

All Back Roads lead to The Farm



What an extraordinary month May has been! Scarily warm and no frosts as yet. Every day The Farm looks a picture and the garden is 'blooming marvellous'.

Yes, we sure need rain, but the weather has allowed us to get much done and welcome lots of visitors.

Our Buckets, Boardgames & Beasties Day was a lot of fun. The forecast rain held off (of course!) so we stoked the firepit and cooked the snags. There was singing, weeding, eating, board games, walking and talking, and the most delicious afternoon tea imaginable.

If you missed out, we will do it again in Spring as we know that Sunday suits many of our co-farmers, some of whom travelled from as far as Melbourne to participate.

Hard to top that but then last week we had a truly amazing day with Lisa and the wonderful crew from ABC Back Roads plus some of our favourite regular visitors from the Aspect School.

Interviewees ranged in age from 11 years old to over 95 years old, and they all starred. We will let you know when it airs, but won't be for some time, such are the vagaries of prime-time television. It'll be worth the wait!

From the Garden

Our plants are very confused by the summer days. They don't know whether to grow fruit or shed leaves or both. Tomatoes & zucchinis are still flowering, and the strawberries might be ready again for Wimbledon, except we are actually on the wrong side of the world for that.



Feathers Flying



Greenery is always at a premium in the chookpen but it is hard to grow when every nutritious speck is pecked or scratched. Our solution is to use temporary cages to grow plants inside and move around the pen. Then the inevitable remaining mallow becomes a lovely sheltered maze for everyone to play in.

What's New?

- Next Enews will be the big gender reveal. What? Will it be pink or will it be blue? Who knew that the grass for sports courts now came in 7 different colours. Apparently, our new activity zone is so bright that the neighbours have to put sunnies on as they drive along the road and look down. Promise there will be a picture in the next Enews, with no filter!
- It might not suit current political rhetoric but the truth is that the cheapest cleanest power is what we get free from the sun. New solar panels along the full length of the big machinery and smoko shed are powering our usage and feeding the grid. Plus there's a dopamine hit every time I check the new app for how much we are saving in costs. As big Sam says, 'you know it makes sense...'
- The mild season plus our deep ripping and pasture work is really paying dividends. Much more to do and we are in the thick of autumn sowing now, but grazing oats and multispecies grasses means less hay being fed and fat cattle going into winter. We've been able to hang onto last year's calves a bit longer too. It's rewarding doing new things on an old farm and constantly learning.

Co-Farmer Club



Gerri has been coming to The Farm for many years so it was extra special to have Gerri and friends from Mansfield here to see all the changes and also help in the garden.

Word from the Herd

While Cleo the pig is rapidly rising up the charts as quirkiest farm animal, Jacob the donkey was enjoying endless carrots in front of the cameras as the Aspect students each had a chance to give him a treat.



Next Issue

Will be a June/July double edition to keep you warm



A great way to stay up to date is to check out our Salt of the Earth Farm Stories on Spotify and Google. Or watch out for our Instagram stories!



The Farm Mudgegonga acknowledges and respects the connection Aboriginal people have to this land and their role in caring for and maintaining Country.