

## **Speakers - Kojonup, 24 March 2015**

### **Dr Christine Jones | Armidale, NSW**



To the pressing worldwide challenge of restoring topsoil, soil ecologist Dr Christine Jones offers an accessible, inspiring perspective. For several decades Christine has worked with innovative farmers and graziers

implementing regenerative agricultural practices that provide benefits for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling, water management and productivity. Following a highly respected career in public sector research and extension Christine received a Community Fellowship Award from Land and Water Australia for 'mobilizing the community to better manage their land, water and vegetation.' Three years later she launched 'Amazing Carbon' as a means to share her vision and inspire change. Christine has organised and presented workshops, field days, seminars and conferences throughout Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Europe, the U.S. and Canada.

### **Nick Kelly | Newdegate, WA**



Nick farms near Newdegate, 375km SE of Perth with his wife Lucy and parents Malcolm and Cathie. The Kelly's are broadacre minimum-till/no-till croppers. They have experimented with tropical grasses and broadleaf summer cover crops for more than ten years. The

Kelly family initially began growing millet and progressed to cocktails of millet, cowpeas, lab lab and sunflowers. Their 'weather resilient farming system' is enhancing soil health, sequestering carbon, reducing erosion, increasing moisture retention, reducing chemical use and improving crop yields. In 2014 the Kelly's introduced biological fertilisers to their cropping program.

### **Colin Thexton | Pemberton, WA**

Independent Rural Agent's Pemberton principal and level one AuctionsPlus

assessor Colin Thexton maintains beef producers need to be proactive in producing the type of cattle the market is seeking. "There is no doubt that



superior genetics combined with healthier, productive pastures are two of the keys to profitable beef production." Colin uses Best TM, a soil rejuvenator, to increase pasture quality. Best TM is a natural plant extract that activates and supports soil microbial communities, improving the infiltration of water and enhancing nutrient availability. Col believes the use of TM "enables cattle to utilise the pasture more efficiently and improves their overall health and productivity."

### **Di Haggerty | Wyalkatchem, WA**

Di Haggerty farms with her husband Ian and eldest son James in the central wheatbelt of WA. They currently manage over 10,000 hectares on six properties from Mollerin to the north, Yelbeni to the east and Watercarrin to the south. The Haggerty's have operated a 50:50



cropping and livestock programme with cereal grains and self-replacing stud and commercial merinos since 1994. They share a commitment to the regeneration of the low-fertility, marginal soils found across their properties through the use of biological fertilisers and zero tillage combined with the maintenance of healthy groundcover to improve soil structure and water-holding capacity and assist with weed control. This approach has resulted in significant increases in soil carbon and organic nitrogen, reducing the need for inputs.