

# SOIL CRC

## PARTICIPANTS CONFERENCE 2025



### Day 1 Tuesday 26 August 2025

Open to Soil CRC Participants only

Duxton Hotel Perth

8.30am – 5.30pm	Registration	Lower Lobby
9.00am – 3.00pm	Soil CRC PhD student workshop – <i>Correa Room</i>	Soil CRC PhD students (by invitation)
9.00am – 3.00pm	Soil CRC project meetings – <i>See desk or conference app for room allocations</i>	Soil CRC project teams (by invitation from project leaders)
9.00am – 3.00pm	Soil CRC Board meeting – <i>Fringe Lily Room</i>	Closed meeting
<b>10.45 – 11.15am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	Lower Lobby
<b>12.30 – 1.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	Lower Lobby
2.15 – 3.45pm	Adoption Plan implementation workshop	Felicity Harrop
<b>3.15 – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	Lower Lobby
4.00 – 5.30pm	Program workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program 1 – Investing in high performance soils – <i>Epacris Room</i></li> <li>Program 2 – Soil performance metrics – <i>Darwinia Room</i></li> <li>Program 3 – New products for soil fertility and function – <i>Fringe Lily Room</i></li> <li>Program 4 – Integrated soil management solutions – <i>Correa Room</i></li> </ul>	All Soil CRC participants Catherine Allan  Nathan Robinson  Megh Mallavarapu  Lukas Van Zwieten
		<i>Grand Ballroom</i> All Soil CRC participants
5.40 – 6.00pm	Program workshop summary debriefs	Program Leaders
6.00 – 6.15pm	Year 8 in review	Michael Crawford, CEO
<b>6.15pm – 7.45pm</b>	<b>Welcome function</b> Including student poster session	Lower Lobby All Soil CRC participants
	Dinner – own arrangements	

Day 2 Wednesday 27 August 2025		Duxton Hotel Perth
Open to public and Soil CRC Participants		
7.00 – 8.30am	Soil CRC grower group breakfast – <i>Epacaris Room</i>	Soil CRC Grower Group delegates (by invitation)
8.30am – 5.00pm	Registration	<i>Lower Lobby</i>
All day	Student posters and tech display	<i>Lower Lobby</i>
<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Open</b>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9.00 – 9.10am	Introductory remarks	Michael Crawford CEO, Soil CRC
9.10 – 9.25am	Indigenous welcome address – Traditional knowledge and the WA wheatbelt	Karan Hayward Jermaine Davis, Wheatbelt NRM
9.25 – 9.45am	Opening address – WA soils and sustainable agriculture – past, present and future challenges	Prof Richard Bell, Murdoch University
9.45 – 10.05am	Patron's address	The Hon Penny Wensley AC, Patron, Soil CRC
10.05 – 10.40am	WA farmer group perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrigin Farm Improvement Group</li> <li>• Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association</li> <li>• Wheatbelt NRM</li> <li>• Facey Group</li> <li>• Liebe Group</li> <li>• West Midlands Group</li> </ul>	Joy Valle David Minkey Renata Paliskis Tina Astbury Chris O'Callaghan Simon Kruger
<b>10.40 – 11.20am</b>	<b>Morning tea</b>	<i>Lower Lobby</i>
11.20 – 11.40am	Invited presentation	TBA
11.40 – 11.45am	Program 2 overview: Soil performance metrics	Nathan Robinson Federation University
11.45am – 12.15pm	Program 2 featured projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab on a chip</li> <li>• Visualising Australasia's soils</li> </ul>	Liang Wang, University of Newcastle Peter Dahlhaus, Federation University
12.15 – 12.35pm	Program 2 PhD students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrating AI and soil physics: Data-driven approaches to predict soil water retention function</li> <li>• Affordable and rapid field detection of Munsell soil colour using a mobile application</li> <li>• Proximal sensing for the assessment of soil water repellency</li> <li>• When and why physics-informed neural networks outperform standard neural networks for estimating soil organic carbon</li> </ul>	Chenting Jiang, University of Tasmania Sadia Sabrin Nodi, Charles Sturt University Maria Then, Murdoch University James Sargeant, Federation University
<b>12.35 – 1.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<i>Lower Lobby</i>
1.30 – 1.35pm	Program 4 overview: Integrated soil management solutions	Lukas Van Zwieten, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
1.35 – 1.55pm	Program 4 featured project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern farming methods for sequestering carbon and improving soil fertility</li> </ul>	David Minkey, WANTFA
1.55 – 2.15pm	Program 4 PhD students:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardsetting horizons in sandy soils</li> <li>• Development of a Diffusive Gradients in Thin-films (DGT) methodology to assess bioavailability of imidazolinone herbicide residues in soil</li> <li>• Enhancing soil resilience to alkaline sodicity and acidity constraints to improve soil productivity</li> </ul>	Stephen Lang, University of Adelaide Vijay Aralappanavar, University of South Australia Kamrun Nahar, Griffith University
2.15 – 2:20pm	Program 1 overview: Investing in high performance soils	Catherine Allan, Charles Sturt University
2.20 – 2.50pm	Program 1 featured projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defining the benefits of regenerative agriculture</li> <li>• A new tool for defining the benefits of adopting new farming practices</li> </ul>	Christine Storer, Charles Sturt University Simon Kruger, West Midlands Group
2.50 – 3.00pm	Program 1 PhD students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantifying farmers' tradeoffs in regenerative and modern conventional agriculture</li> <li>• Incentivising soil stewardship through the consumer market</li> </ul>	Pradeep Rai, Charles Sturt University Christopher Wilmot, Charles Sturt University
<b>3.00 – 3.30pm</b>	<b>Afternoon tea</b>	<i>Lower Lobby</i>
3.30 – 4.00pm	Panel Discussion	Bret Ryan, Southern Farming Systems (Moderator) TBA
4.00 – 4.05pm	Program 3 overview: New products for soil fertility and function	Megh Mallavarapu, University of Newcastle
4.05 – 4.30pm	Program 3 PhD students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineered waste-derived materials to alleviate drought stress in soils</li> <li>• Amino clay functionalised biochar-based phosphorus fertilisers</li> <li>• Stability of soil organic carbon under different amendments in sandy soils</li> <li>• Porous carbon-based nanomaterials as a nutrient release scaffold</li> <li>• Incorporation of nanoclays in an organic amendment to support carbon sequestration in soil</li> </ul>	Sundus Saeed Qureshi, Griffith University Mohd Arish Usman, University of Newcastle Tania Monir, Murdoch University Bhavya Mod, University of Newcastle Vibin Perumalsamy, University of Newcastle
4.30 – 4.50pm	Program 3 featured projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlocking value of agricultural organics through upcycling and beneficial use – high moisture retention and novel rhizobial carrier materials</li> </ul>	Chengrong Chen, Griffith University
4.50 – 5.00pm	Closing remarks	Paul Greenfield AO, Chair, Soil CRC
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Close</b>	
<b>7.00 – 10.30pm</b>	<b>Conference dinner</b>	<i>Crystal Swan</i> Soil CRC Participants only

## Day 3 Thursday 28 August 2025 – Field trips

Open to public and Soil CRC Participants

8.00am – 5.30pm	Field trip 1 – Northern trip to Wathingarra field site Hosted by West Midlands Group	Bus departs from Duxton Hotel at 8am
8.00am – 5.30pm	Field trip 2 – South-east trip to Kweda and Bullaring field sites Hosted by Corrigin Farm Improvement Group and Facey Group	Bus departs from Duxton Hotel at 8am

*Program correct as of 10 July. Subject to change.*