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## FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

Dr. Tony English was recently made a life member of the DIAA. I think I first heard Tony talk in 1986 at the Camden Campus. I was doing as much background research as I could before committing to the deer industry. One of the first deer-related books I bought was "Proceedings #72 – Deer Refresher Course". It was printed in 1984 and Tony was a minor contributor. I have since acquired Tony's "Diseases of Deer" and have read other publications of his that were relevant to my needs. Andrew Hansen has put together a brief outline of Tony's achievements and his involvement in our industry. Tony's contribution to our industry has been profound. I would think that any deer farmer who cuts velvet or has had health problems in their herds has either directly or indirectly benefited from Dr English's research and knowledge.

It is always sad to discover that long time members of the DIAA are leaving the deer industry. Branko Sarunic has been contributing to the deer industry since the late 1980s. Branko's love of deer and his desire to have the best stock available have led him to spend much time and money importing both red and elk genetics into Australia. Over the years he has produced many stunning animals. Some of these were later exported back to New Zealand. Now Branko is selling his whole herd, together with any remaining semen and embryos he still has in stock.

John Andres, past President of the DIAA, is also selling the remainder of Lantec's red seer semen. John also spent a lot of time and money bringing top New Zealand genetics to Australia. Many of the existing red deer herd in Australia are probably related to animals bred by John and Branko. However, by offering their herd genetics for sale, the remainder of us are presented with an unprecedented opportunity. The offering of such superior live animals and genetics may possible not happen again in our industry.

I am sure that the remainder of the deer industry feel as I do and wish them well in the future and thank them both for their generosity in the past.

I put two Media Releases in this issue. I hope the reason for the first (work-related injuries) will be self-evident. Accidents do happen – so tread carefully! The second (tomorrow's harvest) made me realize how little progress has been made over the years with regards to feed conversion ratios in the meat production industry as a whole. At present there seems to be very little improvement available compared to grain.