

# Lower Blackwood Land Champions



## TIM CRIMP

GENERATIONAL FARMER & SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATE

**"I am open minded about science and working with the land, we need to keep learning, if you don't learn, there is no point"**

Tim arrived on his Rosa Glen Property age 4; his parents John and Dorothy Crimp deciding to relocate to Margaret River to pursue Dorothy's dream of dairy farming in the southwest. A friend of Dorothy's father, Bob Watson of Watsonia had guaranteed purchasing their cream if they bought a dairy farm in the Margaret River area, "...it was all about cream in those days, the cream would leave the farm in cream cans for butter, the milk we fed to the pigs".

"I was always involved with everything that went on with the farm, nothing in particular, just doing the general things kids do to help out". Tim completed all his schooling in Margaret River, but never did get used to being in a classroom, "I just liked being outside with nature". In 1975, three quarters of the way through year ten, Tim had had enough and his parents agreed, he could officially start working on the family farm. For just over a year, Tim worked with his parents on the farm squeezing in some relief postman duties for six weeks at a time here and there.

In 1977, Tim tells me, "there was no money in farming, milk quotas had not been established yet", so when John Crimp was offered full time work at the old Margaret River Hospital as their head orderly, it was an offer too good to refuse. Tim's mother Dorothy also worked off farm, cleaning the post office, the SES building and the telephone exchange and when required, completed work for the Australian Bureau of Statistics. At the ripe old age of seventeen; Tim gave up relief postman duties and took on the responsibility of managing the family farm. "It was a lot to take on at seventeen, probably too much, but you just do it, and move on".

Moving on, more than forty years, Tim is still as passionate as ever about dairy farming and agriculture, managing 600 acres of his own land and leasing 600 acres of a neighbouring property to graze his 400 dairy cows. "It just fascinates me, it's a never ending, changing, fantastic, worthy profession, I never get bored... a little worn out maybe", Tim laughs. Tim claims his dairy cows are mongrels, he generally cross breeds to create stronger more robust animals, "they need to be able to walk long distances and up our hills". Tim explains, "... depending what is required by our dairy processors, if fat is not important, Fresians are the best breed and if fat content is important Jersey are preferable and if protein content is important particularly for cheese making, Brown Swiss are the best. We are going back to pure Fresians now".

Tim's other passion is the natural environment, "I grew up in the bush... exploring the bush. I'm probably never happier than when I am working alongside the bush or in the bush". The Crimp family farm has consciously left more than one fifth of their farm as native forest and maintain a natural flowing waterway all year round (including summer). "I am open minded about science and working with the land, we need to keep learning, if you don't learn, there is no point", Tim expresses. In his role as Chair of the LBLCDC Tim continues to learn about & advocate for sustainable agriculture practices, and is tireless in communicating agricultural perspectives on behalf of farmers to various interest/industry groups and governing bodies.

Story by Katrina Lombardo July 2019



**Lower Blackwood Catchment**

Land Conservation District Committee

A HEALTHY CATCHMENT STARTS WITH  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

