

Australian Conference for Lutheran Education

Tatachilla Lutheran College

Earth Care Charter Principle Six

Planet Earth is a Wounded Parent
(The Environmental Dimension)



(They have made my vineyard a desolation; it mourns to me.) (Jer. 12.11)

Principle Six

Planet Earth is our wounded mother, calling for personal care from her children and deep compassion from the Creator Spirit.

Exploring Perspectives to Heal our Wounded Parent Tatachilla Lutheran College.

Whole School Initiatives

Extra-Curricular Activities

Tatachilla Lutheran College has a holistic approach to Environmental Education through curricular and extra-curricular activities. The College values the importance of teaching 'sustainable' principles and is committed to increasing students' awareness of how natural systems work. Environmental Education empowers the school community with knowledge. We aim to promote positive actions, both locally and nationally, through encouraging students to make contributions as responsible Australians and to interact as global citizens.

Student Environment Council

The Student Environment Council (SEC) meet once a week to undertake a variety of hands-on activities in a relaxed atmosphere with like-minded students. They are involved in a number of areas throughout the College and wider community including recycling, chickens, vegetable garden, Bettong bucket monitors, propagation, environmental forums, promotion of EcoAction at Assemblies, leadership (kids teaching kids), community landcare, revegetation programs and visits to the EcoClassroom.

The Ranger Program is integrated in the SEC and targets Middle and Senior School students. Upon successful completion, committed Year 9, 10 and 11 students have the option of collecting a skills set from the Certificate III in Captive Animal Management which will reward them with points towards their SACE.

Minibeast Garden – A student designed and created garden that supports biodiversity and attracts, provides habitat for valuable invertebrates. It is also an important outdoor hands-on learning site for Junior School students.

BushFood Garden – With the central theme on Tjilbruke Dreaming, the Bushfood Garden is a valuable resource to support Indigenous education throughout the school.

Nature Play – The College is investing heavily in the development of Nature Play areas within the Junior School. A natural creek line enables students to engage with nature and unstructured outdoor play. Future developments will incorporate a mud kitchen and old ruins developed by senior students participating in Doorways2Construction.

National Tree Day

All Junior School students are involved in National Tree Day for Schools each year. Selected Middle School and Senior School students play an active leadership role during the week where around 600 native seedlings are planted in the EcoClassroom.

Propagation

Many native plant species used in revegetation projects around the College are propagated by members of the Student Environment Council and Conservation Land Management in the Propagation Shed on site. Tatachilla Lutheran College works in partnership with the Willunga branch of Trees for Life, hosting their annual distribution day where boxes of propagation materials are handed out for preordered community revegetation projects.



Bettong Buckets

Left over Recess and Lunch scraps from the Junior School are collected daily by 'Bettong Bucket' monitors. These scraps are then fed to fauna residing in the EcoClassroom.

Chicken Program

Students in Year 6 have the opportunity to be involved in caring for the college chickens. This includes daily feed and water checks and regular maintenance of the chicken house and yard. Selected Junior School classes are involved in the incubating of eggs and caring for new hatchings of chicks as part of curricular and co-curricular activities.

Vegetable Garden

There is also a weekly garden club where students are invited to share their lunch with other like-minded students while they participate in the annual garden cycle of planting, weeding and harvesting of a range of biodynamic produce. The Student Environment Council is also involved in the day to day running of the vegetable garden and the chicken program. A number of fruit trees are found in the EcoArea of the College.

Recycling

Tatachilla Lutheran College has a comprehensive recycling program. This deliberate waste management strategy assists greatly with the reduction of College waste going to landfill. All classrooms, teaching spaces and staff areas have paper recycling bins which are collected by students on a weekly basis. This is collected by Suez for recycling into paper products.

Deposit Recycling

Deposit container bins are strategically located throughout the College. The 10c containers are collected weekly and sorted by teams of Middle School students. Moneys collected from this recycling program are donated to a charity of (student) choice and an end of year fun activity for all involved.

Organics

In conjunction with the college's green waste, organic waste at the College is collected daily. It is then collected by Jefferies and used in the production of compost products.

Dry Waste

To reduce the quantity of waste going to landfill, the College has an additional dry waste bin. The contents are processed to form a 'fluff' which is used as an industrial fuel.

Additional Recycling Programs

E-Waste, batteries, light bulbs and ink cartridges.



Sustainability in Infrastructure

Building Sustainability

When possible, buildings have north-south orientation. Lighting in many rooms have 1/3 and 2/3 switches allowing for chose of light needed. They are also on sensors; ensuring lights do not stay on when rooms are not in use. Air conditioners are on 2hourly auto timers.

Retention Pond

The 4.5 megalitre Retention Pond can be seen as visitors enter the College through the main gate. Stormwater is directed to the pond through a series of swales during winter. The water is then used to irrigate College ovals and gardens.

Solar panels

In an effort to reduce its carbon output, the College produces just under 100kWh of power through solar panels located on the Gym and the Science 1 building.

Tree Lot

Three tree lots, made up of a number of Eucalypt species, have been planted since the commencement of Tatachilla Lutheran College. The school is not connected to a traditional sewerage system, and consequently all waste water is stored and treated on site. This treated water is then used to irrigate the two remaining woodlots. Rangers from Cleland Wildlife Park harvest the growing leaves from the Eucalypt plants as a food source for their koalas. Manna Gums, specifically chosen to support the Cleland koalas, are currently being propagated for the new tree lot to be planted in 2017 as part of National Tree Day for Schools.