

Acknowledgments:

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SWEP Laboratories - additional biological soil testing required  
Farm trial sites across the 10 farms  
Bactivate - for advice on trial set up

# The Mitta Valley project report.

(2015-2020 / 14 Farms)

**BACTIVATE**®  
Complete soil bacteria program.



The Mitta Valley project was an independent study of the impact of the Bactivate program on pasture farm land in the Mitta Valley region. The study was conducted over 5 years (2015-2020) and 10 different farms were involved. Led by Alan Rankin, Farmer for Mitta Valley Beef and the Soils Project Leader for Landcare in the region (awarded in 2019 for his valuable contribution to Landcare over many years), it was a major stepping stone for the Bactivate. It showed beyond a doubt that the Bactivate Bacteria products and program have a strong significant technical and output impact with good farm operators. This is a summary of that project and a full study overview is available from [info@bactivate.com.au](mailto:info@bactivate.com.au)

## Technical outputs:

Improved soil pH  
Increase in available nutrients  
Brix readings higher  
Improved bacteria count  
Improved feed value

\*Versus control paddocks

## Product and farm outputs:

Faster, longer pasture growth.  
More hay.  
Less fertiliser.  
Deeper roots.  
More worms.  
Better water utilisation.  
Observational livestock improvements.  
Reduced investment.

## For more information:

See over page  
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# Key Findings:

## 1. Increase in Avg. Brix.

Average brix improved about 2 points in all paddocks versus controls across the year.

## 2. Improvement in pH.

pH improved across all trial paddocks versus controls an avg. of 0.18pH. This does not seem much but this is a log scale equivalent to 1 less tonne/ha of lime application.

## 3. Healthier soils & yield:

Better soil structure, denser root structure and elongation, more top soil, more worms, better water retention and a prolonged grass growing season.

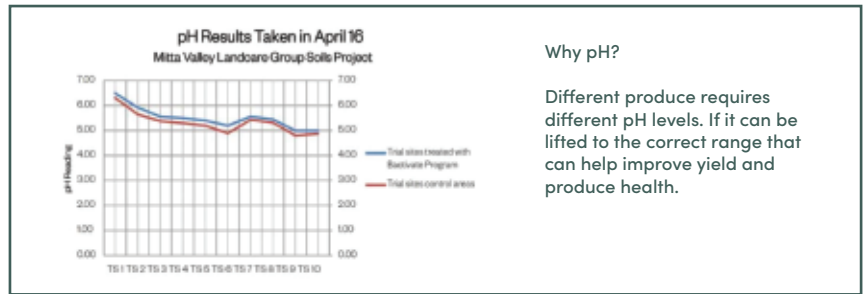
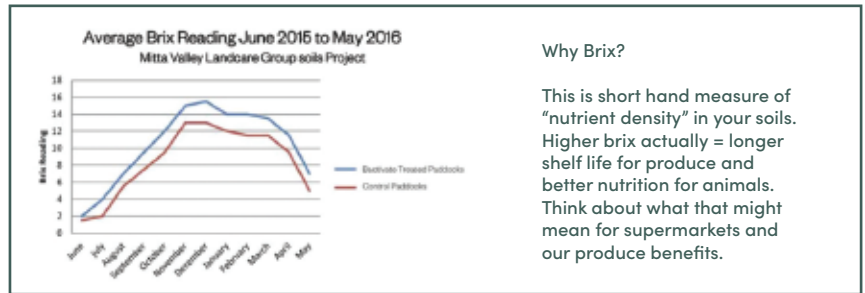
## 4. Reduction in fertiliser:

The usual applications rate was cut from 200kg/Ha to 80kg/Ha without any visual difference in pasture growth.

## 5. Reduced input costs:

Savings of \$110.16 per 2 hectare application back when fertiliser was relatively cheap (\$459).

# Time to begin soil farming.



*"From the trial we carried out it is evident that the soil properties have improved dramatically, particularly soil structure, topsoil depth, and available nutrients, which has produced healthy and vigorous grass growth, whilst significantly reducing the reliance on chemical fertilisers."*

Alan Rankin - Lead Author / Project Manager



2019 Hay cutting. Balansa clover over four feet high in treated paddock.