

NASAA
organic

ORGANIC INSIGHTS

SPRING EDITION - 2017

TEMPLE BRUER: A TEMPLATE FOR TOP ORGANIC WINE

Full story on pg 6

IN THIS ISSUE..

- THE RISE OF ALTERNATE 'SUSTAINABILITY' LABELS.
- WA: A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE WHERE OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS
- A TRIBUTE TO ROD MAY ➤ SEED SOURCING: CLOSING THE GAP
- CLOSING THE ORGANIC CYCLE: TURNING WASTE INTO GOLD
- PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE...

Omnia's Organics

Notes:



Improves soil structure and water holding capacity; nutrient availability and increased soil biological activity.



Promotes biological diversity, soil health and nutrient availability.



Naturally mined, granulated, continuous release boron. One application for up to two seasons of safe, plant available boron.



Formulated with organic chelates for effective and quick plant uptake.



Organically chelated iron.



Organically chelated copper.



Organically chelated zinc.

Notes:



Alkaline kelp.



Liquid fulvic acid to enhance nutrient uptake.



Humate and kelp product for soil application.



Concentrated amino acid mix for growth stimulation.



Acidic kelp.



Natural amino acid source that provides natural nutrients and improves soil life.



NASAA certified... a sure sign of quality!



03 5133 9118

www.omnia.net.au



omnia
NUTRIOLOGY*

**the science of growing*

MESSAGE FROM THE GM



SPRING – AND ABOUT TIME I SAY.

Particularly here at the NASAA Office in the beautiful but freezing Adelaide Hills. Winter has well and truly outlived its welcome and we look forward to warmth and sunshine ahead!

Not that the cold climes have stopped us from getting on with the planning of our Into Organics Seminar for 2017.

Last year we experimented and made it larger than ever before. This October, we will try and grow it again - in two ways.

Significantly, we will have our first ever overseas speakers.

Dr Bruno Giboudeau brings to us Obsalim - a system from France that helps farmers collect observational data from their herds. His software can convert aggregated data into action plans that will help nip health issues in the bud before they need major intervention.



From Korea, we will have Youngsang Cho demonstrating the benefits of JADAM Organic Farming. The JADAM system focuses on the production of organic nutritional supplements such as composts, teas and other inputs.

Through on-farm manufacturing of these products, JADAM claims to reduce the overall cost of Organic agriculture to below that of conventional production.

THIS YEAR, WE'VE ALSO MADE THE EVENT MORE CONVENIENT.

To make it a bit easier for the average attendee, we have moved the seminar location to the Mt Macedon Hotel in Victoria. This fabulous location provides accommodation and conference facilities in the beautiful green heart of the Macedon Ranges.

It is centrally located for Victorian folk who want to drive to the event and only 30 minutes from Melbourne airport if you are planning to come from further afield.

So 'Sustainable Growth' in content and ease of access – but not a lot of extra space – so please be quick in booking to avoid disappointment.

Into Organics is a great way to build knowledge as well as meet your fellow organophiles.

I hope to see you there!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Anderson".

Mark Anderson
General Manager

QUALITY SYSTEM, OR FALSE MARKETING?

THE RISE OF ALTERNATE 'SUSTAINABILITY' LABELS

AS AN INDUSTRY, WE FOUGHT HARD TO DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF ORGANIC OPERATORS IN AUSTRALIA, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD IN 2008 GIVING THE DOMESTIC MARKET A LEGAL BASIS FOR CHALLENGING FRAUDULENT CLAIMS.

In more recent times, we have seen an explosion in the growth of 'sustainability' claims and the emergence of alternate 'sustainability' labels, including private certification labels.

We have also become increasingly aware that some so-called 'sustainability' systems are drawing direct parallels to organic farming practices in product marketing.

The use of the term 'Sustainability' has itself become something of a marketing buzzword over the last decade, used widely across a range of industries and consumer products and open to interpretation in many ways, some of which can be misleading (known collectively as 'greenwashing').

In recent years, the ACCC have cracked down on credence claims on food labels, particularly where consumer purchasing decisions are based on the perceived 'integrity of product, such as where or how something was made, grown or produced.'

In a 2014 Choice article, ACCC Chair Rod Sims noted that, "*Misleading credence claims can also undermine the level playing field and disadvantage other suppliers.*"

The value of an authenticated sustainable organic production system is not always obvious, but may add cost. Certified organic operators often experience the frustration of losing a contract on price because the cost-value equation was not apparent to the buyer.

AT NASAA, WE'VE BECOME AWARE OF A GROUP OF COMMODITY HANDLERS AND PROCESSORS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HAVE BEEN MARKETING A PRIVATE-LABEL SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION SCHEME THAT ESSENTIALLY PROMOTES ORGANIC PRINCIPLES, BUT WITHOUT THE INDEPENDENT PROOF.



SOMEONE'S BEEN USING ORGANIC-N

Boost the yield and quality of your crop.

- Highest N content on market
- Certified organic input + NOP compliant
- 23% fulvic acid to improve nutrient uptake
- Applied through irrigation or foliar spray

Talk to us about lifting your crop production with Organic-N or any of our easy to use organic fertiliser products.



Established 1995- we have a wealth of expertise. Call us for an organic program to suit your crop.

www.organicfarming.com.au

08 9388 3623

03 9008 6352

info@organicfarming.com.au



To add insult to injury, the group have positioned their cost offering just slightly, and more attractively, below the organic price point, but are claiming superior management systems with a direct comparison to organic production systems – with no actual third-party verification.

WE CALL FOR A GREATER LEVEL OF CONSUMER SCRUTINY OF ALTERNATE SUSTAINABILITY LABELS, AND SUBSTANTIATION OF 'SUSTAINABILITY' CLAIMS.

Choice magazine in 2016 advises that one of the things consumers should look for in avoiding greenwash is evidence of third-party certification, warning consumers in particular to, 'be wary of self-declared statements, symbols and graphics' giving the false impression of certification.

We applaud those farmers who are genuinely striving to achieve more sustainable methods of farming, however, we believe that a transparent, accredited certification scheme governed by recognised, independent Standards represents the only real way for farmers to strengthen and verify claims of 'sustainability'.

We call for greater consumer awareness of the importance of ensuring that product claims stating food production methods that are sustainable, natural or organic are backed by recognized Standards that are verified through independent, third-party certification.

Certified Organic is a third-party quality grading that is backed by recognised Australian and International Standards. It is a guarantee of the integrity of a product and its production methods.

TRULY INDEPENDENT, THIRD PARTY AUTHENTICATION UNFORTUNATELY DOES COME AT A HIGHER COST.

Anything else is simply a marketing claim.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Read a Choice website article about Credence claims on food labels

**CLICK
HERE**

or

Choice's take on 'Green Marketing'

**CLICK
HERE**

NATIONAL ORGANIC WINE AWARDS 2017

TEMPLE BRUER: A TEMPLATE FOR TOP ORGANIC WINE!



TEMPLE BRUER'S PRESERVATIVE FREE TB621 MATARO SHIRAZ GRENACHE BLEND 2016 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AS THE WINNER OF THE CERTIFIED ORGANIC WINE OF THE YEAR FOR 2017.

For the fourth year running, NASAA partnered with Winestate magazine to stage the event, designed to showcase and promote Australian certified organic wine to the World. This year's event attracted over 134 entries from across Australia, with blind tasting undertaken via a panel of three independent wine industry judges.

The winning wine uses grapes sourced from Temple Bruer's own properties in the Riverland at Loxton, Eden Valley and Langhorne Creek in South Australia.

Temple Bruer founder, David Bruer, was very pleased to accept the award alongside principal winemaker, Verity Cowley, at a function held in Adelaide in June.

"We work really hard to make preservative free wines that keep," he said. "It's particularly good that the Mataro

came from our oldest vines at Loxton planted shortly after World War II by the soldier settlers."

Temple Bruer were also joint winners of the Cabernet Blend award category with their 2016 Cabernet Merlot.

Overall the judges were pleased with the number of entries represented, with a further 14 category winners announced on the night.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For full results, read our
Media Release

[CLICK HERE](#)

Article on Temple Bruer's
on-farm carbon initiatives

[CLICK HERE](#)

Visit Temple Bruer

[CLICK HERE](#)

Winestate Magazine

[CLICK HERE](#)

Wine & Spirit Insider Magazine

[CLICK HERE](#)

Uncomplicated nutrition,
pure and simple.



BELLAMY'S
ORGANIC
A pure start to life!



bellamysorganic.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: A UNIQUE LANDSCAPE WHERE OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS



DUNN AND WALTON IS A WELL-KNOWN INSTITUTION ON THE PERTH ORGANIC SCENE.



Annie and son-in-law Travis

The unique organic retail store has adapted and grown over the last 20 years in step with the growth of organic agriculture in the State. This evolution is set to continue, according to co-founder Annie Dunn, as recognised supply gaps offer unique opportunities for WA producers entering the market.

Annie has had a long association with the organic movement in WA. Back in the 1990's, she and her partner started by growing vegetables, setting up a market garden in Perth and joining the local organic growers' association.

As "no-one else was doing it," growing quickly progressed to selling from a shed as well as regular home delivery runs around the Perth area.

According to Annie, "We were in a position where our customers had to be sworn to secrecy as we couldn't cope with any more customers in the 2 days that we were open."

With a strong local following, progressing to a 'proper shop' was the next logical step.

With their daughter, Arena, and her husband, Travis Walton, the shop - Absolutely Organic WA – located near Karrinyup - evolved to include a take away vegetarian kitchen. After 13 years, they relocated to Scarborough Beach Road in Doubleview, changing their name to Dunn & Walton. With the move, they introduced take away coffee as a Responsible Café and expanded their kitchen range. Whilst evolving over time, the business has remained true to its roots, providing quality organic product and focusing on reuse and recycling.

ANNIE HAS SEEN A LOT OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

"Increases in the supply of organic product, particularly in grocery lines (packaged product) has been one of the biggest changes over the years," she says.

"There are more brands to choose from. There was really very little when we started."



Despite the growth in available lines, the local industry itself in WA suffers from a lack of certified operators as well as its remoteness from the other States, with a high cost to ship product and many gaps in the products on shelf.

Currently, WA accounts for only 7% of all certified operations in Australia (277 operators) with 3.8 million hectares under organic management – predominantly grain, fruit, beef, dairy and viticulture*.

Annie believes that this represents a “massive opportunity for producers here”.

Gaps are apparent in the local production of “many veggies and fruits, nuts and processed milk product,” according to Annie.

In addition, “we are waiting for certified organic chicken to be produced here,” Annie continues, “and why are we importing dried ‘inca berries’ when they grow so easily in WA where we call them cape gooseberries?”

Annie remains passionate about the local industry.

One of the best surprises that she has experienced, “is that so many young people today are really concerned with what they are eating and where sourced.”

This, Annie believes, bodes well for the future of the industry in WA.

**Australian Organic Market Report 2017*

FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit Dunn and Walton

[CLICK HERE](#)

View our interview with Annie and Travis

[CLICK HERE](#)

UNISHIELD®



YOUR TRIED AND PROVEN HIGH GRADE QUALITY SULFUR

✓ **Registered & Certified For Organic Use**



www.uplaustralia.com

© Registered Trademark of UPL Australia Limited. Always read and follow the label directions prior to use.



A TRIBUTE

ROD MAY

LAST EDITION, WE MOURNED THE PASSING OF ONE OF OUR OWN PIONEERS OF ORGANIC, ROD MAY. IN THIS MONTH'S ORGANIC INSIGHTS, WE PAY FURTHER TRIBUTE TO ROD'S IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.

Tim Marshall is one who knew Rod well and here he shares his memories of an organic trailblazer.

Rod May was known and loved by many in the Australian and international organic farming community.

Rod was a permaculture inspired organic farmer, tree planter, agro-organic politician, previous NASAA Director (from 1992-2010) and Chairperson (1992-1995 and 2007-2010) Chair of the IFOAM Standards Committee, past Mayor of Hepburn Shire, Greens Party candidate and a good-humoured and party loving friend, who maintained a positive outlook on life.

Rod was a fourth-generation farmer and one of the earliest certified organic farmers in Victoria. He inspired both of his brothers, Greg and Doug, to also become certified organic on the 80-hectare family farm at Blampied, where they each farmed crops independently on the three sections of the farm, but also shared equipment and management of sheep and cattle.

Rod was inspired by his experience as an exchange farmer to the USA and by the Permaculture movement, becoming a close friend of David Holmgren, who lives close by.

His farm was used for field days by local organic farming and Permaculture groups, providing a working model demonstrating techniques of alley farming of grain and legume crops and mixed vegetables between rows of fruit and nut trees, and integration of livestock.

Rod hosted many field days on his own farm, inviting many new organic growers to visit and sharing information readily. He especially enjoyed discussing new gadgets, farming equipment and organic growing techniques with others.

His love of people and sharing the organic message lead Rod to develop on-farm accommodation units in 'mini houses' and to build a community meeting space with a wood fired oven and kitchen in association with the accommodation. Rod baked bread for his B & B guests and pizza for local parties. In recent years, Rod also developed a box delivery scheme, had begun making fermented cabbage for distribution and was in the process of building a small-scale cheese factory.

Rod was an influential leader in creating a more sustainable future. He was a frequent speaker at industry events and a strong advocate for environmental and biodiversity provisions of organic standards.



Rod with Tim Marshall at Frogs Leap winery in California

He was a keen tree planter and inspired many others, particularly through his work with Project Branchout, which was an early revegetation initiative in the Loddon-Campaspe region of Victoria. In 1982, he helped to instigate the worker-owned Central Victorian Tree Planting Co-operative.

Rod was also a local politician, serving several terms in local government, originally on the Creswick Council, and later as the Mayor of the Hepburn Shire. He stood as a Greens candidate for the electorate of Rippon in the State elections in 2014.

VALE ROD MAY

Rod died in intensive care on 29 May 2017, ten days prior to his 63rd birthday, after a motorbike accident a week earlier. He will be missed by his brothers Greg and Doug and two daughters, Stephanie and Carla, their families and legions of friends across Australia and around the world.

Note: Rod's wife, Vivien Hodgins, a gifted drama and media teacher at Mount Clear Secondary College Ballarat, was tragically killed by a tsunami while walking on the beach in Samoa in 2009.



SETTING THE ORGANIC STANDARD

ROD WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ORGANIC INSPECTORS IN THE COUNTRY AND HAD A DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL FARMING HISTORY AND THE EARLY ORGANIC PIONEERS IN VICTORIA.

He used his broad knowledge of farming and food processing to become a significant player in the development of organic standards in Australia and in the international organic industry. His work was important in the development of the NASAA Organic Standard and he also contributed significantly to the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Products and to the AS6000.

At the international level, he participated in the development of the early versions of the United Nations CODEX Alimentarius Organic Standard and for several years he was the Chairperson of the IFOAM Standards Committee, working on standards issues in nearly a dozen countries, including introducing new sections on aquaculture and textiles, revising biodiversity requirements and reviewing proposals for the certification of organic forestry.

Rod was a sought-after speaker at standards setting conferences and workshops and was involved in capacity building projects, consulting with the government of the newly established East Timor nation in the certification of their coffee industry. In 2016, he joined the Accreditation Committee of the IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Service).

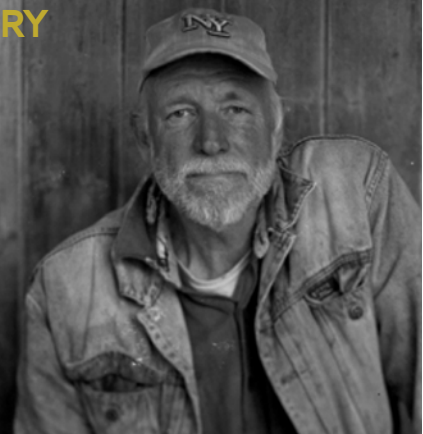
ROD MAY IFOAM WORLD CONGRESS BURSARY

In memory of Rod, NASAA has created the Rod May IFOAM World Congress Bursary which will support a young person (under 35) involved with NASAA/NCO to develop their awareness of, and interaction with, the international organic community. The bursary will provide an AUD \$5,000 contribution supporting attendance at the upcoming IFOAM World Congress in New Delhi (9th-13th November, 2017).

Applications close 22 September, 2017.

[FOR APPLICATION DETAILS](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



TIPS FROM TIM

RECORD KEEPING AND ORGANIC CERTIFICATION: A SIMPLIFIED APPROACH

Tim Marshall is well known within the industry as an organic writer, trainer and consultant. Tim was co-founder of NASAA and served on the Board for 11 years. He has also worked on organic standards and trade issues for IFOAM.

THE OBLIGATION TO KEEP RECORDS OF FARMING ACTIVITIES IS AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF ORGANIC CERTIFICATION, BUT IT IS OFTEN ONE THAT FARMERS FIND BOTH DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING.

Many operators struggle to cope with the level of record keeping to which they aspire.

Required certification records may include data on soil preparation, planting times and rates, fertility inputs; pest, disease and weed control; crop monitoring for pests and diseases; harvest, transport and sales documentation; manure use, composting times and temperatures, and irrigation, plus any purchases of seed or pesticide inputs.

In addition, animal husbandry records may include data on the purchase of new stock, joining and lambing/calving records, use of supplements or homeopathic medicines, milk or wool yields.


Operators may also need to record storage and packing information and specialty industries, such as honey or mushroom producers, have their own set of obligations.

Some growers will have modern farming software that integrates farm planning, sales and taxation records and certification documents. For those of us still using paper records, however, the principle of using templates is usually the best way to go.

GOOD RECORDS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT ADVANCE PLANNING, SUCH AS THE DESIGN OF APPROPRIATE TEMPLATES FOR EACH FARM ACTIVITY, CAN REDUCE THE TIME INVOLVED AND SIMPLIFY THE TASK.

One of the simplest systems I have encouraged growers to use is based on the farm map.

All operators are required to have a map and, once produced, it can become a form or template. For example, rotations and seeding times and rates can be quite complex for small horticulture farms with many paddocks or where many small crops and varieties are grown, and where seeding happens frequently. Long-hand or narrative descriptions of rotation plans and seeding times can be quite involved and time consuming.



Organic
Certification

A much easier system is to produce multiple photocopies of the basic paddock subdivision, then take them out weekly, monthly or seasonally as required and simply write into each paddock what was planted in the most recent time interval. When the organic inspector arrives, and asks to see the rotation, the forms can be instantly produced from a filing cabinet or folder and laid out to explain what has occurred in each paddock.

Templates can be simple or complex to reflect the use of whole paddocks through to individual raised beds.

The same principle can be used for many other operations such as fertilizer application or stock rotation. Completing records is as simple as removing the blank template from a drawer, writing a few descriptive sentences or notes, and filing the form away in a sequential document holder.

RECORDING AT THE TIME OF USE IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN TRYING TO REMEMBER LATER WHAT WAS DONE AND WHEN.

For instance, spray record sheets can be printed and hung on or next to equipment on a clipboard as a reminder, and are easily and quickly filled in at the time that operations are conducted, then collated later as a permanent record, or transposed into logbooks and other recording systems.

The template should record the name of the products applied, the target pest or disease, rates of application, time of application and which areas were sprayed. It may also need to record the name of the person driving the equipment.

Efficiencies are gained over time as operators familiarize with the data recording methods established. Having a series of established templates available at point of application can make recording simple and quick, making record keeping a less daunting task.

For further information Tim can be contacted on 0412 473 230 or at tim@tmorganics.com



Biostimulate your plants.... Naturally

CropBioLife is a foliar spray for crops & plants. It contains organic compounds readily absorbed by plants that stimulate metabolic triggers that are essential to plant health & vitality.



3502M



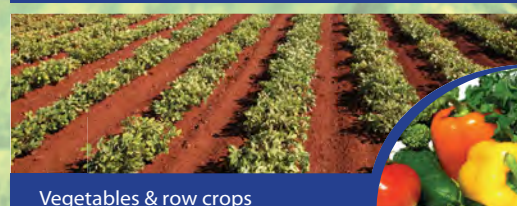
Viticulture



Olives



Fruit, including citrus, tropical & sub tropical



Vegetables & row crops

AUSSIE MADE FOR AUSSIE CONDITIONS

To find out more about this exciting product or to locate your local distributor

email: INFO@AUSSAN.COM.AU **visit:** WWW.CROPBIO LIFE.COM.AU **ph:** 02 8065 8976



THE SOURCING OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC SEED, SEEDLINGS AND PLANT STOCK REMAINS AN ISSUE OF CONTENTION WITHIN THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY.

Current International and National Standards require that Australian certified organic growers source plant material from certified sources. In accordance with Standard 4.1.1. 'Certified operators shall use untreated organic seed and plant material for production of organic crops.'

Strict adherence to the Standard, however, has been found over time to place the organic producer at a commercial disadvantage, given a lack of maturity within the input supply chain impacting choice, quantity and diversity of available certified seed and associated issues of quality and consistency.

We do understand that the capacity for domestic organic seed and seedling suppliers to consistently supply the industry is currently limited. For this reason, an allowance for a derogation has been granted to date "where evidence is provided that organic seed is not available, approval may be granted to use conventional seed. The use of non-certified seed and plant material will be subject to review on a regular basis."

Standards worldwide are continually evolving, however, and requirements driven by markets internationally could

see a move to 'close the gap' (and we are seeing this in the US) by tightening restrictions on use of non-conventional inputs. Therefore, operators should make every effort to 'future' source certified organic inputs through supporting:

- On-farm production of seedlings
- Seed saver networks and specialist nurseries
- Conventional suppliers of organic seed, predominantly imports available in commercial quantities

NASAA currently has 19 seed and seedling suppliers certified across Australia. To become certified, input suppliers are required to meet standards and conversion requirements governing the production and distribution of organic seeds, seedlings and plant propagative material.

Compared with conventional untreated or treated seed, certified organic seed has not been exposed to any chemicals throughout the growth in the field, the harvesting of the seed, and processing and does not contain any GMOs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Listing of all current NASAA certified seed and seedling suppliers is on our website

[CLICK HERE](#)

STANBROKE IS PURCHASING

Stanbroke is purchasing N.O.P Organic certified cattle to process at our state-of-the-art, company owned processing facility at Grantham in South East Queensland.

Stanbroke has been processing organic cattle over the last 10 years, supplying major food companies world-wide.

Our purchasing grids are wide but specific in types, concentrating on quality steers and heifers.

For further details regarding prices and grids contact:

Richard Sheriff | 0428 557 258
Duane Woodham | 0438 298 080
Russell Handley | 0418 120 605

STANBROKE.COM



SOMEONE WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE DILEMMA FACED BY ORGANIC PRODUCERS IN SOURCING CERTIFIED SEED AND PLANT STOCK IS LUKE SANSOM OF SEEDLINGS ORGANIC LOCATED IN BROOKLET, NSW.

Luke and his wife Leisha have been operating their business for over 10 years (formerly in the Byron hinterland) and supply premium quality seedlings to farmers and the public. They play an integral part in the supply chain for many local organic farmers, producing more than 200 varieties of organically certified vegetable herb and flower seedlings sourced from all over the world.

“Fundamentally, there is very little seed production domestically, both conventional and organic,” says Luke.

“In addition, suppliers of specialist seeds are typically geared toward the home grower market in Australia, and not commercial scale farming,” he says.

“The reason I went into this market was to support the local industry, providing a choice with some measure of quality and reliability at a more cost-effective rate that didn’t disadvantage the (usually smaller scale) organic farm producer,” he says.

Importing quantities of certified organic seed to support his seedling business has enabled Luke to provide some quantity scale that has benefited farm producers.

“Over time, we have also developed knowledge of the quality and reliability of sourced seed, and its performance in various growing conditions,” says Luke.

“We have a good measure of what works, and what doesn’t based on feedback from our growers.”

This provides a level of confidence for the smaller farm producer, in particular, where cost can be prohibitive to the purchase of certified seed.

“Viability needs to be proven to some degree to justify the investment, given the substantial cost differential,” says Luke.

Whilst cost (and availability) can be a factor in the wider use of certified seed, Luke also believes that many larger organic farmers may also be constrained by the higher risk in trialing new inputs at scale.

“This needs to be carefully considered when you’re growing large volumes under contract,” he says.

“What we would like to see, however, is some of our larger growers trialing organic varieties against the conventional standard.”

“This would be useful in assisting development of the local organic seed industry.”

Luke believes that most organic farmers strive to do the right thing.

“We do need to be realistic about the challenges faced in Australia, however,” he says.

“What we don’t want is the lack of maturity in domestic seed supply disadvantaging our organic producers.”

MORE AND MORE COUNCILS ACROSS NSW ARE INTRODUCING FOOD WASTE SYSTEMS WITHIN LOCAL KERBSIDE ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAMS.

CLOSING THE ORGANIC CYCLE: TURNING WASTE INTO GOLD

To close the waste cycle, Councils are partnering with resource recovery centres that transform organic waste into high quality compost for use by farmers and the local community.

This month, we take a look behind the scenes at JR Richards & Sons' certified organic waste processing operations to see just how our waste is being turned into agricultural 'gold'.

JR Richards & Sons is an established waste and recycling company that operates two Organic Recycling Facilities (ORF's), in Grafton and Molong (near Orange), processing FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics) from kerbside collection programs for Clarence Valley Council and Orange City Council in NSW.

As highlighted previously in Organic Insights, JR Richards & Sons' Grafton Facility was featured as part of Costa's Compost Academy initiative, taking viewers through the process from the collection of kerbside waste through to compost manufacture.

WE VISITED THE FACILITY THIS MONTH TO SEE FOR OURSELVES JUST HOW THE PROCESS WORKS.

JR Richards & Sons' two state-of-the art in-tunnel composting facilities have the capacity to produce over 30,000 tonnes of high quality NASAA certified organic compost per annum, marketed under the RichEarth brand.

Collected food organics and garden organics initially enters a holding area for contaminant removal (estimated at less than 0.5%). It is then loaded into a shredder and processed to minus 70mm in size.

The shredded material is then transferred into one of the company's composting tunnels, with each tunnel supporting around 180 tonnes of material. The organic matter is left in the tunnel for 14 days and heated to a temperature of 73 degrees to pasteurise.

Temperature probes monitor the in-tunnel temperature, with results feeding to a centralised database system. Water is sprinkled from the roof twice daily and air is pushed through the compost from the tunnel floor. All air and water is recycled with excess processed through a biofilter to eliminate any odour.

The material then goes through a staged maturation process where it is consistently turned. After 4-6 months the material is ready for final screening to a finished product.

THE RESULT?

Extremely fine (16mm coarseness), high quality, certified organic compost that meets the AS4454 Quality Standard.

Agricultural Gold!

FURTHER INFORMATION

Don't just read about it, view our behind-the-scenes tour

[CLICK HERE](#)

Check in to Costa's Compost Academy

[CLICK HERE](#)

INTRODUCING PEATS PRODUCTS AS PELLETS

Suitable for ALL agricultural requirements

A wide variety of soils today are costing more to manage and producing less. As a result, farmers & growers are looking for cost effective ways to improve soil structure, unlock those valuable 'tied up' nutrients and improve their crop yields...

Peats products as pellets is the answer!

Peats can blend several products to create your own specific TailorMade™ Pellet for your individual soil requirements.

CALL US TODAY TO IMPROVE YOUR SOIL STRUCTURE AND YIELD\$

For further information contact the Peats Sales Team

p (08) 8556 5295 f (08) 8557 7550 e sales@peatssoil.com.au w peatssoil.com.au

Willunga | Dublin | Brinkley

put life back into your soil

ORGANICALLY, WE'VE GOT YOUR CROPS COVERED



HYDROCOP WG

PROTECTANT FUNGICIDE/BACTERICIDE

- 500g/kg COPPER (Cu) present as CURPRIC HYDROXIDE
- High loaded copper hydroxide formulation for lower application rates
- Dry-Flowable granule for ease of mixing and minimal dust
- Superior coverage and adhesion due to small particle size
- Available in 10kg bags

BORDEAUX WG

PROTECTANT FUNGICIDE/BACTERICIDE

- 200g/kg COPPER (Cu) present as TRIBASIC COPPER SULPHATE & containing Lime (Calcium Hydroxide)
- Ready formulated copper and lime formulation
- Dry-Flowable granule for ease of mixing and minimal dust
- Superior weathering and sticking properties
- Available in 15kg bags

MICROSUL WG ELITE

PROTECTANT FUNGICIDE/MITICIDE

- 800g/kg SULPHUR as Wettable Sulphur
- Dry-Flowable granular formulation
- Excellent dispersion and suspension
- Available in 2.5kg & 15kg

GROCHEM LIME SULPHUR

PROTECTANT FUNGICIDE/INSECTICIDE

- 200g/L SULPHUR as Polysulphide Sulphur
- High quality liquid Lime Sulphur as a soluble concentrate
- Highly refined with no contaminants
- Available in 20L, 200L & 1000L packs



Into ORGANICS Seminar 2017

Friday 27th October Macedon Ranges Hotel

The 4th NASAA Annual Seminar series, Into Organics 2017 coincides with our AGM

Meet fellow organically minded peers and experience industry speakers on topics such as soil health and microbiology, as well as some targeted material on livestock, particularly dairy health. Enjoy a day of field trips to the Organic Mushroom Farm, Sutton Grange Organic Farm and Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens on Thursday the 26th.

Book your tickets via Eventbrite


[CLICK HERE](#)

FROM THE SEA TO YOUR SOIL KELPOMIX TASMANIA

Kelpomix can be applied as a soil drench, combined with fertiliser or feed, sprayed onto plants or directly consumed by animals.



For unbeatable prices on quality Kelp, Fish, Phosphate, Compost/Mulch, Potting Mix, Pine Bark and expert advice, contact Chris at Kelpomix today!

4A Formby Road, Devonport **03 6424 8108** 
www.kelpomixtasmania.com.au
 Delivery available Australia-wide to residential and commercial addresses.



IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS (INDIA) IS DRAWING EVER CLOSER.

Held every three years, the Congress draws together stakeholders from across the global industry, producers, researchers, policymakers and others to share learnings from organic agricultural systems around the World.

FURTHER INFORMATION

View the full program

Plenary speaker list

[CLICK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



dunn & walton

ORGANIC STORE + KITCHEN + COFFEE

We are a NASAA Certified Organic Retailer in Perth Western Australia.

We are always interested to talk with growers & processors.... Giving our perspective of what our customers want and where we can see gaps in the market. It is pretty hard to predict what the next trend/fad will be but we can give a good picture of what our customers are asking for and have plenty of ideas for ethical processors.

Shop 8, 257 Scarborough Beach Rd
Doubleview Western Australia
(08) 9242 7711 | info@dunnandwalton.com.au
dunnandwalton.com.au | [@dunnandwalton](https://www.instagram.com/dunnandwalton)
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 7am–6pm | Thurs: 7am–7pm
Sat: 8am–4pm | Sun: Closed

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

HIGH SEAS LIQUID KELP EXTRACT

- Certified Organic 7099M
- New Technology
- Spray Friendly
- High Performance
- Fair Price
- Made from only the freshest Bull Kelp from the wild West Coast of Tasmania

MARRAWAH KELP P/L

Arthur River Rd, Marrawah
Tas - Phone 0427 571 338

FOR SALE

BIODYNAMIC/USDA NOP CERTIFIED HAY AND GRAIN

- Available in large quantities.
- Certified since 1986.
- Very reasonably priced

BARRY EDWARDS

Murrayville, Vic 3512
Phone 0429 952 095

The future is in our hands



Organic Trust Australia - Research and Education

OTARE was established to support research and education relevant to organic and bio-dynamic agriculture.

The Trust has charitable trust status, so donations are tax-deductible. Your investment will accelerate the development and uptake of organic farming practices within Australia, thereby underpinning the long-term sustainability of Australia's food production systems and health and environmental outcomes from the food system.

For more details on the Trust or to make a donation, go to our website

www.organictrustaustralia.org.au



NEWS ROUNDUP

VIEW THE LATEST NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA AND AROUND THE GLOBE -
JUST CLICK ON THE LINK PANELS ON EACH STORY TO SEE AND READ MORE.

ORGANIC WORKING GROUP TO ESTABLISH FUTURE INDUSTRY DIRECTION

The Organic Industry Working Group (OIWG) comprises representative organic producers and certifiers (including NASAA) that are working in collaboration to establish a harmonized national voice for the organic industry in Australia. The working group has formed to address current issues of industry fragmentation and to promote the importance of a united voice in growing the sector to its estimated potential as a \$2 billion industry in Australia. OIWG is currently planning a number of public meetings across Australia to consult on the direction that the industry should pursue in looking to form a peak body.

Get Involved! Visit the OIWG Facebook page for more details on workshop sessions near you.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Click to view recent articles in the WeeklyTimes](#)

[Click to view recent articles in Beef Central](#)

[Click to visit the OIWG Facebook page](#)

ORGANIC DISTINCTION AT THE NATIONAL DELICIOUS. AWARDS 2017



Impressing all the judges at the prestigious national delicious. magazine Awards this year was certified producer **Randall Organic Rice**, overall winner of the 'From the Earth' category with their specialty Koshihikari rice, a uniquely flavoured Japanese sticky short grain rice. Other certified operators were well represented with **Ngeringa Vineyards** awarded a Gold Medal in the same category for their biodynamic mixed salad leaves, **Holy Goat** receiving a Gold Medal in the Dairy section for their nectar cheese and **SeaBounty** a Gold Medal in the Seafood category.

Well done to all!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

BIODYNAMIC VITICULTURE

Landline took a recent look at biodynamic viticulture in a program that features NASAA certified Lark Hill Biodynamic Winery in NSW and **Cullen Wines** in WA. According to Sue Carpenter from **Lark Hill**, the winery has received an amazing response to the program, which takes a very practical (and pragmatic) look at the application of biodynamic principles on-farm.

[IF YOU MISSED IT, CATCH UP ON IVIEW](#)

OBE ORGANIC: EXPORTING AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC EXPERTISE

Representatives from OBE Organic completed a recent trade mission to Mongolia as a delegate of the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO). Dalene Wray and Ross Mackenzie spoke with Mongolian livestock industry stakeholders about developing the local organic livestock chain, sharing their insights and providing a series of recommendations to assist in building the industry.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

2017 STATE & TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

The annual Landcare Awards recognise contributions to improving the local environment, including ecological innovations in agricultural farming. There are nine national categories, which are open to each state and territory. But be quick, remaining State nominations are due – NT (12 September), Qld (18 September), TAS (2 October).

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

\$2.5M FOR RIVERINA

Riverina Local Land Services has announced \$2.5m in funding for sustainable agriculture projects. Applications close 30 Sept 2017.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

\$35M FOR IRRIGATORS IN THE MURRAY DARLING BASIN

Irrigators in the Murray Darling Basin can apply for funding through the Commonwealth On-Farm Further Irrigation Efficiency Program for irrigation infrastructure upgrades and other on-farm water efficiency activities. A pilot program is being run in SA with proposals to be submitted by 13 September 2019.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

\$1.65M FOR EXPORT AID

Grants are available for projects aimed at promoting cooperation in accessing international markets, through the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation (ATMAC) program.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)