

Speakers - Dongara, 19 March 2015

Dr Christine Jones | Armidale, NSW



To the pressing worldwide challenge of restoring topsoil, soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones offers an accessible, inspiring perspective. For several decades Christine has worked with innovative farmers and graziers implementing regenerative agricultural practices that provide benefits for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, water management and productivity. Following a highly respected career in public sector research and extension Christine received a Community Fellowship Award from Land and Water Australia for 'mobilizing the community to better manage their land, water and vegetation.' Three years later she launched 'Amazing Carbon' as a means to share her vision and inspire change. Christine has organised and presented workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe, the U.S. and Canada.

Di Haggerty | Wyalkatchem, WA

Di Haggerty farms with her husband Ian and eldest son James in the central wheatbelt of WA. They currently manage over 10,000 hectares on six properties from Mollerin to the north, Yelbeni to the east and Watercarrin to the south. The Haggerty's have operated a 50:50 cropping and livestock programme with cereal grains and self-replacing stud and commercial merinos since 1994. They share a commitment to the regeneration of the low-fertility, marginal soils found across their properties through the use of biological fertilisers and zero tillage combined with the maintenance of healthy groundcover to improve soil structure and water-holding capacity and assist with weed control. This approach has resulted in significant increases in soil carbon and organic nitrogen, reducing the need for inputs.



Grant Bain | Walkaway, WA



It is just over 12 years since Grant Bain moved from the family cattle station in the Upper Gascoyne to a mixed cropping and livestock holding near Walkaway. In that time the Walkaway property has been transformed by 1,000 ha of sown sub-tropical pastures, mostly panic with some rhodes, kikuyu and giant bermuda. Grant has also experimented with lucerne, siratro, faba beans, setaria, signal grass, creeping bluegrass and Biloela buffel, with varying degrees of success. In recent years he has pasture cropped wheat and lupins into the old stands of perennials. Due to the benefits that accompany the establishment of perennial pastures, Grant's Walkaway property now has twice the carrying capacity of other farms in the district.

Lyndon Brown | Perth, WA

Lyndon has a long track record as an entrepreneur and innovator. He established the second cultured pearl farm in Australia. From



there he moved to Tamala Station in Shark Bay, transforming it from sheep to cattle. Later, when raising cattle on a property at Eneabba, he observed symptoms of mineral deficiencies in calves, including dwarfism and spina bifida. Lyndon has restored animal health through the establishment of perennial pastures in conjunction with the remineralisation of his soils. He says

"soil, plant and animal health is all about getting the basics right"

David Cook | Dandaragan, WA



David and Joan Cook converted their 2800-hectare property to organic production in 2000 in order to produce quality food that was both nutritious and delicious. Their 1800-strong herd graze under a holistic land management system

that mimics the grazing patterns of wild herding animals. The Cook's have established perennial grasses across more than 30 per cent of their land to supplement annual pastures and climate proof their property. David and Joan very much appreciate the animal health and soil function benefits that go with paddocks that have the capacity to be green over summer.