

Place of wheat and wattle....



Getting to know the LOCALS....

This month we are starting a new section called Getting to know the Locals. We intend to speak to a wide range of locals, not only the long-term residents but also some of our newer residents. We want to find out their story and what brought them to Dalwallinu as well as what keeps them here.

Firstly, when we talk about locals what exactly do we mean? When and how do you become a local. A local is defined in the dictionary as;

- *an inhabitant of a particular area or neighbourhood*
- *relating or restricted to a particular area or one's neighbourhood*
- *relating to a particular region or part*

In general terms most country people would consider you a local if;

- *you or your family have lived in an area all of their life, or;*
- *you are someone whose family has ties going back to the early settlement of an area, and;*
- *you have become deeply embedded into the community*



Travis & Erica Hollins

Our first interviewees for this new segment are Erica and Travis Hollins from the Dalwallinu Traders. We would like to thank them both for sitting down and having a chat.

Surprisingly if we apply the definition of local from above, Erica can claim to be more of a local than many would even realise.

For Erica, moving to Dalwallinu was a homecoming of sorts. Her family were some of the early settlers of Dalwallinu. Her Great-grandfather John (Jack) Garland had a 160 acre farm where the McLevie Bin now sits, from 1910 which he farmed until his latter years. Her Grandfather (Stuart) worked in Dalwallinu between WWI and WW2 as a bank valuer.

Erica and Travis have taken an interest in the joint venture of Dalwallinu Mitre 10 Hardware and the neighbouring Agriculture

division, both under the Dalwallinu Traders banner. The Hardware store has been operating in Dalwallinu since the 1900's. Erica manages the administration and Travis is manager and agronomist for the AG Store. The bank in which her Grandfather worked was located at the right-hand side of the existing hardware shop and Erica and Travis now live in the former bank residence behind.

Erica's parents were from Geraldton and Northam and Travis's parents came from Ejanding and Dowerin, and now farm in Walkaway near Geraldton. Erica is the baby of her family with one older brother and two older sisters. Travis grew up with one older brother.

Erica was born in Subiaco and spent most of her younger years in the City Beach and Cottesloe areas. She attended Kapinarra Primary School but later attended PLC for her high school education. Her first job after leaving school was as a sales assistant before eventually having a long career in Real Estate. Her career took her to Victoria for many years before eventually returning to live in WA.

Travis was born in Geraldton and grew up on the family farm outside of Walkaway. Travis commenced his education at Walkaway school before moving to Perth to complete

his education at Hale School. After Hale, Travis continued his education and completed a University Degree in Agriculture at Curtin University (Muresk). He started his agronomy career in 1999 before starting his own consultancy in 2003.

Erica and Travis met when they began working together in Perth in agriculture. They married in 2010 and have travelled and lived in various parts of WA before they eventually settled in Dalwallinu. Although they have no children they do have a beloved cat "Monty" who is totally spoilt.

Erica and Travis both said how much they love living in Dalwallinu as they enjoy the diversity and the close community that Dalwallinu provides. Other than the desire for better mobile reception in the area and the addition of a good butcher they wouldn't like to see Dally change at all.

