



YLAD Living Soils News

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From Rhonda's Desk—2020



Alleluia 2020 is coming to an end!! As 2020 broke we were in the grip of the worst drought, fires raging, dust and smoke pollution and then the rain came and kept coming. However, as we all

know just after our Future Gen Farming March Seminar a global shut-down occurred and COVID gripped the world. Congratulations must go to our Government who did their best to contain COVID and keep the economy propped up. What a year!!

I think the only consolation has been that we have experienced the best season in about 50 years and farming stress has eased considerably. My old saying is 'Hang around long enough and things will change'. YLAD Living Soils has had an incredible year with great results being experienced by our dedicated customers. We added 150 new customers in the last 12 months, testament that farmers are seeking change.

Organic Colloidal Concentrate (OCC) was added to our product range in October



2019 and has proven to be an outstanding product to enhance the uptake of nutrients into the plants.

The last year in my new 'old' office has been fantastic, I love being back on the farm where all the action happens and close to all operations.

I must thank our local member Steph Cooke for opening the office in March, what a proactive member of parliament we have! My year has been very fulfilling as I run YLAD Living Soils and undertake further study into Ayurveda and start a 3 year DRU Yoga Teacher Trainer Course. I will finish when I am 70!!!

Wishing you a Christmas blessed with love and goodwill and may 2021 bring you good fortune. Love and light Rhonda

2021 Soil Testing

With harvest finished or about to be finished start thinking about 2021. A good time to take soil tests is in early January and beat the rush. Our soils tests are the most comprehensive testing the 3 pools of nutrients.

Contact the office for Soil Test Kits and test the paddocks that you would like to work on in

SOWING BLENDS—2021
Legume Plus, Germinate and Germinate Plus prove to be one of the most popular down the tube fertiliser blends in the industry. Not only supplying minerals but enhancing photosynthetic activity, root development and warding off disease. ORDER NOW

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS—FUTURE GEN FARMING SEMINAR



How great to see farmers practicing mindful meditation with Narelle Hunter at the Future Gen Farming Seminar in March, just before lock down!! I believe this to be one of the most important practices that can be added to your daily calendar. We all know that farming is one of the most stressful professions there is, due to us being governed by the weather and now increasing challenges from climate change. I hope the 100 attendees are still practicing daily, and if you were not at the Seminar maybe add it to your routine.

The interest in Regenerative/Biological/Integrated Agriculture continues to grow each year and now reaching levels that are making many farmers sit up and have a look how they can incorporate some practices. Improving soil health and increasing productivity are critical as it has a flow on effect to improving overall ecological health.

Soil Carbon Project—Milgadara

YLAD Living Soils supports you in adopting practices that are good for your farm – and helps you get paid for the carbon credits you generate. For 19 years on our farm Milgadara we have been minerally balancing our soils using Humus Compost as the activator. We have added multi-species crops, reduced tillage, liquid microbial injection and other practices helping benefit our soil and our bottom line. Bill and I decided after supporting and learning about the benefits of soil carbon to mitigate Climate Change we are in the process of registering a **Soil Carbon Project**. Knowing that the increased soil organic matter or reduced greenhouse gas emissions from our practices can also generate verified carbon credits, which are increasingly in demand. Our practices will see an increase in soil health as well as an increase in our bottom line. **We have developed a list of questions that can be taken to a broker/facilitator to assist with your decision making to enter a soil carbon project.**



Photo There were many many great crops grown this season, no shortage of rain and great conditions.

LEFT: The difference with the Canola Crop grown on Milgadara was that it only had 12 units of in-season nitrogen to yield 2.5 t/ha and 48.5% oil. The highest in the district.

RIGHT: Bottom Range Paddock: A multi-species crop of vetch, arrowleaf clover, barley and oats, cocksfoot, fescue & phalaris has just been harvested.

FOR SALE: WE WILL BE SELLING SOME OF THE SEED HARVESTED FROM THIS PADDOCK—please call if interested.



Hugh Level—Vale

There are many people who come and go in your life, but few leave a lasting impression like Hugh Level did on mine. A man of many many talents but passionate to the end on soil health. One of my greatest mentors in my biological/regen journey I felt shocked when I heard on August 23 that Hugh had suffered a stroke and passed from this world 2 days later. Hugh was a regular visitor at Milgadara and presenter at our Seminars and Field Days over the past 18 years, imparting knowledge that I believe only the likes of Steiner possessed. I learnt never to ask Hugh a question when I was busy as it may take him an hour to answer it, dinner would be cold by then!! Hugh called our soils on his initial visit, buggery soils, low CEC, low OM, low mineral balance. We have worked hard over the years to improve that and Hugh was very impressed. The last time Hugh was on Milgadara was in 2018 to reinstall and relocate a new Field Broadcaster Tower. I cannot believe he will never visit us again. RIP Hugh, your legacy will live on forever.



Testimonial—Bob Simson, Milawa Victoria

“Some photos from last year Rhonda the same or similar to the ones I sent after your brew (Compost Mineral Blend) was spread. I will send some taken in the same area yesterday. They show much darker colour much better soil aggregation and there seems to be more integration of the organic matter sitting on top of the soil. Will be interested in your thoughts. Also I am interested in your getting your carbon assessed. I feel that my carbon is rising on the dry land as well as the irrigation. Hope you are well and have been able to capitalise on the big season. Best wishes **Bob Simson**

Bob contacted YLAD Living Soils around **June 2019** telling me that the rye grass under the irrigation was been pulled out by the cattle. Interestingly soil test results showed a CEC OF 9 with a **VERY GOOD** balance of minerals but why was the soil so tight? As we know a soil consists of more than just minerals, if Humus and microbes are not present the soil will not have good aggregation which is paramount in a soil becoming more self sustaining. Bob applied a prescription Compost Mineral Blend in September 2019 and these are the results 15 months later. Impressive!!!

MINERALS ARE THE GOOD THING AND THE BAD THING (Edwin Blosser)



‘Last year’ 2019 photo

Compacted and very tight soil
Rye grass has shallow roots and cattle pull it out



2020 photo taken in same area

Better aggregation, darker colour, more oxygen, better root development, greater water holding capacity and more microbial activity