



**Research Into Deer Genetics and Environment Inc.**  
Supporting Sustainable Deer Management in Australia

## **May 2015 Newsletter**

To the members and supporting landholders,  
Finally a chance to write after what turned out to be a very long and hard red deer ballot season. This was our 20<sup>th</sup> Ballot season, a huge milestone for both AWCA and RIDGE, one certainly all members can be proud of because without your participation, it simply could not happen.

### **The 2015 Red Deer Ballot**

In total, close to 70 hunters participated and 50 deer were taken. We are presently crunching all the numbers and will have a full breakdown of the figures very soon. Our hope is to be able to present the results of the past 20 years in a form which will show the full value of wild deer to landholders who embrace a management system for deer, plus the value of recreational hunters as a vital part of the whole process.

The biggest stags on each property proved to be very elusive this year, probably due to the very changeable winds we experienced and the abundance of water and food in the thick scrubs and high gullies. Four big 6x6 stags were seen by a number of hunters but none were able to be taken. Some impressive older aged 5x5 stags were taken and one awesome 6x5 by one of our first time red deer hunters, plus heaps of big 4x5, 4x4 mid-range trophies and a heap of culls. Well done to everyone.

There were only 2 younger aged (5 yr old) trophy stags taken which was an awesome result and the vast majority were 8, 9, 10 and even up to 14 years old. Hunters showed great restraint once again and left all of the excellent young stags alone. QDM in action again, well done to all. Adam, Maddie and Josh Brown, Mal, Craig and Graham all put in an outstanding effort, just as Justin Pianta's Tamworth team did with everyone taking a stag.

Special thanks to Alex Bogojevic and Mick and Garry Popovic for rounding up their crew of 16 from Sydney for week two, with 12 hunters taking 12 stags. Judy and I spent most of the week with this fun crew and think we came away weighing heavier than when we arrived despite all the walking. With a pig and a lamb on the spit, venison and all the trimmings, we ate like kings.

It was great to see new members joining in well with seasoned hands to bring about examples of teamwork time and time again. This has become a trademark of the ballot and an important factor which makes it so safe and successful. Top stuff everyone!!

### **Current situation with the State wild deer policy**

Unfortunately, recent developments indicate that a system for poisoning of wild deer within State land has been tested in NSW and has received favourable results, with suggestions that it could soon be used in Queensland. The feedback we get is that Cyanide is suggested as the preferred toxicant which, to our way of thinking, is simply crazy. As you would expect, information on this testing is hard to obtain so if any members have first-hand knowledge or information, could you please pass it on to me directly as soon as possible. Surely there are better and safer ways to handle wild deer.



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We absolutely accept that deer numbers need to be kept in check and as you know, RIDGE has done countless hours developing alternative strategies which, if accepted by Government, would help control numbers while at the same time utilising deer as a resource. Unfortunately, the past LNP Government proved harder to deal with than the previous ALP Government. With the present unstable situation in Queensland parliament, it is hard to predict what the future will hold but we will be maintaining our efforts to present a sensible and sustainable solution for deer management.

### Next meeting

We are well and truly overdue for a meeting so after consultation with our executive, we have set the next meeting date.

**Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Venue, the Glenfiddich Hunting. Executive meeting at 6pm. I will be conducting a guided hunt at that time which accounts for the need for a night meeting. Glenfiddich or RIDGE members who wish to hunt for a venison deer may book in with me for that weekend and we will ensure there are AWCA staff on hand to supervise.**

### Hunter Education Weekends.

AWCA will be offering a number of weekends as possible dates for hunter education courses in conjunction with RIDGE. The first weekend requested so far is on the **30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May at the Glenfiddich Hunting Lodge.**

The previous weekend, the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> is also offered if we can raise enough interest to make it viable to run. This weekend would be held at the Glenlands property.

Other weekends may be possible in late June if needed.







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## **Hunter Education and Venison Hunting weekends**

**Dates: Weekend 1 – May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturday/Sunday)**  
**Glenfiddich Hunting Lodge, Jimna, Queensland**

AWCA P/L, in conjunction with the RIDGE group, are proud to announce our next Hunter Education and Venison Hunting weekend for RIDGE and Glenfiddich Hunting Lodge members, their friends and families. Over the past few years, we have developed this project in line with the Property Based Management Plan (PBMP) we have in place with these landholders, which require us to take a set number of females and cull stags off their holdings each year. These are great opportunities for both the experienced hunter, and the hunter who may be just starting out, to:

- learn more about hunting deer and a chance to take a deer for venison,
- learn about Quality Deer Management as a complete herd control system,
- learn best practice safety procedures
- learn safe and hygienic venison harvesting techniques.

We conduct these weekend courses ourselves with the assistance of our AWCA staff /family and members of the RIDGE executive. All deer taken have data collected from them which goes towards our overall research and management initiatives. If you would like to attend as either a hunter who has previously attended a HE course or as someone who wishes to learn more about deer management, please contact us ASAP to book in for this weekend. Once you do, you will be sent more information and details of the weekend. Meals are catered for and there will be good shower and toilet facilities, just bring your hunting gear and swag.

All licensed hunters attending may take one or more deer during the weekend with either a rifle or a bow (set safety and equipment standards must be followed) for the fees listed below.

- First time HE course trainee fee (Non RIDGE/GF member) - \$275
- First time HE course trainee fee (Member) - \$220
- Hunters who have attended a previous course – Single - \$55
- Extra non hunter - \$25 each
- Harvest rights for venison female red deer - \$110 each
- Harvest rights for venison cull red stags (size dependent) - \$110 - \$220 each

We hope to share a fun and rewarding weekend with you and your family.

Best regards,

Clark and Judy      Ph: 0429 688192 Clark, 0428 456966 Judy

To book a position, email us on [clarkmcghie@bigpond.com](mailto:clarkmcghie@bigpond.com) or follow the links on the [www.theridgegroup.org](http://www.theridgegroup.org) website





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