

A  
Community  
Owned  
Farming  
Enterprise

A report from part way through.....

# CoCanberra

CoCanberra exists to:

- Invent
- Facilitate
- Implement, and
- Support

# Resilient ways of providing for our needs

while:

- Recognising the limits inherent to the places we live
- Designing our systems to fit within those limits
- Providing equality amongst all people
- Providing a fair and decent life for all

# How did it come about?

- Caroola Farm
- Movers and shakers locally
- Sold up unexpectedly
- Shook up some folks
- Got together with CoCanberra
- Called a meeting to explore community buyout options
- Caroola was sold well before we organised

# Summary of purpose points

- Healing the earth / Care for the land
- Providing a stable, secure and attractive living for farmers
- Food sovereignty - a secure supply of good food, and a voice in deciding how that food is grown.
- Food justice – access for all to good food
- Connecting people with the sources of their food
- Community ownership of land
- Localism - Local food production and ownership
- Education - demonstrating the feasibility of all this, and helping it replicate elsewhere

# How to design these in?

- Customers and Farmers both own the coop as members
- CSA type arrangement between them
- Lease to own land – first right of refusal contract
- Regenerative / soil friendly practices
- Diversity through Enterprise Stacking
- Replicate to maintain its local nature

# Customer Ownership

- Food sovereignty - a secure supply of good food, and a voice in deciding how that food is grown
- Connecting people with the sources of their food
- Community ownership of land

# Farmer Ownership

- Providing a stable, secure and attractive living for farmers
- Community ownership of land
- Healing the earth / Care for the land



# Form of coop?

- Multi-stakeholder – different member types
- One member type – with many roles
- Both hard to design
- Multi-stakeholder coops are rare in australia
- Proven, resilient model overseas

# Enterprise Stacking

- enterprises are run as distinct businesses.
- Farmers can work in one enterprise, in multiple enterprises, and off farm
  - chicken eggs
  - chicken meat
  - market garden
  - aquaculture
  - tree crops

# Access to the coop - \$\$\$

Membership may be pricey –  
how can I afford to join?

- Farmers – CSA premium over time
- Customers – CSA premium
- Customers do not have to be owners, but owners will get priority in hard times, and other benefits

# Where to from here?

- Recruit, activate and co-ordinate volunteers
- Recruit Farmer and customer members
- Investigate pre-payment model for Co-op development work, like:
  - Feasibility studies
  - Legal advice
  - Co-op design advice
- Continue talking with ORICoop