

## Murrumbidgee Landcare's Cross Property Planning project

### Land holder case study: Pat and Marion Drew, Bethungra

Name:	Pat and Marion Drew
Location:	"Anunaka", Kiaree Lane Bethungra
Property size:	378 ha
Farming enterprises:	Livestock dominated mixed farming, mostly Merino's
Soil types:	Clay loams
Rainfall:	550 mm

*How long have you been farming in the area?*

25 years.

*How long have you been interested in natural resource management (NRM)?*

I've always been interested in it really - it's just a part of farming. But my interest in it has definitely grown since being involved in the Cross Property project.

*What are some of the environmental improvements you have completed, and what led you to undertake these projects?*

We started by fencing off some of our remnant vegetation, and planting trees. That was done through funding from Greening Australia, and we were keen to do it because we thought our property needed the work. It really enhances the property.

*Why did you join Murrumbidgee Landcare's Cross Property Planning (CPP) project?*

We thought it was a good opportunity. With lots of other farmers in the area doing it, we could see the benefits. Also it wasn't a minefield to apply, like some funding applications are! The Project Officers helped out and made it all simple.

*What work did you complete as part of the CPP project?*

Our main project was to fence and plant a corridor, to connect with some areas of existing native vegetation on our property, and provide shelter for our livestock. We also did some extra plantings to fill in gaps in some of our existing tree lines.

*Have you noticed any benefits (expected or unexpected) from your NRM work through the CPP project?*

We've seen much more birdlife, especially Superb Parrots, which has been exciting.

Also the shelter for our livestock has been a big help; we planted trees in spots where they could act as a windbreak, and it's certainly made a big difference.

*Has any aspect of your management changed as a consequence of being part of the CPP project?*

I've learnt a lot about different plant varieties, and feel like I have a better idea now of what to plant and where, when and how. I also understand better the importance of planting for connections.

The information on the sub-clover research was also really interesting.

*What are your 'keys to success' when undertaking NRM work?*

I think preparation is the key, especially for tree planting. Make sure you spray and rip nice and early.

*Are there any changes you've made that you would do differently in hindsight?*

No!

*Do you have any remaining NRM concerns that you would like to work on?*

We want to continue to plant trees. We still have areas on our property where we would like to connect habitat and create shelter and shade. We'd especially like to get some more shelter for our lambing ewes.



*Above: A tree line the Drew's planted to connect existing areas of native vegetation on their property*