

# BUBBOGULLION 100 LANDCARE GROUP

By Lana Andrews - North West Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

With its history steeped in a historic pastoral lease, Bubbogullion 100 Landcare group has achieved great things in its 26 years. The name "Bubbogullion" comes from a pastoral lease of 59,574 ha originally owned by Bobby Pringle, fronting the Peel River near Somerton in North West NSW. "Bubbogullion" was the Aboriginal way of saying "Bobby's Gunyah", "the home where Bobby lives". "100" comes from the fact that the Landcare group was the 100th to form in NSW.

Tony Osborne, a landholder near Attunga, made the decision to start a Landcare group in his local area in the mid 1990's. Tony was aware that the first problem to deal with was gully erosion and water flow. He contacted local landholders in the area who were also keen to start a group.

The group were fortunate in the early years to seek successful grant funding for large scale projects, using a catchment plan written in consultation with Land and Water Conservation as the driver. Along with these large scale projects (including building flumes, dams and spillways to improve water flow and prevent erosion), the group has successfully undertaken many other projects and events including pasture trials, gully restoration, Coolati grass management, composting, managing feral pigs, 'Learning from Landcare winners' bus tours, hosting field days on soils and natural sequence farming, along with kilometres of tree planting including linking the Peel River to Klori Travelling Stock Route.

More recently, the group has been focusing on multi species cropping trials and soil testing, dung beetle monitoring, native grass ID and carbon farming. Many groups have longevity due to income from grant funding and successful projects. This has definitely played a part for this group, however, there are other things that have contributed to its success.

## Key Facts

- Group formed in 1995
- Around 30 members
- Landholders from Attunga, Somerton, Winton and Duri areas
- Oldest incorporated group in North West NSW
- For more info contact:

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The consistent, social gatherings (that happen to include a meeting!) are a major factor, along with effective office bearers. The group have met continuously for 26 years (apart from COVID) which has been particularly important during times of drought, flood, fire and other challenges in the farming community.

Maintaining diversity in membership and encouraging new members to join ensures a continuously evolving dynamic with younger farmers encouraged to be involved. Members recognise that being part of a group such as Bubbogullion means they build the knowledge, skills and networks to go on and undertake new and improved practices on their own properties. This is particularly important for members newer to farming who can learn from others in the local area. Bubbogullion also offers the value of shared resources and has machinery that the group regularly uses such as a soil flow seeder. It is encouraging to see such a dedicated group achieving so much over the last three decades and with farming facing many challenges into the future, the importance of a network such as a Landcare group is vital to maintaining resilience in our farming systems and communities.

"We are proactive in looking for new members and want to create an inclusive and social environment for everyone"

WAYNE CHAFFEY (CHAIR)



L-R The Stokes family are newer members of Bubbogullion having joined in 2018. Pictured at a field day where members shared results of a multi species cropping trial. Wayne Chaffey (current Chair) with Lana Andrews at his property 'Naours' Somerton.



## The keys to success & longevity

- ✓ History of effective office bearers
- ✓ Regular meetings for the past 26 years (with COVID being the only time meetings have been postponed)
- ✓ Staying connected - regular social gatherings as the focus (which incorporate meetings) - alternating between BBQs and suppers
- ✓ All new and interested members are welcomed
- ✓ Diversity of group members

Top: BBQ Meeting in the late 90's.  
Bottom: Soils Field Day - late 1990's with Dr Rob Banks from Soil Futures Consulting