

**A NOTE FROM "DOWN UNDER" ...**

*John D. Gordon, now a resident of Renmark, Australia, once was an avocado grower in Fallbrook, California, and served as president of this Society in 1966-67. The following letter will particularly interest the Californians who know Mr. Gordon, both as an update on his activities and as news of the avocado industry in another part of the world.*

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to send this greeting to the annual meeting of the California Avocado Society and especially so as it is being delivered in person by one of our members, Mr. Ian Tolley.

Avocado growing in South Australia has only in the past year or two become a commercial enterprise, and it is still very much in an experimental stage. Particularly as it concerns suitable varieties and areas that have the needed requirements of soil, weather, and water availability.

Our organization, the South Australian Avocado Improvement Committee, has concerned itself mainly with the importation and establishment of virus free sources of avocado seed and budwood. The committee has imported over 30 varieties of certified seed and budwood and established seed and budwood source areas. In all of this work we have been dependent on the excellent services of Dr. R.J. van Velsen and associates at the South Australian Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Another function of our committee has been to serve as a forum where avocado growers in this state can exchange information.

I note with interest that the membership list in the 1978 Yearbook shows 111 members of the Society in Australia. The membership committee should be proud of us!

I would like to add my personal greetings to my many friends in the Society.

John D. Gordon, Chairman  
South Australian Avocado  
Improvement Committee  
September 19, 1979