

Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom

EDUCATION

As from the beginning of Term 4, the Outdoor Classroom has been visited by a number of schools. A group of teachers from schools in the local area has produced a Resource Package for visitors. It consists of a number of Trail Booklets, suggested activity sheets and general information geared to ensure that people visiting the Outdoor Classroom gain a better understanding and appreciation of Landcare issues.

Bookings are made by contacting Ardtornish Primary School. Visitors will be sent a copy of the Resource Package which will include the Trail Booklets appropriate to the school year levels concerned. There are three distinct trails within the complex; 1. Soils and Settlers, which deals with many aspects of soils studies as well as a heritage component; Webs and Wetlands, focusing on ecosystems; and Salt, Sand and Seeds, which takes in studies of the salt pan, sand dune, direct seeding and habitats.

There are several additions to the Outdoor Classroom on which we continue to work. One of these is a simulated rabbit warren in the sand dune area. This will provide an important focus on the problems created by this feral animal.

The groundsperson is a wizard at making the most of available resources and works wonders on his half-day per week. He has appreciated the assistance of a team from Correctional Services from time to time.

The Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom is a wonderful opportunity to show children and other people many of the landcare issues on one site.

Jan Fitzgerald
Key Teacher, Environmental Education
Ardtornish Primary School

CONGRATULATIONS

Ardtornish Primary School was announced the State winner of the Telecom Landcare Education Award at the Presentation Dinner held at Saltram Winery, Angaston on 16 October 1993.

The Principal Mr Alex Staritski (centre) received a \$500 cheque from Mr Bob Thomas, Chairman of SAGASCO (left), the State Sponsor & a certificate & Landcare medallion from Ms Penny Eavis of Telecom (right).

State Winners will be invited to attend the National Awards Presentation Dinner at Parliament House Canberra on Tuesday 29 March 1994.

We wish them luck!

Christmas Greetings



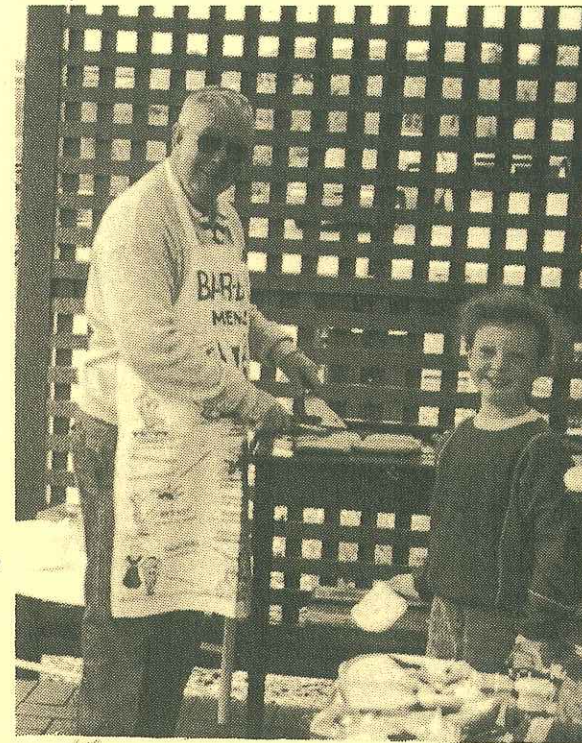
On behalf of the State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare, I extend our grateful thanks and Seasons Greetings to all those who have supported Landcare in any way in South Australia during the year.

We look forward to another successful year of Landcare in this State, a highlight being Landcare month in March with the launch of the Landcare Australia Foundation and the National Landcare Awards in 1994.



Barbara Hardy, Chairperson

Right: Cr Brian Lees (left) and Fiona, a friend of the Outdoor Classroom at the first Friends Barbecue



Above: The day of the opening and the many people who attended



Landcare Education Spreading

The linking of Landcare and education is a growing phenomenon on a world scale. The importance of environmental education was the focus of a conference held recently at the University of Bradford, England. Chris Bayly from the Curriculum Unit, DEET(SA) presented a paper at the conference and reports that our Kids for Landcare program is equal to the best on a world scale.

From recent visitors to SA we have learnt of various environmental education initiatives overseas and elsewhere in Australia.

Education Officer with the Creswick Nursery and Landcare Centre (Victoria), Geoff Park, has sent details of the Creswick Interpretation Centre. The site has much in common with our Outdoor Classroom and exposes students to a range of landcare issues.

Canadian visitor, Betty Gabert, from Agriculture Alberta, spoke to various groups in Australia about Alberta's schools program, Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC).

Right: Dr Ian McPhail, DEET(SA), displaying the plan for the Outdoor Classroom

Below right: Landcare in action! Children helping plant trees at the Outdoor Classroom

AITC is an agriculture awareness program for Reception to Year 12, across the curriculum. The program aims to update the image of agriculture/land management. It presents the "Big Picture" of agriculture including production, processing and marketing and takes a local, national and global view.

The program started in 1989 and now has 900 schools in Alberta involved. Corporate sponsorship for the program totals \$80,000 per annum.

Nearer to home, in New Zealand, landcare is about to become the focus of a regional Science Fair.

Land Management Officer at Hawkes Bay, Heather Grey, reports that landcare is likely to be the theme of the 1994 school's Science Fair.

Landcare is relatively young in New Zealand but is rapidly gaining momentum. Heather was one of the judges in the 1993 Science Fair and suggested a landcare focus for the next event.

Who knows, New Zealand may soon be looking for sponsors for their own Landcare Outdoor Classroom.

Friends of the Outdoor Classroom

Members of the South Australian State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare are keen to encourage local people (and other interested people) who are committed to the Landcare ethic to join an Outdoor Classroom Friends Group.

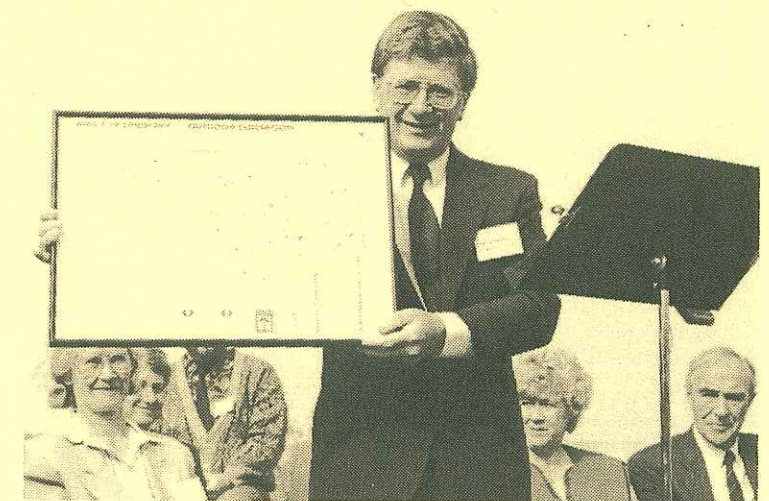
The Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom is a very special community park. It has been designed to offer children from urban areas, their families and friends, the opportunity to get some idea of the work and problems of farmers in managing the soil and land. Farmers produce much of the food we eat, as well as important fibres for clothing, and trees and vegetation which we all use and enjoy.

A Friends group will have regular meetings at the Outdoor Classroom Woolshed. They can keep a watchful eye on the activities across the site, become involved with the much needed projects and tasks and enjoy the open space and the features of the park.

Jenny Anderson, Convenor of the Friends group, invites everyone who may be interested in joining the Friends group to participate in creating an active group of keen people who want to help nurture the landcare park for our children. You can get initial information about the group by contacting Cicely Bungey (Tel 08 - 226 0538).

Dr Barbara Hardy AO
Chairperson

State Management Committee



The Sponsors

The Kids for Landcare project team wishes to sincerely thank the following sponsors for generously supporting the Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom, an innovative, educational park at Golden Grove

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Below: Some of the Sponsors at the opening of the Outdoor Classroom



Design by L McIntyre
Landcare Unit
Primary Industries (SA)

Printed on recycled paper
to save energy, trees and the
environment.

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Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom Update

for Sponsors and Supporters

DECEMBER 1993

Since the opening of the Kids for Landcare Outdoor Classroom in March this year a number of finishing touches have taken place. Major display areas have now been completed and a few extras have been added to the site, including seating, a new bridge and additional pathways.

The planting season this year has been a little dry but many trees and shrubs have been planted and are now enjoying and growing with the spring rains. The woodlot of sugar gums was donated by State Flora and were planted by a LEAP team. The woodlot has been designed to demonstrate the effects of weed control and irrigation related to tree planting activities. School children will monitor tree growth and report on which trees grow fastest.

Young people from a LEAP project managed by the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers have been very active on the site. They have instigated many items that make the Outdoor Classroom more comfortable to work (and play!) in. They have built such things as seats and a stile. Erosion control along the creeks has been a major problem which will be alleviated once the surrounding housing developments are completed. The LEAP team has begun to control this by building newspaper weirs across creeks to restrict silt washing downstream.

The Ardtornish school representatives have been busy

designing education walks for school children of different ages. They have also requested a couple of changes to the Classroom to help the flow of children around the site. These changes have included extending a pathway and building a "cocky's bridge".



Above: Dame Roma Mitchell officially opening the Outdoor Classroom

The Federal Minister of Primary Industries and Energy, the Hon Simon Crean chose the outdoor Classroom site to launch the National City Landcare Programme on Sunday August 22. He presented \$20,000 towards the development of the infrastructure and resource materials for the Outdoor Classroom.

Problems with the bottom wetland have still not been solved. The option to build a riser around the drain hole for the flood control dam is being costed. This option should retain water to a depth of approx. 1m

and stop the drain hole from blocking up with silt. Silting should reduce as the surrounding residential development becomes more established.

One of the most important aspects of site maintenance and management is in its final stages of completion. It is the Joint Use Management Agreement that involves co-operation between the Education Department, Tea Tree Gully Council and the Management Committee.

The Classroom is still developing with the commitment of many volunteers. The local people are using it every day - kids ride their bikes and adults walk their dogs. School children commenced using the Classroom in the last term of this year and bookings are being handled by Ardtornish School. We have also received a booking for a Christmas Eve Carol Service to be held in the amphitheatre.

By Ian Hobbs, Chairperson
Kids for Landcare, Outdoor Classroom

Coming Events in 1994

March
Landcare Month
March 1
Launch of the Landcare Australia
Foundation
March 11/12
1994 Landcare Forum
March 26
Landcare Carpark Caper (ABC)
March 29
National Landcare Awards Presentation
at Parliament House, Canberra

