

**SPEAKERS: DR CHRISTINE JONES, TERRY MCCOSKER & JOHANNES MEIER**

# FUNDAMENTALS OF SOIL

26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018 - 8:30<sup>AM</sup> - 4:30<sup>PM</sup>

DANTHONIA, GWYDIR HIGHWAY, INVERELL

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR LAND TO CAPTURE RAINFALL LIKE A SPONGE AND STORE IT FOR USE IN A DROUGHT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REGENERATIVE AND PROFITABLE?



## TOPICS:

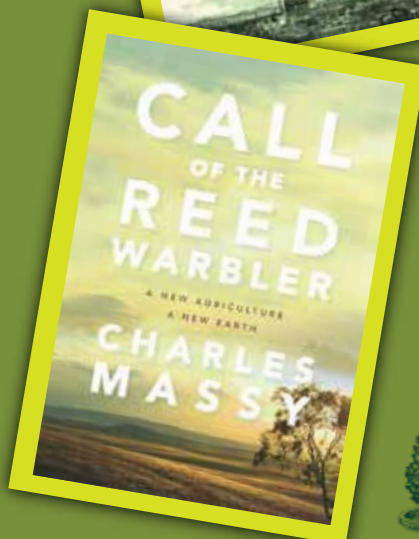
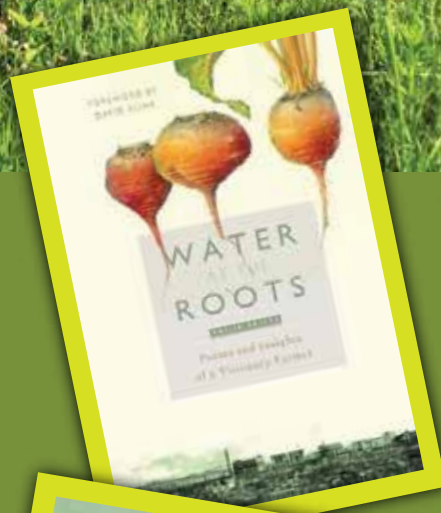
- What really feeds plants
- Soil ecosystems-why certain farming practices reduce overall farm performance
- The soil/food disconnect
- Soil optimisation-characteristics of farming practices which maximise soil health, nutrient availability and water storage
- Carbon-explanations, myths, opportunities and challenges

## WHAT TO BRING:

- Hat and water bottle for paddock walk

**RSVP:** 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER

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MORNING,  
AFTERNOON  
TEA & LUNCH

**\*PLUS** a copy of the book 'Water at the Roots'

## Call of The Reed Warbler

by Charles Massey  
available to purchase at  
super discounted price  
of \$27 (RRP \$40)



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## CHRISTINE JONES:

Dr Christine Jones is an internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist. She has a wealth of experience working with innovative landholders to implement regenerative land management techniques that enhance biodiversity, increase biological activity, sequester carbon, activate soil nutrient cycles, restore water balance, improve productivity and create new topsoil. Christine has organised and participated in workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the USA and has a strong publication and presentation record. Christine has made soil restoration her speciality and presents knowledge about soil microbiology plainly and clearly.

## TERRY MCCOSKER

Terry McCosker co-founded Resource Consulting Services (RCS) in 1985 which has since grown into a national company and has been an innovator in the grazing industry for nearly 50 years. His work in agricultural research has led to many world first achievements and recently Terry has been paving the way for graziers to realise significant financial gains through soil carbon projects while running productive and sustainable grazing enterprises.



## JOHANNES MEIER:

Established in 1999, the Danthonia Bruderhof community is located twenty kilometres east of Inverell and is home to around 200 people. The Bruderhof is an international Christian community movement in the Reformation tradition founded in 1920 in Germany. The community has its roots in farming, and an important part of our faith is good stewardship of the land.

Working with other regenerative farmers both locally and nationwide, we have followed a path from conventional to regenerative farming. Our vision for Danthonia's future would see the property restored to full ecological health and productivity, and to share what we have learned with other farmers and graziers. The realities of climate change, drought and the financial stress these cause make the practice of regenerative agriculture central for the survival of primary industry in rural Australia and indeed, the world. Danthonia's land manager, Johannes Meier, will share insights on Danthonia's land management program including regenerative practice and profitability.

## WHAT REALLY FEEDS PLANTS

- **INTRODUCTION** – soils during early European settlement. What has changed since then and why.
- **NEW KNOWLEDGE** – recent discoveries that have altered the way we think about how soil functions.
- **WHAT REALLY FEEDS PLANTS** – how soil ecosystems supply plants with nutrients and water.
- **HOW THESE ECOSYSTEMS CAN BE COMPROMISED** – why certain farming practices diminish nutrient and water availability to plants and reduce overall farm performance, especially in a variable climate.
- **THE SOIL/FOOD DISCONNECT** – by attempting to bypass soil biological processes and supply nutrients directly to plants via synthetic fertilizers, we have inadvertently created nutrient deficient foods and disease susceptible crops.
- **SOIL OPTIMISATION** – characteristics of farming practices which maximise soil health, nutrient availability and water storage.
- **HOW IT'S DONE ON BROADACRE** – how regenerative land management practices upgrade and improve farming and grazing systems.
- **CARBON** – explanations, myths, opportunities and challenges surrounding the measurement and trading of soil carbon. Latest information updates.
- Most landholders want to upgrade, not downgrade, the capital which is their soil.
- The fundamentals of soil will assist in providing a sound knowledge base from which to make informed choices about inputs and practices.



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