

Case Study

Tatachilla Lutheran College

Years: R - 12

School population: 1050

Location: McLaren Vale

Source: Jan Lind (Head of Middle School), Simone Cunningham (Curriculum Writer Years 8 / 9), Dolores Amos (Environment and Indigenous Education Resource Officer)

A WOW Support School

Highlights

2005 National Primary schools Story Dance winners of Wakakirri - National Story Festival for schools!

KESAB Tidy Towns Special Effort School Award 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005

City of Onkaparinga Environment Award 2003

First Prize Australian Habitat Program 2001

The school has a five acre 'Eco-Classroom' site. Native fauna in this area are fed fruit and vegetable scraps from the Junior School.

Over the last four years the Year 5 class has developed a vegetable garden which raises funds through the sale of produce to families. Money raised goes towards an end-of-school class party with the remainder donated to charities.

In 2006 chickens will be reintroduced to the school. They will be raised and cared for during the year by the Year 6 class in cooperation with Property Maintenance staff. Chickens will be fed scraps from Food Technology and Canteen kitchens and will, in turn, provide fertiliser for the vegetable garden.

A Student Environment Council (SEC) was formed in 2006 to promote local and wider environmental issues. Approximately 70 students from Years 2 - 12 participate. The SEC is supported by four staff and school management and separated into four groups; Recycling, WaterCare, Habitat for Wildlife and Global Issues. One lesson per fortnight is allocated for meetings and actions related to the group.

A cross-curricular Year 9 unit on Sustainable Futures introduced during Term 2, 2006 includes comprehensive work on Composting (**see Section 4: WOW in Curriculum**) and was initiated after staff attended a WOW Workshop in 2005.

The school employs an Environment and Indigenous Education Resource Officer (part-time) to assist in coordinating and supporting a range of environmental and indigenous programs.



Vegetable garden and chicken enclosure



A view of the 'Eco-Classroom' site



Waste Systems and Learning

Waste in Curriculum

Macro faculties of Maths / Science, English / SOSE, and Health / Christian Studies assist in incorporating cross-curricular teaching themes.

In 2006, a one term unit of work on Sustainability Futures will be taught across the Year 9 curriculum. This involves 150 students studying a unit of work entitled 'Break it Down Now' which focuses on using and comparing three different forms of composting; compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi. Students will create DVDs/CD Roms / Posters / Computer and Board Games to teach others about each system. Further explanation of learning outcomes of this unit is included in **Section 4: WOW in Curriculum**. During the 2006 Year 9 Bush Survival camp, some classes are taking their Bokashi composting bins for disposal of their food scraps. In future years, students may design an efficient camp menu in relation to waste reduction and composting!

In Year 6 Christian Studies, students study human impacts on our world, including waste products, and the impact of scientific and technological advancements. Students will research and develop an 'Action Plan for the Environment' discussing environmental impacts and how we, as a society, can minimise them. These plans will be presented to the class. The Year 6 SOSE curriculum on Health Education incorporates chickens in learning about fertility. Year 6 Design and Technology students will design, make and evaluate a kitchen bin that promotes recycling. Through this they will learn to consider different recycling practices and how recycling practices meet certain needs.

In Year 4 a 'Secrets of the Sea' unit allows students to explore sea habitats, adaptive survival features and how human activity can affect habitats. To communicate their understanding of how waste products and people's thoughtless disposal of waste impacts upon habitats, students create art works using recycled materials. Rhetorical questions or statements such as 'Plastic bags help everyone, don't they?' (with a fish caught in a plastic bag) and 'Scared of 5c' (as a can approaches a dolphin) are used.

In Year 2 Christian Studies students investigate what they can do at home to help care for the environment eg recycling.

The Reception class has raised chickens. Learning activities include discussing what they are and how they are important in our lives, reading and learning new facts eg the difference between male and females, creating chicken fact sheets, understanding the lifecycle of chickens (Growth and Development) and drawing and labelling in detail (Visual Art).

Reducing

Reducing waste occurs throughout the school through a number of practices such as reuse of single-sided paper, and the collection of buckets of food scraps in the junior school for the animals in the EcoClassroom enclosure. Specific food scraps are collected daily and sorted for the composting systems by Year 9 classes with each of the five classes being allocated an afternoon a week in their Science / Maths time.

To further reduce paper usage, parents can choose to receive newsletters via email, also saving time in printing and distribution. The school booklist (following) reminds families that if students already have any of the items required it is not necessary to purchase new items.

The use of staff email is promoted throughout the school, as are presentations to students using overheads and data projectors rather than hard copies where possible.



2005 Solid Waste Audit



Reusing

Reuse of items occurs where possible, such as reused buckets for the collection of food scraps, and old railway sleepers for garden beds. Junior School Art classes study puppetry with reused products: socks, boxes, cylinders, paper and scrap materials. The library reuses boxes, plastic jars and buckets with lids wherever possible. Senior Art classes use the reverse of paper printed on one side to test paint colours prior to painting.

Recycling

Recycling of numerous materials occurs. White paper and mixed coloured paper / cardboard are recycled through SITA Environmental Solutions. 60 litre paper / cardboard recycling bins are located in each classroom and most administration areas. The SEC Recycling Group manages these bins and the 5c container collection. The Group is divided into 5 teams to collect and sort the contents of 5c container bins once a week and each team completes this task twice a term. Milk cartons are also collected and recycled.

Weeds from the garden are placed into a compost heap within the area. This is mixed with the chicken manure and once broken down, added to the vegetable beds.

Bread tags and ring pulls from cans are collected and donated to charitable organisations.



*Successful systems involve **all** staff*



Effective signs on bins

Getting started and Keeping it going

5c container and paper / cardboard recycling have been established for some time.

Support from management has enabled teaching staff to inspire students who are taking on leadership roles to establish and improve waste systems within the school (including staff areas!).

Establishing new programs within the middle school years, such as the unit of work on composting in 2006, allows for sustainable habits and thinking to move up the school with students and to filter into the junior school through buddy and mentor programs.

Whole School Community

The whole school community is being involved through the recycling initiatives, and by students taking their learning into their homes. The 2006 composting program has generated much student interest in the Bokashi method of composting, and we look forward to students sharing their results with the school community and other schools via the WOW program.

Staff from various areas across the school including management, teaching, support and facilities are working together with students to ensure waste systems and learning are effective.



School Booklist Order Form

TATA - TATACHILLA LUTHERAN COLLEGE YR 8 (Year: 2006)

Qty	Title	Item #	Each	Total
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GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

If you already have an item, then you do not need to purchase a new one

- ☐ 1 CALCULATOR SHARP SCIENTIFIC EL-531WHBBK
- ☐ 1 APRON

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

If you already have an item, then you do not need to purchase a new one

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 DISPLAY FOLDER A4 BLACK | 5574 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 JOURNAL NOTEBOOK A5 HARDCOVER 100 LEAF | 5974 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PENCILS SET OF 3 HB 2B 4B FABER-CASTELL | 5141 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PENCILS WATERCOLOUR RED RANGE CARD 24 FABER | 5433 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 CONNECTOR PENS FELT MARKERS 10 | 5616 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 SKETCH BOOK 272X360 96 PAGE SPIRAX 579B | 5245 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PLASTIC BAG LARGE CLEAR WITH DIE CUT HANDLE | 5095 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 EXERCISE GRAPH A4 5MM 96 PAGE | 5084 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 BIRO KILOMETRICO BLUE | 5780 | 0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 BIRO KILOMETRICO RED | 5781 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PENCIL HB | 5073 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 SCISSORS LARGE ORANGE ACRYLIC HANDLE 8-1/4" 210MM | 5062 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 GLUE STICK 35GM | 5128 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PENCIL SHARPENER METAL SINGLE HOLE | 5009 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 ERASER ART TECHNIC 600 WRAPPED LARGE ** | 5110 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 STAPLER & STAPLES IN PACKET | 5053 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PENCIL MECHANICAL PACER 300 | 5164 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 RULER CLEAR PLASTIC 30CM | 5014 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 DIVIDERS A4 PLASTIC 5 TAB #6730 DURABLE MULTI | 5102 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 TEST PAD GRAPH A4 5MM 50 LEAF PUNCHED ** | 5113 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 REFILL RULED A4 7MM 50 LEAF REINFORCED | 5439 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 TEST PAD LINED A4 8MM 50 LEAF PUNCHED ** | 5504 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 PLASTIC POCKET A4 CLEAR PACKET OF 100 | 5377 | |

Students are required to have 5 of the following item. Put the number you need to buy in the box next to the item

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 BINDER A4 3 RING 25MM RED TATACHILLA SCHOOL LOGO | 5275 |
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