



February (Summer) 2012, 1 page

FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

Well it has certainly been an interesting year. The experts seem pretty confident that Australia's on the right track and the future looks bright. That's cause for concern right there!! As our industry basically exports all of its produce, it has been particularly tough for our venison vendors and ADH and Co. In spite of this, the venison price has remained quite reasonable at around \$4.50/Kg HCW and some velvet growers have been offered, so I have heard, a little under \$90/kg if they wished to sell their ungraded velvet to road buyers.

It will be interesting to see what happens to the velvet supplied to the pools recently. Ross Lawrence, from ADH, says in his report that he was disappointed in the number of growers that supported the pools. We all have the privilege of harvesting deer antler because of the DIAA and its constant monitoring of the NVAS. Can I simply remind growers that, if it was not for the acceptance of the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme, deer farmers may not have this privilege. By not supporting the pools (instead selling to road buyers in order to, hopefully, get a few extra cents), they may eventually lose their investment in their velvet herd and facilities if the DIAA, the NVAS and ADH collapse. Those farmers who sold their velvet to the Pools will be interested in reading the update on P.11.

Our thanks to Ross and Dianne Lawrence for keeping the Pools going this year. Ross, on the front cover, has set the bar very high for the rest of us as far as dedication to his job goes. He recently had a series of heart attacks and virtually climbed off the operating table to supervise the Pools on the 11th of February. He cannot do any lifting for the next month, so he was confined to the desk to keep a "calm" eye on proceedings.

Please read the reports from p.8 onwards. Andrew Hansen has been particularly busy and has outlined the meetings he has attended. He recently attended a Food Safe Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) meeting where food safety management in the minor meat species and wild game was being evaluated. Their recommendations will no doubt have some ramifications for our industry in the future.

Please bring along this magazine to the AGM. It contains all the accounts and reports relating to the last financial year.