

SOILS ALIVE !!!!



**Come along to the FREE workshops across
the Goulburn Broken 9.00 am – 5.00 pm**

**Wednesday 10th June
Benalla DPI
Charlie Sexton
03 5761 1560**

**Thursday 11th June
Longwood Hall
Charlie Sexton
03 5761 1560**

**Friday 12th June
Kilmore Library
Ian Julian
03 5734 6312**

What you will gain from the workshop:

Participants will learn how soil organic matter and soil biology interact and contribute to more productive, healthier soils.

The role of soil organic matter in farming systems is becoming ever more important as seasonal rainfall varies. Soils that have a history of stubble retention, good grazing management and increased soil organic matter have potential to increase plant available water. This will improve the ability of pastures and crops to survive longer periods between rainfall events.

Cathy Botta from the DPI Healthy Soils Vic program will be presenting information on understanding soil organic matter, the role of soil organic matter in soil health, and how to improve soil organic matter levels in your soils. Participants can use this information in establishing a soil health management plan for their property.

Dr Damian Bougoure, a molecular microbial ecologist from DPI Healthy Soils Vic program will be looking at the roles and functions of soil biology. Damian will be explaining the who's who of soil biology and the impacts of different types of land management. Landholders will also have the opportunity to check out the DPI DNA Van equipped with a mini-laboratory that allows soil samples to be processed in the field.

Bertram Lobert from the Goulburn Broken Dung Beetle & Soil Health Project will be providing an insight to dung beetles and how they improve soil health. In particular a summary of local research into the influence of dung burial on soil health & the 2009 status of dung beetles in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

This is a unique opportunity to learn about soil biology and soil organic matter in one free workshop. We encourage landholders to try and attend as much of the workshop day as possible.

Bookings are essential and all are welcome. Please **RSVP by the 3rd June**. Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be supplied along with workshop notes. Further enquiries or bookings can be made by contacting the Department of Primary Industries, Kristy Youman kristy.youman@dpi.vic.gov.au or Charlie Sexton, Landcare Officer on 03 5761 1560.

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