



# THE BUSINESS OF SMALL-AREA FARMING

## 9th-10th February 2016    Kandanga Hall, Main St, Kandanga

*Presented by Mary Valley Country Harvest Cooperative*

### **DAY 1 - TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY**

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER(S)	SUMMARY	
9 - 9.15	Welcome and introduction	Directors, Mary Valley Country Harvest		
9.30 - 11	Eat local!	Tammi Jonas (Vic.), President, Aust Food Sovereignty Alliance	Ethics of food production and issues of food security and regulation in Australia	
9.30 - 11	The importance of pollinators	Athol Craig, Valley Bees	Identifying and utilising insects as part of an integrated pest management approach, and 'Farmscaping' to encourage natural insect predators	
11.30 - 1	Seed-saving and localising	Jerry Coleby-Williams	Collection and storage of seeds, selecting of local cultivars, and acclimatising plants from other regions. How to develop a seed bank of plants suited to your own environment.	
11.30 - 1	Soil and plant minerals - testing and interpretation	Steve Burgess, Mathew Fea	Accessing and interpreting information about your property and its soils.	
<i>1-2pm</i>	<i>Lunch</i>			<i>Hall</i>
2 - 3.30	Small farms, big ideas	Tammi Jonas (Vic.)	Exploring business ideas and opportunities for your farm or rural property.	
2 - 3.30	Market gardens - techniques and tools	Trish Gabbaba and Elaine Bradley	A comparison of 2 different styles of market gardens. Land preparation and maintenance, equipment (large and hand tools), irrigation, labour, crop selection.	
4-5.30	Selling what you've grown	Trish Gabbaba and Elaine Bradley	Handling, storing and selling your harvest. Identifying your markets. What are 'standards'? How do you sell 'the uglies'? Looking at alternative outlets - CSA? E-markets?	
4-5.30	The future of gardens and farms in the 21st Century	Jerry Coleby-Williams	Adapting to change - climate, population dynamics and more.	

6.30-9.30pm	Harvest Dinner. Delicious buffet featuring locally grown and made foods. Soft drinks, beer and local wines will be available. Lively forum with all present - "Closing the loop on the food supply chain"
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# BUSINESS OF SMALL-AREA FARMING SUMMER SCHOOL - DAY 2

WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY

<b>Masterclass 1</b>	9am-1pm	Establishing a livestock enterprise from paddock to plate.	Tammi Jonas (Vic.)	Maintaining and marketing ethically-produced meat products. Understanding the ethics of scale, finding the markets, and having a financially-viable business.	Target group - farms already or preparing to undertake meat production.
<b>Masterclass 2</b>	9am-1pm	Establish a long-term property management plan for sustainable production in sub-tropical areas.	Jerry Coleby-Williams	Maintaining a sub-tropical property for sustainable production through biodiversity observation and management. Creating a stable garden ecology and reducing operating costs - a 21st Century "Cottage Garden".	Target group - market gardeners, homesteaders.
<b>Landcare</b>	9-10am	Controlling gully erosion	MRCCC	What is gully erosion and how can it be prevented? What can be done to repair and maintain affected areas?	
	10-11am	Land regeneration	Stuart Andrews	An introduction to land regeneration through Natural Sequence Farming	
	11.30-12.30	Why trees?	Shane Litherland	The benefits and importance of trees on farm, and fitting your farm into the landscape.	
	12.30 - 1.30	<i>Lunch</i>			<i>Hall</i>
	1.30 - 3	Agritourism	Martin Duncan and Elaine Bradley	The benefits of agritourism to a farm enterprise, and what is needed to be visitor-ready.	
	1.30 - 3	Q and A	Panel discussion	An informal forum, an opportunity to ask those burning questions of some of our presenters.	
	3-4.30	Innovations in Agriculture	Panel discussion	The past 3 years have seen great ideas put into action around Australia. Our featured guests will join a panel to share stories on what is happening elsewhere, and what may be applicable to small-area farmers in this region.	
4.30 - 5.00	Future actions	Mary Valley Country Harvest Cooperative	Farm walks and field days, collaborative production and taking further steps towards ideas raised at this seminar. Let's outline a calendar of activities for 2016.		

**Bookings and Enquiries:** Elaine Bradley 0459 225 399 or email to [maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com](mailto:maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com)

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