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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

There is to be a NVA course to be held in Whittlesea, just north of Melbourne, on September 12th. Please give Solange a call immediately so that she can organize course notes. She wants to send these out to participants for them to read prior to the course.

Please return your Deer Survey forms. As Jim points out in his report, we need to demonstrate to Government that we have canvassed widely for these particular levy revisions.

The DIAA Victorian Branch held its AGM on Sunday 24th of August at Clyde Sefton's farm near Cobden. It seemed appropriate to give Clyde Sefton a bit of a wrap at this particular time. He has been involved in the deer industry for many years and the quality and temperament of his red deer herd are to be marveled at. A snippet of Clyde's life is on page 22.

On page 21 there are some Media Releases. One is a report on the 1914 drought and its effect on the Murray River. There are pictures around of the Murray, at this time, with no water in it. It is sometimes difficult to understand all the arguments about the historical flow of the Murray. It has been argued that because of the weirs added since and the provision of regulated flows, water levels are higher than historical minimums, even though there is less water flowing into the system. I wonder what their long term predictions would have been back then if they had had today's political climate? Pretty dire, I suspect.

Another Release outlines Australia and China's trading figures. The total two-way trade between the two countries was \$53b in 2007. Maybe our velvet marketers can look more to China to sell our product.

The next AGM is to held in Orange on Saturday the 18th April 2009. If you are wondering about going (and I would suggest that you should make a holiday of the trip) the information provided on pages 18 and 19 may help you make up your mind. As Tim Hansen runs FOOD week, there is bound to be a lot of fine venison to be tasted. As it is an enormous week in Orange, you would be advised to book now!

Jim Moir has decided to step down from the DIAA presidency. This will take effect from the next AGM. It is an opportunity for those who believe that they can offer something to the industry to step up and have a go.