



May (Autumn) 2013, 1 page

PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2013

DIAA Victorian Branch Reports

By Andrew McKinnon

I will not start off my first president's report with the doom and gloom of yet another drought, stressing many farmers after possibly the same farmers suffering the after effects of fires or floods. Instead I will say things can only get better!

On the velvet side of things, despite most growers reporting that average production was down, prices were up slightly on last year and those who timed their cut right were rewarded with a higher overall average. If the North Korean situation calmed down and the value of the Aussie dollar was reduced, things could be really rosy. Let's also hope that the rumors of velvet stocks reducing in NZ prove to be true and hopefully prices next season could be a little higher.

Venison prices have dropped a little but are still quite reasonable compared to what they were 5 – 6 years ago. Prices have remained high despite the main export abattoir having problems with regards to carcass size limits.

Sadly, memberships have dropped in the past year in Victoria. With a couple of deer farmers retiring and a few others exiting the industry, our membership has dropped to 40. This is unfortunate as both venison and velvet prices have been stable for a number of years, giving deer farmers the profitability they have been looking for.

NRS and levies continue to create headaches with DAFF bringing in a new cost recovery system which will make their charges more than actual levies collected. For now, the NRS seems safe. However all levies heading for RIRDC will be devoured by costs.

RIRDC has also changed their take on the PIERD Act interpretation and will no longer support industry development projects. This will be the final ADF magazine in its current format and funding for the DIAA website will cease in one year. Without RIRDC's support and what with continually dropping memberships, the DIAA may not have the funding to support these much needed communication tools.

Seems some serious thought needs to be put into industry promotion in encouraging prospective newcomers to help grow the industry to once again a sustainable level.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jim Moir for his many years of hard work and dedication he has invested in the industry and ask that he stay around a little longer and get the Kazakhstan trip organized since he did such a great job with the China trip.....Thanks Jim!

Andrew McKinnon
President Vicbranch DIAA.