

# Regenerative Agriculture

# Upper Mooki Landcare Inc



## Who are we and what do we do?

UMLC is a small landcare group based in south east Liverpool Plains of north west NSW. Members of UMLC engage in a wide range of grazing, cropping and natural resource management activities.

UMLC values agricultural production from sustainable land use. Our objectives are to:

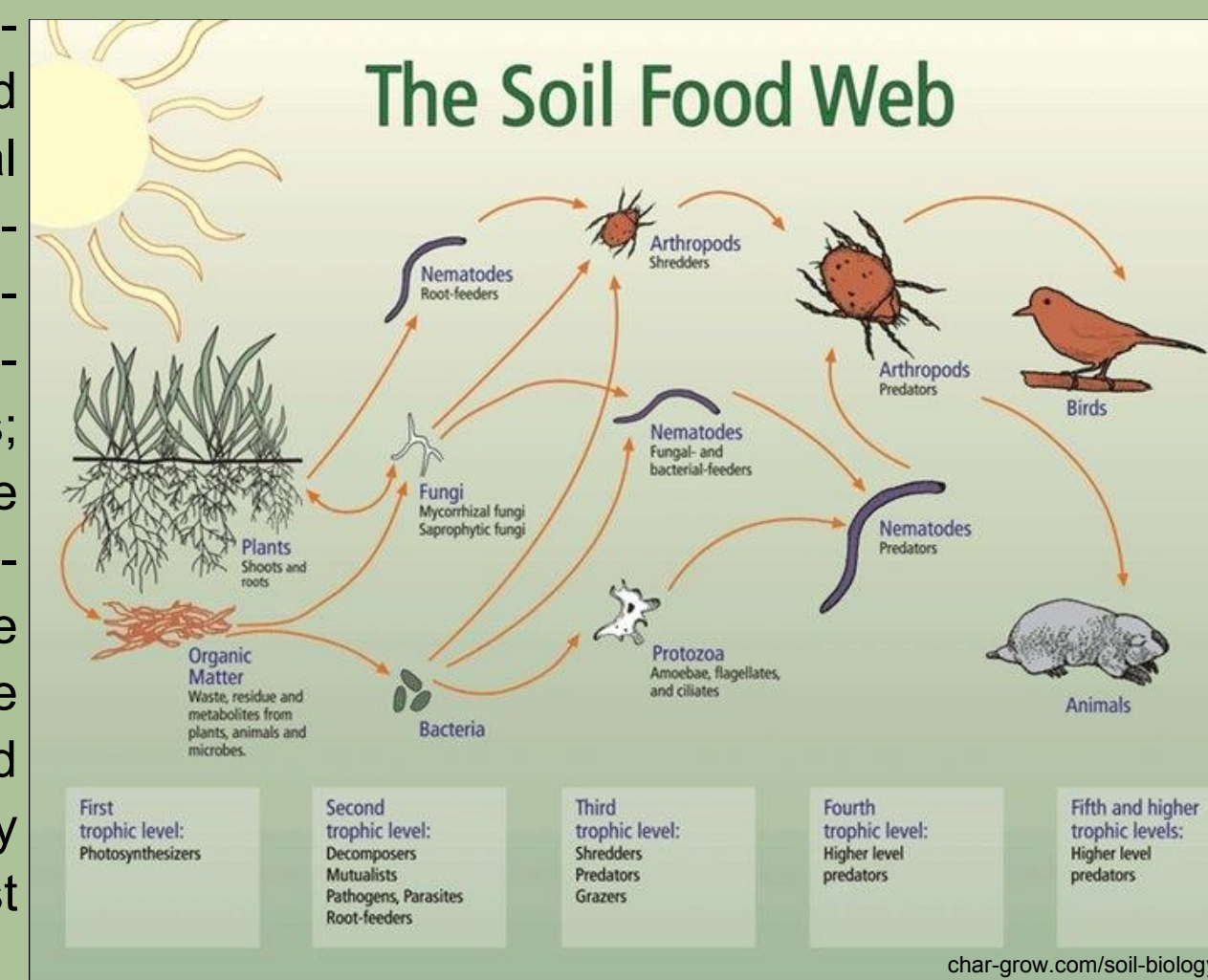
- Continually improve soil, water and vegetation management
- Keep our community informed about impacts of climate change on environment and agriculture.
- Promote information about new technologies and innovations to members and communities.

**Regenerative agriculture** is a priority for UMLC. We are focussed on an ongoing commitment to increasing knowledge and developing skills in this area.



## What is regenerative agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture preserves or improves the fertility of the soil; creates an abundance of food and other agricultural products; contributes to vibrant communities and equitable economies; and respects the ecology of the natural world. Fertile soils help create nourishing food and, in turn, healthy people and robust communities.



The Savory Institute's "Restoring the Climate" White Paper (2015) states that "the quantity of carbon contained in soils is directly related to the diversity and health of soil life... An effective, profitable and culturally relevant method for increasing soil organic carbon is to restore grasslands worldwide to their optimal health". These concepts have underpinned UMLC's workshop series.

## The Workshop Series 2015-2018

With a broad suite of presenters, UMLC-hosted workshops have included soil science basics and practical low cost solutions, aiming to create higher production from truly healthy, fertile soils. Over 200 local, regional and interstate farmers have explored innovative solutions to build diversity and resilience in their soils and their farming enterprises.

- **Profitable Production in the 21st Century** Carbon Farming - transitioning to low input farming and making soil carbon trading a reality; Walter Jehne, Ignatius Verbeek & Colin Seis.
- **RAIN000 (Regenerative Agriculture Is Now Our Only Option)** in partnership with Liverpool Plains Land Management. Cover cropping, rebuilding soils, stimulating microbes, and building soil biomass and carbon; Colin Seis, Dr Christine Jones & Gabe Brown.
- **Crashing Through Grass Ceilings Series** - basic rules and key drivers to building diversity and resilience in soils and enterprises; David Ward & utilising biological processes to stimulate soil health and fertility; Geoff Bassett.

## Who's involved? Presenters & Topics

**Ignatius Verbeek**, Director at Carbon Link Ltd: measuring and trading landscape carbon abatement.

**Colin Seis**, 2005 Conservation Farmer of the Year, 2007 Carbon Farmer of the Year, 2014 Bob Hawke for Landcare Award winner: pasture cropping (regenerating soil and grasslands while producing commercial grain and grazing crops).

**Walter Jehne** of Healthy Soils Australia: solutions to regenerate the landscape through the unique bio-processes fundamental to maintaining ecosystem service delivery for agriculture.

**Gabe Brown**, the "Carbon Cowboy" from North Dakota USA, recognised in 2016 as one of the world's 25 most influential farmers: cover cropping, grazing management, and regenerative breeding.

**Dr Christine Jones**, founder of Amazing Carbon and Carbon for Life: soil health and the science of soil carbon sequestration.

**Derek Blomfield**, local grazier, UMLC member and 2014 NSW Farmer of the Year: challenged participants to dare to be different!

**David Ward** of Solutions Agronomy: moving forward from monocultures by planting several species into native or existing pasture, minimising chemical use, retaining ground cover, and exploring options and farmer intuition to improve production, profitability and diversity.

**Geoff Bassett** of Farm Mojo: implementing biological practices to regenerate soils, including benefiting from weeds, increasing stored soil water, and cultivating free Nitrogen.



## Making a Difference

**Engaging Community:** Farmers and community members from the Liverpool Plains, Upper Hunter, and New England North West. Gabe Brown's presence also attracted interstate and international attendees.

**Overwhelmingly positive feedback** was received, and evaluations reflected an increase in knowledge to inform and inspire management changes on farm. **A bonus outcome** has been a boost to UMLC group membership.



**Building Partnerships:** We have connected with experts and innovators, to deliver high calibre information promoting best practice in regenerative agriculture. Interaction between presenters and participants at the workshops has stimulated overlap between the scientific rationale and practical solutions on farm. Our ability to implement tangible management changes on-farm has increased, with increased capacity to set realistic goals for building diversity and resilience in the paddock, and our enterprises as a whole.

**UMLC thanks our partners:** Tamworth Regional Landcare Association, NW LLS, Liverpool Plains Land Management, NSW Environmental Trust, National Landcare Program & Upper Murray Seeds.

**Strengthening Capacity:** UMLC endeavours to help create a strong and active, aware and caring community. By developing the knowledge, skills and networks that underpin our capacity as a Landcare group, we aim to stimulate positive change within our community as well as in the natural and agricultural landscape.