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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

It is the end of an era. A sad reflection on my sense of humor is that whenever this phrase is used I think of George Bush Jnr. He made a rather long speech once outlining how a particular period in American history was a great "era". To the rest of the world his southern American accent made "era" sound like "error", which was actually more accurate given the context. Fortunately, in the DIAA's case, Solange Shapiro's time as DIAA Secretariat proved to be a god-send for the industry and the timing of her involvement could not have been better.

I first met Henry and Solange when they were just starting out in deer farming and they shared a property in the hills of Mirboo North. They had a few deer agisted on my farm for a while and Henry came and helped me with my fencing. I can see why they chose to buy a property in the flatter country of Lismore! Both Solange and Henry have contributed enormously to our industry and, fortunately for us, it was at a time when much change was necessary and their combined skills proved invaluable.

We have benefited from Solange's knowledge on "how the system works" and her incredible generosity. I should have realised that being the Mayor of Collingwood (1980-81) and convincing the Collingwood Football Club (1982) that they should accept female members would take a person of exceptional determination and political skill.

My favourite turn of phrase that Solange uses frequently is ... "well, be that as it may ..." A segue she used often enough, with me at least, to introduce another point of view. I believe that her greatest strength is her ability to discuss any issue, having a point of view and listening intently to the other side of the argument. The "well, be that as it may..."!!

I have been fortunate in receiving help from three DIAA members who have each written a small tribute to Solange. If you next read about me in the death notices it will be because of the front cover. Thanks Solange.