

Chapter 2 - The Best Tool In A Farmer’s Toolbox

Shane So we're going with the pendulum. So basically working with this - this is only a tool be
Joyce: very clear. This is only a tool. This is no different to having a set of scales in your cattle yard to weigh cattle or a tractor to go slashing the paddock or yeah, a bulldozer to clear the trees.

This is only a tool when you've got questions about what you're doing. You're searching for information to give you guidance on to what path to take. What you need to be adding to your landscape to get it functioning. Ultimately we arrive on this planet and we've got an inner knowing; so we know all that stuff.

And as kids it's easy to tap into, as we get older we kind of shut a lot of those facilities down. This is just a tool which you know, when I first came across this concept I was like bullshit, you know, it's these guys are off at the fairies. This is a tool that that kind of starts us on that journey back to getting in touch with their inner knowing so it's not different to having a crutches when you break a leg. It's just an aid. So I find that in terms of farm management it is so simple and I was working the other day with a friend of mine, we'd just cut hay or 40 or 50 hectares here and we're putting biodynamic preparations out on it.

So we are using a combination of biodynamic soil activator sea minerals and molasses. We're putting that out and then I went I remember I had another I had another biodynamic brew there a friend of mine had made and so we started putting that in. And then we did a test as what was the general vitality of this farm before we put anything on and I'm asking that same question now and I've straightaway got an answer and it's telling me that the general Vitality was somewhere down around 24 on a scale of one to a hundred.

That's my scale there - my hand. So then I then I ask the question that's giving me a starting point of 24 of then ask the question when I was putting out my own soil activator, sea minerals and molasses. What was it doing to the GV the general vitality and it straight away? It's told me it's getting up to 50.

So it's functioning over here. So I've gone from 24 up to 50. Then we added this other brew that a friend of mine, actually a guy called Kim Green who's got an apple and cherry orchard in the Adelaide Hills at Lenswood, what's happened to the GV of this Farm now we've put this other brew in and this pendulum just went absolutely crazy when I asked that question and it's done the same now. It's gone straight to a hundred. So it's just ripped up GV straight up like that. So its stuff like that you can ... we really probably know what the thing is, but this gives us a tool to tap into that inner knowing and give us answers. How simple is that compared with doing a soil test and sending it off to the lab and waiting months and then parting with a whole lot of money to pay for the soil test. One of the greatest tools we've got as farmers.

Hugo Disler: Shane, I'm glad that you explained that because you're a farmer talking about that and the Russian physicists who worked on that and they had instrumentation to work on that and what they eventually found, actually found earlier round about 1930 that every atom in the world was nothing better pretty well nothing but a seething mass of energy and the physicists around the world at 40 universities who have where physicists are working in this they actually called that connection of every atom in the world to the universe as the Zero Point Field and the Zero Point Field is, and the word zero we often think of is nought it is actually zero. In physicist terms is infinity and that Infinity goes into the universe. So as a farmer tapping you to the zero point field or whatever you might may feel is very accurate and there's a lot of work that has been done. Naturally we don't talk about it because it's so uncommercial. It's yeah, it's not a commercial thing. So there's no money for the person who wants to sell input products or their companies. That's how I see it.

Shane Joyce: Yeah. It's a very interesting space Hugo when you move into working energetically and working with basically. I suppose what I term, almost zero inputs. Where you start to communicate with what's going on in your farm and determining how you can make things function better. Because we're all educated in a system of Newtonian science, which is characterized by fear, doubt and scepticism. So if you're watching this video and you've got any doubt or scepticism or fear that if you try it, it's not going to bloody well work it's coming from your education in Newtonian reductionist science. And the other characteristic of Newtonian reductionist science Is the expert who is somebody outside. So it's an agronomist or a financial advisor or somebody that's external from you.

If we get into what's called holistic science or Goethian science, J.W. Goethe, it's characterized by courage, confidence and enthusiasm. It's when you come across something like this, it's shifting from fear, doubt or scepticism of whether it's real to moving to this courage, confidence ,enthusiasm where you just can't hang out until you get to learn to use this and work with them. So you get really kind of switched on about it.

The other characteristics of a Goethian scientist or holistic scientist is the expert resides within. It's that inner knowing. We've got all the information we can tap into all the information. We don't need to go outside to an agronomist or a financial advisor. We can get the answers ourselves.

Hugo Disler: So I know it'll spook a lot of farmers just hearing that but farmers, more and more farmers are moving away from well, commercial inputs and they are getting a lot of doubt about the commercial inputs they are using. So there's more moving to what you're saying and that there's a lot of proof now, thanks to people like RCS - Resources Consulting Service and Allan Savoury and people like that we could prove that we can work with Nature, we can regenerate the land and we virtually need no inputs other than maybe activators that get that Universal energy via the plant into the ground.

Shane Joyce: It's an interesting space Hugo because you know, we've shifted. I know myself in this journey, I've shifted, shifted, shifted to where the biodynamic inputs became an important part of what I was doing to where the whole grazing system management was an important part of what I was doing and we've had this shift in in cropping to where they talking about multi-species cover crops and the more species the better. The next thing that's come is a

thing that's termed Syntropic farming which has basically come out of Brazil. It's now about 30 years old. A Swiss guy in Brazil developed it and it's based on how a forest actually functions and how an ecosystem functions without any inputs or without any human management.

And so he's developed a farming system where our management pays attention to the function. So it's putting a whole lot of plants together. It's probably way too weird for a lot of people in agriculture to get their head around but if you can feel comfortable with the concept of planting a eucalyptus tree every meter in your lettuce patch, then it'll probably be for you. Otherwise, I wouldn't even look at it. I wouldn't even look on YouTube to see what it's about. But it's literally a system that is, if you read Charles Massey 'The Call of the Reed Warbler', he talks about a self-organizing system.

This is a real demonstration of a self-organizing system that can function really with no inputs except management.

Hugo Disler: And people who are farmers who moved into that area find that they have multiple advantages like more profit and they feel better about it. So, how do you feel? Do you want to add to that sort of the well-being of the farmers?

Shane Joyce: And one of the places it's taking us is, is in our monocultural, industrial agricultural systems, the people actually become the victim of that system or the slave of that system. The agriculturally moving into now we're getting away from monocultures to polycultures. So we got multiple enterprises. We've got multiple options. So if cattle's down and grains up or avocados are up and oranges are down you start to get multiple enterprises. So if one's down the other one keeps you going.

But the other interesting thing that's happening Hugo is its people are being re-empowered and that's don't worry about the planet and the soil and the vegetation, it can take care of itself. It's in a lot of cases, It's the people in these systems who are bloody dying and it's the people in these system that that we really need to start to pay attention to get them functioning and get the health of the people back again because we can't really manage a landscape unless we're in good shape ourselves. We cannot rehabilitate a landscape when we're train wreck waiting to happen.

Hugo Disler: And I'd just like to clear up what you just said. In the rural areas it's a major concern to the political powers because of the illness in the rural areas, farmers and townspeople is that much higher than what is in the cities and mental illness in the country is quite often higher. And the way I see it is that from what I'm reading Is that the sort of poisons that the farms are using just about in all cases are neurotoxic which basically means that your nervous system isn't functioning properly. So farmers have got to move away from that and farming more naturally and more profitably is the only way to farm, really, that's the way I see it.

Shane Joyce: There's so much material out there now in terms of the biology and our stomach and how it drives mental health and physical health. This organism is no different to our Landscapes. We work on the soil food web and the biology and all the stuff in our landscape that is also

here.

So if we're squirting something on our farm that's killing the biology, It's also killing the biology in us. So both rehabbing the landscape and rehabbing the people comes hand in hand.

Hugo Shane, thank you for what you had to say and I trust that there will be farmers who will get a lot out of this. And as I read in the Acres magazine, farmers have to, or people in general have to, hear something six or eight times before they take note. So maybe someone's at the level 5 level, maybe someone's at the level at seven level and this is going to take them to six or eight. Or maybe they are at number one level where they think "Oh, I don't know if I can understand this, but maybe there is something worth going to level 2".

Shane You scared me for a while there Hugo. I thought you were going to ask me to say all that
Joyce: six more times.