



MAKING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

By Geoff Serpell

Our youngest son, Andrew, had a great hobby, growing collected seedlings in our backyard, and then planting them around many Victorian farms as shelter belts or revegetating.

Over 23 years ago, I came across the available 100 acres for sale via Trust for Nature and after selling off some shares we found our family had a wonderful slice of ex-sheep farmland, although quite hilly and stoney with no existing infrastructure.

The land had a covenant with Trust for Nature that required the nurture of habitat including animals, birds, trees and plants.

Shortly afterwards we had erected a tin shed for sleepovers, an outdoor loo and a water tank.

Reflection:

I am really a proud father to have three sons, with their optimism and ability to focus on what can be done in support of the above, rather than what can't.

Our three sons and I were daunted by all the work required in our "spare" time. We didn't know what to do next, so we folded our sleeping bags as a start.

Over the years, our three sons and I have made improvements including fencing, shelter sheds to feed additional water tanks, and outdoor tables and seats for entertainment.

We host an annual planting day to revegetate lost understorey and increase the stock of wattle and bull oaks.

There are frequent sleepovers where we wake up to wonderful birdsong, commencing with the cackle of kookaburras.