

## TORQUE TALK

KEN WILSON



### Crowd funding

TORQUE spent an interesting time at the Merredin Military Museum last week (See story pages 32-38).

But it was with some concern to discover the Museum is struggling with operational costs, despite huge heavy lifting from volunteers.

This museum is a classic and should be a priority to maintain as a WA treasure, particularly because of the war-time items displayed and some of the history of WA's involvement.

Former local farmer Rob Endersbee is the volunteer museum curator who is doing his best to ensure the museum stays open for the public, but is short of a few dollars to pay pressing bills.

A total of \$5000 is needed immediately so Torque would like to suggest to loyal readers we "crowd-fund" for the museum.

It would only take 500 readers donating \$10 each to get to the total.

Torque will kick it off so let's make it \$5010 we're targeting.

Ring Rob on 0429 411 204 for the account details to deposit your \$10.

### iPaddock programmer

ESPERANCE farmer Mic Fels is looking for somebody with programming skills to help further develop his iPaddock Yield and iPaddockSpray apps.

According to Mic, it's an



It was all go at Hutton and Northey's Merredin branch when Torque visited last week. Especially in the fabrication shed where the dealership continues to expand its fabrication business, particularly involving straightening bent fronts, such as this one being assessed by Brendan Anderson (left), Angelo Trunfio and Bernard Jefferies. According to the boys, they repaired 10 fronts this season. "It's indicative of modern headers with wider fronts, harvesting through heavy crops, with drivers unable to see obstacles through the thick stubble prevalent this year in the Wheatbelt," Angelo said. "We repair all makes and we have years of experience in repairing machinery equipment." No holding Angelo back when he gets a chance to make a comment. Hutton and Northey is earning a reputation around the traps for quality work and is becoming the go-to place for such repairs, now that Holtfreeters, Northam, is no longer in business. Phone Brendan on 9041 1077 for a quote.

ongoing labour of love to improve the apps which at the end of the day are there to make money and save money.

"There is so much more we can do but I need some assistance," he said.

If you think you fit the bill, contact Mic on 0428 783 014.

### Scoop for Torque

DONGARA manufacturer Peter Nunn contacted Torque last week with a "scoop".

"We've designed a new generation of inclusion plates," he said. "They'll be standard on all our Hydramax deep rippers for 2017."

For the uninitiated, inclusion plates are soil-separating wings attached to the back of a deep ripper tine.

The top of the plates are designed to operate between 100mm and 150mm (4-6in)

under the ground, which allows topsoil and organic matter to fall in behind the tine and be distributed through the profile of the ripped soil.

A lot of farmers are using them to ameliorate lime at depth.

"There's been a big increase in deep ripping in the past two years and Hydramax owners are reporting some really significant crop yield increases between 1t/ha and 4t/ha," Peter said. "It's the sort of talk we were hearing in the 1980s when deep ripping took off."

Peter, who manufactures the Hydramax under licence from Queensland manufacturer Tilco, also said some huge canola crops had prompted one farmer to employ cut down smudge bars in front of headers tyres to knock down tough stubbles because the traditional rubber flaps were ineffective.

But he's not thinking of making smudge bars.

That could have been another "scoop" for Torque.

### Allan tracks his mob

KATANNING farmer Allan Wilson has come up with a tool to help him manage his sheep flock, and share that information with farm staff.

He calls it MyMobTracker, a simple web-based app that keeps track of stock movements, numbers, and actions such as marking, joining, pregnant scanning, condition scores and weaning.

All sheep are identified according to the NLIS colour-coded year, which is now standardised throughout Australia.

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