

# Life in the Wilderness

Term 2 Issue #0 | Wednesday 24 April, 2024

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Celebrating 140 Years

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Welcome back to Term 2 after what I hope has been a lovely break for your daughters. There is a lot to look forward to in this coming term.

On 20 May, we will celebrate a very special Founders Day marking our 140<sup>th</sup> birthday. This significant milestone gives us the opportunity to reflect proudly on our legacy of innovation and exceptional education, underpinned by the enduring values which still define us today. Our students and staff will be joined on campus by Old Scholars for the Founders Day Assembly and a morning tea.

We look forward to other upcoming 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations as well. Throughout the year each girl will receive a special gift and limited-edition commemorative ribbons will be available to purchase this term, a unique addition to this year's winter uniform and a special keepsake for all those who are part of this moment in Wilderness history. Tickets to the 140<sup>th</sup> Gala at the National Wine Centre on 14 September will be on sale soon, enabling our community a time to come together and celebrate.

Our global outlook has always been important, and during the holidays an adventurous group of students and staff have been fortunate to have the opportunity to once again explore Nepal, creating meaningful positive impact on a 22-day adventure.

The focus of the trip was the opportunity to provide community service at Bhadaure School - with which Wilderness has deep bonds. The familial connections with the staff and students at Bhadaure are incredibly meaningful and a trip highlight.

Additionally, the girls and staff completed a 14-day trek through Annapurna, a stay in Kathmandu, and a chance to relax and unwind in the lakeside town of Pokhara. It will be wonderful to have the group share their experiences with the wider Wilderness community upon their return.

As always, a reminder to be extra mindful of road safety as we return to campus to keep all of us safe.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Welcome Back!

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As the holiday break draws to a close, I hope this finds each of you having enjoyed some time to refresh, renew and connect as a family amid the largely glorious April weather. The Junior School staff are very much looking forward to welcoming our girls back as we commence Term 2 on Tuesday 30 April. The staff will spend Monday engaged in Professional Learning, collaborating as educators across our School in preparation for the remainder of the year.

It was a delight to attend the Walkerville RSL ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Walkerville Memorial Rose Garden with our Year 6 Executive members, Alice Gao and Angelina Georgiou. Joining with other schools in the Walkerville area, local members of parliament, members of the Walkerville RSL and local community members, the girls upheld the tradition of representing Wilderness School with their respectful and reverent behaviour, laying a wreath at the Memorial as part of the service. We believe it is deeply important to honour the memories of those fallen in conflict and for our future leaders, our girls, to learn through both the remarkable stories and history attached to these historic events. Thank you to the families of Alice and Angie for supporting their attendance on this important occasion.

The first two weeks of Term 2 are our uniform change over period, where students can wear either their summer or winter uniform. Girls must wear either the summer or winter uniform in their entirety (not 'mix and match') during this period, with full winter uniform required by Monday 13 May (Week 3).

While it seems like a long time ago now, our Junior School Swimming Carnival, held at the end of Term 2, was a successful, well-attended and joyous event for our community. As always, the work behind the scenes was both significant and appreciated, with special mentions needed for Deb Jarret and our entire Sport Department, student volunteers and all those who contributed to ensure the smooth running and success of our day. Congratulations to our overall winner, Emilia Varicchio and to all the winners. We look forward to another day of sporting celebration and team spirit when we come together for our Junior School Sports Day in Term 4.

As I write this, I am preparing to commence my leave for Terms 2 and 3. I have said to a number of people in recent weeks that Wilderness is not an easy place to leave, even for a short time. As I do so, however, I am delighted to be leaving you in the very capable hands of Gina Kadis, who will be stepping in as Acting Head of Junior School during this time. Gina is an experienced, dynamic educational leader, whose wealth of knowledge, I have no doubt, will enhance our Junior School community in the coming months. Gina and I have engaged in extensive handover and she will be ably supported by our outstanding Junior School leadership, teaching and professional support team. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Gina to Wilderness.

Please enjoy the last few days of the school holidays; stay safe, enjoy being together and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4 upon my return.

With the warmest of regards

Liz McCarthy

Head of Junior School



MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Term 2 Important Information

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Welcome back to Term 2. Information was emailed at the end of last term about the Parent Teacher Interviews which begin this Monday 29 April 2pm – 7pm (Week 1) and conclude Tuesday 7 May 3.45pm – 9pm (Week 2). A reminder to please finalise your bookings as soon as possible.

On Tuesday when girls return to school, it is important to know that it will be Week B of our timetable. Please encourage your daughter to check SEQTA as there have been some changes made to the timetable for Term 2. As a result of these timetable changes, there have been changes to the Homework Timetables. Updated homework timetables can be found here:

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

### **Staffing**

We thank Dr Emmy Gerlach for teaching many Middle School girls during Term 1 and hope to see her again soon.

### **Uniform and Jewellery**

A reminder to girls and families that winter uniform is worn during Terms 2 and 3. Girls may choose to wear either their summer or winter uniforms in the first two weeks of Term 2 and Term 4 and the last two weeks of Term 1 and Term 3. It is expected that girls wearing summer uniform will wear their hat to and from school.

The blazer or summer dress should be the outer garment worn to and from school, not



the jumper. Girls are reminded that they should change for PE lessons at school and not wear PE uniform all day.

Girls should ensure that they are wearing only one set of either stud or sleeper earrings on Tuesday and that they have removed bracelets and necklaces that they may have worn during the holidays. The uniform and jewelry guidelines can be found in the student diary.

Do not forget that you can purchase uniforms on-line using the [Wilderness Flexischools app or web site](#). The uniform shop will have extended trading hours on Monday 29 April from 8.30am to 4.00pm and Saturday 4 May, 8.30am – 12.00pm noon, for any last minute requirements and will return to normal opening hours for the rest of the term.

### **Opening hours during term**

Monday: 8am – 9am

Tuesday: 8am – 9am and 3pm – 4.30pm

Wednesday: 3pm – 6pm

Thursday: 8am – 9am

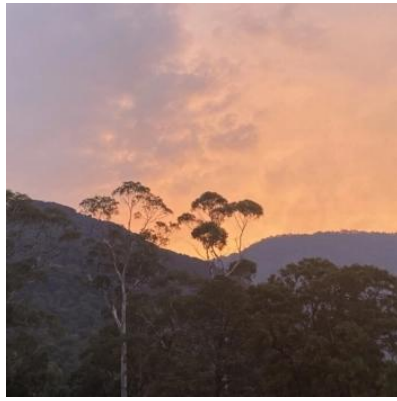
### **Lost Property**

If your daughter(s) are missing any property from last term, please encourage them to check the trestle tables that will be set up on the Running Track this week. Named items are returned to students when they are found. Ensuring all property is well labelled helps the students who process items that are unclaimed throughout the term.

### **REALISE Group 2**

Best wishes to the Year 9 Girls from Core Group 2 who leave for REALISE on Sunday morning. I am looking forward to seeing you then.







SENIOR SCHOOL

## Welcome Back!

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Welcome back to Term 2. I hope that the holiday break has been a time for rest and rejuvenation. During the holiday break, some of our girls have been involved in the Nepal Trip and we look forward to hearing about their journey during the first weeks back at school.

Other recent highlights include Arabella Bahr (12), Isabella Beaumont (10), Charlise Green (10) and Holly Munro (11) competing at the Australian Age Swimming Championships on the Gold Coast, with Arabella also qualifying for the Olympic Trials. Cate Zander (10) has been selected to represent SA in the School Sport Australia 15 and Under Volleyball Championship in June. Caitlin Hardin (10) and Iris Newman (10) represented South Australia in the holidays at the State Under 16 National AFL Championship.

Coming up this term we have some wonderful events to look forward to, including Generations in Jazz, Cross Country, Boarders' Week, Glee and many other events that we will highlight in upcoming editions.

### Start of Term Reminders

During Term 2 and 3, please remember that girls are required to wear their winter blazer as the outer garment to and from school. We also ask for your continued support regarding jewellery, false eyelashes and nail polish.

We will be reminding the girls at our next assembly to remember to cross at the lights and use Hawkers Road and Gate 30 when walking from the parklands to the school. We



also ask the girls ensure do not walk and use their phones, keeping an eye on their surroundings so that they are aware of traffic and other pedestrians.

Please see the Year 10 Timetable for Semester 1 2024 [here](#).

### **Challenge Success-Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences**

At Wilderness School, we are dedicated to the wellbeing of our girls and strive to provide a premium-standard learning offering to champion our mission to enable each girl to be the best she can be throughout her life.

We are committed to providing contemporary academic, physical, social, and psychological resources to support and nurture our girls in facing challenges, enabling them to learn and lead effectively as adventurous, courageous, responsible, and respectful young women.

In alignment with this commitment, we have partnered with the International Coalition of Girls' Schools (ICGS) and Stanford University for the Challenge Success-Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences.

This annual online survey, conducted by Challenge Success, will be administered to our Senior School girls in Week 2 of Term 2.

Through this collaboration, we aim to gain insights into our girls' experiences concerning their studies, wellbeing, engagement, and sense of belonging. This data will empower us to make informed decisions about our various offerings, ensuring that we continue to innovate and lead in girls' education through providing effective support to our girls.

Should you have any questions or require further information about this initiative, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Andrew Mittiga, our Student Wellbeing Coordinator (Years 7 – 12), at [amittiga@wilderness.com.au](mailto:amittiga@wilderness.com.au).



BOARDING

## New Head of Boarding

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I am delighted to announce the appointment of Carolyn Matthews to the role of Head of Boarding at Wilderness School, commencing 15 July, 2024.

Carolyn brings an exceptional wealth of leadership experience and skill to the position, including a depth of varied experience in boarding. Her previous roles include Head of Boarding at Avalon College, Deputy Head of Boarding at Methodist Ladies College in Kew, and Head of Girls Boarding and Head of Calvert Day House at The Geelong College.

Throughout her career, Carolyn has supported students to achieve their full academic and personal potential, with a focus on pastoral care deepened by her master's study exploring how to promote student resilience.

Carolyn's commitment to developing the 'whole girl' and strong belief in the benefits of an inclusive and well-rounded education align perfectly with Wilderness School.

In her own words, Carolyn 'looks forward to the opportunity to generate connectivity and a life-long love of learning among our girls, and to creating a supportive environment that fosters growth.'

Carolyn's experience, vision and passion will make her an asset to the Wilderness community.

We look forward to introducing you to Carolyn in the coming months.

Kind regards,  
Belinda Arnfield



MUSIC

## An Event-Filled Start to the Term!

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### GROOVES ON THE GREEN

In week 10 of Term One the Music Department held their first concert of the year, Grooves on the Green. This event has fast become a popular one in our calendar and although the weather proceeded through the four seasons earlier in the day, the grey skies parted and sun shined on the lawn just in time for Symphonic Band to literally Let's Get it Started by the Black Eyed Peas.

Highlights of the concert included the Senior Choir who performed their gentle rendition of Stand By Me. Concert Band had everyone grooving on their picnic rugs with their rendition of Dance The Night Away from the Barbie movie.

The String Orchestras managed to move and inspire audiences with their exquisite, rich and soaring renditions of Lord of the Dance and Irish Legend. However, the killer ensemble for the evening was the finale by our Rock Band, who performed, Murder on the Dancefloor. An amazing all-round effort from the Music Department creating a night to remember for all.

Elena Tsamaidis (12CED)

**Senior Music Representative**

### MUSIC EVENTS TERM TWO

We have so much planned for the upcoming term and are looking forward to all the rehearsals, soundchecks, concerts and tours with anticipation!

There have been a few changes to dates and locations, and we invite all families to check the following [Music Calendar](#) carefully and note any dates their daughters may be involved.

Each event will be communicated clearly via the Music office as the event approaches. If you have any questions, please contact us via [musicoffice@wilderness.com.au](mailto:musicoffice@wilderness.com.au)

#### **FRINGE – ‘WHITNEY’ WITH GOSPO COLLECTIVE**

In March our wonderful Old Scholars Jazz Choir were provided with a fantastic opportunity to participate in the Gospo Collective's Fringe Show; which in 2024 was all about 'Whitney' (Houston) in their show 'The Greatest Love Of All' under the direction of Charmain Jones.

I think Old Scholar Emily Denbigh summed it up wonderfully by conveying that the old scholars "learnt so much, grew as musicians, and really developed their skills, flexibility and resilience as performers in sometimes trying conditions (like 40 degree weather under hot stage lights)! In total, they performed 12 shows across a two-week period, with many of them singing in the choir in addition to their full-time work commitments, which is certainly worth celebrating."

It certainly was wonderful to celebrate this show, which is a culmination of a huge amount of effort from a lot of people, and to have Wilderness represented by old scholars, current scholars and staff is a wonderful testament to how music is alive and thriving both inside and outside our school grounds.





GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

## Jewellery and Scarf Sale

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32 students and 5 staff returned from an exciting, demanding and challenging 22 days in Nepal and have brought back with them Nepali scarves and jewellery to sell to raise money for the Bhadaure School and the Wilderness Bhadaure Boarding House.

They will be on sale in the foyer of the Gym while the parent teacher interviews are happening.

The scarves would be a lovely present for Mothers Day, while the jewellery has been chosen by the girls to suit their taste.

Sales would be by cash or bank transfer.

We welcome your support!



140 DAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## 140 Days of Giving

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Thank you to everyone who has already generously donated to our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship and Building Funds.

We are proud to celebrate a 140-year heritage of enabling every girl to be the best she can be throughout her life, thanks to the ongoing support and generosity of our community.

As many of you know, a distinguishing feature of Wilderness School is that we are **proudly independent**.

Government funding is not provided for building developments that are critical to ensure our teaching environments align with our outstanding teaching programs and the capabilities of our staff.

You can give the gift of education, or a help create a world-class ecosystem for education.

Every gift is greatly appreciated, and no gift is too small.

You can donate to:

- **Margaret Brown House redevelopment:** The Margaret Brown Building will be a vibrant hub in the heart of campus, enabling Wilderness girls to **build relationships** with our global network of old scholars, leading enterprises, and top universities. It will act as an ecosystem for innovation in education.

A place of teamwork and collaboration for our **connected and engaged community** of learners, it will help us shape the future of education, nurturing Wilderness School's position as a progressive leader.

- **140th Scholarship:** Scholarships change lives. The gift of education through a 140<sup>th</sup> scholarship will provide access through tuition remission for a deserving girl who may not otherwise have the opportunity to make an impact on our future world.

We are seeking tax-deductible gifts from every member of our community. Whether you support a life-changing scholarship or a learning facility that will benefit all students, teachers and the community, your generosity makes a tremendous difference.

**Together, we are creating confident girls and future leaders ready to positively impact the world.**

Please visit [wilderness.com.au/giving-what-you-can-wilderness](https://wilderness.com.au/giving-what-you-can-wilderness) to find out more.

In anticipation, thank you for investing in our school and the future of girls' education.

