

# North Central Regional Soils Forum

An initiative of the North Central Catchment Management Authority's 'Farming for Sustainable Soils' project



*The North Central Catchment Management Authority invites you to a free community event in North Central Victoria...*

## The North Central Regional Soils Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 31 March 2010  
**Time:** 8.30am – 5.00pm  
**Location:** The Bendigo Club, 22 Park Street, Bendigo, Victoria 3550

**This Regional Forum brings together key landholders, scientists and policy makers to discuss how we secure the productive and environmental values of our soils in North Central Victoria.**

Keynote speakers will present a national perspective and point the way forward. We will consider climate change, contemporary farming systems, and economic circumstances that place pressure on the land. We will look at opportunities for improved plant cover, improved soil carbon sequestration, and the potential to improve soil resilience in an altered climate.

Landholder groups will provide us with a down-to-earth practitioner-based perspective of the challenges and opportunities for soil conservation in today's world, and at the end of the day we will draw all of our thoughts together in a light-hearted hypothetical.

The Forum is delivered under the North Central Catchment Management Authority's 'Farming for Sustainable Soils' project, and is an initiative supported by the Commonwealth Government's 'Caring for our Country' program.

**This innovative forum is free of charge and places are strictly limited.**

Please RSVP your confirmed attendance to [info@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@nccma.vic.gov.au) or telephone 03 5448 7124 before Friday 19 March 2010.



**NORTH CENTRAL**  
Catchment Management Authority  
*Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

# North Central Regional Soils Forum



## Agenda Items

Time	Item	Presenter
8.30am	<b>1. Registration</b>	
9.00am	<b>2. Introduction and Logistics</b>	Jonathan Ridnell (ABC) – Conference Facilitator
9.10am	<b>3. Welcome to Country</b>	Uncle Brien Nelson, Jaara Jaara Elder
9.15am	<b>4. Official Welcome and Opening of Forum</b> North Central Catchment Management Authority's commitment to community-based conservation of the soils within the region.	
9.30am	<b>5. Managing Australian Soils</b> 5.1. Soil conservation in Australia - Where have we come from and where are we going? 5.2. Investing in soil landscapes - Inter-generational equity and simple models of public/private benefit 5.3. What happens if we do nothing? What are the risks? What is the future productive capacity of our soils given persistence of the current climate? 5.4. What are the unknowns and what do we need to learn?	Andrew Campbell 
10.15am	<b>6. Morning Tea and Networking</b>	
10.30am	<b>7. Healthy Productive Soils and Carbon</b> Building and sustaining healthy soils in challenging circumstances 7.1. The contribution carbon makes to soil health 7.2. Healthy soils fuelled by microbes and organic carbon 7.3. Re-building soils in times of climate change 7.4. What is possible given economic and climatic constraints 7.5. Does soil carbon have a role in the ETS? 7.6. Examples	Dr. Christine Jones 
11.15am	<b>8. Discussion Regarding Keynote Speakers / Topics</b> 8.1. Questions and Clarification 8.2. The 'take home' messages from both speakers	Jonathan Ridnell
12.00am	<b>9. Lunch and Networking</b>	
1.00pm	<b>10. Farming for Sustainable Soils – An Interactive Discussion</b> Catchment communities working to achieve regional soil conservation – different strokes for different folks – featuring speakers from six community groups 10.1. Introduction 10.2. Northern Plains 10.3. Mallee/Plains interface 10.4. Upper Avoca 10.5. Lower Avon/Richardson 10.6. Northern United Forestry Group 10.7. Mid Loddon Sub Catchment Management Group 10.8. Summary	Phil Dyson (introduction and summary) plus nominated speakers from each community group to lead forum discussion/presentations
3.00pm	<b>11. Afternoon Tea &amp; Networking</b>	
3.15pm	<b>12. Hypothetical – 2020 Vision</b> Explore soil protection issues in north central Victoria by positioning ourselves in the future (2020) and using hindsight to consider our performance and to explore where we might have gone...	Jonathan Ridnell
4.15pm	<b>13. Forum Summary</b>	
4.30pm	<b>14. Close and Thank You</b> Venue room will be available until 5pm for further discussion and networking	Jonathan Ridnell

**Food and refreshments will be provided and we look forward to your attendance.**