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LETTER TO THE EDITOR: ADH&CP

By Stan Brown

After returning to Australia from my posting in East Timor, I got myself along to the Annual General Meeting to catch up with all the news and gossip from the deer industry.

I was very disappointed to hear that the Velvet Pools may be closing after many years of great service to the deer farmers - both big and small. I have always thought that the Pools were a cornerstone of our industry and supported all deer farmers. I have grave concerns about the future of our industry if the pools were to close down. I fear there may be tough times ahead for many velvet growers as many of the smaller growers may struggle to sell their velvet. It will open up the market to road-buyers who will try to drive the price down to rock bottom. They will undoubtedly try to play grower against grower to get the price down.

It would appear that some of the larger growers have abandoned the Pools in recent years and this has brought us to this point where the pools are struggling to stay in the black. It would be a shame to see the pools go under after the great service they have provided to all growers. I hope all growers will give this problem a great deal of thought before the Australian Deer Horn and Co is no more- it's no good complaining after the horse has bolted. Our industry has become smaller year by year. We certainly do not need any more problems which will cause the industry to become even smaller. More than likely, velvet growers will leave the industry because they cannot get a fair price for their product when they sell their velvet.

It would not take too much to keep the ADH afloat. All it needs is grower support with more product (**THAT MEANS ALL OF US**).

Regards,
Stan Brown.
Merton. Victoria.