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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

As you would realise, the AGM is to be held on the 14th May near Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne. Hopefully, many of you will take the time to attend, join in the proceedings and contribute to the future of the DIAA. If you can attend, please bring your copy of this magazine as it contains all the relevant information to be discussed at our AGM.

Due to the nature of the Financial Statements, I have included some “fillers” – facts about the deer industry in the United States. It seems hard to source recent statistics but I’m sure those provided will give an indication of the scale of the deer “business” in the USA.

I would like to thank Michael Coffin for his input to the ADF. The Coffins run a small deer farm near Ballarat. They have obviously taken a keen interest in the genetics of their herd and have generously been prepared to share their experiences with DIAA members over the last three issues.

Our thoughts go to those in the Christchurch area. It is most disturbing to see, albeit via the media, the effects of the recent earthquake on such a picturesque city. Sadly, the events in Japan are proving even more catastrophic. What with the recent floods in eastern/northern western Australia it has proven to be a memorable twelve months, unfortunately not for good reasons.

In the next few issues I hope to have a couple of articles on deer farming behind electric fencing and the deer industry in America. It amazes me to see how much passion can be aroused in the average American when the phrases such as “Chronic Wasting Disease”, “deer baiting”, “antlered deer harvest” and the “legalized hunting of domesticated deer on fenced-in farms” are thrown into the conversation. If any of our readers feel they can contribute to these discussions – send me an email!

May the coming financial year be more satisfying than the last.