



PROPERTY OWNERS

*Rosalind & Andrew
Bradey*

PROPERTY DETAILS

Location: Ullswater, South-west Wimmera.

Size: 1000 ha grazing property, of which 200 ha is fenced to exclude livestock and managed for conservation.

Land/ vegetation type(s):
Grassy woodland 50 ha; Heathy woodland 50 ha;
Wetlands 100 ha; Pastures about 800 ha.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: atbradey@gmail.com
Telephone: 0355 873 558

Kowree Private Conservancy Network

PROPERTY PROFILE



WHY WE OWN THIS LAND

It was 1982. The farm manager and his newly appointed stockman sat in a ute parked in a paddock. The manager was looking out the window through the telescopic sights of a rifle. "So, you are a conservationist?" he asked. The cross-hairs of his rifle found a Wedge-tailed Eagle in a nearby tree. "You will soon learn that you can't be a conservationist AND a farmer." Bang!

It is hard to find good staff; ones who are willing or able to learn how things should be done. The new stockman was no exception. After a couple of seasons he left his job, and with his wife, bought a farm in the west of Victoria.

Their farm was small and run-down. An apparently slow earning, out of work, stockman, a big debt and a run-down farm didn't look promising. Surely this conservation conviction was not going to be indulged as well?

Tree planting started in year one and has continued ever since. Year on year the farm has become more productive, more profitable, bigger and at the same time a better and more expansive habitat for an increasing range of wildlife species.

Now the farm has an abundant and diverse array of plants and wildlife. It is a great place to live and work. Conservation AND farming? Actually, they can fit quite well. Come and see..



MAIN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

A network of 75 fenced off areas ranging from 0.14ha to 37ha. Mainly connecting with other woodland and wetlands on adjoining properties.

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON PROPERTY

Sheep and cattle grazing.

MAIN WEED THREATS

A Small reserves have a large edge-effect, so lots of agricultural spp. Veldt Grass is number 1.

PROTECTION - COVENANTS/CMA CONTRACTS

Two Trust for Nature covenants protect 40 ha each. One of these is the first wetland ever to receive a covenant.

DESCRIPTION

Most of the conservation areas had been partly developed for grazing, but current management has attempted to re-establish native vegetation communities. About 10% (by area) of these reserves are shelter-belts which connect larger areas as well as provide shelter for grazing animals. Also, much of the grazed paddocks have significant numbers of paddock trees, mostly gums, (with plenty of nesting hollows) with a few Bulokes and Stringybarks.

OTHER ISSUES/ CHALLENGES

Rabbit control is an ongoing task, especially in the 60ha of heathy woodlands.

