



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Media Release: 13th February 2009, Contact Anne Gibbs 66323722 / 66651364.

Biological Farming and Healthy Soil Workshops in Northern NSW

***With noted guest speaker Dr Maarten Stapper - Farming Systems
Agronomist (formerly CSIRO Plant Industry)***

A series of one day workshops funded through Caring For Our Country will be commencing in the Hasting/Macleay region on the 2nd March. From there Dr Stapper will be travelling north up through Coffs Harbour, Clarence, Richmond and Tweed, finishing in the New England area on the 10th March. Most workshops will have a morning session with Dr Maarten Stapper and then an afternoon field trip to a local biological/organic farm to discover more about the practical field based applications of biological farming.

Dr Maarten Stapper has lived, studied and worked in the Netherlands, Canada, USA, Iraq, and Syria and since 1982 in Australia. Maarten is passionate about discovering and using the power of nature in food production systems and the connections between soil biology, soil health, and the overall functioning of agro ecosystems, and sees many opportunities for Australian agriculture to reverse soil degradation and regenerate soils. These workshops are for anyone using soil to grow plants!

- 🦋 Find out the roles of humus in creating soil balance to aid the efficient use of water.
- 🦋 How can you make your plants more drought or frost tolerant?
- 🦋 What do weeds tell you? Learn more about effective weed control, with or without herbicides.
- 🦋 Create internal plant resistance to insects and diseases – how can you stop using insecticides and fungicides without losing yield?
- 🦋 See the role of soil biology in nutrient storage, availability and uptake.
- 🦋 Find out how biological farming improves food and feed quality.
- 🦋 How does healthy soil improve stock health?
- 🦋 Find out how to stop reliance on synthetic chemicals and fertilisers.
- 🦋 How to start plus much more!

Biological farming can improve soil carbon ten times faster and to higher levels than under current farming practices where nitrogen fertilisers and herbicides limit the carbon storage (sequestration) as humus. Higher soil carbon increases productivity and helps to slow climate change. Healthy, biologically active, living soils can adjust to a changing climate and remain more productive.

ADMISSION IS FREE. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL. (Morning tea and lunch provided)

For more information and bookings contact:

Macleay Workshop: Jai Cooper on 65622076

Bellingen Workshop: Kate Goode on 6655 0588

Clarence Workshop: Julie Mousley on 6643 5006

Richmond/Upper Clarence Workshop: Anne Gibbs on 6665 1364 / 66323722

Tweed Workshop: Claire Masters on 66793308

Granite Borders Workshop: Helen Smith on 6736 3500, Kylie Falconer on 67323443

New England Workshop: Carina Johnson on 6772 9123