

chairman's report



The AOIA executive (L to R): John Salvestrin (Chairman), Judi Prosser (Executive Officer), Trevor Twigden (SA), Alan Carey (Tas), David Hood (Qld), Gordon McKerlie (SA) and Doug Marks (SA).
Absent: Tim Groom (Tas) and Kevin Prosser (SA).

Without doubt, 'Alliums Australia 1997' will stand out as the 'Prima Donna' of all events that the Australian Onion Industry Association has initiated and been instrumental in organising. Many have contributed to the success we know it will be and to all those people we say 'thank you'. But although it has been very much a team effort, it would be remiss of me not to mention the efforts of

Trevor Twigden as Convenor and the 'local' Adelaide Committee. Our gratitude goes out to you.

It is a time when we will be welcoming hundreds of international participants and it is very unlikely we will again see in our lifetime an International Allium Conference on Australia's shores. It is indeed an experience we will remember and benefit from for some time to come.

Even though the Conference has been foremost in our minds and labours, the AOIA has continued with its ongoing work in promoting the interests of those involved in our Industry.

It is pleasing to see how we have been able to continue the National Residues Survey (NRS). Interestingly, the AOIA has been complimented by other Australian Horticultural Industries as not only the leader in this regard but the catalyst to related industries to become involved in NRS.

As we head into the next century, the need to continually focus on the changes that are occurring in the world and how they affect our Industry is ever foremost in our Association's agenda. Our philosophy is to inform industry and to keep in touch with the ideas of members. We all need to stay in touch. To this end, our quarterly newsletter has continued, workshops have been held and a marketing survey was conducted.

At the workshop we reflected on our past achievements and discussed our future vision..

Commencing on page 5 in the section *In Brief*, you will find a brief outline of our achievements and our visions as they have developed. Our marketing survey conclusions are in the same section.

In 1997/98, perhaps our biggest immediate challenge relates to the registration of pesticides and the obtaining of permits. The decrease in registered chemicals available has created difficulties and it is obvious particularly to producers why it is number one priority. Our Association will be working closely with the National Registration Authority in securing permits where possible.

As Chairman it is difficult not to constantly be thinking of the 'broad picture', of how our industry is growing, it's overall health and future, the problems it is facing and strategies and alternatives required in solving the challenges facing us.

Overall I remain positive as our industry is made up of many individuals with outstanding talents and abilities. I take my 'hat off' to those leading the way. Their ability to succeed when the playing field is not even is an inspiration.

Our thanks goes to Judi Prosser, AOIA Executive Officer, who works tirelessly for our Industry. Thank you Judi for going beyond the call of duty. Thanks also to a great executive committee, all of whom contribute beyond expectation.

I hope the 1997/98 season is a good one for you and that you remain positive.

Regards

Giuliano (John) Salvestrin
Chairman