

Life in the Wilderness

Term 1 Issue #3 | Thursday 28 March, 2024



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrating Our Girls

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

There is so much to reflect on over the past few weeks.

International Women's Day

Celebrating International Women's Day, we were extremely fortunate to have old scholar Claire Pocock (2000) speak at our assembly.

Claire talked about privilege and power, sharing experiences of her own privilege including receiving a Wilderness scholarship, and as she discussed how she has fought to be recognised and treated fairly in her career, she encouraged the girls to consider their own power and influence.

It was an exceptional learning opportunity, and it is incredibly rewarding to see our girls benefit so directly from our old scholar community.

Sport

Our girls recently competed in Summer Intercol, Head of the River and the Australian

Rowing Championships.

Congratulations to our rowers who claimed three silver medals and one bronze at the championships last week, as well as Year 12 student Sophia Tayeb who coxed the state women's youth eight crew.

For Intercol, the girls faced Seymour College in a range of summer sport. We deeply value this ongoing partnership with Seymour which fosters strong school spirit and skill building.

Wilderness claimed the basketball, touch football, swimming and volleyball cups, and only narrowly fell short in the points tally for the overall trophy.

Ash Young Scholarship

SportSA formally launched the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre's Ashleigh Young scholarships at a recent Women in Sport brunch. We were honoured to have our girls invited to attend this event.

Ashleigh Young scholarships will be awarded to female sporting trailblazers, to support their professional development as they play, lead and change the game for future generations—just as Ashleigh did. If you would like to donate to the scholarships, please visit the page [here](#).

Nepal

Next week, we are very excited to be sending a group of students and staff on a long-awaited Nepal trek, after having to pause these trips due to the pandemic.

Over 22 days, girls will trek through the Annapurna region, explore surrounding villages and visit the Bahadure Boarding House, where they will see the impact of their fundraising efforts on girls' lives and education in Nepal.

These adventurous learners are ambassadors for Wilderness—performing service and gaining a very special global learning opportunity. I wish them safe travels and adventure.

Easter

And to all our families over the Easter break, I hope you enjoy a peaceful long weekend – whether you are at home or away – and we will see your girls back on **Tuesday 2 April**.



EARLY LEARNING

Everybody Belongs

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

Commencing in 1999 to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Harmony Day is dedicated to celebrating cultural diversity, beginning with our Traditional Owners and extending to our newest arrivals. In the Early Learning Centre, we celebrated Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March by inviting the girls to wear traditional dress or the colour orange. The colour orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations.

Harmony Day encourages us to pause and reflect on the themes of inclusiveness and respect, and consider what it means to celebrate cultural diversity. We have an incredibly diverse community in our Early Learning Centre and, consequently, a rich learning opportunity for our girls. We have been delighted to welcome in families to speak with our girls, to share their own experiences of cultural celebrations. We encourage you to continue coming forward so that we can take this valuable opportunity to learn from each other. In doing so, we must feel brave enough to ask each other questions, confident in the knowledge that we are learning together and building an inclusive Australia for our girls as a result. It is deeply important to us that our girls all feel included, respected and that their cultures are valued and appreciated.

On another note, we were so pleased to be visited recently by our Reception girls, who made the trek down to our Early Learning Centre to delight in the new learning environment with their younger peers. This was a wonderful morning and a lovely way to say thank you to the girls who helped to make way for this new learning environment.

We hope that you have a lovely long weekend with your families. We look forward to seeing you return on **Tuesday 2 April**.

We will conclude the term on **Friday 12 April**.







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Friendology

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

The Junior School has been a very busy place in the past few weeks and this pace looks to continue as we draw towards the end of Term 1.

We have hosted our ELC to Year 6 Parent Teacher Interviews this week, with parents meeting their daughters' teachers to discuss their learning and wellbeing thus far and planned next steps. These are always a wonderful opportunity for both parents and teachers to share their thinking and observations about each girl to ensure a strong and valuable partnership between home and school. Thank you to the ELC and Junior School teachers and parents for their preparation for and participation in this process.

Our Year 4 girls participated in a 'Compost and Living Soil' show this week, with presenters coming in to facilitate two highly engaging and interactive workshops. This linked with the current Year 4 learning in Science and Humanities, relating to sustainability.

Please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for information coming home about this year's Oliphant Science Awards. Available to girls in Reception to Year 6, these awards are an opportunity for our girls to engage in independent research, a presentation or to share their skills in showcasing their learning in the Sciences by entering this competition. Information will be shared via email.

Friendology in the Junior School

Our Junior School classes continue to undertake learning in our new friendship curriculum, Friendology. Designed to teach our girls about healthy relationships and how to manage conflict in respectful ways, as well as what to do when conflict continues, Friendology is a program we are deeply invested in as a Junior School community. You should have received a 'Save the Date' flyer from your daughter's class teacher this week, advertising an online workshop for parents and their daughters, coming up on **Wednesday 22 May**. This is an online workshop which you will be able to engage in from the comfort of your own home.

Next **Friday 5 April**, we will be celebrating our learning in this area with a 'Day of Friendship' in the Junior School. This will involve all year levels participating in a range of activities that explore and celebrate our new and developing skills in navigating friendships. I look forward to sharing photographs after this day with you.

Head of Junior School

Lastly, as per Belinda Arnfield's communication on Monday, I wish to acknowledge that I will be on leave for Terms 2 and 3. While it feels very much like handing over something incredibly precious during this time, I know that the Junior School girls, staff and families will be in excellent hands with Gina Kadis stepping in as Acting Head of Junior School. Gina is a highly experienced educator and educational leader who truly understands girls' education. I feel very privileged to have this opportunity to take this special time with my family, all the while knowing that someone wonderful will be taking care of all things Junior School in my absence. I know you will join me in welcoming Gina to Wilderness and our Junior School community.

Wishing each of you a wonderful upcoming Easter break and, beyond that, a restful April holidays. May it include time to rejuvenate with those you love most.







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our First REALISE Core Group Returns

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

REALISE

Today, the parents of Year 9 Core Group 1 made their way to Crawford to celebrate the end of the first program and collect their daughters. The girls have had extreme heat, challenging winds during their kayaking expedition and completed NAPLAN testing in the Crawford Classroom. The girls have had an experience that they will never forget and we look forward to them being back at school after the Easter long weekend.

Thank you to Miss Rosie Smith, the Outdoor Education team and Wilderness staff who have attended over the three-week experience.

Core Group 2 will leave for Crawford at the beginning of Term 2.

Head of the River 2024

Congratulations to all Middle School rowers on the teamwork and determination shown throughout their season and culminating at Head of the River. It was wonderful to see the Year 8/9 C Coxed Quad crew win their race and receive their medals.

Summer Intercol

Middle School girls were involved in a number of Summer Intercol games last week. With a group of Year 9 girls on REALISE, some younger students had an opportunity to step into new teams and played their hearts out. Well done to all who participated or came out to support their friends. We look forward to seeing lots of girls and their families supporting Middle School teams during the Winter Intercol week, wearing their gold ribbons and cheering loudly.

House Days

We have started the year with two very successful House days, with Cedar in the Surf and Anty Outer Space. The themes have seen some fantastic costumes, cake stalls and delicious lunch options. Congratulations to the House Captains and Heads of House for organising these important fundraising days to provide financial support to our friends in Nepal.

OzClo National Competition

Year 9 Students **Ava Cabot**, **Bella Ngyuen** and **Poppy Ritchie** tied for third place in the Junior Regional Round of OzClo, the Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad. The girls were invited to participate in the national round of the competition this week, which was held at Prince Alfred College. We congratulate the girls on their achievements and look forward to hearing of their experiences and achievements in the National Olympiad.

Gymnastics Achievement

Bella Pasin (Year 9) is currently ranked number one in High Performance Rhythmic Gymnastics in her age division (Junior International). She has competed every weekend in March and has qualified for Nationals held in Queensland in May. We look forward to hearing her results from the competition and congratulate her on her successes.







SENIOR SCHOOL

International Women's Day

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

The end of Term 1 is approaching fast. This term has been filled with a range of wonderful activities and events. The SRC doughnut fundraising drive raised just under \$800 for the girls in Nepal; this was part of our International Women's Day celebrations. Last week, we heard from guest speaker, Amy Rocker, from Cancer Council SA. Amy was invited to speak to the girls by **Lucy Claughton** (Year 11) as part of her Activating Identities and Futures project.

This week, we are celebrating Easter with a colouring-in competition and egg hunt. I wish you all a safe and restful holiday break.

Student Achievements

Last weekend, **Sasha Hardin** (Year 12) made her SANFLW League debut for North Adelaide Football Club. Congratulations on this amazing achievement.

Congratulations to **Bella Browning** (Year 11), who received the bronze medal in both the U/17 Women 100m and 200m events at the SA Athletics State Championships. **Jasmin Thirlwell** (Year 12) received a bronze medal in the U/20 Women 400m final.

Recent old scholar **Myarn Alden** (2023) has had her Year 12 Visual Art assessment piece selected for the SACE Art Show. Myarn's work will be exhibited at the Adelaide College of Arts, Light Square Gallery until **Friday 12 April**. Votes can be given for favourite

artworks—keep an eye out for number 137.

Get Home Safe

Recently, some of our Senior School parents listened to Darren Davis from Get Home Safe Foundation. Darren spoke about how to choose a driving instructor, tips for selecting a car for your child and the learning-to-drive process. We have a filmed copy of this event that we will be circulating, should you have missed the evening. If your daughter requires a letter from the School as part of her identification for her license, please contact us in the Senior School office.

Lights, Camera, Anderson!

On Tuesday 5 March, the Stage 2 English teachers hosted a movie afternoon for students to undertake a first viewing of Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014). Set in between the World Wars, the film presents the theft and recovery of a priceless Renaissance painting and the battle for an enormous family fortune—all against the backdrop of a dramatically changing continent. To complement their analysis, our girls were able to familiarise themselves with the film's unique styling, eccentric character design and undertones of humour to comment on war, grief and conflict. This opportunity to bring together our students as a community of learners was invaluable and catalysed meaningful and curious explorations of this wonderful film in preparation for a summative text response.

Mathew D'Aloisio, Billie Newton, and Catherine Marshall

Year 12 English Teachers

Variety Picnic

On Tuesday 26 March, eight Year 11 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students volunteered with Variety Children's Foundation. The students wore mascot costumes as part of the Variety Easter picnic event held at the Adelaide Zoo.

There were over 1500 people attending the event, and the girls did an amazing job giving high fives and making young children smile.

Rosie Smith

Acting Head of Outdoor Education







BOARDING

Save the Date!

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

Save the Date - Boarders' Fashion Parade

Each year, the Wilderness School boarding community hosts a fashion parade event to raise funds for the Bahadure Boarding House in Nepal. This annual event allows us to maintain our commitment to the ongoing support of Nepalese boarders who attend this facility in the small village of Bhadaure. Girls who attend the Bahadure Boarding House come from remote villages in the surrounding area, and without this facility, it would be difficult for them to attend school. Thanks to the support of our Wilderness community and the generous sponsorship of boarding families and donors last year, we raised an impressive \$9,500 for this cause.

We ask families to save the date for this year's Fashion Parade on **Friday 9 August**.

Pamper Night

On Friday night, mixed groups of the boarders got together to enjoy some face masks and chocolate. The pamper night is one of our more casual activities, but also one of the most enjoyable during busy times. The girls love the convenience of being able to get together in small groups in the lounge areas, to have some time chatting and relaxing together without the commitment of heading offsite for an activity.

Weekend Baking

Over the weekends this term, the girls have loved getting into the kitchen and doing some baking. There have been a variety of cookies, brownies and muffins being made on the weekends for everyone to share as a treat. We hope to continue this interest over the coming terms, with the possibility of expanding the girls' skills with new recipes.



SPORT

Summer Intercol

[Jonathon Koutsikas, Director of Sport and Recreation](#)

The recent weeks have seen our girls compete in the Intercol competition against Seymour College. This time around included our summer sports, consisting of:

- rowing
- water polo
- tennis
- touch football
- basketball
- volleyball.

The Intercol competition sees all of our teams for these sports compete against similarly graded teams from Seymour. Seymour was the host school and most of the events took place at their grounds, with the exceptions of swimming and water polo (SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre), rowing (West Lakes) and Middle A and B basketball and touch (Wilderness).

Our teams competed strongly and represented our school with such pride. We came

away with some terrific results; however, we did not come away with the final summer Intercol points trophy. We did claim the basketball, touch, swimming and volleyball trophies.

Please see the [results table attached](#).

I would like to say a huge thanks to Ms Deb Jarrett and Mr Derek Woodcock, who did the organising for this event before I began in the role as Director of Sport and Recreation. I would also like to thank our coaches and supervisors for their efforts in preparing and coaching our girls during the competition. Finally, I must thank our supporters and families who came out to cheer on our girls in each of these events.

After being in this role for the third week, I thoroughly enjoyed being part of my first Intercol event and it was a terrific experience. The Sports Committee are beginning plans to continue to grow this competition into the future.

IGSSA Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 12 March, our IGSSA swimming team headed to the SA Aquatic and Leisure Centre to compete in the annual IGSSA Swimming championships. As Seymour were in attendance at this event, we also competed for Intercol points determined by which team finished higher at the event.

Wilderness performed outstandingly well, especially considering many of our team had spent the weekend prior competing in the National Swimming Championships.

We finished second overall on 828 points, with Seymour on 671. Our girls also came away with the Under 15 age group winners pennant. This is awarded to the age group that scores the most points per event. We claimed 252 points to be clear winners.

Congratulations to our under 15 swimmers **Asta Mickan, Charlise Green, Isabella Beaumont** and **Rose Franze** (Year 10).

Congratulations

At the recent SA Athletics State Championships, our girls **Bella Browning** (Year 11) and **Jasmin Thirlwell** (Year 12) came away with some amazing results.

Bella received a bronze medal in the U/17 100m and 200m finals.

Jas received a bronze medal in the U/20 400m final.

We also want to congratulate **Sasha Hardin** (Year 12), who made her SANFL Women's League debut for the North Adelaide Football Club. She performed extremely well, collecting eight disposals and laying two tackles.

We are so proud of these girls' efforts and the way they have represented Wilderness on

the big stage.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday 4 April:** SSSA Athletics Carnival at SA Athletics Stadium
- **Friday 12 April:** Junior School Swimming Carnival at Adelaide Aquatic Centre.

Head of the River

Saturday 16 March saw Wilderness compete in the Head of the River, the biggest school sporting event held in South Australia each year. Head of the River sees 15 rowing schools competing in coxed quad sculls, coxed fours and coxed eights in both boys and girls categories.

Wilderness was represented by 13 crews who trained since September last year to prepare for the final regatta of the season. Every Wilderness crew earned a position in their A Final based on the qualification regattas held earlier in the term. Of our 13 crews racing, nine crews finished in the top three to win medals, and a special congratulations must go to our winning Year 9 C crew of **Annabel Wheeler, Holly Fong, Audrey Wadlow, Evie Abbott** and cox **Charlotte Callus**, coached by Ms Amelia Linton. Another significant highlight of the day was seeing both our First and Second Eights place in the top three for the first time since 2006!

Congratulations to all our wonderful girls, coaches and community on a fantastic season!

Jon Trovas

Acting Director of Rowing

Australian Rowing Championships

Last week, our Wilderness First Eight attended the Australian Rowing Championships held in Penrith, NSW. The girls raced in four different events competing in heats, semi-finals and finals, performing exceptionally well through medalling in each event and winning the most medals of any South Australian school.

The U19 Women's Pair was arguably the most competitive underage event of the week with several Australian representatives competing. **Gia Rinaldi** and **Imogen Hawker** (Year 11) were outstanding, winning a bronze medal only half a length off the silver medal crew from Western Australia.

In the U19 Women's Coxless Four, the Wilderness crew of **Milly Entwistle** (Year 11), **Lulu Detmold Cox** (Year 12), **Emily Powers** (Year 11) and **Alex Sandow** (Year 11) finished in

fourth place against a high quality field and made a significant improvement from their heat. Imogen and Gia raced in a composite crew with Unley High and won the silver medal against the Sydney–Western Australian composite crew boasting three Australian rowers.

The School Girl Eight Sprint saw our First Eight race in a heat and final against 21 entries. The start has always been a strength for our crew and the girls jumped out to an early lead against a very strong Pymble crew from Sydney. The crews were locked together for most of the race and our girls won the silver medal only 0.5 seconds off the winning crew.

The School Girl Coxed Four of Imogen, Gia, **Isabel Jackson** (Year 11), **Marji Tucker** (Year 12) and cox **Sophia Tayeb** (Year 12) was our final event with the girls earning direct qualification from their heat. The girls gave it their best effort and despite a strong sprint to the line could not catch the dominate Queenwood School from Sydney, who set a new best time in the event. The girls won the silver medal and are the third fastest crew to ever race this event!

We are so proud of our team and our Acting Director of Rowing and First Eight Coach, Mr Jon Trovas, for bringing home three silver medals and a bronze medal, the most ever won by Wilderness School at the Australian Rowing Championships. Imogen and Gia also won the equal most medals of any South Australian athlete, tied with Australian U23 rower, Nick Blackman and Olympic Gold medallist, Alex Hill.

Thank you to all members of our community for the kind messages of support and to old scholar, Jess Hawker (2020) for her assistance as a supervisor on the trip.

Jon Trovas

Acting Director of Rowing

















MUSIC

Join Us For Grooves on the Green!

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

We invite everyone to join us for our first music event of the year: Grooves on the Green!

Wednesday 3 April

Grooves on the Green

5.30pm

Memorial Lawn

Information has been sent to all students in the following ensembles, who will be featured on the night:

- Senior Choir
- Symphonic Band
- Concert Band
- Junior Concert Choir
- Senior String Orchestra
- Senior Flute Ensemble
- Junior Band

- Rock Band
- Intermediate Strings.

Please bring a picnic rug and join us for a fantastic evening of music.



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

Wilderness Quiz Night: Early Bird Tickets On Sale Now!

[Jen Guest, Parents and Friends Association President, and Danielle White, Wilderness Old Scholars' Association President](#)

This year, our Wilderness Community Quiz Night will be bigger and better than ever. The Wilderness Old Scholars' Association (WOSA) and Parents and Friends Association (P&F) have joined forces to bring together our wonderful community for a night of fun, games and an amazing silent and live auction.

Friday 10 May 2024

From 6.30pm

Wilderness School Gymnasium

Book your tickets now on [TryBooking](#).

Booking Details

The Quiz Night will be a cashless event (card only). Ticket price includes games (no need for gold coins) and lucky door prize entry.

Book your table [now](#) to enjoy **early bird pricing** (\$40 per ticket or \$400 per table)!

Food and Beverages

You can bring a bottle and plate to share with your table, including crockery, cutlery and glassware. Think 'Picnic in the Gym' (but remember that Wilderness is not free!).

Alternatively, you can **pre-order grazing boxes** from FoodManChew via [TryBooking](#).

Exclusive Wilderness School 140 Years' celebration wine glasses can be purchased for use on the night. Make your selection through [TryBooking](#), when you book your tickets!

Thank you for your generous support. We hope to see you there!

