

Between the Leaves, the monthly newsletter from
Biodynamic Agriculture Australia

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JUNE 2024



Hello Everyone,

June 2024 is the actual centenary month of Steiner's Agriculture Lectures.

There has been much celebration of this, especially in Europe, where as you are probably aware, biodynamics is far more widely practised than elsewhere in the world.

In Australia, nevertheless, there has been significant acknowledgement of the importance of this date. For instance *Biodynamic Agriculture Australia's podcast series, Biodynamic Farmers and Gardeners in Australia*, was released earlier this year, and recently, in May, Ueli Hurter toured Australia, making many presentations, mainly in the capital cities. Ueli is co-head of the Agriculture Section of the Goetheanum (with Jean-Michel Florin). We are anticipating a report on his visit, and will pass it on to you in due course.

Wishing you and your garden or farm a not-too-tempestuous start to winter, season of heightened underground energy.

Kaz and John

Image above: Christopher Smith's flowform for sale.

Complete Flow Form kit 'Jarna' model

Cast concrete bowls, Hardwood stand, 400lt tub,
pump & plumbing - Flow rate 50 lt /m

Made in Australia by Living Water Flow Forms these bowls are industrial
quality and will last a lifetime.

\$1,800 ono

Contact Christopher Smith

02 62363605 - tinderryherbs@gmail.com





Forage and feast

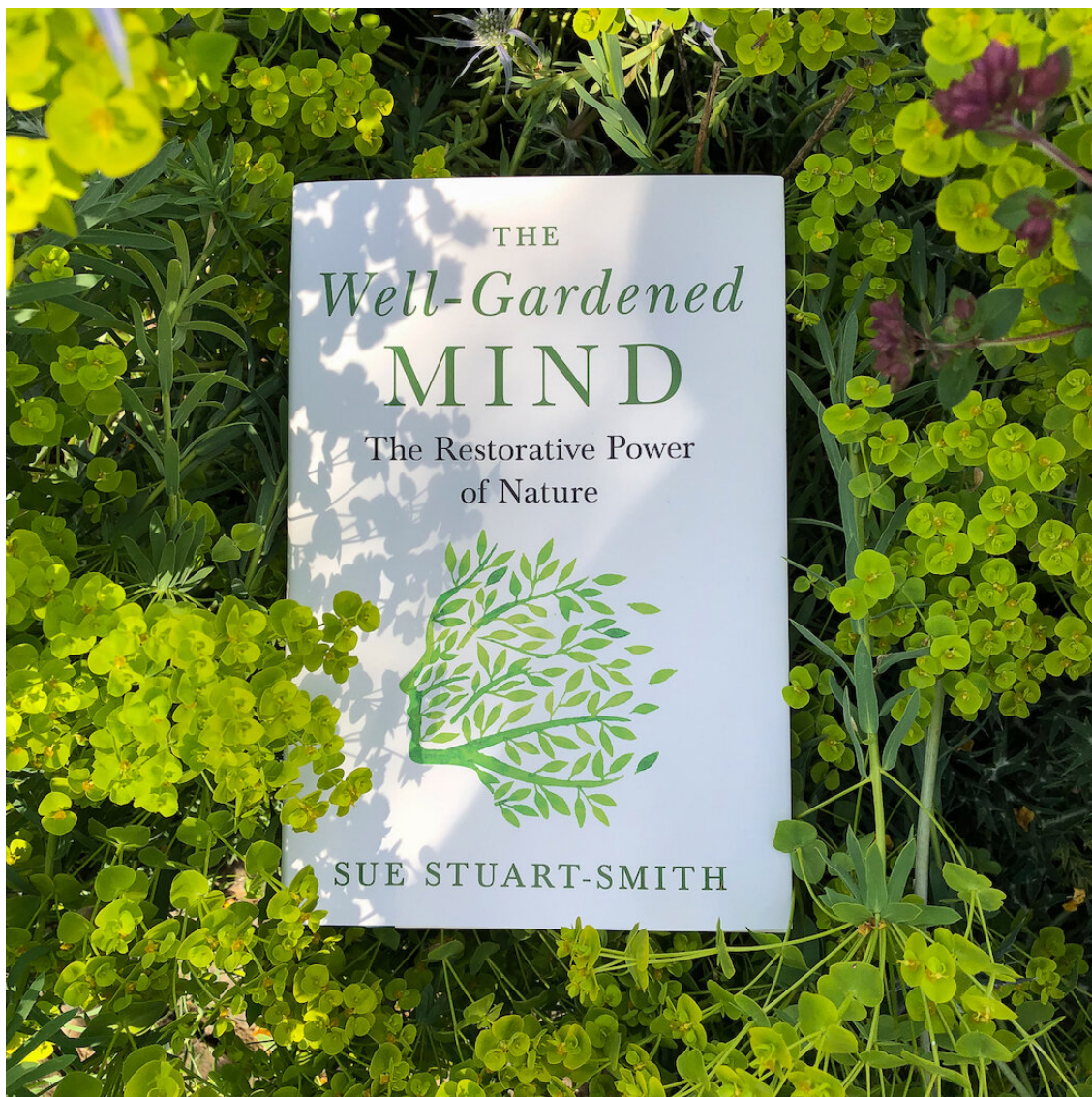
Join Elvesgate Truffle Farm for an incredible day of truffle hunting and lunching in Australia's only certified biodynamic/organic truffle farm.

For the first time in 10 years they are opening their family farm to the public.

Experience the joy of fresh truffle usually reserved for Sydney's best restaurants, like Firedoor and SixPenny.

Bookings for the 2024 truffle season now open. Click on the link below to learn more.

<https://elvesgate.com.au/>



The Well-Gardened MIND

This inspirational and authoritative book on mental health and physical labour teaches us how vital gardening can be as an escape for the brain and how having green fingers can help our minds through movement as well as thought. How

can gardening relieve stress and help us look after our mental health? What lies behind the restorative power of the natural world?

In a powerful combination of contemporary neuroscience, psychoanalysis and brilliant storytelling, *The Well Gardened Mind* investigates the magic that many gardeners have known for years – working with nature can radically transform our health, wellbeing and confidence.

With illuminating stories of how people struggling with stress, depression, trauma and addiction can change their lives, this inspiring and wise book of science, insight and anecdote – now translated into fifteen languages – shows how our understanding of nature and its restorative powers is only just beginning to flower.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sASYMQ-bYII>



NEW PRODUCTS

Biodynamically Composted Cow Manure

Composition: composted cow manure

Uses: Mix through existing topsoil for trees, vines, shrubs, flowers and vegetable garden beds. Safe to use on any plant, this compost is the perfect choice if you are looking to grow healthy produce at home. Installation: Spread and/or incorporate into your garden beds, pots or existing site topsoil. *Biodynamically composted cow manure*

Comfrey & Nettle Liquid Manure

Nettle and comfrey liquid manures: two extremely important plant tonics and preventives for the garden, orchard, vineyard, market garden and farm. Their potency is bolstered by addition of the biodynamic compost preparations 502-507 and the use of "structured water". These products come in two sizes for small gardens and modest horticulture settings only. For larger situations it is best to make your own – refer to our Biodynamic Handbook for directions.

Comfrey Liquid Manure

Nettle Liquid Manure



Natural slug and snail deterrents

I don't know about you, but those pesky little slugs and snails in my garden are taking more than their fair share of greens so I had to do something about it. Firstly I researched what's best, receiving a plethora of mixed online info.

3g of pine needles to 1 litre water. Shake pine nuts out of cones and crack open the shell (pestle) to extract the kernels (seeds). Discard the shells and use 3g of the seeds. Crush seeds into a fine power with a mortar and pestle. Make a paste by adding lukewarm water to the crushed seeds and stirring. Add more water (up to 1 litre) and mix together. Place in a bottle with a top and shake thoroughly. Leave solution in a sunny spot for 2 weeks, opening and shaking occasionally. To help fermentation move to wide mouthed jar and cover with muslin cloth. Let sit for another week. makes a solution slugs and snails dislike.

Copper wire lined around your vegetable garden stops slugs and snails from crossing.

Venturing out at night, in the dark with a torch and bucket and pick off the slugs you see on your plants. If you do this 3-4 times over a month you should considerably reduce their population.

A small lid of beer is great at attracting slugs and snails. They love it so much they end up killing themselves in it. If you don't want to waste good beer, an alternative is a pinch a brewers yeast., 1 tblsp sugar and 1 tblsp flour. Mix it up in 500ml water and place in a deep lid in garden.

I then reached out and spoke with friends who had many a good idea.

Crushed eggshells was one solution. It seemed to work but it didn't take long for the slugs to return.

I finally consulted the biodynamic handbook, which states:

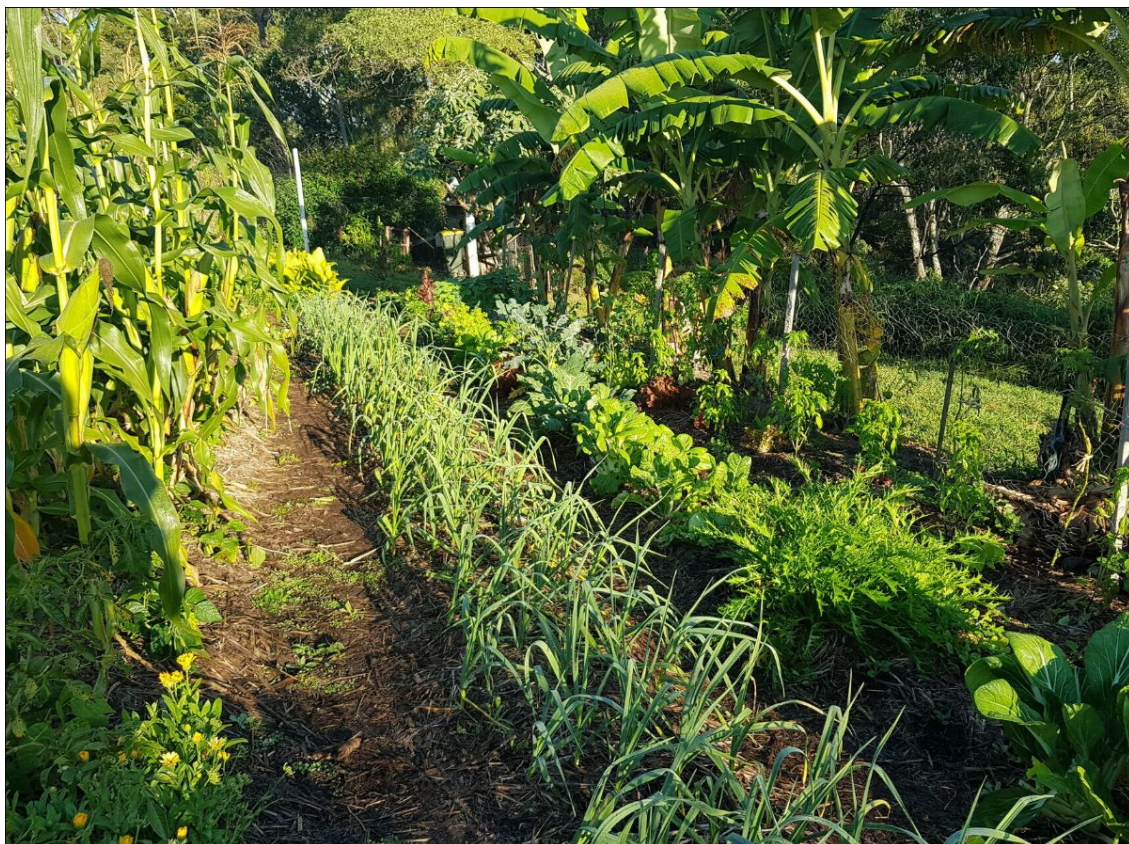
Establishing a diverse garden to encourage animal life (birds, frogs, lizards, bugs) into your garden which will eat the slugs and.....

Sprinkle Diatomaceous earth around and on plants.

For more information please go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuvM8sce6N4>

WORKSHOP



Biodynamic gardening

Introduction to the key concepts of biodynamic gardening in

the beautiful and highly productive biodynamic vegetable garden and orchard of the workshop presenter Peter Kearney in Samford Valley Brisbane.

The workshop runs for two full days. It is hands-on and theoretical with plenty of time for questions and connecting with others.

Two dates are July 27-29 and Nov 8-9.

[More information and how to register here.](#)

[Subscribe to our food gardening blog](#) | Food gardening workshops and coaching

[Book a workshop, Food garden coaching](#)

Email: peter@myfoodgarden.com.au



Image: Cath Appleton

Towards a New Song !

Pacifica College 2024 Eurythmy Graduates Tour

Thursday, 6th June, 6 pm
Eurythmy Room,
Samford Valley Steiner School
5 Narrawa Rd., Wights Mt. 4520

Sunday, 9th June, 6 pm
Noosa Pengari Steiner School
Nyel Rd., Doonan. 4562

Tuesday, 11th June, 6 pm
Bellingen Memorial Hall
32 Hyde St., Bellingen 2454

Thursday, 13th June, 6pm
Shearwater, the Mullumbimby
Steiner School
349 Left Bank Rd., Mullumbimby 2482

Tickets: \$15 - concession \$10 - family \$25

Book at <https://events.humanitix.com/tours/towards-a-new-song>

Tickets also available at the door



PACIFICA COLLEGE OF
eurythmy

www.pacificacurythmy.com.au

Enquiries: pacificacollege@gmail.com



Biodynamics celebrates 100 years

To acknowledge and help celebrate the centenary anniversary of the creation of Rudolf Steiner's 1924 Agriculture Lectures, a group of biodynamic friends came together via fortnightly zoom meetings to plan an event. What would the relevance of these lectures be for Australia today? What would be a suitable way to commemorate such an important milestone?

We started with the vision that a central Biodynamic conference could be an appropriate approach and finished with the practical conclusion that we could reach more people by inviting a guest speaker to visit multiple regional areas and create many 100-year celebrations around the country. So it came to be that between 6th to 16th May, 2024, in a 10 day whirlwind of activity, Ueli Hurter, the co-head of the Agriculture Section of the Goetheanum in Switzerland, toured Australia (and New Zealand).

Ueli presented some 11 formal lectures in Australia, contributed at 3 field days, presented to 3 Steiner schools, had 2 formal Demeter representative meetings, recorded an extended podcast, and contributed to numerous Anthroposophy branch meetings. He showed an amazing degree of stamina and insight speaking on such subjects as climate change, community living, associative economics, Theory U, the latest biodynamic research, worldview biodynamic examples, community supported agriculture, three-fold decision

making, preparation making and the significance of particular flowers and organs, and biodynamics and the next 100 years. Wow, we were blessed with his contribution at many wonderful, inspiring gatherings and up to 1,000 Australians were able to share his insights.

I did hear him say that prior to him coming to Tasmania, he didn't know where Tasmania was and that he thought Switzerland was the centre of the world, and now he realises that Tasmania is in fact the biodynamic centre of the world!

The flow on effect of the tour is both seen and unseen. Fellowship amongst participants, information sharing between Ueli and participants, increased communication amongst participating Steiner schools, collaboration amongst anthroposophical branch members, communication between a representative of the Goetheanum and its membership, not to mention the collaboration amongst a small working group in achieving the goal of both raising the profile of biodynamics and celebrating the 100-year anniversary of biodynamics.

We have multiple recordings of parts of the tour and they will be available for viewing by going to the Australian Anthroposophical website in the near future (<https://www.aas.asn.au/>).

Thank you Ueli for your generosity of spirit in your trip down under.

Zoom working group: Paul Martin, Rob Birse, Mark Patton, Steve Kapolice, Brian Keats, Simon Martin, Jane Bradshaw, Trevor Crowe.

The 2024 Antipodean Astro Calendar



The 2024 Antipodean Astro Calendar is a resource worth having and now selling for half price at \$27. Includes postage and handling.

[Click here to learn more](#)



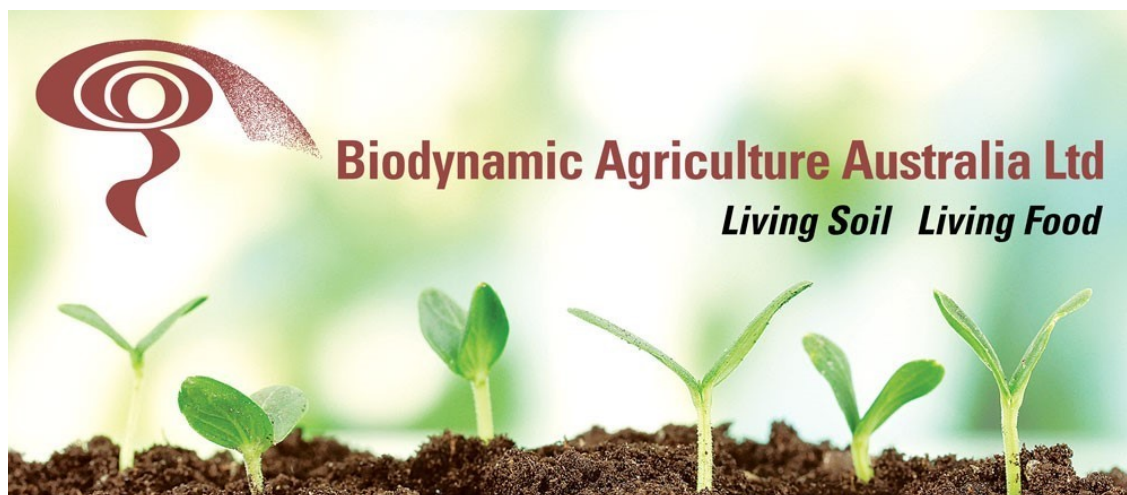
Got a biodynamic story to tell?

We're all ears for your biodynamic tales! Whether you're exploring the idea or just starting, we're excited to learn about your hurdles and triumphs.

At Biodynamic Agriculture, our team is your support system, enthusiastically backing gardeners and farmers seeking more from their lands. Share your story with us, and in return, we'll send you a free 30g sample of our Soil Activator.

We're eagerly waiting to hear from you!

Please email: bdnewsleaf@biodynamics.net.au



Thanks for reading our newsletter

We're on a mission to encourage and inspire you further in biodynamics. Our online newsletter gives you a small window of many wonderful biodynamic articles and information we share in our *News Leaf* journal sent to members every season.

Become a member and receive:

- Benefits on products and workshops
- Quarterly *News Leaf* journal full of biodynamic stories and information
- Biodynamic Handbook - everything you need to know
- Sample of Biodynamic Soil Activator with instructions
- Encouragement, motivation, guidance and support

Your membership assists us to create, share and promote everything biodynamic. It supports our not-for-profit organisation in making preparations and products, giving education, sharing information and spreading the good word. We are on this biodynamic journey together and shared experiences are invaluable.

[Click here to view our products range](#)

If you need any help our team are here for you Monday and

Tuesday 9am-3pm and Thursday 9am-12.30pm.

Tel: 02 6655 0566

Office email: bdoffice@biodynamics.net.au

Editor email: bdnewsleaf@biodynamics.net.au

Please help spread the good word by sharing our newsletter with colleagues, friends and family and please **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**

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PO Box 54
25 Nobles Lane
BELLINGEN NSW 2454
Ph: 02 6655 0566
www.biodynamics.net.au
ABN: 42 588 901 426

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