

Bringing Remnant Bush Back To Life

A farming family invests in the future near Pumphreys Bridge

CASE STUDY

PUMPHREYS

BRIDGE



TOP: Upper lateritic landscape site: fenced and ripped in preparation for planting (photo:Terry Brooks)

INSERT ABOVE: Judith Price with a naturally regenerated seedling (photo: Terry Brooks)

INSERT BOTTOM : Judith with waist high vegetation from 2012 planting season (photo: Terry Brooks)

PROJECT TITLE

Bringing Remnant Bush Back to life - A farming family invests in the future near Pumphreys Bridge

PROJECT LEADER

Judith Price, Landholder

PROJECT MANAGER

Terry Brooks, Sustainable Landscapes Project Manager

PROJECT DURATION

December 2011 to May 2013

PROJECT AREA

The project area is within the locality of Pumphreys Bridge which is approximately 20km east of Wandering, 20km south-west of Pingelly and 15km north west of Dryandra Woodland

PARTNERSHIPS

Land for Wildlife (Avril Baxter) and two landholders (Judith and Kelvin Price)

BENEFICIARIES

Enhancement of native vegetation on property increasing protective, feeding and breeding habitat (mainly for birds and reptiles, but also mammals)



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Carabin Grazing was originally cleared for cropping and grazing and is a commercial farming operation. In January 2011, a fierce storm tore through the farm causing severe damage to remnant vegetation on hilltops, uprooting and snapping off mature trees. The Prices were devastated by the impact and were worried that the bushland might not survive further grazing by sheep after the storm.

The Prices were determined to do something to protect the bushland and first made enquiries through Land for Wildlife.

“Re-sprouting trees, germinating seedlings and remaining vegetation may not survive the pressure of grazing when sheep are released back into these paddocks to graze the surrounding farmland.”

Judith Price, farmer

This led to a successful application for funding support through SWCC's Sustainable Landscapes Project and subsequent implementation of this project.

The objective of this project has been to enhance and improve areas of bushland on the property so that it can function as “stepping stones” for wildlife moving across the landscape. In particular, these areas will improve connectivity between a 220ha area of pristine bushland on the family property, nearby Dryandra Woodland and other Crown Reserves to the east.

The project specifically aimed at supporting two land managers to adopt activities that contribute to the ongoing conservation and protection of biodiversity on 21ha of land. This involved the construction of 3.38km of fencing to protect four remnants of native vegetation from the adverse impacts of livestock grazing and the revegetation of

4.4ha with over 7,000 local native seedlings. Preparation for the revegetation included ripping to increase root penetration and spraying with herbicides.

Ongoing monitoring and management of weeds and pest animals was implemented in order for an optimum outcome.

Another 2,000 local native seedlings were planted in 2013 to enhance the 2012 plantings.

Seedlings were planted in the upper parts of the landscape with little moisture retention, but survived and grew well after a slow start. The landholder had been concerned that seedlings would struggle, but was pleasantly surprised to find that most of the seedlings were doing very well and that one was in flower just a few weeks after planting.

The project experienced a number of minor issues, including difficulties in sourcing seedlings in 2012 of several recommended species, contractor costs varying significantly from cost projections and a dry winter that delayed planting.



ABOVE: Map of location showing the Project Area in pink

The Prices are now considering undertaking a further project lower in the landscape in 2014 with the creation of a corridor of native vegetation, either within a waterway or by connecting existing islands that will enhance the values of the current project.

Another two farmers were engaged in activities that contribute to increased skills and knowledge in relation to the conservation and protection of on-farm biodiversity.

References:

Dryandra Woodland Management Plan No.70
2011 – Department of Environment and Conservation, 2011



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