

Central Victorian Regenerative Farmers Group Inc



The Central Victorian Regenerative Farmers Group began in January 2019. It has since expanded from the original five farms with four demonstration paddock trials to 35 members across 31 farms covering over 10,000 hectares.

The group is now incorporated and is currently conducting two formal trials under the management of a consulting agronomist plus paddock demonstrations on ten other farms in the past year.

On-ground achievements are apparent with some farms having now observed the progressive improvement of their crop vigour season-to-season due to regenerative techniques (cover cropping and use of biological inputs) and improvement of their soils observed in reduction of compaction, better soil friability and aggregation and better moisture retention.

Many of the participating farmers have expanded their cover cropping program well beyond their small demonstration plots to other paddocks with the intention of all-of-farm regeneration and soil improvement.



Ross Davey, standing in his cover crop

The group has a community Facebook site with over 950 followers. There are regular discussions and postings about member initiatives and progress, links to videos and presentations and Australia-wide discussions.

About the Facilitator



Zoe Crouch is the groups facilitator, having taken over the role in July 2021. She farms alongside her husband and two children near Landsborough. Zoe's regenerative journey began in early 2020. She has since

commenced study at Southern Cross University, where she will complete a Bachelor of Science (Major in Regen Ag. She has a passion for helping farmers and people interested in regenerative agriculture progress along their journey. Zoe believes the future is bright for agriculture, as consumers seek information regarding how, where and why their food is grown. Regenerative farmers can provide wholesome, nutritious food to these people whilst helping educate and decrease the gap between farmer and consumer.

Contact Zoe

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This project is supported by the North Central CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



Group Objectives

- To improve knowledge and ability to interpret soil testing results and make informed decisions for their farm.
- To improve knowledge of soil health, soil biology and soil improvement techniques through training and trials.
- To improve pasture and grazing management to retain soil carbon, build pasture species diversity and improve production.
- To increase their practical knowledge on regenerative agriculture techniques including natural sequence farming.

Group Activities

- Bus tour of regenerative farms, agroforestry, fodder shrubs in South West Victoria and the Mallee - two days.
- Workshop - Forage shrubs - species options, establishment, management, value.
- Workshop/field day - Paddock preparation field day: practical demonstration of SoilKee, Agroplough, Aerator.
- Perennial Pastures follow up - species options, establishment, management, value. Presenter TBA.
- Planned Intensive Grazing Demonstration Site - set up, Holistic Planned Grazing training and observation/paddock walks.
- Member and Formal Demonstration Trials (pastures) multi-species summer, perennials and winter annuals to increase biodiversity in pastures, ground cover and soil biology. Assessing bio-stimulants to increase biological activity.
- Project video feature on group activities and formal trials and farm demonstrations.

For more information

Telephone 03 5448 7124 or visit
www.nccma.vic.gov.au

