



## **Gore and Districts Branch Monthly Newsletter**

**Jan/Feb 2022**

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Welcome to the first newsletter for 2022.

Plenty of good news, with Take a kid Hunting underway this weekend, and the roar ballot done. It is a shame we could not hold a ballot night as we traditionally have, but that's the world we currently live in and Government decisions and policies are things we have to live with whether you agree with them or don't.

For those who are not aware, the Arms Amendment Regulations 2021 came into effect 1 Feb 2022. A lot of the amendments pertain to licensed dealers, but there are sections of the act which will affect all current and perspective firearms licence holders. Main points of interest that will affect most of us are:

#### 19 Conditions relating to security precautions

##### (b)

the holder must take reasonable steps to ensure that any firearm in their possession is stored separately from any ammunition for the firearm so that a person who obtains access to the firearm cannot obtain access to the ammunition:

In addition to the condition in subclause (1)(b) relating to ammunition, ammunition must be stored—

##### (a)

in its own secure storage container (such as a cash box or an ammunition box that is in secure storage or in a stout locked cupboard) that has—

##### (i)

a locking mechanism that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or

##### (ii)

a padlock that has a key or combination number that is different from the key or combination number for the person's container for firearms; or

##### (b)

in a lock box in a gun safe cabinet that has a different key from the key for the gun safe cabinet, and the key for the gun safe cabinet must be stored in a different place from the other key; or

##### (c)

if the ammunition is bulky and difficult to store in a container, in a locked room or storage area on the licence holder's premises that—





(i)

is of sufficiently robust construction to prevent the theft of the ammunition; and

(ii)

has been inspected and approved by a member of the Police.

21New regulations 19A to 19C inserted

19BConditions relating to storage of firearms in vehicles during transportation

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(4)

If the vehicle is to be left unattended for more than 60 minutes, any firearms and ammunition must be removed from the vehicle to a more secure location or under the licence holder's direct possession and control, unless the vehicle is a mobile home, campervan, or caravan unit with secure storage in accordance with regulation 19A.

On a happy note, thanks to Duanne Ashman for the article and photos of his adventure on the Pyke.

Good luck to all who secured a roar ballot for Glenarary. Ballots are attached for anyone who has deleted the email or lost it.

Happy Hunting

Peter

peter.welsh@fonterra.com 0276545362





**With Covid Restrictions preventing most activities, this maybe cancelled. If you wish to compete, then phone Shaun or Andy. Numbers below.**

## **Wilkinson Postal Shoot**

Doug Gordon from the Southland Branch sent through information inviting members of our branch to participate in this competition. It sounds like it will be a lot of fun, and a good opportunity to ensure you are on target. Most of us tend to rely on bipods these days, and shooting from a prone position, so now's your chance to test your aim over different positions.

## **JM WILKINSON CUP POSTAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP**

The Southland Branch intends to run a shoot to be part of this postal championship on 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Invercargill Full-bore Range (Cobb road which is on the left going to Otatara past the turn of to the airport on the right.) starting 1pm. One will need 20 rounds of ammo plus 1 sighter if desired.

Shoot is over 4 positions at 100 metres

If interested and or desire more information contact Andy Nesbit 021 917 808 or Shaun McKelvie 027 635 0490

### **PLB -Personal Locator Beacon**



Are you going tramping Hunting or Boating, what if you have an accident or get lost!! It can happen to the most experienced person. Why take the risk, hire one for that trip, for such a small cost to give such an assurance why wouldn't you.

Hire fees are as set out below:

- \$30 for 3 days
- \$40 for up to 7 days and \$30 for subsequent weeks.
- Call 03 226 6341 or email [beacons@ihug.co.nz](mailto:beacons@ihug.co.nz) for more information.





## **Hollyford Pyke loop – A better way?**

I guess this story starts at the head of Lake Hankinson in Wapiti country. Josiah and I ran into a guy and his 13 year old daughter who had just packrafted 3.5km up Lake Hankinson into a stiff head wind in about an hour. He was a light build, but obviously a machine, as to get to Lake Hankinson they had first got in their sea kayak and paddled about 25kms up Lake Te Anau middle arm. Their small green Alpaca one-man "Mule" packraft had my attention, mainly for the adventures it could take us on.

It turned out that Alpaca rafts are imported by Pack Rafting NZ based in Te Anau. The owner, Arno, is very passionate about packrafting and super helpful, and keen to see people safely get into Packrafting. He offers a two-day training course on how to safely navigate a grade 1 or 2 river. If you have not had any white-water kayaking experience, I would highly recommend it. Packrafts are very stable so people tend to overrate their abilities and go places they do not have the skills to deal with. If you fall out at the wrong time you can easily get pinned up against a strainer (one of the many trees in our Fiordland rivers). The course is fantastic and has a pre-online section which I learned a lot from. It has helped me become a much safer around rivers both for fishing and hunting. We have also put our older 3 boys through it.

Arno runs the course just before he takes a group around the Hollyford Pyke loop.

This trip was on my bucket list and my 3 oldest boys and I just completed it, Peter asked me to do a write up for the newsletter. Writing is not really my thing but here goes....

We were able to drive right to the end of the newly repaired Hollyford Road. It is about a kilometres walk to the new river course.







We put in there, arriving at the portage section of the river a few hours later.

This is a grade 3/4 section of the Hollyford even the jet boats portage around. From here it is another 3 hours to the hut. There are a couple of holes one has to be careful to avoid and plenty of trees as well. The Lake McKerrow Island Hut is on the true right of the river where it enters the lake although not visible from the river or lake. There was still plenty of white bait around and the fishing was exceptional. At one stage I had five fish chasing my black and gold lure. Within half an hour Zach and I had both ticked off and landed fish in the Hollyford River and head of Lake McKerrow ... breakfast sorted.

## **Day 2**

The 20km flat paddle down Lake McKerrow requires an early start to beat the sea breeze which can quickly turn into a half meter chop, and slog. We were on the lake by 6am, to soon be assisted with a strong tail wind. The sun rose half way down and we were at the end of the lake in just over 2 hours. This is exceptional! We met some other packrafters later in the trip, who had started down the lake at 2pm (same day). Their jaws hit the floor when we shared our experience, they only made it to Hokuri Hut by nightfall and missed the stunning sunset at Martins Bay. Seems like many good things in life require an early start. Next time we vow if it is not windy, we will be on the lake before light and plan some faster breakfasts to make it happen.





View from DOC Hut Martins Bay. (Josiah and Zach on the beach)

A relaxed paddle down the Lower Hollyford saw Zach land a nice brown and couple of Kahawai.... lunch sorted. We were at Martins Bay Hut by 12pm.







Martin's bay is a beautiful place. The February 2020 floods saw the Hollyford River punch out 3km down the beach so the DOC hut is now beach front.



Somewhere I would like to spend a lot more time.

The lagoon (old river) is a bit green but like the surf here full of fish.

### **Day 3**

Is a bolder hop around the coast from Martins Bay to Big Bay Hut at around 5 to 6 hours with the last 4 km down the beach.

[A friend of the boys got bailed up by a large Stag that didn't want to get out of his way when he was running this section at night during the "Big Hollyday" an Endurance and Adventure race. The aim to do the loop in under 24 hrs.]

You can't pack raft in heavy boots as they are not good for swimming in. Being in runners, I miss the stability of my normal higher boots on this type of terrain.

Still, we have not seen any deer.

The Awarua River at Big Bay is beautiful little river, and although hooked no fish stay on line with us, or seem to want to come for a BBQ, so it is freeze dried tonight.







## **Day 4**

Ideally starts with crossing the Awarua River which is tidal. It is nearly high tide so we go across the swing bridge and around the high track. Zach and I had walked down it to the bridge while fishing the night before which was an easy walk. This all changes across the swing bridge so we lost about 20 minutes, and I assume the PFD off the back of my pack. [Note to self, too much gear, so important equipment it on the outside of your pack is a bad idea.]

The 3 hour walk to the Pyke is a quad track. I pass a sign to Bivvy Creek and long for a quick look, but the boys are miles ahead.

The Dry Awarua River bed has blown out to 150 m wide and a look up at the McKenzie Range shows half a mountain missing. I guess this is also from the February floods. The Pyke end of the track opens into a clearing that leads you off in the wrong direction... I hear many people get lost in the Pyke valley, so know to stop and check my map, retrace my steps to find the track and carry on. Five minutes later I am walking across another 150 m wide blown out but dry creek bed where I come across a much humbler and pack-less Maximus. "I guess you are lost too" he says, "No!" I answer. The boys hadn't back tracked at the clearing and had bush bashed from the wrong end of it. The blown-out creek had washed away any track markings. I sit down with a smile and have lunch while he gets his brothers and returns half an hour later.

I may be old, but experience still beats brawn!

The Pyke is a lovely river with large blue pools and the valley walls have many waterfalls.





Pyke River beside Olivine Hut

Although we have a tail wind, the weather is overcast so we stay at Olivine Hut hoping for a clear day tomorrow, and great views of Mt Tutoko, Fiordlands highest peak, which is ahead of us as we cross Lake Alabaster.

Zach fishes a likely looking hole in front of the Olivine Hut but no fish show up, so it's more freeze dried. I try to dodge the sandfly's while soft sealing the small hole our photographer, Josiah, has put in the borrowed pack raft. Maybe we were unlucky as we found a lot of fly life in the stones and on our gear but no fish were spotted on the Pyke.

Today it looks and feels more like a high-country river.

### **Day five.**

We leave Olivine into a head wind and with the mountains hiding their heads in the clouds. We pass some great fishing spots but with a lack of time, we push on. Ideally, we should have carried on to the Alabaster Hut last night. The 6km paddle down Lake Alabaster into a head wind is not fun, it was Zach's turn in the double with me.





At 15yrs, he was very vocal in his disagreement with my decision to stop overnight at Olivine hut. Fortunately, we stop at Grebe Creek for a break from the head wind, and Zach had some follows. I am forgiven and he is happy again. At the end of the lake across from the hut we saw a lot of small trout near the Lake Alabaster hut.

Another km down the Pyke and we pack up our pack rafts on the lawn in front of the Pyke Lodge.

I try to buy a decent coffee off the lodge, but the door is locked and with the Covid situation no one but guests are allowed in. The guests are gone and they give the boys a bag of spare citrus short bread which is devoured promptly.

Now just a 6 hour walk out the Hollyford. The boys are gone. For the first time on the trip there is an absence of deer sign. The sky cleared. Bush and mountains are stunning, I recognise many of the scenes from calendars I had seen earlier in life and realise why I have wanted to do the Hollyford for so long. I forget about bringing a light rifle on the next loop trip Zach, Josiah and I have already planned, a pack full of meat would kill me up and over the Little Homer Saddle.

There are new bridges on every stream and remains of the old foundations from earlier versions.

After 5.5 hours Josiah shows up returning to carry my pack out for me. Blisters are not normally a problem for me however I now have them on 6 of my toes. Will have to get some more solid tramping/packrafting foot ware.

Ironically at 21:30 we see our first deer run across the Hollyford Road in front of us as we drive out. We camp the last night at the DOC Cascade Creek Campsite, another very cool place with some pretty stunning views (and fish).







"Come on, I didn't miss by that much!"

**WHEN I WAS A KID**



**THIS WAS MY XBOX**





## For sale



2 concrete bench rest tables with seats for sale. set up for both right and left handed shooting. Great solid shooting platforms for load development or long range shooting. \$500 each.

Contact

Jarrold Nicholson

027 813 6749



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## Life Member Lance Peat

I sat down with Lance to talk about his hunting past, where it started who he hunted with, where he hunted etc so that I could piece together an insight into his exploits and share it with fellow members. Some of what he told me I already knew, but he has so much information, you could write a book on the man. Here is a brief snapshot of Lances association with the NZDA and our branch. Lance first joined the Otago Branch (Dunedin) in 1955. He then become a foundation member of the Blue Mountains Club in 1958. Lance was a builder and moved to Riversdale. His first Fiordland stag was shot in the Hollyford in 1959. In 1960, Jack Mckenzie asked him to join the Southland Club, and in 1961 he joined the executive. Other notable members at the time were Dr Geoffrey Orbell who founded the NZDA in 1937, Allan Harrison, Garry Cruickshank, and Jack. While a member of the Southland branch, Lance participated in a week long culling trip in the Greenstone. 360 Fallow hinds were shot, and Lance also shot an impressive 14 point fallow Stag. 1962 saw him associated with the newly formed Gore and Districts branch as a foundation member and Vice President. Other notable foundation members included Lindsay Duncan, Ivan Grant, Jack Mckenzie, Bill Gerken, and Jack Crowley. Between 1967 and 69 he was Club president, but probably his greatest contribution to the club was the 30 year term he spent as Glenaray controller working with three generations of the Pinkney family, an experience he said was one of the highlights of his association with deerstalking. Lance is well known for his time spent hunting in the wapiti blocks. In 1959,60,62,65,67, and 73 he spent 118 days culling red deer. Usually alongside Jack Mckenzie. Our Wapiti are a hybrid carrying red deer traits. Thanks to the work by these early cullers and the wapiti Foundation, we now have animals with over 70% Elk genetics. Retirement to Cromwell spelt the end of hunting the hills and valleys of Fiordland, Waikaia and the Blue Mountains, but not a man to sit still for long Lance joined the Southern Lakes Branch and kept his eye in by helping reduce the rabbit population.



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Lance with his NZ champion Wapiti Head 1977

Lengths 51 and 52 inches

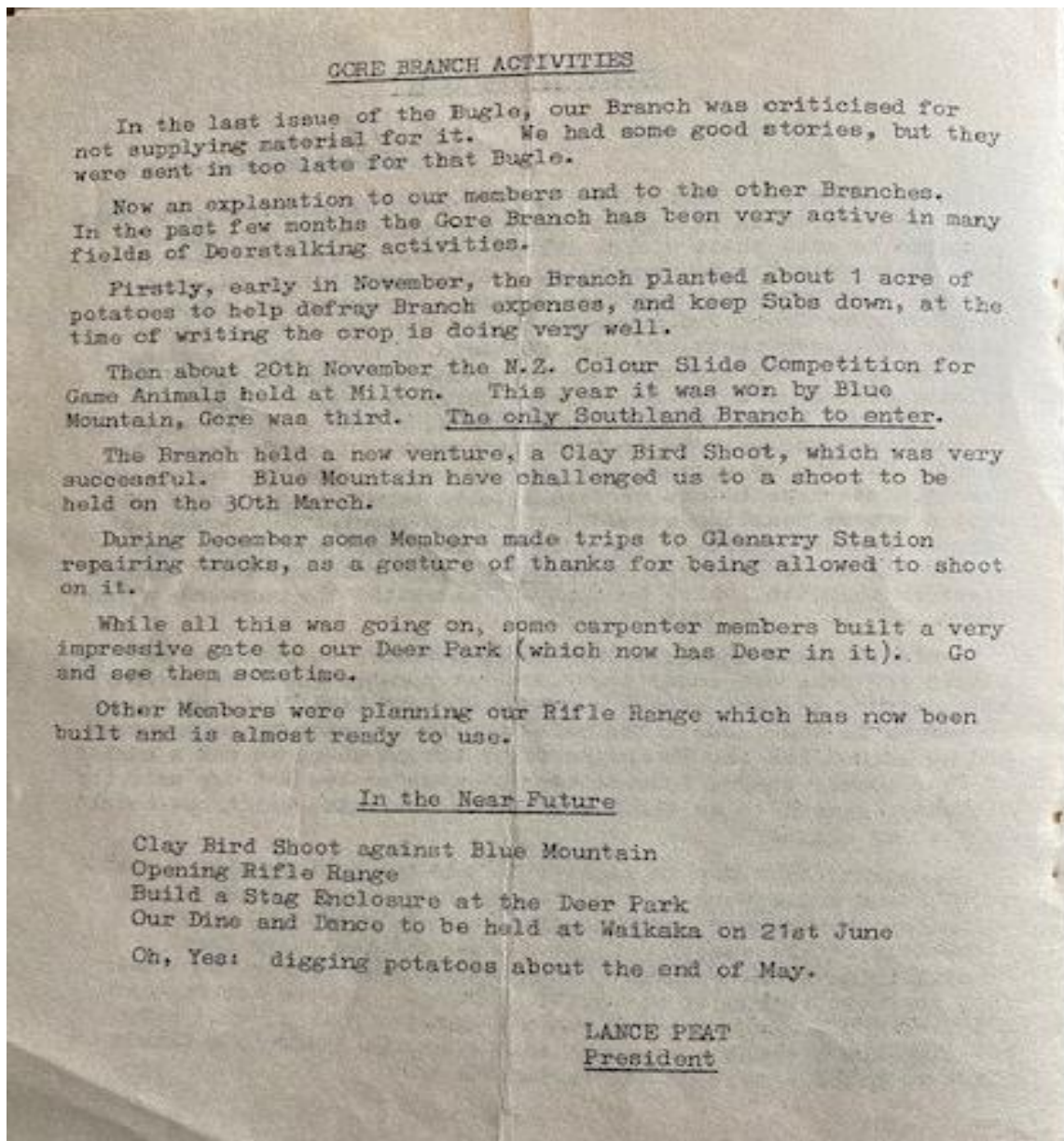


Trophy Night Gore and Districts Branch 1964





An Excerpt from a club newsletter in the late 60's







Gore branch president Tony Chittock (left) presents Lance Peat with his life membership at the clubs 31<sup>st</sup> AGM in 1993. At the time the branch had approximately 120 members throughout Southland and Otago. Lance became the clubs fourth life member after Jack Crowley, Jack Mckenzie and Jack Ayers.



**All Tyres, 66 Bay Road, Invercargill**

- For every new car tyre All Tyres will donate \$5 to our branch
- For every new tractor tyre, All Tyres will donate \$20 to the branch
- For deerstalkers and associate, please make yourself known to Nathan Jordan at All Tyres
- Supplier of a major raffle prize last trophy night, please support our sponsors







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**Gore & District Branch  
New Zealand Deerstalkers Assoc. Inc.**

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