



The K-line trash cutter in action at Mininera.

# Trash cutter at work at Mininera

**REGION** - A group of Southern Farming Systems members attended the Mininera trial site to check out Geoff Peacock's new K-line Trash cutter.

Geoff, of Better Farm Solutions, Lake Bolac, explained how the machine cuts the stubble and spreads it evenly over the surface with very little soil disturbance.

This facilitates the biological processes in breaking down the stubble and returning nutrients to the soil.

The treatment eliminates the burning of the stubble and retains nutrients. Organic matter and carbon levels will build up gradually, and soil structure improve.

Dealing with the stubble on the Mininera trial site is the first step in the process of creating a 'Canola concept' site.

The whole paddock will be sown to canola using three establishment techniques:

- Knife point and press wheel (Vaderstad Seedhawk).
- Sowing with discs (Vaderstad Rapid).
- Broadcast and roll (Vaderstad Carrier with Biodrill).

This follows on from 2009 where part of the paddock had stubble incorporated by a Vaderstad Top-Down machine.

As well as the bulk sowing demonstration, there will be scope for some large plot trials by SFS and SFS sponsors. Replication will be achieved using GPS rather than small plots.

With Mininera as a Canola concept site, SFS will return to the 'McMaster site' west of Lake Bolac on the Glenelg Highway for the bulk of the 2010 trial work in the Streattham Branch area.

The Streattham committee looks forward to returning to this high profile site.