

A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards (GAIA)

Christine Jones, PhD
www.amazingcarbon.com

Background

Diminished food security, declining productivity, desertification, biodiversity loss and rapidly rising levels of atmospheric CO₂ are key global issues.

Fundamental redesign of farming practice to promote improved soil resilience offers a practical and almost immediately available solution to many of these challenges.

A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards

The prestigious A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards (GAIA) were established by Christine Jones with generous support from Allan and Kay Hill, who viewed an ABC Landline story about Christine's vision to improve landscape health and farm productivity through rebuilding soil ('Ground Control' 15 February 2009).

The inaugural GAIA award recipient was Bob Wilson, President, Evergreen Farming Inc. Bob has worked tirelessly to increase the level of perennality, providing 'yearlong green' in Western Australian farming systems. Former Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Tony Burke, assisted with the presentation of the inaugural award at the 10th National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development, Parliament House, Canberra.

Former Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery presented the 2010 GAIA awards to co-recipients Cam and Roxane McKellar (NSW), Dave and Marg Daniels (Qld) and Ian and Dianne Haggerty (WA), in recognition for outstanding leadership and innovation with respect to the adoption of biology friendly farming practices, fostering secure, resilient production in broadacre cropping systems.

Tim Marshall, world-renowned and highly respected author, founder of Acres Australia, Deputy Chair, Organic Federation of Australia and co-founder and first chairperson of Australia's first organic certification body, NASAA, will present the 2011 GAIA awards at a special dinner at Kianinny Resort, Tathra, on 28th February 2012. The awards dinner will be held in conjunction with the 'Meeting the Challenge for Change' Forum, Bega Showground Pavilion, 28-29th February 2012.

Recipients Darryl Cluff, Colin Seis, Tom Nicholas, Charlie Sexton and Barry Hardwick have championed the cause of regenerative land management practices designed to simultaneously improve soil function, productivity, biodiversity, food quality and carbon sequestration outcomes.

The A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards will run until 2013. Award funds are administered by Landcare NSW Inc. Judging for the award is undertaken by Christine Jones in conjunction with Allan and Kay Hill and media sponsor The Australian Farm Journal.