



# Press Release

Tuesday 11th August, 2009

## Agronomist Joins MSF Team

Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc. (MSF) is delighted to announce the appointment of two new staff members including the first time appointment of a dedicated agronomist to the team.

Michael Moodie is the new Agronomist at MSF and will contribute to various MSF projects as well as expand the technical knowledge base of the organisation.

"I have been keen to see the establishment of an agronomy position within the organisation for some years now", Jim Maynard, MSF Chairman said.

"With the appointment of Michael Moodie" he continued, "I feel we are ushering in a new era for MSF."

"It goes without saying that Mallee farmers will benefit from the expertise of an agronomist."

"Additionally, an agronomist will strengthen the whole MSF team with other staff benefitting from Michael's technical assistance," Mr. Maynard concluded.

Michael has been assisting dryland farmers in the Mallee since 2005 when he was employed by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. In this role, Michael worked collaboratively with MSF on the Grain & Graze Project as well as taking a place on the MSF Victorian State Advisory Committee.

Other projects to which he has contributed include the TOPCROP project, research into seeding rates and nitrogen timing and understanding climate risk.

He has a B App Sc (Hons) from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga and is an active member of the Australian Society of Soil Science.

For the past 12 months, Michael has been working on the family farm near Deniliquin which demonstrates his ability to translate good research and theory into practical application.

Joining Michael on the new MSF team is Kathryn Kenny (Biesaga) in the role of Project Officer.

Kathryn was formerly employed by the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority and through this role has worked closely with MSF on the Soils, Cropping and Recharge Project.

"I have always wanted to become more involved with MSF as I believe in the MSF ethic of economic viability and sustainability", Kathryn said.

Kathryn studied at LaTrobe University, graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Management & Ecology. She has lived and worked in the Mallee since 2002, first with the Millewa Carwarp Land-care group and then LMD CMA.

The announcement of the new Executive Manager of MSF is imminent and MSF Members and the public will have an opportunity to meet the new dynamic MSF team at the upcoming Kerribee (28th August) and Waikerie (1st September) Field Days.

*For further comment contact*

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