

FARMGATE NEWS

Written & Published By



JAN - FEB 2020

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

Innovative Ways To Manage
**EFFICIENCY &
FATIGUE**
In The Wine Grape
Growing Industry P4-5

We Welcome
New Members To Our
**GRANT SHEDS
FAMILY** P6

What we do matters...
How Firefighting Farmers
**Rally Around
During Disasters** P2-3



FARM SHED
Solutions P7



What Makes Country Life So Good?

COMMUNITY

Kangaroo Islander, Brenton Davis was part of the highly important farm firefighting army.

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

SEPT 18th & 19th



Bloody Great Sheds By Bloody Great People For Bloody Great Farmers

Please allow me to share this...

Included in this issue, you'll find an insert titled, "Farmers have their say..." which is a compilation of recent comments farmers have made about why they choose Grant Sheds over all the other options out there today.

Over Christmas we sent all of our staff a copy of this. Why? Well as Helen Keller said,

***"Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much."***

We wanted our whole team to be aware of how important each of them is to the end product, a bloody great farm shed for bloody great farmers.

All of our people make up the Grant Sheds team and contribute in their own way to your shed.

Just like all the people on your farm contribute to your production, so too do all of our people and we wanted to thank them by way of showing, in your words, why...

...what they do matters.

For example, our production team or our admin team may not get a specific mention in the kind comments we receive and we know it's only because they are not communicating directly with you. But we know that each and every person in our teams matters. They matter to the overall success and the experience you have with us.

So check it out and enjoy what farmers say... you may even find your words there!

Our Local Legends

The fires that have ravaged areas of SA and interstate are just horrific. We can't publish this edition of FARM GATE NEWS without acknowledging the unbelievable efforts of the front line fire crews and emergency services personnel, backline support teams, families in crisis mode, amazing outpouring of public generosity through donations. And most especially, we would like to acknowledge the amazing support that farmers, farming families and country people in general give to farmers and to their communities.

The Ute Brigade

As an example, our friend Rob Higgins of Yorketown, Yorke Peninsula (and past owner of Minlaton business, Higgins Engineering that supplied pins & bushes), told us of farmers immediately driving down from the top end of YP with their farm fire fighting units to help with the southern YP fire that burnt out a huge cropping area and almost took out the town of Edithburgh.

There is an army of farm fire units in and around our communities that are critical to fighting fires. This fleet of brave and willing volunteers can often get to fires quicker than the CFS trucks and they can get into places where the big trucks can't. The drivers of these farm fire units have extensive local knowledge of the local roads, farm gate locations, best paddock crossings, etc. Them supporting the CFS is extremely important and valued.

Phone Company Help For CFS & Farm Firefighters

Telstra has offered to pay the mobile phone bills for volunteer firefighters over the period of December and January. This Assistance Package is available to all volunteer firefighters registered with the official volunteer fire services in their state and has also been made available to "Farm Fighters" (farmers with personal firefighting equipment/units who support their community when under threat from bushfire.)

Follow this link to find out how <https://exchange.telstra.com.au/free-calls-for-fires/> or **TELSTRA:** Phone 13 22 03 to register for the free calls over December and January.

Other phone providers may have similar assistance packages. Here are a few I found. Contact them to find out what relief packages are available.

OPTUS: Bushfire dedicated hotline on 1300 301 671. **VODAFONE:** 1300 650 410

Mental Health Resource

www.BeyondBlue.org.au/the-facts/bushfires-and-mental-health

Visit this web site for information on dealing with the emotional impact of a bushfire. It may help you, your family (including children) or friends.

A Marathon... Not a Sprint!

We know it will be a long road back to recovery from these fires. The lives and the mental and physical strength of everyone in our country communities that have been affected will be tested. It's a very tough time.

When we can help, please let us know. We don't want to intrude on you right now when you are still struggling with all the immediate issues to handle, but when you need our help, please call and we'll be available for you.

With love, care and concern

Ali & Danny Halupka, Grant Sheds



You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

Appreciation For Every Single Person

Eden Valley farmer and Grant Sheds family member (customer), John Richardson has been a CFS member for decades (and his father and grandfather before him). He's close to 70 years young and did continual 12 hour shifts fighting the Cudlee Creek fires before completing a daily debrief and then driving home to check and feed stock, try to wind down and get just a few hours sleep before heading out for his next fire fighting shift.

When the YP fire erupted only days after the Cudlee Creek one, he immediately headed there with his local team.

We spoke with him recently and heard his story. We thanked him personally for his effort and for his courage. As is common amongst these good people, he immediately deflected the praise from himself to include all the people helping out in all capacities. We agreed with him. We said, "We agree and we are very appreciative of the generous service of every single person ... but right here, right now, we want to thank YOU personally for YOUR service to community."

At this, tears welled in his eyes. He wiped them away quickly despite us assuring him that there is no shame in tears.

You need to let it out.

But it highlights the extreme physical and emotional toll these catastrophes take on people closely affected, be they people losing homes, farms and stock, those doing their utmost to contain the fires or those in supportive roles in the back lines.

Thank YOU all!



Farms & Business & Families Affected

Here is an example of how the bushfires affect so many. In this Kangaroo Island family of father and two sons, all were out fighting the fires for weeks on end. If you saw a video on Facebook of men inside a home with fire raging all around, this was them! Like others, they've been incredibly brave and fighting like hell to save the lives and properties of others. Absolute heroes!

Peter Davis (left): Owns & operates honey producing business, Island Beehive. He lost 400 hives & years of lost income. It may take 7 years for burnt trees to flower & provide pollen & nectar as food for bees.

Ben Davis (centre) runs the family farm with his wife Sabrina and kids. They lost their farm including their family home, stock, sheds and income for many years.

Brenton Davis (right) owns & operates Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action & Little Sahara. The businesses were saved but income for January lost & it's going to be below for the rest of the usually busy summer period.

Please go out of your way to support businesses in our fire-affected communities. They are really good people and need our support to pull through.



A Mother's Perspective

Here I am again. It's 10.30pm. I only just realised I hadn't eaten dinner (or breakfast). So I opened one of the cans the Red Cross gave us to have an easy meal and avoid cooking. I hate the smell of food with my gut in knots for days, nothing wants to go down, especially when eating alone.

Another night I'm eating food someone gave me, while I'm staying at someone else's place, wearing someone else's clothes and hoping my husband will return from someone else's place after fighting fires AGAIN since early this morning. No contact all day due to towers being down, no idea where he is and telling the kids 'Dad will be fine' like every other night - even though I'm not sure it is true. Or even if we are.

Dad has hardly been home in 3 weeks, now there's no home to come home to anymore, and now he can't even sleep when back here as we're all haunted by this new everyday nightmare. Waking up at night thinking someone else needs help, thinking there's smoke in



By Kangaroo Island Farming Wife & Mum, Sabrina Davis (*Printed with permission*) © Sabrina Davis

the air, restless, worried, drained.

I haven't listened to music or watched anything on tv for over a week as it doesn't feel right in this new survival mode routine.

During the day I pretend life is as normal as it gets - for the kids- brave face, happy strained smile, organising activities all day. Meeting up with my other homeless friends to share the emotional load and distract all our children, talk about this shit and create a new 'normal'. No end in sight, summer for another 2-3 months, no substantial rain in the near future, and all I want is a normal evening with my

husband while we do something as boring as watching cricket and having an argument. Hell how I miss having an argument with him.

Australians, I adore your spirit, go you farm units, awesome volunteer firefighters risking their lives for their friends every day all day while losing or having lost everything already, no income to follow, many obstacles - but you keep rocking it. Go Australia! Beat this beast.



The Schulz's work their wine grape property with efficiencies of machinery. This spray unit opens out to do three rows at the same time, they have a weedicide unit that does three rows and an over the row pruning machine to do a full row each pass.

For Peter and Jacque Schulz, growing grapes is both a partnership and a passion. Together, the couple have built a 500-acre property at Loxton in the Riverland area of South Australia over the course of their 34-year marriage.

Now they produce mostly shiraz, chardonnay and a number of other varieties, supplying to the Riverland Wine Grape Growers CCW Co- operative and Brian Dominic Winery.

But as Peter explains, grape growing wasn't necessarily their first foray into primary production. His family had farming property at Tarlee, while Jacque's family {Schrapel's} had vineyards at Auburn.

"Then we met and got married and went down to Sherlock as broadacre farmers," he says.

"When interest rates were 25% to 27% in the 1980s, we were encouraged to come up here and have a go helping others. We ended up doing our own thing here and started off with 50 acres."

Technology To Manage Efficiency & Fatigue

Peter and Jacque manage the property with the assistance of a workman and casuals. Contractors come in for the harvest, while Peter notes technology and automation is utilised where possible.

"We work it with efficiencies of machinery, some that does three rows at the same time. We've

got a machine that sprays the vines and that does three rows and a weedicide unit that does three rows," he says.

"We've also got an over-the-row pruning machine and at the moment we're developing, in conjunction with a manufacturer, a drone that you fly over the vineyard and it maps out the Gazanias."

The drone technology is just in its testing phase, but if successful, will use GPS positioning to pin-point the invasive weed, then double the use of Roundup in that area in a bid to eliminate it. It's a matter of making farming technology work in vineyards.

Peter and Jacque note that Gazanias take the moisture available to the vine and can reduce the crop on that plant by up to 50%. The Gazanias are a worse pest when using drip irrigation compared with sprinklers. Drip irrigation is often daily in summer compared with about every 10 days with sprinklers, and so the shallow-rooted Gazanias are never stressed and grow profusely.

Meanwhile, the couple are in the process of mapping their blocks for auto-steer tractors. They also use automated moisture probes, which relay soil conditions to the Cloud.

"Over the years, we've gone from a system where you actually had a pole that you slid into the soil. Then, we had this sort of probe that we've got now with the five sensors on it, and that transmitted back to the office via radio link. Then we went to a logger system where it's got a mobile phone data card. That used to send data

back to the computer.

"Now, just recently, that data card sends information into the Cloud and then we can look at it wherever we are in the world."

Peter says he has had an interest in technology from the outset, using it to enjoy greater efficiency and also manage the fatigue involved with machinery use and farming.

Part of that commitment to productivity has also seen them engage an agronomist who visits once a fortnight, and they then bring in harvesting contractors when it comes time to pick the grapes.

"We haven't got an abundance of labour to manage having a harvester and tote bins, so we have contractors and they'll sometimes come out with three machines," Peter says.

"One night we picked 22 semi loads and had more than 600 tonnes picked in one night."

"For us to do that ourselves with just one machine isn't feasible," Jacque adds. "And if we get really bad weather, they can come in with three machines and it's all off quickly."

Peter notes there's also more to harvesting than just picking the grapes.

"When they finish harvesting, they drive their machines away. When we were harvesting, well then you've got to wash down your machine, make repairs, and grease it."

"Not only that you've still got irrigation, you've still got Baumes to do," Jacque adds. "There's still that other stuff to be done as well, so it just makes it too hard."

Jacque and Peter manage the rest of those jobs together, with the assistance of their workman Michael.

Jacque is largely responsible for watering, while Peter looks after fertilising, weedciding, water management and Michael handles the majority of the vine spraying. Between them, they share the other work that needs to be done.

The pair note it's a partnership that has grown over the 34 years of their marriage and is strengthened by two people who are passionate about grape growing.

"We got married young," Peter says. "Jacque was 18 and I was 22, so we almost grew and learned together."

The couple have two children. Their son is a

Partnership With GRAPES

police officer while their daughter works at Landmark in Loxton and married a farmer about a year ago.

Her wedding reception was hosted at the family property as a testament to Jacque's other passion - gardening.

Interests Outside of "The Block" To Clear Your Mind

Over the years Jacque's garden has hosted fundraisers, numerous weddings and also been open to the public as part of the Riverland Rose Week.

"I love it. It's my getaway," Jacque says of the pastime.

Peter's release is motorbike riding. Each year after vintage he heads off for about 10 days on his Yamaha 1900 cruiser to regroup.

"It's good to clear your mind when you've got too many things in your head. It's about seeing things besides thinking about the vineyard all the time, because it does get fairly full on. It becomes your passion, your hobby and everything that you do, so it's nice to have other things outside of that."

Jacque explains she doesn't accompany Peter on the rides, but just as he supports her passion for gardening as "more of a chainsaw man", she supports his enthusiasm for riding by washing his bike.

"I like getting the chrome all nice and shiny. That's my thing," she laughs. "No, I think it's good for him. He gets away and clears his head."

When they're together on the property, the couple note they take "drives without a purpose".

"We go for drives, purely just drives around the vineyard, not to do anything," Jacque says.

"Back in the early days when I used to drive the spray plant, I'd be going up and down each row, and could see what was wrong, what needed to be done and what wasn't looking as good as it could," Peter adds.

"Each patch has to perform. So, we just go for a drive that's for the sake of ensuring everything looks all right."

The past five to 10 years have seen the vineyards enjoy major expansion, and with that has come an increase in the scale of machinery.



Jacque & Peter Schulz are proud of their new Grant Sheds machinery shed. It's 15m x 48m x 5.1m with 4x12m wide beams so they have minimal front columns, 8/6m wide x 5.1m high bottom roll sliding doors and a partition wall inside the shed to create a workshop area.

New Shed To Centralise And Protect Their Machinery

This recently prompted Jacque and Peter to purchase and construct a Grant Shed.

"We found with the shed that we had, which we originally thought was huge, we no longer had enough room. So, we decided to build another one," Peter says.

Measuring 15m by 48m with six-inch cement floors and four large openings, the new Grant Shed is designed to accommodate machinery and a workshop.

"It's been something we've needed for a long time," Jacque explains. "You know you can't have all this expensive stuff sitting outside."

It got to the point when all the tractors were home, two were sitting out, and stuff was parked here and there."

Not only will the shed allow them to better protect their machinery, it will centralise their operation.

Extremely Happy With Their New Grant Shed

And the couple say the process of working with Grant's to plan the shed, liaise with Council, and construct the new building was seamless. *"It just seemed to happen so quickly and efficiently," Peter notes. "Every phase seemed to be good. We're extremely happy with it."*



Grant Sheds Strength Features



Strong connection to ground via heavy baseplates & large footings bolts.



Strong Super-C frames and solid X-bracing creates a well braced, solid shed.



They chose bottom roll sliding doors - very easy to roll open despite large 6m x 5.1m size..

We Welcome New Members To Our GRANT SHEDS FAMILY

We are delighted to welcome the following people into our "Grant Sheds Family". As you can see our members (shed buyers) come from a broad geographic area and buy a wide range of shed types. And there are lots who have bought multiple "Aussie Tough" Grant Sheds over the years. I've marked those in **blue** and with a **red asterisk ***. **The number of 'Grant' sheds they've had is in blue brackets ().** It's quite amazing to see how many repeat-buyers we have and just how many sheds they've bought. Do you think that's because they are delighted with their Grant Sheds experience?

We thank you all sincerely for your ongoing faith in our sheds and in your relationships with us.
Strong Sheds, Great Builders, Building Relationships, Communication and Service. That's what we do.

*Ian Burdon (4)	Ashbourne	Garage	10m x 15m x 4.2m	Stephen Allen	Broughton, Vic	Hay Shed	18m x 30m x 7m
Greg Porter	Jamestown	Hay Shed	18m x 40.5m x 7.3m	*Ian Burdon (5)	Willunga	Garage	6m x 12m x 2.4m
Jason Dunn	Spalding	Machinery	12m x 36m x 5.1m	Dale Greenslade	Oakbank	Garage	15m x 15m x 4.2m
Antony Olorenshaw	Renmark	Garage	7.5m x 18m x 3.6m	Michael Mattei	Naracoorte	Machinery Shed	18m x 36m x 6m
Nick Smulders	Farrell Flat	Hay Shed	15m x 33m x 7.5m	*Peter Freeman (2)	Renmark	Machinery	18m x 15m x 5.3m
*Phil & Sandy Kernich (12)	Keith	Machinery	24m x 45m x 6.3m	*Colin Groth (2)	Keith	Fertiliser	7.5m x 15m x 2.4m
Jason Lazaroff	Mannum	Machinery	12m x 16m x 5.1m	Trevor Bowman	Kadina	Hay Shed	9m x 12m x 5.1m
Jim Heggie	Naracoorte	Garage	7.5m x 14.4m x 3m	*Trevor Lehmann (24)	Robe	Machinery	15m x 22.5m x 5.1m
Graham Hinze	Penola	Hay Shed	9m x 18m x 5.1m	*Julian Burton (2)	Cowell	Hay Shed	15m x 32.1m x 6m
Brett Bonselaar	Menindee	Hay Shed	18m x 24.3m x 6m	*Julian Burton (2)	Cowell	Fertiliser Shed	7.5m x 9m x 2.4m
*Jim Sangster (2)	Willalooka	Machinery	6m x 18m x 4.5m *	Michael Cook	Minlaton	Machinery	12m x 18m x 5.1m
Jonathan Ray	Hindmarsh Valley	Machinery	12m x 18m x 5.1m	*Century Orchards (2)	Loxton	Machinery	15m x 45m x 5.1m
*Sam Woolford (4)	Kimba	Machinery	15m x 40m x 5.1m	*Glen & Sharon Hoffman (3)	Loxton	Machinery	12m x 27m x 5.1m
John DeLaine	Highland Valley	Machinery	12m x 14m x 3.6m	Alan Milstead	Pinnaroo	Machinery	12m x 22.5m x 5.1m
Mark Browning	Morgan	Garage	9m x 15m x 3.6m	Dale Paxton	Kingscote	Fertiliser Shed	7.5m x 15m x 2.4m
Leon Rosenzweig	Berri	Garage	9m x 9m x 3.3m	Neville Jacka	Jamestown	Machinery	24m x 48.6m x 8.5m
Ray Kowald	Taillem Bend	Fertiliser Shed	7.5m x 12m x 2.4m	Arthur Niejalke	Kingston SE Hay	Shed	9m x 18m x 5.1m
*Kym Bennett (2)	Monash	Garage	7.5m x 12m x 2.7m	*Denis Miller (2)	Pooncarie	Hay Shed	12m x 32.5m x 6m
*Malcolm Allan (2)	Murrayville	Hay Shed	9m x 22.5m x 5.1m	Paul Jones	Koolunga	Machinery	21m x 48m x 6.4m
Nigel Skelton	Laura	Machinery	12m x 18m x 3m	Simon Schuster	Freeling	Machinery	15m x 21m x 5.1m
*Robert Hoepner (3)	Balaklava	Garage	7.5m x 14.4m x 3m	*Louis Curtis (19)	Lyrup	Machinery	12m x 45m x 5.1m
*Michael Thomson (2)	Werrimull	Machinery	9m x 24m x 3.6m				

Note: The shed numbers listed in () above are going by our computer records. Given Grant Sheds 68 year history, it's quite possible our numbers may be lower than truly correct. If you know you have more Grant sheds than listed, please give us a call to update and correct if for us. Thanks



62% bought a 'Grant' shed due to their own past experience or the experience of someone they know and trust in their advice.



40% = Existing Grant Shed owners buying from us again.



22% = Referrals from existing Grant Shed owners & people who have always known of Grant Sheds.

The secret lies in the unique combination of our 68 years with a culture of understanding and caring for farmers and building great sheds that you and we are proud of.

Thank you for putting your trust in us to build your new Aussie-Tough shed.



Ideas

To Help You With Your

FARM SHED SOLUTIONS



*"Excellent job. Good looking shed-STRONG!
Well done."*

That's how Michael Chigwidden from Clare SA described his new Grant Sheds MEGA Shed.

It is 15m x 33m x 6m, open on one side, with 4 x 8.25m bays. It has a large capacity guttering system with big gutters, rainheads installed and oversize downpipes.



**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



This 15m x 32.4m x 6m hay shed was built for Charles Asbhy at Coonalpyn.

It has 4 x 8.1m openings across the open front which is ideal for storing medium or large hay bales. It's one of our Aussie-Tough Super-C range. As it's intended as a hay shed Charles took up the option of vertical bale bumper rails along the rear wall to protect the wall iron. He also opted for UB steel for the front intermediate columns. There can be a lot of vehicle movement in hay sheds when filling it after harvest or when buying in hay and also when unloading throughout the year. The super-strength UB can be a wise choice for large hay sheds.



A new 15m x 18m x 5.1m open one end machinery shed built for Andrew Nicholls at Bordertown, SA.

MORE TOP CLASS SHED BUILDERS REQUIRED

We need more quality builders to keep up with increasing demand. If you know of a local shed builder who you think would be a great fit for our team, please let us know.

Email: danny@grantsheds.com.au

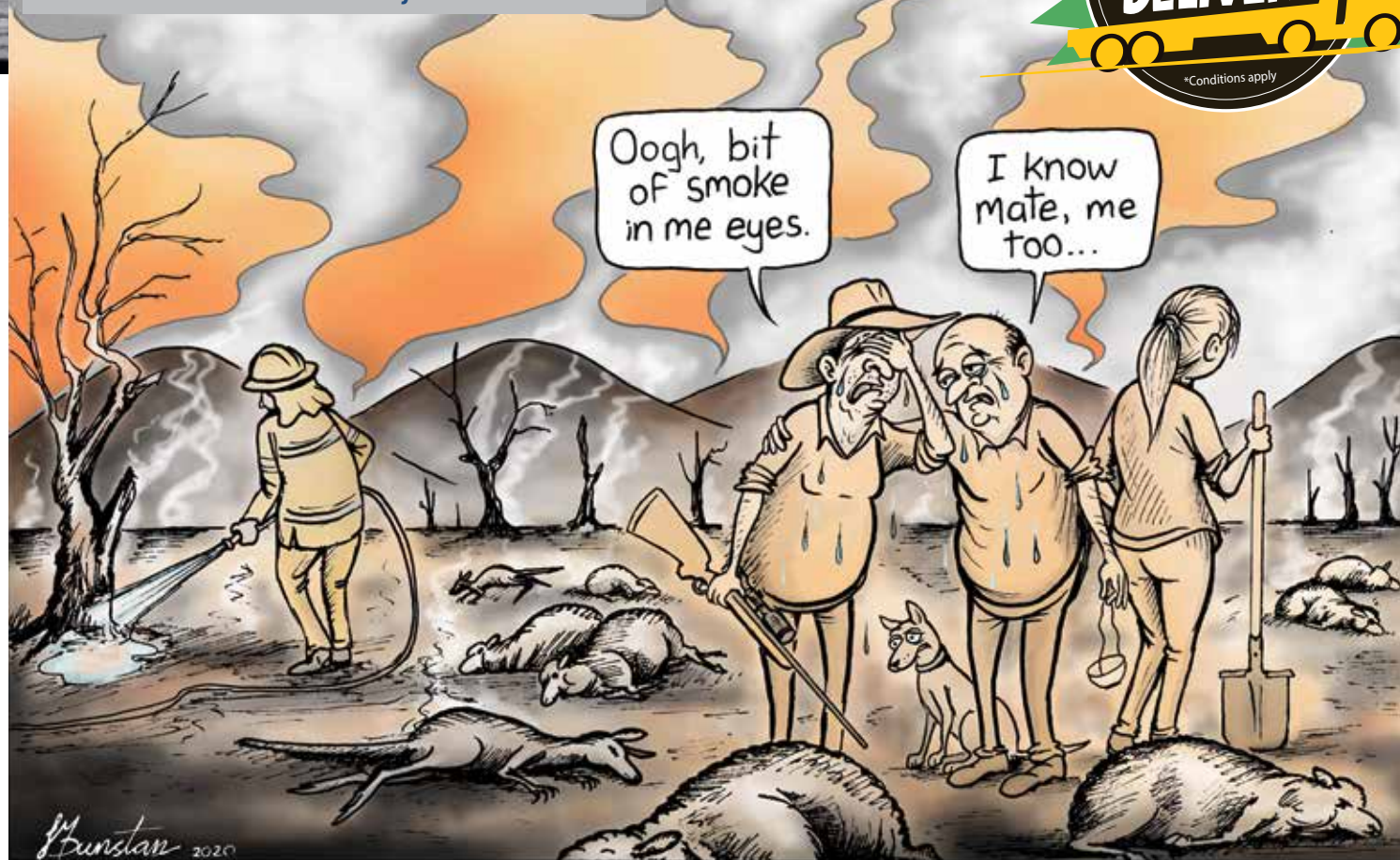
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And now, let us lighten your day. We hear that our (lame) jokes are a much-loved part of our regular FARM GATE NEWS publications. Take a moment and have a little amusement.

MONTHLY HUMOUR

A cardiologist died and was given an elaborate funeral. A huge heart, covered in flowers, stood behind the casket during the service.

Following the eulogy, the heart opened, and the casket rolled inside. The beautiful heart then closed, sealing the doctor inside, forever.

At that point, one of the mourners burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him, he said, 'I'm sorry, I was just thinking of my own funeral... I'm a gynecologist.' The proctologist fainted.

If anyone gets a message from me about canned meat, don't open it.

It's Spam!



I see there's a nudist convention in town next weekend. I might go. I have nothing on!

Yesterday I accidentally passed my wife a glue stick instead of her lipstick. She's still not talking to me!

My new years resolution is to stop using spray on deodorant. Roll on 2020.



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