

Biographical Note

Dr Mary Cole



2024 Cardinia Shire Senior Citizen of the Year for work in soil health, environment, education & farmer wellbeing.

2021 Holt Electorate Australia Day Award for community service.



Ag Institute Australia Accredited Chartered Agriculturist CAg

Dr Mary Cole is an internationally recognised academic, plant pathologist and soil microbiologist for 45 years specialising in biological and regenerative agriculture farming paradigms with an emphasis in understanding the role of soil biota in plant health. She demonstrates the damage synthetic chemicals have on soil and plant health.

In 1980 Mary founded Agpath Pty Ltd, a small soil biology company providing laboratory testing in many fields of agriculture; quantitative analysis of the soil biota, fungal and microbial pathology, composting and farming consulting services in agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, environment, air and water and food manufacturing.

Her lab provides summer vacation experience in soil microbiology and composting for graduates of Victorian and interstate universities and overseas institutions. She attempts to employ young people with disabilities where possible.

Agpath provides regular workshops for interested individuals and companies around the world in non-chemical farm management including making thermal aerobic compost and compost tea. She currently has a \$700,000 grant from Sustainability Victoria to research the organic waste stream to produce fit-for-purpose product for farmers. This grant has just received additional funding for a 1 year extension.

Expert Witness duties for supreme courts of Victoria & New South Wales & New Zealand have been carried out. Expert witness for Government and community groups in various hearings. She consults to farmers in UAE, Egypt, Africa and USA as well as all states of Australia.

Major Memberships:



Ag Institute Australia Accredited Chartered Agriculturist CAg

Member of Institute of Ecological Agriculture; member of education subcommittee. IEA

Member of Australian Soil & Plant Analysis Council ASPAC

Member of the Global Alliance of international Agricultural Consultants. GAIAC

Member of the Board of the Australian Hemp Alliance & member of the Regenerative Agriculture Subcommittee. AIHA

Member of committee of NSW Industrial Hemp Association