

## Features

### Ecosystems

- ecological sustainability
- biodiversity
- natural landscapes
- historical relevance

### Wetlands

- freshwater macroinvertebrates
- water catchment
- water investigations
- human impact

### Endemic Flora

- revegetation
- plant identification
- Tree Day for Schools

### Native Fauna

- habitat
- trapping
- monitoring
- fauna identification
- life cycles
- threatened species

### Walking Trails

- self-guided and guided tours
- wheelchair accessible

### Educational Resources

- resources and curriculum support
- qualified educators

### Kaurna Tappa

- Indigenous education
- cultural tours
- self-guided walking trail

### EcoSkills Centre of Excellence

- passive design building

## Future of the Project

For the development and maintenance of this facility we would welcome support from interested parties in the form of time, sponsorship, materials and resources.

To book a guided tour, become a Friend of the EcoClassroom or for further information please contact the Environmental Education Officers at the College:

[eco@tatachilla.sa.edu.au](mailto:eco@tatachilla.sa.edu.au)

Development has been made possible through the ongoing support of:

- Friends of the EcoClassroom
- Students and Staff of Tatachilla Lutheran College
- TLC Student Environment Council
- Willunga 'Trees for Life'
- Plane View Photography
- Government of South Australia Natural Resources Management Board
- City of Onkaparinga



Since official opening in 2000, The EcoClassroom has received much recognition and a variety of awards.

These include:

- Australian Habitat Award SA Division
- Numerous KESAB Tidy Towns Awards and Commendations
- City of Onkaparinga Environmental Awards
- McLaren Vale Regional Environment Awards
- United Nations Association of Australia Environmental School Award finalist



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**TATACHILLA**  
lutheran college

## EcoClassroom

A Nature Based Outdoor  
Educational Facility



## Introduction



In 1997 a 2.4 hectare site within the grounds of Tatchilla Lutheran College was designated as the site for the EcoClassroom. The name was selected to encompass the ethos of this unique facility with the aim:

*To be a learning place to facilitate an understanding of plants, animals, soils, water, atmosphere, geography and history of the Willunga Basin.*

## Educational Philosophy

The essence of the EcoClassroom is to develop in students and visitors an understanding of the importance of nature and natural processes. This facility encourages the attitude to enjoy and appreciate nature and at the same time, foster a caring and responsible approach towards the environment.

The EcoClassroom revegetation program is modelled on pre-European ecosystems that once existed in the local area. With the assistance of community support, the project goals have been achieved through a number of strategic actions including:

- 1997- Direct seeding of local species
- 1997 - Development of permanent pond in natural wetland and feral exclusion fencing through Federation Community Projects Commonwealth Grant
- 2000 - Official opening
- 2001 - Introduction of walking trails, 10x10m grid reference markers and seven distinct ecosystems identified and mapped (see map)
- 2002 - Introduction of Brush-tailed Bettongs and Long-nosed Potoroos
- 2004 - Boardwalks developed by students via Doorways2Construction with funding from City of Onkaparinga
- 2005 - Tamar wallabies introduced to add to the diversity and ecological sustainability within the area

- 2006 - Kurna Tappa, an Indigenous interpretive trail, was developed in consultation with Kurna Warra Pintyandi
- 2010 - Development of EcoSkills Centre, featuring passive design elements including rammed earth walls, comfort glazing and low VOC paints
- 2013 - Rescue Centre developed by Doorways2Construction students
- 2015 - 0.8 ha extension encompassing revegetation of the nationally threatened *Eucalyptus microcarpa* community
- Ongoing - Propagation and annual planting with assistance from Trees for Life

## Community Use

Tatchilla Lutheran College welcomes schools, community groups, government and non-government organisations to visit this unique educational resource. Qualified EcoStaff offer hands-on learning activities and guided tours that focus on curriculum and extra-curricular subjects. Visits can be tailored to the required needs of visitors. Please contact the EcoStaff for pricing.

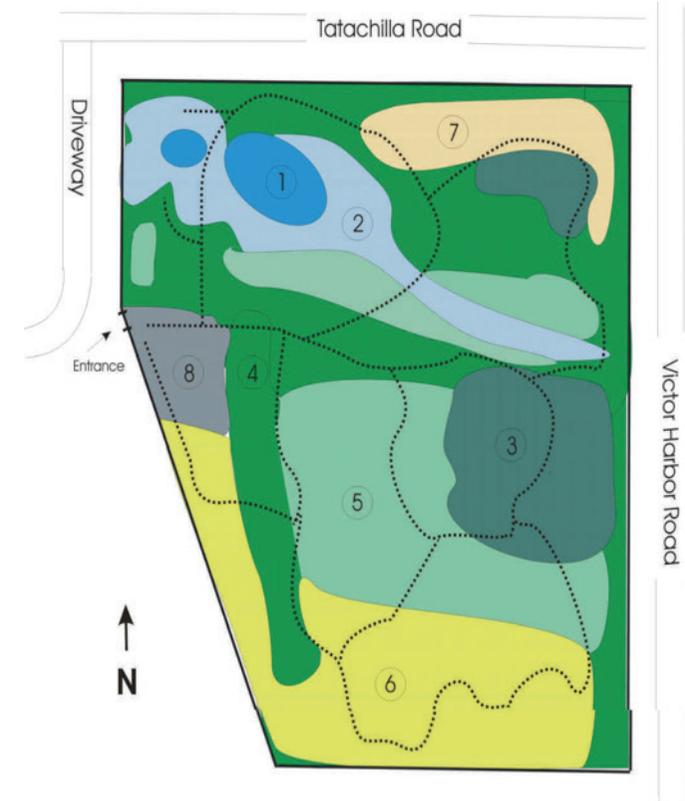
Topics include:

- Australian natural landscape management
- Wetland and macroinvertebrate investigations
- Chemical analysis of soil and water
- Native vegetation identification and mapping of associations
- Native fauna trapping, monitoring and management
- 10x10m grid reference markers allowing for mapping and scientific investigation
- Kurna Tappa, an Indigenous Interpretive Trail
- Impacts of colonisation
- Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management
- Doorways2Construction
- Ability to hold camps and field studies
- Management of private sanctuaries



The Friends of the EcoClassroom meet regularly to assist with on-ground maintenance. In addition, this group gathers once a term to trap and monitor the wellbeing of the native fauna within the EcoClassroom.

## The EcoClassroom



## Ecosystems and Walking Trails

1. Permanent water pond
2. Ephemeral wetland
3. Eucalypt forest
4. Native grassland
5. Woodland
6. Shrubland
7. Grassy Eucalypt woodland
8. Class Teaching Area/Interpretive Research Centre

