



Hello and welcome to our April newsletter,

### **Compost Workshops**



5th May  
2008  
Adelaide

During International Compost Awareness Week Tim is speaking at the 'Compost for Soils' Give Organic a Go event on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the National Wine Centre.

[www.compostforsoils.com.au](http://www.compostforsoils.com.au)

**Workshop:** Tim is also running a compost workshop on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May in Stirling. 10.00 – 1.00 \$30/pp. If you are interested in learning more about composting and see Tim get his hands dirty contact the office to book a place.

### **Publish or Die! (or Recycle that Book)**

Tim's book Recycle Your Garden was such a success that it is completely sold out, as a result the ABC has asked that Tim produce a second edition of this popular book. The book has been revised, the pictures taken and mountains of compost made. Second edition books should be available by September this year in well time for Christmas. TM Organics has secured a small number of the first edition, which are available from us at the compost workshop above.

### **Compost, compost, compost**

Tim also has many other compost engagements, including training KESAB staff, presenting to the 'Seeds for Life' gardening group, helping several consulting clients develop 'on-farm' compost systems, and a series of compost workshops in the spring (announced in a future newsletter).

### **IFOAM 2008**

Well it is hard to believe but three years have passed since Adelaide held IFOAM 2005 the International Organic conference. Now it is Modena, Italy's turn.

*"Cultivate the future is the title of the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress, because we believe that the contribution made by Organic Agriculture is fundamental for guaranteeing generations to come with a healthy, fair, correct environment for harmonious living that respects people and the earth. The Modena area boasts centuries old agro-food tradition that is a benchmark for world food and wine, and the development and growth of organic agriculture plays a central role, from both an economic point of view and also in preservation of the land itself."*

Tim will be participating in this event and catching up with many old colleagues, some who were here three years ago and from his time at IFOAM, and meeting new growers, processors and distributors attending for the first time. Attending IFOAM conferences, Organic Trade Association (OTA, the USA peak organic industry organization) conferences and BioFach trade shows is a great way to establish relationships and networks between the wider international organic world and Australian producers and traders. We encourage your attendance, but if you can't be there, we may be able to look out for business opportunities for you.



### **Grants for Drought recovery or survival**

Centrelink has **Professional Advise and Planning Gants** available for up to \$5,000 to help with advice and planning on financial viability.

Website:

[http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/se123\\_0801/\\$file/se123\\_0801en.pdf](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/se123_0801/$file/se123_0801en.pdf)

#### **Also:**

**Irrigation grants** are available up to \$20,000. The purpose of the grant is to allow eligible irrigators located in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB), or those who draw water directly from the MDB as their sole source of irrigation, the opportunity to access additional funding to implement water management strategies.

If you think you would like to take a closer look at these grants or would like our help in accessing them please contact Louise or Brad at the office.

Or try the website :

[http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/se127\\_0710/\\$file/se127\\_0710en.rtf](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/filestores/se127_0710/$file/se127_0710en.rtf)

Also note that some TM Organics clients have successfully applied the irrigation grant funding to purchase compost mulch, thereby achieving water savings plus helping their soil and progressing toward organic production.

### **RIRDC**

TM Organics is proud to announce that it has received a RIRDC grant to make a comparative analysis of all the Australian certification bodies. The result will be published on a dedicated website that anyone can access that will make clear the different services that each certifier offers and the cost.

We may all need certifying by the time we are finished but it will make an great difference for anyone considering certification but frustrated by the confusion in the market place around the precise services available from certifiers, and especially what is included in annual charges, and what attracts an additional fee.

Tim is often heard to say, "Certifiers are like your mobile phone company. They write their contracts in such a way that it makes it hard for you to compare. In the case of phones, working out whether you are better off with low rates per minute, fixed calls, free calls to nominated numbers etc take a major spreadsheet operation to establish. Most people don't bother; they just go with the one that's recommended highly or that their main friends and family networks use. But they might save money by further investigation. So it is with the certifiers. Some charge flat fees, and some levy the growers. The levy amount varies, but so do the services included or charged extra. Some don't offer as complete a range of services, but that might not matter if you know you will not use those services. As in every business, reputation and networking are critical, and should be considered as part of the 'service'."



### **Victoria commits to organic**

The Victorian Government have recently announced their new policy program called the 'Future of Farming Statement'. As part of this program, the Victorian organic industry has been promised \$1.08 million over three years, to assist the sector to, "develop its resilience and further differentiate and substantiate organic products. The funding will be used to develop a reference group to help the industry tackle current challenges and capture emerging opportunities."

The announcement was met with support from the organic industry. A particular view from organic leaders is that the initiative meets the Government's commitment to the sector given in its response to the review of the moratorium on GM canola."

### **SA keeps GM out**

The SA Government has not only extended the GM moratorium for another two years, it has banned the transport of harvested GM grain grown over the border to storage and processing facilities in SA. This is a significant protection to SA canola growers and organic operators, as it ensures that, in two years time, when the moratorium is again reviewed, that the State will still be GM free, and will not have suffered so much from accidental spillage or contamination, that a 'maintain the moratorium' strategy potentially becomes meaningless.

### **What else does TM Organics Do?**

TM Organics provides a wide range of training, consulting and publishing services.

**Training:** Tim Marshall runs organic growing and composting workshops and develops curricula.

**Consulting:** TM Organics has a wide variety of current consulting clients including individual organic (or conversion) growers, Governments, organic processors, retailers and manufacturers.

**Publishing:** We are gradually building a very significant organic website, [www.tmorganics.com](http://www.tmorganics.com). Tim also writes for many publications, and we plan to produce more books in the future.

Need more information? Contact the Office on 08 8339 1250 or email to [info@tmorganics.com](mailto:info@tmorganics.com)

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*TM Organics is a business focused on organic training, consulting and publishing. It combines the organic industry experience, knowledge and contacts of Tim Marshall with the business, media and technology experience of Doug Adamson. TM Organics works with all sectors of the organic industry. For more information, go to [www.tmorganics.com](http://www.tmorganics.com)*