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## FROM THE EDITOR

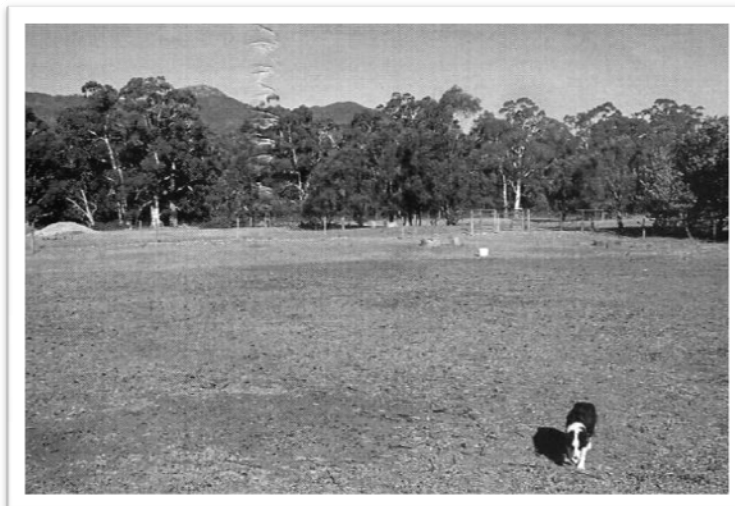
**By Andy Cowan**

Sadly, Terry Mahoney, passed away in January this year. One of Terry's greatest joys was hunting. He hunted and fished all over the world and to walk around his home in Bittern was a lesson in both geography and nature. His enthusiasm for life took Joan and him on many adventures in many different places, all of which added to his vast repertoire of stories. Those of us that had the pleasure of knowing Terry will never forget his determination to see the deer industry survive. The effort he put into the Victorian deer industry, in particular, was enormous. His expertise in marketing was most appreciated, especially his attempts to lift the public profile of venison. I know that we can be grateful that Terry became involved in the deer industry – he did make a difference and will be greatly missed.

The theme of this issue, to which Steve Lamplough has contributed greatly, is hunting and trophy heads of deer. The stags on p.21 belong to Steve and Maria Lamplough. Not a bad position to be in – velvet or trophy?



The picture on the front cover is taken on my own farm in what is normally a 1000m per annum rainfall area. Unfortunately, not a lot of need for colour in the photograph.



Speaking for myself, the last 9 months have been particularly exhausting. What with the worries caused by the drought (which animals to sell, which animals to keep, how to get access to an abattoir, how to pay for feed, water limitations, etc, etc.), it is humbling to know that our friends in New Zealand appreciate our plight. A couple of them have offered to let any Australian deer farmer stay on their farm, as guests, in order to have a rest from the daily grind. I cannot imagine how farmers who have lived with years of drought cope. Extraordinary people.

Unfortunately, Solange has only received two Branch reports at the time the ADF was going to print. The others will be sent out to members before the AGM.

The next two years will be tough for venison marketers. Presently, there does not seem to be many animals in good condition being offered for slaughter by farmers. I would think that some farmers may not bother mating hinds this year because the stock will virtually cease as farmers try to rebuild their herds and some may try to take advantage of the increasing velvet prices.