

ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



NOTICE OF MEETING

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association: 50th Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the 50th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association (Inc) will be held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 commencing at 8:00am at the Millennium Hotel, Queenstown.

The Chair and Executive Committee of the NZDFA invite all NZDFA members and industry interested parties to attend.

AGENDA

50th NZDFA AGM, Wednesday 14th May 2025 commencing at 8:00am

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| 1. Welcome and Apologies | 8. Financial Report |
| 2. Appointment of Scrutineers | 9. NZDFA Branch remits |
| 3. Notification of Obituaries | 10. NZDFA Positions and Appointments |
| 4. Notification of further items of General Business | 11. Any other business |
| 5. Confirmation of Minutes of 49th AGM | <i>Meeting adjourned until 5 pm</i> |
| 6. Matters arising | |
| 7. Chair's Report and discussion | 12. DINZ Board Candidate address |

Remits

The following remits have been received:

- Negotiate with DINZ for shared costs of the 2024 SAP appeals process.
- Conflict registers to be confirmed or put in place for the DINZ Board and NZDFA Executive Committee if not already in place
- Review of Constitutional Clauses: Conflict-of-Interest Provisions and Specific Role References

Branch Chairs Meeting

The local NZDFA Branch Chairs will meet together on the afternoon of Tuesday 13 May. This is a vital meeting with the chairs, Executive Committee and SAP. Please liaise with your local Branch Chair as they can raise issues on your behalf and act as a proxy for the AGM. Please email NZDFA@deernz.org for further information.

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	10	Motions and remits		

MINUTES OF THE NEW ZEALAND DEER FARMERS' ASSOCIATION 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 9:00am
Napier War Memorial Centre, Napier

WELCOME

NZDFA chair Justin Stevens called the 49th AGM to order at 9.00am and called for notification of apologies.

Justin Stevens /Jaimie Ward moved acceptance of Agenda

1. APOLOGIES

Branch Chairs

Rex Cowley, Mike Allan, Lorna Humm, Catherine Morrow, Mike Humphrey, Tony Pearce, Mike Ferrier.

Life members

Lady Fiona Elworthy, Lady Prue Wallis, Jenny Pinney, Jean Gregson, Clive Jermy, John and Jan Burrows, Gay and Tom Williams, Mike and Susie Pattison, Jeff and Trish Pearce, Marie Spiers

Selection and Appointments Panel (SAP)

None

Members

Corey Busch, Edmund Noonan

Moved: "That the apologies as notified be accepted."

Moved: Justin Stevens **Seconded:** Donald Whyte
CARRIED

2. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Moved: That Louise Balkham and Lynda Gray are appointed as Scrutineers for the 49th AGM of the NZDFA, 8 May 2024.

Moved: Kris Orange **Seconded:** Grant Hasse
CARRIED

3. OBITUARIES AND REMEMBRANCE

- Sir Tim Wallis, Otago
- Murray Powell, Waikato
- Don Gregson, Kaipara
- Bruce Niven, Central Region

The meeting recognised the passing of these NZDFA members, with a minute of silence.

4. NOTIFICATION OF FURTHER ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

None noted.

5. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

No further items of general business were notified. It was moved that the agenda be accepted as presented.

Moved: Justin Stevens **Seconded:** Karen Middelberg
CARRIED

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE

48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the NZDFA, held 10 May 2023 at 09:00 am, Hotel Ashburton, Racecourse Road, Ashburton.

Circulated in the Annual Report 2023/24 and posted on deernz.org/nzdfa/agms-branch-chairs-meetings-and-annual-reports

Moved: "That the minutes of the 48th NZDFA AGM be taken as read"

Discussion and matters arising: No amendments to the minutes were notified by attendees.

The Chair put the motion "That the minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the NZDFA, as circulated, be accepted as a true and accurate record."

Moved: Justin Stevens **Seconded:** Jamie Ward
CARRIED

7. CHAIR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

Justin Stevens addressed the AGM by way of presentation and a summary of the following key points:

NZDFA financial report

Circulated in the 2023/24 Annual Report and posted to deernz.org/nzdfa/agms-branch-chairs-meetings-and-annual-reports

- Accountancy Review (Moore Markhams) of the financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024
- Includes Statement of Financial Performance for the year ending 31 March 2024 and NZDFA Draft budget for 2024/2025

Thanks were given to:

- Graham Peck for time on the SAP
- Special thanks to Lindsay Fung, Cenwynn Philip (now on parental leave) and Louise Balkham
- Fellow Executive Committee members: Mark McCoard, Karen Middelberg and Jamie Ward

Main Features – Financial Budget 2024/2025

- Honoraria increased (from \$36k to \$43k)
- Planning for membership to remain at 2023/24 levels
- Using specialised service (Electionz.com) for Executive Committee and SAP elections

Moved: "I move the adoption of the NZDFA chair's report for 2023/24 year and call for a seconder."

Moved: Justin Stevens **Seconded:** John Somerville
CARRIED

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared by Phiry Sem, Beef + Lamb NZ, NZDFA accounts and

presented by Karen Middelberg, treasurer, NZDFA Executive Committee.

Circulated in the 2023/24 Annual Report and posted to deernz.org/nzdfa/agms-branch-chairs-meetings-and-annual-reports as a formal Accountancy Review (Moore Stephens Markham) of the accounts and financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2023.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2024

Financial Highlights

- Operating deficit of \$2,080 before taxation, resulting in a net deficit for the year of \$2,788.
- Interest income increased by almost 50%
- Less expenditure overall due to a decrease in cost for travel and accommodation, printing and stationery
- Subscriptions down from \$108,693 to \$100,680

PROPOSED BUDGET 2024/25

Recommended income and expenditure from the Executive Committee was presented.

Approval of the 2024/25 budget and honoraria required motions from the floor following discussion alongside the motion allowing the Executive Committee to appoint an accountant to conduct the accountancy review.

Budget Features:

1. Overall increase of \$4,611 in travel related expenses from 2023/24 Increase in honoraria
2. General expenses (\$8,000) mainly covers Branch Chair meeting expenses
3. Professional fees decrease (now being covered by DINZ Producer Manager budget)

Karen Middelberg then put forward the following motions and asked the Chair to put the four formal financial motions in turn as presented in the annual report.

Motion 1: Accounts 2023/24

“That the reviewed accounts for NZDFA financial statements and accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 be received and approved.”

Moved: Karen Middelberg **Seconded:** Grant Charteris
CARRIED

Motion 2: (also 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:

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. “That the Executive Committee honoraria for the 2024/25 financial year be set be fixed at \$13000 for the elected chair, and \$8000 for each other Executive Committee member.”

MOVED: Grant Hasse **SECONDED:** Sean de Lacy
CARRIED

Motion 3: Review of accounts

“That the NZDFA Executive Committee be authorized to appoint a Chartered Accountant to review the accounts of the NZDFA for the ensuing year (2024/25).”

Moved: Karen Middelberg **Seconded:** Grant Hasse
CARRIED

Motion 4: Budget to year ending 31 March

“That the NZDFA budget of expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025 be approved.”

Moved: Karen Middelberg **Seconded:** Evan Potter
CARRIED

9. REMITS

Four received.

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 **Seconded:** Ian Bristow
CARRIED

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Nominator: Grant Hasse (CWC) **Seconded:** Sean de Lacy (Taihape-Ruapehu)
CARRIED

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) **Second:** Graham Peck (SCNO)

Mark Tapley reminded the meeting that Craig North was the DFA's OSPRI representative and urged branches/individuals to take any OSPRI-related issues/concerns to him. This approach was endorsed by Justin Stevens.

CARRIED

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?

Nominator: John Somerville (Southland) **Second:** Tony Roberts (Southland)

Discussion: John Somerville summarised the Southland DFAs concerns about the deteriorating DINZ-AgResearch deer research relationship adding in discussion points from the previous day's branch chairs meeting noting that lack of transparency and communications were the issues. He said the Southland branch was concerned about the future funding of deer research and what that would mean for farmers and that clarity on the relationship was required from the DINZ board.

CARRIED

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. DEER INDUSTRY NEW ZEALAND BOARD CANDIDATES

A DINZ Board vacancy was created by retirement by rotation. There were two nominations for the vacant position.

- Candidate 1: Mandy Bell read her statement
- Candidate 2: John Tacon was absent. Grant Charteris read his statement

B. NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS – SELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS PANEL

Candidate	Votes
• Dave Lawrence (Southland)	108
• William Oliver (Waipa)	89

- Graham Peck (SCNO) 70

C. NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS PANEL FOR 2024/25

- Donald Whyte, South Canterbury North Otago – term ends 2025
- Andrew Peters, Taihape-Ruapehu – term ends 2025
- William Oliver, Waipa, term ends 2024 – term ends 2026
- Dave Lawrence, Southland – term ends 2026

Justin thanked Jamie for his involvement and his contribution to the Executive Committee. Thanks were also given to Graham Pecks for his involvement and contribution to the Selections and Appointments Panel during his term.

D. NOTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2024/25

- Mark McCoard, Taihape-Ruapehu, term ends 2025 – elected unopposed.
- Justin Stevens, Marlborough, term ends 2025 – elected unopposed.
- Karen Middelberg, Hawkes Bay, term ends 2024 – elected unopposed.
- Evan Potter, Hawke's Bay (term ends 2026) – by appointment.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next NZDFA AGM 13 May 2025 in Queenstown.

12. CONCLUSION

Justin Stevens thanked Jamie Ward for being a part of the executive committee, and contributions from Graham Peck. The meeting members and guests. The 49th AGM of the NZDFA closed at 9.55am.



To be signed as a true and accurate record.
Justin Stevens, 2023/24 Executive Committee Chair

NZDFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT



Mark McCoard
Chair, NZDFA Executive
Committee

It is my privilege to welcome everyone to the 50th NZDFA AGM held in Queenstown on Wednesday the 14th of May. This location has held some iconic NZDFA events over the years and has once again been deemed to be the fitting location to host and celebrate 50 years of the NZDFA.

A key priority for the NZDFA Executive Committee and Producer Management team this past 12 months has been supporting branch revitalisation initiatives. The strength of our farmer led organisation continues to be the national branch network. The recent field days run by the Canterbury West Coast and Waikato branches highlighted the value the local branch can provide to a wide cross section of the deer farming community, attracting attendances of 85 and 53 people respectively. The inaugural "Young Famer of the Year" competition run and hosted by the South Canterbury North Otago branch was also a huge success attracting 24 competitors. This local initiative has now attracted the interest of other branches and may well expand into a wider national competition.

The Next Generation programme was held in the Manawatu last year attracting 46 attendees, with the NZDFA receiving great support from the local Central Regions branch. This year the attendees were able to view the benefits of a wintering shed within a velvet focused operation and the value of a deer farming operation with a diverse range of income streams. A tour of the local processing plant and company marketing initiatives also gave a connected paddock to plate display of the venison supply chain. A workshop also demonstrated the opportunities surrounding succession planning and differing pathways into deer farming.

Supporting leadership development has

also been a key focus. Ensuring the local branch committees and those aspiring to seek leadership opportunities within the NZDFA and wider deer industry have the resources available to upskill, will further strengthen knowledge and capability for the future. Continuing to connect the next generation to the branches is a priority ahead.

The velvet season has certainly been one of the most difficult in recent memory. The effort by MPI, MFAT, supported by DINZ, to re-establish velvet access into China was a major undertaking and achievement. Unfortunately, the confidence this instilled was short lived as some buyers early in the season took the opportunity to capitalise on the market uncertainty amongst farmers. The product sold during this period largely set the price for the season and as a result velvet farmers finances, have and will, be very tight this year. As frustrating as the season has been the focus will quickly need to be on how

we prevent it repeating. Some open honest discussions to highlight the failings and potential solutions will need to be undertaken and well communicated to farmers and buyers alike. We all need to take some responsibility for what we can control to get velvet returns back to profitable levels.

Conversely the venison prices have been stabilised and are steadily improving. The moving of weight breaks beyond the 85kg cut off by some companies, longer term contracts and initiatives surrounding elk have all added increased stability

and opportunities for deer famers. Other initiatives such as the North American Retail Accelerator programme will take longer for potential gains to be realised. While it is important to celebrate the successes we also need to highlight and understand the risks. Continuing land use change, rising values of competing proteins, environmental and greenhouse gas policies, breeding hind retention and the potential impact of the wild deer population are all risks that need to be well understood and prepared for. Staying ahead of these and other issues will continually need addressing by all parts of the deer industry. Returning value and ensuring profitability back to farmers from both venison and velvet needs to be a primary focus ahead.

The NZDFA is also responsible for appointments onto a range of representative panels. Following the retirement of the long serving Paddy Boyd from the National Velvet Standards Body (NVSB) a replacement for this very important panel was sought. We had seven high quality candidates to interview and subsequently had the pleasure of appointing David Morgan to the role. We also reappointed Dannette McKeown to the Research Advisory Panel (RAP). Dannette has been a key figure as the Chair of this group. The RAP will play an important role in continuing to evaluate science projects, but also likely in an advisory capacity developing the new future of deer science following the DINZ board decision to restructure.

NAIT compliance issues that result in

warnings and fines continue to plague deer farmers. While there are human errors made, some system failings within the NAIT system and the interaction between third party providers has been exposed and now being addressed. Thanks, has to go to our representative Craig North for his ongoing efforts highlighting and reporting issues on behalf of farmers and also to Mark Tapley for hosting NAIT representatives to highlight the issues being experienced at the farmer operational level. We are fortunate to have that effort and connection behind the scenes to help alleviate these issues for all deer farmers.

As with any organisation there are foundational policies and agreements that need to be periodically addressed so they continue to be fit for purpose for the future. The NZDFA, like all incorporated societies in New Zealand, have had to make changes to their constitution to meet the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We held an online Special General Meeting on March 31st where these necessary changes made were discussed, with the new constitution being passed, and has subsequently been

reregistered. The Service Agreement is also currently under review at the time of writing. This agreement was established in 2004 between DINZ and the NZDFA when the NZDFA gave up its right to collect a commodity levy which had been its funding mechanism since its inception in 1975. Given there has not been a thorough review undertaken since 2004 it has taken some time to work through to ensure its durability into the future.

The NZDFA is tasked each year with the selection of producer representatives to the DINZ board to fill vacancies due to retirement by rotation. The Selection and Appointment Panel (SAP) is a panel of eight elected representatives tasked with undertaking this very important process. This year following the conclusion of the process an appeal was lodged by the unsuccessful candidate. This proved to

be a long a protracted undertaking that incurred significant cost, both in terms of financial and time commitments to the NZDFA and its elected representatives. At the conclusion of the appeal process it was deemed that the SAP had followed the appropriate processes and procedures and therefore the original decision was upheld.

Effective, honest and robust communication has to be a pillar of the deer industry leading into the future. As I have reported above there has been a range of issues that has had to be overcome this season and given the rapidly evolving domestic and international landscape there will no doubt be yet unrealised issues to contend with. The NZDFA Executive Committee has sought to continually evolve and strengthen its communication channels this year, both within the organisation, but also with the DINZ board and office. The NZDFA is the farmers voice and is tasked with bringing a grassroots perspective to ensure industry initiatives and decisions contribute to the success of deer farming. To ensure farmers have a strong collective voice it is important the communication flow remains consistent, Branches to Executive Committee to DINZ and in reverse.

This year has been a real team effort given what has been undertaken. I'd like to give thanks to the Producer Management team of Lindsay Fung and Louise Balkham. I'd also like to thank my fellow NZDFA Executive Committee members of Evan Potter, Karen Middelberg and Justin Stevens for their hard work and commitment this year. Special mention has to go to Justin who is stepping down this year after dedicating the past eight years to the NZDFA and success in his future pursuits. I wish you all well for the 50-year celebrations and a profitable deer farming season ahead.

Mark McCoard



Photo: Sandra Stevens

PRODUCER MANAGER REPORT



Lindsay Fung
Producer Manager

National Conference 2024 – if it works, don't change it.

The 2023 conference was held in Ashburton and shortened to one day with a field trip. The same format was adopted for the 2004 conference which was held in Napier and once again proved a success with a good turnout of farmers.

The day started with the NZDFA AGM, three remits were presented to the floor and the awarding of Life membership to Murray Matuschka, all of which were resoundingly endorsed.

Velvet access to China dominated the thoughts of many and DINZ provided an update on the issue and the process to resolve it. From a farmer's perspective the mix of workshop options available in the afternoon was both relevant and informative.

A highlight was the keynote speaker, Murray Matuschka, who entertained the audience as he shared his journey of life and foray into deer. The Awards dinner was once again well supported, with Helen Clarke being the deserving recipient of the Matuschka award and Professor Peter Wilson receiving the New Zealand Deer Industry award. The number of entries in the MSD/ Allflex animal health photo competition continues to grow with some stunning moments captured.

The following day the Hawkes Bay branch in conjunction with the Gaddum Family welcomed participants to the iconic Rangimoe Station. A showcase was the fantastic work being done in partnership with Mauri Oho – an initiative to restore biodiversity in the Northern Ruahine area and develop skill sets of those involved.

In 2025 the conference heads to Queenstown to celebrate 50 years of the NZDFA.

Selection and Appointments Panel (DINZ Board vacancies)

This year two nominations were received for one producer-appointed director position for the DINZ Board. John Tacon was the successful appointee. The appointment was subject to appeal and after a long and rigorous process an independent review panel upheld the SAP decision on all points of appeal.

As is standard operating practice the NZDFA's Selection and Appointments Panel (SAP) was advised by an independent consultant (formerly with the Institute of Directors) throughout the appointment process as well as using an independent scrutineer and returning officer.

The SAP itself had two newly elected members: William Oliver (re-elected) and Dave Lawrence (replacing Graham Peck). On behalf of the NZDFA I would like to thank Graham for his time on the SAP and also welcome Dave to this very important industry group that ensures farmer representation at the governance level.

Next Generation Conference

The Next Generation conference was held in the Manawatu (Central Regions) in August. This flagship NZDFA event was attended by 46 mostly young deer farmers. The annual event is aimed at preparing the future people of the industry, covering a diverse mix of subject matter.

It was great to see a wide mix of attendees from the Smedley cadets just starting out on their careers in agriculture to university students, as well as farmers new to deer farming and some second or third generation deer farmers looking to get more involved in their family business.

Highlights included a recently built wintering barn (rare in the North Island), with capacity of 250 stags. A session on ticks in deer also generated a lot of discussion as did topics on farm succession, matching stock class to land types, animal health and (practical and affordable) environmental risk management. There was also a tour of Venison Packers Feilding and a presentation on the US retail market, NZ elk, chilled venison to Europe, and halal venison for the Middle East. The conference wrapped up with workshops on the benefits of deer in a multi-species farm and the various pathways into the industry.

The event was well supported by key sponsors: NZDFA, DINZ, PGG Wrightson, Ravensdown, Farmlands and First Light. Our thanks go to Dwight and Sarah Adlam (Mangahao Farm), Mike Humphrey (Greenhill Farm), Simon Wishnowsky (Venison Packers Feilding), Matt Gibson (First Light) and Matt Carroll (Baker Ag).

Branch Chairs Conference

The Branch Chairs conference in October is the main event for the branches to gather, discuss any areas of concern and hear industry updates. This year was notable for a good number of new Branch Chairs and six "New Faces" (people new to NZDFA branch committees). This bodes well for an active and engaged NZDFA and that was further underlined with the increasing level of branch activity over the year through field days, workshops, school visits, supporting school awards, hosting the Next Generation and a Young Deer Farmer competition in South Canterbury.

Another feature that attendees remarked upon was the good communication with DINZ, including listening on both sides.

This has to be a core strength of our industry and when done well it sets us apart from our counterparts (examples being the NVSB, implementing the RCS and more recently the smooth review of the deer code of welfare).

Topics covered were Environment regulations, OSPRI, North American Retail Accelerator programme, science funding structure, Integrated Farm Planning project, farm ownership options (Landify), NVSB, deer veterinarians, DINZ Strategy and Board Q&A, wild deer, deer genetics, NZDFA history and NZDFA roles/function.

Velvet Competitions

These branch organised activities are the social highlights for branches and continue to be well supported by members. Entries overall were down this year, but the quality was very good. The North Island competition showed some data on weights and grading improvements over the years.

Earlier in the year NZDFA facilitated a discussion amongst velvet competition organisers and judges on reviewing the scoring system, resulting in the

“Southland approach” being adopted by other competitions, so we expect the scoring between competitions to be a lot more consistent and comparable.

Communications and Appointments

DFA Stagline continues to be published monthly, and readers will have noticed a PDF version in the last issue. This is as a result of farmer feedback on ways to make it easier for farmers to read the newsletter. We welcome continued farmer feedback on this NZDFA publication and contributions from branches and individuals.

The NZDFA Executive Committee continue to hold short, monthly meetings with the DINZ CEO, Chair and producer-appointed DINZ board members. Since late last year there has been more frequent and positive communication between the NZDFA and DINZ with board members being made aware of farmer concerns around the country.

In addition, the committee has also appointed NZDFA representatives to: OSPRI Stakeholders Council, NVSB,

DINZ Research Advisory Panel as well as making recommendations to DINZ for farmer representatives on other groups.

Last year was a busy year of change within DINZ and external disruptions to the industry and much of that continued into this year. However, the increase in farmer involvement at the branch level has been a welcome sign that there are new entrants and that farmers are wanting to be more engaged with their peers and the wider industry.

The NZDFA has continued to serve as a voice for all deer farmers with the vision of “Your voice, our future”. I am looking forward to 2025-26 as it is shaping up to be full of branch events and activities. I encourage you to get in touch with your local NZDFA branch committee or the Executive Committee (<https://deernz.org/nzdfa/contact-us/>) to find out what is coming up. And as always, the DINZ Producer Management Team is happy to help where we can (<https://deernz.org/home/contact-us/>).

Lindsay Fung



2024 Nex Generation event with Mike Humphrey speaking

MOTIONS AND REMITS

NZDFA FORMAL FINANCIAL MOTIONS: 50th AGM 13th May 2025

MOTION 1: Financial accounts and statements for the year ending 31 March 2025

“That the NZDFA financial statements and NZDFA Financial Report for the year ending 31 March 2025 be received and approved.”

Moved:

Seconded:

MOTION 2: Honoraria

That the Executive Committee honoraria for the 2025/26 financial year be fixed at \$13,000 for the elected Chair and \$10,000 for each other Executive Committee member.

Moved:

Seconded:

MOTION 3: Review of accounts

That the NZDFA Executive Committee be authorised to appoint a Chartered Accountant to review the accounts of the NZDFA for the ensuing year (2025/26).

Moved:

Seconded:

MOTION 4: Budget to year ending 31 March 2026

“That the NZDFA budget of expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2026 be approved.”

Moved:

Seconded:

REMIT 1: Southland

The Southland branch would like to ask for the support of the AGM for the DFA executive to approach the DINZ board to negotiate with them to pay a share of the cost of last year’s SAP appeals process.

Supporting statement

We understand that a large percentage of the DFA reserve fund has been used to pay for the cost of defending the SAP appeal process, due to an exhaustive and unrelenting appeal from an unsuccessful candidate.

As DFA members and industry levy payers we feel that board communications that came out to us after the SAP decision had been made in June 2024, were inappropriate. These certainly helped to fuel the fire for the ensuing appeal. Board members personal feelings on that or any other decisions, should have been kept to themselves as part of their professional code.

The DFA reserve has been well managed and built on over the years since the current DFA and DINZ structure has been in place. It has been a source of funding research, Regional adverse weather events and many other events or reasons that need funding outside our working budget.

The positive outcome from the huge cost is that the SAP process for last year’s selection, was found to be professional and unbiased. But the unnecessary cost in achieving this outcome will take years for the DFA to recover from.

We feel that the process of SAP selection of the producers half of the board has been vindicated and is very important in selecting our industry’s leadership. This benefits everyone in the deer industry, so DINZ should share in the burden off this extraordinary cost.

Moved: Bruce Allan

Seconded: Dave MacGibbon

REMIT 2: Taihape-Ruapehu Remit

That a conflict register to be confirmed or put in place for both the DINZ board and NZDFA Executive Committee if not already in place. This should also extend to the various working groups throughout the deer industry (e.g. NARA, NVSB, RAP, etc.).

Rationale:

This is to stop the obvious including unneeded gossip and accusation in the industry but also to remind individuals who are thinking about applying for available positions of the need to identify potential conflicts of interest.

Our industry is small and getting smaller and is not uncommon for individuals to have multiple interests. The major consideration as a result of a conflict being registered would be abstaining from voting and/or discussion at appropriate times. This will result in more transparency and honesty at all levels.

Nominator: Sean Delacy

Seconded: Alex McIntyre

REMIT 3: Canterbury/West Coast

Review of Constitutional Clauses: Review of Conflict-of-Interest Provisions and Specific Role References

Purpose:

We request that the NZDFA Executive Committee review the constitution, specifically the provisions relating to conflict of interest, with a focus on the role of the Producer Manager in positions like Returning Officer and other governance-related functions. The review aims to ensure that no actual or perceived conflict of interest arises from the involvement of the Producer Manager or any other individual in decision-making processes where impartiality is critical.

While the Producer Manager is not an officer of the Association, their involvement in roles such as Returning Officer may raise concerns about neutrality due to their affiliation with DINZ. The objective is to safeguard transparency, impartiality, and fairness within the governance structure while respecting the need for effective industry representation.

Background:

The current constitution includes provisions for conflict of interest (Section 36), specifying when an Officer has an interest in a matter that could influence their duties. However, these clauses primarily focus on Executive Committee members and other officers, without fully addressing the situation where a non-officer, like the Producer Manager, is involved in roles with significant governance impact.

Some key points from the constitution relevant to this discussion are:

- **Conflict of Interest (Clause 36.1):** An Officer is considered “interested” in a matter if they may gain financial benefit from it or if they have a close relationship with someone who might. The clause sets out procedures for disclosure and outlines limitations on voting and decision-making where a conflict exists.
- **Producer Manager’s Role (Clause 47.1):** The Producer Manager is appointed as the Contact Person for the Act and may also hold other roles, such as Returning Officer. The involvement of a person with a direct connection to DINZ in a key governance role could lead to perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

Request:

We request the Executive to consider the following steps:

1. **Review the Constitution:** Specifically, review the clauses related to conflict of interest and the role of the Producer Manager in governance positions such as Returning Officer.
2. **Address Potential Conflicts:** Develop mechanisms to ensure that roles requiring impartiality (e.g., Returning Officer) are filled by individuals or entities independent of any potential conflicts, such as those involving DINZ, or explore the possibility of appointing external to these positions.
3. **Consultation and Reporting:** The Executive is requested to consult with members on these concerns and provide feedback at the AGM with recommendations on how to address any identified issues, ensuring that all positions maintain the integrity and transparency of NZDFA processes.

Rationale:

The goal of this review is to maintain the high standards of impartiality, transparency, and fairness that members expect from NZDFA’s governance processes. While the working relationship between NZDFA and DINZ is valuable, it is important to address any concerns related to perceived or actual conflicts of interest, especially in roles that influence key decisions, such as the Returning Officer. The review and any necessary adjustments will help ensure that NZDFA governance remains transparent and trustworthy in the long term.

Nominator: Corey Busch

Seconded: Warwick Wright

NZDFA FINANCIAL REPORT

	Year to 31 March 2026 Budget \$	Year to 31 March 2025 Actual \$	Year to 31 March 2025 Budget \$
Income			
Subscriptions	90,000	92,880	100,000
Interest income	6,000	6,452	12,000
Sundry income	0	185	0
Branch Chairs	5,250	0	8,000
Next Generation	0	6,000	6,000
SAP	14,750	6,000	6,000
Sponsorships	0	2,412	0
Total income	116,000	113,929	132,000
Less: expenditure			
<i>General expenses</i>			
Conference	0	1,592	5,000
Editorial costs	0	0	0
Election costs	5,000	5,092	5,500
Equipment and Venue Hire	0	0	0
General expenses	10,000	2,269	8,000
Grants paid	0	0	0
Meeting expenses and catering	0	0	0
ISP/Server Hosting	0	0	0
Postage	0	0	0
PR Support	0	0	0
Printing and stationery	500	142	500
Promotions/Awards	2,000	4,137	2,000
Publications/Annual Report	1,500	691	3,500
Telecommunications	0	246	0
	19,500	14,170	24,500
Travel/Accommodation			
Executive Committee travel, accom and meals	24,000	25,833	22,000
SAP travel, accom and meals	7,000	9,057	8,000
Branch Chairs' Meeting travel, accom and meals		2,551	4,250
	31,000	37,441	34,250
Professional fees			
Audit review fees	4,000	3,812	4,000
Consultancy fees	5,000	9,002	0
Insurance	2,400	2,271	2,400
Legal/Professional fees	9,600	74,550	0
Returning officer fees (SAP Process)	1,000	0	850
	22,000	89,634	7,250
Honoraria/directors' fees			
NZDFA Executive Committee	43,000	42,000	43,000
	43,000	42,000	43,000
Nationally funded projects			
Contract research	0	0	0
Leadership development (Next Generation)	0	6,922	4,000
Leadership development	0	(326)	19,000
SFF Project- Succession workshops	0	0	0
	0	6,596	23,000
Total expenses	115,500	189,840	132,000
Operating (deficit)/surplus before taxation	500	(75,912)	0
Taxation	0	1,518	0
Operating (deficit)/surplus after taxation	500	(77,430)	0

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW REPORT



To the Members of New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated

We have reviewed the accompanying special purpose financial statements of New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2025 and the statement of financial performance, statement of movements in equity and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014.

Executives Committees' responsibility for the financial statements

The Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014, and for such internal control as the executive committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. We conducted our review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (New Zealand) (ISRE (NZ) 2400) "Review of Historical Financial Statements Performed by an Assurance Practitioner who is not the Auditor of the Entity". ISRE (NZ) 2400 requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE (NZ) 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Other than in our capacity as assurance practitioner we have no relationship with, or interests in, New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these special purpose financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated as at 31 March 2025, and its financial performance for the year then ended, in accordance with the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the statement of accounting policies of the special purpose financial statements, which describe the basis for preparation. The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for any other purpose.

Moore Markhams

Moore Markhams Wellington Audit | Chartered Accountants, Wellington, New Zealand
1 May 2025

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		Actual \$	Actual \$
Income			
Subscriptions		92,880	100,680
Interest income		6,452	12,103
Sundry Income		185	395
Sponsorships		2,412	2,650
Leverage Funding		12,000	10,000
Total Income		113,929	125,828
Expenditure			
Audit review fees		3,812	4,011
Conference	11	1,592	0
Election Costs		5,092	3,142
General Expenses		11,271	8,200
Honoraria	4	42,000	36,000
Insurance		2,271	2,092
Leadership Development (Next Generation)		6,596	14,812
Legal/Professional fees		74,550	10,000
Printing & stationery		142	401
Promotion & Awards		4,137	3,554
Publications/Annual Report		691	3,428
Returning Officer fees (SAP Process)		0	704
Telecommunications		246	0
Travel and Accommodation		37,441	41,564
		189,840	127,908
Total Expenses		189,840	127,908
Operating Surplus Before Taxation		(75,912)	(2,080)
Taxation	5	(1,518)	(2,462)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) After Taxation		(77,430)	(4,542)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank		58,825	87,595
Short Term Bank Deposits		51,101	75,000
GST Receivable		0	3,617
Accounts Receivable		4,230	5,065
Resident Withholding Tax		0	267
		<u>114,156</u>	<u>171,545</u>
Non Current Assets			
Term Bank Deposits		0	25,000
		<u>0</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	6	11,623	18,193
		2,595	0
Resident Withholding Tax		191	0
Income in Advance		0	1,174
Total Liabilities		<u>14,409</u>	<u>19,367</u>
Net Assets representing Net Equity		<u>99,748</u>	<u>177,178</u>
Net Equity comprises:			
Opening Balance		177,178	181,720
Result for the period		(77,430)	(4,542)
Total Equity		<u>99,748</u>	<u>177,178</u>

Mark McCoard
Chairman of Executive Committee
Date: 01/05/2025

M. McCoard

Evan Potter
Treasurer of Executive Committee
Date: 01/05/2025

E. Potter



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Opening Balance		177,178	181,720
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	8	(77,430)	(4,542)
Closing Balance		<u>99,748</u>	<u>177,178</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. REPORTING ENTITY

The New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Inc ("NZDFA") is an Incorporated Society established to encourage, promote and advance New Zealand's deer farming industry. NZDFA is a 100% shareholder in two non trading subsidiaries, NZDFA Holdings Ltd and Deer International Ltd.

These special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the members of the New Zealand Deer Farmers' Association Incorporated and in accordance with the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014 and should not be relied upon for any other purpose.

2. BASIS FOR PREPARATION

NZDFA is an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared under the accounting policies and the minimum requirements of the Tax Administration (Financial Statement) Order 2014 for the year ending 31 March 2025 and have been prepared for the purpose of meeting the constitutional obligations.

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been consistently applied throughout the period.

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis unless otherwise noted in a specific accounting policy. These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest dollar.

3. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Accounting Policies

a. Measurement Base

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position are on a historical cost and going concern basis.

Specific Accounting Policies

a. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the year.

b. Subscription Income

Subscriptions are measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable from the NZDFA's members through membership fees. This is set at \$130.43 (excluding GST) per membership per annum. In 2025, 882 subscriptions were received (2024: 955). This includes the \$25 per member capitation fee collected on behalf of the NZDFA Branches and remitted directly to them in February. In 2025, this capitation fee represents membership fees collected on behalf of the NZDFA Branches of \$19,950 (2024: \$23,875). This has not been recognised as part of the subscriptions revenue in these financial statements.

c. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

These financial statements are prepared exclusive of GST except for accounts receivable and payable.

4. HONORARIA

The following fees were paid by the NZDFA to Executive Committee members:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Chair	13,500	12,000
Executive Committee	28,500	24,000
	<u>42,000</u>	<u>36,000</u>



5. TAXATION

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Taxable Income	6,423	12,103
Less IRD Allowance	(1,000)	(1,000)
	<u>5,423</u>	<u>11,103</u>
Tax Expense 2025	1,518	2,462
Prior Year Adjustment Refunded	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Tax Expense	<u><u>1,518</u></u>	<u><u>2,462</u></u>

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Accounts Payable	5,725	11,500
Accruals	4,286	6,615
Subs payable to branches	1,611	79
	<u>11,623</u>	<u>18,193</u>

Date: 01/05/2025

All transactions with related parties were conducted at arms length. There is a service agreement between DINZ and NZDFA. Administration costs of NZDFA and staff time is covered by DINZ. Payments made from DINZ to NZDFA were for various programme support and reimbursement for shared services. Payments from NZDFA to DINZ were for meeting expenses. Capitation payments are collected by NZDFA and this is paid to the branches in February based on member numbers.

8. TOTAL EQUITY

Total equity is held in general funds as follows:

Date: 01/05/2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
General Funds		
Opening balance	177,178	181,720
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	<u>(77,430)</u>	<u>(4,542)</u>
Closing General Funds	<u><u>99,748</u></u>	<u><u>177,178</u></u>

9. COMMITMENTS

As at 31 March 2025 there are no commitments (2024: NIL)

10. CONTINGENCIES

As at the 31 March 2025 there are no contingencies (2024: NIL)

11. CONFERENCE COST

There was a cost of \$1,592 to NZDFA for the 2024 conference held in the 2025 financial year (2024: \$NIL conference held in 2023).

12. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There are no subsequent events noted.





NZ Deer Farmers Association

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