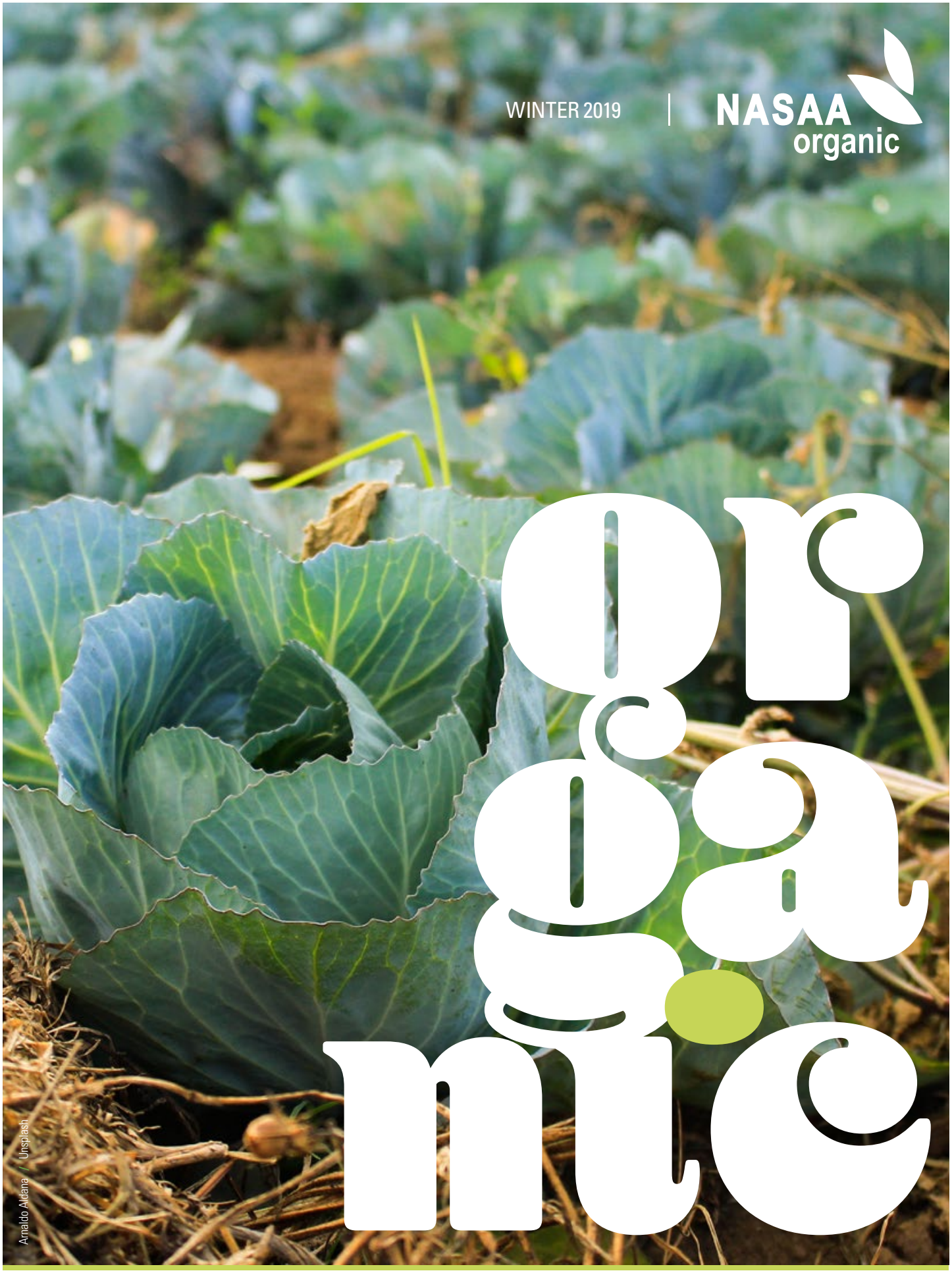

WINTER 2019 | NASAA organic

organic

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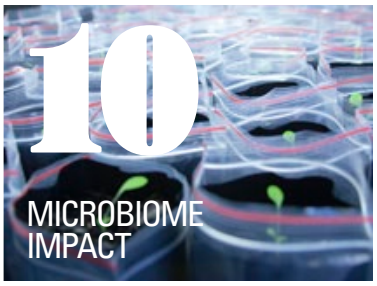
ORGANIC INSIGHTS

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN MADE CERTIFIED ORGANIC

BELLAMY'S ORGANIC



BUILDING A STRONGER ORGANIC COMMUNITY

Mark Gower
/ General Manager

I find it rewarding talking with farmers and gardeners who have soil health, biodiversity and sustainability at the forefront of their production systems.

This simple philosophy resonates with NASAA's commitment to good stewardship and long-term environmental health.

Being a grassroots industry, one of NASAA's major priorities is to help build the organic community and enable us to all grow.

We know that many people, be they Certified Organic, Biodynamic, Sustainable, PGS (participatory guarantee systems), students or just interested gardeners can benefit greatly from opportunities to meet and exchange ideas and knowledge with others in the sector.

NASAA's Into Organics field days continue to be a highly successful way to achieve this. They are going from strength to strength, with more than 30 people attending the most recent Tasmanian field day, set across three farms.

The field days would not be possible without local producers opening their gates and being willing to share their experiences with the wider community. We cannot thank them enough for their hospitality and contribution.

The benefits of linking with other people in the organic community are:

Knowledge: Joining the organic community gives you the chance to learn from a diverse group, garnering the wisdom of others and giving back to the community by helping each other out along the way.

Connections: Joining the community helps you to improve your network and find mutually positive opportunities, like learning about an alternate way of controlling unwanted plant species or a new avenue to sell your product.

Inspiration: By nature, communities contain a range of opinions, ideas and knowledge. The organic community can challenge you to think creatively and reconsider what you know.

Learning: A lack of knowledge or skills in a certain area may prevent you from achieving your goals. Communities provide another avenue for you to find people with complementary expertise, experience and skills.

Support: Having a community to rely on means that you are surrounded by people who are experiencing similar things as you. Being able to talk about your challenges with like-minded people can make things easier.

Something Bigger than the Sum of the Parts: Research shows that having a connection to a wider community makes us happier and healthier. We know that building the organic community makes us all stronger, so creating unity in the organic industry is one of NASAA's prime objectives.

We will continue to look for new opportunities for you to connect with others in the organic community, and will continue to keep you informed about NASAA's active role in building a better, more united organic community in Australia.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Organic Insights.

Kyle Ellefson / Unsplash

the global young organics movement

A CONVERSATION WITH JULIA LERNOUD

Julia Lernoud is deeply entrenched in the world of organics; working in the Department of International Cooperation, at FiBL – one of the world's leading research and information centres for organic agriculture, based in Frick, Switzerland – in addition to sitting on the Board of IFOAM – Organics international, the only international umbrella organisation for the organic world.

Her passion for organics was present throughout her childhood.

'I grew up in a family where organic was the norm. We had an organic farm and a small organic home-delivery scheme. I understood from childhood that organic is not only food but the whole concept: respect for the environment, nature, people, the whole web of life.'

The IFOAM Board is a passion project she undertakes in addition to her work at FiBL.

'I see IFOAM – Organics International as much more than an organisation with members around the world. For me, it is the platform for the organic movement, a movement trying to create a better life not only for us but the whole of the planet'.

Being the youngest member of the board, Julia strongly advocates for the youth perspective, and encourages youth participation. One of the key projects that is being undertaken at the moment is a IFOAM Youth Survey. Its purpose is to gather information and ideas from throughout the IFOAM network and amongst like-minded organisations, in order to develop recommendations on how IFOAM can increase youth engagement and provide more tools and opportunities to young people.

Another exciting development currently underway, Julia explains, is the development of the Global Organic Youth Forum.

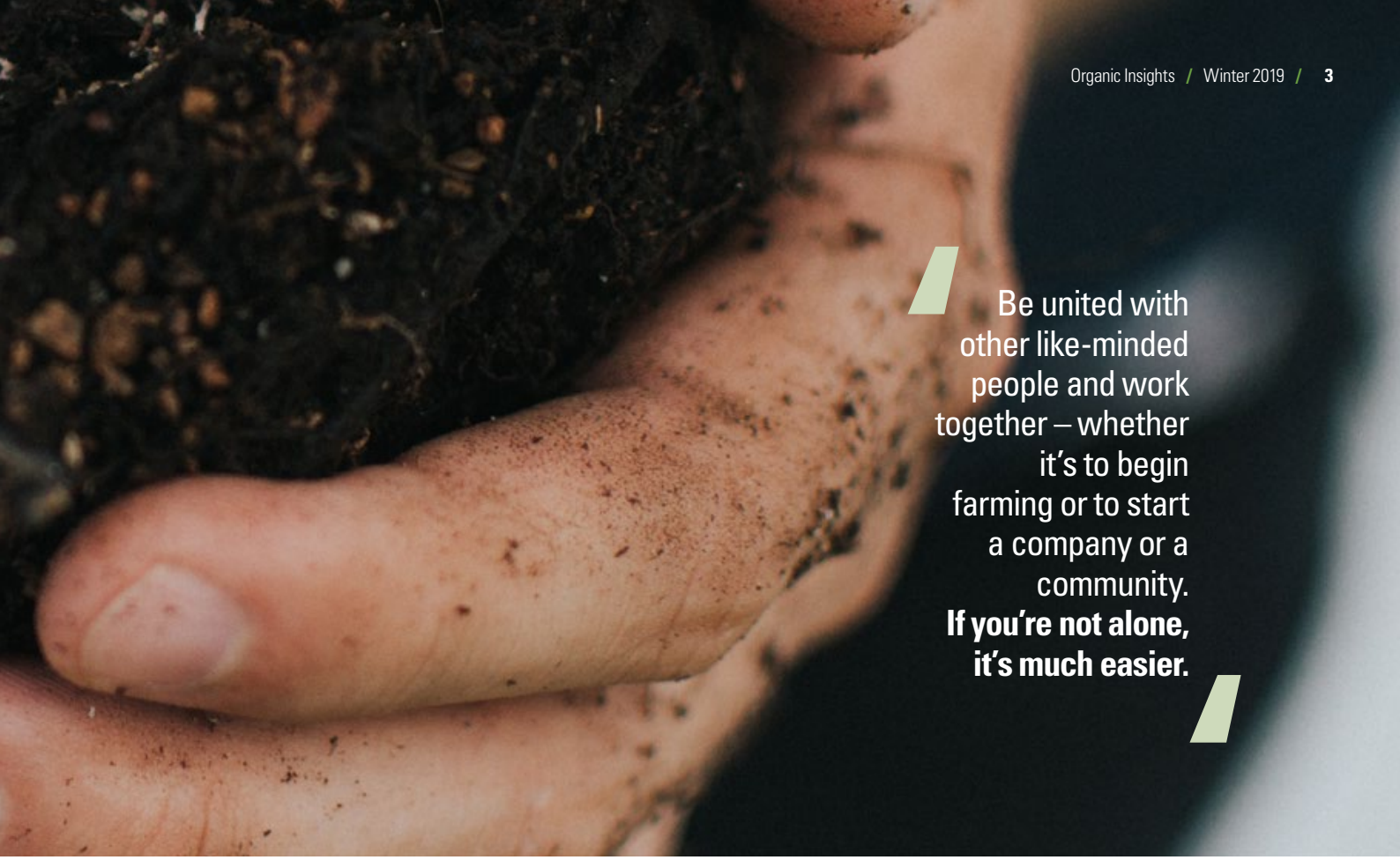
'IFOAM Asia has been working for about 5 years in Asian Youth Organic Forum – a great initiative that we want to now take global. It gathers excellent young entrepreneurs from different fields; from farmers, to traders, to politicians working for the development of organic agriculture, and trains them in basic knowledge on organic farming ...The idea is they take their knowledge back home and spread it through their networks in their own countries.'

The benefit is that the skills and knowledge are taken back and spread throughout individual communities across the world.

'Once you have everybody on board, they really will take it back home, it's not something that is imposed'.

Julia advocates strongly for young people to have a voice when it comes to policies that will affect future generations.

'I would like to see that young people have a place in decision making. I think with climate change and the future crisis we face; we really need the people who will live in that future



to have a voice and have room to design that future society and future systems.'

She also points out that it's not only about youth; young people can learn a great deal from older generations and there needs to be balance in the conversation.

'I would like to see a good conversation flow so that none of the different generations take over, but that there is a dialogue between all of them.'

She raises a pressing issue facing young people in this industry; which is the exodus of many young people from farming.

'I would like to see more farmers being proud of being farmers. One issue we have is that young people are leaving the farms is due to lack of good income... and they are not proud of being a farmer for (that reason). We are losing farmers all around the world and we need them.'

For young people with an interest in organics and wanting to know where to start, Julia recommends getting your hands in the soil.

'You can start with your own balcony and have the experience of harvesting your own tomatoes and your fresh basil. I think that is a first step.... It really is a game changer. We buy things from the supermarket, but we don't know where they come from.'

Building community and engaging in communication are also key to making change happen.

'Try to gather with other young people to see where to access good food, clothes and resources ...discuss the issues, be honest about how the system is working, and try to be conscious consumers.'

'Be united with other like-minded people and work together – whether it's to begin farming or to start a company or a community. If you're not alone, it's much easier.'

For young people in Australasia and Oceania, physical distance can make it difficult to be involved with the rest of the organic movements across the globe.

'Oceania is quite far away from the rest, so it makes it important to be connected and not be too inward looking. At the same time, I would encourage them to stay connected within their own communities. Get to know the youth in their communities, country and neighbouring countries and try to really build networks and platforms to exchange information.'

She also highlights the importance of valuing the rich indigenous methods in our own countries and finding a balance between these and modern methods.

'Stay connected to the world and inside, and also value the knowledge within your own local community.'

She highlights that the time for action is now, and that we should approach it with enthusiasm, curiosity and without fear.

'I would encourage young people to get to know each other, not be afraid, try to learn from the older generations. Be bold, go outside and stay connected.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE CURRICULUM FOR SCHOOLS

Kate Spry, a Tamworth teacher and farmer, has recently launched 'The Soil Story: The Road to Regenerative Agriculture' – the very first regenerative agriculture curriculum unit for Australian schools.

Kate Spry was raised on a sheep and wheat farm in Central Western NSW. Having been exposed to conventional farming methods growing up, she and her husband Matt used these same conventional methods on their own farm in Tamworth. That was until the declining state of their land prompted Kate to search for alternatives.

'I can clearly remember looking at the paddocks one day thinking that something isn't right here – the landscape just looked lifeless. We were sowing rotational summer and winter monocrops, which weren't responding like they should have. While I wasn't entirely sure what was going on, I remember thinking that it looked like we were killing the soil. I now know that we were – with the set-stocking methods, over-grazing and years of heavy fertiliser/chemical use'.

Searching for a solution, Kate attended a local Landcare day.

After listening to a talk by Colin Seis, an expert farmer and winner of the *2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award*, Kate was inspired to look at her soil through different eyes and find ways to enrich it naturally.

'From that day I became very interested in the soil, and I set up a carbon testing benchmark group with some local land holders, coupled with a dung beetle project'.

The idea to develop a school curriculum came about while she was teaching at a local school.

'Early last year I was teaching a science unit on climate change, which stated something to the effect of "if we eliminated cattle from our environment, we would significantly reduce the methane emissions issue." I remember thinking, that's not quite right! Cattle can actually form a part of the solution in a planned, holistic grazing management system, through soil carbon sequestration- the process of capturing and storing atmospheric *carbon* dioxide'.

From there, Kate then started writing a regenerative agriculture unit as part of a leadership program project. Through this she connected with an American organisation, Kiss the Ground, who had an existing regenerative agriculture curriculum unit. She put forward the idea of 'Australianising' their unit and, with their approval, spent the next 6 months researching and modifying it. Charlie Arnott, a regenerative farmer from Boorowa, NSW also contributed to the unit, along with other regenerative farmers – 'It was very much a collaborative venture!' The curriculum unit was launched in February of this year at the inaugural National Regenerative Agriculture Day.

The unit is designed for school children in years 3 through to 8 (stages 2 – 5), and spans all key learning areas.

'The Soil Story curriculum aims to get students thinking about the connection and process between healthy soils and healthy humans'.

> Coming from a specialised Agricultural school, to working within the Distance Education realm, I foresee this unit of work encapsulating a range of KLA's (Key Learning Areas). The soil story unit allows for integration of a range of pursuits, and enables students to explore the primary understanding of the vital linkage between healthy soils and healthy humans. Units of work like this, showcase an informative and useable format to take the thinking out of programming, and allow our future generation of leaders to explore the fundamentals of life, and the key to a healthy environment in an Australian context!

Kylie Dawson / Bachelor Applied Science, Diploma Education, Agricultural Teacher, VET Teacher, Transition Advisor Stage 5, DSODE

For more information on The Soil Story: The Road to Regenerative Agriculture' Unit

CLICK HERE

The unit is being taught for the first time this semester and Kate is receiving great feedback already.

'It has been well received thus far. Following the article by ABC Rural reporter, Olivia Ralph, I was inundated with calls and messages from teachers across different states and School of the Air parents, right through to interested overseas parties. I am still receiving enquiries about the unit. I've spoken to various teachers who are endeavouring to incorporate it into their school curriculum. Overall, it's been a really positive response'.

As to why the unit has struck a chord at this particular point in time, Kate feels that the current state of human and environmental health is prompting people to take a closer look at how food is produced – to make healthier choices. The new 2040 documentary is also an excellent example of this, and she urges as many students and teachers as possible to see the film!

There is an added upside to adopting regenerative agricultural methods, in the form of significant cost-savings.

'If I take (for example) what we were doing in a full conventional farming system; year in, year out spraying-out crops from summer to winter rotations and high chemical and synthetic fertiliser application, it became quite a costly venture. On the animal health front, since converting to regenerative practices, we haven't needed the amount of drench etc. that we used in a full conventional farming production system a few years back. We have experienced a 50% reduction in production costs just from moving to a more regenerative approach. It has been quite beneficial from an economical and environmental standpoint!'

Kate stresses the importance of prioritising regenerative practices over sustainability.

'Rather than talking about sustainability, which is spoken about in the current school system, let's talk about regenerative practices that rejuvenate and rehabilitate the soil by increasing biodiversity and restoring ecosystem processes.'

'The Soil Story: The Road to Regenerative Agriculture'

The five modules:

1. Earth systems
2. Photosynthesis
3. Healthy soils
4. Food and farming
5. Taking action

Omnia's Organics

Notes:

- **Khumate®** — Improves soil structure and water holding capacity; nutrient availability and increased soil biological activity.
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Notes:

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weed the ultimate gardener's guide to organic weed control

FOR 25 YEARS TIM MARSHALL HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC INDUSTRY, AS A WRITER, TRAINER, CONSULTANT AND CO-FOUNDER OF NASAA

WE ASK TIM A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT **WEED: THE ULTIMATE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO ORGANIC WEED CONTROL**

Q Tell us about your background in the organics industry.

I joined the Soil Association of South Australia Inc. in the 1970's and quickly became the Secretary. SASA held the first scientific conference on organic farming in 1984, at which Sandy Fritz ran a workshop that directly led to the formation of NASAA in 1986 and the NASAA certification scheme in 1987. I was the first Chairperson of NASAA and remained on the Board in various roles until 1999.

/ Continued from previous page

I worked for IFOAM from 2001–2003 and started TM Organics Pty Ltd in 2003. TMO P/L is no longer in business, but I still do similar training and consulting work as a sole trader.

Current roles are; I am a member of the National Organic Standards Committee, Chair of an organic charity for research and education and Chair of the newly formed Organic Consumers Association of Australia (OCAA). I am also on the Board of the Soil and Health Library.

Q What inspired you to write this book?

I would have liked to write books for farmers, but my publisher, ABC Gardening Australia (the ABC imprint is now published by Harper Collins), offered me the opportunity to write more gardening books. Therefore, I chose to write a book that contained many of the principles of organic growing, so that it could be read by the widest possible audience.

Although I am a great collector and reader of old organic literature, I feel that even now, many organic writers look 'back' to other writers for inspiration and do not integrate new science enough. In my books I want to give reasons rather than simply instructions and if new knowledge can deliver, then I am happy to include that.

For example, some books would say that you cannot compost or mulch with coloured paper. That instruction is forty years out of date. It came from an era when printers ink was made from lead and Cobalt yellow or Cadmium blue inks were made from heavy metals. These days all inks are made from vegetable dues, chiefly soya.

Q Why is this book a useful resource?

Weed: The Ultimate Gardener's Guide to Organic Weed Control gives a thorough rundown on a wide range of techniques, applicable at every scale. I hope it encourages readers to adopt a certain approach or viewpoint that will allow them to understand the 'why', so that they can then reason their way through new problems (specifically weed species that I have not had room to specifically address).

Q What are some key take-aways from the book?

I would like to think that all my books encourage cultivation of observation skills. With this skill, growers can understand the cause of pest and weed problems and control them while they are small, and before they become intractable. They might understand the effect of soil type, inputs and management decisions on weeds and pests and diseases. They may also understand that new technology such as robotics and precision farming can be entirely appropriate for organic growing. However, if the scale of operation calls for hand hoeing, then there is still great choice of design and as with all tools, a correct method of use.

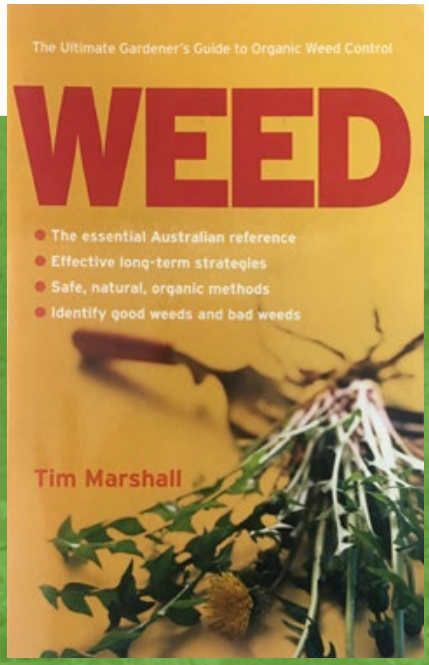
I like to see all organic growers walking across their land, hoe (or spade or other appropriate tool) in hand, observing the effects of soil, topography and previous management decisions.

Q You have written a number of other books. Can you tell us a bit about them?

Compost: The Ultimate Organic Guide to Recycling Your Garden is about compost, vermiculture, green manures, cover crops, rotations and related methods.

Bug: The Ultimate Gardener's Guide to Organic Pest Control is about organic control of pests and diseases.

The New Organic Gardener is an excellent general organic gardening book (now out of print, but many libraries have it).



My most recent book *Dung Down Under: Dung Beetles for Australia* is co-authored with leading world dung beetle expert, Bernard Doube. I have also published chapters in seven or eight other books and many training manuals.

Q Do you have plans to write anything else in the near future?

Dung Down Under was self-published. Sadly, it is much harder to get books published these days, and even though I have successful and highly regarded books, I am unlikely to get the same excellent contract that I have for the first four solo books. I would like to publish more gardening books, but they will probably be self-published. I am very happy with the content and visual appeal of *Dung Down Under,* but it is more work.

I do write for magazines such as *ABC Organic Gardener* and the *Diggers Club* magazine, and I am pleased that *Acres Australia* newspaper is returning after a break of some years, in an online format, and I look forward to writing many stories for *Acres*.

I have started preliminary work on something that may end up as a biography, or possibly as a history of organic certification, and I would like to write the ultimate organic guide to how to convert to organic. The OCAA website and Facebook page will be available soon and will provide me with a platform to write about the advantages of organic food and farming, for health, environment and for supporting family farmers.

tim's top 10 tips for organic weed control

Excerpt from ***Weed: The Ultimate Gardener's Guide to Organic Weed Control***

1. Always use quarantine and hygiene practices to keep the garden free of new weeds.
2. Prevent existing weeds from seeding or spreading.
3. Work strategically and to a plan. Concentrate efforts on a smaller area – and achieve the best possible control before moving to the next area.
4. Work from an edge. Start with the area of least infestation and move towards the area of greater density.
5. Fill spaces created by weed control with seeds, plants or mulch.
6. Regular and consistent beats spasmodic every time. Even if you can only manage 10 minutes per day, you will gradually reclaim more land if you work efficiently from an edge.
7. Hand weeding is the most accurate way to control weeds because it is effective at completely removing weeds. It therefore is the most time-efficient method in the long run.
8. Work out which weeds you can work with and which ones must be eradicated. Work on weeds that you don't want as the main priority.
9. Now is the best time to carry out weed control. If you see a weed you don't want, pull or dig it out or pull off the seed heads.
10. Be responsible for your weeds. Don't cause problems for neighbours or allow weeds to spread to bushland.

Sharon McCutcheon / Unsplash

microbiome impact

Images / Terragen Biotech

NEW RESEARCH INTO THE MICROBIOME HELPS MINIMISE USE OF CHEMICALS AND ANTIBIOTICS IN AGRICULTURE

NASAA talks with Martin Soust, PhD, Director of Animal Health and Nutrition at Terragen Biotech about the important role that microbes play in agriculture, and the future of microbiome research.

Terragen Biotech is an Australian research and development company that uses microbes to improve agriculture. By harnessing the power of the natural world they aim to reduce reliance on chemicals and antibiotics and create a new way to approach the challenges of farming, which benefits farmers, consumers and the environment.

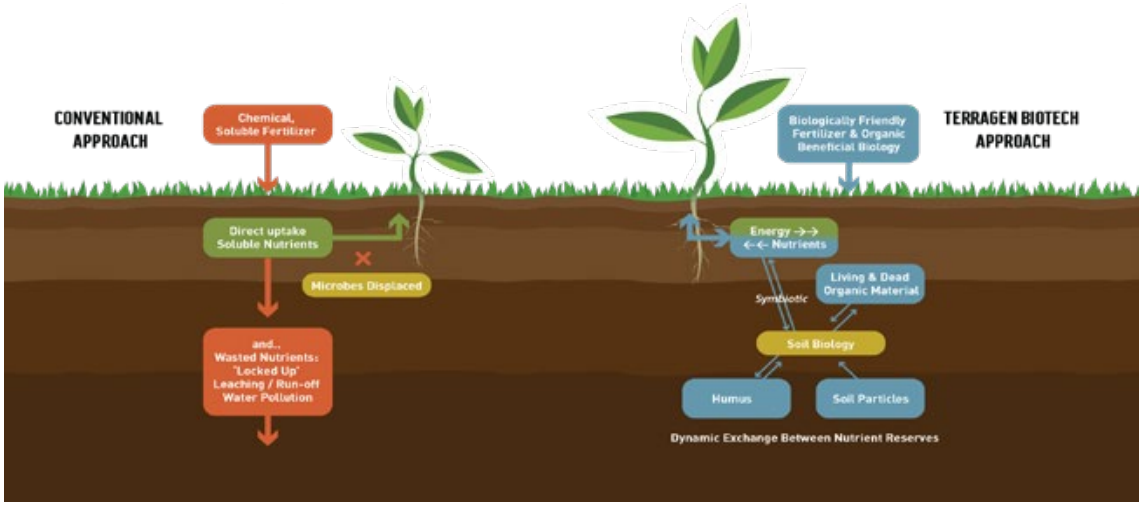
Why focus on biologicals?

The way that farming has been done for the past century is beginning to show its limits. Soils are being degraded, fields require more and more chemical fertiliser to maintain their output, and antibiotic resistance in livestock continues to rise. At the same time, our understanding of microbiomes and their potential to revolutionise farming is just entering mainstream awareness.

Organic and chemical-free products have found a premium position in the market. Farmers, governments and the public are unified in their desire for high-quality, natural products that are produced safely and sustainably. Biological products are some of the most important solutions to the most difficult problems facing farmers today.

Why are microbes important to plant and animal health?

Soils are thriving with life. They contain a diversity of microscopic bacteria, fungi, viruses and other organisms. A single handful of soil



Images / Terragen Biotech

can contain tens of thousands of different species and these microbes interact and form complex networks. They communicate with one another using chemicals and they work together to break down complex organic materials, including dead plants and animals. They often work in teams to complete biochemical processes, such as transforming nitrogen from an inert gas to plant-usable forms, and recycling it from dead plant materials back into dissolved forms.

In healthy soils, organic matter is protected from decomposition inside clumps of soil. Breaking open these clumps unlocks their carbon and allows microbes and soil fauna to attack it. This creates a temporary feast for soil microbes, but eventually they deplete their food supply and die off. Without a healthy microbial community, nutrients are no longer recycled, opportunistic pests can invade and farmers rely increasingly on chemicals to replace biological soil functions.

Direct fed microbials are becoming increasingly popular as one of the alternatives to Antibiotic Growth Promoters (AGP). The most important objectives for using microbials in animal feed are to maintain and improve the performance (productivity and growth) of the animal and prevent and control enteric pathogens. In the context of the growing concern with the sub-therapeutic use of AGP in animal feed and greater appreciation of the role of the microbial ecology of the gastro-intestinal tract in determining animal productivity, increasing numbers of probiotic products are being developed and used in animal nutrition.

In animals a layer of microbes – up to ten microbes to each cell – create a protective barrier against other microbes. A very complex communication occurs between the host cells and the microbes including providing absorption for vitamins and digestion for food. Microbes fight autoimmune diseases, boost the immune system, and help maintain proper weight and decrease effects of stress. Microbes on the skin protect through stimulating immune function. Gut microbes alter genes in the brain. Signals from beneficial microbes allow macrophages to have a better response to interferon, which are signals released when there are dangerous viruses, bacteria and cancer cells.

Without these positive microbes scavenger cells would have a greatly decreased ability to protect against these dangerous microbes.

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How can organic and conventional farmers benefit from the use of microbes?

Today farming faces numerous challenges. Between increasing levels of pest and disease resistance, the declining effectiveness of conventional fertilisers and a multitude of detrimental effects on the environment, crop growers are seeking new solutions. Farmers must also face rising resistance to antibiotics in production animals and the associated effects on human health. Overall, it's clear that a new approach is necessary if farming is to be sustainable in the decades to come.

Inspired to find new and sustainable solutions to these challenges, Terragen Biotech is pioneering a new approach to natural microbial products which will help farmers unlock more productivity and reduce their reliance on chemical-based fertilisers, pesticides and antibiotics.

What is the future of microbiome research?

Scientists will be exploiting big data research at one end of the scale, and performing DNA testing at the other end of the scale. There will be substantial efforts made to categorise the microbial species that make up a microbiome, whether it is the microbiome of the soil or the microbiome of the gut of an animal. Some scientists will be investigating how bacterial communities interact and coexist. There will be efforts made to look at how a single microbe contributes to the microbiome. There will be testing for safety and efficacy of direct fed microbials in both production animals and companion animals. There will also be studies examining the positive and negative effects of amendments made to the microbiome of interest.

For more information: www.terragen.com.au

check the label

CERTIFIED ORGANIC LABELLING EXPLAINED

In Australia, the term 'organic' is unregulated. This means that without a Certified Organic label, consumers can't be sure that a product is truly organic. Product labelling is what differentiates Certified Organic consumer products and it is important that consumers are aware which labels to look for.

An operator's certification number – written in conjunction with the Certified Organic label – can be searched on the website of the certifying organisation, such as NASAA Certified Organic (NCO), to determine if the product is certified and who produced the product.

The spring leaf NASAA label is used by NCO operators to provide the verification that a product has been produced using nationally and internationally-recognised organic principles and production methods.

At present there are three NASAA labels in use:

Original spring leaf NASAA Organic label

Phasing out by early 2021

New look spring leaf NASAA Organic label

Available from 2019

OTHER ORGANIC CERTIFIERS IN AUSTRALIA

In Addition to NASAA Certified Organic, there are five other certification bodies in Australia who are approved by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture to certify to the National Standard for Organic & Biodynamic Production.

CERTIFIERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Internationally, organic labels are also issued by organic certification bodies that operate in each country. You will often find these on certified organic products imported into Australia from countries like the USA, Japan and the EU. Some examples are listed here.

Ukraine | European Union | France | Germany | Italy | Netherlands

Switzerland | Great Britain | USA | Japan

To learn more about the NASAA label, visit the NASAA Certified Organic website and remember to check the label when you buy organic!

working co-operatively

HARCOURT FARMING COUPLE **KATIE & HUGH FINLAY** LEASE OUT THEIR ESTABLISHED, ORGANIC LAND, SECURING A SUCCESSION PLAN AND ALLOWING A NEW GENERATION TO ENTER THE ORGANIC FARMING INDUSTRY

After considering retirement but not wanting to sell their land, Katie and Hugh Finlay have brought on four farm enterprises under the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-operative. The co-op is comprised of a market garden, micro-dairy, orchardist, and fruit tree nursery, in addition to Grow Great Fruit, Katie and Hugh's on-line education business. NASAA Organic talks to Katie Finlay about the road to organic, the co-op as a test-model, and what the future may hold.

When did you start farming and what were your reasons behind choosing this career?

A I grew up on the farm, one of four sisters, but we were encouraged to get a university education, so I left to go to Melbourne and go to uni after high school, and then stayed in Melbourne. In my mid-30s I moved back to central Victoria (by then I had a science degree, a few kids and had run a number of small businesses), and not long after that my Dad announced to the family that he had decided to sell up. It was then that my inner farmer woke up! With Dad's blessing I moved back home and started learning how to be an orchardist. Meanwhile Hugh had been working as a writer for Lonely Planet for a couple of decades but was ready for a change of careers, so not long after he joined me on the steep learning curve to becoming an orchardist.

When did you transition to certified organic farming and what inspired you to make this change?

A We were uncomfortable using chemicals right from the beginning, though we appreciated learning how to farm the way Dad had farmed very successfully his whole life. This gave us a really good grounding in professional fruit growing and a solid introduction to the industry.

As time went on, it was a combination of finding out more about the chemicals we were using and being exposed to some great teachers that started opening our eyes to the possibility of becoming organic.

We kept slowly heading down that path, using less chemicals and trying new things for a few years, but it wasn't until we found a great mentor in our neighbour Ross Forrester – a certified organic orchardist at the time who lived nearby – that we managed to overcome the last of the barriers and we were able to make the leap and apply for certification in 2004, becoming fully certified in 2008.

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When and why did you transition to the co-op arrangement?

A We've farmed for 20 years, through the millennial drought, the big floods of 2011/2012, bird plagues, insect plagues and massive disease outbreaks. This was due to a number of factors – environmental things that were out of our control, our inexperience as we learned how to become good orchardists, and factors to do with converting to organics – mainly because we underestimated how much of an impact it would have on production to give up using fertilisers before we'd improved the soil to the point where we had a thriving natural fertility system. We thought we might be beaten after the floods which led to massive tree loss within a 3 month period, but instead we got some awesome assistance to review our situation and decided to refinance, re-plant the orchards, and invest in infrastructure. By 2017 we'd mostly finished the re-planting program and the orchards were starting to hit maturity, so we were starting to feel like we were getting ahead. However, by that point we were pretty tired, and when Hugh turned 60 we started seriously considering our succession options.

/ Katie and Hugh Finlay

None of our kids want to come home on the farm (yet ...) so we toyed with the idea of selling up, but then realised we weren't quite 'done', and didn't want to move away from the farm.

We'd been approached a couple of years before by Mel and Sas (Gung Hoe Growers) to ask us if they could set up their market garden on our farm, and that partnership had gone pretty well, so the idea formed to set up a co-op. Next we were approached by Tess (Sellar Farmhouse Creamery), who was looking for a property to start her micro-dairy, and then we advertised for someone to lease the orchard, and found Ant Wilson (who has rebranded the orchard as Tellurian Fruit Gardens).

Altogether the Co-op has 5 members. Since they first started their market garden Gung Hoe Growers have continued to grow their business, and are looking to double in size again this year.

See '5 minutes with Mel Willard' on page 18, to read more about Gung Hoe Growers.

Tess is gradually building her herd of mainly Jersey cows, and has almost finished building her on-farm factory, hoping to be ready to sell her milk, yoghurt, butter and cream to the public in the next few months. After spending a year interning with Hugh and I, and before taking over the lease of the orchard, Ant hit the ground running. He had a successful first season, with plans to further streamline and value-add to his business.

The 4th member of the Co-op is Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, a partnership between myself and Sas, under the mentorship and tutelage of my Dad Merv Carr, which has taken the existing on-farm nursery and expanded it to a commercial nursery specialising in heritage fruit trees.

The 5th member is our (Katie and Hugh's) on-line organic fruit growing teaching business, called Grow Great Fruit. We started teaching organic fruit growing in 2013 after realising that as a result of problem-solving for so many years in their organic orchard, we had developed a complete fruit-growing system that could be easily used to help home fruit growers get more confidence and skills to grow their own fruit. The business has grown to include an Australia-wide membership program and a suite of more than 50 online short courses, with plans to expand into the northern hemisphere later this year.

To find out more, visit Katie and Hugh's farm website

CLICK HERE

and the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-Operative Facebook page

CLICK HERE

How does the setup work, e.g. does each producer run their own business?

A We accessed some funding through the Australian Government Farming Together program to consider various models for how the co-op might work, and chose the model we're using after lots of consideration. We have a lease with each of the individual businesses, all of which are very similar but a bit different, and stipulate things like the land area and use, what infrastructure is included, lease costs, on-costs etc. Then all the lessees, together with Hugh and I, have formed the Harcourt Organic Farming Co-op, which is a non-distributing co-op. We chose this model because as the land-owners we needed to retain rights and responsibilities for the property, so we act as landlords and have responsibility for providing particular things such as access, fencing and irrigation infrastructure, for example.

We established the co-op as a legal entity separate to the leases as the place where we all come together as equals with the aim of providing benefits for members. Within the co-op we look for opportunities to save our members money, improve productivity, share resources, do co-marketing, co-branding, and provide a supportive, collaborative community peer group. One of the best examples so far is our success with achieving our goal of joint organic certification. We were absolutely delighted that NASAA could see the potential benefits of our new model, and were willing to try something new by granting our members access to the certification system under our mentorship and existing cert number, #3683. We see many more potential opportunities of working together to achieve our collective goal of making the farm as productive and profitable as possible.

The cost of land can be a significant barrier to entry for younger farmers. Do you see this arrangement as a potential solution that other retiring farmers may be able to replicate?

A One of our goals as a co-op is to prove whether this model works, and if we can show that it does, then to share our knowledge to help others start similar co-ops. Our model solves two problems – ageing farmers like us needing a succession plan, and young farmers needing access to land. We're not aware of any other co-ops operating in quite the same way, though there are lots of people in this space trying to solve these problems at the moment.

We'd be very happy to hear from anyone else who might be doing the same thing, so we can share the journey and learn from each other's mistakes.

What are the key wins that come out of this arrangement?

A The key wins so far are that we've been able to keep living on the property without having to actively farm any more, but also in the knowledge that the farm continues to be used to produce organic food, and in fact is becoming more productive than we would have been able to achieve by ourselves. The key wins for our lessees is that they've been able to establish their farming businesses in a secure environment without going into debt to buy land. There are also other wins – together we're able to provide a larger and more meaningful offering of locally produced food for our community, and we're providing real examples of innovation in the regenerative farming space.

Are you looking for more co-op members?

A Yes, we reckon we can fit another 2 or 3 farmers into the mix. The stipulation is that their business idea must be viable, it must be compatible with existing businesses, and it must add value to the whole farm. Plus, it has to be the right person who shares our values and will fit well into our community. Some of the ideas we've had are edible natives, herbs, seedlings, chickens or other poultry, bees, or berries – but we're open to any ideas.

What does the future look like for yourself and Hugh?

A We're just one year into 9 year leases, so it's too early to say yet. At this stage we're focusing on helping our members to become viable businesses, working hard to finish building more infrastructure for the co-op members to use, and getting all the jobs done around the farm that we didn't have time for when we running the orchard. That's all going to keep us pretty busy for the next few years!

5 minutes with Mel Willard

GUNG HOE GROWERS MEMBER OF HARCOURT ORGANIC FARMING CO-OP

Mel Willard from Gung Hoe Growers talks with NASAA about working in the co-op and provides some advice for other young organic farmers.

Q What inspired you to become organic farmers?

We've never grown with chemicals because we believe nutrition comes from the soil that it's grown in, and we focus a lot of building soil health. And that involves not using chemicals

Q What is the advantage of joining a co-op like this?

The advantage of joining this co-op is that we would never be able to buy land, so this is what enabled us to actually be producers. Plus, it's the community – having the other co-op members around is a really nice working environment.

Q What is your advice to the other young farmers?

It's less stressful if you do have a bit of capital saved up, so that you can invest in systems and infrastructure that work. It's also worth visiting similar farms that do what you want to do and talking to the farmers, so you have a lot of different ideas, see a lot of different things and you can pick and choose from there what you want to implement. People have tried things before, so you are better off gleaning from their experience rather than learning the hard way all the time.

Q What do you see as some important issues in this context?

Organic in its full sense is all about looking after your farm, land and water. You're a custodian and a steward, therefore you've really got to look after that and build it. Some people think of organic as just not having chemicals, but I believe it needs to be deeper than that.

Also, we need more young farmers. There's a big skills gap in Australia for organic, regenerative, and small scale farmers. The current food system doesn't support that kind of farming enough, which means the skills aren't being taught.

Contact Gung Hoe Growers at:
Email gunghoegrowers@gmail.com
Instagram @gunghoegrowers

GRANTS FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FARMING AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

For fifteen years, Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) has been developing female leadership and supporting the presence of women in business and community leadership roles.

Based on a simple truth, that women still represent an enormously under-utilised national resource, WLA is dedicated to developing female leaders and supporting the increased presence of women in business and community leadership roles.

Funding has just been released to support the development of female leaders across Australia's agriculture sector. The initiative is providing women with grants of between $3,000 and $7,000 to enable participation in one of three programs that cover such things as Presence and Presentation Skills, Leading Innovation and Change, and Emotional Intelligence and Conflict.

The grants are allocated with the specific intent of providing powerful and effective development opportunities for women within the farming and agriculture sector.

Please note: All scholarships are partial fee-support scholarships, which cover a percentage of the total program fee and will be awarded based on a set of selection criteria being met. Should you wish to discuss the initiative in more detail please contact Alistair Young at the office of the National Industry Scholarship Program, Women and Leadership Australia on 03 9270 9032 or via email at ayoung@wla.edu.au.

Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form prior to 13 September 2019

www.wla.edu.au/farmingagriculture

IS THE BELIEF IN THE BENEFITS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOUNDED?

Glenn Schaube / NASAA Chair

Climate change, air and ground water pollution, dwindling potable water supplies, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity are the challenges of our generation.

This stands alongside burgeoning world population that seem to compel industrial agriculture to persist along the path of monoculture production, artificially supported by chemical and genetic engineering.

Yet increasingly, consumers seem to express a growing distrust in these systems, with demand for organic food reportedly growing at a rate of around 15% per year and being driven by two primary motivators – health and environmental benefits.

Major supermarket chains have moved to capitalise on growing demand for food that reportedly promotes human health and is good for the environment, even creating their own organic and health food brands.

Irrespective of the Certifier or organic label involved, research shows that people are motivated to buy certified organic food because of a belief in the health benefits to the environment, as well as access, price, control over food choices, food safety; and social and socio-economic status (Nandi et al 2016, Anisimov T 2016).

People all over the world buy certified organic produce because it says 'Certified Organic' and represents a credible internationally recognised quality assurance program (Kiss M., Kun A. 2015). Each purchase is a leap of faith in the Certified Organic label representing clean food produced in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner.

But is organic food actually better for you?

Does producing food using production systems designed to mimic ecological processes in order to sustain the health of soils, the creatures within the system and the farm ecosystem actually translate to a better environment and healthier food?

Does the avoidance of synthetic pesticides, fertilisers, routine use of antibiotics or growth hormones, irradiation and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have real benefits?

While there is still a lot of work to be done, a growing body of evidence is leading many researchers to conclude that foods produced organically have benefits for human health and environment.

Health

Further research is required to determine the underlying factors involved i.e. lifestyle, but a 2018 French study involving nearly 69,000 participants who reported on their dietary intake, concluded that a higher intake of organic food was associated with a reduced risk of cancer of the breast, skin, prostrate, lymph and colon.

While the two studies are not linked, in 2016 Nature Research Journal, published a study where researchers concluded that organic farming delivers equally or more nutritious foods that contain less or no pesticide residues and provide greater social benefits than their conventional counterparts (Source).

A 2014 meta-analyses of 343 peer-reviewed publications found that concentrations of a range of antioxidants such as polyphenolics were between 28% and 85% higher in organic crops and crop-based foods. The study also found that the frequency of pesticide residues was four times higher in conventional crops, and contained significantly higher concentrations of the toxic metal Cd, than Organic foods.

Researchers at Stanford University found that while there was no difference in the prevalence of bacteria on organic food or conventional food, the risk of bacteria resistant to three or more antibiotics was 33% higher in conventional than in organic chicken and pork.

Environment

The 2019 Thünen Institute Published Study on the Value of Organic Farming. The study analysed and evaluated 528 studies which resulted in 2816 comparative pairs.

Their work found that across water protection, soil fertility, biodiversity, climate protection, climate adaptation and resource efficiency, organic management was shown to be more advantageous than conventional management. In the area of animal welfare

as determined by management practices no significant differences were found.

Research from the Dalhousie University Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada demonstrate that the gap in measured output product between Certified Organic agriculture and conventional agriculture is closing rapidly and, in many cases, exceeding the productivity of conventional and GMO-dependent agriculture.

The Farming Systems Trial (FST)® at Rodale Institute is America's longest running side-by-side comparison of organic and conventional agriculture which began in 1981. Among the many advantages, it has found that organic farming systems:

- yields match conventional yields after a five-year transition
- outperforms conventional farming in years of drought by up to 40%
- earns 3–6 times greater profit for farmers
- leaches no toxic chemicals into waterways
- uses 45% less energy
- releases 40% fewer carbon emissions
- water volumes percolating through soil were 15–20% higher than the conventional systems
- systems are more profitable than conventional ones.

There is still much work to be done to quantify the extent which organic food production and consumption may affect human health or the environment.

I have found few studies, particular to Australia, that concern these central issues and while it is difficult to translate the benefits of organic agriculture found on a continent with a different climate, soils and ecosystems to Australia's, the growing body of research points to a positive future.

For this reason, it appears that organic agriculture may well be the future of clean sustainable food production in the same way that clean energy is the future of sustainable energy production.

rebuilding the dog fence

Credit / Summ. Creative Commons

SA DOG FENCE PROJECT REBUILDING HOPE IN STATE'S PASTORAL ZONE

The $25 million project to repair South Australia's ailing dog fence and restore pastoralists faith in their future is underway.

This collaborative effort by Federal and State governments and industry will rebuild about 1600km, more than two-thirds of SA's portion of the world's longest, continuous fence.

The State's Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone has started the ball rolling, appointing National Wild Dog Management Coordination Committee Chair and SA sheep producer, Geoff Power, as Chair of the SA Dog Fence Board to lead the project.

'We've started the preliminary work by creating an oversight committee which includes representatives from all four local dog fence boards responsible for sections of the fence,' Geoff said.

'Next step is to work out an operational

plan to ensure the fence is effective. A lot has changed in 100 years – some sections are now under a lot of pressure from camels and kangaroos that create breaks in the fence, letting wild dogs through. In these areas a 1.5m high fence just isn't enough.

'It's crucial the fence rebuild responds to our current pest animal problems, as well as supports best practice wild dog management.'

Geoff, whose farm 'Sambas' is 280km north of Adelaide, said the project's go-ahead has come as an enormous relief to producers.

'We've been campaigning heavily for this for the past three years,' he said. 'Last year, producers lost up to 20,000 sheep inside the fence to wild dogs.

'There's no doubt the ongoing drought is driving more dogs south and with the added pressure of camels and kangaroos on the fence, farming livestock in the pastoral zones has become very challenging.'

Geoff said fence repair work should begin during autumn 2020.

'This project is a great example of what government, the SA Dog Fence Board, industry and grass-roots working together can achieve and, I know I speak for a lot of other producers, when I say this project has created a lot of optimism for the future.'

NATIONAL WILD DOG ACTION PLAN

As Chair of the National Wild Dog Management Coordination Committee, Geoff works with government, producers, environmental committees, researchers and industry to help guide Australia's wild dog management policy framed by the National Wild Dog Action Plan.

National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Greg Mifsud, who helps implement the Plan, said producers inside the fence 'had been hammered by wild dogs, with the drought exacerbating an already very distressing situation'.

'While most Australians are unaffected by the dog fence, it has such a significant impact on the wellbeing of those families and communities in the pastoral zone, as well as offering a safe haven for our more vulnerable native species at risk of excessive predation.'

Greg said the project is the result of industry, government and natural resource management groups, and the SA Dog Fence Board, working together to find a solution to the challenge of upgrading sections of the fence.

'For years there has been insufficient budget to maintain this fence to a suitable standard, but by collaborating with the SA Dog Fence Board, stakeholders have secured its future,' he said.

'While most of the wild dog impacts are felt by sheep pastoralists in the state's north, the fence upgrade will offer significant protection to the sheep and wool industries further south.'

Key points

The $25 million SA Dog Fence repair project is underway with works scheduled to begin during autumn 2020.

About 1600km, more than two-thirds of SA's portion of the world's longest continuous fence, will be rebuilt.

Up to 20,000 sheep were killed by wild dogs inside the fence during 2018.

Project a collaboration between Federal and State Government, industry and natural resource management groups.

More information

National Wild Dog Action Plan

Information, tools and strategies for controlling pest animals

Exclusion fencing

Media contact:

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T: 0429 025 074
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Advertorial / Terragen Biotech

MYLO FEED SUPPLEMENT SHOWING ITS POTENTIAL ON COWS AND CALVES

The operation milks 100 cows year-round and calves three times per year. Milking cows will normally be fed Mylo through their water or applied directly onto the grain.

The use of a feed supplement has helped to achieve healthier cows and calves on the dairy property of Geoff Atkinson, at Howth, on the north-west coast of Tasmania.

Mr Atkinson said he was always interested in the role bacteria had to play in the health of animals and over many years conducted trials of different biological products.

In recent seasons he has used Mylo from Terragen Biotech, mixed with apple cider vinegar as a feed additive to his cows and calves.

"We soon observed a clear visual improvement in herd health, and this was supported by a notable drop in our bulk somatic cell count across the herd by 50,000 points," Mr Atkinson said.

"We are now between 95,000 and 98,000. We understand there are plenty of variables, but our cow fertility also seems to have improved over the same period."

/ Geoff Atkinson, of Howth, TAS, uses Mylo for healthier cows and calves.

The enterprise milks 100 cows all year round and calves three times per year.

Milking cows will normally receive Mylo through their water or it is squirted directly onto the grain.

Mr Atkinson said Mylo helped improve the overall herd health and as a result, appears to be helping the cows' ability to fight off illness.

The herd health benefits shown over many years include a low level of herd illness, reduced somatic cell counts and rising fertility rates.

Mr Atkinson said Mylo is an excellent option for calves and is added to the milk just after birth and utilised through to weaning.

He said the calves are strong, healthy and must be gaining weight better as they can be weaned at six weeks of age.

"We don't have any trouble at all with our calves," said Mr Atkinson.

Mylo is designed to improve the health and vitality of the young animals and enhance their growth for improved productivity in maturity.

Over the years Mr Atkinson has trialled different types of biological products on the property and said Mylo seemed an excellent combination of the right bacteria to help his cattle thrive and remain healthy.

"I've been through some ups and downs with different products but this one really works well. It has the right amount and type of bacteria to do the job," Mr Atkinson said.

The enterprise is fully organic and utilises biological products in both the animal health and pasture sides of the business.

MYLO®

- ✓ Advanced Biotechnology
- ✓ Quality Assured
- ✓ Australian Owned & Made

RECOMMENDED FOR USE ON ORGANIC FARMS

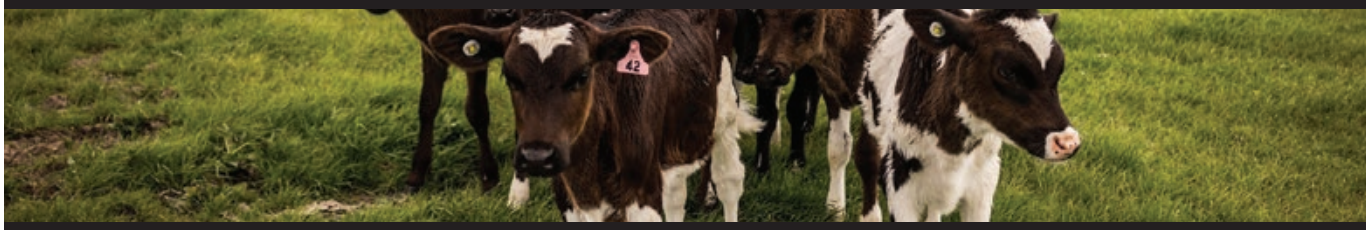
NASAA INPUT FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION Cert. No. 3835M

MICROBIAL LIVESTOCK FEED SUPPLEMENT

✓ Mylo® for healthier, heavier and earlier weaned calves.
✓ Mylo® to assist the health of your lactating cows.

Mylo® is liquid live microbial livestock feed supplement to aid in the digestive health of livestock.

- Increase beneficial microbes in the gastrointestinal tract.
- Higher feed conversion efficiency.
- Demonstrated 8.4% weight increase in University trials.
- Better growth, earlier weaning.
- Beneficial for Sheep, Beef and Horse Enterprises.
- Free of Antibiotics and hormones.
- No withholding period.
- May improve the health and wellbeing of livestock.



INDEPENDENT FIELD STUDY CALF LIVE WEIGHT

LIVE WEIGHT STUDY IN CALVES

Controlled Study - Independently Conducted by University of Queensland

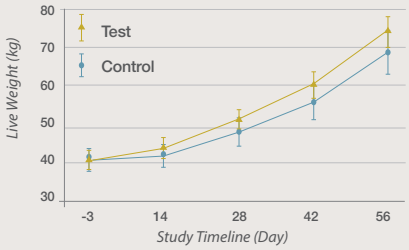
The University Of Queensland AUSTRALIA

Early stage development of livestock has a big impact on productivity in maturity.

Study Design

- 44 Calves at 1-2 weeks old split into two equal groups - treated / control.
- Individual pens.
- Mylo 10mL/day fed to calves in milk.
- Study duration 8 weeks (56 days).
- Animal measurements (body condition score, calf live weight, hip and heart girth measurements) were conducted and recorded fortnightly.
- Blood and faecal samples were collected.
- Tissue and organ samples were taken from 3 calves in each group after weaning.

Average fortnightly liveweights recorded over the study period



Results

- Average total feed intake did not differ between the Groups.
- Autopsies conducted on six animals with test group.
- Overall results mirrored Commercial farm testing with weaning occurring usually 7-10 days quicker.

Weaning Weight at 56 Days

	Average (kg)
Control	69.18 kg
Test	75.01 kg
Difference Test - Control	**5.83kg, 8.4%, (p=0.02)**

Autopsy Results	Test Group Average Weight (g)	Control Group Average Weight (g)	Difference
Duodenum with digesta	87g	33g	**54g, 163% (p <0.05)**
Abomasum without digesta	450g	390g	**60g, 15% (p=0.05)**
Reticulum without digesta	357g	257g	**100g, 39% (p=0.05)**

For more informations talk to your local representative:

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

SA **Adam Davies 0498 632 496** Qld **Andrew Wollen 0413 748 794**

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Terragen BIOTECH

OUT & ABOUT

SIXTH **ORGANIC FARMING INNOVATION AWARD** SUMMIT

Location: Amherst, Massachusetts, USA

Date: August 10, 2019

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

The Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA) is the organic movement's prize awarded to highlight organic innovations of scientists, extension agents, and practitioners. OFIA strives to contribute to solving problems, exploring the potential to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity of organic farming, as well as improving viability for environment, plants, animals, and human beings.

BIOFACH AMERICA - ALL THINGS ORGANIC

Location: Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Date: 12 – 14 September 2019

Find out more and register: www.biofach-america.com

This trade fair is co-located with the 34th Natural Products Expo East in Baltimore. BIOFACH AMERICA belongs to the BIOFACH network, whose leading trade show in Nuremberg, Germany brings together as many as 1,276 exhibitors and more than 21,000 visitors.

MIDDLE EAST **NATURAL & ORGANIC PRODUCTS EXPO**

Location: Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre

Date: 3 – 5 December 2019

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

NASAA **INTO ORGANICS** FIELD DAY

Location: WA, Kojonup region
Date: 17 October

into organics 2019

NASAA **INTO ORGANICS** SEMINAR & FIELD DAY

Location: Coffs Harbour, NSW
Date: 25 October – Into Organics seminar
Date: 24 October – Into Organics Field Day

NEWS ROUND UP / Click on the headline to read more

TREE CHANGE FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS WHO TOOK OVER COOBER PEDY CATTLE STATION

No phone reception, no reticulated water, no agricultural experience and 2,000 cattle to look after over 700,000 acres — that is just how couple John Knight and Caroline Thomas like their new lives as pastoralists north of Coober Pedy.

/ ABC News

INSIDE THE SMALL, UNUSUAL FARM BEHIND AUSTRALIAN SKINCARE GIANT JURLIQUE

A South Australian natural skincare company, which grows almost all its flowers and herbs biodynamically, is beating the big French beauty product companies at their own game.

2019 LANGHORNE CREEK WINE SHOW RESULTS

Langhorne Creek cabernet has again been recognised as the region's tower of strength in the 2019 Multi-Color Langhorne Creek Wine Show, with the pre-eminent trophy for Champion Wine of Show being awarded to Lake Breeze 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon. Congratulations to viticulturist Barrie Williams from Temple Bruer (NASAA certified operator) who won Viticulturist of the Year!

/ ABC North & West: Gary-Jon Lysaght

IS SAVING THE CORDILLO DOWNS WOOLSHED THE MOST DIFFICULT RENOVATION JOB IN AUSTRALIA?

The owners of the Cordillo Downs Station woolshed are using a crowdfunding campaign to part fund the restoration project. At 60 metres long, 13 metres wide and 136 years old, it is the biggest of its kind in the world and a reminder of when Australia's economy rode on the sheep's back. The shed is considered unique in Australia because of its extensive buttressing, curved roof, and architectural design— and size.

/ naturallygood.com.au

DROUGHT RESISTANCE AND ORGANIC FARMING

As much as consumers are embracing a healthier and more organic lifestyle, many still comment on the fact that going 'organic' and living 'sustainably' generally equates to a more 'expensive' way of living.

However, an analysis of over 100 studies conducted by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, may help with a solution to this issue and shows the benefits of organic farming.

THE EFFECT OF ORGANIC FOOD LABELS ON CONSUMER ATTENTION

This paper aims to reveal consumer perceptions of organic food with a special emphasis on the labelling of organic products. The objectives were to find out, whether or not a significant difference between men´s and women´s perception existed.

/ Linley Dixon

THE HYDROPONIC THREAT TO ORGANIC FOOD

In the last 7 years there has been a quiet redefinition taking place in the USDA National Organic Program that oversees organic standards. Large scale industrial producers have insinuated themselves into organic certification to transform what the green and white label stands for.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES DEREGULATION OF RISKY NEW GM TECHNIQUES THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION IS CALLED

On the day before the Federal election was called, the Government quietly announced changes to Australia's Gene Technology Regulations that will allow a raft of new genetically modified (GM) animals, plants and microbes to enter our environment and food chain with no safety assessment and potentially no labelling. These include super-muscly pigs, non-browning mushrooms, and wheat with powdery mildew-resistance.

NASAA organic

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

JOIN AUSTRALIA'S ORIGINAL ORGANIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION TODAY AND HELP SHAPE THE INDUSTRY OF TOMORROW.

As a NASAA member you directly contribute to the national organics agenda, providing input to the organisation's future direction.

ORGANICS IS MUCH MORE THAN MARKET ACCESS. IT'S A WAY OF THINKING AND FARMING.

NASAA's strength has always come from those who firmly believe in upholding the standard, embracing innovation while respecting the organic philosophy and supporting the development of sustainable, certified organic food production in Australia and overseas.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.
BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- NASAA quarterly newsletter
- Updates on industry developments and issues
- Discounts at NASAA events
- Reduced advertising rates in NASAA publications
- Networking opportunities with other organic producers/processors
- Marketing support via sector-wide promotional of organics which underpins consumer confidence and sales

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NASAA.COM.AU OR CALL LEE MASTUS +61 8 7231 7703

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