

## The Outcomes of Shifting to Regenerative Agriculture

### Seminar Chair and Speaker Biographies

#### David McLean. (MC)

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As RCS' Chief of Delivery, David McLean specialises in ensuring that people have the knowledge, support and inspiration to perform at their best in agriculture. He provides a refreshing combination of hands-on experience, technical knowledge, facilitation skills and high-level analysis.

David is part of a fifth-generation sheep and cattle grazing family from southwest Queensland, Australia. He received first class honours in a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Rural Technology and holds a Cert. IV in Training and Assessment along with training and extensive research in facilitation, communication, ecology, production systems and business analysis.



He started his association with RCS as a client on a large time-control-grazing property between Richmond and Croydon in north Queensland. During this time, he was involved in all aspects of managing the intensive grazing business, along with agistment enterprises on properties ranging from Georgetown to Boulia.

After working at a practical level with principles promoted by RCS, David started full time work as a professional advisor and educator with the company in 2007, based out of Yeppoon with Dr Terry McCosker. Now Chief of Delivery, David is leading a devoted team of professionals as they work with producers across Australia.

David's background, combined with his professional approach, has led him to become a highly sought-after presenter and consultant across Australia. He delivers the full suite of RCS education programs including the Farming and Grazing for Profit Schools and Executive Link facilitation. He also provides on farm and remote one on work with businesses across Australia.

#### Resource Consulting Services

Resource Consulting Services (RCS) is a holistic agribusiness training and consulting firm based out of Queensland, that is best known for the **GrazingforProfit® School**, Australia's longest running business school for the grazing industry.

"Transforming Agriculture" is the RCS vision. This vision is part of all RCS activities as we strive to place all people in control of their own resources.

## Steve Wilkins. (Speaker)

Steve Wilkins is the General Manager of Aminya Pastoral which operates nine properties from Aramac in Central Western Qld to Glen Innes in Northern NSW.

The business has diverse enterprises consisting of beef cattle breeding and trading, Merino sheep breeding and broadacre dryland farming. Aminya Pastoral has a strong management team who are passionate about the properties, livestock and staff they manage.

Based in Brisbane, Steve has 25 years' experience in senior management roles on mixed enterprise properties throughout NSW and Qld.

Steve has completed Holistic Resource Management training and the **GrazingforProfit® School**.



## Grant and Carly Burnham. (Speakers)

Grant and Carly Burnham with their four children own and manage Bonnie Doone, a 20,000-acre Organic beef grazing property west of Monto.

They carry on 5 generations of connection to the land and primary production in Queensland. The beef enterprise breeds, backgrounds and finishes Brangus Senepol cross cattle into domestic and international organic markets. The Burnham's also direct market and deliver beef to kitchen tables in the North Burnett, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton and surrounds.

Grant and Carly's philosophy for life, and their land and cattle business, is to work with the rhythm of nature and give more than they take. In 2010 family business succession provided an opportunity for them to reimagine what it meant to be grazing land and producing beef into the future.

A deep look into their practices, culture and business strategies enabled a shift to regenerative methods that include time-controlled grazing, silviculture and regenerative timber harvesting, soil carbon sequestration and gentle people and livestock management.

The Burnham's also strongly believe that regenerating our land is equally important as regenerating our communities. Grant and Carly are regularly invited to speak and consult to share their experiences, there is much value in extending beyond their own patch. In 2016 they founded and co-lead with the Monto community an ambitious and timely Arts and Culture project that is regenerating their rural township



## John and Jess Bidgood. (Speakers)

John and Jess Bidgood plus our three children Lylia (10), Zander (7) and Cormac (5).

They are a family business that run a trading enterprise on three certified organic properties in Central Queensland including Tingle-Hill, Mt Cooper (owned) and Round the Bend (leased) with a total of 2529ha.

Tingle-Hill is under cell grazing management, Round the Bend is under rotational grazing management and Mt Cooper is in transition from a rotational grazing system to a cell grazing system.



The Bidgoods strongly believe in regenerative farming because they have demonstrated that by utilising and improving the ecosystem services that they have increased their productivity, resilience and profit at the same time.

Their vision is to regenerate our land, connect people to food production and produce nutrient dense food.

## Dan Lynch (Speaker)

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completed year 12 Townsville Grammar School 1972
- Private Pilots Licences since 1982
- **GrazingforProfit®** School Graduate 1997
- Resource Consulting Services Executive Link Graduate 2000
- National Institute of Financial Studies Graduate 2004

### BACKGROUND:

Dan has been involved in the pastoral industry, specifically beef cattle production, for the last 45 years as owner/manager of breeding and fattening enterprises. During that period, he has willingly embraced change in the industry, being proactive in grazing and production techniques.



Dan presently has a property North of Cloncurry and another South West of Katherine in the NT.

As a custodian of several pastoral leases, Dan has gained knowledge on grazing management through experience and education on how to sustainably manage the resource from which he makes a living. He has developed His grazing properties to allow me to practice “rest and rotation” grazing management of pasture which, leads to increased economic and resource sustainability.

### ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Developed 13,747-hectare Nth West Queensland grazing property into “time control rotational grazing”
- Production increase of beef turned off from regional average of 9 kg/ha to 29 kg/ha.
- 3000 breeder herd in a 12-month inter-calving interval, with 74% branding rate.
- Stapleton station 60,000-hectare West of Katherine NT. 90% developed into a 3 km grazing radius
- 3000 breeder herd in “Animal management system”
- Live export steers turned off at 15 to 17 months of age reduced from 27 to 30 months of age

## Maddy and Hugh Pursehouse (Speakers)

Maddy and Hugh Pursehouse are regenerative graziers in NW NSW. After the couple completed **GrazingforProfit®** in early 2017, they have implemented many of the principles on their home properties.

Over the past few years, the couple have tackled the dry, destocking numerous times to focus on the ecological, financial and people health in their businesses.

Their main focus is on improving soil health which will improve the quality and diversity of their pastures, therefore creating healthier animals, healthier people and a healthy balance sheet.

They believe it is fundamental to match stocking rate to carrying capacity and they achieve this by running a flexible trade cattle model, grass budgeting and using planned grazing principles.

They are both advocates for ongoing education and mentorship and have completed numerous courses over the past few years. RCS Next Steps, **ExecutiveLink®**, KLR Marketing, Low Stress Stock Handling and Tarwyn Park Training to name a few.

