

## **Site Specifications: – Russel & Margaret Thomson**

**Owners' name:** Russel & Margaret Thomson

**Property size:** 5500ha

**Annual rainfall:** 450 mm / yr

**Main enterprise:** Cropping and Wool.

**Soil Types (general sum up):** White Gum / Yate. Generally sand over clay (duplex) at varying depths of 0 to 500mm. Wide saline valley.

**Area of property cleared and approx when:** 5000ha of the high country was cleared in the early 1900's and remainder in the late 1950's. This site was cleared in the 1958.

**What made you choose this site?:** Wide range of soil types and salinity pressures. The site is also fairly difficult due to the undulations within the site. We have tried groundwater pumping on this site with only limited success. We also have 1000 acres of similar country.

**Why did you decide on this method for solving the problem?:** We tried this in a small area in another location with some success and the principal is good. My expectations are that more salt will leach out during winter than what will be accumulated during summer.

**Are you seeing improvements (results - financial, aesthetics etc)?:** The beds have been very successful on waterlogged non-saline sites, and we have achieved results on the saline land even though we have done many things wrong. At this time early July the control area (non-beds) are starting to show signs of yellowing which is not seen on the beds.

**Main challenge you are facing:** (Long Term) retaining the value of the asset and getting a return. (Short Term) Getting the channels to empty and getting the sowing technique correct given the soft beds varying depths of soil height and what to do with crop residue.

***Russel & Margaret Thomson***

July 2002