



# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE 2019

*Building Soils, Resilience and Profits*

**TUESDAY 4TH - THURSDAY 6TH JUNE**

Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre,  
Building X, University of Tasmania,  
Newnham Drive, Newnham, TAS



# WHAT IS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE?



Regenerative agriculture practices restore landscape function, increase nutrient and water cycling and sequester carbon in the soil. These practices increase biodiversity, productivity and are profitable and low risk while being personally sustainable for farmers and their communities and a significant ameliorant to climate change. Research has shown farm family businesses using Regenerative Agriculture principles have similar levels of profit to traditional businesses but with lower risk. Family members have higher physical and mental wellbeing, and land that is healthier, with more ground cover.

(Vanguard Business Services Principal Consultant Mark Gardner)

## WHO IS THE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE NETWORK OF TASMANIA (RANT) ?



Regenerative Agriculture Network Tasmania (RANT) is a not-for-profit incorporated community group that aims to promote and support all forms of regenerative agriculture practices across all scales of operation and all farming enterprises in Tasmania.

## WHO IS STIPA NATIVE GRASSES ASSOCIATION INC?



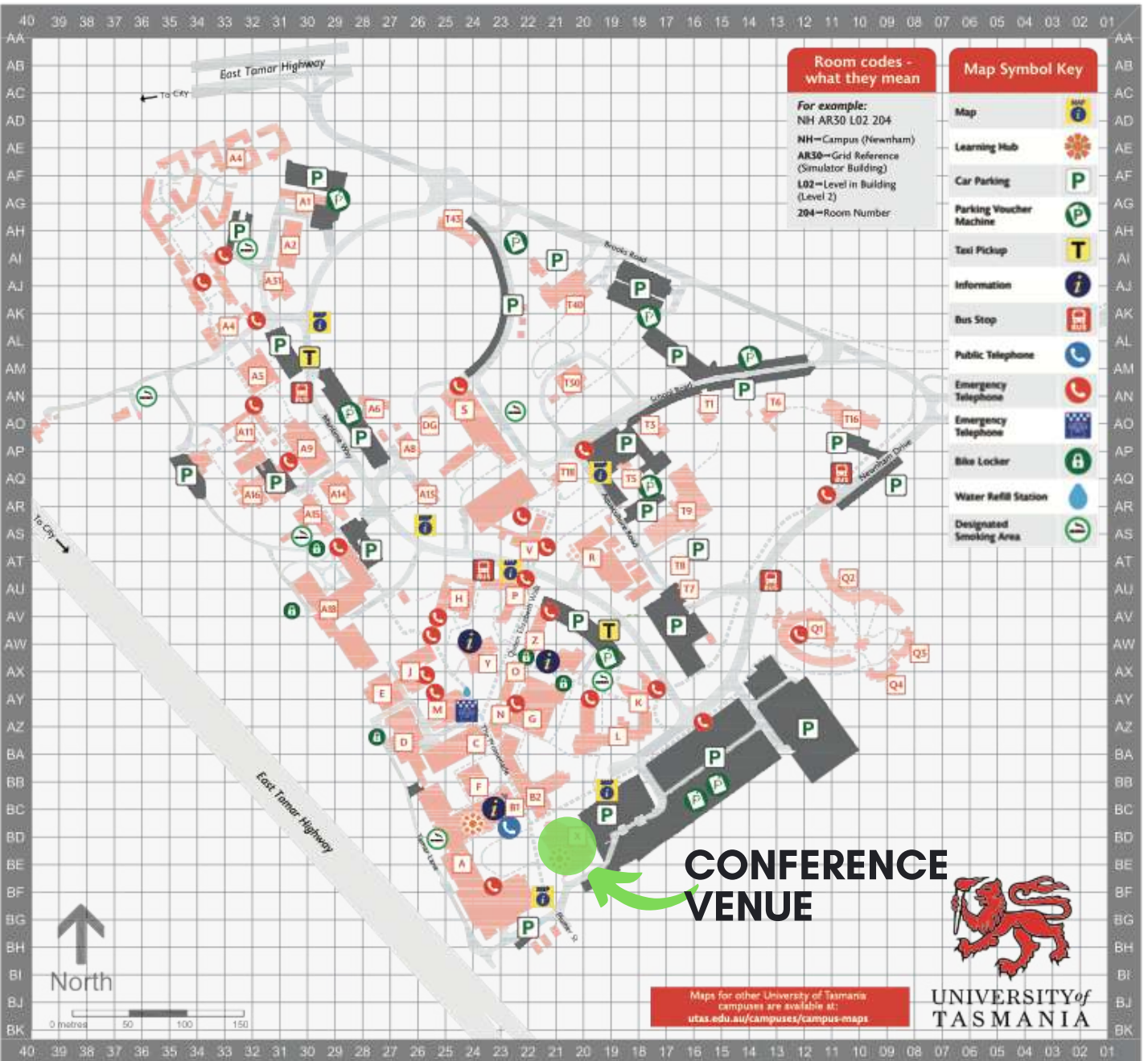
Stipa is a farmer led not-for-profit charity that promotes Australian native grasses in agriculture



## Newnham Campus

	Grid Ref.	Building Ref.
Accommodation Services	AX24	Y
Administration	BB22	B
AFRDI (Furnitech)	AN21	T30
AMC Search Ltd	AO24	S
Arts	AZ19	L
Australian Maritime College (AMC)	AV29	A18
Autonomous Underwater Laboratory	AJ31	A31
Cavitation Tunnel	AG30	A1
Chemistry	AO24	S
Childcare Centre	AO10	T16
Childcare Cottage	AO14	T6
Clubrooms	AH25	T43
Communal Centre	AP30	A9
Connell Building	AR29	A14
Co-op Bookshop	AY23	N
CSAW (Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood)	AJ21	T40
Education	BF24	A
Electro Technology Building	AP26	A8
English Language Centre	BB24	F
Financial Services	BB22	B
Geography and Environment	AO24	S
Human Life Sciences	BA25	C
Human Movement	AZ22	G
Human Resources	BB22	B
Humanities	AZ19	L
Information and Communication Technology	AS23	V
Information Technology Services (ITS)	BF24	A
Infrastructure Services & Development	AT17	T8
Institute for Marine & Antarctic Studies (IMAS)	AT19	R
Investigator Hall (Accommodation Services)	AL33	A4

Karslake Hall (Accommodation Services)	AV24 & AV25	P and H
Leprena (Accommodation Services)	AW12	Q1-Q4
Library	BB22	B
Marine Conservation & Resource Sustainability	AV29	A18
Marine Environment Annex	AN28	A6
Maritime Engineering & Hydrodynamics	AV29	A18
Model Test Basin	AJ31	A2
Newnham Apartments (Accommodation Services)	AE33	A4
Newnham Hall and Stables (AMC Search)	AQ34	A11
Norfolk Hall	AR32	A16
Nursing and Midwifery	AX26 & AZ25	J, M
Ports & Shipping, National Centre for	AV29	A18
Psychology	AX25	O
Riawunna	AY18	K
Rural Health	AW22	Z
Saltz Cafe	AP30	A9
Sciences and Engineering	AO24	S
Simulator Building	AR30	A15
Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre	BE21	X
Social Sciences	AZ19	L
Student Administration	AX24	Y
Survival Centre	AM32	A5
Swanson Building	AV29	A18
Tasmania Institute of Learning & Teaching (TILT)	BB22	B1, B2
Tasmania University Union (TUU)	AW22	Z
Tasmanian School of Business & Economics (TSBE)	BF24 & BA27	A & D
Thermodynamics Building	AR26	A13
Unigym	AS17	T9
University College	AW22	Z
Walk Cafe	AW22	Z



WELCOME  
GATHERING

Tuesday Evening, June 04 6pm-8:30pm

## GUEST SPEAKER - RACHAEL TREASURE

*Mother, Author & Regenerative farmer*

DAY 1

Wednesday, June 05

9:00 am

**Welcome**

9:30 am

**Charles Massy**

*Changing the Impact of Agriculture One Paddock at a Time.*

10:30 am

**Smoko**

11:00 am

**Graeme Hand**

*What is Regenerative Agriculture?*

11:00 am

**Mark Gardener**

*Does Regenerative Agriculture work for the land and the people?*

12:30 pm

**Lunch**

1:30 pm

**Colin Seis, Grant Sims & Robin Tait**

*Regenerative Cropping, Covers Uncovered.*

2:30 pm

**Graeme Hand & Peter Raynolds**

*Regenerative Grazing. Complexity Simplified to Succeed.*

3:30 pm

**Q & A**

4:00 pm

**Sessions End For The Day**

**INFORMAL DINNER  
(SELF-FUNDED)**

Wednesday Evening, June 05 6pm-8:30pm

## **TASMANIAN BOOK LAUNCH OF CHARLES MASSY'S CALL OF THE REED WARBLER**



A NEW AGRICULTURE - A NEW EARTH

*with Charles Massy speaking after introduction by Colin Seis*

**DAY 2**

Thursday, June 06

**9:00 am**

**Welcome**

**9:15 am**

**Dr Jason Rowntree, Michigan State University**

*Does the science of Regenerative Agriciulture  
stack up?*

**10:00 am**

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS**

### **Workshop 1: Profit Planning**

Designing Profit Into Your Farm - Mark Gardner

### **Workshop 2: Cropping**

Covering up: the latest from Australia and US - Colin Seis, Grant Sims & Robin Tait

### **Workshop 3: Grazing**

Breaking It Down - Graeme Hand & Peter Raynolds

**DAY 2  
(CONTINUED)**

**Thursday, June 06**

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**11:00 am**

**Smoko**

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**11:30 am**

**CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS REPEATED**

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**1:00 pm**

**Lunch**

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**2:00 pm**

**PANEL DISCUSSION - Ask Us Anything!**

**3:00 pm**

**WHERE TO FROM HERE?**

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**4:00 pm**

**Close Of Conference**

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## THANK YOU TO OUR VALUABLE SPONSORS

We acknowledge and thank our sponsors for their vision in and support of  
Regenerative Agriculture

### DIAMOND SPONSOR

# Circle 5

## Sustainable Development

Circle 5 Pty Ltd is a boutique Australian private investment company with agricultural interests in Northern Tasmania. The company supports sustainable development initiatives, investing in industry solutions to some of the environmental issues of today

## SILVER SPONSOR

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# Tasmanian Climate Change Office



### Department of Premier and Cabinet

Under Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021, the Tasmanian Climate Change Office is working with farmers to adapt to a changing climate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that promote sustainable growth in Tasmanian agriculture.

Email: [climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Visit: [www.climatechange.tas.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.tas.gov.au)

Phone: 03 6232 7173



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## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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### CHARLES MASSY

Charlie Massy (BSc PhD OAM), has a BSc in Zoology and PhD in Human Ecology.

While managing the family farm in NSW he also teaches at universities and consults in the fields of Merino breeding and landscape design.

He has engaged in freelance journalism since 1977, and has published books on Merino sheep and wool history. His recent best-selling book, *Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture – A New Earth*, concerns the emergence of a regenerative agriculture in Australia and cause for hope.



### MARK GARDNER

After completing university studies in Agricultural Science, Mark worked as a jackaroo, wool classer and property overseer for a number of years in the Western Riverina before establishing Vanguard Business Services in Dubbo in 1996 (winning a number of Regional Business Awards).

As a Savory Institute Holistic Management Educator for 22 years, Mark's current activities involve working with around 300 family farm businesses to improve profitability, regenerative grazing/land management, and facilitating business development programs for groups. Mark has worked for a range of industry bodies managing extension and change projects and with Universities on research projects.

Mark has recently published research paper identifying regenerative agriculture practices as restoring landscape function, being more profitable, low risk and increasing the wellbeing of farmers.



## GRAEME HAND

Graeme has worked as an industrial chemist, international marketer, meat industry consultant as well as farm consultant to many family and corporate farmers. He is based in Tasmania, and has a special interest in working with family farms helping to create profitable, sustainable farm businesses which are enjoyable to work in.

Graeme trains throughout Australia on regenerating grasslands using planned grazing management. He has also carried out bushfire and drought extension for Victorian DPI, provided Holistic Management training for CMA's and universities, consulted for the meat industry on eating quality and marketing. Graeme also manages STIPA Native Grass Association Inc.

Gabe Brown describes Graeme as having "The greatest understanding of not only ecosystem functions, but also how that relates to what we, as farmers and ranchers are doing.

OUTSTANDING!"



## COLIN SEIS

Colin Seis owns the 2000 acre property "Winona", near Gulgong NSW.

The property is managed using methods that continually regenerate its grassland, soil, and farm ecosystem.

In 1993 Colin co-developed pasture cropping, a unique method of growing crops while restoring grassland and soil.

Colin's dedication to farmer education, support programmes and enabling extensive scientific study of his practices has resulted in 'Pasture Cropping' being adopted around the world.

During the development of 'pasture cropping' and regenerative land management techniques. Colin has received many awards for his work the awards and in January 2015, the Weekly Times newspaper described Colin as a visionary and one of the top 6 most influential farmers of the world.



## RACHAEL TREASURE

Rachael is a mother, author and regenerative farmer. In between studying she has worked as a jillaroo, rural journalist, ABC radio broadcaster, professional woolclasser, part-time vet nurse, family farm manager, drover and stock camp cook. As an author, Rachael is working to inspire farmers to change to regenerative agricultural practices, so as to increase both profits and restore a healthy ecology. Her writing also advocates for animal handler education so as to better understand their dogs and livestock.

Rachael farms with her partner Daniel near Richmond in Southern Tasmania. They are focusing on hydrology in the landscape and mob grazing techniques.

Rachael is a Rural Business Administration graduate of Orange Agricultural College and has a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) degree from Charles Sturt University, Bathurst NSW.



## GRANT SIMMS

Grant Sims, a sixth generation farmer, is running the family farm with his wife Naomi and children in North central Victoria Australia. The 8500 acre farm is a mix of dryland and irrigated land.

The Sim's farm has been utilizing no-till since the early 80's. After looking at ways to improve the soil health through biology, Grant changed from synthetic fertilisers in to biologically made liquid fertilizer in 2008. At the same time, he stopped using seed dressing, insecticides and fungicides, unless absolutely necessary. The Sim's have a strong focus on crop diversity. They use companion and cover crops and have expanded their cow and calf numbers to integrate in their cropping system. They perform on-farm trials to learn and share methods about how solve problems, be more profitable, grow healthy end products and improve the soil for the next generation.

In 2015 Grant was awarded the Coles Weekly Times Farmer of the Year. Grant is the current president of the Victorian No Till Farmers Association.



## PETER RAYNOLDS

Peter and Anja Raynolds manage Neringla a 900+ha grazing property near Araluen, New South Wales. Peter took over the management of Neringla from his father in 2012.

He has also worked in mining and construction, and studied agriculture at the Orange campus of Sydney University.

Peter is using satellite monitoring to ensure that his management decisions increase groundcover, perennial grass diversity, decomposing litter and stable profits.

He will be discussing the practical aspects of managing an extensive hilly grazing property area for regeneration.



## ROBIN TAIT

Robin is from Devonport, Tasmania and was a 2018 Nuffield Scholar to USA, Canada and Europe investigating how regenerative agriculture principles can be integrated into cropping systems, with the aim to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs for crop production. Robin currently manages in excess of 400 ha of mixed cropping operation for Botanical Resources Australia. She provides agronomic advice for BRA's farm crops and co-ordinates harvesting and planting of pyrethrum and wheat.

As the majority of the crops are from very small seed that require substantial soil cultivation and exposed soil, Robin researched cover cropping, reduced tillage methods, companion planting, biological inputs and methods of crop monitoring which can be used to increase plant health as a means to reduce reliance on synthetic inputs.



## DR JASON ROWNTREE

Dr. Jason Rowntree is an associate professor in the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University.

He chairs the Grassfed Exchange, a leading U.S. grass-fed beef educational organization, is the scientific advisor and an accredited Holistic Management Educator for the Savory Institute and is an advisor of Standard Soil, a startup corporation that aims to meet the nation's growing demand for grass-finished beef while restoring the ecosystems that support that industry.

Dr. Rowntree received his Ph.D. from Michigan State University, his MS from Mississippi State University, and his BS from Texas A&M University.

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# THE RANT COMMITTEE

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**TREASURER- RUTH HALL**



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