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## Australian Government

### Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Dr. Tony English

**By Dr. Andrew Hansen**

Associate Professor Tony English AM RFD BVSc (Hons) PhD FACVSc FAVA was this year made a Life Member of the Deer Industry Association of Australia in recognition of the invaluable service he has given to our industry since the early days of deer farming in Australia.

Tony graduated in veterinary science from the University of Queensland in 1966 with first class honours.

Years 1967 to 1974 were spent in private veterinary practice in Queensland and Victoria. He returned to UQ in 1975, and post graduate studies there resulted in a PhD in 1977. That year he was appointed a lecturer in cattle medicine at the University of Sydney.

When the University of Sydney Deer Research Unit was established in 1978, Tony became its director, and it was here that many deer farmers had their first contact with Tony. The Unit was used for teaching, research and extension work for deer farmers.

In 1981 Tony spent six months working on deer research projects in Scotland. In 1982 he was promoted to senior lecturer.

Tony was technical co-coordinator of the 1984 Post-graduate Committee's Deer Refresher Course for Veterinarians which led to the production of two publications written by Tony, widely read and greatly valued by vets and farmers. The course proceedings became an essential reference book for vets involved with deer.

In 1990, Tony became a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in the subject of deer medicine and production.

In 2001, now Associate Professor Tony English was co-coordinator of the veterinary conservation biology course and became director of Wildlife Health and Conservation Centre.

For 27 years, he has carried out research projects in cattle, deer and wildlife and has authored or co-authored 120 research papers.

His diverse interests have ranged from wombat reproduction to management of elephants in Nepal to conservation of Himalayan musk deer.

Somehow, Tony also had a remarkable second career in the Army Reserve artillery, retiring as a full colonel after holding the senior operational gunner posting in the Australian Army.

Now retired from university life, Tony is principal of a consultancy in wildlife health and population management.

He remains, among many other interests, a director of both the Zoological Parks Board of NSW and the Game Council of NSW and the working group managing Rusa deer in the Royal National Park.

Over the 30 years of involvement with the deer farming industry, Tony has addressed countless farmer gatherings in Australia and overseas, and has given invaluable advice in such matters as the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme, quality assurance, deer as a “pest” species, deer management and deer diseases.

He has given generously of his time and knowledge to many individual farmers and runs the “Deer Vet” service on the DIAA website through which he has acquired a large overseas following.

**Our industry is very fortunate to have such a friend.**