MEDIA RELEASE

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*Caption: John Davey with his 80-year-old father Syd Davey, who has earned the right to ‘share the driving privileges’, in front of their new Steiger 450 tractor.*

**Age no barrier with guidance systems**

Syd Davey might have thought that using a state-of-the-art guidance system was too much for an 80-year-old, but he proved himself wrong.

When all his family was getting their teeth checked out in Adelaide, he was virtually alone on the farm at Clinton Centre… and clearly felt safe to sit in the cabin of his son John’s Magnum 260 and look at the Case IH FM-1000’s display.

Until that time, he regarded the FM-1000 as being extremely sophisticated technology and that at his age he would never be able to use it. However then, on impulse, he called his grandson on the mobile and asked how to turn everything on.

From that moment, there was no stopping him. Following instructions given over the mobile phone, within a few minutes, the Magnum was on the move and heading across a paddock.

When the family returned, Syd proudly announced that he had baited 800 acres … and that he had loved doing it.

John Davey recognised that he had now acquired a new member of his team to share “... the driving privileges” on Kalimar Park’s tractors.

He grows wheat, barley, canola and lentils on his 1000-hectare property and gets straight runs of between one and two kilometres on his paddocks. He says that using the FM-1000 guidance system has made a very big improvement in the economics of running the Clinton Centre property.

“When we first went to autonomous guidance for spraying, we saved 20% on our chemicals. When I upgraded to RTK, we saved another 12% on our chemicals using section control – turning the spray off and on passing the headlands.

“We gained more efficiencies with the spreader doing the same thing because there is no double application. It automatically turns off whenever we pass any area that is already spread.”

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John said that he is constantly looking for further improvements in performance.

Recently, he pulled out most of his interior fencing and is now reorganising the layout of the farm to improve its efficiency.

He is certainly a great advocate and willing to share his knowledge about the benefits of precision ag – with or without the advantages of having a very enthusiastic 80-year-old dad.

The Daveys purchase their Case IH equipment through Larwoods Ag Services at Kadina. In addition to their Magnum tractor, they are enjoying their recently-purchased Steiger 450.

*For more information please visit www.caseihparts.com.au.*

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