

Strategic tree planting to restore eroded gullies and improve farm productivity

'Willowbend' - Cygnet, Huon Valley



At a Glance

Owner:	Chris and Guiliana White
Property Size:	61 hectares
Enterprise:	Dairy, garlic and timber production
Rainfall:	1050 mm (average)
Soil types:	Duplex soils - sandy loams / light clays

Background

Chris and Guiliana planted trees to improve farm productivity, water quality and biodiversity as well as produce timber. They prepared a property management plan to integrate trees into their farm with their main aim to protect streams from livestock and revegetate the stream sides. They planted 3 hectares of trees in 2007 and 2008.

Chris says...

"The trees are already benefiting the farm. Cattle tend to gather to find shelter in the lee of the trees, pastures appear to be far healthier and bird life has improved. There is a supply of firewood after 5 years. CSIRO reported that water quality has improved. I expect these benefits to increase as the trees grow."

Key Points

- A planned approach encompassing site preparation, tree planting and maintenance delivers best outcomes.
- Trees deliver multiple benefits initially restoration of riparian area, but also shelter and aesthetics.
- An income from wood is planned.





Willowbend property 2007 prior to planting



Willowbend 2012. Eroded gullies restored and aesthetics improved

Monitoring of the protected streams by CSIRO has found:

- Stream water phosphate concentration and *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) contamination decreased;
- Minor turbidity increased after first major storm following cultivation for tree planting but not subsequently;
- Major turbidity decreased in wet winters even after storms and periods of heavy grazing; and
- The trees had no detrimental effects on the stream sides.

Species	Features	Biodiversity	Management	Wood Products
Blue gum	Native species good for timber, honey & habitat	Habitat for endangered Swift Parrot	Prune & thin. Will regrow after harvest	Clearwood, sawlogs & firewood
Shining gum	Robust species with good timber properties	Possums & native birdlife enjoy new plantings	Prune & thin	Clearwood, sawlogs & firewood
Blackwood	Native species good for timber & habitat	Habitat for range of native species	Prune & thin	Craft timbers & firewood



2007 - Cattle had access to streams



2013 - Streams well protected

Contact Us

Private Forests Tasmania
 30 Patrick Street
 HOBART TAS 7000

(03) 6165 4073

admin@pft.tas.gov.au

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www.pft.tas.gov.au