

Educational school tours

For environment, farming + society



The Mulloon Institute (TMI) is a not-for-profit organisation that actively demonstrates, monitors and shares innovative regenerative land management practices.

Our on-farm demonstration sites help rebuild landscape function and resilience by rehydrating a landscape that has been dehydrated by 200 years of soil erosion and loss of organic matter.

Our work has been chosen by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network** as one of five projects globally to help it develop guidelines for sustainable, profitable and productive farming.

Our living laboratory is located at **Mulloon Creek Natural Farms (MCNF)** near Bungendore, NSW about 40 minutes east of Canberra.

Image: Viewing the Step Diffusion System

Our projects

The **Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project (MCLRP)** follows the success of the **Natural Sequence Farming Pilot Project**, which began in 2006 and has demonstrated significant improvements to the health and productivity of a three kilometre, previously degraded section of Mulloon Creek, including habitat creation, improved water quality and flow, and a 60% increase (DSE) in agricultural productivity.

The MCLRP involves a major scaling up of the original NSF pilot project, and has expanded out to encompass 23,000 hectares, 50 kilometres of creeks and tributaries, and now involves most landholders (20+) in the Mulloon catchment. The project aims to rebuild the entire catchment's natural landscape function and boost its resilience to climatic extremes.

Our long term goal to help rehydrate **100 catchments** across Australia over the next 10 years by engaging with local groups who are keen to be champions for landscape rehydration in their own catchment.

Learning outcomes

Our farm tours can be tailored for students of geography, biology and related sciences, farm management and social studies or to address specific educational outcomes.

Sustainable biomes

The NSW 'Sustainable Biomes' curriculum focuses on different world biomes, how biomes are used for food production, whether the world can continue to be fed sustainably, and strategies for increasing global

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food security. At MCNF we can explore five biomes – riparian, floodplain, gorge, woodland, and slopes – and provide an historical overview of the impact of European farming practices on hydrology, soil and vegetation structures in Australia, and the growing movement towards regenerative agriculture.

Subject matter

Students will be introduced to landscape restoration, water management, natural resource management, integrated landscape management, and how creek interventions (leaky weirs) help repair waterways, restore riparian zones, and hydrate the broader landscape.

Education can cover topics such as: geology and geomorphology; identifying and recording landscape features and indicators of landscape health; assessing and understanding soil; assessing and understanding how water quality and quantity are measured; and, learning how landscape degradation can be reversed.

Further advanced training can also be arranged in scientific monitoring methods such as Landscape Function Analysis (LFA), Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition (RARC) and Ephemeral Draining-Line Assessments (EDA).

Tour format

Visits will incorporate a walk along the ephemeral creek and rehabilitated wetlands to the site of the Natural Sequence Farming Pilot Project at Peter's Pond on Mulloon Creek. This is followed by a tour of the step diffusion system on sloping country then a formal presentation and Q&A session in the Barn. This generally runs from 9am to 2pm with a short lunch break.

Cost

The day rate for up to 25 students is \$450, plus GST. Additional students are \$16 each, plus GST. Multi-day excursions can be organised by arrangement.

Larger or smaller numbers and specifically tailored tours can be negotiated and arranged.

What to bring

Students will need to bring their own food and dress appropriately for the weather. Students will be outside for several hours during the tour and it is often very cold and windy at our farm. For safety reasons, students will need to wear closed toe shoes, as well as:

Winter – warm clothes, rain jacket.

Summer – sunhat, sunscreen.

Students will need to be aware that this is a working farm with inherent risks such as snakes, tripping hazards (wombat holes), electric fences, cattle and wildlife.

Contact

For all tour enquiries, please contact us via info@themullooninstitute.org to discuss your enquiries and options.

Left: Conducting Landscape Function Analysis
Middle: Examining soil characteristics

Right: Soil sampling using the soil auger

