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IN-FIELD AG PTY LTD BALHANNAH SA

Environmental and Civil Services

As a company, Infield has a deep and abiding interest in sustainable agriculture, the natural environment and biodiversity.



infield
Wine Industry Suppliers Australia
2009 Supplier of the Year





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About our company

Infield offers a wide range of services in viticultural, agricultural, environmental and civil projects including a full range of consulting, management and technical services in these areas. As a company, Infield has a deep and abiding interest in sustainable agriculture, the natural environment and biodiversity.

Infield's Managing Director, Tom Ayers, graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1988 with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. Following his graduation Tom worked at various farming locations around Australia, this leading to a two-year tenure as broadcaster and reporter for the ABC's Country Hour. Tom is actively involved in student mentorship and guest lecturing at the University of Adelaide.

In the early nineties the company's founders undertook the construction of many kilometers of fencing for vegetation projects. Its clients included the Australian Army at Murray Bridge and Port Wakefield. The boom times in the Wine Grape Growing industry followed and saw the company progress from rural fencing into a fully fledged vineyard contracting company, known as Adelaide Hills Vineyard Contractors. In keeping with demand Infield has since expanded into other areas of agriculture, restructuring the company on 2008 to suit this ends.

The company has built its reputation on planning, organising and executing numerous projects in a range of locations including the Adelaide Hills, the South East, and interstate. These projects varied in size from specialist boutique vineyards to major developments for large corporations, including the development the company's own vineyard. These assignments have often included an environmental element; the protection of remnant native vegetation and riparian vegetative restoration. Environmental stewardship and minimum impact solutions are part of Infield's philosophy and work practices.

In all, the company has planted in excess of 7.5 million vines with an estimated strike rate of between ninety-five and ninety-eight per cent, the company's knowledge and care in handling of large quantities of valuable planting material being an integral part of this success.

Infield has become known for developing innovative practices and has built on its interest in environmental issues, with major innovations in developing its own unique vineyard planting system, successfully adapted for use at the Goolwa regulator in 2009. The large scale trials carried out to combat the formation of acid sulfate in 2008/09 under direction of Rural Solutions in the Lower Lakes region were also contracted to Infield.

The company was proactive in trialling the use buckwheat at various locations in the Adelaide Hills as part of an on-going biodiversity project. Our research into using buckwheat to enhance biodiversity in vineyards was fundamental in recommendations being made to the Australian Federal Government for additional assessments in other Australian wine regions. The aim of the project was to document seeding and water requirements, thereby, encouraging uptake by other growers interested in utilising nectar plants for biological control. These trials were also a key element in Infield winning the Wine Industry Suppliers of Australia Supplier of the Year in 2009.

As a relatively small company, Infield chooses to co-operate with other agri-business suppliers rather than a directly competitive approach, and this has helped consolidate its reputation and draw on additional resources and expertise when needed. The company can therefore draw upon a solid base of regular suppliers in the regions where it has undertaken work.



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Environmental projects

Acid soil remediation

Beginning in 2008, Infield has been involved in large scale trials to combat the formation of acid sulfate soils along the Murray in partnership with Rural Solutions.

The trial was carried out to address concerns about permanent damage to the Lower Lakes system in the event of long-term drought and involved the application of ultra-fine grained lime stone in conjunction with a variety of vegetation options.

Further earthworks and lime spreading have been carried out near Currency Creek and the Finniss River.

Lime spreading project
Lower Lakes near Meningie
2008





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Environmental projects

Re-vegetation

In December 2009, Infield was engaged by Rural Solutions SA to establish vegetation cover at the Goolwa regulator.

The regulator is a man-made structure designed to regulate flows and/or hold water in the Goolwa channel while water levels in the Lower Lakes remain critically low. Re-vegetation was necessary to prevent damage from erosion.

Infield used a one-pass system adapted from our vineyard planting system. Using a high pressure water-jet lance to both dig the planting hole and create a suitably damp environment for the freshly transplanted root system, ensured a very high strike rate.

In May 2010, Infield took part in a major vegetation project at Lake Albert and Lake Alexandrina. Using specialised planting tubes and other equipment especially designed for bulk planting, our planting team processed 400,000 seedlings in the space of five weeks.





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Environmental projects

Biodiversity for sustainability and profit

Infield has been trialling the use of buckwheat at various locations in the Adelaide Hills since 2007, as part of an on-going biodiversity project.

These trials were fundamental in recommendations being made to the Australian Federal Government for additional assessments in other Australian wine regions. The aim of the project was to document seeding and water requirements, thereby, encouraging uptake by other growers interested in utilising nectar plants for biological control.

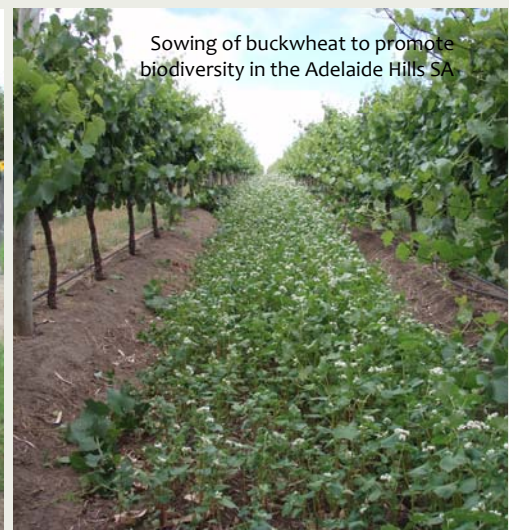
In collaboration with the Lincoln University (NZ) and Melbourne University, Infield is now recognised as the primary “pathway to adoption” partner for its on-going biodiversity program.

Research has confirmed that buckwheat has outstanding potential to create a favourable environment for beneficial insects with a corresponding ability to significantly reduce traditional vineyard overheads. The cost is comparable to that of a single spray application used in the control of Light Brown Apple Moth, scale and other insect pests.

Adopting these practices will ensure a number of benefits and cost-savings and include:

- > Creating a favourable environment for beneficial insects
- > Reduction in the use of insecticides
- > Protection from LBAM infestation after chemical control window closes
- > Long term investment in the biodiversity of your property

Infield has also developed its own direct sowing system and equipment suitable for use in a variety of conditions, the *Eco-seeder*.



Sowing of buckwheat to promote biodiversity in the Adelaide Hills SA



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Civil Projects

Fencing

Drawing on a wealth of experience in the wine grape growing industry, Infield has built on its reputation in supplying high quality trellising and further developed the expertise to install posts for a variety of projects. Infield also has the necessary resources to carry out your fencing repairs and maintenance.

Our successful tenders for various government agencies and private contracting services have included:

- > Roadside and parklands fencing
- > Fencing watercourses
- > Equine fencing
- > Rural fencing
- > Installing street bollards



Parklands fencing

Reclaimed red gum and recycled plastic materials were used to reduce the carbon footprint of the project.

Clockwise from top:

- > Reclaimed red gum post and high visibility wire
- > Recycled plastic bollards
- > Red gum end assembly and blue soft wire



Rural fencing

Installing droppers on a rural property in the Adelaide Hills

(detail clipping wires to strainers)



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Civil Projects

Walkway bridges

In 2009 and 2010 Infield successfully tendered for parks and gardens works, including the installation of new walkway bridges in the Unley and Prospect council areas.

This involved removing existing CCA structures and replacing them with footbridges built to specification using recycled plastic materials .

These materials were chosen to reduce the carbon footprint of the project.



