

ADDRESSING GULLY EROSION AT 'CLEARVIEW'

Bob Schofield, "Clearview" Oberne

Bob and Nareen Schofield farm their 735 hectare property, "Clearview", at Westbrook. In 2013 they applied for funds through Murrumbidgee Landcare's Cross Property Planning (CPP) project to stabilise an eroded gully area on their property.

The CPP project, which commenced in mid-2012, supports land holders to implement a range of on-ground works including: fencing and planting wildlife corridors, fencing and planting to stabilise gullies and creek lines, planting scattered paddock trees, creating biodiverse dams, and fencing and enhancing existing remnant native vegetation patches. The gully on Bob and Nareen's property was rapidly becoming more degraded with each heavy downfall of rain, so their aim was to stabilise the area.

They began by fencing it to remove stock, which would allow regeneration of native grasses. They also introduced several new species into the area, including Golden wattle, Blackwood, River Sheoak, phragmites, couch, kikuyu, phalaris, ryegrass and clovers. With the help of family, approximately 3.5 hectares were fenced, with plain wire used for the top wire (rather than barb) to make the fence 'wildlife friendly'.

Since the removal of stock from the area, Bob has witnessed a gradual improvement, with good ground cover and regeneration of native grasses. In 2015, through the assistance of the CPP project, Bob hopes to address further areas of erosion on "Clearview", to continue his good work.



The eroded gully area on Bob and Nareen Schofield's property, before any works



Family helped to fence off an area of around 3.5 ha around the eroded gully



The gully area after it has been fenced off, to control stock access



Native grasses are already regenerating in the fenced-off area