

# Healthy Landscapes

## Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities

### Holistic Grazing Management Course

The Holistic Grazing Management Course forms part of the *Healthy Landscapes - Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities* program which aims to raise awareness about sustainable land management practices that improve soil health, reduce exposure to climate risk, enhance biodiversity and increase productivity.

#### About the course

The Holistic Grazing Management Course has been designed to assist land managers to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing livestock, resulting in an increase in soil carbon and perennial pasture species, including native species.

Along with the presenters Jason McAinch, Maddy Buykx and Sam White, guest speakers will be used to enhance the delivery of the program.

The course will incorporate:

- Sessions delivered between August 2026 and May 2027
- Face to face theory learning (6 days)
- Online (Zoom) theory learning and support sessions
- Practical on-property learning

#### Who is the course for?

The course is structured for large and small landholders with grazing livestock. Landholders in the Macedon Ranges Shire, Hepburn Shire, Mount Alexander Shire or the City of Greater Bendigo are eligible to attend.

#### Grazing Fundamentals

Limiting sunlight hitting bare soil and increasing the time green pastures are growing increases the time plants are photosynthesising. Through proper grazing, this results in more energy/sugars/carbon entering the soil and the grazing animal. The consistent green pasture cover increases life and organic matter in soils, resulting in additional nutrient cycling. Land managers are rewarded as the soil is able to hold more moisture while drainage is improved.

#### Cost

The cost of the course is \$150 per property (up to two participants). We would encourage two members of the property decision making team to attend. Morning tea and lunch supplied.

**To register, fill out the online form at [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes).**

**For more information contact Private Land Conservation Officer, Jason McAinch on 0455 210 436 or at [jmcainch@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:jmcainch@mrsc.vic.gov.au).**



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### Course Outline

<p>DAY 1 Friday 21 August Face to face 930am - ~4pm</p>	<p><b>Setting the big picture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy cycle, water cycle, nutrient cycle, community</li> <li>• Complicated and complex</li> <li>• Introduction to grassland species</li> <li>• Introduction to how grasses grow</li> <li>• Animals and Grassland - Not all grass is good for animals</li> <li>• Developing a grazing plan “tool”</li> <li>• Water &amp; Fencing for stock</li> <li>• Setting a short-term action plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Malmsbury Town Hall</p>
<p>DAY 2 Friday 11 September Face to face 930am --~3pm</p>	<p><b>Setting up your property</b></p> <p><b>Grass and Animals</b></p> <p>Progress on developing a grazing plan “tool”, water &amp; fencing for stock and the short-term action plan</p> <p><b>Practical – Property visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify grasses (C3 &amp; C4) and herbs/forbs. Tufted, stoloniferous and taproot</li> <li>• Animal gut health</li> </ul>	<p>Sidonia Beef - Sidonia</p>
<p>DAY 3 Friday 9 October Face to face 930am - ~3pm</p>	<p><b>Grass and Animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on developing a grazing plan “tool”, water &amp; fencing for stock and the short-term action plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Soils</b></p> <p>Soil biology, Soil testing, Carbon farming</p> <p><b>Practical – paddock visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils, soil properties &amp; soil sampling</li> </ul>	<p>Sidonia Beef - Sidonia</p>
<p>Oct - Nov</p>	<p><b>1:1 property visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate foundation learning on grazing grasslands.</li> </ul> <p>Consolidate grazing plan &amp; ACTION plan</p>	<p>Individual property visits</p>

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<p>Tuesday 24 November 730pm – 830pm</p>	<p><b>Review of Day 1-3</b> Review of spring &amp; summer planning Practical feed budgeting <b>Grass</b> - Hay, Soils and seed heads</p>	<p>Online</p>
<p>DAY 4 Friday 12 February Face to face  930am - ~4pm</p>	<p><b>Weeds and Biodiversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woody weeds – gorse, blackberry, rose.</li> <li>• Annual weeds - capeweed</li> <li>• Reasons for resowing/crops</li> </ul> <p><b>Trees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating biodiverse farms &amp; Revegetation techniques</li> <li>• Paddock trees</li> </ul>	<p>Malmsbury Town Hall</p>
<p>DAY 5 Friday 16 April Face to face  930am - ~3pm</p>	<p><b>Water - Practical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riparian zones</li> <li>• Dams</li> <li>• Slowing water down</li> </ul> <p><b>Monitoring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• monitoring soil health</li> <li>• monitoring landscape health</li> </ul>	<p>Lauriston Town Hall (TBC)</p>
<p>DAY 6 Friday 14 May Face to face 930am - ~3pm</p>	<p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit our plans</li> <li>• Economics – does this meet our financial needs?</li> <li>• Celebrate the success</li> </ul>	<p>Sidonia Beef - Sidonia</p>