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DIAA VICTORIAN BRANCH REPORT

Deer Industry Association of Australia Annual Reports

The Victorian Branch held a very successful joint meeting with the South Australian Branch, hosted by Andrew and Marika McKinnon. 18 attended the meeting and a wide range of topics was discussed including:

- New Zealand's application for TGA of velvet in Australia;
- The new Levies and the NRS revisions of its rates;
- PrimeSafe review of deer slaughter requirements at all Victorian abattoirs;
- The Government consultation paper for review of the PIERD act 1989. This could allow RIRDC levies to be used for marketing both venison and velvet;
- The new DIAA website and the Bookshop.

Andrew conducted farm tours whilst Marika laid out a spread that was enough to feed an army (a few of us tried but there was no way we could make a dent in it, especially the pie).

The problem at the abattoirs, as noted above, is a PrimeSafe interpretation of an Australian Standard. The Standard requires that all animals be restrained and stunned prior to being slaughtered. I have discussed this with PrimeSafe who are standing by the Australian Standard and, at the moment, are not likely to review their decision. We have discussed this with Andrew Hansen and, as it is a problem with a national standard, he is addressing it at a federal level.

The velvet market is in a spin at the moment with political tensions in Korea, the strong Aussie dollar and a very slow NZ market estimating a reduction in price up to 10% below last year. ADH still has a firm commitment from its buyer but lower stocks from pool one have required them to combine both pools to make up a shippable quantity.

On a lighter note, Marika has published a "Dear Deer" newsletter which covers all the latest information and news. It is a big job which she has taken on along with all her other work and if future issues are half as good as the first one the Vic members are in for a treat.

Wishing all our members a brighter new year.

Jim Moir
President, VicBranch