

# WELCOME

We are proud to welcome everyone who have travelled a long way to join us. Be prepared for some thought-provoking discussions! We hope you get something of value from our conference to take back to your own farms. We look forward to sharing never before released research and on-farm trial results that are shifting Australian producers towards better farming systems which connect soil, human, economic and environmental health.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT PROGRAM

If you're sharing our conference live on socials please use #vicnotill so we can join the conversation!



## DAY 1 TUES 3 SEPT

### CONFERENCE

Wagga Wagga RSL Club

Arrive 7am for a 7.15am start

- 7.20am Welcome by VicNoTill president **Dan Fox**
- 7.30am Proactive ways for large-scale broadacre farmers to stay profitable while reducing synthetic inputs, Session 1 with **Joel Williams**
- 9.00am Improving soil health without making major changes with **Keiran Knight**
- 10am MORNING TEA
- 10.30am Food as medicine & the gut-brain axis with **Stacey Curcio**
- 12.00 LUNCH
- 1.00pm Farmer case study: Mineral energy with **Rob Hetherington**
- 2.00pm The future direction of food production with **Dave Bushell**
- 3.00pm **LawrieCo** presents its latest carbon building results
- 3.15pm AFTERNOON TEA
- 3.30pm **GRDC** GRDC Regenerative Agriculture Investment overview
- 3.45pm Tomorrow's field trip preview with **Michael Gooden**
- 4.00pm What is nutrient density and how do we achieve it? Session 2 with **Joel Williams**
- 5.00pm Speakers Panel Q&A
- 6pm Conference closes, pre-dinner drinks

### CONFERENCE DINNER

Wagga Wagga RSL Dining Room

6.45pm for a 7pm start

**Special guest speaker**

**MATTHEW EVANS**

Tasmanian chef, farmer, food writer and broadcaster

## DAY 2 WED 4 SEPT

### FIELD TRIP

Property of **Michael and Heloise Gooden, Willowlee**

8am for 8.30am bus departure, Wagga Wagga RSL Club

- 9.30am Welcome to Willowlee, where we started and where we are now with **Michael Gooden**
- Station 1** Soil pit analysis, presented by **Joel Williams**
- Station 2** Holistic Assessment of Soil Health (HASH) with **Soil, Land, Food**
- Station 3** Demonstration of Kiwitech temporary electric fencing on side-by-side & pasture assessment with **Michael Gooden**

Groups can rotate between stations at 9.40am, 10.40am and 11.40am

- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.30pm Bus departs back to RSL
- 2.30pm Setting the future direction of VicNoTill, facilitated by **Vickie Burkinshaw**  
\* All VicNoTill members welcome and encouraged to attend

# DAY 3 THURS 5 SEPT

## MASTERCLASS\*

### **Plant & Human Health**

*A deep dive, with new material, into amino acids, plant metabolites and stress tolerance with **Joel Williams***



*A deep dive into the links between minerals and gut microbes, under-recognised drivers of 'leaky gut' and monitoring tools with **Stacey Curcio***

\*Separate event, not part of Conference

8am	Welcome
8.30am	Session 1: Optimising soil biology for improved nutrient uptake
10am	MORNING TEA
10.30am	Session 2: Stacey Curcio
11.30am	Session 3: Priming plant metabolites with foliar inputs
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Session 4: Alleviating stress tolerance with amino acids, plant nutrition and biostimulants
3-3.30pm	Q&A

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS

Read more about our conference speakers in Issue 72 of From the Ground Up or SCAN the QR code to access feature articles that will motivate and inspire you to want to know more!



### **Joel Williams, Integrated Soils**

Fresh off a global speaking tour, Joel Williams will present new material and take conference attendees deep into how to use foliar inputs and reduce the reliance on synthetic inputs without compromising profitability. For the past 10 years, Joel's been part of VicNoTill's evolution towards tackling big picture soil health and nutrition issues by managing inputs differently and being proactive about doing things better.

### **Stacey Curcio, Cultivating Wellness**

Stacey is a naturopath with a master of human nutrition who links human health to soil health, regenerative practices and systems thinking. She will explore the concept of food as medicine, the gut-brain axis, and share important updates in the role of phytochemicals in human health.

### **Keiran Knight, farmer & agronomist**

Fourth generation farmer and agronomist Keiran Knight will highlight the crucial role the native soil microbiome performs in soil, plant and animal health. She will share her own experience over the past 11 years on how to produce healthy cereal and pulses without compromising productivity, putting capital at risk or making major changes.

### **Rob Hetherington, Wheatbelt NRM Soil Health Champion**

WA farmer Rob Hetherington has been focussed on learning more about improving soil health and biology for around three decades. With a knack of explaining complex scientific problems in a practical way, he will share the knowledge built from a lifetime of farming experience and extensive study and research.

### **Matthew Evans, Fat Pig Farm**

Matthew Evans is a Tasmanian food writer, television broadcaster and chef. He's been the host of six series of Gourmet Farmer and two documentaries on SBS TV. Matthew is the author of 15 books on food, including SOIL - a hymn to the remarkable, and under-appreciated bit of Earth that gifts us life. His most recent book, MILK, unpacks the truth and lies behind the original superfood.

### **Dave Bushell, organic farmer & agronomist**

Riverina agronomist and farmer David Bushell is a strong advocate for a more regenerative approach to farming systems, as long as they are profitable, resilient and flexible. With 30 years of agronomy and a lifetime of farming experience, Dave wants to see farmers at the head of the food production industry table.

### **Michael Gooden, farmer & VicNoTill Board member**

Fourth generation farmer Michael Gooden will welcome conference attendees to the family farm 'Willowlee', where he and wife Heloise run Old Man Creek cattle stud, and share how an enquiring mind and a dare to be different mindset can change your world.

### **Vickie Burkinshaw, Purple Pyjamas**

Professional facilitator Vickie Burkinshaw will lead a session with VicNoTill members on the future direction of our Farmers Helping Farmers group. She has extensive experience in helping innovators, entrepreneurs, businesses and teams think more broadly and creatively so they can grow and change.