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FROM THE EDITOR

By Andy Cowan

I was saddened to hear that one of South Australia's leading velvet producing enterprises, owned by Robert and Joan Blandon of Jamestown, was totally burnt out in a bushfire recently. Trying to organise priorities after such an event is a real nightmare. Faced with the lack of feed, Robert has decided to sell a few of his hinds. There is a contact number for Robert in an advertisement on page 4. The hinds are of superior quality and, if any of our readers are serious about breeding deer, this is a real opportunity.

The vagaries of the weather in Australia have, once again, left experts confounded. This summer has been one of extremes with floods in Queensland and northern New South Wales and fires in the south and south east of the country. From my perspective, we have had the driest spring and summer for many years. My own rainfall records show that the spring and summer rains are about 25% of what we normally receive. Fortunately for us, the temperatures have been quite mild, unlike 2006, which was a similar year in terms of rainfall. Our thoughts go out to those affected by such recent events and we hope that the rebuilding can be completed quickly.

This issue of the Australian Deer Farming is mainly in preparation for the AGM. Through the great diligence of our "management team", our association made a small profit in the financial year 2011-2012. This means that we did not have to use up any assets in order to keep the association running smoothly. As is apparent in all organisations, there is a small band of people who contribute an enormous amount of time and personal resources. In the DIAA's case, this generosity is what keeps our association functioning as smoothly as it does. Some may get a

reimbursement for a phone call but they are not overly compensated for the time and energy involved with dealing with those whose decisions can affect our industry. Thank-you. As a sign of appreciation, I hope that members will make an effort to come to the AGM in May and help make decisions that impact on their deer farming business.

Two points about the Annual Reports. 1. As outlined in the National President's report, investigations indicated that there would be no advantage in changing the DIAA structure. Hence, there will be no position paper sent to members prior to the AGM. Marika McKinnon will outline the developments at the AGM. 2. Andrew McKinnon will present a Vicbranch report to the meeting.

Another era finishes- the final report from our last President, Jim Moir, who continues to throw himself out of aeroplanes for relaxation.