



## **July "Journal" from the Chairman, The Mulloon Institute**

Perhaps "journey" rather than "journal" might be a more appropriate description for July activities but I'm sticking to "journal" in the spirit of what I want to impart to our many interested followers of The Mulloon Institute.

In my June "Jottings" I ventured slightly into July as our postponed field day was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. I reported at that time how successful it was but that has been reinforced by feedback following the field day. Pete Hazell emailed a survey to all participants and he had a 70% response rate which was an excellent indicator of how interesting they found the day. 60% were "very impressed" with the balance "impressed". A substantial number of the participants were "first timers" to Mulloon Creek and were very taken by the work that had been done to restore the natural functions of the creek and the landscape. Field days will continue to be a feature of our work in the future.

A couple of days after our field day Pete Hazell, Wendy Fitzgerald, Luke Peel, Martin Royds and myself went on our own "field trip" to Tarwyn Park and then Bathurst.

With the imminent departure of the Andrews family from Tarwyn Park following its purchase by Korean power company, Kepco, we wanted to spend some time with Peter Andrews at the location where his signature work is so well demonstrated. It was a wet day in the Bylong Valley the day we were there but it didn't stop Peter's enthusiasm to show and describe in some detail why he did what he did where. While a day is not enough to fully appreciate this remarkable example of a landscape functioning how it was originally intended, Peter's guidance, our questions and his answers, ensured we all came away with substantially more knowledge than when we arrived. And it wasn't the first time at Tarwyn Park for Pete Hazell and Martin Royds.

The visit also reinforced our view that Tarwyn Park should be maintained for future training exercises as it will enable the practitioners of the future to have the best knowledge of Peter Andrews' landscape regeneration and rehydration techniques. But how can this occur once Kepco is the sole occupant?

Kepco has publicly stated that Peter's work will be maintained within an operating farm as its proposed mining activities will have separation. The Mulloon Institute has offered to have discussions with Kepco about documenting Peter's work and ongoing access to the site but to date we have had no confirmation of such discussions. We are also working with government along similar lines and I'll keep you informed of progress.



From Tarwyn Park we “journeyed” to Bathurst to meet with Ashley Bland and John Fry from Skillset, a community based training organisation. Skillset has developed a very good short course in landscape repair so our discussion revolved around collaboration between The Mulloon Institute and Skillset as we develop a curriculum initially for planned workshops as part of contractual arrangement with Local Land Services and for our future training courses. The Skillset team has been a strong supporter of Peter Andrews’ work so it makes a lot of sense that we cooperate in the development of this important material.

Baseline science and project planning continue in earnest for our Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project (MCLRP) including some replacement equipment following the big June flood. But fortunately there was very little disruption to our data collection.

A significant outcome for this project will be improvement in the agricultural circumstances for farmers within the catchment. To assist the landholders to better monitor their enterprises, one landholder, Gerry Carroll, has offered software developed by his business to each participant gratis as a contribution to the MCLRP. Further down the track, and if landholders agree, an ongoing commercial arrangement will be negotiated. This is a very good contribution and we thank Gerry and his business.

The weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July saw the completion of the Holistic Farm Management course organized by The Mulloon Institute for local landholders and other interested parties. Graeme Hand and Mark Gardner ran the course over three weekends and the feedback was very positive from all those participating. Rose and I, Charles Cupit (Board member and finance adviser) and Michael Fitzgerald (Mulloon farm manager) along with Pete Hazell and Luke Peel, all completed the course. As did John Field from our Science Advisory Council. We all learnt so much and the interaction between all participants was particularly rewarding given the diversity of the group.

The Board managed to have a Board meeting over that weekend as well to maintain the strong governance and direction of The Mulloon Institute.

We continue to pursue many opportunities to ensure appropriate funding for our work and in that regard we welcome a commitment from the Environment Trust of NSW which will directly assist the on ground works of the MCLRP. We have also now completed the work required from both the Veolia Foundation and the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) with final reporting being completed shortly. We very much appreciated the support from both organisations and look forward to possible future partnerships particularly with the VFFF.

As we are now a few days into August I can report we have had some very productive meetings a couple of days ago with both Sydney Water and the Global Water Institute at UNSW. Details of those meetings and the follow ups will be reported in my August update.



Looking forward, our Science Advisory Council will be meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> August and an Advisory Council meeting is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Also I have been invited to a Summit being organized by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) Asia-Pacific branch to be held in Sydney on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. This will be an opportunity to understand other work being done in our region and also to showcase to that broad audience the aims and progress of our MCLRP, which is just one of five demonstration projects selected by the UNSDSN in the world.

Until August .....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Nairn'.

Cheers,  
Gary Nairn AO  
Chairman