

# G'DAY FROM BANNOCK BRAE

Newsletter 51

OCT NOV DEC 2017

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!

Rain always seems to breathe new life into everything. As I wake in the early dawn, ready for another busy day at Bannock Brae, there's a buzz in the air. The rain has freshened everything up, the birds are singing happily and I can almost hear my vegies growing over the crunch of the wheels on gravel as the butchers arrive for their 5am start.

Things are ramping up for our busiest few months of the year and soon the smell of our beautiful wood-smoked Christmas hams will fill the air 24/7.

We have a full range of top quality meat for you to choose from for your Christmas and holiday get-togethers. Farm-fresh beef, pork, and lamb as well as chicken, turkey and of course our hams will be on the menu, along with all kinds of bbq treats—think succulent steaks, our ever-popular snags and a range of kebabs, koftas and marinated meats. Whatever your meat needs are this festive season we've got them covered. But here's a tip—order early to avoid disappointment. (especially our hams as we do sell out every year)



To order, simply call us on 46 967 062, email your order via our website—[www.bannockbrae.com.au](http://www.bannockbrae.com.au) or call into our Highfields shop and talk to one of our friendly staff who will be more than happy to tailor an order to meet your needs.

Don't forget you can also follow us on Facebook! Jump on to check out the latest in-store specials, popular competitions and news from the farm!

## ON THE RUN.....

Did you know we deliver farm-fresh meat to our Highfields shop every day and you are welcome to order ahead and pick up your order from there. Our opening hours are 12pm-

6pm Monday to Friday and Saturdays 8:30am-12pm.

We also do free weekly deliveries to customers in Toowoomba and immediate surrounds (Including Kingsthorpe, Westbrook,

Oakey, Gowrie Junction) and deliver to Brisbane (from Burpengary in the north to Ormeau in the south and everywhere in between) and along the highway to Brisbane! See dates or call us to discuss!

**BRISBANE DELIVERY RUNS**  
**\* Thurs 9th & Friday 10th Nov (order by 31 Oct)**  
**\* Thurs 7th & Friday 8th Dec (order by 28 Nov)**  
**\* Special Christmas Run \* Friday 22nd Dec (Order ASAP—limited numbers)**  
**No Delivery Run in January 2018 due to annual shutdown**

## DOWN ON THE FARM.....

Encouraged by our first decent rainfall in months, Bannock Brae and Erinvale have become hives of activity. The dust and crunchy grass underfoot is again showing signs of life and a green tinge is slowly spreading across the hills. It is welcome relief from the relentless hot, drying days and a sight for sore eyes as the brown countryside morphs into something far more exciting with animal and birdlife enjoying the fresh change. The farm is teeming with life—all kinds of birds from rainbow lorikeets, white cockatoos, kookaburras, currawongs and even a bush turkey building a nest in the garden to koalas, echidnas, bearded

dragons, dingoes, snakes and of course kangaroos and wallabies galore! With more rain predicted, we live in hope that it arrives in time to save our crops and if the signs are anything to go by, it might just happen! Signs old bushies swear by that have been passed down through generations—the willy wagtails nesting in the hayshed instead of out in the open, the springs breaking out causing odd green patches in a brown landscape, the lizards sunning themselves with their heads and tails up, and the increase in echidna sightings—all apparently good signs that rain is on the way. So far 50 mm has been enough to plant some forage and the



The Willy Wagtails nesting in the hay shed

boys are waiting in anticipation with sorghum seed ready to plant as soon as conditions are right.

**Pa's Rainfall Report**  
**July - 51mm**  
**Aug - 0mm**  
**Sept - 0mm**

## IT'S A TEAM EFFORT!

We've come a long way in the twelve years that Bannock Brae has been running. What started as an idea to use our skills to drought-proof our farm has become a bustling business that employs up to 10 locals. We are very aware that we couldn't do this without our very talented and wonderful staff. Our fully qualified butchers Anthony, Brent and Christian (and Kieren), take care to slice and dice orders to customers' requirements as well as

*We're a family business through and through—it's a team effort!*

create tasty dishes, and make delicious hams and smallgoods. The lovely Justine and Brenda (and me!) take care of the packing of orders and the customer service side of the shop. Kieren is busy mostly running the farm side of things these days with a little help from Col our part-time farm

hand. And of course I have the paper work and logistics side of the business which is always such fun especially around Christmas time! There's also our family who help us a lot and we are so very grateful to them too. Kieren's parents are in charge of the lambs and Kieren's mum Diane spoils the staff with daily morning teas. My parents grow cattle for us too and are always on hand to help out where they can and our boys Adam and Jordie are also a really big help. It's definitely a team effort—at Bannock Brae it's a family business through and through.

## WOOD SMOKED

The books are open and are we are now taking ham orders for Christmas! There are several options available. You may choose a full leg or a half leg or have a piece of ham cut to size (for example a 2kg piece) You may have the bone in or a boneless ham—both follow the same procedure so it is just a matter of personal preference and ease of carving your ham. All hams

are gluten free but arrangements can be made to have a nitrate free ham (made with herbs, spices and brown sugar) or a salt only ham if you wish. Hams may be collected at our Highfields shop or there will be many delivery runs between now and Christmas. Several local schools will also be running ham drives so look out for these! Til next time—the team @ Bannock Brae

