

From the editor

I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as editor of Australian Organic Journal over the last two-and-a-half years and what a reward it is to see it move to a greater strength.

The renaming to Australian Certified Organic Magazine is simply to be more in line with the magazine's focus. The aim of the magazine is to keep members of all sectors of industry informed, ensuring a communication flow through the links in the supply chain in order to assist all in the trade of certified organic product.

The addition of case studies and profiles of producers and businesses – learning from the experience of those who have been there – has also proven to be of great assistance to new and current business owners and operators. Measures that help to increase the capacity of the market and the industry's professionalism benefit all in the long term and therefore we should not be afraid to share information.

Featured in this edition is the wholesale market and distribution: facilitating trade, assisting growers in planning crops for meeting demand, providing feedback on produce quality and ensuring that the organic integrity trail is not lost along the way. Wholesalers have their finger on the pulse of the ever-changing market. Their unselfish contribution over time has been invaluable to our industry's sustainable development.

I welcome Malcolm McGuire, publisher of CleanFood organic, as our new contract publisher. His vast experience in publishing and his knowledge of our industry is what has taken the magazine to this new level of professionalism. Acknowledgement must also be given to the vision of the BFA for seeing value in developing this resource for industry. Without this, ACOM would simply not exist.

Again we welcome you to our new edition and eagerly await your feedback. As your industry magazine, we encourage and anticipate your contributions for future editions.

Holly Vyner



PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

I AM DELIGHTED to present you *Australian Certified Organic magazine*, the nation's brand new organic industry resource for the benefit of all industry stakeholders.

This publication is a meeting place for the owners and operators of Australian organic businesses. It is where we will learn from one another and address the many issues facing our rapidly expanding industry.

The impending review of GE moratoriums by several state governments could steamroll its way into our livelihoods in 2008 unless we fight it as one and take immediate action now; there will be no turning back from this one (see page 6).

Managing our industry's rapid growth will be quite a challenge given the diversity of views on every subject from research and development through to standards and regulation. I hope that this magazine can assist us to achieve consensus on many of the issues and opportunities available to our sector.

Of course many organic producers are happy to openly share their knowledge and methods of overcoming obstacles and challenges and *Australian Certified Organic magazine* will endeavour to emulate these organic producers by sharing their knowledge for the benefit of all.

I applaud Doug Haas and the Biological Farmers of Australia Board for having the courage and conviction to support the publication of *Australian Certified Organic magazine*.

As the organic sector rapidly expands, it is my aim that the magazine you are holding now will be acknowledged as Australia's foremost authority on matters relating to operating a successful organic business.

Malcolm McGuire
PUBLISHER

AUSTRALIAN Certified Organic MAGAZINE

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Inks used are non-hazardous, petroleum free, vegetable oil based (linseed and soy) and are GE free.