

Issue: term 2, week 8

Important Dates

**Year 10 and
Year 11
exams (23 -
27 June)**

Monday 23 June

**EcoRangers
afternoon,
EcoSanctuary
(3:30pm)**

Thursday 26 June

**End of Term
2**

Friday 27 June

**Start of
Term 3**

Tuesday 22 July

Upcoming Events

**College tour
of the middle
and senior
years**

Venue: Tatachilla
Lutheran College -
McLaren Vale

Date: Thursday 25
September

Time: 9:30am

10 June 2025

Wallabies arrive at Tatachilla's thriving EcoSanctuary



The college has welcomed two young tammar wallabies to its EcoSanctuary, boosting conservation efforts and enriching Tatachilla's new Ecological Science pathway.

The wallabies - who have come into the college's care as part of an exciting conservation partnership with Cleland Wildlife Park and Urrbrae Agricultural High School - were released into the college's 3.4-hectare EcoSanctuary on Tuesday 3 June.

They are part of a growing initiative to support biodiversity, provide real-world learning experiences for Tatachilla students and build future-focused career pathways in ecological science.

The new wallabies were born at Cleland Wildlife Park and raised in their mothers' pouches at Urrbrae Agricultural High School. Now just over a year old, they have joined Tatachilla's two existing male tammar wallabies, bringing the sanctuary's wallaby population to four.

Their arrival was a thrilling hands-on experience for Year 9 students **Tahlia Hicks**, **Eve Ware**, **Jet Matijevic** and **Albey Walker**, who are among the first cohort of students undertaking Tatachilla's brand new Ecological Science pathway. As part of this innovative program, students engage deeply with the college's natural environments, learning skills in habitat monitoring, species observation and sustainable land management.

"This is about more than just caring for animals — it's about building a future where students can play an active role in conservation and scientific research," said Tatachilla's Environmental Education Officer, Timothy Leggatt. "These kinds of partnerships give our students meaningful insights into environmental careers while contributing to national biodiversity goals."

The college is proud to be part of a wider conservation network, with its EcoSanctuary supporting the genetic diversity and spatial needs of South Australia's marsupial populations. While Tatachilla does not intend to breed its tammar wallabies – to avoid overpopulation and inbreeding – participating in genetic rotations helps maintain the health

of the broader sanctuary population across the state.

As the only macropod known to drink seawater, the tammar wallaby (*Notamacropus eugenii*) is one of Australia's most fascinating native species. It has remarkable energy conservation abilities while hopping, a complex reproductive cycle and a crucial role in native grassland ecosystems. However, its future remains threatened by habitat loss and feral predators – making sanctuary care like that at Tatachilla more important than ever.

The college's new Ecological Science subject, launched this year for Year 9 students, empowers students with the scientific knowledge and environmental awareness needed to tackle global challenges. From analysing wetland macro-invertebrates and monitoring soil pH, to exploring frog populations with FrogWatch experts and studying animal adaptations at Adelaide Zoo, students are immersed in a curriculum grounded in action, inquiry and sustainability.

Tatachilla's EcoSanctuary continues to be a place where native species thrive — and where future environmental leaders are inspired.

5 June 2025

Tatachilla's best cross country results yet!



Tatachilla students have delivered their most successful cross country results to date, securing first place in the 15 Years Girls Division and first place in the Multiclass/Para Division.

A team of 35 students proudly represented Tatachilla at the Cross Country State Championships held at Oakbank on 5 June. Competing among 2,500 runners from schools and districts across South Australia, our students demonstrated outstanding resilience and athleticism in a highly competitive field.

Our college results:

▣ First place – state champions

15 Years Girls Division: Alice Fisher, Grace McAvaney, Aylish Bradley, Annabelle Hockey

▯ First place – state champion

Multiclass / Para Division: **Shay Barker** (also winning Gold in the individual event)

▯ Third place – Tatachilla's first podium finish for the boys' event

14 Years Boys Division: **Tommy Aldridge, Xavier Lucas, Declan Maasdorp, Nathan Marsland**

Special congratulations also go to:

- our Open Girls team for a gutsy fifth place finish
- our 16 Years Boys team for placing sixth, having finished twelfth last year.

A standout performance came from **Oscar Pritchard**, who achieved a remarkable personal best of 19:44 over the 5km course, which included challenging hills, thick grass and mud.

A heartfelt thank you to all staff who supported our students throughout this sporting endeavour. The growth, teamwork and positive culture displayed by our runners were truly inspiring.

A special thank you also goes to dedicated team coach, **James (Jimmy) Grant**, whose tireless commitment has been instrumental in this success.

The college looks forward to seeing our runners continue to reach new heights in future running events.

2 June 2025

A swing above par for golfer Bejay Thomas



Congratulations to **Bejay Thomas**, who recently qualified for the Secondary Individual Golf Championship finals, held at the prestigious Kooyonga Golf Club on Monday 2 June.

Competing in the open-age category against 15 top student golfers from across the state, Bejay delivered an impressive performance, placing eighth overall with a score of 78. Although he narrowly missed selection for the Under 18 State Team this year, this is an exceptional achievement—especially considering Bejay is only in Year 9.

We are incredibly proud of Bejay's accomplishments and look forward to seeing his

continued development in the years ahead.

7 June 2025

Tatachilla netballers shine on court



Tatachilla students have showcased their netball talent and team spirit across two major competitions, delivering undefeated performances at both the 2025 Netball SA Country Championships and the Mount Barker Carnival.

Year 7/8 girls' team unstoppable at Mount Barker

On 11 June, our Year 7/8 girls' netball team (pictured above) competed in a round-robin carnival at Mount Barker. Demonstrating exceptional skill, determination and teamwork, the girls remained undefeated throughout the day.

Match results:

Tatachilla vs St Francis de Sales College: 38–23

Tatachilla vs St Peter's Girls' School: 36–27

Tatachilla vs Heathfield High School: 37–24

Congratulations to the entire team on this outstanding achievement: **Airlie McCade, Ruby Madgett (Year 7), Isabelle Brown, Charlotte DeBoo, Grace Syvertsen, Summer Ballantine, Annabelle Hockey, Charlotte Prestwood and Ruby Schipper (Year 8).**

A heartfelt thank you to assistant coaches **Emily Hart and Kaysha Dellow (Year 11)**, coach **Tracy McAvaney** and umpire **Amity Evans (Year 12)** for their guidance and support.

Strong representation at Netball SA Country Championships

Over the June long weekend, several Tatachilla students proudly represented the Great Southern Netball Association at the 2025 Netball SA Country Championships.

Congratulations goes to:

- Pippa Syvertsen (Under 11 team)
- Airlie McCade (Under 13 team)
- Maelin Lock and Grace McAvaney (Under 15 team)

A standout performance came from the Under 15 team, who played 14 games over three days and finished the Division 1 competition undefeated—ultimately crowned Country Champions.

Other team results:

Under 11 team – 5th place overall

Under 13 team – 3rd place overall

This outstanding result reflects the players' persistence, determination, teamwork, resilience and courage—especially during three hard-fought finals matches.

Special thanks to Amity Evans (Year 12) for her excellent leadership and coaching of the Under 15 team.

12 June 2025

Exploring the future at the 2025 Careers Expo



Last week, Tatachilla Lutheran College proudly hosted its 2025 Careers Expo, welcoming students from Years 9 to 12 and their families to explore a wide range of future pathways.

The expo brought together 20 exhibitors from a diverse range of industries and tertiary institutions. From universities and trade training centres to defence and design, the event was a valuable opportunity for students to connect directly with professionals and gain first-hand insight into life beyond school.

Throughout the event, students engaged in meaningful conversations about pathways, tertiary entry requirements and job prospects. They left with new ideas, greater confidence and a clearer sense of direction as they begin planning subject selections and career goals.

Exhibitors included: Adelaide University, Flinders University, TAFE SA, Port Adelaide Football Club, Fleurieu Milk Company, Rising Sun Pictures, the Australian Defence Force, Le Cordon Bleu, Tabor College, AFL SportsReady, Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Adelaide Training and Employment Centre, Clip Joint Education, Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Association, Media Makeup Academy, PEER, South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) and Trainee and Apprentice Placement Services (TAPS).

The college is grateful to Careers/VET Coordinator **Linda Wright** and Careers Administrative Assistant **Karin Pitcher** for organising this valuable event.

5 June 2025

Honouring Country through ecology and connection



In celebration of World Environment Day, our Year 9 Ecological Science students (including **Tahlia Hicks**, pictured) were honoured to spend time with Dolores Amos, a respected knowledge-holder and one of the co-founders of the Tatachilla EcoSanctuary.

Dolores shared her deep understanding of the local environment, speaking about the area's recent history, the significance of caring for Country and the rich ecological knowledge held by First Nations peoples.

Students explored traditional artefacts and enjoyed tasting a range of bush foods, gaining a deeper appreciation for Indigenous perspectives on the natural world.

We are grateful to Dolores for returning to the college and inspiring the next generation to value and protect our unique natural landscape.

19 June 2025

Keeping active in winter: a boost for body and mind



As the temperature drops and daylight hours shorten, it's important to prioritise your mental health—here's how to support your wellbeing during the cooler winter months.

It's natural to gravitate toward the couch and cosy blankets when it's cold and wet outside. But staying physically active during winter is more important than you think.

At Tatachilla, we encourage students and families to embrace movement in all of its forms. Whether it's a brisk morning walk, a game of weekend sport, or simply a kick of the footy in the backyard, staying active in winter can deliver a range of wellbeing benefits.

These include:

- a lift to your mood: exercise releases endorphins—our “feel-good” hormones—which help reduce anxiety and improve overall outlook
- a boost of energy: while it might seem counterintuitive, regular movement increases energy and helps fight off winter fatigue
- improved sleep: physical activity supports healthy sleep patterns, leading to more restful nights and sharper focus during the day
- increased resilience: setting and achieving movement goals—like a daily walk or fitness challenge—can build confidence and grit, especially in the middle of a busy school term.



We know that motivation can "dip" in winter, so why not make it social? Plan a family walk, join a local club or challenge a friend to keep moving together. Every small effort counts.

If your child is finding the winter months particularly challenging, please don't hesitate to contact our wellbeing team for support:

Michael Ebert: michael.ebert@tatachilla.sa.edu.au

Rose Richards: rose.richards@tatachilla.sa.edu.au



Carvings 2024 out now!

Yearbook 2024

Carvings



TATACHILLA
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Believe | Become | Belong

Have you got your copy of our amazing college yearbook? "Carvings 2024" was distributed to all classrooms in Week 5 this term.

If you're missing your copy, or if you've forgotten to take your copy home, remember to grab one now from your home classroom.



Read all about the year that was: our inaugural trip to the Victorian Dance Festival, the launch of our new cricket facility, the incredible performance of *Moana JR*, our state basketball championship glory, our first SALA exhibition, our incredible trip to Cambodia, our bike path opening and much, much more!

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