



@compostforsoils #AORA2017



## ALEJANDRA LACLETTE

Vegware Australia @VegwareOZ

Alejandra performs as the Recycling Advisor at Vegware Australia, working closely with clients to ensure the correct disposal of Vegware and therefore closing the loop of the lifecycle of the products. She is assisting with a pilot project within Universities, helping them with recycling training, advise and student engagement applying Vegware's five steps to zero waste program. She is currently undertaking a Master in Sustainable Development at Macquarie University.

She was previously working at Henkel Mexico, where she performed as the sustainability coordinator providing training to employees to become sustainability ambassadors, as well as coordinating the company educational program towards the Mexican community regarding sustainable living and practices.



## DR. ASH MARTIN

Microbe Labs

Ash is the Managing Director of Microbiology Laboratories Australia (Microbe Labs), a world leader in commercial microbiology analysis of soil, fertilisers and compost for agriculture, forestry and the environment. Ash's broad range of experiences gives him a unique ability to apply science to practical problems. From working in orchards as a boy until completing a PhD in applied soil microbiology (Adelaide), Ash has worked as an experimental scientist (CSIRO), postdoctoral researcher (Monash), technical officer (NSW Agriculture) research officer (CSR Wood Panels) agronomist, farmer and nurseryman. Ash enjoys helping to make compost production and soil management more sustainable by providing tests and expertise to help manage compost and soil microbiology.



## BILL GRANT

Blue Environment

Bill is an agricultural and environmental scientist who has worked with the recycled organics industry since the early-1990s. Working as a research agronomist in the late 1980s, Bill became concerned about soil and land degradation, leading him to study environmental science at Monash university. Here he was invited to join a research and consultancy unit focused on solid waste and resource recovery, including organics recycling.

As a project manager with EcoRecycle/ Sustainability Victoria between 2003-2007, Bill was responsible for the Best Practice Organics Management program. In 2008/09 Bill undertook a Caring for Our Country project promoting compost use in sustainable agriculture. He has worked with composters on quality and environmental management systems, and advises landowners on the production and use of composts.

He also works with local government implementing organics recovery systems. Bill has a passion for soil health and compost and believes compost has a crucial role to play in sustainable land management.







## DR. BOB RYNK

Associate Professor of  
Agricultural Engineering Technology  
SUNY Cobleskill

@SUNYCobleskill

Robert has been researching and teaching about composting for over 30 years. Bob is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering Technology at SUNY Cobleskill where he teaches courses on waste management, composting, biomass energy and agricultural mechanics. Bob also serves as the Director of the College's Center for Environmental Science and Technology (CEST), which offers a Bachelor of Technology degree in Environmental and Energy Technology. He is the co-instructor for the "Foundations of Composting" short course that is presented annually at the U.S. Composting Council conference and at other national venues. He regularly lectures at other national and international composting forums.

Previously, Bob was Senior Technical Editor for *BioCycle* magazine and Executive Editor of the peer-reviewed journal, *Compost Science and Utilization*. Prior to joining *BioCycle*, Bob was Associate Professor at the University of Idaho and an extension engineer at the University of Massachusetts. He has authored numerous publications about composting, waste management and energy. Bob was the editor and contributing author for the *On-Farm Composting Handbook*.



## DAVID HALL

Organic Balance

David has worked in agriculture for some 33 years; initially as a field agronomist and later doing extension work across various industries and research and development work in the area of soil fertility.

Some areas of interest besides the more conventional forms of fertilisers are those involved with soil biology, slow release forms of nutrients and organic amendments; products that can be used in a complimentary way. He is currently looking at organic amendments being applied to local soils on a commercial basis. The project is assessing the long term value of manures, composts and conventional fertilisers in commercial operations over multiple sites across the Darling Downs.

In recent years; since early 2012, he has also been intensively involved in the Queensland Dairy industry. He had been working closely with Queensland Dairy Organisation (QDO) designing Soil and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMP's) for individual dairy farms in all dairying regions across the state.

These Soil and Nutrient Management Plans (SNMP's) involve soil sampling fields at various depths, interpreting the results and producing fertiliser recommendations for the farmers.

David is an independent Fertcare accredited agricultural consultant with his own soil testing trailer and available to assist with any soil or fertiliser program to optimising production.



## DECLAN MCDONALD

Blue Environment

@SESLAustralia

Declan has over 25 years experience in agricultural, horticultural, recreational and amenity soil management. In May 2014 he opened an office for SESL in Victoria.

He holds a B.Sc in Urban Horticulture (UTS) and a Master of Sustainable Agriculture (University of Sydney). He also holds Graduate Certificates in Climate Change (University of Melbourne) and Leisure Management (UTS) and an Associate Diploma in Horticulture (Nursery Mgt.).

He has a strong background in Urban Horticulture, Agricultural Production and Natural Resource Management through his work in Private Enterprise, State and Local Governments, and Catchment Management Authorities.

He has authored / co-authored a number of publications aimed at improving understanding and management of soil as a living realm which include the use of compost on agricultural land. He is currently working with large agricultural and horticultural enterprises to develop strategies and practices to maximise the benefit of compost applications for a range of land uses.

In his current position of Senior Soil Scientist with SESL Australia he is responsible for high level technical input for corporate and private farms, land assessments, major redevelopment work aimed at re-using site soils, and urban renewal projects, all while continuing to follow his passion for sustainable management of our soil resources.







@compostforsoils #AORA2017



## DAVID BONSER @Amiterre\_HSC

### Amiterre Ag Solutions

David has had 35 years involvement in agriculture and has credentials in the disciplines of Farm Business Management, Agricultural Science and Sustainable Agriculture as well as Vocational Education and Training. He comes to the Organics Recycling sector as a trained and experienced Agriculturalist. His passion is to develop systems for agriculture that will improve soil health as well as build resilience and sustainability of rural and regional communities. He is currently director and senior bio-agronomist at Amiterre Ag Solutions, a company working towards bringing safe recycled organics to the agricultural sector.



## GARRY KIMBLE

### AORA @compostforsoils

Garry is currently NSW Secretary of the NSW Division of AORA. His last full time job was as a Project Co-ordinator with SAI Global, providing product certification against standards in the health and safety area. This included the potting mix, compost and soils standards.

Prior to joining SAI Global, Garry held a number technical, quality assurance and management roles in the sugar, building materials and plastics industries. He ran a product development program for the Design Council of Australia and worked for some time as an advisor in a government agency providing support to industry for improved competitiveness.



## GRAHAM BROOKMAN

### Food Forest

Graham has experienced land use all over the world and his search for ecologically sustainable farming systems led him to the permaculture model devised by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. Graham has put the model to the test and teaches his findings in an energetic, interactive and practical style.

He is a qualified horticulturalist, teacher and Permaculture designer and is inaugural chairman of the Adelaide Showground Farmers Market. He is a guest lecturer at The University of Adelaide and is keenly involved in urban planning matters at a local government level.

Having designed a state-of-the-art composting toilet and reedbed system, his next project was a straw-bale cold room, big enough for the Food Forest's little tractor to drive into with bulk bins of fruit and nuts. The success of the cold room and subsequent structures has convinced Graham that strawbale construction is the ideal building medium for Southern Australia. He has now taught hundreds of others how simple it is to build anything from a garden bench to a house from strawbales.

The property's numerous productive systems are now beginning to mature, flourish and look after themselves, allowing Graham to spend more time teaching others about sustainable farming. He does so in an energetic and interactive style, using the diverse resources of the farm in demonstrations and walks.



## HON IAN HUNTER MP

### SA Minister for the Environment

Ian was born in Broken Hill and was educated at Gilles Plains High and Flinders University. He has worked as a Research assistant at Flinders Medical Centre, Youth Worker at CYSS, and Policy adviser. Before entering Parliament, Ian served as State Secretary of the ALP.

Ian's policy interests include science and science education, industrial relations, social justice, the environment and sustainability.







## DR. JANE GILBERT

**Environmental Services Professional** @CarbonClarity

Jane is a chartered environmentalist and waste management professional, who has been involved in the organics recycling sector for over twenty years. She is the former chief executive of the UK Composting Association and co-founder of the European Compost Network.

Jane originally trained as a microbiologist, has a doctorate in biochemistry and an MBA, and is currently vice chair of the International Solid Waste Association's Biological Treatment Working Group. She is also an active member of their Task Force on Resource Management, the European Group and Science & Technical Committee, working on the role of organics within a circular economy. She is the author of the ISWA report 'Carbon, Nutrients and Soil'.

Jane has authored a number of technical composting books and has presented widely at conferences in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. She has recently launched Carbon Clarity Press, specialising in publishing resources to inspire sustainable living.



## JOHANNES BIALA @UQ\_News

**University of Queensland**

Equipped with degrees in Agriculture and Environmental Science, Johannes has worked in organics recycling, composting and the use of compost products for some 30 years. He has extensive experience as consultant and researcher in all key areas of the organics recycling supply chain. For the past three years he has been assessing if composting can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the manure supply chain and to what degree raw and composted manures can replace mineral nitrogen fertiliser in intensive horticulture.



## JONO CRAVEN

**Gippsland Water** @jonocraven67

Jono Craven is the manager of Gippsland Water's Agribusiness, a farming business covering 9,500 Ha across the Gippsland Region of Victoria.

This business is focused on the sustainable production of Cattle, Crops, Fodder and Forestry utilising "Revive" compost and biological inputs. Jono works closely with Gippsland Water's SORF facility to produce and promote the 80,000 tonne annual production of "Revive" mature compost.

Jono has been focused on sustainable agricultural production systems and the building of healthy soils for over 20 years across a range of agricultural production systems in four states of Australia.

In 2015 Jono was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to travel and investigate "The effective recycling of urban and agricultural wastes to provide positive outcomes for agriculture."

During his travels Jono visited range of production systems in both composting and agriculture in Israel, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, USA and Canada over a nine week period.

Jono will be presenting information from his Churchill Fellowship that will cover compost production, technology, research, agricultural use, compost quality standards and the integration of renewable energy production.







@compostforsoils #AORA2017



## KYLIE HUGHES @QldEHP

Queensland Department of  
Environment and Heritage Protection

Kylie is an Environmental Health Officer with over 20 years' experience in waste management with local and state government. She has lead and been involved in numerous waste management policy, legislation and program development projects to help improve waste management and resource recovery practices in Queensland and nationally. She is currently working on several product stewardship projects, including the development of a national handheld battery stewardship program being led by the Queensland Government.

## MARTIN TOWER

AORA Queensland

@compostforsoils

Martin graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and served as a British Army and subsequently Australian Army officer. On leaving military service, Martin completed an MBA and moved into management consulting which lead to engagements in sustainable energy development where he had a leading role in the establishment of a waste to energy company specializing in the application of high powered ultrasonics to anaerobic digestion. He also became involved in the composting industry, especially regarding intensive agriculture byproducts and more recently has commenced product development and marketing activities for the use of urban derived composts into mainstream agriculture.

Martin has taken a leading role in developing AORA's national strategy and business plans and is particularly interested in business concept development and implementation.

## MARY LEWITZKA

RenewablesSA

Mary has worked in the area of Spatial Information Science for over 15 years and is a certified GIS Professional – Asia Pacific (GISP-AP). Mary has experience with Spatial Projects in a variety of fields, working for State and Local Governments and in the Private Sector.

Mary is a member of the RenewablesSA team in the Low Carbon Economy Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which works to remove barriers to investment through policy and regulatory changes, provision of commercially relevant information to potential investors and working with companies to develop projects in South Australia and take advantage of Federal Government funding.

Her role involves supporting the further growth of SA's renewable energy industry, principally in the Bioenergy domain, including delivering the SA component of the federally funded Australian Biomass for Bioenergy Assessment (ABBA) project. This project involves collecting data on the location, volumes and availability of biomass for inclusion into a centrally accessible repository for sharing mapping data and information with the renewable energy industry.





## MATTHEW COTTON

Integrated Waste Management  
Consulting @CompostPro

Matthew has worked in organics and solid waste management since 1986. He has served as a consultant, educator, researcher, and advocate for new and expanded organics recycling and composting programs in California and beyond. He has completed hundreds of significant organics projects, including permitting and assisting in the development of some of the major composting facilities in California.

Matthew has served on the Board of Directors of the US Composting Council for over a decade, including as president for three years, and also serves on the Board of Californians Against Waste, California's premiere recycling policy advocacy organisation. He has published research on compost odours, compost use, climate impacts, compostable plastics, and compost facility infrastructure. He is the main author of the Managing Composting Programs Course, the Organics Collection course, and the organics chapter of the Zero Waste Course for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). He is the co-instructor for the "Foundations of Composting" short course that is presented annually at the U.S. Composting Council conference and at other national venues.

Matthew has also done considerable work at the state level in California. In the last decade he has completed several major projects for CalRecycle (the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery) including the statewide Survey and Analysis of Composting Industry Best Management Practices and Market Conditions; participating in the Technologies and Management Practices for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Landfills, and the Life Cycle Assessment of Organic Diversion Alternatives and Economic Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Options.



## PROF. NANTHI BOLAN

University of Newcastle  
@Uni\_Newcastle

Nanthi has always been passionate about soil because according to Leonardo Da Vinci: "We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil under feet."

Nanthi came from farming background and graduated from the University of Western Australia under the supervision of two leading soil scientists (Professor Alan Robson and Dr Jim Barrow). That experience was the stepping stone for what has become an illustrious career in soil science with a particular emphasis on soil fertility.

He has served as the Dean of Graduate Studies of the University of South Australia and as the leader of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE) Programme on Prevention Technologies. His teaching and research interests include agronomic value of manures, fertilisers and soil amendments, soil acidification, nutrient cycling, pesticide and metal pollutants interactions in soils, soil remediation and waste and waste water management.

Nanthi has published more than 200 papers and was awarded the M.L. Leamy Award in recognition of the most meritorious contribution to soil science.



## NOPADOL SUANPRASERT

Global Biopolymers Co

Nopadol was born in Thailand. He received his Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from the University of New South Wales in 1970. He lived in Australia for 7 years before emigrating to Canada. In Canada, he studied Master of Business Administration at McGill University, Montreal.

He now lives and works in Thailand as the President of Global Biopolymers, which is a bioplastics producer.

When in Australia, Nopadol had worked for Unilever Australia in their foods and detergents factories at Balmain.

In Canada, he worked for Canadian foods industry. Later he worked for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Returning to Thailand, Nopadol worked for the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), a U.K. government development investment agency. CDC is well known for its development investments in agriculture in developing countries. Among some portfolios were oil palms, rubber, cocoa, and food crops.

When the Thailand government implemented the project to grow rubber in the Northeast of Thailand, this project was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture Office of the Rubber Replanting Aid Fund (ORRAF). Nopadol was appointed by the Cabinet to be the Director General. He was responsible for the project implementation which resulted in over a million of the Northeast migrant workers returning home to grow rubber.

It was in this rubber planting project that bioplastics made their application in rubber agriculture. Bioplastics have since replaced petrochemical plastics in many other applications.





@compostforsoils #AORA2017



## DR. PAUL DENNIS

School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland

@UQ\_News

Paul heads a laboratory focussing on the ecology of microorganisms at The University of Queensland.

Microorganisms play fundamental roles in all of Earth's ecosystems, including those in environmental, engineered and clinical settings. Dr Dennis' research aims to identify which organisms perform which tasks and how they are influenced by environmental change. The approaches used in his lab draw on a wide range of expertise in molecular biology, ecology, statistics, computer science, advanced imaging and soil science.

In this talk he will explain how new tools in microbiology can be used to develop value-added composts that help to enhance plant growth and soil health. This bio-discovery pipeline offers new and exciting opportunities for the Australian composting industry that could be seized upon through a multitude of co-investment options with government.



## DR. PAUL LAMBIE

@lakemac

Lake Macquarie City Council

Paul is responsible for developing and delivering water management programs at Lake Macquarie City Council. Over the last 4 years, Paul has been delivering projects that increase the sustainability of Council's sports fields by addressing soil conditions and the performance of irrigation systems. This has included trialling the use of compost and soil/compost blends to improve the nutrient and water holding capacity of soils, as well as projects that enhance the performance of sports field irrigation systems.

Between completing his PhD in 2004 and joining Council in 2010, Paul has worked in both the private and public sectors in both the water and natural resource management fields.



## TOM WETHERILL

Veolia @VeoliaANZ

Tom is the General Manager – Resource Recovery for Veolia in Victoria. He has over 30 year's international experience in the field of integrated solid waste management including planning, design, construction, operation and monitoring of waste handling and resource recovery facilities. He currently oversees the operations of the company's organics recovery facilities in Victoria and is involved in the planning and development of new facilities.



## REBECCA SCHWARZMAN

RM Consulting Group

@RMConsultingGr

Bec has a background in the socio-environmental aspects of natural resource management, integrated water management, agriculture and regional development.

Bec currently works as a consultant at RM Consulting Group on a variety of projects with a focus on program evaluation, strategic planning and social research, primarily for government agencies. Her recent work has focused on composts in agriculture, catchment management, bushfire management planning and social research on landholder participation and compliance.

Prior to RMCG, Bec worked for consulting firm Psi Delta analysing water markets and coordinating consultation programs for recycled water projects. Bec completed her undergraduate and honours year at Melbourne University in environmental science, geography and chemistry.







## ROWAN WILLIAMS

**BASF** @BASF\_Agro\_Au

Rowan has more than 30 year's experience in Asia Pacific in the agricultural, packaging, mining and general manufacturing industries, in roles spanning marketing, sales and operations.

Rowan is the Regional Market Development Manager for Biodegradable Polymers, ecoflex®/ ecovio® for BASF Asia Pacific. This role requires the development of markets and policy settings through stakeholder advocacy.

Rowan has extensive experience in the practical implementation of solutions for biopolymers ranging from organics management, the applications of composted organics and soil amendments for improvements in soil health, use of biodegradable mulch film and the merging of these two applications for improvements in horticulture and agriculture, with organics inputs.

Rowan has been with BASF for 13 years and previously spent time in senior management roles, with other multinational companies.

Rowan is currently the President of the Australasian Bioplastics Association, the peak industry body for the Bioplastics industry across ANZ and with global affiliations in Europe, the US and Asia.

Since September 2016, Rowan is the Executive Secretary for the Pan Pacific Bioplastics Alliance.



## SIMON LEAKE

**SESL** @SESLAustralia

As the Managing Director and Principal Consultant at SESL Australia, Simon established SESL in 1984 offering soil science and horticultural testing and advice. While working across all soil science related industries Simon's particular interest is in urban soil science culminating in the publication of "Soils for Landscape Development" a book on soil specification in the design industry.



## VAUGHAN LEVITZKE

**Green Industries SA**

Chief Executive, Green Industries SA (ex officio) and previously Chief Executive, Zero Waste SA. Vaughan spent 10 years with the SA EPA, focussing on regulation in the waste sector, litter, container deposit legislation, eco-efficiency, and industry sustainability.



## VIRGINIA BRUNTON

**MRA Consulting Group**

@MRA\_Consulting

Virginia has over 25 years' experience in environmental research and development for the farming and the wider community of NSW. Her expertise is across a wide range of natural resource management areas primarily soil, water and land health.

Virginia has strong links with the recycled organics sector having developed programs for the expansion of compost use as a regular farming practice in a range of agricultural sectors. Current work involves market development for recycled organics across a range of agricultural sectors. Recent work has focused on the beneficial use of recycled organics in land management and farming practices. She has a long standing interest in compost and is the author of Using Compost in Agriculture – a farmer's guide to compost.

Virginia is currently undertaking a PhD on political and social drivers for the use of composts in agriculture. This research involves assessing the national and international policies and regulatory positions on recycling of organics waste.