

NZDFA

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association



DRAFT UNTIL AGREED BY NZDFA MEMBERS
AT NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association 34th Annual General Meeting,
held at the Travelodge Hotel, Palmerston North
Wednesday, 27 May 2009, 2:30pm – 5:05pm**

The NZDFA Chairman Bill Taylor called the 34th AGM to order at 2:30pm and welcomed approximately 140 members and interested friends of the industry and called for apologies to be notified. The Producer Manager advised that the meeting was represented also through 29 proxies from members.

1. APOLOGIES

Branch Chairmen

John Carter (Warnham & Woburn Society), Ken Ferguson (West Coast), Pip Rutland (Poverty Bay).

Life members

John & Jan Burrowes, Lady Fiona Elworthy, Clive & Elsie Jermy, Jeff & Trish Pearse, Jenny Pinney.

Members

Grant Cochrane, Vince Connolly, Udo Fuehrer, Lindsay & Judith Gerrard, Brian Marcroft, Warren Moyes, Walter Somerville.

MOVED "That the apologies be sustained".

Moved: Rodney Dixon, **seconded:** Ken Swainson.

Carried unanimously.

2. SCRUTINEERS

The Chairman put the resolution ***"that Phil Stewart, Paul Lampp and Philip Irwin be appointed as the scrutineers for the 34th AGM of the NZDFA, 27 May 2009"***.

Moved: Malcolm Gilbert, **seconded:** Errol Croad.

Carried unanimously.

3. OBITUARIES AND REMEMBRANCE

Obituaries were recognised for Gerald Amos (founding member of the NZDFA), Tom Stevenson, James Innes, Morgan Saxton, Neil Purvis, Ian 'Butch' Alexander, Clive Denize and Andrew Button. The meeting recognised the passing of these NZDFA members and industry participants with a minute of silence.

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4. CALL FOR FURTHER ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no further items of general business notified.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING AGENDA

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Mike McCormick.

Carried unanimously.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 33RD AGM

The meeting agreed the Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association held at the Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill on Wednesday, 14 May 2008, as published in the 2008/09 Annual Report, - *Deer Industry News* (issue 35, April/May 2009,) pages 3-6, be taken as read.

Moved: Chris Petersen, **seconded:** Errol Croad.

Carried unanimously.

There was no discussion and no amendments to the minutes were advised by the meeting.

It was moved ***“that the Minutes of the 33rd NZDFA AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record”***.

Moved: Jim Scorgie, **seconded:** Keith Orange.

Carried unanimously.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There were no notified matters arising from the minutes.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman requested the meetings acceptance of his report that had been circulated in the April 2009 Deer Industry News without reading in full in the interests of time. On that acceptance the Chair outlined a few key points from his report. On behalf of the NZDFA the Chairman thanked Errol Croad for his 7 year commitment to the AHB Representatives' Committee, holding the position of Chairman for the past two years. The new NZDFA representative on the Committee, Ponty von Dadelszen was welcomed.

Bill Taylor also wished to thank the Executive Committee for their time and input into the NZDFA over the past year, and particularly wished to thank retiring Committee member Sharon Love. The Chairman's Report as detailed in *Deer Industry News* (issue 35, April/May 2009), pages 7 – 8 was taken as read.

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Tom Williams.

Carried.

In seconding the adoption of the Chairman's Report, Life member Tom Williams spoke on positive steps forward in the New Zealand deer industry over the past year. These included better managed supply of deer velvet resulting in better returns to producers, the chance for a more favourable Emissions Trading Scheme with the change of Government, as well as developments in the two major diseases challenging the Industry (Johne's disease and Tb). In

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conclusion he highlighted the future and potential of the New Zealand deer industry, noting the Industry's major challenge is to hold shrinkage and begin to rebuild and encourage new investment into deer enterprise options.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Earle Wells (Finance portfolio) presented the Association's financial statements for the 2008/09 year. Key points to note included the Association's liability to pay tax this year (\$1300 on interest earnings) following 11 years of tax credits. It was noted subscription income for the year was below budget by \$8,595 through higher than expected subscription attrition with interest income was also slightly below budget.

The Association's audited financial statements as circulated in the 2008/09 Annual Report, *Deer Industry News* (Issue 35, April/May 2009), pages 9 – 14 were accepted and approved by the meeting as follows.

FORMAL FINANCIAL MOTIONS

Motion 1 – “That the audited NZDFA financial statements and accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009 be received and approved”.

Moved: Earle Wells, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan.

Carried unanimously.

(Motion 2, Budget 2009/10 was deferred to follow Motion 4 pending passage of Executive Committee motions 3 and 4.)

Motion 3 – “That the Executive Committee honoraria for the 2008/09 financial year be fixed at \$9,000 for the elected Chairman, and \$6,000 for each other Executive Committee member”.

Moved: Andrew Mitchell, **seconded:** Mike McCormick.

Carried unanimously.

Motion 4 – “That Deloitte be appointed as NZDFA auditors for the ensuing year, 2009/10”.

Moved: Earle Wells, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan.

Carried unanimously.

Motion 2 – BUDGET TO YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

“That the NZDFA budget of income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2010 be approved”.

Key points raised included:

- Break-even target with subscriptions increased by \$10, set at \$75 + GST and estimated at a target of 1750 subscriptions (no change);
- Branch capitation fee would be maintained at \$20 with national operating costs being held equivalent to the expenditure of 2008/09;
- Reserves accounts aimed to be maintained at a minimum of \$100,000;
- Audit fees confirmed as \$2,500 + GST based on a quote from Deloitte.

BUDGET 2009/10 APPROVAL

“That the NZDFA budget of income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2010 be approved”.

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Moved: Earle Wells, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan.

Carried unanimously.

10. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

The meeting noted there were no constitutional changes required this year.

The Chairman asked for consent of the meeting to consider the branch remits before the anticipated lengthy Executive Committee NAIT Remit discussion

11. BRANCH REMITS

REMIT 1: Canterbury: Lower Tyne Removal (from 2006).

“That in the absence of an accepted velvet marketing restructuring, the NZDFA request DINZ to ensure that NZFSA (New Zealand Food Safety Authority) requires removal [of] lower tynes from velvet antler (frozen or dried) destined for the Korean market, in accordance with Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR). The NZDFA requests DINZ to report conclusions and progress by beginning of 2009/10 selling season”.

M Gilbert spoke to the Remit on behalf of the Canterbury Branch, noting that while the remit has been on the table since 2006 and circumstances may have changed, the Canterbury Branch believed there was a need for a decision to be made on the remit. M Gilbert provided a brief background on velvet processing conditions in 2006 and conditions in today's Industry, noting the remit is not designed to subsidise the local processing industry; rather promote integrity in the market in accordance with Korean OMARs.

Moved: Malcolm Gilbert, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan.

The Chair opened the remit for discussion.

Steve Borland: Noted progress on a Free Trade Agreement with Korea which would have the potential to level the playing field. S Borland questioned the relevancy of this remit, given the change in circumstances since it was first put up three years ago.

M O'Connor: Agreed with the ideas/sentiment in which the remit was based upon, however did not believe passing this remit would change encourage the New Zealand processing industry's competitiveness. M O'Connor also commented on the time lapse between when the remit was first put up and the current market conditions and substantial change in the industry since 2006.

J MacDonald: Commented that while the processing industry values the Branch's sentiments around this remit, time has progressed and the dynamics of the processing industry have changed. It was suggested the remit be withdrawn.

M Gilbert: Responded that despite comments on the relevance of this remit, the Branch continue to believe the remit is valid given the implementation of a Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and Korea will require a considerable period of transition.

The remit was put and the Chairman declared the motion **LOST** resoundingly on a voice vote.

12. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REMITS

REMIT 1: National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT).

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“That this 34th NZDFA AGM review the current NZDFA position statement on NAIT as presented by request to the NAIT Governance Group (April 2009)”.

B Taylor spoke to this remit, noting the Executive Committee continue to have concerns with the NAIT programme in its current form, however believe the passing of this remit would ensure continued communication with NAIT in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome for New Zealand deer farmers.

Moved: Bill Taylor, **seconded:** Edmund Noonan.

T Pearse (NAIT Technical Advisory Group) provided the meeting with a presentation on NAIT principles and intentions. The Chair recognised NAIT Chair Ian Corney, Technical Advisory Group Chairman Lindsay Burton and NAIT operations manager Craig

The remit was opened for discussion.

John Scurr: Was supportive of this remit, and enforced the view from marketers and processors that NAIT is required by the markets. He noted the Industry is at risk without such a traceability programme, potentially leading to significant trade barriers if other countries are implementing such programmes and New Zealand gets left behind. J Scurr believed not having sheep initially involved with NAIT should be seen as an advantage, given the scale of implementation that would be required. It was noted the cost involved would be minimal relative to the positive story which would be created.

Bill Taylor: Emphasised recognition of the market drivers for such a traceability programme, and encourage proactive cohesion between the NAIT team, DINZ and the NZDFA to address the deer industry's issues of concern, such as cost-effectiveness and ownership.

Mike Holdaway: Stated it should be reasonable for customers to expect traceability when purchasing a premium product such as New Zealand venison, given it is positioned in a niche market.

Mike McCormick: Was supportive of the remit, and believes a traceability programme will be forced upon the Industry by overseas markets whether the Industry likes it or not. He encouraged the meeting to embrace such inevitability, and emphasised the importance of working alongside NAIT to achieve a workable system for producers. M McCormick expressed concern that NAIT have not taken previous opinions presented by the deer industry onboard and encouraged them to do so.

Alistair Porter: Stated his support for the NAIT concept, however questioned the intent of the remit. He requested confirmation as to whether the meeting was supporting a remit to allow the Executive Committee to review the NZDFA's position on NAIT, or whether the remit was requesting discussion from the meeting in order to review the NZDFA's position. A Porter stated he did not believe the remit portrayed the intended sentiment and suggested an amendment to the remit.

The Chairman agreed to take an amendment to the motion.

A Porter proposed an amendment to the motion, ***“That this 34th NZDFA AGM request that the NZDFA Executive Committee review the current NZDFA position statement on NAIT as presented by request to the NAIT Governance Group (April 2009)”.***

The proposed amendment to the remit was opened for discussion.

David Stevens: Noted a number of points in the NZDFA's current position statement are non-negotiable (specifically points 1, 6, 7 and 8). He stated a number of issues still need to be addressed; particularly compliance costs, ongoing costs, length of the transition period and

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tag type. While he is supportive of a review of the current position statement, it was emphasised a number of points remain non-negotiable.

Mark Hawkins: Requested clarification of what is accepted as a suitable tag by the AHB. T Pearce reported the AHB have agreed an electronic tag with suitable numbers, etc will be acceptable, although there has been some frustration in the delay of this decision and written agreement is still required. M Hawkins stated his view that the NZDFA support NAIT with further discussion to be held. The importance of the NZDFA having a clear stance on NAIT was emphasised, and it was highlighted New Zealand is already behind many other countries with regards to traceability. The meeting was encouraged not to delay NAIT's progression and implementation any further.

Tim Aitken: Expressed his view that the NZDFA should be supportive of NAIT, however suggested a change to the remit in order to accurately highlight that while the NZDFA are supportive of the NAIT concept, the Association is not supportive of NAIT as it currently stands.

John Kempthorne: Was supportive of Alistair Porter's proposed amendment to the remit.

Andrew Mitchell: Stated that while he was supportive of the Executive Committee reviewing the NZDFA's position, he was not supportive of stepping away from refusal of mandatory inclusion in 2011. He pointed out that if the Industry were to accept mandatory inclusion in 2011, 100% of deer would be required to be tagged as of 1 January 2001, with the tagging of fawns legally required by 30 January. The Executive Committee acknowledged dissatisfaction at this requirement.

Jim Scorgie: Agreed to support the remit, however noted the NZDFA's current position has been responsible and it was emphasised the NZDFA should not give in to detail. Full review of the programme in its current form would be required.

Alistair Porter: Requested a seconder for his proposed amendment to the remit. He stated it was unlikely time would allow the concept to be fully debated at the AGM given the complexity of the subject. A Porter was supportive of the Executive Committee conducting a thorough review of the current proposal and preparing a revised position statement in accordance with findings.

The Amendment :

"That this 34th NZDFA AGM request that the NZDFA Executive Committee review the current NZDFA position statement on NAIT as presented by request to the NAIT Governance Group (April 2009)".

Moved: Alistair Porter, **seconded:** Richard Denley.

was put and **carried unanimously.**

Further discussion on the amended remit was requested.

Andrew Peters: Stated NAIT's approach in selling the concept to farmers has not been successful. While he accepted the need for a traceability system, he was not convinced the proposed technology is suitable and emphasised the importance of creating a programme that works for deer and the Industry. While he was supportive of the NZDFA reviewing its position statement, it was emphasised he is not supportive of NAIT in its present form whatsoever.

Jim Scorgie: Requested clarification as to what "as presented to the NAIT Governance Group" added to the remit. T Pearce responded that the 8 point supporting discussion as

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printed in the remit notes was the same document that the DFA had supplied by request to the NAIT Governance Group.

Alistair Porter: Noted he was most impressed with the discussion and presentations held in the "*Agribusiness in Action*" seminar held the previous day, and recognised that while there remain issues around implementation of the programme; there is no doubt the Industry cannot veer away from the concept of a traceability scheme.

There being no further discussion, the Chairman closed the remit discussion by noting the likelihood of requests for further information/view points from NZDFA members throughout the review process.

The amended remit was put and carried without dissent.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Candidate Addresses for the DINZ Board

The Chairman welcomed the three nominated candidates for the producer appointment to the DINZ Board to address the meeting. In turn each candidate (Jeremy Bell, Bernard Card and John Spiers) briefly presented to the meeting.

2. Notification of Selection and Appointment Panel Appointments

The Chairman advised the meeting both David Stevens (Southland) and Ponty von Dadelszen (Hawke's Bay) have been reappointed (unopposed) to the Selection and Appointment Panel. The Chairman acknowledged both incumbent Panel members' successful candidature.

3. Notification of Executive Committee Appointments

The Chairman advised the meeting of Wilton Turner's successful nomination and appointment to the Executive Committee, replacing Sharon Love as the Lower North Island representative.

Bill Taylor's successful reappointment to the Executive Committee as the Lower South Island representative was also noted.

4. Executive Committee Retirement

The Chairman thanked retiring Executive Committee member Sharon Love for her effort and commitment to the NZDFA over the last two years, particularly with respect to her coordination and development of NZDFA velvet competitions. Upon offering support for her new endeavours, S Love was presented with an acknowledgment of her contribution to the NZDFA and made a short valedictory address to the meeting.

The Chairman also marked the contribution that DINZ Marketing and Communications Assistant, Natalie Fraser had given to the EC and NZDFA and thanked her on behalf of the meeting.

There being no further items of General Business, the meeting was closed at 5:05pm.

Confirmed as a true and accurate record

Signed

Date
