

*“Every farm problem naturally has an answer”*

## Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Lice*
- ◆ *Homoeopathics For Louisey Times*
- ◆ *More good results with worm teas*
- ◆ *Members Lunch*

## Inside this issue

- Know Your Options **1**
- Pests:** **2**
- Lice
- Tales from a Homoeopath. **2**
- Product of the Month:** **2**  
Grasp the Nettle  
By Peter Proctor
- Walk the Talk** with Dr Maarten Stapper; Dr Elaine Ingham and Tony Evans **2**
- Trekking about with Helen & Hugo **3**
- Worm Farmers Diary **3**
- Tigger Tales :** **3**  
Teeth & a free gift
- Members Section **4**
- Exclusive Farming Secrets Members Lunch with Elaine **4**
- Farming Secrets Guarantees Profitable Healthy Sustainable Farming With Less Hard Yakka More Time and More Joy

Welcome to our 18th Edition! People keep asking us who is Farming Secrets? Farming Secrets was started by Hugo and Helen Disler and provides powerful tools for all farmers to *fast track* results by providing options. **Often just one good idea may be the catalyst for major change.**

What would you like? Do you want your children to return to the farm?



Helen & Hugo with Elaine Ingham

We have seen this with several happy members. Would you love to wake up excited knowing that your farm is getting healthier and more profitable by the day? We'd love you to join and share in the excitement and immense satisfaction to be gained by knowing options.

## It Doesn't Matter How Old You Are, Knowing Your Options Is Powerful

**It doesn't matter how old you are, knowing your options is powerful whether you use them or not.** This is what Farming Secrets is all about -- exposing new options. Are you dissatisfied with your farming now or are you perfectly happy with what you're doing? Would you like to know other ways of doing things that might be quicker or more effective or save you money? Whatever it is and wherever you are with your farming, there are always more options and we ourselves are finding out more and more of them all the time! We're excited to have the Farming Secrets Club where farmers come together and learn these options, mainly by seeing other successful farmers doing what they're doing on their farms through our monthly "Walk the Talk" and "Talk the Walk" Q & A follow up session.

For instance with Bruce Davison, even though many of members had seen David Davidson explain the value of worms, how to set up worm farms and the benefits you receive from using worm teas, the penny clicked only for some of them in this last "Walk the Talk" because the worm farms were in bathtubs and a trailer. Bruce's option for success was his worm farm making worm leachate which was sprayed to improve the quality of his pasture. This got his cattle through the drought years with good weight gain and no hand feeding. Simple, economical and effective and has already given



Bruce's cattle 3 weeks after drought ended. See the difference the worm leachate made.

members the confidence to follow this option. Another example is the recent visit of Dr. Elaine Ingham to Camperdown where she spoke about

the use of compost which can reduce fertiliser costs totally plus farmers see pasture improvement along with stock health too.



Above Dairy farmers dine with Elaine Right Tony Evans shows the compost tea extractor



Many of the dairy farmers there are now taking up composting on their farms to deal with their effluent. This is a great option! They already have much of their compost material like sawdust from the walkways, effluent from the dairy, bedding from the calf sheds. This along with the support and expertise from Camperdown Compost brings great confidence. And they are happy :)

Don't have this option or you'd prefer to use biological inputs which need no preparation? Another strength Farming Secrets offers is the vast knowledge of the market gathered over a lifetime of experience in the industry. This gives us the ability to guide you to choose a reputable supplier of quality products. Once again Farming Secrets saves you the hassle of not only finding the appropriate product but which one is suitable for you and the results it delivers. Interestingly quite often a farmer calls to find out how to fix a problem or where to buy a product unaware that it is far more important to address the underlying cause of the problem. A problem once solved saves you money and worry forever in the future.

**How much is that worth to you? It's hard to quantify isn't it? Think we could help? We invite you to call Hugo on 1800 800 466 to find out your best options. Do it today!**



## Trekking around with Hugo and Helen

Member Martin Williams told us he was coming down from NT to do Dr Elaine Ingham's 2 week course plus come to her presentation at Camperdown and to the Farming Secrets lunch. When he heard that Dr Christine Jones was presenting at **Nutrisoil** Open Day Living Soil with



Nicole Masters wild horses wouldn't have kept him away. Martin is an enthusiast for learning new options and raves about the Farming Secrets CDs which he listens to on his tractor etc.



Here he is talking with Ian Haggerty & Don Jarvis. We also met up with member Barbara Cavanagh on crutches!



This year **Nutrisoil** held their programme over 2 days with **Christine Jones** and **Nicole Masters** presenting on soils on Day 1 and leading a group session on Where do we start? on Day 2. Some farmers were upset when they weren't given a step-by-step approach, however farming isn't prescriptive. **Graeme Hand** led the discussion on Holistic Management and emphasised the importance of ground cover. There is a heap more really useful info at:

<http://www.nutrisoil.com.au/news-events/> Thanks to the **Maddock** family for an even more outstanding day for farmers to discover their options!

In August **Dr Elaine Ingham** arrived. We were keen to show her the work being done with dairy effluent by Camperdown compost. We spent all day with the Nick and Tony and some time with each of the farmers as well as vet, Tom Walsh. Later we all met up for dinner where lots more stories and information was exchanged. There was an excitement amongst the group who were all seeing improvements on their farms. Keep an eye on the [farmingsecretsblog.com](http://farmingsecretsblog.com) for clips of this filming.

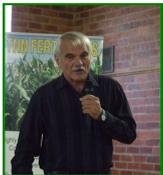


Nick checking a brew

The next day Elaine gave her talk (see separate sheet enclosed) The following day we spent with our Farming Secrets Members and some experts for our 1st members lunch. It really was an awesome event with the vote to have it again in 2012!



Our latest filming was the BFA Roadshow where **Gary Zimmer (L)** was speaking and wow did he speak! He is a passionate, committed organic farmer keen to stop the spread of GM crops. **Joel Williams** from the BFA spoke well about how the soil foodweb functions. (See sheet inside)



## The Worm Farmer's Diary

Strange thing, but in the three years we have been applying  Worm Tea to our pastures, each year has been the best Spring yet. Wonder if it's just co-incidence?

Anyway, I'm loving the huge amount of clover popping up all over, regardless of the cause.

Have recently started my latest "bright idea". We have started putting the



David with Elaine

compost worms out in the pasture immediately following the block grazing. **So far so good.**

In the first block, we already have red-tigers making their home in the fresh cowpats and underneath that, the normal earthworms have come up for a feed on the rich humus being made by their cousins. Not sure how we will go during a dry summer, but with plenty of ground cover, they might survive. Sure beats bringing the manure in to the home paddock to have it processed by the worms and then carting it back out again. It's a bit like having your own dung beetles, but with the added advantages that only worms can put in to the soil, like extra calcium and extra plant growth hormones. (also less chance that they will fly off in to the neighbours paddocks.) Anyone wanting to learn more about this new technique, I am happy to share via email. That's all for now [davidd@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:davidd@aussiebroadband.com.au) Happy Worm Farming. Cheers, David Davidson

## Tigger Tales! ..... for all her farmyard friends.



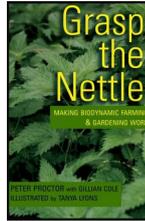
***I've been in the wars lately with itchy paws and face, a broken tooth and then last week a tick on my cheek!*** I also said I'd give you an update on my problem with eating bones! Well, Hugo and Helen have at last found the free range chicken bones but I still get sick on bigger raw bones. They are determined to find out why as they say that chewing bones is the easiest way to keep my teeth clean. Did you know that I could live an extra 3 years if I keep my teeth clean? In fact I have asked Helen to put this article about teeth in the **FREE GIFTS** section in the **Farming Secrets Store** it is so good. Then, Murphy's law, I broke off half a tooth but it isn't worrying me one little bit. I am still chewing up all the sticks that are thrown for me if I can. But having itchy paws is worrying me as I bite them excessively to stop the itch. So they rang Jean Belstead who did a distant healing and sent me Dogitch. I am a lot lot better but still a bit bitey as I am writing this. P.S. Another tick on my eyebrow just now!

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**Book Review: Grasp the Nettle by Peter Proctor Rating: \*\*\*\*\***



Leading agricultural scientists as well as conventional farmers are appreciating the connection of the plant to the cosmos. Over 96% of a plant consists of subatomic particles and gas that originate from the atmosphere. Many ag. scientists teach that it is mainly the CO2 in the atmosphere that creates the carbon in the soil. Rudolf Steiner, the father of biodynamics in the early 1900's lectured on this connection of the plant to the cosmos.

When this connection is facilitated farmers can grow exceptionally healthy plants and animals with little or no purchased fertiliser. **Grasp the Nettle** explains how farmers can make their own plant nutrients including how to make your own liquid fish and seaweed fertiliser and how to make compost without turning it. Also he reveals the process of "peppering" that is used to reduce the burden of weeds, insects and undesirable animals like foxes, rabbits and mice. "Peppering" is another option that is made onfarm. Costs nothing except your time and yet it is so effective.

*Review by Hugo Disler*

**RRPrice  
Only \$38**



**GOLD NUGGET**

Hi to our valuable "Farming Secrets Club" members both new and old. Are you enjoying your exclusive **Gold Nuggets** ? Did you like the quotes from Masanobu Fukuoka who wrote "The One-Straw Revolution" and proposed Toward a "do-nothing" farming "My way was opposite. I was aiming at a pleasant, natural way of farming\* which results in making the work easier instead of harder. "How about *not* doing this. How about *not* doing that?"

Scientists think they can understand nature. That is the stand they take. Because they are convinced that they can understand nature, they are committed to investigating nature and putting it to use. But I think an understanding of nature lies beyond the reach of human intelligence.

And from Dr Christine Jones: Soil CARBON means WATER to me!! Do you want more SOIL or less? More CARBON or less? More WATER or less? Over the last 50 to 100 years, soil organic carbon levels in many areas have fallen by about 3%. **This represents the LOSS of the ability to store around 504,000 litres of water per hectare.**

**"Farming Secrets Club" Members Corner!**

Farmers came from as far as the Northern Territory, SA and NSW to join us for our **1st Farming Secrets Members lunch** with Dr Elaine Ingham. Some members visited David & Beth Davidson's for a closer look at his worm composting operation before arriving at Tuki trout farm, run by the parents of Alistair Jones, a member. We started off the day by introducing our members to some of the 'stars' of our past "Walk the Talks". It was exciting to see them all and hear updates from Ron and Bev Smith who are now holding classes for farmers. David Davidson along with John Bedwell talking of his brews. We then went outside with Graeme Hand who showed key points of grazing management.



Robert Jones showed us the effect of vermicompost tea on oats which clearly was more productive than the trial paddock. Bruce Davison showed how he does a very accurate on-the-spot pH test which took several minutes and costs only a few cents. It was then lunchtime but we had to catch it first! For some it was the first time that they'd ever caught a fish, lots

of squealing and fun!



After a very filling lunch we had a look at the compost tea under the microscope

with Gerhard Grasser, heard from Tony Evans and we listened to one of our members, Ian Smith who recently won the Harvest Moon 2011 top award for Excellence and Innovation in Agriculture. As Ian writes:

*"It has been an exciting couple of weeks and many thanks, as it has been through Farming Secrets, that has enabled me to be kept informed and meet many great people in our pursuit to produce great food. I am looking forward to an exciting cropping season"*.

Latest news is a grant of \$10,000 with SFI to do research on his vegetable farm in Tasmania. Ian is a prime example of how knowing options and getting support from Farming Secrets has just *fast tracked* his operation. In fact he's told us that he doesn't think that we charge enough for the valuable information and support we give. :) Thank you, Ian

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