

Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #2 | Friday 8 March, 2024



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Community-Minded

[Belinda Arnfield, Principal](#)

The strength of our community makes Wilderness a special place to belong, and I have been reminded of this continuously over the past few weeks.

At the annual Welcome Drinks, it was clear how connected our parent community is, as new and continuing families caught up and got to know each other better ahead of the school year. Our wonderful Parents and Friends Association (P&F) once again hosted a beautiful evening. P&F volunteers work behind the scenes on so many occasions to make these opportunities to connect possible.

We welcomed our Early Learning Centre families to a Housewarming to celebrate the opening of our new Mamie and Annie Brown House, and it was incredibly fulfilling to see our girls show their families around. They were excited to introduce their parents and siblings to their learning environment, as well as its newest residents—two little chicks named Noodle and Dumpling! Each Annie and Mamie girl was presented with a plant to signify how they will each grow, learn and bring something different to our ELC community—and make it stronger in doing so.

I also had the chance to connect with many of our regional families at the Boarding Parents Weekend, organised by very generous parent volunteers. We travelled to the

McLaren Vale region, enjoying great food and company. Our boarding families are spread across the country but share the experience of their daughter being a Wildy boarder. Their daughters, throughout their time at Wilderness, form such strong bonds, and the weekend was an opportunity for their families to get to know one another better too.

Our Wilderness community, including families, old scholars, staff, volunteers and industry partners, is a great asset to our girls. I hope that, as we demonstrate the value of community while they are at school, it inspires them to build strong relationships whenever they pursue new ventures and environments in the future.

Easter Weekend Early Dismissal

Please note the early dismissal time on **Thursday 28 March** at 1.05pm.

Vale Ruth C. Birrell

It is with sadness we advise of the passing of Mrs Ruth C. Birrell, former Headmistress of Wilderness School, on Wednesday 28 February 2024.

Mrs Birrell was appointed Headmistress of Wilderness School in June 1975.

Described as “an experienced French Teacher whose enthusiasm was infectious”, her 11-year tenure saw the School go from strength to strength. Under her leadership, enrolments grew substantially, the academic standard was enhanced and outstanding matriculation results were achieved. Taking an active role in each area of the school, it was noted that “a school where the Headmistress takes such an interest is most fortunate indeed”.

Mrs Birrell navigated the School through a significant period of change, assessing value, modifying plans and providing a sense of security as the School moved successfully “towards two thousand”. All members of the community appreciated her very fine contribution to the life of the School; her influence and her work have made Wilderness the great and highly respected school it was in her day and continues to be since.

In her ‘Report from the Headmistress’ published in the 1986 Yearbook, Mrs Birrell says, “I have felt that it has truly been a privilege to have been Headmistress of a fine School which cherishes high standards and traditions of worth”.

We send our condolences to her family at this sad time.





EARLY LEARNING

Welcome to our House

[Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School – Early Years](#)

The past three weeks have been an exciting deep dive into a range of rich learning opportunities, including celebrating Chinese New Year, commencing our 'Wonder of Me' projects, caring for our chicks and launching 'Munchy' (our butterfly) into the Wilderness.

Thank You

Firstly, I would like to begin by extending my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in celebrating the opening of our new ELC with our Housewarming event. It was a beautiful evening and a wonderful way to begin another chapter in the 140-year history of Wilderness.

Celebrating Chinese New Year

On Friday 23 February, we continued with celebrations, but this time we were celebrating Chinese New Year by wearing red. Wearing red is believed to bring good luck, happiness and prosperity. The celebrations certainly brought us happiness on the day, and we are hopeful we have attracted positive energy for the year ahead.

Noodle and Dumpling

'Chicken Noodle' and 'Chicken Dumpling' are the questionable names that have been democratically voted in by the girls for our two little chicks. Despite these unfortunate names, the chicks are being very well cared for and loved in our ELC. As you can imagine, the girls learn so much from the chickens, including the science of life cycles, what is required for their growth and good health and, most importantly, how to care for them.

Munchy

'Munchy', our butterfly (also unusually named), recently brought immense joy to our Annie House girls. The girls charted Munchy's life cycle and observed with wonder the transformation from caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly. If you have never seen this transformation, we encourage you to do so, because regardless of whether it is through the eyes of a child or an adult, it is truly magical and beautiful.

Wonder of Me

Over the past few weeks, the girls have continued to share their 'All About Me' bags with pride. Creating and sharing these bags supports the girls' continued development of their unique identities and provides an excellent opportunity for the enhancement of public speaking skills. Additionally, the audience learns to listen respectfully and to respond with thoughtful questions, kindness and acceptance—all of which is deeply valued at Wilderness.

Professional Development

Over the past three weeks, the educational team have been busy networking and attending professional development opportunities.

In the evening on Wednesday 28 February, I attended the IPSHA (Independent Primary Schools Heads of Australia) ELC Directors meeting at Pulteney Grammar, which was an excellent networking opportunity with like-minded schools. On Friday, as co-chair of the Early Childhood Curriculum Reference Group of AISSA (Association of Independent Schools of South Australia), with the support of my co-chair, I led a workshop and panel at the conclusion of 'Leading Learning for Impact' professional development day. During the day, experts in the field of education encouraged participants to think deeply and critically about how leaders can make room for impact in schools using formal evaluative processes to analyse the costs/benefits of initiatives.

Tuesday 5 March was an excellent opportunity for in-house professional development as Ms Sheree Gordon, our School Health Nurse (Critical Care Nurse), attended the ELC staff

meeting to consolidate and extend our team's understanding and treatment of asthma. This was invaluable learning, and we are incredibly grateful to have such a highly skilled nurse on site.

Following that, the ELC teaching team attended St Peter's College on the evening of Wednesday 5 March, to reflect upon the role of the educator and the importance of active listening in dialogue with participation and documentation. This networking opportunity and thought-provoking learning continues to strengthen and develop our commitment to the principles of the Reggio Emilia educational project.

These exceptional learning opportunities, supported by Wilderness and made the most of by the team, are indicative of our commitment to continuous improvement for the purpose of providing an outstanding education for your daughters. We are also incredibly grateful to the schools in our community, including Pulteney Grammar and St Peter's College, for facilitating these experiences.











JUNIOR SCHOOL

A Packed Start to the Term

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

It is difficult to believe that we are already at the end of Week 6. While time does seem to be passing exceptionally quickly, when reflecting upon the term thus far, it is clear that we have already accomplished a great deal in our Junior School, with much more to come in the remaining weeks.

NAPLAN

Next week, we commence our annual NAPLAN assessment period for students in Years 3 and 5. Information for families with daughters in these year levels is available on SEQTA Engage. Tests will be supervised and administered by the girls' class teachers in their own classroom spaces to ensure familiarity. We view NAPLAN as a valuable capture of cohort data for our girls, providing us with information that enables us to discern areas of strength and for growth across the assessed areas. We also consider it an opportunity for our girls to experience a formal testing scenario, in line with other standardised and summative assessments of learning that we undertake.

While we certainly value NAPLAN data and all it can provide us, we make discernments about our girls' learning through drawing on a broad range of data sources, including PAT data, summative class assessments and, most often at a Junior School level, through formative assessment for and as learning. Knowing our girls well as learners means understanding them from many, varied viewpoints, seeing each girl as a whole

person.

The timetable for testing during Weeks 7 and 8 is as follows:

- **Wednesday 13 March:** Writing
- **Thursday 14 March:** Reading
- **Friday 15 March:** Conventions of Language
- **Monday 18 March:** Numeracy.

All tests will be at the beginning of the day after Form. Any catch-up testing will be completed by **Monday 25 March**.

Should you have any questions about the NAPLAN testing, please do not hesitate to contact the Junior School Front Office.

Friendology

We are very excited as a Junior School teaching team to be nearing the completion of our training in the UR STRONG Friendology program, enabling us to begin this learning across all year levels in the Junior School. We know that healthy relationships lie at the heart of our wellbeing and ensuring our girls are upskilled with the knowledge and strategies to proactively navigate, enjoy and ultimately flourish within their friendships is vitally important to us.

Friendology is a proactive teaching and learning program which uses child-friendly and developmentally sequenced language, scenarios and protocols to support the learning of social skills, specifically with friendships. It will be delivered as part of the Health learning area to our Reception to Year 2 girls and as part of Artemis for Years 3 to 6.

I look forward to sharing further information with you, including some dates for online parent and family sessions, as well as some friendship celebration days we look forward to planning.

GRIP Conference

Recently, our Year 6 cohort attended the GRIP Student Leadership Conference at the Entertainment Centre.

The GRIP Student Leadership Conference is designed for Senior Primary student leaders and covered themes including how to step forward and lead, the sacrifices of a student leader, sharing new ideas and what extra steps student leaders can take to ensure they

have a positive impact on their school communities. Given the important theme that leadership holds for our Year 6 girls, the conference provided an opportunity for collaboration with student leaders from other schools, with valuable new thinking to bring back and implement as part of their roles.

OSHC/Vacation Care

We are delighted that numbers in our Before and After School Care programs continue to grow, with places still available for bookings. We look forward to sharing the program for the upcoming April Vacation Care program next week, which has been informed by the ages of the girls and will include a range of incursions and excursions. Wilderness girls from 4 years of age to Year 6, along with their same age bracket siblings, are most welcome to attend.

Before School

A reminder that supervision does not commence in the Junior School until 8.00am and that girls must not enter the school grounds before this time unless they are attending a planned school activity. Should you need to drop your daughter off before 8.00am, please book her into our Before School Care program, where she can be cared for from 7.00am onwards, provided with breakfast and walked to class by our friendly and nurturing staff. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Our Nurses

We are privileged to have two full time Registered Nurses to care for our girls, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 3.25pm.

Nurse Sheree has spent 23 years as an intensive care nurse, 16 of which were spent in paediatric intensive care, including being part of the Medstar retrieval team. Sheree is also trained in both adult and paediatric Advanced Life Support and has spent time as a lecturer at both Flinders University and Adelaide University.

Nurse Sarah has also been a paediatric nurse for 23 years and previously held the position of Diabetes Educator at the Women's and Children's Hospital. Sarah has extensive experience working in both the acute medical ward and paediatric emergency.

These are the wonderful people who take care of your girls when they present to the Health Centre, who discern what is happening for them when they are unwell and who communicate with you about this. We are very grateful to have Sheree and Sarah as part of our Wilderness community and for the care they each provide.

Teddy Bears Picnic

On Friday 1 March, we held the annual Boarding and Receptions' Teddy Bears Picnic! This special event involves a picnic lunch on Memorial Lawn with the boarders and Reception girls, joined by their favourite soft toy! After enjoying lunch together on picnic blankets, the boarders took the Receptions on a guided tour of the Boarding House, enabling our little learners to get to know this important part of our school. The Receptions were then given a special teddy-shaped biscuit and walked back to their playground by their new boarder buddy!

Melissa Foster

Reception Teacher

Year 5 Coorong Camp

Embarking on an adventure to the Coorong, Year 5 students revelled in an immersive camping experience at our Crawford campsite and at 42 Mile Conservation Park. Amidst the tranquil surroundings, they pitched tents and embarked on a memorable journey through the dunes to the pristine beachfront. Engaging in hands-on activities, students honed their survival skills by crafting damper and constructing shelters using natural resources, fostering a deeper connection with nature.

Despite an unexpected turn in the weather prompting an early return to school, the excursion did not end there. Seizing the opportunity, students ventured to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, where they delved into the rich biodiversity of native species. Exploring lush gardens and informative exhibits, they gained valuable insights into the intricate ecosystems and learned about the vital role these species play in sustaining life.

The Year 5 camp to the Coorong proved to be more than just a camping trip; it was a transformative experience that instilled a sense of resilience, curiosity and appreciation for the natural world in the young adventurers.

"A pelican's wingspan can be up to 1.8 metres and their babies need to be fed up to 30 times a day!" – **Elizabeth Jamieson**

"We woke up to the choir of birds and had breakfast. I had a yoghurt and a banana." – **Rachael Vallat**

"It was pretty sad that we had to leave Crawford, but it was okay in the end because we got to go to the Botanic Gardens and it was fun." – **Katia**

Michailaros

Matt Webster

Year 5 Teacher







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sailing Away to Camp

[Rhianon Giles, Head of Middle School](#)

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 Form groups enjoyed a week of fun, water-based activities on their camp including sailing, surfing and kayaking. It was wonderful that the girls were able to spend time forming relationships with their Form, Form teachers and Heads of House. Thank you to the staff and the Outdoor Education team for making the camp such a success.

NAPLAN Year 7 and 9

NAPLAN information for families with daughters in Years 7 and 9 is available on SEQTA Engage. The timetable for testing during Weeks 7 and 8 is as follows:

- **Wednesday 13 March:** Writing
- **Thursday 14 March:** Reading
- **Friday 15 March:** Conventions of Language
- **Monday 18 March:** Numeracy.

All tests will be at the beginning of the day. Any catch-up testing will be completed by **Monday 25 March**.

Last week, girls took part in a coordinated practice test. The [public demonstrations site](#) has test examples for each year level if you are interested in looking at the format of the tests.

Intercol Ribbon

To show our support for the students participating in Summer Intercol during Week 8, the Intercol Gold Ribbon will be for sale from the Uniform Shop on Flexischools. Girls are encouraged to purchase the ribbon for \$1.50 before Friday of Week 7, which will then be distributed on Monday of Week 8. Girls are able to wear the ribbon to school and all fixtures during Intercol week.

International Women's Day

Week 6 started with the International Women's Day assembly, with guest speaker, Claire Pocock (2000). Her inspirational and thought-provoking address was connected to this year's theme, 'Count her in: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress'. On Friday 8 March, our SRC attended the International Women's Day breakfast hosted at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Alongside these events, the SRC are running a donut drive for International Women's Day on Wednesday in Week 7. Purple donuts can be ordered via Flexischools (preferred) with a small number also available on the day. Funds raised will be used to continue our support of girls' education in Nepal.

Jewellery

Parents are asked for their support in ensuring that girls are adhering to our uniform policy. The policy, which can be found in the school diary on page 28, states:

- one pair of earrings in each ear lobe (no cartilage earrings) of either plain silver, gold or pearl studs no larger than 5mm in diameter or standard-size sleepers are permitted
- watches are permitted in an unobtrusive design
- no other visible jewellery is permitted.

Security of Personal Property

The girls have been reminded recently by email, in the interest of the protection and security of their personal property, to not leave bags at the Front Gate on Hawkers Road when they are in music rehearsals or at sports training. This is a very accessible area for someone to walk off the street and steal personal items. It is also important that they do not leave their school laptop lying around unattended outside.

Please note that the School's insurance, as is common with all insurance cover, does not cover personal phones and laptops that are left unattended—whether they are on school grounds or not. Under the current Student ICT Responsible Use Policy, should a school-allocated device be lost, stolen or irreparably damaged, the School reserves the right to pass on the full replacement cost of the device to the parents/caregivers.

Commedia

Our Year 8 and 9 Drama students watched a fringe show at school, 'A Solo Commedia Show', by Andrew Crupi, who will be running Commedia workshops with our Year 9 students this year.







SENIOR SCHOOL

Adventurous Learning

[Kate Hanson, Head of Senior School](#)

As we move into the middle of Term 1 and the assignments and tests start to increase, I have been thinking more about one of our core values: Adventurous Learning. Rather than just ticking off the tasks, thinking about what and why we are learning is core to our values. Being an adventurous learner means engaging in deeper thinking and considering broader perspectives. In Adam Grant's book, *Hidden Potential*, he titles a chapter 'Deliberately Awkward'. He says that when we see 'discomfort as a mark of growth, [we are] motivated to stretch beyond [our] comfort zones'. Not only do we need to accept some discomfort, but we also need to be 'brave enough to make more mistakes'. It is through this feeling that our girls will grow and stretch in their learning journeys.

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support of girls' education in Nepal.

Chess Achievements

Congratulations to **Athena-Malar Retnaraja** (Year 10), who participated in three weeks of intense chess over the summer holidays including two national chess championships held in Adelaide during January. As a result of these competitions, Athena has been named the National Champion of Under 18 Girls for Blitz (fast chess) and the runner-up in the Under 16 Girls for classic chess. This is an outstanding result and the product of many hours of practice and dedication.

Ms Lorraine Gormly, who runs our lunchtime Chess Club, frequently visited during the two championships and was present to see Athena receive these awards.

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Upcoming

Over the next few weeks, we have the following events:

- Get Home Safe Parent Session: **Tuesday 12 March**, 6.30pm – 7.30pm in Hender Hall

- International Women's Day – donuts are available for pre-order via Flexischools
- Head of the River: **Saturday 16 March.**

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Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA)

Immersed in a rich tapestry of expertise and experience, four students from Wilderness were invited to participate in a Defence/Innovation Convention hosted by the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). This event offered us the privilege of engaging with professionals representing diverse fields within the Australian Defence Force (ADF), providing us with a distinctive perspective and invaluable overview.

From insightful discussions on foreign affairs to enlightening talks by Heads of Departments and esteemed professors, each interaction with these distinguished guests left us both inspired and eager for further knowledge. Among the most rewarding aspects was the chance to forge connections with individuals who have dedicated their careers to supporting the Defence Force or undertaking crucial behind-the-scenes work.

The convention served as a pivotal platform for us to gain firsthand insights into the complexities of defence operations and the significance of cross-sector collaboration—one of them being education. It instilled a newfound sense of purpose and direction, encouraging continuous learning and igniting the desire to pursue careers where we can effect meaningful societal change.

Looking back, this convention stands as an invaluable experience that not only broadened our understanding, but also motivated us to strive for success in our future endeavours and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of society.

Ann Nguyen

Year 11





BOARDING

Teddy Bears Picnic

[Bronwen Pluck, Acting Head of Boarding](#)

On Friday, we enjoyed our Teddy Bears Picnic during lunch with the Reception classes. It was great to see the Reception girls come down with their teddies and enjoy a lunch with the boarders on Memorial Lawn. After sharing their picnic lunch, the boarders took their buddies on a tour of the Boarding House, showing them their home away from home. After the tour, all the girls enjoyed a teddy bear sugar cookie. This is the third year we have run the Teddy Bears Picnic and each time has been a lovely day for both the boarders and Reception girls.

Coffee Cup Decorating

Over the weekend, we began running our coffee mug decorating. Each girl can decorate a mug, using ceramic paints, which will be glazed and placed in the kiln in the Art department. We hope that each girl will enjoy her own personally designed mug to use in the Boarding House and at home. There were some great designs created over the weekend that we will be able to give back to the girls before the exeat.

The Garden of Unearthly Delights

We had a group of girls head to The Garden of Unearthly Delights to view the light display 'Kaleidoscope' and to spend some time enjoying the garden. It was a wonderful chance

for some of our newer boarders to experience the festival and the city at night.

Boarding Parents Weekend

The Boarding Parents Weekend was hosted over the weekend in the beautiful McLaren Vale. It was a fantastic weekend with one of our biggest turnouts of parents. A big thank you goes to the planning committee – Michelle Sanders, Melanie Michael and Diana Perkins – who spent countless hours organising venues and transportation for the weekend. It is always a wonderful opportunity for parents to socialise and enjoy themselves without the rush of coordinating their daughters.





SPORT

Swimming Carnival

[Deb Jarrett, Acting Director of Sport and Recreation](#)

Term 1 Summer Sport is well underway for sports in IGSSA (Independent Girls School Sport Association) and SA Catholic Schools Competitions, and the girls have settled into their teams well with some strong performances. A reminder that all training and match information is available via Clipboard.

Uniform Reminder

A friendly reminder that each sport has its own specific uniform requirements; these are detailed in the Sport Handbook on SEQTA Engage. The Uniform Shop is where you can try on and order your sport uniforms and the opening hours are below.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours During Term:

- **Monday:** 8.00am to 9.00am
- **Tuesday:** 8.00am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.30pm
- **Wednesday:** 3.00pm to 6.00pm
- **Thursday:** 8.00am to 9.00am
- **Friday:** Closed.

Middle and Senior School Interhouse Swimming Carnival

The carnival was once again held at the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre (SAALC) pool on Thursday 22 February. Girls enthusiastically cheered and participated in both formal stroke races and fun novelty events, including an exciting new Boogie Board Relay.

A very pleasing increase in entries, resulting in an increase in the number of events, prompted the decision to complete the presentations at a special assembly the following morning.

Competition between the Houses was keen, and congratulations go to Antholiza who won the Caulfield Shield, which was accepted by House Captains, **Sasha Hardin** and **Rose Newman** (Year 12).

Congratulations to all students who participated in the events and those who acted as student officials. Every swimmer and official contributed to their total House points.

There were many outstanding performances and one new record created.

Thanks to the parents who attended to support the girls.

An event of this magnitude does not happen without the assistance of many people. The Sport Department wish to acknowledge the following people for their valuable contribution:

- Ms Emma Jolly (2022), Ms Mollie Rowntree (2023), Ms Nicola Petrucco (2019) and Ms Judy Thurgood, who completed much of the administration before the event and then took on official roles on the day
- Form teachers and Heads of House, who managed nominations and, with teaching staff, also acted as officials
- Ms Charlie Bower (2023) and Mr Josh Dunstan, who acted as officials.

Results

Year Level Champions

- Crompton Cup – Year 7: **Ivy Dowd**
- McFarlane Cup – Year 8: **Sophie Monk**
- Anderson Cup – Year 9: **Poppy Ritchie**
- O'Donnell Cup – Year 10: **Isabella Beaumont**

- Brian Magarey Cup – Year 11: **Holly Munro**
- Margaret Doman Cup – Year 12: **Arabella Bahr**

Trophies

- Kathy Gill Trophy – Open 100m Freestyle: **Isabella Beaumont** (Year 10)
- Eileen Hardy Cup – Fastest Breaststroke: **Charlise Green** (Year 10)
- Alexandra Williams Cup – Fastest Backstroke: **Isabella Beaumont** (Year 10)
- Georgina Clarnette Cup – Fastest Butterfly: **Isabella Beaumont** (Year 10)
- Amanda and Leonie Packer Trophy – Fastest Medley Relay: Amaryllis Senior A Team
- Debbie Clarke Trophy – Year 12 Freestyle Relay: Carob
- Boarders versus Day girls Relay: Day girls

Caulfield Shield – Overall Winning House

1. Antholiza
2. Cedar
3. Carob
4. Amaryllis
5. Sparaxis

The Year 10 Amaryllis Freestyle relay team broke the 2001 record by five seconds, creating a new time of 2:05.86.

SSSSA Interschool Swimming Carnival

Following the House Carnival, on Monday 26 February, a Wilderness representative team headed to the SAALC again to contest the A Grade Secondary School Sport SA Swimming Championships, the highest level of competition.

Wilderness placed fourth out of ten schools in a very credible performance.

Many outstanding performances were recorded, with several Standard of Excellence (SOE) awards given out. Special mention must go to **Isabella Beaumont** (Year 10, four SOE awards), **Charlise Green** (Year 10, four SOE awards), **Asta Mickan** (Year 10, three SOE awards), **Rose Franze** (Year 10, three SOE awards) and **Holly Munro** (Year 11, two SOE awards) for their consistently high standard. **Grace Munro**, **Zoe Koerber** and **Lucy Beaumont** (Year 11) also received one SOE award each.

Congratulations to all girls who competed on the night; every swimmer made a valuable contribution towards the final points.

A special thanks to all the parents who attended and to those who readily volunteered to assist with transport.

Valuable support was also provided by Dr Rhiannon Giles and Ms Annabel Manifold (2022).

Winter Sport (Term 2 & Term 3 Nominations)

Winter sports for Terms 2 and 3 are currently open for nomination via Clipboard, these will stay open until **Sunday 17 March**. Places in sports are limited so please ensure you nominate to secure your spot. More information regarding winter sports will be distributed once nominations are finalised. If you are having trouble with your login credentials for Clipboard, please contact [The Hive](#).

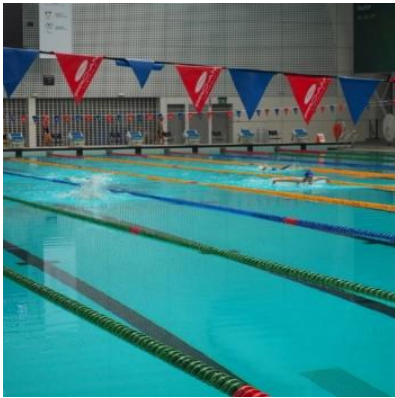
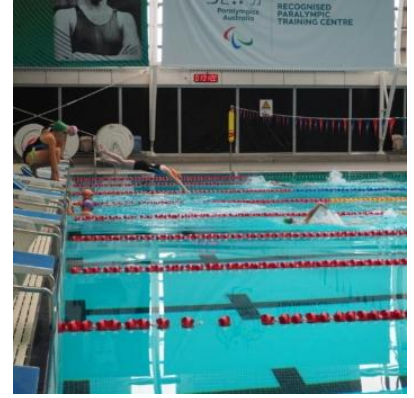
Director of Sport and Recreation Appointment

We are pleased to welcome Mr Jonathon Koutsikas to our staff team as Director of Sport and Recreation. Jonathon comes to us from Eastern Fleurieu R-12 School in Strathalbyn. He brings with him experience as a specialist Physical Education teacher and Sports Coordinator, roles in which he has developed and delivered high quality programs to support and encourage youth participation in sport.

As the current SAPSASA Southern Fleurieu District Convenor, he has liaised with teachers, SAPSASA representatives, staff and parents to promote engagement and collaboration. He has also organised and run school sport events for many schools within the Southern Fleurieu region and provided pathways for students to take the next step to state teams.

His breadth of experience and passion for both sport and exceptional student learning will be an asset to our team.

Welcome Jonathon!







MUSIC

Ensemble Updates

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

All of our 23 Music ensembles are up and away, working hard for their first performances for the year.

Those who attend morning rehearsals are reminded to arrive a few minutes before and place their school bags in their lockers before coming to the Music Centre; on some mornings, we have over 150 girls rehearsing at once, and with this amount of bags, it creates a very unsafe environment in the Music Centre foyer.

Our first event for the year is fast approaching—more details to come home shortly:

Wednesday 3 April

Grooves on the Green

6.00pm to 7.15pm

Memorial Lawn

Featuring the following ensembles:

- Senior Choir
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Junior Concert Choir

- Senior String Orchestra
- Senior Flute Ensemble
- Junior Band
- Rock Band
- Intermediate Strings.

Big Band 1 Workshop

On Tuesday 27 February, our Big Band 1 girls were lucky enough to welcome Mace Francis from Perth to come and take an extended workshop. Mace is a passionate advocate of original Australian large ensemble jazz music and currently works as the artistic director of the WA Youth Jazz Orchestra (WAYJO). He has recently completed a PhD exploring site-specific composition, for which he received the 2015 Faculty Research Medal, amongst a slew of other musical awards. Our girls learned a tremendous amount in two short hours, and we are incredibly grateful to Mace for providing us with his time on his short visit to Adelaide. I would like to thank the 2024 Big Band 1 Director, Mr Tom Pulford for organising this workshop and opportunity for our students.

European Music Tour 2024

Twenty-three of our students across Years 8 to 12 are busily preparing for our first international Music Tour in five years. They came together this past Sunday and spent the day in rehearsals, as well as undertaking several activities and getting to know each other.

Thank you to all the students, and to Ms Paige York and Ms Ruth Shrimpton for happily donating time on their weekend for this to happen.

Strings Update

Mr Joseph Freer is steadily building a formidable Strings Department with our numbers increasing in all of our String Ensembles. This past Monday, we invited our youngest players in the School to join our Junior Strings Ensemble (held Monday mornings in Hender Hall at 7.45am – 8.30am). Joseph and his wife Ms Teagan Freer take this ensemble together, and the girls did remarkably well. Congratulations to our youngest string players, we cannot wait to hear you in your upcoming performances!





GLOBAL LEARNING

Five Weeks in South Africa

[Stephanie Andrews, Head of Global Learning](#)

Hi, my name is Lucia Andrae and from the start of January to Tuesday 13 February this year, I took part in a school exchange to Johannesburg, South Africa. In September last year, my family hosted a student named Kelly Lloyd for five weeks and during my exchange, I stayed with Kelly and her family for five weeks. During my stay, I attended Dainfern College as a Year 11 student and experienced a week of their holiday period and four weeks of schooling.

My first week was Dainfern College's holiday period, so during this time my host family took me to an area in South Africa called the Pilanesberg, which is home to Africa's most notorious animals—including the 'Big Five' (African lions, leopards, rhinoceros, elephants and Cape buffalo). Whilst staying at Bakubung Lodge, Kelly, Tom, Guy, Ashley and I went on multiple game drives, which involved driving in shared trucks through the Pilanesberg to observe animals in their natural habitat. On my first night there, we went to a remote part of the mountains where everyone sat at tables around a fire with a braai (the South African equivalent of a barbecue) buffet. While we ate, a group of performers sang and danced traditionally and it was so beautiful to witness. This experience was so enriching for me as I was immersed in South Africa's culture through food, music, dance and animals.

Attending Dainfern College was another highlight of my journey for multiple reasons. Being able to learn in a new environment around new people helped me to expand my

knowledge of education in schools and prompted me to make so many new friends. During my time there, I attended their interhouse swimming gala, visited their sister school for underprivileged children, was part of many school cheers, dressed up in green and gold on their 'Civvies Day' (casual clothes day) to support their successful sports teams and so much more.

Due to South Africa's higher crime rate during my stay, I lived in a gated community. A gated community is similar to a neighbourhood or suburb, just with highly secured fences around the perimeter, along with fingerprint access to gain entry into the estate. During my stay, I also witnessed South Africa's struggle with poverty firsthand when driving past townships consisting of thousands and thousands of makeshift homes all located in one area. Witnessing such unfortunate living conditions and experiencing such high security opened my eyes to the privileges I take for granted back home.

Overall, my exchange was everything I hoped it would be and more. The lessons and perspectives I gained along the way will stay with me forever, along with the lifelong friendships I made. Knowing I have a second family somewhere so far away can be bittersweet; however, it is such a special thing for me knowing that I will always have these meaningful global relationships.

Lucia Andrae

Year 11





UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop News

[Meredith Olsson, Uniform Shop Manager](#)

Winter Uniform

As the end of Term 1 is approaching, you are invited to come to the Uniform Shop to purchase winter uniform for your daughter. The Uniform Shop now has winter uniforms available.

Winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3; however, girls may choose to wear their summer or winter uniform in the first two weeks of Term 2 during the change-over period. Winter uniform must be worn from Week 3 onwards.

You can access the [Wilderness School Uniform List](#) and [Price List](#).

Opening Hours

In addition to our regular opening hours, the Uniform Shop will open during the special opening hours below:

- **Saturday 6 April:** 8.30am – 12.00pm (Week 10, Term 1)
- **Wednesday 24 April:** 8.30am – 4.00pm (Term 1 Holidays)

- **Monday 29 April:** 8.30am – 4.00pm (Week 1, Term 2)
- **Saturday 4 May:** 8.30am – 12.00pm (Week 1, Term 2).

Second Hand Uniform

We are now accepting second hand winter uniforms, which include blouses, skirts and pinafores. The Uniform Shop accepts blazers, jumpers and PE uniform all year round.

Please note, the Uniform Shop does not accept discontinued uniforms, socks, tights or hair accessories. Braids and embroidered pockets should be removed from blazers before being brought in for sale.

Please see the [Conditions of Sale](#) and the [Second Hand Uniform Form](#).



COMMUNITY

Walk or Run With Us This Mother's Day!

[Jen Guest, Parents and Friends Association President](#)

Please join the Wilderness Parents and Friends Committee in the fight against breast cancer as we walk/run together on **Sunday 12 May**, in the annual Mother's Day Classic.

Sunday 12 May

Pinky Flat, War Memorial Dr, North Adelaide

[Register for the Wilderness School Team](#)

To start together, meet the Parents and Friends Committee at the Adelaide Oval side of the Bridge at 7.45am, ready for an 8.00am start. Please note, when registering, you will be asked to select a start time; choose the closest to 8.00am available.

Purchase your Wilderness Mother's Day Classic cap through [Flexischools](#).

We extend this invitation to your friends and family in supporting this great cause and look forward to seeing you on the day.

