



FACT SHEET

Friday 8 April 2005

Environmental Studies

Blackham Environmental and Conservation Centre

Background

Trinity College, at Gawler in SA, purchased the Blackham Bush Site in 1995 and has recently determined that the site be named the Blackham Environmental and Conservation Centre. It is to be used to teach students environmental studies, while also conserving valuable bushland.

The 203 hectare site is adjacent to the Para Wirra Recreation Park on its southern boundary and therefore provides an extension to a significant area of native vegetation, making over 1600 hectares in all. This is important in terms of retaining biological diversity as the site provides a refuge for species which would otherwise be greatly threatened by development. One such species is the nationally endangered pink-lipped spider orchid (*Caladenia behrii*), which only occurs in the Mt Lofty Ranges and which is found in the east of the property.

Trinity College is now committed to placing a classroom and amenities block on the site, in a way which minimises impacts on the environment. It is keen to make this study centre an example of environmental best practice and so would like to explore the use of wind and solar technologies as well as water recycling technology.

This is an exciting development at a time when the need to promote ecologically sustainable practices is becoming better understood. Trinity College is hoping to interest both the government and private sectors in sponsoring the building of the study centre at Blackham.

The Broadcast

For Take Time, Tony Ryan visited the Blackham Environmental and Conservation Centre, with Dr Michael Slocombe, Director of Service and Experiential Learning at Trinity College, and with four senior students. Hear the full interview by [clicking here](#).



Dr Michael Slocombe (left) with Tony Ryan



Trinity College students
with Tony Ryan

Websites / Resources

www.trinity.sa.edu.au

Trinity College website

www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/yurrebilla

Para Wirra Recreation Park

www.southparabp.org

South Para Biodiversity Project

www.environment.sa.gov.au/reporting/education

Information on the state of the SA environment, including Biodiversity

www.nabcatchment.net

Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board

www.sustlife.com

There are many interesting links on the Sustainable Life website