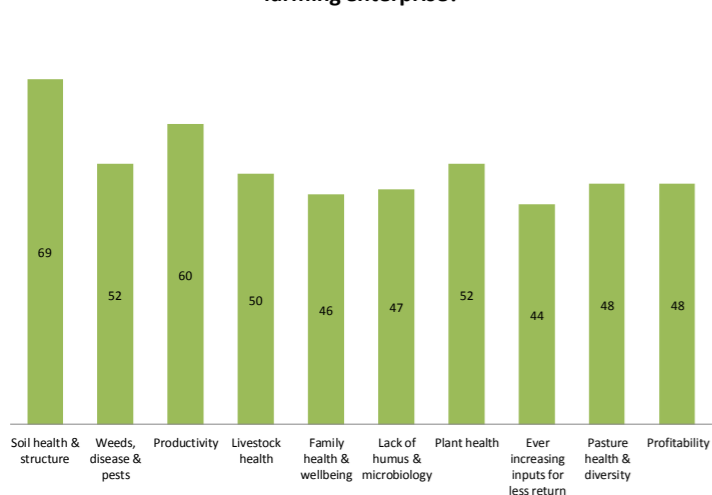


Results taken from Evaluation Forms at YLAD Living Soils Field Day

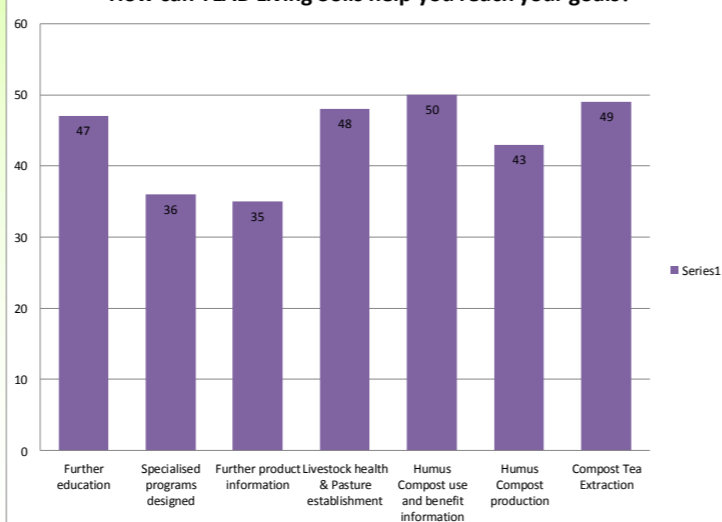
At YLAD Living Soils we value your feedback. Using Surveys and Evaluations we can determine areas in which we can increase or improve our products, services or education. Below are some interesting results collected from our September Field Day Evaluation Forms with one of the major feedback points being for further education. For 2017 we plan to address:

Improving Soil Health & Structure	Humus Compost Use and Benefits
Livestock Health & Pasture Establishment	Plant Health
Humus Compost Tea Extraction	Increasing Humus and Microbiology

What are your biggest concerns about managing your farming enterprise?



How can YLAD Living Soils help you reach your goals?



Thank you to everyone who visited the YLAD Living Soils stand at Henty and ANFD. It is fantastic to see farmers and gardeners come to us to find out how YLAD Living Soils can help improve their soil health and productivity.



FEISTY & FABULOUS & 50+

Powerhouse entrepreneur Julie Ankers first became aware of the age discrimination when she attended a talk given by Susan Ryan at Sydney University. Julie was intrigued and shocked by what she heard but it was not until she semi-retired in 2013 that she realised she was over 60 and in her second stage act in life and unemployed and wondering what to do next. Julie put together the stories of 21 women's stories over 50 years old to inspire those in their third trimester of life.

I was very privileged to be invited to contribute my story of a near death experience caused from agricultural chemical poisoning to receiving guidance to 'heal the soils and help others'. This epiphany and the birth of YLAD Living Soils opened up my world to new and wonderful places, people and experiences. If you are looking for a **special Christmas gift** give us a call and we will mail a copy out.

Julie's next project is to compile a book of men's stories!!!



Cover Cropping takes Centre Stage:

An important aspect of soil fertility is to have something growing on the soil all the time, utilising the sun's energy by photosynthesis and carbon dumping into the soil. Another important nutrient we talk about is Nitrogen and how do we get enough of it?? Well what if you could grow a forage crop, green or dry manure it and fix nitrogen all at once?

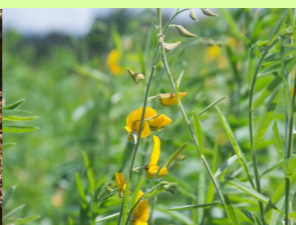
One option that is available is to plant a forage green manure crop after the canola harvest, in pasture paddocks or on any bare soil.

YLAD Living Soils have the opportunity to offer Sunn Hemp Seed and Tillage Radish Seed for this summers' sowing. There are also a number of seed mixes containing a number of different varieties to create greater diversity in the paddock.

Tillage Radish is a plant that aids in compaction reduction, penetrates hard pans and can fit between winter crop rotation. Presents an option for quick feed; highly palatable grazing feed for sheep and cattle.



Tillage Radish—13 days post sowing, Vic, Jan. 2015



Sunn Hemp has become very popular as a cover crop species and mix component largely due to it being a legume and its ability to fix nitrogen between winter cash crops.



YLAD Living Soils News

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Issue 21
December 2016

From Rhonda's Desk—2016



Wishing everyone a happy and joyous festive season and a prosperous and healthy 2017. As each year draws to a close I like to reflect on things that have inspired me, made me laugh, and taught me lessons of which to learn and take **ACTION** on. Therein lies the paradigm, usually we neglect to take the

ACTION necessary to create a better version of ourselves and world we live in. It is so easy to get stuck focusing on negative things that happen to us each year rather than giving gratitude for what we have. I like to use a saying; "the attitude of gratitude keeps things coming my way".

After the health challenges of the last year and a half I have come to realise that it is not about what happens but how we respond to challenges. There always seems to be some sort of learning lesson in there for us all!!!!

Each day my health continues to improve and I gain strength from speaking with customers and continuing to heal and improve soil, plant, animal and human health.

It is not about what we own or who we are, it is rather how we love and contribute to the well-

being of our families, communities and Earth. **ESTEEM** is being able to look at yourself and know that rich or poor, win or lose, you live with integrity.

2016 has thrown many challenges at everyone, from not enough rain to buckets of rain with many feeling the effects. The greatest inspiration for me during 2016 was to realise that taking **ACTION** is the most important step to move me forward. Ideas without **ACTION** go nowhere!!!

But what stops us all from taking **ACTION**, from exercising, meditating, dieting, adopting new sustainable farming practices??? Is it **FEAR**? Fear of change or fear of the future or just old stories stopping us becoming the greatest version of ourselves possible.

I get no greater joy then working with likeminded people who think outside the box, are willing to learn and challenge the status quo. Hearing of your successful results also gives me the drive and energy to keep going. Everyone can be an Agent for Change and help each other and Planet Earth.

We never know what the future holds other than knowing that "what we think about expands"!!! Spend quality time with your family, mend broken friendships and plan for an awesome 2017.

Best wishes
Rhonda

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'Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.'
Albert Einstein

Planning is the Key to Success

Now is the time to take Soil Tests

As the New Year rolls in, the most important activity for a farmer is to plan the year ahead. I was so impressed last year that 90% of YLAD Customers ordered their soil fertility and cropping down the tube fertilisers in January and took delivery before the rain came. So when the rain finally came they were ready to roll. 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.

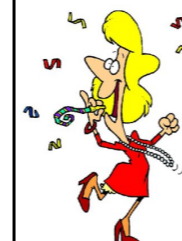
We conduct comprehensive secondary and trace mineral analysis in the Total, Exchangeable and Soluble Pools. The **first activity** is to take a **COMPREHENSIVE SOIL TEST** that identifies the three nutrient pools in your soil, the Total, Exchangeable and Soluble. The information provided in the soil 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.

Winner of the Cairns Biological Farming Conference Prize:
Congratulations to Pamela Hartin Minogue from Shepparton on winning the draw for a comprehensive free soil test including totals at the recent Conference.





Little did we know when we started YLAD Living Soils 14 years ago that there would be a gathering of 500 farmers, scientists, policy makers, agronomists and industry people for the 2nd National Biological Farming Conference in sunny tropical Cairns. Attendees travelled from all around Australia, Asia, UK, USA and NZ to hear how soil biology provides free ecosystem services necessary for life on the planet.

PRESSING CHALLENGES

Biodiversity loss and climate change are 2 of the most pressing challenges of our time. Soil diversity is part of the solution to both. The goal of the conference, which was named 'Pay Dirt' was to raise awareness of the unique characteristics of soil and raise awareness of the environmental importance and global significance the gathering would have on broad scale farm practices for improved productivity, profit and long term environmental and farm sustainability.

SOIL

Soil contains at least one quarter to one third of all living organisms on the planet yet only 1% of soil micro-organisms have been identified compared to 80% of plants.

Most terrestrial ecosystems processes that sustain life on the planet (eg. Soil fertility, nutrient cycles, greenhouse gas fluxes, pollution control, antibiotics etc.) are in fact all driven by soil biology. However, life within the soil is complex to observe and suffers greatly by being 'out of sight and out of mind'.

Bill and I had the privilege to present the journey of 'Milgadara' Young to a standing room only audience on Saturday afternoon on how we built low CEC, imbalanced tight soils or as Gabe Brown would call them 'naked, hungry, thirsty and running a fever soils' to be a soft, tilthy, aggregated microbial diverse soil with humus compost and minerals. We were privileged to have both Gabe Brown and Nicole Masters sit in on our talk.

The audience had many questions for us after the talk particularly on stubble retention, building soil structure and how we had grown pastures for 15 years without Single Super!!!

Continued on page 3....

**Testimonial — Mark and Kirsten Heinzl
YLAD Compost Mineral Blend™**

My wife and I have been farming organically for more than 20 years on the family farm, "Kia-Ora" at Eugowra. The variability in granite soil types were far too challenging for cropping enterprises which lead us to pursue in grazing enterprises. In recent years we have adopted Holistic Management practises to build perennial pasture base and soil fertility. We have seen a lot of positive changes but we need to drive the system on a quicker level of plant succession and increase biomass to build soil carbon levels.

In April 2016 we applied prescriptions of YLAD Compost Mineral Blends to 7, some of the least productive paddocks on our home block which all tested with numerous deficiencies despite the fact that soil pH and most ratios were favourable.

We are pretty happy with the way these paddocks performed with a quick start to the season break and stood out with best winter growth and deeper green colour to neighbouring untreated paddocks. It certainly did promote clover vigour.

I am very impressed how well the compost spread from a belt spreader and to be able to apply it in the dryer months before the Autumn break and knowing it's in a safe spot with the ground cover is a real advantage.



National Biological Farming Conference continued

Two young women absolutely shone out on Sunday morning with their open presentations. **Anika Molesworth, Young Farmer of the Year in 2015** from Broken Hill, NSW spoke of Gen Y entrepreneurial flair, innovative spirit and the desire to build the lives around us to ensure a thriving sustainable future.

Lynne Strong, a dairy farmer and climate champion from Jamberoo NSW also spoke on how she mitigates against climate change by improving farm efficiency and pasture productivity.

Both these young visionaries gave me hope that our work will be carried on into the future.

(Left to right):Anika Molesworth, Rhonda Daly, Lynne Strong



Dr Bajesh Singh from the Western Sydney University spoke on the lack of the productivity gain despite greater inputs which is due to the structural decline of our soils. I believe this structural decline is not from a lack of minerals but due to a lack of beneficial soil biology and carbon as a food source.

YLAD Humus Compost® has 250kg/mg of carbon present providing the soil microbes with the food source of which to multiply and reproduce. Bajesh said we must remember we are not separate from nature and need to connect intellect with intuition. Bill and I look forward to providing you with solutions, programmes and products that will allow your soils to regenerate and serve you. We must remember that nature and the intelligence of nature is far greater than human intelligence and as long as we work with nature she will provide for us and we will benefit.

**Updates from YLAD Living Soils 14th Annual Field Day
Advancing the Power of Microbiology and Technology for Success**

What a great success our Field Day turned out to be, despite the weather!! At the Field Day you got to see crops and pastures at varying stages so I thought I would give you an update on how they have progressed throughout the season.

The Mandalup Lupins sown with YLAD Legume Plus and Extracted Humus Tea impressed many participants at the Field Day with their evenness, vigour and nodulation. It was very trying season with over half our annual rainfall falling in 2 months over winter. I believe the Lupins stood up extremely well due to the soil retaining good pore space (photo below) allowing biological processes to function. Only if soils contain good organic matter and microbiology will they be able to remain open. The Lupins are now ready for harvest and Bill estimates them to yield 3 t/ha!!! Imagine how much free nitrogen we have fixed!!



Harvest has started in **Horse Paddock**, the **Spitfire Wheat** paddock we visited and had the Drone flight recorded. Last year this paddock produced an outstanding Yiddah Oat crop and after retaining all stubble, applying a YLAD Compost Mineral Blend, YLAD Down the Tube Fertiliser and a foliar application.

Up to date this crop is yielding 5-6 tonne/ha of high quality wheat



This paddock was sown with Germinate Plus at 109 kg/ha and liquid injection of 100 l/ha of Extracted Humus Tea. In the spring (between the rain) Bill applied 100 l/ha Extracted Humus Tea, 30 kg UAN, Magnesium Sulphate and Boron.

Recreating and maintaining 'New Ground Effect' in soils stops soil health and productivity from degrading. This is done by building humus, nurturing and feeding microbiology and reducing chemical applications to a bare minimum.

