

Issue: term 3, week 2

Important Dates

R-12 chapel service - celebrating 30 years of Tatachilla Lutheran College, 8:55am, college gym

Wednesday 6 August

Eco Rangers session, EcoSanctuary, 3:30pm

Thursday 7 August

Australian National Science Week

Monday 11 August

Music vocal concert (choral and solo performances), activity centre, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Friday 15 August

Upcoming Events

College tour of the junior years

Venue: Tatachilla Lutheran College - McLaren Vale

Date: Tuesday 5 August

Junior years' disco

Venue: Tatachilla Lutheran College - McLaren Vale

Date: Friday 29 August

Father's Day breakfast

Venue: Tatachilla Lutheran College - McLaren Vale

Date: Wednesday 3 September

Time: 9:30am

Time: 4:00pm -
7:00pm

Time: 7:30am -
9:00am

31 July 2025

Students transformed by outback journey




Thirteen days of learning experiences in the bush have opened students' eyes to the realities and richness of life in remote Australia.

Earlier this month, a group of 11 senior students traded their classrooms for the red sands of Central Australia, immersing themselves in a transformative 13-day service-learning experience that combined cultural connection, community service and awe-inspiring encounters with the natural world.

The Year 11 and 12 students journeyed more than 4,500 kilometres to the remote Alyawarre community of Ampilatwatja, 325km northeast of Alice Springs, where they spent six days living and working alongside First Nations families. Guided by Elders and community members, students gained insights into First Nations lore, language, food, bush medicine and culture, forming meaningful relationships through shared experiences such as cooking, football, music, dance and conversation.

As part of their service, the students supported the local school by helping teachers deliver lessons, running after-school sports clinics and coaching the girls' football team. They also learned about health challenges faced by remote communities with a visit to the local clinic



and donated essential items, including hearing systems for hearing-impaired students, footballs and a communal barbecue—funded through Tatachilla’s ongoing Challenge 4 Charity campaign.

Beyond Ampilatwatja, the students explored some of Australia’s most iconic outback landmarks and cultural sites, including:

- Uluru and Kata Tjuta, where they learned about the Dreaming and Indigenous perspectives of Country
- Simpsons Gap, Standley Chasm and Ormiston Gorge, where they discovered the unique landscapes of the Red Centre
- Purple House in Alice Springs, where they learned about the critical healthcare services being provided to Central Australians in a culturally safe manner
- Coober Pedy in northern South Australia, where they had the opportunity to experience life underground.

The students also spent nights camping in swags under the outback stars and participated in the annual reenactment of [Banjo Morton’s historic 1949 “Walk Off”](#), which included a six-kilometre trek and a traditional meal of kangaroo tail.

Tatachilla teacher and Flourish Leader Jimmy Grant said the trip was about more than just travel:

“Experiences like this open our students’ eyes to the realities and richness of life in remote Australia. They return with a deeper sense of gratitude, cultural understanding and the confidence to be contributing guests in new communities.”

The trip reflects the college’s commitment to service learning—empowering students to serve others, broaden their worldview, and develop the empathy, critical thinking and advocacy skills needed to facilitate social change.

Tatachilla Lutheran College extends its heartfelt thanks to the Ampilatwatja community, First Nations Elders, and trip leaders Jimmy Grant, Pastor Jon Goessling, Caitlin Krndija and Courtney Orrin, whose support and guidance made this extraordinary experience possible.

Students who participated in the trip were:

- Year 11: Eva Aldridge, Paige Hays, Jade Ellis, Kaysha Dellow, Marley Ware and Frank Maung
- Year 12: Claire Oddie, Meg Thomas, Sarah Weikert, Hayden Cabban and Evie Simmons-Sinclair

Read more information about Tatachilla’s approach to [service learning](#).

Old scholar honours teachers in powerful sculpture



Tatachilla teachers have been immortalised in a powerful sculptural artwork created by former deputy college captain Jade Harrison (Class of 2022).

Jade's striking sculpture is testament to the lifelong impact great educators can have on their students.

The artwork, entitled *The Hands That Shaped Me*, was unveiled at a special exhibition on Friday 13 June 2025 at Tabor College, where Jade is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Secondary).

The piece comprises an arresting arrangement of life-sized hand castings taken from the people who have most profoundly guided and supported Jade — including Tatachilla staff members **Chris McElligott**, **Bronwyn McLeod**, **Jessica Felgenhaur** and **Trent Heaft**.

"In preparing for the work, I reflected on who had truly shaped me," Jade said. "Recreating their hands felt like the most compelling way to express the depth of gratitude I feel. These staff members always made time for me, even when they were busy. They lifted me up and made me want to give back."

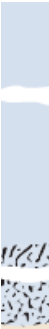
Jade's sculpture was produced using alginate, a seaweed-based biodegradable gel, to mould each hand, and Hydrostone, a high-strength gypsum cement, to capture every vein, crease, fingerprint and ring. "I chose Hydrostone because, once dry, it's exceptionally hard-wearing and able to reproduce fine detail — this was essential for showing what makes every hand unique," she explained.



Teachers who teach — and transform

Jade credits her former teachers' passion, creativity and care with shaping both her artistic vision and her decision to become a teacher herself.

- On History teacher **Bronwyn McLeod**: “I’ll never forget a Year 11 History lesson on the French Revolution where Ms McLeod turned the classroom into an escape room. It was fun, challenging and far more impactful than rote learning.”
- On Visual Arts teacher **Jessica Felgenhaur** and Photography teacher **Trent Heaft**: “Their energy, commitment and willingness to share their expertise inspired me daily.”
- On Head of Middle and Senior Years, **Chris McElligott**: “He always lent a listening ear, made a genuine connection and mentored me in leadership. I really came out of my shell in my final year of school because of the support I received.”



Visual Arts teacher **Jessica Felgenhaur**, also a Tatachilla old scholar, was excited to be among those who attended the exhibition launch. “It’s a beautiful full-circle moment when a student becomes a teacher,” said Jessica. “Being part of Jade’s art-making process was a privilege and a reminder of the lasting impact teachers can have — and why we prioritise connection and relevance in our teaching.”


“I speak for all staff involved in Jade’s education when I say how proud we are,” Ms Felgenhaur added. “Watching her develop as both an educator and an artist — and knowing we played a positive role in her life’s path — is immensely fulfilling.”



A lifelong artist, a teacher in the making

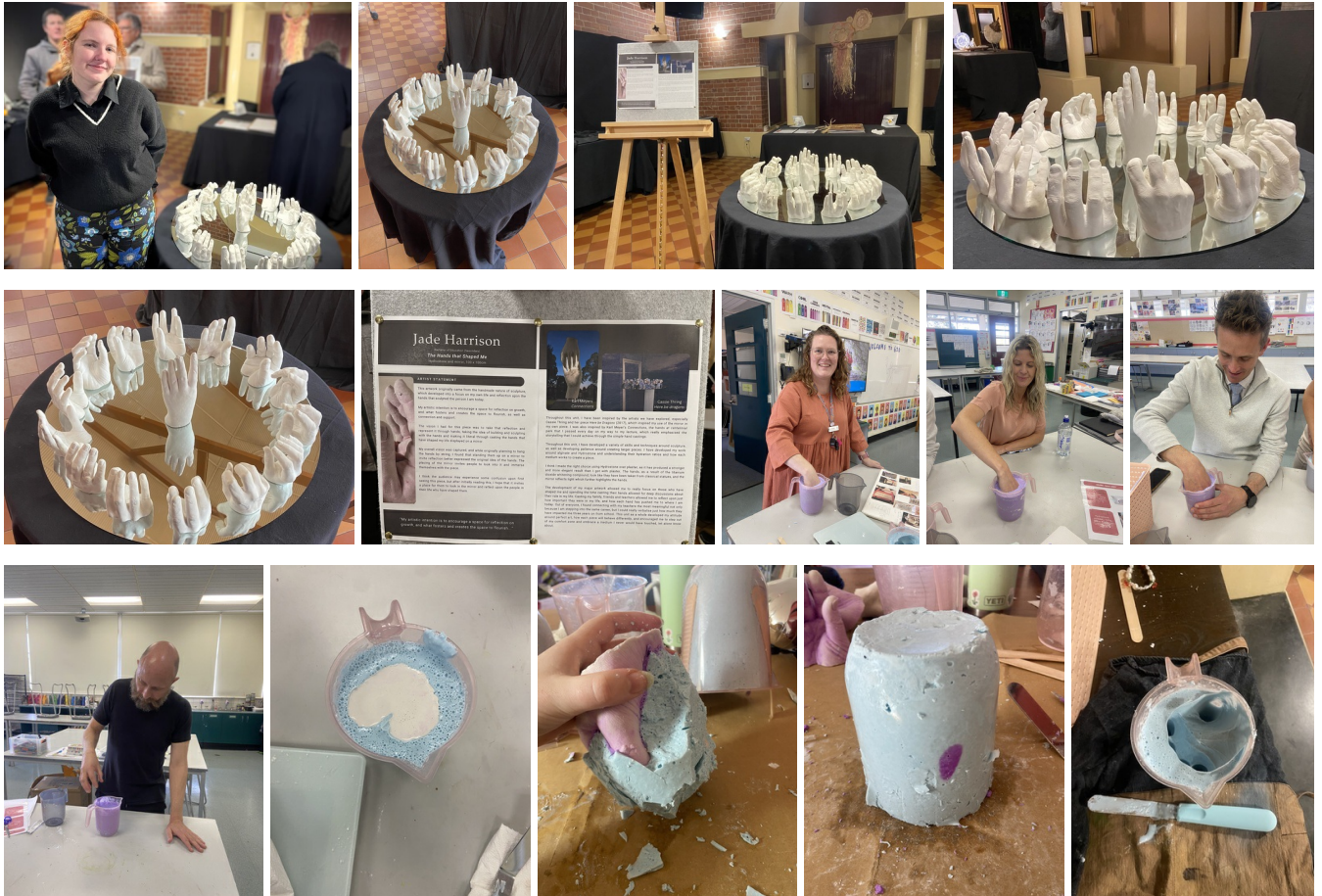
An artist since childhood, Jade recalls “copious drawings” in her formative years and an early love affair with Vincent van Gogh’s *Sunflowers*. “If I could go back in time, I’d ask Van Gogh what his favourite time of day was to paint,” she said. “His work traverses all times of the day and night; his use of light and dark is so defining.”

Next, Jade will begin studies in oil painting — with a clear ambition in sight: to return to Tatachilla Lutheran College as a Visual Arts teacher. “I would love to come back and teach the way my teachers taught me — with empathy, passion, innovation and positivity — and be part of the college community again.”



An artist's creative process in pictures

Jade Harrison's sculptural artwork, entitled *The Hands That Shaped Me* (story above), took several weeks to construct. The images below show Tatachilla staff members **Chris McElligott**, **Bronwyn McLeod**, **Jessica Felgenhaur** and **Trent Heaft** working with Jade to have their hand castings made. The hand moulds were produced using a biodegradable gel called alginate, and the castings themselves were made out of a high-strength gypsum cement called Hydrostone.



Netball triumphs: SAPSASA and SSSA teams head to state finals



Tatachilla's Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 netball teams have both secured places in their respective state finals after impressive performances in recent SAPSASA and SSSA competitions.

Year 5/6 SAPSASA girls netball team shines in round two

On 29 July, the Year 5/6 SAPSASA girls' netball team (pictured above) travelled to Tailem Bend to compete in the second round of the SAPSASA competition. The team displayed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship, playing a fast and fluent style of netball with impressive connections down the court.

Match results

Tatachilla vs Cardijn College 19–11

Tatachilla vs Bordertown 32–5

The team's outstanding efforts have earned them a spot in the SAPSASA state final, to be held in August. A heartfelt thank you to the Year 10 Advanced Athlete Development Program student coaches Maelin Lock, Grace McAvaney and Grace McDonald. Thanks also to Tahlia Hicks (Year 9) for umpiring the girls and coach Emma Brokenshire. We wish the Year 5/6 team all the best for the state finals.

Year 7/8 SSSA knockout netball team triumphs in overtime!

Our Year 7/8 SSSA knockout netball team secured an incredible victory against Westminster School, winning 60-55 in a thrilling overtime match. This hard-fought win means the team will advance to the state finals—a fantastic achievement!

The players demonstrated outstanding spirit and determination throughout the game. The match was fiercely contested, with scores tied at the end of regular time, pushing the game into overtime. In those crucial extra minutes, the girls showed resilience and focus, pulling ahead to claim the win.

Congratulations to the entire team on this achievement: **Airlie McCade, Ruby Madgett (Year 7), Charlotte Deboo, Charlotte Prestwood, Grace Syvertsen, Isabelle Brown, Isla Hockham, Summer Ballantine and Mabel Mills (Year 8).**

Thanks also to our student coaches **Emily Hart and Kaysha Dellow (Year 11)**, umpire **Amity Evans (Year 12)** and coach **Tracy McAvaney.**

31 July 2025

Outstanding individual sporting achievements



We're proud to celebrate several Tatachilla students who have recently achieved remarkable success across a range of sports at state and national levels.

Inline Hockey:

Angus Schuppan (Year 12), pictured above, has once again been selected to represent South Australia in both the under 17 and under 23 Inline Hockey National Teams, with the national championships taking place in Tasmania from 27 September to 5 October. Recognised last year as Australia's Best Goalie in his age group, Angus will be striving to repeat this incredible achievement. He is also generously volunteering as coach for the state's Veteran team (ages 44+), showing commendable leadership and dedication to his sport.

Golf:

Congratulations to **Summer Thomas** (Year 12) and **Bejay Thomas** (Year 9), who competed at the Junior Country Championships at Big River Golf Club in Berri, representing Willunga Golf Club. Summer was awarded the girls country champion nett score trophy, while Bejay placed third overall, finishing just one stroke behind the top two players—an outstanding result!

Soccer:

Congratulations to **Connor Johnstone, Lachlan Moore, Liam Flewellyn Odena, Mila Mansell, Willow Alexopoulos** and **Zara Lucas** (Year 6) and **Sebastian James** and **Ella Moore** (Year 5) on their selection to the Onkaparinga South District SAPSASA Soccer Team. The boys' and girls' teams will compete from 6–8 August at Services FM Stadium. We wish them all the best in the tournament.

We congratulate all of these students on their impressive accomplishments and look forward to following their continued success.

24 July 2025

Commemorative brick pavers selling fast



Leave your mark at Tatachilla with a commemorative brick paver and help us celebrate 30 incredible years of learning, growth and community.

This is an opportunity for our families to be part of something truly special.

- Purchase a commemorative brick paver engraved with your family name and the words,



“Celebrating 30 years”

- Have your family's brick paver proudly displayed in the college gym forecourt and leave a lasting legacy for current and future generations
- Support the continued development of our beautiful learning spaces
- Only a few brick pavers still available for purchase – first in, best dressed!
- Tax-deductible | \$150 per paver | 2 lines, 17 characters max per line
- **Orders close 1 August 2025**

[Purchase your brick paver now](#)

This is a once-in-30-years opportunity to be etched into Tatachilla history!



Year 1 students celebrate 100 days in style

The 100th day of school was a celebration to remember for our Year 1 students last week, who arrived dressed as centenarians in a heartwarming display of creativity and enthusiasm.

After counting down the days since the beginning of the year, the children were thrilled to step into the shoes of their future selves—complete with dressing gowns, hair curlers, walking sticks, strings of pearls, fluffy slippers and plenty of grey hair!

Throughout the day, students reflected on what life might be like at 100 years old, imagining how they might change and what they might still enjoy doing.

They also took time to look back on how much they've already grown in their own young lives, gaining a deeper understanding of how people and the world evolve over time.

This fun and thoughtful activity offered more than just a dress-up day—it was a rich learning experience that encouraged students to connect with the past, imagine the future, and appreciate the journey in between.



Mid-year Reception students make a splash

It was a wild and woolly first day of school for our mid-year Reception students last week, who didn't stop smiling despite the wintry conditions! Nineteen bright and brave little learners joined our college community on 22 July and enjoyed spending time with Misty the Golden Retriever and exploring their playground, oval and creek. We wish our littlest Tatachillans the very best of luck during their first term of school and can't wait to hear about their learning adventures.



Supporting healthy screen-time habits after the holidays



Our wellbeing team offers advice on healthy screen-time habits, as we return to the school routine in Term 3.

As we return from the three-week break, it's common to see some students needing time to re-adjust to school routines. For many young people, the holidays offered a welcome chance to relax and recharge—but for some, that also meant extended screen-time through gaming, social media or video streaming.

While technology can be fun and social, too much unstructured screen-time can become overwhelming or even addictive. Now is a great opportunity for families to gently re-establish healthy digital habits at home.

Here are some practical strategies for parents and caregivers to support their teens:

- **Reset the routine**


Work with your teen to reintroduce daily structure, including set times for homework, meals, physical activity and screen-use. Aim for consistent screen-free routines in the morning and before bed.

- **When screen-time ends in conflict**

It's not uncommon for teens to become upset or angry when asked to put down a device—especially after gaming. This can be a response to overstimulation or frustration at being interrupted mid-task. Stay calm, give clear warnings before transitions and avoid reacting emotionally. Discuss the situation later, once emotions have settled. Over time, you can work together to create smoother transitions.

- **Create device-free zones**

Encourage screen-free bedrooms after a certain hour, particularly to support healthy



sleep. A calming evening routine—such as reading, stretching or listening to music—can help teens wind down and prepare for rest.

- **Stay curious and connected**

Rather than leading with criticism, ask your teen what they enjoy about their online experiences. This builds trust and opens the door to ongoing conversations about digital technology balance. Be present, listen with interest and make sure they know they can come to you—no matter what.

- **Model healthy habits**

Teens take note of how adults use technology, too. Try to model balanced digital device habits as a family. Plan regular screen-free time together—whether it's a walk, a shared meal or another simple activity, it all adds up.

Need help?

If you think that your child's screen use is affecting their health, relationships or school performance, please don't hesitate to reach out. The college wellbeing team is here to support caregivers with practical advice and referrals to external services if needed.

Helpful resources:

- [eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [Headspace](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)

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