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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

Along with many others, we seem to have had difficult times in recent years. The front cover of this issue shows some of our animals walking across the scorched paddocks after the February bushfires in Victoria. Our state has suffered incredible loss of life. Many people have lost all that they own. Others have been severely traumatised. As far as I am aware, many of the deer farmers in our region – Kinglake, Kilmore, Myrtleford, Healesville, Chum Creek, Yarra Glen, Thornton and in the Neerim area have been affected in one way or another. There has been a lot of fencing lost. Unfortunately for some, there has also been loss of stock, shedding and machinery. Maureen and I thank you for your thoughts. Please accept this as our heartfelt thanks. The generosity, community spirit and national support have been amazing. Hay has been dropped off. Offers for all sorts of assistance keep coming through. The phone and email messages have not stopped.

Perhaps, in future, I should be more careful with my wording. On Jan. 31, seeking some input for this magazine, I sent out an email entitled “The next ADF – the hot issue”. Unfortunately, it turned out to be too true. On a lighter note, you may recall Victor Borge... he had an uncle who could tell the future. He predicted that “the weather would be unpredictable!!” Try to tell a flood ravaged Queenslander that!!

Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of Dr Paul Presidente. Paul, a long time friend of the Deer Industry, died suddenly on December 29. He had been working as a Research Parasitologist at DPI Attwood, Victoria, and was the first port of call for deer farmers who were having parasite problems with their stock. His contribution to the deer industry will be outlined in the next issue of the ADF and RIRDC Newsletter.

Also we wish Rene and John Thonard a quick recovery after a car accident on 28th January. Perhaps, with any luck, their recovery has been enhanced by some local produce from McLaren Vale.

As I have been a little busy this last month, I have been fortunate enough to have been supported to the printing stage of this issue by Solange. She has basically done all of the ground work and tried her darnedest to get it out on time. Thank-you Solange.

