

# FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



SEPT - OCT 2019

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

*Local Blokes*  
**ACHIEVING...  
MIGHTY  
THINGS** P4-5

**IS YOUR  
BUSINESS  
WORKING  
FOR YOU?** P5



Co-owner Grant Sheds, Danny Halupka with Barossa Valley Machinery Preservation Society secretary John Richardson and president John Anderson inside the new BVMPs workshop and exhibition shed at Angaston SA. (story P4-5)

**FREE BEER  
for a Year!**

For Mega Sheds ordered  
by October 31st  
\*Conditions Apply



**Back By Popular Demand  
MEGA SHED SPECIAL**

See back page & enclosed flyer for details

**Order By  
October 31st  
And Get The  
BONUS  
Items Listed**  
\*Conditions apply





Riverland Field Days  
**SEPTEMBER 13th-14th**  
 Yorke Peninsula Field Days  
**SEPTEMBER 24th, 25th, 26th**

# COMMUNITY

*Flying over the (small) fields of Germany, on the way to Italy*

## Amazing Architecture in Rome

So, Danny and I are of that "certain age" who have the freedom from young children that allows us to now choose to travel overseas occasionally.

It's not something that has always grabbed us as a 'must do' as we always said we'd like to see more of what Australia offers first.

However after a few overseas trips to attend family or friend weddings and a realisation that we should do some overseas travel while our health is good, we have just completed another.

This was a trip to Italy. Why Italy? Simply because friends asked us if we'd like to join them on a trip they were planning. So why not?

We flew to Rome via airport only stopovers in Singapore and Munich. During two days in Rome we enjoyed a personal guided walking tour that covered a number of very ancient buildings, fountains, statues and roadways. But it was The Pantheon that had us gob-smacked!



*The Pantheon in Rome, Italy was built around 126 AD and is an engineering marvel.*

The Pantheon building was the most amazing. And yes, it was the structure and the engineering that had the attention of us both!

From the outside, with its huge round columns it was impressive. From inside ... wow! Ancient paintings adorned the walls but it was the domed roof, with a wide diameter hole in the centre that caught our attention. Imagining water flooding the floor when it rained, the obvious question was, "What DOES happen when it rains?"

It turns out that if the doors of the building are open when it rains, the upflow draft is sufficient to blow the water away from the opening and none comes in. If the doors are not open, then 'Yes' the water does come in, and there are drains in the floor to take it away. So a great example of both the Romans building design and drainage expertise.

So amazing in such an ancient city.

Here's a little additional info about The Pantheon

The Pantheon is a former Roman temple, built around 126 AD. It is a cylindrical building with a front portico supported by large granite columns. The round (rotunda) building has a coffered concrete dome roof with a central opening (oculus) to the sky. Coffering being a series of sunken panels in the shape of a square, rectangle or octagon in a ceiling. They are used for decoration and also because the strength of the structure is in the framework of the coffers. There's your engineering lesson for today!

Almost 2000 years after it was built, the Pantheon's dome is still the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome. The height to the oculus and the diameter of the interior circle are the same, 43 metres. The original marble floor remains in tact.



*Looking up at the coffered concrete dome roof and central roof opening in the almost 2000 year old Pantheon building in Rome.*

It is one of the best-preserved of all Ancient Roman buildings, mainly because it has been in continuous use throughout its history. Some 7 million people visit this one building each year.

Interestingly, Italy is the 5th most visited country in the world.

With numbers like that, I thought I wouldn't

	Population	Tourists/Year
Rome	2,800,000	10,000,000
Italy	60,000,000	420,000,000



*The Capitoline Museum that contains a group of art and archaeological museums In Piazza del Campidoglio, Rome.*

like Rome, but the crowds weren't too bad when we were out and about. I really enjoyed the amazing history and was in awe of the age of the buildings.

We didn't visit the Vatican, though our friends did and said that despite being part of a tour group, they spent much of their day lining up and being herded through like sheep. And tours for the Colosseum tours were booked out so we passed it but didn't tour it.

After Rome we moved on to Tuscany. I'll tell you about that in our next edition.

Ciao! Ciao!

*Ali & Danny Halupka*

**Owners - Grant Sheds**



*Danny & Ali at the Fontana dei Quattro (Fountain of 4 Rivers) in Piazza Navona. It was commissioned in 1651 by Pope Innocent X whose family palace, the Palazzo Paphnili (at right), faced onto the Piazza (square).*

# You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

## Country Characters

All country communities have their larger than life characters and Jim Whitfield was one in our Riverland region in his younger life.

He met his wife Marj when she pinched buns from his delivery van. She was nine years old at the time and she emphatically told him she was going to marry him... and she did when she turned nineteen and they had three children.

Jim had various jobs throughout their married life – truck driver, fruit block owner and school bus driver.

In the late 1940's, Jim used the bus for Glossop High School bus rounds, plus Shopper's Run on Fridays and Picture Runs on Wednesday and Saturday nights. It was a popular form of transport to take residents of Monash and other outlying towns, into the Rivoli Theatre in Berri for picture films.

After the shows, there were more people waiting for the bus than the 33 passengers it was licensed to carry and all wanted to get home on the first bus

run. So, it was common for the bus to be filled to overflowing. Jim said he had 93 people in it one time.

Obviously one to push the boundaries, we have some evidence of the loads Jim carried on his truck.

- 8 tonnes of wood on his 3 tonne truck
- A very high load of 143 sweat boxes
- 12 ton 14 cwt load of grapes, using scavenger boards to increase carrying capacity

Jim died in 2015, at age 90, after a long and adventurous life. Marj passed away some years earlier. They are well remembered.



*MONASH BUS - Owned by Jim Whitfield 1955-1965 (previously owned by Laurie Müller). Used for school bus run to Glossop High School, plus Shopper's Run on Fridays and Picture Runs on Wednesday and Saturday nights.*



## Keith Campdrafting

2nd & 3rd November 2019



**FREE**  
admission  
from 7am  
Saturday  
& Sunday

**Grant Sheds is delighted to sponsor the Keith & Districts Campdraft Club.**

The KDCC prides itself on running a professional and engaging event that promotes the sport of campdrafting and supports the local communities and businesses that support them. It is this country community outlook that we love and why Grant Sheds is keen to support them.

For more information about this event, contact

**Pauline Kempe 0429 654 829**

## Karoonda Silo Art

Travelling through Karoonda recently, we were delighted to stop and view the new silo art.

It features iconic local mallee and farming elements that had been suggested by members of the local community.

I've also been amazed to read that there is also a permanent projection show against the silos that begins around sunset each evening and finishes at 9pm.

What a ripper idea.

I'll make a point of stopping in Karoonda for that.

Well done Karoonda community and all who have assisted in this project.

**Gotta Love Country!**



# South Austr SETTLES INTO



Dedicated BVMPs secretary John Richardson and president John Anderson proudly show off one of their favourite exhibition pieces, this mighty Blackstone Mirrlees 16 cylinder engine. The BVMPs were offered it from ABC Broadcasting in Adelaide and it had to be craned out of a basement. It was used to run a generator that John Anderson says could power most of Angaston.

**A slice of South Australian history is set to have a new home, with the Barossa Valley Machinery Preservation Society recently taking possession of a new Grant Shed for their priceless collection of engines, agricultural items, and mechanical memorabilia.**

Located in Angaston, the new workshop and exhibition shed will accommodate everything from a 1900s Angas Blackstone engine, to a 1927 Garford truck, and carbon arc projectors from Angaston Institute.

For the 60 or so members of the preservation society,

**the new home is over a decade in the making and the culmination of hard work, innovative thinking, and tireless fundraising.**

Society president John Anderson and secretary John Richardson explained the club was first started in the 1980s in a bid to preserve local history.

*"We'd been renting a place just behind the main street, and we could see down the track that would not be viable, because it was costing us quite a bit of money each year and the shed was getting very tired,"* Mr Anderson said.

*"About 10 to 12 years ago the current committee decided that we needed to look for a place of our own, and so with Council help, they gave us a site to work on."*

That site is part of the Angaston Railway Precinct - a \$2.1 million revitalisation project

that will see the historic station upgraded along with the creation of an open space nature play area, bike track, and picnic and events facilities.

In order to blend in with its historic surrounds, the preservation society's 15m x 60m shed was designed to replicate a heritage feel, with heritage galvanised roofing and a 30 degree pitch on the roof.

In total, preparing the site, pouring the concrete floor and constructing the shed has cost the society \$320,000, with the majority of the funding achieved through innovative fundraising, and pure hard work.

*"The council very kindly gave us a loan of \$105,000, which we're paying back over 10 years, and a donation of \$55,000, and the rest of the money we've earned ourselves,"* Mr Anderson said.

As part of their fundraising efforts, the society attends the Adelaide Show each year, showcasing their unique historical machinery to the wider community.

*"Most people wouldn't know a really rare engine from a normal engine. So, we go down there and try to have an old-times display that people can really relate to and show their kids what it was all about,"* Mr Anderson said.

The theme varies from year to year and the Adelaide Show committee provides the society with a donation for their efforts. In addition, the society has also been running clearing sales, complete with catering.

*"Luckily, we've got a broad range of membership with different backgrounds, and one of our members happens to be a registered*

*auctioneer. So, people have come to us and said: 'Would you run the sale for us?' Then we get the commission for running the sales."*

Mr Richardson noted catering the clearing sales helped boost the coffers, and in another fundraising venture they once also threw a dinner complete with some creative donation incentives.

The event was hosted in a church hall adjacent to the railway station and included a pig on a spit, silent auctions and a dare that saw Mr Anderson don a tutu.

*"On the Saturday afternoon as we were getting ready for the event, the member who's an auctioneer said: 'If you wear a tutu tomorrow at the event, I'll put up \$1000'. Anyway, I went home and spoke to my wife and some friends of ours, and we soon organised the equipment for that."*



In addition to the auctioneer's pledge, a further \$1000 was raised in support of Mr Anderson's striking new look, adding \$2000 to a successful event that raised \$12,000 in total.

*"In the spirit of the shed, we've done quite a few different things,"* Mr Richardson conceded.

Local businesses have also contributed to the cause, while some good old-fashioned hard yakka has helped reduce the cost.

To complete the massive 80 cubic metre concrete floor, members got stuck in to put up forticon and lay mesh, saving thousands of dollars.

The process hasn't been all smooth sailing, however. The group initially applied for a grant for the project but were knocked back, while soil tests at the site revealed the presence of arsenic, which resulted in delays and additional costs for removal.

The arsenic turned out to be contained to only a small area away from the shed and was most likely the result of coal cinder residue or leaked

# alian History A NEW HOME



chemicals from the trains.

*"We suspect a lot of the trains brought up the local produce - things like sheep dips. And farmers would pick them up from here. One of the things that was in sheep dips and produce like that years ago was arsenic,"* Mr Anderson explained.

But the hard work and hurdles are now in the past, with equipment soon to roll into the new facility and works to recommence on a whole host of restoration projects.

*"We're going to have a separate workshop area for the restoration projects. We've got a few that we haven't done because we've been saving our money to put our money into the shed,"* Mr Richardson said.

*"We've got a big engine from Portee Station that is stored up at Marrabel at the moment that's not going and that's one of our major projects that we've got to get into and get it up and running. We've got other tractors we've got to get going. A lot of it is all local history, and once we get it all restored, we can have it on display."*

**As for their experience with Grant Sheds, both Mr Anderson and Mr Richardson agree the process was smooth and the service excellent.**

**"We'd recommend Grant Sheds to anybody," Mr Richardson said. "In fact, I even got one for myself."**

And the preservation society has no doubt their expansive new shed will serve them long into the future.

*"We decided that we were only going to get one shot at this. To the credit of all the people in our club, even without the grant, we got up and ran with something different. We didn't cry over spilled milk, because we had a vision this shed had to happen,"* Mr Anderson and Mr Richardson reflected.

**"We've worked hard to make this a reality, so we're pretty proud of it."**



*The Barossa Valley Machinery Preservation Society is understandably very proud of their brand new Workshop & Exhibition shed. Built by Grant Sheds and the dedication of their very committed and hardworking members.*

*John Richardson, secretary of the BVMPS, invested in a Grant shed for himself in 2014.*

*It was this experience, the assistance provided by the Grant Sheds team during their planning phase and lack of interest from other shed companies they approached that led the BVMPS to use Grant Sheds for their new Workshop & Exhibition Shed.*

*John Richardson's own shed was 12m x 18m x 4.8m and he built it himself.*



*John Richardson's own shed had a fully enclosed section of 12m x 13.5m that has 1x9m beam & 2 easy-roll, sliding doors, plus a garaport with an open end for easy storage and access of small quantities of hay, etc*



*"I'd recommend Grant Sheds to anybody. I put one up myself. And we had it up, a mate and I, had it up in four days.*

*All the plans are good. Every bolt all fitted. And there was eight bolts that we were short of on one thing, and I rang up and I spoke to Brenton, and two days later the bolts were there. We had no drama. Nothing was too hard. Not a problem."*

**John Richardson, Eden Valley SA**

# Consider These Important FARM MANAGEMENT IDEAS

## Your Fire Insurance Reviews

Brenton, from our office, was recently talking with a large scale hay producer in the mid North of SA.

This farmer mentioned that he currently has 2 very large hay sheds along with another large shed he uses for both hay and farm machinery storage.

He has recently been told by his insurance company that if he continues to store machinery and hay in the same shed, and a fire occurs, his insurance excess will be 'bumped up' to somewhere in the vicinity of \$200,000 !!

And that is why he is now in need of a new machinery shed.

Now, I haven't been able to verify this information. I have tried contacting some



insurance companies but none would confirm or deny if this was the case with their company.

So at this stage, all I can do is suggest that you check this with your own insurance company if you currently store hay and farm machinery in the one shed.

I thought it was worth mentioning though.



## Farm Solar Warning!

I've recently read in the media that a number of farmers in Victoria have been caught out when solar panels they bought for their dairy sheds were incompatible for on-farm use.

Now I don't know the details of these incidences but thought it worth flagging as a warning to you if you're ever seeking solar power on your farm.

I guess you could

- Check with your solar supplier that what you are investing in will be compatible for on-farm use (& get that in writing)
- Contact your electricity supplier directly to seek their approval
- Or make sure that you get a copy of such approval from your solar supplier before the installation of the solar project begins and before you make any payments
- Only buy through a well known, established and trusted business

There is always some degree of risk when you are purchasing any product or service and it can be difficult to know how to protect yourself if you don't already know much technical information about the item. You naturally rely on the advice of the seller, but obviously your automatic trust is not always warranted.

You will have a much higher level of assurance when you buy from a well established, long-timer in whatever industry you are buying from.

Good companies stay in business by doing good things for their clients. That is where TRUST is established.



## Knowing What To Stop!



Readers of SA's Stock Journal newspaper, may be aware of Ken Solly who wrote a weekly article for a number of years. He also receives FARM

GATE NEWS and allowed us to print some of his articles. He has always been a keen FGN recipient as he recognises the value we provide for keeping farmers and farming communities in touch.

While farming communities have traditionally been very social groups, in our modern world, with less farmers in each community and more technology, we just don't get out and catch up face to face as often. This also means that we may not pick up on the signals that a friend or neighbour may be struggling and feeling isolated.

Ken Solly has long been a mentor to farmers, particularly in the sheep industry. Despite being out amongst farming people for weeks on end during a sheep farming & mentoring tour, he'd then be back home ... alone ... and finding that very difficult to handle. He was also as busy as ever, despite trying to ease into retirement.

It's a strange thing; to be stressfully busy, yet isolated &/or lonely. It's not good for your mental health and Ken recognised that, so he's pulled the pin on his Stock Journal writing and some other things so that he can release the pressure that he'd been under. He decided to take a journey to visit some friends he'd been meaning to catch up with for a long time, and we were on that list. We were delighted to finally meet him in person and it's when he shared his personal struggle. It's one that many others have as well and we were honoured that he felt comfortable to share this with us.

**One of the best pieces of advice we've received in recent years, from a business mentor, is to make a decision on what projects or tasks we can delegate or what we need to STOP doing (for now or forever) so that we can properly concentrate on the most important few.**

Does this resonate with you? If you are under stress (& remember that continuous busyness is also stress), stop a moment to work out your priorities and if you need to stop things but feel that you can't, ask yourself, "Will the world end tomorrow if I put this project on hold?"

**Sometimes we are just too tough on ourselves. Be kind to yourself.**



# Ideas

## To Help You With Your

# FARM SHED SOLUTIONS

Have A Look At These Beauties...



### 9m x 18m x 5.1m Machinery Shed

Open one side with 4 x 4.5m bays.

This shed was built for **Peter Zunic at Renmark**. It's a great size for the tractors and equipment for horticulture properties. The 4.5m wide bays giving plenty of width clearance. Alternatively, an 18m long shed could have 6 x 3m bays or 3 x 6m bays. These options are something we can offer and discuss with you to help you decide what may be best for you.



### 15m x 45m x 6m Drive-Through Shed

Open both ends.

Built for **Clint Oswald at Yaninee**, between Wudinna and Minnipa on the Eyre Peninsula SA. Open on both ends, it creates an easy drive-through shed for his long farm machinery combinations.

Grant Sheds 'easy-roll' sliding doors on one or both ends is an option to consider if you want greater weather or theft protection.

## Back By Popular Demand MEGA SHED SPECIAL

Order By  
October 31st  
And Get The  
**BONUS**  
Items Listed

See Back Page  
& Flyer for More  
Examples & Details



### 20m x 30m x 6.6m MEGA Shed

UB columns and webbed roof trusses. Open one end.

This is a great storage space for plenty of hay or very large, long farm machinery and implements. This one was built by Grant Sheds, for **Graham Bagshaw at Maitland**, Yorke Peninsula.

Super-sized sliding doors could be supplied to fully enclose this shed. In this case we'd recommend bottom roll doors to support the weight of them. When you get to this size, each door may be up to 5m wide x 6.6m high. That's a large 'sail' area so you want them strong, well engineered and still easy to roll open.



### 18m x 40.5m x 7m MEGA Hay Shed

UB columns and webbed roof trusses

Open one side. 5 x 8.1m wide bays.

Optional bale bumpers,

High capacity gutters, rainheads and downpipes

These bay sizes are ideal for storing 3 x large hay bales wide per bay to make greatest and most efficient use of the available space.

The large capacity gutter system shifts water from heavy downpours away from the roof, and your valuable hay ... FAST!

This beauty belongs to **Jake Schutz at Eudunda, SA**.

# Back By Popular Demand MEGA SHED SPECIAL

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And Get The  
**BONUS**  
Items Listed

Order Before October 31st

## MEGA MACHINERY SHEDS & HAY SHEDS

UB Columns (Universal Beam)  
OWJ Roof Trusses (Open Web Joist)  
18-30m span

Example Shed shown is **21m x 48M X 6.4M** and has 4 x 12m extra wide carry beams, a drive-through section and 12 x 4m wide, easy-roll sliding doors on bottom tracks to fully enclose the shed. Other sizes & layouts available.



See Enclosed Flyer  
for additional shed  
examples



### \*COMPLIMENTARY **BONUS** ITEMS

Orders Must Be Placed Before October 31st

- **Wall Iron Upgrade to Heavier Roof Iron Grade**  
Reduces likelihood of iron damage
- **Hot Dip Galvanised Columns** For corrosion control
- **High Volume Gutters, Rainheads & Downpipes**  
Fast and easy-flow rainwater clearing to prevent overflows
- **Bale Bumper Rails** to protect your wall iron (Hay sheds only)
- **FREE Beer For A Year!**
- **Immediate 100% Tax Deduction** for fodder storage sheds inc hay  
Seek your own independent advice on how the tax rules may apply to your specific circumstances.

**FREE BEER**  
for a Year!  
For Mega Sheds ordered  
by October 31st  
\*Conditions Apply

## MONTHLY HUMOUR

### The Bathtub Test



During a visit to my doctor, I asked him,  
"How do you determine whether or not an older  
person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we  
offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the  
person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said.

"A normal person would use the bucket because it  
is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," he said. "A normal person would pull out the  
plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

### This Frog is Stoned!



A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller.  
He can see from her name badge that her name is Patricia Whack.  
"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."  
Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says  
his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger and that it's ok, he  
knows the bank manager. Patty explains that he will need to secure  
the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure, I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain  
elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.  
Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the  
bank manager and disappears into his office.  
She says to him, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who  
claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, using this pink  
elephant as collateral."

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knickknack,  
Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

**You sang it didn't you?  
Yeah, I know you did!**

### SENIORS TEXTING CODE

- ATD: At The Doctors
- BFF: Best Friend Fell
- BTW: Bring The Wheelchair
- BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth
- FWIW: Forgot Where I Was
- GGPBL: Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low
- GHA: Got Heartburn Again
- IMHO: Is My Hearing-Aid On
- LMDO: Laughing My Dentures Out
- OMMR: On My Massage Recliner
- OMSG: Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- ROFLACGU: Rolling On Floor Laughing  
And Can't Get UP
- TTYL: Talk To You Louder



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