

## **Transcription of Enterprising Australians video Olympia Yarger – Goterra**

The video for this transcript can be found on the Questacon YouTube channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyU3faF-8ak>

### **Transcription from video:**

[Image appears of Meg and Olympia outside under some trees in conversation]

Meg: Hi, I'm Meg and I'm here today with Olympia from Goterra, who is looking to revolutionise the livestock feed industry using insects. Can you tell us about what you do at Goterra?

[Image shows Olympia talking and Meg listening and then the image changes to show hands sifting through maggots in a plastic container and then camera zooms in on the maggots]

Olympia: So, at Goterra, we take food waste and agricultural waste and we feed those wastes to insects and we take those insects and turn them into livestock feed.

[Image changes to show Meg and Olympia sifting maggots through their hands in a plastic tub]

Meg: How did you start?

[Camera zooms in on their hands as they turn the maggots over in the tub and then the camera zooms in on the maggots]

Olympia: I started in my backyard in a suburb in Canberra. I was really interested in finding a sustainable livestock feed and I love the way we could take a waste stream, so something people were throwing away, and put... feed those to an insect that we could use as feed.

[Image changes to show Meg and Olympia sifting maggots through their hands in a plastic tub]

I thought that was really exciting.

Meg: Why have you taken this approach with insects?

[Image changes to show a close-up view of Olympia talking to the camera]

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Olympia: In the world we waste one-third of all the food that we produce and that food waste produces a third of the world's methane production.

[Image changes to show a tub of maggots and then the camera moves to the right to show maggots being sifted through the hands into a black tub and then the camera zooms in on the maggots]

So, this is a really great way to take something that we're throwing away and add to our production, make more with what we have already.

Meg: What skills did you need to learn to get to where you are now?

[Image changes to show Olympia and Meg in conversation]

Olympia: Everything. I started off in agriculture.

[Image changes to show Olympia working at a bench while Meg looks on and the camera zooms in on her using a Stanley knife to scrape something from a piece of wood into a bowl]

Some of the basic skills were around how to farm animals.

[Image changes to show Olympia talking and Meg listening under the trees outside]

But I've used skills from, all the way from chemistry and engineering and welding and really sort of more, what we would maybe consider basic stuff, through to robotics and we work in a lot of software development now to automate our farming process.

[Image changes to show Meg looking at boxes of maggots and the image moves to the right to show Olympia looking on]

So, it's like name the trade and we've tapped into it.

[Image changes to show a hand sorting through a plastic tub of maggots]

Meg: What achievements are you proud of?

[Image changes to show a close-up view of a fly and then the image changes to show flies crawling up the window of an aviary]

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Olympia: So, it sounds really easy to grow a maggot but they're really, really picky and as a fly this species only have six days from when it becomes a fly to before it dies.

[Image changes to show Olympia talking and then the image changes to show hands picking through the maggots in a plastic tub]

So, the first day that I saw my flies mating in my first aviary I cried because I was so happy that the flies were finally doing what I needed them to do.

[Image changes to show Olympia and Meg at a bench picking through tubs of maggots and then the camera zooms in on Meg's hands holding a handful of maggots]

Meg: What's your advice for people with an idea?

[Images move through of maggots squirming in a plastic tub, a hand drawn sign on a blackboard "They're just maggots, EM Maggots Tasol", and Olympia talking to the camera]

Olympia: Start by asking people what they think of the idea, how they think that that would come about. They will give you ideas on how to get started and how you can develop your project and make your idea a reality.

[Music plays and the image changes to show a tub of maggots squirming around and then the Australian Government, Questacon and The Ian Potter Foundation logo and text appears: Questacon Smart Skills Initiative, Enterprising Australians, Developed by Questacon, #questacon, [www.questacon.edu.au](http://www.questacon.edu.au)]