

MARY VALLEY COUNTRY HARVEST CO-OPERATIVE presents

# “FAMILY FARMING FOR THE FUTURE”

A two-day program of workshops and discussions on current major issues around growing and supplying fresh produce into the local market.

**Kandanga Hall, Mon 29<sup>th</sup> – Tues 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
(9am start both days)

Single day attendance \$50 (includes lunch & refreshments)

Both days \$95 (includes lunches & refreshments)

Monday's Harvest Dinner \$40

Bookings – buy online at [www.maryvalleycountryharvest.com/e-market/](http://www.maryvalleycountryharvest.com/e-market/)  
or email to [maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com](mailto:maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com)  
or call 0459 225 399 to reserve your place.



## **DAY 1 (Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May)**

8 x 90min sessions over 2 venues. Bring a friend so you can share notes!

**ROBERT PEKIN** - Food Connect, Brisbane

### **“Connecting growers with the local market in SEQ”**

Direct marketing and distribution of fresh produce in SEQ – lessons from the past, current trends and an eye to the future.

*Robert was a key founder of Food Connect Brisbane in 2005, a social enterprise food hub focussed on selling “Seasonal, Ecological Food Direct From Your Farmer” into SEQ. He also helped establish the Food Connect Foundation in 2009, which researches and works to support ecologically sustainable food production and distribution systems. Robert is an ex-dairy farmer, market gardener and viticulturist.*

**JOEL ORCHARD (NSW)** - Farm Endorsement Ecological Development (FEED), Northern Rivers Young Farmers, Byron Region Food Sovereignty Network

### **“Farmer Participatory Guarantee Schemes in Australia”**

Lessons learnt from setting up FEED in northern NSW

*Joel is passionate science graduate-turned young farmer-turned social activist from the Northern Rivers of NSW. He was instrumental in establishing Future Feeders, a young farmers hub, peer support and community farming program based primarily at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens. He is an active founding member of the Northern Rivers Young Farmers Alliance and is also a founding member of the Byron Region Food Sovereignty Network. He is currently developing Northern Rivers FEED : a regional ecological agriculture participatory guarantee system as an alternative to third party certification.*

**EDDY DUNN**- Total Grower Services

### **“Integrated Pest Management in Horticulture”**

Identifying, monitoring and utilising insects as part of an integrated management approach. Latest industry trends in horticulture, implications of Qld's new Biosecurity legislation.

*Eddy grew up in Stanthorpe on a fruit & vegetable farm and is now Horticultural agronomist and Integrated Pest Management specialist with Total Grower Services. Since completing his*

*Science degree in production horticulture at Gatton in 2002, he has worked extensively in the Bundaberg region and is widely regarded as one of the best integrated pest management consultants in the citrus, passionfruit, avocado and macadamia industries.*

**ADRIAN ROSS** - Wide Bay Seedlings

**“Seedling raising and plant propagation”**

Production of seedlings for commercial operations - basic principles of seedling propagation and management. Includes a panel discussion on small-scale techniques and tools.

*Adrian is an experienced horticultural scientist with a long history in sustainable land management and support of the Landcare movement. He established Wide Bay Seedlings in 2008, which has since grown into one of the largest and most modern producers of bulk horticultural seedlings in Australia. In his past he has also run an organic herb production business and has travelled extensively studying modern horticultural systems overseas.*

**SHANE JOYCE** - Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

**“Landscape and livestock management – new approaches”**

Lessons learnt in adapting land and grazing management practices when moving from a large operation to a smaller property in SEQ.

*Shane was the winner of the National Carbon Cockey awards in 2012 and has been a past director of Biodynamic Agriculture Australia. He and his partner Shan have embraced nature conservation, beef production and land management which have brought them to the fore as one of nineteen Australia-wide case studies of regenerative agriculture under the national “Soils For Life” project. Shan and Shane have since moved to their new property ‘Kumbartcho’, and are very active in the local community, Landcare and the biodynamic farming network.*

**DEREK FOSTER** - Foster Facilitations

**“Looking after the farmer and family”**

Building emotional resilience and improving ability to cope with the unpredictable knocks and setbacks that are part of the life of a farming family.

*Derek is a qualified councillor, with a long history as an international agricultural extension specialist, in addition to decades of local work in community development and conservation (for which he received an Australia Day award in 2015). He has worked extensively with farmers in Qld, USA, Canada and the Asia-Pacific region. He currently enjoys spending time on his home farm which has been in the family since the 1890s.*

**JAMES LARSEN** - Mary Valley Country Harvest

**“Tools and equipment for market gardeners”**

A discussion and demonstration of useful equipment for small-scale farmers. Includes walk-behind tractor and implements, soil sampling and monitoring tools used, hand tools for handling seedlings. Bring along your favourite tool !

*James is a 3rd-generation farmer with extensive practical experience in designing & modifying agricultural equipment for special purposes, ranging in scale from broadacre equipment down to specialist hand tools. He is currently interested in developing small scale tools for direct sowing and transplanting into cover-cropping systems suitable for our SEQ climate and soils.*

**STEVE BURGESS** – Mary Valley Country Harvest

**“Feeding Hungry Soils – cover crops and soil health”**

Trialling tools, techniques and systems for building organic matter in small market gardens in sub-tropical Australia without using herbicide, by increasing cover cropping & reducing tillage.

*Steve is working on a project called “Feeding Hungry Soils”, in his role as the current recipient*

of the biennial Bob Hawke National Landcare award. He is very interested in developing practical ways to improve soil health in subtropical market gardens through the better use of cover crops, green manures and rotations.

**MONDAY EVENING HARVEST DINNER,  
with Chris White of Hungry Feel Eating House (Buderim)**

A feast of local produce, plus a lively panel discussion!

**DAY 2 (Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May)**

Whole-day series of workshops and discussions on

- Developing and documenting a production system for your farm.
- Accreditation schemes, legal requirements for marketing produce.
- Opportunities, risks and challenges.

Joining some of our presenters from Day 1 will be:

**LAURA MONTENEGRO** *Laura is past president and technical director of Argencert, Argentina's organic certification body, which operates in a number of South American countries and in the USA. She is also the President of Certibionet, an international organisation of organic certifying bodies, working to find agreement between various international organic agriculture standards. We are very fortunate that Laura now lives in the Mary Valley and has offered to assist the MVCH co-op.*

**SUZETTE OLSON** *Suzette is a registered SunFresh auditor, who had the responsibility of conducting the internal audits required for Mary Valley producers supplying through SunFresh, one of Australia's major fresh fruit marketing co-ops. As well as many years of experience in running their own accredited farm and packing shed, she was responsible for assisting other local growers meet the production, handling and record-keeping standards required under the SunFresh accreditation system.*

**LUKE STACEY** *As well as being a well-recognized local garlic grower, Luke is currently the Cropping Land Management Officer for the Fitzroy Basin Association. He is responsible for helping large-scale grain farmers formulate and implement Best Management Practice plans. As well as his professional background in environmental science, Luke has a Master's degree in counselling and is very interested in the social dimension of agriculture and how we manage the land.*

One thing that all accreditation schemes for fresh produce have in common is a requirement for a written management plan and a record-keeping system. The aim of this day is to help you develop a protocol for documenting and recording your farm management and quality assurance methods and covering the basic requirements for seeking formal accreditation if you wish to do so. There will be a discussion of various formal accreditation schemes, and during the day you will be assisted in putting together a basic written management plan and record-keeping protocol for your own property.

Topics include:

- Management and operation plans – putting together a farm profile. What steps will you take for testing and monitoring crops and soil health, for weed/pest/disease

management and water management? How will this be recorded and documented?

- Post-harvest handling and managing the harvest – processing/packaging/labelling, food safety/product handling and storage, standards, weights and measures.
- Quality Assurance, formal accreditation, Participatory Guarantee schemes, product testing.
- Developing relationships with customers and gaining trust. Sharing your ethos.

To finish, we will discuss future actions – what lies ahead for the family farm?

**For more information, please contact:**

**Elaine Bradley            0459 225 399**

**Steve Burgess            0428 843 749**