



August (Winter) 2013, 1 page

FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

Preparing this edition of the ADF has been a fairly steep learning curve for me. I had just settled down to the routine of using particular software – Adobe PageMaker (I know it's a little out of date) and now have had the joy of trying to understand Adobe Acrobat X1. It was only after many trying experiences on the net, trying to download variations of the software that I actually went and purchased it. I think it will take quite a while to get the hang of it. Although this edition is quite simplistic in a lot of the "artwork" (a term I use in the loosest possible way), I am learning as I write this and I hope to have a more sophisticated production in the future.

There seems to be some mis-interpretation of what Australian Deer Horn and Co Products (ADH) is trying to do this velvet season. Nigel Barry, the Chairman of ADH, has sent two letters to members/growers explaining what is happening. The bottom line is that, as the system worked very well last year, it does not seem reasonable for ADH to reduce the income of growers by 2-3% by it being involved. Both Nigel's letters are included in this issue.

Once again, the "droughts and flooding rains" of Dorothea Mackellar are prominent over our country. I have recently been chatting to a Queenslander who, after recent floods, is desperately short of rain. In our area, after the second driest summer in my records (mid 80's), we have just had the wettest July and August since 1990. I hope the price of hay will reduce substantially this season (unless you are selling it of course!).

My hearty-felt thanks to Gordon Carter of Glenhope Farm. This story has taken a long time and Gordon has been very cooperative in responding to my questions and reading proofs. I am sure his journey has many exciting turns in the future and it will be interesting to find out where he and his farm will be in another 20 years.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QM87KHF>

Plug this web address into your computer and follow the links. This on-line questionnaire is aimed at helping to develop a five-year plan for our industry. One of the people involved in writing the report, Scott Williams, came to the VicBranch AGM recently. His "2 minute fact finding research" turned into an hour long chat. Luckily, two of the industry's resident historians (Nola and Jim) were on hand to explain a little of our past. I believe that Scott benefitted greatly from his visit and left with a much clearer picture of where we are as an industry.

Please remember that any articles about deer farming, especially personal experiences, are gratefully accepted. Gordon Carter's story is only one of many.