



## Conference 2018 – Theme

### **Growing the Business – The Next Generation**

This is the theme for the annual conference and must be the driving force for NZDA going forward.

Times are changing and the association needs new blood and new ideas to meet the challenges raised by a changing society, changing business models and changing expectations of hunters.

Some challenges are long standing but the environment we operate in has changed and members have become consumers rather than contributors.

NZDA needs people with the capacity to understand and progress the multi-faceted business that NZDA has become in its efforts to remain relevant in this challenging environment.

Currently we have a lot of balls in the air that can be roughly lumped into two groups –Advocacy and Structure.

Advocacy is the big one that members and the public see and current issues are-

- National animal management policy and strategy is non-existent. Tahr management is an example where past collaboration involving DOC, recreational and commercial hunters simply ceased for a variety of reasons including redeployment of DOC staff and a general and unrealistic expectation that GAC would pick up the management. NZDA has now moved with Mike Slater to reactivate a tahr management program.
- WARO is an emotive issue but NZDA is clear that a well regulated commercial industry is needed to play its part in managing our game animals under a national animal management strategy. NZDA was disappointed at the decision not to review WARO. In the short term NZDA will continue to engage (constructively and in good faith) with DOC and the commercial sector.
- Firearm licensing process rather than changes to firearm legislation is the current concern. We have serious concerns that the new system will make it more difficult to obtain a licence but NZDA is committed to assisting where appropriate. We are directly involved in the critiquing of the revised arms code and the design of the practical training component of the proposed new system.
- Huts, tracks and issues are addressed through our collaboration in the Back Country Trust with projects benefitting NZDA branch members as well as the wider recreational sector.

- Access is addressed at two levels, at a national level in collaboration with FMC and DOC and at a local level with encouragement to Farm Assist in Canterbury and initiatives in Southland and Marlborough.

Structural changes to the association and to National Office are on-going

- Regional meetings are an initiative to engage with more members
- Review of the governance and the rules of the association are underway with the intention of bringing proposals for change to the next conference.
- Planning for the employment of a General Manager.
- Developing a communication strategy with upgrades to email and website.
- Changing the focus of Hunting and Wildlife from a commercial presentation to better service the membership.
- Renovating Collina Terrace in partnership with Wellington Branch and the Heritage Trust to improve the service to members and the image of NZDA.

The next generation of NZDA members will have different expectations to the members of seventy years ago. NZDA needs to continue to change and to grow and we will need our national leadership to be flexible, have clear vision and maintain effective lines of communication with membership.

We need branch leadership to demonstrate the same qualities and capacities.

We need members to “buy in” to the need for change

Regional meetings are crucial to developing and communicating our strategic directions.

**Structural change is crucial to our future capacity to advocate for hunters and the hunted.**