



## JEFF JOHN

ANGUS BEEF FARMER & ENVIRONMENTALIST

**“We are caretakers  
of the land...”**

Wise words from one of the region's youngest farmers Jeff John. Jeff is not your everyday farmer, just twenty-seven years old he is passionate about the challenge of farming Angus beef in a truly sustainable way.

Jeff's farming journey began in 2002 when he was just twelve years old. His father, following a dream purchased the 100 acre property in Karridale to raise beef cattle, (later increasing his land to 400 acres buying the neighbouring block).

Jeff feels lucky to have been able to work side by side with 'his old man', literally and physically playing a role whenever he could in between school and then later university in re-building the internal infrastructure and preparing and up keeping the paddocks of the farm to raise high quality cattle in an efficient and profitable way.

But it is about striking a balance, according to Jeff, "...it is the responsibility of the farmer to protect the ecosystems they're in, in some sense we are caretakers of the land. If you cannot manage the land you're on you should not be on it." Jeff believes protecting the environment comes first however he also understands that farmers need to make a living from the land, claiming the need to "...protect environmental assets while maximising your results and understanding the juxtaposition between the two".

Jeff has always had a passion for sustainable living and environmental conservation, his university qualification being in Environmental Biology and Bio Chemistry. It is no surprise the environment is such a priority to him. Passionate about the environment, Jeff recently hosted one of the Lower Blackwood LCDC's revegetation and waterway stability workshops and found it an excellent way of facilitating the fusion between the environment and agriculture and the best way to maximise community engagement enabling the farmers to really see and experience the benefit of participation.

Beside two years abroad in England Jeff has rarely been away from the farm. He has maintained his connection to the area, with a strong relationship with his family as well as loving the opportunity the region gives to be in touch with nature listing diving, swimming, fishing, bushwalking and camping as some of his favourite things to do. While travelling he struggled to find a place with such a pristine environment, "... a lack of people yet still resources to find comfort when you want". "The southwest is unique" Jeff says, "... the region offers true agricultural enterprise with a lifestyle that is very enticing".

With such a passion for innovative agriculture and the environment we are sure Jeff's future will be filled with success! We look forward to seeing Jeff's sustainable farming journey unfold



**Lower Blackwood Catchment**

Land Conservation District Committee

**A HEALTHY CATCHMENT STARTS WITH  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

