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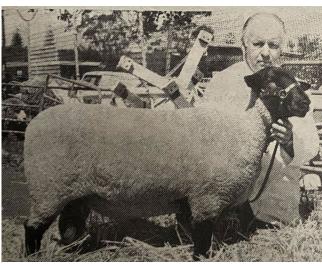
### **OUR PEOPLE**



YOUNG HELPERS: Kylie and Mandy Roenfeldt, Wasleys, helped moved sheep around the Merino shed with their pet ewe Helen, at the Royal Adelaide Show.



MACHINE AUCTION: Elders-GM auctioneer Jeff Howie selling a Massey Ferguson 585 SP combine harvester in the first major tractor and machinery auction in Murray Bridge.



SPECIAL SUFFOLK: The Perth Show champion Suffolk ram shown by DW&PM Barkley, Newbold, Gawler River.



BEST BULL: Senior and grand champion Hereford bull held by Warrensville studmaster Chris Steer. Also pictured is federal Hereford Society president Jock Nivision and his wife: iudge Mrs Gunn and SA president Willie Lintvelt and his wife.



THROWBACK THURSDAY

In September 1977, it was all go for many shows, including Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Gawler and Wudinna; the drought was one of the "worst this century"; and ram sales and field days were

NO RAIN: Crops were failing due to drought.

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#### LITTLE FARMERS

Kim Storey

From the Author of What Does A Farmer Look Like? Comes Kim's second book, Little Farmers. Focusing on farm life as told by kids. Some of these amazing kids will take on leadership roles in agriculture in the future, some kids already have their own farm business and some kids just love farm life & are bursting at the seams



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Robert Owen

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# Seek support to help tackle tough topics

#### **FARMERS TALK** MENTAL HEALTH

BY DOREEN DONOVAN AND **ROSIE ROBERTS** 

University of SA's **National Enterprise** for Rural Community Wellbeing

JOE has spent his whole life on the land where he lives with his wife Jess.

Jess and Joe have been married for 20 years and have two children - Pete, who is in his first year of university studying agriculture, and Sarah, who attends the local high school.

Joe talks about the importance of making time for family, especially when the farm demands so much of his time.

He feels that it is very hard "to balance work and time with family", especially with

Joe and Jess experience ups and downs in their relationship.

children start to grow up, he the stress that it causes, but and Jess will have to work on I can't talk about the stress getting to know each other.

"At the end of the day, the kids go away to school or leave school and all of a sudden the stress between us is terrible," he said.

Joe talks about how he and Jess just can't seem to get on and how hard it has become Joe said. living together.

He says he doesn't know who to reach out and talk to, because "other people either think you're a whinger, or they don't understand the depth of emotion" when relationships break down.

Men on the farm, especially, feel like they need to solve all their problems on their own, or believe they have to hide how they feel about separating from their wives, he says.

There are some emotions it is OK to talk about.

For example, as a farmer, Joe says, "I can talk about

Joe knows that as their the impact of drought and and anxiety I feel about our marriage not working".

"The reasons it is hard to talk to people in the community is because Jess and I share friends, but even more so, as a man it is hard to talk about my feelings to others,'

The relationship breakdown has led to distress and depression for Joe.

Joe's experiences make it clear that it is important to be able to talk to someone about distress and marital breakdown.

■ Details: To access mental health and wellbeing support, reach out to your GP or a community counsellor or contact Regional Access on 1300 032 186 or Lifeline on 13 11 14. Support is also available through Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Mensline on 1300 789 978.