

FARMGATE NEWS

Written & Published By



MARCH - APRIL 2020

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

WHEN LIVESTOCK IS IN YOUR BLOOD & You Operate With Purpose P4

Simon Rowe at his family's Princess Royal cattle feedlot. See story on P4-5



**NO CRAP
BEER HERE** P2



**Local Eyre Peninsula
Sporting Royalty
Who is it? Find out** P6

**HOW TO SUPPORT
YOUR MATES
In difficult times** P3



**FARM SHED
Solutions** P7



SEE YOU AT THESE FIELD DAYS

South East Field Days

MARCH 20th & 21st

Karoonda Field Days

APRIL 3rd & 4th

Eyre Peninsula Field Days

AUGUST 11th, 12th, 13th

Riverland Field Days

SEPTEMBER 18th & 19th

What Makes Country Life So Good?



COMMUNITY

Contented cattle feeding at Princess Royal feedlot

Early Bird Bonus

FREE BEER

for a Year!

For people who order by May 31st 2020

Conditions Apply

Recent Farm Visits

We really do enjoy our drives to visit farmers in different areas to conduct interviews for our FARM GATE NEWS stories and to assist farmers with shed design and siting concerns. Our February visit to the mid North and Yorke Peninsula was no exception.

Along the way we visited and interviewed

- Simon Rowe, Princess Royal Station Story P4-5 this edition
- Ashley Rowe, Ardrossan
- Kelvin Amos, Marion Bay



Danny with Ashley Rowe, Ardrossan (above) and Kelvin Amos, Marion Bay (below). Always enjoyable talking with like-minded country people.

The stories about Ashley and Kelvin will be in future editions.

We expect to be doing another visit to the mid North & YP in the last week of March. If you'd like us to visit you to help you with shed building advice, let us know and we'll see if we can arrange it.

Our team will also be heading to the South East Field Days in the 3rd week of March and may be able to visit people in that region on the way there or back.

And we're off to Swan Hill in early May so if you're anywhere near our path we're happy to call in to see you too (Renmark-Mildura-Ouyen-Swan Hill-Pinnaroo etc).

Sing out if you need our help. But you don't have to wait until then. Just give us a hoy (phone call or email) and we can assist you at any time.

Exciting News!

Our son Tony and his wife Amy (nee Lidgerwood of Loxton North) are expecting TWINS in the next few days (as I write this column).

These days twins cannot be delivered at our local hospital (despite it being the major one for our region) and so they've had to spend a fortnight in Adelaide prior to the birth. This has meant the added expense of accommodation, something city-folk don't have to consider (like uni/ further education costs for country students).

We've been minding their 3 year old son Hunter, along with help from Amy's parents, Deb & Mark Lidgerwood and other family members.

They say it takes a village to raise a family and we're so pleased to be able to help. Gotta say too, just quietly "I've loved it!" J

RAISING TWINS IS A WALK IN THE PARK

... JURASSIC PARK



Q: What did the drummer call his twin daughters?

A: Anna one, Anna two!



STOP PRESS! They arrived just in time to get their photo included. Introducing Reaghan Grace and Paige Rose.

Grant Sheds Printed Beer Cans

We were recently contacted by a person who collects beer cans. He has 5000 in his collection already and had seen these beer cans in our FREE BEER promotions. He asked if he could buy a carton to add to his can collection and share with other beer collectors.

We had to explain that the beer pictures are just produced by an amazing new tool called ... Photoshop!!

I was recently asked by another caller, what type of beer we provide with this offer. When I explained that there was a wide choice of varieties in bottles or cans, this caller said, "Oh, so it's not some cheap crap from Asia or something then?"

No, definitely not. Perhaps this caller also had the impression that we buy bulk beer and have our own cans filled with it.

Actually when we offer a FREE BEER promotion it's for a bit of fun... something different. Imagine for yourself, cartons of beer arriving each month over summer and throughout the year.

You're in your shed, your man-cave or on the verandah after a hard, hot day of work....

"Pssst! The sound of a beer can or bottle being opened. "Aah, how's the serenity?"

That's what others who've take up our FREE BEER offers enjoy. For you? Maybe this time.

We have a FREE BEER EARLY BIRD BONUS for you if you order your new farm shed before May 31 this year. See the back page of this edition of FARM GATE NEWS and the enclosed EOFY Mega Package shed catalogue.

Call soon because, with a looming steel price rise as well, we expect to get very busy, very quickly and it's first in, best dressed.

Until next time

Ali & Danny Halupka

Owners - Grant Sheds



You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

This Ship Has Sailed

Some people will know that our Grant Sheds original owner (Ali's dad, Grant Telfer, 88) is quite a character of Monash. He's a much loved local and well known around Australia for some of the interesting and unusual things he's done during his life (apart from being the founder of Grant Engineering/ Grant Sheds). He...

- Almost always wears white overalls, bare feet & rides a bike
- Built the Old Monash Playground 'Grant Park' with some 180+ pieces of play equipment which was always open and Free to enter
- Designed & manufactured the original Gopher brand of 3 & 4 wheeled electric scooters and was the first to market such a device direct to consumers which opened up a huge market that cheap imported versions later over-ran



- Back in the 60's, designed & manufactured Air Compressed Guillotines, many of which are still operational today, and
- Built a 71' ocean going catamaran in one of our sheds here.

That boat was built over a 10 year period back in the late 1970s-80s and was launched in about 1986. It was taken by semi-trailer from Monash to Morgan where it was launched into the River Murray and motored downstream and through the mouth of the Murray before heading to Port Adelaide to have masts installed.

Over the 30 or so years he owned it, he and a small crew that included his wife Margaret, did lots of local SA waters cruising and a few epic journeys. These included around Australia and around Tasmania twice (once with grandson Brenton when he was 10 years old-he now works with us and is 36 yrs old-and once with 2nd grandson Tony when he was 18. In fact Tony had his 18th birthday crossing Bass Strait and informed us he was as sick as a dog and not because he'd been drinking on his coming of age birthday!).

And they also did one journey to New Zealand and up through the South Pacific



islands during which time they experienced some extremely heavy seas and dad says, she (his boat, not so much his wife) handled it with ease.

The purpose of this story now is to say that he recently sold her, having decided that at 88 he was probably too old to do any more sea journeys. For the past 10 years, he'd been saying that his usual crew had either died or got too old and decrepit to join him. We said he should look for some 'younger' crew, perhaps in their 60's, retiring and with time to join him on his adventures.

Still, nothing lasts forever and he had some wonderful times on her.

Photos are of short, family, final voyage on Orient back in December.

Erosion Solution After Fires

Brian & Rhonda Fischer and their family, who run the Ashmore White Suffolk Sheep Stud near Wasleys lost their entire adult ewe flock and fencing in the 2015 Pinery fires.

Massive soil erosion of their precious topsoil was a major immediate problem and they turned to a 'olden days' idea to stop it.

Brian remembered his father talking about using a geometrical pattern of cultivating, with teams of horses, that worked well to stop soil erosion during bad droughts of the 1930s and 40s.

With sons Corey and Troy they did the same thing but using a 5 metre, 33 tyne cultivator. The patterns were worked up in 1ha blocks and the constant directional changes meant there were always ridges at an angle to the wind, whatever way it blew, and that reduced the likelihood of soil erosion. Ideally the cultivating brings up small clods too that also hold the soil.

The Fischer's considered themselves lucky



in that water-bombing saved their two houses but Brian used the analogy that immediately after the fire they "felt like boxers, out cold on the mat." And then afterwards felt like they were "running around like chooks with their heads cut off."

A couple of months later, with plans made for resurrection in place, they then felt more like "boxers off the ropes" and with a real chance of winning.

This article taken from a larger one we published in our Jan-Feb 2016 edition of Farm Gate News.

Monash 'Blockies' Lunch

"Blockies" ... It's a term used to describe fruit growers in our region. Another endearing Aussie slang term that has found it's way into our language. I presume it stems (pardon the pun) from the properties being "blocks" of land and hence we've done the typical Aussie thing and added the 'ee' sound to the end and called them "blockies".

Like farming communities throughout Australia, they are going through some difficulties including water restrictions, high water prices for irrigating and recently, in our area, hail.

There is a small group of Monash blockies who meet for lunch every Friday at our local Monash Club. It's a great opportunity to catch up, have a chinwag, maintain friendships and support each other, and then ... back to work!

I just mention it because it might be a good idea in your area too (if not already done). Also a great idea for those in bushfire affected areas to support and learn from each other. It's as simple as calling a couple of mates or neighbours and suggesting it, then they ask a few as well. Make it a regular thing and know that not everyone will be able to make it each week. You just come when you can.

Princess Royal PRIMARY PRODUCTION



Stock feed preparation at the Princess Royal feedlot is a busy and highly systemised process that achieves high-efficiency feeding and fully satisfied cattle.

Spanning properties that extend from Burra through to the northern Flinders Ranges, Simon Rowe runs a successful cattle feedlot, a cropping enterprise and small transport business as part of a multi-generational family endeavour known as Princess Royal.

In doing so, Simon and his family have established a reputation for animal welfare and a commitment to “purpose” in primary production.

Simon explains Princess Royal encompasses over 26,000ha and includes properties like Princess Royal Station at Burra and nearby Macerode Homestead.

The Rowe family influence in the cattle industry also goes far beyond current land holdings. Simon and his late father Bob

both had a long history of working in cattle feedlots and meat processing. Up until 2010, they were partners in T&R Pastoral - one of the country's largest family-owned red meat processing businesses - which they co-owned with another family.

In the early 2000s, however, the Rowe family's focus began to shift, with Simon and Bob acquiring historic Princess Royal Station and other land to specialise in feedlots.

Now, Simon runs the feedlot and associated businesses with the assistance of wife Andrea, his son Jack who fills the role of Livestock Buyer, his eldest daughter Katherine, the HR & WHS Manager and his middle daughter Rebecca who is Livestock Manager at the feedlot.

Princess Royal currently handles up to 4000

head of cattle a month after steadily growing operations over the past decade.

“We didn't have plans to go this big,” Simon reflects.

“We thought 1600 would be maximum and it just slowly grew as our client base grew with us. So, we started out at 50 a month nine years ago and now we're approaching 4000.”

Supporting the feedlot are other assets within the enterprise including cereal crop production and a small transport fleet.

Cereal crops are utilised as cattle feed, and Princess Royal also draws upon numerous other local producers to supplement the supply.

Meanwhile, manure from Princess Royal is used for cropping and is also sold off and transported to other primary producers.

While the business encompasses many different facets, Simon notes the feedlot remains their major priority. The bulk of their market is the European Union which takes 90 per cent of their cattle.

“The EU cattle are fed for 115 days, and obviously the 100-day cattle are just 100 days,” Simon explains.

Cattle are brought in when aged between 10 and 14 months, and during their stay at Princess Royal animal welfare is the utmost priority.

“The less stress the better everything is,” Simon states.

“You've got to look after your livestock.

If you treat cattle poorly you get what we call 'dark cutters'. If there's stress in the animals, the pH is very high, the meat's quite black and you can't sell it.”

To ensure best practice, Princess Royal engages the services of a vet, a nutritionist, and an agronomist. They also make all their feed on site in a process designed to keep the cattle satisfied but not too full.

“All the hay balers double chop everything,” Simon continues. “Then we wet the grain prior to rolling it. We let it sit for a maximum of four to 12 hours and then roll it out so it basically looks like a flat piece of grain. We don't want to crush it because it's the flours inside that they need.”



15m x 45m x 6.3m Machinery Shed. Open one end and open one side (with 5 x 9m bays)

Station & Feedlot ON ... WITH PURPOSE

The business also operates with “purpose”

Meanwhile, the business also operates with “purpose” front of mind to ensure employees and staff remain passionate about their role in the operation.

“It doesn’t matter if they’re a welder or a livestock person, at the centre is livestock, then there’s different areas around it encompassing animal welfare, water, dietary requirements and all this sort of stuff,” Simon explains.

“An employee might find they’re more interested in animal welfare so they can target that and learn more about it. We foster that as it gives them some purpose or reason to be creating a career out of the job.”

Princess Royal and the Rowe family also extend this purpose to the wider community.

In recent years the family has played an integral role in the Burra Picnic Races, raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

This year, Princess Royal also extended a helping hand to fire-affected communities by taking cattle in earlier than they normally would.

“We took a lot of cattle, probably about 1300 or more that we would normally get later, but they couldn’t hold them. So, from Adelaide Hills, Victoria and Wagga areas we brought them in early.”

An enterprise the size of Princess Royal requires major infrastructure, trucks for transport and grain storage for feed.

Among the investments over the years the Rowes have also acquired



Grant Sheds owner Danny Halupka with Princess Royal Station owner Simon Rowe. Simon was generous with his time, taking us on a tour of the feedlot facility and explaining the myriad of vertically integrated operations within the overall Princess Royal feedlot business. A very interesting afternoon.

More than 11 Grant Sheds.

In the meantime, their company also directly provides up to 75 jobs for people in the local community along with other more indirect employment.

“Deloitte Access Economics did a paper on the values of feedlots, from 5000, 10,000 and 15,000 up to 30,000. So a 15,000 head feedlot, for every dollar we spend, it’s seven times turnaround in the local community,” Simon notes.

“To put that in perspective, the mining industry is one-for-one. That means we’re engaging not so much direct employees, but peripheral people like the farmers, truck drivers, nurses, school kids, whatever.

“There’s so many good things that happen within our industry,” Simon reflects.

In the coming years that ripple effect is also set to increase. Simon notes Princess Royal currently has plans for further expansion with the next two phases of growth expected to see them accommodate another 6000 head of cattle monthly.

In the interim they’ll continue to exceed animal welfare requirements as part of a business that encompasses a little bit of South Australian history, a lot of purpose and a multi-generational commitment to Australian primary production.



15m x 45m x 6.3m Hay Fodder Shed. Open one end and open one side (with 5 x 9m bays)



Princess Royal invested in 11 ‘Grant’ sheds in past 16 years.

2003	12m x 18m x 5.1m	Garage
2004	9m x 18m x 5.1m	Machinery
2005	7.5m x 10m x 3m	Garage
2012	7.5m x 18m x 3m	Garage
2012	15m x 24m x 5.1m	Machinery
2015	12m x 18m x 5.1m	Machinery
2016	15m x 45m x 6.3m	Machinery
2016	15m x 45m x 6.3m	Hay Fodder
2016	15m x 45m x 6.3m	Hay Fodder
2018	9m x 18m x 3m	Garage
2018	12m x 24m x 6m	Machinery

AFL Debut For Penong Country Kid

KADE CHANDLER



When 19-year-old Kade Chandler made his AFL debut wearing Melbourne's number 37 jersey last year, it was a dream in the making.

The country kid from Penong in South Australia has played Australian rules football his whole life as part of a farming family with some serious sporting pedigree.

The son of sheep and grain farmers Milton and Tracey Chandler, Kade is one of four boys, all of whom play football at representative level. His dad racked up more than 400 games in a local footy career and now coaches the next generation, while his mum still plays senior netball.

They were all on hand at the MCG to witness Kade's debut against the Sydney Swans in August. "It meant the world to me and my family," Kade says of making his professional AFL debut. "Not many kids from small country towns get to do it, so it was a privilege to be able to finally achieve it."

Behind the scenes that privilege was also the result of hard work. Over the years the Chandlers have travelled thousands of kilometres to support all their boys' love of the football, while at 15, Kade made the move to boarding school in Adelaide to further pursue his

dream. "I'd played at a decent level of footy, but I kind of knew that to achieve my AFL dream, it would have been hard to be able to get looked at while I was still playing footy in Penong," Kade explains.

He left behind his close-knit community, many of his mates and the farming lifestyle he loved, but says it helped prepare him for the recent shift to Melbourne where the Demons are in pre-season training.

The support of his home community isn't something Kade takes for granted. He notes his AFL career so far has been influenced by many "great people" from Penong, Ceduna and beyond. "I'm very grateful for that," he reflects.

Looking back on his first game and the lead-up, Kade says it's a bit of a blur. "When I got the phone call and the coach told me that I'd be playing, I got chills. I just couldn't believe it. I rang Mum and Dad and they couldn't believe it either because it's all I've ever wanted to do."

While Kade admits to a couple of pre-match nerves, he says having his family fly over was special and his Melbourne teammates helped him through. "As soon as the ball went up and the siren went, it was all business as usual, and it was just another game of footy at the end of the day."

As for his advice for other country kids looking to follow their heart, Kade says no dreams are too big. "Especially to the kids from small communities... don't ever think you can't do something or let anyone tell you that you can't, because if you want it bad enough, you'll chase your dreams."



Kade Chandler at his debut AFL game with parents Tracey & Mildy Chandler, brothers Broadie, Harlee & Jesse and sister in law Shelley.



7 Grant sheds



Local sporting "royalty" from Penong, western Eyre Peninsula, Mildey & Tracey Chandler (top right) and (main picture) Mildey inspecting one of his seven Grant sheds with Grant Sheds owner, Danny Halupka.



Ideas To Help You With Your FARM SHED SOLUTIONS

BEAT THE PRICE RISE

Order Your New Shed Before June 30th 2020 TO SAVE



This 18m x 40.5m x 7.3m Hay-Fodder Shed

Was built for **Greg Porter, Jamestown SA**. It has 8.1m wide bays, bale bumper rails to protect the wall iron, high volume gutter system to clear water quickly during heavy downpours.



Almond Storage

Becoming popular for almond growers are Almond Shelters like this that can protect just-harvested almonds prior to freighting off farm and can also be used for machinery cover for the rest of the year. This one for **Peter Freeman, Freeman Farming at Renmark North** is 18m x 15m x 5.3m, roof only, with just 2x7.5m bays for minimum columns.

Helping You With Site Visits



If you feel it would help to discuss your farm shed needs on site on your farm, due to specific concerns that you'd like help with, we are willing to visit you. This includes those who have been affected by the recent bushfires (including on Kangaroo Island). If you would like us to visit you then please let us know.

We are happy to discuss things over the phone or to visit with you if &/or when you need it. *Conditions Apply

FRECALL 1800 088 528

2 Great Immediate 100% Tax Deduction Incentives Still Apply

Be Quick while these are still available!

1. For fodder storage sheds including hay
*Primary producers can claim the full cost of a fodder storage asset ... OR ...
2. Assets costing less than \$30,000
**Small business with turnover <\$10m can claim an immediate deduction on assets <\$30K

*Conditions Apply
Seek advice from your own independent advisors on how the tax rules may apply to your specific circumstances

Beat The June 30 Deadline & Get This Unbelievable EOFY Mega Shed Package

Including

Early Bird Bonuses...

When you order by May 31st

See catalogue included with this edition of FARM GATE NEWS for more information and farm shed ideas

*Conditions Apply



12m x 16m x 5.1m fully enclosed machinery shed. 2x Roller Doors one end, 1 PA Door, 1 window, Woodland Grey Colorbond cladding

Thank you very much to Grant Sheds and builders Brad & Matt for a beautiful neat looking shed that is also obviously super strong in structure.

Customer service exceptional as are the builders. Great guys to work with who certainly know their craft.

Jason Lazaroff, Mannum SA

5 ~~Big~~ MEGA Reasons

to Order Your New Farm Shed Right NOW!

Beat The June 30 Deadline & Get This EOFY Mega Shed Package That Includes

***Early Bird Bonuses... Only From Grant Sheds!**

BEAT THE PRICE RISE

Order Your New Shed Before June 30th 2020 TO SAVE

Early Bird Bonus

FREE BEER for a Year!

For people who order by May 31st 2020
Conditions Apply

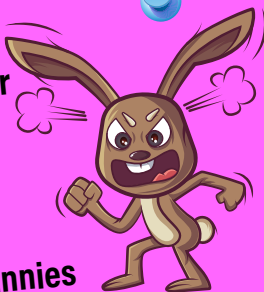
Red Hot Savings	Bonus Items	Order By May 31 2020	Order By June 30 2020
EOFY Bonus #1 Sheds ordered by June 30	*BEAT THE PRICE RISE You could save thousands	✓	✓
EOFY Bonus #2 For Sheds ordered by June 30, to take advantage in the 2019-20 FY	*100% Immediate Tax Deduction If used for fodder storage. Value depends on personal circumstances. Seek your own tax advice*.	✓	✓
EOFY Bonus #3 Sheds ordered by June 30	*FREE Wall iron strength upgrade to heavier roof grade. Up to \$5100.00 Value	✓	✓
+ Early Bird Bonus #4 Sheds ordered by May 31	*\$500 off delivery Up to \$500.00 Value	✓	X
+ Early Bird Bonus #5 Sheds ordered by May 31	*FREE BEER FOR A YEAR Up to \$500.00 Value	✓	X

*See the "Mega Sheds Package" catalogue included with this edition of FARM GATE NEWS for more information and farm shed ideas. Terms and conditions are included in the catalogue & from Grant Sheds.

MONTHLY HUMOUR

Q: What do you get if you pour boiling water down rabbit holes?

A: hot cross bunnies



Hillbilly Lick!

Two hillbillies walk into a restaurant. While having a bite to eat, they talk about their moonshine operation.

Suddenly, a woman at a nearby table, who is eating a sandwich, begins to cough. After a minute or so, it becomes apparent that she is in real distress. One of the hillbillies looks at her and says, 'Kin ya swallar?'

The woman shakes her head no. Then he asks, 'Kin ya breathe?'

The woman begins to turn blue, and shakes her head no.

The hillbilly walks over to the woman, lifts up her dress, yanks down her drawers, and quickly gives her right butt cheek a lick with his tongue.

The woman is so shocked that she has a violent spasm, and the obstruction flies out of her mouth. As she begins to breathe again, the Hillbilly walks slowly back to his table.

His partner says, 'Ya know, I'd heerd of that there 'Hind Lick Maneuver' but I ain't niver seed nobody do it!'



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