

Awards time: the results

For such a glittering occasion as the Silver to Gold Deer Farmers' Conference, it's appropriate that the Awards should carry even more significance than usual. There was a new award, a special lifetime achievement award, and the announcement of a further award to come. Without further ado, the envelope please...

This is a new Award for the best Branch Newsletter and is designed to recognise effective communication at grass roots level, irrespective of branch or society size or resources. (The Cup is named, we are told, out of deference to the profession of its sponsor, Colin Perrior.) There were 12 entries this year and the inaugural winner was the **Coastal Bay of Plenty Branch** for its newsletter, *'S'news 'n Tales'*. Collecting the award, Branch chair **Sandra Wood** said the newsletter is the result of a real team effort by the branch committee.



Sandra Wood

Warnham & Woburn Deer Society Inc Photographic Awards 2000: Deer in Focus

Sponsored by the DFA and Merial, this Award is into its second year. Although entries were down on last year's inaugural awards, the quality of entries was, if anything higher. Entries to the awards will be featuring in *Stagline* over the following months. The winners were:

Open category

1st, "Storytime for Ella" by Bruce and Kay Dickison, Tapanui. (Judges commented on the high technical quality and that the picture was different than traditional deer images.)

2nd, "Antlered Arrogance" by Ray Veronese, Darfield. (Judges liked the atmospheric "3D" effect that made the subject stand out from its background.)

Popular choice: "Trophy stags in the clouds, Manapouri" by Chris & Debra Petersen, Te Anau.

Highly commended: "Velvet in the snow" by Dave Mackie, Te Anau; "Jon Claude with 26 points" by Chris & Debra Petersen, Te Anau; and "Trophy Stag overlooking Takitimu Mountains" also by Chris & Debra Petersen, Te Anau.

Humorous/unusual category

1st, "Told ya I could handle 83 hinds last roar!" by (you guessed it!) Chris & Debra Petersen, Te Anau.

2nd, "Share an apple with a friend — Horatio & Betty", by Eric and Betty Terghazi, Warkworth.

Popular choice: "Good feed, good bed, good mate — heaven!" by Colin and Kaye Howes, Pahiatua.

Highly commended: "Deer stalking" by Gail Simons, Inglewood.

In their comments the judges also reminded entrants to turn off the date image in their cameras — it prevented some photographs from scoring higher.

Harry Robinson was this year's Matushka Award winner for grass roots contribution to deer farming, especially at branch level. Being a southern (Southland Branch) man, Harry's award received a loud roar of approval from the partisan crowd. Harry has been a deer farmer and branch member for 22 years, with 15 years' continuous service on the executive committee. He was also a founding member of the Warnham and Woburn Society. In addition, Harry has been the driving force behind velvet awards and field days and helped organise the branch's successful velvet pool sales which raised thousands of dollars for local activities.



Harry Robinson

Stag roar — kept in the family

Entries for the annual Stag Roar competition were sluggish to begin with. But on the night, fuelled by bravado picked up around the mock casino tables and addled by the thinner air at the Skyline restaurant, a new mob of hopefuls made a last minute rush.

But in a thoroughly fitting finale, local boy Matthew

Wallis scooped the prize following in the footsteps of brother Jonathon who was champion at Napier in 1999.



Matthew Wallis: kept stag roar prize in the family

Deer Industry Award

It was fitting that this premier award, to the person or persons who have made the most outstanding contribution to the New Zealand farmed deer industry in the past year or period of years, should have attracted such a strong field of nominees – 15 in all. Any one of them would have been a worthy winner.

This year the judges named three joint winners, and they represented an ideal cross section of the industry: on-farm production, science and processing/exporting. The winners – and boy were these popular choices – were: **John Spiers** (DFA President 1997-8), **Tony Pearce** (AgResearch Invermay) and **Andrew Duncan** (Duncan and Co.)

The award is sponsored by The Deer Farmer magazine, Porter Holdings and the NZDFA.

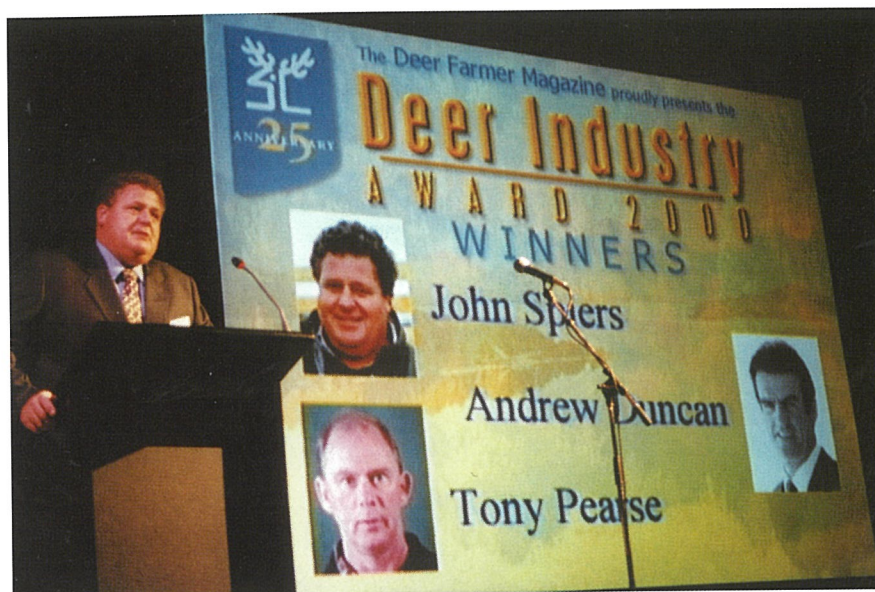
Special Award – Sir Tim Wallis

In what must have been one of the most poignant moments of the 2000 Silver to Gold Conference, two giants of the industry stood face to face. Sir Peter Elworthy delivered an emotional tribute to Sir Tim Wallis for his visionary and pioneering work. Sir Tim, whose mobility and speech are still affected by his flying accident several years ago, showed characteristic grit by rising to his feet to acknowledge the tribute and thank his family for their support. Sir Tim was presented with a specially mounted and inscribed piece of pink schist in the shape of Mount Aspiring. The stone was brought from Phoebe's Creek in the Matukituki Valley – the landing site of the first major commercial helicopter recovery operation. These are Sir Peter's words:

“Amongst the grandeur of these mountains, it is appropriate to reflect on the ancient Maori proverb: *If I should bow my head, then let it only be to a lofty mountain.*”

“We make an exception today. That exception is Sir Tim.

“The organising committee, have



Deer Industry Award recipient John Spiers pays tribute to his family.

honoured me by asking me to make this verbal presentation to accompany the presentation made by us all.

“No more need be said about Tim. The memorabilia display at this conference, and so much more, attests to his role in the industry we look back upon and forward tonight.

“Nothing more need be said but one very important addition – that is that Prue, Toby, Jonathon, Matthew and Nicholas must share their part in the tributes, in the honour, and the presentation.

“Because it was the family's love, determination, tenacity and courage which brought Tim through his long sleep to take up a very full life again today.”



Sir Tim Wallis reacts to Sir Peter Elworthy's speech.