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may also suggest people to add! Thankyou.***

Hi to Soil Selfies contributors and supporters

Soil Selfies and Soil Stories at Speed

The photos first displayed in Berlin for Global Soil Week have had another use in the past week – at Speed at the Mallee Machinery Field Days, where the big Dept of Eco Dev invited me to take them to be part of Ag Vic’s Tin Shed Soils display and activities. I displayed only the Wimmera – Mallee Soil Selfies photos – as you can see on the photo, they take up a fair bit of space.



The photos going down the page on the far left and curving are the soils close up.

Those left of the IYS poster are the uses, which formed three groups: foods, shelter/buildings and recreation.

Those on the right are about our soil issues : problems with erosion immediately right of centre; and good management on the far right

and bottom: stubble and ground cover retention, no long-term impact uses, and xericulture farming.

On the far board are Soil Stories statements - “why I like my soil”

As an activity, I ran a survey on “why I like my soil” to tie with the *Soil Stories* global project and put the results up on the display.

Tempy PS came for a session on soils and their “why I like my soil” statements will also go to this project and be on my website as soon as possible.

It was exciting to share our photos with the visitors to the display and hear their comments about their soils eg comparing them with the chernozems of Russia.

Soil Selfies website growth

The slow process of getting the Soil Selfies on the <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soil-selfies/> website is progressing:

[Wimmera-Mallee/](#) 9 so far which share a story of soil of uses on farms to feed the family and the world, to revegetate and research, and as the ‘floor’ for field days and recreation: a tractor pull competition, shooting range, national park tourist attraction, and a natural habitat.

[queensland/](#) 3 so far, of which 2 commercial farms and one backyard garden, 2 of these being on the Darling Downs with their rich but demanding soils.

[new-south-wales/](#) 2 from home gardens, one from sandy and the other from muddy soils

All are available freely for anyone to use to learn more about soils and our uses of them.

OVAM’s global ‘Soil Stories’ project

In the schools soil education project, children have been writing statement to submit to the *Soil Stories* project, at www.bodembewust.be/soilstories

One of the Soil Selfies has already been linked to it - “for plants and memories” for its important recognition that through the things we use soil for, over decades they also hold important memories. This is a mental health aspect of the “*Healthy soils for a healthy life*” IYS slogan for which soils may not be often appreciated.

Growing the collection

“Soil Selfies” was part of my Family Farming Snapshots talk at the World Environmental Educators Congress in Goteburg in July. Between Berlin and this, I have had a few international Soil Selfies contributed and would love to receive more. So please continue to help me grow this volunteer project whether in Australia or the rest of the world ...and be patient while I get them prepared and published.

With thanks for your involvement

Jeanie

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