

TM Organics newsletter, May 2007

Hooray we've had some rain!
Please send some more!
Lots more!

Business Support for Transition to Organic field visits

As part of the Business Support program, we run occasional field trips. Thanks to Reno and Gretta Ozzella from Grancari Estate Winery, John Huey Williams from Willunga and Joch Bosworth from Battle of Bosworth Wines, for hosting our Southern Vales Viticulture tour and to Rob Ridgwell and Jan Denham of Karra Farm and Andrew Jones of Irymple for hosting our Mildura/Sunraysia tour.

Future plans include a visit to the Maroudas olive grove in August, and another viticulture tour, including a steam weeder demonstration, in September.



Pictured is Andrew Jones, organic dried vine fruit, citrus and avocado producer from Irymple.

Andrew was one of the first certified vine fruit producers in Australia. He particularly impressed visitors with his on-farm grading and packing facility.

New groups commenced

A new Business Support group has started in the Murraylands region, based at Taillem Bend. Participating farms include poultry production and packing, dairy/broadacre, herbs, livestock and olives.

Another group has commenced in the South East, at Penola. Participating farms include beef, sheep, grain, apples, olives and wine grapes.

The new Northern Adelaide Plains group, based at Gawler, includes mixed vegetables, fruit, compost, small-scale horticulture and livestock.

With these new groups now having started, there are **now 80 producers** participating in the TM Organics 'Business Support for Transition to Organics' program.



Another information session

There's strong interest in another group from the McLaren Vale/Willunga/Fleurieu area. We're running another information session where people can come and meet Tim and Doug and ask any question they like about the Business Support program, the organic industry, or organic production techniques.

It's at 4 pm on Tuesday 29th May at the McLaren Vale Grape and Wine Centre, 217a Main Road, McLaren Vale. Please feel free to pass the date on to interested people in your network who may be interested in participating.

New groups planned

Besides the group planned in the McLaren Vale/Fleurieu area, we're also planning other groups in locations where people have expressed interest. If you know others in the Riverland, Mildura/Sunraysia or the Adelaide Hills who may be interested, please let them know about the program, and let us know if you think we should get in touch with them.

Advance news

Keep diaries free for August 3rd - the tentative date for Australia's first seminar specifically on reaching the organics market – organised by TM Organics, in Adelaide. It will feature a many good speakers and trainers. Farmbis support should be available for primary producers.

Other events

Sally Fallon will be visiting Adelaide on June 1 and 2 and making presentations on Friday evening and Saturday. Sally is the champion of raw milk and a supporter of organic foods, and author of a best selling cookbook called *Nourishing Traditions*. Bookings can be made by calling 08 83651960 or 1300 797 762 or by email at naturalelthy@picknowl.com.au or www.westonpriceaus.org.au

The topic of the Friday evening meeting is 'the Cholesterol Myths – Big Fat Lies'. The Saturday meeting is titled, 'Nourishing Traditional Diets – The Key to Vibrant Health'.

Andre Leu, certified organic tropical fruit grower and Organic Federation of Australia (OFA) chairperson will be the guest speaker at a Soil Association of SA (SASA) meeting on Wednesday 23rd May, at the TPI Association Building, corner of South Terrace and Hutt Street, Adelaide, commencing at 7.30pm.

The topic of the talk is Why Organic Food? Some of Andre's papers on food security and the myth of safe pesticides can be found on the OFA website at www.ofa.org.au. There will be a \$5 entry fee, \$2 for SASA members.

This year's **Australian Organic Expo** will be held in Melbourne on September 7 – 9. This event was held in Sydney in 2005 and 2006, and the second event was twice the size of the first show. We expect the event to grow even larger this year. It is another great place to check out the rapid expansion of the organic industry, to meet people, listen to industry and market leaders on one of several speaker programs on different stages, and to sample organic produce.



Domestic organic standards update

The first meeting of the Standards Australia organic committee was held in Sydney earlier this month. The meeting established a working group to investigate adoption of the old AQIS Standard (or an amended form of it) as an interim Australian Standard, which should give us a very quick pathway to domestic regulation. The committee also agreed to include standards for organic fibre, so the standard will therefore be called 'The Australian Standard for Organic Products' (rather than 'Produce').

We expect that Tim Marshall will join the Standards Australia Organic Committee in the near future, either as a full or 'alternate' member.

TM Organics in the media

TM Organics has been in the media quite a lot this month. You can find a centre spread story on the Business Support program in *The Grower* (SA), and an interview with Tim in the Diggers Garden Club winter magazine. You may have also seen Tim's comments on page two of *The Weekly Times*, or picked up some of the many stories in electronic newsletters. Of course, you can also read Tim's stories in *Acres Australia*, or you may have heard him on various ABC stations in the last month.

What else does TM Organics Do?

TM Organics provides a wide range of training, consulting and publishing services.

Training: Tim Marshall runs organic growing and composting workshops and develops curricula.

Consulting: TM Organics has a wide variety of current consulting clients including individual organic (or conversion) growers, State Governments, organic processors, retailers and fertilizer manufacturers.

Publishing: We are gradually building a very significant organic website, www.tmorganics.com. Tim also writes for many publications, look for his stories on organic dairy production in the next ABC Organic Gardener, and stories on an organic vineyard and food retailing in the next *Acres Australia*. Tim's first solo book, *Recycle Your Garden*, is published by the ABC and is available from TM Organics, ABC Stores and 'good bookshops everywhere'. We plan to produce more books in the future.

Need more information? Contact the Office on 08 8339 6959 or email to info@tmorganics.com

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TM Organics is a business focused on organic training, consulting and publishing. It combines the organic industry experience, knowledge and contacts of Tim Marshall with the business, media and technology experience of Doug Adamson. TM Organics works with all sectors of the organic industry. For more information, go to www.tmorganics.com