

Dr Susanne Schmidt

Professor, School of Agriculture and Food Science
The University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane 4072 QLD, Australia
Affiliated Professor QAAFI Plant Science Centre
Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow, University of Sunshine Coast, Tropical Forests and People Research Centre
Member: Ecological Society of Australia, Society for Ecological Restoration, Australian Society of Plant Scientists, Flora Foundation



Citizenship: Australian, German

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Academic degrees

PhD Botany (UQ) (1996)
Diplom Agricultural Biology (Uni Hohenheim, Germany) (1992)

APPOINTMENTS

- *Professor, School of Agriculture and Food Science UQ (since 2012)
- *Affiliated Professor Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI)
- *Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow, University of the Sunshine Coast, Forests and People Research Centre.
- *Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences UQ (2008–12)

EXPERTISE

I am a highly motivated educator and researcher with expertise in plant and soil biology, and ecosystem science. My work contributes solutions for sustainable land use from natural ecosystems to agriculture. My expertise is empirical research on plant and soil biology, soil and ecosystem restoration. My research on vegetation and soil interactions, including soil restoration and reforestation, is innovative and widely respected.

With over 140 publications in the peer reviewed scientific literature, a strong funding base, wide-ranging national and international collaborations, I am a regular keynote speaker at national and international conferences in Australia, China, Brazil and Europe. I am strongly connected to the Australian farming community and Natural Resource Management groups as part of outreach activities that advance sustainable agriculture and ecosystem science. My research includes innovative uses of native flora, a prominent example is the collaboration with materials engineers on *Triodia* (spinifex). A passionate educator, I enjoy communicating plant and environmental science to students, farmers, industry and the public. (publications <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=QtJwLkIAAAAJ&hl=en>).

Selected LEADERSHIP and AWARDS

- *Australian Research Council College of Experts (2017-)
- *Women in Technology “Life Sciences Outstanding Achievements Award”, runner up (2016)
- *Coordinator, Bachelor of Environmental Science, UQ (2013-16)
- *College of Experts Global Change Institute, UQ (2015)
- *Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Society - unites 20,000 science leaders (2009-)
- *Fellow of the Carl Daimler and Gottlieb Benz Society (1992-)

ENGAGEMENT and EDUCATION

I am an enthusiastic educator who pursues innovative teaching with view of interdisciplinarity and the big issues. To engage and motivate, I use videos to bring the field to the classroom combined with field-based teaching to ensure students get hands on experiences including exposure to remote Australia. I contribute to the public debate (QLD Chief Scientist, state and federal government), present for the UQ Global Change Institute, write media articles (e.g. The Conversation) and give radio interviews on environmental topics (e.g. commenting on Reef Report card). A major interest is Indigenous student education and opportunities for Indigenous communities in the sustainable use of native plants and natural landscapes.

MOTIVATION

I am deeply interested in the Ecosystem Science Council having followed its impressive activities - from establishing long-term monitoring sites, archiving biota, generating public databases to advancing communication among other.

My motivation is that I can potentially contribute complementary skills with

- knowhow on plant, soil and microbes, which, despite their importance, often receive less attention than more charismatic biota
- focus on tropical ecosystems, having worked in grasslands, woodlands, savanna, rainforest, coastal and island ecosystems
- understanding and contact to agricultural industries, to further advance the need to minimise conflict between land uses, and communicating the benefits of natural ecosystems for agricultural industries
- communicating ecosystem science and outreach to diverse stakeholders
- advancing the contribution of Indigenous Australians to Ecosystem Science; Indigenous advancement has been a long term goal in my education and research program, and there is much need and opportunity.

Nomination Statement

I, Susanne Schmidt, subscribe to the principles and ideals outlined for the Council, and are willing to commit the required time and energy to undertake the Council's work.



Susanne Schmidt

Umea 16th October 2018