



TAKING A LOOK AT LANDCARE - NOVEMBER 2021

# GREEN TRIANGLE GROUP CUPPA CHAT

By Rachel Dorney - RALF for Northern West NSW

We held a farmer cuppa chat at my family's property at Gravesend in early October. We run a Black Limousin/Angus herd as well as grow grain crops. The Green Triangle Farmer Group has been going for about 3 years and includes farmers from Boggabilla, Boomi, North Star, Gravesend and Delungra.

A common question is why we have a composite breed of Black Limousin and Angus. The reason for the Black Limousin is their longevity (not unusual to have 12 year old cow); meat yield and frame. For Angus the traits we like are softness, milk, birthweight, and market premium. So based on the above our culling policy is production, temperament and structure. We have been growing multi species grazing crops for 10 years now, on and off. Each year we have been experimenting with different species and seeing what works in the environment. The mix for this year was ryecorn, triticale, oats, radish and rape. No legumes this year, but the native trefoil came through the crop anyway. Starter fertilizer was all that was applied. Photo below of crop is on the hardest red ridge in July 2021, not much top soil but does thrive in these conditions.



## Key Facts

Group formed in 2018

12 members covering  
41,000ha

Covering Boggabilla,  
Boomi, North Star,  
Gravesend and  
Delungra

Completed projects  
with North West  
Local Land Services  
and  
National Landcare  
Program

More information  
Rachel Dorney  
[ralf@nsla.net.au](mailto:ralf@nsla.net.au)

---



We rotational graze the multi species crops to allow recovery. We have grazed 164 head on 70 hectares from June to October, with one group producing 1.6kgs per day during July through to October, when it was wet and cold.

For me, a pivotal point was meeting Gabe Brown and having an afternoon with him at Blackville. I am not a patient person, so an important point he made to me was stepping up the multi species, so we started going back to back multi species ie summer/winter in one year, to shorten the time for soil improvement. We did 5 crops over 3 years then the drought stopped us. We thought we had lost all the good things that were happening in that paddock. Once it rained, and we didn't have enough cattle, the paddock was switched to grain crop, which was chickpeas. The estimate from that paddock was 0.25t/ha higher yield then the paddock beside it. So not all was lost!



*Cuppa Chat catchup at Rachel's near Gravesend October 2021*

During the cuppa chat we talked about health issues and performance of cattle on the multi species. We have less health issues, with one case of pink eye this year. The cattle don't generally scour and maintained productivity through a wet winter. In the end, there is no right or wrong way with a multi species. It's worth trying a mix to see what happens.



*Green Triangle Farmer Group extends across a large area*

"For me, a pivotal point was meeting Gabe Brown and having an afternoon with him at Blackville. An important point he made to me was stepping up the multi species."

RACHEL DORNEY



*Cuppa Chat Day October 2021*