

Hi Fert Sustainable Farming Award – North Central

Keith and Lynn Impey

Keith and Lynn Impey run a fine wool merino farm on the Bet Bet Creek at Lexton. They have been in the area since 1960 and are well known for their passion for farming and for helping others.

The Impey property is run on a rotational-grazing-system based on available feed, with set stocking during lambing. The property has been completely sown down to perennial pasture with re-sowing of the original paddocks underway in the last five years. Phalaris and Cocksfoot have been the grasses of choice, with other perennials also being experimented with.

The 1980s and 90s saw a great deal of conservation related work on the property including the control of saline areas, trials of saltbush, recharge tree planting, planting of trees for shelter, erosion control and the fencing out and planting of streamsides.

A very distinctive five-hectare hill block in the centre of the property was planted with trees in 1989 and 1990 and has been effective in reducing saline recharge.

In 1988 a steering committee was formed to establish a local Landcare group. Keith was an original member of the group and served on the committee for seven years. Keith has also been involved with the Grasslands Productivity Program and the Landcare for Educators Program at the Creswick Landcare Centre. He is always keen to share his knowledge with the many interested people who visit the property.



Pictured L-R: Andrew Jenkin, Plant Manager Hi Fert, Clare Claydon, North Central Catchment Management Authority representing Keith and Lynn Impey, winners of the Hi Fert Sustainable Farming Award – North Central, John Thwaites, Minister for Environment and John Landy, Governor of Victoria.