

## Topsoil expert is guest speaker at Healthy Soils Symposium

RELEASED: MACKAY // MONDAY 11th November 2019

### EVENT:

**WHEN:** 9.30am – 5.30pm, Wednesday November 27, 2019. Interviews available at 12.30pm.

**WHERE:** Windmill Motel and Events Centre, 5 Highway Plaza, Mount Pleasant, 4740.

**Field Day 1:** Thursday 28 November – Marian

**Field Day 2:** Friday 29 November – Glen Isla, Proserpine

### COPY STARTS

Reef Catchments is inviting primary producers and industry representatives along to an annual event promoting healthy soil within the region's agricultural industry.

This month, Australia's top regenerative farming guru will be in Mackay for a three-day soil health series, starting with the Healthy Soils Symposium on Wednesday 27th November at The Windmill in North Mackay.

Guest Speaker Dr Christine Jones will present on:

- A fresh look at microbes - the symbiotic relationships that take place in the soil microbiome
- The extraordinary power of diversity - learn how to replicate a productive and resilient farm ecosystem
- Bio stimulants for regenerative agriculture – replacing detrimental synthetic N and P with bio stimulants

Landholders will also be sharing their approach to regenerative farming.

Reef Catchments' Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, Juliane Kasiske is organising the event. She said: "The Healthy Soil Symposium allows us to engage and support our community on an annual basis and we have seen an increasing excitement and understanding of soil health. This year we also like to provide landholders with the opportunity to interpret and understand the new reef regulations.

"This year, we are very excited to welcome Dr Christine Jones who is such a star in the agricultural space. I encourage people to make arrangements to enable them to participate and not miss out. Who knows when we will get another chance to engage with someone of Christine's calibre who travels and educates the globe on regenerative farming."

This year guest speaker Dr Christine is recognised for her outstanding track record in mobilising and inspiring the community to better manage their land, water and vegetation. Her efforts and her vision to improve landscape health and farm productivity through the regeneration of topsoil has been rewarded on numerous occasions.

Over several decades, Dr Christine has worked with innovative farmers and graziers to implement regenerative land management practices that enhance biodiversity, increase productivity, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, water quality and community and catchment health.

Following a highly respected career in public sector R&D, Christine founded Amazing Carbon in 2004 and organised a series of Managing the Carbon Cycle forums throughout Australia to promote the benefits of soil carbon. In recent years she has gained international recognition as a speaker, presenting at workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Western Europe, Central America, USA and Canada.



To attend the Healthy Soils Symposium, please register at Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/soil-symposium-and-field-days-2019-reef-catchments-tickets-73776825471>

The symposium will be followed by two field days:

**Field Day 1: Thursday 28 November – Marian**

A field day to complement the annual Soil Symposium on a working cane farm in Marian. Highlights will include soil pit demonstrations and plenty of insights and in-field discussions with Dr Christine Jones on regenerative cropping.

**Field Day 2: Friday 29 November – Glen Isla, Proserpine**

A field day to complement the annual Soil Symposium. Our host and local industries are on a mission to increase the understanding and acceptance of regenerative farming practices. Dr Christine Jones together with Farm HQ will discuss on-farm multi-species cover crop strategies, manufacturing compost, soil inoculations and bio-fertiliser applications.

ENDS

Media contacts:

Juliane Kasiske, [juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com](mailto:juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com) (07) 4964 6111; 0488 730 021

Tegan McBride, [tegan.mcbride@reefcatchments.com](mailto:tegan.mcbride@reefcatchments.com) 0408 904 036

Jonathan Reichard, [jonathan.reichard@reefcatchments.com](mailto:jonathan.reichard@reefcatchments.com) 0438 726 226