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## FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

Many of you who have looked up the RIRDC website or attended AGMs in the past few years will be familiar with Annette Sugden. We thank Annette for her help and accessibility during her role as Deer Program Research Manager and we welcome her replacement David Dall.

Also, in the RIRDC section of this edition, one of their research projects notes that "...the market analysis forecast annual growth rates between 10% and 30% around the world" for the organic livestock production. I spoke to a venison vendor about organic venison production many years ago. He indicated that there wasn't any demand for it then. It will be interesting to see if the current trends in organic livestock generally is reflected in the venison market.

As you may notice in this edition the number of advertisers has fallen dramatically. Sadly, a reflection of the times. This is quite understandable as, personally, I think we have a long way to go before we return to a more stable economy as we now realise that "greed is not good". We hope that when things improve, advertisers will once again support the magazine.

You will notice a change to the back page. I am offering any member the opportunity to promote their property by providing half a dozen good quality photos. There will not be any writing, apart from the name of the farm and contact details. At a cost of only \$100, members can only take up this opportunity once. The aim is to give you the chance to exhibit your stock or your deer related business.

The front cover (below) shows a yearling stag recuperating from a leg injury. Although it is in a 2 acre paddock by itself, it is perfectly relaxed and knows how to keep cool during hot weather. Now that it is able to put weight on its previously injured leg, it is nearly ready to rejoin the herd.

As Jim mentions in his President's Report, it has been a tough year. Let's hope that things improve soon so that we can enjoy the fruits of our labour. Increased velvet and venison prices with prompt payment would make it a pleasant year for deer farmers. Happy Christmas to you and your families. All the best for the New Year.

