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featuring

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ORGANIC INSIGHTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AUSTRALIA

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Glenn Schaube
/ NASAA Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I believe that as clean energy is the future of energy production, so too is organic agriculture the future of clean food production.

This month we take a moment away from current events as we look to the future. The future of farming.

Today, Australia faces some big challenges.

Climate change, drought, desertification, rising salinity, loss of biodiversity and access to quality water. Catastrophic fire conditions and flooding. Now, COVID-19.

Real issues that require *actionable change*.

It can be overwhelming...

But, as individuals, we can feel empowered by exercising *choice*.

Choosing to put our effort, support and money behind organisations and causes that actively promote sustainable solutions for a healthier world.

Organisations that give voice to the issues that matter to you.

Organic agriculture is a story of optimism. The answers to today's challenges are already there, enshrined in our philosophies and embedded in our practices. We've been banging on about the big issues for years!

And, we need more people like you to help share our story.

Join us and be part of *Australia's agricultural future.*

Help strengthen our voice in advocating for our farmers and delivering the programs that support, educate and encourage a more sustainable method of food production in Australia. Agriculture that places the health of our ecosystems at its heart.

Be a member, be a mentor, an advocate, and/or an agitator for a better future.

As an emerging industry, the growth of organics in Australia has been defined by the contribution of *Individuals*.

Individuals who have selflessly and passionately supported the industry over the last 30 years, through advocating, teaching and sharing knowledge, to help others discover a more sustainable method of agricultural production.

As organics in Australia continues to develop from its beginnings as a 'movement', to occupying a legitimate and necessary place in contributing to the supply of food to the world, we look to honour their contribution, and that of the many individuals today, who passionately believe that this is Australia's agricultural future.

We invite you to join us this month as we celebrate the 30-year anniversary milestones of our long-standing producers.

We can all enjoy a future that is built on a solid past!

Glenn Schaube

IMAGINE A FUTURE WHERE **ALL FOOD IS NATURALLY ORGANIC**, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THESE FOODS WILL NOT ONLY **REGENERATE OUR HEALTH**, BUT WILL ALSO **REGENERATE THE LANDSCAPE AND THE ECOSYSTEMS**, WHICH WE ARE DEPENDENT ON FOR CLEAN AIR, FRESH WATER AND A STABLE CLIMATE.

GLENN MORRIS, FIG TREE ORGANICS

30 years & counting...

2020 HAS BEEN CHALLENGING AND STILL REMAINS UNPREDICTABLE, MAKING IT AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO TALK ABOUT VISION

Nadine / Unsplash

IN THIS EDITION, WE CELEBRATE SOME OF OUR OWN VISIONARIES, WHO HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF THEIR ASPIRATION TO CREATE A FUTURE, FORWARD-THINKING, SUSTAINABLE FARMING METHOD

We talked with some of our long-standing organic producers about their 30-year milestone; about their inspirations and challenges, the biggest changes that they have seen in agriculture and food production, and how they see the future.

We can certainly all learn a thing or two from these trailblazers. 30 years is a long time in any business, and they must be doing something right!

Given space constraints, for geographic convenience, and with the State very much on our collective minds in this COVID period, we have focused on our Victorian operators, who have achieved this major milestone.

In our next edition, our attention will turn to feature all of our other celebrants across Australia. Stay tuned for more pearls of wisdom!

Greg May
KANGAROO HILLS ORGANIC FARM

Blampied (Hepburn Shire)
kangaroohills.blogspot.com / facebook.com/khofwinery

Doug May
CAPTAINS CREEK VINEYARD & WINERY

Blampied (Hepburn Shire)
captainscreek.com

Phil Rowe & Cathie Taylor
SUNNY CREEK ORGANIC BERRY FARM

Trafalgar (Gippsland region) / *Berries, Orchard Fruit, Nut Trees*
sunnycreekorganic.com

Andrew Jones
MASTERNATURAL

Irymple (Sunraysia region) / *Table Grapes*
masternatural.com.au

Terry 'Tangles' Conner
EJ & TA CONNER

Boundary Bend (Mallee region) / *Fruit & Berries*

Keith Matthews
WILL-O-HILL ORGANICS

Nyah (Swan Hill region)
instagram.com/willohillorganics

GREG & MARGARET MAY KANGAROO HILLS ORGANIC FARM
DOUG & CAROLYN MAY CAPTAINS CREEK ORGANIC WINE

The May brothers – Greg, Doug, and the late Rod – grew up on the Blampied farm that is now shared amongst the families and have all been part of the journey to organic.

Rod, in particular, was well known in the organic industry for his commitment as a farmer, and to the development of the Australian industry and organic standards as a NASAA and IFOAM Board member.

He was, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for the brothers.

"He was the one who largely got us all into organic farming... and we followed his lead," says Greg, a sentiment echoed by Doug.

"He was my mentor, the one who convinced our Dad to move into organic, and who started our transition in the early 80's."

"In the early days, we had very little guidance and support from outside, and there was very limited information out there on organic," says Doug.

"We, and particularly Rod, were very much involved in helping to develop organic standards over this time, in part drawing on information from overseas, particularly out of Europe and the US," he says.

"Starting out, people thought we were mad," says Greg.

"So, the biggest change I've seen over the years is greater acceptance within the

/ Continued on page 4

community; people now have a better understanding of what we are doing."

Although that understanding could still be further developed, according to Doug.

"I'm still surprised by the number of people who come into our cellar door, who don't have any idea what organic actually means!" he says.

Greg has observed that the take-up of organic in the area has been slow.

"For the larger producers, change will come slowly. Old farming practices are embedded and there is such a heavy reliance on chemical control."

"We are seeing, though, more 'boutique', small-scale artisan producers coming through where organic seems to go hand in hand," he says.

Creating opportunities for the next generation has provided great incentive for the brothers.

"Having 2 small children at the time, and a desire to produce food for the family, was a strong motivator to go organic," says Greg.

Doug concurs, and sees his role as a custodian of the family farm.

"It's not uncommon to find 3 generations working on our farm, including my wife and I, the in-laws and our 2 kids," he says.

He points to the extensive diversification that has occurred on the farm over the last 30 years, "all with the aim to build up our enterprises and opportunities on farm."

"At a farm level, we have undertaken massive tree planting; our production now includes a mix of perennial and annual crops, and livestock, and we have looked to value-add through selling direct to customers, opening a winery cellar door, restaurant and offering on-farm accommodation," he says.

"We've encouraged our children to develop long-term skills at University (one is enrolled in Engineering and the other aims to study Environmental Science next year), but hope one day they will return to the farm as I, myself, did," he says.

For those looking to get into organic, Greg's advice is balanced.

"There are great rewards, but you need to be prepared to work hard and you need to be prepared for failure," he says.

"I know that sounds pessimistic, but some people come in with rose-coloured glasses and you have to be realistic."

"It can be bloody hard work; weeds are still our biggest challenge... but it is also very rewarding."

"It's wonderful to have customers seek you out," he says.

"We used to do veggie boxes at farmers markets, and I've had people tell me, for example, that our carrots are the best tasting they've ever had."

Doug says that people need to keep in mind that Rome wasn't built in a day.

"It's taken us a long time to build what we have today," he says.

"And, having self-belief and having faith in your product is so important."

"I think we have a bright future for our farm and children, and a bright future for organics in Australia."

"We just need to grow the industry quicker."

Greg says that organic to him means natural, unprocessed, healthy.

Doug agrees, saying "It's the way we used to grow our food and wine, and now it's the way of farming we need to return to."

"The sooner we wake up and get off the chemicals, and their impacts, the better," he says.

"Our future depends on it."

PHIL ROWE & CATHIE TAYLOR **SUNNY CREEK ORGANIC BERRY FARM**

Phil Rowe & Cathie Taylor's Sunny Creek Organic Berry Farm was featured in our Summer 2019 edition of Organic Insights, with Phil sharing some of his knowledge and experiences gained through 40 years of operation.

The couple grow a wide variety of berries (over a hundred varieties) at the farm, located at Trafalgar in Victoria's Gippsland region, as well as heritage collections of apples, chestnuts and other assorted fruit and nut trees.

The farm has been a work in progress, as the couple have experimented over the years in developing their organic production systems based on permaculture principles.

Phil's father was a keen gardener and his interest started there, with later exposure to the concept of permaculture, through its exponents, David Holmgren and Bill Mollison, and earlier, J. Russell Smith.

Along the way, he has also been fortunate to meet many people in pursuing his interest in berries and nuts, who have been individually inspiring.

Quality underpins the value of everything that's achieved on-farm. The farm proposition is built on shelf life, organic status, diversity of offering and rarity of fruit, according to Phil.

"The price premium we achieve reflects the cost differential in the methods we employ," he says.

"We find that many of our loyal buyers share the same values that we do," says Phil.

"We now sell at a fairly flat price through the season, and while some shoppers are price sensitive, most of our loyal followers value our proposition," he says.

"We've built a reputation over the years as a reliable supplier of quality organic fruit, and we're very proud of that."

Phil's advice to others starting in organic is simply to observe and learn over time.

"I'm happy to talk to people about the techniques that we use here on-farm," says Phil, "However, every farm environment is different, and what works here at Sunny Creek, may not be appropriate for others."

"It's about understanding your own farm system and learning over time, through observation, what works for you."

"Organic is a word that, to me, means a whole farm ecosystem, inclusive of both commercial and non-commercial outputs," says Phil.

"It requires a management philosophy that balances the scale and diversity of external inputs to arrive at a sustainable production dividend," he says.

Soil fertility should be enhanced over time, and natural flora and fauna should be accommodated within the landscape."

"In less words, Commercial ecology-for plants animals and humans."

Phil continues to find inspiration in what he does all the time.

"You can learn from people at any time, and I still try to seek out the experiences of others."

"On a lighter note, I also like the lyrics of Joni Mitchell's 'Big Yellow Taxi' as a continued motivator, and a succinct expression of our value statement!"Read our full interview with Phil in our Summer 2019 edition of Organic Insights.

Hey farmer farmer
Put away the DDT
I don't care about spots on my apples
Leave me the birds and the bees
Please!
Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Til its gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot

Big Yellow Taxi – Joni Mitchell

ANDREW JONES **MASTERNATURAL**

Andrew Jones is a producer of table grapes, sultanas and dried fruit located in Irymple, close to Mildura in the Sunraysia district.

Andrew first got into organic farming for health reasons, as he was experiencing bad dermatitis in his hands as a reaction to chemical use.

Common to many of the time, Andrew found that there was a lack of available information and support on organic management systems when starting out. He was fortunate, however, to join a group of like-minded growers in the district in founding the Sunraysia Mallee Organic Growers Association, or SMOGA (originally instigated and led by NCO Chair, Jan Denham).

Sharing information and experiences within the group helped and supported the journey for all, despite the fact they were all producing different things. Andrew coupled this support with a bit of intuitive questioning, of the "what did my father's father used to do?" variety, which informed his approach to managing the farm.

Today, Andrew's produce is primarily distributed in bulk from his own packing shed, *Ben Burn Organic Packers,* where in addition to processing his own product, he also contract packs for other growers in the district.

Aside from managing weeds on farm, simply being a smaller scale producer has brought with it some challenges.

He has found himself competing more recently with larger corporates, and without the ability to invest in a new business model at scale, has had to become something of a 'price taker'.

Equally, while he has looked to venture into retail in the past, Andrew has found it challenging to make the investment required to sustain the supply requirements and marketing support of his own Master Natural brand.

As many new players enter the market, Andrew is particularly concerned about the "potential market pressure of price cutting."

Fortunately, he has found that many customers have stuck by him or returned, and it's here that he believes "customer loyalty and trust will be key in the future."

For this reason, he advises any producer starting in organic to "really check out the market, know what your customers want.... as well as find out all about how to grow."

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TERRY 'TANGLES' CONNER **EJ & TA CONNER**

Terry 'Tangles' Conner has been growing organic citrus, oranges and grapefruit at Boundary Bend, located near the junction of the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers, for the best part of 3 decades.

He was originally drawn to organic with a desire to "do things better, and to be more sustainable."

"I also had a neighbour, Glenn, who was farming organically at the time, and he helped me along in the beginning," he says.

Tangles produces around 120 tonnes of fruit per year, which is packed and sold through the local Murray Growers and distributed to the Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane markets.

Like Andrew Jones, markets have been the key challenge for Tangles.

"We are not finding the prices are there at the moment, and the markets have not grown," he says.

"There are some bigger players now, larger distributors and this is driving down the price for everyone."

"We used to export a bit, but found these markets were too hard as a smaller producer, unfortunately, and ultimately unprofitable."

Access to inputs is another challenge Tangles faces.

"We struggle to get enough fertiliser on, and you've really got to weigh up the cost with your final price," he says.

He believes some people think they can be 'organic by neglect' but sees that this is not sustainable.

"You have to keep your eye on everything," he says.

"You have to pay attention to your crop, and balance quantity and quality, your markets and keep in mind your financial bottom line."

"We've had our own ups and downs over the years but ultimately, it's been worth it."

KEITH MATTHEWS **WILL-O-HILL**

Keith Matthews (Snr) has been farming organically since 1988, with full certification obtained in 1990 at his 'Will-o-Hill' property, located at Nyah in the Swan Hill region.

Today Keith (Snr) is retired and the 2nd generation, sons Keith (Junior) and Russell now manage the mixed fruit and vegetable farm.

The desire to shift from a chemical dependent farming system was a strong incentive for Keith in the early years.

"What I saw and experienced with chemical use in vegetable production back then turned me right off wanting to continue down that path," he says.

"There were other factors, but that was the main one," he says.

"Organic to me simply means chemical free food... knowing that what you're eating is free from chemicals."

And, with the carcinogenic properties of common chemicals now well known, "we have had a lot of direct inquiry for our product from cancer sufferers over the years."

Keith says they were seen as hippies when they started.

"The neighbourhood discrimination against organics was really strong," he says.

"We were subject to verbal complaints about not spraying chemicals in the 'accepted' way, to control this and that."

But, like many of our early pioneers, Keith now sees a huge acceptance and demand for organic produce everywhere.

"I think the demand for organic food will only continue to grow, due to better health outcomes, better taste, and more natural production," he says.

Having been through the challenges of forging a new path, Keith can only encourage people to back themselves.

"I would say to anyone starting out now that they must have a firm belief in what they're doing," he says.

"Believe in it, or it won't work for you."

banking on diversity

farm profitability & the triple bottom line

Are people feeling the winds of ecological change sweeping Australian agriculture? A greater focus on natural capital accounting, recognition of the bankability of biodiverse, sustainable systems and a movement within the investment community away from conventional, fossil fuel intense industry.

There is much to be positive about for the future.

The sentiment is certainly echoed in a recently released strategy from the National Farmers Federation (NFF) *Get Australia Growing – Ideas for Economic Recovery*, which recognises that "the World is trending towards a market-based system for valuing natural capital."

It's a theme amplified in the NFF's *2030 Roadmap*. The Roadmap highlights, as a key priority, the need to recognise and reward, good environmental stewardship, and calls for the development of a natural capital accounting system. This is all based on an ecosystems services approach – similar to those of the EU, UK, US, Canada and New Zealand. The NFF equates the net worth of such an approach as equal to 5% of farm revenue.

The Roadmap priority aims to ensure biophysical asset management balances production with conservation, that rewards are in place for positive environmental contributions, and that there is an active market for private investment, in on-farm stewardship and reduced financing costs for best practice farms.

Specially, the Plan calls for:

- Implementation of a cross-sectoral Agricultural Sustainability Framework.
- Establishment of a Government-backed *Environmental Stewardship Fund* aimed at seeding a marketplace for private sector investment.
- Support for the introduction of *'Green Loan'* commercial bank products, which reward sustainable farming practices.

Sustainability = Bankability

There are already encouraging signs that plan aspirations are emerging in practice.

We were pleased to read in the Weekend Australian recently, that **nab** are the first bank to recognise positive environmental stewardship and the value of natural capital. This was a move to cut interest rates on parts of the Goondicum Station in Queensland, where successive generations of the Campbell family have been working to conserve and restore native vegetative since the 1960's.

Through demonstrating the value of the ecological services their land can provide, and diversification into carbon farming, Goodicum Station is a working demonstration of an economically, and ecologically sustainable agricultural operation.

Reduced stocking densities have been compensated by dramatic improvements in pasture quality and livestock condition. The Station boasts diversified income generation from environmental improvements on farm, including being "home to one of Queensland's largest carbon-farming projects."

Positive signs that triple bottom line accounting has moved from the conceptual, to practical reality.

Profitability drivers and a regenerative approach

Speaking at the recent AgriWebb Future of Farming conference webinar, Lorraine Gordon, Director of Strategic Projects and founder of the National Regenerative Agriculture Alliance at Southern

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Cross University, says that measuring regenerative farm profitability should adopt a wholistic approach, with emphasis on the triple bottom line – economic, social and environmental.

Lorraine has been leading a longitudinal study since 2016 that looks at comparative farm 'profitability' in adopting regenerative practices.

"We can say from an economic perspective that there are less ups and downs, less swings and roundabouts, more consistent returns, no boom and bust scenarios... there are less expensive artificial inputs, and less variable and overhead expenses, resulting in financial sustainability for future generations," says Lorraine.

"Environmentally, you are going to see increased biodiversity and a real resilience within the landscape, and a better soil profile and composition, as a result of increased soil organic carbon," she says.

"With the impact of climate change and potentially less rainfall, increased water retention, as a result of increased soil carbon is where regenerative practices stand alone".

"From a social perspective, we can report that families are more resilient, have less mental and physical problems, have massive increases in wellbeing, and have a better connection with the landscape and within their communities."

"It really points to having an open mind and constantly questioning the way you operate, being prepared to bust open your own paradigms," she says.

As a cattle farmer herself and practitioner of a regenerative approach, Lorraine says, "I can say definitively that there are fewer overheads and fewer variable costs, lower input costs associated with pest and disease, less feeding of grain, hay or sileage, and fewer vet bills."

"We do achieve a price premium because we are part of a collaborative marketing group, that work together to finish off large lines of cattle. This gives us market power because we are producing a premium grass-fed product in numbers."

> We do achieve a price premium because we are **part of a collaborative marketing group, that work together to finish off large lines of cattle**. This gives us market power because we are producing a premium grass-fed product in numbers.
>
> Lorraine Gordon

Lorraine also points to research by Dr Richard Teague from the Texas A&M University Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, that looks at the profitability of conventional vs regenerative agricultural systems.

Dr Teague has worked closely with farmers that have switched to regenerative cropping and AMP grazing, with his research finding that farmers were able to reverse the damage within their agroecosystems, restore optimum ecosystem services, and improve the financial stability of their farms, in part through lower input requirement.

Building the evidence base is a continued work in progress.

Speaking also at the Agriwebb webinar was Sam Trethewey, AgTech entrepreneur and former conventional, now turned regenerative, Wagyu farmer, who is passionate about benchmarking performance to demonstrate the value of a regenerative approach.

"I want to see regenerative agriculture being the predominant way we produce food around the world and the only way we are going to do that is by attracting large amounts of capital, and that means building data around proving production and cost advantages, and environmental benefit," says Sam.

"We are building data around everything that we are doing on farm, and we are happy to share it," he says.

"I hope that presenting the data story will encourage other farmers, by saying well here's the proof in the pudding."

Further Information

AgriWebb Regenerative Agriculture Panel (video recording) agriwebb.wistia.com/medias/u1qr1n4vi2?wvideo=u1qr1n4vi2

NFF Get Australia Growing – Ideas for Economic Recovery nff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NFF_A4Economic-Recovery_FA_email-3.pdf

NFF 2030 RoadMap nff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NFF_Roadmap_2030_FINAL.pdf

Weekend Australian article reference www.theaustralian.com.au/news/farming-for-the-future/news-story/33e56bc159dcb7affc299bf4da6de14b

Dr Richard Teague: Regenerative Organic Practices "Clean Up the Act of Agriculture" agfundernews.com/dr-richard-teague-regenerative-organic-practices-clean-up-the-act-of-agriculture.html

regenerative agriculture: end point, or pathway?

So, we are agreed that there are significant economic, environmental, and social benefits of positive environmental stewardship and the conservation of natural capital.

Defining what constitutes a truly 'regenerative' approach, however, is where things can become cloudy; particularly where implementing more environmentally friendly practices often represents a journey, and not an immediate change.

Consumer trust and the verification of practices is a large part of the equation. Something that is at the core of organic management systems.

Tim Marshall, author, consultant and co-founder of NASAA, weighs in.

Regenerative agriculture has engaged and united many landowners with new enthusiasm, witnessed in the explosion of related mainstream articles and social media.

Robert Rodale was likely the first user of the term, when he wrote about regenerative organic agriculture in the 1980s.

Regenerative itself is an interesting term, because it describes a desired outcome, being regeneration of soil, and diverse plant communities.

The early users of the term organic had the same objective and we would like to think that it is still a primary goal. I would hope that all regenerative farmers would recognise genuine organic as the ultimate expression of regenerative.

Organic and regenerative should be great allies and many operators use both terms to describe what they do, but there can be differences.

While sharing the same goals, organic excludes synthetic chemicals entirely, whereas regenerative agriculture may allow for some chemical use.

Organic is defined by standards and certification protocols. The current positive zeitgeist of regenerative is at least partly possible, because it lacks strict definition. Regenerative claims in rural media span the biodynamic approach of Charlie Arnott to over-simplified, herbicide dependent no-till systems without groundcover.

Regenerative farmers are divided on certification. Some see the market benefit of organic and understand that it is delivered by certification. Some do not want the strict record keeping requirement of organic and believe it too prescriptive. Some ask whether regenerative certification can be meaningful, in the context of many other sustainability certifications available, without the baseline of a standard.

Whether to use chemicals, which ones, when and how much, are all in contention in the regenerative community, as is opinion on whether "only a little bit of chemical" will pass the consumer test. Some nationally distributed brands may use regenerative agriculture claims and images in media advertising, but are not certified. Uncertified local market claims for regenerative are a different matter and rely on product quality and community support.

Some regenerative farmers advocate nutrient density testing as a verification of practices. Accurate field testing is not yet possible, but it may not be far off, based on infra-red sensing or similar. It will have to be cheap because it only works at harvest or point of sale, unlike organic which uses process certification, following the chain of custody from paddock to plate.

Another useful term, encompassing organic and regenerative, is agroecology. Agroecology is the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems and practices, and therefore provides a way of evaluating both organic and regenerative against their stated goals. There are some forms of certification that combine ecological and organic requirements in standards. For example, the Smithsonian Bird Friendly Coffee certification requires that all growers are organic.

Looking at our own history in the development of organic in Australia, renowned Agroecologist Ranil Senanyake contributed to the initial design of the NASAA certification system. He also developed the concept of analog forestry, established elephant corridors in Sri Lanka, sustainable gold mining certification in South America, and Forest Garden Products certification, combining organic and analog forestry, now part of the IFOAM family of standards.

The first Regenerative Organic Certification scheme is being trialled by the Rodale Institute in the USA rodaleinstitute.org/why-organic/organic-basics/regenerative-organic-agriculture and will provide a model for future developments around the world, including Australia.

With common philosophies placing agroecology at its heart, regenerative and organic are part of a continuum of better farm husbandry. We applaud anyone with a commitment to a more environmentally sustainable approach, celebrate common emphasis on soil and biodiversity, and hope that all regenerative farmers acknowledge the achievement of organic certification, in eliminating synthetic chemicals.

Certified organic is therefore a goal that any regenerative farmer may ultimately aspire to at some point.

GREAT LAND

Improving soil nutrient availability and enhancing soil biology leads to:

- ✓ **Increase in harvest yield**
- ✓ **Better flowering and fruit set:**
  - **higher portion of seeded grapes;**
  - **less 'Hen & Chicken'.**
- ✓ **Builds resilience and consistency**
- ✓ **Mitigating the impacts of abiotic stress - heat and sunburn.**

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FEATURES, FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS

Features

- **Patented liquid biological soil conditioner.**
- **Contains five bacterial species, each at minimum population of 10^7 (10 million) CFU per mL, and one yeast. Species are:**
  - *Acetobacter fabarum*
  - *Candida ethanolica* (yeast)
  - *Lactobacillus buchneri*
  - *Lactobacillus casei*
  - *Lactobacillus parafarraginis*
  - *Lactobacillus rapi*.

  All species of *Lactobacillus* in Great Land are gram positive, facultative anaerobic bacteria able to survive and function in aerobic and anaerobic conditions.
- **Compliant with the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).**

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Functions

Great Land acts on the soil or within the rhizosphere to make nutrients more available for plants which can lead to improvement in:

- root growth
- plant vigour and productivity
- plant resilience against abiotic stress

Great Land also acts to encourage the growth and activity of other beneficial biology such as mycorrhizal fungi and nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

The performance of Great Land is maximised when soil structure, nutrient profile and moisture levels are favourable for microbiological activity.

Benefits

Commercial users of Great Land have observed many benefits arising from improved nutrients and biological activity, including:

- Better root development;
- Better plant growth and yields;
- Building activity of other beneficial microbes for improved long-term soil health;
- Reduced use of chemical inputs when the biological system is functioning better;
- Improved soil structure and increased capacity for holding more water, nutrients and organic matter; and
- Enhanced plant resilience against environmental stresses.

COMMERCIAL TRIALS 2019/20 VINEYARDS

Trial yield result summary

Great Land Soil Application v's Untreated Control	
Measurement	**Average Result across trials**
Green yield estimate at 'EL-35' (bunch counts and weights)	**+ 21%**
Seeded berries per bunch at 'EL-35' (less hen & chicken)	**+ 10%**
Final Harvest (manually picked, 12 panels each)	**+ 51%**

- Yield estimation methods used standard industry practice and overseen by independent assessors.
- **Similar trends across all trials and commercial vineyards provide evidence of positive impact from Great Land soil application.**
- Yield responses in different environments and conditions will be variable.
- Assessments at EL-35 showed a higher portion of seeded berries, and observed reduction in 'hen and chicken' in plots with soil-applied Great Land. This is consistent with higher final harvest yields recorded.

Seeded and Shot Berries

Quantifying of the number of seeded berries and shot berries revealed noteworthy differences between the Great Land and Control plots. Supporting visual observations that the presence of the 'Hen and Chicken' characteristic (a condition where grape berries are aborted due to stress during flowering) was less in Great Land plots. This impact is likely to be an important contributor to the differences in yield results.

Dolcetto with Great Land

Dolcetto Control

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Terragen BIOTECH

GREAT LAND

Improving soil nutrient availability and enhancing soil biology leads to:

- ✓ Increase in harvest yield
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  - higher portion of seeded grapes;
  - less 'Hen & Chicken'.
- ✓ Builds resilience and consistency
- ✓ Mitigating the impacts of abiotic stress - heat and sunburn.

TESTIMONIAL

Major organic vineyard group, Angove Family Winemakers, delivers top yields in a challenging season.

Angove's renowned organic Nanya Vineyard located near Paringa, South Australia, has made a significant investment in meeting world demands for premium organic wines. Viticulture Manager Nick Bakkum converted the 300 hectare vineyard from a conventional to organic operation, starting in 2008, and the vineyard now enjoys full certification with a strong presence of organic wines in domestic and international markets.

The Riverland soil types are naturally high in pH, low in organic carbon and high in magnesium. These conditions cause a lack of soil structure leading to compaction issues and low levels of soil biology. Among other practices, the introduction of organic based manures and compost has helped to improve the soil organic matter and some nutrient imbalances. "We typically see a large proportion of our macro and micro nutrients being locked up in high pH soils, so our response has been to address this, in part, with foliar nutrient applications as well as the use of Great Land soil conditioner to start the cycle of improving the use of soil nutrients,"said Nick. "After an early adjustment during transition to organic certification, we saw a remarkable recovery in harvest yields while at the same time traditional fertilisers were removed from the system."

Despite the apparent success, Nick observed a gradual decline in available soil nutrients such as sulphur, nitrogen and many micro nutrients. In addition, feedback from winemakers indicated the need to address falling grape-nitrogen levels, an issue for the organic wine making fermentation process where additional sources of nitrogen are unable to be introduced.

In 2018, Angove embarked on an alternative approach with assistance of Terragen Biotech and the renowned soil consultant Peter Norwood, Full Circle Nutrition. New soil tests revealed many nutrient deficiencies including sulphur and micronutrients such as cobalt, boron, iron, zinc, manganese and copper. "The recommended amendments cost less than our traditional program so we were excited at the opportunity to compound this benefit by improving availability in existing soil nutrients and seeing the soil biology working harder," Nick said. Great Land biological soil conditioner was applied at 10L/ha with OCP Aminogro Maxi N7 and Stimplex as a feeder source for the biology. "We apply 4 applications of Great Land through our fertigation system, in August, September, October and February."

Over the following season a rapid improvement in soil structure as well as higher levels of compost incorporation and an improved earthy smell of the soil was observed.

Nick Bakkum, Viticulture Manager, at Angove's Nanya organic vineyard.

These are indicators of good biological activity and were consistent with soil test results showing a dramatic increase in organic matter of 2.2% and 3.0% at the two tested blocks over the 12 months period.

Annual plant nutrient (leaf petiole) tests were repeated in the spring and these showed a notable increase in total nitrogen from 0.65% in 2018 to 1.23% in 2019. The table below shows a long term trend in all key leaf tissue nutrients, highlighting recent increases in availability of nitrogen, sulphur and some important micro nutrients such as iron, boron, molybdenum.

The 2019/20 season was especially challenging for vineyards across Australia with many crops suffering high levels of stress from early frost, heat, lack of rain, water availability/cost and poor flowering. Conditions at Paringa were no exception. However, the 2020 vintage at Angove's yielded an average 20 tonnes per hectare across the operation – better than 2019 vintage from a less trying season.

"I am very, very happy with the yield and leaf nutrient responses," Nick said. "For an organic operation to achieve such a quick response this season is a great credit to the approach taken. We look forward to better understanding the complex influences on harvested grape-nitrogen levels with our winemakers."

The path to organic conversion is always challenging but at the end of the day if we can address soil nutrient imbalances with sights set on the needs of the biology and the plant, we can expect to continue seeing similar success in productivity."

Chd3.14 Petioles Chardonnay	Desired	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Nitrogen	0.80-1.10	1.02	0.77	0.92	0.69	1.10	0.65	1.23
Nitrate - N	500-1200	142	<113	42	<30	<30	<30	<30
Phosphorus	0.20-0.46	0.48	0.66	0.68	0.64	0.59	0.68	0.64
Sulphur	0.15-0.50	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.11	0.15
Calcium	1.2-2.5	1.17	1.20	1.39	1.34	1.12	1.28	1.28
Magnesium	0.3-0.8	0.43	0.39	0.49	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.36
Potassium	1.5-3.5	3.57	3.19	3.28	3.43	3.18	3.31	3.33
Sodium	0.1-0.3	0.060	0.050	0.055	0.057	0.035	0.056	0.043
Boron	30-70	34.01	55.45	46.98	43.86	34.00	36.00	40.00
Iron	40-125	25.92	57.63	24.99	31.37	29.00	45.00	84.00
Manganese	30-150	24.97	47.47	31.95	29.60	27.00	22.00	29.00
Zinc	26-40	37.99	65.55	51.34	44.65	53.00	52.00	41.00
Molybdenum	0.09-0.45	0.01	3.03	2.26	2.08	<0.40	0.40	14.00

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Beet Kvass is a traditional tonic drink with a beautiful European history and claims to assist our liver function and give energy. Much like many ferments it can be an acquired taste, however, start slowly and you will no doubt be converted.

It's a simple yet highly beneficial fermented beverage that will keep you feeling healthy as we head into spring.

I've included some optional extras packed full of goodness in this recipe – if you have these handy and are into bolder flavour, please feel free to utilise the extra ingredients.

there's nothing quite like a beet kvass

INGREDIENTS

A 1.5 or 2-litre jar with tight seal lid

1 litre of filtered water

2 tablespoons of sea salt

2 medium-sized beetroot washed and scrubbed clean - not peeled

2-3 slices of fresh ginger washed and unpeeled

A thumb-size slice of orange peel

1 teaspoon of fennel, coriander, dill or caraway seed

*1 slice of fresh horseradish - 3cm long

*1/4 peeled onion

*1 garlic clove - peeled

*optional

METHOD

Fill your jar with the water and salt, put the lid on and shake vigorously to dissolve the salt. Remove the lid, chop your beetroot into quarters and add to the jar, add all other ingredients - everything should be kept under the brine so if need be, use a fermentation weight or very clean and sterile pebble, or half a washed beetroot that has been cut horizontally.

Lid the jar and keep at room temp, out of direct sunlight for 7-9 days, after day 3, remember to gently unscrew the lid with a quarter turn each day, this will release any possible gas build-up.

After 7-9 days, you can strain the liquid into a clean vessel to refrigerate, I like to drink my kvass after about 48 hours in the fridge, start slowly and drink only as much as you like, a small shot will still be highly beneficial. Use the strained beets for a salad or hummus. Kvass will keep well for a minimum of 2 weeks in the fridge.

Enjoy!

Further Information

You can see more of Mandy's recipes and what she's up to here.

lovefermentsandfood.com.au

instagram.com/mandyhallfood

IS A SPECIFIC ALLOCATION FOR ORGANIC R&D JUSTIFIED?

agricultural levies

Richard Bell / Unsplash

Organic producers pay levies for research and development (R&D), but the organic industry receives no specific funding from the Commonwealth for this.

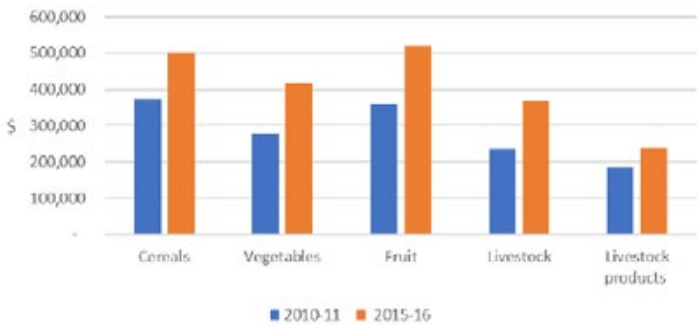
From 1996 to 2011 – the then Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) administered the research effort in organic agriculture – up to $275,000 annually.

However, this has long since been abandoned – on the grounds that the organic industry is now a 'mature industry' and hence no public research funding is set aside for allocation to organic agriculture specifically. This is based on the argument that organics benefits from the general agricultural research or marketing efforts funded through the levy.

NASAA commissioned research by Organic Trust Australia – Research and Education (OTARE) to quantify agricultural levies in more recent times. Dr Els Wynen undertook the review, of five sectors: cereals, vegetables, fruit, livestock and livestock products (milk and eggs).

The work showed that, in 2015-16, total levies raised for R&D in 2015-16 was $2.0 million, an increase from $1.4 million in 2010-11. The breakdown for the different sectors can be found in Figure 3 of the final paper, and is shown below.

Figure 3: R&D levies for specific agricultural sectors: 2010-2011 and 2015-2016



Source: Author's estimates derived from ABS (2016) and ABS (2018).

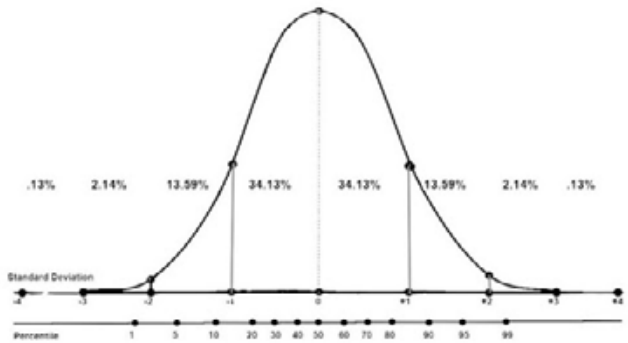
Of this, total levies on organic production amounted to an estimated $3.7 million in 2015-16. This means that, with government's matching contributions approximately doubling this amount for R&D purposes, $4 million could be available for R&D in the organic industry – and more if all industries were to be included.

However, it is difficult to see how, when research is carried out for problems in conventional production systems, organic agriculture benefits from that to the same degree as the conventional sector. On the other hand, research of interest to organic farming could also benefit conventional farming.

IBIS world estimated the value of organic farming revenue in 2016-17 at $919.2m. ABARES reported the gross value of Australian agriculture for the same period at $68.8b, giving organic agriculture a relative value of 1.5 percent of Australian agriculture value.

As a measurement of change, a standard deviation curve provides a reasonable representation of normal take-up rates. As shown in Graph 1, the lowest percentile of take up is represented on the left of the curve and are identified as early adopters of change, and those on the right of the curve as late adopters.

Graph 1. Standard deviation bell curve



Adoption of organic agriculture is in the lowest percentile at below 2.14%, illustrating that organic agriculture is still a small sector of Australian agriculture. Additionally, in a rapidly growing world market, the IBIS 2019 to 2024 outlook report predicted an annualised increase of 13.5% over the five years through 2019-20, to $1.8 billion globally. IBIS World also stated that for Australian farmers, *'organic produce is one of the most lucrative opportunities to come available to the agriculture sector in recent memory'*.

Such growth opportunities warrant dedicated government funding support for research and development, and marketing of organic produce.

Organic practices and principles also provide conceptual platforms and practical examples of techniques that are underutilised in conventional production. They also provide an opportunity to find solutions that balance user, environment, and the safety needs of the public, while ensuring the control of products supplied and effectiveness for their intended use.

For example, more relevant research for organic farmers – such as optimal planting dates to avoid pest or diseases, or crop varieties with relatively abundant vegetative growth in the early stages to crowd out weeds, may also be of relevance for conventional farmers.

Such funding could spur a raft of new organic product development, and alternative management systems, that are accessible to the conventional sector, helping to reduce its reliance on expensive and imported inputs.

NOTE: *The study, *Levies and organic agriculture in Australia: 2010-11 and 2015-16,* was completed in December 2019, by Dr Els Wynen from 'Eco Landuse Systems' in Canberra. More details can be found in the final report, available on: www.organictrustaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/OTARE%20RP-1902.pdf.

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are your trade marks protected?

A common misconception is that business name registrations provide ownership of the name or a right to use it. Trade mark Lawyer Brett Lewis explains why.

Your product or service offering has its own 'look and feel', reflecting the image you want to create in the mind of your customer, and the messages you want to convey. That's the role of branding.

Trade marks play a key role in all branding strategies. Almost anything which differentiates your product or service from those of your competitors is functioning as a trade mark – not only words and logos, but things like colours, combinations of colours, sounds, unique aspects of packaging, and even scents.

Like business names, trade marks can be registered.

A common misconception is that a business name registration provides ownership of the name or a right to use it, but in fact, it is simply a mandatory requirement if you are trading under a name which is not your own. It then becomes possible for someone to identify who is behind the business. The business name register is much like a directory. No rights arise from registration. There are also no rights to sue someone using the same name, and no rights to continue to use the name, if someone complains about your use of it.

Trade mark registrations are different. They provide exclusive rights to use of the mark. Rights to sue infringers. Property rights which can be sold or licensed, like other property rights. The right to prevent use of the same and similar marks...and even registered business names. It provides a way to block others from registering your trade mark and similar marks.

Getting a product to market is no easy task. There are so many things to think about along the way. Many businesses just assume that a business name will cover them and are not even aware of the trade mark registration system.

Sadly, there are countless examples of traders who have launched a product, only to find themselves in a costly legal dispute involving allegations of trade mark infringement. In the worst-case scenario, court orders are the end result, with hefty monetary penalties and a re-brand. The more successful your business has been, the higher the stakes.

Therefore, at the outset, it is worth getting practical legal advice to identify potential problems; and either navigate around them, or change course and choose a different mark.

But it's not too late to register your trade mark if you are already using it, and you should.

Registration gives you a way to preserve the integrity of your trade mark and, if you sell your business one day, the strength of your trade mark rights is likely to drive the value of the deal.

*Brett Lewis is Founding Principal in TM-Logic®, a firm specialising in advising on acquisition and enforcement of trade mark rights: tm-logic.com.au

These are generalized comments and should not be construed as legal advice or relied upon to make business decisions. There are many complex legal issues in the trade marks arena and strategic advice should be sought before making a commitment to use a trade mark or seeking registration.

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ROBOTICS IN AGRICULTURE

Weed control is obviously the highest cost of any organic management system.

That's why we were delighted to read of the development of new weed-killing robots in the US and UK.

Kansas-based Greenfield Robotics founder, Clint Brauer, is currently beta testing a team of 10 weed-bots on his own farm and others for the 2020 growing season. Each bot incorporates vision sensors and remote monitoring capability and features autonomous mowing technology largely adapted for established row cropping.

In the UK, a weed-zapping team of robots developed by the Small Robot Company - known as Tom, Dick, Harry and Wilma - are differing in their collaborative approach to the eradication of weeds. Each bot has a different role in the process; bot Tom undertakes precision field mapping, passing on the data to Wilma, who then directs Dick where to 'zap' the weeds. This allows weed management within close cropping areas.

Read the fascinating full story at onezero.medium.com/tiny-weed-killing-robots-could-make-pesticides-obsolete-99b3a6359c39

NCO IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF AUSTRALIA ORGANIC AWARENESS MONTH 2020

At NCO we are driven to help address today's challenges and advance a shift towards sustainable production and consumption, through maintaining and delivering the highest quality organic certification services.

This year we are proud to be a Major Sponsor of the AOAM as we believe by adopting a strong, unified approach and working together we can increase our impact in building awareness for certified organic products, businesses, brands and highlighting the importance of the certified organic industry.

This benefits us all by providing healthier choices for people and our planet.

Lets come together this September and celebrate all certified organic operators, their products and their hard work across all industries.

To find out more about how you can be part of AOAM click here.

Southern Cross University

Southern Cross University's new National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine, based at SCU's Lismore campus in New South Wales, has this year introduced a dedicated Graduate Certificate program in Organic Food and Nutrition. This is the first course of its kind that recognises the link between organic food production and outcomes for a healthier future.

The 32-week program, which will be delivered online, has been in development for 12 months, and will offer a holistic approach to studying organic food systems, and the relationship of organics to nutrition. It covers topics such as organic farming, sustainable and ethical food systems and the produce journey, and the connection of organic food with whole-body health through the life course. The course provides a focus on food as medicine and as a preventative health measure.

"This important development provides a necessary organic educational pathway in higher learning," says NASAA Chair, Glenn Schaube.

"We look forward to the research focus that the course will bring in closing the gap between the consumer and organic food production, and developing a better understanding of the nutritional benefits of organic production, healthy soils, and organic produce."

The Graduate Certificate Program will also provide a pathway for further study at a Masters or PhD level.

Further Information

For further information, or to enrol, visit scu.edu.au/study-at-scu/courses/graduate-certificate-in-organic-food-and-nutrition-1008430/

SCU also offers the Bachelor of Science program with a regenerative agriculture major, visit scu.edu.au/school-of-environment-science-and-engineering/regenerative-agriculture/

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Withholding Period

Bioweed has no withholding period so can be sprayed all season round without any negative effects on the saleability and holding period for produce. This is can be beneficial if weed control is needed to be done close to harvest time.

Seed Control

Bioweed can also be utilised within the freshly cultivated rows. With the benefit of Bioweeds unique dual weed and seed killing action you will be able to stop weeds before they germinate in the soil. Bioweed can also be used to control an outbreak of weeds that have gone to seed. This means over time there will be a reduction in the seed bank on your property and a reduction in weeds outbreaks after rain events.

As Bioweed is a non-residual weed killer, an area can be planted out within 72hrs of controlling weeds within a cultivated area. Saving you precious time and lengthening the windows needed for planting.

Below a list can be found of the common horticulture weeds Bioweed will control:

- Lambsquater
- Pigweed
- Plantain
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- Chickweed
- Dandelion
- Purslane
- Thistles

Dandelion

Thistles

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NEWS WRAP UP

ACCC MURRAY-DARLING BASIN WATER MARKETS INQUIRY

In late July, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) released its long anticipated 544-page interim report, into the water trading market in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Trading markets across the Basin are estimated to be worth around $1.5 billion a year, with the interim report considering "options to enhance markets for tradeable water rights, including to enhance their operations, transparency, regulation, competitiveness, and efficiency."

The Interim report recognises that major changes are needed in respect to the regulation, governance and transparency of the Murray-Darling Basin Water market to allow for "open, fair and efficient water trading that benefits water users, communities and the economy."

The report identifies the need for:

- *Greater regulatory and robust enforcement oversight.* The report identifies a lack of industry-specific trading regulation and subsequent potential for "market manipulation or similar conduct". The report flags potential appointment of a single regulator to oversee trade, similar to financial services or energy markets; implementing a licensing scheme, or extending the financial regulation framework to all water products.
- *Better governance:* a simplification, and greater harmonisation and consistency between different exchanges, to address the current fragmented system comprising different water authorities across the Basin regions operating under different legislation.
- *Greater market transparency* to assist business decision making of irrigators and traders.

The report acknowledged that some people using the water market longed for a return to water rights being tied to land, a view the ACCC did not support.

The report also found that complexities of water markets, and the perceived influx of investors, has infuriated some farmers, who feel they are being priced out of the market.

Certified organic vigneron, Bruce Armstrong, located in Waikerie in SA's Riverland grew up on the farm property and remembers clearly the steps taken over the years – from the early 50's - that has created today's water market.

From simply "pumping water from the lagoon", he recalls in the mid 60's providing information on harvest and acres irrigated to an 'official' person, without an understanding of what it was to be used for.

"I reckon a few months later we were issued with a water allocation, and that's when metering began" says Bruce.

"There was no water trading then, until sometime in the 80's," he says.

When it was introduced, "You could not trade from an irrigation settlement; being a private irrigator you could only trade from another private irrigator within your State."

"But, as the years have gone on, little by little they have relaxed trading."

"First, you could trade in your State from any irrigation settlement. Then Interstate. I reckon that's where it should have stopped," says Bruce.

"But, now water has overseas investors and this has driven the price up. China, for example, owns heaps of water allocation," he says.

"I am not happy the way it has gone. And, maybe it could get worse?"

30-year celebrant Andrew Jones, whose table grape farm is located in Irymple close to Mildura, is another operator who knows the issues intimately, and has concerns about current carryover rules, which have developed differently in different catchments.

"I always thought if you had an allocation given to you and you didn't use it all at the end of the season, your water should be still in the dam to carry over to the next season."

"As it stands at the moment, however, if you want to carry it over is that you risk losing it if the dam spills."

"I'm suggesting that water users be exempt from losing carryover."

121 submissions were made in response to the initial ACCC Inquiry by private landholders, government and statutory authorities, industry groups, irrigation trusts, and water brokers.

The ACCC sought further feedback from stakeholders in August to the issues raised in the Interim Report. The final report is scheduled to be handed down in November.

Read the full ACCC Media Statement at (30 July 2020) accc.gov.au/media-release/murray-darling-basin-water-markets-in-need-of-major-changes

ORGANIC REGULATION A PRIORITY IN NFF RECOVERY STRATEGY

The National Farmers Federation recently released strategy for recovery on the back of the COVID-19 pandemic driven economic crisis, identifies that the Federal Government, "should progress domestic regulation for organic production as a priority."

The NFF's *Get Australia Growing – Ideas for Economic Recovery* highlights 11 initiatives to "turbocharge" Australia's farm sector, focusing on reforming policies that limit growth.

The strategy recommends implementation of consistent regulation for organic farming. It notes that Australia is currently the last developed nation to have this consistency, which "limits market access for Australian organic producers, affects consumer confidence and increases the economic burden on industry."

NASAA Chair, Glenn Schaube, welcomes the call for a regulated organic sector in Australia.

"National regulation, that recognises organic production systems, labelling and consumption, in accordance with a single domestic standard, will provide a significant boost to the organic sector, and help to ensure ongoing reliability for consumers of organic food in Australia," he says.

"To ensure that organic products can be sold in Australia and overseas under such a scheme, regulation must be consistent with International Organic Standards, and the requirements of importing countries."

"This means zero tolerance of foods containing genetically modified organisms, including CRISPR, and adherence to the internationally agreed principals and practice of organic production."

Other Highlights of the NFF Roadmap

The strategy also calls for the establishment of a $1 billion *Biodiversity Stewardship Fund* to incentivise best practice on farm, a priority echoing that in the NFF's recently released *2030 Roadmap*, highlights the need to recognise and reward good environmental stewardship.

The Roadmap lays down a bold vision for the industry: to exceed $100 billion in farm gate output by 2030. The Roadmap addresses objectives for sustainability - food waste, carbon emissions reductions, carbon farming, ecosystem services, the advocating of 50% renewable farm energy sources, and the maintenance of Australia's farmed land footprint at 2018 levels.

Further Information

NFF Get Australia Growing – Ideas for Economic Recovery nff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NFF_A4Economic-Recovery_FA_email-3.pdf

NFF 2030 RoadMap nff.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NFF_Roadmap_2030_FINAL.pdf

REGULATION AT HOME… AND ABROAD

In addition to domestic regulation hitting the spotlight, NASAA Organic recently contributed to the consultative process regarding the Draft Export Control (Organic Goods) Rules 2020 governed by the Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment.

Our submission outlined general support for the proposed changes, as a positive step to improved efficiency for the benefit of Australia's organic exporters, while maintaining prosperous relations with our trading partners.

We highlighted the risks, however, of allowing a proposed exemption for organic cosmetic products from obtaining an Organic Goods Certificate (OGC) for product going to importing countries that do not require an OGC.

Our submission raised the need to consider the impact that such changes would have on the

/ Continued on page 25

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/ Continued from previous page

integrity of Australian organic exports, and perceived reliability as an exporter of bone fide organic food, fibre and cosmetic products.

The proposed exemption has multiple implications for Australia' organic sector, including creating a regulatory loophole for false and misleading organic labelling, creating market inequity between producers, and a loss of industry data collection and monitoring capability.

The issue of false labelling is already an issue of concern for the certified organic industry, requiring considerable resources and expenditure to protect the integrity of certified organic labels. Many certified organic operators complain regularly about this occurring in Australia's unregulated domestic organic market, because this kind of label abuse already occurs frequently in the cosmetic sector.

We suggested that if such exemptions are to be included, then to ensure the equitable application of the rules across the industry, exemptions for all organic goods being exported to those countries not requiring an OGC should be allowed.

Further Information

The Public consultation period on the Draft Export Control (Organic Goods) Rules 2020 closed on the 7th August. The new legislative framework will commence before 1 April 2021.

Visit haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/draft-export-organic-goods-rules-2020#:~:text=The%20Consultation%20Draft%20Export%20Control,the%20existing%20regulations%20and%20orders.

Colin Watts / Unsplash

CALLS FOR COUNCILS TO DECLARE 'GM FREE ZONE'

The State Government has lifted the GM Crop Moratorium on mainland SA, but the new legislation means that each local Council needs to determine their own position in allowing the cultivation of GM-crops.

Councils must consult residents; gather market and trade data and submit applications to the Primary Industries Minister David Basham to remain a GM-FREE Crop Zone **by September 30.** The onus is therefore placed on Council to 'opt out'.

As reported in a previous edition of Organic Insights, the Local Government Association was blindsided by the Government on this issue, with the timeline to 'opt-out' reported as inadequate to satisfy a 'normal' community consultation process, already made more difficult with the current COVID-19 challenges.

As reported in InDaily, "according to a Local Government Association report, councils face 'significant' decisions, as declining to make an application, is effectively a decision that the council will never be a non-GM crop area".

With a compressed timeframe to act, NASAA Organic has been working hard to get as much information out to members, operators, and other interested parties to campaign locally to keep their Council district GM free.

Please be an active voice in your community on this issue! nasaaorganic.org.au/stop-gm-crops-becoming-part-of-the-sa-landscape/

Further Information

indaily.com.au/news/local/2020/07/14/councils-considering-gm-crop-opt-out-after-sa-ban-lifted/

> The Co-op has, "a plan to expand our range and volume of non-GM products, but the extension of the moratorium is critical to this plan."
>
> Palsystem Consumers' Co-operative Union of Japan

INTERESTED IN SHARE FARMING OR A COOPERATIVE?

NASAA CERTIFIED ORGANIC Cert. No. 2808

Wymah Organic Olives and Lamb are moving to a new phase, which could be your chance to start ethical and carbon-saving farming at an affordable price.

Become part of the sustainable carbon capture farming ethical practice movement and make wholesome food at the same time!

Over the last 18 years of certification the soil quality of this 970acre closed loop-integrated horticulture and livestock-farming property has improved enormously and it needs to be shared.

Current activities are focussed on growing and processing olives and raising carbon shedding witipol sheep. However the land lends itself to other hort-and-ag activities, like organic herbs, chicken, honey, bees, mushrooms, indigenous foods and sheep for milk.

We also seek collaboration with other potential lamb and olive growers to use our equipment and know-how on nearby farms.

For further information phone 0419 556 532
or email wymahorganics@gmail.com.au

Wymah Organic Olives & Lamb
www.tableolive.com.au

The Future of Farming

The organic principles that underpin the formation of NASAA over 30 years ago remain unchanged. IFOAM identifies them as **Health** (of soil, animals, and people), **Ecology** (emulating natural cycles), **Fairness** (in relationships) and **Care** (precautionary, with future generations in mind). Application of these foundational principles will deliver a better, more sustainable, way of managing our agricultural land in Australia.

Tim Marshall, TM Organics

NASAA Founding Board Member and Patron

New Opportunities!

Here at Stoney Creek Oils we have been producing premium oilseed products for 27 years.

With our reputation of quality we have built a solid client base that is accustomed to High Quality, Certified Organic, Australian products.

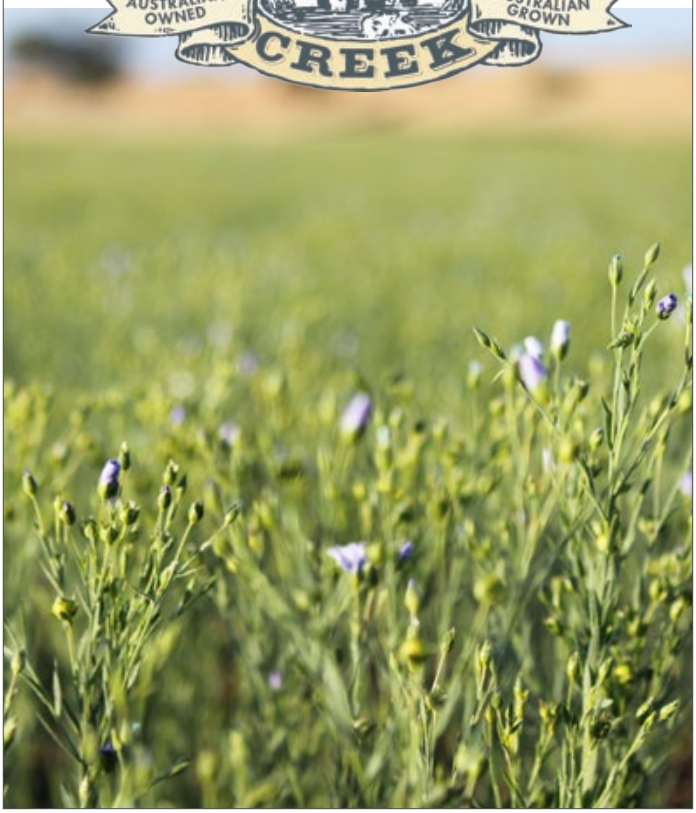
As this market is continuing to build so does our need for new organic growers.

We are seeking premium growers that are intereted in building a long term relationship with us, and become a member of our team.

If anyone is looking for new opportunities, please contact Fred obligation free.

Ph: 1300 352 948
E: fred@stoneycreekoil.com.au

STONEY CREEK
AUSTRALIAN OWNED
AUSTRALIAN GROWN



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOME & AROUND THE GLOBE

AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC AWARENESS MONTH

Date: 1-30 September

Billed as Australia's largest campaign promoting the certified organic industry, September is Australian Organic Awareness Month! There is something for everyone – whether you are a Consumer, Retailer or Producer of Certified organic produce.

Visit budorganic.com.au/australian-organic-awareness-month/ for further details on how you can be involved.

NATIONAL ORGANIC WEEK

Date: Monday 7 – Sunday 13 September 2020

Held annually, National Organic Week Australia (NOW) is a week of targeted media and locally held activities, designed to increase awareness of the benefits of organic products and farming production systems, and accelerate the uptake of these in the wider Australian community and environment.

The Organic Consumers Choice Awards are always a popular event as part of the annual NOW celebrations. Visit organicweek.net.au/core or www.facebook.com/nationalorganicweekaustralia/ for further details.

ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS, 2021

Date: 6 – 10 September 2021
Location: Rennes, France

The organic sector assembles every three years to host the Organic World Congress (OWC), the world's largest organic gathering, but in light of recent developments around COVID-19 this event has been postponed until 2021. https://owc.ifoam.bio/2020/en

EVOKEAG.

Date: 15 – 16 February 2022
Location: Claremont, Perth, Australia

evokeAG. is the Asia Pacific's premier agrifood tech event. It allows delegates to explore what's next in the agrifood tech space, covering three main themes; food – farm – future. This exclusive event is an immersive experience delivering diverse topics and cutting-edge innovation from across the region and around the world, bringing people together to connect, collaborate and evolve all things agriculture. https://evokeag.com

THE AUSTRALIAN RECYCLED ORGANICS INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

OUR INDUSTRY

- has 305 businesses operating
- provides 4845 jobs and 4070 indirect jobs
- pays over a $366 million in wages and salaries plus $35 million towards superannuation
- average earnings are $75,540 compared to national average of $64,390.
- a collective turnover of over $2 billion and provides $1.9 billion in benefit across its supply chain.
- contributes $724 million in industry value add to the Australian economy, with a further $579 million value added through flow-on demand for goods and services.

OUR POTENTIAL

- if we achieved an organics recycling rate of 90% nationally, this would generate an extra $1.5 billion in sales providing an additional $1.4 billion in supply chain opportunity with an extra $542 million in industry value add towards the Australian economy.
- this would deliver 3,624 extra jobs paying $274 million in livelihood to Australians.
- an extra 2.8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions would be saved, which is equivalent to 4.2 million trees planted or 656,356 cars taken offthe road each year.

OUR PRODUCTS

- in 2018-19 the industry recycled 7.5 million tonnes of organic material
- the recycled tonnage has grown by 3.4% annually over the last decade, versus a population growth rate of 1.4%
- in 2018-19 the national organic recycling rate was 51.5% - 298kgs of recycled organic material for every Australian
- garden organics make up 41.6% of materials recycled, followed by 18.8% of biosolids, 13.7% of timber and 7.2% of food organics.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTION

- the total estimated greenhouse gas savings from organics recycling in 2018-19 is approximately 3.8 million tonnes of CO2-e.
- these GHG savings are considered equivalent to:
  - 5.7 million trees that would have to be planted to absorb the same amount of CO2
  - The greenhouse gas emissions that 876,663 cars would produce in a year
- compost builds soil carbon in agricultural soils and a tonne of organics applied to land can sequester 0.5 tonnes of C02e
- application of compost creates healthy soils, which use less water, less fertiliser and fewer pesticides whilst reducing nutrient leaching and protecting the aquatic environment
- mulch application suppresses weed growth and can save more than 30% of irrigation water depending on the conditions
- compost can recover nutrients equivalent to more than 30,000 tonnes of urea, 3,000 tonnes of super phosphate and 15,300 tonnes of potassium sulphate; that would otherwise be lost to landfill each year.

aora

Visit www.aora.org.au for more information
All information was correct as of May, 2020

CERTIFIED ORGANIC LAND FOR SALE
(WITH OR WITHOUT CROP)

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are invited for the purchase of a 640-acre certified organic block of land, the sale can be with or without this year's crop.
The years timely rainfall has resulted in very impressive crops, shown in these photos taken on 26th August 2020.

- 200+ acres Septer wheat
- 200 acres Compass barley
- 200+ acres Bevy rye

There is also an old weatherboard house, sheds, power connected, and a water bore (previously used to irrigate 50 acres) on the property. The water source is from a reliable underground table.

The property is situated in the Victorian Mallee,13km SE of Murrayville in Victoria near the South Australian border – less than 3-hours' drive from Adelaide.
The town of Murrayville has a strong sense of community, and includes a supermarket, post office, P-12 school, hotel, takeaway, newsagency, craft shops and churches.
There is a strong cross-border sporting community, including football, netball, tennis, cricket, lawn bowls, golf and basketball.
We would consider the sale of an additional 640-acre certified organic block (in-crop), with home & garden, (or Walk in, Walk out).

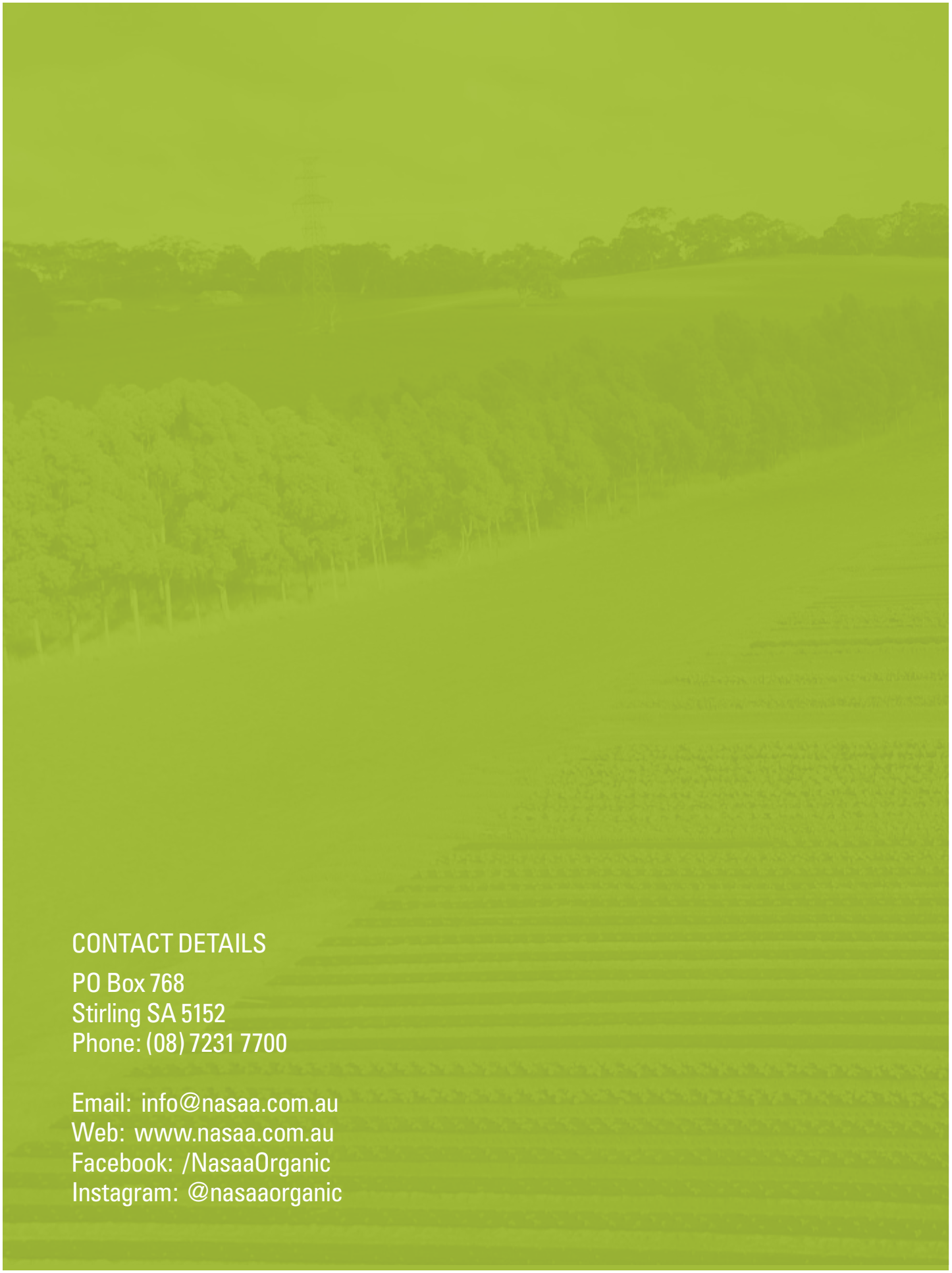
NASAA CERTIFIED ORGANIC Cert. No. 3671

For more information and further enquiries contact Bryce on 0428 305 260.


WHEAT CROP


BARLEY CROP


RYE CROP



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