



2015  
International  
Year of Soils

*This email updates the progress "Soil Selfies" project through **September – natural environment Soil Selfies and Plaza holiday activities***

*If this is the first time you have received an update from me, as I have only met you recently, please add this email address to your safe senders.*

*Please, if you do not want to receive updates, email me to take you off my list. But you may also suggest*

*people to add! Thankyou.*



**Hi to Soil Selfies contributors and supporters**

The International Year of Soils is in its last quarter, and I had a new project to keep me busy in September. As well as continuing to put Soil Selfies onto the website – aiming to link in with the SSSA's theme for September of "Soils protect the natural environment" and Victoria's Biodiversity month- and putting Soil Selfies onto social media\*, I did a soils' community holiday activity program at a shopping complex for 4 mornings. \*Throughout the year, I have been putting as many Soil Selfies as I have

time for onto Twitter, Linked in and Facebook (aiming at 2-3 per week, depending on what else I have on)– which takes a bit of time too for each one.

**Soil Selfies webpages growth**



I had already published some Soil Selfies with this focus on the natural environment from the Wimmera- Mallee, so I added 6 Soil Selfies from outside the Wimmera-Mallee in September. Webpage links are both on the master 'locations' webpage and subpages, and in the dropdown menus for each of the following groups and new pages:

[Global](#) - Denmark's Silkeborg Forest, Switzerland's Weissenstein Massif forest, added to Berlin's IASS (urban) park

[South Australia](#) – King's Innaminka Reserve sandhills

[Tasmania](#) – Styx rainforest, Scottsdale new family farm and garden on ferrosol

[Victoria](#)- Lima South family farm and home garden on 'chocolate' soil which includes an inspiring statement of what farmers should know about soil and their environment.



The collection now has 35 Soil Selfies giving quite a variety of natural and farm environments, of which the Wimmera-Mallee list was in my August e-news. These webpages are available freely for anyone to use to learn more about soils and their

uses, challenges and management – as I hope they will be as we approach World Soil Day in early December. Thankyou to those who have contributed them and ones that I still have to put onto the web – they take longer for each one than I had anticipated.

**Get Dirty? Snooping into our Soils as a holiday activity at the Horsham Plaza. and the 3<sup>rd</sup> session for the Wimmera Soil Education session.**



Following on from the National Science Week display at the Horsham Plaza in August, I was offered the opportunity to provide a holiday program in mornings of the second week of the school holidays. I adapted *Snooping into our soils* activities run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> schools sessions. I had not expected that the children would come in families, but I loved sharing the quick science explorations with such groups and seeing the parents and grand-parents interacting with their children over soils. Everyone went

away with some seeds (flower or vegetable) to plant and their Soil Shakes to turn back to dry soil, so that there was on-going soil science in the homes. This event would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of the RetPro administration, which funded it so it could be free to the public. See full details at <http://soils.enviroed4all.com.au/soils-in-stories/horsham-holiday-soils/>

**Soil Jokes**

*Do you know any good soil jokes? They are a bit thin on the ground!* (mine) I sent out a call for help to collect some for the Plaza activity, but did not get many back, especially suitable for children. So I had to make up my own. Using them, I discovered.....



● *Why did the tree think the soil was a tree? ... because it was covered in bark.* ( turned out kids had not noticed that bark comes off gum trees and lies on the ground covering soil)

● *Why did the cat think the gardener was preparing soil for its food? .... Because he heard he had added some blood and bone to it* (turned out most kids didn't know that cats ate birds, mice etc, and are only aware of cats eating cat food!)

With thanks for your involvement and especially encouragement,  
Jeanie

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