alpine Helicopters during the venison recovery years of the 60s.

The industry ended the unchecked growth of the animal which had multiplied since being introduced by European settlers in the 1800s.

DEER shooting is a good lifestyle, but the outdoors can be a horrible place to be too, Deaker explains.

He's lost friends here — 11 pilots and 16 crewmen have died in Fiordland in the past 20 years, and he's had a few close calls himself.

While many of their deaths have been the result of human error, all of them serve as a haunting reminder of the perils of flying, even for the most experienced of helicopter pilots.

The landscape, while beautiful can be just as unforgiving.

"If I'm going out and the weather's no good, we just go home again," Deaker says.

"Tomorrow's another day. You don't have to work all day and all night and take risks," he said.

Carter recalls an incident where Deaker was forced to ditch his helicopter after an engine failure in the Seaforth Valley.

"The warning horn came on in the half dark and all I could see was this flash of light — I knew then it was going to be a bad day," he says.

Skill, determination, experience, guts and a bit of luck count for a lot in this industry.

Carter uses the analogy of a top level sportsman to draw a comparison.

"You're like an All Black, you're only as good as your last game," he says.

During one of their last shoots the men sent 40 deer to a venison plant in Mid-Canterbury — today they are looking to add to that tally. So far so good.

It's just after 10am and Carter returns to base with a trailerload of deer carcasses from a shoot at the head of the Upukeroa earlier that morning.

His bloodied hands reveal one of the more grizzly aspects of his job — gutting his victims.

Carter lines up his AK47 as property owner Peter Charteris gives Deaker a steer about where to go in a young tree block sprawling 8900ha Te Anau Downs' property.

AFTER half an hour of fruitless searching for wild deer about 60m above the ground, including several stomach churning moments, the men decide to call it a day.

Carter explains later that at this time of the day you are lucky to see

anything, and that I needn't worry, apparently it's normal for novices like myself to experience motion sickness.

Earlier in the day and later in the evening is the best time for shooting, when the deer are feeding, Carter says.

Deaker adds that during a shot, the hunter should always aim to be an extension of the pilot's eyes.

It's this understanding between the pair that has seen them succeed through both the boom and bust years.

Early this century the venison export industry faltered after a rash of deer poaching in the central North Island, leading to a ban on exports.

The ban was prompted by food safety concerns over 1080 poison contamination in areas where poaching was taking place.

"The whole thing was shut down for four or five years," Deaker said.

It was then that Deaker spent time flying in Bolivia, Peru and

Mexico and Carter did a stint in Alaska catching moose, wolves and caribou and the Gallipolis Islands catching goats and wild donkeys.

Back home and they say they are just content to make the most of their twilight years doing a job they love.

"It's like a drug," Carter says.

"When you do it, when you are out there you'd know why."



Grounded: Helicopter pilot Dick Deaker (left) and shooter Jeff Carter back on the ground after an afternoon shoot.

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High ground: Dick Deaker and Jeff Carter using a high ledge to fly from because of the weight of the helicopter. This photograph was taken less than 5km from where Captain Cook landed in Dusky Sound.

Blair Ensor catches up with the Marlborough Deer Farmers' Association president, Southland-born Justin Stevens, will provide greater certainty.

Farmer has high hopes for NZVM

JUSTIN Stevens' hand plunges into the depths of a kitchen cupboard and removes a run-of-the-mill orange-handled saw, worth about \$15, its edges worn with use.

There's no need for flashy tools when removing velvet from his stags.

"I prefer to use a good-quality second-hand one [saw]," he says. "It just takes the edge off it."

The saw typifies his no-frills attitude toward farming.

He's shied away from artificial insemination in his breeding programme because it was "too hit and miss" and he uses feed supplement only if he's going to make money out of it.

"We look at the bottom line of everything," he says.

The 37-year-old Southland-born farmer runs about 500 deer on 180 hectares of rolling country on Seddon's back door. Until seven years ago it was his parents' operation.

His first few years on the farm were pretty tough, but through refinancing and juggling money, and a stable diet of venison, things have improved significantly, he says.

The decline in deer numbers nationally has helped bump the price of venison up to a respectable \$9 a kilogram. This, in addition to profits from 12ha of grapes, has allowed him to "play catchup" and invest money back into areas of the property such as roading and pasture development, which were neglected when cash flows were tighter.

The other side of his operation, velvet production, is a different kettle of fish.

haven't pushed up the price of velvet. Genetic advancements have counteracted any decline in velvet production, with some animals producing nearly twice the velvet of animals two decades ago.

As a result the days of \$300/kg are gone, replaced with prices that "fluctuate dramatically" between \$50/kg and \$140/kg.

Justin hopes the announcement of further expansion to the New Zealand Velvet Marketing Company (NZVM) will provide salvation to farmers by removing some of the volatility from the industry.

Last month velvet co-operative Velecco joined PGG Wrightson, Tasman Velvet Processors and the NZ Velvet Co-operative, which each have a 25 per cent share of NZVM.

At the time NZVM chairman Bill Thomas heralded the move as a turning point in the history of the velvet industry.

Mr Thomas said the co-operative would have greater power in the marketplace than individual buyers. NZVM hopes to obtain 70 per cent of velvet supply.

A co-operative representative will be in Marlborough this week at the Chateau Marlborough to win the support of velvet producers.

Justin believes the formation of a company like NZVM is overdue because "what we've had in the past just isn't working".

He hopes NZVM will spell the end of buyers undercutting one another, which has plagued the industry and caused uncertainty.

"It'll hopefully take out the volatility in the market so we can plan and try and budget for things we need to do."

He hopes the co-operative will have more than one main market.



No frills: Marlborough Deer Farmers' Association president Justin Stevens.

Photo: MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS

The velvet season is just kicking off on his property with the buttons, remnants of last season's antlers, dropping off his 250 velvet-producing stags.

He now has about 60 days until the first cut of velvet is taken.

It's a difficult time because he's weighing up the benefits of feeding his deer quality supplement to improve velvet growth against the possible monetary gains. Why spend \$10,000 to make \$5000?

"It doesn't make sense, but that's what

people have done in the past," he says.

The animals are sorted into small mobs according to their velvet growth so they are ready to be cut at about the same time.

"Each time I get a mob in I risk damaging [their velvet]."

"It's a pretty fine-tuned thing."

After the first cut, valuable regrowth, nicknamed "tongue", is also harvested.

"It's got to come off... because it'll turn to bone and they'll fight and they'll kill each other."

Fairfax

Seddon's dry summers and good spring grass growth are perfect for good velvet growth, but the declining herd numbers

who hopes the New Zealand Velvet Marketing Company



New velvet: Deer on the run on Justin Stevens' property.

Photo: MARLBOROUGH EXPRESS

Silberhorn seeks to stabilise velvet supply

By SAELYN GUYTON

AS demand for a Southland-based health supplement grows, so does the need to source its main ingredient "a little closer to home".

Silberhorn is advertising throughout the South Island for deer farmers to supply velvet for its health supplements.

Silberhorn CEO Ian Carline said the venture was a win-win situation for the company and farmers.

"It will increase the returns for farmers and stabilise our own supply, so it's very cyclical," Mr Carline said.

Mr Carline said the deer-velvet season, which runs from October to May, presented a different situation each year and this year an unstable exchange rate had contributed to Silberhorn's decision to find a more efficient method of sourcing its supply.

"This season there is a closer balance between supply and demand and, with business growing, we have to

DEER

grow with it, so the new supply scheme will enable us to do that."

The velvet suppliers must be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the programme would be more efficient, as the velvet would go directly to a Christchurch processing plant.

"All Silberhorn products are produced in the South Island and we are looking to source deer as close to our roots as we can so it will be more cost-effective."

The growing antlers of a male deer are called velvet, because before the antler hardens and calcifies it is soft tissue covered with hair.

Mr Carline said as people turned towards natural products, Silberhorn's deer velvet products, used to assist with joint problems, arthritis and gout, were gaining a larger market share in the health-product industry.

Venison returns at the mercy of the kiwi dollar, farmers told

By MARK HOTTON

DEER farmers face the unprecedented prospect of price schedules dropping during the chilled killing season because of the volatile foreign exchange rate.

Silver Fern Farms venison marketing manager Karl Buchanan told attendees at Southland-Fiordland Deer Farmers focus farm field day last week that drops in returns were mainly caused by fluctuating currency exchange rates, with market forces accounting for only a quarter of the decline.

Demand for chilled venison remained strong but at the expense

of the frozen market, and it was expected the 2009 kill would be 20 per cent down on last year, to about 480,000 – well down on the peak in 2005 of 780,000.

A further drop to 360,000 was predicted next year, he said.

Venison returns depended heavily on the exchange rate between the euro and the kiwi. Silver Fern's largest market was Germany (35 per cent), followed by Sweden (14 per cent) and France (10 per cent), although the company exported to about 30 countries.

If the rate was 40 euro cents to a kiwi dollar, returns were about \$10.93/kg. A rise to 50 euro cents cut the return to about \$8.35/kg, and

every five-cent change after that shaved almost another \$1 from returns, Mr Buchanan said.

Returns would also depend on demand levels as well as the success of the game season in the northern hemisphere, he said.

Further currency fluctuation could see more come off the schedule even though the season was reaching its peak.

To offer a point of difference in overseas markets, Silver Fern was introducing new packaging that had recipes and strong branding, while the cut would be a better size for the market and ready to be cooked, he said.

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Presence of disease forced change

30/10/09
Johne's prompted move to weaner-finishing — sheep operation benefits

By NEAL WALLACE

JOHNE'S disease may have forced George and Mary Scott into a weaner-finishing operation, but it has knitted perfectly with their sheep operation.

The Waikoikoi farmers buy 1400 weaner deer from February to July,

DEER

with three-quarters killed before Christmas. The extra space provided by prime deer exiting the property, coincides with growing feed demand from his sheep.

Mr Scott, the monitor farmer for the Southland-Fiordland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association, told a recent field day that frustration at the presence of Johne's disease forced him to stop running a breeding hind herd about 10 years ago.

In a particularly bad year he lost 40 out of 240 weaners to the disease.

He found that weaners bred on the farm were suffering from the wasting disease, but when he started buying in weaners it largely disappeared, although the disease has reappeared in some lines he now bought in.

Mr Scott said it appeared some weaners were arriving on his farm still young enough to contract the disease.

"It is something I don't want to get any worse or I'll be moving away from deer," he said.

Spring is a busy season for him, weighing and sending deer to the works and lambing, but deer fitted into his wider farm business, especially in the traditionally tight feed month of October.

This September he sold 70 prime deer, and in October two drafts of 100 each.

Last year half the deer were sold by the end of November giving his 1650 ewes and 600 hoggets extra space.

For the past four years he has lambed hoggets on the deer unit from October.

"It's the total integration that makes the deer unit profitable."

It meant his farm was heavily stocked over winter at 17.8 stock units per ha, but the pressure was quickly alleviated by the regular flow of weaners to the works.

A result of the deer-finishing operation was that the performance of his sheep flock has improved.

His prime lambs last year averaged



Getting prime: Weaners being finished on George and Mary Scott's Waikoikoi farm.

19.2kg and returned a season average of more than \$100 and he was finishing another 500 lambs each year, making a total of 3000 prime lambs off 320ha. Before the weaner-finishing operation they averaged 16.5kg to 17kg.

Another key to his management was about 120 steers, which were bought in late winter as 18 month or two-year-olds, and killed from December to February.

Mr Scott told the field day that the cattle tidied up any surplus swedes and were then used to keep grass quality high.

Traditionally, he had made money from cattle, but with the schedule falling sharply this year, he thought that would be unlikely this year.

Wintering so many deer was costly, and monitor farm convener Alastair Gibson said doing so could cost the Scotts \$20 a head for swedes and baleage.

When they arrive on the Scott farm, the weaners are drenched and vaccinated and kept in their mobs in sheltered blocks until they adjusted

to the new environment.

This year's weaners averaged 64kg liveweight when they arrived on the farm. Last year the average carcass weight was 56kg and returned an average price of \$520.31 a head.

Mr Scott said 12ha of swedes a year were grown and were critical to successfully wintering as many animals as he did, with all but the top 25 per cent, selected on weight, kept on swedes.

The top mob was wintered on grass and baleage and shifted every two to three days, going around the farm 1.5 times.

By July he said those weaners were putting on 200g to 300g a day and were the first to be sold prime.

Mobs of 400 to 500 were wintered on swedes and baleage with daily shifts.

To introduce the deer to swedes, Mr Scott said they were kept in an adjacent paddock of pasture with the gate open to the first break of the crop.

He shifted the break a few times while the deer still had the pasture

runoff to help them adjust, then after a few days the deer were shut on the swede crop.

They came off the swede crops in early October and were separated into mobs according to weight, with the heaviest given the best feed.

Another key to his operation was pasture renewal, with pasture in the deer unit all less than six years old.

Mr Scott said he sowed a mix of Italian ryegrass, maverick gold, plantain and chicory, which he said gave him growth in late winter-early spring.

Mr Scott uses Reaction fertiliser, saying he noticed improved stock health and performance with the liquid fertiliser.

Each year half the farm gets Reaction and the other half a mixture of solid fertiliser and lime. Solid fertiliser was sown with winter crops, young grass and the baleage paddocks.

He said the use of liquid fertiliser was not a replacement for solid fertiliser, but to balance nutrients and trace elements.

Monitor farmer: Southland-Fiordland branch of the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association monitor farmer George Scott, of Waikoikoi, shares his experiences with farmers at a field day recently.

Productivity 'best investment'

27/10/09

Change of focus for deer

By MARK HOTTON

IMPROVED deer carcass weights through better use of technology and shared knowledge is the aim of a new focus farm initiative that had its first field day last week.

Riversdale farm consultant Alastair Gibson said the aim was for farmers to gain confidence to make changes to their systems and operations to boost performance.

"We want you to develop confidence and a good understanding of farming systems," he told more than 60 farmers who attended the open day at George and Mary Scott's finishing property near Pukerau.

Declining returns and pressure from dairy conversions had seen deer numbers fall, but it appeared numbers were now stabilising. That would help to stabilise prices as well but there was little that could be done to alleviate the impact of the foreign exchange markets, attendees were told.

Deer Industry New Zealand

chairman John Scurr said the sector had dealt with its high-volume phase prudently - kill levels peaked at 780,000 animals in 2005 and have declined since then. The sector was facing a decline in consumption because of the global economic crisis and lower-priced beef, so it was not a bad time to be dealing with lower volumes, he said.

The next step for New Zealand deer farmers was to improve productivity, Mr Scurr said. Good operators could always achieve good performance so the aim was to get the rest of the industry to lift production quality.

The aim of the focus farm programme was to help farmers use the same land and the same number of animals to increase their fawning performance, reduce wastage and produce better weighted animals through better knowledge and pasture management, he said.

"Anything to do with production improvement is a pretty good investment."

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Spreading the word: Pukerau deer farmer George Scott answers a question, watched by farm consultant Alastair Gibson, at the Southland-Fiordland Deer Farmers focus farm field day last week.

Support for 1080 operation

8/10/09

By SHANE COWLISHAW

THE Southland Conservation Board has thrown its weight behind the use of an aerial 1080 drop in the Waitutu forest, claiming there is no alternative.

The Department of Conservation wants to drop cereal bait over 25,000 hectares of forest and has lodged a resource consent application with Environment Southland.

The drop has been made possible with a \$500,000 grant from the Government's National Heritage Fund for a one-off pest control operation.

At a conservation board meeting yesterday, DOC biodiversity programme manager Jessyca Bernard said while many people were against 1080 use, it was the only feasible option for a large area such as Waitutu.

"It would take a team of 30 trackers with the space of two months to do the whole job we could do in two days (from the air)," she said.

After the meeting, board member Robin McNeill said the sheer size of the area meant a ground operation would not work, because possums could "sneak in the back" as the team moved forward.

Mr McNeill acknowledged there was a by-kill element to 1080, but Waitutu was part of a national park and the board needed to do everything it could to protect it from pests.

"I don't like to use fly spray, to be honest, I feel sorry for the flies but I just grate my teeth and push the button," he said.

Ms Bernard said if the consent application were successful, the drop could occur in August or September, depending on the weather.

The drop would mean no further 1080 would be needed for seven to 10 years, she said.

The 1080 concentration rate would be about 2kg a hectare, which was lower than other drops where there had been problems, but still high enough to be effective, she said.

Submissions on the application close on October 16.

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Hunting ground: Helicopter hunters, pilot Dick Deaker and shooter Jeff Carter arrive back at Te Anau with deer shot near Lake Monowai. Aerial hunting has resumed in Fiordland following a break over the Christmas-New Year period.

Photo: BARRY HARCOURT
624164154

Weather making hunting difficult

By AMY MILNE

A WET, windy and cold summer is making the job of an aerial deer hunter in Fiordland tougher than usual.

Department of Conservation biodiversity manager Lindsay Wilson said deer were not retreating to open areas like they usually did in summer.

"It's been quite difficult because of the weather... the deer have not moved up into open country as they would've normally by now," Mr Wilson said.

Helicopter pilot Dick Deaker, who has 38 years' experience in

deer recovery in Fiordland agreed, saying the weather had been "real bad" this summer.

"And the deer recovery business is 100 per cent reliant on fair to good weather."

Mr Deaker recovered deer with a syndicate of about four Fiordland helicopter pilots. The meat was trucked to a processing plant in Rakaia, near Christchurch, and most of it ended up in Europe, he said.

Mr Wilson described the hunters as the "unsung heroes of conservation" because DOC could never afford to do the work itself, he said.

"For us the implication of what

those guys are doing is huge," Mr Wilson said. "It's a massive saving for the taxpayer."

About 7000 deer were shot and recovered from the national park every year.

Aerial deer hunting had stopped for about five years when venison prices tumbled, but resumed about three years ago.

DOC studies showed stopping the hunting led to deer numbers climbing and the park's native vegetation suffering.

"Since they started up again there's been a notable recovery in the condition of these plants."

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After the wipeout, deer farming makes comeback

26/1/10

By SCOT MacKAY

FARMING deer is again looking like a viable use of land now the price of venison has returned to an acceptable and sustainable price.

The strength of the Kiwi dollar and a decline in numbers of deer farmers has meant venison sales have returned to a good price, putting more money in deer farmers' wallets.

PGG Wrightson Southland representative Brian Duggan said prices reached about \$9 a kilogram in September last year, with an average of between \$6.50 and \$7 for the rest of the year.

The return to deer farming as a viable option for land use could be seen in the demand for stags, which had increased substantially on last year, he said.

At the Lochinvar Wapiti Farm sales on January 17, stags were being sold on average at \$150 more than last year, with a maximum price of \$5700 for a single stag, Mr Duggan said.

Farmers were looking to take advantage of the fast growth of wapiti deer, beginning their kills in September when demand and price was high, he said.

The industry took a dive in the three years before 2009 and venison prices dropped below \$6/kg, well below a sustainable rate, Mr Duggan said. But now that prices were increasing farmers could finally turn a profit again from raising deer, he said.

Balfour deer farmer David Stevens, who specialises in velvet sales but also kills deer, said the



Prices firmer: PGG Wrightson staff auction stags at the Lorneville Deer Selling Centre this month.

Photo: ROBYN EDIE 624172804

lower number of deer farmers was helping lift venison prices because supply levels had dropped while demand stayed high.

"We had a huge drop in production levels from what it was three years ago. There is not a lot of product in the market," he said. That meant venison prices had risen.

Mr Duggan said when venison prices slumped many farmers had

converted their farms for other uses such as sheep and beef or dairy, reducing the amount of farmers by about 40 per cent, which prevented the market from being over-supplied.

Mr Duggan hoped venison sales would return to about \$9/kg this September.

The return to deer farming as a viable use of land was also evident at the Remarkables Park Stud

Farm auction, where some bidders had even made multiple purchases.

Director Alastair Porter estimated buyer interest was up 25 per cent on previous years, selling 38 of the 55 stags auctioned on the day and a further seven in the days following.

Mr Porter expected the remaining stags would be sold before the start of the mating season.

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Heeding signs of Johne's disease



War against Johne's: VetSouth vet Gavin Sinclair, one of 35 Johne's Management Ltd trained vets in New Zealand, is keen to help farmers minimise the impact of the disease in deer herds. PHOTO: MARGARET PHILLIPS

By MARGARET PHILLIPS

IF a Johne's disease lesion is found when a deer is slaughtered it may be a sign there are several infected animals on the farm of origin, VetSouth vet Gavin Sinclair says.

Mr Sinclair, who is one of 35 Johne's Management Ltd trained vets in New Zealand, said the disease seemed to be a growing problem for deer farmers.

The deer industry recognised the problems associated with the disease and formed Johne's Management Ltd several years ago, Mr Sinclair said.

The company is funded through a levy paid by deer-processing plants.

The company collected data from processing plants about the incidence of Johne's lesions on a farm-by-farm basis, he said.

Farmers were notified when lesions were identified. They could then contact a vet involved in the programme who could provide specialised advice on the management of Johne's disease.

Gore has two vets in the programme — Mr Sinclair and fellow VetSouth vet

Andrew Roe.

Johne's is a chronic disease of the gut and infected animals have chronic diarrhoea, ill-thrift and a rough coat.

The disease is caused by a bacteria, *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP), which is closely related to the bacteria which causes bovine Tb.

While there was no cure for the disease, it could be managed, he said.

It had been estimated between 7% and 25% of New Zealand's collective deer herd could be infected with MAP, and more than 1% could have clinical signs of the disease.

When lesions were found on an animal at slaughter it might be the tip of the iceberg, as there could be many more infected animals in the herd.

The effect of the disease could have a significant effect on productivity and, in turn, profitability, he said.

It was quite widespread and few farms would not have some incidence of the disease to a greater or lesser degree, Mr Sinclair said.

"It's a big productivity issue."

The first step in managing the disease was to assess how widespread it was on individual farms.

While the disease was not preventable, a vaccine had been released this year, although it only had limited use on deer-finishing farms.

Mr Sinclair said it was important to reduce environmental contamination and the spread of the disease. It could be passed across the placenta in pregnant hinds and be ingested from contaminated pasture.

If animals were under nutritional stress they could become more susceptible to the disease, he said.

"I guess in tough winters we see a lot more after that."

Healthy animals were less susceptible to the disease.

While control was possible, he doubted if eradication was likely.

However, with co-operation between farmers and Johne's Management Ltd, the impact of the disease could be lessened.

"It's such a slow, subtle disease, it's really easy to ignore," he said.

Wanaka man charged for spotlight shooting

A Wanaka hunter is facing three charges after firing in the direction of campers at Totaranui, in Abel Tasman National Park northwest of Nelson, an act described by the Department of Conservation as dangerous, reckless and illegal.

The man, who was hunting at night, shot two stags.

The 31-year-old Wanaka man faces three charges of breaching the National Parks Act in relation to the incident on May 18. He will appear in the Nelson District Court on February 9.

DOC Golden Bay area manager John Mason said there had been three instances in the past six months of deer being shot near the public campground's entrance.

"This illegal and unsafe hunting activity has to stop," he said.

"Shooting deer at night in public areas is dangerous, and it is particularly reckless when carried out close to camping areas where people are likely to be."

Mr Mason said this was clear from the tragic incident near

Turangi at Labour Weekend. Lower Hutt teacher Rosemary Ives was accidentally shot dead by a hunter while brushing her teeth at a campsite.

The hunter is alleged to have been spotlighting from a nearby road, and fired at Ms Ives thinking she was a deer.

Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson said that just 24 hours after Ms Ives' death, a DOC staff member camping at Butchers Flat in the Marlborough Sounds dodged bullets when a vehicle drove by. Wairarapa DOC staff also received complaints the same weekend of spotlighting within 50m of a hut.

Mr Mason said hunting in darkness was prohibited on public conservation land.

"The campground is popular with people staying most nights, and over the peak summer holiday period it is full, with up to 850 campers a night."

The penalty for breaching the National Parks Act is up to three months in jail or a fine of up to \$2500. Fairfax

Venison looking firm

By TIM CRONSHAW

VENISON looks to be in good shape to withstand the weak euro as the first chilled shipments prepare to leave for the main European game season.

New Zealand's strong dollar has been a sore point for agriculture exporters, but deer returns are shaping up to be stable, if not better than, last year.

Market returns are ahead of last year in the leadup to peak trading from October to December, and on the domestic market the meat schedule for mainly frozen venison is at \$7 a kilogram.

However, a Silver Fern Farms contract for chilled venison at \$8.25 for overseas delivery from September to October has the deer industry optimistic this might be the yardstick for the non-contracted schedule, as long as the dollar does not lift.

Deer Industry New Zealand

venison marketing manager Innes Moffat said conditions looked positive for the chilled schedule to be above \$7/kg for the fourth year in a row.

He said the venison outlook was good considering the weak euro and strong dollar and a European market still suffering from the effects of the global financial crisis.

Had the euro remained at last year's rate of about 44c, instead of the present 56c, the meat schedule would be more than \$10/kg.

Venison prices peaked in 2001 at a high of \$10/kg, but the industry skidded four years later when the schedule failed to reach much above \$5/kg when deer numbers were high.

As a result, the deer industry is pushing for slow and steady growth. Many farmers appear to have increased their hind herds from last year, although the hind kill remains at the replacement rate.

Fairfax

13/10/2010

Three men charged with illegal hunting

JOHN EDENS in Queenstown

Police yesterday arrested three men accused of poaching near Glenorchy.

Sergeant Linda Stevens, of Queenstown, said police were given a tipoff about alleged poaching and stopped a car in the resort about 6.30pm.

Two Cromwell men, aged 41 and 19, were arrested and charged with unlawful hunting and possession of firearms, she said.

A Queenstown man, 38, was charged with unlawful hunting under the Wild Animal Control Act.

Police said the men were deer hunting near Chinaman's Bluff, along the Rees-Dart Track, about 27km from Glenorchy.

It was not clear yesterday whether the men were on public Department of Conservation land or private land.

DOC Wakatipu programme manager of biodiversity threats Mark Mawhinney said there was a lot of poaching and "spotlighting" - illegal hunting at night from a vehicle using lights or torches - around Glenorchy.

If the men were on DOC land and a prosecution were successful, it would be a first during his six years with the Wakatipu branch.

DOC, police and landowners met earlier this year to discuss poaching, Mr Mawhinney said.

"The police recognise it's an issue up there. People go up at night, especially on paddocks, for deer. As soon as you go into Chinaman's you are driving through paddocks and there are lots of clearings so it's good for spotlighting," he said.

If the men were on DOC land, the Conservation Act applied, which carries a maximum penalty of a year's jail or a \$10,000 fine.

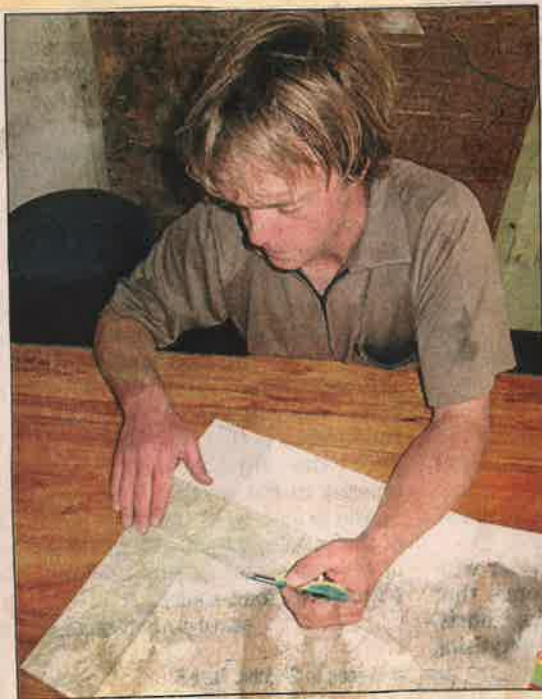
The maximum penalty under the Wild Animal Control Act is a \$500 fine. Under the Conservation Act, each member of a hunting party must carry a permit.

To obtain a DOC permit, a hunter must hold a valid firearms' licence.

DOC Wakatipu ranger Jamie Cowan said the free permits were designed to allow hunters to carry firearms across public land.

The three men are expected to appear in the Queenstown District Court on Monday.

john.edens@stl.com



Mountain job: Department of Conservation ranger Craig Wilson points to the area of the Blue Mountains targeted by poachers in Central Otago.

Photo: CHE BAKER
624880535

Poachers put lives at risk says hunter

15/11/2010

Che Baker in Alexandra

An Alexandra hunter says poachers are putting people's lives at risk as they hunt illegally on blocks in Central Otago.

Department of Conservation ranger Colin Bishop said it was frequently receiving complaints from hunters with permits that poachers were occupying restricted areas, mainly the Blue Mountains.

To hunt on a restricted area hunters were required to enter a ballot and were allowed to hunt there only if the name was pulled from the ballot.

Hunters expected to be alone on restricted blocks but often found poachers hunting in areas where they were not supposed to be, Mr Bishop said.

Nathan Keane, a hunter from Alexandra, said he had arrived to hunt in the Blue Mountains last month after his name was pulled from the ballot and found a poacher on the block.

"It's frustrating, you miss out on the ballot a lot so when you get it and find a clown already there it's gutting."

When he first noticed a poacher he thought it was a deer.

Mr Keane said not only were they putting his life at risk, they

were risking their own lives as well. He said he had found poachers in the area on several occasions in the past two years.

Poachers did not think of the dangers, they thought of only themselves, Mr Keane said.

New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association spokesman Trevor Dyke said on average 1.5 people were killed every year in hunting accidents in New Zealand.

Poaching was the sort of activity that could cause accidents, Mr Dyke said.

Permits to hunt on conservation land

were free and were available from any regional office.

Open areas could be hunted at any time and restricted areas were run by the ballot system.

Restrictions on the permit included no hunting during darkness.

Mr Bishop said many people were breaking the rules in open areas by spotlighting and hunting without a permit.

What they were doing was dangerous and poachers were ruining it for other hunters, who found themselves less likely to make a kill, he said.

Hunters who find poachers were urged to note licence plates and as much information about them as possible, and alert DOC, who would inform police.

FARM

Venison shortage could help lift

Mark Hutton Agri-business reporter

An expected shortfall in New Zealand venison production this season because of a drop in deer numbers should lead to prices stabilising and possibly rising, Southland deer farmers were told last week.

Speaking at a VetSouth deer seminar in Winton, Deer Industry New Zealand venison marketing services manager Innes Moffat said with venison production expected to be similar to last season, there would be a gap be-



Deer do: Deer Industry New Zealand venison marketing services manager Innes Moffat (left) and chairman Andy Macfarlane at a VetSouth deer seminar in Winton.

Photo: MARK HUTTON 624932574

tween demand and supply. Last year the shortfall was met by stored surplus from the previous season but because that buffer had been used, it was unclear how the gap would be filled this year so

prices should remain high, Mr Moffat said.

Indications were that restaurant sales, New Zealand production, prices, and importers' expectations were "stable to improving", he said.

"I'm confident we've got pretty stable market conditions at the moment and good demand for product and we're looking for good prices next year."

Dinz chairman Andy Macfarlane echoed a call by Alliance Group chairman Owen Poole for farmers to pick and support one meat processor to remove uncertainty from the industry.

Mr Poole told farmers long-term

supply commitments offered them an assured income, and stability to the company.

Mr Macfarlane said Dinz was creating working groups to explore areas such as animal health, genetics, feeding, the environment, processing, and farm management, with the goal to find ways to boost on-farm productivity to ensure the industry was still making money in 10 to 15 years.

The organisation's goal was to inspire the New Zealand deer industry to profitably grow and market the world's best red meat to the premium positioning of New Zealand venison, he said.

prices

That would come through differentiating venison from other red meats and highlighting the difference between New Zealand's farm-raised and game animals.

While the industry had shrunk in the past few years, base numbers suggested that had bottomed out and farmer confidence was growing - deer remained competitive and had a niche in farming in New Zealand, Mr Macfarlane said.

It was no longer a question of the deer sector competing with dairy, but looking at how deer farming fitted in with other livestock classes, he said.

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11/3/2011

Second chopper down

A second helicopter went down in Fiordland within two days when a Robinson R22 made an emergency landing after a mechanical failure on Wednesday. Constable Glen Matheson, of Te Anau, said the Manapouri-based helicopter on a deer-recovery operation when its clutch tension failed, forcing it to land in the Awe Burn, near the North Arm of Lake Manapouri, and activate its emergency beacon. The two occupants were uninjured and collected by a passing Southern Lakes Helicopter. A privately owned R22 also crashed about 10km northwest of the northern tip of Lake Hauroko while observing a deer-recovery operation on Tuesday.



Control loss forced chopper ditching

Kimberley Crayton-Brown and Sam McKnight

The pilot of the helicopter that crashed in Fiordland on Monday night was believed to have lost control and ditched the craft, out

Stuffed: The Robinson R44 helicopter that crashed in southwest Fiordland.

Photo: FIORDLAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

of self-preservation, Te Anau police said.

The Robinson R44 Astro helicopter, registered to Auckland company Highland Hunters, crashed into a hillside near Blacklock Stream in Long Sound about 6pm.

Senior Constable Phil Robertson, of Te Anau, said only the pilot, a Tuatapere man, was on board when it was believed the helicopter developed handling difficulties and he elected to ditch the

aircraft. The helicopter was part of deer recovery operation and the pilot was picking up a shooter, a 49-year-old Timaru man, at the time of the "mishap", he said.

The hunter was on the ground at the time.

A Southern Lakes Helicopter was dispatched to the crash site to pick the men up.

The terrain the helicopter crashed into was quite rocky and on about a 20 degree slope.

The crash site was at an altitude

of 795m and in an alpine environment, Mr Robertson said.

He would be surprised if the helicopter could be fixed.

"I would say it is almost certainly written off."

Southern Lakes Helicopters pilot Brendan Hiatt said the rescue was "fairly straight-forward".

He said the men had given GPS co-ordinates of where they were and the helicopter was able to land about 10m away from the crash site.

Hunters fined for poaching on farm

5/2/11

Two hunters were sentenced in the Invercargill District Court yesterday for poaching on farm land.

Stephen Kenneth Walker, 47, and Barry David Bethune, 45, appeared before Judge Kevin Phillips charged with hunting wild deer without permission on April 24.

Walker was also charged with helping unlicensed Bethune to buy a .270 rifle.

Bethune was charged with possession of a firearm while his licence was revoked.

Police prosecutor Sergeant Grant Gerken told the court Bethune bought the .270 on April 24.

That night the pair decided to go shooting on Department of Conservation land.

However, while out shooting the men

left DOC land and crossed several farm paddocks, one with sheep in it, before taking a shot at a pair of wild deer, he said.

The men missed the deer and returning to their car found a note telling them to see the police, unaware the owner of the farm was also stalking the same deer, he said.

Defence lawyer John Fraser said both men were experienced hunters, but did not realise they were on private property when they were stalking the deer.

The boundary was unclear because of bush on the farmer's land.

Judge Phillips said Bethune had the most atrocious history in relation to firearms.

Judge Phillips fined the men \$400 on the charges of unlawfully hunting and

were fined \$1200 on the other charges.

Harassment

Lyndon Brian Houliston, 42, was remanded to April 12 for sentence on two charges of behaving in a psychological abusive manner while a protection order was in place between August 17 and September 8, and for harassing a woman knowing it was likely she would fear for her safety between June 7 and August 9.

The Court was told Houliston was formerly in a relationship with the woman he harassed and on numerous occasions followed her in his car, waited outside places where he knew she would be.

He even text her "I see u love" on occasion, the court was told.

Judge Phillips said jail was likely.

Game council good for hunting

2/5/11

BY LEEANA TAMATI

SOUTHLANDERS will have an enhanced hunting experience when an independent hunting body creates game management in New Zealand, according to Southland Deerstalkers president Nathan Dawson.

The Game Animal Council will be established on Wednesday, June 23, as a condition of the coalition between United Future and the National Government.

The council will be self-funded and have a statutory status.

It will form policies around game management in New Zealand, consult with the government on issues in hunters' interests and provide information to hunters.

The game covered by the council will be deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs.

Mr Dawson said the council would help to improve the hunting experience in Southland.

"It might be a bit rough to set up, but this ability to manage game will be good for hunters in general."

Hunters in Southland were lucky because they had access to places where the number of game animals was controlled.

Establishing controls in the rest of the region would be an advantage because higher quality animals would be

caught, he said.

Animals would be kept at a sustainable level with the council's help, he said.

It would most likely liaise with other organisations who would tell them if there were any problems with the number of animals in specific areas.

This would help to protect the environment as well, he said.

"At the end of the day, if there are less animals eating leaves and trees and damaging the landscape, it's got to be good for the environment."

The council would not only have hunters on it, but people from all different spectrums of life, he said.

"There will be pig hunters, farm owners and iwi on the council, so it won't be a one-sided thing."

He had not heard any feedback from hunters in Southland about the council, but said there would be a mixed reaction.

"It's early days yet but with all new things there will be a bit of controversy."

Invercargill MP Eric Roy said the council would form a policy to manage game sustainably.

The main aim of the council would be to "create management" as there was no control over the number of game animals living on public conservation lands in New Zealand.

However, in Southland there were

some private parties, like the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, that took game management into their own hands.

It was about quality, not quantity, he said.

Once the management policy was in effect, there would be less game in the region and the animals and trophies would be of a higher quality.

"Nobody wants to shoot a bag of bones with scraggly antlers."

It was intended that the council would have 11 members and its functions would be set out by a new Act introduced into Parliament this year.

The government was to give the council an initial \$100,000, and \$50,000 annually after that.

However, the main source of funding would come from a tax on the export of trophy animals.

Mr Roy could not say how much the tax would be or how many trophies were exported annually, but said it was not unusual to have a fee on exported trophies.

"There's a high cost for non-residents to shoot animals in most other countries, so it will not look unusual when we do it."

"In the US it would cost something like US\$700 for a non-resident to bring a trophy home."

It would still be free for New Zealand residents to hunt on public conservation land, Mr Roy said.

Fiordland moose hunter won't stop

Shane Cowlishaw

14/1/2011

Does Bigfoot exist? Can yetis really be roaming the Himalayas? Are there moose loose in Fiordland?

For former helicopter pilot and veteran Otago moose hunter Ken Tustin, who has spent more than 30 years seeking an answer to the last question, there is no doubt in his mind.

Last year, Mr Tustin made headlines when one of his 13 trigger cameras returned a photo that looked suspiciously like a juvenile moose.

However, many people were sceptical and said it looked more like a Kaimanawa horse than a moose.

"We'll never figure that out and that's what made it full of debate," he said. "It had striking elements of moose but there was always a possibility of camera distortion, but there was never any evidence of that in any other photos."

Moose, which were freed in New Zealand in 1910, have not been officially spotted for more than 50 years.

DNA testing on hair follicles found in 2001 and 2002 had proven to be from a moose, he said.

This month, Mr Tustin headed into remote southwest Fiordland to download photos from his cameras - the first time he had checked them since June. But, despite capturing more than 4000 images, none proved to be the elusive snap he was hoping for.

About 3000 turned out to be deer, and the rest were triggered by possums, birds, wind-blown vegetation and sun flare.

The failure was disappointing but has not dampened Mr Tustin's spirits - he immediately reset the cameras for another six months of reconnaissance.

"In some ways it's such a rare chance - you don't expect it, but you're not going to know if you don't try."

"The thing that drives me, I guess, is the message more than anything, saying to kids: 'There's still mysteries out there, it may be 2010 but don't just spend all your time on your cellphones'."



Keep trying: Ken Tustin with a "mystery" set of antlers.

1080 — The Untold Stories

Advertisement

DOC Closes Family Picnic Area



Lilburn Valley resident Tamsin Scott at the Thicketburn Picnic Area, upset that it has been closed to the public until the end of January.

Members of the public were left with more questions than answers after last October's 1080 drop by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in Fiordland's Waitutu Forest, none the least of which is why DOC ploughed up the Thicket Burn Picnic Area immediately afterwards as shown in this photograph. The site was used as the staging area for the operation in which 50 tonnes of 1080 bait was dropped over a 25,000ha area and has not once in the last 35 years ever been closed for maintenance.

"Their original plan was to hose the site down, but now it looks like they're trying to bury the contamination," said SEEC representative Tamsin Scott. "Either way, it seems to be a pretty irresponsible thing to do to a family picnic area. Can DOC really guarantee that children playing in the area in the future will not be poisoned by 1080, given that 1080 can take months to break down even in ideal conditions? After similar



1080 fragments as big as 1cm left on the ground at the end of a public road after a recent 1080 operation on the West Coast.

drops on the West Coast, fragments of 1080 bait as large as 1cm in diameter were found as shown in the accompanying photograph."

DOC's Colin Bishop, the ranger responsible for the Waitutu operation, could not be reached for comment when this article was originally written in mid-October.

However, according to comments from a DOC spokesperson at that time, the picnic area was closed for standard maintenance until the end of January for resealing and growing grass. "We thought it was time to do some work on it." When asked whether there was any danger from residual 1080 poison the response was, "I wouldn't have thought so".

Another aspect of the operation that surprised many was the heavy Police presence in the area on the day of the operation. According to witnesses, as many as eight Police vehicles were present in addition to security personnel, despite the fact that no protests were expected or carried out. "The threat here is not from the public who are rightly standing up against this madness," said Tamsin Scott, "it is from those that are indiscriminately killing our wildlife and contaminating our waterways. If we don't stop this now, we risk losing everything."

Local concession holders were also unimpressed by DOC's flaunting of the resource consent requirement to provide five working days notice prior to the drop. "They reneged on what they were saying," said South Coast Jet operator Vaughan Reynolds. "It's difficult to plan ahead when you don't know what's happening from day to day."

Joek Saunders, a well-known local farmer who has used the Waitutu area for 37 years, was also unimpressed with DOC's actions on the day. "We were assured that we would have access to the caravan on the day of the operation to monitor the drop. Jessyca Bernard even went so far as to say to me, 'we would like you to be involved in the 1080 operation — for the sake of our credibility we want you to come.' However, when it came to the crunch they refused, so what was on the flight plans and weight dockets that they did not want us to see?"

1080 Facts

- 1080 is ONLY registered for aerial use against possums, but in reality it is an indiscriminate poison and kills anything that eats enough of it: insects, birds, aquatic life, mammals, etc.
- Even DoC state that stoats are the major threat to kaka, not possums. (OIA Letter)
- Stoats do not eat the 1080 baits typically used in aerial application. They prefer live kill, so are unlikely to die from eating something that has died from 1080.
- The primary diet of stoats changes after aerial 1080 use from rats to birds. (Murphy)
- Rat numbers explode after aerial 1080 operations. (Landcare Research) DoC then asks for more money for rat control because rats kill birds (e.g. Catlins, Dart, Caples).
- "Stoats and rodents will bounce back in a year." (DoC e-mail after Waitutu operation)
- Rats can outbreed almost any other vertebrate and so are able to recover faster from blanket poisoning than slow-breeding native birds. (gestation period 21 days <14 per litter)
- Stoats have 1 litter per year of 5-12 pups. Does anything outbreed pests?
- Possums have one joey per year. So, if 1080 killed 99.95% of possums in the Waitutu why do DoC need to go back and do it again?
- DoC's own research shows that 1080 kills many native birds.
- DoC have NO credible scientific research that can conclude that benefits occur after 1080 operations, not even in a single species.
- By using aerial poisons, DoC are destroying the delicate structure of ecosystems that have evolved over millions of years and are interfering with the balance of nature.
- 1080 is among the world's 10 most lethal poisons, designated a Class 1A poison by WHO.
- The manufacturer's label states that carcasses killed by 1080 must be burned or buried and must be kept out of water. This is not happening.
- <5 tons of 1080 is produced annually. The NZ government uses more than 80%. The USDA is the only US customer and is reported to use less than 4 TABLESPOONS per year.
- 1080 was developed as an insecticide during WWII by the Germans, but despite lack of good quality research DoC claim insignificant impact on insects.
- NZFSA does not routinely test animals or animal products for human consumption (milk, meat) for 1080 residues, even though 1080 is, in some cases, aerially applied next to farms.
- 1080 kills deer, pigs, trout, etc., consumed by the public. They can also ingest sub-lethal doses of 1080 so it can enter the human food chain. Cooking meat (from animals with residues) at under 200°C does not render 1080 completely harmless (Landcare Research).
- 1080 can accumulate in humans in the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and unborn foetus. Symptoms can include: cardiac irregularities, chronic fatigue, seizures and foetal abnormalities.
- No long-term studies have ever been carried out to ascertain the safety of 1080 usage.
- 1080 can and does get into water supplies. In the right conditions (cold, low microbial activity) it can persist for months or years.
- 1080 was banned in the UK in 1959 because it was too indiscriminate and kills all invertebrates not just target species.
- New Zealand has already had venison (twice), milk and timber recalled or dumped because of possible or actual 1080 contamination. Obviously some export markets test for 1080.
- Our honey industry has been compromised because of our inability to guarantee freedom from 1080 contamination.
- A lucrative Japanese contract for possum meat was cancelled for the same reason.
- Possum fur now reaches \$100+/kg and is a unique product in great demand/short supply.
- There is NO incentive to eliminate the predators that are the greatest threat to our native birds, i.e. stoats, ferrets, feral cats, etc.
- There are more DoC workers in Southland than Police Officers.
- DoC's 5-minute bird count was devised 35 years ago by Dawson and Bulls and abandoned the following year as it wasn't a valid scientific method. Why do DoC persist in using it?
- Forest Stewardship Council-accredited forestry companies are no longer allowed to use 1080 or brodifacoum in their forests.
- DoC and AHB, mostly through Landcare Research, are essentially the only sources of scientific investigation into the effects of aerial 1080 on ecosystems. This is because 1080 is banned in most other countries. No other country in the world is doing anything remotely comparable to New Zealand's poisoning programmes.
- Mistletoe is parasitic and can decline in healthy forests despite possum control. DoC knew this before the Waitutu drop.
- According to information publically available on the Internet, Animal Control Products Ltd., the importers of 1080, is wholly owned by Minister of Finance Hon. Bill English and Minister of Agriculture Hon. David Carter on behalf of the government.

Compliance: Tricky Business



Dust, fragments and baits spilling from a hopper during the Waitutu drop.

Photo courtesy of the Southland Times.

One of the roles of local government is to ensure compliance with all resource consent decisions and to do so without partiality. In Environment Southland's (ES) Waitutu Decision notes it is stated that "bait would be covered in transit to the operational area". One would think that this would refer to the covering of 1080 bait placed in hoppers under helicopters on their way to the place of application while flying over areas for which consent was not granted. It is clear, however, from the photograph shown above that hoppers were not fitted with covers.

While to our knowledge 1080 baits were covered on their way to the loading zone, which was the Thicket Burn picnic area, once they entered the hoppers they were not covered at all during the flight over native bush on the eastern side of the Waitutu

drinking water downstream — but would unfortunately have made it impossible for DoC to do the drop in the Waitutu because in this the "ultimate forest", as referred to by David Bellamy, there are so many waterways. The ultimate poison in the ultimate forest. Nice touch.

Instead of going through what we would consider to be the proper procedures and legal channels, we are reliably informed that DoC simply phoned the HSNO Officer to have the condition deleted. Thank you HSNO Officer for cutting through all the red tape and saving time and money, but we think this kind of behaviour is highly irregular and undermines the democratic processes that we all pride our country for.

It is also our understanding that the HSNO

Have a Proper Gander at this Photo



camera. With every photo taken these flash units flashed every two seconds to eliminate 'red-eye' in the subjects.

That a possum and rat were prepared to sit through forty flash events every two seconds while they supposedly feasted on nestlings is not what can be expected of truly wild animals because under normal conditions both of these animals are usually very wary. With a number of such camera stations in the area it is quite apparent that these two animals were conditioned to their surroundings and therefore not truly "wild" animals.

Further questions revealed that the photographer had nailed the vine supporting

DoC Uses Funding Set



This photograph was taken in early March 2009 at the DoC camping area at the start of the walking track to Lake Daniels, just out of Springs Junction on the Lewis Pass Road. In addition to the infamous possum/rat photo, it shows a dog-killed Kiwi and a stoat-killed Takahe. Do you think this misleads people into believing that possums and rats are responsible for the death of these larger birds? If so, please contact Kate.Wilkinson@ministers.govt.nz and ask her to stop using this photograph immediately.

In another strange twist to the aerial 1080 saga, evidence has come to light that suggests the photograph used extensively by the Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird, Landcare Research and district and regional councils throughout New Zealand to "prove" that possums and rats eat native birds was actually from a controlled photo shoot.

To show two predators, who normally have nothing to do with each other, sitting up a tree trunk together after apparently raiding

a native bird's nest seemed too far-fetched to Nelson man Ron Eddy. He contacted the photographer David Mudge on the evening of February 1st, 2009.

Apparently taken during November 2007 in a two-acre remnant block of native bush on a farm outside Ohau, Horowhenua, Mr. Mudge explained that the photograph was actually part of a sequence of forty. These were taken using a motion sensor-controlled camera set up on top of a fruit picking ladder with flash units above and below the

therefore not truly. Further questions revealed that the photographer had nailed the vine supporting the animals and the bird's nest to the tree two to three weeks earlier and that the birds in the photograph were not, in fact, native birds, but Song Thrushes. For some reason the thrushes had chosen to inhabit a nest that does not resemble that of a thrush 2m or more off the ground in native bush, which is not normally their chosen habitat.

By nailing the vine to the tree, the photographer had made the nest and its occupants readily available to possums and rats, which would not normally be the case. That these seemingly "wild" animals sat quietly through forty flashes from the camera without feeling threatened or frightened is indeed remarkable, unless they had been photographed so often that they no longer felt any fear.

The photographer went on to tell Ron that there was a large population of possums and rats in the block (the Animal Health Board requires they be culled) and said that he had shot the silver-grey possum as it was the only one that had attacked the nest, and he didn't want it to teach the rest of the possums to eat birds.

So, let's recap the facts:

- Controlled photoshoot on a farm.
- Song Thrushes — NOT native birds.
- Nest held in place by a nailed vine.
- Access facilitated to possums and rats by the nailed vine.
- Large population of possums and rats — NOT a typical native bush setting.

Do you think it is right for the agencies mentioned in this article to use this photo to mislead the public into believing that possums and rats are a "Big Problem" in our native forests? We think it demonstrates a lack of integrity on their behalf and because we as taxpayers pay them as public servants to work for us we expect higher than normal levels of integrity to go with the higher than normal rates at which they are paid.

These websites provide further information, radio interviews, film clips and research:
www.1080.org.nz
www.kaka1080.co.nz
www.thegrafboys.org
www.thegrafboys.blogspot.com

Waitutu project would take 30 trappers 6 months for \$35.52/ha. Independent research produced quotes of 10 trappers 3 months for \$25-30/ha. DoC estimate 2 days and \$21.54/ha for aerial 1080, however associated costs were not included and DoC did not release final costs when requested.) Comparable 1080 drops on the West Coast & Hokonui were \$50+/ha.

If ground-based control is the safest, most cost effective method, then current funding for existing aerial 1080 operations should cease immediately and the funding be used for ground-based operations. Excess funding could be used for local initiatives.

We are VERY happy to work with DoC or anyone else towards achieving positive outcomes for our environment, communities and agriculture, but the present system is clearly an international embarrassment and poses great dangers, meaning that we need to develop better and smarter ways of doing this.

Watch for new Graf Boys doco on alternatives to 1080 and social impact of aerial poisons.

DoC Uses Funding Aside for Private Land

The Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) is "an independent contestable fund established by the Government in 1990 for voluntary protection of nature on private land", yet only 2,421ha of private land was involved in the Waitutu operation: the rest of the 25,000ha was Fiordland National Park. Is NHF being used as a slush fund to finance DoC projects for which it otherwise would not receive funding?

NHF receives an annual allocation of funds from the Government, is administered by an independent committee and serviced by DoC, with reports being made to the Minister of Conservation.

This "independent committee" includes ex-DoC personnel and others affiliated with Forest & Bird Society.

Funding for the Waitutu drop was approved by the previous Conservation minister, Hon. Tim Groser, who stipulated that no less than 25,000ha were to be controlled for possums. This despite the fact that DoC know that stoats are the main problem and multiple research studies carried out in the Waitutu area show that Mistletoe has no significant relation to possum browse anyway.

Possum control had been discontinued in the Waitutu in 2000, but suddenly 10 years later we were told that intensive possum control was required to prevent immediate extinction of vulnerable forest species. DoC never released credible research data to prove this.

Interestingly, the pest control promised as part of the \$20 million Waitutu Block Settlement Act 1997 had never been carried out, despite relatively accessible terrain and local communities in need of employment. Was this deliberate or just incompetence?

Despite private land accounting for less than 10% of the 1080 drop zone, the NHF committee provided \$500,000 plus \$62,500GST for pest control, stipulating that 1080 was to be used for the initial treatment, with further treatments to be undertaken within the next 3-4 years. (DoC Southland Conservancy provided an extra \$100,000).

So, with such strings attached (i.e. "you will use 1080") it is easy to see why ground control consisting of trapping or feratox bait bags was not a possible option even if it was cheaper. How many other aerial 1080 drops have NHF funded in this way?

Business Dead After 1080 Drop



South Coast Jet operator Vaughan Reynolds. South Coast Jet operator Vaughan Reynolds has decided to leave Tuatapere following the aerial 1080 operation in the Waitutu Forest carried out last October by the Department of Conservation (DoC).

After the drop business dropped right off and hunters are no longer booking to go into the area. "I can no longer make a living out of it", said Mr. Reynolds, who has been forced to resort to cherry picking in Central Otago for little more than the minimum wage. "Once people hear that there has been a 1080 drop in the area they just don't want to go."

Born in Invercargill, Mr. Reynolds spent time possum hunting and working at the aluminium smelter at Tiwai before starting South Coast Jet in 2001. The business specialises in guided hunting

and fishing in the area bordering the Waitutu Forest.

"I've hunted this area for 37 years," said Mr. Reynolds, "and I, like a lot of other people with a history in the area, know that it just didn't need to be done. It's a complete waste of money and bird numbers are just the same as they were in the 1970s. It's time DoC stopped using 1080 and started to help local communities such as Tuatapere to manage the incredible resources that we have on our back door steps."

Mr. Reynolds plans to leave his two brothers behind in Invercargill and move to Australia to look for work in the mines. "It's almost impossible to get ahead in this area", he said. If it's not DoC, then it's the councils."

So how did DoC get away with this and where was ES when it came to ensuring that DoC complied with the conditions of the resource consent?

ES did, in fact, have a representative on site at the loading area, so why did he not insist that covers be fitted to the hoppers? Did someone just forget to bring them and he was kind enough to say, "that's OK boys. Look, we're all here now and for the sake of a couple of covers it's unreasonable to make you wait. Go ahead and do it anyway"? We don't know, and who really would like to try to stand up to DoC anyway, but the fact remains that they were not fitted on the way to the operational area, which allowed dust, particles and baits to spill from the hoppers onto bush and into the lake on the way to the "operational area".

So how did they get away with this? Apparently DoC arranged for a HSNO Officer to designate the loading zone as part of the operational area and allow the helicopters to fly to and from the drop zone over non-operational areas via a designated corridor. Nice... but to our way of thinking this does not comply with the condition that the bait be "covered in transit to the operational area" and is typical of the irresponsible attitude that DoC and other government agencies have with regard to this lethal Class A poison. It's starting to look like some laws don't apply if you have a Get Out of Jail Free card.

As if that wasn't enough, when DoC received the first set of conditions from the HSNO Officer they included a stipulation that 1080 should not be applied within 20 metres of waterways. This would make complete sense in terms of protecting aquatic life — not to mention whitebaiters or anyone

Who are we?

We are normal people with day jobs who object to poisons being used indiscriminately and irresponsibly by unaccountable bureaucrats who are poisoning our beautiful country. Accused by the media and the government of being activists and terrorists, in actual fact we never threaten anyone, while those involved in the 1080 industry get away with murder — literally.

What do we want?

- **Guaranteed Safe Access** to wild sources of food for all New Zealanders — period.
- Development of permanent environmentally-friendly systems of **Pest Eradication** that **Simultaneously** target multiple species.
- **National Standards** for hand laying of all toxins.
- **Regional Maps** showing past and present usage of ALL toxins, including DDT, 245T, Brodifacoum and 1080.
- **Mandatory Public Notification** of ALL 1080 use by ALL parties, including all branches and forms of government.
- A greater degree of **Local Control** and **Community Benefit** from pest control operations.

In November 2009, TV One reported that DoC had spent \$1.28 million dollars on "spin doctors" over the previous year. Why the need for "spin doctors" when telling the truth costs absolutely nothing? How much did they spend in 2010 and on what?

declare stipulated in the resource consent by ES because of "heavy forest canopy", even though the HSNO Officer was not the consenting body who gave resource consent. When we checked before the drop, the relevant department in ES knew nothing of this or any other changed conditions. It appeared to be news to them but they were of the opinion that the original conditions would still apply. Did anyone check?

We know from observers on the ground that DoC then appeared to apply 1080 heavily on the ridges and lightly if at all in other areas. It begs the question as to how much they applied in the areas where they did the subsequent bird monitoring. As we see it, there are monitoring and compliance-related issues concerning these drops that we think require a national standard overseen by a truly independent entity without any conflicts of interest i.e. no money changing hands. The only way we can see for this to work is to adopt the juror system and select people at random with no conflicts of interest and to then train them to monitor what they are seeing, with the applying entity footing the bill.

What do you think?

Farmers Against Ten Eighty (FATE)

"A recent poll of West Coast farmers shows that 75% are opposed to the continued use of 1080. FATE would like to see the AHB refocus their Tb eradication efforts back on farms, giving farmers the knowledge and the skills required to remove Tb from properties." Mary Molloy, Hari Hari chaos1@xtra.co.nz SEEC would like to thank FATE for their assistance with the content of this advertisement.

- **Training Programs** for young people to help them acquire bush and trapping skills.
- Development of **Possum-Related Products** and related export markets.

We have also made a formal request to Clutha-Southland MP Hon. Bill English for 300 self-resetting traps to be deployed throughout Southland for the trapping of stoats and rats.

Want to Donate or Work Together?

If you want to help raise awareness of what is going on with regard to the indiscriminate use of 1080 that endangers our environment, our international markets and our tourism, OR if you would like to be a part of the solution, we would welcome your assistance.

If you are a business or individual who would like to sponsor these efforts and/or traps then please feel free to donate to the following account or contact us at the e-mail address shown below:

Account Name: SEEC
Account Number: 03 1355 0646024 00
 If you have more information regarding bird and animal deaths from 1080 on Stewart Island and elsewhere please write to us at the following address.
SEECNZ@gmail.com

Recommendations

- Stop aerial 1080 operations until a properly designed and executed study independent of DoC and AHB can be completed showing the benignity and benefits of aerial 1080 to our native forests and their inhabitants. Such a study should include aspects that test alternatives to aerial 1080 and ensure the effective and simultaneous decline of pests.
- Comprehensive inquiries independent of all political control should be initiated to investigate the following:
 1. Aerial 1080 application and the way it is funded by the NZ government. This should be undertaken by a one-time independent commission at least half constituted of respected international scientists.
 2. Potential conflicts of interest, fraud and financial impropriety regarding all aspects of the 1080 industry, from research and purchase through to post-drop cleanup

(what cleanup?).

- Environmental research funding should be reorganized to remove it from the control of agencies and individuals with a potential financial stake in the outcomes.
- All licenses for aerial 1080 application should be put on hold until further notice and the focus shifted to eradication of bovine Tb around farms to protect our livestock (which simply do not live in places such as the Waitutu).
- We, the people of New Zealand, should pay any additional cost for ground-based possum control, if any, until sound research can be completed regarding permanent environmentally-friendly systems of pest eradication that simultaneously target multiple species of pests.

Note: DoC advised the Southland Conservation Board on 7/10/09 that the



St John

New Zealand Order of St John

Can you help?

Winton: Shane Batchelor Ph 027 4895685
Te Anau: John Lambeth, Ph 027 2234892
Otautau: Anna Nicolson, Ph 027 2519842
Lumsden: Bronwyn Beer, Ph 027 4058882
Tuatapere: Don Brown, Ph 027 6445897
Riverton: Anne Marie Eastwood, Ph 027 4542018
Riversdale: Dave Hurley, Ph 027 4357238
Rural Support Officer: Jan Douglas, Ph 027 4877318

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 111

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Sarah McCorkindale

By Day: Shop Assistant
In an Emergency: First Aid
Station: Te Anau
Volunteer for: 1½ years
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H&J Smith
 DEPARTMENT STORES SINCE 1900



Doug Gordon

By Day: Plant Supervisor/Meat Inspector
In an Emergency: 1st Response
Station: Lumsden
Volunteer for: 33½ years
Supporting Business: Asure Quality

Asure Quality



Rob Willis

By Day: Self Employed Dairy Farmer
In an Emergency: Observer
Station: Riverton
Volunteer for: 1½ years
Supporting Business: Bates Transport

BATES TRANSPORT 2007 LTD

Farmers unite to keep poachers out

Che Baker in Alexandra

Central Otago police have created an anti-poaching scheme to tackle a widespread problem of poaching on farms in the area.

Detective Sergeant Liz Williams, of Alexandra, the officer in charge of the scheme, said 29 farms covering 34 properties had joined the scheme after they asked for help from police to deal with

"Some poachers may think hunting unlawfully on someone else's land is harmless, this is naive."
Detective Sergeant Liz Williams

poaching on their land.

Mrs Williams said that, after talking with farmers, it was found there was widespread illegal hunting of pigs and deer and reports of stock theft, stock disturbance and

gates being left open. Under the scheme poachers prosecuted for unlawful hunting would find themselves served with a trespass notice for farms on the database.

Farmers in Central Otago, South Canterbury and West Otago had signed up and interest had been shown from Blenheim farmers to join.

Police could not patrol every country road so instead, the scheme was created to encourage property owners to report when they caught someone on their land and give police authority to remove them, Mrs Williams said.

"Some poachers may think

hunting unlawfully on someone else's land is harmless, this is naive. Many farms allow people to hunt legitimately on their land and the risk of those legitimate hunters being accidentally shot by a poacher is real," she said.

If caught poachers would be prosecuted, lose their firearms licence, and be disbarred from a large part of the wider farming community, Mrs Williams said.

Sergeant Mike Williams, of

Cromwell, said poachers had been caught because people had reported suspicious behaviour and police were able to catch them in the act.

Poachers could be dangerous and farmers should not try to apprehend them themselves, Mr Williams said.

Since the start of the scheme, three poachers had been removed from the farms for trespassing.

che.baker@stl.co.nz

Mahy wins children's book award

Acclaimed New Zealand children's writer Margaret Mahy, 75, has won New Zealand's premier children's book award with her book *The Moon and Farmer McPhee*.

The book, illustrated by David Elliott, also won the award for the best picture book. It tells the story of Farmer McPhee and the effect the moon has on him and his animals.

Mahy, who wrote her first story when she was 7, has won numerous awards and honours for her contribution to New Zealand and children's literature. NZPA

■ Winners in the awards, sponsored by NZ Post, and announced in Auckland last night, were: **Book of the Year:** *The Moon and Farmer McPhee* by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by David Elliott. **Best first book:** *Hollie Chips* by Anna Gowan. **Picture book:** *The Moon and Farmer McPhee* by Margaret Mahy, illustrated by David Elliott. **Non-fiction category:** *Zero Hour: The Anzacs on the Western Front* by Leon Davidson. **Junior fiction:** *Finnigan and the Pirates: A Fine Fandango* by Sherryl Jordan. **Young adult fiction:** *Fierce September* by Fleur Beale. **Children's choice awards:** **Overall winner:** *Baa Baa Smart Sheep* by Mark Sommerset, illustrated by Rowan Sommerset. **Non-fiction:** *Who's Cooking Tonight?* by Claire Gourley with Glenda Gourley. **Junior fiction:** *Hollie Chips* by Anna Gowan. **Young adult:** *Smiling Jack* by Ken Catran. **Picture Book:** *Baa Baa Smart Sheep* by Mark Sommerset, illustrated by Rowan Sommerset.

■ More than \$130 million has been donated to help the Christchurch earthquake recovery, with millions more expected from overseas. The Prime Minister's Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust has swelled to \$73 million, with 60 per cent coming from overseas, while the Red Cross 2011 Earthquake Appeal has topped \$62 million. By Friday, the Red Cross had given more than \$45 million in grants. Another \$880,000 has been given to 88 families who lost loved ones in the February quake. Fairfax

Road funds tight for next three years

Che Baker in Alexandra

Funding to maintain roads in Central Otago was expected to be under stress for the next three years because of Government cuts, Central Otago District Council roading manager Julie Muir said.

At a council meeting in Alexandra this month, Mrs Muir said after receiving a heads up on the Budget, funding for district roads in the area did not look good.

Funding had been taken from the national funding pool and allocated to fix Canterbury roads damaged in the February earthquake and roads of national significance would take priority over rural roads, she said.

Councils throughout New Zealand would struggle to stay within the proposed budgets, she said.

It was unknown how much would be allocated but it was unlikely councils would get additional funding if they needed it.

The council would now review its spending priorities, Mr Muir said.

A technical audit of roads in Central Otago showed sealed and unsealed roads were in good condition compared with other places across the country, she said.

It was possible the council would look to fund roading projects in another way if it were needed but she said she was

Life-like test for St John paramedics

Kimberley Crayton-Brown

The Invercargill St John Ambulance has a new team member: a \$22,000 Advanced Life Support mannequin that breathes, speaks, and simulates almost every condition ambulance officers face on the frontline.

Invercargill Southland Region team manager Robin Eustace said the mannequin could be used to train staff at all levels.

The station previously upgraded its mannequin in 2000, and Mr Eustace said the new mannequin's software was able to be upgraded to update the system.

"It is a really good skills maintenance tool. If people maintain their skills they can be confident out there dealing with emergency situations."

Advanced paramedic Craig Jones gave a demonstration of the mannequin's capabilities at the station last night.

"It can simulate most conditions presented to us in the medical field realistically, without having to inflict pain on real patients," Mr Jones said.

Trainees could check the "patient's" pulse, blood pressure, change the respiratory rate and lung sounds, and the chest

movements to mimic a collapsed lung. Using the remote control, an airway obstruction could be created, the patient could go into cardiac arrest, and a defibrillator could be used.

Scenarios can be programmed into the system that allow consistency during staff training.

Mr Jones said the mannequin had an anatomically correct airway, and demonstrated how to insert a tube into the airway and bag the patient.

The mannequins are also IV capable. Eight speakers inside the mannequin produce a range of sounds, from breathing to bowel sounds.

The Southland Medical Foundation provided St John with an \$11,000 grant to buy the mannequin and St John covered the rest of the cost.

Foundation secretary and treasurer Peter Muller was at last night's demonstration and had a go at performing CPR on the mannequin.

"It was harder than I thought it would be but it is useful to know just how much pressure is required," he said.

As CPR is performed, the system gives the trainee feedback on their technique.

kimberley.crayton-brown@stl.co.nz



No dummy:

Advanced paramedics Craig Jones (left) and Matt Schultz try to resuscitate St John's new mannequin at a demonstration last night.

Photo: DOUG FIELD
625347771

Situations Vacant

GRAVES FORESTRY SERVICES LIMITED

Due to increasing workload and contracts, wanted Forestry Silviculture Workers for thinning, pruning and planting operations throughout Southland, Otago and the South Island. Fifteen positions available, plus two Crew Supervisors. For further information contact Shaun Graves on (021) 224-3422 or: shaun.graves@kinect.co.nz

4738907

TAKITIMU PRIMARY SCHOOL

Takitimu Primary School in Nightcaps needs a part time cleaner, to make our classrooms sparkle. 6 hours per week.

Apply in writing to the Principal, Evans Street, Nightcaps.

By 3pm Wednesday, 25 July 2012.

4738258



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Maintenance Carpenters Wanted Based at Industrial Site in Edendale

We are looking for a self motivated, driven, carpenter able to work in a team environment but also unsupervised to work on an Industrial Manufacturing Site.

Your skills should include good General Carpentry knowledge, good written skills, and the ability to work on a multitude of tasks including the following but not limited to

- New Building Works
- Small Concrete Works
- Fitting new, replacement joinery
- Door, window maintenance
- Joint sealant works
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You will also need to be proactive in Health and Safety, have good Hygiene, and hold a current drivers licence. Specific training will be provided as required.

Applications close Friday, 20 July and should be in writing to Ajax Building Contractors Ltd, PO Box 388 Gore 9740, or emailed to info@ajaxbuilding.co.nz Attn: John Delahunt

4732261

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hays.net.nz

**Ministry for Primary Industries**
Manatū Ahu Matua**Animal Welfare Officers**

Are you sick of following the herd? Do you want to be involved in Animal Welfare?

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is the newly merged ministry made up of the former Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, NZ Food Safety Authority and Ministry of Fisheries. The compliance directorate of the Compliance and Response branch is responsible for ensuring compliance with all regulations and acts managed by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

We currently have vacancies for Animal Welfare Officers in the following locations Whangarei, Lower North Island, Invercargill and Nelson. The AWO is responsible for the delivery of a prioritised work programme on compliance interventions in accordance with the Compliance strategy. As an animal welfare officer you will be expected to verify compliance with legislation and identify appropriate steps to manage animal welfare complaints.

To be successful in this role you will need to:

- Manage animal welfare complaints
- Ensure investigation processes and procedures are followed
- Prepare prosecution files where required

- Monitor service providers and licensed establishments for compliance with animal welfare
- Working with other investigators to prepare and present robust prosecution cases where non-compliance is identified
- Promoting good animal welfare practices
- Building and sustaining positive working relationships with internal and external stakeholders
- Practical working knowledge of the laws under which investigations and compliance activities operate
- Experience in leading significant investigations in an enforcement environment desirable but not essential.

You will be expected to attend and successfully complete a comprehensive in-house training course as part of the recruitment process. If you think any of these roles sound like you and wish to apply, please state in your covering letter your preference of the locations you wish to be considered for when you submit your application.

Please visit the careers section at www.mpi.govt.nz to view a Job Description and to apply online, quoting reference number 12-203.

For further information please contact careers@mpi.govt.nz

Applicants must be immediately available for interview within New Zealand and must hold a current New Zealand work permit or be a New Zealand resident.

Applications close 5pm Friday 27 July 2012.

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We are seeking applications from suitable persons looking to commence a career in chartered accountancy in 2013. We offer:

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Duties include:

- Preparation of annual and periodic financial statements for clients.
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We are seeking a Chef's Assistant for our busy Cellar Door Restaurant. Experience in the food industry is essential for this position.

The successful applicant must be enthusiastic and have a passion for food.

You need to be well presented, self motivated, be a team player and take pride in your work to ensure that the quality of food service to customer's remains at the high standard that Mt Difficulty Restaurant is renowned for.

We open seven days; therefore you must be available to work weekends and occasional private evening functions. Shifts are on a roster system that will vary from week to week.

Applicants will need to work and reside in New Zealand.

Executive Chef
Mt Difficulty Wines Ltd
PO Box 69, CROMWELL 9342
Or - Email Werner@mtdifficulty.co.nz

Ranger (Biodiversity)**Central Otago Area Office Alexandra**

The Central Otago Area Office seeks an enthusiastic, self-motivated and suitably experienced person to fill the role of Ranger, Biodiversity, for a fixed term period of 10 months.

The successful applicant will assist in animal pest and weed control operations, output monitoring, fencing and threatened species projects within the Area.

Applicants applying for this vacancy are asked to familiarise themselves fully with the competencies detailed in the Project Description and should provide examples in their application which demonstrate the capabilities identified.

Applications must include a completed DOC Application for Employment form, a CV and evidence of the required capabilities as per the Project Description.

For more information contact Tania Murphy, tmurphy@doc.govt.nz in the Central Otago Area Office, 03 440 2040. Applications close at 12pm Monday, 30 July 2012.

For more information about the Department visit doc.govt.nz

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Farm Employment Vacancies

CALF REARER

Required for 10 weeks, Edendale/Brydone area. Must have good animal health skills and be experienced

Phone Leon
(027) 384-0546
or Glenda
(027) 208-0164

4739273

DAIRY FARM MANAGER

Required for 600 cow dairy farm, 20kms from Gore. 40 bale rotary, well developed farm.

Phone
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or email CV to:
gctaylor@extra.co.nz

4737659

DAIRY FARM WORKER REQUIRED

Must be capable of all aspects of dairy farming, including milking and tractor driving.

3 brm house available or shared single man's accommodation.

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scottgibsonsmith@gmail.com

4726307

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During calving time, 500 cow farm near Winton. Phone (027) 222-3924 (No txts) or email: apatinho@hotmail.com

4732374

FULL-TIME CALF REARER REQUIRED

- Start 10 August
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- Edendale/Brydone area
- 480 cows
- Must have good animal health skills
- Must have had experience

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02 Toyota Hiace LWB Van Only 112km	99 Toyota Prado 3.4 SW
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96 Honda SMX 2.0 Auto	95 Subaru 250T SW 2.5 Auto
95 Nissan Avinir SW Dsl Auto	94 Isuzu Bighorn SWB Dsl
94 Nissan Atlas 100 Trucks Dsl 5Spd	94 Bluebird 1.8 Auto
94 Mitsi RVR Sportsgear	94 Bluebird ARX Auto 1.8
92 Nissan Skyline 2.0 Auto	91 Mazda Familia 1.5
91 Commodore Exec 3.8 5Spd	88 Honda Shuttle 5Spd Confiscated
88 Corolla XL SW 5Spd	

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TODDS VEHICLE AUCTIONS

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4738471

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Senior farm assistant required for 600 cow Dairy Farm in Hedgehope, to work with owner and 2 other staff. No accommodation available. 50 bale rotary fully automated. Phone Blair of more info on (03) 230-6270.

4739435

We milk 350 cows in a 30 HB shed with ACR in Opio (near Wreys Bush) and have two positions available:

ASSISTANT HERD MANAGER

1 August 2012 - 30 November 2012

- Must be fit and healthy
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- We require some references from you

We offer:

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Start date 1 September 2012

- Milk experience of at least 2 years
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Applications, including CV and references, should be forwarded by Monday 23rd July 2012. Our Application form is available from our website: www.mdp.co.nz

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McIntyre Dick & Partners Limited
P O Box 848, Invercargill 9840
Email: dianew@mdp.co.nz

McINTYRE DICK & PARTNERS



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Economic Development Manager

The emphasis on this position is one of economic and business facilitation to support the social and environmental values of the community. The position has the following key accountabilities:

- Monitor, facilitate and respond to issues relating to sustainable economic, regional and industry development.
- Build and foster productive relationships with and between key industry sectors, community and Government agencies.
- Implement and review a coherent Economic Development Strategy that supports Central Otago's Regional Identity.
- Promote and communicate economic development issues, projects and benefits to stakeholders and public.

The appointee will have relevant business experience and an understanding of economic and marketing principles including product development, demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, have analytical thinking skills, an ability to develop projects and action plans, and have a commitment to growth and development in Central Otago in a sustainable manner. The position will suit a person who can work with a focused team, strongly customer service oriented, is decisive and creative, while remaining calm under pressure, capable of creating a vision and developing compelling messages.

If you enjoy a challenge, are a team player and can meet the requirements of this demanding role, the Central Otago lifestyle may be yours to embrace.

The position is available immediately and applications close Friday, 3 August 2012.

Address your letter of application with a copy of your CV to:

Chief Executive Officer
Central Otago District Council
PO Box 122, Alexandra

(Please email your application to tas@codc.govt.nz)

A copy of the job description may be obtained by contacting
Tracye Stedman, Personnel Officer by email tas@codc.govt.nz or
phone (03) 440 0628.

4734133AA

Sell it in
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PRINCIPAL RURAL FIRE OFFICER

The Clutha District Council is seeking a Principal Rural Fire Officer. This is a part time (22.5 hours per week) fixed term position through to June 2014, pending a proposed shift to an Otago Enlarged Rural Fire District.

The position involves taking responsibility for all rural fire activities. Our District covers an area of over 6,000 square kilometres, predominantly in farming and forestry, so rural fire management is an important and challenging role.

Relevant experience in rural fire is required, preferably including experience in managing and delivering rural fire training. A positive attitude and a practical approach are essential.

If this sounds like you, then jump on our website www.cluthadcc.govt.nz to download an application form and information package or pick one up at Council's office, 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha or call on 03 419 0200 or email valerie.bell@cluthadcc.govt.nz to get one sent to you.

Applications close at 4.00 pm on
Monday, 30 July 2012.

4728890AA

Literacy Aotearoa Inc offers Certificate of Adult Literacy Tutoring Level 5

NZQA local course approved.

This training is designed to develop skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver literacy tuition to adults in 1:1 and small group situations.

Dates Aug 4, 5, 17, 18, 19 31 Sept 1, 2, 15, 16. (all days)

Gain the practical component over 12 months as a volunteer tutor with the programme.

Times - 9-5

Cost - Internal scholarships available for training. Southern Adult Literacy is a community based Programme that provides a range of learning opportunities to adults across a range of contexts, to improve their basic everyday literacy skills at no cost to the learner.

Information night is July 24th at 6pm, if you would like to discuss this training and the Programme. Contact Nellie or Averil on 214-5224



4735234AA

Otautau Vets Ltd Veterinary Nurse/ Receptionist

We are looking for an energetic person to join our team as a Veterinary Nurse and Reception Assistant. This varied and challenging position has the potential to enhance and develop the skills of the successful applicant in this support role.

A minimum qualification of a National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing is required. In addition good people skills, the ability to be flexible and think on your feet and a sense of humour are essential attributes for this role.

We offer a positive and friendly working environment within a multi-disciplinary team with an emphasis on job satisfaction. If you have the skills, energy and experience for this position we would love to hear from you.

A Position Description is available on request. Please apply in writing with your Curriculum Vitae to:
Practice Manager
Otautau Vets Limited
PO Box 77
Otautau
Applications close Friday 27 July

4739750

Please phone Leon
027 384-0546
or Glenda
027 208-0164

4735329

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4738636

DAIRY FARM POSITION

We require an honest, reliable person with a willing and positive attitude for the upcoming season, who is wanting to progress in the industry. We would prefer someone with a min of 1 full seasons experience. 20 mins from Invercargill, milking 740 cows through a 50 bale rotary. 3 bedroom accommodation available, remuneration based on experience.

Please send CV and refs to:
danandmarg@slingshot.co.nz or
Phone Dan on (03) 239-5565

4738451

Herd Manager/2IC 560 Cow Dairy Farm

We are looking for a competent, experienced Herd Manager/2IC for our recently converted Western Southland Dairy Farm. The farm is well set up and in immaculate condition with a well positioned 50 bale rotary cow shed. The property is 191ha. The farm is located 10 minutes from Tuatapere and has the choice of two very good primary schools. We offer short milkings, exceptionally good time off, a warm & cosy 3bedroom home and excellent remuneration for the right person. Agito training is encouraged and we are committed to assisting upcoming farmers to move through the industry.

We welcome enquiries from honest and reliable team players who possess the following skills

- Highly Motivated
- Strong Initiative
- Excellent communication skills
- Has a minimum of a restricted drivers licence
- Minimum of two years' experience
- Proven Shed Management Skills - committed to assisting in a grade free season
- Excellent Stock Management Skills
- Efficient Management Experience (would be preferred)

If this sounds like you, then we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this position please contact:
Melissa Vining (027) 210-0614 or email:
blairandmissy@woosh.co.nz for an application pack
Applications close on 22 July 2012.

Herd Manager/Grazing Manager

This is an exciting position based in Western Southland on our 127ha grazing run off block. The position is largely based at our run off reporting to our farm manager but would have sole responsibility for the day to day care of the young stock and general maintenance to the property. The position also includes rostered time spent at the dairy farm relief milking and winter grazing of the cows. The relief milking is approximately 6 to 10 days a month. We offer exceptionally good time off, a warm & cosy 2 bedroom home and excellent remuneration for the right person. Agito training is encouraged and we are committed to assisting upcoming farmers to move through the industry.

We welcome enquiries from a self-motivated, organised and honest person who possess the following skills

- Exceptional Stock Management Skills
- Pasture management skills (would be an advantage)
- Some experience relief milking
- Maintenance experience such as fencing
- Winter Grazing experience
- Tractor Driving experience

If this sounds like you, then we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this position please contact:
Melissa Vining (027) 2100-614 or email:
blairandmissy@woosh.co.nz for an application pack
Applications close on 22 July 2012.

4728955

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03 214 4447

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ELECTRICIAN WANTED

Do you want to become part of a fast growing business with daily challenges where no two days are ever the same? Then you could be the person we are looking for. Are you self motivated, enthusiastic and wanting to work within the dairy side of our electrical division?

You must have good communication skills, be able to work well under pressure, enjoy working as part of a team as well as being able to work unsupervised. Existing dairy knowledge would be an advantage.

Applicants will need to have a current NZ practicing certificate and a current driver's license.

If this sounds like you then please send your current CV with a cover letter to:

Southland Farm Services Electrical
Attention: Manager
PO Box 1256
Invercargill 9840
Or email sfs.electrical@extra.co.nz

Application closes Friday 27th July 2012 at 5pm

473857AA

"On the farm where it counts"

85 Bill Richardson Drive, Invercargill Phone 03 214 3136(24 Hours)



PLUMBER

A position has become available at Southland Farm Services Ltd for a suitably qualified Plumber. Southland Farm Services is a progressive company based around the dairy and agriculture industry. Our focus is the supply and servicing of milking machinery, water pumping, effluent systems, & domestic plumbing for our wide rural base.

The key attributes that are sought;

- Applicants must be fully versed in all aspect of plumbing & drainlaying.
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work unsupervised.
- Ability to train others.
- Be honest & reliable.
- The ability to build relationships with our diverse customer base.

Practical experience in rural or domestic plumbing or pumping experience would be an advantage but training and support will be given.

Remuneration and conditions of employment will be discussed at an interview.

Please send you CV to:

Brendan Copeland
Southland Farm Services Ltd.
PO Box 1256
Invercargill 9840
Or email: brendan@southlandfarmservices.co.nz

Applications close on 20-07-2012

473850AA

"On the farm where it counts"

85 Bill Richardson Drive, Invercargill Phone 03 214 3136(24 Hours)

COURT

INVERCARGILL DISTRICT COURT

Teen jailed for assault, car chase

A teenager who crashed his car into a tree during a police pursuit was yesterday sentenced to jail when he appeared in Invercargill District Court.

Gary James Paddon, 19, appeared before Judge John Macdonald for assaulting a female on May 2, two charges of assault, assaulting a female, failing to stop for red and blue flashing lights, driving while disqualified, driving at a dangerous speed and causing injury and driving with a blood alcohol level of 160mg on May 23.

He was sentenced to one year and nine months' jail, ordered to pay reparation and disqualified from driving for two years and three months.

Judge Macdonald said Paddon punched his ex-partner in the head after an argument, pushed another female backwards and punched a man several times, knocking him unconscious for several minutes.

Later in the night police noticed the vehicle Paddon was driving had a headlight out and activated their lights to pull him over, he said. He stopped and waited until the constable got out of the vehicle before taking off. A high-speed pursuit began, which included Paddon running a red light at about 100kmh, weaving all over the road and almost hitting a centre island, Judge Macdonald said.

Paddon reached speeds of about 120kmh in Queens Dr when he hit road works and panicked, lost control and ended up in bushes resting against a tree, he said.

Shoplifting

Lance Edward Allan Sculley, 52, driver, was sentenced to 40 hours' community work for stealing a \$39.98 brass fastener from Mitre 10 Mega on July 14.

Obscene words

Lee-Anne Hilda McKay, 47, was convicted and discharged for using obscene words with intent to insult in a public place. She was also ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within six months for intentionally obstructing police on July 14.

Breach

Teremoana Areaiti, 31, was sentenced to 60 hours' community work for breaching release conditions on June 6.

Hollie Elizabeth Jenkins, 18, was convicted and discharged for breaching community work on June 28.

Glen Donald Woodford, 35, of Mossburn, was fined \$450 for hunting in the Takitimu Conservation area without authority and hunting red deer on land near the Hamilton Burn without authority, on April 3.

Receiving

Cody Mark Dally, 19, was sentenced to 80 hours' community work and ordered to return \$50 to the victim for receiving money knowing it to have been obtained by a crime on July 1.

Chancey Kahn Wairau, 24, was remanded to July 24 for re-

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The Southland Times

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Situations Vacant

ADMINISTRATION PERSON

We require a full-time Administration Person with a minimum of three years experience. We require someone who

- Has a positive attitude, with a good sense of humour
- Can collate Debtors' statements
- Can prepare, enter and reconcile Creditors for payment
- Can carry out Job Costing duties
- Can carry out general office administration
- Has experience in Reception and Customer Service
- Has a full Drivers Licence
- Must have computer experience in Microsoft Office and other computerised accounting packages

All applications will be accepted in the strictest confidence
Handwritten applications including current CV to
The Managing Director

Situations Vacant



Are you an exceptional **Beauty Therapist/Massage Therapist** looking for a change of scenery?

Are you:

- * Enthusiastic, professional, well presented and fully qualified?
- * Competent in waxing (incl brazilian), electrolysis, facials, wraps, massage, manicures, pedicures and makeup?
- * Experienced working in a Salon or Day Spa (2 years preferred but not essential)?
- * Competent in offering professional product advice to clients and able to meet sales targets?
- * Available to start in August - beginning on a part time/casual basis (roster includes combination of fixed and on call shifts with fluctuating days off. Shifts range from 5 - 10 hour shifts, over 7 days a week)?
- * If necessary, holding appropriate Work Visa and/ or Right to work in NZ already completed?

If this sounds like you then write to **Vibrance Beauty Te Anau** and plan your escape.
Send your CV with recent photo and contact details to
info@vibrance.co.nz

For more about our salon please visit
www.vibrance.co.nz

4724387

KONICA MINOLTA

Branch Administrator

Invercargill

Our busy Invercargill team is seeking an experienced and driven Branch Administrator. This is a full-time, permanent role that would be ideal for someone who enjoys working as part of a busy team in an action packed sales environment.

Key responsibilities are varied, but will include:

- Branch Administration
- Support for the Sales Team and Branch Manager.
- Sales billing, ensuring it is completed correctly and efficiently
- Stock management
- Sales Ordering, Processing and Billing
- CRM Administration

To be successful in your application you need to be able to demonstrate that you are:

- An experienced administrator, with a basic understanding of accounting and inventory
- IT savvy and highly accurate, with great Microsoft Office skills
- Well organised with excellent time management and people skills
- Proud of your work, both personally and professionally
- Quick on your feet and not afraid to take on the unfamiliar!

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter by:



Experienced Grounds Person

We are looking for an experienced Grounds person to join our Golf Course grounds staff. The successful candidate will have:

- a passion for working outdoors
- a current Growsafe certificate or be willing to obtain
- Used a variety of grounds maintenance machinery
- Quality workmanship
- A good level of fitness, be hard working, adaptable and enthusiastic
- To be able to work as part of a team as well as being able to work independently
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent time management skills
- Be self motivated, trustworthy and reliable
- A clean and full NZ drivers licence (HTZ is an advantage)
- Safety consciousness and be able to comply with health and safety policies

Previous work on a golf course or turf culture experience an advantage but not necessary.

Written applications to:
The Grounds Convenor
Greenacres Country Club Inc
PO Box 5136
Invercargill

Applications close Monday, 30 July, 2012.

4738052

Part-Time Tutor GIS

Be part of progress

SIT has an immediate vacancy for a part-time tutor to teach a total of 45 hours between 27 August 2012 and 23 November 2012. The subjects will include: Understanding GIS, Understanding Coordinates and Map Projections, GIS and Mapping, Queries and Model Building, Geo-database Features, Analytical Tools and Extensions. There will be some flexibility as to when the teaching is scheduled, however it will be two sessions of 3 hours each per week.

For a job description and application form please contact:

Human Resources
Private Bag 90114
Invercargill 9840
Phone 03 211 2606
Fax 03 211 2620
e-mail hr@sit.ac.nz

Applications close 20 July 2012



Senior or 3rd Year Hair Stylist

Full or Part Time

Wages plus commission negotiable
Busy Friendly Salon

The Southland Times

Display Sales Manager

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced sales manager to join The Southland Times as a key member of the advertising management team. Reporting directly to the Advertising Manager, this position is responsible for developing, enhancing and promoting sales of display

up in bushes resting against a tree, he said.

The passenger suffered severe bruising and burning to her neck, chest and stomach, had a sore upper back, cut on her left toe and bruised ribs, he said.

Judge Macdonald said Paddon told police he was stupid for not stopping, which was an "extreme understatement".

Paddon's lawyer, Richard Smith, said Paddon's driving was horrendous and he had a clear alcohol problem he needed to address.

Assault

Joel Thomas Walker, 27, labourer, was remanded to August 28 for sentence for assaulting a female, assault and driving while disqualified and with a breath alcohol level of 884mcg on June 3.

Willem Silas O'Connor, 19, labourer, was sentenced to 40 hours' community work for assault on July 7.

Rua-Wai Nganetua Mareraki, 24, labourer, was ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within six months for assault on April 4.

A 63-year-old man, with final name suppression, was ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within 12 months for assaulting a female on July 14.

Robbery

Jesse Johannis Kolk, 18, was remanded to August 28 for sentence for robbing a person of money on July 1.

Andrew Raymond Robert Knight, 25, was remanded to August 28 for sentence for robbing a person of money on July 1.

Intentional damage

Amber Georgina Johnson, 21, beauty therapist, of Lumsden, was ordered to come up for sentence if called upon within six months and ordered to pay \$150 reparation for intentionally damaging a door, being unlawfully in a yard and threatening to injure a person knowing her conduct was likely to frighten at Lumsden on April 9.

Theft

Michael John Bernard Johnson, 26, was sentenced to 200 hours' community work, nine months' supervision and ordered to pay \$4174 reparation for three representative charges of theft at Darfield between March 2010 and January 20. The court was told he stole more than \$10,000 of tools, scrap metal and stock items from his employer.

Chancey Kahn Wairau, 24, was remanded to July 24 for receiving a \$300 jacket knowing it to have been stolen on June 8.

Disorderly behaviour

Scott Clifford Johnston, 24, driver, of Riverton, was sentenced to 40 hours' community work for behaving in a disorderly manner likely to cause violence and being unlawfully in a building on April 27.

Driving

Matthew Leonard Dalmore Mason, 28, vineyard worker, of Mokotua, was sentenced to 125 hours' community work and disqualified from driving for 15 months for driving with a sustained loss of traction and with a breath alcohol level of 820mcg on June 29.

Mathew Charles Cockery, 17, farm worker, of Oreti Plains, was fined \$250 and disqualified for six months for driving while suspended on July 13.

Daniel Alan Baxter, 26, farmer, of Paretai, was sentenced to six months' community detention, 100 hours' community work and disqualified for 12 months for driving carelessly and while disqualified at Winton on June 12.

Kanyn Peter Eastley-Rautahi, 19, was sentenced to four months' community detention, 100 hours' community work, ordered to pay \$3018.75 reparation and disqualified for 12 months for driving while disqualified and with a breath alcohol level of 926mcg on June 3 and unlawfully taking a vehicle between May 25 and 26.

Poihippi Michael Dean McIntyre, 42, fisherman, of Mabel Bush, was sentenced to 12 months' jail and disqualified for 18 months for driving while disqualified and with a breath alcohol level of 1011mcg. He was convicted and discharged for making a false statement, namely giving a false name and personal details, on May 26.

Drink-driving

Richard James Alty, 18, farm hand, of Isla Bank, was fined \$550 and disqualified from driving for six months for driving with a breath alcohol level of 598mcg on June 24.

Nita Poihakena Jackson, 42, shed hand, of Winton, 601mcg on July 14. Fined \$550 and disqualified for six months.

Tongatuki Aaron Smith, 32, was remanded to August 28 for sentence for driving with a blood alcohol level of 134mg on April 6.

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Situations Vacant

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Bearing Replacements Ltd is a Southland based business who sells industrial based products to the Agricultural, Engineering and other related industries.

We are seeking the services of an Account Manager to join our small team whose main focus will be to drive sales and deliver value to our customers both in the field and in our store. The position will be measured by sales and margin targets so critical to the role is the ability and confidence to seek out new clients and opportunities as they arise.

Knowledge of the industry is not a pre-requisite, however the successful applicant must be a true sales professional while dealing with our valued clients and other stake holders in our industry. Your communication skills will be excellent and you must be adaptable and be able to work unsupervised at times.

In return we offer a competitive package including a company vehicle, a great team environment and further opportunities for the right person.

Please send your CV and covering letter in confidence to:

Bearing Replacements Ltd
Attn: Louise Rae
PO Box 5088
Waikiki
Invercargill
or email: bearingreplacements@extra.co.nz

4726576

Administrator

Herberts Transport Limited

Herberts Transport is a rural transport operation based in Edendale. Herberts Transport specialises in carting stock, bulk, general product and bulk sowing. This is a sole charge position suited to someone with a good all-round knowledge of how an office operates.

We require someone who:

- has experience in office administration - Accounts Payable and Receivable
- has an excellent telephone manner
- is organized, efficient and able to prioritise a range of tasks
- has high level communication skills and the ability to work accurately under pressure and meet deadlines
- can demonstrate professionalism and discretion
- has attention to detail, is able to follow instructions and also show initiative
- has a good sense of humour and enjoys working with a wide range of people
- is experienced in using Microsoft Office products

This is a permanent, full-time position.

To apply please send your CV to:
Ann Britton, Herberts Transport Limited,
P O Box 1104, Invercargill 9840
Email: ann.britton@hwr.co.nz
Applications close Wednesday 25th July 2012

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CHILD CARER wanted to mind 5 month old in our home Mon. Weds mornings. Would best suit (semi) retired woman with child care experience. Ring Leanne 213-1495 or (021) 280-0085. 4739851

unfamiliar.
To apply, please send your CV and covering letter by 31 July 2012 to Melissa Rees, HR Advisor, at melissa.rees@konicaminolata.co.nz.

4737035

South Port NZ

Dairy Warehouse Administrator Permanent Part Time

Due to an increase in warehouse activity we are looking for a suitably experienced administrator to join our dairy warehousing team.

Reporting to the Dairy Warehouse Supervisor, you will be responsible for the day to day administration functions required to support the efficient operation of the warehouse. This is a part time role of 25 hours a week. There will be a requirement to increase these hours to cover annual leave from time to time.

The successful applicant will form part of a team involved in the efficient handling and co-ordination of dairy product through the warehouse.

To succeed in this position you will require the following skills:

- Strong computer and spread sheeting skills
- Experience in use of inventory management systems, preferably SAP or similar
- Excellent communicator
- Proven planning skills
- Ability to achieve deadlines

A schedule of duties for this position can be obtained from:

Joan Sutherland 03 212 6009
Email jsutherland@southport.co.nz

Applications close at 5 pm on Friday, 27 July and should be addressed to:

The Cargo Operations Manager
South Port NZ Ltd
PO Box 1, Bluff 9842
Or email jsutherland@southport.co.nz

Dowsons shoes

Dowsons Shoes

A part-time position is currently available in our Invercargill shop for the next six months. The position requires a person preferably with some retail experience or skills and a personality set that will easily transfer to our customer focused business.

The successful applicant will need to demonstrate a friendly and responsible attitude, along with trustworthy credentials, as the applicant will be trained to assume some key holder responsibilities.

Please apply with your CV to
Gail Marshall
Dowsons Shoes
cnr of Kelvin and Yarrow streets, Invercargill

4731832

GLOBAL BYTE CAFE

Full-time Cafe Assistant required
Experience in Baking & Barista skills given preference
Includes some weekend work
Apply with CV - globalbytecafe@gmail.com

4728007

Advertising Manager, this position is responsible for developing, enhancing and promoting sales of display advertising in The Southland Times and its associated community newspapers. This role also acts as regional manager for our weekly community newspaper, The Eye.

Key responsibilities are:

- Attainment of advertising revenue targets
- Ensuring The Southland Times and its associated products are first choice for advertisers by maintaining and building successful relationships with key customers, presenting to clients and developing new business.
- Leading and motivating the display advertising team and supporting and assisting in the development of skills, providing an environment that fosters individual growth and recognition, achieved through assistance with training, coaching, dual calling and follow-up.
- Developing strategies to increase advertising revenue.
- Providing intelligent reports to advertising and general management on client perceptions, competitive activity and other threats.

If you have previous sales experience in a competitive environment, an excellent knowledge of the media industry, previous management and leadership experience and have the ability to motivate, focus and guide others in accomplishing objectives we want to hear from you.

In return we offer an appropriate remuneration package and benefits including superannuation and medical.

If you think you're our newest team member and want to join New Zealand's largest media company, connect with us today at www.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/careers by 5pm, Monday 30 July 2012.



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The Southland Times Reporter

Gore based
Do you rate yourself? If you believe you are a cut above the rest, The Southland Times would like to talk to you.

We are looking for an individual with real drive and enthusiasm to fill our Gore based vacancy. This individual should be committed to coming up with strong and interesting stories each day, working closely with our team covering the wider Southland-Southern Lakes region.

Our staff set a high standard so we want someone with a proven track record as a reporter who shows flair with copy and good people skills. Other skills expected include efficiency under tight deadlines, flexibility to deal with varying demands of the position, an excellent general knowledge and the drive to continue building The Southland Times as the predominant daily newspaper in the region.

Our wish list includes:

- an ability to write bright and interesting news stories, backgrounders and features.
- experience in multimedia reporting for websites
- clean copy
- work to deadlines
- good time management

If you think you're our newest team member and want to join New Zealand's largest media company, connect with us today at www.fairfaxmedia.co.nz/careers by 5pm, Monday 30 July 2012.



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Please phone Lynne in confidence
A/H 03 215 8005 or 027 739 4822

Insurance Broker Support Person

There is a position available to join a friendly professional team in Alexandra, Central Otago.

If you

- Are proficient in computer applications
- have experience with insurance processing
- have great customer service skills and enjoy dealing with people

then we would like to hear from you.

This will be a full-time insurance processing position.

The successful candidate will have good organisational skills to be able to work within timeframes. Experience in the insurance industry would be a distinct advantage.

We offer a competitive salary package and will provide ongoing training and support.

If this position interests you, please forward your C.V. and contact details to:

Sharon Fisher
P.O. Box 88
Alexandra
or Sharon@crbroker.co.nz



commercial rural
insurance brokers
071203717-18-9



Cellar Door / Service Assistant

Mt Difficulty Wines is looking for a person to join the Cellar Door team for wine tasting and sales plus service in the restaurant.

The successful applicant will have an interest in wine, good communication skills, sound customer service background and a willingness to learn about the wine industry. Barista skills are desirable but not essential as training will be given.

We open seven days a week, therefore you must be available to work weekends and occasional evenings for private functions. Must be able to work during School and statutory holidays. Shifts are on a roster system that varies from week to week.

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Venison prices hold firm

Tim Cronshaw

European diners are still selecting New Zealand venison on restaurant menus, despite the economic woes of many countries on the continent.

The game season had a slow start in September because of unseasonably hot weather, with chefs waiting until conditions cooled before placing the seasonal specialty on menus. Deer supplies from New Zealand start to taper off now, but European consumption of the festive meat will continue to run into next month in the main markets of Germany, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Whether venison prices will stand up to the financial pressures next year in the valuable European market appears doubtful at this stage.

Deer Industry New Zealand venison marketing services manager

Innes Moffat said venison markets had performed well for the season ended September and into the new season, considering Europe's fragile economy in some countries.

"As we look at the gyrations of the European leaders as they attempt to grapple with the European crises, that gives us some concern for the future stability of the euro. New Zealand exports aren't feeling the effect at the moment but, if it delineates further, the impact will probably be felt next year."

There was still good demand in countries with strong currencies such as Switzerland, which traded in Swiss francs, and Sweden in krona, with sales in line with industry expectations, he said.

"We haven't seen evidence yet the threat of recession has led to a downturn by consumers."

New Zealand is the world's largest exporter of venison, with 85 per cent of its exports bound for Europe.

About 7 per cent of overall venison value comes from shipments to the well-heeled United States market.

The meat schedule dipped to \$8.85 a kilogram last week for a 55-60kg stag, which is up on \$7.90 last year and the five-year average of \$7.39.

Venison prices were at \$9.30 last month, however, they usually ease at this stage as export shipments move from better priced chilled cuts to frozen products.

High prices for chilled venison were underpinned by rising returns for food and particularly red meat, and a large effort by the deer industry to improve venison's position, Mr Moffat said.

The price gap between venison and other red meat has closed in the past six months, helping to boost sales, he said.

Farmers have avoided the roller-coaster ride of 2006, with prices having remained stable.

Prices typically fall by \$1.50/kg after Christmas. Fairfax NZ



Desired product:

Demand for New Zealand venison remains strong in Europe, despite the economic situation.

Photo: FAIRFAX NZ

Sliver of leaf enough to have apples rejected

Tim Cronshaw

Growers expecting a backlash from the Australian market opening up for New Zealand apples were right, with one of three rejected consignments failing because of a piece of leaf smaller than the tip of a little finger.

Of the 18 apple consignments seeking export approval from Biosecurity Australia inspectors, another lot was declined because a thrip was found and another was withdrawn after a dead leaf-

curling midge was uncovered, though this would have passed.

Neither material would have caused the spread of fire blight disease, which the Australians have used as a reason to ban Kiwi apples for the past 90 years. The market opened up several months ago after the World Trade Organisation ruled against the disease argument.

Pipfruit chairman Ian Palmer said the discoveries were not good enough, as it had only given Australian opposition politicians more ammunition to oppose the trade.

The tough inspections by

Biosecurity Australia were to be expected as they were under heavy criticism from politicians, he said.

"[In] one lot which failed the leaf matter was only 6mm by 2mm and that's the tip [of a small finger] and that's the reason for the rejection. The problem is neither country has an agreement on what trash is and we need to seek more clarification on trash because at the moment Biosecurity Australia is interpreting trash as any matter."

Opposition politicians invited to the Nelson area three weeks

ago had arrived with a predetermined view and used the trip to gain political mileage, Mr Palmer said.

There was no risk of any of the material causing fire blight disease, but it became obvious their views would not change, he said.

"There will be two ways we solve that and that is through time and trade. As time passes it will be evident to the Australians there is no risk. There is 90 years of brainwashing and it will take a while to undo that."

The packhouse systems would be refined to solve trash entering cartons as the system was too costly and slow, Mr Palmer said.

Because of the level of scrutiny only small air freight loads have

been packed of royal gala, jazz and pacific rose varieties. Only Hawke's Bay packhouses are certified, however, growers from Nelson and other areas are preparing to join them after the March harvest.

The plan to export apples to Australia through the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority (HEA) was lost after a vote last August failed to gain the support of exporters, even though 73 per cent of growers were in favour.

HEA chief executive Simon Hegarty said the inspection programme carried out by Australia would be the most stringent for export fruit in the world.

Fairfax NZ

Charollais sheep sale first chance to invest

Diane Bishop

Southern farmers who want faster growing and higher yielding lambs will soon be able to invest in charollais sheep genetics.

Charollais Sheep New Zealand, which was established last year by Alexandra-based consultant Murray Rohloff and Tuapeka West farmer Peter Ponsonby and his son, Matt, will hold its first sale of halfbred and purebred charollais rams at the Gore A & P Showgrounds on December 6.

The offering will include seven purebred charollais rams, 33 half-charollais rams and 24 purebred charollais ewes.



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Lamb prices likely to settle

Tim Cronshaw

Lamb at \$114 a head is shaping up for summer's peak supply period, depending on the European financial crisis.

Farmers received more than \$8 a kilogram for their lamb last week, as meat processors sought stock. Supplies are tight ahead of the rush of lambs expected in the next few months.

This price will adjust as more lambs come onboard, with Silver Fern Farms expecting a meat schedule payment of \$7/kg by Christmas and about \$6.50/kg in mid-February, when Easter shipments to Europe end.

Silver Fern Farms chief executive Keith Cooper said the \$6.50/kg was a good price, with an average 17.5kg lamb valued at \$114.

"Our competitors would say lamb would be over \$100 in the peak season, so if you take \$6.50/kg, that is \$114.

"The only difference is we are talking farmer language and by and large that's not a bad result. The \$8/kg is too high and that's purely driven by a shortage of animals. Once things settle down, it will track down to \$7/kg and \$6.50/kg in the peak season."

Mr Cooper said the meat industry needed common sense to return.

Europe was in a "tight" position because of its financial crisis. Farmers had hit the premium point of the British market and should not be too bullish, he said.

Beef + Lamb chairman Mike Petersen said these prices were unheard of and farmers should not expect the market to repeat last season's rise during January and February, when prices normally

adjust as lamb availability increases.

"I would not suggest what happened last year will happen this year. We started with a \$6/kg lamb and it strengthened through the season. My experience is we will be back to a level pricing and I think we will see prices ease as the season gets into full swing."

Mr Petersen said market fundamentals were "very strong", even though parts of Europe were in financial difficulties.

"This is not just a one-market, one-cut story for us. The lamb story is across all markets and nearly every prime cut, commodity cut and co-products are up.

"That's the thing that gives us confidence in the foreseeable future and it looks positive."

Mr Petersen said he was in Britain earlier this month and the European economy was a mess, but the lamb market was solid.

"We need to remember we are not trying to sell lamb to all of Europe. We are looking at a segment of the market. Europe is in trouble, but it doesn't mean the people buying New Zealand lamb are in trouble and they are usually at the wealthy end."

Britain had made the most of its lower currency against the euro to export lamb to other European countries, with its supermarket cabinets stocking Kiwi lamb.

New Zealand sold 85 per cent of its almost 228,000-tonne quota last season because other markets paid good money for a range of cuts, and the quota was again unlikely to be reached this season, he said.

Federated Farmers meat and fibre chairwoman Jeanette Maxwell said it was disappointing the best trading conditions in a decade had coincided with the second-smallest lamb crop since 1956.

Fairfax NZ



Persuasive:

ANZ Bank chief economist Cameron Bagrie, left, with Otautau farmer Ken Taylor and Ballance Agri-Nutrients general manager sales and marketing Graeme Smith at the Otautau You N Lamb Festival last week.

Photo: DIANE BISHOP/
FAIRFAX NZ
625920671

Farmers told to lift their game

ANZ Bank chief economist Cameron Bagrie pulled no punches at the Otautau You N Lamb Festival last week. **Diane Bishop** reports.

The sheep industry can't continue to shrink its way to success, ANZ chief economist Cameron Bagrie says.

"The issues we've had for years are still the same and the underlying weaknesses still remain," he said.

Mr Bagrie made no apologies for exhorting farmers to lift their game at the Otautau You N Lamb Festival on Thursday and told them they had five to 10 years to put the industry right.

To achieve that they had to accept change and do things differently.

He used a hangover as an analogy. "How many times have you told yourself you're not going to go out and do it again?"

Mr Bagrie said there were "far too many" players in the meat industry and that voluntary consolidation was the only way forward. "As masters of your own destiny, you [farmers] have the control."

His main bugbear was co-operatives, because they lacked synergy across the boards, which was key to running a successful business, he said.

"You need a diverse range of individuals with a range of skill-sets. You need the debate and

creativity you get with diversity, but I don't see it."

Mr Bagrie believed some people in the industry had been around "too long" and that the meat industry lacked visionary leaders.

"We need young, smart, driven people but where are they?"

He also believed co-operatives should retain more of their earnings and focus more on research and development, branding and building new markets.

"The attention needs to shift to medium-term earnings."

Mr Bagrie also said farmers needed to focus less on farming for the lifestyle and more on profit.

Dairying, profit to drive rise in fertiliser usage

Diane Bishop

Fertiliser usage in New Zealand is expected to increase to 3 million tonnes a year by 2020.

Ballance Agri-Nutrients general manager sales and marketing Graeme Smith said the increase would be driven by more sheep farms converting to dairy in the lower South Island and a new generation of profit-focused farmers.

"It [fertiliser usage] won't increase at a great rate," Mr Smith told farmers at the Otautau You N Lamb Festival on Thursday.

Current fertiliser usage was 2.5 million tonnes, which was just under the annual maintenance figure of 2.6 million tonnes.

Mr Smith believed about 2.7 million tonnes of fertiliser was not being applied in New Zealand hill country.

"As these farmers intensify and increase carrying capacity and ap-

ply more fertiliser, then there is money to be made."

Customers in 2020 were likely to be more more educated and knowledgeable about the fertiliser industry, but more demanding and less loyal to their co-operatives, with an increased focus on farm profitability, Mr Smith said.

There would be fewer family farms, farm sizes would increase and there would be more corporate and overseas owners, he said.

"We will also see a greater use

of farm management companies."

The new generation of farmers would also have more powerful decision-support tools and the technological advances of self-drive tractor, robotic milking, and high-speed internet.

Mr Smith said the challenges facing the industry were improving water quality and reducing nutrient losses and on-farm costs, as well as meeting the demand for more sustainable production of food.

23/6/11

Final straw for forest staff

Permanent lock down to all hunters if entry vandalism continues, writes Emma Carle

BUSTED locks, some shot open, and now rammed gates. It's the last straw for Tapanui's Ernslaw One forestry staff.

Fortnightly, they have had to replace vandalised equipment, costing them thousands of dollars, and they think it's been done by poachers.

And if it doesn't end it could spell the end of hunting in the company's forests for good.

Ernslaw One forestry supervisor Roger Mariu said it was an ongoing problem, which had got progressively worse since all entrances to Earnslaw One forests were gated off about 18 months ago.

That had to be done because of damage being caused to expensive machinery, petrol being stolen, and in times of high fire risk it was the only way they could police who went in and out of the forest.

The company allows deer and pig hunters in its 10 blocks at the weekend, but they had to apply for a permit and would then be sent a combination number for their given block which changed every week.

"It doesn't cost anything," Mr Mariu said.



Busted: Ernslaw One forestry supervisor Roger Mariu with locks that have been busted from forest gates — either shot or pried open.

"We do wonder why they break in, when they can be there legitimately, when they can get in for nothing."

Either the damage had been caused by people who didn't have a hunting permit at all or people who had missed out on a

permit and therefore didn't have the combination number for entry and were still attempting to gain access.

Aside from the inconvenience and expense for the forest company, hunters legitimately in the area were put at risk if there were additional people shooting.

Contractor Barry Proudfoot, who usually found and fixed the damage, said padlocks cost \$100 each, and some gates required outside help, which all cost money.

They planned to increase surveillance, including installing cameras, which again

would cost thousands.

Mr Mariu said if damage continued there was potential for them to lock the forest down completely, with no hunting allowed at all.

"We would never want that to happen."

Tapanui Police senior constable John Mawhinney said he had been prosecuting poachers in the forest for years and he expected damage was more likely to be caused by them, and not people who had permits.



Damaged: The most recent damage (a rammed gate and busted toilets).



Challenges being met head on



Diane Bishop

Fairlight Station is a particularly challenging property to farm. It is prone to long dry summers and cold winters and is exposed to the prevailing nor west wind but manager Simon Wright has transformed it into a profitable sheep, beef and deer unit.

Simon and his wife Lou took over the management of Fairlight in 2003 and were charged with overseeing a major deer fencing project and sourcing Red hinds for the American-based owners Doug and Mari Harpur who also own neighbouring Cainard Station. Fairlight, which is situated halfway between Garston and Kingston, carries almost 2000 Red hinds, of which 400 are artificially inseminated (AI) each year with Deer Improvement genetics and 1500 weaners.

Simon explained the closed herd policy on Fairlight and how it protected the deer from the threat of in-coming diseases at a recent deer industry focus farm field day. He aims to achieve high 12 month growth rates in his weaners with a focus on early fawning, culling dry and wet dry hinds and those with poor temperament.

"There's nothing worse than dealing with grumpy animals," Simon said. The completely deer-fenced property is made up of 420ha of productive flats and 930ha of hill country which comprises 650ha of developed and semi-developed land.

A tour around the property gave field day attendees a rare look around one of Southland's most historic high country farms – the hub of which is the Fairlight homestead built in the 1860s by Captain John Howell, who founded Riverton, and is listed with the Historic Places Trust. Deer are only one part of the equation at Fairlight which also carries 1800 ewes, 130 hoggets, 237 mixed-age cows, 63 rising two-year heifers and 180 rising one-year steers and heifers.

Most of the steers are finished at Forest Creek Station, up the Rangitata Gorge, which the Harpurs also own, while the lambs are sold store in a dry year. All stock classes are successfully integrated within the confines of deer fencing and shuffled around according to their pasture requirements at various times of the year.

The mixed-age hinds are wintered and fawn on the hill country while the AI hinds fawn on the flats where Simon can keep a close eye on his top genetics.

The fawns are weaned pre-rut which sets the hinds up mating and ensures they are in optimum condition for the winter. The hinds were currently scanning about 90 per cent at stag removal which Simon hopes to improve on.

"A lot of dry hinds are turning up early in the set stock mobs," he said. Simon supplements the hinds with barley pre-weaning and finds this is an excellent management tool.

"I get a good feel for how the animals are doing because they will come up to the vehicle and you can pick up problems easily," he said.

A major issue has been the high embryonic losses in the rising-two year hinds, which occurs between scanning and fawning, and this is currently being investigated.

About 90 per cent of the spikers are killed before Christmas at an average 57kg carcass weight, though Simon hopes to lift this to an average 60kg in the future.



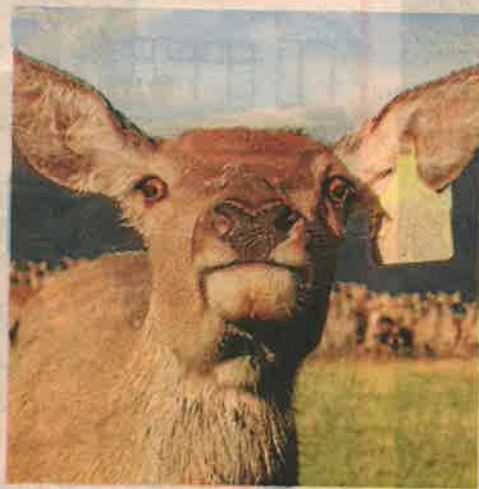
High achiever: Fairlight Station manager Simon Wright is focused on achieving high 12 month growth rates in his weaner deer.



Classic: The historic Fairlight homestead was built by the founder of Riverton, Captain John Howell, in the 1860s.



Youngsters: Young Red deer on Fairlight Station.



Inquisitive: A nosey young Red deer on Fairlight Station.

Fairlight station

- Managed by Simon and Lou Wright since 2003
- Owned by North American Red deer farmers Doug and Mari Harpur
- The 1750ha property carries
- 1950 mixed-age Red hinds
- 1520 weaners
- 1800 mixed-age ewes
- 130 hoggets
- 237 mixed-age cows
- 63 rising-two-year heifers
- 180 rising one-year steers and heifers

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9/4/2011

Poachers first prosecuted under scheme

By LYNDA VAN KEMPEN

TWO successful prosecutions of poachers this week should send a message the activity will not be tolerated, Alexandra police and landowners say.

Two Cromwell men, Kieran Bruce Wilson (25) and Blair Adam Allison (23), appeared in the Alexandra District Court on Thursday and admitted a charge of hunting wild deer on Matakanui Station without the permission of the landowner.

Wilson was convicted and discharged, and Allison was fined \$250.

Wilson was also sentenced to 40 hours' community work for possessing a gun without holding a firearms licence.

They were the first prosecutions since an anti-poaching trespass scheme was launched in Central Otago in October.

"It is a timely reminder to others engaging in this type of criminal activity that their continued behaviour will not be tolerated by landowners or police," Detective Sergeant Liz Williams, of Alexandra, said yesterday.

Another hunter had also been served with a trespass notice, she said.

The initiative was launched in Central Otago through Alexandra police and was also adopted by Constable Paul Mander, of Omarama.

Under the scheme, property owners grant police the authority to issue trespass notices to people found on their land without permission.

The trespass notice includes not just that property, but lists all Central Otago and upper Waitaki properties in the initiative.

Since the launch, 29 farmers have delegated authority to the police. Most properties being large, the actual land mass from which prospective poachers were trespassed was substantial, Det Sgt Williams said.

"These landowners will be making formal complaints to police when they locate poachers on their property, and those people can expect to be prosecuted and their firearms licences revoked.

"In addition, they will be served a trespass notice from all of these farms, and face further action by police if those trespasses are breached."

Approached by the *Otago Daily Times* for comment on the initiative, Matakanui Station owner Andrew Paterson said he hoped the united front by landowners would deter poachers.

"The united front gives us another tactic up our sleeve. It's the old story with the poachers: a few people spoil it for the rest."

The problems were caused by people who were on the property without permission.

"We've had incidents of people driving on to our property at night, leaving gates open, driving through paddocks during lambing, disrupting the stock, and driving over crops before we cut them, leaving wheel marks."

Mr Paterson was pleased with the prosecutions and hoped it was a sign the initiative was paying off. The more farmers who became involved, the more successful it would be, he said.

Det Sgt Williams said farmers in Cromwell, Alexandra, Omakau, Millers Flat, Roxburgh, Ranfurly, Omarama and Tarras had joined the scheme.

"The aim is to get as much coverage as possible so poachers can't just move from one property to another if they get trespassed."

Poaching was a big problem in Central Otago, she said.

"This is a big step towards getting these people [poachers] on the radar. Police can't be everywhere so we've invited the community to help us, be our eyes and ears, and identify our problem areas."

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Jury out on need for new game body

Scot MacKay

7/4/2011

A new national body has been created to manage game animals, but how it will function and the impact on southern hunters is yet to be determined.

Yesterday, Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson announced the Game Animal Council would manage ~~that~~ chamois, deer and wild pig.

The council essentially relieves the Department of Conservation of the onus of managing the animals' impacts.

However, conservation groups and hunters have mixed thoughts about what the council will do and what it can achieve.

Southland Conservation Board chairman Robin McNeill did not see any benefit for Southland conservation land nor hunters.

The Department of Conservation worked well with hunters in the south to manage deer, such as wapiti numbers in Fiordland, so there appeared to be little reason for the council, he said.

"For deerstalkers things are pretty good right now in Southland," he said.

Forest and Bird says the council's focus could be only on certain areas, such as elite trophy animals rather than ordinary ones, and that could undermine the focus on the impact on conservation land.

However, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation president Roy Sloan said he was a big supporter of the council because it gave hunters a voice in how game was managed.

The council will have 11 members and its scope will be set out under a new act to be introduced to Parliament this year.

Funding is expected to come from a levy on the export of trophy heads from New Zealand, with Crown funding of \$100,000 in the first year and \$50,000 each year thereafter.

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DOC: 1080 stories misleading

Scot Mackay

The Department of Conservation is rebutting dozens of claims posted in a full-page advertisement in *The Southland Times* yesterday that it was misleading the public about a recent 1080 drop.

Anti-1080 activist group the Southern Earth Environmental Coalition paid for the advertisement that tells "The Untold Stories" of the 1080 drop in the Waitutu Forest in October.

The 50-tonne drop was carried

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion - [but], the results speak for themselves."

Colin Bishop

DOC 1080 programme leader

out by DOC over 25,000 hectares of the southwest Fiordland forest to target pests in the area that are killing threatened flora such as mistletoe and animals such as kaka.

The advertisement claims a picnic area at Thicket Burn in the Lilburn Valley, near Lake

Hauroko, which was used as the operation site to load the poison into hoppers carried by helicopters, was ploughed to bury dropped 1080 pellets.

The advertisement also claims a photograph used by DOC that shows a possum and rat preying on chicks in a nest is setup.

Following the advertisement, calls have been received by its authors and the *Times* by many people in support.

However, DOC 1080 programme leader Colin Bishop said the claims all carried misinformation.

DOC was required to close the picnic area for four months following the drop and used the time to put new drainage pipes down, he said.

Results of the operation were to be reported to the public soon and, while that was not a rebuttal to the advertisement, it should clear the issues up, he said.

Results compiled by DOC and independent contractors indicate a 99.5 per cent reduction in possum numbers. All birds being tracked were still alive and any birds found dead had not died from the poison.

No rat or stoat tracks were found in the 240 tracking tunnels.

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion - [but] the results speak for themselves," Mr Bishop said.

Southern Earth Environmental Coalition member Tamsin Scott could not be contacted for comment.

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Keep eye out for animals being set loose in wild

Sam McKnight

Concern is growing among environmental agencies about the deliberate release of animals in Southland.

Environment Southland senior biosecurity officer Dave Burgess said populations of feral pigs and deer have spiked in some parts of the region, but outside their typical territories, indicating "illegal liberations".

Under the council's regional pest management strategy, the release or transporting live feral pigs or

deer can attract fines starting at \$5000.

Wild pig releases also carry a maximum \$50,000 fine under the Wild Animal Control Act.

Concerns arose from reports by farmers in the Catlins area of new populations of feral pigs, he said.

One or two pigs could inflict significant damage to a paddock or native vegetation and wildlife in a short space of time, Mr Burgess said.

There was also anecdotal evidence that it was happening in other parts of the province, he said.

The concern is shared by the

council, the Conservation Department and the Animal Health Board.

Southland TB-free committee chairman Mike O'Brien said that, while wild pigs were not targeted in the Animal Health Board bovine TB programme, they acted as an end host.

In some cases they could be a good indicator of the existence of the disease in wildlife, he said.

The committee did not condone the illegal release of pigs into the wild and all sightings of pig releases should be reported immediately, Mr O'Brien said.

Pigs can also contribute to the

decline of some species such as native snails.

Environment Southland, the Conservation Department and the Animal Health Board are calling for the public to report any suspected illegal transport or release of feral pigs and deer.

Mr Burgess said that, while it could be difficult for people catch anyone in the act of illegal releases, he asked landowners to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

Information can be provided confidentially to Environment Southland on 0800 768845.

Game Animal Council security for hunters

THE Fiordland Wapiti Foundation welcomes the announcement by the Minister of Conservation Hon Kate Wilkinson and the United Future Leader Hon Peter Dunne that a Game Animal council is to be formed. It has been a long time coming said Roy Sloan, President of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation.

The Foundation have been managing the effects that deer have on the environment of Fiordland for six years now for conservation and recreation, but under the current set up between recreational hunters and the Department of Conservation it could all be taken away with the stroke of a pen as this type of management is not supported by legislation. But the concept that the Game Animal Council brings to the table will give us, the Foundation and recreational hunters some security and conservation will benefit from that as well, said Roy Sloan.

There has been a misconception that a Game Animal Council will have a negative effect on conservation but if you look at the work recreational hunters are doing in the Wapiti area of Fiordland this expels that theory.



Roy Sloan - President
Fiordland Wapiti Foundation

Recreational hunters have been responsible for 70 kilometres of predator lines to control stoats and rats, in partnership with Doc. They have just released 13 Blue duck ducklings back into Fiordland. Recreational hunters are responsible for managing the animal numbers in the Wapiti area of Fiordland. Over the last six years recreational hunters have funded the removal of almost 5000 non Wapiti type deer, that is a major commitment by them said Roy Sloan.

The "bread and butter" type hunter should have nothing to fear from the Council as well, for the first time in years they will have a group of people who they can take their issues to who will actually listen. It's about hunters being in charge of their own future for once, as the main focus for the council will be managing hunters interests said Roy Sloan.

We congratulate the Government and United Future on this initiative.

13/4/2011

Elk plan pays off for farmers

22/2/2011

Five years ago a group of southern businessmen started a strategy to promote the large-scale killing of heavyweight elk. **Scot MacKay** catches up with a director on the latest developments.

Farmers South Island-wide are enjoying the benefits of increasing prices for heavyweight deer after a Southland-based business begun killing on its own terms.

Farming isn't an easy business but with some hard work and good luck, a change in kill prices for heavyweight elk has made life much easier for many deer farmers.

It's all thanks to a small group of businessmen.

Tom May and three others initially wanted to find a way to get better money for their heavyweight elk through a strategy that marketed the meat domestically, but instead went straight for the jugular and are selling to Europe.

Mr May is a director of Supreme Elk New Zealand, a group of businessmen dedicated to the supply of heavyweight elk venison to New Zealand and international markets that is responsible for the commercial killing of deer, in Gore, from all over the South Island.

The group was formed when the men realised elk farmers were getting less money for their heavy-

tasty, it was being used for things such as stir fry cuts, Mr May said.

Large-scale meat processors were paying just under \$6/kg for beasts that weighed between 45kg and 65kg at the peak in 2005 – about \$1 less than those animals that weighed more than 100kg.

The reason was the smaller cuts of meat were what the market demanded.

However, many elk farmers relied on the sale of velvet to make their businesses profitable and elk were not velveted until they were about two years old, when most had a hook weight of more than 100kg.

Enter the strategy and ergo Supreme Elk NZ, a group of men from various backgrounds including farming, export and company management, which soon realised if elk meat was more widely used, then the large processors would consider killing larger animals profitable.

"We were being penalised for overweight carcasses ... [because] the works didn't know there were enough animals out there to make it worthwhile to cut heavier meat – (so) we decided to raise the profile of elk meat."

Tom May

works didn't know there were enough animals out there to make it worthwhile to cut heavier meat – (so) we decided to raise the profile of elk meat," Mr May said.

conjunction with the New Zealand Elk Wapiti Society.

However, in the meantime the group stumbled on a much easier way to promote meat and coincidentally a hidden gem in the form of Clover Export – a relatively small-scale meat processing plant at Gore.

The plant is known for its killing of large beasts, such as horses, and Mr May said its switched-on

nection to European markets, saving the group the time and effort of creating the market itself.

After some modifications to the plant that cost about \$75,000 at Supreme Elk NZ's expense in 2006, Clover Export killed 1200 elk in the first year – a loss for the group.

But, with more support in the second year 2800 elk were killed and with the expansion into a wider European market Clover

year from all over the South Island.

Clover general manager Peter Hishon said the best thing Supreme Elk NZ could have done was go out on their own away from the mainstream killers and find their own market.

"What they achieved by doing their own thing is help the heavyweight animals," he said.

Looking back, Mr May said the group could have done things a lot easier if it knew what it did now and as a result of setting up the killing plant in Gore the need for Supreme Elk NZ has diminished.

However, it will remain registered for the years to come just in case problems arose.

"There is not much need for us any more, but we will always keep

Big beast: Deer farmer Tom May watches over his prize 5-year-old elk Mayfield Magic, near Winton, last week.

Photo: JOHN HAWKINS 625106119



Helicopter crashes in

Sam McKnight

9/8/2011

The occupants of a privately owned helicopter observing a deer-recovery operation in Fiordland got a closer-than-expected encounter with their subject after their machine crashed.

The Robinson R22 helicopter, with a 64-year-old pilot and 55-year-old passenger on board, crashed about 10km northwest of

the northern tip of Lake Hauroko near the Burn Hut about 8am yesterday.

Acting control manager Sergeant Fred Shandley, of Invercargill, said only the passenger was injured in the crash. He received minor injuries.

Few details are known about the occupants of the downed aircraft except that they are both males and come from Warkworth, north of Auckland.

The injured passenger was flown out of the bush to a waiting ambulance at the Lake Hauroko carpark and taken for medical treatment.

Mr Shandley said early indications showed the helicopter struck trouble while it was hovering about 15m above the ground, observing a second helicopter that was on the ground carrying out a deer-recovery operation.

The helicopter spiralled out of

control and struck the ground, landing on its side, he said.

The reason for the crash had not yet been ascertained, Mr Shandley said.

Constable Malcolm Darlison, of Tuatapere, said the plummeting helicopter fell into the same clearing just metres away from the second aircraft.

While he had not been to the crash site, Mr Darlison had been told that once the helicopter hit

Fiordland

the ground the occupants of the other aircraft were on the scene in about 10 seconds.

Pilot Paul Baxter, of Tuatapere, who was believed to be on board the second helicopter, did not want to comment yesterday.

The Civil Aviation Authority has been notified and its spokesman Bill Sommer said that, while it would not conduct a field investigation, inquiries would be made to determine the cause of the

crash. That would include a report from the pilot and any other people and agencies involved, he said.

Mr Darlison said the crashed helicopter was to be removed from the site yesterday afternoon or today.

He expected the helicopter would probably be written off because it sustained significant damage from the impact.

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Farmers hope for another strong velvet season in Southland

22/2/2011

Scot MacKay

Deer farmers are hopeful for another good year of velvet sales as the price for the product holds strong.

Farmer David Stevens said velvet had been fetching reasonable prices for the past two seasons and with a steady number of deer farmers in the market he expected that to continue.

Velvet was paying about \$90/kg last year and \$100/kg at the upper end this year and while it was still too early to tell, a similar price was expected next year as long as there was little product hanging over from the current season,

"It will be similar to last season, which was a good year. If the volume stays the same it should be a good year."

David Stevens

he said. "It will be similar to last season, which was a good year."

"If the volume stays the same it should be a good year."

The season, which runs from about Christmas until late winter, began slowly because of a hangover of stock, but it was selling well through the system, he said.

Farmer Peter Allan said he

was hopeful for another good season but it was dependant on the Korean and Chinese markets, which were the major investors in velvet.

Farmers were being treated a bit like banks at the moment with buyers leaving the velvet with them until it was needed instead of taking it in advance, he said.

This meant it was not selling that fast, but was similar to the last season.

"Koreans are a bit hesitant to buy - probably half our volume in the current season has sold, which is same as last year."

It was hard to tell how the next season would go but he hoped the Asian markets would be strong.

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Tramper brushing teeth when shot by hunter

John Edens and agencies

The partner of Lower Hutt teacher Rosemary Ives was standing beside her when she was shot dead by a hunter.

They were brushing their teeth at a bush campsite near Turangi when a hunter mistook Ms Ives, 25, for a target.

The NZ Deerstalkers' Association said the hunter was believed to have been shooting from the road on a moving vehicle and was illegally spot lighting.

Ms Ives' partner tried desperately to revive her for more than

an hour after she was shot in the head on Friday night at the Department of Conservation's Kaimanawa campsite.

"He was just not giving up. It was so emotional for everyone there. They were just camping for the night and then this," Youthtown Trust Rescue Helicopter base manager Hendry de Waal said.

The Ives family have friends in Te Anau, her mother Margaret lives in the Catlins and father Malcolm lives in Nelson.

It is understood Ms Ives' mother moved from Cromwell to the Catlins.

Deerstalkers' Association presi-

dent Alec McIver said the hunter who shot Ms Ives was illegally "spotlighting" and shooting on public land, but he couldn't confirm that until he had more details.

The "terrible accident" had tarnished the reputation of all hunters, he said.

"Just like people getting behind the wheel and driving a car when they're drunk and killing someone - it just takes a few idiots to make the majority look bad."

Ms Ives' family gathered in Nelson last night. Her aunt said they were "still reeling" from the shock of her death.

She described her niece as a "vibrant, beautiful, caring young woman" who was hugely valued and loved by all those who knew her.

Ms Ives taught maths and science in Lower Hutt at Wa Ora Montessori, whose principal Jan Gaffney yesterday described the young woman as "an amazing person".

She started her first fulltime teaching role in February and worked closely with her pupils, Ms Gaffney said.

The Montessori teaching programme allowed Ms Ives to combine a love of teaching and the

outdoors, she said. "We just loved working with her."

Ms Ives was a keen tramper who enjoyed camping and rock-climbing with her partner, she said.

Ms Gaffney said the family was devastated dealing with a tragedy so unexpected and out of the blue.

"You'd think when you're in a camping ground you would be fine," she said.

A 25-year-old Hamilton man was charged with careless use of a firearm and is expected to appear in the Taupo District Court on November 3.



Rosemary Ives

rgill



Gore

Rain 14



Queenstown

Fine 19



Balclutha

Rain 15



Alexandra

Fine 18



Te Anau

Rain 12



Oban



Wanaka



FULL