



# Project RENEW

Regenerate Environment Nurture Engage Wellbeing

Project RENEW Report 1-2014

## Overview:

Progress for Project RENEW has been gathering pace since the last report. The work site at Dunluce has had a geological history written as well as actual soil sampling and analysis. The local Landcare group has been consulted and the project and concepts presented received tremendous support.

La Trobe University, despite a restructure of its programs, is continuing to provide support for this vital community project. Professor John Martin will remain on the steering committee and contribute wherever possible with the main focus being evaluation.

Further works sites and opportunities are being explored, with the close links to the Australian Government's Farming for Sustainable Soils Phase 2 project being utilised.

## Specific activities:

Soil sampling at the Dunluce works site occurred in February. Photos of the day are below.

SWEP Analytical Laboratories ([www.swep.com.au](http://www.swep.com.au)) has very generously donated the soil analysis services to Project RENEW for this site. We are currently awaiting the results of these soil samples.



Figure 3- Geologist and steering committee member Phil Dyson collecting soil samples for analysis



Figure 2- Farmer Ken Calder (middle) and family members Dianne and Danny Mullins



Figure 1- Phil Dyson examining the change in soil structure in the soil profile

## Presentation to Timor West Landcare Group

Phil Dyson and Joel Spry presented on Project RENEW to the Timor West Landcare Group on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March where 12 members were present.

Phil, in his usual passionate and informative way, detailed the geological processes and events that have formed the local farming landscape. Plenty of discussion resulted and there were ample opportunities to suggest a role that Project RENEW could play in trialling and demonstrating effective land use solutions to the major land degradation issues in the area, being gully erosion and salinity.

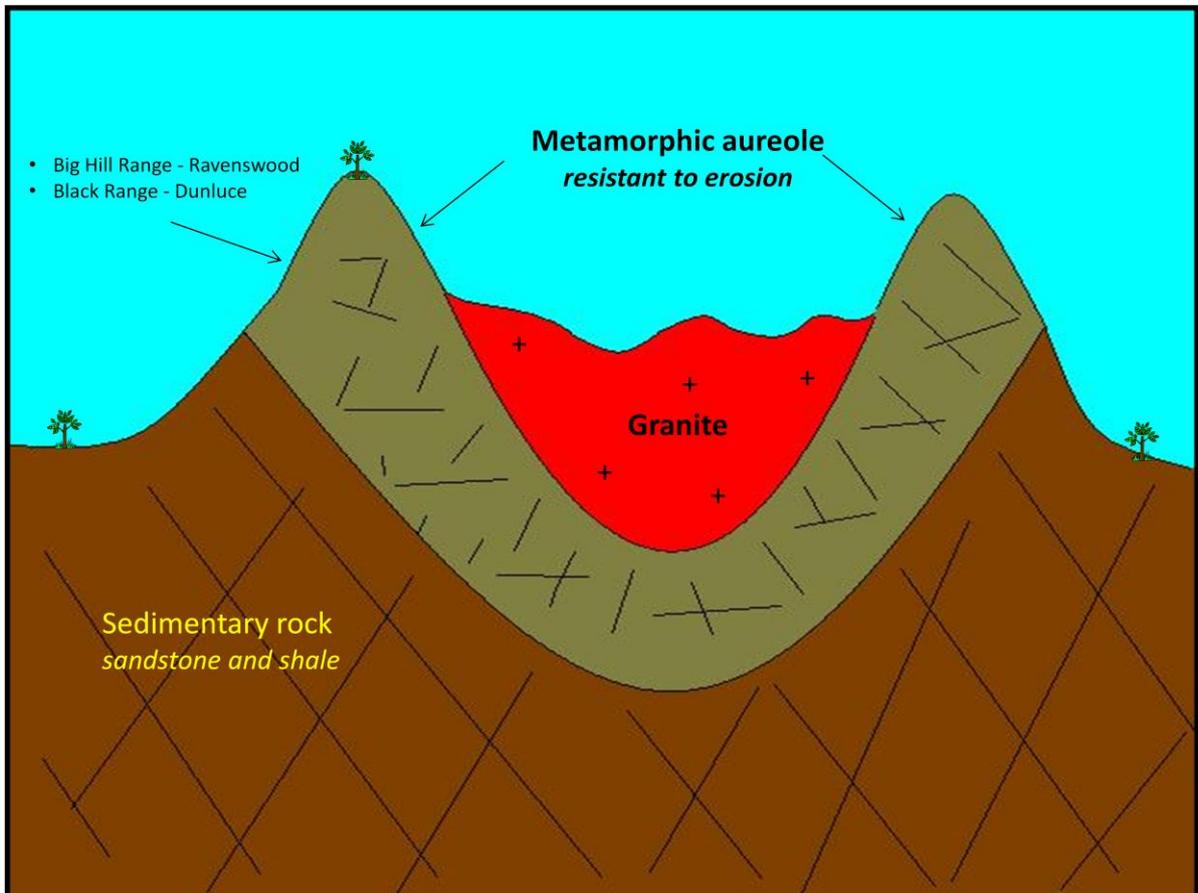


Figure 4- Sample of the presentation given to the Timor West Landcare Group

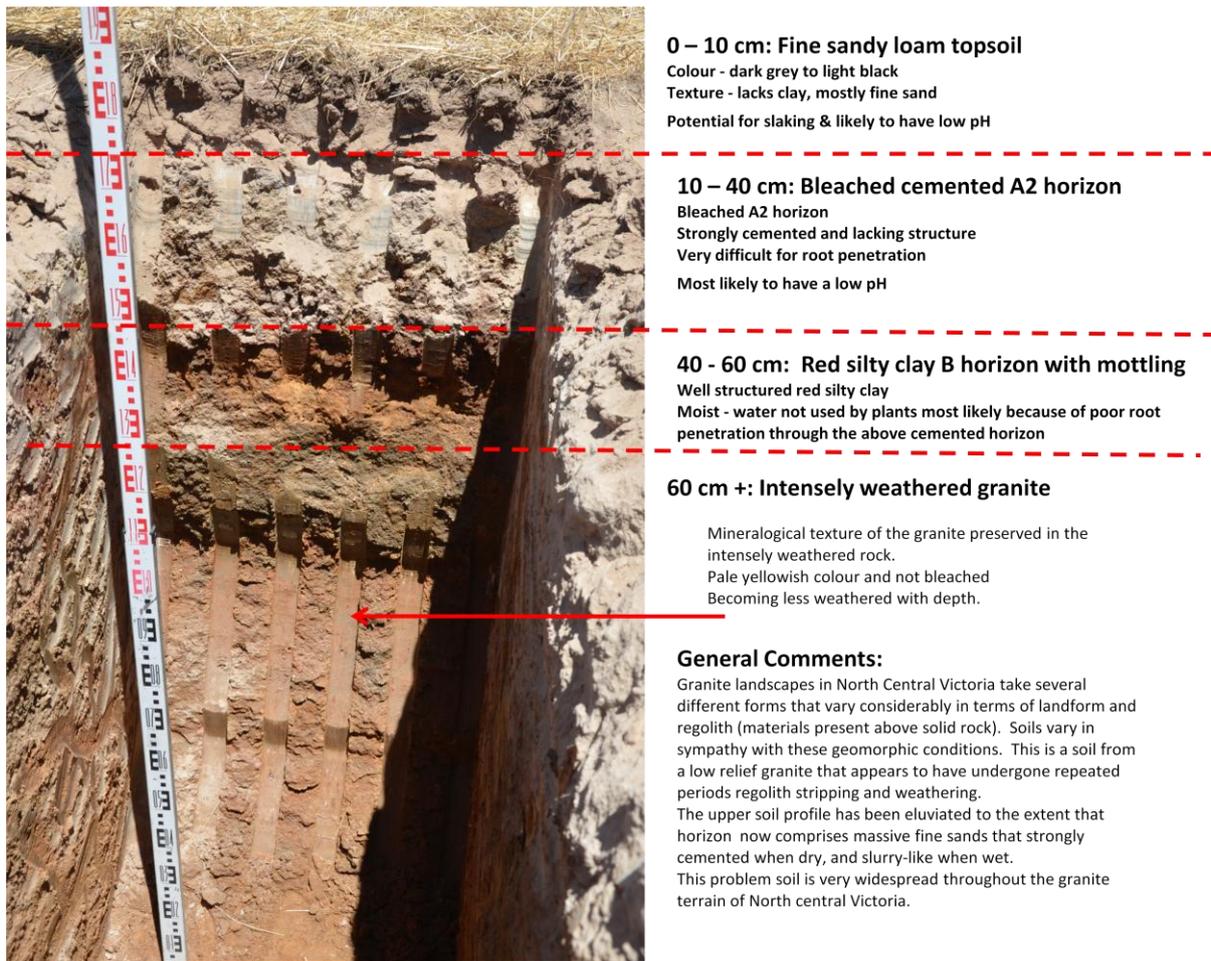


Figure 5- Soil description presented to the Timor West Landcare Group

Suffice to say, all the members were really receptive of Project RENEW and our ideas for creating a project to deal with gully erosion and salinity in their area. We are now awaiting a written response indicating the level of support the Landcare group is willing to give.

**Financial:**

The North Central CMA has invoiced La Trobe University for payments for project management.

**Issues for discussion:**

Funding strategies- applications are being developed to source further matching funds for on ground works.

New works sites and projects are being sought after through collaborative partnerships with other State and Federal government projects as well as through the City of Greater Bendigo alliance.

**Projected activities for next period:**

- Continued community relationship development- a vital aspect of the project and key to the overall success of Project RENEW

- Landcare Group presentations will continue with the vision of educating and empowering communities
- Professional networking with potential partners, knowledge sources and other experts in the land degradation field as well as social research will continue