

Chile - Conference on Sustainable Agriculture at Frontera University Temuco

It was an absolute privilege to be invited to speak at the Alerce 3000 Foundation Conference in Temuco Chile in early December. This came about from a visit in October 2013 by Douglas Tompkins and Francisco Calabi Floody to Milgadara Young. Francisco liked our approach and saw how it may assist farmers in Chile. Having just returned from Nepal it allowed me the ability to observe what is happening in Agriculture outside of Australia.

After the Conference in Temuco all guest speakers (six in total) were escorted on a five day visit to farms owned by Nicholas and Parque Pumalin, a conservation park of 288,000 hectares that was gifted back to the Chilean Government by the late Douglas Tompkins.

The first farm we visited at Trafun was mainly cropping with heavy compacted soils (see J rooting in Canola) The crops were fed primarily with soluble NPK and any disease treated by fungicides. Francisco, who oversees the running and management of six farms would like to see the introduction of more sustainable management to improve soil structure, and microbial populations.

We then drove on to Tronodor Farm, an 1100 hectare working dairy, milking 2500 cows twice a day using a massive rotary system. Once again the pastures lacked legumes hence the need for the use of Urea to boost production.

The other organic properties we visited were only accesible by plane and ferry, all very exciting with Pisco Sour being the drink of choice at night. (I found it a bit bitter!!)

It was not all work with Horse back riding, digging mussells and clams, hugging 3000 year old Alerce tres in Parque Pumalin and cooking lamb on a spit to eat at 10 pm at night. Their eating hours also didn't suit my body clock!!!

Chile, like most countries has been bitten by the NPK bug with farmers believing that they do not need any microbiology and everything can be applied from a bag, this theory has started to see the increase use of 'icides' to alleviate all the weed, disease and pest problems.

Chile is certainly a hidden gem and one to put on your bucket list!!



Congratulations to the newest members of the Aeromaster Club:
AE Hindrichsen, Kalba, QLD
GJ & GM Emms, Lyndhurst, NSW
3MK Pty Ltd, Moura, QLD



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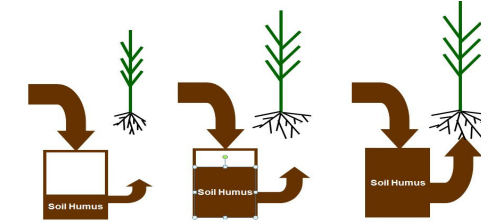
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From Rhonda's Desk—2017



As 2017 draws to a close I would like to thank all of our wonderful customers who understand the power of a healthy living soil in growing healthy food and mitigating climate change; our future is in the hands of farmers. Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas

and a New Year where all your dreams come true. While stock prices and wool prices have been buoyant it was another stressful year for cropping. The very dry winter and then substantial early summer rain did little to enhance yield and quality. I have made a rule never to complain about rain, no matter when it falls!! The only way to build resilience into our farming systems, and alleviate the uncertainty of changing weather patterns is by building organic matter (humus) and microbiology into our soils. A 1% lift in organic matter equates to the soil holding 160,000 more litres of water. Something that comes to mind as I analysis over 2000 soil tests per year is that your soils did not get to where they are in just one year, so to build them to where you would like them, is not going to happen in just one year.



The benefits of soil humus do not reach optimum until soil humus levels reach saturation.

It was a real thrill to be invited to speak in Nepal in October and Chile in November. The sharing of my knowledge with other countries has been a culmination of years of believing that healthy living soils are the basis of healthy communities and a healthy environment. Australia is leading the world also in soil carbon sequestration and other countries are wanting to learn more of our system. I would never have thought fifteen years ago that YLAD Living Soils would grow to where it is today, this year seeing 154 new customers using our products with fantastic results. April 12 saw the birth of our 6th grandchild William James, a healthy baby boy to our daughter Liz and her partner John Manchester. I am looking forward to 2018 and helping build more healthy living soils. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy 2018
Rhonda

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The Early Bird Catches the Worm! Balanced soil fertility outperforms mere fertility adequacy programs in terms of yield, quality and crop resiliency

Don't leave your planning for 2018 until the last minute. Every year I see that our customers getting earlier and earlier with their paddock planning. So first thing in the New Year take some time to make your plan. Being a small family owned business we do our best to be prompt at despatching orders on time however if we get backlogged we can't always guarantee that. All I can say **ORDER EARLY TO AVOID ANY DELAYS.**

Soil testing has become a fundamental best management practice. At YLAD Living Soils we go beyond the standard NPK and pH soil tests and are one of the few businesses that offer to test the Total, Exchangeable and Soluble Pools because we know the importance of microbiology and recycling minerals.

The **first activity** is to take a **COMPREHENSIVE SOIL TEST** to identify the three nutrient pools in your soil, the Total, Exchangeable and Soluble. The information provided in the soil test allows us to identify how nutrients are cycling in your soil that then allows us to pinpoint the area or areas that need most attention, be it in the Chemical (Mineral), Physical (Structure) and Microbiology aspects of your soil.

Call the office on 02 6382 2165 to have a free Soil Test Kit mailed to you
Secondly after the results are back I spend time with you personally to thoroughly analyse your results. To me it is very important that you understand your soil, you own it and possibly it is your largest asset!!! Spending money on unnecessary nutrients or missing a vital link can be avoided by fully understanding what is required to improve soil health and productivity.

Thirdly I provide a no-obligation quote to suit your budget and farm plan.
Fourthly We provide a fertility plan and costing for any sowing of crops or pastures.

Please avoid any rush or delays by planning early

Testimonial: "What we appreciate more than just the Christmas hamper is that the grass has gone ballistic, everything you have said would happen has happened, so happy, thank you again."
Brian Nancarrow



AUSTRALIAN CERTIFIED ORGANIC

On the 12 July 2017 we received our permit letter for the following products to be an allowed input for organic farming:

YLAD Humus Compost

YLAD Humus Extract

YLAD Gourmet Compost



Symposium: Carbon Smart Farming—Nepal

Potential solutions for improving soil health, food security and reducing GHG emissions – an Australian perspective

This Special Symposium was a part of the International Conference on “Mountains in the Changing World” which was held on 27-28 Oct, 2017 at Radisson Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal

Nothing like an adventure for the awesome foursome to speak at Mountains in the Changing World Conference in Nepal. I could not resist the opportunity to take up the offer to travel to Nepal with Thakur P Bhattarai, Louisa Kiely and Brian Murphy to share our Australian knowledge and experience in building, measuring and trading soil carbon for meeting ambitious climate change targets.



Negotiations with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development are continuing. The negotiations involve running soil carbon piloting projects in Nepal that contribute to climate change mitigation, international C trading and food security. This will involve education, adopting the National Soil C measurement methods, base line and first soil tests and selling NCCU's in the international market. By the end of the first phase projects should have expanded to 100,000 ha throughout Nepal, China and Africa.



BILL'S ADVENTURE –INTO THIN AIR—NEPAL

As we all know, “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” so we all agreed it was time for Bill to have some FUN!!! We let him out of going to the Conference and booked him into a 7 day motorbike ride up to 5000 metres into the mountains of Nepal. I think this is one of the best adventures of Bill's life. He loves talking to anyone who will listen about this exciting trip.



Testimonial—Rhonda ... I have to tell you that the compost/medium which Graham applied to 'compromised' potted roses in the nursery this past season has made a significant difference to their health! We are now considering how to apply this product to the top of each potted rose next season so we'll be in touch about that.

DIANA SARGEANT, SILKIES ROSE FARM / ROSESALESONLINE

Germinate, Germinate Plus and Legume Plus - a popular choice amongst farmers

The 2017 sowing season saw the popularity of the three sowing blends grow substantially. As we all know roots are the stomach of the plant and supplying nutrients in a form that don't leach or lock up ensures full season nutrient supply. Why pay for NPK fertilisers that lock up or volatilise??? The idea is to ensure that the plant has all its nutritional needs supplied by microbial, root and soil interaction, when they are needed, rather than just in soil water. The supplying of trace minerals in these blends allows for quick germination and early vigour and uptake of other nutrients.



Germinate is a granular fertiliser for cereal sowing, a microbe friendly, carbon based blend, supplying soluble and slow release nutrients to improve soil, root, and plant dynamics for greater yields and quality. Benefits include reduced leaching and lock up, less fertiliser root burn associated with all acid based fertilisers and the development of **greater root mass** and **'dreadlock'** roots.

Germinate Plus is a granular down the tube fertiliser for canola and grazing crops sowing. Germinate Plus contains more nitrogen and sulphur in a buffered form to ensure quick germinate and early plant growth. A microbe friendly, carbon based blend, supplying soluble and slow release nutrients to improve soil, root, and plant dynamics for greater yields and quality. Benefits include reduced leaching and lock up, less fertiliser root burn associated with all acid based fertilisers and the development of **greater root mass** and **'dreadlock'** roots.

Legume Plus is a granular down the tube fertiliser ideal for sowing lupins, lucerne, pastures and clover or any crop symbiotic with rhizobium. Legume Plus contains more calcium than any of our other blends to ensure excellent **nodulation** and **active nitrogen fixing**. A microbe friendly, carbon based blend supplying large amounts of slow release nutrients to encourage active roots



Testimonial — Peter Terry— 'Lengar' Manildra



Peter Terry purchased 1500 acres at Manildra. In 2016 Peter visited the YLAD stand at the ANFD in and came to the YLAD Field Day on Milgadara. From those events Peter took soil tests of which we recommended a spread Compost Mineral Blend. Even though Peter took delivery of the blend in November 2016 it did not get spread until Anzac Day 2017.

We received the following testimonial from Peter on December 19 saying.....

“Just a quick note to tell you that I'm over the moon with the improvements the compost blend has done to our soil here at 'Lengar' Manildra!!!

I've sown millet, cowpeas and brassica (with no down the tube fertiliser) on the country that's had the blend spread on it and the neighbours are stopping and looking. We have knee high feed here. I'm really happy, it took a while but a few storms and some humidity have really kicked things off.”

He said 'Looking in this paddock where the Compost Mineral Blend was spread last year it was covered with saffron thistles and now this year I can only see one or two.

Peter has just purchased a semi load of first cross ewes in lamb to help eat off all the feed. Great work!!

Reducing Summer Weeds:

With the recent summer rain, weeds in cropping country are going to be a challenge. There are other choices rather than just spraying out herbicides that compromise the soil. It is possible to sow a cover crop such as sorghum, millet, fodder rape or tillage radish, to either green manure or use as stock feed.

The photos taken on December 16 show 45 hectares of Tillage Radish that was sown in late October. We now have to find enough mouths to eat it all!!! These plants are opening up the soil, feeding microbes, sequestering carbon, scavenging nutrients and feeding animals!

One option that is available is to plant a forage green manure crop after the canola harvest, in pasture paddocks or on any bare soil.

YLAD Living Soils have the opportunity to offer Tillage Radish Seed for this summer's sowing.

Call the office on 6382 2165 to order your Tillage Radish today.



STOP PRESS: There has been a significant rise in the price of MAP since last year. This will impact the price of Germinate, Germinate Plus and Legume Plus. YLAD endeavour to only pass on supplier price rises to keep prices as low as possible.