

FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



MAY - JUNE 2019

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

FREE BEER
for a Year!

For Mega Sheds
ordered by June 30
*Conditions Apply



**END OF FINANCIAL YEAR
MEGA SHED SPECIAL**

See back page & enclosed flyer for details

Order By
June 30
And Get The
BONUS
Items Listed

*Conditions Apply



Yarns
From The Farm P3



**3 GREAT
INVESTMENTS**
Available Right Now! P7

What You Can Learn From
**MANS BEST
FRIEND** P6



FARM SHED
Solutions P7

KI PRIME LAMB Producers P4-5



COMMUNITY

Photo from Sandy Kernich, Yamba SA

Drought Breaking...?

We hope so. It's what everyone is talking about! RAIN!

We are so pleased that most areas have received at least some rain and other areas have received significant rain.

While it will be a while before there is enough feed in paddocks for livestock, at least it brings hope &/or renewed enthusiasm for farmers and growers. There may be an end in sight from daily hand-feeding. The hay supply may just last.

We're still hopeful of significant rain in the Murray-Darling Basin areas to fill water storages and give irrigators hope of increased water allocations.

It's lovely watching social media and seeing farming people checking out who got what amount of rain in their own district and others. It has always been, and will always be, a topic of frequent discussion.

In Defence of Good Men

In our Nov-Dec 2018 edition of FARM GATE NEWS I wrote an article about how media stories about violence by some men leaves good men feeling badly tainted.

I received this lovely letter in reply:

Dear Ali ... Having just caught up with my mail, which included Farm Gate News, which I always devour with great interest and especially this edition with your article "In Defence of Good Men." You have handled the situation extremely well and I commend you for it.

Stan Hayles.

My reply back to Stan (in part):

"Hey Stan, Thank you so much for your personal letter to me... Your comments about my article is appreciated. I do feel that in recent years, there has been so much media coverage about awful things done by some men, that it has thrown a dark shadow over all men.

I know Danny (my very good man) feels it. Yet he would never do any of the horrible things that keep coming up.

Absolutely, those who do bad things should be punished &/or rehabilitated and I see the value in bringing it to the public's attention.

But still... GOOD MEN get at least a little tainted in the process and I find that sad.

All the best... Ali



We Love Farming Families

There was a great photo of Ryan Konzag on the front page of the Stock Journal on May 9th.

In the accompanying article, when commenting on the past two dry years, Ryan said,

"When my dad started farming, he would never have expected to reap crops on such little rain. Modern farming practices allow us to grow reasonable crops in a 'drought' year."

A lot has changed in that time as far as grain farming is concerned, hasn't it? Quite amazing progress.

Growers and farming industries in general are very innovative and forward thinking.

Some city-folk wouldn't see or recognise that.

Whatever farming industry you're involved in, be proud of what you do and how you do it.

If there's one thing that is a positive out of a drought, it's that farming gets a mention in the media that town and city folk see and then most start to appreciate what farmers actually do and provide.

Yes, some negative comment appears too, but overall it does at least bring some attention to farming and the food provided by farmers.

And some city folk finally take note that there is life out there after the suburbs end ... And we've gotta be grateful for that!



Thank you to all our growers/farmers and country communities. We really appreciate what you do.

SEE YOU AT THE FIELD DAYS

Speed Field Days
JULY 31st - AUG 1st

Riverland Field Days
SEPTEMBER 13th -14th

Yorke Peninsula
Field Days
SEPTEMBER
24th, 25th, 26th



G'day to Malcolm Kelly of Hallet who visited us at a recent field day.

So, I'll let you delve into the rest of this EOFY edition of FARM GATE NEWS.

And if you need any help planning your next shed, please give us a whistle (phone us) and we'll be happy to help.

All the best

Ali & Danny Halupka

Owners - Grant Sheds



You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

Yarns From The Farm

Someone asked me a few days ago what happens at seeding time. And the simple answer of "it's when we plant the crops" just didn't do it justice. Seeding time is... a combination of little moments.

- It's the unspoken tension as the weather forecasts show up empty handed each morning.
- It's the chaos that comes with trying to coordinate tractors, and the trucks to fill the tractors, and the utes to fuel the trucks.
- It's the familiar glow of tractor headlights on the horizon as evening falls.
- It's the 180km round trip into town for machinery parts and veggies.
- It's trying to navigate your way around the trees and rock piles while your tractor cab is engulfed in a cloud of dust.
- It's the relief of falling asleep to the sound of rain on the tin roof.
- It's the satisfaction of finishing the last run on a big paddock.
- It's the amazing sunrises and sunsets that leave the sky dripping with colour.
- It's working alongside each other in silence, too tired to talk while clambering up over tyres and metal bars to unblock seeding hoses.
- It's the 9pm fill ups underneath the Milky Way that put life back into perspective,
- It's the family two-way talk back that starts up after listening to Richard Fidler or the Country Hour on ABC radio in 3 different vehicles.



Erin's mum, Jo Pope (and the dog), ready for another seeding shift on their farm at Moorine Rock, WA.

- It's figuring out the perfect lunchbox combination as you draw to the end of the season.
- It's the constant tag team between jobs to keep the sheep happy as well as the air seeder moving.
- It's lots of big decisions like which crop to plant on which soil type, which paddock to start first or how much of the program to put in given the weather conditions.
- It's trying to remember the one million tractor grease points that Dad has pointed out to you.
- It's stopping for a chat with your neighbours at the cross roads to see which side of the fence got more rain.

But yeah... essentially it's when we plant the crops.

Article provided by Erin Pope - Moorine Rock, Western Australia , Yarns From The Farm (Facebook and Instagram) www.yarnsfromthefarm.com

Supporting Country Communities

Grant Sheds is pleased to support a large number of country community groups from a broad range of associations and over a wide geographical areas.

We know it is the sporting clubs, show societies, service organisations, field days and other groups that keep individuals in country communities connected with each other and doing great things to help others. That helps everyone's physical and mental health.

To those thousands of volunteers in our regions, we salute and thank you for your ongoing support of your local area.

Here are just a few groups we've sponsored recently:

- Maitland Rifle Club Open Prize Meet - Sept
- Riverland Speedway
- Penong Hall renovation - Eyre Peninsula
- Keith & Districts Campdrafting Club
- Barmera Sheep Dog Trials (6 - 9th June 2019)
- Riverland Baseball League
- Burra Picnic Races - 26th October 2019
- Western Tigers Football & Netball Club, Penong, Far West Eyre Peninsula
- Pinnaroo SupaRoos Football-Netball Club
- Pinnaroo Show
- Riverland Field Days
- Berri Golf Club
- Barmera Golf Club
- Brown's Well Football Club



Kangaroo Island Farm

PRIME LA



Two very large 'MEGA' Sheep Yard Covers were built for the Florance families in February this year. This investment in their sheep enterprise shows their commitment to their main farm focus. These sheds weren't built yet when we visited Annette & Damien last November. We'll bring you more photos and information in future editions of FARM GATE NEWS.

On Kangaroo Island, fourth-generation farmer Damien Florance reflects "you've got to do what you're good at". And on his combined family's 3000-acre properties at Vivonne Bay they're very good at sheep and cattle.

Damien, his wife Annette and his parents, Ron and Vivienne, run mainly crossbred lambs along with 1500 Merino ewes and 120 head of angus cattle.

It's part of a family heritage on the island that dates back to the 1880s, shortly after the island was settled.

"We're not the original settlers, but rather one of the early families," Damien explains. "The Florance family farmed over Wisanger way towards Emu Bay originally and then my father brought a block here in the 1960s.

My mother and father have the farm the next road over, while we bought one of their blocks a few years ago and also have this farm here. We work together, just sort of helping each other out."

Damien and his father operate the farms together, while Annette and his mum also help on the farm and run the administration side of the business. The couple also has three children, who share a love for agriculture. Their eldest daughter is a research agronomist in WA, their eldest son is in his third year of Ag Science and their youngest son has just completed Year 12 and is spending a year at home working both on the family farm and for other local farmers.

All three attended boarding school on the mainland, which Damien and Annette note offered the chance to experience life outside the island.

"It's just the opportunity to experience a different lifestyle for a while and meet new people, as they might spend the rest of their lives here, maybe," Damien notes.

Diversifying Captures What's Doing Best

The family's major focus on the farm is prime lamb, but they also have an income stream from wool, and sell cattle to stores and at the Strathalbyn markets. The diversification ensures when one market is down another is up.

"You hope each year that something is good. If one thing's off, the other is up, and generally prime lambs are pretty well-suited to Kangaroo Island because our lambs are gone by spring time.

When we've got our feed, we've got our lambs. When the feed goes off, the lambs are gone, and it's pretty quick cashflow for four or five months' work, so it suits us well."

Meanwhile a couple of hundred acres is used for hay cropping that goes towards feed. Damien explains they used to crop more extensively, but decided their efforts were better placed in livestock.

"We've never really set up for cropping because we don't want to buy the machinery or have to rely on contractors to do everything. The freight issue is a major one with cropping, but the Pure Grain guys seem to have that sorted now where they're getting their freight rates down."

The cost of freighting supplies to and from the island also impacts other areas of running a farm and Damien notes when grain is being shipped off the island it offers the opportunity to backload supplies like fertilizer from the mainland at a cheaper rate.

A couple of years ago they also constructed a roll-top Grant Shed to store this fertilizer until it's required.

"We actually just ordered some leftover fertilizer from last year that we got a good price on," Damien says. "That's coming soon because we get good freight rates this time of year when they're carting grain off the island from last year."

"Having a shed definitely saves us a few quid."

"Plus, it's convenient. We used to drop fertilizer on the ground and have to try and pick it all up. Whereas now we put it all in the bunker and if we want to put some out today and some out next week, we can do what we like."

The shed also accommodates other items throughout the year including wool after shearing, grain for feed, and the family's boat, which Damien jokes is hidden at the back to reduce his temptation to go fishing.

"I like my fishing," he reflects. In the autumn, that fishing is enjoyed in Vivonne Bay, but when the winds pick up in the summer, he

4 GRANT Sheds In 4 Years

The Florance families of Kangaroo Island have 4 Grant sheds purchased over the past 4 years.

1. 2015 7.5m x 9m x 2.4m Sliding Roof Fertiliser Shed #1
2. 2015 7.5m x 9m x 2.4m Sliding Roof Fertiliser Shed #2
3. 2019 20m x 24m MEGA Sheep Yard Cover #1
4. 2019 26m x 24m MEGA Sheep Yard Cover #2



ners Diversify But With A LAMB FOCUS

heads to the north side of the island where whiting, snapper and tuna are in steady supply.

Meanwhile, his other hobby is football.

"I've always been heavily involved in sport," he notes.

Over the years he has played for, coached and been on the committee of the local AFL club, the Saints. And it is a pastime he has shared with both of his sons.

"I played a game with both of the boys. When I played with the youngest, that was my last game. I retired after that, but that was good."

The boys still come back to play football a bit. The sporting clubs are a social outlet for most people on the island."

Annette's also enjoys sporting pursuits, with horse riding a particular passion. It's an activity she has enjoyed since she was a child.

"I've always been a part of the Pony Club and competed when I lived on the mainland," she notes.

"We've continued to do what we can over here. So, for 18 years I was part of the Pony Club, instructing and everything."

Annette's enthusiasm for riding is something she shares with her children and it also extends to the Kangaroo Island tradition that is the local Hunt club. The club does not hunt animals, but rather has a focus on riding and Annette currently fills the role of Hunt Master.

"Hunting over here is basically over a set course between 15 and 20km. We just go out for a fun afternoon that includes nibbles and drinks with friends," Annette explains.

"But we still get in the full attire and have our rules. I've got up to a couple of hunts on the mainland and at Kangaroo Island we've hosted the state hunt three times since I've been here, which is always a good weekend in June. I think Kangaroo Island is known for its hospitality."

Annette notes the hunts are held on eight or nine local properties including their own.

Meanwhile, she also works part-time at the local tourism venue, Vivonne Bay Lodge.

"I'm mainly a cook there, but I do a bit of everything like the cleaning and bistro stuff as well."



Annette & Damien in front of one of the family's two Sliding Roof Bulk Fertiliser sheds, purchased from Grant Sheds a few years ago. As Damien says about their fertiliser buying in this story, "Having these sheds certainly saves us a few quid."



Ready to fill! Danny with Damien & Annette in the Sliding Roof Bulk Fertiliser Shed. The optional swing doors are open here. Two people can easily push the roof back onto the runout tracks behind the shed. It only takes 5-10 minutes to unload a semi-tipper truck, including opening and closing the roof! In fact, we timed it, it took just one minute to open the roof (photo below shows open position) and another one minute to close it. Then there's just the truck reversing and tipping time.

In the prime tourism season of summer, Annette works there up to five days a week, but as a casual, it still allows her time off for farm duties like shearing. The off-farm income has proved welcome over the years and as Damien jokes: "It also keeps her sanity. She'd have to spend all day with me otherwise."

As for future plans, the couple explain they're content with the size and scope of the farm.

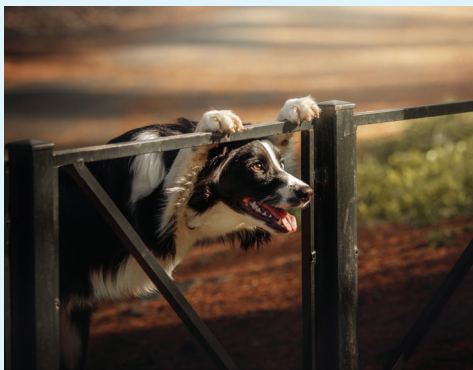
"We'll probably just stay as we are, with a prime lamb focus. But we're still keeping a finger in wool. At this stage things are going along well."



"We've just had a dry year and a really good growing season too, so the lambs were as heavy as we've ever had. We had a good year and good prices, which doesn't happen very often."

Living Your Life HAPPILY AND SAFE

Why do humans live longer than dogs?



From the mouth of a child... "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?"

"Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay for as long as we do."



If a dog was the teacher we'd learn things like:

- When your loved ones come home, always run to greet them
- When you're happy, let it show
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a ute ride with your mate
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy
- Take naps to restore energy
- Stretch before rising
- Run, romp, and play daily
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do
- Never give up, even when someone says 'No'
- On warm days, lie on your back & enjoy the sunshine
- On hot days, drink lots of water, stay cool
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk
- Be faithful
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently

That's the secret of happiness that we can learn from a good dog.

9 Small but dangerous items in your car, ute or truck that could cost you more than you thought

There was a recent police blitz in our Riverland area. And be warned, the crackdown could be coming to your area soon.

Here's what happened...

Fines were handed out for seemingly "normal" practices like a handbag on the front passenger seat. Locals were quick to jump on social media and complain about the ridiculous nature of some of the infringements they copped fines for.

On the surface, they did seem frivolous, but when the reasons are explained it becomes much more understandable.

And while it may have seemed fairer for police to simply give a warning and help with education, those days are now gone.

In the interests of educating though, here are a number of seemingly harmless items you may regularly keep in your car or farm vehicle when driving and didn't even consider how "fine-worthy" or dangerous they could be in an accident or close-call situation:

- Wallets and phones
- Children's toys
- Books
- Camera
- Tissue box
- Fire extinguisher
- Groceries
- Log Book
- Water bottle

The reasoning police gave is that all of these can become "projectiles" if you brake heavily or crash. Even sharp corners can turn anything with a bit of weight into a potentially lethal missile.

Imagine a single bag of groceries you've plonked on the back seat. If you brake quickly the bag may fall off the seat and the contents spill onto the floor. That's just a nuisance. But what if you are in a crash and a can of soup flies out of that bag and hits you or a passenger in the head?



What if that toy you let little Joey hold has sharp corners and hits him in the eyes when you brake quickly?

Are you doing the right thing and have a fire extinguisher in your ute or truck but just have it stored loosely behind the seat?

To the letter of the law, these small items should be placed in your glovebox, lidded centre console or elasticised pockets behind the front seats. Larger items should always go in your boot. In utes or trucks, store larger items in storage boxes securely connected to your vehicle.

The message from police is don't risk serious injury or death by seemingly harmless or careless actions. It only takes an extra moment to store them safely and it could save you from being fined down the track.

Innocent mistakes like this on the road are a bit like innocent mistakes we often see when farmers buy a shed. Like a "handbag on the seat is just a hand bag on the seat", you may think "a shed is just a shed".

It may seem like it makes sense then to simply shop around for the cheapest. But like the "projectiles blitz" police recently conducted, there are always many more things to consider beyond "cheapest price".

Back onto vehicles though...check what you have 'floating around' in your vehicles that should be stored more securely.



Ideas

To Help You With Your **FARM SHED SOLUTIONS**

High Efficiency Mega Hay Shed



24m x 48.6m x 6.9m MEGA Hay Shed

David Eckert of Mentara Park, Meningie, SA had this whopper built by Grant Sheds a few years ago.

Layout: Open one side

Capacity: Almost 3000 8' x 4' x 3' medium bales

Bays: 3 x 16.2m beams across the front allow David to fit 6 x 2.4m long hay bales comfortably in each section. It means no cramming as that would slow the storage and removal of hay, and no wasted space so his investment dollars are fully utilised. It means the return on his investment is very efficient.

Design: Hot Dip Galvanised UB Columns for ultimate strength and rust prevention.
Galvanised Open Web Roof Trusses
Wide, webbed carry beams to give the 16.2m openings
Super heavy duty footings connections

Sliding Roof Fertiliser Shed



Ian Vallis of Loxton, invested in this 7.5m x 12m x 2.4m Sliding Roof Bulk Fertiliser Shed. The roof rolls back easily onto the run-out tracks behind it. Just 1 or 2 people can roll it easily. To see how, view video at www.GrantSheds.com.au/fertiliser-sheds



3 Great Investment Ideas

1. Be PAID To Build Your New Hay Shed

Hay shed stories in a few of our 2018 editions of FARM GATE NEWS have highlighted the additional money you can make by storing your hay under cover.

When talking with another farmer recently, who was interested in these sheds, he said that he'd already done his homework. He had established that he could pay his new hay storage shed off very quickly with the payments he can receive from the hay processors who encourage on-farm hay storage.

He could pay it off in:

- Just one year if he gets paid \$100 per tonne by the hay processors or
- Two years if paid \$50 per tonne.

Either way, he recognises it makes great commercial sense.

2. NEW Fodder Storage Tax Deduction Rules

The recently announced change, gives Primary Producers **Immediate 100% Tax Depreciation*** for fodder storage sheds. It means it's an ideal time to make a hay shed investment even if your plan is to drought-proof by investing in future feed storage for your own livestock.

3. NEW Tax Deduction Rules

Any eligible business (including primary producers), can claim an **Immediate 100% Tax Depreciation*** for any new assets costing up to \$30,000. This may be suitable to some small sheds, including our Sliding Roof Bulk Fertiliser Sheds.

Even if this past financial year has you in a loss position, any increase in that loss (from this fodder storage write off) can be carried forward to future income years so the deduction isn't lost to you.

Don't wait too long though. We're not sure how long these ATO tax deduction rules will last.

*EASY SHED FINANCE

Easy shed finance packages are available to help you invest in a new hay shed now.

It might just get you in this "Hay Investment" opportunity faster and allow you to build your wealth where your cashflow may otherwise not have allowed it.

*Seek advice from your own advisors for your specific circumstances and what opportunities will suit you best.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR MEGA SHED SPECIAL

Order By
June 30
And Get The
BONUS
Items Listed

Order Before June 30

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 June 30

- **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 June 30 *Conditions Apply



MONTHLY HUMOUR

Kids Crack Me Up !!

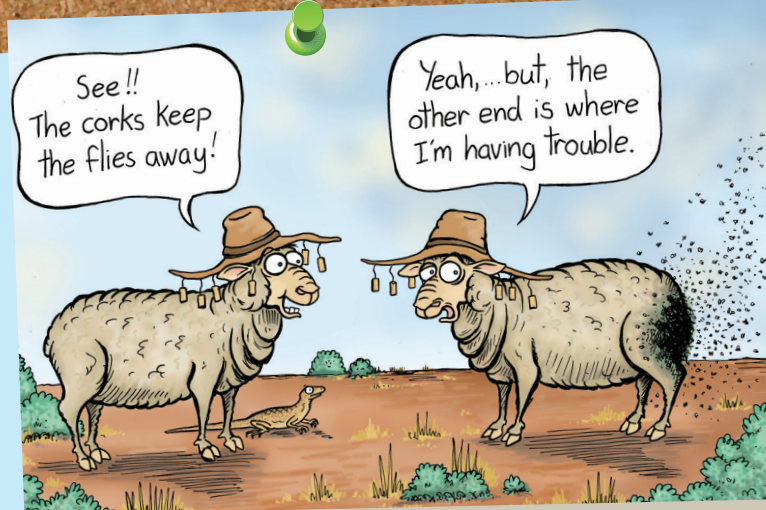
On guard against hugs

We attended the Big Bash game at the MCG on Sunday night. Our whole family, including 3 young children, was screened "airport style". For Edward, our 4 year old, it was his first Big Bash game and he clearly isn't up with the latest terrorism precautions. A burly security guy doing the body scan crouched down and held out his arms to demonstrate the search position, so naturally Edward moved in and gave him a big hug. Trying to hold back laughter, the security guard held his arms out again and got a second hug, then a third hug. Makes you wonder how it ever came to this going to a cricket match. Nobody is born to hate; it's something we are taught.

Thomas Reeh, Ashburton

LIONS SEX

Two old men are drinking
in a bar. One says,
"Did you know that Lions have
sex 10 to 15 times a day?"
"Aww, darn!" says his friend,
"I just joined Rotary!"



Sheep cartoon for a Sheep Farmer story (Page 4-5). Thanks again to **Jed Dunstan Cartoons** with whose approval it is reprinted. Prints, T-shirts and other products are available at www.jmdcartoons.com.au via the T-shirts/Merch or Shop button. They'd make great presents.

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FARM GATE NEWS: The Farmer's Newsletter PHONE 1800 088 528 EMAIL info@grantsheds.com.au

GRANT SHEDS PO Box 29, Monash, SA 5342 FAX 08 8583 5402 WEB www.grantsheds.com.au

