

# Issue: term 4, week 8

## Important Dates

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**Junior years'  
Christmas  
chapel  
service,  
9:00am**

Friday 5 December

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**Junior years'  
activity day**

Tuesday 9  
December

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**Walk My  
Way  
fundraiser  
(Years 7-9)**

Tuesday 9  
December

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**Final chapel  
service for  
the college  
(R-12),  
2:00pm**

Wednesday 10  
December

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**Final day of  
school,  
3:20pm finish**

Wednesday 10  
December

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## 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.



## Students rethink the future of fashion



This term our Year 9 students were given a first-hand look into the world of ‘slow fashion’ with a visit from Daniel Smith, owner and founder of South Australian beach and streetwear label, [andorwith](#).

Daniel shared his insights into ethical production, quality craftsmanship and the environmental impact of clothing choices, showcasing sample garments and marketing materials—many produced within walking distance of his store. Students were treated to exclusive previews of unreleased products. His passion and authenticity made a strong impression, with many students staying back afterwards to personally thank him.

The incursion served as a powerful launchpad for the Term 4 cross-curricular program linking Geography and Business, in which students investigated the global impacts of the fast fashion industry. They explored how major clothing brands shape consumer behaviour, examined ethical and environmental issues associated with the fashion industry, and reflected on their own purchasing habits and brand loyalties. Students also traced the evolution of fashion to understand how consumer demand helped drive the rise of fast fashion.

To contrast this model, students investigated a range of international and local slow fashion brands, hypothesising what a more sustainable future for the industry could look like. The unit culminated in students stepping into the role of marketers, each developing a campaign to promote their chosen slow fashion brand. Their work included pop-up store concepts, educational content series, email marketing, and both long- and short-form video content designed for specific target audiences.



The college is proud to empower students to think critically, creatively and sustainably as they engage with real-world issues shaping our world.

3 December 2025

## Pastor Jon's retirement farewell



Tatachilla Lutheran College will bid a heartfelt farewell to Pastor Jon — or “PJ,” as he is affectionately known — at the end of this term, after 14 years of extraordinary service to our community.


Beloved for his down-to-earth humour, joyful personality, infectious laugh, approachability and sense of fun, PJ has been a cherished presence in the life of the college. His kindness, generosity of spirit and unwavering support of students have shaped the culture of Tatachilla in profound and lasting ways.

Reflecting on his time at the college, Pastor Jon shared, “I have loved what Tatachilla is and from the very beginning of my time I have enjoyed being part of what it does.”


### **A leader who created traditions and memories**

Among PJ’s many contributions, one legacy will be fondly remembered for generations — the annual “Blessing of the Animals”. Inspired by the deep bond between people and their pets, PJ introduced this event 11 years ago. What began in 2013 with about 30 animals has grown into a treasured yearly tradition, with the most recent celebration welcoming approximately 400 pets onto campus.





This event is a testament to his creativity, inclusivity and his joyful ability to bring people together.



PJ has also embraced the unexpected with characteristic enthusiasm. He has stepped out of helicopters dressed as Santa, joined countless camps, and provided spiritual and pastoral care to students, families and staff through both celebrations and challenges. His presence has been a constant source of comfort, laughter and hope.

### **A deeply reflective journey**

Pastor Jon's reflections reveal the depth of his connection to Tatachilla:

"When I arrived in 2012 I discovered that Tatachilla consisted of a variety of components: there were buildings, children, young adults, and staff who care about children and young adults. The right basic ingredients."

He goes on to describe the unique mix of qualities that define the college:

"Mixed in with that I discovered an intrinsic hope for the future, a reality check of science and knowledge, the adventure of camps, the practicality of learned skills, a love of nature, honest questions about life, and a gentle beating heart of faith."

For PJ, Tatachilla became more than a workplace — it became a transformative journey.

"Before coming here I genuinely didn't realise places like Tatachilla existed. It is like nothing else I have experienced... an unwitting pathway to a deeper understanding of myself, my fellow Tatachilla life travellers, and God. Life changing stuff."

### **Gratitude and blessings**

Pastor Jon expresses deep thanks to those who shaped his time here:

"I admire and thank the college's visionaries for their temerity in imagining a school that would have a genuine, authentic go at being 'salt and light'. You launched the school with a remarkable and unique trajectory that has paid off in many lives."

"I have much gratitude to the people, both students and staff, who have helped me on this journey... my experience of Tatachilla people has been one of engaging discussions, fun, and grace. I feel privileged to have served here."

### **With heartfelt thanks**

Pastor Jon's impact on Tatachilla Lutheran College is immeasurable. His humour, compassion and spiritual leadership have left an indelible mark on our community. As we prepare to farewell him at the end of 2025, we give thanks for his remarkable service and for the joy he has shared so freely.

We wish PJ every happiness in retirement and hold deep gratitude for his 14 years of love, leadership and light.

## **Year 6 students graduate from the junior years**

What a celebration! Our Year 6 students marked the end of their junior years' journey on 2 December with all the joy and energy this milestone deserves — an official graduation ceremony, a vibrant guard of honour and a wonderful evening dinner shared with peers at the McLaren Vale Visitor Information Centre.

The ceremony was an especially heartfelt moment for students, caregivers and teachers as they paused together to honour the achievements, growth and determination shown by our Year 6s throughout their primary school years.

In 2025, 69 students graduated from the junior years, with 36 — an impressive 52 per cent —



having been with Tatachilla since their very first day in Reception in 2019.

We are deeply proud of every Year 6 student in 2025 and wish each of them every success as they embrace the exciting opportunities that await in the middle years and beyond.











## Celebrating our Year 12 Class of 2025

On 20 November, our community came together to honour our Year 12 students at their valedictory service—an occasion filled with pride, gratitude and more than a few happy tears.

We celebrated each graduate as they received their certificate, applauded the commitment of our award recipients, and reflected on the growth, courage and character shown by this remarkable cohort.

After the formalities, the joy continued as students, families and staff gathered to share memories, hugs and hopes for the journey ahead.

To our Class of 2025: thank you for the laughter, leadership and heart you have brought to Tatachilla. We are so proud of you—and so excited for all that lies ahead.











2 December 2025

## Navigating upcoming social media changes



The college would like to share a helpful resource to support families as the nation prepares for changes to social media legislation coming into effect on **10 December 2025**.

The 'Cyber Safety Project' has released a **Social Media Delay – Parent Toolkit**, designed to guide parents and carers through what the new laws mean for young people.

The toolkit provides:

- clear, easy-to-understand explanations of the new legislation
- practical strategies to help families navigate the transition
- conversation starters for supporting children through upcoming changes
- tips on saving content before accounts may be suspended or removed

This resource is timely, relevant and will continue to be updated with the latest advice from eSafety.

Families can access the toolkit here:

<https://cybersafetyproject.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CSP-Social-Media-Delay-Parent-Toolkit.pdf>



# Christmas joy at Tatachilla



Our students in the junior years are excited to lead their very own Christmas chapel service at 9:00am on Friday 5 December (tomorrow!), and our whole community is warmly invited to join us.

Our youngest Tatachillans have been rehearsing with great enthusiasm as they prepare to bring the nativity story to life — stepping into the roles of Mary and Joseph, Gabriel, the Star of Bethlehem, a choir of angels and even the many barnyard animals who witnessed the birth of Jesus.

It promises to be a beautiful and joy-filled celebration of the season. We hope to see you there!

## Commemorative pavers laid





All commemorative brick pavers that were purchased by families to celebrate the college's 30th anniversary have now been laid in the gym forecourt.

More than 100 Tatachilla families participated in this fundraising effort and helped us mark three decades of learning, growth and community. Families are invited to come and view their engraved brick paver at their convenience and see their family name etched into Tatachilla history.

## Holiday reading made easy





As we head into the long summer break, we're delighted to remind families that students in Years 3–12 can continue enjoying ebooks and audiobooks throughout the holidays via our online library platforms.

#### **Years 3–6**

Junior students have been shown how to access the library app on their iPads, giving them instant access to a wide range of ebooks and audiobooks. Once borrowed, titles can be read or listened to offline — perfect for holiday travel. Students may borrow two items at a time for the usual two-week loan period.

#### **Years 7–12**

Senior students can access ebooks and audiobooks through the library and eBook icons on their SEQTA welcome page. Borrowing is simple: click, choose and enjoy — anytime, anywhere, even without internet.

#### **Questions?**

Please contact Veronica Scheepers, 7–12 Teacher Librarian  
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