



**Remits for the New Zealand Deer Farmers
Association
Annual General Meeting
8 May 2024, Napier**

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Remit #1: NZDFA Life Membership for Murray Matuschka

As per the NZDFA Constitution and Rules, life members are defined as: *"persons who, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, are elected by the Association at a General Meeting as life members."*

The NZDFA Executive Committee has recommended that life membership be conferred on Murray Matuschka for his/their long service to the NZDFA and the NZ deer industry.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee requests that life membership for Murray Matuschka is confirmed and endorsed by vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominator: Bob Swann

Secunder: Ian Bristow

Supporting Testimonials

Bob Swann (15 December 2023)

Starting with pet deer from 1969, Murray and Barbara moved towards full time farming in 1974 with Gary Akers becoming an investor in deer to run on Kitenui. By mid the 80's, he was managing 1000 deer. Murray was the founding chairman of the Taupo branch of NZDFA, organised the first ever velvet workshop for removal and use of deer velvet, and was chairman of the Taupo NZDFA conference.

Murray has run a very successful farm tour business promoting deer farming and other exotic animals for many years including, we understand, the NI's only captive Thar herd. In that respect he has also hosted many of the NI Branches in field-days and entertainment and forged a strong link in particular with the Waikato Branch of NZDFA.

Having always supported, given advice and helped the small farmers, led Murray to create the Matuschka award in 1996. This is the legacy of Murray as it recognises one of the features of regional Deer Farming branch. He founded the Matuschka Award in the strong belief "that every Branch has at least one of these; the grass roots farmer and unsung contributor to local area activities, functions and core spirit of deer farming." In history the list of award winners is really an extension of the way Murray operates and has supported the DFA, deer farming and its people since he's been involved in the industry.

Bob and Frances, Murray and Barbara first met at the Te Anau conference in 1978 and have been close friends ever since.

Bay of Plenty Branch (10 January 2024)

I'm happy to support the nomination for DFA Life Membership of Murray Matuschka.

Murray was there right at the beginning of deer farming where his keen interest in the various breeds of deer was well known in our region as was his philosophy of farmers working together, assisting each other and sharing knowledge. He founded the Taupo DFA branch, and over the years was always happy to share his experience with other branches in the region.

He hosted many memorable branch field days at his farm where he had a fine collection of antlers and curios from the many different breeds of deer. He was in his element in the company of deer farmers where the exchange of many good ideas and good yarns took place!

Murray - a man of many talents and well known for his creativity and mastery in the art of sculpture and painting. I'm sure his regal lifelike deer in bronze are scattered around the world.

For sure Murray has made an indelible mark on the deer industry and the Bay of Plenty Branch fully endorses National Life Membership.

With regards
Sandra Garrett
Past Bay of Plenty Branch Chair.

Waikato Branch NZDFA (12 January 2024)

We strongly support the nomination of Murray Matuschka to be admitted as a Life Member of the NZDFA. In our opinion this is a long overdue award to a pioneering Industry personality who started into the deer business in the early 1970s and is still farming actively today. He has farmed a variety of deer species, Himalayan Thar and other exotics as part of the park, educating farmers and tourists.

Many have benefited from Murray's many skills, experience and extensive knowledge of deer and the farming of them. Aside from that he has artistic and sculpting skills. His concrete and bronze life-sized stags and other animals are well known. He produced very clever cartoons for the 'Deer Farmer' years ago (an example attached).

Having clocked up 50 years to date involved in the deer industry in various ways contributing and sharing his knowledge. It is considered he is long overdue for recognition as a notable longstanding member of the industry who has quietly given back without fanfare. He is sometimes controversial and direct to the point, but who the astute always considered his opinions valuable.

Murray Matuschka is a significant long-standing personality who will always be valued as someone who made a tremendous difference to the NZ Deer Farming Industry and more than worthy of Life Membership.

Barry Mackintosh

Remit #2: Increase in honoraria for NZDFA Executive Committee members

As per the NZDFA Constitution clause 19, NZDFA Executive Committee members may be remunerated, with the amount set at each Annual General Meeting:

"19. REMUNERATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS

19.1 Members to Set Fees: *The amount of remuneration, if any, to be paid to the Executive Committee members and other elected officers of the Association shall be set at each Annual General Meeting of the Association by ordinary resolution of those members entitled to vote thereat. Any remuneration so set shall apply for the period commencing at the end of the meeting at which it is set and ending at the close of the next Annual General Meeting."*

Current honoraria (remuneration rates) are \$12,000 (*per annum*) for the Chair and \$8,000 *p.a.* for other members. The last increase in the honoraria was seven years ago (2017).

It is requested that honoraria be increased to \$13,000 *p.a.* for the Chair and \$10,000 *p.a.* for other members.

Nominator: Grant Hasse (CWC)

Secunder: Sean de Lacy (Taihape-Ruapehu)

Remit #3: NAIT System Failure

The South Canterbury/North Otago (SCNO) Branch expresses frustration and concern regarding the failure of the NAIT system, specifically pertaining to the registration of animals. Numerous members of our branch, as well as those from other branches, have encountered significant challenges with the functionality and reliability of the NAIT system.

It has come to our attention that despite previously registering animals, many members find themselves compelled to re-register their animals before their departure from the farm to avoid incurring fines. This redundant process not only wastes valuable time and resources but also undermines the trust and confidence of farmers in the effectiveness of the NAIT system.

The SCNO Branch asserts that such inefficiencies and inconsistencies in the NAIT system are unacceptable and demand immediate attention and resolution. We call upon NAIT to conduct a comprehensive review of the system's operations and address the root causes of these recurring issues.

In light of these concerns, the SCNO Branch requests that NAIT take proactive measures to rectify the shortcomings of the system and restore confidence among farmers. We stand ready to collaborate with NAIT and other stakeholders to achieve a more efficient, reliable, and user-friendly NAIT system for the benefit of the agricultural community.

Nominator: Mark Tapley (SCNO)

Secunder: Graham Peck (SCNO)

Remit #4: Relationship between DINZ and AgResearch

The Southland Branch is very concerned with the deteriorating relationship between DINZ and AgResearch and wants an explanation from the DINZ Board on this and its new research strategy. Answers are sought for the following questions:

- Why the relationship has been severed as we know it? And can it be reversed?
- Does the Board understand how the industry benefited from that relationship?
- What are the Board's plans to replace the lost funding and deer expertise with the possible degrading of the AgResearch deer science capability?

Supporting Statement

Recently the industry joined with AgResearch at Invermay to celebrate the 50-year relationship. It was a wonderful event with deserved acknowledgement of scientists, veterinarians and deer farmers. The outcomes of this relationship have moulded the industry as we know it today.

Funding of research by AgResearch has been extremely favourable to the industry. For every dollar the industry provided, AgResearch matched it with two dollars. This made us the envy of all other agricultural industries.

However the AgResearch contribution extended far beyond that. The deer team at Invermay have always exuded a passion for deer and it has never been a 9 to 5 role. They have made an immense contribution to the industry outside of research.

The Invermay deer herd is not a research deer herd in isolation. The herd is closely aligned to the industry such that research findings are readily transferable to the wider industry. Genetics play a critical role in any farm livestock system and the Invermay herd has been crucial to providing a backbone on which industry genetics have been developed, maintained and moved forward. Lose that at your peril.

AgResearch has also recently invested in improving infrastructure on the Invermay farm. Now with the looming uncertainty of work, the deer farm could be downgraded and vital deer science expertise lost.

The decision of the Board made last year was made with no discussion or consultation and so no surprise that AgResearch were flabbergasted and left reeling. Leading people in AgResearch's deer program only found out about the Deer Industry new plan when they read the Deer Industry News. They went from a close partnership to being cold shouldered without any reasonable communication for the change.

The Invermay deer team is held in high regard internationally and the industry has been the beneficiary of that on numerous occasions in the past. Most recently this was in regard to characterization of the deer genome. While we all know how critical it is to have this, our industry is just not big enough to find the \$1M+ required. The connections the Invermay team

have with colleagues in North America provided an opportunity late last year to define the deer genome for a fraction of that cost. (Another \$900,000 + that by association AgResearch has been able to add to the industry). We feel that the Board does not fully understand this or the many other benefits that our research has received over the years due to that close association.

AgResearch will now have to apply along with everyone else for project funding. The problem is that the other providers don't have the money to bring to our industry, most are very cash strapped and need large industry input into a project. Our industry doesn't have the resources to insure this. Other possible providers have not got the deer science capability that AgResearch has accumulated over fifty years.

The timing couldn't have been worse as AgResearch is undergoing restructuring at present. This makes it easier for them to decrease their capability and funding to the deer industry.

That changes us from having a funding level that no other agricultural industry enjoyed to being exposed as a very small industry among large players fighting for the research dollar.

The Southland Branch is asking for endorsement from the branch chairs to support this remit to enable the NZDFA Executive Committee to request that the DINZ Board publicly explain how we got to this stage and if the situation be rectified.

What is their actual plan to ensure we have a sustainable future in deer specific research?

Nominator: John Somerville (Southland)

Secunder: Tony Roberts (Southland)