

FIREWOOD
Upper Murray Hardwood
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Stephen and Keenan Whitsed with Matthew Warnken of Agriprove with the Soilkee Renovator.

Building carbon levels pays off

A revolutionary tilling system has the potential to lead the world in soil carbon improvement, giving local farmers the opportunity to add to their bottom line while helping save the planet.

The Soilkee Renovator is the only implement in the world that can be used to renovate pastures with one-pass operations that mulch, till, cultivate, sow and regenerate soils. The Upper Murray soil regeneration carbon

project has been developed by the Whitsed family's company Global Soil Regeneration and works in conjunction with Matthew Warnken, the managing director of Agriprove.

The secret to the Soilkee Renovator is that it aerates soil with minimal pasture disturbance as it buries residual organic matter, top-dresses the pasture with soil and drills seed into the rows.

The system makes soils healthier and creates a much higher carbon content which enables farmers to be paid under the federal government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF).

Following a low-key demonstration of the Soilkee Renovator at the Whitseds' Biggara property last November, GSR sowed ten crops using the tillage system, in addition to their own, in the spring. All ten planted again in the autumn.

Five new farmers have since signed up to the project, bringing the total to 15 registered farms in the district, spread over nearly 2,000 hectares.

GSR held a demonstration day at Holbrook on Monday with the local landcare group which will now conduct a trial on a three-hectare plot.

"Our ultimate aim is to make the Upper Murray carbon positive," said project co-ordinator, Keenan Whitsed.

"The Soilkee Renovator will lift carbon levels in the soil faster than any other system and it comes with many benefits. Building soil carbon increases topsoil, improves water holding capacity, increases worm populations, boosts soil biology and it's better for the environment.

"The system also uses less fertiliser which saves money on inputs.

"The Soilkee Renovator allows farmers to take climate action while improving their own soils and pastures and being paid for it," Keenan added. Their partner AgriProve is Australia's first one stop shop for soil carbon from credit creation to sales. It enables farmers to generate income from carbon abatement activities and secure viable returns in the Australian market.

"Our goal is to mainstream a farmer-led, commercial model of soil carbon farming - regenerating agriculture and sequestering carbon at scale," said Managing director, Matthew Warnken said.

"To assist us reach this

goal we have secured \$150 million in government funding to pay farmers who build soil carbon and generate credits."

In mid-March Australia's first soil carbon credits were issued under the federal government's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) for AgriProve's flagship project in the Upper Murray. They were also the first soil carbon credits globally to be eligible under a national greenhouse target in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

AgriProve is supporting GSR to give farmers who sign up to soil carbon projects a discount on retail hourly contracting rates.

"Scaling rapidly will help generate efficiencies and reduce costs for activities like soil sampling," Matthew said.

"The Soilkee has the potential to transform farming regions from sources of greenhouse gas emissions to carbon sinks," he explained.

"This aligns with industry goals such as Meat and Livestock Australia's plan to become carbon neutral by 2030."

For further information on the Soilkee project contact Stephen Whitsed on 0434 348 467 or email sjwhitsed@gmail.com.

From 1 July 2019 e-waste will no longer be accepted in any bin.

What is e-waste?

E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.



Where can I take my e-waste?

Visit ewaste.vic.gov.au or contact your local council to find your nearest e-waste drop off point.



North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group



Corryong Neighbourhood Centre

YOUTH SNOW TRIP – TUESDAY 9TH JULY – SELWYN – SIGNUP SHEET TO BE IN BEFORE 29TH JUNE - \$76 FOR UNDER 18 AND \$124 FOR OVER 18

Driving Lessons – Belvoir Driving School – Thursday 18th July - \$70

Technology Playgroup – Tues to Fri – 1 on 1 assistance with IT issues - \$5

Drawing Group – Fri 21st June – 1pm-3.30pm – 39 Hanson St – \$5

Water Exercise Group – Weekly on Mondays. – Bus leaves from old netball courts on Strzelecki Way at 8.30am.

Cost: \$5.20 pool entry & \$5.00 bus. Names to CNC.

Youth Space – Open after school – Join FB group for upcoming activities

CONTACT CNC FOR DETAILS & BOOKINGS

LEGAL – DIAS - phone 0260562420 for appointment **Hume Riverina Community Legal Service** – phone 1800918377 for appointment **EMPLOYMENT - Sureways** Every Thurs **MADEC** Enquiries 60585900

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