



**The Bio Dynamic Farming and  
Gardening Assoc. in N.Z. Inc.**

*Founded on the work of Rudolf Steiner  
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23 April 2008

*To people interested in biodynamics*

We invite you to our Conference and Annual General Meeting, at Tauherenikau Racecourse (Southern Wairarapa) at Queen's Birthday weekend. A programme and registration form are available on this website.

We have been fortunate that Hamish Mackay, CEO of Biodynamic Agriculture Australia, has agreed to address our conference. Hamish has a great deal of experience in biodynamics, in speaking to farming and other groups and in working with government and organic sector bodies.

The next page has a shortened version of some notes that Biodynamic Agriculture Australia supplies to interested parties, which gives some idea of Hamish's approach to current issues (from an Australian perspective).

Please note the following

- ⇒ The conference is open to everyone
- ⇒ There is budget accommodation of a modest sort for 40 people at the racecourse, to be allocated on a first come first served basis
- ⇒ There is a late fee of 20% payable on registrations after 21<sup>st</sup> May
- ⇒ If you are a member of the Bio Dynamic Farming & Gardening Association you can have the fee charged to your membership account or send a cheque with your registration form.
- ⇒ For non members cash is required for registration please.
- ⇒ We are happy to accept registrations by email – please ensure your email supplies all the information requested by the registration form.
- ⇒ Non-members registering by email – we will email you a pro-forma invoice with payment instructions. Your registration will be recorded once payment is received.
- ⇒ Additional copies of the registration documents may be downloaded from [www.biodynamic.org.nz](http://www.biodynamic.org.nz)

Looking forward to seeing you there

David Wright  
Secretary



It is the farmers and gardeners who have greatest opportunity to regenerate the environment and reverse the build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

1. **CARBON:** "We require only 10% of our productive, degraded lands to absorb the estimated 6.1 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions to make a carbon negative world possible in our lifetime" [www.amazingcarbon.com/SummariesHORSHAM.pdf](http://www.amazingcarbon.com/SummariesHORSHAM.pdf) Note: biological carbon sequestration is very different to carbon GEOsequestration, a physical process.
2. **SOIL:** Australia loses 6.97 tonnes of soil per hectare per year across the entire continent. [www.deh.gov.au/soe/2001/land/land01-5html](http://www.deh.gov.au/soe/2001/land/land01-5html) Biodynamics builds humus which holds the soil as well as increasing drought tolerance.
3. **WATER:** In a river catchment basin such as the River Murray (1,057,000 square Kilometres) a 2% increase in humus would equate to an increase in water-holding capacity of 33,824 giganlitres of water (which is approximately equivalent to one Olympic pool per 10 hectares). [www.biodynamics.net.au/documents/PlainOldDirt-Compactversion2006edn](http://www.biodynamics.net.au/documents/PlainOldDirt-Compactversion2006edn)
4. **WEEDS:** Annual production losses exceed \$2.5 billion and farmers spend \$1.5 billion on control. <http://www.sciencealert.com.au/opinions/20070404-14801.html>. Weeds are useful indicators of imbalances in soil, plants and animals. Biodynamic practitioners learn to understand their purposes and obtain relief though developing active, healthy soils.
5. **HUMAN NUTRITION:** Biodynamic humus creates the basis for healthy plants and animals which forms the premium source for health oriented human food and nutrition.
6. **ECONOMY:** Australia imports approximately \$4 billion in agricultural chemicals. This is approximately \$30,000 per farmer. If we can free ourselves from this requirement we have more resources- \$4 billion - to spend in local communities, annually.

Politicians can encourage and scientists inform, only the farmers can achieve outcomes on the scale required, effective immediately.

### Green Revolution

"Irrigated farming takes two-thirds of all water abstracted from rivers and underground reserves. This is largely because of the green revolution. The 'high yielding' plant varieties that have kept the world fed as populations doubled over the past 30 years turn out to be high-yielding only when measured against land area. Measured against water use, they are generally worse than the crops they replaced. They produce less crop per drop.

The world grows twice as much food as it did a generation ago, but abstracts three times as much water to do it."

Guardian Weekly; Supplement *Every Last Drop*, p 2, September 29 - October 5 2006 Vol 175/No 15/Printed in Sydney. The article is based on *When the Rivers Run Dry*, by Fred Pearce, published by Eden Project Books.

### Water-Holding Capacity Increase for One Hectare for Varying Levels of Humus Increase

Using the guideline ratio, which has been established for additional water retention the following gains can be expected.

Humus Increase	Increased Volume of Water Retained /ha (to 30 cm)	
0.5%	80,000 litres	(average 2004 level)
1 %	160,000 litres	
2 %	320,000 litres	
3 %	480,000 litres	
4 %	640,000 litres	
5 %	800,000 litres	(pre-settlement level Australia)