



## **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FORUM 2014 REPORT**

### **Background**

Holbrook Landcare Network facilitates a 'Needs Analysis Day' every year. At this meeting a panel of members and industry experts gather to identify and tease out the issues facing the farming community.

The feedback from farmers this year was that they wanted to revisit the function of soils as the basis of their farming. An understanding of healthy soils and their landscape function was seen as fundamental to the health of the farm business.

The goals of the forum were to provide up to date scientific information, and to challenge and inspire farmers by providing input that reinforced the fundamental role of soils and their influence in the farming landscape.

### **Steering Committee**

A producer steering committee was formed to ensure the information presented would be of interest to Holbrook Landcare members and to find speakers that would be relevant to the overall theme of the day. The committee met on numerous occasions, either in person or by telephone, over a five month period to plan the event.

### **Content of the day**

**Title:** Farming our soils: Farming our landscapes

**When:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, from 12.30pm – 8pm

**Where:** Holbrook Library Complex, Library Court, Holbrook

#### **Speakers included:**

- Susan Orgill – *NSW DPI*
  - "The science of soil carbon"



- Dr Gupta Vadakattu – *CSIRO Adelaide*
  - “The critical role of soil biology: What we know and what we don’t”
- Dr Leah Moore – *University of Canberra*
  - “Understanding hydrogeologic landscapes (HGL): How water moves through landscape materials”
- John Ive – “*Talaheni*”, Yass (*Farmer speaker*)
  - “Farming under landscape and climate challenges”
- Vince Heffernan - “*Moorlands*”, Gunning (*Farmer speaker*)
  - “Ecological agriculture in practice”
- Kate Sargeant – *VIC DEPI*
  - “Managing profit, risk, sustainability and lifestyle”
- Leanne Sherriff – *MLA*
  - “*FARM 300 – boosting livestock production efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions*”





**Handouts provided:**

- Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and MLA hand out: “Climate change and livestock in southern Australia” (appendix 1.1)
- NSW Primary Industries factsheet: “Climate change impacts (2030) at Holbrook” (appendix 1.2)
- Murray LLS handout: “Introducing your local land services”
- Booklet including program and space for note taking

**Posters produced for display at the event**

- Carbon Farming and Your Business (A2)
- Use it or Lose it – Nutrient Management Project (A2)
- Bushlinks in the first year (A2)
- Fish in Holbrook (A2)
- Frogs in Holbrook (A2)
- Tactics to graze crops (A3)
- Rotational grazing project (A3)
- “Women in Ag” project (A3)
- Holbrook’s Biodiversity Gateway (A3)
- Stubble Incorporation (A3)





## **Attendance**

- 102 people attended in total

## **Publicity**

The forum was promoted through a range of methods including:

- **Newspapers**
  - Border Mail – Country Mail (appendix 2)
  - The Eastern Riverina Chronicle (appendix 2)
- **Newsletters**
  - Holbrook Happenings (local community newsletter) (appendix 2.3)
- **Media Release**
  - 3 radio stations
  - EverGraze website
  - 7 newspapers
- **Australia post unaddressed mail service**
  - 1500 postcard flyers delivered (appendix 3.1)



- Delivered to road side and PO Boxes
- Area spanning from Brocklesby to Walbundrie in the west, to Rosewood in the east and up to Yerong Creek to the north
- **Email**
  - Holbrook Landcare members
  - Other networks such as Murray LLS, DPI Rutherglen, DPI and CSU Wagga Wagga and CSU Albury
- **Web pages**
  - Murray LLS calendar of events
  - EH Graham Centre (NSW DPI) calendar of events
- **A3 and A4 Flyers** (appendix 3.2 and 3.3)
  - Throughout Holbrook town centre
  - Rural supply stores – Landmark, AGnVET & Elders

## **Budget**

**Table 1:** Summary of forum expenses at 12/3/2014 (Not all invoices received yet)

Speakers fees and travel expenses	\$1436.84
Venue hire and catering	\$3768.55
HLN administration and management	\$1000.00
Advertising	\$1554.66
Handouts and posters	\$317.84
Project officer staff time	\$4000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12077.89</b>

## **Feedback**

Feedback from participants was collected informally through conversation and via feedback forms (appendix 4).

Verbal feedback provided indicated that participants got a lot of good information and food for thought from the event. Forty feedback forms were collected and analysed.

A vast range of responses were given when asked about each of the sessions. However the standout responses are given below.

### **Soil Science Session**

Three quarters of respondents indicated the two soil science speakers' presentations had changed the way they think about their soils. The two most common key messages learnt were:

- Healthy soils are important
- Complexity of soil microbiology



26 respondents also indicated that they either would or possibly would consider changing what they were doing on their farm as a result of what they'd learned.

### **Soils in Practice Sessions**

24 respondents said the hydrogeology presentation has changed the way they understand water in the landscape. Half of those who responded said they would or would possibly change what they were doing on their farm as a result of this information.

38 respondents found hearing from the farmer speakers beneficial. Below is a list of what was most often nominated as the most valuable messages:

- Monitoring and recording
- Biodiversity is important
- Self-education
- You can still make money and look after the environment at the same time
- Focus more on ecology than production
- Keep your mind open and think of alternatives
- You can regenerate and restore for environmental, social and economic benefit

### **Soil and the Farm System Session**

29 participants reported they found the Evergraze results session useful. Key messages were identified as:

- Website a great source for tools and information - 13
- Strategic grazing, eg. rotational
- More perennial grasses
- Management of pastures to stocking rate
- Subdivision creates more profit

### **Summary**

The Sustainable Agriculture Forum 2014 was a really valuable day for the farming community in challenging farmers thinking about soils and landscape processes that impact on their farming. Feedback from the day has indicated it was a very informative day and that many were considering making changes on their farms in the light of this information.

Holbrook Landcare Network plans to continue to hold a forum annually on topics addressing needs of the farming community. The topic for the next forum will again be developed out of the issues identified by our members through our Need's Analysis process and various committees and consultative processes.



Thank you to Murray LLS and MLA for the support provided and we look forward to an ongoing relationship through a number of projects.


We would like to acknowledge the support of both Murray Local Land Services and Meat Livestock Australia which made this day possible.




## Appendices:

### Appendix 1: HANDOUTS

- **Appendix 1.1:** Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and MLA hand out: "Climate change and livestock in southern Australia" (appendix 1.1)



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



mla  
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

# Climate change and livestock in southern Australia

## Southern Livestock Adaptation 2030

### Background

With the majority of future climate scenarios suggesting that much of southern Australia could potentially experience higher temperatures and less rainfall, livestock production is likely to become more difficult in the future.

While no one can accurately forecast exactly what is going to happen, it makes strategic sense for an industry to "peer over the horizon" and examine the impacts of possible future climates.

The last decade was exceptionally dry, but what might happen to production and profit if, over the next two decades, temperatures increase by 1 or 2°C, and rainfall decreases by 10 to 15 per cent as is forecasted by some models?

Until now, these questions could not be tackled.

World first modelling of climate change and livestock production at a local (country town) level.

### Timeframes - 1970 to 1999; 2000 to 2009 and Predictions to 2030, 2050 and 2070.



### The project


Combining sophisticated modelling tools with Global Circulation Models (GCM's), local weather data and producers' own production and financial data, the Southern Livestock Adaptation 2030 (SLA2030) project brought researchers, extension experts and producers together to look at a range of future climate scenarios and the impact on farm profitability and productivity.

Given that farmers want to know what might happen in their own backyard, the project sought to refine the often broad-brush climate forecasts by examining the impacts at a local and farm enterprise level.

The project firstly modelled and validated what had been experienced in the past (1970-1999 and 2000-2009) and then looked ahead to consider the impacts in 2030 and beyond. Various adaptations were also modelled to see what worked and what didn't.

Over 80 locations modelled, often utilising producers' own production and financial data.





australia's farming future

## Southern Livestock Adaptation 2030



## Appendix 1.2: NSW Primary Industries factsheet: "Climate change impacts (2030) at Holbrook"



**Primary  
Industries**

FACTSHEET

### Climate change impacts (2030) at Holbrook

Brian Cumming Livestock Officer, Albury

#### Introduction

GrassGro simulated pasture production for the grazing land about 15 km east of Holbrook. The pasture of phalaris, ryegrass and sub clover is typical of this area. The 2030 projections for four models (GCM's) were compared to the base period (1970 – 2000)

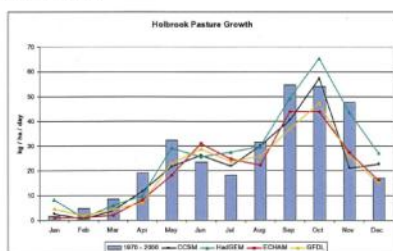
#### Average total annual pasture growth kg DM/ha

Three of the models show lower pasture growth, with one model showing more total pasture. The average across the 4 models is 9124 kg or 97% of base production.

Base	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
CCSM 3.0	HadGEM1	ECHAM5-OM	GFDL 2.1	
9451	9218	10800	7758	8721

#### Monthly growth

Monthly growth reflects the predicted changes in rainfall and temperature and the growing season, and may be of more use than yearly totals. The models vary in their monthly growth predictions but there is a trend for more pasture growth in winter (June and July), and less total spring growth. All models suggest less autumn growth. It may be harder to maintain ground cover in late summer and autumn.



The growth rates shown have included the positive impacts of increased carbon dioxide on plant growth.

#### Stocking Rates

The stocking rates for all years are set so that pasture ground cover is maintained above a minimum of 65% for 7 in 10 years. Only one model predicts historic stocking rates can be maintained. Three models predict they will be lower.

Base	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
CCSM 3.0	HadGEM1	ECHAM5-OM	GFDL 2.1	
14 dse/ha	11.2 dse/ha	14 dse/ha	8.4 dse/ha	9.8 dse/ha

The average stocking rate over the 4 models is 10.9 dse/ha or 78% of the base.

#### Profit per hectare

For the Holbrook district a spring calving, self replacing British breed herd supplying feeder steers at about 17 months of age was modeled. Profit was determined which included \$100/ha for overhead costs. The stocking rates above were used. Profit is shown in dollars per hectare.

Base	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
CCSM 3.0	HadGEM1	ECHAM5-OM	GFDL 2.1	
\$117	\$61	\$109	-\$1	\$33

The models show a decrease in profit to an average of \$51/ha or 44% of the base profit. However the above table shows a large range in change in profits across the four models.

This provides us with an indication of the potential impact on profits of the climate in 2030 where no changes have been made to the production systems.


However as the climate changes producers will adapt to these production changes and lessen the impact on profits. Other fact sheets in this series will describe modeled adaptation changes in production, indicating the relative change of different strategies.



## Appendix 2: MEDIA

### Appendix 2.1: Holbrook Happenings and Eastern Riverina Chronicle 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014

HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS  
5 FEBRUARY 2014



**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FORUM**


Farming our soils: Farming our landscapes

**12:30-8 pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**  
**Holbrook Library Complex**

Presenting a great range of researchers, farmers, advisors -- and even the odd historian!

These speakers will discuss soils, water in the landscape, native pastures in the livestock system, and dealing with practical challenges. After dinner Bill Gammage, ANU historian, will give a talk based on his book *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia*.

Cost: \$20 includes BBQ dinner  
RSVP by 14<sup>th</sup> February to  
[office@holbrooklandcare.com.au](mailto:office@holbrooklandcare.com.au)  
or (02) 6036 3181

sponsored by 



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sponsored by 

**EASTERN RIVERINA CHRONICLE**  
5 FEB 2014

HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS  
5 FEBRUARY 2014

#### HOLBROOK LANDCARE

Holbrook Landcare has received funding from MLA to explore the use of grazing crops in our farming systems. Working with Michael Friend, CSU, the new project *Tactics to Graze Crops* aims to fill some of the current knowledge gaps around management issues. The research will also focus on changes in profitability and business risk associated with using dual purpose crops within a grazing system. Producers may have already experimented with dual purpose crops and experienced difficulties in managing winter sown crops. This project provides an excellent opportunity for those producers to again explore management issues under the guidance of an experienced researcher.

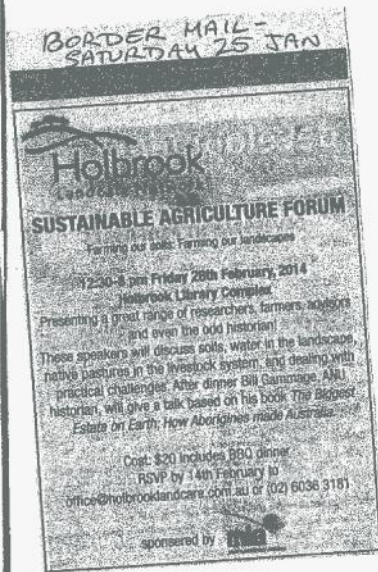
The Holbrook Landcare Network *Women in Ag Project* hosted 34 men, women and children learning safer, more efficient and more productive Low Stress Stock Handling at a 2 day training school on 23/24 January 2014. Families and work teams had theory sessions and then practiced exercises handling stock together in a calm and confident manner. Participants from as far away as Young and Benalla used new techniques and strategies that teach the livestock to tolerate stress and react calmly and predictably to human handling.

The LSS techniques increase productivity, improve meat quality, are more safe and efficient for the farmers and reduces animals and peoples' stress. Grahame Rees provided the training, ably assisted by his wife Ros from LSS. The training was offered at an excellent price with support from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country and Holbrook Landcare Network. Feedback from the group included "brilliant", "it has turned my way of working upside down, it is so logical and it works", "really lifted my confidence" and "now I have skills to get more experience safely". There will be an Advanced School, follow up practice session for the 14 women participants in May to reinforce their new skills and knowledge. A huge thankyou to Ellie and Michael Gooden who hosted our practical yard and paddock exercises at their home.

If you have expressed interest in attending the **Landscape Rehydration Bus Tour** on February 10 and 11 to Braidwood, please forward your payment of \$100 per person to Holbrook Landcare to confirm your place. Have a look at the website for the Mulloon Institute <http://themullooninstitute.org/> to see the type of things we will be looking at. If you are still interested in attending please contact the office ASAP.



## Appendix 2.2: Border Mail 25<sup>th</sup> January and Holbrook Happenings 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014



### HOLBROOK LANDCARE

Holbrook Landcare's Sustainable Agriculture Forum will be held on February 28. This is our highlight event of the year. A mail out has been done to local addresses and flyers are around town. A great range of speakers will address aspects of soil and landscape management. Check it out on the HLN website. MLA have again provided funding for this event.

Elections have been called for the new Local Land Services Board positions. Calls are now open for nomination to the 3 ratepayer elected positions. Nominations close 5pm 31 January 2014. Please consider nominating someone that you think has the range of skills needed to make informed and appropriate decisions about the large investment of public funds in our area? Do they have a broad understanding of the range of issues in the catchment, agricultural, NRM and social? Are they committed to the ongoing building of collaborative working relationships with the landcare and producer group community? Only ratepayers can vote, and they must enrol to vote by 17 February 2014. Enrolment and nomination forms are available at, and must be submitted to, your Local Land Services office. Forms are also available on the new LLS website.

We've been posting lots of information on our facebook pages and website so don't forget to check in with us, be our "friend" and keep up to date with local agriculture, environmental, rural livelihood and social goings on. Google Holbrook Landcare and you'll get our web page with our social media links in the top right hand corner. Also you can "friend" Edwina Hayes on facebook to keep up with all things Landcare in the wider farming and environmental community.


It's so hot we've had to postpone the Women in Ag Low Stress Stockhandling Training School until 23 and 24 January. It won't be so stressful under 40°! The School is brought to you by the Holbrook Landcare Network Women in Ag project with support from the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program.

HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS  
22 JANUARY 2014



## Appendix 2.3 Holbrook Happenings 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014




HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS  
19 FEBRUARY 2014

**SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE  
FORUM**

Farming our soils: Farming our landscapes

**12:30-8 pm Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**  
**Holbrook Library Complex**

Cost: \$20 includes BBQ dinner. RSVP to  
[office@holbrooklandcare.org.au](mailto:office@holbrooklandcare.org.au) or (02) 6036 3181

sponsored by   

HOLBROOK HAPPENINGS  
19 FEBRUARY 2014

### HOLBROOK LANDCARE

There is still time to RSVP for the **Sustainable Agriculture Forum** which is coming up on 28<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a great event, structured to get people talking, with a real mix of speakers presenting on a range of soils and land management issues. Contact the office to RSVP.

Holbrook Landcare is happy to be able to offer a **rerun** of the successful **District Soils Results & Fertiliser Decision Making session on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March** at the Holbrook Library Complex for those who were unable to attend in November. The session will run from 7.30 - 10.30am starting with breakfast. RSVP is required by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The session is made possible through funds provided by Landcare Australia, CFOC, Murray LLS & the Australian Government.

Our **Incorporating Stubble Trial** is starting up again for the season. Thanks go to Norwoods at Wodonga, who are again sending a demonstration machine to incorporate the stubble on this trial. If you would like to observe the 4.5m wide speedytill in action, we will start at 10am at "Billa Billa" and continue at "Innisfail" after lunch. Please ring the office to RSVP and your lunch will be catered for. This trial is funded by the Department of Agriculture through the Graham Centre.

We had a productive discussion with half a dozen farmers in the office recently to get our new **Tactics for Grazing Crops** project underway. MLA have funded this project for the next 3 years and some good ideas were floated on ways to get some local questions answered within this project.



## Appendix 2.4 EverGraze Media Release

### Media Release



23 January 2014

#### Localising pasture information

Sheep and cattle producers throughout the high rainfall zone of Victoria and southern NSW now have access to new regionally relevant information to help manage their pasture and livestock systems.

The EverGraze team has added a comprehensive pastures component to the regional package for 'North East Victoria, South West Slopes NSW, South West Victoria (Upper)'. The pastures information incorporates 10 years of research and on-farm demonstration, and provides fact sheets, tools and calculators for producers to assess options for improved pasture management.

EverGraze National Project Leader, Kate Sargeant, from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) said this particular region shows a high degree of variation in climate, soil, altitude and aspect, placing limitations on what pasture species will grow and how they will perform.

"This newly released pasture information draws together principles of pasture management and provides recommendations, including photos, for species use and management that are supported by evidence from local research and demonstrations," Ms Sargeant said.

"An important skill for producers is to understand the factors that influence what pasture species will grow in a particular paddock, or part of a paddock and what management factors will drive pasture production. That is what we aim to assist with."

Information from the North East Victoria, South West Slopes NSW, South West Victoria (Upper) regional package will also be presented at a series of field days coming up in North East Victoria and Southern NSW.

Ms Sargeant will discuss the regional package at the Holbrook Landcare Group Sustainable Agriculture Forum on 28 February. Contact Raylene Brown for more information on (02) 6036 3181.

EverGraze, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and the North East CMA will host three workshops on the theme 'Making Native Pastures Pay' in March 2014. The workshops will cover key messages from EverGraze research, farm economics and animal nutrition in relation to native pastures. Contact Ashley Paech for information on (02) 6030 4566.

EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC research and delivery partnership with Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, Department of Environment and Primary Industries Victoria (DEPI), Department of Primary Industries NSW, Department of Agriculture and Food WA and Charles Sturt University. For further information visit [www.evergraze.com.au](http://www.evergraze.com.au).

Media contact: Kate Sargeant, 0428 325 318.





## Appendix 2.5: HLN Media Release



### MEDIA RELEASE - HOLBROOK LANDCARE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FORUM

Holbrook Landcare is hosting a Sustainable Agriculture Forum on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Titled 'Farming our Soils: Farming our Landscapes', the Forum will address a wide range of farming issues, while recognising the fundamental importance of soils.

Holbrook Landcare Network Chair, Tony Geddes, is keen to learn more about managing our soils. "With all the talk about soil carbon, it is important to remember that we want to build up our soil carbon because it is good for our soils," he says. "We can produce more product – essentially food – from soils with higher organic matter. It's a nutrient management issue. Equally if we grow more biomass then more plant material is returned to the soil to increase soil carbon. It is a bit of a chicken and egg scenario."

This forum will bring together soils researchers Dr Susan Orgill (NSW DPI) and Dr Gupta Vadakattu (CSIRO), to give an overview of what we know and what we don't know about soil carbon and soil biology respectively, alongside farmers John Ive ( *Talaheni*, Yass) and Vince Heffernan ( *Moorlands*, Gunning), who have made a success of adapting to soils and landscape issues to create sustainable farming businesses. "We always want to hear about the latest research, but also we really love to hear the ways in which other farmers have dealt with the practical difficulties on the ground," says Tony Geddes. "It is always a great talking point."

The Forum is structured to get people talking.

"We have a mix of speakers that will look at farming systems from a number of viewpoints, from specialist science through farming systems research, to practical on ground application by farmers and a history of our landscape" says Mr Geddes. "There really is something here for everyone who's interested in the future of farming."

Other speakers in the afternoon session are Dr Leah Moore (University of Canberra) who will present the findings from local hydrogeological surveying, and Kate Sargeant (VIC DEPI) discussing results and what's been learned from the EverGraze work.

To stimulate some new perspectives on our landscape, after a barbecue dinner the Forum will end with an historian speaking. Professor Bill Gammage will give a talk based on his book *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia*. This presentation will provide food for thought about the role of fire in our landscapes.

For more information please contact Holbrook Landcare:

Tony Geddes (Chair) 0438 369515  
Chris Cumming (Executive Officer) 0429 990604  
Raylene Brown (Project Officer) 02 6036 3181  
[office@holbrooklandcare.org.au](mailto:office@holbrooklandcare.org.au)



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[www.holbrooklandcare.org.au](http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au)



## Appendix 2.6 Holbrook Happenings 5 March 2014

### SUSTAINABLE AG FORUM

The annual Holbrook Landcare Sustainable Agriculture Forum was held last Friday, and saw over 100 people come from far and wide to hear perspectives on farming and soil from expert researchers, farmers and extension officers. Attendees came from as far as the Blue Mountains and Canberra—a great promotion for the town and our Landcare community.

Themes for the day were Soil Science, Soils in Practice & Soils and Farming. Following dinner in the Library Complex gardens, Bill Gammage spoke on his book, "The Biggest Estate on Earth".

*Back: Vince Heffernan (presenter), Tony Geddes (HLN Chairman), Tony Cory (Dept of Ag), John Ive (presenter). Front: Carmel Bourke (Dept of Ag), Chris Cumming (HLN CEO), Leah Moore (presenter), Susan Orgill (presenter), Angela Avery (HLN Director)*





## Appendix 2.7: Eastern Riverina Chronicle 5 March 2014

EASTERN RIVERINA CHRONICLE - 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014

### Ag forum attracts bumper crowd



■ Speakers at the Holbrook Landcare Sustainable Agriculture Forum.

More than 100 people attended Holbrook Landcare's Sustainable Agriculture Forum on the weekend. Visitors came from as far as the Blue Mountains to hear a variety of guest speakers on the topic 'Farming our Soils: farming our Landscapes'.

The day was separated into three parts with Dr Susan Grigg, a soil carbon researcher from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, and Dr Gupta Vedakum from the CSIRO in Adelaide talking about soil biology.

Both speakers emphasised that managing soil carbon and soil biology can be of great productive benefit to farmers.

Dr Leah Moore from the University of Canberra then spoke

about the Hydro-geological Landscapes mapping - a resource for land managers to help them understand water movements at the landscape level.

In the second theme 'Soils in practice', farmers John I've Talaheni, Yase and Vince Heffernan (Moorlands, Gungahlin) spoke about their experiences on the farm.

Mr Heffernan told the crowd of his production success with wool and biodynamic farms.

I'm an advocate for biodiversity, he said.

I believe all farms could and should have five to 15 per cent of their area under regeneration at any one time.

I want to convince other farmers

that this is 'doable', achievable, necessary and essential.

It is not enough to plant a few trees and think you've done enough.

In the afternoon session, Kate Sargeant from the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries gave an overview of results and findings from the EverGraze project, which had a proof site in Holbrook.

We have the evidence of profit, risk, environment, lifestyle and farm management impact of practices from real data in the region.


Ms Sargeant said.

The day concluded with Mear and Livestock Australia's Leanne Sherriff introducing the new 'Farm 300' program.




## Appendix 3: FLYERS & POSTERS

### Appendix 3.1: Postcard Flyers (double-sided) delivered by Australia Post



## Sustainable Agriculture Forum

Farming our Soils: Farming our Landscapes  
Fantastic one day event with a great range of speakers



**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**

Holbrook Library Complex, Library Court, off Bowler St, Holbrook

Registration 12:30 pm for 1 pm      BBQ Dinner 6-7 pm in Library grounds      7 pm after dinner speaker

Afternoon tea provided

RSVP and dinner pre-payment by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
Dinner Cost \$20.00

Payment can be cash, cheque or direct deposit.  
Bank Details: Holbrook Landcare, BSB: 082-646, Acc No: 164469809

74 Albury St (PO Box 121) Holbrook NSW 2644  
T 02 6036 3181 F 02 6036 3183 E office@holbrooklandcare.org.au

[www.holbrooklandcare.org.au](http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au)

We have pulled together a great range of speakers on a wide range of interesting topics to present a fantastic, not to be missed, event in Holbrook. In the afternoon we are starting with soils, moving to water, looking at native pastures and livestock systems and hearing from a couple of farmers about their approach. After a chat and dinner at the CTC grounds we will hear Bill Gammage talk about how aborigines managed the land before white man arrived.

**12:30 pm : Registration**      **1:00 pm: Speakers commence:**

**Dr Susan Orgill, NSW DPI: 'The science of soil carbon'**  
Susan's research has been investigating improving the efficiency of pastures to sequester carbon in soil. Susan will speak broadly on soil carbon

**Dr Gupta Vadakattu, CSIRO Adelaide: 'The critical role of soil microbiology: What we know and what we don't'**  
Dr Vadakattu is researching soil microbial function and diversity in agricultural systems

**Dr Leah Moore, Associate Professor in Land Management, University of Canberra:**  
**'Understanding hydrogeologic landscapes (HGL): How water moves through landscape materials'**  
Leah will be discussing the findings of local hydrogeological mapping and why some parts of the landscape behave differently

**John Ive, 'Talaheni', Yass: 'Farming under landscape and climate challenges'**  
John produces ultrafine wool, Angus cattle and farm forestry. John is part of the climate champion program

**Vince Heffernan, 'Moorlands' Gunning: 'Ecological agriculture in practice'**  
Vince produces bio-dynamic lamb, farming without pesticides, antibiotics or growth promoting hormones

**Kate Sargeant, VIC DEPI: 'Managing Profit, Risk, Sustainability and Lifestyle'**  
Kate and Evergraze scientists will discuss the key messages from research on local high and low input systems. Topics include native pastures, livestock systems, lambing time, profitable pasture systems and grazing management. New tips and tools will be introduced and explained.

**6 -7:00 pm: Dinner**

**Adjunct Professor Bill Gammage, Humanities Research Centre ANU:**  
**'The Biggest Estate on Earth - How aborigines managed the land before Europeans arrived'**  
Bill grew up in Wagga, and studied history at ANU. He has taught at ANU, and both the Universities of PNG and Adelaide. His book *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia* was published in 2011, and in 2012 won the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian history.

**8.00pm Close**



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## Appendix 3.2 A4 Flyer emailed and displayed



# Sustainable Agriculture Forum

Farming our Soils: Farming our Landscapes

*This forum offers a great range of speakers presenting on a wide range of interesting topics.*

*In the afternoon we are starting with soils, moving to water, looking at native pastures and livestock systems and hearing from a couple of farmers about their approach.*

*After a chat and dinner at the CTC grounds, Bill Gammage will talk about how Aborigines managed the land before white man arrived.*

**Dr Susan Orgill, NSW DPI:**

*'The science of soil carbon'*

**Dr Gupta Vadakattu, CSIRO Adelaide:**

*'The critical role of soil microbiology: What we know and what we don't'*

**Dr Leah Moore, Associate Professor in Land Management, University of Canberra:**

*'Understanding hydrogeologic landscapes (HGL): How water moves through landscape materials'*

**John Ive, 'Talaheni', Yass:**

*'Farming under landscape and climate challenges'*

**Vince Heffernan, 'Moorlands' Gunning:**

*'Ecological agriculture in practice'*

**Kate Sargeant, VIC DEPI:**

*'Managing profit, risk, sustainability and lifestyle' – key messages from EverGraze*

**Adjunct Professor Bill Gammage, Humanities Research Centre ANU:**

*'The Biggest Estate on Earth - How Aborigines managed the land before Europeans arrived'*

More detail can be found on the HLN website

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**

12:30 pm Registration  
1 pm Start  
6-7 pm BBQ Dinner in Library grounds  
7-8 pm After dinner speaker

Holbrook Library Complex, Library Court, off Bowler St, Holbrook

**RSVP AND DINNER PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED BY**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Cost, including dinner: \$20.00  
Payment can be cash, cheque or direct deposit.

Bank Details: Holbrook Landcare,  
NAB, BSB: 082-646,  
Account No: 164469809

74 Albury St (PO Box 121) Holbrook NSW 2644  
T 02 6036 3181 F 02 6036 3183 E [office@holbrooklandcare.org.au](mailto:office@holbrooklandcare.org.au)

[www.holbrooklandcare.org.au](http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au)

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### Appendix 3.3 A3 Flyer displayed around town



## Sustainable Agriculture Forum

Farming our Soils: Farming our Landscapes  
Fantastic one day event with a great range of speakers



### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

Holbrook Library Complex, Library Court, off Bowler St, Holbrook

Registration 12:30 pm for 1 pm      BBQ Dinner 6-7 pm in Library grounds      7 pm after dinner speaker

Afternoon tea provided

RSVP and dinner pre-payment by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
Dinner Cost \$20.00

Payment can be cash, cheque or direct deposit.  
Bank Details: Holbrook Landcare, BSB: 082-646, Acc No: 164469809

We have pulled together a great range of speakers on a wide range of interesting topics to present a fantastic, not to be missed, event in Holbrook. In the afternoon we are starting with soils, moving to water, looking at native pastures and livestock systems and hearing from a couple of farmers about their approach. After a chat and dinner at the CTC grounds we will hear Bill Gammage talk about how aborigines managed the land before white man arrived.

**12:30 pm : Registration**      **1:00 pm: Speakers commence:**

**Dr Susan Orgill, NSW DPI: 'The science of soil carbon'**  
Susan's research has been investigating improving the efficiency of pastures to sequester carbon in soil. Susan will speak broadly on soil carbon

**Dr Gupta Vadakattu, CSIRO Adelaide: 'The critical role of soil microbiology: What we know and what we don't'**  
Dr Vadakattu is researching soil microbial function and diversity in agricultural systems

**Dr Leah Moore, Associate Professor in Land Management, University of Canberra:**  
**'Understanding hydrogeologic landscapes (HGL): How water moves through landscape materials'**  
Leah will be discussing the findings of local hydrogeological mapping and why some parts of the landscape behave differently

**John Ive, 'Talaheni', Yass: 'Farming under landscape and climate challenges'**  
John produces ultrafine wool, Angus cattle and farm forestry. John is part of the climate champion program

**Vince Heffernan, 'Moorlands' Gunning: 'Ecological agriculture in practice'**  
Vince produces bio-dynamic lamb, farming without pesticides, antibiotics or growth promoting hormones

**Kate Sargeant, VIC DEPI: 'Managing Profit, Risk, Sustainability and Lifestyle'**  
Kate and Evergraze scientists will discuss the key messages from research on local high and low input systems. Topics include native pastures, livestock systems, lambing time, profitable pasture systems and grazing management. New tips and tools will be introduced and explained.

**6 -7:00 pm: Dinner**

**Adjunct Professor Bill Gammage, Humanities Research Centre ANU:**  
**'The Biggest Estate on Earth - How aborigines managed the land before Europeans arrived'**  
Bill grew up in Wagga, and studied history at ANU. He has taught at ANU, and both the Universities of PNG and Adelaide. His book *The Biggest Estate on Earth: How Aborigines made Australia* was published in 2011, and in 2012 won the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian history.

**8.00pm Close**

74 Albury St (PO Box 121) Holbrook NSW 2644  
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[www.holbrooklandcare.org.au](http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au)



## Appendix 4: FEEDBACK FORM



### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FORUM FEEDBACK FORM

#### Soil Science Sessions

Have the two soil science speakers' presentations changed the way you think about your soils?

Yes ☐

No ☐

What are three key messages for you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Will the information change anything you are doing on your farm?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Possibly ☐

What might you do differently?

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#### Soils in Practice Sessions

Has the hydrogeology presentation changed the way you understand water in the landscape?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Will the information change anything you are doing on your farm?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Possibly ☐

What might you do differently?

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### **Farmers' Stories**

Did you find hearing from other farmers beneficial?      No ☐      Yes ☐      Very ☐

What were two valuable messages you gained from them?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other farmers you would like to hear from at next year's forum? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Soil and the Farm System Sessions**

Did you find the EverGraze results session useful?

Yes ☐      No ☐

What are three key messages for you?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Will the information change anything you are doing on your farm?

Yes ☐      No ☐      Possibly ☐

What might you do differently?

### **Future events**

Are there any topics touched on today that you would like to learn more on?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any other farming topics or natural resource management issues you would like Holbrook Landcare Network to run field days, training or trials on in the future?

1. Field days \_\_\_\_\_
2. Training sessions \_\_\_\_\_
3. Trials \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find the venue and the catering?



Poor ☐ Average ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐

Anything you would suggest we can do to improve the day for future forums?

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**Thank you for taking the time to fill in this form**