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THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AUSTRALIA

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- Potential to reduce inputs when the biological system is functioning well.
- Improved soil structure and increased capacity for holding more water, nutrients and organic matter.
- May lead to fewer animal health ailments due to improved nutritional quality of fodder.



INDEPENDENT FIELD RESEARCH DATA PASTURE

THE EFFECT OF A COMMERCIAL PROBIOTIC ON MILK QUALITY OF DAIRY COWS

Full paper is published in the Journal of Dairy Science, 2019. (Manuscript ID JDS-18-15411.R3)



Controlled Study - Independently Conducted by University of Queensland

Commercial dairy farm Randomised block design, blind study:

- Eleven randomly selected paddocks
 - Three hectares per paddock
 - Two halves - treated and untreated.
- 95% ryegrass, balance clover and lucerne.
- Same stocking rate
12 hour grazing rotation.
- Supplementary mixed ration.
All cows fully fed.
- Treatments masked via paddock and animal ID.
- Study period 6 months,
June to December.

Great Land Treatments:

- Great Land applied to treated halves of paddocks at 10L/ha (equivalent new formulation), three times in season.
- Boom spray applied.
- Milking cows assessed:
 - 98 cows grazing treated pasture
 - 114 cows grazing untreated pasture.

Chart 1: Average Daily Milk Production Per Cow

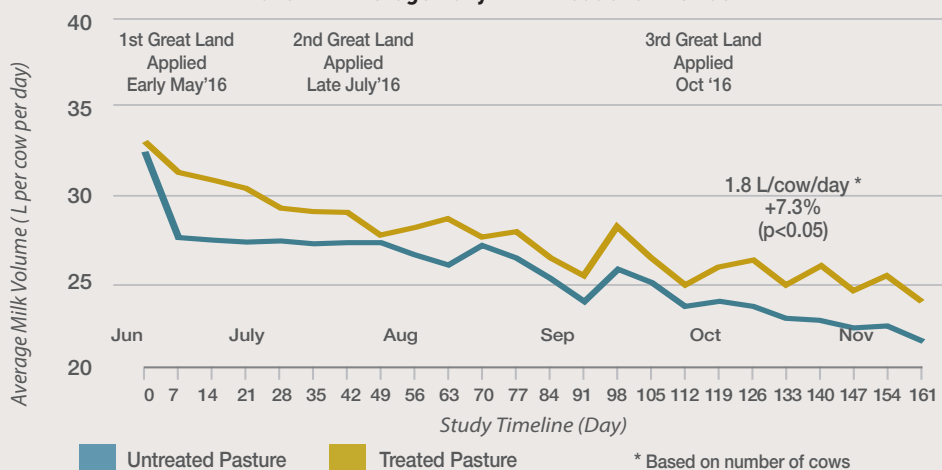
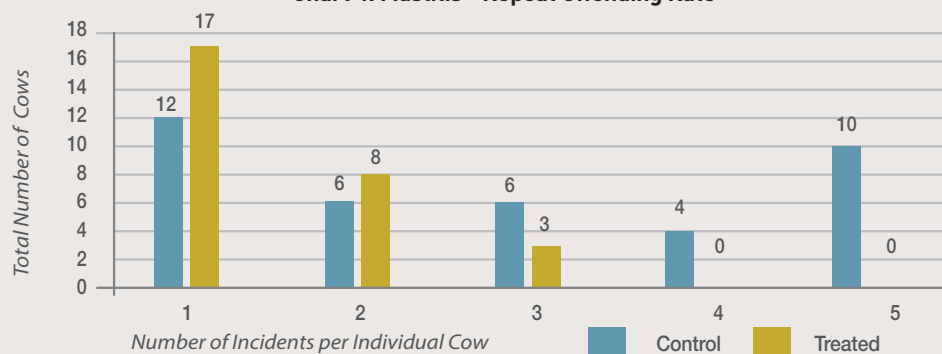


Chart 4: Mastitis - Repeat Offending Rate



Conclusion: The application of Great Land® to pastures grazed by dairy cows produced 7.3% more volume of milk and reduced risk of repeat mastitis incidence by 33%. The study suggests further investigation into the role of Great Land® in cow health is warranted.

For more informations talk to your local representative:

Vic – Western Districts/ Tas Paul Weston 0438 500 032 **Vic – Northern Vic/ Southern NSW** Dean Lombardozzi 0497 499 087

SA Adam Davies 0498 632 496

Qld Andrew Wollen 0413 748 794



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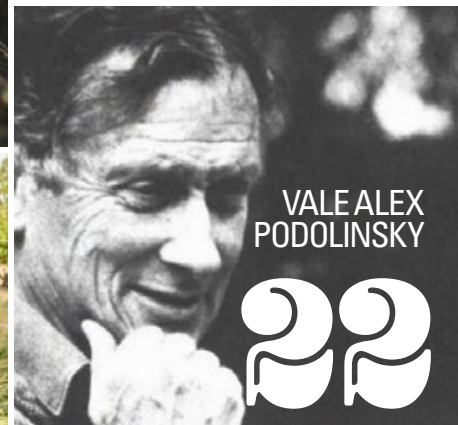
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Mark Gower
/ General Manager

SUSTAINING PEOPLE, PROFITS AND THE PLANET

Last month's release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on land clearing and agricultural production poses an important question for us all to consider:

'Does organic agriculture have a place in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change?'

Certainly, research would suggest it can play an important role.

It's interesting that this is by no means a new debate, with a research report from FiBL, the European Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, highlighting more than a decade ago the potential of organic practices to play a role in climate change (more in our article Climate Change and Organic Agriculture).

The FiBL report was prescient in also identifying the potential of organic agriculture and future soil carbon farming. We are reminded of this in our article on Steve Whitsed and his challenge to sign up farmers to the world first soil carbon farming initiative using the SOILKEE Renovator. The unique action of the SOILKEE Renovator activates soil life by triggering regenerative soil function in a way that improves soil structure, builds soil carbon through carbon sequestration, increases water holding capacity and nutrient presence and availability.

The health risks of repeatedly ingesting chemicals from herbicides, pesticides, antibiotics, hormones and other stimulants

used in conventional farming are what drive many consumers of certified organic produce. A build-up of these toxic chemicals in the human body can lead to various diseases, including cancers, as well as contributing to neurological, mental and reproductive problems. Eating certified organic food is a way to reduce our exposure to these toxic chemicals. Organic farming does not allow Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) seeds and requires seeds to be organically grown.

NASAA Organic are staunchly against the government's planned changes to the Gene Technology Regulations which will exclude a class of methods known as SDN1 from any notification or scrutiny at all. Under the proposed regulations, the decades of work by certified organic farmers across the nation is under threat because many GMOs will no longer be registered, regulated or labelled in Australia, hampering traceability and making organic status almost impossible to verify. Our organic exports rely on produce meeting the organic standards as set by the importing countries. In China, Europe and other markets, SDN1 and CRISPR-CAS9 technology does not comply with those standards. With the Government's changes to current regulations, certified organic Australian product may no longer be certified as organic in those and other premium export markets. NASAA Organic believes that the Government has not adequately considered the trade implications

/ Continued from previous page

for organic products and will remain active in our opposition to any change that will negatively impact our industry.

During August, NASAA Organic had the pleasure of supporting the launch of the mega-stall House of Health Collective at the Adelaide Central Market, a NASAA Organic Trader for over 30 years. We were more than happy to be involved in such an event and are always willing to work with our operators to support programs specific to their needs.

It is our belief that collaboration between certified organic farmers will be to the benefit of all parties and the industry as a whole. By broadening our networks with likeminded people we are witnessing significant efficiencies and problem resolution. Testament to this is our NASAA Organic Field Day programs. These days seek to marry up the shared learning experience with building these networks. We are hosting an upcoming field day in Kojonup, WA on 17th October.

The time is also fast approaching when we will be holding our 5th Annual - Into Organics Seminar on 25th October. This year's gathering is preceded by a Field Day. The location for these events will be Coffs Harbour, NSW. Each year, we are aiming to visit a different part of the country to talk about specific regional programs, operations and organic management issues more broadly. For those of you who can't attend the Seminar, we will be providing information from our speaker presentations in future editions of Organic Insights.

As always, the NASAA Organic Board and my entire team will work to represent and advocate for the interests of you all. It's important that you know who is representing your interests, so we have included a profile on our newest Board member and viticulturist, Liz Pitcher.

I trust you enjoy this edition of Organic Insights.



Chalk Hill Vineyards

As Technical and Organic Manager at Chalk Hill Viticulture (CHV), Liz has a broad set of responsibilities encompassing certification, quality assurance and technical viticulture. It's easy to see that Liz is most at ease in the middle of a vineyard, soaked in sunlight, immersed by a tangle of vines and luscious fruit waiting for just the right moment to be picked.

Chalk Hill Viticulture is a vineyard management and contracting business, across the McLaren Vale wine region of South Australia. Included are numerous organically managed vineyards, an organic wine label with managed vineyards planned for conversion to organic certification and one in the process of conversion to biodynamic certification.



In her role, Liz is responsible for looking after compliance and quality assurance programs, including organic certification (to Australian and USDA-NOP standards), HACCP and Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (SWA). Technical viticultural responsibilities

include conducting vineyard assessments during the growing season, managing all aspects of crop estimates, grape sampling for fruit maturity and vintage reports for managed growers.

"Basically, my role involves ensuring everyone involved with managed vineyards



NASAA board member Liz Pitcher

have the information they need, when they need it, including our operating team, growers and purchasing wineries,” says Liz.

“CHV manages vineyards across the McLaren Vale wine region. As a viticulturalist it’s fantastic to have exposure to such a wide range of properties from one end of the region to the other – it gives you a really great perspective and feeling for local grape growing,” she said. “And the best thing about working with Chalk Hill Viticulture is I am actually out amongst the vineyards every day during the growing season.”

Pre harvest Liz ensures up to 50 different purchasing wineries for CHV managed fruit, has crop estimates, spray diaries, current organic certificates and grapes sampled when required to determine fruit maturity leading up to harvest. This information helps with decision making and planning of harvest timing and logistics.

“We take up to 180 grape samples per week in the peak of vintage from across the McLaren Vale wine region for purchasing wineries and analyse over half of them internally for grape maturity with Bume, pH & TA analysis. One person can only collect 20 grape samples themselves per day and different wineries have different requirements in terms of sample delivery day, time and analysis; it’s not a simple process.

The technical information I collect and interpret supports the CHV Operational team responsible for coordination and logistics of harvest.”

“There is quite a high percentage of organic and biodynamic grape growers in the area and over half of the region is part of the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (SWA) program. This is a national sustainability program for vineyards and wineries recently created from the merger of the McLaren Vale initiated Sustainable Australia Winegrowing program (SAW) and the AWRI Entwine program.

“By far, the majority of growers have adopted low input practices. If not organic or biodynamic, vineyards are likely to be managed with low input conventional viticultural management, incorporating holistic practices, including integrated weed, pest and disease management through chemical, biological and cultural control methods.”

An easier transition

“I don’t believe organics is a huge step from low-input conventional viticulture. The main difference is in weed management with the use of synthetic herbicides prohibited.”

sustainable winegrowing australia

Sustainable Winegrowing Australia (SWA) is the national sustainability program for the wine industry in Australia.

The program assists grape growers and wineries to continually improve their operations by becoming more sustainable and reducing environmental impacts. SWA encourages practices that are sensitive to the environment, the community, and are economically feasible to implement and maintain.

The program assesses sustainability through the triple bottom line approach (environment, economics and social) and focuses on continuous improvement of individual member and regional results over time.

Assessment

The program assesses sustainability through the triple bottom line approach (environment, economics and social) and focuses on continuous improvement of the grower and the region's results over time.

Seven assessment areas have been developed:

- Soil Health, Nutrition and Fertiliser Management
- Pest and Disease Management
- Biodiversity Management
- Water Management
- Waste Management
- Social Relations (workers, community and wineries)
- Economic Sustainability

For more information contact info@mclarenvale.info or phone 08 8323 8999

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Liz believes the reluctance for conventional grape growers to embrace organics is largely due to a lingering perception of the work involved to achieve certification.

"The paperwork sounds onerous," she said. "Yet once you look into it, the key is to fit the organic framework into existing systems that are in place."

"For us, at Chalk Hill Viticulture, our focus on sustainable practices and underlying technical knowledge, meant that moving to organic viticulture has largely been a fairly straightforward exercise," according to Liz. The management plans developed as part of the SWA program are heavily referenced in our Organic Management Plans, as are the systems we've implemented as part of the HACCP program.

"As a vineyard manager and contractor working with both conventional and organic vineyards, this has meant building on existing management systems, with the development of standard operating procedures that address issues, such as washdown procedures when moving equipment from conventional

to organically managed properties and in harvest documentation."

And there is still contention around the price premium for organic wines.

"Some people will say they want to buy organic wine but are not always willing to pay more," Liz said.

"Operationally, organic grape growing is more expensive than conventional viticulture primarily due to additional costs associated with weed management. There is strong demand for organic fruit sales and WineGrapes Australia, a fruit and wine broker, whom the majority of fruit sales from CHV managed vineyards is managed through, are always asking when the next in-conversion vineyard will be eligible for full organic certification.

We get very strong fruit sales, especially produce which is managed under USDA NOP certification," she said. "And our yields haven't declined as a direct result of managing vineyards organically either."

While it only accounted for around 250,000 cases (less than one per cent of all Australian wine exports), this small part of the market grew by 37 per cent in value and 50 per cent in volume in 2016, compared with the previous 12 months, and has grown over the past four years at a compound average growth rate of over 50 per cent in both value and volume.

Organics as a business

"To encourage more growers into the organic sector, we need to break down the perception that it's too hard and too expensive," Liz said. "That's the main barrier."

"It's very important to have the business side under control," said Liz. "You can't do one without the other."

"You need to make sure that your organic enterprise is financially viable and that you have the scaffolding and the marketing in place."

"There's no point just saying you're organic. You have to have a good business plan, financial know-how and the support to back yourself," she said.

And as a final word of advice, Liz says relationship management remains a critical, if sometimes underestimated factor in running a strong operation, whether it's organic or conventional.

"You have to maintain and build excellent relationships with your buyers and use industry platforms like WineGrapes Australia to achieve your business goals," she said. "It can make all the difference in taking your operation to the next level."



Chalk Hill Vineyards

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Healthy eating with integrity

THE LAUNCH OF THE HOUSE OF HEALTH COLLECTIVE

Located in Adelaide's Central Market and operating for over 30 years, Central Organic has been Australia's longest standing certified organic retailer certified under the NASAA Organic Trader Standard.

In a major expansion, the business owners – founder Stephan Oulianoff and sons Ivan and Alex – recently announced a merger with another long-standing market trader, House of Health (owned by Chester and Robert Frank), to create the mega-stall House of Health Collective.

Growing consumer preferences for 'healthy eating' as a total lifestyle approach was the driving force behind the merger, with the wider Collective now featuring a product continuum of organic and wholefoods, vegetarian and vegan options (some 1,000 product lines). Completing the wholefoods concept, the new stall also features a café, the Field to Fork Kitchen.

'We wanted to create a stall for the health conscious, a place that they can get everything they need in the one place,' says Alex.

The stall design and management are based on a sustainability/zero-waste objective, with an emphasis on encouraging customers to bring their own packaging containers and offering bio-starch and recyclable packaging alternatives. Seconds or damaged food product will also be used in the café, rather than going to waste.

Widening the product offering will not see a lowering of standards when it comes to ensuring the integrity of organic food represented.

"We are committed to ensuring the integrity of organic food represented," says owner Ivan, who also Chairs the market's Traders Advisory Group.

'When the partnership was formed remaining a certified organic operator was important to all of us. We wanted to ensure customers could trust the integrity of the produce and know for certain that all the fruit and vegetables in our stall are 100% certified organic. This is something we are all very passionate about,' says Robert.





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NASAA was on hand at the launch of the Collective in August, which was officiated by, The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Sandy Verschoor. We caught-up with Ivan and Chester Frank to obtain their insights gained over 30 years working in organic produce retailing.

The changes in consumer preferences

Ivan commented on just how much consumer preferences have altered over the last 30 years, where once organic foods

were sort after by a minority group of health conscience people. Today the customer base has expended to a much wider cohort.

“We have seen organics become more mainstream. This has been great for increasing the variety and accessibility of produce and products,” commented Ivan.

Certification has also become important. Consumers are entirely convinced when food retailers mark their products as “organic” – trust is becoming important.

“For us maintaining the integrity and providing an offering that could be trusted was important. The only way we can provide consumers a guarantee of the integrity of the produce, is by being Certified Organic.”

Committed to genuine organic produce

With the merger of the two businesses, now branded House of Health Collective, maintaining the commitment to selling genuine certified organic produce is a key ingredient in the new format.

“We have made a commitment to continue to only sell 100% certified organic fresh fruit and vegetables. The number of health food products we have has greatly increased the amount of certified products we are able to offer. We are really proud of the wide variety of products we have been able to source for the stall,” said co-owner Chester Frank.

The House of Health Collective has had a big impact on the Adelaide Central Market, to the extent that it is changing the way the market operates and the way growers grow, pick and deliver their products.

“We’ve organised for some of the growers to change their picking days to match the trading days for us. We want to hold produce for the least amount of time, which in-turn allows our customers to have the produce for as long as possible,” explains Ivan.

look
for the
sign of
integrity

Did you know that the NASAA Organic Trader Standard has been around for over 15 years now, with 22 committed retailers certified under the program?

The Standard covers a range of trading operations, from retailers and restaurants, to home delivery and food preparation services, and market operations.

Retail certification is the final step in a certification system developed to provide the consumer with a guarantee of organic integrity through an accredited and independent verification system.

Certification as a trader ensures that every link in the supply chain is traceable, providing consumers with confidence that products represented and claiming to be organic, are in fact, truly organic.

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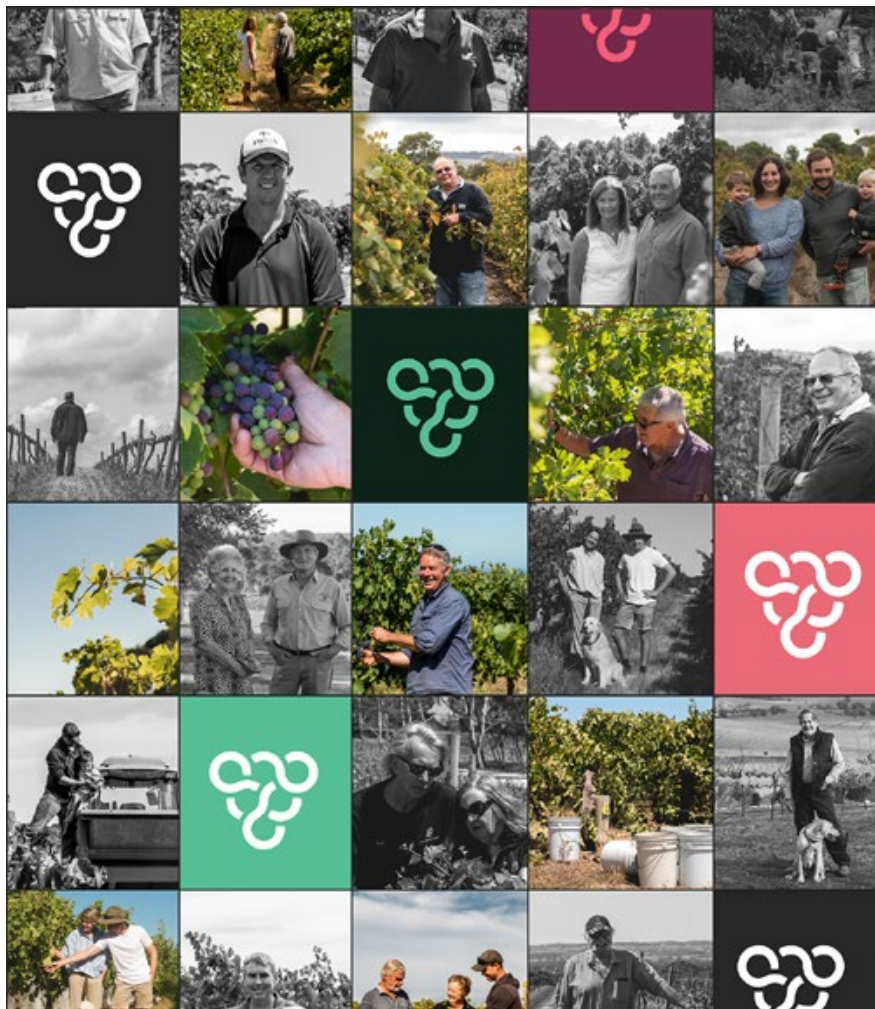
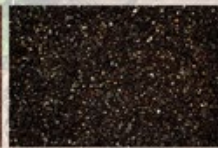
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Climate Change and Organic Agriculture

THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR GLOBAL AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS WITH THE RELEASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC'S) LATEST REPORT ON LAND CLEARING AND FARMING IN AUGUST.

With agricultural activity and deforestation contributing a third of the World's greenhouse gases, the report highlights the urgent need to address long-term sustainability in the sector.

A future approach requires a focus on arresting rates of deforestation, increasing biodiversity, a focus on soil health, adopting organic low tillage or no-till methods, and importantly, a rejection of fossil fuel intensive synthetic inputs inherent in industrial systems – all concepts that are central to an organic production system.

Organic Systems and Climate Change

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) promotes organic agriculture “as an alternative approach that maximizes the performance of renewable resources and optimizes nutrient and energy flows in agroecosystems.”

The FAO notes that “organic agriculture is a farming method with many advantages and considerable potential for mitigating and adapting to climate change.”

The statement is backed up in recent research trials undertaken by the Rodale Institute in America, and earlier analysis from FiBL, the European-based Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.

As we reported in our Winter edition of Organic Insights, results from the Rodale Farming Systems Trial® highlighted that organic management systems use 45% less energy, release 40% fewer carbon emissions and have the potential for yields of up to 40% higher in drought than conventional systems.

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Well ahead of the current climate change debate, FiBL produced a report as early as 2008 that looked at organic farming and climate change, in an analysis based on long-term farm modelling across member countries.

The report recognised the considerable potential of organic agriculture for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and sequestering soil carbon. In fact, the report presciently concluded that, on the basis of the research findings, organic farming systems might be included in voluntary CO₂ emissions markets. A vision that has come to fruition, detailed in the article on Soil Carbon Farming, titled The Carbon Apocalypse on page 18.

Collectively, the identified potential of organic agriculture when it comes to climate mitigation and adaptation, include:

- The global warming potential (GWP) of organic farming systems is considerably smaller.
- The GWP of conventional agriculture is significantly affected by use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers (which are fossil fuel intensive) and which, according to the FAO, represent around 13 percent of global agriculture emissions. Conventional systems have high nitrogen concentrations in soils.
- Organic agriculture, in contrast, is self-sufficient in nitrogen through planting of green manure crops, recycling and composting. Organic practices increase nitrogen efficiency and reduce emissions of nitrous oxide.
- Soils managed organically are more aerated and the practice of crop rotation with green manure improves soil structure and increases soil fertility.
- Improved soil structure contains significantly higher organic matter content, reducing soil erosion and promoting CO₂ sequestration.
- Higher organic matter content means that organically managed soils are better adapted to weather extremes, acting as a sponge in holding more water. Under

dry conditions or water constraints, organic agriculture outperforms conventional agriculture.

- Greater diversity on organic farms enhances overall farm resilience.

But, it's not all clear cut when it comes to the measurement of climate impact and organic agriculture.

Some suggest that organic farming yields are lower than conventional agriculture, thereby requiring clearance of more land for the same yield. Whilst the yield issue in isolation may be true for some organic production, it really depends on the crop. Research has demonstrated that in some crops, the yield difference is minimal.

Similarly, suggestions have been made that lower livestock numbers and grass-fed animals might require more land for grazing, contributing to further land clearance. And, the use of livestock manure on-farm may contribute to increased methane emissions.

Certainly, the FiBL report itself identified the need for improvements in crop yields and management of methane emissions from use of manures in organic agriculture.

Overall, the science and study of agriculture impact on climate change needs to scale-up rapidly, as we develop our knowledge on how best to tackle the issue of global warming.

There is substantial evidence of the benefits of organic management when it comes to increasing soil fertility, enhancing soil structure stability, and promoting CO₂ sequestration as part of the toolkit.

New research about the role of increasing soil carbons points to huge benefits derived from organic farming, as increases in soil carbons improve water retention, promote root growth, improve soil health, and sequester carbon – at the same time.

Higher yields may be possible particularly in Australia where our ancient soil structures and hundreds of years of poor soil management; provide more scope for improvement than in many other parts of the world.

Source References:

The Conversation: IPCC Land Report shows the problem with farming based around oil not soil

<http://theconversation.com/ipccs-land-report-shows-the-problem-with-farming-based-around-oil-not-soil-121643>

FiBL Technical Report 2008: Organic Farming and Climate Change

<http://orgprints.org/13414/3/niggli-et-al-2008-itc-climate-change.pdf>

Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

<http://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-specialfeatures/oa-climatechange/en/>

IN THE LAST EDITION OF THE ORGANIC INSIGHTS MAGAZINE, AN ARTICLE ON THE HARCOURT ORGANIC FOOD COOPERATIVE GENERATED QUITE A BIT OF INTEREST FROM OUR READERS...

It seems that many farmers, not just those who are organic, struggle with succession planning, with a fear that the efforts – blood, sweat and tears – that have been put into the farm, may not bear fruit over the next generation.

Along a similar vein, the theme of supporting youth participation in organic farming in our article from IFOAM Board Member and FiBL researcher, Julia Lernoud, hit a note with you.

Certainly, both articles highlight that participation may not be due to a lack of willingness, but about lessening the barriers of entry to farming for young people.

We take 5 minutes this month with Harcourt Co-op member and micro-dairy operator, Tessa Sellar, to revisit this important theme.

5 minutes with Tessa Sellar



SELLAR FARMHOUSE CREAMERY MEMBER OF HARCOURT ORGANIC FARMING CO-OP

Tessa Sellar from Sellar Farmhouse Creamery talks with NASAA about what inspired her to take the leap into farming and how she has overcome challenges to establish her own micro-business.



What inspired you to become an organic farmer?

While modern agriculture can be held responsible for much of the world's environmental problems, I've always felt inspired by how, if managed holistically, it can also hold the answers to improving, and often rectifying, many of these same problems.

That's something I want to be part of.



What are some of the barriers for young people in farming?

Access to land is a huge barrier for many young farmers. In the current financial and environmental climate, the risk can be enormous if borrowing money to purchase farm land. The focus can quickly move to just paying off debt rather than trying to improve farm management systems.

Farming can also be very isolating when starting out.

I was lucky enough to find an organic dairy internship which led to full time work. I then set off on the road for 6 months, working across 8 dairy farms and processors up and down the East coast.

I was blown away by how generous people were with their knowledge, but I think this is largely because there are few avenues for this knowledge to be handed down.



What has the co-op meant for you?

Joining the co-op has helped minimise these barriers by providing access to leased land and being surrounded by like-minded farmers who can support each other on a day to day basis.

We were very lucky that the land was already certified, enabling us to start working the land in the positive, rather than having to take time to bring it back from the negative.



Do you have any advice for other aspiring farmers?

Get experience before you lock yourself into ANYTHING.

Go to open days, make networks, see how other people do it, volunteer, intern and work. Learn from others mistakes rather than having to make them all yourself. Work out if it's actually what you want to do before throwing everything into it.

Like-minded farming networks who support each other can often be the difference between a successful farming enterprise and a failure.

Follow Tessa's journey on [the Blog](#)



A WELL-SUPPORTED ORGANIC INDUSTRY PEAK BODY WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Glenn Schaube / NASAA Chair

In my experience, working with industry associations for many years, across a range of sectors, and variety of funding models, from membership to corporate, there is no single formula for success.

However, underlying all is a shared need or common interest, that brings industry together.

Often this is driven by external factors such as a need for legislation around risk mitigation (building and construction), education and professional development requirements (medical), or commercially driven by stakeholders (private health insurance rebate eligibility for providers).

Divisions within industries, based on ideology, corporate versus small business, board territorialism and ego, or commercial grounds is also common. In the case of the organic sector I believe we are guilty of all of these.

Despite considerable time, effort and money being invested, it is disappointing that the organic industry has not been able to set aside these issues and come together to create a unified voice and peak representative body.

In my opinion they are the reasons for our inability to support and fund the interim Organic Industries of Australia (OIA), and the still in existence Organic Federation of Australia (OFA).

There are many issues that plague or limit the organic industry's development in Australia, which are more than enough for a peak body to tackle. These issues provide clear justification and purpose to solicit willing funding from industry and government for programs that are of wide commercial benefit. They include:

- regulating the use of the word 'organic' such as in Europe and the USA,
- protecting the right of choice for farmers and consumers,
- improved product and GMO labelling,
- simplifying organic export requirements,
- confusion and a general lack of

understanding of organic food production systems, their benefits amongst government bureaucratic and the wider agriculture industry,

- no use of agricultural levies for research to improve organic production; and
- the use of multiple private Organic Standards within Australia's domestic market with varying degrees of integrity or consistency in their application.

However, I believe there is a fundamental division in ideology surrounding the formation of a peak body and hindering its formation.

On the one hand, part of the industry (NASAA included), is seeking a representative body that is willingly funded, because of its obvious value in pursuing a government supported regulation for the domestic organic industry, like China and the EU. Alternatively, are those who believe in self-regulation, no government involvement, funded through a compulsory or voluntary levy, with centralised and unilateral sway over the Organic and Biodynamic Standards.

Additionally, the belief that a peak body should provide a wide arrange of functions, such as education, training, advocacy, certification and regulation, or export development is ambitious, and usually reserved for large industries with significant economic influence and funding. Such broad expectations are unrealistic for an organic industry peak body, given the relatively small size of the organic industry in Australia and limited funding available.

Broad functions and limited access to funding have provided oxygen for the Australian Organic model of securing funding through the compulsory or voluntary licensing of the Bud Label. However, this model has not gained wide spread support because of the commercial conflicts of interest.

Broad functions also go well beyond the primary purpose of smaller peak representative bodies, which is to provide a single voice on policy and regulatory reform on industry wide issues.

As a unique industry with distinct practices, needs and values, NASAA's position is that the organic sector requires a sole representative body that is not hindered by alignments with other organisations, models or that have conflicting interests.

I have worked with small teams of four people or less, with funding ranging from AU\$100K to around AU\$250K which, despite substantial opposition, have successfully brought about significant regulatory and policy reform at Federal and state levels. This enabled clear focus on regulation and policy, universal benefit, and a lack of conflicts of interest on important issues, their industries willingly supported their programs with funding.

The history of the organic industry and development of the minimal standards show that the organic industry is capable of significant change, despite limited funding.

Importantly, consumers of organic food are already aware of Certified Organics and know to look for a trusted Certified Organic label, such as the NASAA 'spring leaf' label. Research clearly shows that decisions to buy an organic product have nothing to do with the label per se, but rather that world-wide, 'certified organic' stands for a cleaner food production system and provides assurances of less artificially manufactured residues or GMOs. They buy these products because they believe they are better for them.

This enables a peak body to focus on policy reform and regulation that offers support for the needs of the organic industry to, improve market access, remove regulatory hurdles and barriers, and provide greater surety for the organic industry in Australia, through government policy support.

NASAA Organic remains committed to the formation of a truly representative peak body.

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Image: BioPark Organic Farm

Established in 1986, NASAA Organic is Australia's first and most respected organic industry association. We are passionate about changing the way the world produces the food we consume, by supporting, educating and promoting the many benefits of sustainable, organic agriculture practices to industry and the wider community.

We are extremely proud of the number of operators around the world that are certified to the NASAA Organic and Biodynamic standard, and we are committed to continual growth to create healthier choices for consumers and the environment, now and into the future.





Compost for farms

BY TIM MARSHALL

I am best known for my advocacy of compost gardening. I have run more than 550 compost workshops from Perth to Broome and Cairns to Launceston and provided consulting advice to scores of farms on compost making.

Compost is the basic organic input, benefiting every soil type (except perhaps peat soil) offering many benefits, including improving the physical, chemical and biological condition of soil and consequently water filtration, storage and efficiency, supporting plant health and resistance to disease and pest attack.

Providing enough compost at the farm scale is much harder than for gardens, therefore, how should farmers approach compost-making and use?

I will always support the use of compost when possible, but for the largest farms it can be very hard to supply enough. Aerated compost tea is a useful idea which we will cover in a future article.

Where growers can make their own compost, tools called 'over the heap' compost turners are ideal. Commercial composters use self-driving models but 'tow behind' versions are cheaper (see photo above). There are many different versions of these tools and they vary greatly in cost and the size of heap they can manage. These tools can sometimes be purchased second hand and cheaper Chinese versions can be quite effective.

Like any tool, they are best when used correctly and a little experience really helps. They are most effective when combined with water application, from a tank or a towable hose, so that the heap is watered as it is turned, which is more efficient than watering the heap from the top (but top watering may also be necessary unless you have ideal rainfall).

Where growers do not want to make their own compost, they can buy certified organic compost,

especially if they are close to cities that provide large amounts of green waste as input into the composting process. Feedlots are another source of raw compost ingredient.

With practice, farm scale composting can produce a very high-quality product; however, commercial compost is much cheaper, therefore I have assisted many growers to arrive at a useful compromise between cost and quality.

I suggest using a reliable reference such as my book 'Composting: The Ultimate Organic Guide to Recycling Your Garden' (available from bookshops, libraries and the NASAA office) to learn to make an excellent home scale composting system and/or a worm farm.

Purchase compost from a reliable composter, ideally a certified product, several months before you need to apply it. Inoculate the purchased product with the home-made compost and vermicompost by pushing tomato stakes or tool handles into the heap and filling the drill holes with your own compost. While the heap is re-working, water it with a slurry made from watered down compost and worm juice.

To improve this system even more, mix the commercial compost when it arrives with some of your own organic matter, such as baled straw, hay, vegetable pruning's, old mulch scraped up from your own paddocks or even organic waste scavenged from your own windbreaks or bushland.

This system has the advantage of cheap bulk product from a commercial source, mixed with some of your own 'biology' from on-farm sources and re-enlivened with your best possible compost and worm juice. By adding your own biology, you may improve the survivability of soil organisms introduced when you apply compost to your crops.



The carbon apocalypse

**Too much in the sky,
not enough in the soil**

Scarcely a farmer exists who doesn't know soil quality is essential for crop health and yields. The challenge is what to do about it.

The answers are becoming clearer; improving soil carbon content through organics is receiving greater attention in recent years, on the back of intensive research.

This research links together important concepts such as water retention, root health and carbon sequestration.

The Government is now offering incentives to farmers to capture atmospheric carbon and put it back into the soil; they will pay you to do it.

But, what is the easiest way to build soil carbon?

Australian farm soils have low average organic material

Soil organic carbon (SOC) commonly makes up 50 to 60 per cent of the organic matter in soils. This organic matter is derived from organic materials added to the soil from plant roots, surface plant material, soil microorganisms and animal waste.

However, as global food production has increased, at the same time, the soil on which food production is based, has become seriously degraded with depleted levels of biological activity and reduced carbon flow.

By global standards, Australian soils are low in soil organic matter.

Australian soils are ancient, have inherently poor structure, fertility and low levels of organic matter and this was before man even started farming it.

Historical land clearing and subsequent land management practices, including over reliance on mineral fertilisers, aggressive ploughing and not adequately allowing soil recovery through fallow cycles, has compounded the problem.

Topsoil organic matter in Australia can contain as low as three tonnes of carbon per hectare equating to an average 0.5% carbon content.

Soils need at least 4-5% organic carbon to function as a healthy 'living' soil, with a thriving soil biology that boosts nutrient availability and plant growth.

Higher soil carbons improve water availability

Composting adds soil carbon which improves soil porosity, aeration, water-holding capacity and insulates the soil, thereby improving plant root conditions and providing higher fertility.

Research into the water holding capacity of humus (a stable form of soil carbon) identified one part of soil humus retains on average a minimum of four parts of soil water.

To put this into perspective, for every 1% increase of soil organic carbon an increase of 16.8 litres (almost two buckets) of **extra** plant available water can be retained per square metre in the top 30 cm of soil.

This equates to 168,000 litres of water per hectare, in **addition** to the water-holding capacity of the soil itself.

In pastures relying only on rainfall, such increases can have dramatic improvements in crop yields.

Improving root strength and health

Soil is a zoo of biological activity essential to producing nutrients upon which plants depend.

Higher levels of organic matter encourage the growth of mycorrhizal fungi which through their symbiotic relationship with the plant, supply water and mineral nutrients, such as phosphorus, taken from the soil.

Mycorrhizal fungi play an extremely important role in plant-water dynamics, increasing drought resistance by stimulating an increase in the number and depth of plant roots.

Developing more vigorous and larger root systems has another benefit; more plant mass to break down at the end of the season, that then further boosts soil organics.

Being paid for carbon sequestering

Storing the carbon component of organic matter in agricultural, rangeland and forest soils has been identified as effective in decreasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Plants are natural solar-energy powered carbon capturing devices.

Consequently, there is great interest in quantifying the capacity of various soil types and land management practices to support increases in soil organic matter, and for encouraging farmers to increase their soil carbons.

One such initiative is the Emissions Reduction Fund.

The Emissions Reduction Fund is a voluntary scheme that aims to provide incentives to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce emissions or store carbon.

Under the scheme, farmers can acquire Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) for emissions reductions. Each ACCU represents one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e) stored or avoided by an eligible project or farm activity.

ACCUs can be sold or traded.

While there are a few hoops to jump through to participate in this scheme, effectively, a farmer can be paid to increase their soil carbons, and benefit from the improved crop yields.

Pelletised compost to conveniently add more organic content

Farmers need commercially realistic solutions for improving soil carbons.

Speaking to Peter Wadewitz from

Peats Soils, he explained that Peats Soils has developed an innovative product to conveniently add carbon.

“Peats Soils mission is to divert green waste from inappropriate disposal to composting processes that produce soil improvement products”

“We have a passion for compost, an organically alive soil which is a controlled microbiological environment. You can tell a field that is well composted, the soil is rich, dark and has a pleasant organic smell.”

Peats Soils has developed a more convenient form suitable for spreading with conventional farm machinery.

“Our pelletised compost product can be spread using a conventional air-seeder or belt spreader allowing carbon building to be achieved quickly and simply.”

Immediate benefits can be achieved in one season through a simple approach to spreading or adding using more precise technologies.

New technologies can be used to graphically map carbon estimates, and with the use of soil sampling, provide a detailed profile to guide machinery to spread precise levels of compost to the field.

These technologies and pelletised composts make soil carbon building much easier and more cost effective.

But, why not add micro-nutrients while you're at it?

Custom additives and available silicates

Peats Soils latest innovation is “Peats Tailor Made” solution.

Comprehensive soil analysis is first performed on the pasture that identifies nutrient deficiencies. This profile is then used to guide the addition of critical micro-nutrients into the pelletised compost blend.

“The result is a potent custom blended product and is the most effective soil conditioner money can buy for improved yield and active disease suppression” explained Peter Wadewitz.

The product was developed in conjunction with Greg Barr from Newtech Fertilizers, who provides the soil analysis, and one of the key additives in Peats Tailor Made - silicates.

We spoke to Greg Barr from Newtech Fertilisers who explained the role of silicates.

“Silicates are used by plants to build cell walls. By adding available silicates along with

/ Continued from previous page

growth promoting nutrients and soil carbon, the result is strong growth and strong cell walls. The plant becomes more robust and more pest and disease resistant.”

The trick is to identify the right water-soluble silicates that provide high availability.

Initial soil analysis identifies the type and amount of silicates to add.

Organic farming technology has become sophisticated

Farmers have, most likely, always known about the benefits of composting, but driven by commercial reality, they have chosen easier solutions to increase soil fertility.

Through research, new farming techniques and tools are now readily available to not just supply more effective and convenient methods of increasing soil carbons, but to also provide custom blends that contain micro-nutrients and available silicates.

To offset the costs of increasing soil carbon, farmers can also take advantage of the Federal Government Emissions Reduction Fund.

Soil health is one of the biggest influences on productivity, a major contributor to achieving resilience and sustainability, and the solution is to shove more carbon into your soils.

Avoid the apocalypse now; love the smell of carbon in the morning.

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NEWS WRAP UP

Vale Alex Podolinsky

FATHER OF AUSTRALIAN
BIODYNAMICS

abc.net.au/news

Generational change in the organic industry sometimes means farewelling those who have been instrumental in establishing its foundations in Australia.

Such is the case for biodynamic pioneer, Alex Podolinsky, who died in late June this year, aged 93.

Alex will be remembered as both a controversial character and a person who made a significant and valued contribution to many fields of endeavour not the least of which was organic agriculture.

Alex dedicated most of his life to the promotion and education of organic and biodynamic farming. He was an early member of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), co-founder of the Biodynamic Research Institute and founder of Demeter in Australia, a lecturer and teacher who wrote numerous books, articles and presentations on the practical application of biodynamic principles.

He was committed to learning through continual observation, or what he called 'Active Perception', and unceasing in his desire to continually improve management systems and uphold the highest standards in bio-dynamics.

Through his efforts, and ability to communicate effectively at a practical level that resonated with many, Alex was singularly responsible for founding the modern bio-dynamic movement in Australia, one that has seen great success for its many followers both here, and abroad, where 'Australian bio-dynamics' has been adopted as best practice.

Alex was a student of the teachings and principles of Rudolf Steiner as an advocate of the new 'Agricultural Method', known as Bio-dynamic farming.

Embracing Steiner's challenge that the method should become as widely practiced as possible, Alex went to work, first applying

bio-dynamic methods on his own dairy farm in the Yarra Valley, where he observed the resultant improvements in soil fertility, herd health and productivity. He then worked closely with numerous other farmers to develop a more 'practical' approach to Steiner's teachings, within an Australian environmental context.

Like many other pioneers of the organic and biodynamic industry, Alex suffered a lot of skepticism and opposition from the agricultural establishment. He attracted extremely loyal followers, but perhaps unsurprisingly, given the opposition he faced, his own sharp-tongued criticism also turned many people away, so he remains a controversial figure. Undisputed is his strong advocacy of a unique Australian interpretation of biodynamics, and, until recently, an iron-fisted control of the Demeter mark in Australia.

Alex was an author and teacher



Bio Park Organic Farm

of Biodynamics, a dairy farmer, musician, architect, numerologist, educationalist and founder of several Steiner schools.

Amongst the controversial aspects of Alex's version of biodynamics was his insistence on annual application of BD Preparation 500 (horn manure), his downplaying of the importance of preparation 501 (silica) and his encouragement of mechanical stirring for the biodynamic preparations.

His insightfulness into farming systems and understanding of soil and pasture (he called it 'active perception') was obvious to anyone who ever walked across a paddock with Alex. His approach to biodynamics permitted application of the system to much larger farms than was generally achieved in any other country.

Alex Podolinski was born in Germany in 1925 from Russian parents, studied Biodynamics in Switzerland and

Germany and moved to Australia in the late 1940's as a stateless political refugee. He founded the Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Association of Australia (BDAAA) in 1953. In 1955 he founded the Bio-Dynamic Research Institute (BDRI) which has applied the Demeter mark in Australia since 1967.

Alex shot to popular fame in 1984 when ABC TV screened an episode of A Big Country called, A Winter's Tale, about Alex and his biodynamic work.

Outside of his work in agriculture, Alex had a background in education and psychology and took an active interest in Education, founding two Steiner schools in Melbourne and homes for children in need of special care, and training many Steiner teachers. He also designed and built numerous structures, from houses to schools and even a multi-level skyscraper.

Alex is remembered by Tim Marshall, who worked for many

years in the same field and sometimes alongside Alex, who added...

"Although it is hard to ignore his fierce advocacy of his version of biodynamics and his adherence to the strictest standards, and criticism of anyone who disagreed with him, Alex also had great compassion for people and animals, and sometimes great humour. He once said to me, "I speak seven languages – none of them well".

Alex died on 30 June 2019, just prior to his 94th birthday.



/ News Wrap Up continued from page 23 / Click on the headline to read more



BUILDING ORGANIC MANAGEMENT CAPACITY IN THE PACIFIC

The Coconut Industry Development for the Pacific Programme (CIDP) is a funding program that recognises the potential of the industry in supporting sustainable and healthy rural livelihoods throughout the Pacific region.

While the coconut industry is recognised as a major contributor to the local economies of several Pacific nations, the targeted funding program recognises the need to further assist local growers to reach their full potential.

NASAA recently won a tender under the program to develop a training package, and to deliver a series of 'train the trainer' workshops on organic certification for regional coconut plantation growers.

The contract represents a key platform in unlocking production value, providing technical training

that assists smallholder coconut producers and other stakeholders to build capacity, and to access high-value global markets through organics. The program is designed specifically for grower groups, that already have internal control systems in place.

As Stage 1 of the project, NASAA developed a training manual designed to simplify the certification process within a regional context and completed pilot training (on site) with some 60 registered growers and stakeholders in PNG in August.

With the success of this initial phase, and some refinement to the training package, NCO Certification Officer, Carolin Möller, undertook further workshops in Tonga with some 61 growers in September.

"It was wonderful to meet so many farmers all wanting to grow their crops with organic practices. The workshop was a super success, the people loved it and wanted more" said Carolin.

The next workshop is planned for

the Solomon Islands in November with future workshops intended for next year.

"NASAA is proud to be a part of this capacity building exercise and help our neighbours in the Pacific increase their potential for agricultural production through market access" says Mark Gower, General Manager for NASAA.

NCO certifies around 14 operators in the Pacific region, with 10 certified operations alone in PNG, predominantly coffee and tea plantations, and processing facilities in Goroka and Lae for international export.

/ Continued from page 25

/ Stephen Whitsed



CONFERENCE OUT-TAKE FROM THE NATIONAL CARBON FARMING CONFERENCE AND EXPO – STEPHEN WHITSED

Soil health and organic farming go hand in hand; and increasing soil carbon is the aim of any organic management system.

Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia (ODFA) member, Stephen Whitsed, was a recent speaker at the National Carbon Farming Conference and Expo in Albury, NSW.

Like many of our organic farmers, Stephen is always seeking to improve management practices on-farm to ensure optimal soil health as the foundation for increased agricultural productivity.

In 2018, Stephen discovered the **SOILKEE® Renovator** machine technology developed by West Gippsland cattle farmer and inventor, Niels Olsen, after a tip off from a founding ODFA member who insisted that he “better go have a look at this system.”

The SOILKEE® Renovator provides soil mulching, tilling, cultivation, sowing and regenerating using a one-pass system that promotes minimal soil disturbance (close to 80% of the pasture is left undisturbed). Through use of the system, test trials demonstrated a significant increase in soil nutrient, and massive increases in soil carbon.

In a world first, and with the help of AgriProve, specialists in soil carbon farming, Mr Olsen received approval for use of the SOILKEE® Renovator as a carbon farming project under

the Federal Government’s carbon abatement program (Emissions Reduction Fund).

After visiting the Olsen’s farm, Stephen was so impressed he insisted the Whitsed farm invest in the technology – and learn all they could about soil carbon farming.

“When we looked around Niels’ farm, we were amazed, I’d never seen anything like it before!” says Stephen.

He hasn’t looked back, and has since setup his own business, Global Soil Regeneration, to provide SOILKEE® contracting services, as well as advising on carbon program registration to assist other farms and land care organisations.

He hopes that all farmers can harness the benefits of the SOILKEE® system and receive additional carbon credit incentives under the Government fund.

“We are passionate about helping other farmers achieve the increased productivity that we ourselves have achieved on-farm,” says Stephen.

“We’ve only been using the system for around 8 months and we’ve already seen some great results,” he says.

“Increasing soil carbon improves water-holding capacity and infiltration, nutrient availability and soil biology,” he says.

“And the potential to monetise soil carbon farming is a double win for farmers in using the system,” says Stephen.

“Test data suggests that SOILKEE can deliver 100 – 125 carbon credits per hectare per annum, with a revenue potential of \$800/\$1,000 hectare,” he says.

Through simple word of mouth, Stephen has encouraged a further 10 local farmers to join the carbon project with over 3,000 hectares registered.

He is now setting a challenge to register 100 farmers in the Upper Murray Valley to regenerate soils using the SOILKEE Regenerator

in the local area – with a target of 100 hectares per farm. 100 Base Points. 100 Kilolitres water. 100 months Soilkeeping.

Farmers should be getting on board because of all the benefits using the Soilkee. From Increasing Topsoil, Soil Biology worms soil aeration, up to 40% increase in pasture growth, an increase in Carbon by 1% puts an extra 140,000 Litres of water holding capacity per hectare.

Further Information

www.globalsoilregeneration.com

/ www.woolworths.com.au



WOOLWORTHS \$30 MILLION ORGANIC GROWTH FUND BEARS FRUIT

In response to the continued demand trend for organic produce in Australia, Woolworths, in conjunction with Heritage Bank, last year committed \$30 million in interest-free loan funding and grants to assist organic farms to increase supply capacity.

The move from Woolworths comes as the retailer recognises the need to secure consistent future supply in the wake of a doubling of domestic retail sales over the last 10 years.

Funding recipients to date have included Australian Organic Farmers and Borderland Organics, with the funding going to increasing storage and production infrastructure, and the planting of new crop species.

/ Harvey Norman



ORGANIC PRODUCERS RECOGNISED AS AUSTRALIA'S FINEST IN THE 2019 DELICIOUS. HARVEY NORMAN PRODUCE AWARDS

The *delicious. Harvey Norman Produce Awards* represent one of the most prestigious on the national foodies scene, recognising the best-of-the-best in Australian food produce and producers.

Judged by industry celebrities including Maggie Beer, Alla Wolf-Tasker, Matt Moran and Neil Perry, selected State finalists compete to win the overall national prize in the categories of **Dairy. Earth. Paddock. and Sea.**

Organic producers were well represented at this year's event, taking out several major prizes.

We extend our congratulations to NASAA certified operators, **Bruny Island Cheese Co.** (TAS) for taking out the Gold Medal in the Dairy category for their Raw Milk c2 and to **L'Artisan Cheese** (Vic) as a State finalist in the same category for their 'Marcel' cheese. Kudos also to **Ngeringa** in SA as State finalists in the Earth category for their biodynamic salad greens.

Melissa Brown, from South Australia's biodynamic **Gemtree Wines**, was also recognised in taking out the gong for the major award of Outstanding Viticulturalist.

Congratulations to all in flying the organic flag!

/ Boulia Shire Council



BOULIA SPELLING YARDS STREAMLINE SUPPLY-CHAIN FOR TOP END ORGANIC CATTLE PRODUCERS

Known as the capital of the Channel Country, the small outback town of Boulia is set to become a strategically important route stop for our Territory OBE producers.

Use of the town's existing holding facilities at the Showgrounds bypasses the need for spelling on private certified properties in shifting cattle from Alice Springs for consolidation on the way through to the Stanbroke export abattoir in Grantham, Queensland.

Boulia Shire Council owns the Showgrounds where the holding yards have typically housed cattle, horses and camels participating in major agricultural shows, rodeos and other events. Given the infrequent nature of events, further uses of the facilities were welcomed, with the Council recognising the potential growth in the movement of organic livestock across the region.

As Organic Standards mandate traceability of the entire supply chain, NASAA worked with the Council to advise on the Standards requirements to be met so that the spelling yards could accommodate movement of organic livestock.

Investing \$100,000 to upgrade the facility, the Council's organic management plan considers use

of the facility by conventional producers, feeding and watering, and clean-up and washdown procedures. Importantly, no conventional livestock can be brought into the facility when in use by certified organic producers – a requirement that will be managed through planned peak periods.

When NCO inspected the facility in July, several camels were in temporary residence preparing for the annual Boulia Camel Races!

/ Bruny Island Cheese Co



MORE RECOGNITION FOR BRUNY ISLAND CHEESE CO. IN THE COUNTRY STYLE AWARDS

Country Style magazine recently marked its 30-year anniversary with the launch of the *Country Style Awards*, recognising 30 inspiring people making an outstanding contribution to their community. Nick Haddow, cheesemaker at Bruny Island Cheese Co and Glen Huon Farm, was named inaugural winner of the **Entertaining** category.

Congratulations Nick!

SAVE THE DATE



NASAA INTO ORGANICS FIELD DAY 2019

Location: WA, Kojonup

Date: Thursday 17th October, 10am – 4:15pm

Whether you're a farmer, backyard gardener, student, or just a curious foodie... Into Organics Field Days are a great way to see first hand how farmers sustainably manage and overcome issues on their successful certified organic farms.

So come along and join us in the WA wheatbelt township of Kojonup, be inspired by other passionate, organically minded folk and gain insights into helping you grow!

Your itinerary will include visits to the Changerup Pastoral Co. and Payneham Vale Organics, mixed certified organic livestock and cropping farms. Bring your own lunch or enjoy the hospitality of the Kojonup Country Kitchen.

Tickets can be purchased through [Eventbrite](#).

into organics 2019

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NASAA INTO ORGANICS 5TH ANNUAL SEMINAR

Location: Coffs Harbour, NSW

Date: 24th–25th October

Our annual Into Organics Seminar, held across Australia, has proven to be a popular event for networking within the industry and for learning through practical observation on-farm and guest speaker presentations.

This year's Seminar will be held in the popular coastal resort town of Coffs Harbour. What's not to enjoy?

This year's format features a field day followed with a full day seminar program. Day 1 will see us visiting [Biodynamic Agriculture Australia](#) (BAA) in Belligen, for an interactive discussion on how biodynamic preparations are made and used, followed by a tour of NCO certified biodynamic [Kiwi Down Under Organic Farm](#).

On day 2, we will listen and be inspired by our experienced industry speakers, covering a range of topics such as, soil health, climate, water, microbiology, business planning and sales.

For more details on the field day, who is presenting at the seminar, view the program and/or book your ticket(s) [Click Here](#).

In addition to and following the seminar, join us for a buffet dinner on Friday 25th at the Pacific Bay Resort, Bayside Bar & Grill restaurant at 7pm.

For dinner reservations and more information contact:
Lee Mastus on 61 8 7231 7703 or email: lee.mastus@nasaa.com.au

BIOFACH 2020

Location: Nuremburg, Germany

Date: 12-15th February 2020

A highlight of the international organic calendar under the patronage of IFOAM, BioFach will once again be held in Nuremburg from the 12-15th February 2020.

BioFach is the largest organic trade show in the world, with last year's event attracting 3,266 exhibitors and 51,500 trade visitors from 143 countries.

For further information on exhibiting, visit www.biofach.de/en

OUT & ABOUT



NATIONAL ORGANIC WEEK

The official celebration for National Organic Week 2019 was held from Sept 9 – 15. And now the public voting has started for the 2019 Organic Consumer Choice Awards.

VOTE NOW and show your support for these organic brands.



MIDDLE EAST NATURAL & ORGANIC PRODUCTS EXPO

Location: Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre

Date: 3 – 5 December 2019

Find out more and register: www.ifoam.bio/en/events

The Middle East Natural and Organic Products Expo Dubai is the only event of its kind specializing in beauty, health, food and beverage, living, and the environment sectors in the Middle East and Northern Africa. With the support of IFOAM – Organics International, the expo has served as a platform to launch organic products on the Middle Eastern market for 17 years.



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