

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT



### The Setting

Arbury Park Outdoor School provides teachers and students with unique opportunities for learning together in a residential outdoor setting.

The school is a purpose built residential facility situated 23km from Adelaide near Bridgewater in the southern Mt Lofty Ranges. It is a state-wide service of the Department for Education and Child Development that has hosted camps for R-12 government and non-government school students since 1976.

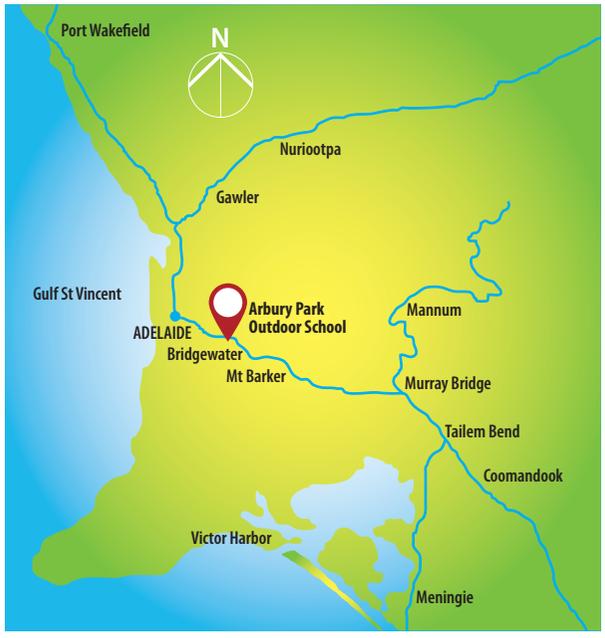
The school's 32 hectares of grounds include a stringybark forest, a gully with a series of ponds, ephemeral wetlands and open woodland areas. Nearby are Mt George Conservation Park, the Heysen Trail, and Cox Creek (the focus of a school-community Landcare partnership).

### Facilities

Arbury Park Outdoor School buildings include a large dining room, gym (client schools bring their own sports equipment), three teaching rooms, a centrally located ablution block and six dormitory units each with a private teacher room. A total of 98 beds are available. Separate showering and toileting facilities are available for staff and for students with disabilities.



### Where to find us

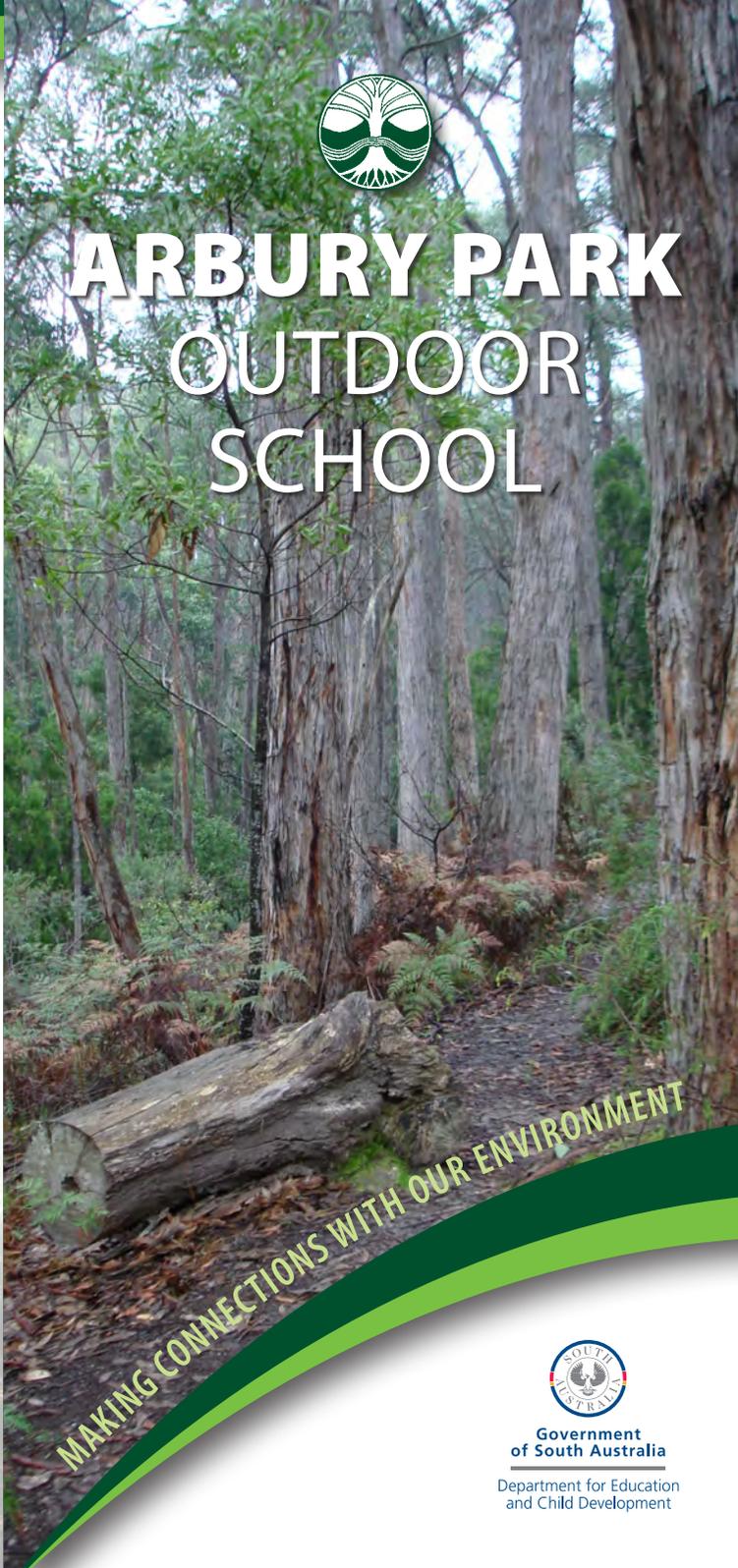


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# ARBURY PARK OUTDOOR SCHOOL



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Government of South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development

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## Ecology of Learning

Learning is a constructive process that grows through rich social, physical and biological connections – an ecology of learning. Arbury Park Outdoor School (APOS) residential experiences make the most of the site's rich ecology of learning by engaging children and young people in:

- learning about the environment and environmental processes
- activities that develop feelings for the natural world
- exploring decision-making and actions that contribute to sustainability
- developing relationships and capacities for working and learning together.

Classroom teachers have a crucial role in preparing learners, in activating learning, and in helping students make learning connections. Arbury Park staff and the school website provide advice and resources that visiting teachers may use before and after their camp.

APOS teachers and visiting staff work together collaboratively. They lead and plan outdoor and environmental education programs that are tailored to consolidate and extend Australian Curriculum learning. Many of the APOS activities that teachers and visiting staff design link with Geography, Science, Health & PE and other Learning Areas. The centre-spread of this brochure provides an overview of these curriculum links.

living and learning together



	Activity	Activity Description	Year levels	Examples of links to the Australian Curriculum
GROUP DEVELOPMENT	Cooperation Games	Students play a sequence of games that help them practice skills of cooperating, joining in, including others, speaking and listening carefully.	R-3	Use strategies to work in group situations when participating in physical activities (ACPMP030)
	Team Challenge	Students solve group challenges by working cooperatively in small teams. The challenges reinforce the skills of concentrating, persisting, encouraging others, sharing ideas and learning from mistakes.	3-9	Adopt inclusive practices when participating in physical activities (ACPMP048)
	Mission Survival	Following instructions on a secret recorded message, students carry a container of toxic waste through a series of challenges. To survive this dangerous mission they need to use all of their communication, thinking and teamwork skills.	5-9	Devise, implement and refine strategies demonstrating leadership and collaboration skills when working in groups or teams (ACPMP105)
	Bush Survival	Students participate in a half-day simulation/role-play team survival challenge in a secluded bush setting. They explore their skills in emergency shelter building, simple cooking on an open fire, problem solving and working cooperatively with others.	6-9	Practise and apply personal and social skills when undertaking a range of roles in physical activities (ACPMP086)
	Drumming	Students use djembe drums and other percussive instruments to explore rhythm patterns and their own creative energy. They build a sense of group success and achievement using music as a means of communication and expression.	4-9	Explore dynamics and expression, using aural skills to identify and perform rhythm and pitch patterns (ACAMUM088)

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TAKING ACTION	Bee Hotels	Students create 'bee bundles' and 'bee blocks' to provide habitat for native bee species. They explore the importance of native bees and the differences between native bees and European honeybees.	R-3	Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
	Landcare, Bushcare	Students get their hands dirty working on rehabilitation projects using local species propagated in the school's nursery. Our Landcare project focuses on a section of Cox Creek. Our Bushcare sites are remnant patches of stringybark forest with high biodiversity value.	R-9	The environmental and human influences on the location and characteristics of a place and the management of spaces within them (ACHASSK113)
	Nesting Boxes	Teams of students follow safe work practices to cut and assemble wooden nesting boxes in a specially designed workshop. Students can install completed boxes in their own school as alternatives to lost nesting hollows.	3-9	The importance of environments, including natural vegetation, to animals and people (ACHASSK088)
	Plant Propagation	In the school's plant nursery, students learn basic nursery procedure to propagate local species from seed. This follows an exploration of flowering plant reproduction and diversity, including flowers, seeds, seed 'containers', and survival features of local plant groups.	R-9	Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)

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OUTDOOR RECREATION	Hiking	Hikes include the school boundary, half day circuits of Mt George Conservation Park, an historic loop into the township of Bridgewater, and day hikes along sections of the Heysen Trail. Students learn about preparing for a safe hike.	R-9	Practise and apply personal and social skills when undertaking a range of roles in physical activities (ACPMP086)
	Maps and Symbols	An introductory map-reading activity in which students look at a variety of maps and identify their key features. They then use a simple local map to navigate a set trail similar to an orienteering course.	3-5	Use simple scales, legends and directions to interpret information contained in basic maps (ACMMG090)
	Orienteering	Arbury Park has a number of permanent orienteering courses that use colour, scale orienteering maps. The courses become sequentially more challenging in distance and navigation.	5-9	Explore how participation in outdoor activities supports personal and community health and wellbeing and creates connections to the natural and built environment (ACPPS059)

	Activity	Activity Description	Year levels	Examples of links to the Australian Curriculum
CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION	Appy Arbury	A mysterious character 'Appy Arbury' lives in the forest. He leaves a trail and recorded message for younger students to follow. They discover some treasures of the forest as well as pieces of local history.	R-2	Participate in play that promotes engagement with outdoor settings and the natural environment. (ACPPS007)
	Earth Art	Using only earth materials such as leaves, bark, rocks and water, students create art pieces that stay on the ground until they eventually return to the Earth.	R-9	Plan the display of artworks to enhance their meaning for an audience (ACAVAM116)
	Earth Walk	Students join a walk leading them through guided sensory experiences. Blindfolds and other props help students explore the rich sensory world they live in.	R-9	Participate in guided investigations and make observations using the senses (ACSI011)
	Magic Spot	Sitting alone in their chosen spot, students experience sounds, sights and smells of the bush. They have space and time to reflect on their experiences at camp and their individual connection to the natural world.	R-9	Identify and practise strategies to promote health, safety and wellbeing (ACPPS036)

	Activity	Activity Description	Year levels	Examples of links to the Australian Curriculum
EXPLORING ECOLOGY	Animal Survival	Students learn about animal adaptations and interrelationships using living and preserved animals in our Ecocentre.	R-9	Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)
	Bird Ecology	Students practise the skills of bird watching and identification. They observe bird behaviour and discuss how different species fit into the overall ecology of different habitats. A collection of stuffed bird specimens allows close examination.	R-9	Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
	Catchment Walk	With the aid of maps and a 3D model, students walk through the school property to experience the features of a catchment. They explore how land use affects drainage and water quality and compare this to their local catchment.	4-9	The way that flows of water connect places as they move through the environment and the way these affect places (ACHASSK183)
	Freshwater Life	Students collect samples of invertebrates using nets and observe them using magnifiers, microscopes and video camera. They explore feeding relationships, adaptations for survival and habitat requirements of freshwater life.	R-9	Interactions between organisms, including the effects of human activities can be represented by food chains and food webs (ACSSU112)
	Hidden World	Students explore a 'hidden world', so small that it is normally invisible to the naked eye. They collect samples from the local environment to look at under microscopes.	4-9	With guidance, plan and conduct scientific investigations to find answers to questions, considering the safe use of appropriate materials and equipment (ACSI065)
	Looking For Evidence	Students become 'bush detectives' by searching for evidence of animal life in the stringybark forest. Many animals are hard to see due to their behaviour or appearance, but skilled detectives can find evidence of them by careful observation.	3-9	Science involves observing, asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and events (ACSHE021)
	Nature's Recyclers	Students search for leaf-litter invertebrates and fungi then observe them using magnifiers and microscopes. They learn that nature's recyclers release nutrients from dead plant and animal material and return them to the soil.	R-9	Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)
	Weather Trail	Students use different devices to measure aspects of the weather in different parts of the school grounds. A trail leads students to investigate how local features can create microclimates.	5-9	Use scaled instruments to measure and compare lengths, masses, capacities and temperatures (ACMMG084)

	Aboriginal Cultural Studies	Students learn about traditional lifestyles of Aboriginal people. Activities may include shelter building, art, seasonal food trails, stories related to the Dreaming, traditional tools, and games.	R-9	The ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples maintain special connections to particular Country/Place (ACHASSK049)
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References to the Australian Curriculum in this table are examples only. See our website for more detail – [www.arburypark.sa.edu.au](http://www.arburypark.sa.edu.au)