

Greater Production Building Soil Biology 2014

Report on

NutriSoil Annual Event

24th – 25th July 2014

Greater Production Building Soil Biology sought to empower farmers to better understand the value of working with nature and the impacts of decision-making in improving the quality of their production systems long term. The three speakers represented a conceptual, hands-on and how-to approach for practical application that sent farmers straight to their paddocks to 'make a difference'.

This report entails the feedback from 40% of the 144 farmers in attendance over the 2-day event. It demonstrates major impact on how they farm into the future and details where the needs are for ongoing education. Once again, we were thrilled at the quantity and depth of information shared and will remain committed to delivering education that supports our farmers to improve food production ☺

Rachelle Armstrong
Managing Director, NutriSoil



"Best annual event of the three I've attended."

"The best Open Day for audience comfort and audibility."

"Very professional yet relaxed and friendly environment."



Cover Page Photos:

Left *Graham Shepherd during the field demonstration.*

Right *Panel of all Speakers (seated from left) Tim Wright, Dr Christine Jones, Graham Shepherd, Rachelle Armstrong (facilitator).*

Who Attended?

Annual Event – Getting Results DAY 1 139 people attended.

DAY 2 62 people attended.

TOTAL 144 over both days.

Feedback forms 50 returned representing 57 people attending.

Therefore 40% return rate.

Abbreviations used in report: GS – Graham Shepherd, CJ – Christine Jones, TW – Tim Wright, NS – NutriSoil,
VSA – Visual Soil Assessment.

Farm description	TOTAL	%
Income Producing and/or >100a	41	73%
Hobby Farmers <100a	2	4%
Stock / Pasture	42	75%
Cropping	11	20%
Orchards / Horticulture / Viticulture	2	4%
Organic	3	5%
Home Garden	1	2%

NB: Attendees could & usually did fall into more than one category.

Other Reasons for Attending:

- I am interested in profitable farming & healthy food. I work with community and help facilitate change. Info sessions such as NutriSoil give me the resources I need.
- Concerned about long term soil & pasture health. Looking at alternative to a chemical fertiliser approach to pasture production.
- Always looking for new & better farming methods. Have heard good reports on your product & will be using soon.
- Update on soils information and understanding.
- Really wanting to find out more about biological approaches to farming.
- Distributor for Best Environmental.
- To help improve the golf course by biological.
- Interested in NutriSoil and also the speakers Graham Shepherd, Christine Jones & Tim Wright.
- Contractor. I find it a great chance to network with people. Love coming & catching up with people. You do a great job.
- I wanted the health of paddocks to improve. They seem to be at a standstill despite not using artificial fertilisers or sprays.

How did you find out about the event?	TOTAL	%
Invite in Mail/Email from NutriHealth	33	59%
NutriSoil Website	6	11%
NutriSoil Facebook	1	2%
Farming Secrets	4	7%
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	4	7%
Eastern Riverina Chronicle	0	0%
Poster on Display	0	0%
The Land	1	2%
Holbrook Landcare (Women In Ag)	1	2%
North East Ecological Farmers	2	4%
Other eg.Friend / Neighbour	14	25%

GAME-CHANGERS: EVENT IMPACT

The respondents were asked what information changed/added to the way they farm. Responses are grouped, where possible, relating to speakers/topics.

DAY 1

Dr Christine Jones

- ✓ The need to reduce Nitrogen inputs gradually to transition into more sustainable farming.
- ✓ Soil microbe approach vs Chemical approach gives some hope for a better long term outcome.
- ✓ Nitrogen fixing plants are not only legumes and particularly from Christine the role of humus.
- ✓ Talking to other farmers present and what they are doing, Q&A panel discussion about round-up and Nitrogen.
- ✓ More time for Christine Jones.
- ✓ Want to keep finding out more about plant/biology symbiosis.

Graham Shepherd

- ✓ VSA method.
- ✓ My understanding of plants and what is the better way to care for them with natural methods.
- ✓ Is there another way to assess soils? Soil tests, penetrometer, brix.
- ✓ Use of VSA.
- ✓ The damage that chemical fertilisers are having on soil structure.
- ✓ I should dig up more soil and study it as Graham explained.

- ✓ Considering aeration for oxygen to reach roots.
- ✓ More personal observation.
- ✓ It was good to hear Graham Shepherd and to see a simple way to assess soil.

Tim Wright

- ✓ Tim Wright gave us great confidence in rehabilitating land without spending too much money and freeing up time
- ✓ Tim's idea of sheep camps being an asset made us revisit paddock size, grazing length and cattle movement.
- ✓ Will be trying to leave more leaf material for better photosynthesis.
- ✓ Tim Wright showed what is possible over time – what would have happened if management had not changed? – degraded soil – erosion – silent spring environment!!
- ✓ Keen to change paddock size.
- ✓ The need for smaller paddocks.
- ✓ I am going to attempt cell grazing in my area to test it's success in alpine areas.
- ✓ Will try experimental blocks myself.
- ✓ We intend long term to increase fencing internally to increase number and decrease size of paddocks for increase pasture recovery.
- ✓ I must leave more height in plants when grazing.

Fertilising

- ✓ Yes – increase use of organic fertiliser.
- ✓ The difference between traditional fertilisers and more “natural” treatments and the way they activate organisms in the soil to the benefit of pastures.
- ✓ Interested in trying NutriSoil in my home garden.
- ✓ The role of soil microbiology in the carbon cycle and soil building. We have relied exclusively on ignoring fertiliser and herbicides and pesticides. Not good!!
- ✓ Real improvement with NutriSoil. Amazing results!
- ✓ We have been carbon farmers for 4 years. No fertilisers used. We apply 1300kg gypsum/ha & 4L of Fulvaplex/ha. The seminar confirmed that we are on the right track. We’re having very good results.
- ✓ More technical information about using more natural products.
- ✓ I came away thinking maybe I’m using more fertiliser than I need to.

Other

- ✓ Simple comparative analysis / pictures were most persuasive. Too much chemistry at times.
- ✓ Encouraged me to keep going.
- ✓ Just cemented in my mind that the biological approach to farming is the only direction to head.
- ✓ Reinforcing of practices in place.
- ✓ To keep moving forward to improving pastures and the health of my stock.
- ✓ Already doing the above.
- ✓ It was all very interesting always looking for different farming methods in this ever changing world.
- ✓ Lots of things – it’s a journey aiming for that farming system that looks after all things.

DAY 2

Dr Christine Jones

- ✓ Christine has given us great confidence to continue to head towards chemical fertilizer free farming.
- ✓ Would have liked to talk to Dr Jones but everyone had the same idea.
- ✓ Q & A panel. Christine's info on Nitrogen management.
- ✓ That the plants can capture carbon and the need to grow more groundcover.
- ✓ The need to maintain ground cover and the benefits of doing so.
- ✓ The unhealthy high N levels in foods.
- ✓ Need to reassess the Nitrogen and how detrimental too much is.

Graham Shepherd

- ✓ Pasture testing, brix meter usage.
- ✓ Will be trialling NS on a commercial basis. Keen to put VSA into use.
- ✓ Will be doing more soil assessments.
- ✓ I will use my shovel more often to check my soil profiles.
- ✓ As per day 1. Initially seemed just on increased fencing but increase in soil health and carrying capacity made up for fencing cost.
- ✓ How soil carbon is built up – increase focus on organic fertilisers.
- ✓ Best annual event of the 3 I've attended.
- ✓ Dig up more dirt.
- ✓ Things get too hard so better to ignore – like grazing wet paddocks, sometimes no choice, causes pugging and the biology lose, no good.

- ✓ Visually assessing our own soils is a valuable no cost tool that we can implement straight away.
- ✓ Being able to see the results of your management. Friends and neighbour cuts grass to soil and I didn't want that. This has shown me how to not to do it. Along with Colin Seis and Graham Hand, I think I've got it. Many thanks.

What would you like to learn more about? (DAY 1 & 2)

- ✓ More of Christine Jone's work.
- ✓ We would love to hear the Haggerty's speak as they are broadacre croppers. We would like to hear more from Christine in relation to NPK in a cropping situation.
- ✓ A simple visual assessment of soil microbiology activity?
- ✓ Product change? Had a great day.
- ✓ Latest research.
- ✓ Rotational Grazing.
- ✓ More about the natural soil pathways.
- ✓ We could listen to Christine all day. We were unable to go to the Friday session but have spoken to all our group of Ecological farmers who were just "on fire" about Christine's Friday comments – bugger!! Sorry we missed it.
- ✓ Any more sessions with Christine would be very welcome. Thanks for a great day.
- ✓ Holistic farm management reinforced by basic use of VSA.
- ✓ Soil biology and other farmers experience.
- ✓ The effects of NutriSoil on insects, pests etc.

- ✓ Are there any more tools to use in the field? (other than- refract/penetrometer/pH/tissue test/VSA).
- ✓ Not sure right now.
- ✓ Green manures and cosmic energies.
- ✓ Much more about the function of the soil food web etc etc. Relationship with plants.
- ✓ How to integrate soil friendly farming, lower inputs but maintain high yields.
- ✓ Christine Jones storehouse of research and knowledge.
- ✓ Best ways to organise, schedule, use of hill and flat grazing land depending on season and precipitation.
Use of soil as a carbon sink. Ways to educate people about the huge potential role soil has in climate change.
- ✓ How to change paddock sizes appropriately.
- ✓ More time with Christine speaking would be great.
- ✓ Improving soil carbon.
- ✓ The process of changing from “old style” to biological farming – including aerating, when to over-sow with perennial pastures/grasses, creating ecosystems including trees.
- ✓ Pasture cropping. How it’s done.
- ✓ Whatever Christine can tell us. She is great to listen to, would love to hear more of her. Thanks once again for a great 2 days. That’s why we keep coming back. Well done.
- ✓ A big pat on the back to the organisers. Very professional yet relaxed and friendly environment.
- ✓ Soil biology and how to get an exact position on where you are at. Anything to do with soils.
- ✓ Please listen to CD.
- ✓ Fixing Nitrogen in the soil and soil biology.
- ✓ Would love to visit a large scale holistically farmed beef operation such as Michael and Anna Coughlans farm Holbrook.

- ✓ The carbon pathway and how to capitalise on it in pasture production.
- ✓ Really enjoyed the 2 days. Time was a bit hard for dairy farmers especially to get back for the evening part. Thankyou.
- ✓ “Farming Secrets” - see them at field days. Plan to do a trial plot.
- ✓ How can we measure or know if we are actually improving soil microbiology.
- ✓ Worm culture and handling effluent.
- ✓ Perhaps for an extra fee we could all be provided with the “copy” of the recording. As gone to the trouble of getting there, sometimes can’t take it all in at once. I need to ponder the info.
- ✓ Having trouble with my hardware - but when master, keen to see difference with NS being used and not. PS – Your handouts were great in folder.
- ✓ This is the 2nd time I have attended your event. You do an extremely great job and should be congratulated. You fully support us wanting to find a better way with totally the right people – your speakers. Thank you. Plus value for money - well worth it. We all farm on different land, so gathering principles and talking to others was invaluable.
- ✓ Native pastures balancing soils. Pasture cropping.
- ✓ Thank you once again for organising an informative event that always inspires and has us coming away with more pieces of the puzzle that make up our own farming picture. While we all have different soils, rainfall, budgets and our own ‘seeming’ mental constraints to deal with, there is always something that can be implemented, adapted to suit or investigated further that is mentioned by a speaker or a fellow attendee on the day. Great event!
- ✓ Mycorrhizal Fungi
- ✓ Can’t have too much of farmers and their experiences.

Individual Sessions Comments – Thursday

8.45 Registration / Morning Tea – Scones

Tick x 3; Perfect; Good x 4; Delicious x 3; Great scones x 2; Very yum; Very easy; Smooth; Fantastic; Went smoothly; Didn't have any but would have been great; Too Good; Efficient registration – lovely morning tea; Enjoyed the fresh fruit 2 x ticks; Hassle free great scones; Awesome very yummy!; Scones/great idea. I congratulated the chef on his effort; Have a table with 3 water spots, urns so 3 cues can work at same time; Excellent; Missed was running late; Looked great (couldn't eat them celiac but I didn't need them either); Appreciated after an early morning start and drive; I loved the fruit; Well organised; I love the food.

9.15 Welcome – Rachelle Armstrong

Good presentation. Well done. Real people supporting soil enhancement learning; Good x 2; Tick x 4; Clear and informative; Professional welcome!; All good; Informative warm welcome; Well done; Well presented; Very friendly; Very informative; Great introduction; Good Intro; Friendly-professional-informative; Gave a good background of NS and of the event; Great, brief – Now let's get into it! ☺.

9.20 NutriSoil Latest Research – Rachelle Armstrong

Great; Well done; Good x 3; Ticks x 3; Very interesting – impressive results; Keep it coming; Good that your using the time to promote your brand; Very good; Keep it all happening; Went over time; Organic certification a plus well done; Interesting well done; Reaffirmed to me that I'm heading in the right direction; All well done Rachelle; Well presented; Interesting – tempting to give it a go; To the point; Very informative; Research science is good for the skeptics; Dragged on a bit; Good background info; Friendly – informative; Credible research results will underpin our belief in improving soil biology; Good overall presentation of what the company does and where they intend to go with the products they have; Very interested to hear how NS is testing and what the measureable benefits are.

9.30 Liquid Carbon Pathway – Dr Christine Jones

Very good x 2; Great look forward to getting a DVD; Excellent x 2;; Absolutely excellent – very thought provoking; Can't get enough of Christine; Tick x 2; Very informative – couldn't read whiteboard; Excellent, incorporated a learning and engaging talk; Maybe some pre-event notes on the subject prior to the event would have the group up to speed to

where Christine was talking about. Myself I found it very interesting but sometimes a refresher helps awake the brain-cells; Very good and informative. Would have liked a bit more – she ran out of time; Very informative ground breaking information. Whiteboard hard to see; Interesting; Brilliant. She was the main reason I came – to hear her talks; Very interesting. Needed more; Gave me understanding of how plants work under the ground; You could listen to Christine all day; Well presented; A little scientific but fascinating all the same; Great to listen to; Very helpful information; Would like to have heard this; Fantastic – I love listening to Christine – what a knowledge base; Could have gone on longer – a great introduction; Really good to listen to; I came back because of this women and I wasn't disappointed; A bit hard to follow, a bit hard to see; Great to hear expertise in this area. My own knowledge is very limited; Yes, maybe; Could be longer; Great speaker, always pick up something that we didn't quite take in before or maybe just wasn't ready to hear; Christine is legendary-I was able to understand this process; I could listen to Christine for hours; Christine is great. She makes everything so understandable; Not well presented – whiteboard drawing could not be seen and by her own admission her talk had no structure – was all over the place; A bit high-brow but impressed with her great knowledge; Always a source of knowledge.

10.30 Working with Nature – Tim Wright

Great; Very good x 4; Excellent x 2; A very good presentation – a practical approach with a how to do it message; 2 ticks; Interesting to hear a different approach; Excellent – spoke in layman's terms; Very interesting – meant to ask him where do you obtain Himayalan Salt; Good an actual farmers perspective from an Australian farmer; Interesting x 3; Most interesting approach to holistic management; Good. Interesting. Well done; Good to listen to; We need to work as much as possible with nature; Tim is a great speaker and is switched on; Very informative; Inspiring – a practical example of a large scale holistic approach to grazing; Great to listen to; Practical information shows what will happen if the correct management is implemented; Missed; Hard to apply as his scale not relevant to our area he can afford to be less intensive; Good presentation; Awesome; Tim – very valuable speaker – hands on man. I would love to see his patch - The talk in action; Interested in his holistic approach and sustainability principles; Yes, maybe; For me: photos on feed going into and leaving would have been helpful; Great to hear what another farmer is implementing and what is working for them. Always a valuable section of the event; Great practical innovative pioneer. Brilliant stuff; Made me do a lot of thinking. Thinking of doing holistic pasture management course; Very interesting what he has achieved; It's

always great hearing a farmers story – can't ever be too much; Can always learn something but I think the holistic approach lacks a bit of soul.

11.15 Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) Method – Graham Shepherd

Excellent x 3; Good x 2; Very good x 2; Good – some interesting facts and statistics – a “micro-manage” attitude to soil health; This session, too much about the presenter; 2 ticks; Lots of good information; Graham needs to simplify his method of talking to us. Is too technical – reduce it down to the farmer level; Long winded and lost a lot of people due to wanting to sell his book and only having NZ information. A lot of people went to sleep; Already having the assessment book made it easy to follow Graham; Good introduction; Ok same as year before, even the sick wife joke; A bit long, think teaching would have been better while outside; Gives me a tool to assess what's happening underground; Graham explained everything very well; Very enthusiastic, a great communicator who inspired me to try a new approach to fertilisers; Very interesting; Useful tool if we can become skilled over time. Farmers usually look for the better outcomes from different management practices ie minimum till; Great. I've heard him before reminded me of some organic methods to try; Good, picked up a bit, not hands on enough; Good to listen to; Great; Well even I can do this. Got the book and busy reading through it; Important to have a comprehensive system to assess the state of our soils; Thought provoking, need to think some things over; 3 ticks - Perhaps all 3 speakers back to back a bit long, one after lunch would've been good; Have had this book for 12 months and subsequent field demonstration brought it to life; I came to see Christine having seen Graham many times before – but I still got some info off of him; A great way to learn about testing soil. Looking forward to doing it here when things dry out some; Too complicated! Great for extension professionals and technicians! Is there another way?

12.15 LUNCH – Homemade Pies & Soup

Great; Great lunch x 2; Delicious lunch; Perfect; Extra good; Ok; Top stuff – worth a visit to NS days to sample the lunches; Very yummy; Excellent x 4; Enjoyable; Delicious as ever; Good x 3; Very good x 2; Yummy; Fantastic x 2; Great lunch. Well done to caterers; Delish will come again; Sufficient; Pies were magnificent I expected sandwiches; Beautiful lunch; Well organised – hot served promptly – great job; Great pies; Nice; Awesome; Awesome & delicious; Keep the chef – good to eat outside. Chance to talk to others, see their reaction on what we are learning; Delicious,

Good pies. Had good talk to a few people. Nice to compare with other farmers; Great soup; Always awesome – highlight of the conference☺; Pies were sensational; Lovely hot and tasty.

12.45 Worm Walk – Darren Maddock

Interesting to hear of all the different food sources; Ok x 2; NA x 2; Good x 2; Well done. Worthwhile; Good insight; Done this before; Excellent; Well done Darren; Very good; Hard to hear – I'm slightly deaf! Impressed with the ingredients; Couldn't hear Darren – speaking system and presentation - was not "audience aware"; Felt sorry for Darren – he said he'd rather have a guitar in his hand than a mic – I think he just needs to grow in confidence – would be helped by a better sound system and some positive feedback; Needs work; Interesting; Good – maybe sang it!!; Did not do that as I've seen it many times before. Nothing against Darren; Seemed a bit uncomfortable in his role; Very interesting makes you look more at your soil; Weather didn't help – very cold. Only stayed out for a little while; Good to have family renewal happening; Didn't go; Cold but informative; Needs to understand his job better; Darren's not a speaker is he, but he is the worker so I could relate to him. Told us everything we need to know. Keep him – you need a non-professional; Fix loud speaker; Perhaps a handout explaining methodologies used; (I was) too busy talking to others; Tick x 2; Didn't attend, did last years' walk which we found interesting; Well done Darren; Missed it; Missed this – getting DVDs. Last time couldn't hear because I was at the back; Darren lacked confidence and was not prepared. He was obviously knowledgeable but didn't share. Next time display board with key points and pics of the different worms. Presentation then field.

1.00 Implications for Smart Farming including Field Demo – VSA Graham Shepherd

Great; Good x 4; Very good x 3; Excellent; VSA possibly a useful tool – will try it on our place; IMPORTANT – cant' beat hands on / worm identification. Graham opens your eyes to what's in your soil and the layout of the land; 'Interesting' I observed and came home and had a look at a couple of places; Good seeing what he means in the field; Field demonstration brought book to life; Did not participate – had to leave early; Had to head home for calving supervision; Tick; Really good hands on stuff; NA; Practical demonstration is worth a lot when it comes to doing on our own farm; Unfortunately got a bit long and we left; Most informative; Ok. Again, same as year before; Very practical

method of assessing your soils; Missed; Went for too long in paddock; Good, picked up a bit, not hands on enough – we left – a bit long; Learnt a lot; Good – but obviously very cold – soil a bit wet to achieve his desired outcome, but still informative; Went on too long, the people at my table said they lost concentration and focus. Too many charts and graphs that meant little to average farmer/person.

4.00 Panel of all speakers answering questions from audience

Nearly the best part of the day; Could we go a little longer on Thursday, as on Friday people go home; Excellent. People need to see openness and discussion to be a part of the day; Very good; Good x 2; Tim's hands on knowledge very interesting; Great session. Questions via piece of paper worked well and saved time; Good session; Answered questions well; All very good especially Tim; Good points asked; As always, more time would be better. One person said it well: ***"If we don't change from chemicals, we won't be around very long"***; Easy to follow answers; Valuable / great questions from the floor and panel sharing the answers; Good, an important session. We all need to have opportunity to follow up and clarify; 3 stars Great idea / learnt; Would like this section to go longer and include more questions and discussions; Q&A is good; Always great; NA x 3; Wasn't able to attend; Left early unfortunately; Had to leave early; Wasn't able to stay; Sorry I had another appointment.

Individual Sessions Comments – Friday

8.45 Registration/Morning Tea - Scones

Great x 2; Good; Tick x 2; Just too good; Great to start the day off; Similar day 1.

9.15 Welcome – Rachelle Armstrong

Good introduction; Good x 2; Tick x 3; Similar day 1; Tick – well done; Lays a good foundation.

9.20 NutriSoil Vermicast – Rachelle Armstrong

Good x 2; Tick x 2; Very interesting; Similar day 1; Tick – well done; Have worm farm for house; It is good to see you push your products; Interesting; Would like to know more about this product companion to using NutriSoil liquid; Brought home a trailer load.

9.30 Managing Nitrogen for Profit – Dr Christine Jones

Excellent x 3; Very good; This was much better, easier to follow, easier to see; 2 x Ticks; Dr Christine is such a great educator at the farmer's level; Very informative about how the Nitrogen cycle works in nature; Best session of the 2 days. This was excellent; Brilliant; Excellent. Realise how changing the biology means we can use natural fertiliser available in atmosphere. Carbon pathway concept (day 1) loved it, changed everything; Very helpful and reassuring in moving forward. Sulphate of Ammonia – been beneficial, will try next year when sowing oats; Excellent could have gone longer; ***; Love to hear more, would have preferred this section longer; Very very interesting. How we are up the wrong tree; Christine always explains so well.

10.30 Empowering Farmers to Assess...Carbon Sequestration, Nutrient Loss, GHG Emissions and Management Practices for Change – Graham Shepherd

Very very good; Well presented; Very good; Very interesting x 2; Tick x 2; New tool for farm management; Showed what can be done to better utilise our resources and reduce greenhouse gases. Very pointed information; Ok. He said the same the year before; Interesting; Thanks Graham, really provides focus and practical basis for soil analysis; Very good, but got a little dull by the end; Good; Found a little hard to focus on this one. Maybe a little long.

12.30 Lunch – Pull Apart Roast Beef Rolls & Soup

Mushroom soup!!; Great lunch x 2; Great; Nice soup; Good; Very nice x 2; Had to be quick to get a roast roll. Soup was great; Great lunch; Excellent; Well catered for all day; Delish; Nice; Absolutely yum; Tick; Delicious; Yum.

1.00 Worm Walk – Darren Maddock

Ok; NA; 2 x Ticks Casual side comments / anecdote from Dad worked; Interesting; Interesting to those with no prior knowledge of the subject; Tick x 2; You learn more each time; Good; Missed. Some confusion about times.

1.15 PANEL – All speakers

Great session, a fantastic finality to what turned out to be a very successful and informative seminar; Very good; It was good to be able to have my question answered; 2 x Ticks; Well done. Tim Wright's inclusion was worthwhile; Excellent; All very good. Tim is switched on; Some questions got sidetracked to the days line of talks; Very good; ***Had to leave due to travel time, so having that option and not missing was wonderful; Would like this longer. I don't think we had the full hour; Very good and informative.

2.15 Field Demo of the VSA's Three Environmental Scorecards – Graham Shepherd

Great ideas and tips to take home; Hands on was helpful; Again great – and for me it also broke down to the owner resistance to actually getting in there and doing it; This really helps with confidence, to do it yourself really good; Great to experience hands on; Very good learned a lot; I have seen this before but not in as much detail, and step by step very good; Interesting system, day tended to break up a bit as people began to leave and interest began to wane a little; I was engrossed in conversation with other people and didn't get there, but there was a repetition of the day before and the year before; Left before this – brain dead; Had to leave early.

Event Logistics / Planning

How did you find the Venue & Equipment for Learning?

Great wouldn't change a thing **TOTAL 41 or 73%**

If I was running the day I would have...

- Maybe change to Autumn – warmer
- The best Open Day for audience comfort and audibility.
- Top job with the venue/learning environment! Tough about the whiteboard markers! If that's all you need to fix for next time your doing ok!
- Audio not good enough. The people seated in the back half had trouble hearing speakers.
- More farmers telling their story with NutriSoil.
- Made sure all speakers have Australian information. Breaks between speakers - too much all in a row.
- Gone out and got some jumbo textas for Christine.
- Gas heaters were good. Had to choose where you sat. Got a little bit hot on the head.
- Enclosed marquee was great.
- Made available facilities or assistance for those hard of hearing. My wife who has Tinitis found it difficult. Adjustable (volume) headphones perhaps?
- Some handouts from the speakers.
- Had a loud speaker down the back for people hard of hearing.
- Had more of Dr Jones and email out her power-point.
- Longer discussions with guest speakers.
- But hard to see board from back.

- Water on tables.
- For a cold day/wet - warm, cosy. I liked the way the floor plan was set-up.
- Great venue - the marquee inside the shed was much warmer and less echo. I do suggest another set of speakers close to the back of the room.

Was the day well facilitated/organised?

Great, everything ran smoothly... TOTAL 44 or 79%

If I was running the day I would have....

- Could we have CJ slides in the hand-out?
- Asked the speakers to speak for an hour but given them an hour and a half time slot. Especially Christine.
- Top job.
- Always great to be amongst like-minded farmers. I think the word is spreading!
- A sign to books that are for sale.
- A few teething problems on first day. No need for me to tell you what they were.
- Had Christine Jones do more sessions.
- Because I was late the front was taken. Suggestion those front places need to be kept vacant for those with hearing problems. I enjoyed the field. In hurry as the others want to post. Maybe a note in application for those with hearing problems to fill in.
- Allowed 5 minutes at the end of each presentation for questions from the floor.
- Stick to the schedule.
- A little trouble with mic but this didn't bother me. The problem was fixed promptly.

List of Resources from the Event

1. Nitrogen: The Double-Edged Sword – Dr Christine Jones
2. Visual Soil Assessment Soil Cards – Graham Shepherd
3. Greater Production by Building Soil Biology – NutriSoil Results Brochure
4. Case Study: “NutriSoil Helps the Haggertys Improve Productivity with Reduced Inputs”
5. NutriSoil Organic VermiCast Fact Sheet
6. Time to Take that Step to Reduce Fertiliser Use – Joel Williams

Contact NutriSoil (details over page) for copies of these resources to be sent to you.



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