

Gully Raker. February 2019.

Background.

Our Mogong stream valley before 'unsettling' by Western Civilisation, was once a highly valued food ground where wild life were stacked like super market shelves and assessed as a grassy wetland Phragmites/Casuarina/Yellow-Grey Box/Red Gum forested valley floor with large, permanent, tall reed shallow lake ponds and deep soil grassland ridges, all now gone. Including the nomadic people who hunted and gathered from the whole valley as their home and 'highway'. Much of the valley was considered 'marshy' and too wet for sheep, cattle or wheat farming when with flocks and herds, new, strangely non thinking people entered the Mogong valley and set about enclosing and separating without empathy, an ancient multi species dominated ecosystem.

We are now history.

So as 'dopy' thieves we all took everything we could, sold it for money and soon changed that, didn't we, killing the 'biological gold mine' that we found unoccupied, other than by what we could kill? And still are, reinforced and regulated by Australian law, just to erode natural resources by export to supply high maintenance Cities somewhere else.

Presence of mind.

In the present time (2019) even the concrete ringed wells drilled to bedrock in the 1950's are dry or too salty for domestic garden or stock water. Export of natural resources due to human induced droughts, burning, bush fires, rabbits, wheat farming, dust storms, single species grazing and the use of agricultural chemicals, have produced mainly bare ground the whole year through, except for monocultures of 'Round Up Ready' annual winter crops, with surfaces of rock strewn ridges and depleted dust rising dirt (not now soil) during the summer months. Native vegetation is now mainly light to non-existent, as a moonscape.

Recent history expanding the desert.

This is desertification of Australia. The vegetation bare ground is 'radiating' unused sunlight as heat to the passing air all day and all night, 'warming' the region and drying the local climate. Also bare ground salinity is evidence of evaporating ground water, drawn out completely within a day of rain, by the uninterrupted blazing sun with no green leaf to photosynthesise through or transpire from and shade the Earth to cool it.

The Peter Andrews Australian phenomena.

On two occasions in the past I have experienced simular spectacular events to that which I am about to describe, when working with Peter Andrews at Tarwyn Park and Baramul Stud in the Hunter Valley. No one in the world should ever discount the huge contribution Peter Andrews has made to the ecological understanding of interested people in Australia. Anyone who disagrees with or is upset by, anything Peter Andrews does or says in relation to land and water, need to rethink their human values and learn to evolve their decaying paradigm of thinking and living. The ruling paradigm of thinking in Australia today, is completely un-Australian and a disgrace to the human intellect. You may quote me. (Paul Newell).

Some people are even trying to explain away the findings of recent royal commissions so as not to go to gaol for trying to 'con' Nature and man both.

What a mess Australia is in.

But hope springs eternal.

An event to remember, functionally.

In recent days still under severe drought conditions, many violent storms hit our district of Canowindra NSW.

At our place we got mainly huge infrastructure damaging winds and dust, other local areas received many rapid dumps of storm rain washing away earth, whole trees and infrastructure. But on one recently restored vegetated oasis in the valley of our still dry drought influenced although still well vegetated brown farm land, a real 'gully raker' flash flood, streaming in from many kilometres away, ponded our dry creek to a depth of one and a half meters and more, over its full width and length that meanders over our farm. And immediately on ceasing to flow the water completely soaked into the previously continuously drained and desperately dry bed and also the temporally ponded water was well absorbed into the alluvial soil banks of the stream, as 'recharge' to the valley 'in ground' water table. Wow can Australia drink.

But not a drop to drink.

This full channel of water that has soaked into the earth now, is new 'ground water' retained sub surface, away from evaporation for the benefit of the whole valley. This event, even in a drought is a wonderful demonstration of success for the application of ever evolving "Landsmanship" principles (Advanced, Peter Andrews inspired, Natural Systems Farming) using plant/animal systems, to whole of valley land in Australia. All future ephemeral over land stream flows from now on at this place, will also add to retained ground water with any future stream water that flows down the entire floor of the valley. Now that multiples of species of dense and growing perennial vegetation, with all functional species present, fills the incised channel on our land, any over bank flood water in the future, as now 'over flow land', will only promote natural irrigation of the densely grassed valley 'flood plain flats' adjacent to the ephemeral creek line while sedimenting, fertilising and hydrating all the land simultaneously. As an added bonus the past eroded incised stream way is filling up with deep rich soil deposited by water as alluvium, now growing more grassy woodlands as habitat for all species present.

Vegetation density.

Over a number of years, vegetation density, grasses, trees, shrubs and so called 'weeds', over all our cross section of the whole catchment has developed through natural regeneration (Not expensive planting or sowing by people) of species, soil and water. This regeneration of whole of valley landscape, predominately grassland, grassy wood land and multi-species forest through succession, is wholly due to reconnecting the food nutrient/mineral/water cycle using short term disturbance/long term rest, land use/farming methods of high yield/no input cost, cropping and grazing, without human intervention at the macro scale. Valley flood plains are now functionally returned in state to carry broad shallow streaming storm water to hydrate and fertilise the land naturally at every scale, micro and macro within whole of valley.

"Landsmanship".

I have purposefully over latter years, adopted "Landsmanship" principles and plant/animal systems, regeneratively to work for me on many landscape types and farms, and in every case Nature alone has promoted multi species vegetation density through succession, over the whole valley section,

ridges/slopes/valley floor and dry beds of the stream ways. The concentrated, channelled storm water was slowed to a still 'full banker' sinuous pond of still water, by multi species of standing vegetation alone, during the brief period of the 'gulley raker' event. Upon soaking into the earth as 'recharge' to the sub-surface water table, filtered out of the muddy fresh water were massive dumps of flood debris (including empty agricultural chemical drums from 'up the creek' farms) and a thick coating of dark chocolate coloured fertile sediment was left covering the entire surface of everything within the channel adding to future production potential, without cost. Natural short and long cycles thus demonstrated to be reconnected as the 'blood stream' of the Earth ecosystem.

Reverse of function.

Nature has by 'self-repair', now completely reversed the function of this landscape from dysfunction to function (production) of ecosystem for the benefit of all species present, including people who live there too.

I thank you Lord and the nature of the Earth and all organisms who sail in her forever. Wow what a FREE gift a regenerating Earth is to any of Nature's own stewards, who are well trained and practiced in the art.

Freeholders.

As freehold land owner farmers, we can never rest on our laurels as the confounding variables of Nature ever evolving, while ever learning ourselves as people, keeps the mind focused on our own survival, awareness and evolution of mind.

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