



## EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



### beef @ the farm gate

BIODIVERSITY

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We live in Wairewa, a fertile valley mid-way between Lakes Entrance and Orbst and farm 300 acres of rolling hills and river flats.

In 1990 we had no grass on the paddocks, no hay in the shed and hungry cattle to feed. We realised something in our farming system had to change. We needed to know how to farm better in today's world; to assist the environment and provide for our needs as a growing family with 5 children.

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The term sustainable farming has come into common usage lately but in farming terms, sustainability is not enough. Agriculture now has to become regenerative in order to repair the damage already done. We have an Environmental Management System in place on our farm which documents care of the land and livestock up to the ISO 14001 standard. We have the bonus of excellent local abattoirs and butchers, giving us a low carbon footprint and unstressed animals because we are not transporting the animals long distances.

Our meat tastes better (because the animals are not stressed) and is cheaper as well which helps families cope with today's higher food costs without cutting quality. We believe families are the foundation of society and by selling meat privately we hope to support families with an excellent food source at the same time as we support farm families to stay on the land.

Today we have a different problem, plenty of grass but little water. Our aim however remains the same, to live simply, farm regeneratively and pass the baton to the next generation.

