

# Customised Support for Cardbeign



*Bluegrass and cattle at Cardbeign*

Cardbeign is approximately 18km south of Springsure and has been in the Stevenson family for 55 years. In 2016 Ros Cooper (a third generation Stevenson) and her husband Chris moved to Cardbeign with their three children.

With the help of Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) and the National Landcare Program (NLP) the Stevensons are well on their way to making Cardbeign more productive, profitable, and sustainable.

For 19 years, Jenny Stevenson and her mother (Val) managed Cardbeign in conjunction with their other family property Spring Creek. Up until 2016 Cardbeign was a “paddock” of Spring Creek that was carrying 350 head of cattle. Chris and Jenny could both see greater potential for the property and an opportunity to improve production.

“The land was in bloody good nick, but I could see that more could be done to improve productivity. The only parts [of the land] that weren’t in good condition were around the water points which tended to be on the sweeter country near the creeks,” Chris explained.

One site along the creek was badly scoured with steep creek banks that were barren of woody vegetation that would normally assist to stabilise soil. This led to loss of diversity within the creek such as pools, rifles and steps. Additionally, cracking clay on the creek flats were in poor condition, indicated by the prevalence of weeds and wiregrasses. Due to lack of equity and a minimal budget, Cardbeign’s development has had to be carefully staged, utilising current infrastructure as much as possible.

## CUSTOMISED SUPPORT

To help with the careful planning, budgeting and development of Cardbeign, Chris and Jenny sought FBA assistance. Through the National Landcare funded one-on-one program for

graziers, a FBA Land Management Officer (LMO) conducted a property visit and provided specialised support and insight to help with Cardbeign’s redevelopment.

This complimentary service included mapping (Farm Map 4D) which helped Chris with his property planning and development; especially with dividing paddocks. A web-based VegMachine, drilled down to show groundcover at a paddock level which highlighted the lack of cover around the ageing water point. The LMO therefore supported Chris and Jenny’s proposal to install a water tank and new higher water points in the landscape for gravity-fed troughs.

To help heal, rebuild and re-vegetate the damaged creek the Stevensons received guidance and support from FBA regarding fence placement and Porous Check Dams. The one-on-one program also equipped Jenny and Chris with planning resources and templates, plant identification and weed control options.

## IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICE

Since the one-on-one visit, the Stevenson family have been supported and encouraged to continue implementing the changes suggested. Currently, Cardbeign has 490 head of cattle and 470 weaners and aims to eventually hold 600 cows. Jenny and Chris are appreciative of the advice provided to them during the one-on-one. FBA is eager to keep in touch with Jenny, Chris, Ros and Val to provide assistance wherever possible to support business changes that will improve both land management and efficiencies in production.



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