



Issue: term 1, week 2

Important Dates

Years 7-12 assembly, 2025 dux and merit award winners, 9:00am, college gym

Friday 6 February

EcoRangers, EcoSanctuary, 3:30pm

Wednesday 18 February

Upcoming Events

Twilight tour of the college

Venue: Tatachilla Lutheran College - McLaren Vale

Date: Tuesday 17 February

Time: 6:00pm

Twilight Food Affair 2026

Venue: Tatachilla Lutheran College - McLaren Vale

Date: Friday 20 March

Time: 4:30pm - 9:00pm

Read our full news



To access all of our stories this fortnight, visit the [Tatachilla newsroom](#). Alternatively take a look at our highlights reel below.



4 February 2026

Elsie McKinnon selected for prestigious 2026 SACE Art Show



The college is proud to celebrate the outstanding artistic achievement of 2025 Year 12 graduate, **Elsie McKinnon**, whose artwork has been selected for inclusion in the prestigious 2026 SACE Art Show.

Elsie's work was chosen by a Board-appointed curatorial panel from nominations across South Australia. The annual exhibition showcases exceptional student achievement in SACE Visual Arts, with selections carefully balanced across schooling sectors and artistic genres.

Elsie's selected body of work, *Clockwork Youth*, is a deeply personal and symbolic series comprising eighteen clocks representing each year of her childhood. Through intricate monochromatic ink illustrations, the series explores the progression of time, the transition from innocence to self-discovery, and the journey toward healing and personal growth.

In Elsie's words, the series begins with symbols of innocence and new life such as lambs, doves and blooming flowers, before progressing to more complex themes of vulnerability, isolation and resilience. The clocks represent the inevitable continuation of time, while the symbolism throughout the series reflects Elsie's personal experiences and growth.

Inspired by a range of artists and cultural influences, Elsie used unconventional materials by transforming clocks into canvases. Her work draws on techniques used by South Australian installation artist Julia Robinson, Filipino artist Kerby Rosanes and American artist Lauren Marx, combining mythology, surreal imagery and symbolic storytelling.

Elsie described completing the ambitious eighteen-piece series as both challenging and rewarding, noting that while the project was time-consuming, it resulted in a highly meaningful body of work that shares her personal story and invites viewers to connect in their own way.

Visual Arts teacher Coral Winterbourn said Elsie's selection in the SACE Art Show reflects both her artistic talent and dedication to her craft.

"Elsie's work demonstrates exceptional creativity, technical skill and emotional depth. We are incredibly proud to see her work recognised at a state level and celebrate the passion



and commitment she has shown throughout her Visual Arts studies.”

Tatachilla Lutheran College congratulates Elsie on this outstanding accomplishment and looks forward to celebrating her continued success.

[See the 2026 SACE Art Show](#)

Registrations open for Tatachilla dance program



Did you know that Tatachilla Lutheran College offers one of the largest and most comprehensive school dance programs in South Australia?

In 2026, students in Years 4–12 can step into the studio and explore jazz, tap and hip hop – with classes designed for students of all experience levels.

Whether your child is new to dance or ready to build on existing skills, there's a place for everyone.

Students in Years 7–11 also have the opportunity to audition for our dance extension program through the Performing Arts Academy. This specialised program allows passionate dancers to work alongside industry professionals to choreograph and deliver a 30–45 minute public performance.

- ☐ Registrations are still open – it's not too late to join!
- ☐ Classes begin next week.

[☐ Register for Years 4–6 dance classes](#)

[☐ Register for Years 7–12 dance classes](#)

[☐ Audition for the dance extension program \(Years 7–11\)](#)

Queries about Tatachilla's extra-curricular dance program can be directed to the

Brave beginnings for our Reception families

The first day of term marked the very first school drop-off for our Reception families — a milestone filled with excitement, nerves, brave smiles and, yes, a few tears.

Despite the extreme heat on the day, it was heartening to see so many parents and caregivers gather for our much-loved Tea and Tears tradition. Over coffee, pastries and shared conversations, first-day jitters were softened and transformed into something deeply reassuring: community.

Moments like these remind us that no one begins their school journey alone — it truly takes a village. We extend the warmest welcome to our new and returning families. Here's to a year filled with growth, connection and many happy memories ahead.



Creating confident and happy school transitions



The beginning of a new school year often brings a blend of excitement and nervous anticipation for students in the junior years. These early weeks are especially important, helping to establish routines, build confidence and nurture a strong sense of belonging.

Families play a vital role in supporting children through this transition.

Re-establish routines

Consistent bedtimes, healthy breakfasts and organised mornings help children feel calm, prepared and ready to learn.

Foster independence

Encouraging children to take responsibility for simple daily tasks — such as packing their bag, organising their uniform or remembering their hat and water bottle — helps develop confidence and a sense of ownership.

Talk about the school day

Caregivers may consider creating relaxed opportunities to discuss what your child is looking forward to and listen carefully to any concerns they may have. Positive reinforcement and reassurance can help children settle into the rhythm of school life.

Keep connected

Maintaining regular communication with your child's teacher and staying up to date with college communications helps strengthen the partnership between home and school, supporting each child's learning and wellbeing.

Celebrate small wins

The start of a new year brings opportunities for growth, learning and new friendships. Recognising effort and celebrating small achievements can make a meaningful difference as children adjust to new routines and experiences.

The college is delighted to welcome our families back to Tatachilla for another year of learning, laughter and community. We are grateful for the support that parents and caregivers give our students and staff so that all Tatachilla children have the opportunity to begin the year with confidence and joy.

Teacher, firefighter, community champion



Meet **Courtney Orrin** — a much-loved junior years teacher, community leader and everyday hero at Tatachilla Lutheran College. Known for her warmth, energy and deeply relational approach to teaching, Courtney is stepping into Year 3 in 2026 while continuing to make a remarkable impact beyond the classroom.

A dedicated volunteer firefighter with the Willunga CFS, Courtney has served her community for more than a decade, including during the recent Nangkita fires and the 2019–2020 Black Summer on Kangaroo Island. Her passion for service also extends to First Nations education, service learning and student leadership as Coordinator of Ruby House.

[Read Courtney's full story](#)

McLaren Districts Soccer - registrations open



McLaren District Soccer Club

Registrations **OPEN** for

S A T U R D A Y

School Soccer

Ages 5 up to 16 years old

www.mclarendistricts.com.au

0466 847 051



Registrations are now open for the soccer season.
To sign your child up, please click [here](#).

For more information, please contact Frank Sieben:
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Phone: 0466 847 051

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