Regenerative Agriculture Conference 2019
Building Soils, Resilience and Profit
Raymond Ferrall Centre, UTAS Campus, Launceston
5-6 June 2019
What is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture practices restore landscape function, increase nutrient and water cycling and sequester carbon in the soil. These practices increase biodiversity, productivity and are profitable and low risk while being personally sustainable for farmers and their communities and a significant ameliorant to climate change.

Research has shown farm family businesses using Regenerative Agriculture principles have similar levels of profit to traditional businesses but with lower risk. Family members have higher physical and mental wellbeing, and land that is healthier, with more ground cover.¹

¹ Vanguard Business Services Principal Consultant Mark Gardner
Who is the Regenerative Agriculture Network Tasmania (RANT)?

Regenerative Agriculture Network Tasmania is a not-for-profit incorporated community group that aims to promote and support all forms of regenerative agriculture practices across all scales of operation and all farming enterprises in Tasmania. www.rant.net.au

Who is Stipa Native Grasses Association Inc?

Stipa is a farmer led not-for-profit charity that promotes Australian native grasses in agriculture. www.stipa.com.au
The Conference

*The Conference is not just a chalk and talk about *why*
regenerative agriculture is good for the land.*

*The Conference is going to share *how* to restore landscape health,*
*be more profitable with lower risk,*
*while improving the wellbeing of farmers.*

The conference aims to take years off the time farmers are taking to successfully design and adopt regenerative practices that suit their farm. We will hear farmer case studies and the latest research and training to help farmers go home and be sure of their next steps.

Our keynote speaker is Charles Massy, farmer, researcher and author of “The Call of the Reed Warbler”.

Charles is one of the world’s leading voices on regenerative agriculture.

Other speakers include:

- Colin Seis, cover cropping expert and recently returned from a study tour to the US.
- Fraser Pogue, crops under irrigation and grazing, Ardmona, Victoria
- Graeme Hand, Holistic Management Educator, and perennial grassland and grazing expert.
- Peter Raynolds, regenerative grazier, Braidwood, New South Wales
Program

Tuesday Evening 4 June

6pm – 8.30pm Welcome Gathering
Speaker Racheal Treasure

DAY 1  Wednesday 5 June

9am  Welcome

9.30am  Charles Massy
Changing the Impact of Agriculture One Paddock at a Time.

10.30am  Smoko

11am  Graeme Hand
What is Regenerative Agriculture?

11.30am  Mark Gardner
Does Regenerative Agriculture work for the land and the people?

12.30pm  Lunch

1.30pm  Colin Seis
Regenerative Cropping, Covers Uncovered.

2.30pm  Graeme Hand & Peter Raynolds
Regenerative Grazing. Complexity Simplified to Succeed.

3.30pm  Farmer case study to be confirmed

4pm  Close for the day

5.30pm  Bus to a nearby farm for a Conference Dinner.
Meet at the Raymond Ferrall Centre.

6pm  Informal meal at a nearby farm, Pop up food and drink vans.
Self-funded. Rug up! Charles Massy speaking.
DAY 2    Thursday 6 June

9am       Welcome

9.15am    Dr Jason Rowntree, Michigan State University
          Does the science of regenerative agriculture stack up?

9.30am    Concurrent workshops

1. Profit Planning:   Designing Profit into Your Farm with Mark Gardner

2. Cropping:         Covering up – the latest from Australia and US with Colin Seis & Fraser Pogue

3. Grazing:          Breaking It Down with Graeme Hand & Peter Raynolds

11am       Smoko

11.30am    Concurrent workshops

1. Profit Planning:   Designing Profit into Your Farm with Mark Gardner

2. Cropping:         Covering up – the latest from Australia and U.S with Colin Seis & Fraser Pogue

3. Grazing:          Breaking It Down with Graeme Hand & Peter Raynolds

1pm        Lunch

2pm        Panel discussion:  Ask Us Anything!

            Charles Massy, Graeme Hand, Peter Raynolds, Colin Seis, Fraser Pogue, Mark Gardner, Rachael Treasure

3pm        Where to from here?

4pm        Close
Charles Massy

Charlie Massy (BSc PhD OAM), has a BSc in Zoology and PhD in Human Ecology.

While managing the family farm in NSW he also teaches at universities and consults in the fields of Merino breeding and landscape design.

He has engaged in freelance journalism since 1977, and has published books on Merino sheep and wool history. His recent best-selling book, Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture – A New Earth, concerns the emergence of a regenerative agriculture in Australia and cause for hope.

Mark Gardner

After completing university studies in Agricultural Science, Mark worked as a jackaroo, wool classer and property overseer for a number of years in the Western Riverina before establishing Vanguard Business Services in Dubbo in 1996 (winning a number of Regional Business Awards).

As a Savory Institute Holistic Management Educator for 22 years, Mark’s current activities involve working with around 300 family farm businesses to improve profitability, regenerative grazing/land management, and facilitating business development programs for groups. Mark has worked for a range of industry bodies managing extension and change projects and with Universities on research projects.

Mark has recently published research paper identifying regenerative agriculture practices as restoring landscape function, being more profitable, low risk and increasing the wellbeing of farmers.
**Graeme Hand**

Graeme has worked as an industrial chemist, international marketer, meat industry consultant as well as farm consultant to many family and corporate farmers. He is based in Tasmania, and has a special interest in working with family farms helping to create profitable, sustainable farm businesses which are enjoyable to work in.

Graeme trains throughout Australia on regenerating grasslands using planned grazing management. He has also carried out bushfire and drought extension for Victorian DPI, provided Holistic Management training for CMA’s and universities, consulted for the meat industry on eating quality and marketing. Graeme also manages STIPA Native Grass Association Inc.

Gabe Brown describes Graeme as having “The greatest understanding of not only ecosystem functions, but also how that relates to what we, as farmers and ranchers are doing. OUTSTANDING!”

**Colin Seis**

Colin Seis owns the 2000 acre property “Winona”, near Gulgong NSW. The property is managed using methods that continually regenerate its grassland, soil, and farm ecosystem.

In 1993 Colin co-developed pasture cropping, a unique method of growing crops while restoring grassland and soil.

Colin’s dedication to farmer education, support programmes and enabling extensive scientific study of his practices has resulted in ‘Pasture Cropping’ being adopted around the world.

During the development of ‘pasture cropping’ and regenerative land management techniques Colin has received many awards for his work the awards and in January 2015, the Weekly Times newspaper described Colin as a visionary and one of the top 6 most influential farmers of the world.
Racheal Treasure

Rachael is a mother, author and regenerative farmer. In between studying she has worked as a jillaroo, rural journalist, ABC radio broadcaster, professional woolclasser, part-time vet nurse, family farm manager, drover and stock camp cook. As an author, Racheal is working to inspire farmers to change to regenerative agricultural practices, so as to increase both profits and restore a healthy ecology. Her writing also advocates for animal handler education so as to better understand their dogs and livestock.

Racheal farms with her partner Daniel near Richmond in Southern Tasmania. They are focusing on hydrology in the landscape and mob grazing techniques.

Rachael is a Rural Business Administration graduate of Orange Agricultural College and has a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) degree from Charles Sturt University, Bathurst NSW.

Fraser Pogue

Fraser and his family are irrigation based croppers from near Ardmona in Victoria. Fraser has been working to restoring degraded cropping land into productive thriving landscape. He says understanding the relationship between microorganisms and plants has changed the way he farms. He is consistently maintaining excellent yields while lowering costs.

Peter Raynolds

Peter and Anja Raynolds manage Neringla a 900+ha grazing property near Araluen, New South Wales. Peter took over the management of Neringla from his father in 2012. He has also worked in mining and construction, and studied agriculture at the Orange campus of Sydney University. Peter is using satellite monitoring to ensure that his management decisions increase groundcover, perennial grass diversity, decomposing litter and stable profits.

He will be discussing the practical aspects of managing an extensive hilly grazing property area for regeneration.