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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jim Moir

The song tells us it is the season to be jolly but what with the financial crisis, drought, floods etc it all looks like doom and gloom in Australia. Then you look at what else is happening in the world with wars, terrorism, famine, civil unrest etc etc and we realise that we really are better off than the majority of the world's population by a long shot.

When it comes to deer farming returns, we are way better off than the stock market which is down approx. 50%. In fact, venison returns are slightly up from last year and the velvet returns look like they may be down by approx. a third of last year's first pool average. (I only wish that my super fund losses were at the same dollar level losses as my velvet cheque).

So all in all, things aren't so bad when you consider I still have my velvet stags and a new batch of fawns to see me into the new year. NZ has lost approx. 1,800 deer farmers in the last year or so and a lot of the remaining ones are sending a heap of velvet stags to the venison market. That should mean a short fall in the velvet supply in the next couple of years. Also, they are creating a venison market that will not be supported because of their declining herd.

So I believe that, overall we are living in the right country and that deer farming has a future that can support us in the style we think we deserve after what we have been through over the last few years.

I wish you all the best for Christmas and that the New Year brings you health, wealth and happiness. I hope to see you in Orange for the AGM.

Jim Moir

PS. I would like to thank everyone for their condolences on Jill's death. If we missed anyone with our replies, please accept our heart felt thanks.