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## FROM THE EDITOR

By **Andy Cowan**

The article I wrote on velvetting was aimed at new entrants into the deer industry. Everyone works their animals according to their situation. So what works for one person may not work for another. **Farmer and animal safety is priority number one.** If people wanting to join the industry are looking for information it is here, or the web-site, that they will start gathering the information and insights they need. In order to give them the widest possible exposure to what deer farming involves, it is important to have a broad cross-section of opinion and experience. Maybe we should have some sort of forum on our web page.

My thanks go to Marika McKinnon for her input to this magazine and the industry as a whole. She is putting a power of time into the Association. She has recently taken on the possibly confusing task of resurrecting the Bookshop. Once she has accounted for what is actually in the Bookshop and streamlined the paperwork - I'm sure that we will all benefit from its return. Once again, if you have any suggestions for items that could be included in the Bookshop list please let Marika know.

I'm glad that the South Australians and Victorians are getting together in early December. I hope to make the trip over there myself and see some "real deer" (plus pigs, quail etc).

The latest "innovation" in New Zealand deer farming is the future introduction of electronic ID tags. Yet another cost for the farmers. You would now expect that someone will want this to happen here.

For further information on velvet levies go to <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/levies> .

It does seem a little strange wishing members a Merry Christmas in October. However, this is the last ADF magazine for this year. I hope your year has been fruitful and that next year your business goes from strength to strength. I also hope that, after such a season as we have had, your properties remain free from bushfires, floods and mice.