

Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #3 | Friday 18 March, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Building Community Connections

Belinda Arnfield, Interim Principal

Building our school community is an integral part of Wilderness. Ours is a thriving one with continually expanding connections, bringing community members together to build and strengthen lasting and mutually beneficial relationships.

This unity creates a collaborative environment, on and off the School campus, which contributes greatly to successful outcomes for our students.

Those times of connecting may be a little rarer for regional members, but we seek every opportunity to get together.

Last night I travelled to the South East, where 20 current and past parents, along with some of our old scholars, gathered for dinner ahead of the Lucindale Field Days.

It was wonderful to catch up, reminisce about their daughter's days in the Boarding House and hear of all the exciting industry areas our old scholars have entered. I know our Director of Communications and Marketing, April Ridgway and Head of Boarding, Renee Coventry were equally thrilled to share in this special gathering.

I am also looking forward to next weekend when our broader boarding community gathers for their annual Boarder Parents' Weekend. Hosted by our Yorke Peninsula families this year, it presents another fantastic opportunity to strengthen ties outside of

the city. I must thank the organising committee who have put considerable time and effort into planning a fun-filled few days.

I am also thankful to the many parents who volunteer in various roles in the School. This includes our Parent Class Representatives, whose contributions help develop relationships and connections between parents outside of the classroom.

I am very pleased to share the following people who have taken on the role this year.

Mamies - Nicole Pisani (Adelaide's mum)

Annies – TBC. If you are interested in the role please [email](#) April Ridgway

Reception - Sarah Naseem (Naba's mum)

Year 1 - Alice Nassery (Lara's mum) and Trang Ha (Emily's mum)

Year 2 - Amy Matthews (Eliza's mum) and Jackie Jackman (Edwina's mum)

Year 3 – TBC. If you are interested in the role please [email](#) April Ridgway

Year 4 - Sarah Naseem (Shamaim's mum)

Year 5 - Maggie Johannsen (Olivia's mum), Cleo Cooper (Scarlett's mum) and Preeya Goel (Tara's mum)

Year 6 - Pooja Pandit Singhal (Devy's mum) and Neil Liu (Reese's mum)

Year 7 - Sabrina Mikhi (Lara's mum)

Year 8 - Sharee Redic (Bella's mum)

Year 9 - Anna Vu (Natalie's mum), Nicole Nott (Lucia's mum) and Rebecca Petrucco (Audrey's mum)

Year 10 - Sascha Detmold Cox (Lulu's mum)

Year 11 - Naomi Fahey (Eliza's mum) and Rachel Southern (Isabel's mum)

Year 12 - Samantha Jersmann (Mia's mum)

Finally, I am sure I speak for the whole school in wishing our rowers the very best of luck for tomorrow's Schools' Head of the River Regatta at West Lakes.

The girls have been training hard for the Regatta, the most prestigious event on the rowing calendar and are well prepared for their events. Best of luck girls!







EARLY LEARNING

Celebrating in our Early Learning Centre

Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School Early Years

Every single day in our Early Learning Centre (ELC) the theme of International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 is at the forefront of our minds, but on the day itself, this was the absolute focus for learning.

'Imagine a gender equal world.

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality.

Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias.**'

This theme is a big message for three to five-year-olds - but it is important, for we are deeply committed to the above. And for laying the foundation to achieve the School's Mission of enabling 'every girl to be the best she can be throughout her life'.

Our Mamie girls celebrated themselves - as they are at three years old. Together they read *I Like Myself* by Karen Beaumont. *I Like Myself* is an ode to self-esteem, bursting with energy and imagination, as a little girl embraces precisely who she was created to be - herself!

The girls were then asked to share what they like about themselves and to celebrate and consider what they would like to be - next or when they grow up. Each little girl designed her very own page, with her words recorded, to contribute to the Mamie House's own *I Like Myself... I Can Be...* book to remain as a keepsake in the Mamie House.

Our Annie girls reflected on the wonderful women in their lives, choosing one special woman to draw and paint, and consider what they love about this woman.

Each of these portraits are displayed around the doorway for the girls to look up to, enjoy and be inspired by as they go about their days. We too are inspired by the wonderful women in these girls' lives.

Once again, every day, we reflect on the above theme, but on IWD it was the focus, and a very important focus it was, one that we hope will have a lasting impact on our girls.





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Learning off Campus

[Liz McCarthy, Head of Junior School](#)

The past fortnight has been filled with action, with our Year 3 and 4 girls attending their annual swimming lessons at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre.

Held over four days, sessions focused on being safe and competent in and around the water. These sessions are invaluable for our girls' development in this area.

The effects of travelling to and from the Centre and being in and out of the water have certainly been apparent by the end of the week, as we send a group of very happy but tired, little girls home for the weekend.

Outdoor Education

Our Year 5's also enjoyed an exciting week with their Outdoor Education Day Trips spanning the four days. With a focus on indigenous culture, and environmental studies and sustainability, the girls took part in a program comprised of environmental projects and personal challenges inspired by the novel *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele.

In line with the Year 5 Aboriginal Studies curriculum focus, the girls spent the first two days on campus being introduced to the traditional skills, language and culture of the Ngarrindjeri people. The girls learnt songs, cooked fish, built humpies and made damper - along with Wilderness staff and the music/language group, The Deadly Nannas.

The girls ventured away from school for the following two days, spending one day on the Spirit of the Coorong, visiting filming locations for *Storm Boy*, learning about and sourcing bush tucker, cockling and other learning related to indigenous culture.

The second day was spent visiting Frahns Farm - Dr David Patons' Bio-R large scale

habitat reconstruction project near Monarto. Students engaged in bird identification and banding, surveying small mammals, monitoring plant survivorship and regeneration, and checking nesting boxes.

Assemblies are Back

Week 6 saw a return of Junior School assemblies, but not as we know them.

Streamed via WebEx, with all girls in their classrooms, it has been a novel way for our Junior School to get together. Our Year 6 leaders have done an outstanding job of preparing prayer, nominations and introductions, all delivered live and online, while our Year 5 and Year 4 girls filmed their assembly items to share via a video link.

While we very much look forward to coming together in person, this certainly provides a platform to maintain connection and celebrations until we can.







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Finding Solutions in STEM

Rhiannon Giles, Acting Head of Middle School

A keen group of Middle School girls celebrated International Women's Day by solving six sustainability cryptography challenges over the week from Monday 7 to Friday 11 March.

The girls used lunchtimes to gather in the Chrysalis, putting their cryptography skills to the test during their Girls Day Out CryptoQuest. The week culminated in a hotly contested treasure hunt around the School.

Thank you to Miss Isabella Cansdell, Miss Emma Wiggins and Miss Elyse Purkis for organising and supporting the girls' love of STEM challenges.

Cyber Live

The two Year 9 Cyber & AI classes competed in the Grok Cyber Live event this week; a simulated Cyber-attack set on a Naval warship. The girls were competing against schools all over Australia and the world. The challenge was to solve a series of puzzles to uncover clues to prevent a Cyber-attack threatening infrastructure all over Australia.

2022 Grok Cyber Live results included:

Overall and Class Champion - **Sindy Yang**

Class Champion - **Lauren Furgusson**

Geography Coastal Trip

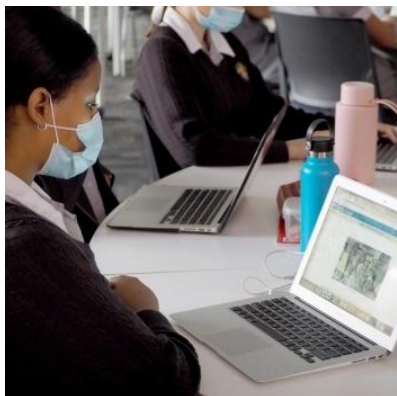
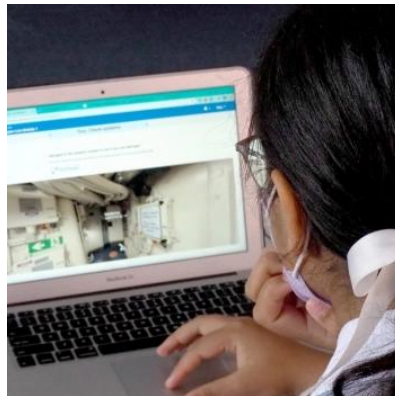
Field trips are always much anticipated and are essential to the study of Geography, and

today our Year 8 geographers visited the coast from Brighton to Glenelg.

It is great to see our girls develop their understanding of the world through direct experience.

Head of the River

Best wishes to all the crews competing in tomorrow's 2022 Head of the River. I look forward to celebrating a successful day on the water at the Rowing Dinner.







SENIOR SCHOOL

Banishing the Barriers

Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School

At Wilderness, we unashamedly apply a modern feminist lens to all that we do.

We provide an education that prepares each girl for the challenges and choices she will face as a woman and citizen of the future.

This begins with exposing our girls to a range of women who have made a significant impact in their field of employment and have overcome the gender barrier. The notion that 'you cannot be what you cannot see' underlies many of the programs offered at Wilderness and is essential in breaking the discrimination mould that currently exists in the corporate world today.

As stated so eloquently by Amelia Earhart, 'Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others'.

Last Friday, the 2022 SRC attended the virtual Adelaide International Women's Breakfast. The guest speaker for this event was Grace Tame, who was interviewed by the Hon Penny Wong. One of the key messages shared was the impact of COVID-19 and gender equality. Grace shared her ongoing battle to raise awareness of sexual assault which unfortunately is far too prevalent in Australian society.

There is a constant stream of stories showing gender disparities and sexual assault both in the workplace and at home. Recent research (2021) highlights that COVID-19 has increased the current rate at which gender inequality is being closed. It will take 135.6 years to close the gap worldwide. In 2020, the World Economic Forum had calculated gender parity would not be attained for 99.5 years!

As a male in a leadership position at an all-female school and a father of two girls,

I believe strongly that all men must stand up and become part of the fight for gender equality and call out unacceptable behaviour. It is not the job of a woman to convince a male of the importance of this; men should be responsible for their own prejudice and that of other men. It is only then that we will have a truly equitable society and one in which there is no reference to gender or sexual assault in society and the corporate world.

Appreciation Week

The Student Representative Council (SRC) theme for this year is Adventure, Ambition, and Appreciation or Triple A. One of their initiatives this term that connects to their theme is Appreciation Week.

Our SRC Executive has shared their aim of the week:

Appreciation Week will involve showing gratitude for our teachers, friends, family, and ourselves. To start the week, we would like to extend our appreciation to the families and support networks of the girls - grandparents, cousins, aunties, uncles, mums, and dads, for the continuous support and encouragement that you provide to the girls and the School community.

Throughout the week, Teacher Appreciation Day will occur where the staff members will receive messages written by the girls. Next is Friend Appreciation Day, where the girls will be given the option to play sports and giant board games on the Running Track lawn together.

Girls will be able to purchase ribbons to give to their friends to show their appreciation for demonstrating particular qualities. Each colour of the ribbons represents a different strength: Kindness, Humour, Supportiveness, Creativity and Determination.

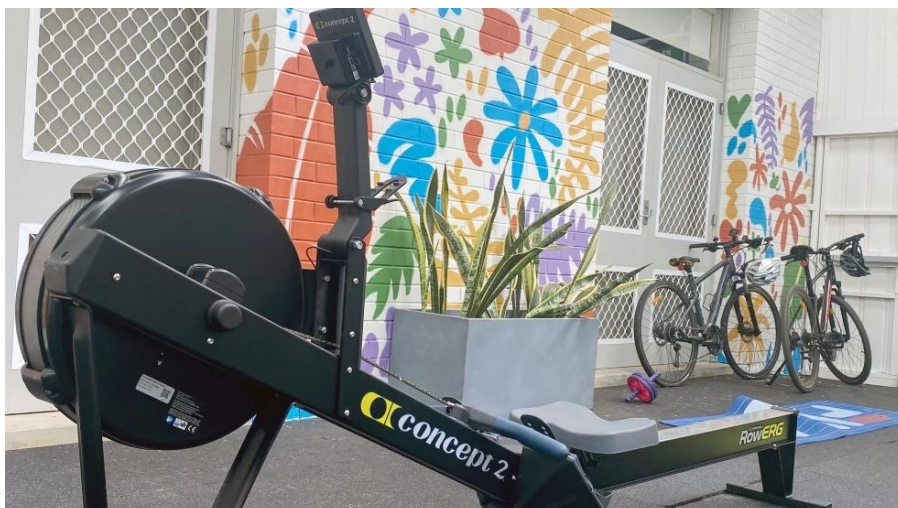
Finally, self-appreciation activities will occur on Friday. We can often get caught up in schoolwork, extra-curriculars and busy day to day events, so we believe it is important to remind ourselves what we are capable of - and what we have achieved - by appreciating ourselves and our abilities.

Rowing Finale

Finally, we wish all the Senior girls the best for the Head of the River Rowing Regatta tomorrow. The girls and coaches have done an incredible amount of training and they race with the whole school behind them for a successful final event.

A reminder also that the Inter House Swimming Carnival will take place on **Tuesday 29 March** (Week 9) at the SA Aquatic Centre.





BOARDING

Refreshed and Fighting Fit

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

It has been wonderful to see the girls return following the exeat weekend, refreshed and ready for the remainder of the term. Regular activities have returned, including training and sporting fixtures.

This week is particularly important for our rowing girls who are preparing for tomorrow's Head of the River. We have also offered tickets to boarders who wish to attend as spectators in support of our rowing girls.

Expanding our Gym

In recent years, the Boarding House gym has continued to grow as we look to offer girls additional ways to exercise and stay fit.

In addition to the revamp it received during the January school holidays, we have recently welcomed a new treadmill and two rowing machines for the girls to use at their leisure.

Regional Events

I am currently attending the Southeast for Field Days in Lucindale, where it has been lovely to meet several past and current families from the region. I was especially excited to have dinner with some of these community members last night at our Southeast Dinner where I learnt more about the generations of girls who have come through the School gates over the decades, and their experience in the Boarding House.

The following weekend I look forward to meeting parents who are able to join us for the

Boarders Parents Weekend on the Yorke Peninsula.



SPORT

Summer Intercol is Kicking Off

[Jon Trovas, Head of Sport and Recreation](#)

The eagerly anticipated Summer Intercol is finally underway from this weekend.

Originally scheduled for Week 8, most matches will take place in Week 9 due to the delayed start to sport this year.

With the ongoing challenges all schools are facing with COVID-19 and player availability, the 2022 Summer Intercol will be decided by the Senior A, Premier League and First Team matches. While it will be different not having every team competing for points, it presents an exciting opportunity for us to show our support and cheer our teams.

The first event is tomorrow with the First VIII at the Head of the River. The first match in Week 9 on Monday will see a doubleheader at Seymour with our Senior A Volleyballers and Premier League Tennis teams taking the courts.

On Wednesday, our Senior A Basketballers will take on Seymour in the Wilderness Gym. Thursday will see our Senior A Water Polo team battle it out in the pool at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, followed by the Senior A Touch who will play at the Parklands on Friday afternoon.

With six teams playing off, if required, the delayed IGSSA Swimming Championships will be the deciding event to be raced early in Term 2.

Please see the details of our matches [here](#). Our Sport Captain, Sachi Syme, will be in contact with the girls to organise supporters for these upcoming events. We look forward to sharing the results with you in the next issue of Life in the Wilderness.

South Australian State Long Course Swimming Championships

Over the long weekend, the South Australian State Long Course Swimming

Championships were held at the Marion Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

Several dedicated Wilderness girls represented their individual clubs. They have been training for many months preparing for this qualifying event in the lead up to the Swimming National Championships.

There was plenty to celebrate with our girls achieving personal best times, qualifying for finals, winning medals and a few girls achieving National qualifying times.

Congratulations to all our wonderful swimmers and to the following girls who placed in individual events:

- **Isabella Beaumont** (Year 8) - 1st 12 Yr 200 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke and 50 Backstroke. 2nd 12 Yr 100 Breaststroke, 50 Butterfly and 50 Freestyle.
- **Katarina Czechowicz** (Year 8) - 1st 13 Yr 1500 Freestyle and 800 Freestyle. 3rd 13 Yr 400. Freestyle
- **Asta Mickan** (Year 8) - 3rd 13 Yr 200 IM.
- **Lucy Beaumont** (Year 9) - 3rd 14 Yr 100 Breaststroke.
- **Arabella Bahr** (Year 10) - 1st 15 Yr 400 IM, 200 IM, 800 Freestyle, 400 Freestyle and 200 Butterfly. 2nd 15 Yr 200 Freestyle. 3rd 15 Yr 100 Butterfly.

We look forward to seeing our talented swimmers compete at the Nationals and representing Wilderness at the delayed IGSSA and SSSSA Swimming Championships in Term 2.

Head of the River

This Saturday over 90 Wilderness rowers will take to the water to race at the 100th Anniversary of the Head of the River.

The Wilderness Rowers have been training since September 2021, including throughout their holidays, with significant challenges. We are proud of the grit and resolve they have demonstrated and wish them well for this culminating event celebrating their season.

Due to COVID restrictions, the event is ticketed and spectators are limited. But, you can watch the racing via the live [YouTube link](#) from 8.00am.

The First VIII are set to race at 2.00pm.

Safety at the Parklands

To ensure the safety of all our families at the Parklands, a reminder to please not stop or park your car in the Bus Zone. This causes a significant risk to traffic congestion and

prevents cars from safely completing a U-turn.

Please refer to our [Parklands map](#), also available in the Sports Handbook to see designated parking areas.

We also encourage girls to use mosquito repellent to minimise exposure at the Adelaide Parklands at this time of year. Please be mindful of this given the detection of Japanese encephalitis cases in South Australia,



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Lights, Camera ... Meet the Media Team

[Inika Weber, Year 12 Media and Magazine Representative](#)

Hi everyone! My name's Inika Weber, and I'm the Year 12 Media and Magazine Representative for 2022.

This year I am running the Media Team alongside Mr Hal Bruce. It is a great experience to take on a leadership role in a committee I've been heavily involved in since Year 9.

Over the years, I have helped to create multiple films. A highlight has been editing the Year 12 video for the 2021 cohort.

The Media Team is a team of students between Years 8 to 12 who collaborate to capture and edit important school events. In 2022, we will continue to create these videos, including some of our most celebrated productions, such as the Year 12 video and the REALISE video.

As part of leading this team, my vision is to continue to build collaboration between the girls, especially across year levels, as we work together. I also hope that as a leader of the Media Team, we will continue to further the technical skills of the girls through training sessions and on-the-job mentorship.

We have already had one training session this term and there will be more to come in the areas of cinematography, sound and editing. The Media Team is also exploring new ideas including Wildy TV – a show produced in collaboration with Year 10 students undertaking a Certificate III in Screen and Media.

The goal of the Media Team is to capture school events to share with the broader Wilderness community. I am so excited to be able to lead the team and we look forward to sharing our work this year with you.

In Memory of Ann Newmarch

We are currently showcasing a small collection of artworks as a tribute to Ann Newmarch, on the ground floor of the Learning Commons.

The artist, educator, and activist died in January, at the age of 76.

Newmarch is recognised for her significant contribution to community art-activism in South Australia and her leadership in the development of feminist art in Australia.

The Art Department invites everyone to learn more about the life and influence of this important South Australian female artist and significant member of our community.

Newmarch's work has been celebrated in the Art curriculum as well as through the acquisition of nine of her works for our school's art collection.

In addition to this, Ann's daughter, Jessie Kerr, attended Wilderness School between 1994 and 2004.

Brooke Porter

Head of Art





COMMUNITY

Stamped with Care

Rebecca Foster, Head of Advancement

The Student Foundation is coordinating a Cookie Drive for Mothers' Day, Sunday 8 May.

Girls can order beautifully crafted sugar cookies, stamped with a heartfelt message for their mother, grandmother, or another special woman in their life, ahead of the Term 1 holidays. Gifts will be delivered in Week 1 of Term 2, just in time for Mothers' Day.

Details on how to place your order will be shared in the next two weeks, so watch this space!

Discover and Return

Meanwhile, Middle School Foundation girls have been busy with the student-led Discover and Rescue (D&R) program. D&R recovers lost property from around the School, returns unclaimed items to owners, and prevents the accumulation of waste and landfill.

Unclaimed items will then be available for sale at our Second Hand Uniform Shop.

Well done to Madison Chau, Xin Yang, Zara Shahyan, Niya Singhal, Yana Shah, and Zoe Koerber who recently stayed behind after school to clear a backlog of lost property.

The Student Foundation helps the School's engagement and fundraising objectives, with students supporting various activities and initiatives that bolster these efforts, while also earning braid points for their hours of service.

Approximately 80 girls are enlisted to the Wilderness Student Foundation in 2022, including Student Representative Council members Annecy Cheung, representing the Senior School Foundation, and Madi Chau and Emily Nguyen, representing the Middle School Foundation.

