Australian Government | National Landcare Programme
This project is funded by the Australian Government
gecko CLaN Landcare Network

INNOVATIONS IN SOIL SCIENCE
PROGRAM | THURSDAY 8TH JUNE

9 AM	Kerri Robson (Gecko CLaN Landcare Network) | Welcome & introduction
9.15 AM	Brad Costin (DEECA (Agriculture Victoria)) | The case for soil health
9.30 AM	Dr Jason Condon (Charles Sturt University) | Soil acidity - why we need to change our management, identification of subsurface acidity & new management methods
10.30 AM	**MORNING TEA**
11 AM	Jim Shovelton (Meridian Agriculture) | Making the best use of testing to grow soil carbon
12 PM	Dr Helen Hayden (University of Melbourne) | Soil microbiology & soil-plant microbe interaction
1 PM	**LUNCH**
1.45 PM	Dr Gary Clark (La Trobe University) | Understanding what's below 30 cm - subsoil constraints & collecting data
2.30 PM	Sue Briggs (CSBP Soil & Plant Analysis Laboratory)
3 PM	**AFTERNOON TEA**
3.30 PM	Soil Science Australia Where to next? Soil Practitioners training and accreditation

PRESENTERS

Brad Costin (DEECA (Agriculture Victoria))
Brad Costin, Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action, has worked across agricultural and natural resource management programs in north eastern Victoria. He works to help build farmer capacity and skills in managing their land and water resources. In particular, agricultural recovery after natural disaster is a significant component of his team's work.

Dr Jason Condon (Associate Professor in Soil Science, Charles Sturt University)
Jason has more than 27 years' experience teaching and researching soils. He has a PhD in soil chemistry relating to acidification from nitrogen cycling. His research portfolio includes projects on fertiliser management, carbon sequestration, nitrogen cycling, salinity management in Vietnam and the formation and management of soil acidity in Australian crop and pasture systems. He currently holds research positions at CSU and NSW DPI Wagga working on optimising acid soil management.

SOIL SCIENCE AUSTRALIA
AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

PRESENTERS

Jim Shovelton (Director and Senior Consultant, Meridian Agriculture)

Jim is Senior Consultant and Partner with Meridian Agriculture. He initially worked for the Victorian State Department of Agriculture as a district pasture specialist in the Bendigo, Wodonga and Seymour districts. He is based at Euroa where he runs a wool and prime lamb enterprise. Between 1985 and 1992 he was the Senior Agronomist at Richland Laboratories providing soil and plant analysis interpretations for all industries for southern Australia. He managed Australian Wool Innovation's pasture extension program for southern Australia between 1997 and 2002. He was involved in the development of research and extension priorities for the southern Australian Feedbase for Meat and Livestock Australia.

Dr Helen Hayden (Soil Microbial Ecologist, University of Melbourne)

Dr Helen L. Hayden is a soil microbial ecologist working within the School of Agriculture and Food, Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences. Her research interests include soil biology, soil health, soil plant-microbe interactions and plant pathology. Helen brings an interdisciplinary approach to her research projects. She uses "omics" technologies and molecular biology to examine microbial community responses to different land uses, crops, management practices and climate change in the varied soil types across Australia. Her research career has included projects within agriculture, dairy, and horticulture systems as well as native ecosystems. Helen is particularly interested in expanding research activity and developing new linkages within the area of soil-plant microbiome interactions with an emphasis on soilborne disease control through disease suppressive soils.

Dr Gary Clark (Lecturer, Animal Plant & Soil Sciences, La Trobe University)

Gary has a focus on maintaining and improving use of our soil in agricultural production. This interest stemmed from his Masters and PhD when investigating subsoil constraints in the southern cropping zone. As part of the 'subsoil manuring' team there is continual study and application of the findings into farming systems in rainfed and irrigated crop production. Soil health and sustainable use of soil are areas of increasing interest. As an adjunct to agricultural systems, the maintenance and enhancement of our native ecosystems is dependent on healthy soil. Many natural areas have been subject to use by agriculture, grazing and mining. Thus, the importance of understanding their present state of function is important for future management of climate change and animal (indigenous and feral) impacts.

Sue Briggs (Agronomist / Service Specialist at CSBP Soil & Plant Analysis Laboratory)

Sue is an Agronomist / Service Specialist for CSBP Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory. She is based in North East Victoria and has been working for CSBP's Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory since 2018. Sue provides technical support to new and existing customers on test selection and sampling guidelines. She also promotes and provides support for CSBP DecipherAg, a free web-based program that helps manage soil and plant sampling jobs, collect and georeference sample sites, and submit sample data directly to CSBP Lab using DecipherAg mobile. Sue previously provided soil health extension in her roles with Murray Local Land Services and Agriculture Victoria.