

FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



MARCH - APRIL 2017

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

Country Community
Spirit **DESPITE**
DEVASTATION P4

Happy Anniversary
2017 = Grant Sheds 65th Year



Story from a local
WW1 AUSSIE P3

 **FARM SHED**
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Danny & Ali caught up with John Girke of Meadows and his story of living two worlds appears on page 5





New Accountants & Business Management Partners

We spoke with Steve Millar who is a farmer at Nandaly, Victoria last year (his story was in our Sept-Oct 2016 edition of FARM GATE NEWS).

During our discussion Steve mentioned that Dodgshun Medlin provides agronomic advice and that the service has been invaluable to the success of his farming enterprise.

I'd seen Dodgshun Medlin advertising on TV locally and his comment led me to check out their web site. What I saw grabbed my attention from a non-farm business perspective as they are not just agronomists.

They are accountants and tax advisors, but more importantly to us, they are business development specialists (farm or non-farm) that focus on helping people grow their business and protect their wealth.

What we particularly liked is that they have a strong sense of family and country values like us.

And so we have engaged them and our experience in the first few months has been exceptional.

We've had a one day "Futures Training and Planning" event that was also attended by several farming and small business families from across country SA, Vic and NSW. And they have spent a full day in our business getting to know us, our business and to begin reviewing things like our risk levels in areas such as profitability, cash flow and human resources.

Dodgshun Medlin's head office is in Swan Hill Victoria - about 4.5 hours' drive - but that doesn't bother us one little bit as our previous accountants were in Adelaide (a 2.5 hour drive) and we rarely saw them face to face anyway, since so much can be done by email and phone. However, Dodgshun Medlin also have a Loxton office that they visit regularly so we can have that even more personal contact when we want it.

The Dodgshun Medlin people who we have had contact with so far have all been friendly, interested in us and our business and keen to see us succeed. Here's their web site if you'd like to check them out

www.dodgshunmedlin.com.au

or you can call 1800 329 888 for more information.

So far, we are very impressed.



Do As I Say ... Not As I Did!

A few weeks ago I (Ali) started having chest pains that were radiating into my back and up into my jaw.

"Hmmm... that's not too good," I thought. It continued for some minutes and I decided I'd better tell Danny, knowing that if it was happening to him then I'd certainly want to know.



Danny drove me to the local hospital ED. When we arrived and told them the symptoms the staff rushed into high gear. They obviously take chest pains very seriously.

After hooking me up to a monitor, having an ECG and blood test they were able to advise that there was nothing heart related showing up but advised me to be admitted to hospital for the afternoon for monitoring.

Thankfully that confirmed it was not heart related ... but it didn't tell me what had caused it.

Due to a strong family history of heart issues on my mum's side (including my mum having a heart bypass at 55, an uncle who died at 35 and my brother having a heart attack at 30), this episode certainly put the wind up me.

The silly thing is, when I was having the chest pains I was concerned about being embarrassed if I called an ambulance because of the attention it would bring.

To admit that is embarrassing in itself now but I want to share my foolishness. If I had been having a heart attack, the paramedics would have been much better positioned to deal with it than Danny.

Do as I say, not as I did... if you're having chest pains, call an ambulance!

Celebrity In Hospital

While in the hospital for the arvo, a nurse popped her head in the door and cheerfully said, "Halupka ... Grant Sheds!"

"That's right," I replied. "How do you know?"

"FARM GATE NEWS," she replied with a grin. "We're on your mailing list and my hubby and I race to be the first to open it when it arrives. We love it. And we fight over who'll read the jokes first."

Thank you Janine Francis of Renmark. You made my day!

Barmera & Lake Bonney 1930's

The black and white photo above is Barmera and Lake Bonney in the 1930's.

We recently built a shed for Mick Martorella in Laffer Street, Barmera. That's his house here, although he didn't own it then.

But what a great old photo, hey? Any Riverlanders recognise any other Barmera landmarks in it?

Please ... Check Your Address



We are receiving a higher than usual number of returns of our Farm Gate News.

And it's obvious that it is Australia Post or your local post office that is returning them, not you.

The returns are always those that have a vague residential address rather than an Australia Post recognised postal address.

If you have a PO Box number, but we're not using it, please let us know.

We understand that AP are cracking down on poorly addressed mail and telling local post offices that they are only to deliver correctly addressed mail.

Please check your envelope and if it is not an Australia Post preferred form of addressing, please let us know so that we can update your address and keep your FREE subscription operational.

We'd hate you to miss out!

Enjoy this Easter-Anzac edition. Stay safe & well...



Who's having more fun ...?
Danny or grandkids Kallie & Nate?

Ali & Danny Halupka
Owners, Grant Sheds

Local WW1 AUSSIE LEGEND



Near Anzac Day, it seems appropriate to share this story, written by Reg Telfer. In 1920, he was one of the first Soldier Settler's at Monash.

It is the story of his reason for joining WW1

On New Year's Day 1915

That morning I was at my cobber's place in Beyrl St, Broken Hill when their phone went. The only place I knew in the town that had a private phone because his mother was a mid-wife. She came away from the phone and said, "It seems there's been some shooting at the Picnic Train. They want everyone who can to go get a rifle and chase those who fired on the train."

So my cobber and I, being Army Medical chaps, put some dressings in haversacks and went on our pushbikes to where we could hear the firing going on.

It was north a mile or two and we kept going till we came to a hill past the Cable Hotel. There were hundreds of fellows with rifles shooting at the top of the hill where they said two Turks were behind rocks shooting back.

So Fred and I went up the hill in short rushes

... getting up and going ahead and then flopping down and then going ahead again. That was the last rush and when we got to the top of the hill the firing had stopped and there behind two big boulders were two, what we thought were Afghans – camel drivers.

They were shot full of holes and I never saw so much blood in a small space later in my four years in the 1st World War.

It appeared the Odd Fellows Lodge had a New Year's Day Picnic by train to Silverton – 18 miles. There were said to be 1200 people went in those open trucks which were normally used for sending concentrates to Port Pirie. Now they had forms in for the picnickers to sit on and were full of men, women and children dressed for a hot summers day outing.

About 3 miles out of Broken Hill they were passing an ice cream cart that had a Turkish flag on it and the children shouted to the seller of that delectable food.

Soon however they changed turn for bullets began whizzing among them. People began to get shot with the very old type of bullets of large diameter which were hitting them. I saw later, a railway truck that had a hole in it that was over 3" diameter, for a bullet flattened out to make that large hole.

The train stopped a minute for the crew wondered what was going on. Then it shot forward and was away to the distance. Meanwhile a man hopped out on the far side and raced to the nearest telephone to call for help.

The ones who were in the chase, I heard later, refused to allow the dead men to be buried in the local cemetery.

A lady who lived next to us before, in Cobalt St, a Mrs Crabbe was giving her baby a breast meal when a bullet hit her only an inch away from the baby's head. She afterwards was made one of the first war pensioners by

Billy Hughes, our Prime Minister. I saw her in Adelaide years later and her son was a strapping youth.

There were about four killed and six wounded in this outrage, which had the effect, from Turkey's point of view, of getting over 200 more recruits for the war. I was one as I enlisted a fortnight later.

The place was greatly worked up and excited as one may suppose. That evening I was in town when a shout arose, "The German Club's on fire!" and so it was. Off we went down to where this building was spouting flames and smoke. Soon it was burnt to the ground, as a result of the inflamed passion of the crowd.

After tea I was home and a crowd began streaming past towards the camel drivers camp outside the town. I never went, but I heard later that when they got there they found a lot of Afghans with rifles walking round and round the camp and they looked so hostile (which I don't blame them for) that the crowd just stopped and, after a time, drifted away.

This was indeed a day to be recorded in the town's history.

Reg Telfer is the father of Grant Telfer (founder of Grant Sheds) and grandfather of Alison Halupka (current co-owner of Grant Sheds, along with husband Danny).



1915 Turk attack Broken Hill -MUpicnic_train attacked by Turks -from Broken Hill web site

1915 Picnic train attacked by Turks near Broken Hill. Photo courtesy of Broken Hill web site.



Country Friends & Fund-Raising COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Personally devastated by the Pinery Fires of 2015, farming couple Sue & Newton Lines still support their community with a fund-raising Christmas in July event in their shearing shed, just 8 months after the fire.

In our Nov-Dec 2016 edition we caught up with Newton and Sue Lines of Pinkerton Plains, marking a year since their 1800-acre farm was caught in the Pinery fires. The couple were fortunate that they managed to save their house, but lost 350 acres of peas, a couple of sheds, hundreds of 30-year-old trees and 13.5kms of fencing.



In the wake of the devastating blaze this couple turned their attention to raising funds for others affected. They did so with an international flavour via connections that had also allowed them to meet an American president. Here's a little more of their story...

It was the check skirt that first caught Newton Lines' eye and the rest as they say is history, he'd snagged himself a city girl who will notch up 45 years as his wife in 2017.

Together, Newton and Sue grow wheat, barley, peas, beans, canola, and fatten up a few sheep after harvest. Their Pinkerton Plains property is a second generation farm that Newton's parents bought a little after the war.

It's where the couple raised their two daughters, while also sharing the Australian farming experience with young people from all corners of the globe.

Over the years Newton and Sue have hosted a number of exchange students from many parts of the world, including a "seriously smart" young fellow from Kansas City who has worked at the White House, all because of a windy day at Port Vincent.

Newton explains Bobby Schmuck was with them for six months attending school at Riverton High, when a family holiday presented a life-changing opportunity. Too windy for fishing, Bobby decided to apply for the University of Chicago and on the last day before deadline, posted his application.

He was accepted, returned to the US to study journalism and soon volunteered to be part of Senator Obama's campaign for the White House, where he was offered an internship once Obama was elected President.

"He was very much a junior that just gradually worked his way up and has travelled the world in Air Force One doing stuff with the President," Newton explains.

So when Newton and Sue recently travelled to the United States, Bobby treated them to a tour of the White House where they met President Obama and now have a signed photograph with him that sits proudly in their home.



"It was amazing," says Sue. And it's not the only unique experience they've enjoyed courtesy of cultural exchanges.

A Slovakian student with a penchant for sports saw Newton become involved with the local football club where he went on to serve as vice president for four years and president for seven. They clocked up a few premierships in his time, taking out the A and B Grade.

Over the years, the Lines also shared the cultural experience with the community, hosting an annual concert at their property and inviting exchange students to perform on the night.

"We had 13 years of doing that. Had kids from all over the world doing their thing," Newton says.

Although they finished the concerts in 2010, it only took a small suggestion from Sue's brother to arrange another this year in a bid to raise funds for victims of the Pinery Fire. While Sue and Newton were affected, their neighbours fared worse, some losing their homes to the blaze.

Over 200 people attended the event, held in the Lines' shearing shed complete with carpet, chandeliers and leprechauns on the walls. A big surprise that Sue lined up for Newton was the arrival of ex-exchange student and President Obama staffer, Bobby Schmuck, at this event. The evening raised \$24,000, with all profits going directly to their neighbours.



Comedian "The Old Fella" Rod Gregory entertained at the Christmas in July fundraiser.

"We had magnificent support. It was amazing. We were surprised how it just happened and just fell into place."

Also among those supporting the Lines in the wake of the fires was Grant Sheds. Over the years Grant Sheds had provided Newton with a number of sheds, including one for the farm 15 years ago, another one for their place at Port Vincent, and a new one to replace a shed lost in the fire last year.



"It's like being a Grant Sheds family member," Newton says.

Grass Fed Black Angus Cattle

NICHE MARKET

John Girke is a man with a unique perspective of farming. Not only does he run a couple of small properties breeding Black Angus cattle but his equipment finance business relies on the agricultural industry as a major sector of their clientele.

His time is spent between his Adelaide Hills cattle property and his finance business, Access Capital in Kent Town.

Explaining his business, John notes that he and his wife Liz took over Access Capital about eight years ago after extensive experience in the finance broking field. Their job is to provide equipment finance options to a number of industries, including clients in the agriculture, aviation, transport, mining, earthmoving and manufacturing sectors.

"We look after most of South Australia, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, so we do get around and away a fair bit."

"We give our clients lots of options, rather than just one, which we back up with a fantastic team dedicated to servicing all our client's financial requirements."

The business is a family affair. Their son also works at Access Capital part-time while studying commerce and accounting at uni, while his daughter Alana assists where she can while managing her two other jobs.

In between business commitments, John tends his 70 Black Angus cattle in his spare time.

"It's a good release," he explains. "The pace of business today, as we all know, is very hectic, and you have to have something that you can do to wind down a bit."

"Some people like golf. I prefer cattle."



John Girke (left), pictured here with Danny from Grant Sheds loves taking time out of his busy finance broking business to tend his Black Angus cattle.

That cattle are used for breeding and meat, targeting the niche market of grass-fed Black Angus beef. Meat is sold directly to clients from Darwin to Perth, Brisbane and beyond.

It's for the storage of hay that John recently purchased his brand new 15m x 21m Grant shed.

"Basically this shed is a replacement of an old shed that you could safely say kept 20 bales dry. Now it's got 250 bales in here with plenty of room yet."

John also explains his recent farming acquisition draws on his finance experience, courtesy of a tip he's keen to share with other farmers.

"Rates at the moment are as low as they've ever been...so it's a case of set and forget... It's a good purchase, it's a long time purchase, and it's a cheap way of doing it."

Some farmers don't realise that there are a number of different ways that you can finance a shed. There are many options available these days so we can tailor a loan to suit people's requirements in most cases," John advises.

"And the ATO has a current

ruling giving a fast 3 year depreciation on sheds used for fodder storage so it's well worth contacting your accountant for professional advice as well."

John's 'long-time' purchase of a shed is the second he's made with Grant Sheds. He says that the quality, price and the previous experience that brought him back to Grant's for his hay shed.

"There's an old saying that

The sweetness of low prices will soon be outweighed by the bitterness of poor quality.

A lot of people forget that. We've paid for it once and we're very happy with the result."

Note from Ali at Grant Sheds: "We've found John to be a very friendly, helpful and cheerful bloke who is easy to talk to and we're happy to recommend him to anyone seeking farm shed and farm equipment finance advice."



This 15m x 22.5m x 5.1m Grant Sheds hay shed has 2 x 9m beams to provide wide clear openings and has an additional 4.5m wide lock-up bay with easy-glide sliding door at the far end.



Contact John Girke,
Access Capital Finance Brokers
 Ph: 08 8334 2100 or 0407 842 167
 Email: jg@accesscapital.com.au
www.accesscapital.com.au

**Individual circumstances vary so please seek independent advice from your accountant to ensure your own personal situation is fully considered.*

Take Time Out For Family HEALTH & CONNECTION

King of the North

I called Mark Rundle from Kulpara, northern Yorke Peninsula recently to seek his approval to have his family's May-June 2016 Farm Gate News story re-printed in a Farm Buildings feature in the Stock Journal newspaper.

He said that when his story appeared in our Farm Gate News he felt like a local celebrity because so many people he knew commented on seeing it.

I can just imagine the light-hearted ribbing. That's the Aussie thing mates do. So I'm sure he'll have received even more when the story appears in the Stock Journal.



Guarantee Your Important Time Out



During my conversation with Mark Rundle I asked how his grain harvest had panned out.

He was reasonably happy with it despite rain delays and a late, long harvest. But he said he almost missed out on his family's annual January holiday.

They'd booked a place but the late harvest was looking like cutting into holiday time. He thought he might have to take the family and get them set up and then head back to the farm himself.

Luckily, he was able to move his dates at the caravan park by a few days and the last little bit of harvest was handled by his brother.

This might have made him nervous about booking January holidays in the future, but instead he has already decided that just because this harvest was late, it doesn't mean the next one will be. And so, with his lovely wife Anita, they have already booked Christmas holiday time with Anita's sister in Victoria next year.

This is wise advice to follow. Book your holiday now so that you are committed to going. Families also enjoy the break and the excitement of the trip.

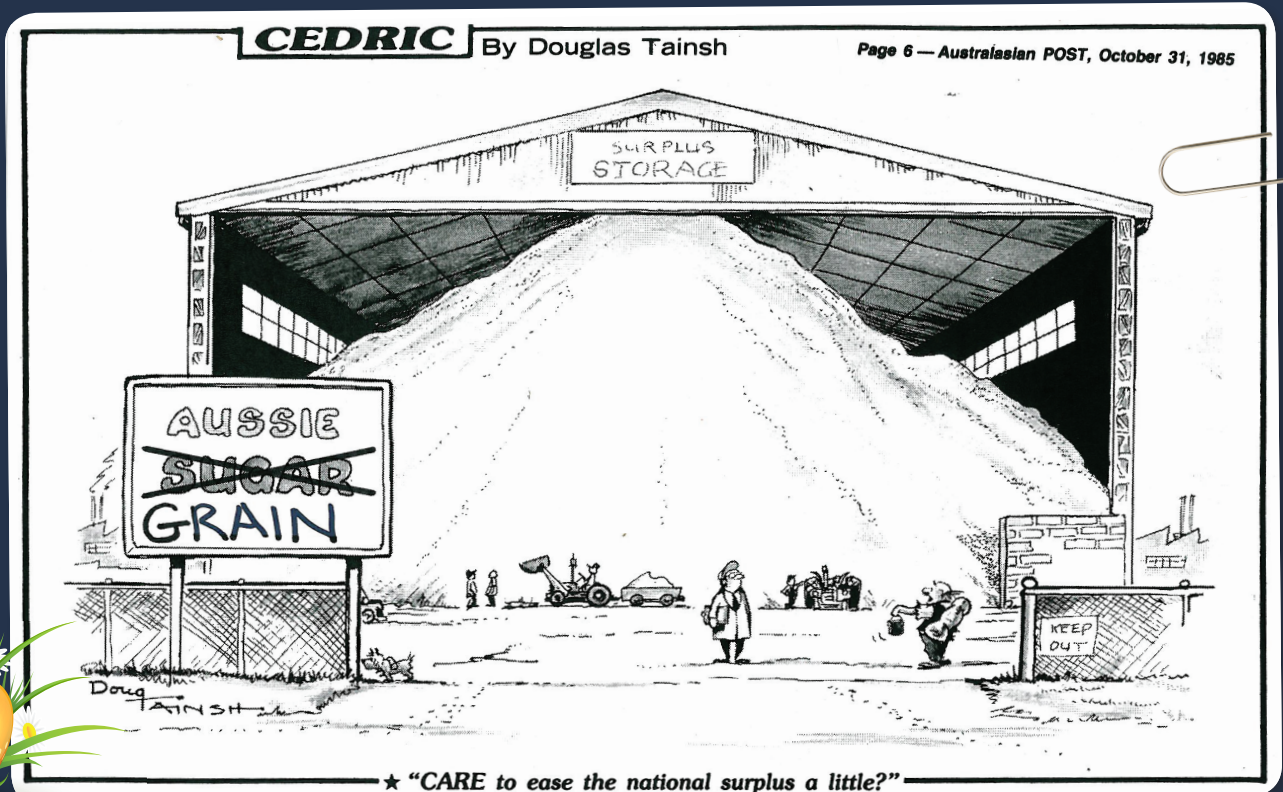
Long lasting childhood memories often stem from school holiday adventures ... The places you go, the people you meet and the things you do.

We all need a break from our farm, business or job to relax and recharge our batteries, ready for the next sprint we will have to undertake.

So go ahead. If you haven't already booked your annual holiday, do it soon and make the commitment to the health and life enjoyment of yourself and your family.

Farming Resilience Required...

I found this comic in a 1980's edition of the old "Australasian Post" magazine, given to me by Don Heward of Monash. Says a lot about this year's grain harvest, doesn't it?





Ideas

To Help You With Your

FARM SHED SOLUTIONS



FARM SHED WITH SECURE LOCK-UP

12m x 24m x 5.1m Machinery Shed

Luke & John Lory of Loxton visited us at the Riverland Field Days late last year. John and his wife Jenny bought this great back in 2005. It's a popular design that gives easy access with the 3 x 6m beam openings on the open side, along with a 6m lock up section for a secure workshop.



SMALL FUNCTIONAL FARM SHED

7.5m x 12m x 3m

Rural Directions director, **Chris Heinjus** from **Freeling** had this small farm shed built in 2016 to replace a shed destroyed in the Pinery Fire. Note the fire damaged trees behind the shed. I heard Chris being interviewed on ABC radio recently about his success with replanting trees after the Pinery fire.

GOOD SOLID SHED

"Thanks to both Grant sheds and the building team. I'm very happy with the result. Site clean and a solid shed. Great to have one good shed back after losing two sheds in the Pinery fire 😊"
Chris Heinjus, Freeling SA



VERSATILE CUSTOM DESIGN

12m x 25.2m x 4.8m Machinery Shed

Ben Davey, Malabar Farming, **Kadina** with his custom designed shed that suits his personal needs. It has 2 small roller doors with remotes on the left, 2 x 9m beams with 4 easy-glide sliding doors on the right and a sliding door in the back right hand corner, plus 1 personal access door & skylights.

Sliding doors give greater height and width clearance, while vertical lift roller doors give you the option and ease of remote control for easy-entry.

TOP CLASS BUILDERS REQUIRED



We have great pride in the high class level of workmanship of our building teams and obviously so do others as we need more quality builders to keep up with demand.

If you know of a great local builder who you think would be a great fit for our team, please let us know.

Ph: 1800 088 528

Email: danny@grantsheds.com.au



FARM SHED WITH SECURE LOCK-UP

7.5m x 12m x 2.7m Garage & Hobby Shed

Joffa Rosbergen from **Barmera** is enjoying his small rural property shed that has 4 bays of roller doors for security, a Personal Access door for easy entry and Colorbond cladding for attractive blending with his local environment.



FAST TAX DEPRECIATION RATES ON SHEDS FOR FODDER STORAGE

Farmers and other primary production businesses can still claim accelerated depreciation on sheds used for fodder storage.

This includes Hay Sheds, Grain Sheds, Silage Sheds, Sliding Roof Sheds used for stock feed and sheds used for storing stock feed for any other stock (eg. cattle, pigs, chickens, goats, alpacas and other stock animals that are part of a farming business)

Primary producers can deduct the cost of fodder storage sheds over just three years, instead of up to 50 years previously. Importantly, these measures are available to all farmers, not just those who are classified as a small business. And there is no restriction on the value of your purchase on these sheds for fodder storage.

*Please seek independent accounting advice to check the status of this information and your own specific circumstances.

Freecall 1800 088 528
For help planning your next shed.

Happy Anniversary

2017 = Grant Sheds 65th Year



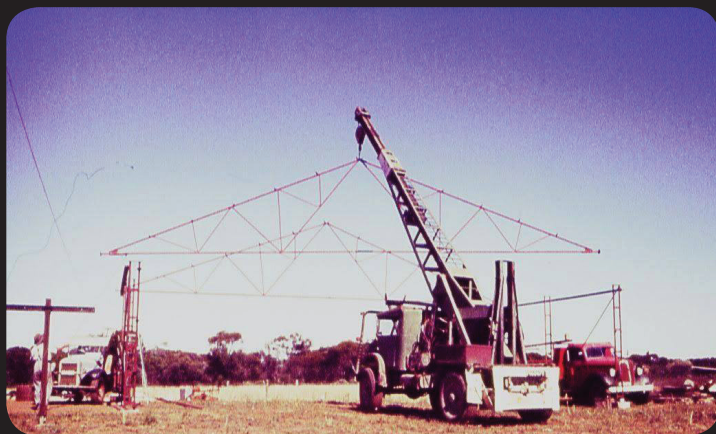
A Little Piece of Grant Sheds History on Facebook

We found this photo on Facebook. It's the building of a second-hand "Grant" shed in 1975. It was the old Crowe & Newcombe (Barmera) fertiliser shed, purchased by Arthur Bartsch of Winkie.

It looks like a 40' span shed. A BIG shed for back then.

The red truck on the right was a 1937 Ford V8 30 cwt truck.

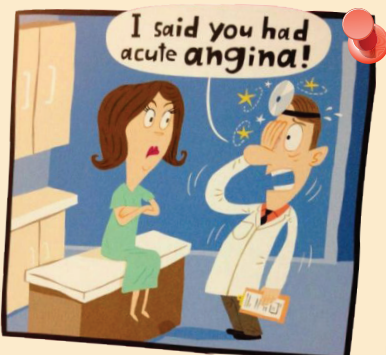
The one on the left was a 1920's Chev 4 Buckboard, highly modified with other parts. It was previously used to muster sheep on the Bartsch Winkie farm according to Helen Bartsch.



MONTHLY HUMOUR

Too Soon...?

Refer Ali's page 2 article about her heart scare.



Our teacher asked what my favourite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favourite animal. I told my dad what happened, he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favourite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed and told me not to do it again. I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders," Guess where I am now...



FARM SEXT

A farming couple had just purchased new smart phones. The wife was a romantic type and the husband, a man of few words, was more of a no-nonsense bloke.

One afternoon the wife went out and met a friend for coffee. She decided to send her husband a romantic text message on her new phone and she wrote:

- If you are sleeping, send me your dreams.
- If you are laughing, send me your smile.
- If you are eating, send me a bite.
- If you are drinking, send me a sip.
- If you are crying, send me your tears.
- I love you xxx

The husband sent a text back:
"I'm on the toilet. Please advise!"



When asked what surprised him most about humanity the Dalai Lama answered,

Man sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived.

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