

R.I.D.G.E INC NEWSLETTER

Research Into Deer Genetics and Environment Incorporated

A message to all our highly valued members from the RIDGE President,

Asset or Pest??

More and more every day, we are confronted with an almost overwhelming media barrage which seems to only see wild deer as a nasty Pest rather than a poorly managed resource. What is your opinion?

Do you actually care?

Manage or exterminate?

Members, it is time to stand up and be counted. Make a decision, do you want all deer gone from this country?

Yes or no?

If yes, go your hardest, enjoy them while you can.

If you say No, then you either want them to breed out of control and cause issues for everyone or you want them to be managed under sustainable principles so they aren't an issue but still remain as a hunting asset. If this is what you want, it is time to support the one group which is all about **sustainable management of wild deer as an asset for all.**



Rusa Deer (*Rusa timorensis*)

No matter your attitude towards wild deer, one species shines alone under Queensland conditions as one of the most versatile, hardy and adaptable of them all. The Rusa.

We cannot claim them as “historic” to this State except for the herd of “Moluccan” rusa established under Government permission on Friday Island (Giralag) in the Torres Strait. All other herds have been and are the descendants of those kept on farms in a semi-domesticated state, bred specifically to produce a certain style of animal suited for the venison trade, then released (aka escaped) after the crash of the deer industry in the late 1990's.

Too many people will not face up to the truth about the origins of all our present day herds of deer; they will not look at the total picture so therefore it is getting harder for groups like RIDGE to put forward sensible and practical management proposals to government and industry bodies. We must be seen as accurate and honest if we are to command a seat at the table of future wild deer control.

We need your support now!!



They can do it in Africa, why not here?

One of our long term members, Les Kowitz has just returned from Africa where he assisted with a herd reduction cull of certain species of African plains game.

He saw how carefully selected animals could be taken from a herd, how every scrap of venison, hide and horn could be utilised and how it could be done with respect and empathy for everything harvested. What does it need here in Oz?

- A positive attitude towards recreational hunting from Govt.
- A focus on sustainable management instead of eradication.
- Support for this principle from recreational hunters and landholders.

What can you do?

Support your hunting club or group now, not sometime in the future.

Put your hand up and volunteer.

The next RIDGE meeting.

Please members, read the news, watch the clips, get up to date on what is happening in the deer world.

Who saw the “Landline” program on wild deer? Did it paint them in a good light? Did it call for serious control or did it leave room for sustainable management? Who has read the articles about the aerial shoots in the NT, those in NSW or Vic or Qld? Who wants to see 1080 poison used for deer control? Who supports the banning of bowhunting in Tas?

Who has watched the Youtube clip on using CRISPR to control invasive species? Who listened to the ABC report on using CRISPR to control cane toads in Qld? Who even knows what Gene tech and CRISPR is even all about? Start by reading the RIDGE Position Statement attached and click on the links provided.

Our next RIDGE meeting is on the 24th of August and will be held at the Glenfiddich lodge. General meeting to start at 10.30am. We need your attendance and contribution if at all possible as we develop the strategy for the next year leading up to the next Queensland State election. If you can't make it, please write a letter to the secretary with your ideas, concerns, or maybe even an offer of assistance. If you wish to vote on any motion, please send a proxy via email.

Your RIDGE team has developed the Position Statement to try and get every group and individual possible onto the same page so that a cohesive and cooperate approach to future wild deer management can be formed. We have developed the RIDGE HuntEasy system with the knowledge gained from over 24 years of the annual Ballot plus 12 years of developing the Glenfiddich venison hunting model. This has been

presented for the scrutiny and possible implementation to the general public and other hunting groups as a possible way forward. **We need your immediate attention to this document, we need your opinions and constructive thought. We need your contribution. Thank you. Clark**



Points of discussion for the AGM, 24th August 2019

1. The Position Statement. Any comments, additions, corrections, improvements?
2. The HuntEasy system. Same as above.
3. The letters to the groups asking for support. Dan and I need to get onto this immediately. He has been stalled for good reasons and so have I. Time to roll.
4. Meetings with the political parties. If the team wants me to do this, I have made time before Christmas but I will need funding and a clear direction set.
5. Our ongoing strategy. Who does what, when, how?? Reporting and updates.
6. Administration and Promotions. We have done well over the last 12 months. How do we improve and who does what?
7. The Red Deer Ballot. This will be our 25th year. How do we best make use of this milestone?
8. Election of office bearers. Who wants to take on my job or any of the others? Better put some thought into it all.
9. Is it time for RIDGE to expand? I have had interest from other States. Is it time with the PS and HE launch?
10. Is it time for RIDGE to change its mode of operation? How do we ensure longevity?