

SOUTH GIPPSLAND
LANDCARE NETWORK



Greening Gippsland's dams Victoria Drought Hub

Staton Whittaker farm



Farm business

3 x 100 acre properties

(Old Farm, Tarara, Top Block)

Grass-fed Angus beef

Spring calving

100 Angus cows & calves

40-80 yearlings sold pa

25 heifers retained for breeding



Tarara

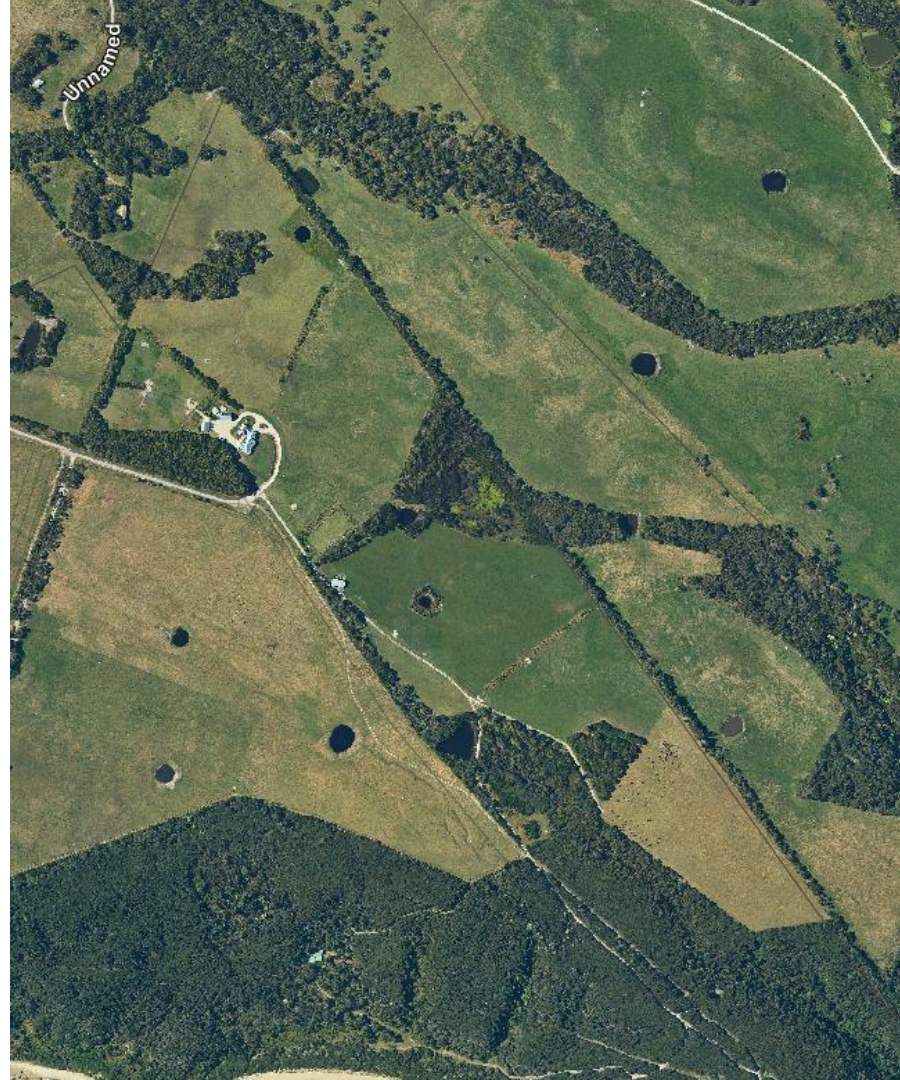
Bought 2014

75% pasture

Farm plan involving spring fed dam

- Rotational grazing (5 large paddocks, laneway/holding paddock, 6 small horse paddocks, arena/holding paddock, water to yards)
- Drought-proofing
- Shelterbelts
- Flexibility
- Clean water
- Biodiversity





Then



Now



How much did it cost?

Monopump		
Energiser	8135	
Tank	250	
		5000
Fencing around dam & tank (180m)		
Piping	3500	
Trough & float	3000	
	650	
New pump *		
	4387	
Revegetation (0.119ha)	500	
		25422



Top Block

Bought 2018

95-98% pasture

Very wet block in spring

Very exposed

3 large paddocks

2 smaller triangle paddocks

1 small bull paddock

Ideal farm subdivision not yet decided

All dams surface fed



Top Block: post-purchase

Retained paddock layout

Built simple yards

Created a laneway

Created 3 shelterbelts



Concerns about dam erosion in paddock 3

Loss of land & water

Clogging outflow

Regular cleaning needed

Nuisance moving stock

Calving risk





Idea for restricted access

Didn't want to reticulate entire property yet

Gravity feed not possible from that dam

Concerns about pump/trough failure



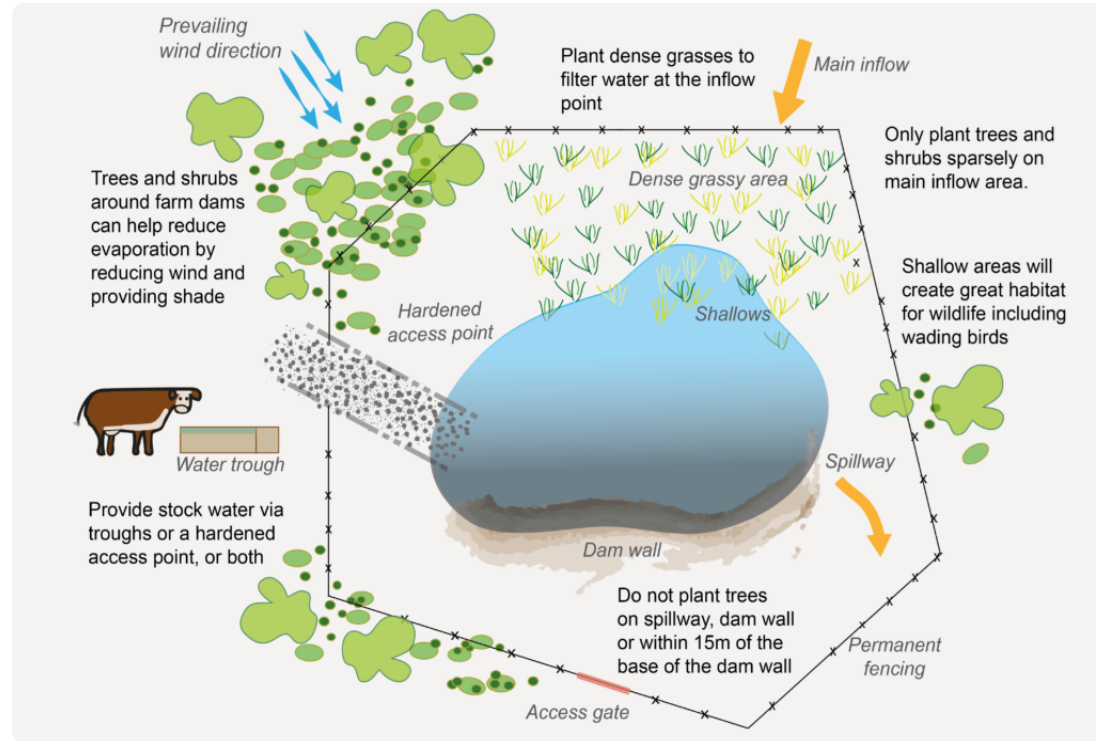
The design

Guided by:

“Natural Asset Farming”
(Lindenmayer et al)

Contractors
(Steve Collins,
Dave Harris)

Wonthaggi Seed Bank



Process

Beforehand

Removed water

Cleaned out dam

Construction

3m wide

25 MPa (Megapascal strength: general
groundwork/residential)

80 slump (fluidity)

20-25% slope

Reinforced with plastic waste

Lower planks made of ironwood for water
resistance





Revegetation (1200+ plants)

All indigenous species (20 species in total)

Variety of rushes & reeds

Avoid trees on dam walls

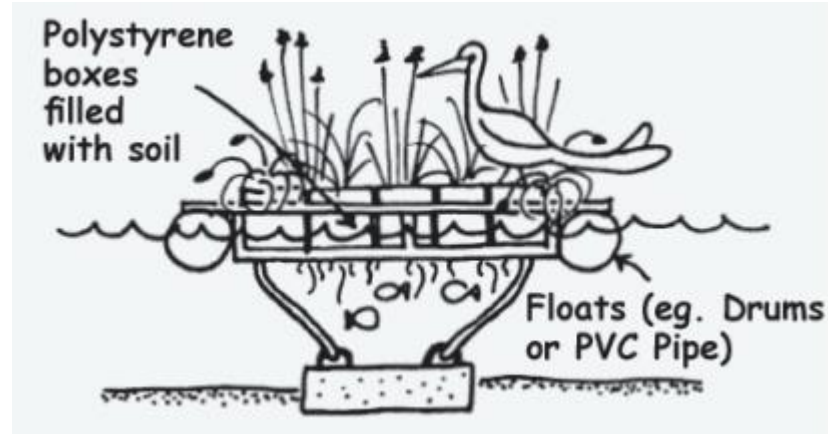
Good mix of shrubs to provide wind protection

Expect natural regeneration

Hope to put in some logs

Considering constructing a floating island to create fox-safe habitat

Guarding to protect from wombats, rabbits, deer



Expected benefits

Arrest erosion

Better water quality

Reduced evaporation

Shade & shelter

Biodiversity

Reduced carbon footprint

Easier stock management

Safer calving



How much did it cost?

Fencing around dam (150m)
3565

Pump hire & fuel
453

Earthworks
3355

Concreting & fencing ramp
8337

revegetation (0.161ha)
1020

