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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jim Moir

The AGM in Melbourne, although low in attendance numbers, had representation from four States.

From my point of view, a major outcome is that Dr Andrew Hansen will take over as President of the DIAA from October 1st 2010. For those of you who do not know Andrew, he is a semi retired vet, an active red deer farmer from Orange and has been NSW President for the last three years. So he has all the boxes ticked for an exceptional President. An in-depth interview with Andrew will be in the spring magazine.

The DIAA's present healthy bank balance has allowed the AGM to reduce the yearly dues from \$2250 to \$180 (GST exclusive). This means that we have not only held the dues to 1990 levels but actually reduced them for most farmers. This is a great result and is mainly due to the treasurer for her tight fiscal control and extra work over the last few years.

Please renew your membership and encourage others to follow as well. The membership notices will be sent out in the first two weeks of June so that you can claim back GST if you wish.

Jim Derrickk from the NRS gave a levy presentation to the directors prior to the AGM. Basically, he advised that the present 4 cents we pay (from our 8c/kg levy) will not be sufficient with our reduced amount of venison going through the system and the government's full cost recovery requirement.

The NRS are restricted to 4 cents by regulation and will have to get a new rate passed by parliament which will take some time. Given that we have never had a negative result, he will also put a case to AQIS and the EU for reducing the number of samples required which, if agreed, should result in a reduced cost to us.

The exact levy requirement is not known at present. The board advised him that we would not be increasing our existing overall levy rate of 8 cents.

By the next magazine we will have a full report of 5th World Deer Congress and tour. It is not too late to join the tour but you will have to book soon.

Jim Moir
DIAA President