



Farming for Sustainable Soils

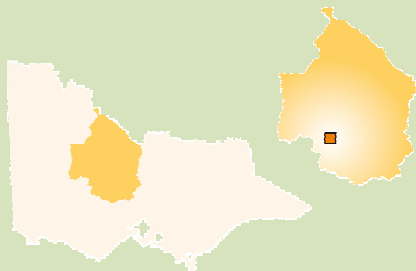
COMMUNITIES PROTECTING THE SOIL

Group Name

Natte Yallock Group

Key Achievements

- Over 140 soil tests conducted
- Identification of soil issues in the area
- Adopting precision agricultural techniques
- Upgrading to minimum till machinery
- Change of stubble management techniques



Group Area

Natte Yallock is an area stretching from Redbank/Moyreisk in the west to Rathscar/Wareek in the east, and from nearly Bealiba in the north to Avoca in the south.

About the Group

The group of 60 members represents an active community covering a large area, mainly occupied by farming families.

Land use

The major land use is mixed farming enterprises and is made up of progressive grain, wool and lamb producers. Key areas of production are wool, cereal, hay crops and meat (mainly sheep, but also cattle).

There has been a trend to sowing cereals rather than higher risk crops (e.g. canola, peas, lupins) in response to

the extended period of dry seasons and poor spring finishing rains prior to 2010.

The 2010 growing season has been favourable for both crops and pastures. Clovers had a particularly good year with many farmers expressing surprise at how much clover was in their pastures after believing they had lost most of it as a result of the extended dry conditions. The group is interested in seeing how well the increased growth carries over the 2011-12 summer.



2010-2011 Activities

- Precision farming technology
- Soil biology and how this affects soil health and crop performance
- Pasture cropping
- Baseline soil sampling and analysis
- Increase skills in sustainable farming practices through training and education

2012 Activities

- Precision farming: Optimising soil structure, carbon storage and groundcover under cropping
- Biological farming
- Pasture cropping
- Increasing Perenniality of Pastures
- Effective Stubble Management
- Using Soils Tests effectively
- Increase skills in sustainable farming practices through training and education