



MEDIA RELEASE

13th May 2013

Green Eggs Farm Tour

Allan and Shelley Green's Great Western property will be on show next week as the final event in the Farming in the 21st Century Series.

Alan Green will lead participants on a tour of the property after a bacon and egg breakfast at 8.00am on Thursday the 23rd May. While the property is well known for producing award winning eggs, it's the sheep production and landcare work that will take centre stage next Thursday.

Alan and Shelley purchased their 486ha Great Western farm, Pine Ridge, in 1983. The property was dilapidated, supporting just two sheep a hectare. "The land was very run-down, with no intact fences, tree stumps littering the landscape, rabbits, erosion, salting and little infrastructure," Mr Green said. "But in a way it was an ideal situation - a block of land where we could start from scratch."

From the outset their goals were to be working on the farm full-time by the age of 40, and make the farm sustainable. Both Shelley and Alan worked off-farm to fund the property. Alan worked as a lamb marking and mulesing contractor and Shelley as a midwife.

Whole farm planning was pivotal in helping achieve their goals, which over time has led to increasing the stocking rate to 5.1 dry sheep equivalents per hectare, along with revegetating over 13 percent of the farm and diversification into a successful free-range egg business, Green Eggs.

Landcare has also been a long-standing passion of the Greens. Alan was a founding member of Project Platypus, and has had a long association with Project Platypus and the Great Western Landcare Group. The Greens are proud recipients of a Victorian Landcare award, and have planted countless indigenous trees on the farm.

Mr Green said the tour would focus on how they've created a farm enterprise that is environmentally as well as economically sustainable, and include the odd example of what not to do.

The Greens farm tour will take place at "Pine Ridge" 92 Green Hill Lane, Great Western, starting at 8.00am with a bacon and egg breakfast. Attendance is free. To register call Project Platypus on 5358 4410.

End of release

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