



ORGANIC AND
REGENERATIVE
INVESTMENT
COOPERATIVE

2020 'A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER'

KEY AREA	PATHWAYS
BOARD FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalised Strategic Plan ● Recruited incoming Board members ● Further Professional Development in 2021
INVESTMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investment ready pathways for organic farms ● Farm management transition pathways ● Building Investor relationships ● Developing clear and cost effective process ● Investor Circles (2021)
ECO-CREDITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 21 pilot farm applications received ● 2 key farms starting pilot ● 8 on-notice to start early 2021 ● Exploring pilot with business in Eco-Credits ● Developing key alliances with partners ● Seeking seed funding for first pilot (via grants)
BUSHFIRE APPEAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raised \$91,264 total ● BCCM Grant awarded \$25,000 (post June 30) ● 11 affected farmers (members) across 6 regions ● Ongoing farm support in their recovery ● Networking via zoom between affected farmers ● Continued grant applications for ongoing support ● Volunteer projects to restart shortly post COVID ● Marketing and business support for farmers
COMMUNICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Launch of BioLogical The Organic Farmers Journal ● Farm Story telling ● Bioregional networks ● Increased social media presence
COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expertise and organic best practice ● Education/workshops (2021) ● Developing and expanding markets ● Expanding ORICoop networks & partnerships ● Volunteer and regional network hubs



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Dear Members,

With such gusto we embarked on the last year with vivacious enthusiasm - and expected this to be 'the year'. As the first fires broke out last October, who would have known where we would be a year onward. It has been an exceptional year for ORICoop in the sense of a true Cooperative spirit built for the long term. Through the power of bringing together true farming values of looking after each other, supporting those in need, and digging deep, this has truly been an incredible year, as many would understand personally.

The Bushfire Appeal has taught us a lot about the organic industry. About the fragmentation and the dispersed nature of needs, and the lack of collective farmer led networks for farmers to seek or offer appropriate help when in need. We hope that through ORICoop, we can continue to build this type of unity - across certifiers, states, commodities and different types of farms and markets. The organic and regenerative farming industry is too important at this critical time to be fragmented - and collectively we truly are stronger!

Last Summer the ORICoop Board had a very inspiring day in Mansfield, with Tanvier joining via Zoom from Perth, Western Australia, we embarked to complete our ambitious [Strategic Plan](#). Some of these aspects have been deferred due to the sheer complexity of this year, but we are keen to present this to our members, and encourage you to get involved in your area of interest within ORICoop, as we bring together members for the better good of farmers collectively, eaters, along with volunteer teams and aligned businesses that all interact in different ways with the organic food and farming industry.

We are excited about the upcoming year, despite the setbacks of COVID on many businesses and farmers. It has become clear how important support for farmers is - and how the world is awakening to the urgency and insecurity of our food and farming systems, and the need to transition to best practice for people and the planet. We hope you will join us in this journey! The Eco-Credit project is designed to embark on this need, a project that brings together collective regions that are seeking to become carbon neutral. In the process supporting existing and transitioning organic and biodynamic farmers to draw down carbon on their farms and thereby increase their efficiency and productivity through better ecological management. This includes increasing their soil carbon, improving their biodiversity and further tree plantings to build this capacity. We are excited to start such a



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grass roots project - and thanks especially to the partners and supporters that have brought together much wisdom and belief that this type of initiative should be farmer led and community owned. And that there is no more urgency of need than right now in the current climate, for farmers and the world more broadly.

We are excited to share that our first certified organic dairy farm has been funded this year. We worked closely with the retiring family - through their transition journey of exiting the family business and exploring what their next steps were likely to be to preserve their farm and legacy. The investor was local from the South West Victorian region, very interested to expand their portfolio to include an organic farm amongst their conventional agriculture investment portfolio. We are ecstatic that one of our ORICoop members has secured the ongoing long term management of this farm - and look forward to seeing this all come together early next year as the transition rolls out.

The investment pathway for ORICoop has been a slow and complex road. However we look forward to supporting more farmers to become more investment ready, and to shorten the complexity of such a process from transition, to exploration and to then seek aligned investment partners that understand and trust the vision of the farm. We have refined our [organic farmland investment process](#) further - and will continue to do so as we take these opportunities to investors and support more family farms to retain part ownership or equity as part of their retirement and exit plans. ORICoop is a part of the process - not an answer in or of itself with regard to funding and capital. And as per our mission - we will endeavour to support the preservation and long term investment into organic farmland!

Thanks to Jade's vision of building our communication networks, we embarked on the massive task of launching the BioLogical Journal - albeit at a very complex time! The Journal has been received incredibly well, and it's clear there is a very strong demand for a gritty, informative, earthy and grounded organic and biodynamic farmers journal - that can provide support, connection and organic best practice across certifiers, states and commodities! Thanks especially to Nadine and Nicky for their work in helping to bring together these formation ideas. Due to COVID we have delayed the next edition to early next year. Especially as we have just released our [ORICoop Partners](#) program - to bring together collective businesses that are interested in expanding networks and building a stronger support provision for organic and biodynamic farming and food businesses, and other businesses that support our wider vision of ethical investment and carbon neutrality!



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Watch this space for the next BioLogical edition in 2021 - and we are very keen to have member input and support as it emerges!

The aspect of ORICoop that has been the strongest over the last year - is that of community! It has taken a community to build the networks that we have. It has taken a community of different members, advisors and supporters to achieve the massive tasks that we have. The Bushfire Appeal has seeded many new projects - from Bioregional networks emerging, to volunteer registers and due process of how funds are managed for the best outcomes for farmers and recipients beyond just this project.

We now have members across almost every State, and particularly in NSW and Victoria. You can connect with ORICoop members via our new [Members Directory](#), including farmers, friends and partners. We also have over 1000 (farmer participants) as part of the ORICoop [organic and biodynamic farmer](#) facebook group. A massive feat to bring together so many like minded farmers around Australia that are interested to learn and support each other more. To expand their markets and their reach, and to learn more from others travelling the road.

Aligned with our Strategic Plan - we have plans for more online networking and workshops across the organic farming and business spectrum in 2021. ORICoop also aims to facilitate or contribute to regular farm connectors and investors circles - so that members across different regions can connect, support and learn from each other. As part of the Eco-Credit - it has become obvious that some areas (in this case WA) have much to share with the rest of the country that is keen to learn! Along with investor circles, farming groups and volunteer teams to get their hands dirty!

To take a breath and embark upon this year we are keen to reach out to our members even more in 2021. Some have been foundational members from the beginning, others that have joined in the last few months - welcome to you All!

- 1) Update your profile in our [Members Directory](#)
- 2) Commit to sharing ORICoop in your circle or hosting an event in your region

This year is going to be a big one! We ask our members to engage and support our mission to bring better value back to the land. Across different paths, from farmland preservation, to market optimisation, to strong community networks and building business alliances. We



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need YOU our members to stand with us - and to support these endeavours that will build a stronger community and industry.

ORICoop Alliances & Memberships

- [Organic Industries Australia](#)
- [NASAA Member](#)
- [Friend of BCCM](#)
- [The Co-op Federation](#)
- [Regenerative Ag Alliance](#)
- [COBWA \(WA organic producers\)](#)
- [888 Causeway \(Co-working space\)](#)
- [4 per 1000](#)
- [IFOAM International](#)
- [Ag Talent/Regen Farming](#)

Grants Applied for this year (up to November 2020)

- BCCM Bushfire Relief - successfully awarded \$25,000 to extend support for appeal
- Landcare Bushfire Recovery - \$50,000 bushfire recovery support
- University collaboration project on waste recovery and distribution
- Let's stay connected (Victoria) - \$200,000 on COVID regional recovery
- Future Drought Fund - \$200,000 for drought resilience projects
- Smart Farming Grant - \$100,000 for Eco-Credit trial

Important Issues across Industry supported by ORICoop:-

- GM advocacy in SA. Including wine industry and State Government
- Supported NASAA AGM with their incoming Directors
- Advocacy for bushfire affected farmers applying for grants and ongoing support
- Market Access and Development across growing and emerging industries
- Industry support of organic standards and independent reviews

ORICoop Networks

- [Organic & Biodynamic Farmers FB group](#) (1102 members)
- ORICoop Subscribers - 1150
- Social Media followers (Facebook, Twitter & Insta) - 4542

ORICoop Member Updates

ORICoop Email - All members receive regular email updates (monthly)

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



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[ORICoop Members FB group](#) - Quick or informal member updates sent via FB

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

ORICoop Membership Summary as at June 30, 2020

- [ORICoop Members](#) - 206
- ORICoop Member Shares - 960 (\$10/Share)
- [ORICoop Investor Shares](#) - 111 (\$500/Share)

FINANCIAL RECORDS

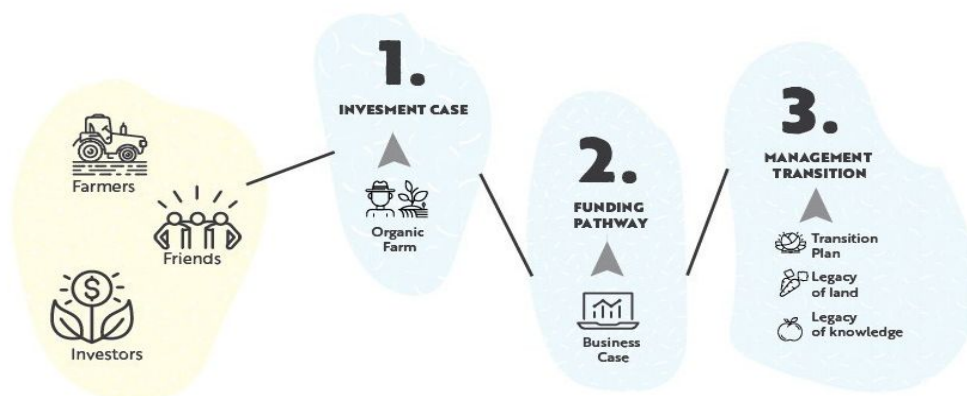
- [PROFIT & LOSS](#) to end of 2020 financial year
- [BALANCE SHEET](#) to end of 2020 financial year

BOARD DISCLOSURE

Contract expenses for this financial year includes the following payments to ORICoop Board Members during 2019/20 Financial Year as agreed:-

- Carolyn Suggate – Contract Services of \$4,125 (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.



Yours in Co-operating



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Carolyn Suggate
Executive Officer