

Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Annual Conference 2022

Carbon neutrality and beyond: the future of offsetting

Panel:

- **Indy Lingam**, Yarra City Council
- **Stephanie Delaney**, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- **Chris Pitfield**, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Facilitator: David Collins, Chair, Barwon South-West Climate Alliance



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri, the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on today, and pay respect to their elders: past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded and that they have looked after this country for millennia.

Likewise we acknowledge Traditional Owners around Victoria, whose lands provide us with the energy, food, water and other resources we are using today.



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Carbon Neutral

Indy Lingam

Yarra City Council



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What does it mean to be carbon neutral?



10 years



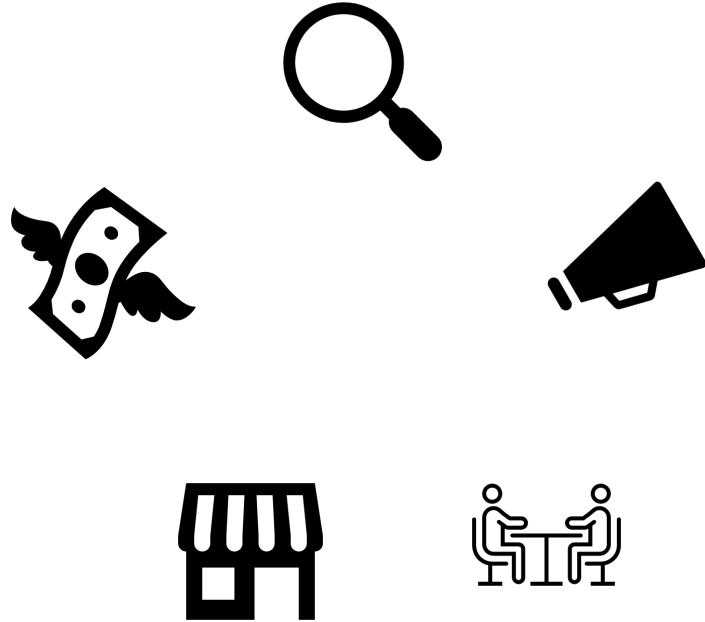
Source: Climate Active



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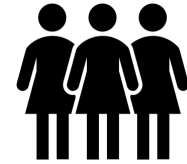
Benefits of being Carbon Neutral

- Communication and Engagement
 - Internal
 - External
- Public disclosure – hard to go back
- Own house in order
 - Real action – Climate Emergency
 - Data
- Support external initiatives



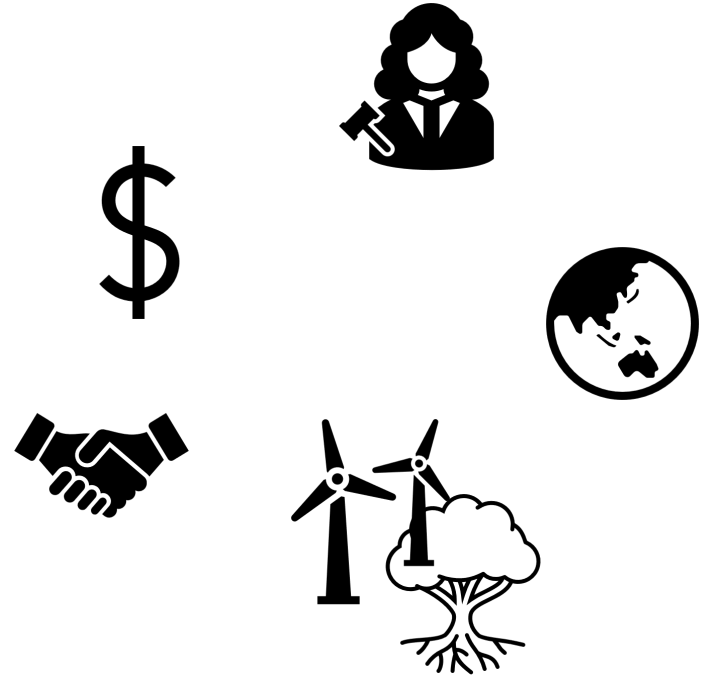
Considerations and commitment

- Be clear on your motivation
- Icing on the cake – not the cake
- Staff
- What's in? What's out?
- Costs



Offsets

- Quality judgement
- Overseas vs Local
- Project type
- Co-benefits
- Additionality
- Costs



What's next for Yarra?



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Community Carbon Facilitation

Stephanie Delaney

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council



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Understanding carbon opportunities

- Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy
- Zero Emissions Farming Conference
- Regenerative Farming Training Program

Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy 2022 - 2027

DRAFT September 2021



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
10AM-4PM
(FROM 9AM FOR FACE TO FACE ATTENDEES)

TUCKS RESTAURANT,
37 SHOREHAM RD, RED HILL SOUTH

LIVE STREAMED VIA ZOOM
MEETING ID: 899 8675 2627
PASSCODE: 857486

ppwcma.vic.gov.au/zeroemissionsfarming

MORNINGTON PENINSULA REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE TRAINING PROGRAM 2021 Evaluation Report



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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS



Graeme Anderson

Graeme is a science communicator and extension leader within Victoria's agriculture sector with 30 years of experience in science and policy communication, analysis and education, farm planning, livestock safety and conservation, agriculture industry development, land use change and climate, and carbon and enterprise management in agriculture. Graeme leads a small team who deliver climate risk services (including the State of Soil Monitor) to growers, climate extension, climate change education and presentations for industry which assist farmers and advisors in making sense of emerging issues associated with climate change and how to adapt our local farm systems.



Richard Eckard

Richard is Professor and Director of University of Melbourne's Primary Industries Climate Change Centre, a research centre addressing the impacts of a changing climate on agriculture. His research focuses on carbon farming and accounting, research carbon market agriculture, bringing climate smart advice and solutions for agriculture to respond to a changing climate. Richard is a science advisor to the Australian, New Zealand, US and EU governments, the International Livestock Research Institute and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Richard was recently named on the list of the 1000 most influential climate scientists and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Katie McDermott

Katie is an author, communications and project management specialist with an MBA and a Doctorate from Griffith University (specialising in Sustainable Business). Prior to joining the Australian Farming Institute (AFI), Katie was the Global Content and Community Manager for Rabobank's Global Farmer Program and the National Editor for FarmConnect. Katie participated in the 2022 Global Business Challenge, the National Farmers' Federation 2020 Leadership Program, and won the Most Innovative Business Project Award at the 2020 MBA Australia Graduate Management Awards. Katie has co-authored several journalism AFI reports, including Change in the air: defining the need for an Australian agricultural climate change strategy.



Margaret Jewell

Margaret is an agricultural scientist with a PhD in plant genetics and over 40 years' experience in research and extension. Margaret is committed to ensuring that Australian agriculture can prosper while recovering sustainably and contributing to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.



Rowan Reid

Rowan is a forest scientist and tree grower in the Cheaps. On his own farm, Bellvue Agricultural Park, he grows more than 100 types of specialty timber. As an academic at Melbourne University (1990-2006), Rowan is now aligned to the Australian Agency for Food and Fisheries Research (AAFFR) which is a division of the Australian Agency for Agricultural and Fisheries Research and has written many books on tree growing. He likes being Heartwood: the art and science of growing trees for construction and craft.



Andrew Stewart

Andrew, with his wife Jill, manages Yee Yee Gut Sheep Farm. Located in the Otway Range, Yee Yee Gut has been bred for the Sheep Farming for the generations. The main production is prime lambs and wool with a focus on landscape friendly agriculture. Andrew coordinates the Otway Agency Network and is a founding member of the Victorian Agency for Food and Fisheries Research. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Science from Flinders. Andrew has received the Norman Wentworth Landscape Restoration Fellowship and won the 2020 Red House Limestone Award.



COVID BLOG Follow our live coverage for the latest news on the coronavirus pandemic

How regenerative farming is helping the Mornington Peninsula reach net zero emissions

ABC Radio Melbourne / By Mattia Marozzi
Posted Mon 22 Nov 2021 at 6:40am



Joe Vaughan recently won the Dr Allan Antcliff Vineyard of the Year Award for environmental excellence. (Supplied: Janis House)

Top Stories
Christian Porter to quit politics, will not contest next election

China's trade war is being intended to bring Australia 'to its knees'. A top US adviser says Canberra may have won

Sixth case of Omicron variant of COVID-19 confirmed in NSW

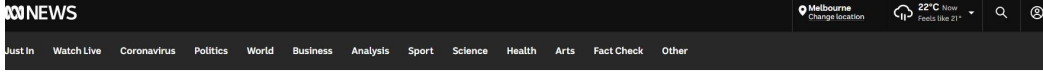
Everything we know about the Omicron cases in NSW right now

Alex. 84, is being evicted from his home after the collapse of a housing scheme

Cars swept from road, flooded town evacuated as rain is dumped on southern Queensland

Backpacker tells inquest Theo Hayez didn't appear drunk on the night he disappeared in Byron Bay

Who knew about the... (truncated)



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REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE DISCUSSION AND FARM WALK

You are invited to our first Mornington Peninsula Regenerative Agriculture Training Program 2021 farm walk and discussion. This is a great opportunity for you to come and meet your fellow participants, reinforce learnings & pick-up new ideas!

Beth and Andrew Phillips, owners of Grow Corp Farm in Main Ridge, run beef cattle and their regenerative farming practices are underway. Grow Corp Farm is a social enterprise that provides small-scale farmers with the opportunity to lease land and run their own business. The Grow Corp Farm is intended as a farming collective where multiple farmers work collaboratively supporting one another as they run their own enterprise. Yolky Dokey egg farmers are the first to join the collective with their pasture raised hens, with others soon to follow.



Declan McDonald will be our professional advisor and facilitate discussion on the day.

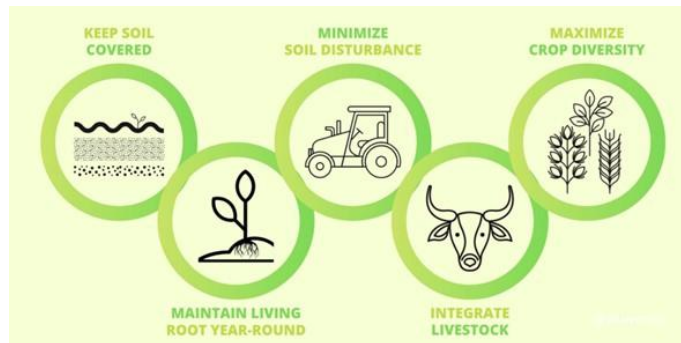
Where: Beth & Andrew Phillips' "Grow Corp Farm",
580 Main Creek Road, Main Ridge

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/580+Main+Creek+Road,+Main+Ridge,+VIC+3960/@38.4144444,145.1111111,15z>

When: Tues 7th December 2021

Time: 10:00am – Register and morning tea
10:30-12:30pm – Farm walk and discussion

Current covid regulations apply. All attendees must be double vaccinated or have a medical exemption. Do not attend if you are unwell.
RSVP by 3rd Dec to Veronie Morris: Veronie.Morris@mornington.vic.gov.au
or phone 0481 476 503



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CARBON FARMING AND CARBON NEUTRAL AGRICULTURE: A PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

By the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences and the Melbourne School of Professional and Continuing Education (MSPACE) on behalf of The University of Melbourne

16 June 2023

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MONITORING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM FARM DAMS

MORNINGTON PENINSULA
Shire

Blue Carbon Lab
DEAKIN

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

BLUE CARBON OPPORTUNITIES AT A LOCAL SCALE

Western Port Biosphere and SECCCA

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Understanding the value of COASTAL WETLANDS

SALTMARSH MANGROVES SEAGRASS

Mangroves, saltmarsh, and seagrasses – are collectively known as 'blue carbon' ecosystems. They act as natural carbon sinks, effectively reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide and mitigating climate change. Blue carbon systems can drawdown carbon 30-50 times faster than terrestrial forests and lock it away in the soil for centuries to millennia. Australia is home to one of the world's richest blue carbon stores.

COASTAL WETLANDS UNDER THREAT

Global wetlands have declined by 64-71% since 1950. This dramatic decline has significant impacts on carbon storage. It is estimated that each hectare of blue carbon ecosystem loss has an equivalent impact of losing between 10 and 40 tonnes of tropical forest in terms of carbon emissions, mostly due to the extremely long-term storage of carbon in blue carbon soils.

64%

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUES

Coastal wetlands provide many benefits, or 'ecosystem services', including sustaining commercial and recreational fisheries, protecting our coastlines from ocean-related threats, sequestering and storing carbon (known as blue carbon), and providing natural prizes for nature-based tourism and recreational activities.

These benefits are vital not only for our health and wellbeing, but they also play a significant role in supporting the blue economy and coastal communities, particularly in regional areas.



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Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program – Value Adding to Carbon Neutrality

Chris Pitfield
Corangamite CMA



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Overview

- CCMA received funding from DELWP's Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2021/2022 Grants
- Design & feasibility of a circular carbon offset program
- Joint initiative between the Councils and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) within the BSW region of Victoria
- Main objective is to support the region's Councils to offset their carbon emissions locally – matching LGAs with high carbon neutrality targets with LGAs with high carbon offset potential
- Done through aligning carbon offsets with local natural resource management (NRM) outcomes coordinated by the region's two CMAs
- BSW Climate Alliance will provide a supporting role once established



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Objectives

We want to meet the carbon neutrality targets of Councils (and region) but also...

- Achieve **regional NRM outcomes** including improved water quality, soil health & habitat connectivity, as well as adaptation to climate change
- Support **local community groups & private landholders** undertaking NRM projects
- Support & sustain the **local revegetation industry** including seed banks, nurseries, & other revegetation industry related small businesses
- **Leverage** future state, federal & non-government investment into local NRM programs
- **Support & invest** in regional Green, Blue and Soil carbon industries, and research as well as encourage the sustainable advancement of these industries
- Improve soil health for **sustainable agricultural productivity & community economic growth**



What stakeholders will be involved?

- **10 Councils** – carbon offset purchaser
- **2 CMAs** – carbon offset aggregator/facilitator
- **Mullion Group (FLINTpro)** – system developer
- **South Pole** – carbon offset governance/certification
- **DELWP** – investor in design & feasibility
- **BSW Climate Alliance** – supporting role once established
- **Water Corporations, Corporations, Businesses, etc** – future involvement

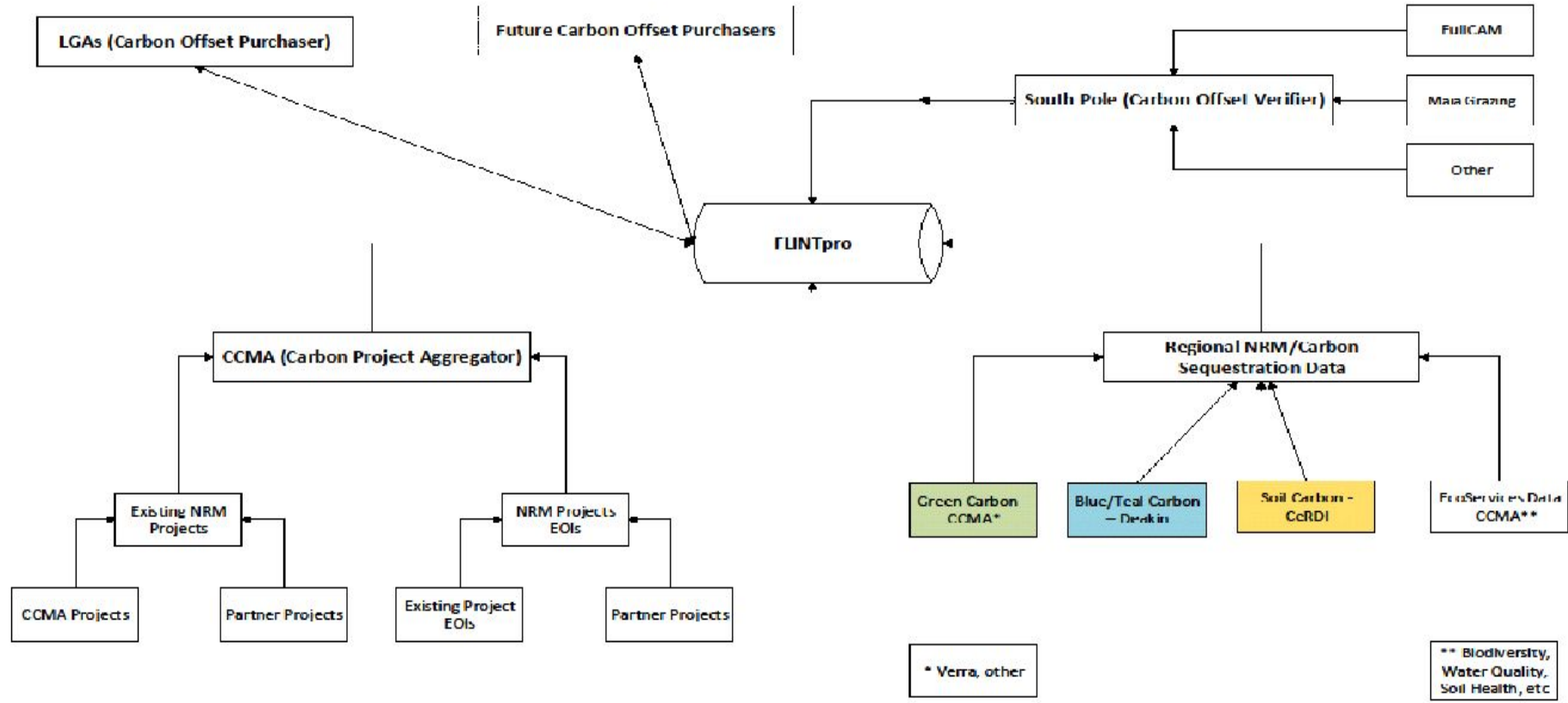


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Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program



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Question time



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