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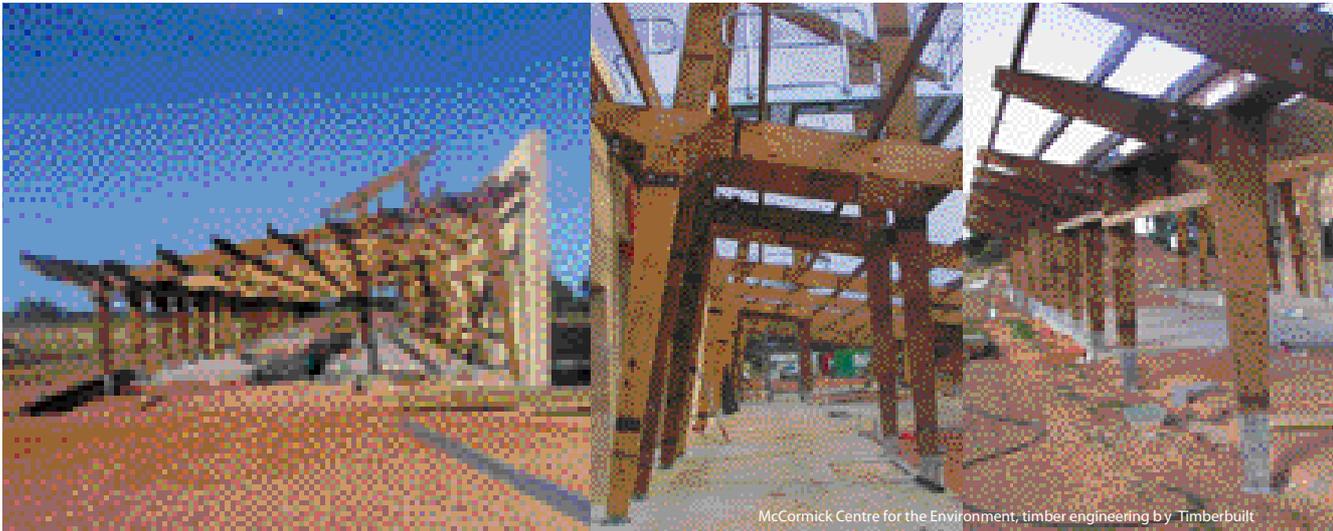
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McCormick Centre for the Environment, timber engineering by Timberbuilt

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\$2m centre practises what it preaches

The McCormick Centre for the Environment at Renmark practises what it preaches, with every practical environmental benefit built in.

Cox Constructions, who built the Centre for the Australian Landscape Trust in partnership with the Renmark Paringa District Council, have included independent solar power capability for the project that comprises an educational and tourist facility aimed at increasing regional environmental awareness.

Constructed on the site of the old Renmark High School, the Centre is available for school groups and community bodies for educational and social activities connected with the environment.

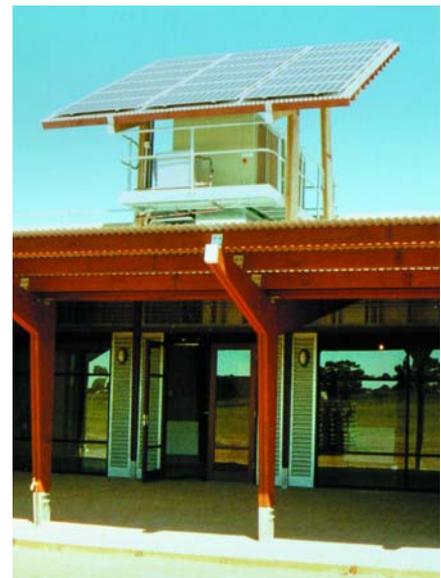
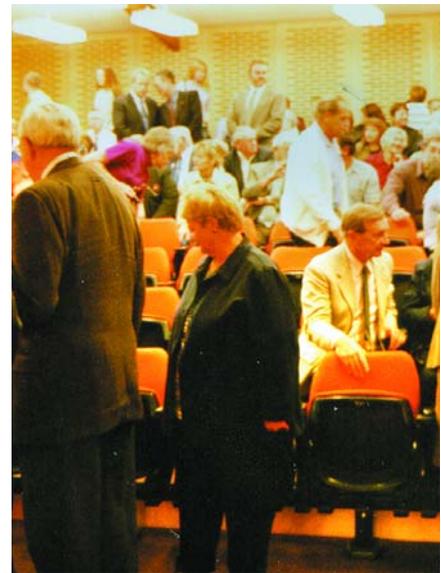
Constructed on a conventional raft slab and incorporating a central masonry spine wall and long span gull wing LVL portal frames, the building is clad with corrugated roof and wall cladding which helps emphasise its rustic character.

Clear finished pine wall panelling is used internally together with corrugated wall and ceiling linings.

Environmental features include large eaves overhangs for shading, significant stormwater collection and storage as well as the ability to operate completely from solar power. The Centre features a 120 seat lecture theatre, two laboratories, a conference room and office space and amenities together with a kitchen and an open multi-purpose foyer that opens out onto newly formed wetlands.

The project, which was funded from many interested sources including an international patron, Federal grant, Natural Heritage Trust grant and Local Government funding, finished on budget.

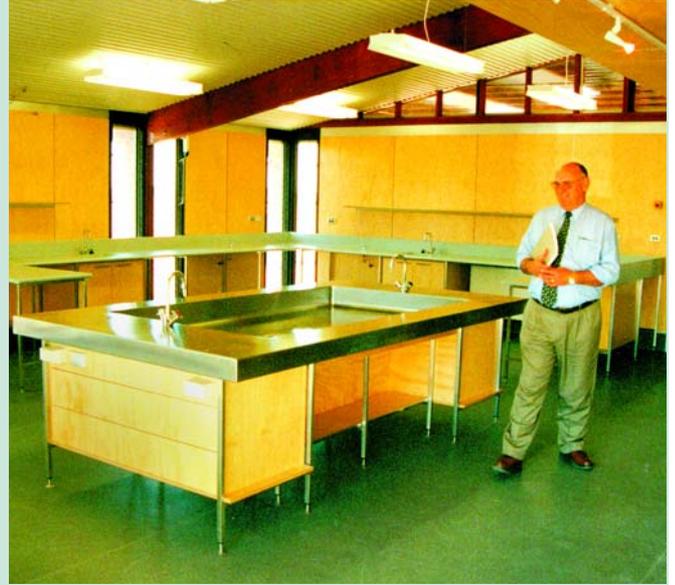
Brenton Gasteen, of Cox Constructions, said the intent of Cox was to involve local subcontractors and suppliers where possible. He said, "There were challenges to be encountered and overcome during construction, including the tyranny of distance for Adelaide based subcontractors and suppliers.



"The nature of the construction in terms of the pre-fabricated long span timber portal tolerances and the 'prefinished' nature of all surfaces, cladding and linings required careful attention to detail.

Continued.

McCormick Centre for the Environment



“These ranged from standard, polished and exposed aggregate face blockwork, to plywood and corrugated steel linings. These finishes and linings give you one chance to get it right. We believe that we got it right!”

The centre plays an important role in developing future management techniques for our environment. It brings together scientists and rural communities to restore degraded landscapes.

Australian Landscape Trust is a non profit organisation that invests in biodiversity conservation, landscape restoration and sustainability in rural Australia.

It was founded in 1966 by one of Australia’s premier philanthropic trusts, the Ian Potter Foundation. Australian Landscape Trust forges partnerships between public and private sector organisations that are motivated to conserve and restore Australia’s biodiversity. Through the purchase of degraded land, provision of the services of its professional staff and trustees, and through its diverse networks in the scientific, education and business sectors, Australian Landscape Trust brings a unique combination of

resources to regional communities. Central to Australian Landscape Trust’s objectives is building partnerships with communities to manage environmental change and implement specific, local solutions for their long-term environmental economic and social sustainability. This holistic approach means that Australian Landscape Trust:

- Views environmental issues on the scale of landscapes.
- Invests in science, education, training, research, monitoring, land management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture.
- Values the assets of community leadership, voluntarism, vision, resourcefulness and the diversity of many partners.
- Believes in the success of bottom-up environmental programs working from a base of good science and monitoring.
- Seeks to develop “model” capacity building programs, adaptable to meet the needs of the local cultures and landscapes in which these programs are delivered.
- Responds to communities in need, regardless of the magnitude of environmental challenges faced.

In less than a decade, Australian Landscape Trust has earned national and international recognition as one of the major private sector organisations able to achieve measurable outcomes in restoring landscapes and biodiversity, in creating partnerships with government at all levels, and in engaging community participation in environmental programs focused on the long-term.

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Pleased to be associated with Cox Constructions and The McCormick Centre.

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