

# FARM GATE NEWS

Written & Published By



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A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN YOU

**Constant Improvement To OVERCOME CHALLENGES** P4-5

**Local Aussie Legends** P3

**CREATING FARMING Success** P6

**FARMING CONNECTIONS** P2



What Makes Country Life So Good? ...

# FAMILY & COMMUNITY

We are part of the Hampel-Lidgerwood family because our youngest son Tony is engaged to Amy Lidgerwood (pictured above right) with their son Hunter Halupka

## ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

We've had a couple of family weddings in the past few months and funnily enough they have meant that we are now personally connected with even more SA farming families.



Mr & Mrs Hampel with their son Kayde and Matthew's daughter Mia.

Mark Lidgerwood is well known with his truck driving, carrying grain and grapes for local growers who know him may not recognise him in his wedding attire here as he's usually a shorts and singlet bloke.



Mark & Deb Lidgerwood with our shared grandson, 1 year old, Hunter Halupka.

Matthew's parents, Lyndon and Nathalie Hampel, farm at Taplan in the mallee (& have Grant sheds of course), along with son 'Rowdy'.

The Hampel boys are well known locally for their height. It makes them great ruckmen in local footy clubs and both had footy success in the 2017 year with Matt winning the A grade best and fairest award at Loxton North and Rowdy winning the Duthie Medal at Browns Well. Way to go Hampel boys!



Blokes waiting as blokes do at weddings .... Josh Goldner, Mark Lidgerwood, Kayde Hampel, Matthew Lidgerwood, Matthew Hampel, Justin Serafin and Rowdy Hampel.

### Mallee Folk

First we had the wedding of Lauren Lidgerwood to Matthew Hampel.

Lauren's family are well known in the Loxton region with mum Deb having been strongly involved with local softball and as a photographer and more recently her work at the newsagency in Loxton. And Lauren's Dad,



The extended Hampel family. A great bunch, just too many to name!

And I've gotta say, meeting the Browns Well gals at Lauren's Doe Show and at the wedding, they are a great bunch of really friendly and supportive ladies. Something I think we see often in country communities and missing in the city.

### Riverland & Eyre Peninsula

A few weeks later, our niece Kerry Halupka married Shannon Clarke.

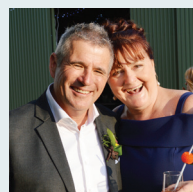


Kerry is the daughter of Annette & Garry Halupka (right) who have a wine grape property in Berri.

Shannon's parents, Brian & Janet Clarke (right), now live in Angaston but were farmers at Streaky Bay previously. Brian's 90+ year old parents still live there.

Brian already knew of Grant Sheds from his farming days and from working at a steel company in Adelaide for a time.

While we didn't know them before the wedding, their family was very friendly and we found we had a lot in common, as is often the case with country peeps.



Brothers Danny & Garry Halupka with their mum Helga at the family wedding.



Well that's all for another year. We hope it's been kind to you. We know it's been a challenging year for some and our wish for you is that, while difficult to see at the time they are happening, your challenges ultimately become opportunities for change that ultimately make you stronger, happier, less stressed or more successful in whatever you do.

With much love and admiration for what farmers and country communities do to support each other.

We'll see you again in the new year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*Ali & Danny Halupka*  
Owners, Grant Sheds



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

## Raving Fan Buys 22 Grant Sheds



Danny Halupka, co-owner of Grant Sheds, shares a laugh with long-term Grant Sheds fan, Trevor Lehmann from Robe SA. Trevor has purchased 22 (yes 22!) sheds from Grant Sheds.

## Grain Sheds For Two Farming Generations



Dedicated Grant Sheds builder Steve (above) helped build the Rowe's first grain shed.

Jack Rowe (above) of Rowe Farming Pty Ltd at Yarrara, Victoria called into our Monash office recently and we showed him our photo of his family's 1st Grant Sheds grain shed, built back in the 1980's.

### "Best Engineered & Erector Friendly Shed I Have Ever Seen"

"Having 22 years experience in the building industry and just erected my first Grant shed, I congratulate Grant's on the best engineered and erector friendly shed that I have ever been involved with.

They are very well engineered. All the holes are pre-punched. It goes together exactly as per the plan and all the parts are delivered.

They go together very well. They certainly go together more easily than any other shed because the whole structure is very solid from the minute you stand the columns up. And they're very safe to work on."

**Trevor Lehmann, Building Contractor, Robe, SA**

Trevor wrote this note when he built his 1st Grant Shed. He's since bought 21 more to build for his clients so has now bought & built 22 Grant Sheds!



### 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.

### "You Can't Keep Farm Machinery & Equipment in a Silo"

The Rowe family from Yarrara, in the Victorian mallee region, invested in a new 20m x 48m x 5.1m Grant Sheds Bulk Grain Shed this year.

They ordered it in August, it was delivered in September, they built it themselves and had grain in it by November.

Jack says that he appreciates the advice and help given to him by long-term Grant Sheds builder Steve (who happened to be working on another shed in the area at the time), and a roofing contractor did much of the cladding, which is why they were able to complete it so quickly and so close to harvest.

Builder Steve was part of the Grant Sheds team that built the Rowe's 1st Grant Sheds grain shed for Jack's father Rod Rowe, about 32 years ago. Steve was just a "young-un" doing his shed building 'apprenticeship' at that time and Jack was an 18 year old farming lad.

The Rowe's extended their original grain shed twice before they ran out of room for further extensions so Jack says he has planned out the location for the new shed with future extensions in mind.

They have 15,000 tonnes of on-farm grain storage, much of it in silos, but decided another grain shed was now appropriate due to the dual-purpose nature of a shed. **"You can't keep trucks and machinery in a silo,"** Jack stated.

**"We should have bought it last year. We had to bunker grain then and we didn't want to do that again. It's always easy to pick the best time to build ... but only in hindsight,"** he says laughing.

# Overcoming Challenges CREATE FARM



James Harvey at his Yalkuri Station on the Narrung Peninsula, between Lake Albert and the Coorong, in South Australia. His family has overcome many farming challenges during 4 generations of farm ownership.

**With a 10,000 acre property nestled between the lakes and coast of the Narrung Peninsula, James Harvey notes, "farming such a unique environment means playing to a property's strengths".**

**His family has been doing just that at Yalkuri Station since the 1930s, overcoming hurdles to emerge as a successful mixed enterprise that also includes holdings on Kangaroo Island.**

James is the third generation of his family farming at Yalkuri, and has built it from the 6,000-acre property passed onto him by his father to the 10,000 acres it is today. The farm now makes up roughly one-sixth of the Narrung Peninsula and in practical terms is the second last property sourcing water from the Murray River. Brother David on the property next door is the last.

The microclimate offered by its proximity to the coast and lakes allows him to grow dryland lucerne, grazing oats to feed their herd of Angus cattle along with crops of barley, canola, and wheat.

"Historically it's always been a mixed enterprise," James explains. "It was more a sheep property when I was a young boy, but there were always cattle run on the lake frontage...it was very much my grandfather and father's philosophy that you don't have all your eggs in one basket."

However, their Angus cattle herd has been in the area since the 1920s, and remains a major focus.

Each year the Harveys run an extensive breeding program that includes an elite Angus herd. Around 400-500 elite cows and heifers are artificially inseminated, with the backup of natural mating.

## **This allows Yalkuri to supply to the premium Chinese market**

where well-bred, pedigree heifers are in high demand. Meanwhile, calves from Kangaroo Island are also brought across for fattening before heading to market.

James explains ideally the Kangaroo Island herd calves in late winter or early spring when there's good feed available. Around February the calves are weaned and shipped to the mainland, allowing James to maximise the volume of cattle he can freight.

They're then fattened to around 400kg before steers and pedigree heifers head to sale for export, while breeding heifers are returned to the herd.

"We've got the advantage with Yalkuri being on the Narrung Peninsula which is not too far from a freight point of view...We're trying to effectively play to the strengths of each area and trying to avoid the weaknesses, if you like."

It's a constant game of figures and calculation that comes naturally to James, courtesy of his former career as an accountant.

While Yalkuri has been in his family for three generations and he's run it for a number of years, James only recently 'retired' and now can spend more time on the property.

"I grew up here on the Narrung Peninsula as a young boy," he explains. "I did my secondary schooling in Adelaide and then did an accountancy degree, worked as an accountant for four years, then decided to come down here for about five years farming...I brought my wife, somewhat reluctantly, to the country.

But she loved it. And then I decided I really needed to go back to accounting, so I took

her, somewhat reluctantly, back to Adelaide where I was a Chartered Accountant in a firm in Adelaide for nearly 30 years."

In between, the couple have had five children. The eldest, Henry, completed Agricultural Science and has played a major role in making Yalkuri more productive for the past six years. Meanwhile their second eldest son, Lachie, looks after the properties on Kangaroo Island. The day to day operations are now very much in the hands of the fourth generation.

It's part of a family-oriented operation, where James' brother also owns the property next door at Narrung. But it's one that has not been without challenges and a focus on constant improvement.

James notes the biggest problem he's faced since taking over Yalkuri occurred only a decade ago when the Murray River stopped flowing below Blanchetown.

"We had three years where we stopped irrigating. Our pumps were literally 2km away from where there was water, and salinity had reached a point where it wasn't useable."

The family shut down hay making, but utilised town water for their stock to drink.

"It was pretty expensive water, running a thousand cattle in summer, drinking water that's the same price as you pay out of a tap in Adelaide to water your garden. It was a testing time, and so we did a bit more cropping, we tried to adapt."

In reality the operation has been adapting since the Harveys first arrived. They were the first at Narrung to irrigate their land after the barrages were built, and in the 1960s, Yalkuri was the first property in South Australia to trail 10-80 baits in a bid to eradicate rabbits.

"That dramatically changed what you could run in terms of livestock because you weren't feeding these millions of rabbits."

Meanwhile, not every initiative has been a success, with the lakes region presenting its own specific challenges.

While the established Angus herd seems to have immunity, cattle new to the region struggle with liver fluke derived from the region's reed beds. Graziers are no longer allowed to run cattle on the lakefront, but

# & Constant Improvements MING SUCCESS

historically that was an issue.

*"Dad bought cattle from the Northern Territory one year. Quite aside from the fact they were mad as anything, we started losing them to liver fluke."*

And the environmental conditions that allow them so much diversity, also have a major impact on equipment. The current focus is on combatting that with the introduction of new sheds.

Grants previously supplied sheds to Kangaroo Island and Yalkuri, with new storage now under way in Narrung, and James notes each serves a variety of purposes.

At both properties, the sheds allow him to keep equipment out of the weather, while the new infrastructure at Narrung will give him storage for hay. It will also provide a maintenance area for machinery, with the further benefit of catching rainwater for spraying.

**James sees it as an investment in the future that enables him to maintain plant and equipment for resale or further use through better servicing and less damage from the ongoing onslaught of salt air and weather.**

As to the future of farming, James believes technology will play a greater role in terms of automation, crop management, and more available data to assist managing property operations.

*"It will be about using technology to play to a property's strength - not trying to grow things in areas it's not suited to, not trying to run sheep in areas where they don't fare well."*

But he notes technology will have its limitations where only a human hand will do.

*"I can't see there'll be automated calf making. Maybe I'm wrong, but I think we'll keep getting kicks in the shins from making calves for as long as I can see into the future."*



*The Harvey's Grant Sheds machinery shed, protecting their valuable farm equipment from the harsh environmental conditions on their Kangaroo Island property where they raise Angus cattle calves during late winter to mid summer before shipping to their Narrung property for fattening.*

Get Your Complimentary Copy of this Important Farm Report...

## "Money-Making Farm Sheds"

### How Switched-On Farmers Make More Money With Their Sheds

If you want to build a new shed to protect your expensive farm equipment or valuable farm produce in 2018, then start planning early.

Don't wait until you need your shed immediately. It's then too late to

- plan your new shed investment well and
- have builders available to you when you want them.

Planning and ordering your ideal new, 'money-making' Farm Shed takes time.

We are happy to help you work out what shed size and layout of openings, doors etc will be best for your personal circumstances, but you need to get started with the planning now.

**Our building schedules fill quickly and you don't want to miss out**

**So don't wait:** Read this Farmer Report about how you too can increase your farm profits. And when you get to the end, take the next steps to invest in your new "Money Making Farm Shed."

To Get Your FREE Farm Shed Info Pack and Report, valued at \$47 PLUS a Limited Time Discount Voucher valued at up to \$4200 if you respond now

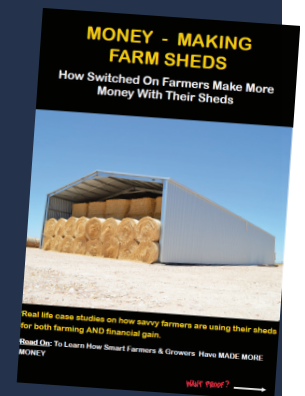


Phone Brenton on **Freecall 1800 088 528**

Or email [info@grantsheds.com.au](mailto:info@grantsheds.com.au)

Or call the On-demand, 24 hour hotline on **1300 064 775** and leave your name, address, phone and email details.

Whichever way you respond, ask for the Money-Making Farm Sheds Info Pack as shown in this edition of FARM GATE NEWS and we'll post it to you pronto!



# Setting Yourself Up For SUCCESS

## THE ROAD TO HANA ... Setting Yourself Up For Success!

Some time ago, a friend of mine and his wife visited a major tourist attraction called "The Road to Hana". It comprised a long and winding road that, over the course of hours, took them through breathtaking scenery, waterfalls, cliffs and beaches. At the end, there was nothing but the small town of Hana, with one petrol station.

When they finally arrived, my friend's wife was very upset. She said, "We drove all of this way for this?" She missed the point. The Road to Hana is about the journey, not the destination.

Don't make the same mistake during your farming business journey. The journey of building a great farming business is not about the destination at all. Of course, you want to be highly profitable and generate wealth for yourself and your family. Yet, along the way, you need to enjoy the lives that you'll touch and the things that will happen. You need to get excited about the value you'll create for yourself and the people around you ... family, employees, customers, friends. Enjoy the pure pleasure of playing the "game of farming", and you'll be able to take pride in the self-perpetuating farming system that you've built.

To do this you need to start with a plan.

Take time to set or review your

### 10 year vision

This is your big vision. Some call it your BHAG...your Big Hairy Audacious Goal. It may be something you're not sure you can even achieve, but if you could, would be amazing.

### 3 year picture

This is where you get real. With your 10 year plan in mind, work out what you need to achieve in the next 3 years to help get you there. 3 years is a time frame that you can work with. It's far enough out to plan, knowing that with steps before that you should be able to achieve it.

### 1 year plan

What will you do in the next 12 months to set you up for achieving your 3 year picture?

### Quarterly Rocks

The things you need to do in the next 90 day sprint, to make sure you're on the road to achieving your 1 year plan. These are the most important priorities ... things you need to get on with and that will give you tremendous traction to attaining your longer term goals.

### Weekly Review

Take a moment each week to review what you've achieved and what you need to do next week to keep your momentum going.

Throughout this article I've used the term "you". This doesn't mean that YOU have to DO everything. However, as the leader on your farm, YOU do need to determine your vision and your goals. This may be in conjunction with your farm or partner.

It does mean that you need to be leading and delegating work to your farming team, whether that's your farm hands or your outsourced agronomist, accountant, harvesting team etc. In fact, the more you can delegate, the more you will ultimately achieve.

However, do not confuse delegate with abdicate.

The difference being that when you delegate, you stay in control (of direction, decisions etc). If you take what feels like the easy route and "abdicate", allowing the person to whom you pass work, make the decisions and work out their own path for what you've asked them to do, you will at worst find that they may totally rip you off for their own agenda or at best, may work (albeit with the best of intentions) down a wrong path because they misunderstood what you wanted of them.

You need to remain the leader and provide clear direction.

Once you have created a farming business that doesn't require you to crank ever single gear, you'll have more freedom yourself. The journey should be enjoyable.

### STAY FOCUSED

If every person could just do that, they would be happier and more successful. We live in a world that inundates us with information. There is so much shiny stuff that it's hard to concentrate. The main antidote to this is just to "Stay Focussed."



# Hasty/Tasty Last Minute CHRISTMAS SOLUTIONS

OK ... so you've left it a bit late. Here's a few ideas that might help you out for Christmas or any other celebratory event throughout the year. You can thank me later! 😊

## Last Minute Christmas Present Ideas

**Weekend Away** You don't even have to pay for this one up-front. Just make the promise (& yes you must honour it)

**Experiences** Hot Air Ballooning, Tree-top Walk, Zip-lining. Just google these terms to find out where you can do it.

**Houseboat Holiday** No boat license needed, easy to drive, awesome fun.

**Rustic Garden Art** You've probably got rusty stuff around your farm land that you could drag out and turn into a gift otherwise it's popular in garden shops. Here's a few ideas to get you started



## Christmas Tree Nutella Pie



### Ingredients:

1 egg yolk  
50g Nutella spread  
30g blanched slivered almonds  
2 sheets frozen Puff Pastry

### Method

Lay out 2 sheets of frozen puff pastry sheets & cut out a Christmas tree shape.

Take the top sheet off and set aside.

To the bottom sheet, spread a thick layer of Nutella then sprinkle almond pieces over the Nutella.

Place the 2nd sheet back on top of the Nutella so Nutella is layered between the 2 sheets of puff pastry. Press down lightly so top layer sticks to Nutella. Use a knife to cut slits about 1cm apart up each side of the tree to create branches and leaving a trunk down the centre.

Twist each 'branch' twice, gently to make the branches stand out.

Cut out 2 star shapes from the leftover puff pastry, fill with Nutella and attach to the top of the tree. Glaze with beaten egg yolk.

Bake in oven for 20 minutes at 220°. Remove from oven and dust with icing sugar.

Serve and allow guests to pull off pieces of the tree to eat.



## Chocolate Peppermint Cheesecake in a Glass



### Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups chocolate biscuit crumbs  
80g butter, melted  
250g Philadelphia Block Cream Cheese, softened  
110g Cadbury Dairy Milk Peppermint Chocolate, chopped  
1 cup thickened cream  
1 1/2 tablespoons caster sugar  
1 teaspoon gelatine dissolved in 1 1/2 tablespoons boiling water  
220g Cadbury Dairy Milk Peppermint Chocolate extra, chopped, for decoration

### Method:

Combine the biscuit crumbs and butter, and then press into the base of 6 serving glasses or jars. Chill.

Melt the Philly and chocolate in a bowl over simmering water. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Whip together the cream and sugar until stiff. Stir the gelatine mixture into the Philly mixture, and then fold through the cream.

Spoon half the mixture into prepared glasses. Then top with some of the extra chopped chocolate. Spoon over remaining Philly mixture and chill for 2 hours or until set.

Decorate with the remaining chocolate just prior to serving.

# Grant Sheds - 65 Year Anniversary



## Grant's First Shed

### 65 Years and Still Standing Strong!

In our last edition of FARM GATE NEWS we provided some history of how Ali's father, Grant Telfer, started Grant Sheds (previously known as Grant Engineering). In that article we mentioned that his 1st shed was made in 1952, when he was 20 years old, for the Renmark Gliding Club of which he was a member.



This is a photo of that shed still standing today ...65 years later!

As a further aside, Grant enjoyed tinkering about making things, mostly in steel, right from in his teens. He made his own 1st welder from a Dodge car starter-generator (for maximum output). His 2nd welder was made from old transformer laminations and new cotton covered insulated wiring, as directed by his electrician uncle.

Grant is now 85 years old and still fit as a mallee bull. That's him in his trademark white overalls in the family photo below. He still rides his push-bike around 20km each day ... oh, except for recently when it bucked him off (while stationary) and he needed 14 stitches in his ankle. That has slowed him down but only briefly. He's now awaiting a new \$8000 custom-built bike and he'll be back on the road soon. You can't keep a good man down !!



**OVER-WIDTH,  
OVER-HEIGHT,  
OVER-LENGTH,  
OVER-WEIGHT,  
UNRESTRAINED &  
NO BRAKES...  
THE GOOD 'OL DAYS**



## MONTHLY HUMOUR

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping through TV channels. "What's on TV," she asked. "Dust," I said.

**That's when the fight started...**

On Saturday morning I got out of bed quietly and slipped out to the shed. I hooked the boat up to the 4 wheel drive and proceeded to back out into the torrential rain. The wind was blowing at 90kph so I pulled back into the shed to check on the weather conditions on my smart phone. The forecast was for the bad weather to continue all day. So I unhooked the boat, went quietly back inside, got undressed and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back ... now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible." My loving wife of 5 years replied, "And can you believe...My stupid husband is out fishing in that?"

**And that's when the fight started...**



**From Our Family To Yours  
MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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