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THANKS

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

The last year has seen many changes in the Deer R&D Program. In mid 2007, Dr Laurie Denholm, long-term Program Research Manager resigned due to work commitments. Laurie was the driving force behind the Market Focused Venison Alliances initiative and oversaw a diverse range of research for the industry. With an interest in deer stemming back to his deer farming days in the 1970s and 80s and deer research at Attwood Veterinary Laboratory, Laurie also spent a lot of time and energy progressing issues for the industry in his own time and became an industry champion in many sectors. Laurie's keen intellect and energy have been missed and we wish him every success in his own prime beef production business.

Laurie's successor is Annette Sugden, Senior Research Manager in the Established Rural Industries portfolio of RIRDC. Her phone contact is 02-6271 4138 and her email is Annette.sugden@rirdc.gov.au. Annette is ably assisted by Christine Joannides (phone 02-6271 4136).

Three members of our Deer R&D Advisory Committee, who had all served for extended periods, were also fare-welled in 2007 at the completion of their term of appointment. The departing members were Dr Rob Mulley, Mr Ian Dowsett and Mr Alf Leysen. Dr Paul Presidente, Annette Sugden and Nola Anderson have held the fort for the last six months. Dr Paul Presidente will be leaving the Committee in June due to work commitments. The DIAA will provide further Committee nominations for the R&D Advisory Committee before assessment of the Preliminary Research Proposals.