



# Farming for SOIL BIOLOGY

*with Nicole Masters*

**Day 1:** 9.30am – 3.30pm, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

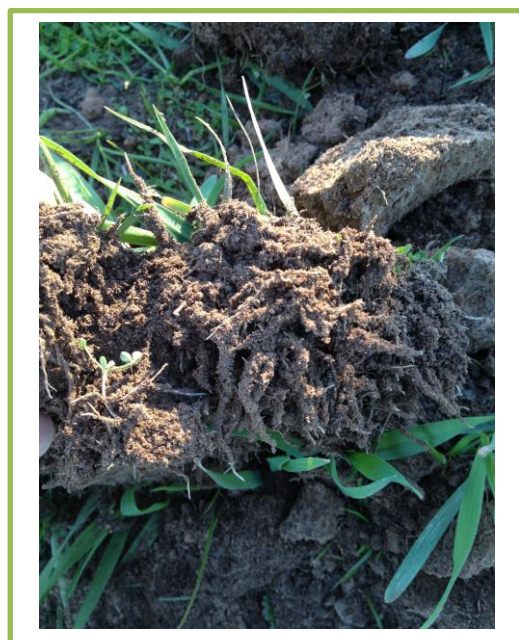
Venue: Lakeside Community Centre Benalla, enter via showgrounds off Arundel St

**Day 2:** 9.30am-2.00pm, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

Venue: Graceburn Farm, Glenburn, RSVP details below for address

**RSVP:** by 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

*A workshop to learn new information,  
discuss it with other farmers and  
understand what it means for you for  
management in the paddock*



**Nicole Masters** is director of Integrity Soils NZ, an agro-ecologist, systems thinker and a qualified educator. She is passionate about putting control back into farmers' hands with regard to nutrients and soil and via crop and animal management. Nicole believes adopting a 'soils first' approach - to ensure food produced is the best quality in the world now and into the future – will have positive repercussions for human and environmental health.

**This event is FREE to those who RSVP as numbers are STRICTLY LIMITED due to space**

To RSVP please contact Chris Burnett on **03 5736 0100** or [chrisb@gbcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:chrisb@gbcma.vic.gov.au)

Lunch provided, please advise special dietary requirements

For more information contact project officers:

Greg Bekker 0417 340 236 or

Rhiannon Apton 5736 0108

*Presented by the Goulburn Broken CMA's SoilCare project, with funding from  
the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country*



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## PROGRAM\*

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** venue: Lakeside Community Centre, Benalla

### Workshop: *What is soil biology and what can it do for me?*

<b>9.30-10.00am</b>	<b>Arrive, registration and morning tea</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Welcome and introductions	
<b>10.15am</b>	What is soil biology?	<i>What are the different microbe groups?</i>
<b>11.00am</b>	Benefits from different microbe groups	<i>What are their functions? How do they benefit the soil and the farm?</i>
<b>11.45am</b>	What and how to feed different microbes	<i>If we build it will they come? Do we need to add microbes? Do chemicals or inorganic fertilisers harm soil biology?</i>
<b>12.30-1.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>1.30pm</b>	How to manage paddocks for soil biology	<i>Grazing management, techniques to trial</i>
<b>2.15pm</b>	Laboratory testing	<i>Do we need to test for soil biology?</i>
<b>2.45pm</b>	Discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- observations in the paddock</li> <li>- previous experiences</li> <li>- techniques we've used and trialed at home</li> </ul>	
	How can we apply what Nicole has told us? What we will do when we get home?	
<b>3.30pm</b>	<b>Summary and close</b>	

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** venue: Graceburn Farm, 225 Burns Road Glenburn

### Paddock session: *How do I harness and capitalise on the benefits of soil biology?*

<b>9.30-10.00am</b>	Morning tea on arrival	
<b>10.00am</b>	Welcome, introduction to the farm, the farming philosophy and interest in soil biology	Sally Abbottsmith
<b>10.15am</b>	Introduction to the farm enterprise (cows, chooks, rotational grazing), goals for soil health and production, soil management practices and trials to date	Tom Abbottsmith Youl
<b>11.00am – 1.30pm including a break for lunch</b>	<b>Observation and monitoring</b> – what does my soil look like, what do I want it to look like? How often should I monitor? How do I know if my management program is working? <b>Practical do's and don'ts</b> for promoting soil biological activity. The role of carbon in fertility and management programs <b>Transition tips</b> – reducing chemical use Bio-fertilisers for pest and weed control	Nicole Masters
<b>1.30pm</b>	<b>Summary</b> – what are we committed to? What are the next steps?	
<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Close</b>	

\*Program subject to change