

SOIL CRC

Performance through collaboration

Communique



5 April 2018

Greetings Soil CRC colleagues

New website

I am very excited to announce that our new website www.soilcrc.com.au is now live. This is the first stage of our website project and showcases our new visual identity. It also provides a place where our participants and the general community can find information about the Soil CRC.

An important part of the website is our member login portal, where all members of our participant organisations are encouraged to register to gain full access to our Soil CRC documents. If you were already registered on our interim website for this area, you will need to re-register on the new website. It is a simple process - just fill in your details and you will be sent a password which will be effective immediately (check your junk email folder if you have trouble finding the email). Once signed in, you will have full access to important Soil CRC documents, including agreements, project and program documents and a back list of Communiques.

This is phase one of our website project, with more functionality and pages to be included in phase two. Many thanks to our participants who contributed photos for the website and our other marketing material.

Please link to the website where appropriate and bookmark it in

Upcoming Events

Soil-related events being organised by Soil CRC participants.

AORA (Australian Organics and Recycling Association) 2018 Annual Conference.

2-4 May, Brisbane, Qld.

Registration is now available at www.aora.org.au

Contact list

We are now forwarding this communique directly to staff in our Participant organisations who we believe should be receiving communications about the CRC. If you do not wish to receive communications directly,

your favourites (and delete any links to the previous, now decommissioned, interim site). We have also set up a Twitter account - [@soilCRC](#) and a [LinkedIn](#) account so please follow us to stay up-to-date.

Branding, brochures, banners and templates

We now have Soil CRC branded PowerPoint templates available for all our participants to use. There is the option to insert your own organisation's logo onto the Soil CRC template, in line with the branding guidelines. Alternatively, where appropriate, there is the option to use your own organisation's template, with the Soil CRC logo inserted.

Along with the PowerPoint templates, we also have some general flyers (both A4 and DL size) available, as well as pull-up banners. Please contact Communications Manager [Katherine Seddon](#) if you would like any of these or to discuss your Soil CRC communication needs and the CRC branding guidelines.

Project workshops

March has been a busy month with the remainder of the scoping study projects holding various workshops. I managed to attend all of them for some part and at each workshop, took the opportunity to give an update on progress in the Soil CRC, and future plans, as well as answer questions from staff. In total, I estimate that over 150 staff attended the various project workshops and the contributions and interactions of scientists and industry and farmer group representatives was very pleasing.

I attended project workshops in Brisbane for Project 3.1.01 (Review and meta-analysis of waste-derived fertilizer products, nano-porous materials for pesticide delivery, and moisture retention and microbial carrier technologies, led by Chengrong Chen, Griffith University), in Sydney for Project 4.1.01 (Scoping study to identify and prioritise regional soil constraints, led by Diana Parsons, Central West Farming Systems) and again in Sydney for Project 3.3.01 (Mapping projects on ameliorating soil constraints, and review of soil constraints, products and technologies) led by Susan Orgill, NSW DPI.

At the end of March, I attended a combined workshop in Melbourne for the two Program 2 projects, Project 2.1.01 (A review of indicators of soil health and function: farmers' needs and data management) led by Peter Dahlhaus, Federation University and Project 2.2.01 (Soil sensor technologies – which ones are most useful for smarter farming?) led by Marcus Hardie, University of Tasmania, and John Bennett, University of Southern Queensland.

Interim reports from each scoping study project were delivered in March, and summaries of project progress will soon be available on the members' page on the website. Scoping study projects are due for completion by the end of May.

please unsubscribe. If there are others who wish to be on the list, please forward their names to Kathy Stokes at kathy.stokes@soilcrc.com.au.



Professor Nanthi Bolan presenting at the Brisbane workshop for Project 3.1.01.



Dr Michael Crawford presenting at the Melbourne workshop for Projects 2.1.01 and 2.2.01.

Other CEO activities

In addition to attending the various project workshops, and having a week's leave in late March, I had a valuable few days with Program 4 Leader, Lukas Van Zwieten in Western Australia speaking about the Soil CRC at the two [Talking Soil Health](#) conferences at Dalwallinu and Katanning, organised by Wheatbelt NRM. It was a great opportunity to meet with more members of the WA farmer group participants in the CRC and understand more about their farm systems and challenges. At the end of March, I met with staff and management of Agriculture Victoria, continuing the program of direct engagement with each of our 39 participants. More meetings with other participants are being planned for April and May.

Research and Adoption Committee

The membership of the Research and Adoption Committee (RAC) has now been confirmed by the Board, and the Committee has held their first teleconference meeting to consider the CRC's research priorities. The RAC is chaired by Roger Swift and includes board directors Anna Lavelle and Di Parsons. Other members of the RAC are Neil Ballard (Farmer and end user, Western Australia), Hong Di (Scientist, New Zealand), Chris Sounness (end user, Victoria) and Michael Crawford (CEO, Soil CRC), thus giving it a balance of participant and independent interests, science and end user perspectives and a geographic spread. The Terms of Reference for the RAC are available on the member's page of the website.

2018 Investment Rounds

As discussed in the various project workshops, a call will be made shortly for 'best bet' projects to start getting some research activity in the CRC and to meet our milestone obligations to the Australian Government. The initial priorities are currently being considered by the Research and Adoption Committee. A second call for projects will be made in August/September, with subsequent calls being made each year, allowing the CRC to be flexible in its investment and delivery whilst also meeting its contractual obligations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael".

Dr Michael Crawford
Chief Executive Officer
CRC FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE SOILS
michael.crawford@soilcrc.com.au

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CRC for High Performance Soils

Level 1 ATC Building
University of Newcastle
University Drive
Callaghan NSW 2308

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CRC for High Performance Soils · Level 1, ATC Building, University of Newcastle · University Drive · Callaghan, NSW 2308 · Australia

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