

'A Study in Change'

An Australian Farm – 120 years ago

Outline of program

'A Study in Change' was developed to give infant and primary students the opportunity to discover interesting aspects of the past through hands-on activities and stories, and at the same time develop an appreciation of a heritage site.

Students and teachers alike, enjoy a structured and engaging day on our heritage farm; exploring the buildings, listening to stories and getting involved in the chores of the past. This excursion provides students with a realisation of the living conditions and a good idea of some of the daily aspects of life on an Australian farm 120 years ago.

The program is fairly flexible in its delivery so we like to consult with you to ensure we present topics and activities which complement and extend your classroom work. 'A Study in Change' suits Early Stage 1, Stage 1, 2 and 3 students by choosing appropriate stories and using differing emphasis in the activities. It is regularly monitored and modified to meet current curriculum requirements.

The program operates with an excursion group of 30 – 110 students, however it works best with 60+ students.

For smaller groups the day involves a 'Walk and Talk' segment, where students hear the stories of the pioneers of Tocal and walk the grounds identifying the buildings and interesting sites. This includes a visit to the Wonnarua grinding grooves on the site if time permits.

They then break into smaller teams (approx 10 students) and cycle through a range of hands-on activities. Some activities will be directed by Tocal Homestead staff and other activities require the adult group leader to direct and encourage student involvement.

The activities you will undertake will be drawn from the following:

- washing clothes with a washboard and soap,
- old fashioned games (knuckles, horse-shoes, skipping, marbles, elastics etc),
- visiting the main house,
- finding out how items work in the old kitchen, such as the butter churn
- carrying water with buckets on a yoke,
- discovering the importance of horse power on the farm,
- dressing up in old fashioned clothes, or
- watching the blacksmith at work (only for larger groups).

The activities available on your visit may vary depending on weather and staffing.

Location

Tocal Homestead is about 30 minutes from Raymond Terrace and about 20 minutes from Maitland on Tocal Road. When coming from Maitland follow the signs to Tocal College from the New England Highway. Please proceed directly to the Homestead coach parking area. The entry to the Homestead is 1.4km past the Tocal College main entry gate on Tocal Road.

Typical Timetable:

Please keep in mind each school varies slightly in the times they arrive/leave and the number and age of students.

This, for example, would be a timetable for a school group of 62 Stage 1 students from the Maitland area.

10am	Arrive, welcome by Tocal staff, morning tea. (Morning tea provided for adults – accompanied by a brief rundown of the day's proceedings for group leaders)
10.30	Divide into two groups of 31 students: a Tocal staff member takes each group for a 'Walk and Talk', one to the 'farm' area and one to the 'house' area.
11am	Each group breaks into 3 smaller teams (approx 10 students) and commences their first activity.
11.20	All teams move to next activity
11.40	All teams move to next activity
12noon	Lunch break
12.20	Lunch finishes Reform the two groups and complete the second 'Walk and Talk'.
12.50	Each group breaks into 3 teams again and continues activities.
1.10	All teams move to next activity
1.30	All teams move to next activity
1.50	Debrief, farewell
2pm	Board the bus and depart.

The activities this group would cycle through are:

1. Visit the homestead
2. The old kitchen
3. Dress ups
4. Blacksmith in the blacksmith shop
5. Washing on a wash board
6. Old fashioned games

Useful information

Inquiries and Bookings

For more information or to make a booking please contact the Tocal Tour Coordinator on 4939 8901 or email homestead@tocal.com

Parent helpers

We ask that you bring a number of parent helpers to lead the activity teams. A ratio of one adult to 10 students works well. If your teams will be smaller than 10 students ask our tour coordinator how many helpers will be required.

The helpers should be willing to lead the team, become involved in the activities and take an active role in encouraging the students to participate. Extra parents are welcome but will be required to pay \$8 per head.

With parent helpers in each activity team, it leaves teachers free to oversee and assist all the teams and also take advantage of the many photo opportunities for students.

Wet Weather

This program will run in most weathers, except extreme rain, flooding and storm conditions. When the weather is questionable, the teacher in charge of the excursion will make the final decision on the morning of the excursion.

To check on weather at Tocal that morning, call the tour coordinator on 4939 8901 at 8.30am. Keep in mind that Tocal receives a lot less rain than the coastal areas, and while it may be raining heavily in Newcastle or Swansea or Maitland, often there is no rain at Tocal.

Morning Tea/Lunch

Please ensure that students, parent helpers and teachers bring all their food and drink requirements for the day as there is no access to a shop on the site. We provide morning tea for teachers and parent helpers.

We ask that children wear sun hats and sturdy shoes, but we have no specific requirement for them to wear school uniform. Your school will be the only school group on the site when you visit.

Cost

Cost is \$8 per student (includes GST)
Teachers, teacher aides and parent helpers are free.
Extra parents are \$8 per head.

We will invoice your school in the week after your excursion for the number of students and extra parents who attended. This means there is no requirement to pay on the day unless your school's accounting section finds it easier to do so.

Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment for this program can be faxed to you on request.

Pre and Post Excursion Activities

A free booklet of teacher resources relating to Tocal Homestead can be mailed to you on request.