

## LATEST NEWS FROM FARMING SECRETS

This next “Walk the Talk” is called **Retrosurbia: The Downshifter's Guide To A Resilient Future** presented by the author, **David Holmgren**. At first glance at the title you may think that this is not applicable to you as a farmer but so much of it is. We all live in houses with most of us having a vegetable garden. The focus in this presentation is on smarter living, making much better use of our resources and saving on energy. It is about restoring community and sharing with our neighbours.

David's story started when he enrolled to study Environmental Design in 1974 after hearing Bill Mollison in speak at a department seminar at the University of Tasmania.

For the next 3 years Holmgren and Mollison shared a house and garden, putting ideas into practice and collecting useful plant species. Holmgren wrote the manuscript for what would become *Permaculture One: a perennial agricultural system for human settlements* as he completed his Environmental Design studies, and submitted it as the major reference for his thesis. He then handed the manuscript to Mollison for editing and additions and resulted in the book: *Permaculture One* attributed to Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. After more than 25 years of practice David wrote his own book, *Permaculture: Principles and Pathways beyond Sustainability*. It offers twelve key permaculture design principles, each explained in separate chapters and is regarded as a major landmark in permaculture literature and a must in your library..

Before watching the DVD we encourage you to click open this 5 minute video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDgYITbXfzc> which is a flip through of the 592 page book.



*Photos: Above David Holmgren  
R: Su Dennett, David's partner  
Next: Hugo with Food Forest  
local John Ferris & Jill  
Far R: David with Helen*



The group EPIC (Education Permaculture Inspiration Community Inc) organised David to speak and their vision is closely aligned to David's. EPIC aims 'To work together to connect people and places, to inspire the community to embrace the ethics of Permaculture – care of earth, care of people, and fair share for all'. EPIC is also underpinned by the core values of community health and wellbeing, resilience, the right to self-determination, and a sense of values ownership and belonging. Using these ethics and principles, EPIC is responsive to a groundswell of worldwide and local interest in permaculture, and sustainable and regenerative practices in (their) community”.

We thoroughly recommend the book 'Retrosurbia' to you as a guide to getting back to resilient living.

### What's News @ Farming Secrets?

Went to hear Charles Massey giving a talk about his awesome book: “The Call of the Reed Warbler” Every time I hear Charles speak he has more to say and keeps making the return to natural farming the obvious choice for future survival. A copy of his Vodcast – a podcast with slides plus 2 Podcasts will be put into the Farming Secrets Club site under Bonuses. And here is a question for you: What are the deepest soils in the world? You'll be pleased to know that I made the closest guess and won the sugar reward. You'll need to listen to the vodcast to find out the answer.



Here I am with Charlie on the day after winning the prize! I was a long way out!.

## Welcome to Sarah!

We are thrilled to welcome Sarah Tebbutt who has joined Ray in working with us in Farming Secrets. They are both super excited to get to know you all. Ray is busy planning a rewarding journey for all of you as he refines our Farming Secrets Membership Club along with Sarah who has already called some of you to learn more about your farming experiences and is preparing a new Introductory Webinar. You will hearing more from them in the Farming Secrets Slack group

**Not a Member of Slack yet? Please send us an email for your Invite.**

### **REMINDER:**

**Keep your eye out for Upcoming EVENTS: [www.farmingsecrets.com/events/](http://www.farmingsecrets.com/events/)**

In August the **Carbon Farmers Conference** will be sure to excite as we celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> carbon credits being paid. Put Carbon where it belongs : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3rhjqzVrRc> **Matthew Warnken** is founder and Managing Director of AgriProve, Australia's first one-stop-shop for soil carbon under the Emissions Reduction Fund (AND our Principal Sponsor of the [National Carbon Farming Conference & Expo](#)).

Those of you reading along may have also noticed Australia's [first soil carbon credits](#) were issued under the ERF for AgriProve's flagship project in eastern Victoria.

SO, **Matthew will tell us all about the Soil Carbon Industry Group (SCIG)**. It was formed in response to the many opportunities and challenges presented by soil carbon projects. Come along and join in:

<https://www.farmingsecrets.com/event/replenish-our-planet-living-festival/>

There is **LOTS** happening and we do our best to put on our events calendar.

### **Ecological Soil Management Course**

As part of your Farming Secrets Membership after 6 months you have **Free Access** to the 5 Module online **Ecological Soil Management Course** prepared by Alan Broughton. The course does provide an excellent foundation and an opportunity to test your knowledge as you proceed. It gives you the practical tools to observe what's working on your farm. At completion you are awarded a great certificate of achievement. It's fun, so do it!

Until next time – *yours in biodiversity,*

*Helen and Hugo*

**P.S. Invite your friends to take the course!** <https://www.farmingsecrets.com/ecological-soil-management/>