



Jamie and his wife Dianne have been battling drought conditions on Lantana, the family's 40,500ha sheep and cattle station located more than 100km from Quilpie.

published or give up writing completely. Their drought-stricken property was demanding so much attention and writing took up considerable time.

They went with the 'give-it-a-go option' and despite being knocked back more than once, with evidence in the form of a drawer full of "thank-you but no thank-you" letters, Jamie had faith in his writing ability.

Jamie says his wife, Dianne, and his mum are his biggest supporters. Dianne is his manager despite living and working 700km away while his mum is responsible for getting his book into bookstores.

On top of having his wife live so far away Jamie also has drought related problems. He finds it hard to get labour so does most work himself, the sheep flock has been reduced because of time and labour, and cattle became the focus because Jamie can handle them by himself.

"It's been bad for the last six years with the drought, illness, death of mates and death of stock. The success of the book has been a real pat on the back," Jamie said.

Dianne summed up their family's feeling about Jamie's books well when she said, "It was fantastic after six years of ongoing drought to finally have something positive to feed our energies into that didn't involve mulga trees and dying stock."

To find out more about Jamie Kemshead or to order books go to www.jamemclean.com

The cover of Jamie's latest book is a story in itself. Once the title, *Dog Trap*, was chosen, Jamie knew he wanted a picture of an authentic trap on the cover of the outback thriller. There were several old ones on the property but they just weren't right.

Just after deciding on the title, Jamie was finishing up a full day's work bulldozing and beginning the 5km slog, across the paddock, to his vehicle.

"I'd gone about 25m and walked under a box tree and there was the biggest dog trap. If it had been set, my foot would have been caught in it."

Jamie knew straight away this dog trap was destined to be on the cover of his book so he slung it over his shoulder and continued striding across his drought-battling land, with a little more fight and a little less defeat in his heart.

"It was fate. It was a good omen for the book."

