

SUMMER 2021



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ORGANIC INSIGHTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AUSTRALIA

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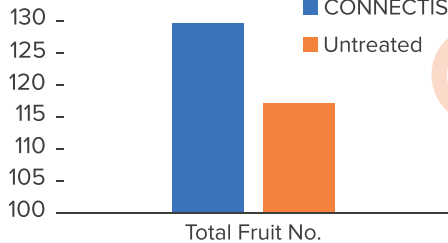
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4-7

30 YEARS AND
(STILL) COUNTING



REBUILDING
THROUGH
REGENERATIVE
AGRICULTURE



REWARD FOR
MOONDARRA
BLUEBERRIES

8 12



FERMENTED
CHERRY
TOMATOES

18



20

IFOAM –
ORGANICS
INTERNATIONAL



Tim Marshall
/ NASAA Organic Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2021 AGM of the NASAA Organic/NCO group, by physical or remote access attendance, or with proxy votes. We have seen an increasing presence at the AGM's over the last two years, and we appreciate the collective wisdom and scrutiny that this brings to our operations.

I hope that members will continue to participate in all our planned activities for the next year, whether that be by attending and contributing to conferences, workshops, and webinars, or in our strategic planning and constitutional reform, or by commenting upon the revision of the NASAA Organic Standard.

Strategic planning and constitutional reform are important actions that form the foundations of the association and prepare us to deliver a better and more targeted message about how organic can contribute to sustainable business, environment, and social justice.

As we head into the festive season, on behalf of the NASAA Organic Board and all our Staff from the NASAA Organic/NCO group – we wish you seasonal greetings and a safe and happy 2022.

Tim Marshall

Tim.Marshall@nasaa.com.au

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR HELP?

Alex Mitchell
/ NASAA GM

Reflecting on the year's work in the lead up to our Annual General Meeting, I have been constantly reminded of the variety of queries we have assisted with in the last 12 months. The many, many conversations the NASAA Organic Staff have had during the year- provides us with the insights on the unique challenges businesses and operators have, and how difficult it can be for individuals to quickly find the help they need.

It is a common conundrum operators face with working *in* the business and not being able to work *on* the business. Juggling the demands of organic farming and livestock management, and not having the time to address the search for resources to assist them in placing their product in a market that best delivers the maximum financial return.

Even more challenging, is the ability to find, or access avenues for financial support and grant funding. In undertaking expansion of diversification, some may be looking for options for value-adding, processing, or product packaging, or options for succession planning.

A focus for NASAA Organic this year has been to build collaborative partnerships with organisations and service providers, so we can start the 'triage' of finding first contacts- thus saving time for our members and operators.

It's a truism that no-one can be an expert in every field, but there are experts in every field, and we are on a mission to find them for you. We believe that our role at NASAA Organic is about making as many connections as we can, and this assists us in helping you to get to a pathway of finding the right support and information.

Not only do we currently have access to a growing number of products compliant for use in an organic supply chain, but we also now have services dedicated and educated for the requirements of clients in the business of certified organic.

I urge you to scan through the pages and see what our advertising businesses have to offer you and your business.

We also have an important extension role in assisting landholders, by providing education and network building services that support organic and regenerative practices.

The success of our recent bushfire recovery workshop series in South Australia demonstrates that we are certainly striking a chord in the community, and we are so very proud of what we are doing on the ground. The workshops have proven a successful training extension model that we hope to replicate across the country. *More on that in this issue!*

Visit [Rebuilding through Regenerative Agriculture – NASAA Organic](#) to view the first video of our micro learning series, captured from the recent Recovery through Regen workshop series held in the Adelaide Hills.

We continue to seek and share the lessons learned of those who have taken the path first.

A common refection in our interviews with long-standing operators, is the lack of information that was available at the time they started out. Today, many would agree there is increased support and information available, as long as you can find it!

In this edition, we share more stories and advice from Clare Jackson (York Town Organics) and Christine Rijks (Serendip Plantation), two women (and their families) who really have paved their own way. They certainly were pioneers, and we count ourselves lucky to have them here to share their wisdom.

Please, please come to us with any challenges that you may be facing, and we will do our best to assist and connect you with the right support.

Happy Holiday reading!

Alex Mitchell



30 years & (still) counting...



2006 Biofach Germany
Christine on left and her late
mother, Hilarie on right.

“Trust in yourself” is the main message from Christine Rijks, NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) business, Serendip Plantation.

SERENDIP PLANTATION

The award-winning exporter, Christine, knows firsthand the challenges and pitfalls involved in producing organically and

developing export markets; putting in the hard yards to establish relationships, ensuring safe delivery of product, and managing the chain of quality assurance. She’s also learnt a thing or two about contracts, and what to do when things go wrong.

Christine would be the first to say she has learnt things the hard way.

“Serendip Plantation was established in 1989 and was our second organic enterprise,” she says.

“Our first organic farm in Northern Rivers NSW was a steep learning curve.”

“In 1984, we planted 700 avocado trees in sloping volcanic soil, which had previously been contoured for production of grasses.”

“It turned out to be the wrong farm. The avocado trees and the farm looked impressive, until the extreme rain and flooding of 1988 and 1989, when springs popped up all over the farm.”

“We ended up with an avocado graveyard. The use of phosphoric acid to protect the trees from root rot, is not an allowable organic input.”

“The problem was not the extreme rain, but



2006 Nutfields in Germany,
Christine & Colin Rijks

the wrong location for an organic avocado farm and the wrong method of planting.”

Not to be deterred, Christine and her husband Colin took the learnings from this first self-confessed ‘failure’ and re-established a new farm operation, with the introduction of organic macadamias.

“Success with Serendip took a further 20 years, after purchasing a property on a large enough scale to be able to make a living.”

The farm achieved certified organic accreditation in 1993 and in 2006, accreditation to USDA-NOP, the organic regulation for USA.

Christine found there was little support for developing markets for organic macadamias internationally at the time.

“I started cold calling buyers from Australia,” she says.

“Then someone asked me the question; would I buy a luxury product from someone I didn’t know?”

“So, I made my way over to Europe and originally partnered with a German sales agent.”

Christine learnt early that it was best to maintain some independence, however.

“Early on, when I attended a BioFACH event in Germany, I realised that our money was going more toward promoting the agent and his other products.”

“A relationship was also established with one of the biggest buyers and distributors of organic macadamias in Germany, who had partnered with Austrade. This partnership did not have a good outcome either.”

Christine’s suspicions proved correct when she discovered the German buyer had gone bankrupt, and she had to go through the courts in Germany to recover monies owed – winning the case, but not receiving compensation, due to insolvency.

The event made Christine even more determined to back herself in establishing direct relationships with clients. A strategy that has paid off, as Serendip now enjoys

personal relationships with some customers that stretch over 15 years, exporting bulk organic macadamias to distributors, and niche organic wholesalers in the US, Taiwan, and across Europe.

This doesn’t mean the challenges stop, however.

“Over the years, I’ve had to manage issues with quality control and labelling; I’ve had to retrieve shipments and find new customers for consigned product, and I’ve had to organise alternate storage and transport options in foreign countries from Australia,” she says.

“I’ve also learnt a lot more about international contracts law!”

Nothing has been more challenging than the current situation with COVID-19.

“Sea freight is presently very difficult from Australia,” says Christine.

“I made an application through the airfreight assistance subsidy for food exporters (IFAM) and my application was rejected, as it has been setup to support shorter shelf-life products, such as strawberries and lettuces.”

Other available grants focus on marketing expenditure, but as Christine says, her problem is not finding new customers, but simply delivering to existing customers.

“I have now cancelled all deliveries of our 2021 macadamia crop to customers in Europe,” she says.

“My freight forwarder in Brisbane could not provide any assurance of delivery by sea freight, and airfreight for tonnages of macadamias is not profitable.”

“This is a real problem being experienced by all exporters at the moment.”

“Serendip Plantation definitely is a passion project,” says Christine, in reflection.

“And it’s our sole source of income, so it has to work!”

Further information:

serendiporganics.com.au





30 years & (still) counting...

YORK TOWN ORGANICS

Sometimes it takes a giant leap into the unknown, to speed up the learning process. Such was the case for Clare Jackson and her husband Bruce, when they initially purchased their farm, *York Town Organics*, located in Tasmania's Tamar Valley.

"In Dampier, we were living in Dampier in Western Australia and bought the property sight unseen," says Clare.

Land was cheap at the time, but the new environment brought initial hardship for the couple.

"In Dampier, there had been plenty of jobs, but that was not the case in Tassie," she says.

"With the recession at the time, Bruce had trouble getting work; and I was pregnant too."

The couple applied for what was then known as the New Enterprise Scheme, which essentially provided income support and training to start their own business.

"We had to be self-sufficient," says Clare.

"We had no experience with farming before, but we had had a big veggie garden," she says.

"Right at the beginning, we got the *Grassroots magazine*, and this was our main source of inspiration on farming organically."

"We first grew snow peas."

"And, that's where it all started."

Producing was only one side of the equation; the couple had to quickly learn how best to market.

"At first, we were dealing with wholesalers," says Clare.

Now, we do delivery ourselves, we know all the chefs, all the retail people," she says.

"I find it's a really rewarding side of the business."

Today, the farm produces around 50 crop varieties of salad greens, herbs, and root vegetables, as well as edible flowers. Produce is supplied to over 170 shops, cafes, and



restaurants across Tasmania and Clare is in daily contact with many.

“Chefs will ask if we can supply something; if we think it's viable,” she says.

“We are always trying new things, now edible flowers [for example] and baby silverbeet.”

“There is a great food culture in Tassie, the chefs all know each other, and when one starts something, others jump onboard.”

Clare has found that their biggest challenge has been consistency of supply and dealing with ever changing weather events.

“We've continued to invest in tunnels to support year-round supply.”

“It's very labour-intensive effort, but one of the biggest changes I've seen in 30 years is the equipment available today to support – it's huge, massive!”



Sometimes it takes a giant leap into the unknown, to speed up the learning process.

Son Ben has returned to work on the farm [as Operations Manager] and the couple employ 2 permanent staff in the garden, with a further 3-4 over the Christmas period. Clare herself is in the shed.

“It's been great to see Ben evolve in the business over the last 8 years, bringing young minded, and a more mechanically minded, ways to do things.”

“Ideas that are modelled on younger influencers like Jean-Martin Fortier and others.”

Clare says that access to information has exploded since they started out, particularly through social media, which she thinks is great.

In some ways Clare thinks that this makes it easier for people now.

“There's more information out there than when we started, as well as equipment specifically designed for a smaller farm,” she says.

On the flipside, “land prices have just skyrocketed”.

“So, there are pros and cons, really.”

Further information:

yorktownorganics.com



rebuilding through regenerative agriculture

NASAA Organic recently delivered a series of free workshops for farmers and landholders impacted by the 2019 Cudlee Creek fire in South Australia, with a focus on assisting with biological and environmental recovery.

The workshops, delivered as three separate sessions, were designed to support individuals, who were directly impacted by the bushfires, and focused on property design considerations that would increase resilience to meet future climate extremes.

Fire and disaster recovery is an ongoing, prolonged process. Whilst infrastructure can be rebuilt quite quickly, the repair of land and soils can take much longer.

The intense impact of fire on soil and the environment requires specific land management practices to address issues, such as the loss of carbon in the soil, fertility, and the threat of weed incursions.

The workshops examined these critical changes that affect post-fire recovery, and offered guidance around improving soil structure and water holding capability.

Close to 40 local landholders, representing both commercial and hobby farmers, large and small, took part in the 3-day, hands-on program that included speaker presentations, a farm visit, and a personalised soil analysis and assessment.

/ Continued from previous page



Workshop speakers included **Nic Kentish**, a passionate advocate of empowering family farming and regenerative agriculture, who runs his own farm consultancy; **Dick Richardson**, an internationally recognised leader in the practice of natural grazing and consultant

with *Grazing Naturally*, and **Kim Deans**, regenerative practitioner, bushfire survivor and consultant with *Reinventing Agriculture*.



On Day One, **Nic** gave an excellent introduction to regenerative agriculture and organics, challenging people to consider their fears and walking through the process of transition, the speed and timeframe over which this can occur. He later spoke at our final session, specifically on livestock management post-fire, stocking rates and feed/grass budget.



Dick's presentation at our second session focused on natural grazing to improve soil depth and health, water retention, increased biodiversity, and animal production.

From the outset, participants were given the opportunity to submit soil samples for analysis, and provided with advice from Kim on the best way to care and improve their soil, as well as an explanation on what their soil tests meant, and how to read them.

Participants were also invited to visit the property of Ken and Annabel Woods, regenerative farmers for the last 25 years in Woodside, who were also affected by the fires.

The workshop sessions were all held in Lobethal in the Adelaide Hills, with the venues just some 300 metres from the fire-affected area. All catering was provided by local producers and restaurants.

Will Hannaford



BUSHFIRE RECOVERY COORDINATOR WITH THE HILLS AND FLEURIEU LANDSCAPE BOARD

"Feedback from participants has been extremely positive," says Will Hannaford, of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, who supported the workshop series through the Local Economic Recovery Program.

He added that "following the course, people were left feeling positive about what they would do next."

"We, as a Landscape Board, would normally be running events for landholders, but the success of this collaborative program means that we will be looking closely at alternative models of delivery in the future," he says.

"There is a real movement towards more sustainable use of land, where soil and nature is protected."

"What I'm hearing from farmers and landholders is a desire to "pass on my property in a better condition for future generations."

Post workshops, Will is looking at the potential to set up a networking forum for program participants, and others, to continue the dialogue. He also hopes there may be an opportunity for personalised follow up visits with specialist consultants.

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board will continue to run programs around watercourse and dam management, native grass pasture establishment, woody weed control, and feral pest management for local fire-affected landholders.

Craig Markby

VITICULTURE MANAGER, HENSCHKE WINES, LENSWOOD

Workshop participant Craig Markby was impacted both at a personal, and professional level by the Cudlee Creek fire.

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The Henschke vineyards in Lenswood were one of the hardest hit, as the fire started just across the road, with a total of 24 of the 25 hectares of vines on the property affected.

Since 2006, the Henschke vineyard has been largely run along regenerative lines, observing some organic and biodynamic practices.

"It was actually interesting to reinforce that the practices we have implemented are, in fact, regenerative," says Craig.

"We have always had a philosophy of working softly in the landscape," he says.

"We don't use fertilisers, we rarely use herbicides, and we don't till."

While parts of the workshop did focus on livestock, Craig was most interested in the sessions on soil.

"I found the discussion quite enlightening," he says.

"You remember things from University days but to hear it in context is great; soil health, the impacts of the fungal, bacterial balance, application of soil amendments..."

"Rather than approaching the soil landscape as a homogenous unit, the focus on understanding and adapting and working with differences in soil structure, soil moisture, is particularly relevant in horticultural industries."

"We've taken the approach ourselves to pull back vines in certain areas of the property, along the creek line for example, that create large volumes of fruit, without the flavour profile."

Henschke's has a 5-year plan to recovery, and management will be ongoing.

"8 hectares of the property is dedicated bushland, and we found, post-fire, that [Cape]

Broome came back with a vengeance," says Craig.

"At the beginning, we had a team of 6 people working on removal of the Broome, 3 days a week, for 8 months," he says.

"In hindsight, we were lucky to receive the COVID Job Keeper payments, as we may not have been able to support this otherwise."

"There will be some fruit produced this year, but as volumes are unclear at this point, we are unsure whether this will go into labelled product or sold on for blending."

If there could be one positive out of the fire, Craig says, it is the ability to address systemic issues that have always been put on the back burner. Eutypa dieback commonly impacts, for example, and post-fire, Craig was able to address this by removing all impacted vines.

Craig is also currently working with Native Seeds, to run a trial of native grasses on the block, to support slope stability, and introduce a hardy species that may not require summer mowing.

Mowing under the vine canopy is an ongoing issue, and Craig would like to introduce livestock as a management tool, however fencing at the moment is too cost prohibitive.

This will be a future initiative.

Post workshops, Craig believes there is great value in networking with like-minded farmers and viticulturalists.

"In general, there has been a little less promotion and networking between wineries on issues of agricultural sustainability, purely because we are all so busy," he says.



On behalf of Annabel and myself I would like to thank you, and all involved, for the great organisation of the three regenerative farming days.

We take a considerable amount of knowledge and contacts out of the three-day course and will use those resources to keep developing a little block where we had the privilege of hosting the field day.

Ken from Woodside

We just wanted to thank you again for a great course. Really informative, great speakers and well organised.

Paula and Andrew from Millbrook

This course reinforced the directions I had planned, and improved my confidence to make the changes needed.

David from Mt Torrens

/ Continued from previous page

Al Jawhari

BUSINESS LEADER, INNOVATOR, PART-TIME FARMER, HARROGATE

Also present at the workshops was Al Jawhari, whose 120-acre 'hobby farm' at Harrogate was almost completely burnt out in the fire.

Fortunately for Al, who had stayed to defend the house, was not impacted and the sheep on the property reached the safety of a paddock that was untouched.

As a regarded businessman and innovator in South Australia, Al says he applied his business mindset after the event.

"When things like this happen, it's a sign that we need to do things differently, which requires a change of mindset," he says.

Al already had an interest in regenerative practices before attending the workshops, and had previously followed the learnings of biodynamic, organic, and regenerative farming systems.

"The workshops opened up subjects and areas of knowledge, and the trainers were high-level," he says.

"I'm 100% aligned to regenerative. It's the right way of farming. It gives a purpose. It's inspiring!"

"We are custodians of the land and need to ensure that it remains sustainable for the next 10,000 years."

Al plans to progressively regenerate areas of the property over the next 5 years.

He hopes to achieve an optimal stocking rate and simulate natural stock movement through division of the property into 24-30 paddocks, although the fencing cost is high.

"This year, we will approach 20 acres, building to 50, 100.... In 3 years, we hope to have increased soil health by 50-70%," he says.

"The land is extremely forgiving."

Al believes that change from an industrial model of farming will happen at the micro level first.

"Change won't happen by emotion, it's related to income," he says.

"[We] have to demonstrate reward, do the business modelling, prove the commercial outcome is 10 x more profitable!"

our sincere thanks...

 **Bendigo Bank** Community Enterprise Foundation™



Thanks to our sponsors Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation, for helping make this event possible.

We also thank the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board for their valuable contribution towards this project. This funding enabled these workshops to be presented as part of the Local Economic Recovery Program, being delivered in a partnership between the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions.

The Local Economic Recovery Program is co-funded by the Commonwealth and South Australian governments under the National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

It is this type of resource support obtained through grant funding that enables us to take a lead role in assisting to educate and connect landholders.

Thanks to Kate Parker, NASAA Organic Education and Training Co-ordinator, for her amazing efforts as the force behind securing the initial funding and delivery partners, speaker and workshop coordination.

Visit [Rebuilding through Regenerative Agriculture - NASAA Organic](#) to view the first video of our micro learning series, captured from the recent Recovery through Regen workshop series held in the Adelaide Hills.

Sustainable packaging a reward for moondarra blueberries

Welcome news that Gippsland based NASAA certified organic (NCO) farm, Moondarra Blueberries, has been recognised with the recent produce and sustainability award for their new 125g fully home compostable punnet.

The innovative packaging solution was recognised in the recent Eat Easy Awards 2021, an event recognising food contribution, not just in terms of quality, but impacts on community, and the environment. Moondarra's 125g fresh certified organic punnet was a winner in the *Grown* category.

"Our 125g fresh punnet is endorsed with the home compostable logo, and meets the Home Compostable Australian Standard AS 5810-2010, verified by the Australasian Bioplastics Association," says Kate Prezioso, Moondarra's Business Manager.

"The success reinforces to us, that the direction we are taking in removing single use plastics from our product packaging, is the right course of action, and backs up our organic standard," she says.

End to end, it was about an 8-month process of RD to final packaging product, according to Kate.

"We'd been playing in the space for a while, trying to find a fully compostable solution," she says.

"Fibre based packaging board already existed, but we needed the whole thing, to find a lidding process that was completely compostable, and would be tamper proof."

"We attended a packaging convention earlier in March 2019, and were shown the heat-sealing process of fibre punnets by Proseal Australia."

"Subsequently, we were introduced to Punchbowl Packaging in NZ, who were interested in what we were trying to do, and could offer a fully home compostable, heat-sealing pre-printed film solution."

Kate also needed to find an information panel printing process, that eliminated the need for use of adhesive labels, and conventional inks.

In collaboration with Matthews Australia, she found an ink that was ethanol based, and experimented with directly printing barcodes on to the fibre base, which she says, "had never been done before."

"Our printing adheres to the fibre and can be easily read and scanned by shops."

Before the change to sustainable packaging, the annual plastic use within a single harvest season for Moondarra fruit packaging, was close to 2,000kg, according to Kate.

As Moondarra only produces an estimated 0.1% of the blueberry production a year in Australia, Kate says, "if larger growers were to convert to similar packaging, the saving of single use plastic, into the recycling and landfill systems, would be extraordinary!"

"I've asked some of the bigger growers why they don't do this," she says.

"They say that it adds too much to the cost of a punnet, and demand wasn't there yet to justify it."

As scale is everything, "it requires the supermarkets to come on board."

Kate says that while the price of the punnet has increased, Moondarra are fortunate in having a well-established alternative distribution model, direct to different stockists, throughout Melbourne, and a loyal customer base.

Kate has found that stockists have been advocates for the packaging, in some cases absorbing the additional cost, knowing the pressure is there from consumers.

At a processing level, the cost of production has been partially offset by increased efficiency.

"From our perspective, the exercise has actually sped up our packaging process," she says.

"We are hoping to move our other blueberry products into home compostable packaging alternatives, as soon as technology catches up to our ideas... it could be as soon as next harvest season," says Kate.

Further Information

Moondarra Blueberries recently celebrated 30 years of organic certification with NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) and featured in our [Winter 2021 edition](#).



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where to go for help

NASAA Organic has been talking to the many businesses and Government support agencies who may be able to provide initial advice- and below is a list of “first point” contacts for businesses looking for assistance. Whilst we do not endorse any particular private organisations or consultancy businesses, we hope the following can help you on your journey of discovery.

SALES & MARKETING

Being able to market and sell your organic products successfully is a key element in the success of your operation. Here are just some consultants that are working to support organic food businesses to thrive.

[Palotus](#) Product development, marketing, sales strategy. Check out our interview with director Peter Hislop Speers and his search for a sustainable food packaging solution. [NASAA Winter Magazine](#).

[Greenlight Co](#) Business growth and sales training. Check out our article from business owner (and organic retailer) Chris Colbert on “turning red lights green”. [NASAA Autumn Magazine](#) (pg16)

[Elm Professional](#) Sales strategist Mia van Tubbergh has worked with several small to medium food producers to help bring product to market. Mia works closely with Viking Imports and Olive Green Organics, who specialise in organic food distribution and import.

GRANT FUNDING – COVID RECOVERY

Loans to assist COVID recovery are still available in some States.

[SME Recovery Loan Scheme](#)

Provided by the Federal Government to support SMEs dealing with the economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis. Through the Scheme, Government works with lenders to ensure eligible firms have access to finance to maintain and grow their businesses.

Loans are available from 1 April 2021 until 31 December 2021.

[NSW Government Export Assistance Grant](#)

This grant is for eligible exporting businesses in NSW that were badly impacted by COVID-19, bushfires or drought. Available funding is up to \$10,000 for each business. Funds can be used for marketing-related expenditure including: marketing materials, website internationalisation, international tradeshow and trade missions, inbound business support, and costs to support compliance/ localisation of products for export. Applications close on 31 December 2021 or when the allocated funding is exhausted.

[Seasonal Worker Program and Pacific Labour Scheme \(Pacific Mobility Schemes\)](#)

The Victorian and Tasmanian governments have extended a landmark partnership for Pacific workers to undertake mandatory hotel quarantine in Tasmania before arriving in Victoria to support agriculture businesses. The Victorian

Government is covering the majority of costs associated with quarantine arrangements.

[TAS Government Business Growth Loan Scheme](#)

The \$60 million Business Growth Loan Scheme will provide concessional loan funding to support businesses to recover, adapt, grow and develop enhanced business models that support employment retention and business growth. The minimum loan amount is \$20,000 and the maximum loan amount is \$3 million.

The scheme will close Wednesday 14 September 2022, or until all funding has been utilized.

MENTAL HEALTH

It may feel like we’re going a little crazy in this time of COVID-19 and, in the absence of a family member, with only the dog, the horse or the cows to greet regularly.

We’ve put together a listing of contacts if you need some support.

Online programs

[bewellplan.com](#)

A positive program developed in conjunction with the SAHMRI Wellbeing and Resilience Centre and the Órama Institute at Flinders University in Adelaide. Access can be from as little as \$1.

State recognised rural mental health programs

VIC

[Rural Minds](#)

WA

[DPI Support Services Directory](#)

QLD

[RFDS Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

[RFDS Drought Wellbeing Service](#)

SA

[Fab Mentors](#)

/ Continued from previous page

NSW

[DPI: Rural Resilience Program
Rural Adversity Mental Health
Program \(RAMHP\)](#)

TAS

[DPIPWE – Counselling Services
and Support for Farmers and Rural
Communities](#)

[Rural Alive and Well Tasmania](#)

NT

[NT.GOV.AU](#)

National mental health programs

[Lifeline](#)

[Beyondblue](#)

[Mensline Australia](#)

[Suicide Callback Service](#)

[Headspace Australia – Youth Mental
Health](#)

[Rural Aid – Mental Wellbeing and
Counselling](#)

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Let's not sugar coat it. Some seasons are tough. Some markets are tough.

And that's without drought, bushfires, and COVID-19.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) is not a place of last resort, but available for farmers who are experiencing, or are at risk of, financial hardship.

The service offers free financial counselling with 12 service providers and 100+ individual rural financial counsellors providing support nationally. Counselling services can be provided for up to 3 years for eligible participants.

It is empowering to be in control, know your options, be aware of available assistance and plan without fear.

Contact them before you're in trouble.

[Rural Financial Counselling Service \(RFCS\)](#)

Link to Kim Dean's previous article.. [NASAA Autumn Magazine](#) (pg 10)

MENTORING

Encouraging the next generation into organic farming; assisting those that are new and extending guidance to existing operators seeking support. Mentoring is one of the best methods of ensuring ongoing success. Here are a few formal programs that we are aware of.

[Young farmer and new entrant mentoring program 2022](#) – through Agriculture Victoria

[Sprout Tasmania](#)

[AG Institute Australia](#)

[Drought Resilience Leaders Mentoring Program](#) through the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (closed for this year, but work looking in to for coming years)

[Regenerative Farms mentor program](#) – Mallee region

SOIL CARBON FARMING

Climate change has brought sustainable land systems sharply into focus and organic farming techniques will increasingly be recognised in terms of contribution to soil health and soil organic matter. Recognition of carbon farming projects under the Federal Government's carbon abatement program (Emissions Reduction Fund) will see a diversification of farm business that organic producers are uniquely placed to take advantage of. Find out how you can be involved.

[OCI](#)

[AgriProve](#)

GOVERNMENT / NOT FOR PROFIT

NRM Boards

Landscape boards are responsible for facilitating the management of landscapes in partnership with key partnerships and stakeholders. Many are providing specific information to landholders on regenerative farming practices – with topics covering livestock, watercourse, pest and weed management. There are 54 regional organisations covering all of Australia and it's estuarine and coastal areas.

[NRM Regions Australia](#)

Regional Organic Growers Associations

Necessity has always been the driver for a strong network of local organic grower groups, supporting both the commercial farmer and household organic gardener.

These grassroots organisations are often a supportive first point of contact for local networking and information sharing. Look out for one in your area.

[Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc \(COBWA\)](#)

[Organic Agriculture Association \(Vic\)](#)

[Hunter Organic Growers Association \(NSW\)](#)

[Canberra Organic Growers Society](#)

[Brisbane Organic Growers Inc](#) (Qld)

[Border Landcare Organic Group](#) (Qld)

[Geelong Organic Gardeners Inc.](#) (Vic)

[Gold Coast Organic Growers](#) (Qld)

[Lockyer Organic Group Inc.](#) (Qld)

[Redland Organic Growers Inc.](#) (Qld)

[Tropo](#) (NSW)



ADDRESSING THE GORILLA IN THE ROOM

cellar chimp

Made by a winemaker, for winemakers, the Cellar Chimp app is a great example of necessity being the mother of invention!

Cellar Chimp is the brainchild of respected organic viticulturalist and winemaker, Dr Irina Santiago-Brown, with the app originally created to support her own winemaking processes and record keeping.

Planning and tracking wine production, from grape receipt to bottling is critical, and every winemaker has their own processes, from manually recording information (often with the help of chalk) to digitising information.

In Irina's case, "We had multiple spreadsheets and tools for recording information that weren't communicating with each other."

While other apps and systems are available, Irina recognised that the software was generally too "cost prohibitive for the smaller operator, or that winery management modules are just a small part of a package, that includes other systems, such as HR management, stock control, etc which is not what the winery people want or need."

Irina says that this can be both expensive and inflexible; being still reliant on the accurate recording of data at site, often supplied to meet accounting requirements, and not necessarily providing the critical information that winemakers need to support them. Cellar Chimp will allow all data to be exported as spreadsheets, so accountants can

easily access all the winery data for business compliance.

"Typically, in a larger winery, winemaker's notes (handwritten or spreadsheets) are sent to a dedicated assistant winemaker or admin personnel to feed into this larger system. This recording of data in two steps, increases the risk of errors. With the Cellar Chimp app on their phone or tablet, the winemaker is enabled to record their winemaking process once and directly," she says.

With her own winery operation forming the basis for her thinking, Irina worked through some concepts with diagrams and drawings, before approaching a team of developers to prototype the app and bring it to the next level.

"We undertook rigorous testing and interrogated various scenarios," she says, in a process that began at the start of the pandemic in 2019.

Irina was surprised, however, when they first released the app, that "winemakers didn't necessarily use it in the way I thought they would!"

"So, after another year of development, we have a really flexible approach to accommodate many different winemaking operational styles," she says.

"If there is something that I have learnt from this, it is to be *flexible, flexible, flexible* and embrace the difference in winemakers."

For this reason, the app is highly customizable, in terms of menu display and field selection.

The cloud-based software tracks production in real time, manages workflows and inventory (fruit sources, wine lots, vessels, additives and more). It uses a QR code to reference relevant info about vessel contents, and work order status.

"Cellar Chimp has been specifically created to support winemakers record data, while doing the task," says Irina.

"For an organic operation, in particular, traceability of grapes is just so important, and the app saves time in supporting the audit trail," she says.

Use of the Cellar Chimp app is growing through word of mouth, and Irina is balancing growth, with ensuring that the system remains optimised to cater for flexible use.

It represents an affordable tool for the small to medium winery, with a price range from \$15 to \$140 a month, depending on the level of users and functionality.

As Irina says, her app caters to the hands-on winemakers that are not afraid of doing the hard work, but are looking for the easiest way to manage their business: real Chimps!

Further Information:

Visit cellarchimp.com for further information.

Irina works as a contractor for Pollux Wines Pty Ltd, NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) 5438P, and owns Inkwel Wines alongside her husband, Dudley Brown – which has been certified with NCO since 2018.

fermented cherry tomatoes

mandy hall

TOMATO SEASON IS HERE

AND THERE'S
NO BETTER
WAY TO ENJOY
THEM, THAN
FERMENTING,
AND
TRANSFORMING
THEM INTO
BALLS OF
BLISS!



I have used the smaller cherry tomatoes for this recipe, because they are often abundant at this time of year and having a jar of these in the fridge makes for an easy, and very flavoursome bonus, to any salad, plate or snack.

The addition of fresh herbs or spices is such a tasty bonus! I have used fresh garlic, parsley and thyme, along with some peppercorns and coriander seeds. They add to the depth of flavour and help make it hard to stop at just one!

Don't forget, apart from the tomatoes, salt and water – all other ingredients can be omitted or swapped out for other fresh herbs or spices that you might prefer.



jars of tomato yumminess!

Ingredients

2 punnets of cherry tomatoes
 2 sprigs of fresh parsley
 2 sprigs fresh thyme
 2 new season garlic cloves - peeled and halved
 1/4 tsp coriander seeds
 12 whole peppercorns
 sea salt
 water (use unchlorinated water if available, if not, boil the water and let it cool before using)

Method

Please ensure that all your utensils and the fermenting vessel have been washed in hot soapy water, and also rinsed in very hot water.

Weigh all your ingredients and calculate your salt. We need a 2% salt percentage, so if all your ingredients weigh 500g, you will need 10g of salt.

In a clean jar or fermenting vessel, place one third of your tomatoes, sprinkled with one-third of the salt, spices and fresh herbs. Repeat until you have used all your ingredients and your jar/vessel is full - leaving at least 1-2 inches headroom from the top of the jar. Add enough water to cover the top of the tomatoes. The most important step, is to ensure that everything stays under the brine when fermenting. To do this, you could either use a clean weight, or cut a regular size tomato in half horizontally, and place that on top to weigh everything down. If you are using a jar, place the lid on and close it ensuring it is airtight.

Leave the jar to ferment out of direct sunlight in a cooler spot. This is a very short ferment – you will see activity quite quickly, after day 1 or 2. It will be important for you to burp your jar (release any gases) each day. If you see a lot of activity, do this twice per day. If you are using a clip top jar, you can do this simply by unclipping the lid and the gases will escape, there is no need to open the jar. If it is a screw-top jar, simply give a 1/4 turn until any gases have been evacuated. After day 5, using a clean utensil, taste a tomato. If you are happy with the flavour, place your jar into the fridge - you can consume these straight away, but I believe they develop the best flavour after about 10 days in the fridge. If you wish to ferment it longer, it could go another few days on the bench before being placed in the fridge.

Consume within 1 month.

IFOAM principles of organic agriculture, regional groups (& Organic 3.0?)

Tim Marshall

Background

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) has been the peak body of the organic world since 1972.

Now known as IFOAM – Organics International, it has over 800 members from 120 countries. Many members are membership-based organisations, such as NASAA, so it covers most of the organic industry and its' supporter base.

The work of IFOAM - Organic International includes information and lobbying support for many aspects of organic that have an important role in protecting the environment and feeding the world, including biodiversity, climate change, food and nutrition, gender issues, health, soil care, and sustainable development. Many Australians will be most familiar with IFOAM because of its vital leadership in organic standards setting. Many aspects of standards are addressed in the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System (OGS).

The IFOAM Organic Guarantee System

The IFOAM Basic Standards or IBS, also known as the IFOAM Norms, is a private, international organic standard, which sits alongside and has an influence upon the international, government recognised organic standard, CODEX Alimentarius Organic. These two standards together are the model standards upon which all other private or government organic standards are based.

IFOAM also recognises regional standards, including the NASAA Organic Standard, into its 'family of standards', to account for climatic, geographical and cultural differences in organic practices.

To be able to evaluate the diversity of organic standards around the world, IFOAM OGS developed a joint venture with the GOMA Project (Global Organic Market Access; an FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD collaboration) and developed The Common Objectives and

Requirements of Organic Standards (COROS), which includes evaluation tools based on the concept of 'equivalence'. GOMA finished in 2012 and its work is continued by the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS).

The IFOAM Family of Standards also includes widely used private standards, such as the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).

Fortunately, there is only one organisation that purports to represent organics internationally, so IFOAM is well regarded and frequently consulted by organisations, such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Because CODEX Organic and the IFOAM IBS are consistent, and both processes refer to each other during standard setting, we have significant coherence or agreement about the definition of organic.

IFOAM also established some accreditation requirements and the International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) to

accredit certification bodies (CBs). NASAA was one of the two first CBs to become accredited.

NASAA Organic members have always maintained a high level of participation in IFOAM, including Liz Clay who served on the IFOAM Board, Andre Leu, who was the longest serving IFOAM President, Rod May who was Chair of the IFOAM Standards Committee and myself as the first IFOAM Organic Guarantee Coordinator and Executive Officer of the Standards Committee.

IFOAM Principles of Organic

The IFOAM Norms clearly state the principles upon which organic is based. These principles are often copied to government and private standards around the world (such as the NOS). The principles are expressed as interconnected ethical principles to guide development of policies, programs, and standards. The four principles are: health, ecology, fairness, and care.

Principle of health

Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

Principle of ecology

Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

Principle of fairness

Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

Principle of care

Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and wellbeing of current and future generations and the environment.

Formation of an IFOAM Regional Group in Oceania

Regional IFOAM organisations act as an umbrella group and provide locally relevant support for farmers, lobbying of

governments and conferences or events. IFOAM Europe, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo (16 Mediterranean countries), and IFOAM Asia are most active but IFOAM America Latina (South America), IFOAM Euro-Asia (Russian speaking countries), IFOAM Southern Africa Network, and IFOAM North America regional groups are also established.

Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmer Organizations (INOFO) Oceania Pasifika was launched during the virtual INOFO general assembly on 25 October 2021, providing organic farmer organisations from the Pacific countries, New Zealand, and Australia a common voice and platform.

(INOFO) Oceania Pasifika is the sector body for organic farmer organisation of IFOAM.

The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETcom) has coordinated discussion so far, but we hope that all regional IFOAM members including NASAA will support this process.

Organic 3.0

Organic 1.0 is the early pioneers of organic who first advocated for a link between what we eat and human health.

Organic 2.0 is the development of standards and certification, from about 1970, that provided the consumer guarantee and encouraged confidence of policy makers that allowed the organic market to flourish. For the next 40-50 years, the number of organic producers grew rapidly, and organic food became widely accessible in stores.

Organic 3.0 does not negate the value of standards and certification, but it asks deeper questions about sustainability and proposes that organic agriculture and food systems can address many current issues such as pollution, climate change, health and wellbeing of people and the planet.

Organic 3.0 will make organic more accessible by making clear the sustainability benefits of organic and by innovations such as Participatory Guarantee Systems

(PGS) that open markets for small producers in the developing world and in countries such as Australia. As a small producer innovation, PGS is still based upon the same organic standards, but it does not require the cost associated with third party assessment, which is replaced by open, transparent practices and broad community engagement. It reinforces that it is what the producer does in the field, or the processor in the kitchen that makes something organic, and certification is the extra layer of assurance for the customer.

Organic 3.0 will frame the benefits of organic in the language of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure relevance to government programs and policies.

Organic 3.0 still supports clearly defined minimum requirements, as defined in the IFOAM Standards Requirements and many private standards and government regulations around the world, but it will also emphasise the IFOAM Principles as described above.

Further Information

[IFOAM Organic Guarantee System](#)

[IFOAM Family of Standards](#)

[COROS](#)

[Organic 3.0](#)

[POETcom](#)



Symbol of truly sustainable farming and value chains. It visualizes the five dimensions and 20 criteria of sustainability as described in the IFOAM Best Practice Guideline for Agriculture and Value Chains.

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launch of oceania pasifika

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(INOFO) Oceania Pasifika is the sector body for organic farmer organisation of IFOAM.

The INOFO general assembly was held in conjunction with the IFOAM General Assembly and the Organic World Congress. The Organic World Congress is an event that mobilizes organic farmers, producers, researchers, advocates and policy experts from around the world.

Karen Mapusua, Director of LRD and newly elected President of IFOAM Organics International said, "IFOAM International truly appreciates the dedication and leadership that has led to the creation of INOFO Oceania Pasifika. I am confident this new platform will ensure Pacific farmers' voices are heard, and their issues are prioritised, as it is integrated further into global organics action and growth."

INOFO Oceania Pasifika plans to convene registered and interested organic farm organisations on a quarterly basis, to develop a common voice that addresses their needs. The platform and its services will be based on regional adaptation of farmer advocacy, networking and knowledge sharing.

The new INOFO extension will provide a number of additional benefits that come with joining an international farmer organisation, including being part of an international community driving

the organic narrative, support for organic farmer issues, as part of a constituency, rather than a lone voice, connection with other organic farmers in their own region and language, and access to online forums, trainings, webinars and conferences.

INOFO Oceania Pasifika is represented by 3 convener seats 2021-2024

Mr Stephen Hazelman

(Pacific countries and Territories)
elected Convener Board of
Continents

Ms Carolin Moeller

(Australia and Papua New Guinea)
elected Convener

Ms Bernie Mabbs

(New Zealand) Guest Convener

NASAA and POETCom will continue to advocate for organic farming as it incorporates the new INOFO Oceania Pasifika group into its work, and provides guidance for farmers and organic producers through the new platform.

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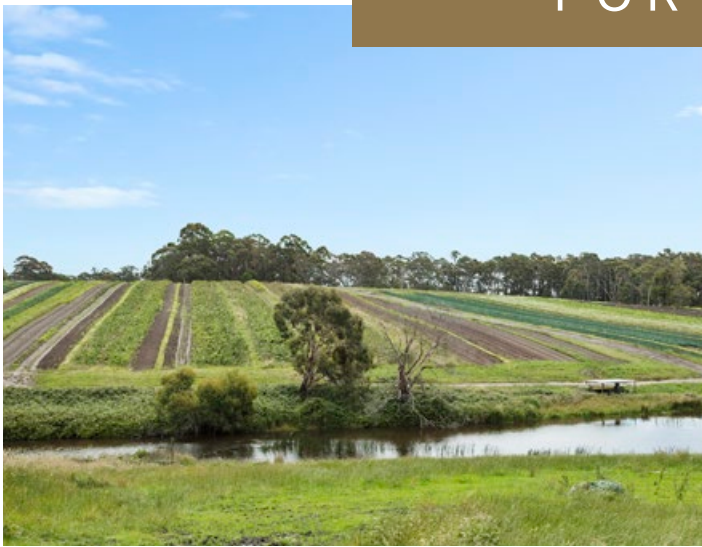
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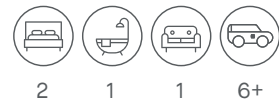


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680g/L Nonanoic Acid	Highest load Nonanoic Acid on the market
Rate: 6 – 8L of product/100L of water	Lower use rates per treated hectare
Applied in 200 to 300L of water/Hectare	Rate range to give more flexibility
Fast acting with visible effects on green plant tissue	More treated hectares per spray vat
Derived from natural occurring substances sourced from Sunflowers	Less time wasted filling spray tank with water
Biodegradable	Lower rates of product per hectare
Many use patterns	Most weeds show effects within hours of applications
Extra use patterns	Derived from plants to kill weeds
Available in 1L, 5L, 20L, 200L & 1000L packs	Breaks down into carbon dioxide and water
	Orchards
	Paths, driveways, around sheds, gardens, amenity horticulture areas, protected cropping situations, around nursery stock
	Spot spraying in lawns and turf
	A pack size for every situation



For more information please call 1800 777 068 or email grochem@grochem.com.au

South Australian growers hit the ground running with revolutionary new worm biostimulant

A high-performing, NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) approved input worm extract biostimulant, developed by a local farmer, has made a strong entry into the market.

Fifth-generation Fleurieu Peninsula farmer Chris Pethick, of Pethick Orchards and business partner Theo Ruygrok have spent three years establishing and refining VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic.

VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic has been extensively laboratory tested by Dr Ash Martin and team from Microbiology Laboratories Australia. Their testing has proven VermiGold™ has high levels of micro-organisms, with a wide diversity of beneficial bacteria, fungi and other microbes.

Dr Martin and his team recently completed pot trials with results suggesting that using VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic could save growers hundreds of dollars per hectare (based on approximate NPK fertigation costs v 1,000 litre VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic).

VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic is a natural product and an NCO approved input for organic production, which means there will be no negative impacts to soils. In fact, previous laboratory results have shown the high level of micro-organisms that VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic puts back into the soil over time brings equilibrium back into horticultural lands.

The high-quality NCO approved biostimulant is a rich liquid extract, derived from the vermicomposting process. Once extracted, the liquid is not altered in any way.

VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic is available in commercial quantities and is suitable for agricultural, horticultural, viticultural and broad acre applications. It is also suitable for use in home gardens.

"We created VermiGold™ after previously encountering supply issues for another worm product. Laboratory testing exceeded our expectations and after receiving such great results, we knew we couldn't keep the product to ourselves and launched VermiGold™."

"We have vast experience in worm farming and have now grown to become one of Australia's largest commercial worm farms." says Chris.

Eligible businesses in the agriculture, horticulture, viticulture sectors or other commercial farmers can contact Vermigold to receive a free 5L sample of VermiGold™ Liquid Tonic.



www.vermigold.com.au



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What is Great Land Plus?

Great Land Plus is a liquid biological soil conditioner used to improve soil biology and condition in pastures, cropping, viticulture and horticulture.

How does it work?

- Great Land Plus increases the ability of plants growing in the treated soil to access and use nutrients.
- Great Land Plus contains live, naturally occurring bacteria species from the Lactobacillus and Acetobacter strains.
- Through changing the mix of bacteria in the soil, Great Land Plus enhances root development, and improves the plant's ability to withstand periods of stress.

What are the benefits of using Great Land Plus?

- Great Land Plus benefits the environment and lowers input costs for farmers through improving plant nutrition and reducing the need for chemicals and fertilisers.
- Great Land Plus can also rehabilitate degraded soil.
- Great Land Plus is used by conventional and organic farmers. It is a certified organic in Australia and New Zealand and complies with the USDA National Organics Program (NOP).



Figure 1 – The roots of seedlings following application of Great Land. Seedlings were grown with either no treatment or with 10 µl or 50 µl of Great Land. The micrographs show that compared to no treatment control plants, those plants treated with Great Land had more numerous and longer root hairs. This was particularly evident at the root tips of each plant.

**Compliant with the
USDA National
Organic Program (NOP)**



Terragen Biotech Pty Ltd Unit 6, 39-41 Access Crescent Coolumb Beach QLD 4573
Ph: 1300 837 724 (Terragen) **E:** info@terragen.com.au **www.terragen.com.au**



Advertorial

Great Land takes market gardener to a new level



The introduction of Great Land biological soil conditioner to a wide range of vegetable crops, took the quality of produce to the next level, for market gardener, Dennis Davis.

The enterprise had a strong leaning towards organic products and originally had success with Natrakelp liquid seaweed fertiliser. It was then paired with the biological soil conditioner, Great Land, from Terragen Biotech.

"Great Land came along and took us to a whole new level," Mr Davis said.

He was so inspired that he wrote a letter to Terragen about the phenomenal results of the product.

"I am pleased to formally confirm results experienced with the use of your Great Land product on my crops during the past few months," he said. "I can only describe its overall effect as remarkable with yield, crop health, colour etc. dramatically improved."

Crops that were seeing the benefits of Great Land included choi, chinese cabbage, silver beet, parsley, leeks, radish, Dutch carrots, spring onions and snow peas.

Mr Davis said the combination of Great Land and Natrakelp liquid seaweed fertiliser was amazing.

Leek and snow pea crops produced yield increases of 40% when treated with Great Land and Natrakelp.

"We also sent curly parsley to the Melbourne market with bunches that were 250 to 300 grams instead of the normal 125 grams. We packed 10 in a bag, and it looked like a pillow. There were quite a few comments when others saw it."

Mr Davis said senior executives from large supermarkets had commented on the colour, quality and desirability of the produce being delivered.

He said Diamondback moth had been a major issue in their brassica crops, but had decreased significantly since the introduction of Great Land. Healthier plants played a key role in combatting insect pests and diseases.

Dennis believes an application rate of 10 L/ha Great Land has the ability to enhance the soil structure and release soil bound nutrients, such as phosphates, making them available to the plant.

Mr Davis said the increased benefits of a healthier plant helped combat pests and diseases with no chemical use, produced bigger and stronger plants and meant a longer shelf life.

"In many cases, we are seeing double the shelf life from our products."

"A customer in Launceston had one of their customers buy a large lettuce and 4 weeks later it was still in good condition, tasting fresh and was still crisp. We have had tomatoes last eight weeks after picking."

"I have no hesitation in recommending Great Land to anyone who may consider using it and am confident they will benefit greatly from its use. Great Land and Natrakelp are exceptionally complimentary to each other, providing excellent end results."



Top: Dennis Davis inspecting lettuces treated with Great Land biological soil conditioner on his property at Penguin, TAS.
Right: The introduction of Great Land biological soil conditioner to a wide range of vegetable crops took the quality of produce to the next level for market gardener, Dennis Davis.

NEWS WRAP UP

DOMESTIC REGULATION

On the 26 November, The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia announced a consultation process on domestic regulation for the organic industry. The exact nature of the process and documentation is yet to be revealed.

NASAA Organic has been waiting for public announcements for 12 months since the Minister announced formation of an Organic Industry Advisory Group in December 2020 and appointed of members of his choosing. NASAA Organic was not invited on to this committee, but have supported Dalene Wray's membership, in her role as the former Chair of Organic Industries Australia, the Peak body formed by the organic industry at the Love Organic event in 2018. The findings of this committee have not been made public.

However, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) will soon commence a public consultation process on how to improve Australia's domestic organic regulatory framework. This will include consideration of potential regulatory and non-regulatory options for reform, with a view to supporting industry growth and consumer confidence.

NASAA Organic has a long history in auspicing the conversation on domestic regulation, spanning four decades, and we are pleased to support industry representations to the Australian Government.

There will be opportunities for everyone to have their say in the consultation and production of a Regulation Impact Statement. This will ensure consideration of all views, measure the full scale of regulatory impacts, and gain a thorough understanding of the sector.

Please contact us should you wish to be part of the conversations that NASAA Organic will be facilitating in the new year. We also encourage members to make their own direct contributions to the consultation.

For more information on the Ministers Announcement:

[Consultation on domestic organics regulation | Ministers \(awe.gov.au\)](https://www.awe.gov.au/consultation-on-domestic-organics-regulation)

For up to date information from Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE):

[Organic and biodynamic produce – Consultation on domestic organics regulation – DAWE](https://www.dawe.gov.au/consultation-on-domestic-organics-regulation)

IN MCLAREN VALE, A PREMIER WINE REGION FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NASAA ORGANIC HOSTED OUR 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SECOND 'VIRTUAL' AGM ON FRIDAY 12TH NOVEMBER WITH ATTENDEES JOINING US FROM ACROSS AUSTRALIA, THANKS TO THE POWER OF ZOOM.

Tim Marshall in his first AGM as Chair, delivered an update on Board activities over the past year, including the announcement of the 2021 Director Election results. We are pleased to have Liz Pitcher and Phil Rowe returned to the Board for another two years.

Tim reinforced the position of NASAA as an association, which, by definition, is *'a group of people who work together in a single organisation for a particular purpose'*. The focus of the NASAA Organic Board has been to examine the purpose of our organisation, and the roles we play, in providing leadership in representation, communication, education, and assistance to the industry.

Our General Manager, Alex Mitchell reported on the performance of NASAA Organic and NCO in a year marked by lockdowns and service interruptions, that no business or individual has been immune from. Our increasing work, in building collaborative relationships and partnerships, has enabled significant delivery of new networks to members, new opportunities for businesses, and a set of new education resources for schools.

The Membership voted to start the process of Constitutional review and, in the first instance, there will be a change undertaken to adopt contemporary language, addressing gender references.

Our guest speaker Julian Cribb provided some sobering insight into the data outlining the seriousness of the current situation in global human poisoning. This data has been collected and presented in his



new book EARTH DETOX.

We are proud to support Julian in the promotion of his book, as it highlights the importance of the work and passion of businesses and individuals, in reducing exposure to harmful chemicals. Julian's presentation "De-toxing our Poisoned Planet" from the AGM can be viewed [HERE](#)

On behalf of all Staff and Board members of NASAA Organic and NCO, thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the discussions. We look forward to engaging more with you all in the next 12 months.

NUFFIELD AUSTRALIA

Congratulations to NASAA certified organic (NCO) dairy farmer, and OAM recipient, Terry Hehir, who has been awarded a Nuffield Life Membership.

Terry was initially awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 1994 to study high input dairy farming systems, a pathway that later led to converting his (then) conventional dairy farm to organic. He was later instrumental in the establishment of a co-operative structure for organic milk production. Terry was a Board member and later Chair, of Nuffield Australia.

[Nuffield Australia - Life Membership: Terry Hehir OAM, 1994 Victorian Scholar](#)

NASAA ORGANIC CELEBRATES LEE'S 15 YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY

In this day and age it is rare to retain employees for an extended period of time, but we have managed to keep Lee Mastus in our staff family for 15 years.

Lee was employed in 2006 by Lyn Austin, former Managing Director of NASAA. In her 15 years she has worked under nine General Managers, seen the office expand into two spaces, and grown in her career from Receptionist into her current role of Relationships and Services Manager.

Lee is a well-known face and contact for all of our NASAA Organic members, NCO clients and stakeholders, and through the years, her talents and efforts have helped our success. Together, we take pride in your accomplishment and your commitment to excellence.

Congratulations on your anniversary, Lee ... now get back to work!



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOME & AROUND THE GLOBE

AgriFutures™
evoke AG.

EVOKE AG PERTH – FEBRUARY 2022

Date: 15 – 16 February 2022

Location: Claremont, Perth, Western Australia

evokeAG. is 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, and 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.

ADC | AUSTRALIAN
DAIRY
CONFERENCE

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY CONFERENCE (ADC) HOBART – MARCH 2021

Date: 16 – 18 February 2022

Location: Sandy Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

Created by a group of farmers as a forum to push boundaries and dairy thinking, ADC has evolved into Australia's premier dairy event. Strong global links and collaboration ensure delivery of a thought-provoking, and challenging program, designed to explore new frontiers, and motivate Australian dairy farmers to think beyond the farm-gate.

**Naturally
GOOD** | NATURAL
ORGANIC
& HEALTHY
PRODUCTS
EXPO

NATURALLY GOOD EXPO SYDNEY – JUNE 2022

Date: 6 – 7 June 2022

Location: ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour, New South Wales

Naturally Good showcases the latest brands and newest product innovations. There's a chance to gain insights from industry professionals and build long-lasting relationships with retailers and distributors.

NASAA Organic will be a stallholder at Naturally Good, after a successful run in 2021.

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