



Western Murray Land Improvement Group

Striking a Balance

M E D I A R E L E A S E

04 November 2020

A DAY WITH BRUCE PASCOE

This event was a WMLIG initiative, facilitated by Regionality and made possible through funding from the Australian Government as part of the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program.

On the 14th of October, Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) held a unique and intensive workshop at a private property in Bunnaloo. Featuring award-winning and respected Aboriginal Australian Author Bruce Pascoe (Dark Emu, 2014), the event was hosted at the property of Graeme and Verence Dick. 15 landholders and industry participants attended the event, taking a seat within the charming context of a shearing shed.

WMLIG Executive Officer Roger Knight opened the event with a note of gratitude. Citing large distances travelled, remote stakeholder correspondence, and long-term planning, he highlighted the efforts of Regionality as essential for making the event possible.

The workshop was facilitated by Regionality Founder and Managing Director Rose Wright. Skilfully engaging with event attendees throughout, Rose utilised her knowledge and passion of the agri-food industry to connect the perspectives of Bruce Pascoe and the attendees in a personal and intellectual manner.

Delivering a powerful presentation, Bruce Pascoe provided attendees with insight into his personal history, indigenous culture, and knowledge of country. In a topical discussion of native species Kangaroo Grass, Bruce illustrated connections between land, soil, and nurturing nature as central to Aboriginal culture.



Western Murray Land Improvement Group

Striking a Balance

M E D I A R E L E A S E

An in-depth Q&A session was facilitated, and covered topics including Bruce's background, knowledge of traditional practices, the farming of kangaroo grass and other species by first nations people, connections to different areas of Australia, and Bruce's belief that our communities can enrich our soils to the benefit of our environmental future. A few laughs were shared amongst the more sincere bouts of dialogue.

The workshop was an engaging, personally moving event that by all accounts left participants with greater insight and a better knowledge of different ways that traditional land practices and ancient knowledge can be utilised by future generations. The event provided a sample of what was to be discussed in the Wakool Agri-Innovation Forum, held on the following day in Moulamein. Bruce Pascoe, alongside an array of other guest speakers, continued to share his journey, knowledge, passion and enthusiasm with attendees, planting a seed to encourage diversification in land and business management processes.

"This was such an amazing opportunity to hear Bruce speak ... loved every moment. [The] venue, catering was fabulous" – Di van der Zypp, Moama

"[I would have liked] more exposure to Kangaroo Grass and other specimens mentioned. Even given samples of seeds to try some propagation. First time to see this style of vegetation." – Bill Ricketts, Kerang

The Wakool Agri-Innovation program is a project undertaken by WMLIG, to assist local area farmers and businesses to explore opportunities to innovate, diversify or value add to their current business.

For more information about the Wakool Agri-innovation Forum and how you can get involved with the Business Development Program, please contact leigh.fletcher@wmlig.org or call 03 5453 1577.

Partnered with:



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

regionality
PTY LTD