

LOCAL FARMER FINDS HER FEET

Regenerative Agriculture Project



Regenerative Agriculture Community Groups continue to strengthen the health and vitality of farming communities. They deliver on-ground projects and activities that improve soil health, enhance ecosystem services and increase our communities' resilience to climate variability but helping others is what they do best.

The Central Victorian Regenerative Farmers (CVRF) group, located in the Maryborough area, formed two years ago and local Angie Browning is already benefiting from her involvement.

Angie has a small property south of Talbot on the Eastern Slopes of Mt Bolton and said until recently she hadn't heard of regenerative agriculture.

"Before being involved in the (CVRF) group I felt lost, I knew that I didn't feel comfortable with our current practices on our property, but I had no alternatives and no one to advise me. This group has given me alternatives. I feel good about implementing the methods I've learnt from being involved with this regenerative farmer group," Angie said.

"We had previously planted trees and our neighbour ran some sheep, but once we heard about regenerative agriculture, we knew this was what we wanted for our property."

Angie said she feels supported to explore and implement a variety of methods designed to improve the soil biology on her property.

"I have sown multi species cover crops using seed that is not treated with chemical coatings. I created a homemade biological slurry that was applied to the seed using a cement mixer. I have sprayed worm teas on some paddocks and added compost to another. The purpose of these activities was to increase biological activity in the soil. I have planted trees in the past but being involved with the group has reinvigorated my passion and I have started planting more trees on the property.

"I now feel empowered to say "no" to chemicals and synthetic fertilisers, as now I have cheaper alternatives which I know I can make myself," she said.

"I will continue to do some cover crops and use biologicals such as worm/compost teas and maybe even some homemade biochar.

"I'd like to add more fencing, so we have more smaller paddocks. A better water system to reticulate water from the elevated areas to the lower with pipes to service troughs in multiple paddocks making it easier to water and graze livestock using regenerative agriculture practices. I'd also like to fence off another couple of areas for trees/shelterbelts.

"Making these changes could set an example of how to improve the soil and landscape. I think if I am successful it will inspire others to also implement some regenerative practices.

"I think regenerative practices will make a huge difference to the long-term future of our property. I believe mimicking nature instead of using chemicals and synthetic fertilisers will improve the soil biology and create a healthy sustainable system for our property and livestock."



Angie enjoys the camaraderie and support from group members and their infectious enthusiasm. Credit. A Browning.