

# Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #2 | Friday 4 March, 2022

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Mid Term Energy Boost

[Belinda Arnfield, Interim Principal](#)

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It is hard to believe we are already halfway through Term 1 and, with restrictions lifting across the state, we have been able to safely manage some of the implications this has had for the School and finally offer some wonderful excursions.

Many of our girls kicked off the week with exciting and, most importantly, adventurous learning opportunities outside of the classroom. This included our Year 7 Camp Day Trips and Year 9 Inspire: Creative Product Design excursion to the JamFactory, both of which have encouraged our girls to step outside their comfort zones and extend their skills and abilities.

Last Friday, we were incredibly proud of Year 12 student Anesha Rahman and Year 11 student Allegra Kleinig who were among 24 students from public, independent and Catholic schools across South Australia taking part in Teen parliament, a new initiative by The Advertiser to ensure young people are heard. The girls' ability to contribute, explore current social and political issues and confidently develop their advocacy and take action is exceptional.

Throughout each girl's Wilderness journey and, more broadly, her life, she will think deeply about her interpersonal relationships. Not just the relationship she will have at school and in her community but also with the world – a world that is ever-changing.

Our girls have had to process the challenges and changes of a global pandemic and, unfortunately, are now facing the added uncertainty of conflict in Europe, which

dominates the current news cycle.

As parents, we naturally want to protect our children. Still, the reality is they may be exposed to information about the Ukraine conflict or the Queensland floods and may be curious, fearful or have questions.

To support you in having these conversations with your daughter, our School Psychologist, Ms Emma Thompson and School Counsellor, Mrs Julie Blackwell, have put together a support material which you can [access here](#). It offers some tips on dealing with this issue and their contact details if you wish to receive further advice.

### **Community Engagement**

On Monday I had the opportunity to attend the Parents and Friends' Association (P&F) Annual General Meeting, where I heard President, Jen Guest, speak about the importance of feeling connected and supporting those within our community.

As a truly family orientated school, one of the P&F strategies is to create opportunities for parents in each year level to feel connected outside of the classroom.

To achieve this goal, the P&F is still seeking a number of parents to take on the roles of Co-Class Representative. Together our class representatives are invited to organise non-compulsory social events for both our girls and their parents with the aim to foster current relationships and create new ones.

If you are a parent with a daughter in Annies, Mamies, Years 2 to 5 or Years 7 to 12, the P&F would love to have you on board. If you think this is a role you would enjoy, please complete the [Nomination Form](#), and a P&F representative will be in touch with you shortly.

### **International Women's Day**

International Women's Day (IWD) is almost upon us, with a 2022 theme of #BreakTheBias.

Next Tuesday 8 March, the IWD campaign will call for a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination - a world where difference is valued and celebrated.

To celebrate the occasion, we will have a whole school online IWD Assembly on Monday 7 March. This will be followed by our Student Representative Council joining the Senior Leadership Executive for Breakfast on Friday 11 March as they virtually attend the Adelaide IWD Breakfast Event.

International Women's Day has always been an important event in the Wilderness School Calendar. It presents an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and considers our role in striving for a more inclusive world.

Kind regards

**Belinda Arnfield**  
Interim Principal



EARLY LEARNING

## Engaging in our Great Outdoors

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

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In times such as these, when the recommendation is to take learning outside as much as possible, our girls are incredibly fortunate to have such beautiful gardens. Every aspect of our Early Learning Centre outdoor environment has been carefully constructed by the educators, not simply to be aesthetically pleasing, although it is important, but because it is an integral part of the curriculum.

It is in our gardens where our girls 'cook', construct, create, care for the environment, engage their imaginations, run, jump, and most of all, find joy in their learning together.

### Welcome to the Mamie House Pop and Pepper!

It's been a very exciting week for our girls, who have welcomed two new additions to the Mamie family. Nurturing these little chicks teaches our girls the importance of caring and introduces an element of responsibility into their daily routine.









JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Taking the Lead

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

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This week in the Junior School our Student Representative Council Committees began meeting. Run by our Year 6 leadership group, with support from our Junior School teachers, committees will meet once per fortnight to focus on key projects and initiatives they plan to undertake.

Term 1 committee leaders are:

Sport Representative - **Linah Kafagy**

With a focus on promoting sport, recreation and fitness in the Junior School, the Sport Committee gathers and presents information about the wide range of sports Junior School students participate in, both in and out of school. They also coordinate the supply and access of equipment for Junior School girls at recess and lunchtime.

Citizenship Representative - **Lucy Davis**

The Citizenship Committee has a strong focus on service, within and outside of our community. Responsible for organising our casual clothes days, which raise money for the Bhadure School in Nepal, as well as taking the initiative with opportunities to reach out beyond our school walls to local hospitals and nursing homes, this group is an integral part of the culture of our Junior School.

Environment Representative - **Asha Dan**

Responsible for ensuring our Junior School girls have an awareness of environmental issues and the ways we can take daily action to make a difference at the forefront of their minds, the Environment Committee has been responsible for some extraordinary initiatives related to recycling, waste management, and sustainable practices over the

past few years.

#### Media Representative - **Cleo Huntington and Reese Liu**

A new committee in 2022, the Media Committee was born out of a newly developed keen interest in filmmaking in our Junior School. These girls will be trained to capture important Junior School events and bring together, through the use of technology, this footage in a way that celebrates and shares with our community.

#### Library Representative - **Miaomiao Zhu**

The Library Committee is responsible for sharing and promoting literacy within the Junior School. It is the key organiser of our much-loved Bedtime Stories evening in Term 1 and our Book Week events and parade in Term 2.

#### Peer Support Representative - **Elysse Sarris**

Our Peer Support Committee plays a vital role in supporting younger counterparts in the lower Junior School through planning and facilitating a range of lunchtime games and activities for our youngest girls. Modelling respectful relationships, our Reception and Year 1 girls get to know and look up to their Year 6 Peer Support Committee.

#### Performing Arts Representative - **Sky Jeffries**

Our Performing Arts Committee is responsible for the promotion of the Arts in our Junior School. Through a range of initiatives, including holding assemblies that celebrate the broad range of arts activities our girls undertake to attending and hosting the various arts based events in the Junior School, it plays a key role in ensuring that the Arts are alive, well and celebrated.

#### Student Foundation Representative - **Sirui Tang**

Responsible for attending Wilderness School Tours and speaking with prospective families about what it is to be a Wilderness girl, the Student Foundation Committee holds a very important place within our Leadership Group. These girls spend time thinking deeply to enable them to articulate their experiences so far at Wilderness and they represent both themselves and our community exceptionally well.

The Year 6 girls spend significant time before undertaking these roles, considering their passions, strengths, and areas for growth very carefully. They nominate and go through a rigorous election process at end of the Year 5 and commence their leadership in Year 6. As teachers, we work with the girls on being innovative, creative, brave and confident in their leadership while still holding true to the values that define what it is to be a Wilderness girl. In combining these important qualities, we see the girls bind together their foundations and their futures in ways that truly enable them to make their mark on our Junior School community.







MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Off-campus Learning is Back

[Rhianon Giles](#) ■ Acting Head of School ■ Middle School

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This week Middle School girls have left campus for the first time this year for some much-anticipated excursions.

They shifted to less familiar learning environments, with Year 7s involved in five days of Outdoor Education experiences, including surfing at Middleton, sailing at Seacliff, kayaking at Happy Valley, team building games at Mega Adventure, West Beach, and an ecology walk and snorkel at Hallet Cove.

The beach locations are rich in Indigenous history - dreaming stories explain the freshwater springs found from Warriparri, past Aldinga and onto Rapid Bay were created by the tears of Tjilbruke, mourning the death of his sister's son. These days have been a wonderful way for teachers and Form groups to build strong relationships with each other.

Both Year 9 Inspire: Creative Product Design classes visited the JamFactory to throw pots and become immersed in the world of a professional in the craft.

Comments made by the girls included, 'Imagine doing this every day or for a job', and 'I think I am going to take up pottery full time'.

These industry experiences are invaluable to visual arts students. To meet with, and learn from local, working artists, just a 10-minute bus ride from the School, is an experience that the girls will never forget.

Next week they return to the JamFactory to experience the glazing process and complete their creations.





SENIOR SCHOOL

## Giving Back

**Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School**

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I often talk to girls and their parents about the importance of giving back to their communities. To embrace opportunities that reinforce our strategic intent to 'build the capacity of each student to lead and have agency in their personal and professional life'.

Opportunities like last week's SA Teen Parliament, which I watched online with interest as Anesha Rahman (Year 12) and Allegra Kleinig (Year 11) took part, overseen by Dan Cregan, Speaker of the South Australian House of Assembly. This arose from the girls participating in The Advertiser's Big Ideas competition, sharing their thoughts ahead of the state election of building a Bigger, Better South Australia.

Anesha had the honour of starting the sitting by reading the Acknowledgement of Country and sharing her passion for a culturally inclusive future for South Australia.

Allegra shared her idea for a recreation hub alive with art, music and play over the railways adjacent to the Torrens. She stressed her desire for Adelaide to become the number one most liveable city in the world. Both girls were worthy representatives and should be proud of their selection in the final 25 finalists.

I congratulate all girls who took part in this competition for being brave and sharing their ideas to make South Australia a great place to live.

Last weekend it was wonderful to be able to head down to West Lakes to watch our girls row in the SA State Rowing Championships. It was an incredibly successful weekend for the Wilderness Rowing Club, winning eight State Championships. I congratulate all girls and their coaches on their performances and look forward to the Head of the River on Saturday 19 March.



I was thrilled to learn this week of Devika Mukherjee's (Year 11) selection in the South Australian Schools' Debating Team, which will travel to Canberra in May for the National Championships. This is an impressive achievement that speaks to her well-developed communication and critical thinking skills as well as her broad general knowledge. We look forward to following Devika's progress over the next few months.

This week a number of Year 12 girls took part in the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y) Program. P.A.R.T.Y. aims to help teenagers understand risks, choices and consequences. Teenagers undergo a period of enormous change characterised by physiological, cognitive, psychological, financial and social changes. They are increasingly experiencing more freedom, but also more responsibility, particularly once they obtain their driver's licence.

While it is wonderful that we are slowly seeing a sense of normality returning to the School's programs, we can not take for granted the commitment by all members of the community to be COVID safe.

This needs to continue so we can enjoy the opportunities highlighted above to ensure all girls can gain the most out of their education at Wilderness.





BOARDING

## Mixing Things Up

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

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We are introducing new options to help the girls kick start their mornings.

This week we started trialling new breakfast choices, including a smoothie bar, and bircher muesli pots, and will continue to explore the many ideas the girls have suggested as a way of making the start to the day as positive and motivating as possible.

It was also a busy weekend off campus, with Year 12s connecting over a Pizza Picnic in the Adelaide Parklands, and several girls travelling to the South Coast for an optional surfing activity.

Cohort dinners will be scheduled for all year levels over the coming weeks, with the Year 11 cohort dinner tonight from 5.00pm to 7.30pm.

I have also mentioned to the girls recently, while it is great that we are settling into our routine and rhythm, we still need to be mindful and vigilant regarding current COVID protocols in the Boarding House to minimise the risk.

We continue to monitor advice for Boarding from SA Health and will update girls and parents when we hear of adjustments that can safely be made to our current settings.







SPORT

## Getting Back on Track

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

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It has been exciting to have our girls recommence interschool matches where possible, as we navigate the classroom contacts of both our players and opposition.

### SAPSASA Swimming Trials

We were pleased to take our Years 4 to 6 swimmers to complete their trials on Wednesday this week. Their hard work and dedication at their respective clubs was evident, and some impressive times were recorded. We look forward to sharing their results after the District Trials on Friday 18 March.

### South Australian Rowing State Championships

Wilderness Rowers put on an impressive performance over the weekend at the South Australian Rowing Championships. Our girls secured eight State Championship titles at their first regatta of the year - the most titles won by any South Australian school.

Congratulations to our State Championship Crews :

U16 Single Scull - Isabel Jackson

U17 Single Scull - Lulu Detmold Cox

U17 Eight - Lulu Detmold Cox, Isabel Jackson, Aisha Alkhazrajy, Gracie Dowling, Gia Rinaldi, Marjorie Tucker, Molly Dwyer, Imogen Hawker and Sophia Tayeb

Schoolgirl Coxed Four - Georgina Birchall, Zara Hoadley, Millie Jackson, Anelise Roos and Olympia Andrae

U19 Pair - Georgina Birchall and Zara Hoadley

U19 Coxed Four - Georgina Birchall, Zara Hoadley, Millie Jackson, Anelise Roos and

Olympia Andrae

U19 Eight - Georgina Birchall, Zara Hoadley, Millie Jackson, Anelise Roos, Millie Gosse, Lilly Maerschel, Aisha Alkhazrajy, Isabel Jackson and Olympia Andrae

U21 Coxed Four - Millie Jackson, Anelise Roos, Millie Gosse, Lilly Maerschel and Sophia Tayeb

### 2022 Athletics South Australia State Track and Field Championships

On Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 February several Wilderness girls competed in the 2022 Athletics South Australia State Track and Field Championships for their respective clubs. Our girls achieved some outstanding results with girls also securing invitations to compete at the National Championships in March.

Our medallists are:

- India Goodall - 1<sup>st</sup> U14 400m and 800m, 3<sup>rd</sup> U14 1500m
- Caitlin Hardin - 3<sup>rd</sup> U14 3000m
- Isabella Browning - 3<sup>rd</sup> U15 100m
- Sienna Brown - 1<sup>st</sup> U16 High Jump
- Sasha Hardin - 1<sup>st</sup> U17 1500m and 3000m, 3<sup>rd</sup> U17 800m
- Rosie Lioulis - 2<sup>nd</sup> U17 400m Hurdles
- Mia Cardone - 2<sup>nd</sup> U18 Triple Jump

Congratulations to all competitors on a successful State Championships and we wish you well for your National Championships campaigns.

### Sport Nominations

A friendly reminder that Term 2 Junior School Sport and Winter Sport Middle and Senior School nominations close on **Friday 11 March (Week 6)**. Please complete your daughter's nominations using [Clipboard](#). Nominations received by email will not be accepted. Junior School nominations can only be completed by a parent/caregiver. Middle and Senior School girls can complete their own nominations as well as a parent/caregiver.







CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

## Drama in the Shadows

[Aldo Longobardi, Head of Drama](#)

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What do you do when a persistent global pandemic continues to 'switch off your stage lights'? You make drama in the shadows!

The delayed return to school and the state-wide ban on incursions meant several events planned for the first two weeks of Term had to be cancelled or rescheduled - or we had to do what we do best in the Arts: get creative!

Through the generosity and agility of the Slingsby Theatre Company, the Years 7 to 12 girls were treated to a screening of one of its highly acclaimed past productions, Emil and the Detectives. This ensured their learning program was not jeopardized, while Slingsby worked on filming their latest visiting work, This tree is a story (about everything, including you, as told by me), which they also made available to us.

Slingsby's shows are characterised by their innovative approach to storytelling - small casts play a multitude of characters and work with inventive techniques such as shadow play, miniaturised sets, projections, sound and audience participation in order to heighten the wonder and imagination of their stories.

Our students were captivated by both performances, which has made them think about how they can apply the range of staging techniques in their own theatre-making and challenging their understanding of what is possible as they develop as artists.

Andy Packer and Slingsby's commitment to working with and developing young artists and schools was demonstrated in their offer to run the planned workshop remotely, via Zoom. Years 10, 11 and 12 students collaborated in small companies to apply Slingsby's techniques under Andy's guidance.



Each group was armed with scissors, card, a white projection surface, a torch, and their imagination to create a short piece combining narration, miniatures and shadow play which told a coming-of-age or getting-of-wisdom story in Slingsby's style. Even Andy Packer was impressed with what they came up with in just 100 minutes - through experimentation, prototyping and testing ideas, and thinking about the impact they wanted to have on their audience. It was also a rare opportunity for the girls to make art with students in other year levels.

The Year 12 students will now develop a concept for a hypothetical Slingsby production as a major assessment, while the Year 11s will take their learning into the workroom to see how they can apply Slingsby techniques and approaches in the development of their company's maiden production which will be presented as part of their company launch later this term.

Year 10 students will present their original Commedia dell'Arte performance on the same night and are also inspired to use shadow and miniatures to help create the world and atmosphere of their play in a style which traditionally uses minimal props and almost no set.

We will look to have Dr Corinna di Niro return to us later this year when the Semester 2 Year 9 girls take their course in Commedia. The Year 9s and 10s were fortunate to have local actor, teacher and Commedia performer, Mr Andrew Crupi, work with them at short notice in developing the stories they will present this term.

Looking ahead, the Year 12s are deep in rehearsals for their major production of Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls*, which will be presented in Week 3 of Term 2. Written in 1982 and set in Britain during Margaret Thatcher's rise to power, the play examines the roles available to women in the modern society of the early 80's, and the roles women had to play to be successful in a 'man's world'. It also focuses the spotlight on the cost of ambition and the influence of Thatcherite politics on feminism. Churchill's plays are intentionally challenging in their structure, language, themes, and politics.

But this is a Year 12 class who can, and are ably, rising to the challenge. This will be a Year 12 production not to be missed.

**Aldo Longobardi**

Head of Drama

## Music

### Music - Cancellations and Preparations

This term, we were hoping to hold our Grooves on the Greens concert, which was a huge success in 2021. But, due to the delayed return to rehearsals, and the many absences all

ensembles are enduring, we will not be able to.

We are busily preparing for other concerts for this year, such as our Annual Showcase of Music, which will be held for the first time at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, with the exciting theme of POP! Through The Ages, and our annual Jazz at the Gov concerts (the artist is still to be confirmed, but Ms Lenartowicz has organised something very exciting this year!) We are also excited to embrace the return of the beloved Generations in Jazz - this year as a hybrid format - which will include a Gala Awards concert on Thursday 16 June.

### **Engaging through Social Media**

Music is intrinsically collaborative, and benefits from a strong sense of community, and diverse perspectives. Social media is also more prevalent for musicians in marketing and sharing their work. For this reason, the 2022 music year will be focused on celebrating all genres of music, by using social media to connect the Wildy community.

Taking inspiration from the Berklee College of Music's innovative Instagram account, the music leadership have started the What Does Wildy Listen To? initiative. These set of stories feature various students and staff at Wildy, and showcase their favourite songs, and reasons why they connect to them.

Girls have also readily adapted to outdoor rehearsals - accompanied by the rich, guttural timbre of leaf blowers - to keep the musical spirit ablaze.

### **Jacinta Chronowski-Wong**

Year 12 Music Representative

Instrumental and Vocal lessons are well under way, despite the COVID-19 disruptions. If your daughter's tutor is in quarantine, they may wish to teach online - a great way to keep lessons going.

Thank you for the communication between you all - and for informing the music office when your daughters are going to be away - we really appreciate this.

Our outside ensemble lessons, mentioned by Jacinta, display our true resilience and ability to adapt. Fortunately, changes to restrictions have enabled students deemed 'classroom contacts' to attend extra-curricular activities. Our girls can attend all rehearsals if they are asymptomatic.

Tune into 99.9 FM on Monday March 7 at 6.00pm to hear a special 2021 Australian Music Examinations Board Awards Concert, featuring performances from the 2021 Adelaide Eisteddfod Award winners. Wilderness School has two students who will be featured - Isabelle Yu (Year 12) on Cello and Annika Ganesh (Year 7) on Piano.

We congratulate these two students on their wonderful success.

**Anna Lenartowicz**

Head of Music

## Art

### **Introducing the Art Committee**

The Art Department is excited to congratulate and welcome Lucy Gu and Madeleine Forde as our Middle School Art Representatives this year. Lucy and Madeleine have been very busy establishing an Art Committee, with the successful applicants including Jada Driver, Georgia Haines, Marissa Tee, Graziella DeMaria, Felicia Xing, Miaomiao Yu and Zoha Raza.

The Committee will be to broaden students' accessibility to Visual Art. It is keen to facilitate opportunities for sharing and experiencing artwork, by organising and promoting a variety of arts initiatives for others to participate in.

We look forward to supporting the initiatives the Art Committee brings to our community.

### **JamFactory Collaboration**

The Year 9 Inspire: Creative Product Design students have attended the first of two workshops at the JamFactory. Supported by ceramic specialists, Xanthe Murphy, Mirjana Dobson and Hannah Vorrath-Pajak, they learnt fundamental skills needed to make vessels on the pottery wheel, and flatware using slab construction and mould forming.

By connecting with a globally-recognised centre of excellence, students are being exposed to contemporary, unique design ideas, and learning from the best emerging creative talent.

Practising these processes in our newly established pottery room in our Art Centre, the students will begin to refine their skills. Next term, they will establish their own ideas before creating their own individual, unique ceramic products, which we hope to showcase later this year.

### **Brooke Porter**

Head of Art



