

# OBI OBI essentials

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## December 2012 Bulletin

Our new yards are now complete and the first task to take place in them was shearing the alpacas which was done easily and efficiently, thank you to Alan the shearer and Des and Lyle the builders of the yards.



There was such a buzz at the Montville Markets on the second Saturday of December, it was a real joy to be a part of it. The children from the Montville State School are a large part of this market and their ongoing energy and enthusiasm really reaches out to the broader community who attend monthly and always stay around to socialise and connect. This is a large part of why markets work. It is not just the monetary transaction between the buyer and seller, but the environment that allows all who attend to feel part of an embracing community.

The Blackall Range Grower's Markets has achieved this same level of interaction between everyone with a beautiful venue, great music and genuine local product available. I can't tell you how much these sort of events enable me, as a farmer to keep on going. They give me such positive reinforcement that I can go home and do it all over again. Congratulations to the organisers for their vision and ongoing commitment to these two events.

What is it that I have to do? At this time of year it is about grass and weed control, and it is ongoing even with the dry weather. With the new season of summer, fertilisation has started with the collecting of animal manure. The alpaca and donkey manure are put straight onto the ground under the camellias and the fruit and vegetable gardens and the horse and cow manure is put into the compost. Tea drying and packaging consists of, first checking the weather then keeping fingers crossed that the sky will remain clear and the days will not be too hot until the leaves are dry.

With an eventful and busy year coming to a close, I am looking forward to some serious book reading, Woodford festival going, spending time with my family and catching up with lots of friends.

May the festive season be all that you need,

From our place to yours,

Alexina.