

Co-Chair Report

Louisa Kiely

As many Australians already struggle with the effects of climate change events, it is indeed important that the power of soil carbon sequestration as a solution continues to be recognised. It remains the largest carbon sink over which we have control.

As Matthew has outlined there are many changes afoot and the Climate solutions which will gain traction are those with strong representation behind them.

Soil carbon needs a united industry voice in policy development, in directing research and generally sharing common challenges. Member voices are stronger when we support one another.

Soil Carbon advocates have shown this commitment since the inception of the Carbon Farming Markets. Through both Left and Right leaning Governments, the lobbying efforts have ensured that the Soil Carbon solution has attracted Government investment. AND the continued evolution of the method. We have had three method iterations in the space of time that some have only been able to wish for one!!

This underlines the importance of SCIG to now carry this forward. Maintaining soils unique position in the carbon abatement.

It is my firm belief that to do this we will need to Evolve. Now is the time for expansion.

The good news is that market development is supporting such evolution.

From COP26 the converging corporate principles of net zero by 2050, - a fair and just transition, and 'Nature Based Solutions' are key drivers for policy development.

'Nature Based Solutions' are becoming the by word for all solutions which support natural systems.

Soils need to be front and centre of this new frontier, not an 'also ran'.

For this reason CFA/Radicle has just announced the Inaugural Nature Based Solutions conference and expo in Brisbane in July 2023. This is the evolution for the successful CFA Carbon Farming Conferences and expos. (pdf available)

To maintain Soil Carbon's unique position, the conference will support an inaugural one-day SCIG Soil Carbon summit.

The National Carbon Farming Conference and Expo in May 2022 was an inspiring and stimulating event. It was also a time to meet fellow industry members. After this event SCIG saw membership jump by over 50%.

The July 2023 conference can achieve even more. We have 9 months to make this the showcase for soils that we want it to be! What contribution will you make?

Our constitution is our enabler:

SCIG as a company limited by guarantee has seen strong contributions from members, board members and staff of member companies. It is also appropriate to acknowledge here the additional financial contributions by leading industry stakeholders to SCIG. Progress is possible because of the cheerful and diligent efforts throughout the year in managing the affairs of the company. Thanks to Directors:

- Deane Belfield
- Philip Ireland
- Ben Sawley
- Louisa Kiely
- Chris McCosker
- Phil Mulvey
- Ignatius Verbeek
- Matthew Warnken.

The board reached a service agreement with AgriProve to provide executive support to SCIG. Duncan Farquhar and Kate Carmichael are leading this work. SCIG continues to invest with Soil Carbon Taskforce, and we acknowledge to work of Lewis Dean and welcome Daniel Livne to the Project Officer role at the Carbon Markets Institute. This team has recently allowed contributions the Integrated Farm Management Methodology under development by the Clean Energy Regulator. Ensuring high standards for soil carbon measurement are maintained is a focus.

With such dedication it is my sincere hope that we can build on the foundation we have started.

We look forward to setting strategic priorities after this meeting.

Louisa Kiely



Chair Soil Carbon Industry Group

Wednesday 19 October 2022