



The 'wake-up' signs are all too common.

Now is the time to turn to sustainable agriculture . . .

and there's just one publication that has reported the news and information on organics and biodynamics for the past 15 years - Acres Australia

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### Top speakers for Third National OFA Conference



Bill Mollison to present a Permaculture Design Certificate Course with Geoff Lawton at Melbourne University. Page 4.



Aaron Edmonds, an enterprising WA fourth-generation wheat farmer, used research energy input costs. Page 6.



Tim Marshall visits Andrew & Claudia Slemmer in their backyard garden in Adelaide. Pages 19-21.

LEADING world and Australian experts will be speaking at the Third National OFA Organic Conference this month, Saturday July 22 and Sunday July 23, 2006 at Darling Harbour, Sydney.

**Dr Elaine Ingham**, one of the world's leading soil microbiologists, will show how composting can sequester carbon into the soil and help reverse the greenhouse gases created by our society.

**Dr Maarten Stapper**, a Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO-Plant Industries will show farmers how to improve the profitability of their operations by harnessing the power of natural soil processes, improving the effectiveness of inputs and understanding those practices that negatively impact on soil health.

A healthy soil leads to better crops and pastures requiring less inputs for similar productivity, resulting in healthy animals and improved food quality for healthy humans. In the process soil organic carbon can be doubled which also helps society by slowing climate change.

**Dr Jan Sijm**, a Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO-Land & Water, Adelaide will speak on the varied mechanisms which protect soil organic matter from decomposition into CO<sub>2</sub>.

Climate change is one of the major issues affecting all of us on our planet. Experts expect that climate change will have an adverse effect on our food supply due to more frequent extreme weather events leading to increasing crop failures.

The security of our food supply concerns all of us. In order to increase the knowledge and debate around the benefits of organic agriculture to reduce greenhouse gases, the topic has been selected as the theme of the Third National Organic Conference, to be hosted by the OFA this month. Held in conjunction with the Organic Expo to create Australia's largest organic event, the conference will be a great opportunity to see the full range of organic products and learn more about the world's fastest growing food industry.

For further information contact Mary Hackett (02) 9319 1228 or email: [mary@shevents.com.au](mailto:mary@shevents.com.au).

**• Andre Luu, Chair**  
Organic Federation of Australia  
Pages 17-18 OFA Report on Organic Conference



WITH 125 stands already sold for this year's show, the Organic Expo being held this month on July 21, 22 and 23 at Sydney Exhibition Centre will live up to the claim of being Australia's leading and largest ever organic and environmental lifestyle show.

Over 140 exhibitors and 8,000+ visitors are expected to attend this year's Organic Expo which has the full support of industry associations, environmental organisations and of government bodies.

A strong theme running through this year's Expo is 'Nourishing Our Children in the 21st Century'. Seminars and panel discussions will focus on creating a sustainable future for our children through our backyards and gardens, with Carissa Macmillan of The Organic Directory and OTACnet driving the program.

Organisers, Simon Eaton Hackett Events, have added some exciting new features. Renowned chefs Kylie Kwong and Holly Davis will be cooking up some delicious organic fare and visitors can pose their questions in the panel discussions with seasoned chefs.

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