

Leeuwin Estate

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Leeuwin Estate is famous for being one of the Margaret River Wine Region’s founding vineyards. It is also praised in the world of conservation as an excellent example of how businesses can contribute to the environment.



The iconic estate, which centres on the valley of the Boodjidup Brook, was pinpointed in 1972 by legendary Napa Valley winemaker Robert Mondavi as an ideal site for premium wine. This kickstarted the property’s transition from cattle farm to an internationally-awarded vineyard.

Today, 121ha are under vine producing award-winning wines that head viticulturist David Winstanley described as having a “sense of place”. But a property of this size, with 3kms of the Boodjidup Brook running through it, does not come without its environmental challenges. “Lilies were infesting the extensive areas of remnant Karri forest that we are custodians of,” David said. “They were also taking over the understorey of the Boodjidup Brook.”

Lilies and other weeds like blackberry, weedy wattles and pittosporum had begun taking hold along the brook in part because of the damage stock was causing. At the time, the brook was mostly unfenced. This allowed stock to access the water, but it was also causing erosion and damage to native vegetation. In 2009, in response to the declining health along the entire stretch of the waterway, the Boodjidup Brook Action Plan was released.



With more than a fifth of the brook’s main channel running through the property, Leeuwin Estate had an important role to play and soon partnered with Nature Conservation (then Cape-to-Cape Catchments Group). The entire length of the brook and tributaries were fenced, preventing stock from accessing it, and watering points were provided away from the stream. Extensive revegetation was also undertaken, with David estimating about 25,000 trees were planted along creeks and windbreaks.

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The brook’s health has experienced a big improvement over the years and Leeuwin Estate continues working closely with Nature Conservation to protect and restore creek lines and control weeds, marking a major investment and commitment to the environment.

David welcomed the chance to make a positive difference and said it was a great accomplishment to work with such an enthusiastic team dedicated to enhancing the environment.

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