

# G'DAY FROM BANNOCK BRAE

Newsletter 49

APRIL MAY JUNE 2017

## A JOURNEY, NOT A DESTINATION

Our Bannock Brae journey started in April, 12 years ago. Twelve years ago we were battling one to the worst droughts our farm had ever seen, buying feed to keep our cattle alive, unable to produce anything, and going backwards every single week. It's a hopeless, soul destroying feeling and definitely why "Aussie Helpers" is our chosen charity, raising funds for Aussie farmers in similar situations.

This hardship though, prompted us to take the biggest risk of our lives. We used the last of our savings (no crowdfunding for us!) to

lodge a development application with council to build a fully accredited butcher shop on our farm. The aim was to diversify in order to help drought-proof us for the future, keep us viable and sustainable without having to rely on outside employment to survive and to keep the farm which has been in Kieren's family since 1906 running. With lots of hard work, we've grown from a staff of two to a vibrant, busy workplace for up to ten locals, expanded our delivery runs, added fresh produce and value-added dishes to our range, added a full on-line shop and



even opened a retail outlet to enable our products to be more accessible. Along the way we have never lost sight of our passion to provide the best quality products at affordable prices to everyday families just like ours. It hasn't always been easy but it's been rewarding. Be assured that when you buy from Bannock Brae you are connecting with genuine farmers. This is not just a trendy gig for us or the latest fad—farming is in our blood, it runs in our veins—we are the real deal!

## Hampton's Next....

Felton Food Festival is done and dusted for another year. We had a great day, connecting with customers face to face, new and old. Although the crowd numbers were down

quite a bit, we look at Felton as an invaluable opportunity and hope to join them again next year.

Hampton Food Festival will be next on the agenda. Join us on Sunday 21 May for a

day of fun, food and music. Bannock Brae will be there cooking our delicious wood smoked bacon and egg burgers, generous steak burgers and gourmet sausages. It's a fantastic event not to be missed!

### BRISBANE DELIVERY RUNS

- \* **Thurs 11th & Friday 12th May (order by 2 May)**
- \* **Thurs 8th & Friday 9th June (order by 30 May)**
- \* **Thurs 13th & Friday 14th July (Order by 4 July)**
- \* **Thurs 10th & Friday 11th Aug (Order by 1 Aug)**

## DOWN ON THE FARM.....

After a grueling summer with that relentless heat wave, the rains finally arrived—in a pretty big way! Although nothing like the rainfall other areas have had, we are thankful for the heavy falls we did have which filled out empty dams and have encouraged a plentiful body of grass to cover the hills. The creek has had a minor flood through it and is running again and all of the animals seem to be relaxed and in chill out mode with full tummies and clean coats.

The boys are on the look out for a rather large wild pig that has decided to make its home here and is enjoying digging up our cultivation paddocks

and feasting on grain. His tracks lead to a part of the creek that is heavily infested with lantana—but not for long! Our new part-time farmhand Colin has been busy with pest management and is taking care of the lantana which has been threatening to take over some of the creek areas. Regular maintenance of this pest is a must as it can easily get out of hand rendering land less productive.

And in other great news, our resident koala appears to have found himself a girlfriend! We were so excited to spot two koalas late in the afternoon in the trees above our old barn.



### Pa's Rainfall Report

**Jan - 76mm**

**Feb - 16mm**

**March - 242mm**

## Have you checked out the latest?

, Thanks to the friendly team at Quadtech, our Tasty Treats & Gourmet Delights section of the website is now operational. There you will find all the tasty treats that have previously only been available through our retail shop showcases.

Ready to cook meals like curries, sweet & sour pork, and stir fries are available and so too our pastries, pies, chicken dishes and more. Don't forget you can also order local farm fresh

*Exciting new additions are on our website now! Check it out!*

eggs, local honey and fresh produce to your order. Orders can be picked up at our farm or retail shop or we are happy to organise a delivery within our delivery areas. Local deliveries are free of charge and deliveries across Brisbane only \$10 !

## WHERE ARE WE?

Here's a snippet of places to visit to get a taste of Bannock Brae!

- \* Our local Meringandan Produce and Trading has the best burgers in town and if you are craving our wood smoked ham and bacon they stock it too!
- \* Highfields Bakery & Bakery Cakery at Uinplaza Toowoomba—best pies!
- \* The Chocolate Cottage & Café @ Abbie Lane— cool cafes
- \* Westbrook Spar—stocking our ham, bacon & cheese kabanans.

## Changing Faces....

Over the next couple of months, you might see a few new faces around Bannock Brae. Just prior to Christmas we welcomed Anthony to the team and we would also like to officially welcome Colin to the team—Colin is our new part time farmhand and jack of all trades and by all accounts is loving his new role. We have some work experience students who are

keen to have a go and also some staff who will be taking leave so we will be re-shuffling roles at times to cover everything and cater for this. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work through the next few months.

Til next time,  
The team @ Bannock Brae Meats

