

2026 Southdown Sheep Tour
Canterbury and South Canterbury
Celebrating 100 years of the
Southdown Sheep Society of New Zealand
11th to 14th May 2026
2 Nights Christchurch, 1 Night Timaru

Monday 11th May

- Council Meeting (Afternoon)
- AGM 6pm and Tour Dinner at The Pavilions Hotel

Tuesday 12th May

- Flockton Stud – John and Melissa Jebson
- Longlee Stud – Sam and Anne Hughes
- Visit to Riccarton House and Bush. A unique heritage site, first settled by the Deans brothers in 1843, encompassing historic buildings, parkland, gardens, and an ancient podocarp forest with kahikatea trees up to 600 years old. Original home of the 'Kirkstyle' Southdown Flock No.1 founded 1863. This visit will include Lunch, Tour of Riccarton House, and time to take in the beautiful grounds and short walks.
- Tour of One New Zealand Stadium, (Te Kaha Christchurch's new Stadium)
- Evening Meal is your choice tonight, check out a restaurant in the city after our tour of the stadium or return to the Pavilions for a quite night.

Wednesday 13th May

- Enjoy sometime in the beautiful town of Geraldine at your leisure for morning tea, visit Barkers of Geraldine, the Cheese Factory or some of the boutique shops
- Lunch at the Makikihi Country Hotel, voted best South Island Rural Hotel in 2025
- Clifton Downs Stud – Chris and Shelley Medicott
- Tahrua Stud – John and Margaret Macaulay
- Elite Ewe Auction and Dinner at Benvenue Hotel Timaru

Thursday 14th May

- Musburg Stud - Stuart Brannigan
- Visit to Rakaia Island – Rakaia Island is 2600 ha Dairy Farm, farmed on an island between the north and south branches of the Rakaia River, currently milking approx. 4,800 cows through 4 dairy sheds.
- Mapua Stud and Lunch – Christey Family. Lunch will be served by Smokey Fish Bar-Bee-Q our local 2025 New Zealand Barbecue Association Champions.
- Maclaka Stud – Brent Macaulay
- Arriving Christchurch Airport 3.30 pm