



# Farming for Sustainable Soils

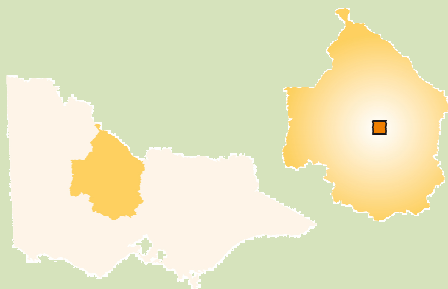
## COMMUNITIES PROTECTING THE SOIL

### Group Name

Salisbury West / Mt Korong Group

### Key Achievements

- Local soil plan produced
- 30 baseline soil samples analysed
- 155ha of pasture restoration & management
- 9ha of windbreaks established
- Bringing together two Landcare groups
- Alternative fertiliser use
- Stubble retention and management



### Group Area

The area is defined by Serpentine in the north, Bridgewater in the south, Mt Korong in the west and the Loddon Valley Highway to the east. The Loddon River flows in close proximity to the eastern boundary.

### About the Group

Originally it was two groups first formed in the early 90's and now collectively comprise approximately 35 members.

A noticeable change in seasonal climate, especially reduced winter/spring rainfall, has meant successive failed seasons and a high risk of wind erosion and soil damage. The seasons have, however, changed over the past 12 months with above average rainfall occurring across north central Victoria.

Farmers have adapted to dry seasonal conditions using several strategies which include livestock feeding and containment, in addition to reduced tillage practices.

### Land use

The main land use in the area is mixed farming. A small area of pastures are grown using irrigation water to finish off lambs and support small numbers of beef cattle, however, water allocations from the Loddon River have been low for several years.

Several landholders are now dryland cropping. Rainfall in the group area ranges from 375 to 450 mm (average annual).

### 2011 Activities

- Trialing precision cropping techniques
- Baseline soil analysis
- Restoration of pasture species
- Improved grazing management
- Demonstrations of stubble management techniques
- Training and education to increase knowledge
- Windbreaks for soil protection

### 2012 Activities

- Improved grazing management and pasture restoration
- Pasture cropping trial
- Perennial based grazing of native grasses and shrubs
- Investigate stubble management techniques