

## Tripod Farmers Win Horticulture Farmer of the Year

Coles Collect supplier, Tripod Farmers has won the 2025 Horticultural Farmer of the Year.

From a six-hectare market garden to a 4040-hectare tech-driven enterprise, Tripod Farmers Group has grown into one of Australia's leading producers of premium salad leaves, with sustainability guiding almost every decision.

The Victorian based family business run by sisters Angela and Carmel Candeloro, who serve as joint managing directors alongside the next generation. Angela's son Joe is general manager, while Carmel's sons, Frankie and Joseph Jnr, oversee farm production and sales respectively. It is a multi-generational structure built on shared responsibilities and roles.



Climate risk is managed by spreading production across regions. Bacchus Marsh averages about 400mm of rain a year, Boisdale receives closer to 600mm. The Boisdale acquisition in 2008 following the Millennium Drought ensured year-round supply.

Innovation underpins sustainability. In January 2024, Tripod became the first Australian grower to adopt an AI-guided laser weeder. It was a light bulb moment that continues to shine for Tripod Farmers.

In January 2022, Tripod Farmers commenced partnering with Coles Collect for deliveries into the Laverton chilled distribution Centre. Coles Collect now delivers Tripod Farmers product across four states.

According to Greg Hyland, Coles Collect Commercial Business Manager, by utilising the Coles store fleet on the Tripod account, Coles Collect has been able to remove some 350 trucks annually from the road network, saving in excess of 1,100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year on the Tripod Farmers distribution.