CALL OF THE REED WARBLER

Charles Massy

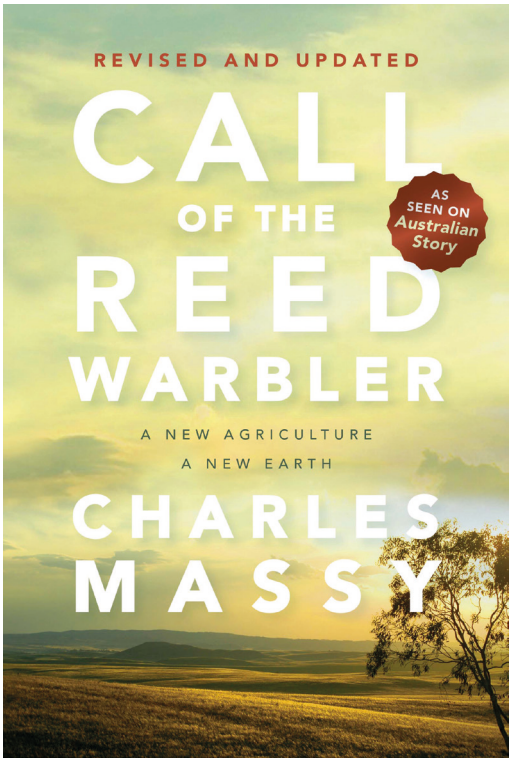

Photo section

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Around 150 years of continuous grazing and burning prior to new owners in 2006 led to compaction, bare ground and erosion (and loss of profitability) at the Pearce family's 4000-hectare subtropical 'Bannockburn' cattle station near Rockhampton, Queensland. This 'before' photo was taken during the dry season (August 2006) before the owners began holistic and cell grazing management under the Resource Consulting Service's guidance. *Photo by Catriona Pearce.*

This 'after' photo was taken on the Pearce family's cattle station during the wet season (March 2013) a little over six years later. In that time, much of the landscape function had been restored, full ground cover regenerated and carrying capacity had increased 50 per cent. *Photo by Catriona Pearce.*

This photo shows Norman Kroon's 'Kariegasfontein' farm in the Karoo region of South Africa (*left*) and a neighbour's paddock (*right*). The right-hand paddock was how Kroon's country appeared when he began working with Allan Savory in the late 1970s. Today Kroon's farm is an example of regenerated landscape function due to holistic grazing management. *Photo by Norman Kroon.*

No-kill cropping, developed by Bruce Maynard in Australia (see Chapter 10), involves sowing crops into dormant grasslands using coulter discs and no industrial chemicals or fertilisers, underpinned by the use of holistically grazed livestock. The photo shows summer-active grassland and full ground cover at summer harvest. *Photo by Bruce Maynard.*

Bruce Maynard's son Liam. Bruce writes: 'This picture is of an Australian boy aged sixteen who planted, grew and harvested this crop without harming the ecology, using no fertilizers or chemical sprays of any kind, and with a tenth of the fuel use of conventional methods.' *Photo by Bruce Maynard.*

Pasture cropping innovation developed by Colin Seis and Darryl Cluff in Australia in the early 1990s. It involves sowing crops into dormant C4 grasslands using tined seed-drills. The photo shows the harvesting of pasture-cropped oats in 2005 with emerging C4 grasses underneath (see Chapter 10). *Photo by Colin Seis.*

Colin Seis harvesting high-value native grass seed after the grain has been harvested: one of many "stacked" enterprise options now available. *Photo by Colin Seis.*

An across-the-fence soil comparison of Seis's soil (*left*) and that of his conventional cropping neighbour (*right*). Seis's soil after pasture cropping: Soil carbon (over 204%, with 78% in stable humic form); greater water infiltration and water holding capacity (e.g. more than 200%); improved soil structure and soil nutrient cycling; all trace elements higher by an average of 172%; massive increases in microbial life (e.g. fungi 862%; bacteria 350%; protozoa 640%; nematodes more than 1000%.) This is on top of huge cost reductions and increased production. *Photo by Colin Seis.*

Ian and Dianne Haggerty developed natural intelligence agriculture on largely low rainfall sand country (see Chapter 7). This is Haggerty's crop after harvest. Note the total ground cover, maximised lush green summer growth and the presence of perennials. *Photo by Dianne Haggerty.*

Haggerty's neighbour's conventional crop as seen through the fence after harvest. Note the high percentage of bare ground and minimal plant growth, let alone perennials, on the neighbour's farm. *Photo by Dianne Haggerty.*

Regenerating dynamic ecosystems. This series depicts early results on a 250-hectare degraded wheat farm now part of a 1000-kilometre long reconnection corridor in Western Australia. Revegetation was via both direct-seeding and planted seedlings with many organisations involved. This 'before' photo shows Yarrabee at the time of planting in July 2007. *Photo by David Freudenberger.*

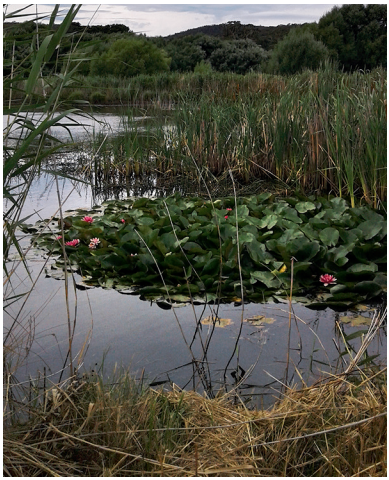
Yarrabee in April 2010 at three years of age. *Photo by David Freudenberger.*

Yarrabee in April 2013 at six years of age. *Photo by David Freudenberger.*

Another example of regenerating dynamic ecosystems. David Marsh's rehabilitation trial of a saline drainage line was started with direct-seeded trees and shrubs, and then holistically grazed. This 'before' photo shows dryland salinity in 1990. *Photo by David Marsh.*

This is the same reference point eighteen years later in 2008. The large dead tree in the centre is the same large dying tree in foreground of the previous image. *Photo by David Marsh.*

Peter and Kate Marshall, Australia, evolved an original water repair and reticulation system to capture, regenerate and heal eroded, degrading landscapes (see Chapter 8). This 'before' photo reveals what the Marshalls began with: typical active erosion and collapsed landscape function due to continuous over-grazing. *Photo by David Marsh.*



This 'after' example of water cycle regeneration shows over fifty hectares of wetlands and rehydrated pastures and forests that now store millions of gallons of water off 4000 acres of degraded catchment above their farm. The photo shows 'Swan Lake', *Phragmites* reeds, other vegetation and some water lilies from Monet's Giverny garden (descendants of material purloined in WWI by an Australian soldier). Reed warblers were singing in the reed beds. *Photo by Fiona Massy.*

When the Marshalls began, millions of gallons of water would be lost through their land in twenty-four hours during a big rain. Today the regenerated landscape allows healed creeks to flow all year round, nourishing those below. *Photo by Fiona Massy.*

Rowan Reid's outstanding agroforestry farm 'Bambra' is a forty-five-hectare outdoor classroom. This 'before' photo shows the waterway when he purchased the land in 1987 with erosion from over-grazing and over-clearing. Note the causeway bridge as a reference point. *Photo courtesy of Bambra Agroforestry Farm.*

In 2010, after twenty-three years of work, Rowan Reid, extracted a eucalypt log selectively harvested from the forest he planted along the same creek. Reid is crossing the same causeway bridge as in the previous photo. *Photo by Cormac Hanrahan.*