

Member Profile:

Scotchy Pocket Passions

A Growing Life Rooted in Family and Farming

Hanna Millard

Tucked away just off the Bruce Highway in the tranquil community of Scotchy Pocket, Gunalda, lies *Scotchy Pocket Passions*; a thriving passionfruit farm where dedication, family, and hard work form the heartbeat of the operation.

At the forefront is Pete, a former construction worker whose family roots stretch back to sugarcane farming and small crops. Although agriculture wasn't his first career, farming was always in his blood. Three years ago, he and his wife Taria decided to take the leap into passionfruit, and they haven't looked back since.

Their 100-acre farm is home to 4,000 vines, growing two main varieties: Swanco and J.E Tipper variety Passion Burst™. Together with two part-time staff, Pete and Taria handle the day-to-day operations, balancing their busy work life with raising their two young children three-year-old Ardy and baby Zaylia.

But the path hasn't been without its challenges. Pete admits that weather extremes, staffing difficulties, and a steep learning curve have tested his resolve. "Experience takes time," he says. "There's no shortcut. You just have to keep learning."

Pete's fruit makes its way to the Brisbane Markets, where his careful work and consistent quality are paying off. While many growers aim for rapid expansion or diversification, Pete is currently more focused on stability. "For now, we're keeping the farm steady, mastering the varieties we have and improving year by year."

Soil health remains a top priority with a reliable water supply from the Mary River scheme. Pete is focused on building a strong foundation for long-term productivity over the next ten years.

At Scotchy Pocket Passions, success is measured not just in fruit yield, but in resilience, learning, and the joy of raising a family close to the land. It's a story of patience, purpose, and passion—just like the fruit they grow.

"Farming passionfruit has been incredibly rewarding," Pete shares. "It's fascinating to see how the plants respond to the weather and the effort you put in. And being able to do this while staying close to my family—that's the real reward."



The 100-acre farm is home to 4,000 vines Photo credit: Hanna Millard



Pete, Taria & baby Zaylia



Three-year-old Ardy is already a skilled picker and eater of passionfruit!



The family have 2 part time staff as well as working full time on the farm themselves
All photos credit: Hanna Millard