

Results for the NZDFA 2026 Industry Leadership Positions

NZDFA Selection and Appointments Panel (SAP) Positions

Two nominations were received for the two vacancies created by the retirement by rotation of current members, Dave Lawrence and William Oliver. Those nominations are now declared elected unopposed:

- Dave Lawrence, Southland (nominated by John Somerville, seconded by Cam Nelson)
- William Oliver, Waipa (nominated by Ian Walker, seconded by John Acland)

The elected SAP members are:

Name	NZDFA Branch	Term End
Andrew Peters	Taihape-Ruapehu	2027
Donald Whyte	SCNO	2027
Dave Lawrence	Southland	2028
William Oliver	Waipa	2028

NZDFA Executive Committee Positions

Four nominations were received for the two vacancies created by the retirement by rotation of current members, Evan Potter and Karen Middelberg, and one vacancy created by mid-term retirement of Mark McCoard. The nominees were:

- Austin Garden, Otago (nominated by Glen Harrex, seconded by John Scurr)

- Richard Greer, Southland (nominated by Tony Roberts, seconded by Bruce Allan)
- Grant Hasse, Canterbury/West Coast (nominated by Tracey Maclean, seconded by Stuart Stokes)
- Evan Potter, Hawkes Bay (nominated by Grant Charteris, seconded by Miles Hellberg)

Voting was conducted online between Tuesday 21 April 2026 and Tuesday 5 May 2026. The results were:

Name	NZDFA Branch	Votes
Richard Greer	Southland	132
Evan Potter	Hawkes Bay	116
Grant Hasse	Canterbury/West Coast	85
Austin Gardin	Otago	64
	<i>Informal/blank votes:</i>	<i>0</i>

Richard Greer, Evan Potter and Grant Hasse join Tom Macfarlane as the Executive Committee for 2026/27:

Name	NZDFA Branch	Term End
Tom Macfarlane	SCNO	2027
Grant Hasse	Canterbury/West Coast	2027
Richard Greer	Southland	2028
Evan Potter	Hawkes Bay	2028

What's been happening around the country?

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Another Annual General Meeting and industry conference over for the year. The conference itself was well received by those who attended and the speakers all held the audience's attention and generated lots of questions. Our thanks go to all the speakers, sponsors and the Central Regions DFA branch for hosting a very enjoyable field day on Westview farm.

Branch activity has been busy prior to the conference as well. This pictorial issue of DFA Stagline covers some of these activities. The Southland Environment Group, in conjunction with the Southland DFA branch held a Solar Energy field day on 13 April (see the 22 April edition of [Rural Life Central and Southern | Digital Edition](#)).

There will be more in-depth coverage in the next issue of Deer Industry News (due out on 29 May) so keep an eye out for that.



Canterbury/West Coast - maximising productivity and profitability

At the beginning of April, the Canterbury/West Coast branch of the NZDFA held a field day

focused on maximising deer farming productivity and profitability. The event was hosted at the Broomfield, North Canterbury property of Mark, Gill and Hamish Forrester.

The Forrester's farm 1,460 hectares, running a mixed livestock operation that includes sheep, beef cattle, 300 velveted stags, and 850 breeding hinds.

Guest speakers included Wayne Allan from Allan Agriculture, who presented on farm financials, deer farming profitability, and practical ways farmers can improve returns. Chantee

McCloy from Farmfirst Vets led an informative discussion on drench options and trace mineral deficiencies. John Sadler from Mountain River Venison spoke about the challenges and opportunities within overseas markets, and what processors need from farmers to support continued market growth.



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Poverty Bay – Matawai environment field day, 22 April

Matawai Deer Park took out the Duncan NZ Award at last year’s industry environment awards. The award was for “vision and management whilst mastering a demanding environment” and this was evident during the farm tour with the extent of environmental improvements on the farm over the years as well as the involvement of the local school and Motu Catchment Group.

Thanks to Silver Fern Farms for the venison BBQ.

Congratulations to Jane and Charles Rau and their team. Well deserved!



Where it all began...



Auto Trap in action

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Luka Jansen (DINZ Environmental Stewardship Manager) talking wetlands



Vanessa Crowley (Duncan NZ), Liz, Charles and Laurence Rau, Luka Jansen (DINZ)

Waikato – Big Tick Day Out, 24 April

Staying up in the North Island a couple of days later it was Waikato DFA branch's turn to host about 100 people at Tower Farms for the Big Tick Day Out – a chance to learn about tick management (or lack of it) for deer. The day was information-packed with presentations from animal remedy representatives, regulators, processors, veterinarians and farmers.

Thanks to the sponsors (Duncan NZ, CK Import Export, Elanco and Agritrade) and presenters. Keep an eye out for more coverage in Deer Industry News and a repeat of the day for Marlborough and Tasman branches later this year.



DFA STAGLINE



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The 1980s called – they want their sign back!



Guess the number of ticks...



Dave Chisholm, Ian Bristow, Richard Hilson, Ginny Dodunski



Colin McKay (Elanco) kicks thing off with TICK101



...1003. Ian Bristow knows his ticks!
Vanessa Crowley (Waikato Chair), Ian Bristow (Kaipara), Colin McKay (Elanco)

Industry Conference

After last year's celebration of 50 years for the NZDFFA, this year's conference was firmly focussed on the future. Along with industry

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speakers there were some notable presentations from the Hon. Todd McClay (Minister of Agriculture), Peter Savage (BNZ) and the Hon Tim Groser (former Minister of Trade). Tawera Nikau provided an entertaining but thoughtful speech at the Awards Dinner.

Congratulations to the MSD Animal Health/Allflex Deer Industry Photo Competition winners ([Deer Industry Photo Competition - Deer NZ](#)), and Deer Industry and Matuschka Award winners. And thanks to all the sponsors!

More to come in Deer Industry News.



Lynda Gray – Deer Industry Award winner 2026



The Hon. Todd McClay kicks off the conference

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Liz Love (Bay of Plenty) – Matuschka Award winner 2026 with Laura Billings (left)



Lunch provided by First Light Farms and Mike Humphrey (Central Regions)



Westview farm – obligatory stop at the new deer shed.



Simon Wishnowsky (Venison Packers Feilding) explains how a deer carcass is broken down



Adding value with co-products

Noticeboard

Obituaries

Trevor Lloyd Simons

Taranaki DFA wish to acknowledge the passing of Trevor Lloyd Simons - longtime member of NZDFA. Trevor was a dedicated family man, committed Deer Farmer, a keen Hunter, and alongside his job as a builder, was also a talented taxidermist. Trevor and his wife Gail ran Stoney Oaks - a wildlife park in Inglewood.

Graeme Hunter

Taranaki DFA wish to acknowledge the passing of Graeme Hunter who suddenly passed away at Home on Wednesday, 6 May 2026 aged 84. Graeme was a butcher by trade, who owned Moa Butchery in Inglewood. Graeme has been a deer farmer since the late 70s, and was a member of the T DFA committee for 11 years, of

which he was Chairman for four years. Graeme and wife Lesley have since been associate members in latter years.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are now open!



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Jokes of the month



A buddy of mine is an avid hunter. He tried to get me to join him for deer hunting season so he brought me to a store that sold rifles. He needed a better rifle and I just wanted the beginner version.

The man at the cash register told my friend about a promotion on the most expensive rifle. My friend was happy and said "I always like getting the most bang for my buck," and purchased the rifle. I just said that I wanted the cheapest rifle and he said that there was a promotion on that one as it doesn't always hit the target.

I said that I wanted the cheap rifle on promotion. I told him "I'm always looking to save a buck or two."