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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

As Jim mentions in his President's Report, there were about 15 people at the AGM held recently in Melbourne. It is always a worthwhile event to attend. Apart from gaining a small understanding of how the DIAA copes with all the challenges thrown at it, it is always good to catch up with other deer farmers and their news.

It has taken many years of extraordinary effort by our committee to have us in the financially buoyant position we now find ourselves. As our income from the affiliation fees has diminished over the last few years, the RIRDC has seen fit to support some of our projects such as the web sit and this magazine. Our association has been very fortunate to access some of these RIRDC funds to help streamline our operation.

Many organisations benefit from the generosity of a few of its members. Our association is very lucky to have good managers at the helm. At the AGM, a membership fee reduction was voted in. Let's hope that this results in more members coming into the DIAA. We should all be most grateful that we have been put in the position where our fees can be reduced, thanks to the hard work of our committee.

An apology is due to Jeff Varcoe. In the Independent Audit Report in the last magazine it was mentioned that he was a 'Tourist Farm and Deer Hunting Operator'. He is actually a deer and sheep farmer.

Steve Lamplough has recently decided to give up deer farming and has 'gone to the dogs!!' Steve has contributed to both the Victorian branch and the national body over a number of years.

I would like to thank Tim Hansen for his help in trying to get me to understand meat quality. I have read a lot of literature and even attended a Venison Feedback Workshop many years ago, but I did not understand fully what was going on. It was not until Tim enlightened me and helped me interpret some of the articles that I was able to get some sort of understanding of the subject.

It is a logical step – contact someone who makes a living out of what you want to discuss in order to understand the business. I want to try velvet in the next issue – but who do you contact to understand velvet – any volunteers?