

# Healthy Landscapes

Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities

## Holistic Grazing Management Short Course

The Holistic Grazing Management Short 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 Short 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 and Sam White, guest speakers will be used to enhance the delivery of the program.

The course will incorporate:

- Sessions delivered between October 2021 and June 2022
- 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 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 \$100 per property.

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

DAY 1 Friday Oct 15 Face to face	<b>Setting the big picture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Energy cycle, water cycle, nutrient cycle, community</li> <li>• Complicated and complex</li> <li>• Co-evolution of animals and grasslands</li> <li>• Introduction to grassland species</li> <li>• Introduction to how grasses grow</li> <li>• Introduction of holistic management – we are part of the landscape.</li> </ul>	Malmsbury Hall
	<b>Practical – Property visit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify grasses (C3 &amp; C4) and herbs/forbs. Tufted, stoloniferous and taproot.</li> </ul>	Visit Sidonia Beef
Tuesday Oct 26	<b>Review of Day 1</b>	Online
DAY 2 Friday Nov 12 Face to face	<b>Setting up your property</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring an aerial photo!</li> <li>• Animals and Grassland - Not all grass is good for animals</li> <li>• Developing a grazing plan “tools”</li> <li>• Water &amp; Fencing for stock</li> <li>• Hay, Soils and seed heads</li> <li>• Setting a short-term action plan</li> </ul>	Malmsbury Hall
	<b>Practical – Property visit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal gut health</li> <li>• Practical water, fencing, stock handling infrastructure</li> </ul>	Visit Sidonia Beef
Oct/Nov/Dec Face to face	<b>1:1 property visits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate foundation learning on grazing grasslands.</li> <li>• Consolidate grazing plan &amp; ACTION plan</li> </ul>	Individual property visits
Tuesday Nov 23	<b>Review of Day 2</b>	Online

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Tuesday Dec 14	<b>Review of summer planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed budgeting and practical feed budgeting</li> </ul>	Online
DAY 3 Friday Feb 11 Face to face	<b>Soils</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil biology, Soil testing, Carbon farming</li> </ul> <b>Practical – Property visit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils &amp; soil sampling</li> </ul>	Malmsbury Hall Guest presenter On farm
Tuesday Feb 22	<b>Review of Day 3</b>	Online
DAY 4 Friday Mar 11 Face to face	<b>Weeds and Crops/Re-sowing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Woody weeds – gorse, blackberry, rose.</li> <li>• Annual weeds - capeweed</li> <li>• Reasons for resowing/crops</li> </ul> <b>Trees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating biodiverse farms &amp; Revegetation techniques</li> <li>• Paddock trees</li> <li>• Pollinators</li> </ul>	Malmsbury Hall Guest presenter Stephanie Grylls Guest presenter
Tuesday Mar 22	<b>Review of Day 4</b>	Online
DAY 5 Friday May 6 Face to face	<b>Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydration of soils</li> <li>• Pugging soils</li> <li>• Riparian zones</li> </ul>	Malmsbury Hall Guest presenter
Tuesday May 24	<b>Review of Day 5</b>	Online
DAY 6 Friday Jun 10 Face to face	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisit our plans, revisit our questionnaire</li> <li>• Economics – does this meet our financial needs?</li> <li>• Celebrate the success</li> </ul>	Venue TBC