



JENHARWILL BALING PA

Newsletter – February 2011

Welcome...

... once again to those that have visited our site previously and those who may be coming on board for the first time.

The month that has been...

Rain rain, go away, come again another day.

Never thought we'd be printing such words, especially after 15 years of prolonged dry seasons.

The much anticipated new year has come and gone, but the drenching continues. Major flooding on the Campaspe River, and the Bendigo Creek have caused much heartache to Jenharwill, and many others along these waterways.

Brett had a huge battle to save his house, but with a determined effort with sand bags, excavator and many long hours they managed to keep the flood at bay. Charlies house on the Campaspe had the bottom floor inundated, and Barry's house in Rochester suffered the same fate.

The help of friends, workers, and anyone involved in the clean ups was very much appreciated.

It is very disheartening to have such a negative response from the insurance companies, as the costs of getting back to normal is very high.

The mossies have been breeding in plague proportions, and will continue to be a problem until the cold weather.

But, when you look at what has happened in other places ie Queensland, we are still better off.



Private swimming pool at Charlies !!



Barry's house at Rochester.

The flood at Rochester was the bigger than the 1956 flood that inundated the town.

Something different...the clean up

Mountains of house hold items, carpets etc. line the nature strips in Rochy.



Looks like a garage sale.

This is not how it should be

Howie (alias Howard O'Sullivan) thought that Davin's effort in the previous newsletter was pretty ordinary, so proceeded to beat it.



This hay had been cut in early December, and left in windrows in the field. The hay has little more than straw value, but needs to be shifted off the paddock to allow next seasons planting.

The machines still had trouble travelling to pick up the windrows due to the mulching effect of the hay. The ground was so soft the baler wheels dragged furrows through the mud.



Heath Hayes and his excavator finally managed to extricate it.



Farm happenings...

Very trying times, as every time we decide to do something it rains.

Cutting dryland lucerne has been a challenge, trying to get in in the bale in the very short window before the next change, and also the cooler weather not helping.

Running a lot of sheep, and keeping the fly's at bay is a full time job. Shearing and drenching are on the agenda at the moment.

Have delivered three loads of lucerne into the Kerang, Murrabit area, donated by the Gippsland district Lions club.

They were very appreciative of the donations when they needed them, and are happy to be able to respond to the many farmers desperately in need due to the continued flooding.

Spraying of weeds is going to be a huge job. The summer growth is phenomenal, and if not controlled will impact severely on crop yields next year. Brett and Howie have the job in front of them, but I'm sure they're up to it.

There is certainly a lot of fencing to be done, and we will get on to it over the coming months. No doubt cropping will be on us before we are ready.

Crystal Ball Gazing...

Sounds like there will be huge plantings of winter crops this year. Grain crops could be mostly favoured, as many will be very wary of planting large amounts of hay crops after the disaster this year.

Could be a big year for export hay if it can be baled properly.

It would be nice to see a big surge in dairy commodity prices, as we all need a strong dairy industry to keep the wheel turning.

Social Interaction



Very little happening on the social front, but the workshop has been kept busy. Some workers have been able to have a break in the school holiday's and spend some time with their families

Issues

The issue of hay transport throughout NSW is once again on the agenda.

The state government has expressed a desire to look at reform in the regulations, but the old bogey man, the RTA seem to have no intention of changing their views.

Not only do they need a change of government, but a clean out of bureaucrats as well..

The AFIA is currently trying to negotiate a resolution that will bring NSW into line with Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.



Load conforming to Vic standards

We have stocks of oaten and vetch hay for sale

We have a supply of Vetch, or Vetch and oat mix available, but a lot of this hay is rain effected, and will be priced according to tests.

High quality, with no rain damage will be very hard to locate

Oaten hay is available in 8x4x8 and 8x4x3 bales. We will have good quality, as well as rain damaged hay for sale. **Please check our website.**

We will be looking for contract work, especially cutting and conditioning with our Krone Big M. This machine has been fitted with superconditioner rollers, and can cut up to 15ha/per hour.

Demand for hay is at an all time low. Whether it is due to excess feed, low cash flow or whatever, no one seems to be interested in purchasing fodder

Anyone interested in *hay purchases*, especially vetch or high quality hay should give us a call to discuss their options. The best quality hay is usually the first to go, and many buyers end up paying the same price for lesser quality product.

Last, but not least...

Never have we seen more trying times in agriculture. It is very hard to stay positive, especially with major flooding on a scale never seen before.

It would seem that the banks have no intention of taking a soft position with flood or EC effected farmers, and have only there self interests at heart. Many farmers will be forced to the limit and maybe beyond if current economic conditions remain for much longer.

Government assistance is desperately needed now if they wish the Australian farming community to remain a strong and viable industry into the future.