

Illegal Immigrants subjected to slave-labour on remote outback property?

On Tuesday 22.06.2021 (with less than 24 hours of notice) DPIRD sent a Compliance Officer per helicopter out to Kachana Station to question a director of Kachana Pastoral Company in front of a running camera.

The stated intent was to investigate a “suspected offence” in relation to Kachana Pastoral Company’s compliance with lease conditions.

It needs to be stated that the young officer was courteous and professional at all times. - After all, he was only doing his job.

Apparently, the alleged crime appears to have been that, in the absence of insufficient cattle and marsupials, an existing wild donkey population was encouraged to participate in landscape-management work. ([Ostensibly donkeys are no longer welcome in the Kimberley.](#))

Now this could be construed to be a bit like harbouring illegal immigrants to work as slaves! (And, to top that: Donkeys literally run on solar power and they work willingly!)

Today we have individuals in high places who wish to kill the donkeys for their willingness and to thus penalise Kachana Pastoral Company for innovation.

Chris Henggeler testifies:

Yes, since 1992, I am guilty of running red lights in the absence of traffic cops as well as in the absence of traffic.

(Please note that from 1992 to 2017 the local traffic cops were happy for me to do so!)

Was it really worth it? – Well, it seems too early to say.

During this time [we did however achieve this transformation on abandoned country:](#)



1991



2021



Methods used to build the foundations for viable pastoral activity [are now being lauded by members of the regenerative movement](#), but are being vilified by some individuals within the public sector.

The challenge was of course: How to turn “bombshells” into “mist irrigators”?
(I.e. How to rehydrate dying landscapes to then build soil, enabling life and productivity to flourish?)

Most gardeners will tell you: Add some mulch, add water, add fertiliser, nurture and prune.

Now try doing that at a landscape scale!

In fact, [nature teaches us](#) that in functional seasonally dry landscapes, [herding herbivores do all of the above and more](#). – Often, in the absence of predation, they require our assistance. Their function therefore may include participation in [the mulching, the fertilising and the pruning of vegetation](#). (Healthy vegetation feeds soil-building organisms via liquid-carbon pathways.)



Our trained cattle readily provide these services in the valleys, and donkey willingly do so in areas that cattle less eagerly access.

Here a picture from the scene of the crime:



- [In a 3-minute video clip on this page](#) we explain what Kachana is about.
- In an 8-minute presentation [Chris Henggeler bears testimony to what he has learnt during over 40 years in Australia](#).
- [For finer detail Chris offers a 25-minute explanation](#).

Chris H.:

If past “traffic offences” allow for the paving of a safer future for those who inherit the responsibility of custodianship of this land, then it will have been worth my while.

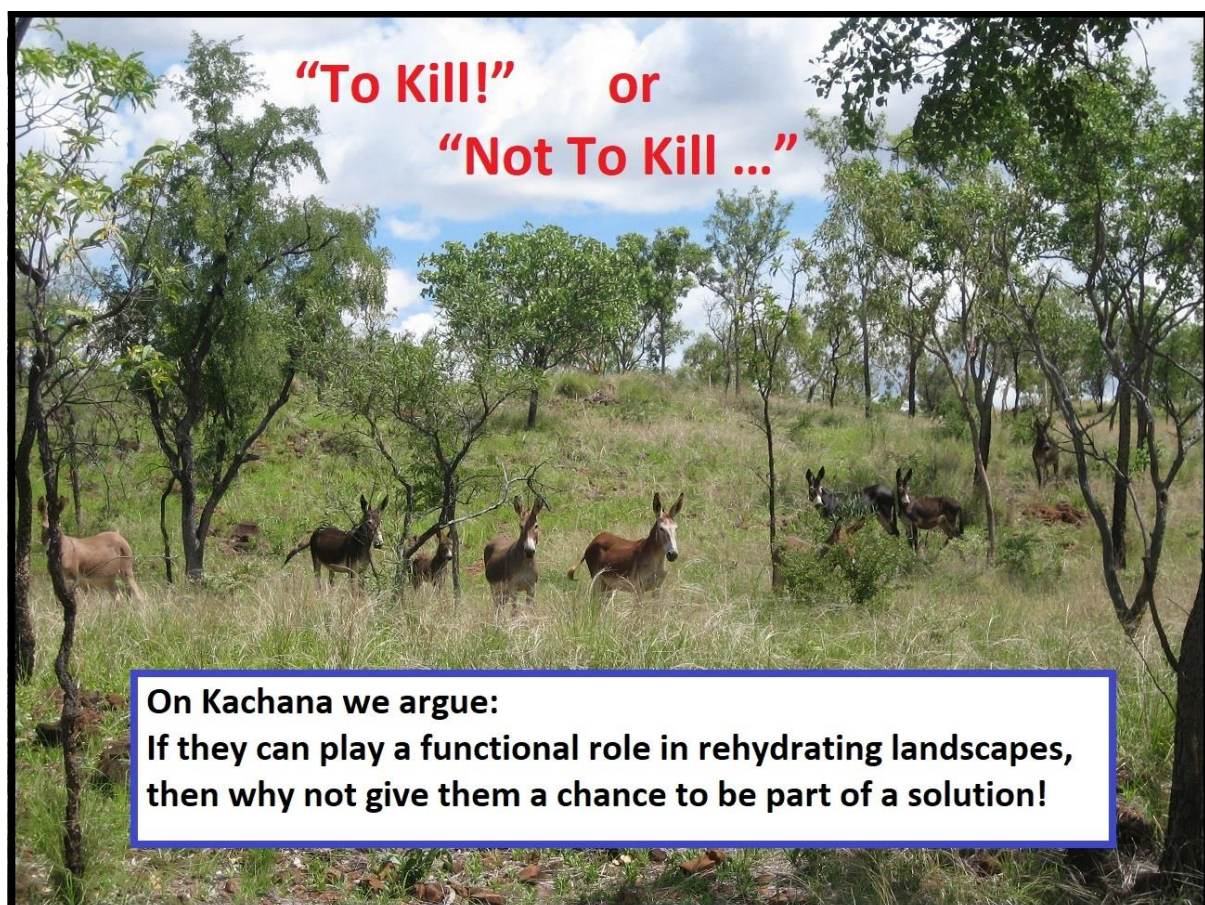
Although current suicidal tendencies of humans as a species lend rise to doubts and cynicism, I do see sufficient signs in our landscapes, that it is too early to give up hope.

There are also many small groups of positive individuals networking world-wide to educate a public that has become detached from “mother Earth”.

Natural processes that provided the original abundance that humans have been exploiting for millennia remain in place. We merely need to exercise our privileges as co-creators and to rebuild the resilience and health of our oceans and landscapes.

This is all boils down to a [desperate and renewed call for Environmental Literacy](#) at community, government and political levels, with the wish to ensure sounder custodianship of the resources we manage for those who come after us.

Chris Henggeler, Kachana Pastoral Company PL, July 2021



[For more insights to the reasoning behind this call we invite you to browse here.](#)