

FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



SEPT-OCT 2017

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

Beat The Price Rise



Steel prices & other over-heads are on the rise again.

FREE BEER for a Year!

*For people who order sheds from Spring Catalogue

*Conditions Apply



THE ART OF AGRICULTURE Knowledge & Action P4-5

Cameron Williams from Mt Sarah Station in the far north of SA with his son George. Story P-4-5

Order by 31/10/17 To Save!

The Walls of China P6

What Makes Country Life So Good?

COMMUNITY



Loading cattle on Mt Sarah Station - See story P4-5

SEE YOU AT THESE
FIELD DAYS

SEPTEMBER 26-27-28th
Yorke Peninsula Field Days

Danny's "Cure For Cancer" Bike Ride

Over the past 3 years, Danny has raised thousands of dollars each year by participating in a 200km weekend bike ride. He had good intentions of doing the same again this year, but has pulled out because we're just so darned busy.

But sometimes, despite our best intentions, we all have to make some hard decisions and decide what is best for ourselves at that time.

And like elite athletes, we also need our own rest time to recuperate and re-energise ... OK, who am I kidding? We're nothing like elite athletes, but I'm sure you get my point.

This applies to you too. All too often, we put ourselves last. We help almost anyone who asks and find that time for completing our own things takes a hit.

So this year, Danny won't be riding, but at some time again in the future, he (or we) will be doing something to support some community charity or event. Because, like most country people, that's what we do.

Community is important to us and we'll help where we can.

Take Time To Rest & Recuperate

So you'd know from previous editions of FARM GATE NEWS that Ali had a scare with serious chest pains some months ago. After a trip to the local ED, a heart attack was thankfully ruled out.

She has since also visited a cardiologist, just to make sure since her mother's family have a lot of heart disease issues and he also gave the all clear but suggested getting a liver scan to check for gall stones. That too was clear.

So that's all good news... but we still don't know what caused it and it hasn't happened again.

Perhaps it was just a warning to SLOW DOWN.

We share this with you as recommendation to you too to take rest and recuperation time. Do things you enjoy. Catch up with family or friends. Go fishing, camping or anything else you love.

Of Times Gone By

We had the Berri Ag Bureau visit us for a factory tour in August. Although the members have known of our local business for many years, they were still surprised to see the massive size of some of our MEGA FARM SHEDS being manufactured while they were here.

One member, Brent Walkington, has lived in Monash for about 30 years or more but previously was from the mid North and worked in an agri-business there.

He commented that, at that time, the well known shed companies in the area were Bowley's and Grant Sheds. Bowley's of course closed down probably 20-25 years ago. Other well known, city-based shed companies at that time were Cyclone and Galepruf.



1950's McCormick International brochure



Grant Sheds Bedford 6 ton petrol truck in 1976 (converted to a Perkins diesel power after the petrol engine melted solid out the back of Wentworth).

Both also exited the shed business a long time ago.

Makes us proud to know that Grant Sheds is still going strong and enjoys great relationships and a great reputation amongst our country farming communities.

**Thank You
For Your Support**

Whatever you do, just make sure you take some time for yourself. You'll be much more productive when you return to your usual daily activities on the farm.

So on this nostalgic note, we'll bid you farewell until our next edition of FARM GATE NEWS.

Enjoy the read,

Ali & Danny Halupka
Owners - Grant Sheds



You Little Ripper... Grant Sheds LOCAL AUSSIE LEGENDS

Grant Sheds - 65 Year Anniversary - 1952-2017



Grant Telfer A true legend of Monash!

We've included this information before, but for anyone new to our FARM GATE NEWS subscription list, here's our background once again...

Grant Sheds was started back in 1952 by local Monash legend, Grant Telfer, when he was just 20 years old. He enjoyed tinkering about and making things from steel all his childhood and was a member of the Renmark Gliding Club when they needed a new hangar. "Well how hard can that be?" he thought and welded up the frames.

Would you believe that shed is still standing at the Renmark Airport?

After that, he thought there might be a market for someone making sheds so put his first advertisement in the local newspaper, The Murray Pioneer, and sold his 1st commercial shed to farmer, Mr Duncan McKnight whose farm was at the 49 mile post on the Renmark to Mildura section of the Sturt Highway, near Yarrara, Vic.

And that's how Grant got started. His first name of course is where our business name **Grant Sheds** stems from.

The business operated from his parents Monash soldier settlement fruit property for a number of years until he built a new factory at Glossop in 1964.

After a number of years there and after diversifying into air-compressed guillotines, croppers etc he found that his reason for diversifying just didn't work out for him. The reason being that when farmers were having tough times, other industries followed suit and so there was little trade in either department.

Times were tough and he returned to Monash to rebuild with lower overheads. Within a few short years, things came good again and he was able to once again employ more people, grow his business and expand.

Grant Sheds is now owned by Grant's daughter Alison and her husband Danny Halupka, with them both having worked in the Grant Sheds business for some 30 odd years (Ali since she left school at 17 and Danny from the age of 24) before buying it.

Grant Telfer is also well know for a number of other projects he's done in his life, including building the old Monash Playground which many readers will remember fondly. More on that in another edition maybe.



Grant Telfer as he's well recognised, in white overalls, bare feet and riding his bike. This photos was taken in the 1970's and, at 85 this year, he still looks much the same ... and still rides his bike 20km a day.



A young Grant Telfer (32) talks with Premier Playford at the official opening of Grant's new factory in 1964.



Grant Sheds DeSoto 7 ton petrol truck in 1959

Talking with Grant Telfer about this photo he made the following comments:

- The framing on the trailer is long roof trusses for a (then) new shearing shed going to Karpa Kora Station, 200km north-east of Wentworth, NSW.
- The trusses on this trailer are about 70' long (obviously before the days of loading rules and restratints)
- The new Grant shearing shed was built to replace a (then) 100 year old one, close to the "Walls of China" which the station owner took Grant out to see (see P6)
- During the a previous delivery of more roof trusses for the same shed, Grant towed the trailer behind a ute. There was a dry creek bed Grant had to cross. He needed to travel very slowly into the creek bed so as not to damage the framing, but he needed speed to get up the bank on the other side so it was a very precarious crossing ... but he made it! The next load (on this truck) had no such speed trouble.



Experienced

RUNNING CATTLE



In the northern reaches of South Australia, cattle grazer Cameron Williams is among a family of experienced pastoralists specialising in running cattle on arid lands.

It's a farming region where the cattle count runs at one beast per square kilometre, the towns are few and far between, and the art of agriculture is knowing when to "load up and when to lighten off".

Cameron, accompanied by his wife Kirsty and their three small children, runs Mt Sarah Station, a division of the Williams Cattle Company. It's 200km as the crow flies south of the Northern Territory border, on the edge of

the Simpson Desert, where the nearest town is Oodnadatta, 80km to the south.

Here, distance takes on a totally new perspective. A quick trip down the road can be 500km, give or take a couple of hundred Ks. It's remote, but part of a major farming enterprise that has served the Williams family well for over half a century. It now also incorporates a piece of Australian pastoral history after the recent acquisition of Anna Creek and The Peake Stations, former Kidman properties.

Williams Cattle Company holdings extend from William Creek, to Coober Pedy and north to the NT border. The vast holdings encompass 45,000 square kilometres which include Mt Sarah Station, Hamilton, Arckaringa, Mt Barry, Nilpinna, Anna Creek and The Peake Stations, as well as land near Carrieton which also has a feedlot.

The focus is on sustainable farming and animal welfare, with the company running up to 35,000 head of cattle at a time. The head count varies from season to season, with management the key.

"There's dry country amongst it," Cameron explains. "That's why you've got to scope out the area and spread your cattle out accordingly".

The cattle at Mt Sarah Station are predominantly Hereford, with the introduction of some Angus in recent years.

Cameron notes Hereford are more consistent in the area, but the popularity of Angus beef has prompted a new shift.

"You've got to go with the market. Personally, I'm a Hereford man. They're just good doers for this type of area. People have tried other breeds over the years, but Herefords, for us, seem to have done better over time."

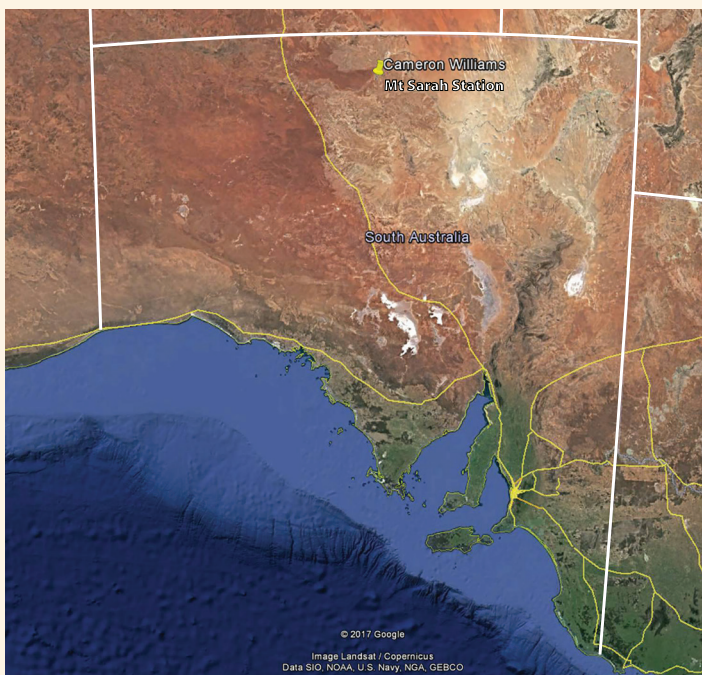
Cattle are sold to the southern market as fat cattle, but this can't always be the case.

"Our preferred option is to sell them fat, but depending on season to season, you might have to sell store cattle to people to feed on, or feed on ourselves."

And in recent years the seasons have been excellent, with plenty of rainfall and a resulting supply of quality feed.

"The last three years have been pretty good," Cameron explains. "We had 15 inches last year, and our annual rainfall is normally about 6 to 6.5. So we've got a fairly good body of feed here, although it's dry. We'd still hold on for 10 to 12 months even if we didn't get any more rain from now."

Management is the key to looking after the vegetation, and mustering is a major component of handling the cattle and the land.



Graziers ON ARID LANDS



“We don’t run our country too hard if we can help it.”

“It helps that we’ve got other properties within the company close by...It gives you room to move.”

That moving involves mustering by motorbike, with aerial support when required. And it’s country that’s far more varied than many would expect.

“People can’t believe what grows out here and how the country can look...especially considering we’re on the edge of the desert. It’s a good place with a surprising diversity of land types and land masses...there’s plenty of hills and areas that flood out.”

Mt Sarah Station features a single creek that acts as a catchment for over 20,000 square kilometres. The result sees a major influx of water passing through Mount Sarah after heavy rains.

“In Summer when monsoonal troughs come through, if you get three to four inches over a particular area, there’s a fair body of water that comes down this way too.”

I’ve witnessed a large flood here...just to describe the amount of water and the impact it has is pretty hard.”

It’s all part of a climate that varies, where conditions can be harsh. Summer sees weeks at a time where daytime temperatures reach more than 45 degrees. It can be tough on people and the equipment alike.

“It shocking, it’s cruel to watch really,”

Cameron explains of the toll the environment takes on machinery. “Especially trucks and other equipment, the fibreglass starts to crack, and paint starts to fade...”

Protecting this equipment saw Cameron recently invest in a new Grant shed.

12 metres wide by 31.5m long, and 5.1m high acting as an equipment storage shed and workshop. The new shed is in addition to a former smaller structure and allows everything to be accommodated out of the sun, with the added convenience of partial concrete flooring.



Cameron Williams of Mt Sarah Station near Oodnadatta in far north SA is pleased with his 12m x 31.5m x 5.1m Grant Sheds machinery shed that he built himself.

4.5m wide bays suited the vehicles used on Mt Sarah Station. Like many cattle stations they have a grader, bulldozer, tractor, truck, tractor, utes and other things but not the really wide machinery and implements like broadacre grain farmers use.

Cameron opted not to fully concrete the floor area, leaving two bays as dirt floor to cater to the mess of any machinery leaks. Due to the smaller size of the equipment that needs housing, he elected 4.5m bays.

He erected the structure himself, with the assistance of a relative, and describes the process as simple.

“For someone who’s not very clued up on shed building it was pretty straightforward. Luckily, I had an uncle that was a builder who was here

to help me level out and square-up the shed site. Once the footings were in place, it was just like putting a jigsaw puzzle together and very bomb-proof really.”

As for what’s next, Cameron says the future involves the Williams Cattle Company continuing to do what it does best.

“There won’t be that much change in the short term, I wouldn’t think. It’s just doing what we’ve been doing.”

As one of the state’s most experienced families in the operation of arid pastoral lands, that work will continue to involve balancing the welfare of animals with the management of the land.



A Walk On The Wild (Country) Side SPACES, PLACES & FACES

Walls Of China



Photo courtesy www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

On page 3 we mentioned the "Walls of China".

These are spectacular, exquisitely sculpted sand dunes around ancient Lake Mungo and it's what inspires many people to visit Mungo National Park in NSW, north-east of Mildura.

Lake Mungo is the 2nd largest of the ancient dry lakes in the area.

The Mungo National Park is noted for the archaeological remains of Mungo Man, the oldest human remains discovered in Australia, and Mungo Lady, the oldest known human to have been ritually cremated. They were buried on the shore of Lake Mungo, beneath the 'Walls of China', a series of lunettes on the south-eastern edge of the lake.

It is thought that the name 'Walls of China' may have been given by Chinese workers in the 1870's when they came to Australia for the gold rushes. They displaced many Aboriginal workers on stations at that time who worked as boundary riders, trackers, general hands and domestic help.

In 1869, Gol Gol Station built what is now the Mungo woolshed (pictured below) as its main shearing base. At the peak of the wool industry, Gol Gol was shearing 50,000 sheep a season in 30 stands!

For more information about this area, tours and accommodation, visit www.visitmungo.com.au



Picture courtesy <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/historic-buildings-places/mungo-woolshed-attraction>

Safe & Secure And Cool!!



Grant Sheds built this shed for Aaron Southern at Daveyston, SA.

It's a 12m x 30m x 4.2m shed in 5m wide bays. It has a dividing wall in the middle with one end being fully enclosed with 3 sliding doors (visible this side on left hand end) and it has insulation in the roof, walls and doors.

A Man of Many (Grant) Sheds



Malcolm Bubner of Wasleys in SA's Mid North,

recently added to his collection of Grant Sheds with this 15m x 24m x 6.3m Fodder and Machinery shed and a 7.5m x 12m x 2.4m Sliding Roof Bulk Fertiliser Shed with swing doors (below).





Ideas

To Help You With Your

FARM SHED SOLUTIONS

Easy & Efficient Hay Storage



Graeme Crouch from Wandearah, near Crystal Brook, SA is the proud owner of this 12m x 32.4m x 6.3m Grant Sheds hay shed.

The 4 x 8.1m front beams allow easy and efficient storage of 3 rows of large bales per opening. Inside the same shed you can see the rows of vertical bale bumper along the back wall which protect the wall iron when hay is being loaded into the shed. The front columns in this hay shed are made from UB (Universal Beam) as protection against damage from accidental tractor damage when loading and unloading hay from the shed.

Wide Vehicle Space + Functional Workshop



Daniel Treloar of DHAA Treloar Grazing Co at Naracoorte recently invested in a new 12m x 30m x 5.1m MACHINERY SHED.

24m of its length is open on one side with 2 x 9m beams and 1 x 6m beam providing nice wide open bays for wide machinery.

"I wanted nice wide open spans while still being an economical price," explains Daniel. "I didn't want to waste any of the shedding space and I also didn't want to risk hitting the shed columns with my machinery when manoeuvring in and out of the shed. So the fewer columns the better."

"And I also wanted a lock up workshop but I didn't want two separate, smaller sheds. So I liked the idea of my new workshop being part of this shed and incorporated it by adding another 6m long bay, with a partition wall between the workshop and the machinery storage area." My workshop has a 6m beam with two solid, yet easy-sliding doors, that open up to give me a 6m wide front opening. This allows me accommodate anything from my Toyota to servicing my stock truck. I've concreted the floor in the workshop to give me a clean

and level work surface. I've now got an organised workshop with shelving, work benches etc. It's a huge improvement on my past work conditions and I just love working in it now."

Asked why he chose a shed from Grant Sheds Daniel said,

"I talked with a number of locals and heard only good reports about Grant Sheds. I was told by others that they'd never seen a better-braced shed. Other brands only use the very thin strap-bracing with just a couple of tek screws to hold it in place. I've had sheds from other companies on other properties I've owned but decided to try Grant Sheds this time due to the positive reports from others and because you offer the building as well so I don't have to chase up builders."

"Very pleased we went with a Grant shed."

"The quality, strength, finish and attention to design is faultless. Exactly as ordered. The erection team were outstanding. Attention to detail, work-manship, work ethic, pleasant easy-going manner and totally self-contained.

Most Popular and Best Value Aussie Tough Sheds



Catalogue Out Now!

WARNING: Yet Another Steel Price Rise On The Way

This happened a few years ago too, when the price of steel rose every 3-6 months, and it's happening again.

The increase is on hot-rolled steel and mild steel in particular this time, so it will have a big affect on our MEGA SHEDS since the frames for these are made from these materials.

Other sheds will also be affected as the bracing, door frames etc are made from these too.

Sing out if you'd like help planning your new shed before the price rise.

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FREE BEER for a Year!

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MONTHLY HUMOUR

My wife and I were watching Who Wants To Be A Millionaire while we were in bed. I turned to her and said, **'Do you want to have Sex?'** **'No,'** she answered. I then said, **'Is that your final answer?'** ... She didn't even look at me this time, simply saying, **'Yes..'** So I said, **"Then I'd like to phone a friend."**

And that's when the fight started...

I took my wife to a restaurant. For some reason, the waiter took my order first. **"I'll have the rump steak, rare please."** He said, **"Aren't you worried about the mad cow?"** **"Nah, she can order for herself."**

And that's when the fight started...

That's How the Fight Started



My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion and she kept staring at a man swigging at his drink as he sat at a nearby table. I asked her, **"Do you know him?"** **"Yes,"** she sighed, **"He's my old boyfriend."** **"I heard that he took to drinking when we split up and hasn't been sober since."** **"My god,"** I said, **"Who'd think a person could go on celebrating that long!"**

And that's when the fight started...

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