

Effort Rewarded

by Emma Leonard

At the recent Ag Excellence Alliance (AEA) Forum and dinner the fourteen affiliated grower groups from across SA shared ideas and experiences.

Ag Excellence Alliance coordinator Heather Baldock reports a highlight was the presentation of the annual Ag Excellence Alliance Grower Group Award supported by Rabobank.

This year the award was shared by two groups, Mallee Sustainable Inc and YP Alkaline Soils Group.

The Ag Excellence Alliance is a project funded by the National Landcare program that started in 2006. Its objectives include increasing the viability of farming groups in SA by providing leadership and effective links between affiliated groups and key stakeholders, such as the NRM boards.

The Grower Group Award is an acknowledgement of a group's efforts and provides the support for further development. The award was open to all groups affiliated with the AEA, which includes all Agricultural Bureau Branches in SA.

The judges Leighton Pearce, Simon Goodhand and Richard Murdoch found these groups best meet the award criteria of: demonstrating NRM principles in their region; collaborating with other groups; participating in Ag Excellence Alliance activities and fostering linkages with NRM boards.

The awards were accepted by Nicole Dimos, Extension Co-ordinator for Mallee Sustainable Inc and Bill Moloney, chairman of YP Alkaline. Both groups were formed in 1999 and they plan to use the award to help them celebrate the achievements of the past 10 years.

Details: Heather Baldock, AEA Coordinator 0428 101 416.



The Ag Excellence Alliance Grower Group Awards were accepted by Nicole Dimos and Richard Saunders Mallee Sustainable Inc and Bill Moloney and Bill Long YP Alkaline Soils Group, pictured with Mick Faulkner (L) and Michael Richards ® of the Ag Excellence Alliance and James Robinson, Rabobank who generously support the award.



2009 joint winners, Dr Nicole Dimos – Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc and Bill Moloney – YP Alkaline Soils Group Inc.