



# ORGANIC INSIGHTS

AUTUMN EDITION - 2017

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a field. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. The man is on the right, wearing a blue shirt and a wide-brimmed hat. They are both smiling. The background shows a field with trees and a clear sky.

## FARMING UNDER ORGANIC MANAGEMENT AT BORDER PARK

Full story on pg 6

### IN THIS ISSUE...

- KNOW YOUR PEST ➤ PRACTICAL WEED MANAGEMENT
- GURRA DOWNS DATE FARM ➤ BIODIVERSITY ON ORGANIC FARMS
- PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE...

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# MESSAGE FROM THE GM



## LIKE A DUCK ON WATER... A LOT OF WHAT NASAA DOES CAN SOMETIMES REMAIN HIDDEN FROM VIEW.

The calm, smooth and fluid motion of our certifying subsidiary, NCO, reveals little of the advocacy, outreach, marketing and member support happening under the surface that is driving us, and our industry, forward.

Among other things, NASAA staff and Board have contributed to two recent Industry and Government roundtable workshops with the Department of Agriculture focusing on engaging with industry to find ways to support the export potential of the Organics sector.

I've had a good long chat with some of the people who will be making a decision about the future of our current state based GMO Moratoriums.

We also continue our input to the Organic Industry Standards & Certification Committee (OISCC) – the body which defines and develops the Australian organic export regulations.

By the time you are reading this, we will have already presented at the Organic and Biodynamic rice field day in Jerilderie and will probably still be on the road somewhere between Gippsland, Echuca and Geelong talking to dairy farmers.

Over the last two months, I have met with Producers, Processors and Politicians in four States – including a good long chat with some of the people who will be making a decision about the future of our current state based GMO Moratoriums.

Planning for the national Organic Wine of the Year Awards is already underway. Entries are due by the 17th March with judging soon to follow - so get your wine in as soon as possible so you don't miss out!

On the downside, I have had to instigate another round of legal action against the NASAA Label snatchers in China. Our visual stamp of approval is your entry into this growing and vibrant market, however, there are those who are continuing to try to illegally use and register the NCO brand. Continued market access and protection for our operators is fundamental.

But in good news from our 'near North,' we have decided to create an offer for operators to come join us and share

stall space at the Shanghai BioFach this year (25-27 May). The BioFach event represents a great, low cost opportunity to meet the market in person – with trade attendance expected from all over China.

NASAA has been a busy little duck – but happy to get busier! – so I would appreciate any feedback you have on the magazine or articles/topics that you may like to see featured in the near future.

**I hope to see you soon.**

**Mark Anderson**  
General Manager

## KNOW YOUR PEST

# THE BATTLE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL

### INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PROVIDES A MULTI-PRONGED DEFENCE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST EVIL IN COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Knowing your pest populations and monitoring their behavior is crucial, according to Terril Marais, research entomologist at Biological Services, a commercial insectary for biological controls.

In a presentation as keynote speaker at NASAA's recent IntoOrganics seminar, Terril cautions that IPM is not an overnight solution and, like every great battle, the range of tactics employed may differ for every property.

And there are several prongs in the armoury.

## TYPES OF CONTROL

### PHYSICAL

Use of physical screening barriers and quarantine restrictions

### CULTURAL

An emphasis on crop hygiene, through selective removal and pruning; weed control; cultivar selection; and environmental controls (that eliminate water pooling)

### BIOLOGICAL

Use of parasitic wasps, predatory mites, predatory beetles/flies, biological sprays, and predatory/parasitic nematodes.

### CHEMICAL (conventional farming)

Use of selective, targeted sprays; resistance management strategies and biorational products (combating systemic acquired resistance).

IPM is a philosophy/strategy of pest control that integrates all available tactics to reduce pest populations to an acceptable level in a cost-effective, environmentally rational manner. In particular, the aim of IPM is to maximise the use of biological control.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS IN HORTICULTURE

Biocontrol and IPM programs are intelligent options to protect crops and, for conventional farmers, reduce or eliminate reliance on pesticide useage. This is particularly relevant in a time of increasing insecticide resistance for many major pests. Whether you are farming organically or not, biocontrol measures make sense!

## KNOW YOUR PEST

It is important to familiarise with - identify, monitor and observe, the behavior and cycles of pest and disease before commencing any biocontrol program. Monitoring can directly impact the speed and efficiency of pest control programs and, to a large extent, their cost.

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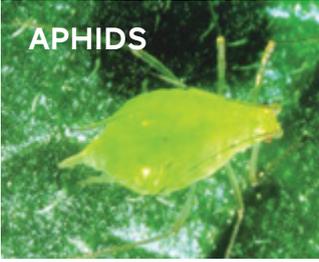
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PEST	DESCRIPTION	BIOLOGICAL CONTROL
 <p><b>APHIDS</b></p>	<p>There are more than 4000 aphid species recorded worldwide. Aphids feed directly on the contents of plant cells causing stunting and ill thrift. Toxins in some aphids saliva can cause direct plant damage (distortion). They can also cause indirect damage through transmitting vector viruses, and cosmetic damage by promoting the growth of sooty moulds on the honey dew they produced. Common aphid types include the Melon or Cotton aphid, Potato aphid, Foxglove aphid and Green peach aphid.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Aphidius colemani</i></li> <li>&gt; <i>Aphidius ervi</i></li> <li>&gt; <i>Aphelinus abdominalis</i></li> </ul>
 <p><b>THRIPS</b></p>	<p>Only a few thrips species cause serious problems. Western Flower Thrips (WFT) attack over 200 different plant species, causing direct damage through feeding on leaves and fruit, and indirect damage by transmitting various plant viruses, including Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV). Greenhouse thrips feeding causes silvery on leaves and these thrips leave black faecal spots on the underside of leaves and/or on flowers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Hypoaspis aculiefer</i> (Hypo-A)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Neoseiulus cucumeris</i> (Cucumeris)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Orius tantillus</i> (Orius)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>WHITEFLY</b></p>	<p>Whitefly attack a wide range of plants, causing damage by feeding directly on plants like aphids do and by depositing honey dew on the surface of leaves which promotes the growth of black sooty moulds. Some species can transmit plant viruses. There are 2 main species, the Greenhouse whitefly and Silverleaf whitefly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Encarsia formosa</i></li> <li>&gt; <i>Eretmocerus hayati</i> (Parasitic Wasps)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Nesioicoris tenuis</i> (Predatory bug)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>OTHER FLIES</b></p>	<p>Other pest flies include Fungus Gnats, which can cause direct damage through chewing root tips and indirect damage through providing points of entry for plant fungal pathogens, and Shore Flies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Hypoaspis miles</i> (Hypo-M)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Hypoaspis aculiefer</i> (Hypo-A)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Dalotia coriaria</i></li> </ul>
 <p><b>MITES</b></p>	<p>Mites are piercing/sucking pests with a short lifecycle that attack a wide range of plants. The main pest species include the Two spotted mite, Broad mite/cyclamen mite, Russet mite and the Bulb mite. Mites can cause scarring on fruit and leaves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Phytoseiulus persimilis</i> (Persimilis)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Californicus)</li> <li>&gt; <i>Typhlodromus occidentalis</i> (Occidentalis)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>RED SCALE</b></p>	<p>Red Scale is a sucking insect that mainly attacks citrus but can also be found on passionfruit, olives, walnuts, roses and ivy. The scale attacks all plant parts but mainly fruit, with heavy infestations causing discolouration, leaf drop and shoot distortion, which can lead to bark splitting, twig dieback and even tree death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Aphytis melinus</i> (Parasitic Wasp)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>CATERPILLARS</b></p>	<p>Caterpillars are chewing pests, with the Diamondback moth species attacking most brassicas, including cabbage, broccoli, kale, radish and canola. Direct damage is caused through completely defoliating plants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <i>Diadegma semiclausum</i> (Parasitic Wasp)</li> </ul>

## AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Some beneficials can be introduced preventatively before pests have been found - this is the best strategy if there is a very low tolerance to any signs of damage. Preventative strategies allow the beneficials to develop reasonable population sizes before the pests arrive, and results in lower pest densities as a whole.

Beneficials are not immediate 'fixes' for pest problems - control usually takes a few weeks to achieve, and in most cases multiple releases are required, but the results are

much longer lasting than chemical fixes which create pest and beneficial 'vacuums' in a garden.

## A FINAL WORD

Having staff trained to be able to identify key pests/problems increases your chances of identifying potential hotspots before they become major problems.

[FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



JOSH AND PERI MCINTOSH  
AND THEIR 7 CHILDREN

# BORDER PARK ORGANICS

## **SUCCESSION PLANNING IS A DIFFICULT ISSUE FOR ANY FAMILY BUSINESS.**

Faced with the decision to retire from their farm property of over 40 years, John and Jenny Schwarz of 'Border Park', Taplan entered a unique agreement to ensure the ongoing operation of the farm under organic management.

The arrangement also saw the start of a new journey for NSW couple Josh and Peri McIntosh and their 5 children (now 7), in a story that highlights the importance of mentoring in the industry to support conventional farmers in making the transition to organic.

'Border Park' is located in a tightly held area of predominantly conventional broadacre farm properties in South Australia's Northern Mallee district. As conventional crop farmers, the Schwarz's transitioned into organic management in the early 90's as a result of John's continued health issues due to chemical exposure and the farm property has been certified organic with NASAA since 1996.

Entering retirement age and with no obvious family successor, the couple were hoping to find purchasers with a shared vision and passion for maintaining the property as a certified organic operation.

The Schwarz family first met Josh and Peri McIntosh at an extended family event in what both couples describe as a direct answer to prayer. Both qualified professionals who had grown up on conventional farms in North Western NSW, the McIntosh's were themselves seeking a new direction and had been trialing organic principles on their small acreage near Bathurst.

With a growing family and an interest in understanding where their food came from, both were keen to return to the land. However, commercial scale farming is costly and the couple were not yet ready to take on the level of investment required.

## **A UNIQUE, WORKING RELATIONSHIP**

In a unique agreement, the two families entered an innovative share-farming arrangement, formally documented with the assistance of SA's Rural Solutions, with the aim to transition the farm through lease to purchase with an effective mentoring period.

This has ensured a smooth transition and continuity of organic certification of the farm. The arrangement also enabled the McIntosh's to complete their pre-certification period during the shared management phase of the agreement.

“We are tremendously grateful for the assistance of Simon Vogt, Agribusiness consultant at Rural Solutions,” says Peri.

“Although ours was an unusual succession situation and often difficult to articulate, Simon was able to capture the spirit of our agreement accurately and succinctly,” she says.

“We recommend his services highly.”

Five years into the agreement, John and Jenny still have a hand in the management of the farm through providing advice and counsel at meetings held bi-annually, although all production decision-making ultimately rests with Josh and Peri.

According to Josh, the mentoring period was like an apprenticeship with as much to learn in the purpose and intent of the methods, as there was in the methods themselves.

“We were share farming and employees of the Schwarz’s and we didn’t have the burden of whole farm management and strategic planning,” he says.

“The mentoring gave us the opportunity to gain a general understanding of the Schwarz’s farming system, and to bounce our own ideas off John’s experience and long term familiarity with the region.”

“It was also an important time for building a working relationship.”



## TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The couple have continued to crop about 800 hectares and run a 350-ewe self-replacing Merino flock and 40-breeder primarily Poll Hereford herd.

The farm’s main enterprise is cereal cropping, supplying Laucke Flour Mills with organic wheat and rye, which is milled to make organic bread-making flour.

Cleaned seed is also sold to home millers, other organic cereal farmers and organic/biodynamic orchards and vineyards for cover and green manure crops.

Sheep and cattle have always been run on the property as a complimentary addition to the cropping, however, have traditionally mostly been sold through conventional channels.

Since 2013, the McIntosh’s have put significant effort into developing the farm’s organic meat sales through the Border Park Organics brand.. Beef and sheep meat is currently delivered direct to customers at more than 100 collection points across SA, Vic, NSW and the NT – and supplied to some organic wholesalers. Almost all meat business is now from repeat customers and through word of mouth.

While there has been some interest in the operations of the farm from conventional farmers, Peri believes that today’s pressures on agricultural production means that some farmers are ‘stuck’.

“I think many people realise that they need to change, but feel trapped in the (conventional) system,” says Peri.

“Hopefully, with growing awareness of the health and environmental benefits of organic, and exponential growth in demand for organic product, we will see significant change over the next 20-30 years.”

Josh adds that he doesn’t believe that “the inherent risks and challenges that come with organic farming are any more unmanageable than those of conventional farming.”

What is fundamentally required is a change of mindset, he says, “a change of farming principles, not just practices.”

The example of Border Park provides a new model for successful farm transitioning, ensuring continuity of operation and knowledge transfer of organic farming principles.

“The friendship between our families is foundational - something we have learned to protect,” says Josh.

“We always wanted the formal agreement to reflect and support the relationship. It has proven important that we maintain openness, honesty, and that we have the other’s best interest at heart,” he says.

“Although some of our recent initiatives like online meat marketing and liquid delivery of biological farming inputs are, in some ways, beyond the realm of the Schwarz’s operation,” he continues, “the ongoing benefit of having John and Jenny’s experience and advice is invaluable”

“We still have much to learn.”

# PRACTICAL WEED MANAGEMENT



WEEDS CERTAINLY GET A BAD RAP AND WHILST WE DO NEED TO KEEP A TIGHT REIN ON THINGS, IT'S NOT ALL BAD NEWS ACCORDING TO DR PETER CRISP, SENIOR ENTOMOLOGIST AT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE.

## FOR A PERSON THAT STUDIES INSECTS AS A CAREER, PETER SURE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT WEEDS.

And it's not all negative in terms of weeds contribution. While weeds do have a negative impact on crop quality, they do bring some benefits. This includes increasing soil stabilisation and structure, providing a habitat and feed for wildlife and nectar for bees, contributing organic matter, providing a greater genetic reservoir, and harvesting for human consumption (used in herbal/alternate medicines) providing employment opportunities.

But we can't ignore the negatives, of course. With invasive weeds potential to reduce crop quality -through contamination and interference with harvest; ability to serve as hosts for crop diseases and pests, effect of limiting choice of crop rotation and cultural practices, and production of chemical substances toxic to crop plants (allelopathy), animals and humans.

Practical weed management means understanding where your weeds are coming from and adopting proactive strategies to keep them out.

## SOURCES OF WEEDS

### VEHICLES

A common carrier of weeds on farm comes in the form of a vehicle. Farm contractors, pickers, farm shop visitors, tourists - all are potential weed generators and spreaders.

Particular attention, therefore, should be given to establishing visiting protocols for farm vehicular access, including cleaning procedures – for all cars, trucks and farm machinery entering site.

### REFUGES

Practical weed management requires an understanding of contributing sources of weed seeds, and ability to control and manage.

It means not just understanding the sources of seed on your own property, but those contributed through adjoining creek lines and waterways, road verges and neighbouring properties.

Control and management strategies may, therefore, need to focus on bordering/buffer areas.

### PEOPLE

Along with cars, people themselves are dangerous carriers and we should check what they are bringing with them and what they are leaving with, and where they are living.

This includes tourists, seasonal pickers and other farm visitors, including crop scouts and researchers.

## MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES – 'MANY LITTLE HAMMERS'

If you've ever tried to drive a nail in with a sledge hammer, you'll know that it's very hard to focus the impact on a single target. More often than not, you can end up damaging areas that you wanted to protect. And so it is with our weed artillery.

When your one big hammer breaks, as we are seeing in the many cases of herbicide resistance developing in some of our most problematic weeds, you can be caught with solutions that are even less desirable. It is advisable, therefore, to investigate all options that suit your production system and time each for maximum effect.

**THERE ARE A RANGE OF TOOLS AVAILABLE TO ORGANIC GROWERS. THESE INCLUDE:**

- Physical control through use of heat or fire: use of boiling water in smaller land areas, steam weeders and flame weeders.
- Cultivation methods, including tilling, cultivating crops before weeds produce seeds.
- Crop rotation, alternating crops to remove any environmental conditions that the weed may have adapted to, rotating species with different seasonal and growing cycles.
- Cultural control methods including implementing narrow row spacing and increased stocking rates of desired species, cultivar selection and use of high quality seeds, choosing plant and crop species or cultivars that are naturally more competitive.
- Biological control through the use of insects or pathogens that affect the health of the weed.

Weeds will often first establish a foothold in areas that are less favorable for crop and pasture plants. Careful management of soil nutrient balance and soil condition plays an important role in giving your crops and pastures the edge over weeds and should be a first line of defence.

As with most things, timing is everything. There is no point spending a lot of time manually removing unwanted plants if they have already dropped their seeds - your efforts are little more than exercise.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

In his role as Senior Entomologist at SARDI, Peter is currently responsible for running several fruit fly research projects supporting Biosecurity SA. He has significant experience working with various horticultural industries, undertaking research on soil health and biological control for thrips and predatory mites; and cost-benefit analysis on increasing soil carbon through various composts and soil amendments.

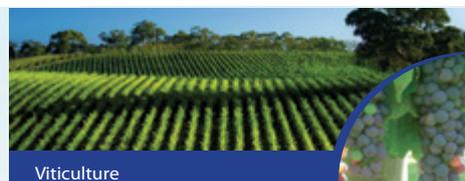
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# GURRA DOWNS DATE FARM

**FACED WITH AN INCREASINGLY HARSH ENVIRONMENT AND RISING SALINITY, DAVE AND ANITA REILLY OF GURRA DOWNS EMBARKED ON A STRATEGY OF CROP DIVERSIFICATION THAT IS NOW BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT – WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A VIABLE NEW INDUSTRY FOR AUSTRALIA.**

A staggering 17 year period of drought was the catalyst for Dave and Anita in seeking to diversify the family farm from traditional, water intensive organic viticulture and orchard fruit production.

Gurra Downs, located in the Riverland district of SA, takes its name from the Gurra Gurra Wetland which adjoins the property. As a result of drought, ongoing water quality issues were experienced on farm, with high levels of salinity impacting vineyard irrigation from the wetlands.

Future water security led the couple to research the suitability of crops adaptable to harsh climatic environments and with salt tolerance.

### ENTER THE DATE PALM

Known as the 'blessed' tree in the Middle East, the date palm has a somewhat patchy history of production in Australia. With seed brought in by the original cameleers, mature date palms can still be seen along the old transport routes. Further trial cultivation later occurred in the central Alice Springs area, and in the arid regions and Riverland district in South Australia.

Bearing high value and nutritious fruit, the date palm thrives in harsh environments and is highly suited to the Australian climate given its drought and salt tolerance. In addition, the product has a high commercial potential as a large percentage of dates consumed domestically are currently imported, and with demand existing for counter seasonal supply to the Northern Hemisphere.

The Reilly's have spent the last 20 years building up their date palm nursery, setting up a trial plantation with



DAVE & SHAUN REILLY WITH BARHEE TREE

commercial fruit production commencing in 2010. The farm now distributes date palms to prospective growers in many locations throughout Australia, providing training and support to new growers, as well as producing a commercial date crop.

Fruit distributors have been set up in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide and Gurra Downs also has a strong 'direct to customer' mail order base. The couple continue to trial various alternate cultivars to assess adaptability for commercial production.

### **BUT THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN LONG AND NOT ALWAYS EASY...**

A major challenge was to obtain planting stock of elite cultivars given Australia's restrictive quarantine regulations. Dave and Anita have now been importing palms since 2001 and have developed a good working relationship with biosecurity agencies. The farm now has 27 varieties of the World's best plant genetics from Iraq, Iran, UAE, Morocco and North Africa.

Dealing with fungal and pest attacks is a challenge. The main insect pest at Gurra Downs is the black ant which attacks the sweet fruit. An effective approach to control has been the use of fruit bunch covers made of tightly woven insect proof mesh. In some seasons, kangaroos, mice and locusts have also caused damage to plant stock. In wet years, leaf fungal attacks can occur which are controlled using copper based sprays.

It has been a steep learning curve in establishing the enterprise, and Dave was fortunate to receive a Nuffield Farming Scholarship in 2012 that enabled him to study global date production, observing best-practice through visiting the US, Mexico, France, UK, Spain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, India and the UAE. This knowledge base has been invaluable to Australia's embryonic industry.

Dave and Anita have won several local awards for their work in developing their date farm and in 2010, received the prestigious 'Best New Development Project' award at the Khalifa International Date Palm Award in Abu Dhabi.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Visit the Gurra Downs web site [CLICK HERE](#)  
or Facebook page [CLICK HERE](#)

View Dave's Nuffield Scholarship presentation [CLICK HERE](#)

Read the Emirates Journal of Food and Agriculture [CLICK HERE](#)

RIRDC's report 'Towards an Australian Date Industry' (2010) [CLICK HERE](#)



## **AN EYE ON THE CHINESE MARKET...**

*With enormous market potential across all food categories, Gurra Downs is just one of many operators looking at exporting certified product to China - and NASAA has provided support through the certification process.*

*Under Chinese organic regulations, inspections of certified organic operations are required to be undertaken by a Chinese National.*

*NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) is fortunate to have Chinese National, Luke Wenpeng You, as part of our certification team. Luke can both assist operators in understanding the various requirements under Chinese organic regulations and undertake inspections of operations to the Chinese standard.*

*Certifying with NASAA for the Chinese market provides significant benefit to our clients, saving our operators time and costly inspection fees associated with flying inspectors in from China.*

**Contact NASAA to find out more about the requirements for Chinese certification.**



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# BIODIVERSITY ON ORGANIC FARMS

ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL AIMS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IS TO MAINTAIN AND ENCOURAGE AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL BIODIVERSITY ON THE FARM AND SURROUNDS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND PROTECTION OF PLANT AND WILDLIFE HABITATS.



*Biodiversity defined: the variety of life forms and ecosystem types on Earth. Includes genetic diversity (ie. diversity within species), species diversity (ie. the number and variety of species) and ecosystem diversity (total number of ecosystem types).*

The recent release of a Technical Report from the South Australian Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on the roles of agricultural biodiversity in the McLaren Vale landscape highlights increased recognition at the landholder level of the benefits of diversity within local agriculture.

The Wildlife Conservation Fund funded report recognizes that 'much of the diversity that remains within agro-ecosystems is under pressure due to the fundamental importance of productivity gains, technological change and associated production efficiencies.'

As a historically homogenous wine grape growing region with limited agrobiodiversity, the McLaren Vale is undergoing a values shift with an increasing understanding of the importance of the role that biodiversity plays in habitat conservation, pest and soil management and water resource and climate change risk management; as well as contributing to the aesthetic environment of the McLaren Vale region, an important State tourism destination.

The report identifies that 'a sophisticated values-based approach to conservation exists within the community and that a 'process of rediversification is underway as producers aim to generate ecologically resilient production systems and explore alternate production systems, including organic and biodynamic production.'

## BIODIVERSITY AND ORGANIC STANDARDS

Whilst the intensification of agriculture has led to a loss of biodiversity, research reports indicate that a greater level of biodiversity exists on organic farms.

Biodiversity, which promotes functional farm ecosystems, is an intrinsic principle embedded with the Organic Standards and must be a component of an organic farm.

Under current organic Standards, operators should maintain a significant portion of their farms to facilitate biodiversity and nature conservation (currently at least 5%). In addition, as part of the development of an initial Organic Management Plan (OMP), operators must provide an explanation of how biodiversity is being addressed and monitored on farm.

Where there are special opportunities such as remnant vegetation; areas with endemic flora, wetlands, riparian areas, springs, floodplains, swamps, other water rich areas and native grasslands, operators should set aside and manage these areas for wildlife habitat.

**Where opportunities are less obvious, operators should look to enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitat in:**

- All areas which are not cultivated and are not heavily grazed such as extensive orchards, hedges, hedgerows, edges between agriculture and forest land, groups of trees and/or bushes, and forest and woodland
- ecologically diversified (extensive) field margins and fence lines
- dams, water-ways, drainage reserves, easements and roadsides

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**ARE YOU A CHAMPION FOR BIODIVERSITY?**

IFOAM is looking for innovative solutions from across the globe that address biodiversity loss.

The \$30K international Farming for Biodiversity Solution Search prize will be awarded to a recipient that demonstrates innovative adoption of biodiversity-friendly solutions that conserve, strengthen and/or restores biodiversity on agricultural land and/or the surrounding environment.

**But get in quick. Nominations close 10 March 2017.**

**IFOAM CONTEST PAGE** [CLICK HERE](#)

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Refer to the NASAA Organic Standards for further guidance on biodiversity conservation and promotion.

[CLICK HERE](#)

View the full Technical Report on agricultural biodiversity in the McLaren Vale on EnviroData.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Interesting international research that looks at biodiversity on organic farms from the BBC and the Organic Research Centre

[CLICK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)



## STAFF NEWS



# NASAA BOARD MEMBERS BRING NEW STRENGTHS



### JUDY GOODE

Judy is a well-credentialed environmental advocate who brings to NASAA 17 years' experience in strategic planning, policy development and project management in natural resources management, water resource management and Aboriginal partnership and engagement.

Judy has been a key adviser to the SA government and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, Strategic Programs Review and The Living Murray Initiative. She is an inaugural member of the MDBA Strategic Thinkers Group, which provides strategic and policy advice on implementation of the Basin Plan.

Judy has previously project managed strategy and policy development for the National Environmental Protection Measures on the assessment of site contamination, and ambient air quality standards. Judy has also developed State policy frameworks for SA River Murray salinity management and environmental flows, the use of Aboriginal interpreters and translators in remote and regional communities, Aboriginal partnerships in NRM, levee bank management, and environmental water allocations.

She has chaired and/or served on numerous federal, state, regional and local NRM boards and committees. The appointment of Judy to our Board will strengthen NASAA's representative leadership and advocacy effort in supporting strategic growth of the organic industry in Australia.

### LAURIE GALPIN

Laurie has been a partner in a successful accounting practice (Galpins Accountants, Auditors and Business Advisors) that specializes in small business, audit, providing support and advice to clients in the areas of horticulture, building and other trades, professionals, farming and information technology.

From its initial beginnings in Mount Gambier in 1937, the practice has grown to 3 offices servicing the Mount

Gambier region, Adelaide Hills and Norwood districts in South Australia. The company this year celebrates 80 years in operation. During Laurie's time in the Stirling office of Galpins, he has been involved in providing financial systems and accounting advice and services to NASAA.

Whilst retaining an ongoing interest in the practice, Laurie officially retired as a partner in 2015. Laurie still provides business consulting services but is enjoying having more time to dedicate to his personal interests, which includes agriculture and the natural environment.

We value Laurie's long-standing support and understanding of NASAA's business operations, and welcome his enthusiasm, practical and commonsense approach to the Board.



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# OUT AND ABOUT

## BIOFACH2017

into organic

Weltleitmesse für Bio-Lebensmittel  
World's Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food



25-27 MAY 2017

### THE WORLD'S LEADING TRADE FAIR FOR ORGANIC FOOD.

The event holds an important place in trade promotion, political lobbying and public policy development, and knowledge transfer. The recent BioFach Nuremberg (held 15-18 Feb) saw some 50,000 trade visitors from 134 countries and 2,785 exhibitors from 88 countries around the World.

*As China is a focus for many of our operators, NASAA will be attending the BioFach Shanghai event 25-27 May 2017 to promote Australian certified organic product. We are offering joint trade stand representation for our certified operators as a low-cost option to test new markets.*

**CONTACT THE NASAA OFFICE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST.**



## 19TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

जैविक कृषि विश्व कुंभ

9-11 NOVEMBER 2017

### REGISTRATION FOR THE IFOAM ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS INDIA OPENED IN JANUARY.

#### **INNOVATORS - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

The winner of the US\$10K IFOAM Organic Farming Innovation Award will be announced at the OWC event.

**Nominations close 31 March 2017.**

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2017

### LIKE A GOOD WINE, THE NASAA ORGANIC WINE AWARD JUST GETS BETTER WITH AGE!

Last year's event, run in conjunction with Winestate, attracted over 300 people tasting wines from 139 entrants across Australia.

Just an early shout out to our wine producers to reserve this date and if you wish to enter one of your own wines, entries must be received to Winestate by Friday 17 March.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

## ORGANICALLY CERTIFIED FERTILISER

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# NEWS ROUNDUP

LINKS TO INTERESTING, TOPICAL ARTICLES ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PUBLIC ARENA. JUST CLICK ON THE LINK PANELS ON EACH STORY TO READ MORE.

## FUNDING FOR OS ORGANIC FARMING & PRODUCTS



Germany to boost funding to expand organic farming with an announcement from Federal food and agriculture minister at BioFach Nuremberg.

[CLICK HERE](#)

US debates proposed establishment of an industry-funded promotion, research and information program for certified organic products.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## WIN FOR 'SULTANA GIRL'



Paddock to plate win for certified operator, 'Sultana Girl'.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

## POLICY BACKFLIP



Policy backflip sees WA's GM moratorium overturned.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## BIG DEMAND FOR AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC BEEF



Demand for Australian organic beef shows no sign of slowing with record prices in 2016.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## STUDY LINKS PESTICIDE USE TO ALTERED DNA



Further research as part of the ongoing Agricultural Health Study in the US links pesticide use to altered DNA in farmworkers.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## CLASSIFIED

### FOR SALE:

Expressions of interest sought for the bulk sale of 2000 to 4000 litres of premium quality olive oil on an annual basis. NASAA certified organic no. 6153. Ph. (08) 9641 1491 or 0427 842 847

### FOR SALE:

Approximately 10 tonnes of certified organic feed grade barley for sale: Temple Bruer Wines NASAA Reg # 5435 @ \$370/tonne Please phone David Bruer on 0412 246 178

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