



## Program - Speakers

### *Organic Food & Farming - Application of Sustainability*

Conference, 8th & 9th November 2010

### Program

<i>Monday - 8th</i>		<i>Tuesday - 9th</i>	
8:30 AM	ASSEMBLY/REGISTRATION	8:30 AM	ASSEMBLY/REGISTRATION
9:00 AM	WELCOME/OPENING	9:00 AM	WELCOME
9:30 AM	<u>Walter Jehne</u>	9:10 AM	<u>Nigel Kerin</u>
10:20 AM	<u>Belinda Randell</u>	10:40 AM	MORNING TEA
11:10 AM	MORNING TEA	11:10 AM	<u>Dr Petra Marschner</u>
11:40 AM	<u>Shane Blundy</u>	12:00 PM	LUNCH
12:30 PM	LUNCH	1:00 PM	<u>Katie &amp; Hugh Finlay</u>
1:30 PM	<u>Nick Ritar</u>	1:50 PM	<u>Wendy Wallace</u>
3:00 PM	AFTERNOON TEA	2:40 PM	AFTERNOON TEA
3:30 PM	<u>Maurie Cafra</u>	3:10 PM	<u>Alan Broughton</u>
4:20 PM	PANEL TIME	4:00 PM	PANEL TIME
5:00 PM	CLOSE	4:30 PM	FINISH



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## Speakers - 8th



### Walter Jehne - Healthy Soils Australia (HSA)

Walter Jehne is a retired scientist with a specialist background in soil microbiology and plant ecology who has worked in Australia and overseas, including for CSIRO. He is now part of a not-for-profit group, Healthy Soils Australia, which fosters solutions for the regeneration of Australia's landscape through the unique bio-processes which are fundamental in securing water, food and regional social needs, as climate shifts, as land degeneration takes place, and as limits in oil based inputs and population demands intensify.

#### Topics:

- ◇ Sustainability and developing a sustainable agro-ecosystem
- ◇ Healthy soil, healthy food, healthy people
- ◇ Food security, food integrity

### Belinda Randell - The Organic Cook

Belinda Randell is the owner and director of 'The Organic Cook'. Belinda is a chef, cooking teacher and food educator. Belinda is inspired and passionate about ethical, sustainable, biodynamic and organic food sources, fresh seasonal produce, health, nutrition and education. Belinda has appeared on the SBS Food Investigators, designing a range of natural food recipe's for children, as well as appearing in Madison and Harpers Bazaar magazine.



#### Topics:

- ◇ Organic foods and health
- ◇ Nutrition and healthy cooking
- ◇ Sustainable eating



## Speakers - 8th



### Shane Blundy - Cherry Tree Organics

Shane and Ann Blundy are leaders in the Organic Livestock Industry, having developed a fully sustainable organic farm in South Gippsland. Cherry Tree Organics is a major organic beef and lamb producer in the Australia market place, maintaining a very non-accidental commitment to quality, taste and product integrity. As well as supplying a large number of outlets and restaurants, the Blundy's have also recently opened their own butchers shop to compliment their enterprise.

#### Topics:

- ◇ Livestock health and nutrition
- ◇ Pasture and soil management
- ◇ Quality assured pasture feed livestock
- ◇ Value adding and business diversification

### Nick Ritar - Milkwood Permaculture Farm

Nick Ritar is a Permaculture educator, design consultant and farmer. As co-director of Milkwood Permaculture Farm, a Permaculture education facility and demonstration site located in the high country of Central Western NSW, Nick is involved in a wide range of sustainable agriculture, bioregions, watersheds, city environments, land stewardship, food production and community resilience projects and outcomes, for both the rural and urban sectors, advocating how Permaculture principles can provide food security through sustainable farming practices across all environments.



#### Topics:

- ◇ Ethically and morally empowered agriculture
- ◇ Integrated farm design and management principles
- ◇ Rehydration and regeneration of soils and landscapes
- ◇ Carbon as a resource

## Speakers - 8th - 9th



### Maurie Cafra - Cafresco Organics

Maurie and Maria Cafra grow a range of organic vegetables, including asparagus, onions, sweet corn, fresh beans, pumpkins, capsicums, cauliflower and broccoli on a 69 hectare property on heavy friable clay swamp land at Koo Wee Rup, a property owned by the Cafra family since 1956 when Maurie's father grew potatoes, carrots and onions. Innovation, strategic weed control, integrated pest management, monitoring, pasture rotation, manure crops, the use of compost, and management of product to market, are just a few of the tools that the Cafra's employ every day.

#### Topics:

- ◇ Soil Fertility
- ◇ Weed and pest and disease management
- ◇ Compost making and utilisation
- ◇ Quality control, efficiency and innovation

### Nigel Kerin - 2008 NSW Farmer of the Year

Nigel Kerin, and wife Kate own and manage a 5 property, 2630 hectare, mixed farming enterprise located in the Central West of NSW, consisting of a self replacing merino flock, a composite ewe operation, trade sheep and cattle, with DSE ratings from 12000 to 19000 and 600 hectares of no-till and pasture cropping. Nigel utilises holistic management skills including cell grazing, pasture cropping and small paddock structure to significantly boost productivity while exacting a strong regenerative approach to farming. Management shifts have include a strong focus on the enterprise responding as a business, as well as working with a board of other farmers in making management decisions.



#### Topics:

- ◇ Is your true wealth in livestock or grass?
- ◇ Regenerative grazing, pasture cropping and soil management
- ◇ Self maintaining wool and lamb production
- ◇ Matching stocking rate and breeding numbers to carrying capacity and season
- ◇ Return on capital decision making
- ◇ Education, knowledge, and working groups



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## Speakers - 9th



### Dr Petra Marschner - Associate Professor Soil – University of Adelaide

Dr Petra Marschner is an internationally recognised soil microbial ecologist specialising in microbial ecology in the rhizosphere and in relation to plant residue and soil organic matter decomposition, studying how microbial biomass, community structure, and activity are related to nutrient release and nutrient cycling. Initially a student of agriculture, Dr Marschner is the author of more than 70 scientific papers and 10 book chapters, as well as being the editor of the in-depth publication, Nutrient Cycling in Terrestrial Ecosystems.

#### Topics:

- ◇ Assessing, developing and sustaining biological soil health
- ◇ Key roles of nutrient cycling and organic matter
- ◇ Maintaining nutrient availability
- ◇ Impact of management, animals, climate, fire and soil health on decomposition and nutrient cycling

### Katie & Hugh Finlay - Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens

Katie, a third-generation Harcourt orchardist, and husband Hugh, took over the 130-year old family farm in 1998, both coming to it from non-farming careers, though Katie grew up on the orchard and Hugh had spent time working on farms. Since 2004 the Finlay's have converted the farm to organic certification with NASAA. A major focus has been soil regeneration using compost tea and compost, and learning to manage pests and diseases organically in a changing environment. A sustainability plan has led to a five year objective to become carbon neutral, has resulted in risk mediation through diversified plantings and a dynamic and responsive marketing plan, as well as the establishment of a stronger balance between work and play.



#### Topics:

- ◇ Soil management - nutrition and regeneration with compost and compost tea
- ◇ Pests and diseases, moisture, and ground cover management
- ◇ Planning for sustainability & becoming carbon neutral
- ◇ Marketing to your advantage
- ◇ Why organic?

## Speakers - 9th



### Wendy Wallace - Dairy Farmer and ODFA Co-op Director

Wendy, Peter, a fifth generation farmer, and the Wallace family run and manage a 116-hectare organic dairy farm “Elderside’ in West Gippsland. Starting with the use of organic fertiliser twenty years ago, the Wallace's now form part of a dedicated supplier group selling dairy products under the organic Co-operative brand name “True Organic”. Passionate about healthy food, the environment and diversification, the Wallace’s have supported industry programs on nutrient management and accountability, have sown pastures to forage herbs and added chooks, garlic and berry plantings to their mix, enabling two sons to also return to and work on farm.

#### Topics:

- ◇ Maintaining soil fertility and pasture growth
- ◇ Animal health and forage herbs
- ◇ Nutrient accountability
- ◇ Integrated diversification
- ◇ Managing inputs and resources
- ◇ Developing an approved supplier group and Co-operative

### Alan Broughton - Organic agriculture educator and researcher

Alan Broughton comes from a farming background in the north-east of Victoria and now lives at Sarsfield in East Gippsland. He has worked in horticulture and nurseries, and is currently employed as an organic agriculture researcher by Australian Landscape Trust at Strathfieldsaye Estate, Perry Bridge. He has been involved with the Organic Agriculture Association since 1985 in various roles, including education officer and current vice president. He prepared the first Diploma of Organic Farming course in Australia, which he teaches part time currently through East Gippsland TAFE. Alan has a strong interest in international food security and has spent time studying sustainable agricultural systems in Tanzania, Cuba and Venezuela. He is currently producing a Manual of Sustainable Organic Agriculture.



#### Topics:

- ◇ Agriculture 2020-3020
- ◇ Policies for long term sustainability