



Tuesday, August 29, 2017

## Don't forget to fertilise the 'top paddock'

So the farm plan is done, everything is set for the year ahead ... but have you remembered to 'fertilise the top paddock', make some decisions to ensure you have a good life to go with a 'good' farm?

Maybe it is easy to disregard this, put it on the "I'll do it later" list, but planning to nurture yourself and your family are key to choosing a good life and 'growing yourself' to cope with whatever it throws at you.

Leading business consultant Ken Solly, Solly Business Services at Naracoorte - key lunchtime speaker at the Hart Field Day on September 19 - has five top tips in choosing the life you want instead of leaving it to chance. He says:

- Regardless of your age always have all five plans in place – business plan, personal plan, retirement plan, succession plan and estate plan (one page for each can suffice);
- Make sure you are always on the learning curve in all areas of business and personal life;
- Ensure you at least have three weeks annual holiday in one block and you have a major interest away from the farm;
- Time management and success go hand in hand;
- Consciously decide how enjoyment and pleasure will be a part of everything you do.

"A good life is a decision – just make it," Ken says.

"Your success in life is usually directly proportional to your planning and discipline, you also have to work hard on your relationships – get the people right and the profit will follow.

"Always be sceptical of your own beliefs, you don't fix new problems with old tools, and find ways to reward yourself."

Without doubt, farming throws many challenges, but Ken says there are some important things to remember in tough times.

"Don't ever see yourself as a victim – extract every bit of learning from a mistake or tough time, tough times will re-emerge," he says.

"Learn how to preserve yourself in adversity, don't you become the ball and chain in the business and family.

"Don't let farming dominate your life, ensure you get off the farm regularly.

"Share your problems with someone else, don't beat yourself up.

"And always have the best possible plan and keep busy."

Hear Ken Solly speak during the lunch break the Hart Field Day, Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

Online registrations for the event are now open.

For more information and to register for this event, see the Hart Field-Site Group website [www.hartfieldsite.org.au](http://www.hartfieldsite.org.au)

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