

Revolutionising Aussie farming

Taking an idea and making it work!

ONE of the seven wonders of the ancient world are the Hanging Gardens of Babylon — gardens that grew on the rooftops of buildings in Babylon during the sixth century BC — which were watered by shift working slaves who lifted water from the Euphrates River.

It is the principle of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, minus the slaves, that is the inspiration behind Peter Ryan's 'Fodder Factory', and his success should be an inspiration to industry the nation over.

From being lumped with a white elephant on his Bobin property to distributing factories from all over the east coast of Australia, Peter Ryan has come a long way in six years.

"All I've done is taken an idea and made it work," Peter modestly explains.

But it is much more than that. He has created a new industry that is fully Australian owned and made.

Peter's invention, the Fodder Factory, is a



□ Peter Ryan of the Fodder Factory.

fully contained shed that produces up to 960 kilos of nutritious green fodder a day.

This invention can realistically revolutionise the farming industry. As one customer told Peter "it takes the gamble out of farming."

And that it certainly does, with factories established in such diverse climatic locations as Rockhampton, Dubbo and Hobart this alone is testament to its universality.

The idea of the Fodder Factory began six years ago when a local

engineering firm approached Peter, who has a long career in farming, to make something of the kind.

"I believed in it enough to put the money up so when the original prototype didn't work I was basically left with a white elephant on my property and while it didn't work it was a good idea and made so much sense - I just had to keep working on it."

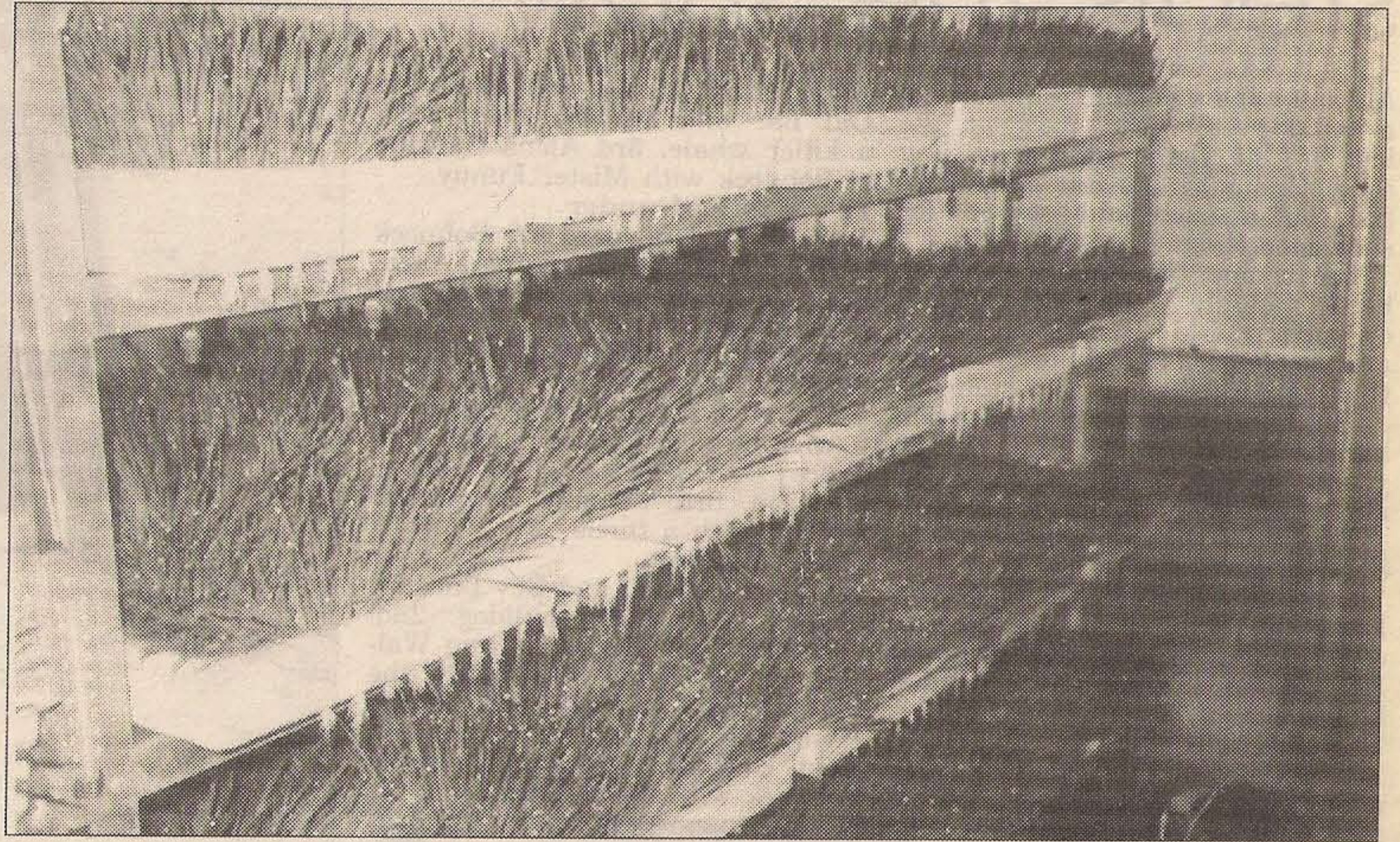
And work at it he did until he came up with a product that is now in demand all over the east coast.

"Most of the people who buy the unit need the feed for themselves to finish off their steers.

"One customer was so impressed with the factory he held a field day at his Gilgandra property to show it off.

"He said he thought that he could achieve nine times the weight gain with fodder than in the paddock so it is an economical way to finish off cattle."

Peter's aim in pro-



□ Peter's invention, the Fodder Factory, is a fully contained shed that produces up to 960 kilos of nutritious green fodder a day.

ducing to Fodder Factory is to provide palatable green feed independent of the outside environment.

"We always have either too much rain or not enough. The year before last we were buying water in November and it was flooding in January."

The beauty of the Fodder Factory is that unit is completely installed by Peter.

When a prospective

purchaser decides they want to go ahead Peter has to test the water source, and then he sends the purchaser a drawing of the slab, which they pour before he comes out to install the shed, which takes about a week.

"It comes complete with tanks, pumps, trays and computer system. All the customer has to do is buy the grain.

"The computer sys-

tem regulates the temperature inside and the water source.

"It takes the guess work out of farming all the farmer has to do is take the grown fodder out of the trays and replace it with grain.

"There is no balancing of chemicals — the computer literally runs the shed."

The Fodder Factory, which is made of a galvanised steel frame

and a uv stabilised shade cloth, currently comes in two sizes and Peter is working on a larger design.

The shed uses single phase power and is very economical. If it cools for six hours in a day Peter estimates it costs the owner 75 cents to run. A large shed takes about a thousand litres of water a day and feeds 300-600 kilos.