

FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



MARCH-APRIL 2019

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

Successful Kangaroo Island Family Farming Venture P4-5

SEX ON SITE? P2

More Naked Secrets Exposed P2



FARM SHED Solutions P7



Happy Easter FROM Grant Sheds



What Makes Country Life So Good? COMMUNITY



Naked Secrets Exposed

OK, so my story on page 2 of last month's edition of FARM GATE NEWS about when I got caught nicking out to the clothesline semi-naked, got a few laughs! We got quite a bit of feedback on that one.

I think everyone could either imagine it or had done it at some time and hoped they wouldn't get caught. Here's a letter we received from Noel Hicks at Victor Harbor,

"Dear Ali,

Farm Gate news came yesterday and, as always, I read it with much interest. Items I will comment on are (1) You and the gardener, (2) The Playground and (3) The foxes on the fence.

(1) 50 years or more ago, my brother and I were servicing the header on our parents property prior to harvest. It was stinking hot. My brother sent me up to the house to make a phone call. After knocking on the door a couple of times, the lady renting the house opened the door. She was dressed as you were when you were heading to the clothesline. Her comment was, "Nothing is suitable for this weather!" I didn't say anything. Just leave it to your imagination as to what I thought!

(2) Yes, I remember the Monash Playground. We took our children there a few times when holidaying over this way.

(3) Do you have any idea how many foxes are hanging on the fence? By rough calculation, using the photo (12 foxes to the 1/2 inch, 6" end to end = 144 foxes. See if anyone else comes up with a figure.

I remain yours etc ... Noel"

I have no idea how many foxes were on that fence Noel. Suffice to say it was a huge number. Here's the photo again (smaller version) for anyone new to Farm Gate News and didn't see last edition.



Sex On The Building Site

They've booked the penthouse and are all loved-up!

The insects that is.

These are the things our builders see when building sheds.



Building Country Communities

At Grant Sheds, one of our ongoing goals is to strengthen and give back to our country communities. Like you, we are country people and we understand the value of human bonds.

Our FARM GATE NEWS mini-magazine is a big part of that commitment so that we can help showcase farmers from different geographical areas and types of agriculture.

Supporting local sporting clubs and events through sponsorships is another way we support personal connection for health and happiness.

This year we played a major sponsorship role for the Riverland Baseball League, a game played by Danny, our kids and our grandkids over the years.

In the photo at the top of this page, Danny (in the middle in yellow & black shirt) is at the official opening of the new Riverland Baseball League store shed in Berri and (below) as major sponsors we provided our own, extended family grandstand. Yep ... the old tray top truck and multiple lounge suite variety. Not something seen by city-slickers at their events !!

If you're a Riverland or Mallee person you may recognise some faces here. There are Hampels, Harringtons, Halupkas, Lidgerwoods and others in this pic. All familiar Loxton, Berri and Monash names.



Grant Sheds Easter - Anzac Break

With the **Easter & Anzac public holidays** in one week, we're giving our team a well-earned break and **our office will be closed from Friday 19th to Sunday 28th April.**

We'll all be back on deck on **Monday 29th April.**
Happy Easter

Ali & Danny Halupka
Owners - Grant Sheds



You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

Farming Families Picnic



Another gorgeous Australia Day celebration photo here back in 1951. It's a traditional scene with a stretch of long sandy beach, kids running amok, and a picnic under the shade of huge Gum trees.....only where could you find Gum trees this close to the water's edge?

Beautiful Lake Bonney in Barmera, SA of course!

Rosemary Gower added some info about this photo: *"This photo was taken over eighty years ago at Easter when farmers and their family from down in the Mallee used to catch the train up to Barmera to attend a big communal picnic on the lake. Locals used to pick them up from the train in their cars and deliver them to the lake front. Look at how the lake used to be with massive River Red Gums and a sandy beach."*

Obviously there is some differing opinions on whether it's Australia Day or Easter, and in what year, but I don't think it matters. It's just interesting to see this lake and the people using it.

Before European settlement, the Booandik people lived, hunted and fished here.

It was first seen by Colonists and named after Charles Bonney back in 1838 after he was droving cattle from NSW to Adelaide, following the Murray River.

It was like an oasis with mature tree lined banks and fresh water for both thirsty Drovers and cattle alike.

The first settlement in the area wasn't until around 1859 when the "Overland Corner Hotel" was built. The town of Barmera slowly evolved closer to the Lake.

The area took off as an advertised settlement for WW1 veterans with an irrigation system feeding the whole township by 1921. After WW2, the largest internment camp in Australia was established just south of Barmera, at Loveday.

The lake itself has always had temperamental water levels, and early pioneers used to even plant crops in the lake bed during low seasons, before the weirs & locks were installed along the River Murray.

It's interesting to note that here on the Lake in 1964, Donald Campbell (a holder of the fastest land and water speed record in the World) attempted to break the record in his custom made boat "Bluebird". Unfortunately the lake was deemed too shallow and waves too big to make the run successful. Not before an impressive speed of 347km/hr was reached!

This photo is available to purchase from Faded Memories

www.FadedMemories.com.au

Ph: Raelene on 0401 784 551 for enquiries

<https://www.facebook.com/ItsNBitsHome>

Monash Secrets Exposed...

OK, in the interests of staying with the "Exposed" topic ...well it's a good, eye-catching headline isn't it.. ?

The year 2021 will be the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of our little township of MONASH and we're going to "expose" some things about Monash.

Danny & I are on the committee that manages the Monash Memorial Hall. Danny is the President and I am the Treasurer & Hall Caretaker. The group is planning 3 events to celebrate the centenary occasion. I am the organiser for a photographic display of the soldier settlers and their life on the land in the early years of Monash, while others are organising a military event (our town is named after General Sir John Monash) and a

Party, Food & Wine event.

I'd like to put a shout out for some help.

Even if you aren't a local to Monash person, you may still be able to help here.

1. Looking for people who have organised or attended similar events. I'd love to hear your suggestions
2. Anyone who has or had any family living in Monash or Lone Gum at any time in the past. I'd love to get copies of some of your family photos that depict their lives in Monash.
3. If this event interests you, let me know and I'll add you to my list of people to keep informed.



1920's EA Bottrill with hot dip for sultana grapes at Monash





Happy Chooks GOOD LIFE ON KA



Thomas Fryar out amongst the very contented free range chooks on the family's Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs farm.



Over on idyllic Kangaroo Island, 60,000 chooks are living the good life as part of an expanding free-range egg farm that produces around 180,000 eggs a week.

Established only 25 years ago, Fryar's Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs started as a 200-acre property with just 400 chickens but has rapidly grown to a 5000-acre enterprise employing 20 people on the back of a reputation for happy chooks and eggs that taste simply sublime.

Here, the chickens literally have the run of the place, roaming from green pasture to wheat and barley crops, laying as they please, all under the watchful gaze of Maremma guardian dogs.

Second generation farmer Jason Fryar explains the operation is a true family enterprise, initiated by his parents.

"Mum and dad started the business probably about 25 years ago. They bought a little 200-acre block at Cygnet River and they started off with about 400 chooks. They had sheep and cattle on there but wanted to get into something a little bit different. It just really grew from there."

Jason, his dad Tom and brother Thomas now run the farm, while mum, Fiona, Jason's wife Bonnie and Thomas' wife Kirby look after administration. They also employ 20 people to collect, grade and pack the eggs.

Each week 15,000 dozen eggs are shipped to the mainland,

Each week 15,000 dozen eggs are shipped to the mainland, providing eggs to Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. And this expansion has occurred purely by word of mouth.

"We haven't had to do too much marketing over the years," Jason notes. "People get to know what our eggs are like and what we're doing here, and most people get quite excited when they find out what's happening."

Driving this excitement is a real free-range philosophy. Jason explains day-old chicks arrive at Fryar's from a hatchery in Melbourne. They spend eight weeks in a climate-controlled environment until they're strong enough to withstand the elements.

Then, they're released into 1000 lots featuring mobile nesting sheds. Each purpose-built shed allows the hens to come and go as they please. They are never locked in and have plenty of pasture to fossick in, along with their pick of the lupin and wheat crops. The chicken's foraging is also supplemented by



grain which is grown on-site.

"We crop almost 3000 acres, mainly wheat, a bit of lupins and a little bit of barley as well. That's purely to feed the chooks."

Meanwhile, 25 stately Maremma guardian dogs stand watch against potential threats like wedge tailed eagles. The dogs are introduced as puppies to the chickens and establish a unique, nurturing relationship with their feathered charges.

"We spread our sheds out so they're in lots of about five sheds, and a pair of dogs will look after between three and eight sheds."

Jason notes number's wise, the farm has a maximum of 750 hens per hectare, but these flock animals go wherever, whenever they please.

"If you go out here first thing in the morning, the chickens can go a long way, up to 500 metres, maybe even a kilometre sometimes."

Mid-morning is prime laying time, and the hens enter the mobile sheds at their own discretion.

"They have nest boxes up in the sheds, so they jump in there, lay their eggs and go out again in the afternoon. Before the sun goes down, they're scratching around for insects and that sort of thing."

And they lay prolifically, which Jason attributes to their carefree existence.

They're just happy chooks really. They've got everything they want, I guess. They're outside, stress-free. They've got pasture to eat and as much feed as they want, which we give them as they like. So, that's what I put it down to, just happy chooks."

Egg collection commences at about 10.30am and takes until about 5.30 at night to complete.

"We've got three John Deere Gators that go around. Three guys collect the eggs by hand out of the nest boxes," Jason explains.

"Then they're brought back each day and stored in the cool room. Grading happens four days a week."

The first thing they do is put the eggs on a conveyor belt and they go through an egg washer. So, that's got water and brushes that automatically wash the eggs, and then they go over a light.

This process is called candling, The light shines

ks Leading The KANGAROO ISLAND

up through the eggs and shows up any faults or cracks...then, they go down onto the scales and that's where they go into each different size eggs. After that, they're hand packed into the egg cartons."

These eggs are stored in a cool room, which is housed in one of numerous sheds on the property as part of a **relationship with Grant Sheds that dates back 15 years.**

One shed is a grain shed, another houses the cool room, and a third accommodates the sawdust required for nesting boxes. It comes complete with a rolling, top-sliding roof to make sawdust dumping simple.

Meanwhile, a new sliding roof shed has recently been completed to house limestone grit. The limestone is mixed in with feed to offer additional calcium to the chooks.

As for why the Fryars keep coming back to Grant Sheds, Jason notes it's because the process is smooth, and the sheds are built to last.

"With Grants, you know exactly what you're ordering, and when it rocks up, it's exactly what we expect."

Sliding Roof Sheds

These sliding roof sheds are more often used for fertiliser storage. This one above has swing doors to enclose and fully protect what is stored inside.

Easy To Open:

Open the swing doors. Then 1 or 2 people can simply push the roof back on the easy-glide rollers, onto the run-out tracks behind the shed.

The truck delivering your fertiliser (or other items), reverses into the open shed, unloads and is away again in 5-10 minutes, leaving you to just roll the roof back into the closed position...

Easy!



The Kangaroo Island Free Range Eggs farming business is a family affair. Tom & Fiona Fryar (at left) have been joined in the business by (L-R) their son Thomas, his wife Kirby, Jason's wife Bonnie and son Jason. Their 3 grandchildren, Mack, Myla and Jett, may be "counting their chickens" before long.

In addition to chickens, the Fryars also run sheep. They have about 1000 Border Leicester over Merino, along with store lambs from other farmers, which they fatten up on grain stubble before sending them back to the mainland as healthy, rotund, livestock.

"We have the crops for our chooks, so the stubble's just sitting there. We may as well make use of that," Jason reflects. "I guess another good part of having the chooks is that we've got chook manure as well. We spread all that out onto the paddock for a natural fertiliser for the crops."

As for the future, Jason notes it's about building on the solid foundations already established.

"We're slowly expanding still," Jason says. "We've just built another chicken rearing shed

and it's all just part of our slowly expanding. We've been expanding the whole time really. Like I said, Mum and Dad started with 400 chooks, and it's all happened quite quickly. Me, my brother and our wives are really keen on continuing with that."



The Fryar family have invested in 4 Grant farm sheds for their Kangaroo Island property, over the past 17 years.

- 2002 Bulk Grain Shed 12m x 18m x 5.1m
- 2003 Cool Room Cover 9m x 19.5m x 3m
- 2018 Sliding Roof Shed 7.5m x 9m x 2.4m
- 2018 Sliding Roof Shed 7.5m x 15m x 2.4m



Grant Sheds owner, Danny Halupka stands with Jason Fryar in front of one of their new Sliding Roof sheds. They are more frequently used for fertiliser storage by other farmers, but the Fryar family use this 7.5m x 9m x 2.4m one for storing sawdust for nesting boxes and another 7.5m x 15m x 2.4m one for limestone grit that is mixed in with other feed to give the hens additional calcium.

What Can You Learn From KIDS CARTOONS?

What Lightning McQueen Teaches About Business Management



Just before Christmas, I was watching a "Lightning McQueen" video with my 2 year old grandson Hunter, before the other 6 grandkids arrived for a school holidays day with me. And I just heard this piece of very wise advice, seemingly talking directly to Danny and I right now.

It might be useful info for you too so I thought I'd share it. Here goes...

It's when the older, experienced race car, "Strip Weathers" aka The King, tells Lightning McQueen that he's got great talent as a racer but he's stupid for trying to be a one man show.

Mr The King talking to Lightning McQueen

(Read this with an American drawl accent)

"You've got more talent in one wheel nut than most other folks put together but ...

"You're stupid.

"You need to wise up.

"Get yourself a good crew chief.

"And a good team.

"You aint gonna win unless you've got good folks behind ya and you let them do their job like ya should.

"Until you figure that out you're just gonna be OK...average ..."

So that may mean different things to different people but I guarantee it's something each and every one of us with a business (including farming business) needs to seriously consider.

Do you feel guilty if you're in your office and your workers are out in the shed, paddocks or property doing what you may still refer to as the 'hard yards' or the 'grunt work'?

Or do you have a (mis)conception that "office work is a waste of my time?" or "I don't like doing it" or "I don't have time for planning?"

Instead of doing everything in your farming enterprise yourself ... what else/who else do you need.?

An extra employee, an outsourced contractor, an agronomist, mentor ... ??

We're just like you. To run our business we can't do it all alone. We'd run ourselves ragged with all of the day to day things and have no time to properly supervise or plan and implement strategic direction, to continuously improve our business.

We need to be prepared to offload more. To train and trust our team with more responsibility and authority. And to hold them accountable as well.

When we are trying to do too much ourselves, we really are not doing justice to our business or our family.

Seriously consider how you can take The King's advice to Lightning McQueen and make it useful to your farm business.

Anyway, that's my take.

I hope you benefit as much from this little bit of kids cartoon insight as we did. Who knew ... you'd get valuable business advice from the kids!!

In the meantime, if you're considering a new farm shed, let our team help you. Seek our wise advice when it comes to farm shed design.

Tell us what you are thinking you need and, after asking you questions to understand your situation better, we'll make suggestions that will make your new shed even better for you and the most cost effective.

Let us be part of YOUR team!

Bye Now ... From Ali

Easy Bacon & Egg Quiche



Ingredients

- 6 rashers streaky bacon
- 100g fetta, crumbled
- 4 Australian Free Range Eggs
- 250ml (1 cup) thickened cream
- 9 Cherry Tomatoes (halved)



Method

Preheat oven to 180°. Grease 6 holes of a 1/2 cup muffin pan and line bases with baking paper. Arrange 1 bacon strip around the side of each hole. Divide feta among the holes.

Whisk the eggs & cream. Season with salt & pepper. Pour evenly over fetta & top with tomato. Bake for 25-30 mins or until firm to touch. Set aside to cool for 5 minutes before turning onto a rack to cool.

Tip: Freeze ahead. Wrap each mini quiche in plastic & freeze for up to 3 months.

Thank You

I would like to thank you for the Farm Gate News we receive, we love to read the stories about other farmers and the jokes. The two things my husband likes to read are the Stock Journal and the Farm Gate News.

The Monash Playground brings back a few memories. As young adults, a group of us stopped there on our way home and had a great time. It was a challenge for some.

Cheers,

Gail Fromm
WM & GC Fromm
Nildottie SA 5238





Ideas

To Help You With Your FARM SHED SOLUTIONS

HIGH EFFICIENCY MEGA HAY SHED



18m x 32.4m x 8.2m Mega Hay Shed

This shed is one of the most popular size and design layouts in our wide range of hay sheds. Built recently in SA, the owners are extremely happy with everything from their first phone call to Grant Sheds, through to completion of the shed build. And now they are ready to fill it with hay.

Layout: Open one side

Capacity: Almost 1500 8'x4'x3' medium bales

Bays: 8.1m bays, perfect for 3 x 8' bales per bay

Height: 8.2m height, ideal for 9 medium bales high (3 lifts of 3 per lift)

Design: Hot Dip Galvanised UB Columns for ultimate rust prevention
Galvanised Open Web Joist Roof Rafters
Super heavy duty footings connections

Water: Large capacity, gutters, downpipes and rainheads to clear water quickly and prevent overflows.

Be **PAID** To Build Your New Hay Shed

PAID

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.

And with the **Rapid 3 Year Tax Depreciation*** for fodder storage sheds still available at this stage, it's an ideal time to make this investment.

EASY SHED FINANCE

We've also recently been advised of an easy shed finance package that is now available. In the past many of the big finance players weren't too interested in sheds. If this is an idea that interests you, give us a call and we'll put you in touch with the people who can help.

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*

Aircraft Adventures

Flying couple, Jill & Terry Wilson, teach at the far-west town of Yalata, 200kms west of Ceduna, halfway between Ceduna and the SA-WA border. Understandably then, they have taken up flying to cut short the driving time to undertake activities outside their regular stomping ground. They have just invested in a new Grant Sheds aircraft hangar for a retreat property they own near Morgan, close to the river where they can enjoy water activities.

"Right from the jump, our planning with Grant's along with advice & communications, through to the builders and contractors, has been a positive and productive process.

Not having been into shed building before, Grant's made the process as smooth as it could be. We are pleased with the engineering and the structure, and have ended up with a premium product in a competitive environment.

"When we tell people it's a "Grant" shed, they often say, 'Oh, it's a good one then. That won't blow away!"

Terry & Jill Wilson, Morgan & Ceduna



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.



*COMPLIMENTARY **BONUS** ITEMS

Orders Must Be Placed Before June 30

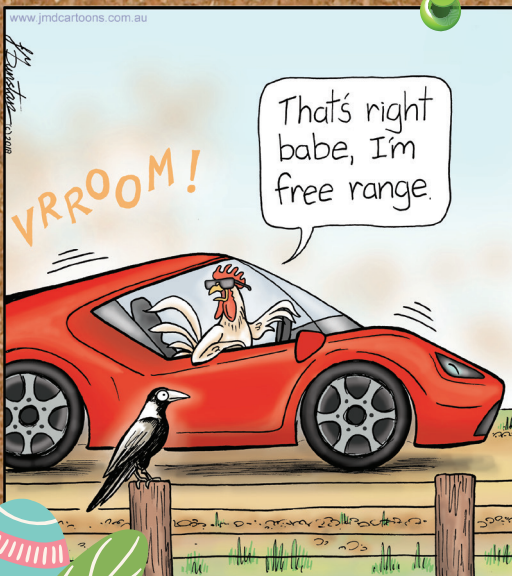
- **Wall Iron Upgrade to Heavier Roof Iron Grade**
Reduces likelihood of iron damage
- **Hot Dip Galvanised Columns** For corrosion control
- **High Volume Gutters, Rainheads & Downpipes**
Fast and easy-flow rainwater clearing to prevent overflows
- **Bale Bumper Rails** to protect your wall iron (Hay sheds only)
- **FREE Beer For A Year!**
- **Rapid 3 Year Tax Depreciation** for fodder storage sheds inc hay

FREE BEER
for a Year!

For Mega Sheds ordered
by June 30 *Conditions Apply



MONTHLY HUMOUR



These great cartoons seemed appropriate for this edition's free range egg production story on page 4-5. They are reprinted with approval from Jed Dunstan Cartoons. Prints, T-shirts and other products are available at www.jmcartoons.com.au via the T-shirts/Merch or Shop button

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