



MEDIA RELEASE

30 January 2015

Senior Australian of the Year Jackie French a passionate organic advocate

The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA) applauds Jackie French being named Senior Australian of the Year 2015.

In the week that Jackie French has been recognised for her contribution to children's literature and her advocacy for children with learning difficulties, the Board of NASAA wanted to also acknowledge the author's contribution to Australia's organic industry over the past 30 years.

NASAA General Manager Ben Copeman said Ms French had been a great supporter of the organic movement having written 45 books on organics, gardening and ecology since the 1980s.

"In fact, her book *Organic Gardening in Australia* was her first published work in 1986," he said.

"That book and the many that followed have been an inspiration to a generation of Australians interested in sustainable and healthy living.

"Many people will also recall her gardening segments on the long-running Australian TV series *Burke's Backyard*.

"Her latest book *Let The Land Speak* shares the wisdom of 40 years of self-sufficient living on her rural property in Araluen.

"It has many great suggestions for a sustainable lifestyle such as 'eat good food' and how we can learn from the more disastrous land management practices of the past to create a sustainable future for all.

"Our Board felt it appropriate that the organic industry congratulate her on her award and acknowledge the important contribution she has made to the organic industry.

"Her passion for organic food and its role in helping us to lead a healthy life has inspired many people," Mr Copeman said.

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About NASAA:

The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia (NASAA) was formed in 1986 and supports the education of industry and consumers on organic, biodynamic and sustainable agricultural practices.

NASAA was Australia's first organic certifier.

Today, its certification arm, NASAA Certified Organic (NCO), provides certification and inspection services to assist Certified Organic operators access every organic market in the World.

NCO certifies more than 1,000 operators in 13 countries, certifying some 5.5m ha of agricultural land worldwide.