

Land Services Program

Gus Whyte - mentor

Location

Wyndham Station, 12,500 ha, 85 km north of Wentworth. Average annual rainfall is 260 mm. Much of Wyndham Station is dominated by chenopod shrublands comprising saltbush, pearl bluebush and black bluebush with an understorey of spear grass, other mainly annual grasses, copper burr, common bottle-washers and various forbs. The property also has some woodland areas, mostly dominated by belah and black box.

Enterprises

Grazing sheep and cattle. Can also opportunity crop freshwater lakebeds after floods.

Background

Gus grew up on a property 20 km north of Wyndham Station (Willow Point 19,000 ha) that he and his wife Kelly still currently manage, which is leased from his parents. Gus has also worked for a company called ProAdvice (as an associate), which provides training, support and other professional services to farmers Australia wide. His work involved one on one business coaching, facilitating "boards" of farm businesses and assisting families with business and succession plans.

Gus and Kelly are current members of the Hay benchmarking group. They have both completed Grazing For Profit, GradLink and ExecutiveLink with RCS, as well as KLR Marketing and low stress stockhandling. A Soils for Life case study of Wyndham Station can be found online at www.soilsforlife.org.au/case-studies/wyndham-station.

Current roles in the community include

- chair of the regional Southern Australia Livestock Research Council which helps set priorities for research, development and adoption in the grass fed red meat industry



- chairman of Pooncarie Field Day committee which runs a field day biennially
- president of the Yanco Agricultural High School Parents and Citizens committee
- organiser the wool pavilion at the Wentworth Show.

Area of expertise

As a livestock farmer our definition of a drought is: 'When your stocking rate exceeds your carrying capacity'. So, armed with this knowledge, the way to manage our farm is to be able to destock adequate stock when it is dry so that we don't exceed our land's carrying capacity. While this may sound simplistic, this is the way we choose to manage, and part of that is in our principles that everything that happens on our land we are responsible for. Without any control over the rain we can only manipulate our stock numbers.

Management motto

We manage a healthy and biodiverse landscape that is consistently improving while operating a profitable livestock business. The business structure will allow an open and informed input from all partners. We will be enjoying a full and rewarding life working together as a family in all parts of the business. There will be plenty of time for family and leisure activities.

