



May (Autumn) 2008, 1 page

FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

The flier in this issue is the voting sheet for the change in the DIAA Constitution. Please return it to Solange ASAP. It will not cost you anything as it has a "Replied Paid" address you can use. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR NOT PARTICIPATING . . . IF YOU LOSE YOUR FLIER – PHOTOCOPY PAGE 7.

One noticeable difference in this issue, the first of the "new era" of the ADF, is the inclusion of a RIRDC Newsletter in the centre of the issue. Copies of these pages will be printed and sent to all known deer farmers who are not members of the DIAA. This is a part of a RIRDC funded project.

In this issue I have continued the cost of feed debate. Jim Moir accosted me at the AGM, extolling the virtues of silage. I half agree with him. The drought does not seem to want to go away. Although the price of hay has dropped substantially this year the grain/pellet prices have remained high. It was for this reason that I have reprinted an article written by Clark McGhie from the ADF Vol 9 No.1 Jan/Feb 1998. To me it has a very strong, positive message as well as being an interesting read about Queensland properties and their scale. I have expanded this review of the last decade of our industry. I have tried to explain some of the developments in our industry in early 1998. I have included a couple of recipes for the lower value cuts of venison – but still good value. Finally, I have tried to explain why soil tests can vary so dramatically over the years if attention to detail is not part of the method of collection of soil samples.

At the AGM the motion was put to have a single membership fee of \$275. This was passed by a slight majority. Hopefully, members will realise that this is the first increase in fees, of any sort, for over a decade and will appreciate the need for such a minor change.

The next AGM will be in Orange, NSW, on April 15th, 2009. It will coincide with Orange Food week. I hope to have a report on the recent FOOD week in the next issue. As Time Hansen, of Mandagery Creek Venison, was organising it, there was a lot of publicity given to venison. Book your holiday now!!

We are looking for some feed back on the "new look" website which is "under construction". Unfortunately we have been locked out of our existing site for the past three months. However, change is coming.