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**Living Agriculture is the sequel to
BIO-DYNAMICS AGRICULTURE OF THE FUTURE**

PRESCRIPT

The following aerial survey pictures and accompanying letter from John and Bernadette Cashmore are self-explanatory. When preparing the 1999 DEMETER International (DI) Lecture¹ for print, these pictures were not yet to hand. In the other language editions of the DI Lecture they are appended at the end of those publications.

Similar evidence of Salt reduction can be shown on many of our properties in various parts of Australia.

This lecture, presented at the Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Association of Australia's Annual General Meeting in April 2000, builds upon the publication "Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future". Picture references used throughout relate to this earlier lecture. It is therefore essential the reader be familiar with the text and pictures from "Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future".

¹ Published under the title "Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future".

Monday, February 21, 2000

Mr. Alex Podolinski & colleagues,
Bio-Dynamic Research Institute,
Main Road,
Powelltown. Vic. 3797
ph 03 5966 7333 : fax 03 5966 7433

Re: SALINATION AND BIO DYNAMICS

Dear Alex and Frances,

We thought these four Aerial photos of some **receding salt scalds** on our farm and the increasing soil degradation on our conventional-farming neighbour's property would be of interest to you. All photos were taken by DOLA in WA. Photos 1 and 2 seek to show BD 500 influence only. Photos 3 and 4 compare BioDynamic with conventional-farming practices.

Photos 1 & 3 were taken on **21-10-1994** after **three** BD 500 sprayings. Photos 2 & 4 were taken on **22-10-1999**, five years later, and after **eight** sprayings of BD 500. DOLA informs us the only other aerial survey of our farm area was in 1980. This is too long ago for us to bother getting copies to see our farm pre BioDynamics.

We have included rainfall statistics below as relevant information. Whereas **two very dry** years preceded the 1994 photos, **five very wet** years preceded the 1999 photos. Normally we would expect more water logging and hence salt scalding within these last 5 very wet years (See area east of line K in Photos 3&4). Photos 1 & 2 (BioDynamics) clearly show the opposite to be the case.

It is very exciting confirmation to us that the 500 **really is** bringing back soil structure to our collapsed, salty, water logged, non arable soil areas. By reverse osmosis the salt is able to return to the depths from which it came up (when water tables rose with all the vegetation clearing) during the last 40 years. The top part of the soil in which we grow crops and pastures can now be used again. Adequate soil structure has been created with the eight sprayings of 500. We expect further improvement.

Another one of many comparisons of BD verses Conventional farming is to study Photos 3 & 4. For BioDynamic improvements see area **B.6** and **E.4** on both photos 3 & 4. Now do the same looking in the conventional area east of line **K**. This is upstream from us. The degradation is alarming. We would have been far worse off, especially in these recent wet years, had we not practised BioDynamic principles.

Production of these four photos was possible using our new computer and scanner.

Yours sincerely,



John and Bernadette Cashmore
"Nyonger",
Box 62,
Hyden. WA 6359
ph/fax 08 98807015

Rainfall on "Nyonger" - (Annual average 325mm(13"))		
Year		
1993	325mm(13")	
1994	225mm(9")	Photos 1 and 3 taken
1995	350mm(14")	
1996	400mm(16")	
1997	388mm(15")	
1998	375mm(15")	
1999	525mm(21")	Photos 2 and 4 taken

Photo 1. Oct '94
Nyonger Aerial p12 + Salt 21-10-1994

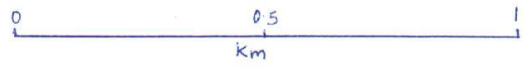
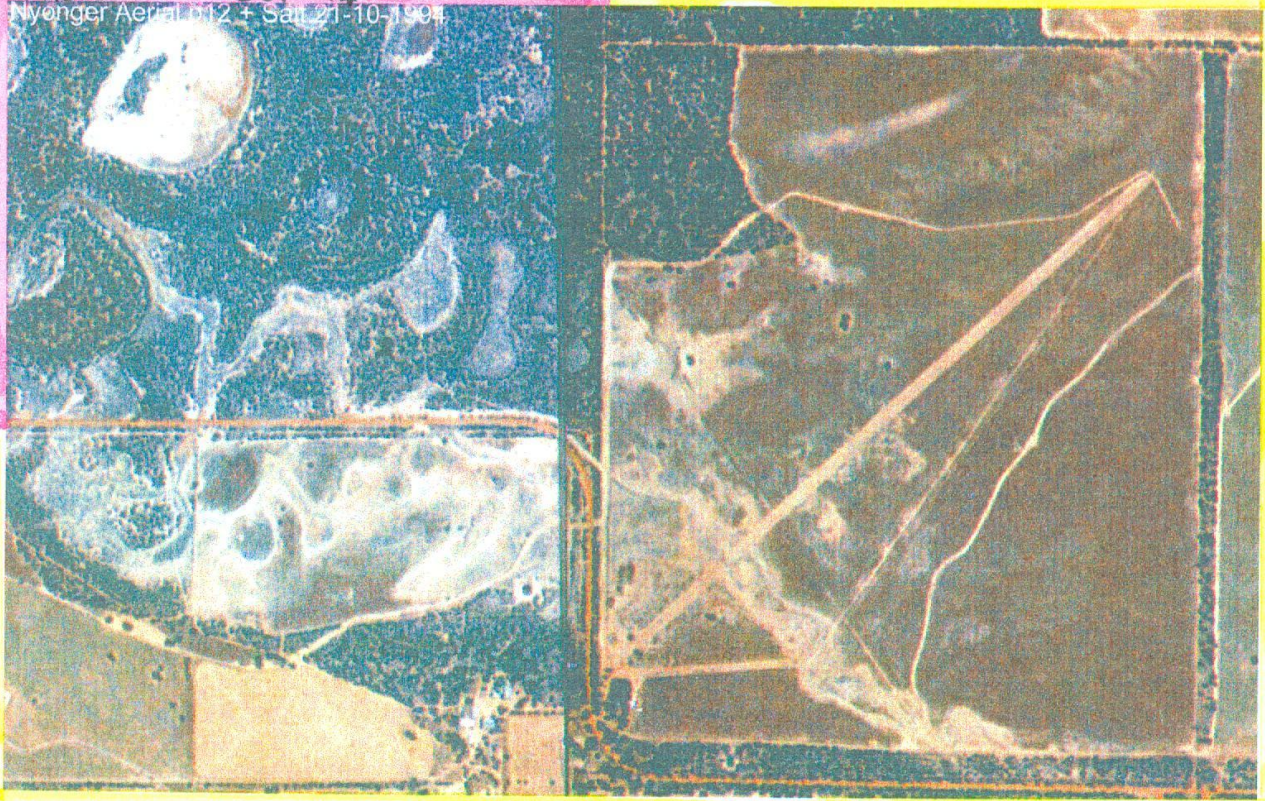


Photo 2. Oct '99
Nyonger Aerial p12 + Salt 22-10-1999



Photo 3.
Oct. '94

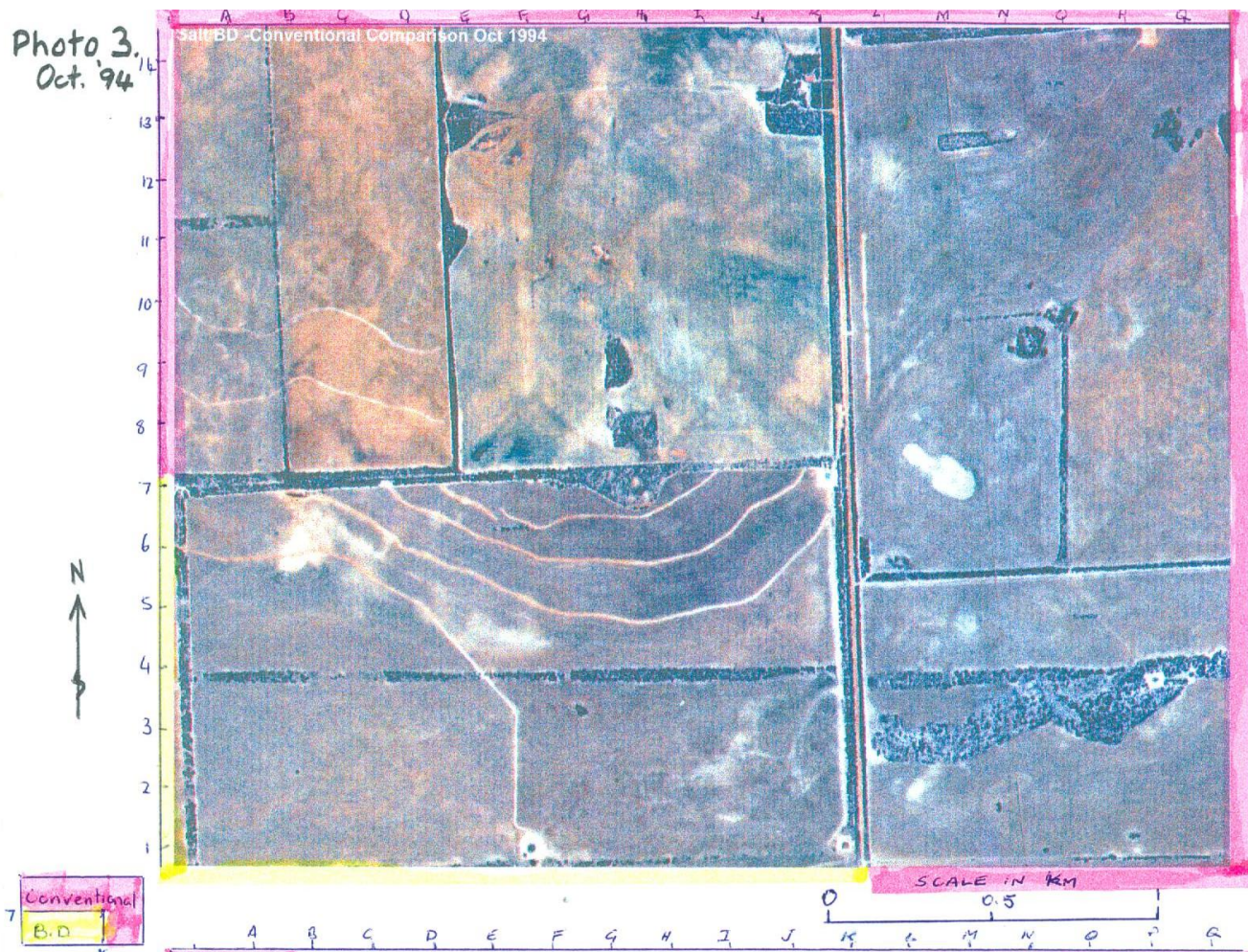


Photo 4.
Oct. '99



LIVING AGRICULTURE

In the 1999 DEMETER International lecture (published as “Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future”), there is one picture which correctly demonstrates what I point to, but is lacking in another sense. Which picture is that?

Ron Ward promptly answers: Picture 19 in the Glass House, whilst demonstrating the uprightness of typical Bio-Dynamic plants referred to, shows a less dark, yellowy soil colour akin to the original organic soil.

That is correct. Who else saw that?

Well, you should have your eyes open.

The Agrilatina soil is a sandy soil. Generally three cash crops are produced annually and one or two green manure crops. (Photograph 19 was taken during the third crop. That is, before next green manuring.) The neighbours along the fence of Pasquale’s house (unfortunately we did not take a picture) lost heavily with a crop of tomatoes, which I saw in July 1999. The soil is like Picture 4 and, with rain or irrigation, just runs. I saw it again in October 1999 when hilled and with carrots up to 2cm high.

Half of the hilled rows had “melted” in the rain with the young carrot plants eroding down the sides, sparse roots exposed and dying. Only sand without “substance” collapses and “runs”



rendering the “land” commercially useless. In Picture 19, although the soil has lost colour (more on the visible paths than in the plant rows), the plants are right and show Bio-Dynamic uprightness and light expression.

Dr Harald Hoppe, representing Germany at the DEMETER International Conference, dug into the dark Agrilatina soil to see how deep the Bio-Dynamic soil development had penetrated into the sand. Namely to about 70 to 80 cm.

No-one I know is more considerate and careful in soil cultivation than Pasquale. We will come to this later.

The area south of Rome suffered colossal hail damage in December 1999 (akin to Sydney in April 1999), making it necessary for Pasquale to apply himself full time to redeeming damage, recultivating and planting. Thus allowing him no time for visitors or visits for some time to come. His brothers and cousins being equally engaged.

When Pasquale, lectured to the DEMETER International members visiting the Agrilatina farm, he said, “we only do 40% of what should be done on a Bio-Dynamic market garden”. I interrupted with “70%”.

Bearing in mind that this intrinsically light sand has to face five cultivations per year, Agrilatina is as considerate and careful as possible. Several differing cultivation methods were trialed including a spade rotor,

where spades were replaced with forks – which also proved to be too damaging. Mainly a mulcher is now used to chop up the six feet high green manure so that tyne cultivators can follow; with an application of prepared 500 after each seeding, and with soil held in moist state so that sheet composting results in biologically active conditions.

To have to cultivate four to five times per year is enormously detrimental to soil. But, the sandier the soil is, the more can it take it.

You will now have to bear with me. An important lengthy process is concerned.

Were Agrilatina on typically yellow or grey clay loam, having to cultivate for vegetable requirements five times per year, murder of soil would result. On the other hand, Pasquale recognises his soil, overall, going darker every year; a sandy soil that can take multiple, caring cultivations. Such sandy soil has not the resources of the Archangeli Latina land depicted in Pictures 17 and 18, reputed to grow the best leeks in Europe (as large as young trees, but of exceptional flavour and soft texture).

Latina was a very extensive swamp area drained in Mussolini's time, comprising three differing soils. The Archangeli soil is of considerable depth.

An experienced observer will see, however rich this soil is – remember, conventional Agriculture Department testing found complete sufficiency of any known elements and advised to just “put on a bag of cow manure per hectare per annum” – that this soil is sticky, especially in the pre-biodynamic state shown in Picture 17. It is sticky akin to how pig manure is sticky and so, difficult to make into good compost.

My video “Soil Conversion” shows similar “stickiness” in the Burdekin cane country of the Ahern neighbours, requiring chemical “sealing” of cane plantings. Parts of the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp also show similar problems, but this is not as old a swamp as Latina, and it does not derive from sources equally rich as the Appennine Mountains.

If you grow vegetables which require a deep soil, in a wet year on a swamp derived area, waterlogging occurs, resulting in the stickiness Picture 17 indicates. At that stage Archangeli's had used the European Bio-Dynamic “preparations” then available without results emanating. With our preparations this soil changed to what Picture 18 shows. The stickiness has been replaced by friability and a notable “glow” of warm brown.

Incidentally, regarding the “glow” discussed for the first time in the DEMETER International lecture, - although I have long been influenced by it when viewing soils or plants; I was not yet sufficiently conscious of this to have raised it earlier on. I made decisions according to that glow and colour without being fully conscious of it.

Herewith I am referring to a principle methodicity of recognising consciously, which I hope to bring out further at this AGM. To have

made me aware of the glow more consciously, I thank – and he may have also been insufficiently conscious of it, but pointed to it - I thank Tony Fitzpatrick. He took me to the hard to find farm of Heather's and Tony said "look at the glow on that (ploughed) paddock". (Heather's farm is relatively new to Bio-Dynamics and was desperately compacted and washed out, and the glow was a brilliant sign of Bio-Dynamic redemption).

We may have many observations, but we have to gradually become conscious of them to "possess" them and make them more widely useful; that is, to know what you are doing and to make it objectively visible to others.

And, taking something in advance, Tony and Trevor Cobbledick (Barry Edwards and a very few others have to also be mentioned) are the only two, where I have to say, I have never seen a mistake in soil cultivation. The variations used always suited the ever changing requirements. And I have seen mistakes everywhere, including on this orchard, where we are so extraordinarily kindly and well provided for at these many AGM's.

In contrast to the Agrilatina sand, soil Picture 18 shows a huge reservoir of organic matter. With sand such can be put there gradually by Bio-Dynamics as happens at Agrilatina, but it has to continually be kept going, has to be nurtured and will lose colour on top with cropping. Yet, as you see, the plant expression evident in Picture 19 is good and indicates that, in spite of loss of colour on top, the plants are well maintained from what has developed Bio-Dynamically deeper down. Such is able to bridge a temporary loss of colour effect in top layers.

In many parts of Europe – France, Italy – there are rich clays. Though not as rich as the soil of Picture 18. Rich clays, as we also have to a lesser extent in parts of Australia. – The richer the soil, the more will it compact in adverse conditions.

I think, whilst we can not fully predict the evils chemicals will eventually impose, the greatest immediate evil to soil, and essential soil biological functioning, is the weight of compacting machinery. The tractors are bigger and bigger, the harvesters and virtually all other machinery, likewise. Mechanical grape harvesters and bins of colossal weight. Many orchards and vineyards in Europe and here are on clay soils and are compacted like roads, with trees and vines supposedly affected by "viruses" and so many other "diseases". Whereas in reality they are denied biological functioning by a biologically dead soil, unable to take in air and, of greatly impaired drainage – so essential in horticulture. Many such soils show a green scum on the "sealed" surface.

In Italy, often on relatively small farms, crawler tractors are in use. Engineers point to the low per cm² ground pressure of the tracks of a six to eight tonne crawler (overlooking, for instance, that, under load, the

crawler rises in front increasing the ground pressure of the rear driving sprockets, greatly). Seven to eight tonne crawlers are used for work which could to 90% be undertaken by a one and a half tonne, 30 horsepower wheel tractor, which the engineers point out may have a ground pressure at the wheels ten times greater than the crawler tracks.

I then say, "OK we have to cross a bridge with a weight limit of three tonnes. Would you prefer to use the seven tonne crawler or the one and a half tonne wheel tractor?" Of concern is not the surface pressure, but the total weight of machinery. When a crawler rattles past – the ground shakes. The resulting effect deeper down in the resources area of the soil, requiring air and drainage for humus maintenance, is akin to a concrete vibrator. The damage caused by tractor wheels or tracks on the soil surface is of little concern compared to compaction further down, which is very difficult to heal, once the soil putrefying process has commenced. In emphasis of this I pointed, in the 1999 lecture, to rivers in Europe and elsewhere functioning less and less as rivers with a healthy vein system, but becoming flood channels akin to Australia's outback.

I saw a pear orchard in Italy and a grain farm in France, both with underground agi-drains. However wet, in both cases the drains had never discharged water. The clay soil being too compacted for water to seep into the technically well installed agi-pipes, with clearly visible discharge outlets, into well maintained, deep drainage channels.

Fire Blight has become the worst orchard disease problem for pears I have ever seen. The more compacted the soils the less chance has the metabolic system of trees to withstand the Blight onslaught.

The problems caused by deep level soil compaction will be compounded in the extremely wet cycles to be expected more and more as discussed in Lecture 3 of "Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures" Volume 3.

On sandy soils, like Agrilatina, our Mallee or in Western Australia, the Bio-Dynamic soil development is visible relatively quickly. The similar transformation of a very rich soil like the Archangeli soil (Picture 17 to 18) requires explanation.

We do not have soils quite that rich. Barry Bowden's soil, located on the famous black Darling Downs plains of Southern Queensland is potentially one of our best. It is called "self-mulching soil", and has been cropped one to two times per annum for approximately 120 years. Twenty years ago I already saw maize stubble, undigested, three years old. The "humus" in even that soil has been mined out. It is no longer self-mulching and today requires extensive contouring as it now erodes alarmingly, because another symptom of degradation is, that this soil does no longer "hold together". Barry's soil has improved in structure

and colour since conversion to Bio-Dynamics, and quality crops of rich flavour are produced. Yet this soil is not fully bio-dynamically developed. As these Downs lost “humus”, their clay content came more and more to the fore. Typical “crusts”, like ice on water, form – to the point of sealing the soil, akin to the Egyptian photograph, Picture 16. There is still some crust formation at Barry’s. When fully bio-dynamically developed this soil will change to the purple brown of Picture 18 without noticeable crusting. - Also the microbe and worm built, “grown” rubbly lumpiness of this soil will show finer particleness than the larger, more cube-like lumps visible after “cultivation” on conventional farms.

The Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp soil of Benham’s - at the typical conventional, mined out state - is somewhat similar. Benham’s have been in Bio-Dynamics longer. Virtually no “caking” takes place and, by comparison to neighbours, the Benham soil is even more “purple” than Picture 18. On Barry’s larger acreage it will take longer.

Last year I reported that the finest biodynamic joy of the year was the newly running creek at John Wilson’s, which, after the current continuing dryness shows even higher water levels in 2000, and some quite large fish have been caught.

This year’s joy is one of overcoming an even more difficult condition. We had to take the AQIS auditor to the Colac Bio-Dynamic Ice-cream Jersey farm of the Hitchings. The soils there, located near lake Colac, are made up of one time blown in Mallee sand and densest blue clay. As such the most difficult “soil” type I have encountered. It is geographically associated with flood country and is so tough, that if you can prise some out with a crow bar, and manage to make a vase and fill it with water, it is still full to the brim next morning(!). I had not visited the blue clay area of this farm for some years. When I used the fork, it went in readily, there was no “blue” clay, but a brownish, quite well structured soil. Two meters distant, on the road side of the fence, I made ready to dig also. Garry tried to stop me with, “no 500 was sprayed there”. I replied, “that’s why I am digging here.” With effort the fork penetrated to three inches into the moist, original, blue clay. The paddock development was “unbelievable” even to me.

If such “soil” can be so developed, then any soil can.

Ray Quigley at Yinnar has the richest, biologically most developed soil in Victoria. Alluvial Creek flats, deriving from red basalt hills, in a usually reliable rainfall area. Aeons of time could biologically develop it – somewhat similar to Po River soils, but not quite as rich. Such soil is biologically more mature than a drained swamp soil.

Don Rathbone’s heavy clay soil and subsoil was the first and foremost to have been penetrated by roots to well over one meter, initially sending columns of roots into the clay which darkened and structured, drained and opened the clay. What was achieved under

these difficult conditions acts as a bench mark to expectable and essential subsoil development round the globe.

**Now I have to add more to the humus discussion
outlined in “Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future”.**

I state that what has eroded from the Abyssinian Mountains and built the rich Nile flats and what, likewise, originates in the Swiss Alps and enriches the Polder farms in Holland, is not humus, but organic matter particles. Yet it is very dark and looks akin to humus.

When is it humus and when organic matter?

Conventional agronomic science generally avoids discussing humus per se. Humus is hardly distinguished from organic matter. And in a way this is more honest than what the organic and bio-dynamic idealists have said about humus. Talking of ‘Dauer-humus’, “Permanent” humus, must be severely questioned. Asked what they understand it to be they might point deep down into the resources area of the Archangeli soil. Permanent humus is just a word.

Humus, as with everything else, where one seeks realistic methodological scientific understanding, has to be SEEN. And these people have not seen, watched, guarded or **developed** any humus. They may have had a bit of worm casts in their hand. Where is purposeful understanding regarding the implications of the colloid character of humus referred to in literature?

Those of us who have made 500 in quantity and for decades, who have observed the 500 afterwards in the storage bins, have a basis for observation of humus.

When in spring 500 is in the bins in the shape in which it came out of the horns and in the right state of moisture, conversion and scent, it is initially horn shaped. There must be no worms. Had worms accessed the filled horns in the pit, manure content would have been taken out of the horns whilst the same worms would have introduced outside organic matter into the horns, thus contaminating the future 500 substance. At this stage the 500 is evenly dark coloured but somewhat fibrous – depending on the quality of manure used, dairy (Jersey) manure being superior, and the pasture composition, maturity etc. etc. being correct. - The 500 must be out of the pit and converted, as described previously, entirely under the Winter influence.

In the bins these 500 sausages are worked over by worms appearing in great numbers from “nowhere” ditto microbes. Not all bins convert at the same time. Eventually on the top 1 to 2 mm, very fine moist balls appear. The sausages have disappeared and the content of the entire bin has grown into one colloidy substance (like soft cheese in a vat).

Anyone, who has stored 500 in this correct state of moisture for some time has opportunity to notice how 500 re-grows together into one colloidy mass when this original state was disturbed, temporally, by some 500 having been cut out of the original storage and placed in a bag for transport.

There is the test I have mentioned, which the Italian preparation maker Carlo Noro undertook; namely putting a ball of prepared 500, which is more finely worked over than ordinary 500, to swim in a water filled glass jar, likewise, a ball of ordinary 500 and a ball of early fibrous 500 and one of "European" 500. Only the prepared 500 ball did not melt to the bottom of the jar and retained its shape for many weeks.

But prepared 500 in a ball will only behave as outlined when the substance has been taken as one colloidy mass out of the totality in the colloidy storage bin (it could be rounded off gently). It will not so behave when loosened parts are squashed together into a ball. Such a compressed ball may, to superficial examination, look like one colloidy mass, but it is not and in the water trial will fall into the pieces it was made of. The 500 in this ball has not had the weeks required to again grow together into one colloidy mass.

Clay colloids are discussed in some organic literature, often with the hint that clay colloids play some integral part in humus formation. However, this is but an assumption. Quality 500 can not be made if soil or clay were carried into the horns buried over winter. Clay colloidiness is of a very different origin and composition to humus. The only comparison is, that both are colloidy and can accordingly be kneaded and shaped. Yet even in respect to colloidiness there is a major difference. Modelling clay gone too dry and fallen to bits can be remoistened and, after some mechanical kneading, knits together. Pottery can be spun and there will be no breaks as would occur with 500 humus that has not had time to grow together again.

Herbert Koepf made an important contribution in examining at what stage to best incorporate compost into soil. He measured the nitrate and ammonium nitrogen content of materials going into the heap; say 400ppm nitrate and 300ppm ammonium nitrogen. When this heap was approximately 7/8^{ths} matured (that is, it is still in its original outside shape) a cut, placed across the length of the heap, showed evenly dark colour. Even the fine grass stems of the original, well mixed, input material were of the same colour, whilst still being clearly discernible, but when rubbed between two fingers would turn into a colloidy mass. (This visually describes 7/8^{ths} digested). At that stage the Nitrogen level has risen to 4000ppm (taken from air breathed in by worms and microbes and "held" in their colloidy output). This is the dynamic height of the compost heap development and the stage when it should go into soil. However, if left in the heap to the often recommended "rounding off" stage and looking like "loose dark forest soil" - the total nitrogen level

has reduced to 300ppm. Less than the original input material. Koepf did not comment on colloidiness or loss thereof.

At this breakdown into particle stage the formerly colloidy humus **has** become a sort of forest soil. That is, the once colloidy humus has become ORGANIC matter of little dynamic consequence.

There is no “permanent” humus.

Humus exists only at the height of a PROCESS of continuous becoming.

That is, in *status nascendi*.

“Permanent” humus would be dead material.

Absolutely the same is valid for humus in soil - however small the pockets of humus therein are. And there exist the quasi-liaison of these pockets into a sensible overall colloidiness - akin to what was raised by Evan Hardie and Don Rathbone about Bio-Dynamic soil keeping water out and worms alive during prolonged water-logging, which rendered neighbouring conventional farm soils to putridity. - A kind of chelation organisation arises interlocking humus pockets in Bio-Dynamic soils. (See Volume I “Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures”).

However, with a mechanical and particle approach to “science”, closed to SENSE of a living organism, be it man or soil - much remains outside the possibility of understanding.

When recently inspecting farms in the Riverina, South Australia and Western Victoria, I found various farms of experienced Bio-Dynamic operators, where in the past very dry months 500 had gone too dry, although far from the powdery stage.

In correct storage 500 remains noblest humus in *status nascendi*. When pressure is applied to a ball of it, this ball expands thereafter – like a rubber ball. Should the top 500 in a bin, to a depth of 5, 10 or 30 cms - (whilst still retaining sufficient moisture to enable crumbs to be pressed into a ball) - lose contact with the total colloidiness of the 500 in the overall bin, then this top part has undergone a process comparative to the 7/8^{ths} digested compost having eventually become forest soil. As 500, it has lost the essential dynamics.

Status nascendi is a process of
constant dynamic MOVEMENT
in interaction with
the physical dark substance material FORM - as ONE.

To keep this going continuously in soil therefore requires all the measures of a dynamic farm management system; rotational (root and plant top) stimulating pasture management; sheet composting;

cultivation techniques etc. etc. all together making for a Bio-Dynamic method.

500 in storage has to be checked frequently (we do not feed a baby only once per week) and droplets of water added BEFORE the need arises(!). But it must also not be too wet. - Mechanical “thinking”, from which we all must make a concerted effort, step by step, to free ourselves - regarding even only slightly too dry 500 – could lead us to consider that adding a bit of water would readily re-establish the original state of the 500 substance. Such would be valid for clay, not humus. - The damage caused to the organisation of a baby, to the organs of a baby (or its death), can also not be remedied by belated application of water.

I repeat: humus exists only whilst it is becoming. As “permanent”, it is dead. - Unfortunately, this is also true for nearly every human endeavour. Wherever there has been a creative person, after passing on, achievements are in danger of being lost to fixation.

There are two sides: Movement and Form. And only when they are in interaction – as described in my book “Active Perception” – is there what can be in humus and in soil. A compacting machine robs the soil of the chance of air, reducing movement of life.

Anything undertaken on a farm is subject to the Movement-Form principle and has to so be considered. No “fixed” routine. Nature is different every moment.

Possibly the only farms of ours with the chance of running 100% bio-dynamically, not the 40 or 70% of Agrilatina, are simple pasture farms. Mixed pasture, however lowly placed on the horticultural scale, has the chance to be the most encompassing, ecologically balanced – non monocultural – plant production system, whilst, as such, offering soil development and maintenance, right down to permanent deep soil activity. Only a relatively simple Bio-Dynamic management is required, easy to meet.

We utilise this basic pasture management in all horticultural and general farming endeavours - to the health of plants and the redemption of soils.

Enormous damage to water and soil by erosion was caused after the two World Wars through large scale deforestation. Yet the damage done since to soil biology and structure: reduction of organic matter in soil as a huge contributor to the air pollution problem causing climate changes; destruction of river vein systems; saltation etc. etc. is even greater. (See “Agriculture 1990”).

It is impossible for me to say what anyone should do on his farm at any one moment – so that the humus production in the soil is continuously active via the Bio-Dynamic preparations.

I can point to essentials, but you have to match whatever is essential - which can never be predicted even one day ahead.

As once reported, what finally convinced Pasquale to come to Bio-Dynamics took place at an oaten paddock of Trevor Cobbledick's, where the soil pores were open at the top after a recent, prolonged one meter flood. Neighbouring soils were smeared. He outlined this all in his excellent, delightful, yet serious address to DEMETER International members, including also my "directness" at pointing to mistakes in his then organic management - accepting with objectivity, however uncomfortable.

As farmers we must all be as objectively sensitive in choosing what next to do on the farm akin to our best farmers. **There is no fixed routine. We leave that to the bureaucrats. The required sensitivity is the equal to the teacher's love for children: the basis of education.**

Of the pasture farmers, the relatively small acreage of a dairy farm is the easiest to manage 100% Bio-Dynamically.

The dairy farmer manages:

- the most varied mixture of plants; no monoculture at all;
- with few cultivations other than for a very occasional re-sowing of species;
- rotational management;
- harrowing, slashing;
- using the lightest tractor the job requires;
- to resist brainwashing into heavy equipment, giant hay rolls etc;
- not to compact ground;
- to disregard "time" and "labour" saving agricultural economists conventional advice; etc etc.

When we proceed to the part on education, I will point out, that, "you all had an immense amount of agricultural education", only you did not register it as education. Amongst all the Bio-Dynamic farmers who have come to us, only two had not been brainwashed into applying superphosphate, Farry Greenwood and Dan Gregg. Everyone else was more or less brainwashed into a rut, and some are still affected. When something is not "quite right" – seasonal conditions influencing a natural farm (heat, dry or wetness, cold) – some still look with trepidation at what "should be added"...

The EU, and of recent the US, regulates firmer and firmer controls for achieving closed farm units and will look at production systems exporting to their countries. - Even composting material should be home produced.

Europe has no phosphate deficiencies akin to Australia, rather the opposite.

Barry Edwards will contribute very interesting observations and results later. He is on originally white alkaline sand. He has found a rock phosphate dried pig manure mix (certified) releasing phosphate in alkaline conditions and applied it at the rate of 2 to 3 Kg of Phosphorous

per hectare. (Conventional neighbours apply approximately 20 Kg per hectare). Truly an amount of “medicinal” proportion and defensible under Australian conditions.

To Bio-Dynamic dairy farmers is well known how docks and many other “weeds” were left by stock when farming conventionally and are relished under Bio-Dynamic conditions. Docks, for instance, also flatweed, are relatives of chicory, and therefore important liver herbs.

Barry’s cultivation and cropping methods have been independently established to suit his farm and district. Weeds, condemned conventionally and chemically sprayed out, following the “brainwashing” education, are not hit with the cultivator, but, irregardless of competition for water, are allowed to grow up. Then they are ploughed in. This together with the other independent management factors – in a tough year – resulted in some of the best crops and protein levels exported in the past season. The value of weeds contributed to the end result, and the humus of the darkened soil, held sufficient moisture.

An example of the SENSE brought by the Bio-Dynamic preparations as outlined in lectures 1 and 2 of “Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures” Volume 3.

On the dynamically best run, winter milking, dairy farms, Autumn saved pasture is required. This is then taken out of the ideal rotational management of dynamic grazing at just the right stage, but will stagnate. Tips of grass will die back and with dense pastures, the bottoms may tend to sliminess. 501 at this stage has raised milk and butterfat yields of a stale herd, as Don established.

With this understanding of keeping the dynamic movement part going, I come to a second part of the DEMETER International lecture requiring further investigation: Grandmother’s plum tree.

What I said there regarding the flavour of the fruit and how that tree is nourished, namely, not through the water of the soil, but through natural humus, or no elements would have been available – is true.

But now I ask you, especially the orchardists, to use the method of Active Perception - which I use all the time - and to look at that tree.

In my book Active Perception, I use the handwritings as a kind of crutch – but also to establish the objective methodicity (and to train people). - An eminently leading cancer specialist exclaimed; “At last a methodicity of Imagination.” Intending to use this method in training doctors, who, with view to cancer, are not just to “holistically”, but methodologically, SEE, with each patient, and find an understanding, regarding cell production outside of an organisation’s totality.

I would now like you to look at that plum tree. What would Grandmother’s plum tree look like?

No Answer:

Could you market the fruit readily, however well tasting?

No Answer:

How large would those plums be?

Answer: On the small side. Not what the market demands today.

Nothing had been done to that tree, no thinning of fruit. What would the tree itself look like? For instance, how much new wood is there?

Answer: There would be little.

The inside of the tree would be rather craggily and full of oldish growth. What would the limbs and bark look like?

With cherries especially, depending on root stocks and varieties, there can be “constricted” limbs with prematurely oldish bark. A cut with a penknife tip up the trunk and far into the limb, and within a year, a wide gap, overgrown with new cambium appears and constriction is relieved conducive to healthy sap flow.

That plum tree would look similarly strangled.

What has not been done with that tree, but is necessary for a plum tree (much less so for an olive tree or for a vine, but still necessary) – is, to have maintained what I have described as necessary for pasture: that continuous activating influence from the management side to allow the dynamics of Bio-Dynamics to act.

The longer the life span of a bush or tree, the less is such management necessary. A plum tree has only a medium lifespan, and must be kept dynamically active.

The ill effect of monoculture or, in “modern” orcharding, “dwarfing” or “hedging” of trees, causes extra problems. But in older, longer living species like apples and pears – especially with monoculture and in spite of compensating pasture or green manures and adequate space for these trees to flourish – an ACTIVATING requirement can be root pruning with, of needs, a lightish tandem disc, or, if with heavy pasture undergrowth, a heavier disc, both used at very low speed, “cutting” soil as little as possible, ie “breaking” it. The cut given to the disc requires experimentation and consideration. - Think of Pasquale’s concern, cultivating so often. –

Pasture roots, pasture itself under big trees, growing in shade – presents problems and can become sod bound and also requires renovating. Regular rotational grazing of an orchard is not practicable and can rob the trees of essential feeding. Animals use much more than they leave. Tynes pull roots up without cutting them and cause unwanted shoots.

Cultivation, green manuring and eventual repasturing, maybe also to rectify the composition: invigorates. What was disrupted in structure, even where cultivation method was not ideal, will mend again Bio-Dynamically – as after disruption in the 500 bin.

No pastured orchard I have seen is ever slashed often enough. That is, like pasture on a well managed dairy farm. Yet this is most essential and keeps the Bio-Dynamic invigoration going. There must be no stagnation. Essential legumes can be suppressed by paspalum in irrigated orchards.

There are horticultural Bio-Dynamic properties in Europe – as is documented in the DEMETER International Lecture - pursuing the Bio-Dynamic method with more detailed management than in Australia. They are smaller and therefore easier to look after. Although the pollution etc. conditions in Europe (including, often, water quality, life in water) are considerably worse, requiring greater effort towards health.

On the other hand many of the Australian farmers, receiving no subsidies but competing on world markets with subsidised farmers, are on a much, much lower labour to acreage ratio and are very limited to meet the barest essentials sufficing to run a farm Bio-Dynamically. Many of our smaller farms have to upvalue to compete, which takes additional time and development funds. And Governments are pushing smaller farms out in support of International Companies, which will, in the end, fail, like the Eastern European Kolchose establishments. Likewise some of the over large and overcapitalised dairy farm companies in Australia will fail. Wine faces a similar outlook.

The winter tree spray - as activator of the cambium – is essential in orchard and vine production. The tree itself remains in Winter dormancy, but an activity engages bark and cambium to many purposes. On large orchards the procedure of making and spraying the tree spray has to be adequately mechanised.

In principle, the more a tree comes to the end of its lifespan, the more is it akin to Winter pasture which has lost vibrancy, and suffers die-back or fungi at the stems. The vibrancy can be aided in fruit trees by correct pruning and root pruning. The tree spray helps, as does the casuarina/equisetum spray - a HEALING fungal spray - or Valerian, and of course 501.

In flat country orchards, during winter dormant periods, a cover crop of legumes and cereals, which continue to grow in winter, helps drainage by keeping water in the soil from stagnating as such plants transpire water when the trees are not in leaf. Permanent pasture, by comparison, would also be more dormant. In this case the cover crop should be sown so the plants strive to grow in those Winter months.

A few, but essential points of refined management.

The other theme of this conference is education and training of farmers.

Perhaps, and without noticing, you all, everyone in the “developed” world, or those belonging to the “educated” generally, have undergone considerable amounts of education, even if not in a formal way.

A history of conventional farm advice policy would often show total reversals within a few years. And with increasing problems, due often to the conventional advisory systems, many farmers cling to an “acceptance”, which is no more than primitive believing.

Justus von Liebig made the important discovery that plants can take in only soluble elements. To blame him for the resultant effect on Agriculture – in the hands of money spinners, would be incorrect.

The actual problem is, to what degree man has fallen to the MECHANICAL intelligence scientific endeavours have gradually enmeshed mankind into in recent centuries.

Having, as a child musician, opened myself to the ever differing dynamic inventiveness of Bach and, in contrast, being bored by the repetitiveness of other Baroque composers. Around age 12, I remember well, how “interesting” I found chemistry. We were being taught valencies, a figurative combining (CO_2 , CH_4), enabling the creation of substances – in figures and on paper.

I remember the thrill of being thus “creative” – until I noticed how I had been caught into a mechanical, REPRODUCIBLE, fixed type of grid, (the after effect of which left me empty in comparison with the fulfilment of Bach), and how in this, I had lost my VERY INDIVIDUAL, INDEPENDENT EXPERIENCING, as this was replaced by “the system”. It was a freeing relief to recognise “the system”, however capable I was of “intelligently using it”, making up substances and enjoying the CLEVERNESS. With Bach there was the individuality uplifting power in contrast to the cleverness of a system requiring only my intelligence but not requiring my INDIVIDUALITY. I felt shamed and became very watchful.

Some forms of science have become a self perpetuating system, using human intelligence, but not requiring human individuality as evidenced in the eventual lack of morality.

Over-technicalised, unnecessary “developments” may emanate.

And, as stated in earlier lectures, basic requirements towards systematic KNOWLEDGE, the real purpose of science, is first of all an OBSERVATION followed by the process towards conscious recognition. With practical farmers, as such accustomed to this procedure, well considered practical action results: Monism.

In dis-individualised “science” the observation has eventually been replaced with an “hypothesis”. This is tested against “statistical evidence”: Extreme Dualism. In historic evolvement of science as a category of philosophy, there was an “idea” in place of hypothesis and, “reality” in place of the somewhat hypothetical statistical evidence. Matters have slipped not unlike the monetary value of gold, to paper, then to stock exchange “values” of hypothetical reliability and open to amoral manipulations.

This and more is in the background of the agricultural education offered to you. And, accordingly, “soil” is regarded as a mass of particles, which can be added to ad lib, thus raising the “fertility” whilst the biology of the soil is disregarded. Humus, effectively, does not exist and the soil therefore is not viewed as a living ORGANISATION. - Regarding plants, animals and man, as also in medicine, principally the same applies. Man’s genes and DNA is taken as utterly decisive without scientific regard to the input and influence of independent individuality.

What is the farm, a Bio-Dynamic farm, without the constant creativity of the farmer’s individuality? As stated, this can be seen with Kolchose farms and will become more and more evident with large scale “farm businesses”.

Also, some of our leading Bio-Dynamic farmers have spoken of the initiative typical for Bio-Dynamic farmers (marketing of high quality produce, upvalue development, cheese, yoghurt, ice-cream): creative, conscious farm management developments – compared to conventional chemical “followers”. What is the agricultural conscience like? Contractors and aeroplanes; soil cultivation quality; weight of machinery; “easy” chemicals etc. - conscience does not exist.

There is now the hype of tree planting. Tree lines will not overcome salt. Total plantations render the land unsuited to agriculture and compete for essential water. Carbon credit planting brings temporary income and supports amoral multi-nationals. All only temporary plasters.

Food is required.

And the salt problem has not yet been understood by conventional authorities. Australia is fast running out of productive soil.

I have said, that I learnt more about Nature and, eventually, the refined intricacies of how to farm with Bio-Dynamics, from having been a musician as a child and youth than ever at University. And if I deeply search into myself, I must recognise that – at school or university age – I had only one teacher. To have a teacher you have to be able to totally open yourself to the influence of that individuality.

I have learnt from many, many people – like I became conscious of the glow of soil via the earlier narrated moment with Tony Fitzpatrick at Heather’s farm. And he had no awareness of this(!). So, from earliest childhood I picked up here and there. I would see something very valuable and would incorporate it without the other person’s awareness. I was much too shy to let on.

The only real teacher I ever had was the composer Bach. Even at Boarding Schools, I managed most of the time (I was in charge of music and performances) to play up to six hours per day – the headmaster expressing wonder, at the end of term, at how I got away with it again.

Music trains in objective sensitivity. The eventual sensitivity and resultant power of observation which Trevor Cobble Dick, that big chap over there, has in everything he does on his farm or recognises in Nature.

Such refined sensitivity is not necessarily common to Australians, but much more common amongst our Bio-Dynamic farmers.

At a meeting in Barry Edward’s district the authoritative question was put of comparing each farmer’s present financial state to that of the year before. One maintained status quo, all others were down. Only Barry was up. He then related this to his Bio-Dynamic practice.

We are often asked, why don’t the neighbours come into Bio-Dynamics seeing the results? In an appropriate place in the DEMETER International lecture I refer to jealousy. But, amongst farmers here, today, this is not so prevalent. It is more inertia. That is a lack of individual power to DO, caused maybe, to a degree by the comfort induced by following the conventional stream of multitudinal safety.

In lecture 1 of Volume 3 (“Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures”), I ask regarding the most important item on a farm. It is the individuality of the farmer. And the farmer requires never ending education, growing sensitivity and initiative decision making development – just as his soil requires development.

Farm and Individual are intertwined.

But, as you come off so much conventional “education”, which is hard to rid oneself of, I am taking the cheek to, for a little while, speak on something that may not appear to be directly linked to practical farming of which you had ample at this conference.

I want to raise one sentence from the DEMETER International lecture.

Nothing comes from Nothing.

Where does the understanding of what I have rightly shown with 500 or humus as Movement and Form Oneness – humus existing only in

status nascendi – come from? If there is only Movement, unrelated to observable reality, then there is no more than Mystical Fantasy. If there is only Form, there is Mechanical Bureaucracy or dead “thinking”, however clever.

I am booked for a lecture in Cairns on education. My main theme will be; that education is not to gain a pass at matriculation or University. Education is to develop a human being for life. Whereas our Government is now trying to “guide” education in a utilitarian way so that schools will turn out utility players, useful in multitude types of low grade work application. Less unemployment, less costs.

Look at the not publicised statistics of suicides, depression, drug use and the host of other new diseases. The new profession of counselling has become a requirement. All symptomatic of weakening individuality – even a policeman has been reported to receive counselling after a crash. An earlier generation had to go to war at sixteen or seventeen. It was not easy. Nerves are not meant for exposure to the incredible explosiveness of a bomb, not even knowing where exactly the explosion will happen. It takes toll.

Education is to educate the whole human being. The human has thinking capacity, feeling potential and Will, and has an individuality which should manage all.

In the realm of thinking children are now trained to become computers.

When English money and weights – by origin related to realities – were replaced by decimals, one of the common means of learning to think was taken away – replaced by an “easy” self-functioning system(!).

The feeling side of education is much forgotten in official schools today. Where a child - for years - has been **ABSORBED** by playing **Mozart** or absorbed in creative painting or by real poetry akin to the Russian folks poet Pushkin – children, who have thus been engaged in practising art, have had a feeling education. Should they come into contact with drugs they would notice how that sort of hallucinatory feeling experience eventually results in deflation by comparison to what Mozart awakened in their souls. But if the children have never had the chance to experience art, their first noticeable experience of feeling might be drug induced – as a new “world”. To become hooked is understandable.

The same can be said about Will and Creativity.

Earlier I raised intricacies and historic development aspects of the science you, eventually, were brainwashed with in Agriculture. To observe something, and eventually to bring it to objective consciousness, may have taken a long process of preparation. See Tony and the “glow” example: where an earlier preparatory experience in the realm of colour would be a prerequisite.

Evolutionary aspects of developments can be recognised in time and locations. It is important to visit such references.

I have mentioned the ever new structuring and improvising power of Bach's Form-Movement-Oneness. Like the farmer who finds new answers to new problems.

In "Agriculture 1990", I also mentioned that I could not have continued for the rest of my life to play other peoples' music.

Great happenings in culture take place in the hands of a few individuals at a time and a place. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were the height and end of the Classic Greek culture; Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo of Renaissance art; Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert were the culmination of classic music.

I could not continue making music in a soul or spiritual realm.

By comparison to having aerial contractors applying "fertil"isers and chemicals on "my" farm: in all that Bio-Dynamics requires, I consider, that I am making music in the REALITY of nature.

I do not practice only materialistic Form. The reality of matter is continuously enlivened by Bio-Dynamic Movement – with a combined result visible to anyone in soil structure, colour and, equally, in plant structure-uprightness expression.

The Greek philosophers largely provided the cradle for Western Culture. The effects of Plato and Aristotle trace throughout and culminate around 1200 in the School of Chartres (an early University) and the building of Chartres Cathedral. Destined especially by location (underground streams and site of a pre-Christian mystery centre): to emerge as the unique Spiritual Centre of the era - representative equally for Christianity, as represented by the Catholic Church, AND by the Mason's guild, who built it.

Much in mystical suppositions have emanated about this building (the builders being unknown) until an Australian architect, **John James** deciphered Chartres, step for step, from the floor upwards, by re-building walls, sculptures (6000!) and windows.

With a solid building (the third largest of all churches) there are usually draft plans with the intrinsic danger of Form having an overwhelming, deadening influence. James recognised and demonstrated evidence of the work influence – right from the initial course of wall stones – of different work gangs; Where one started, and, where, the work was then continued by another etc. and where, later, the original gang returned and continued. He even found where these gangs were engaged on other churches in the intervening period. And he discovered that **different measures** were used by gangs continuing the work (like two builders engaged on the same building today – one using the yard, the other a meter).

Even if there had been a building plan, it would have been impossible to implement with differing measures. But, this aided the otherwise very strong **Movement-Form-Oneness** of this building, which is as dynamic as Bach's greatest music, or Mozart's Requiem. (Mozart

had made contact with the, at his time, relatively unknown Bach). - Usually coloured windows have a fixed colour expression. Chartres' vary according to light. Some western windows in the morning are mostly blue and change with the sun shining through in the afternoons to almost no blue, but with many other colours becoming dominant.

Just as there is an historic guiding "origin" to conventional **materialistic** agriculture, so is there an influence, first on the essential individuality of the farmer and then on the Bio-Dynamic MOVEMENT in Nature, Soil and Plant.

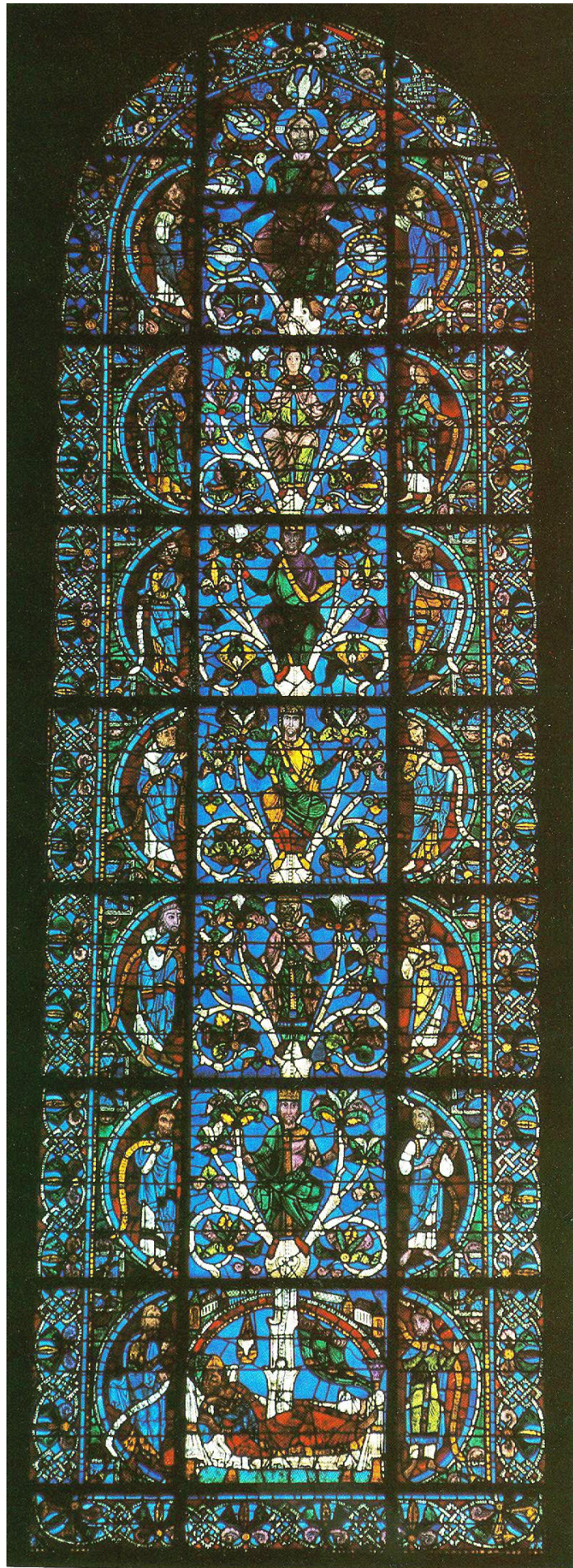
"Nothing comes from Nothing"

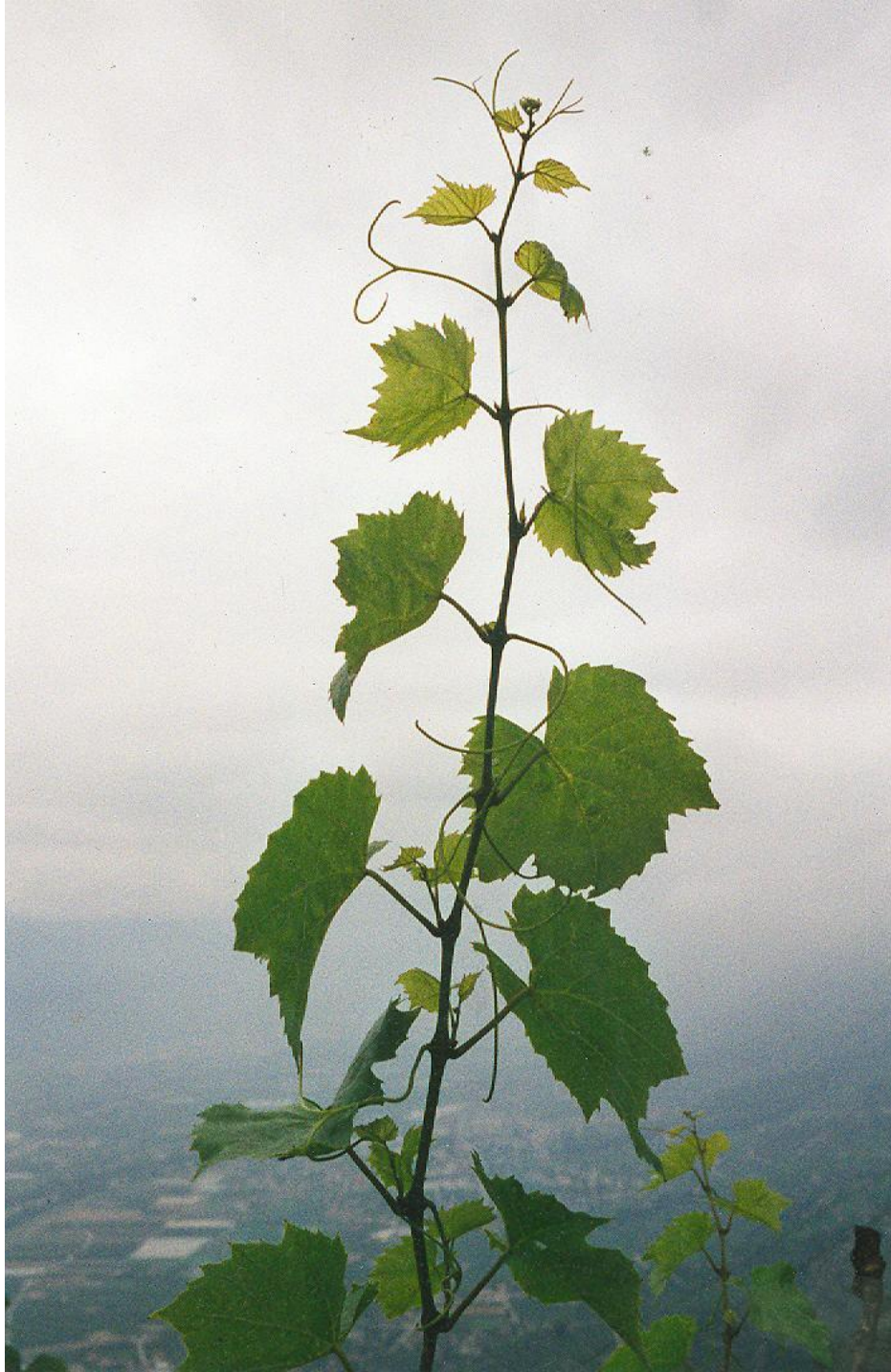
In "Active Perception" Platonic Movement and Aristotelian Form are discussed, also the underlying empowering Socratic Will impulse.

The most powerful evidence of this interaction is discernible in one of the oldest West Facade windows of the Chartres Cathedral; which, metamorphosed, influenced later window designs. It depicts the Tree of Jessé (shown opposite).

Seen from a distance or on a slide, although "left" and "right" measure similarly, there is variation and this tree **rises** – like a Bach Fugue – to an uprightness somewhat akin to the uprightness of one of our Bio-Dynamic plants. Compare it to the vine in Picture 21 (from "Bio-Dynamics Agriculture of the Future"), reproduced below.

- Music in the Nature of Bio-Dynamics. –





Advisory and extension method used in the Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Association of Australia (BDAAA)

I have been called HARSH. - Before I go into that I have to say a little about myself in the way of a background explanation.

I was born a twin. I had a twin sister. We were inventively naughty as little ones. My sister was intellectually very quick and could read and write perfectly when I was still in deep fantasy land and not interested. At a brief visit to a Montessori school, I was bored with drawing the finger along cardboard letters. We had house teachers and they could not achieve anything with me at all. – Today, no doubt, I would be stuck into a special school. The only place to remain sane. - But then towards six I came across a book, Brehms' "Animal Life", and in two days I could read. The trouble then was, that they would not allow me to read at night. The eves outside my window would show the light. So I read with a torch under the bed cover.

Years before Hitler came to power there were brownshirts. In 1930 I witnessed cruelty applied to a man in the street and would not eat for three days. Therefore my mother sent us to an English boarding school. I already referred to hardly ever attending school. For children to learn at school, in my opinion, two hours per week would suffice. Most of the children are bored – with items they are not interested in. They should be encouraged to interests which make for commitment, such as a composer or a poet has: to absolutely be creatively active. (Tolstoy's essays about **his** learning process in establishing a school for the children of his estate serfs should be mandatory for teachers.) Thory and I are brothers in the sense that he did not get much education because he had to help his father and I, because I did not want any. But Thory is the one who will go to sleep with a major technical farm design problem and will wake up in the middle of the night and "he has got it". - Look at all he has made. That is exactly like a leading composer writing another piece of music.

I took for right to individuality – from the start – to be odd, yet I never have been punished at a boarding school. The reason was, that I did not want to suffer the indignity. –Whenever booked by a policeman for speeding the only concern was the indignity of being stopped.

I attended a number of universities – as was then possible. After the sufferings of the war, there was considerable spiritual activity in Europe. There were perhaps five professors – in different faculties and universities – who were initiatively creative. Many are just custodians of their much practised subject and can be quite boring. - I attended the creative ones at different universities.

These accepted me – when universities were smaller and much direct contact existed between students and teachers. Much took place in conversation or colloquia or was expressed in writing. Professors

knew well the extent of students' knowledge, application or initiative. So I never actually faced the indignity of a questionable pressure-cooker computer data exam. Eventually the three "doctor fathers" invited a student, who they considered sufficiently advanced, to a three hour morning coffee conversation at one of their homes, where one would redevelop and be questioned regarding ones thesis, which was known to the professors in written presentation. - These same professors, earlier on, had need to send me to Heidegger, as narrated in "Active Perception".

So I insisted on a development suitable to me as an individual. And I insisted on dignity.

And, believe it or not, this is actually at the bottom of my perceived harshness.

Some of you early Bio-Dynamic farmers should ask yourselves, what made you decide for Bio-Dynamics. Don, here, early on, would attend my lecture number one again and again, sometimes in distant places and stated, "each time I learn something new". I could say that I myself am surprised, after having covered that basic subject innumerable times, how each time it unfolds differently. Actually, that is typical for the life-movement of Bio-Dynamics. Otherwise it would become an ineffective deadpan bureaucratic piece of only Form.

And Don used the telephone a lot with searching questions.

With many of the early ones I immediately knew the suitability to Bio-Dynamics. They were serious, objective, capable and able to make such a life decision; and I was never harsh.

Remember, introducing such as Bio-Dynamics poses a huge responsibility towards effective practice of Bio-Dynamics, encouraging "Biological thinking" enabling each to run the instrument of his farm independently. No other way is possible.

I refer to this at the end of lecture 3 Volume 3 ("Bio-Dynamic Agriculture Introductory Lectures").

But there are plenty of others, today, just asking what our certification costs. Frances gets rid of many. Initially we do not engage in discussions on certification issues, but sense out to what degree enquirers want to learn how to better manage their soils and farms. Many have not even looked for such. We point out that our Association (the BDAAA) trains in this and that it may take years. By that, only mildly, we put the ball in the enquirer's court. - With some, today, we do not even get to that point. They just look for the hoped for extra money. We can not waste our or your time (when you aid new ones). - We direct them to other certifying organisations.

So we look towards the really Nature conscious seekers coming in, whome we all recognise immediately.

The harshness arises where the motivation is not clear. Someone may approach us, because of the Bio-Dynamic commitment and results of a relative or under some other **influence**. He may be equally committed, or he may not have come to us **from his own initiative**. The harshness QUESTIONS the other. It may take the form that I appear to be “forgetting” to visit and to start someone off. If he is not sufficiently motivated to learn practising the Movement of Bio-Dynamics whilst developing himself, he would be wasting his time and we, ours. - I never say straight out “No”. But question. And, as you know, we do not charge for our advisory service.

As much as this engages the other individual into an encouraging process, as much is harshness intrinsically making room for the dignity of the other individual to **freely** make a choice. “Kind persuasiveness”, by comparison, is akin to duping.

The fundamental historic origin and **encouragement** to this process is the advent of Pentecost. After the Good Friday crucifixion and the loss of the person of Christ, the apostles were insecure or even doubting. The appearance of the risen Christ aided. After Ascension greatest depth of loneliness arose. The Holy Ghost at Pentecost could give no physically touchable assurance – as mankind looked for earlier on. A totally new strength in each individuality had to awaken, which could reach the Holy Spirit and become empowered to act initiatively, Christ-like.

The essence of Michelangelo’s central painting in the Sistine Chapel depicts Adam just able to reach up to God, with his hand concentrating just sufficient power and God’s, much stronger hand, raying close – but not touching.

In the life’s decision towards Bio-Dynamics – farming is a way of life – we must allow and encourage such a process. Preaching or inducement enslaves.

When Bio-Dynamics is not practiced well enough – by a person capable of better practise, a different harshness can shock the required seriousness into action. That is not robbing freedom, it is waking up.

Frances tells enquirers to obtain the lectures. But it is left entirely to those others whether they do or not. We should not even want to know. If they so decide they will read, and, maybe come to Bio-Dynamics.

This is altogether the same as I demanded regarding my own education. My harshness is an honouring of the other’s independence to make a free decision, of which he appears not yet quite capable. After all he lives in a world where everyone is valued on how much he earns. Money is to the fore, and his farm is a “production unit” to which bits and pieces can be added. Materialism is so **invasive**.

I discussed yesterday how sensitive you have to be to farm Bio-Dynamically. Some require more development in this regard. Not easy

for a routine materialist. Would he have the creativity base to develop into a Bio-Dynamic farmer?

I also asked you to consider your conscious seeking as to the next steps of your farm management and compare it to neighbours who just have fertilisers and chemicals applied.

So, I must not only give the other a chance to make a decision, I may have to wake him up to this chance.

Harshness then urks. But there is a very big difference between negation and the creative harshness, which urks, but is actually encouraging, without appearing as encouraging, rather the opposite – it urks.

Farry Greenwood was an expert at this in his very own way. He would attend organic meetings (initially I thought this a waste of time). He would let them talk and show their large blue cabbages. And at the end this very imposing individual, also in physical stature, would stand quite close to the best of those present, virtually on their corns and say “You are doing about 5%”. Coming in that situation, it really agitated, but it also shook. Thory has a different way, also very effective. He quizzes new ones on the telephone. Initially he wastes no time on visits. He questions as to the other’s understanding of basic lecture contents. And, if necessary, he will volubly direct the other to read that better before wasting his time again. Some very important farmers have come to us along that road. All became top Bio-Dynamic farmers.

Even in the harshness application each has to find his own way. Who would dare argue with Thory. I could likewise characterise the method used by Don, the two Trevor’s or Tony and quite some others.

I smile benignly at the – of recent diminishing number of - people, internationally, who, having never met me, still report me as being a disagreeable, harsh person. There are actually thousands upon thousands who have met – meaningfully – via me and have become important to each other and for others.

Great spirits like Goethe, Shakespeare, Tolstoy leave us totally free as to how we admit Faust, Hamlet or Pierre into our beings – in contrast to the moralistic influencing of sects, denominations or adherence to political parties or, today, to multinationals, requiring adherence like to a Medici or Borgia court.

There are areas of farming like Banana or Cane growing of which I have no personal experience and could not advise in. But the relationship with leading farmers like Merv Moorhead or the Ahern’s, in those areas is such that we bring suitable Bio-Dynamic application and detailed professional experience uniquely together and I refer enquirers to such experts.

In the development of the National Association (the BDAAA), I had to wait in each new geographic region for the initiative individual suited to rapid training and then taking charge of the area. Very important.

Fundamental is creative individual activity. And, again, I have to raise the historic background.

Where does being individually active come from?

As a boy I nearly burst, reading the Illiad and seeing the mighty Hector or Achilles not acting themselves, but only as marionettes of Goddesses – even regarding death.

Another student of the post war era was Gehard Kienle - eventually a medical doctor and a very capable methodologist of philosophy and science. With others he created a socially important, highly recognised hospital and then fought authorities, evoking the very modern German constitution, to establish a thus far inconceivable private university, exceptional also in as far as it teaches monistically and not dualistically.

Remember, some years ago alternative medicine and medicines, even vitamin tablets, were to be banned. It is due to this individual that such did not succeed, because he was able to prove to the German Health Authorities, that the testing requirements envisaged by legislation could not be met by the multinational Drug companies either.

Put to a kangaroo court of conventional medical and law professors, he was so explicit that the senior law professor said at the end; “Now, that I have gained insight into the principles of modern medicine, I would – in court – have to accuse it of criminal assault.”

Kienle, unfortunately long dead, left a manuscript, published by friends: “The Unwritten Philosophy of Jesus”. Methodologically quoting Bible as never recognised or assembled before, breathtaking; he points to the educational influences Jesus received. And shows how He was **for objective knowledge and not revelation**. How only ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS find from the “Created World” to “God’s Realm”.

After a Bio-Dynamic lecture which, after all, deals outside the “accustomed” every day sphere, some have come up to me, whispering; “Do you believe in Christ?”, I would answer “No”, and let the “shock” work a bit in the questioner. Then the methodologist would continue: “Believing means to accept as true what one does not know. One can give reason for being convinced of Christ and what one thus knows one can not also believe in any more. Belief is replaced by conviction.”

I use only one quote from Kienle’s book here and that is Matthew 10:26. “Nothing is hidden that will not be revealed, nothing secret, that one will not know”.

That is where being active arose – Christ was continuously active. The end effect can be seen in the Apostles compared to Hector and Achilles.

This book shows how Jesus’ education aided towards Christ’s deeds.

**For everyone the next deed required is
the most unexpectedly impossible or
the most impossibly unexpected.**

So it is also for a Bio-Dynamic Farmer. Movement and Form.

Nothing will happen – anywhere – unless
someone is active about it.

Without discussing it with me, after the onrush of serious enquirers caused by the ABC Big Country film, Farry and Audrey visited and instructed farmers on the Mid and North coast of NSW. I could not have coped otherwise. Or the early most versatile and experienced Bio-Dynamic leader in Southern Queensland, who few of you ever met, Bernie Hartwig, would inform me that a new one had an ideal site for pineapples, but until this man showed more commitment, he would not tell him. His judgement proved right.

It is dishonouring another's individuality to try to influence him. It clearly has not worked.

But, as stated, once a farmer is in Bio-Dynamics we are all responsible to see best practices carried out.

And the task is also, that the more experienced a farmer becomes, the more does he take on responsibility for advisory work. That is life. Creative Action.

When I arrived in Australia over 50 years ago – an ongoing refugee, as the communists urgently wanted this last male of an historic family – I was classed a cultured intellectual. Somehow I chose to go farming and not take up offers in education. I came to realise the real Australia was country and not city.

Once Bio-Dynamic teaching started I had, each time, to create my own platform allowing the audience to accept or to reject, readily. A “positioned” person, like a university professor, stands on an authoritative platform.

In the European countries I have worked in Bio-Dynamically in recent years there are, most essentially, some equally creative and active advisers. In Italy, Pasquale would be the first, but his time is of needs limited because of his responsibilities to that huge market garden. Carlo Noro is one of the best preparation makers and, of recent, also thanks to Mark Peterson, Stefano Freato acts as a very understanding capable adviser on basic soil development fundamental to all types of farming: cultivation, green manure, pasture, cropping rotation and management – even beyond the demand his own farm presents.

In France Pierre Mason is fully dedicated to preparation making and advising as an all rounder of general farming experience, himself

now only on a smaller property. He travels a lot, at great speeds, as was attested to me earlier on.

In Switzerland this task is performed, likewise, by Rainer Sax, preparations and advice extending to Russia and of recent to the Czeck Republic.

Essentially farmers, who actively give themselves – so that development happens.