

DEER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (DIAA)

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 5th May 2013 at 2.00pm, Quality Hotel Tullamarine Victoria

Present: Milton Stevens, Jeff Varcoe, Dawn Evans, Andrew Hansen, Mark & Keeva Huisman, Andrew & Marika McKinnon, Andy Cowan, Stan Brown, Clyde Sefton, Tim Hansen

Proxies: Nigel Barry, Ian Dowsett, Ross Lawrence, Rod Faulks, Gordon Carter, Jim Moir, Nola Anderson, Deirdre Green, Brett Henke, Richard Coffin, Paul McMaster, David Laird, John DeBruin, Robert Cameron, Solange Shapiro, Graham Edyvane, Damien Knight, Mike Kazprzak, Daryl & Jacquie Schultz, Wayne Pelgrave, Doug Clarke, Chris Tuckwell, Ian Pilgrim, Rodney Stone, John Delaine.

The President, Andrew Hansen, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

BY-LAW RESOLUTION

It was moved Stan Brown and seconded Clyde Sefton "That WA, SA, NSW and QLD be given dispensation from compliance with by-law 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of the DIAA By-laws and Constitution which state that branches must have at least 35 members". **CARRIED**

1. APOLOGIES & PROXIES

It was moved Dawn Evans and seconded Andy Cowan "That the apologies and proxies as read out be accepted".

CARRIED

2. DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS

2.1 DIRECTORS

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Clyde Sefton "That the following be confirmed as Directors of the Deer Industry Association of Australia Inc".

Andrew McKinnon	VIC	Dawn Evans.	QLD
Andrew Hansen	NSW	JeffVarcoe	SA
Mark Huisman	WA		
Milton Stevens		Director at Large	
Gordon Carter		Director at Large	CARRIED

2.2 OFFICE BEARERS

It was moved Stan Brown and seconded Andy Cowan "That the following Executive positions be approved by this AGM".

President	Andrew Hansen	
Vice President	Andrew McKinnon	
Secretary/Treasurer	Marika McKinnon	CARRIED

2.3 AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS

It was moved Andrew McKinnon and seconded Milton Stevens "That the following be confirmed as Directors of Australian Deer Horn & Co-Products Pty Ltd".

Andrew Hansen, Nigel Barry, Andrew Cowan **CARRIED**

All Directors were thanked by acclamation.

3. MINUTES

It was moved Dawn Evans and seconded Jeff Varcoe "That the minutes of the 16th AGM held in Melbourne and published in the Summer 2013 ADF Magazine were an accurate record of proceedings and that they be approved".

CARRIED

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

4.1 PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

Treasurer Marika McKinnon presented the accounts which were printed in the Summer 2013 edition of the ADF Magazine.

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Clyde Sefton "That the 2011-2012 accounts as received from the accountant and published in the Summer 2013 ADF magazine be accepted and approved".

CARRIED

4.2 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Milton Stevens "That the Full Membership subscription for the 2013-2014 year be \$330 inclusive of GST and the Associate Membership fee for the year 2013-2014 be \$110 inclusive of GST".

CARRIED

4.3 NVAS ADMINISTRATION FEE

It was moved Marika McKinnon and seconded Jeff Varcoe "That the NVAS Administration fee for the 2013-2014 financial year be \$330 inclusive of GST".

CARRIED

Members of the DIAA are not required to pay this as it is included in their membership.

4.4 COMPANY SEAL

It was moved Dawn Evans and seconded Jeff Varcoe "That it be noted that the DIAA Company Seal has not been used since the last AGM".

CARRIED

5. ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Andrew Hansen's Annual Report has been printed in the "Summer 2013" edition of the ADF magazine.

It was moved Clyde Sefton and seconded Milton Stevens "That the Annual Report as published in the "Summer 2013 ADF" Magazine be received and accepted".

CARRIED

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was received from Mark Huisman:

"That \$250,000 of the RIRDC deer reserves be retained and allocated purely for a fighting fund for the defence of Deer Welfare Issues that may arise into the future.

Argument for my motion:

We are witnessing far greater influence and power of animal rights activists, and even the RSPCA, who can now influence community sentiment against farmers. As an industry we have to prepare ourselves for a confrontation which, it seems, will inevitably occur at some stage in the future.

As an Industry which is now so small, we have to consider how to defend ourselves. To do this would be a costly exercise.

The only source of such funds is the Industry levy reserves. This is why we have to be able to access the reserves and put aside a fighting fund to protect our right to farm."

Unfortunately the ADF magazine went to print before the motion was received and it could not be put to members prior to the 2013 AGM.

Following discussions and the new stance RIRDC is taking on supporting "development" projects, it was decided to approach RIRDC and the Minister with objections to their new interpretation of the PIERD Act.

7. RIRDC REPORT

The RIRDC report as compiled by Lauren Oehme was received and published in the Summer 2013 issue of the ADF Magazine. It again advises the completion of funding for the ADF Magazine in May 2013 and the DIAA Website in April 2014.

The deer industry was advised by RIRDC that the ADF magazine and the website no longer meet R&D criteria under their interpretation of the PIERD Act and funding will not be allowed to continue.

The DIAA board expressed its disappointment and felt that it did not want industry levy funds wasted on another RIRDC 5 year plan which has been called for by RIRDC.

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Mark Huisman "That the RIRDC Report as published in the "Summer 2013 ADF Magazine" be received but it is being rejected by the directors of the DIAA".

CARRIED

It was moved Mark Huisman and seconded Milton Stevens "That the Directors of the DIAA find no industry benefit in developing a new 5 year plan without the cooperation and mutual respect from RIRDC".

CARRIED

8. AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS Pty (ADH)

The ADH & Co Products report written by Chairman Nigel Barry was published in the Summer 2013 ADF Magazine. Due to the continued drop in product volume consigned to ADH the directors decided to recommend to the ADH to keep the company running but not operate the pools. It was also felt that due to ADH costs, growers who sold to ADH were disadvantaged as they were charged a fee.

A resolution was passed to recommend the "mothballing" of ADH.

It was moved Andy Cowan and seconded Stan Brown "That the Australian Deer Horn and Co Products Pty Ltd Company Report written by Chairman Nigel Barry be received and accepted."

CARRIED

9. ADF MAGAZINE REPORT

Due to the unfortunate loss of RIRDC funding for the ADF magazine some very difficult decisions had to be made. It was decided to change the ADF magazine to an electronic publication and email to those members who have emails. A printed version is to be sent to those members with no internet. As the DIAA will now need to fund the magazine, an electronic version will reduce costs significantly and the presentation on the electronic versions will be considerably improved.

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Dawn Evans "That the ADF report as presented by editor Andy Cowan be received and accepted".

CARRIED

10. NVAS REPORT

A written NVAS report was received by Dr Sue Joubert and will be published in the Autumn 2013 ADF magazine. The most important issue affecting the NVAS is that the old tag supplier, Leader, can no longer supply the printed NVAS tags. An alternative, freezer-friendly tag has been sourced and will be available at the same cost per tag as the old ones.

The option of a Statutory Declaration was again discussed and it was decided to go ahead with the implementation of stat-decs as an option to individual tags, pending approval by Sue Joubert. They are to be in triplicate, stamped, signed, and dated with the season validity date by the NVAS administrator.

They would come at a cost of \$50.00 each to help cover printing, postage and NVAS running costs but would be a cheaper alternative to tags for some growers.

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Clyde Sefton "That the NVAS Report be received and accepted".

CARRIED

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Levies / NRS

In consideration of RIRDC not allowing deer levy funds to be used for industry development it was decided to write to the Minister and ask for R&D Levies to be reduced to the following:

Velvet Levy	R&D	0%
Live Export	R&D	\$0.00/animal
Venison	R&D	0c/kg
NRS		8c/kg

Need to determine who will pay for levy collection costs if no levy monies go to RIRDC as the general rule dictates the costs follow the levies. In 2012-2013 the estimated DAFF levy costs amount to approximately \$15,300.

11.2 Outcome of Proposed DIAA Restructure

Following extensive research and consultations with lawyers, accountants, Consumer Affairs Vic and PILCH Connect it was found that there would be no financial or other benefits to change from a company to an Association, in fact legal advice suggested it would be a backward step and could be disadvantageous and not recommended.

The DIAA board decided to keep things as they are.

11.3 TGA NZ update

An update from Jim Moir prior to the AGM advised the DIAA that NZ was in contact and said they needed full board approval before DINZ could release documentation to assist in the DIAA getting TGA approval for Australian grown velvet products. They had encountered other problems and suggested we allow them to sort them out before starting things here.

11.4 Food Safe Australia New Zealand

The DIAA has made a request to FSANZ to make a distinct differentiation between wild shot deer and farmed deer due to the possible contaminants the wild shot deer could carry.

11.5 2014 AGM Details

The 2014 AGM is to be held in South Australia on Saturday 17th May 2014.

The Venue and times will be advised at a later date.

11.6 2014 - 6th World Deer Congress in Kazakhstan

The only information so far to be received from the organizers in Kazakhstan is that the congress will be start on the 30th of August, 2014. A touring part of the trip will be organized and details will be made available at a later date.

11.7 Constitution Changes

The current constitutional requirement of member numbers to legalise branches of the DIAA was discussed and it was decided that changes need to be made to allow for the reduction in member numbers.

A motion will be put to the next AGM to change the DIAA Constitution to reflect the industry's current member requirements by branches.

It was moved Milton Stevens and seconded Stan Brown "That the DIAA investigate changes to the Constitution to allow for the falling Branch memberships and put a motion to the next AGM to make those changes"

11.8 Industry Development

The current stalemate the deer industry has been in for some time was discussed at length and it was unanimously agreed that industry development of some form must take place. Unfortunately RIRDC funding is no longer an option and the use of some DIAA funds was suggested. It was decided to make some funding available for possible projects that would support the whole of the deer industry and call for projects is to be published in the ADF magazine. Venison promotion was suggested as well as possible assistance to Myrtleford to make some minor yarding upgrades to allow the safe processing of larger bodied animals.

11.9 Tim Hansen Meat Presentation Tim Hansen from Mandagery Creek Venison talked to AGM attendees about the current difficulties he faces at Myrtleford abattoirs. Following some workers sustaining injuries by stags that were sent too close to the rut, the management at Myrtleford will not allow any more old stags or large bodied deer to be killed there. General carcass size is also an issue as they work on a modified sheep chain.

Myrtleford is also killing large numbers of goats which is now their own main business with deer, emus and ostriches being contract kills.

An abattoir at Kyneton is willing to process old stags and large deer but the number to be killed would need to be known well in advance to book in kill space. Tim asked that anyone wanting to kill old stags contact him early to give him time to coordinate kills there. Otherwise inquire if Myrtleford is open to suggestions of change to secure the future of deer kills.

Export to the EU has become difficult with very strong competition from New Zealand and the high Australian dollar is adding to the difficulties.

Wild shot deer are still causing concern on a local level.

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.30PM

WOULD you eat Rudolph for Christmas?

*Source: Courier Mail. 20/12/2013 by Jackie Sinnerton
www.couriermail.com.au*

A record number of Queenslanders are ordering venison for their festive table. Suppliers are reporting a bumper year for the "supermeat", which is ultra lean, high in protein and iron and low in cholesterol.

"We have had more Christmas orders for venison than ever before. Queenslanders are looking for more healthy options and thanks to television cooking shows people are more adventurous with their cooking. Years ago it was mostly Europeans who were interested," said Maureen Pickstone from Lyall Deer Farm. "I buy in venison from South Australia. A leg for the Christmas table would be about \$29 per kilo but I sell diced for about \$25. You don't need much venison on your plate as it is very rich but it is extra healthy and tasty," she said.

Jason Brooker from Naturally Australian Meat and Game in Brisbane agrees that there has been a shift towards deer. It's more expensive than turkey. A boneless shoulder of venison would be somewhere around \$17 per kilo, turkey maybe \$8 and over. But it is top quality meat and if not overcooked very enjoyable," he said. "Queenslanders are definitely more adventurous with what they serve on Christmas Day but certain nationalities are attracted to different types of meat. English for example love a goose," he said.

The Chop Shop Butchers at Forest Lake Brisbane sells geese for approximately \$24 per kilo. Ham and turkey are big with the Irish. The Superbutcher is advertising a Beenleigh ham for \$12.99 per kilo. Australians enjoy turkey but duck and pork are also favourites.

Simon's Gourmet Gallery in Brisbane sells duck at \$14.95 per kilo and pork roast at \$18.95 per kilo. Seafood and cold meats are popular with people from Scandinavian countries. The Polish love their fish.



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