

## NEXT TIME YOU'RE AT THE FARM GATE

As I visit farms I find many different methods used to hold a gate shut. I have never come across a "real" farm that has the same type of gate latches on all its gates. Instead I have found many examples of kiwi ingenuity. I've seen chains, bolts, wire loops, bailing twine, wood, rocks, stakes, bent nails shaped in the form of a "S",... Have I missed any?

It seems the only gate latches standardised across the farm are those gates found on small holdings where you have a "life stayer". Then they have gone to the stock agents or even worse some hardware store (like Placemakers) and bought the clasp and chain. A purpose built device that does the job very efficiently, but!

What's wrong with chain, nail, wire ..... you say. Absolutely nothing as long as it is reliable and does the job that is required. What's more it provides a bit of interest when someone like the minister comes across the farm with you and you're entertained as you watch them face yet another homemade latch.

I often think it's good that God did not make us all the same efficient models. A model that did the task right all the time and was the same right across His farm, the universe. Instead God chose to create individual humans who come in all sorts of sizes and shapes. Each crafted individually by God. Paul writes; "not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another"(Romans 12:4-5). And "God arranged each one of them, as he chose". (1 Corinthians 12:18)..

I'm glad he did, because it makes life far more interesting. So next time someone tries to say a Christian is "XYZ". Stop them and remind them about all the different gates and the latches on the farm.