



Leigh Creek Area School

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MEDIA RELEASE

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GENESIS OF A NEW CURRICULUM AT LEIGH CREEK AREA SCHOOL

Despite being 580 million years old, local resources are forming the centrepiece of many new learning opportunities for students at Leigh Creek Area School in South Australia's Far North.

Since having a "golden spike" unveiled in the area last year to mark the best place in the world to study the new Ediacaran Time Period, the school has been embracing the learning opportunities it has brought with it.

Students are mixing it with palaeontologists from around the world and recognising the uniqueness of their geographical location.

Leigh Creek AS principal Brian Yuill said the discovery of fossilised soft-body creatures and the change of the fossil timeline to include the Ediacaran period presented an opportunity to experience hands-on learning for the school's 160 reception to year 12 students in areas such as science, arts, tourism and Aboriginal culture.

Students are making duplicates of some of the fossils and selling them to tourists in the school/community-run Leigh Creek Regional Visitor Centre. Students help run the centre, providing information to up to 8000 tourists a year and the fossil duplicates are being sold alongside some of the school's other enterprises including everything from art and craft to wattle seed muffins.

Through the venture, students are gaining skills in retail, hospitality and tourism, which they also study through the Department of Education and Children's Services' (DECS) Open Access College.

A group of four Indigenous students from Leigh Creek AS and one student from nearby Marree Aboriginal School also recently travelled to Adelaide for a week where they worked with the SA Museum on an Indigenous tour guide program.

Mr Yuill said the students were chosen for their proud fascination for their culture and had embraced the opportunity to gain job skills and learn how the fossils, particularly those found locally from the Cambrian period, had direct links to their ancestors.

Leigh Creek AS is part of the DECS Solar Schools Project, generating solar power using photovoltaic cells, and Mr Yuill said he saw opportunities to further develop environmental studies with the community in the areas of water conservation and involvement in Trees For Life.

He said students could see the unique opportunity they had to study, be involved in and helps sustain their unique location.

“They’re starting to realise there’s something special about being in the desert,” Mr Yuill said.

“It’s not just a desert place, it has some very special aspects. It’s not just somewhere dad and mum come for four years to earn a living and then go.

“This place really has a future. There’s a really good chance to burgeon some ideas here. It’s a marvellous joint and I’m so lucky to live in the place and work here.

“I’m delighted the Governor General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey and Mrs Jeffrey are coming here to see it for themselves,” Mr Yuill said.

More Information contact:

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