



ORGANIC AND  
REGENERATIVE  
INVESTMENT  
COOPERATIVE

## *2019 IN REVIEW*

The Organic & Regenerative Investment Co-operative is an innovative organisation, focussed on increasing the amount, the diversity and the productivity of organically & regeneratively managed farmland around Australia. We welcome you on our journey as an ORICoop member & encourage you to be involved!

ORICoop is working to preserve the legacy, transition and land ownership of diverse organic and biodynamic farms across Australia. We are interested in bringing together like minded investors and landholders with the objective of matching investment opportunities in the high demand organic & biodynamic agriculture sector with experienced farm operators wishing to expand, diversify, retire or semi-retire, cease active farming or manage other transition outcomes in their family business. We provide farmers & investors potential transitional pathways towards a more resilient Australian food and farming system that can change the way farmers & investors do business ... for the better!

The Australian Organic industry is currently experiencing unprecedented growth and demand, driven by a discerning consumer in both Australia and overseas, as consumer values place a higher value on healthy, safe and nutritious food produced in a way that preserves our environment and softens the ecological footprint for future generations. Our land is equally facing unprecedented pressure on best land stewardship, innovative farming knowledge, and appreciation for our changing climate than ever before. Together this urgency unites aligned purpose of healthy food, regenerative farmland, ethical capital & prosperous farmers.

### **Goals of ORICoop**

- » Investment & long term preservation of certified & regenerative farmland
- » Engagement & networking between farmers, consumers & investors
- » Build market awareness and business opportunities for members
- » Collaboration with other Cooperatives



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Dear Members,

With another Spring comes our second AGM, and a review of our progress to date, and where we are headed from here. What a year this has been for ORICoop, and what a time ahead that our pathway is forging!

Together with our newly appointed [Board](#), we are working towards a united vision & focus on our strategic direction from here.

- To bring together aligned capital & investment opportunities in organic farmland
- To enable networking amongst organic & biodynamic farmers
- To connect farmers, eaters & investors for the better good

The need for investment into organic farmland around Australia is great, more than we had ever anticipated when we started. The journey towards achieving this goal has been long, with many barriers along the way. Thanks to the patient advisors, supporters, investors & farmers that have encouraged us to step into this space with an informed knowledge on our best way forward to achieve our ambitious aims. There is much capital, expertise & collaboration required to enable our farmers to grow their businesses, and for investment to have a deeper sense of purpose and outcome, not solely measured by financial returns.

Our key focus this year has been to define a mechanism for bringing together investment into organic farmland, a goal not achieved so far by any other organisation in Australia. And to forge a pathway that enables this process to scale while upholding the deeper intention of aligned capital, fair & measured returns to investors, long term tenure & security for farm managers, and an ongoing alliance between all the parties. We are soon to release the details of the first of many farm investments - watch this space in the coming weeks! And join us on this journey.

As requested by some of our members regarding our Investment Journey to date - we have put together a summary [HERE](#) of our investment discovery pathway so far, including our learnings, and where we have landed to now. We invite you as members to read, and understand the complexity of this journey, and how far we have come with such limited resources. Our goal is to bring aligned capital together for the better good, to keep to our true strength of an organic cooperative for the benefit of our members, and to work with aligned partners that deepen our expertise & breadth of capacity with our existing resources.



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In the coming year, we have two (2) further intentions to build upon as resources allow.

- 1) To launch the Organic Farmers Journal
- 2) To enable more direct on-farm support for organic & biodynamic farmers

For ORICoop to be sustainable, we need the key drivers to fund our work from here.

- 1) Enable co-investment into organic farmland
- 2) Bring together organic & biodynamic farmers around Australia
- 3) Enable a trusted network of organic producers, providers & processors to grow
- 4) Work with existing industry bodies to raise the collective voice of farmers, eaters & investors.

We invite you as our members to be part of this movement of change. The key messages & feedback from our members survey so far include:-

- Keen desire for investment pathway (& to invest)
- Stories & the journey of organic farmers to be heard
- Physical ways to work with organic & biodynamic farmland for our members
- Creating champion local food & farming projects that are driven by our members include:-
  - BEAM
  - The Food Exchange
  - Open Food Network
  - Food Connect
  - Regen Ag forums
  - Carbon Farming conferences
  - Farmers Markets
  - CERES
  - Mullum Coop/Farmers
- As a member in what way can you be more involved?
  - Raising awareness, sharing our story
  - Investment presentations
  - On farm days in your region/area
  - Connect with farmers in your region (& share their story)



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- Key areas that you can help?
  - Distribution of flyers (we can send them to you)
  - Writing of articles (get in touch)
  - Hosting a farm/foodies conversation in your area
  - Bring together like minded investors in your region

ORICoop Membership Summary as at AGM

- [ORICoop Members](#) - 178
- ORICoop Member Shares - 890 (\$10/Share)
- [ORICoop Investor Shares](#) - 111 (\$500/Share)

(Further Investor Share pledges from members are awaiting details of first investment proposal)

We have much to do! We are focussed on the first investment projects that are soon to be released. In the meantime, we encourage our members to get more involved in your Cooperative. In any of the above ways. Cooperatives are owned by their members, for the long term good of the organisation. We want ORICoop to be a central place of deeper cooperative values. Of better food, better farmers, better investment and better land. Come along with us on this journey, as together we are stronger.

Yours in Cooperation,

**ORICoop Board**

Carolyn Suggate

Jade Showers

Doug Hartmann

Tanvier Fowler

Rob Fenton



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## FINANCIAL RECORDS

- [PROFIT & LOSS](#) to end of 2019 financial year
- [BALANCE SHEET](#) to end of 2019 financial year

## BOARD DISCLOSURE

Salary & Wages for this financial year includes the following payments to ORICoop Board Members during 2018/19 Financial Year as agreed:-

- Carolyn Suggate – Contract Services of \$2,972 (inc GST)

*The ORICoop Board has agreed & based on legal advice that it is not required to have accounts audited externally at this stage. The accounts have been reviewed by the appointed Accountant.*

## ORICoop Member Updates from here .....

ORICoop Email - All members receive regular email updates.

ORICoop Members FB group - Quick or informal member updates sent via FB

ORICoop SLACK - connect with other ORICoop members via SLACK. Create your own regional area of members, or an interest group (around investment, farming knowledge or local cooperative)

[ORICoop Investor Share](#) updates via email (for members)

## Social Media Statistics

[Organic & Regenerative Investment Cooperative](#) - 1425 like page

[ORICoopOZ](#) (Twitter) - over 15,000 impressions per month

[ORICoop Organic & Biodynamic Farmers Group](#) (FB) - 423 contributors

[Organic & Biodynamic Farmer Network AU](#) (LinkedIn)

ORICoopOz (Instagram) - 899 followers