

# Enabling the Carbon Flow

Report on  
**NutriSoil Annual Open Day**  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010



“Enabling the Carbon Flow” was opened by **Noel Howard**, who reminded us about the important principals of running our farms professionally with good business practices such as written contracts and ensuring employees gave value in the workplace.

Our keynote speaker, **Dr Christine Jones** who suggested the day’s theme, delivered a hard hitting message about the **real** carbon issues in the soil and how relevant they are to our production systems for long term sustainability and profitability on our farms. Christine’s latest paper can be found at [www.amazingcarbon.com](http://www.amazingcarbon.com).

**Colin Seis** followed on with a practical model of Pasture Cropping and how this can be introduced to our farms to maximise productivity year-round whilst improving soil health on mixed farming enterprises. After lunch **Di Haggerty** delivered an inspiring presentation of Biological Farming on a broadacre scale in the West with sandy soils and challenging climatic influences (to say the least). **Malcolm Plum** then outlined his farm trials and achievements with improving pasture quality using biologically friendly inputs and thus reaping rewards including positive animal health outcomes. The day culminated in a lively panel discussion with all speakers.



A common theme developed from the speakers was ‘WORK SMARTER – NOT HARDER’. No more drenching, reduced inputs such as traditional fertilisers and chemicals, less or no tillage, less passes over the land. Less cost and less work seems a no-brainer! Respondents were asked to contribute one thing they could change on their properties to achieve this. Their responses fit into 3 main categories.

Stop or Reduce Practices that are Harmful to Soil  
Increase Soil Friendly Practices  
Grazing Management & Increase Groundcover

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## In Summary...

**163 people attended. 50 Feedback forms returned representing 63 people therefore 39% response rate.**

This report was compiled from the feedback forms sent out to attendees two weeks after the event. All responses are given as they were written and sorted into categories to help form themes about the way land holders experienced the day, what they learnt, what they were challenged by and most importantly their ideas about improving farming practices.

<b>Farm description/type of property</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>%</b>
Broadacre >100a	40	80%
Hobby Farmers <100a	7	14%
Stock / Pasture	46	92%
Cropping	25	50%
Orchards / Horticulture / Nursery	6	12%
Home garden	7	14%

**NB: Attendees could & usually did fall into more than one category.**

### **Other Reasons For Attending:**

- Also I work with Landcare groups and other groups to support soil health, productivity and sustainability.
- Met Rachelle & Justin at Lake Rowan.
- Involved in natural farming.
- Landcare connection.
- Looking for cost effective fertilisers.
- Looking for a better fertiliser regime.

# Working Smarter☺ – Not Harder!

One thing YOU could change...

## ***Stop or Reduce Practices that are Harmful to Soil***

- Consider the negative consequences of all soil additives, don't poison soil life.
- Very keen to try NO fungicides or insecticides in selected paddocks next year.
- Not use chemical fertiliser.
- Cut down on chemical inputs...
- It would be good to have a more enthusiastic partner, I have to push constantly not to use Super and to use more NutriSoil.
- Use less fertiliser...
- Decrease use of artificial fertiliser.
- Less spraying.
- With the knowledge that I learned, with the new ideas, the one thing that I would change is the fertilising system.
- Farming in general - learnt what we are doing wrong and how to fix, get farm running right away.

## ***Increase Soil Friendly Practices***

- More biological and permaculture methods.
- ... go NutriSoil fertilisers and try direct drilling of pasture crop grasses.
- Could do more with biological stimulants when time permits.
- We all need to grow more feed and protect and improve soil fertility and structure.
- More composting and compost tea to be applied to help increase the % of soil carbon.
- To just keep farming biological to cut down on costs and labour by continuing down this track.
- Will use NutriSoil as a seed dressing as well.
- Less fertilisers and try to get more biology and carbon in our soil, and healthier stock.
- Weed management – balancing up our soil physically, biologically and chemically – hopefully this will in-turn reduce the weed competition and the herbicide expense.
- Substitute the artificial ferts with your product with some control areas.

- Start with one area on our property this year.
- Use NutriSoil as a seed dressing and foliar spray – if it works as well as we have heard NutriSoil will fit into our farming practices nicely.
- Use your product take advantage of the cumulative properties and build our soil type up turn our grass into more profit and nutrition for sheep and crops.
- My farm is constantly evolving – cell grazing – pasture cropping – trees for fodder – soil health. We have been using Vitech combo for 5 years that we have owned the property and look forward to combining NutriSoil in the equation.
- I have now applied some NutriSoil to 2 paddocks. One triticale and the other tetila.
- I am 75 years old but I can change my vegie garden.

### ***Grazing Management & Increase Groundcover***

- Grazing management to build soils.
- Rotational grazing is a must to promote perennial grasses.
- Try to implement permanent ground cover.
- Sow perennials.
- Design stocking regimes around seasonal growth and use soil nutrition to underpin seasonal variation and peaks.
- Now we are thinking about it – one idea we did get from Malcolm Plum was the benefits of maybe not being so strict on rotating cattle at times like calving, more of a set stock situation to reduce mob sizes for ease of management.
- One thing I would like to change is grazing management.
- Need to reduce paddock sizes, to better utilise rotational grazing system. Look into pasture species suitable for pasture cropping in dry Summer areas.
- Install more paddocks to increase rotation time.
- We will try and keep more ground covered with grasses all year round to allow everything to work for us under the ground as well as above.
- More grazing cells for better pasture recovery.
- More pasture less crop.

## **Other**

- Reduce number of risks.
- Reduce red tape.
- Retire
- I am working harder and smarter trying to change.
- Stop thinking more mineral is the only answer to pasture improvement. Deep ripping, then harrowing to prepare for sowing.

# **What you learnt &/or were challenged by?**

## ***Natural/Biological Approach... Enhancing Carbon***

- Hearing Christine Jones and the other farmers gave us the confidence to continue with biological farming and seeking more knowledge on this.
- Continued to get a good understanding – microbiology.
- About soil. General ideas seem to be very different to what Christine Jones spoke about.
- The notion that Bent Grass and Onion Grass would be choked out by pasture cropping.
- Learnt many things, however was thrilled to gain better understanding of the causes of strike rust.
- Grow perennial grasses long, (measure) carbon down to 600ml. Do whatever you have to, to establish perennial pasture then go organic.
- 1. What carbon in soils means for us. 2. What fungicide – pesticide if not used (chem fert) can do to our soils and us! 3. The fact that we can change our mindset on the way we farm. 4. “Gourmet pies taste good.”
- Learned that reversing the effects of soil degradation is possible – much faster than ag departments promote.
- I am encouraged that this is the best way into the future of farming. Natural and renewable by natural organisms (worms).
- Feeding of the biology (bacteria and fungi) after application of compost or compost tea ie. NutriSoil, fish or kelp.
- Dr Christine Jones explained how carbon flow works which hadn’t been explained to us before. It just made such good sense. Note: When she thought she was out of time we still wanted to hear more from her.
- Haggerty’s idea of sowing more than one species of cereal together to set biodiversity was an idea we’ll try. I thought the balance of ideas between the Haggerty’s was interesting – one idealistic and one practical – needs to be a bit of both.

- Role of micorrhiza fungi (Christine). Harmful effects of roundup (which I don't use). Vertical stacking (Collin). Loss of minerals etc in food from 1948 – 1991 (CSIRO figures) – very scary.
- We were more inspired to keep on the track with farming biological.
- Christine's explanations made sense. Change does not come from within a system. NutriSoil is a part of the natural approach that nourishes the soil life.
- To keep going with biological techniques.
- What we are eating with food value of today from 1948 – blew me away. Now try to get my property up and running better for me and stock. I'll have better fruit trees too.
- Facts on soil carbon / nitrogen, and biological mechanisms.
- Gained a much clearer understanding of the differences between decomposition and humification. Glad I don't live in WA. Good networking opportunities.
- Amazed by your commercial worm farm. Prior to attending I was curious about how the hell it would work commercially. Congratulations on your entire open rural skills!! Excellently sited at Wodonga – close proximity to transport and customers. Hope your enterprise prospers. Also I will alter farming methods considerably towards permaculture and biological methods. We already produce enough vegies for 8 people – 30 varieties. Fruit trees approaching production – 32 different trees!!
- Christine's information on minerals missing in our food and how we can change it.
- More of an in depth story on carbon and humous. Just tuned right in on Colin Seis talk. The recovery of his native pastures.
- Concepts - cultivation Vs perennial pasture in mixed farming. Read "Out of the Earth" by Louis Bromfield (1950) Especially chapter IV "The goldmine of organics".
- Using artificial ferts will damage the soil in the long run.
- First exposure to pasture cropping – exciting concept. Very helpful to hear Haggerty's experiences first hand. A bit distressed at the constant necessity towards scientists – perhaps these people need to talk to more of them. The science of this is not a mystery, just not particularly fashionable. Great to see farmers becoming more informed about soil biology.
- Another eye opener was on very little/no drenching and thinking about sowing more pasture types in the one paddock. Also I know that the meeting was late starting due to the weather interfering with certain travel arrangements, and thought it was handled very well.
- Greater appreciation of what is beneath the soil.
- Further soil development.
- Greater understanding of carbon cycle. Very interesting point about decreasing nutrients in food.
- I learnt enough to know plants need food to what they are used to for millions of years.

## ***Reinforced Ideas***

- Confirmed our knowledge of the over use of chemical fertilisers, etc.
- I am practising high impact rotational grazing with long pasture spell periods (trying) more ground cover at all times. No chemicals. No chemical fertilisers. Always looking for confirmation of soil improvement through these practices.
- I learnt that I am on the right track.
- Can't really answer as I knew of the other speakers' backgrounds already.
- Yes I learned things but I wasn't challenged by anything.

## ***Transitional Change with Trials***

- Any changes should be weaned on and off slowly.
- Very impressed with the speakers and the product. Will do some broadacre trials next season. Will be calling back for a VISIT and to learn more about how to get the most out of NutriSoil☺

## ***Top Speakers***

- Christine's explanation of the liquid carbon particularly was great – she just gets better every time we hear her.
- Christine and Collin were a terrific team.
- I have listened to Christine Jones on many occasions and have always enjoyed her lectures. Easy to hear!! And talks lots of sense. Col Seis is practical and always interesting. I think you have achieved two of the best speakers available.
- Christine Jones gave a very accessible presentation.
- Dr Christine Jones was excellent.
- Christine Jones is an angel on a mission. I think that the more information we can extract from people like Christine the better. Companies like NutriSoil play a huge part, not only supplying nutrients to the soil but also supplying information about soil health to the farmer. Holding workshops for people to learn more could be a good thing for our future.
- Dr Jones very informative.
- Dr Christine Jones is the best speaker I have heard, on the real carbon issue.
- Christine Jones has a very positive attitude which helps us become more positive.
- The whole day was interesting – will try to attend again next year.
- Christine Jones' message probably the best. Other farmers experiences valuable.

## ***Challenged by...***

- Carbon!
- Keeping grass cover on small acreage will be a challenge.
- Making the transition from chemical use especially herbicides and insecticides to being purely biological without losing production is the challenge.
- Taking in all the information and being able to apply it correctly.
- I was challenged by statements made by speakers and their mistrust of science particularly Christine Jones.
- Challenged by the pasture cropping aspect of being able to grow a crop amongst grasses.

## **What next? Future educational needs**

### ***More on this topic***

- Over 2 days would be good. Go home at night, come back with answers/questions.
- Just keep doing what you are doing – it's working well congratulations.
- Soil carbon is the future – more.
- Just put on more of these days at other venues eg, Queensland, SA, WA, TAS etc.
- Would provide participants with the notes that had the power point and presentations on them from the speakers as it helps you to remember what they said.
- More of Christine Jones – what's next from her???
- More on same subjects.
- We really did enjoy Christine's session and would have appreciated a 2<sup>nd</sup> session with her during the afternoon.
- Keep up the good work. Need more farmers looking after the soil.
- Nothing specific – but keep promoting ideas that reduce chemicals / artificial fertiliser.
- More of the same.
- More on real carbon flow and the benefits to farming. Soil nutritional factors and more on the benefits of NutriSoil etc.
- A summary of the ideas of Elaine Ingham
- Continue the farmer case study presentations

- To understand what has to happen in our soil in order to get the results we want from farming. We must try and grow cleaner, more nutritious food.
- Carbon trading? And sequestration.
- Better understanding the needs and functions of soil micro organisms.
- Spread message to more farmers.

### ***Perennial Pastures***

- Could perhaps use Graham Hand on stimulation of native perennials in pastures.
- How to grow perennial pasture and then to include the medics and increase grass variety to cover winter and summer demand without constantly over-sowing.

### ***NutriSoil***

- Like to know how you as a business get the worm juice from those piles of dirt. Maybe I missed it in the video. Love your product. It was good that you didn't push your product on the day.
- Keep promoting the benefits of using NutriSoil and making known its elements or chemical structure.
- Would like to learn more about using Nutrisoil in a cereal cropping situation.

### ***Pasture Cropping, Weeds***

- How to read soil health through what weeds/plants grow. Educate on whole nutrition of soil-plants-animals. Perhaps combine ALL SOURCES / CONCEPTS - Hugh Lovell / Sandy Montague / Rachelle / Graham / Pat Coleby / Maarten Stapper (done) / Arden Anderson / Neil Kinsey / Graeme Sait / Elaine Ingham.
- Weed management in crops and pasture with reduced reliance on herbicides.
- People controlling weeds with pasture cropping on healthy soils.
- In depth presentation on pasture cropping in this area would be useful.
- Pasture cropping workshop with Colin. I have done one and it is so informative and well received.

### ***Trials***

- Have you considered practical demonstrations of soil health management?
- Trials in other areas of Australia.

- Understanding of pasture cropping in our local area, ie testimony of a local farmer who has successfully achieved this in a winter rainfall area.
- Some trials maybe.
- Hard evidence to help overcome the common perception that non-crop plants are a waste of water and nutrients.
- More herbicide trials ie, compatible mixing with NutriSoil.
- We need to see facts and figures for profit margins. Field walks would be an excellent tool too, not just in high rainfall areas. Would like to see trials done Vs conventional farming. A NutriSoil agronomist would be advantageous to growers especially when trying to begin using this system and integrating into or changing from conventional farming.
- More hands on eg. See a working farm.

### ***Other***

- Try to have a stand on most Field Days.
- I think the speakers need to be on a platform. Better voice projection and audience vision.
- Rebuilding nutrition in food. Marketing premium food.
- Strong links to the scientific evidence to back these challenging ideas. EG a sceptic saw the food value of fruit and veg and it would have held much greater weight had it referenced the CSIRO journal articles where the info was sourced.
- Can't suggest anything because I'm still taking things in.

## **Overall Experience / General Comments**

### ***Worthwhile, Encouraging, Great Day...***

- In the four years we have been coming we believe this day was the best. And please try to get Christine Jones back again. We can listen to her all day.
- Well worth the trip down.
- Fantastic changed my way of thinking.
- Great day.
- Very informative day – private people achieving what govt departments should be doing.
- Very interesting and rewarding day. Great food – thanks.

- Very interesting and informative.
- Learnt a great deal. Cannot wait for video on day too.
- Most enjoyable informative and stimulating.
- All good especially Colin giving common sense advice in response to use of chemical fert and natural fert - gradual process to change old habits.
- Very worthwhile – encouraging to see good numbers of farmers becoming interested in these methods. A very useful day and very good PR for natural methods.
- Great day. Thoroughly enjoyed it.
- Good x 2 (same response twice)
- A great day all round. Dr Christine Jones was excellent. Thank-you for the experience. Well done to all at NutriSoil.
- Very enjoyable day, well worth attending, we look forward to the next one.
- I had a great day, very well run and most enjoyable.
- We are very encouraged by all aspects covered this year.
- I think the days are encouraging to those who are cautious about moving away from artificial fertilisers and those who are committed to natural.
- Very positive well worth attending.
- Terrific day, very valuable information that many more people could utilise.
- Met other farmers and learnt of their experiences.
- All speakers very interesting and informative.
- An enjoyable and informative day.
- We are glad that we took the time to travel from Kaniva to Albury to attend.
- Informative.
- Excellent day.
- Have been given much info to think over and try out. Little or no drenching, less herbicide use, better ground cover.
- Very informative.
- A good experience that was run well. Good job.
- Really great day and all speakers were excellent. It is very good to have the balance of experts vs farmers who have applied the science with results.
- I enjoyed the morning unfortunately I had to leave just after lunch.
- Great audience, great atmosphere.

- Positive experience, look forward to next one.
- Very good
- Well run with excellent speakers, particularly Dr Christine Jones.
- Without Dr Jones would have been just another open day for a sales company.

### ***More on NutriSoil***

- Thought you should have given your product some promotion too, maybe a bit more explanation of its benefits etc.
- Excellent, but suggest you push your product more. Showing film at lunchtime when audience talking about other things not too productive.
- Would have liked a bit of a talk about your products especially any trial work or test results.

### ***Great, More to Learn***

- Excellent but I'm not sure there was any great change I can make in a managing a dryland area. Message I got is you need 12months of something growing.
- We must move ahead with general education – perhaps experimental / on farm demonstrations. \*Top educational platform.

*“I suspect many people are getting confused about fertilisers. If they (farmers/gardeners) support microbial activity in the soil, there will be no need for chemical fertilisers. Indeed, chemical fertilisers are detrimental to soils.” Dr Christine Jones*

## Individual Sessions

### 9.30 Registration / Morning tea – scones

Excellent x 4; Very good x 2; Good x 3; Tick; Delicious!!; Well organised; Smooth; Missed this; No change needed; ☺; You can't beat that!; Fabulous; Went smoothly hot scones hit the spot!; Split catering PT but quantity & quality excellent; The best scones ever; Very simple and smooth; Great but not good for me; Beautiful scones & fresh; A beautiful spread all day; Very welcoming scones great; Very nice on a cold morning; Better location for meeting other people; Very tasty & moreish;

Food/tea could have been divided up so smaller queues; Easy registration - welcome cuppa – scones; Very welcome, after a 3 hour trip; Could have separated the scones and tea/coffee ie had on separate tables; Easy – terrific; All well organised & efficient; Reconfigure coffee table for access both sides; Get sound people early to set up; How good is it to come to a meeting & get a cuppa & scones before the meeting starts; Start earlier 9am reg with 9.30 start; Need people to form 2 lines.

### 10.00 Opening - Noel Howard

Real good; Very good x 2; Good x 3; Tick; Ok; Interesting x 2; Stimulating; Very informative; Too long; Very good highly relevant especially if can afford employees; Noel reminded me that to be here in the long term we need to take a business approach. Ethics are essential; Good but bit long winded; Very good thought provoking session on excellent philosophies on life and business. It is important to hear from a business man on opportunities and trends; Excellent and inspiring; Well delivered opening address; Something to be learnt from them all; Well put together & informative; Went too long and got a bit political, rather have giving more time to Christine; Excellent - perhaps too broad & tended to jump from point to point but enjoyed; Interesting but a bit long; Good – passionate;

Noel was the best opening speaker you've had. Some people near me didn't like his political comments but the point he was making was how to run your business. Loved it; Great speaker; Excellent - great speaker; Good but lengthy; A little too verbose. But I agree wholeheartedly. Farming IS a business!; Long, but informative; A good start - good speaker; Long winded & self indulgent; Too long winded and not needed; A little too long but made some good points; No wonder he sold his farm. His talk highlights the difference between business and farming; Good - possibly could have been more brief; Very good presentation on how to run a business; Too much politics!; Maybe a bit long for an opening but made very good points in his concluding remarks; A little long and not so relevant however interesting.

<b>10:30 Dr Christine Jones</b>	
<p>Excellent x 5; Good x 3; Excellent - more time; Tick; Good, informative; Great! Very informative; Excellent start of the show; Excellent informant; Very good; Could not be better; Awesome-accessible; Tops; Good explanations very insightful; Fantastic speaker. This info needs to be passed on to everyone; Very interesting could listen all day; Informative - learn something new each time I hear a Christine; Well put together &amp; informative; Enjoyed her presentation, not long enough, could have listened to her all day; She is so inspiring an amazing wealth of knowledge. We must aim to increase biodiversity of plants &amp; therefore biology to improve mineralisation of food we produce; Excellent - topic very relevant; We have much more to learn; Wonderful and knowledgeable speaker could listen to her all day; Learnt lots about soil health and what a healthy soil can do for our crops; Most inspiring information; One of the best speakers I have ever listened to - so easy to understand;</p>	<p>Too short. It was only a supposition. And did not send me away with something to do; Challenging - she appears to be against most things I have been taught; Very good - redesigning Australian agriculture; I totally support her aims. I contacted her after viewing Landline on ABC and now consider her a friend; Most informative - It contained a lot to remember; Great, could have listened for longer - shame her time got reduced; Excellent, easy to follow presentation and very informative; Something to be learnt from them all; Excellent and very informative. Could have listened to her more; Most encouraging to hear from people trained in agricultural science giving practical facts; Wonderful, challenging - will the DVD being made become available?; Good - needed more time and further development of key concepts and findings; Thoroughly enjoyed her talk - best ever. Sincerely hope you can have her back next year; A wonderful keynote speaker can she come again next year?</p>

<b>11.30 Short Break</b>	
<p>Good x 3; Tick x 3; Perfect; Timely; Fine; Could be a little longer; This break was too long - people wandered away; Hard to regroup the audience, but nice to have the heaters on;</p>	<p>The break did help us to take in what Christine had to say; Didn't stay after that; Good Needed the break; Had to go; I think it was good to discuss Dr Jone's; Good to stretch the legs.</p>

<b>11:40 Colin Seis - Pasture Cropping, NSW</b>	
<p>Good x 4; Excellent x 5; Very good; Tick; Interesting; Very interesting; Brilliant work; Legend; Terrific would like to hear more; Great could listen all day; Great balanced presentation; Colins presentation put the practice to the science; Redesigning Australian agriculture; Good stuff - realistic approach; Have heard Col about 10 times and enjoy him every time; A switched on farmer!! Aussies can do it better! We ARE the clever country!!; Very interesting. To see his achievement of increasing the topsoil depth; Good practical information; Well put together &amp; informative; What happens when fertility is increased or nutrition levels change?; Inspiring would like to know and learn more on Cols positive cropping; Very good, I have heard him twice before but he is very down to earth and good to listen to;</p>	<p>Interesting, would like to know more about how to apply this in a winter rainfall pattern though; His experiences show that we can do this in this area of NSW; Most interesting to utilise the seasonal growing season of annual cropping and perennials; New concept for me which makes a lot of sense less soil damage; Very very interesting great for the future I hope more cropping farmers take this on; Interesting to hear how it works for him but don't believe it would work in our lower rainfall area; Have heard Colin before. 2nd time just as helpful; Very credible. I see a use for some components; We enjoyed listening to Colin talk about how he works his farm &amp; the photos of his property on the screen were interesting; Something to be learnt from them all; Another interesting delivery.</p>

<b>12:30 Lunch - Homemade Pies &amp; Soup</b>	
<p>Excellent x 7; Perfect; Yum x 3; Yummy x 2; Fabulous; Pies were brilliant best ever; Good; Ordered a box of pies to take home and the soup :); Just right quick and easy; Yummy but took a bit long to get through line; Fantastic but a bit slow; Beautiful pies and soup; Could have 2 lines to save the long queue up; Not enough time to eat by the time we got lunch; Took too long to get lunch; The long queue made it difficult for those not in the queue to leave the building; Very tasty, but took</p>	<p>Left due to health; Delicious please do again and thanks to the pie makers; All anyone could wish for thanks; Most appetising (bought 10 pies); Very yummy however needed to have some dished up ready as some people had a long wait; Could have had more queues; Very tasty - just the thing on a cold day; Could not be better; Soup - beautiful, pie best ever. Perhaps a few more staff to help serve people quicker; Fantastic lunch; Maybe need more serving stations? Food excellent; Yummy -</p>

time to get it; Monumental; Very good; Yum how can we contact them?; Very slow and frustrating; Couldn't stay for afternoon;	could have had one extra person giving out pies to speed things up; Could have had cups of soup available to just pick up.
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<b>1:15 Dianne Haggerty - Broadacre Biological Farming, WA</b>	
Excellent x 5; Good x 2; Great x 2; Interesting to hear ongoing results; Great could listen all day; Spoke very well; Very interesting; Interesting; Alright; Doing a great job; Amazing country - amazing farming; More practical information; Concepts are right; Well put together & informative; Di was good but I enjoyed her talk better last time. She seemed a bit less passionate this time; Interesting they are achieving good results; Interesting rather than helpful; Would like to visit their farm one day. Next time I visit Dowerin Field Day I will call them; Very interesting having farm near them in 1970s challenged my paradigms; She proved that Biological Farming Works; Di's talk was polished and informative; Dianne phoned after winning our prize money and told us about you. Not into cropping it was a little over my head;	Very interesting because it related to what we are doing (broadacre farming); Not taking away from what Haggerty's have achieved did not feel this was relevant to our area; Repeating 1st speaker would have been better; Great to have them back and see the progress - even under their present weather; Not so vital to me broadacre cropping in the West - but good to compare diverse operations; Excellent very balanced. With an "I did this and that happened" story; Very interesting to hear about success/problems from a different area; Well delivered - very professional; Something to be learnt from them all; Very interesting and inspiring to see how biological farming can work in broadacre cropping; Another pair of switched on farmers. Excellent talk.

<b>2:00 Malcolm Plum - Healthy Soils, Healthy Animals, NSW</b>	
<p>Excellent x 2; Good x 3; Ok x 2; Interesting x 2; Very good x2; Great; Difficult for me to follow. My hearing is not too good, but I'm sure others would have learnt more; Great to have a localish person happy to share experiences; Good session, interesting to hear perspectives regarding stock; Enjoyed his talk; More confirmation, using natural fertilisers is the way to go; Very thought provoking; Grazing management seemed to be the weak link; Well put together &amp; informative; Something to be learnt from them all; Very good - but for higher rainfall areas; Very good and seems to know what he's doing; Quite interesting; Good to hear the progress re livestock health; Great to hear what another local farmer is achieving and doing;</p>	<p>Good stuff - good to hear how he goes about it; Perhaps a bus trip to Malcolm's; Yes I think lower rainfall also helps for healthy animals less drenching; Interesting to see a different take on how to approach things; Also is interesting - important connection between soils/animals; Very interesting and we could adopt some of his methods to our farming enterprise; I did not hear him speak but did visit his farm on a bus trip. He has a very balanced approach to biological farming; Great - see what he is doing and trying; Showing the way for conventional farmers looking for change; Trying too hard, could make it a lot easier for himself. Why is he incorporating stubbles?; 8-10 years behind; Good message; Didn't get a lot from this one.</p>
<b>2:30 Afternoon Tea - Biscuits</b>	
<p>Good x 4; Very nice; Great; Excellent x 3; Delicious!!; Tick; Very good; Very welcome; Didn't really need; Lovely bickies; Better than shearers smoko; Again very tasty; Very good and great to have a break; Loved the Brownies Thank you; We didn't participate. Lunch left us full;</p>	<p>Once again - large queue. Would have been nice to be able to talk more to other people; Very simple and smooth; Great but not good for me; Good to have a break; What a selection. I don't know what type of cake I ate but it was very very good; Not as good as the scones! But still nice;</p>
<b>3:00 Panel of all speakers answering questions from audience</b>	
<p>Excellent x 4; Very good; Great idea; Good; Enjoyed this; A bit</p>	<p>Unfortunately were not able to stay for this due to other</p>

<p>limited; Very good - answered good; All very good; Overall very good; Learnt a lot from it; Would have liked the session longer; Great idea ran out of time!; Satisfactory; Panel discussions are essential as they allow the audience ownership through participation; Good idea, worked well; Really enjoyed this!; A very good idea; Good idea not sure as to success story. Well chaired by Rachelle; Very sorry I had to leave before this session. Had to get home to pick up children; The panel was very good this year; Very good session although a bit late in the day; Something to be learnt from them all; All speakers answered all questions very well;</p>	<p>commitments; Yes it gives time to answer those important questions. A good thing; Would have liked more questions from the floor towards the end of the day; This is an important part of the days' proceedings; Well put together &amp; informative; All did their part well, questions well compiled; Very well coordinated; Well facilitated. Good questions were written out and anonymous; Worked well I thought especially with Ian Haggerty's inclusion. He is one clever guy!!; I had to go not long after this commenced. Couldn't stay-heifer calving; All good especially Colin giving commonsense; Should allow questions from the floor as people think of things to ask.</p>
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# Logistical Statistics

How did you find out about the day?	TOTAL	%
Invite in Mail/Email from NutriSoil	35	70%
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	3	6%
NutriSoil Website	2	4%
Friend told me	11	22%
Other	1	2%

How did you find the venue & Equipment for Learning?	TOTAL	%
Great wouldn't change a thing	31	62%
Great but you could	15	30%

## ***Great but you could...***

- Have left the heaters on for the morning session - the venue was cold.
- Have had more heating down the back.
- More tables for food - shorter queues.
- We sat at the front so could see and hear well. Also we took an extra coat for warmth and to put on the chair as a cushion. Think we're getting old!!!
- Open the day with NS being demonstrated and the story behind NS being told (some people attended the open day for the first time). Don't forget who you are and where you are going.
- Split the catering PT's in half to both sides of the shed area used.
- But a little cold when sitting still for some time.
  
- Spread food and drinks out a bit more so queue smaller.

- Have a bigger video screen.
  - Cold but can't help the weather.
  - Chose warmer weather.
  - Reconfigure the coffee table to have access from both sides to speed things along.
  - Get the sound people there early to set up and check speakers. Video presentation: too much time lost on unnecessary logistical matters: Lunch service could have been much faster had cups of soup been available to just pick up.
  - Rethink location of queue and speed of lunch delivery.
  - Add a few more toilets and food & drink points to reduce queues.
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