

# Chairman's Report



*Trevor  
Twigden  
is Chairman of the  
Australian Onion  
Association  
Inc.*

The Australian Onion Industry has, in general had one of those rare years - a year of prosperity after some lean years. I hope those who have profited are now busy planning to invest back into their business and the industry to improve productivity and efficiency, ahead of difficult years that will inevitably follow.

Your committee has been busy building the strength of the AOA. Emphasis has been placed on building membership by building value into membership. Communication has been strengthened by the introduction of a newsletter to report the happenings of meetings to those unable to attend.

I would like to express my thanks to the executive committee for their helpfulness and willingness over the past year. Doug Marks, David Hood, Les Giroud, John Salvestrin, Tim Groom, Alan Carey and Kevin Prosser have all contributed strongly to the progress of the AOA. My thanks also to Judi Prosser who has had a major influence on the smooth running of the Association. In particular the re-organisation of our accounting, re-vamping of our membership records, the negotiation of accommodation and travel arrangements have all been done

quietly and efficiently, without fuss or fluster, thus contributing greatly to the effectiveness of AOA. We wish Judi well as she takes time off to put her energies into 'family development' - and we welcome Trish Herrmann aboard to keep the ship steady in the meantime.

Members too have made positive contributions throughout the year. In particular I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ken Blakers and Tim Shadbolt in member recruitment, and of John and Ian Salvestrin in publishing this magazine.

Again this year we note the passing of another long time member, Angelo Provera. His contribution in the formative years of the Australian Onion Coordinating Committee helped it develop into the AOA of today. Vale Angelo.

Now to the future, where many challenges still confront us. We continue to debate the funding of industry and generic promotion. We still have many options to consider, yet some now seek to debate the basic need for generic promotion itself rather than just how it will be done and paid for. So we still have a long way to go on that issue.


All options discussed so far for the introduction of an industry wide, compulsory, promotion levy appear to have short comings - some administrative, some bureaucratic, some economic and some philosophical. Maybe it is time to revisit the voluntary option and look more closely at how to make it work.

The U.S. National Onion Association seems to do it very well. Whether the Australian psyche is as conducive to a voluntary levy is debatable but certainly it would be compatible with the ethos of AOA. Perhaps, if in our day to day trading we patronised those who contribute to industry development and avoided those unwilling to pay their way, we could strengthen our industry in the same way that it has been done in the past - through self help and internal energy.

Another challenge in our future is 'Alliums Australia 1997', the conference that will bring together the Second International Symposium on Edible Alliaceae, a conference on production and marketing of allium crops and an allium industrial trade fair. All of which will happen in Adelaide in November, 1997.

The Australian Garlic Industry Association has joined with AOA to present this conference with the support of the International Society of Horticultural Science. Although a professional conference organiser has been employed we will still rely on members to help with the program development, technical tours, hosting of visitors and securing of sponsorship that will be necessary to make the event a success.

This event will be a major showcase for our industry. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in building our industry toward 'Alliums Australia 1997', and beyond.

Cheers,  
  
Trevor Twigden  
Chairman.