

## Chapter 6 - Farming With The Broader Community

**Shane** So the other thing we wanted to cover off on here was for over 10 years now. I've been hosting two Steiner schools - one from Brisbane and one from Noosa for what they call Farm Camp. So we take groups of 20 to 30 year 9 students and they come on to the farm and they basically immerse themselves in agriculture for three weeks. They've actually written a curriculum for them on agriculture. So they get an introduction to chemical agriculture, organic agriculture, biodynamic agriculture and look out because they going to get syntropic agriculture as well. I don't miss an opportunity do I? It's a real honor to be in that space to be able to do that because when I grew up a lot of city kids had a granny or an uncle or somebody that had a farm and they got to go and visit the farm as they grow up and you talk to those people and it's like a lifelong mark in their life. They remember it and if you look at the dynamics of our population now with less farmers and more urban people, not many people get that opportunity. So it's a great opportunity to be able to provide that for these kids to get a farm experience.

And so far these Steiner kids do lots of camps. They go sailing and surveying and biking and blah blah blah but the farm camp always gets rave reviews as the best camp. And they're great kids to work with, I thoroughly enjoy it. Like it's that and hosting travellers, backpackers that is really a highlight of my farming life. For the last 10 years or more I've met some incredible people from all over the place with different cultures and it's just such a privilege to get in that space and just to share what we do on the farm.

I had a girl once from one of the school groups. She became vegetarian because we actually killed a cow and butchered it and hung it up. Well, they always work with the livestock and she suddenly had this kind of realization that these lovely animals she was working with became the piece of red stuff on a styrofoam tray with gladwrap pulled over. Before that she was unconsciously eating this meat off a styrofoam tray with no conscience of where it came from and I'm. I've got no problem with her becoming vegetarian; at least she became a vegetarian from a space where she was informed of where the food was coming from.

I had a backpacker on the farm once that was a vegetarian and we're weeks going out into the paddocks with cattle moving them in the cells. And then one day she said to me she became a vegetarian because she thought that all cattle were raised in a feedlot. So she made a choice to become vegetarian from a space of being uninformed. Interesting.

**Helen Disler:** Do you belong to a particular organization for people to find you now?

**Shane Joyce:** It's word of mouth. I used to be a Woofer, a host for willing workers on organic farms. I'm now host with Workaway but I've not really had any Workaway people come here. I'm also a host with a group called Warmshowers which provides somewhere for cyclists to have a

hot shower and a comfortable bed for the night and a roof over their head. I used to be on a grey nomad website. I was registered there so I hosted a few grey nomads when I was at Dukes Plain. But yeah, it's I really kind of I love being in that space where you can be contacted by people, but I'm only at this stage mainly in the Workaway and the Warmshowers thing.

**Helen Disler:** Spent with this the work you're doing and your willingness to really get it out there and share people with people.

**Shane Joyce:** Thanks Helen.

**Hugo Disler:** Thank you very much. But I'd like to repeat something that I found in The Acres magazine where Alan Williams says that he's lectured in Australia and many other countries. Last year he lectured 200 times, that's how many lectures he gave in the last 12 months. He said that the biggest problem for farmers is a peer pressure. In other words, their surroundings, whatever else peer pressure means and he said for a person to change he has to hear the message, and advertisers know this to the on the other side of the fence for the person to change he has to hear the message at least six or eight times. So hopefully some farmers here are hearing this for the first time, some might be up to number five ready for the number 6, and some could be up to number seven, ready for eight depending on how many times you have to hear the message.

So, Shane. Thank you very much for having this message go out to Farmers.

**Shane Joyce:** Thank you, guys. Great. Thanks