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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

This edition of the ADF is very much one of catching up on the “bookwork”. What with the AGM being held in Adelaide on April 19th, it is important, indeed crucial, that the members have the opportunity to read the Minutes of the previous AGM and to also scrutinize the June 30, 2007 Financial Report of the DIAA.

As an Association, we owe a great deal of gratitude to Jim, Solange and the Committee for the better financial position we find ourselves in at the end of the last financial year. We still have to be extremely frugal, given the current number of members. Hopefully our “staff” will not have to take another pay reduction in order to help out!!

In my area, we have had quite a good summer. I recently attended a meeting of like-minded farmers and was encouraged to discover that farmers seem to have short memories. It was recommended to us that we take photographic records of pastures, animals (see front cover, right), river levels etc. – in fact farm life generally. This would seem to be the best way of comparing one year to the next. Our memories seem to cloud an objective view of the past. Maybe for me, any year is better than last year – possibly the case for most farmers south of Queensland. However, my feeding out has been reduced substantially and we still have grass ahead of the deer in paddocks we have been able to lock up for most of the last two months. An enormous saving of both time and money.

Nola Anderson sent me story about the cost of hay. There are many ways of calculating what a bale of hay “costs”. Its value is totally different. It was an interesting exercise for me to re-affirm what the actual cost of a bale of hay or silage was. The costs which have most affected my calculations recently are fertilizer and diesel. The dilemma really is to decide whether your land is better off having hay ripped off it each year or whether for an extra few dollars (in a “normal” year), it is more beneficial to buy in hay and let other farmers do all the work.

Hope to see everyone at the AGM in Adelaide. They always seem to put on a good show over there.

