





Carbon8 presents a story of Regenerative Agriculture that is more than just fixing the soil and removing toxic chemicals from our food chain.

It is instead, the story of how, together, we regenerated Country.



Helen and Mike McCosker, fourth-generation farmers residing on their 3,000-acre family farm in Northern NSW, established Carbon8 in response to the challenges posed by drought, flood, and desertification. Their initiative, grounded in regenerative agriculture principles, aims to enhance soil carbon levels and facilitate the transition to sustainable farming practices. Their journey underscores the transformative power of regenerative agriculture, emphasizing soil health, biodiversity, and community resilience as central pillars.

Their inspiration stems from the outpouring of support they witnessed during the 2019 drought, which prompted them to initiate a national campaign for regenerative agriculture awareness. They recognised the need for broader education and engagement in regenerative practices, leading to the inception of Carbon8 and the National Regenerative Agriculture Day. Their farm practices, ranging from multi-species cropping to rotational grazing, reflect their commitment to ecological stewardship and sustainable land management.

Carbon8's Community of Practice program offers farmers online education and support, focusing on mindset shifts and practical planning for regenerative farming. Their efforts have yielded benefits such as increased biodiversity, profitability, and the establishment of a sustainable legacy for future generations. Despite challenges like native wildlife conservation and learning through trial and error, they remain steadfast in their belief that regenerative agriculture is key to transforming landscapes and nourishing communities. Looking ahead, they envision a future where respect for the land, thriving ecosystems, and nutrientdense food production are paramount, inviting others to join them on their journey through healing the heart of the food chain.







A Journey of Sustainable Impact through Employee Giving

WE WORK WITH AUSSIE FARMERS

As a young farmer, my aspiration was to achieve excellence and leave a generational legacy in agriculture. Despite following conventional, best practice, chemical agriculture, I found that over time, our crops were mediocre, soil health on my farm declined (as well as my own), and dealing with toxic sprays was uninviting for my children, who I hoped would continue the farming tradition.

In my pursuit of knowledge, I discovered the world of soil biology, which was absent from my college lectures. I learned about natural solutions to common agricultural challenges, such as free-living nitrogen fixers and mycorrhizal fungi. Implementing these solutions required a complete change in my management approach, I learnt to mix carbohydrate (sugars) with my soluble fertiliser to entice the biology to stabilise the nutrient and hold it for the plant. I learnt how to use a refractometer to listen to the plant's photosynthetic response to my nutritional management. As a young farmer this was a lonely road of being teased at the pub and searching for advice from advisors with little to no knowledge of natural systems.

Starting Carbon8 was my commitment to building a community of farmers to share knowledge and support each other in finding practical, natural solutions to farm management challenges. Our Community of Practice (COP) serves as a hub where farmers exchange insights and successes, exploring new sciences like soil biology and carbon sequestration. **The result is natural abundance and rewards in financial and generational resilience for farmers embracing regenerative practices.**

Ultimately, as consumers experience the vitality of regeneratively grown produce, they will drive the shift away from industrial farming towards rewarding regenerative heroes in our agricultural community.

Mike McCosker



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce Carbon8's innovative Totem Project'. With Australia facing critical species decline and an alarming loss of our beloved animals, including the koala, Platypus and Wombat, urgent action is needed now to protect and preserve our precious Country we call home.

We seek to engage organisations like you who care, where you embark on an engaging journey with us in leveraging the expertise of Indigenous Elders and knowledge. We co-design a funding program that includes understanding what the relevant totem animal is and then develop an educational pathway for your community to learn, share and act on how to protect our precious Australian Totem Animals.

In today's dynamic business environment, organisations grapple with shifting regulations and the need for positive cultures which promote community and engagement. The Totem Project offers a specialised opportunity for your organisation to make a powerful impact for change while providing a pathway for increased participation and involvement for you employees, teams or members.

Through our uniquely tailored programs, our goal is to garner support to safeguard Australia's biodiversity, uplift local communities, and formulate personalised strategies for collaborating with totem animals to uphold their sacred significance. We integrate cultural wisdom into community (and farmer) conservation endeavours, uniting traditional knowledge with modern practices to foster sustainable stewardship of our natural heritage.

We also work with our Aussie farmers to help preserve our unique biodiversity and impressive natural heritage. As farmers are Custodians of a significant portion of Australia's landscape (over 61%), they play a vital role in conservation. Carbon8, as a leader in regenerative agriculture, also aims to partner our farmers with your organisation to save and protect our Totems for the generations to come.

This is a noble legacy and you can be a part of it.

Thank you for your dedication to conservation, biodiversity, and corporate responsibility. Your support and participation in this program will make a meaningful difference in protecting our natural world. I would love to speak with you if you would like to embark on this journey with us. I can be contacted on 0428635321 or email hm@carbon8.org.au.

Helen McCosker

BESPOKE PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUR ORGANISATIONS NEEDS

We are honoured to partner with Australian organisations in co-designing our Totem Project, extending its reach across Australia. Through this collaboration, each organisation identifies its indigenous clan and the totem animal representing that clan. By championing these animals, your community engage in meaningful conservation efforts, contributing to real-world projects.

Guided by Indigenous Elders and Carbon8 Farmers, we delve into the cultural significance of each totem and provide farmers with specific regenerative projects to ensure the thriving of these animals on their farms. Within your organisation, we showcase captivating digital art and storytelling materials, allowing everyone to connect with the journey of protecting and preserving their chosen totems.







EMPOWERING YOUR LEGACY

Prioritise Sustainability and Regeneration Cultivate Purposeful Culture for a Better Tomorrow Foster Engagement in Building a Sustainable Legacy Create Hope and Optimism for a Brighter Future Appeal to Younger Values for the Next Generation Navigate Green Regulations for Environmental Protection Protect Totem Animals for Cultural Heritage and Prosperity Save Our Precious Wildlife



CUSTODIANS OF CONSERVATION: CORPORATE GIVING PROGRAM

Founded by Farmers Engaging directly with Farmers Leading Experts in Regenerative Agriculture Collaborations with Institutions, Organisations and Leaders Century of Team Experience Bridging Indigenous Wisdom – we are mentored by First Nations Elders Focus on Soil Restoration and Biodiversity Striving to become Australia's foremost champion in the regeneration of Country.

Founders of The Totem Project **Founders** of National Regenerative Agriculture Day

UNCLE LEWIS WALKER

We sat with Bundjalung Cultural Elder, Uncle Lewis Walker of Whalubul Country, and shared our desires to merge our regenerative farmers with the wisdom of our Original People.

He sat up, turned slowly towards us, stared deep into our eyes and simply stated;

It starts with the Animals...

THE TOTEM PROJECT

Involvement in Carbon8's Totem Project is for everyone! Whatever your community urban, regional or rural; you can make an impact.

We help address the challenges faced by farmers and Indigenous communities in restoring and protecting country. By matching farmers with the original Totem of the land and implementing regenerative projects specific to that totem, Carbon8 ensures the restoration and sustainability of these vital and critically endangered ecosystems. Through a biodiversity framework aligned with the Original Peoples' Totems Carbon8 bridges a 250-year gap in history.

This initiative not only restores relationships but also inspires environmental stewardship, cultural preservation and the regeneration of country.

DID YOU KNOW AUSTRALIA IS FACING A CRITICAL CONSERAVTION CRISIS?

The highest mammal extinctions globally with more than 1,100 wildlife populations in Australia at risk and 34 extinctions.

Australia is second for biodiversity loss after Indonesia.

Among the 82 Australian animals on the Critically Endangered list are our Koala, Platypus, and Hairy Nosed Wombat.

As farmers steward a significant portion of Australia's landscape (over 61%), they play a vital role in conservation.

CASE STUDY: KOALA

Chlamydia, a bacterial infection, which poses a significant threat to koala populations across Australia. The disease has been devastating for these iconic marsupials, contributing to their declining numbers in the wild. Female koalas, in particular, suffer from reproductive tract damage, further impacting population growth.

CAUSE: Stress bought about by habitat loss, chemical inputs from farming, destruction of native biodiversity, construction of highways that limit koala's moving naturally and dehydration from poor soil health.

SOLUTION: Habitat Restoration. Regenerative agriculture practices such as reforestation, agroforestry, and the establishment of wildlife corridors can help restore and expand koala habitat. By planting native trees and shrubs, farmers can create diverse landscapes that provide food and shelter for koalas and other wildlife.



OUR LASTING

Individuals and organisations have a deeper connection to Country and Indigenous Knowledge. Our farmers are measurably improving their biodiversity and landscape health. Our Elders can assure the protection and care of their Totems. Everyone experiences a deeper relationship based on trust and respect. Volunteers are getting their hands dirty. Donors are RISING as The Custodians of Conservation. Our animals are safe and sound. And Carbon8 is helping to bring balance and harmony back to the heart of our Country. Carbon8 invests in real artists because creativity is natural. And nothing is sustainable unless it's beautiful.

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A Journey of Sustainable Impact through Employee Giving

CONSERVATION & CREATIVITY

Carbon8's origin story unfolds against the backdrop of the 2017 drought, a pivotal moment that compelled us to question whether drought would forever be ingrained in the Australian story. The search for answers led us to a practical solution—transitioning farmers to regenerative agriculture and soil improvement, a concept not yet enjoying the widespread popularity it does today. In those early days, regenerative agriculture remained somewhat hidden in dusty science manuals, and at the back of rickety old bookshelves. It was this challenge – unveiling regenerative agriculture and deciphering the mysteries of carbon – that sparked the inception of Carbon8.

Demystifying regenerative ag became our mission. No longer confined to the technical intricacies of science manuals, we launched The Art Department. Through collaborations with artists worldwide, we aimed to transform complex ideas into accessible and visually compelling illustrations. This initiative not only pulled regenerative agriculture from obscurity but also infused it with a new level of clarity and relatability.

At its essence, farming is an art form, a living sculpture shaped by the farmer's vision. It is a canvas where every decision moulds the landscape of tomorrow. **While agriculture may be reduced to a mere industry at its worst, our mission at Carbon8 is to elevate it to an art form at its best**. Recognizing the inherent beauty of nature, we celebrate the fusion of agriculture and artistry. In this synthesis, we discover that creativity is inherent in the natural world, and diversity emerges as the linchpin for regeneration. As stewards of the land, we strive to foster a harmonious relationship between humanity and the environment, transcending the dichotomy between industry and creativity.

Kelly Jones Founder



Emergence, Collaboration, Co-Design, Long-Term Sustainability

Australian Charity Committed to Long-Term Regeneration Industry Leaders in Regenerative Agriculture Key Messages: Emergence, Collaboration, Co-Design, Long-Term Sustainability Co-Design and Co-Learning with Partners Strong Board Governance and Supported by First Nation Elders across Australia Emergent Approach for Sustainable Impact and conservation

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REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE & BIODIVERSITY: PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



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