Christmas Greetings

On behalf of the State Management Committee for the Decade of Landcare, I extend our grateful thanks and Seasonal 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

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. Woodshed.

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

Below right: Landcare in action! Children tending plants at the Outdoor Classroom

AIFC is an agriculture awareness program for Reception to Year 12, across the curriculum. The program aims to update the image of agricultural 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 1999 and now has 900 schools in Alberta involved. Corporate sponsorship for the program totals $85,000 per annum.

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

Landcare is relatively young in New Zealand but is rapidly gaining momentum. Heather Grey, reports that landcare is likely to be the theme of the 1994 schools’ Science Fair.

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

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 Breyf 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 visits to SA we have learnt of various environmental education initiatives overseas and elsewhere in Australia.

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

Canadian visitor, Betty Gabor, from Agriculture Alberta, spoke to various groups in Australia about Alberta’s schools program: Agriculture in the Classroom (AIFC).

CONGRATULATIONS

Ardornish Primary School was the South Australian 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 Starliski (centre) received a $600 cheque from Mr Bob Thomas, Chairman of SAGASCO (left), the State Sponsor & a certificate & Landcare medalion from Ms Penny Envis 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!

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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.

SPONSORS

City of Tea Tree Gully
Primary Industries (SA)
Department of Employment, Education and Training (SA)
Golden Grove Development
Rural Industries Adjustment & Development Fund
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Adelaide Chemical Company
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Anstey Park Nursery
Adelaide Primary and District Schools of the Tea Tree Gully area
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Australian National Trust for Conservation Volunteers
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Cooperative Research Centre for Soil and Land Management
CSR Readymix
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Department of Correctional Services
Department of Environment and Land Management
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Golden Grove Lions Club
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Hickford Homes
Highbury Lawn Club
James Hardy Irrigation
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Glex Cables
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Rider Hunt Adelaide
Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Inc
SAACF Adelaide Area Office
SAACF Project Management
Salisbury City Council
Smogon ABC
Society for Growing Australian Plants
Solar Pergola
Solar Paints
Southern Irrigation
State Flora
Tauris Tires
Telecom Australia
Thorn Lighting
Tracklink Plumbing Supplies
Urquhart Agricultural High School
Vangroo
Western Mining Corporation
Woodfield Group of Companies
Wreckair Hire
Zappi Corp

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

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 been added to the site, including seating, a 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 growing well.

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.

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 slide. Erosion control along the banks of 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 a series of containment structures across creeks to restrict silt washing downstream.

The Ardrossan 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 "cooky’s bridge".

Above: Dean Rain 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 resolved. The plan to build the line draining drain the flow of water is being held. 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 management 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 Ardrossan School. We have also received a booking for a Christmas Eve Carol Service to be held in the amphitheatre.

By Ian Hubbs, Chairperson
Kids for Landcare, Outdoor Classroom

Coming Events in 1994

March
Lavender Meet
March 1
Launch of the Lavender Awards Foundation
March 11/12
1994 Lavender Festival
March 29
Lavender Corporate Expo (LCE)
March 29
Richmond Lavender Awards Presentation at Parliament House, Canberra

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Landcare Unit
Primary Industries (SA)

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