

# Life in the Wilderness

Term 2 Issue #2 | Thursday 6 June, 2024

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Wilderness Shines In The Arts

**Belinda Arnfield, Principal**

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The past few weeks at Wilderness have brought a celebration of the arts.

Our girls have showcased amazing talent and creativity in music, drama and visual art, with exceptional mentorship from our passionate teachers and leading industry partners. We are very proud of our ongoing work cultivating meaningful links to industry which immerse the girls in authentic learning opportunities and enriches their education.

The recent Year 11/12 production of Bombshells was a great success. Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith's brilliant exploration of contemporary women's experiences and challenges was shared through the presentation of key moments in the lives of five distinct characters. The monologues were outstanding, bringing to life a young mum balancing the demands of life (Mia), a reserved professional woman navigating heartbreak (Zara), an outgoing performer captivating audiences on stage (Amelie-Rose), and a young bride learning that a wedding and marriage are not the same thing (Jemimah). Additionally, the incredible behind-the-scenes contributions of Ella (sound and lights) and Ava (costume and makeup) brought the entire production to life. Thanks to Jess Foster and her team, industry experts were brought in to share their ideas and expertise and provide professional guidance around set design, installation artwork choreography and more.

Of course, the Generations in Jazz in Mount Gambier at the start of May was also exemplary and hailed as one of the best youth music events in Australia, and the recent

annual Jazz at the Gov performance delivered inspiration and energy, the culmination of a rewarding and beneficial musician in residence program with leading musicians Emma Pask and Ross Irwin. Well done to all girls! Congratulations to the Jazz Choir and Jazz Incorporated, first place in Div 1 and Div 2 (the best in the country)! The opportunity to collaborate with outstanding musicians provides unique learning and unparalleled industry insight welcomed by our girls. A big thanks to Anna Lenartowicz and her music staff.

This week has brought Nicole Black, our 2024 Artist in Residence, to campus. An Adelaide-based painter, Nicole's art revolves around a deep desire to immerse oneself in the natural world. Her student workshops challenge girls to uncover and embrace the unexpected in their work. Students have been investigating the processes involved in Nicole's art practice, such as considering the visual thinking produced in her many journals and sketch books, which have provided her with inspiration. Students have been involved in practicing some of these processes, including a variety of timed drawing activities and exploration of watercolour techniques reminiscent of Nicole's style. Thank you to Brooke Porter and everyone in the art department for making this happen.

A holistic education has been a longstanding focus at Wilderness, and the benefits are backed clearly by research. Engaging in arts from an early age not only nurtures individual creativity and self-expression, but also enhances reading and language skills, academic outcomes and wellbeing.

We are incredibly proud to support courageous learning and contribute to a thriving arts scene in South Australia.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



EARLY LEARNING

## 140-Year Celebrations and Reconciliation Week

[Rebecca Williamson, Director of Early Years](#)

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We were so pleased to participate in the 140-year Wilderness School anniversary celebrations. It is incredible to think that we have been successfully educating children for so many years. Recognising this, it remains important in our ELC to stay true to our School Values whilst also striving towards the attainment of our School Mission and Vision.

### **Our Mission**

To enable every girl to be the best she can be throughout her life.

### **Our Vision**

Wilderness School will be a world leader in girls' education. We will equip each girl to succeed in her personal and professional life.

All this combined, it is always my hope that as we warmly welcome back old scholars and their daughters to the ELC, that Wilderness still feels the same, but at the same time, that it is not the same. This is a delicate but vitally important balance as we continue to develop through the years.

Advancing Reconciliation by embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives is always important and has most definitely been in the forefront of our minds during Reconciliation Week. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives is one of eight key principles that underpin practice in the approved Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, 'Belonging, Being and Becoming'. The Framework states (2022, p.17) that 'embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and perspectives encourages openness to diverse perspectives, enhances all children's experiences and assists in the authentic advancement of Reconciliation.' It is this authenticity that we are

striving for in teaching the children about what has come before, whilst they prepare with their education for what will come next. We are confident that our girls will make a positive mark on the world in this field and many others in the years to come!

On another note, On Wednesday 22 May, we participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime by reading 'Bowerbird Blues' written by Aura Parker. It has been described as a moving story of longing and connection, and under the guidance of our teachers, every time this story was read to the children it provoked further thinking and learning.

Last Wednesday evening, 29 May, I hosted directors from a range of Independent Schools in our ELC for our termly meeting. Conducting the tour through the centre was an incredibly proud moment. It was a wonderful celebration of the intertwining architectural and pedagogical characteristics that make this environment both a home and a place of inspiration and provocation for our girls. Every day I know what an incredible privilege it is to lead and learn in our ELC, but this served as another important reminder. One of the proudest moments from this evening's session was seeing how hard the team worked between the conclusion of school and the opening of the event to ensure that everything was perfect, which was another example of the pride, dedication and commitment our educational team has to our ELC.

Following this event, I concluded my two-year term as co-chair of the Early Childhood Curriculum Reference Group at AISSA (Association of Independent Schools) on Thursday 30 May. Although my leadership of the group has concluded, I will remain very involved in this group. Thursday's spotlight session in this meeting was led by Jade Brook from 'Australians Together' who spoke from the heart and shared transformative practices and key ideas from the Australians Together Learning Framework. This learning will continue to inform our team about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and will influence and improve our teaching and learning going forward.

Above all else, your daughters have continued to advance towards the Learning Outcomes of the Early Years Learning Framework in their own ways and we are very proud of all their personal achievements. Thank you for your continued support as this partnership is the key to progress in all areas.









JUNIOR SCHOOL

## From Muddy Puddles to Year 4 Camp!

[Gina Kadis, Acting Head of Junior School](#)

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**“Individuals can and do make a difference.” Dr Jane Goodall.**

As a world-renowned conservationist Dr Jane Goodall is admired by many of us. I was interested to read over the weekend that she made a special visit to Cleland Wildlife Park as part of her global mission to inspire young people to care for the environment. I admire her presence and efforts to inspire each of us to ‘do our bit’ as individuals to improve our environment. I’ve also been inspired by the fabulous Outdoor Education learning curriculum that we have in place at Wilderness School. All our girls from ELC to Year 9 participate in a carefully designed age-appropriate program, to get out into the environment, learn from experts and get to know themselves and their peers. As individuals, we all can and do make a difference in preserving our environment. Here are some of our Junior School Outdoor Education adventures that have happened over the last few weeks....

### **Reception students attended the “Muddle Puddles” Outdoor Education Adventure – Adelaide Hills**

On Friday 17 May, both our Reception classes with Ms Melissa Foster and Ms Katie Chataway, led by Ms Kate Mitchell spent the day at the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens and Woodhouse, participating in open space nature play activities, exploring the gardens, an adventure walk and an outdoor picnic lunch. Thank you to our Outdoor Assistant Lilly Liang and Co-Educators Emma Franzon and Meagan Steffensen for their invaluable hard work with the girls on this excursion – keeping all safe and engaged in quality learning.

Please see a few reflections from our Reception girls and photos from the excursion in the image gallery below.

"We loved sitting around the campfire having a story and then we picked up sticks for our Scavenger Hunt." – Adelaide Nieuwenhoven RC

"I loved making seed balls and it was so muddy and dirty." – Sonia Schwarz RC

"I enjoyed jumping in the leaves and throwing them in the air. It was raining leaves!" – Leah Chang RC

"I loved jumping in the muddy puddles, and I got wet!" – Heather Fa RC

"I loved rolling down the hills. I got really dizzy!" – Harriet Moses RF

"I loved making the clay seed balls. My hands got really muddy!" – Elizabeth Withers RF

Receptions had a lovely day on Friday 17 May at our Muddy Puddles day trip. We went to Woodhouse first, where the girls really enjoyed making seed balls with clay and flower seeds, and also going on a scavenger hunt. We then hopped on the bus to Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens where we had such a nice walk around the lake, rolled down the hills and also had a great fun throwing the gorgeous autumn leaves.

#### **Year 4 – "Walking the Boundaries" Outdoor Education Camp, Douglas Scrub**

In week 5 (4Z) and week 6 (4R) the Year 4 students enthusiastically embarked on a captivating journey, immersing themselves in the splendor of nature during a memorable three-day, two-night excursion at 'Douglas Scrub' in McClaren Vale. Amidst the picturesque setting, each student experienced the thrill of camping, but in the communal comfort of a dormitory as the weather was very wet and cold overnight as we lived out our class novel *Walking the Boundaries*.

Despite the wet and chill, Year 4 girls seized every opportunity to embrace the great outdoors, with a highlight being a challenging hike into the breathtaking Onkaparinga Gorge where they were treated to sightings of wedge tailed eagles and wild deer. Despite the rugged terrain, the students exhibited remarkable resilience and unwavering determination, a testament to their adventurous spirits.

Beyond the exhilarating trek, the days were filled with a plethora of engaging activities. From frolicking in the gorge to crafting candles, to savoring the simple pleasure of making butter and cooking damper in the fire, to igniting our imaginations with campfire games, each moment was infused with joy and camaraderie.

Moreover, we were honored to welcome Indigenous educator, musician and artist, Dave Booth, whose interactive session enriched our understanding of indigenous culture and heritage. The girls delighted to hear him play the yidaki and learn a dance that involved the movements of the emu. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Reconciliation Week. As the days unfolded, the students revelled in the freedom of outdoor play, tested their limits on the bouldering wall, and discovered enchanting magic spots to pen their



reflections in journals, forging unforgettable memories along the way.

Sincere thanks to all our staff for their planning and dedication to give our students this learning adventure: Ms Kate Mitchell, Camp Leader; Ms Celine Zammit, Class Teacher and Mr Nathan Rice Class Teacher and outdoor education co-educators: Holli Rawson, Lilly Laing Tameliya Klimentenok and Cass Marousopoulos. Research shows that powerful learning takes place when our girls can link their classroom work to real life situations. Not all families have the time to get their girls into the outdoors for prolonged periods of time. This is why our unique learning experiences prepare our girls for life and strengthen their opportunity to make a difference globally.

Please see the photo gallery below for our girls in 4Z and 4R enjoying this learning journey.

### **Year 3 National Reconciliation Netball Round Medal Winner – Naomi NGUYEN**

On Wednesday 22 May, the Year 3 Netball team participated in Reconciliation Round at St Peters Girls. The coaches of St Peters Girls awarded a Reconciliation Medal to a player who showed the best team spirit, courage and compassion throughout the game. This medal was awarded to Naomi Nguyen. Congratulations to Naomi and the entire Year 3 Netball team for their enthusiastic start to school sport and ability to work as a team, receiving their first win.

The Year 3 girls have really come together working as a group encouraging each other whilst learning netball. Well done Naomi. Well done team.

Ms Ashlee Thiele, Year 3 Netball Coach

### **Congratulations to Angelina Georgiou 6J – Just Dance e-sports**

We extend our warmest wishes to Angelina Georgiou, for winning the overall South Australian Champion award at this event held at Pulteney Grammar. Angelina will represent South Australian students in the National e-sports competition, to be held on the Gold Coast in November. Sincere thanks to Mr Sloan and Mr Jackson for supporting the girls at this event.

### **Junior School Friendology Program**

Many of our Junior School parents joined the online workshop on the Language of Friendship two weeks ago.

You are invited to take advantage of a [FREE Parent Membership](#) to access hundreds of resources – including an 8 session video series. This will allow you to learn the same language & strategies being taught in the classroom through the Friendology 101 curriculum.

We hope that, as a URSTRONG Family, you will reinforce the important messages of empowerment, self-compassion, & kindness at home.



We believe that empowering our students with these skills will create a culture of kindness at our school and we hope that, together, we can support your children to have healthy, feel-good friendships.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone, connecting with family and friends.











MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Courageous and Adventurous Learning

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

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### **GirlUp Period Poverty Drive**

The GirlUp Committee, led by Thisagi Jayasekara and Eloise Broster, hosted a period poverty drive to support KickStart for Kids. The committee organised a swap of baked goods for a donation of sanitary products. Over 100 products were collected on the day and donations are still being sought for this important cause. Girls and parents are welcome to drop off sealed packets of products at the Middle and Senior School Office over the next two weeks.

### **Matilda's Meet and Greet**

Year 9 students Zara Rocca, Madison Tait and Liliana Tsonis were fortunate enough to be invited to a private meet and greet with some of the Matilda's players last week before their game on Adelaide Oval. The girls shared morning tea and were able to talk to their heroes for almost an hour. Discussions included what the girls needed to do to avoid a repeat of the disappointment felt by their Grand Final loss last year. When asked what they were going to do differently in order to win, the girls mentioned not worrying about mistakes and that every ball is an opportunity. Wonderful reflections during a once in a lifetime experience.

### **Student Achievements**

Congratulations to Lara Wu (Year 7) and her Victorian doubles partner, who recently won the under 12 Australian Girls Claycourt Championship in Canberra. She is currently ranked in the top 5, 2012 born, junior female player in Australia and number 1, 2012 born, junior player in South Australia.

Lara has been selected to join Tennis Australia's European tour during June and July this

year. We look forward to hearing her results and wish her safe travels.

Congratulations to Khloe Lam (Year 8), who finished second in the individual esports championships against Scotch College and Investigator College. The Year 6 and 8 Teams demonstrated remarkable skill and teamwork, securing second and third places in an intensely close competition. The girls achieved these results with just two weeks of practice! Their spirit and camaraderie were on full display as they supported one another and even cheered on competing teams throughout the event. We hope that this event continues to grow in popularity in the future. Thank you to Liam Sloan for facilitating our participation in this event.

### **REALISE Camp 2**

Core Group 2 experienced exceptional weather conditions at the Coorong, some of the best seen in my many years of REALISE Camps. Among the highlights of the trip were climbing at Dyuritte (Mount Arapiles) in Victoria, which offered some amazing views of the surrounding landscapes. The students also enjoyed almost perfect, glassy conditions during their Coorong paddle, allowing them to paddle for the entire duration of their expeditions – a rare treat given the recent trend of unpredictable weather we have seen.

Another memorable experience for the students was their unique visit to 'Aunty Lindy's farm, where the girls participated in service activities and had fun playing on the hay bales.

Over the three-week period, the core group formed strong bonds, created lasting memories, and developed a greater sense of independence.

### **Encounter Youth Parent Information Evening**

Since 2000, Encounter Youth has provided Alcohol & Other Drug education to students, parents and teachers. They are the largest provider of school Alcohol & Other Drug education to South Australian secondary students, educating over 30,000 young people, parents and teachers last year.

Encounter Youth aim to alert, inform and empower young people to bring about safer, more meaningful celebration. They adopt a harm-minimisation approach and encourage students to 'look after themselves and their mates'. The program aims to reduce and prevent alcohol & other drug-related harm among young people and is aligned to the Australian Curriculum and Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum.

To complement the Middle School student sessions held on Thursday 20 June, a parent information session will be held that evening, 6:00pm to 7:30pm in Hender Hall. Middle and Senior School parents are welcome to attend and can secure tickets using the trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CSMVJ>





A promotional flyer for a school event. The top half features a photograph of a grand, classical building at night, illuminated by warm lights. The text on the right side of the flyer is as follows:

**FREE**  
*School*  
**PARI**  
**HOUSE**  
**MOND**  
10AM - 6PM  
All p  
accompa  
Sp  
Please cont  
via email: g  
to register yo

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, is positioned in the bottom right corner of the flyer, partially overlapping the text.



SENIOR SCHOOL

## Halfway Day- A Significant Milestone!

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

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The past few weeks have been filled with some enriching school events.

### **Jazz at the Gov**

Jazz at the Gov was a particular highlight, with many girls performing alongside the Musicians in Residence, Ross Irwin and Ella Pask.

### **Halfway Day!**

The Year 12s recently celebrated Halfway Day with pigtails, cupcakes and nostalgic movies of their concerts and films, from Annies through to the start of this year. Marking this halfway point for Year 12s is a celebration of all they have achieved so far, along with the excitement of what is yet to come. The cupcakes, decorated with half sprinkles, were made by talented Year 12 student, Demi Moutos.

### **GirlUp Committee**

The GirlUp Committee, led by Thisagi Jayasekara and Eloise Broster, hosted a period poverty drive to support KickStart for Kids. The committee organised a swap of baked goods for a donation of sanitary products. Donations are still being sought for this important cause. Girls and parents are welcome to drop off sealed packets of products to the Middle and Senior School Office.

### **Voice of Youth**

Niya Singhal has been selected to compete in the Finals Rostrum Voice of Youth at Old Parliament House on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Good luck Niya!

### **Get Home Safe Video**

If you daughter is starting to drive and you were unable to make our Get Home Safe

presentation last term, please find a film of the event here: [https://youtu.be/\\_tyvhGCKhbg](https://youtu.be/_tyvhGCKhbg)

### **Parent Representatives**

We are still looking for parent representatives for Years 10, 11 and 12. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect and engage with your daughter's cohort. We welcome your assistance and ask that you contact Jen Guest, President of the Parents and Friends Association at [pfassoc@wilderness.com.au](mailto:pfassoc@wilderness.com.au) if you can assist.

### **Year 12 Combined Tertiary Information Night**

The Year 12 Combined Tertiary Information Night for Year 12 students and parents of Wilderness School, St Peter's College and Pembroke School will be hosted by Pembroke School this year. Year 12 students and their parents are invited to attend. South Australian and interstate university and TAFE representatives will be present. More details will be provided soon, but please mark **Tuesday 30th July** in your diary for this event.

### **The Career Breakfast**

The Career Breakfast, hosted by the Careers Committee on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, was a wonderful experience. Engaging with professionals from various industries was a privilege, providing us with deep insights into potential career opportunities and the skills needed for success.

A key highlight was networking with Wilderness Old Scholars, who shared their career journeys, challenges, and successes. Lily Hoffman, a notable figure in marketing and business, emphasised the importance of courage, determination, and seizing opportunities. Her advice on taking the first step and maintaining a positive mindset in the face of setbacks was particularly eye-opening and impactful.

The event offered valuable knowledge about subject selections and education in various industries. Small group Q&A sessions allowed us to ask specific questions and receive personalized advice.

The event fostered a comfortable, collaborative environment, creating a sense of community and support. It was inspiring to see the diversity of career pathways and to learn that persistence and dedication are essential.

Overall, the Career Breakfast was a resounding success. We are grateful for the efforts of Ms. Palmer, Fengfan Zhang, the Committee, and the attending Old Scholars.

### **Encounter Youth Parent Information Evening**

Since 2000, Encounter Youth has provided Alcohol & Other Drug education to students, parents and teachers. They are the largest provider of school Alcohol & Other Drug education to South Australian secondary students, educating over 30,000 young people, parents and teachers last year. Encounter Youth are best known to Senior Students for managing the Schoolies Festival in Victor Harbor.



We have invited Encounter Youth to present to Middle and Senior parents on Thursday 20 June, 6:00pm to 7:30pm in Hender Hall.

Tickets can be secured using the trybooking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CSMVJ>







BOARDING

## Celebrating Boarders Week!

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

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### Boarders Week

During week 4 we celebrated our boarder and boarding community with Boarders Week. There were a range of activities over the week from the Boarders Assembly, Boarders Day, nightly quizzes, a donut afternoon tea and a Sunday morning bacon and egg BBQ cook up. We are incredibly lucky to have the community that we do and to be able to share that with the wider school community.

### Boarding Activities

Over the past few weeks we have had the opportunity to get out and about to a range of different activities. We have had girls complete adventure rooms, attend the Crows vs West Coast match, Paint and Nibble afternoons and trips out for a Friday night dessert at St Louis'. We have the upcoming opportunity for the girls to go to laser tag, the Archie Brothers Arcade and to make some tie dye creations.

### Carolyn Matthews visit

We have had the pleasure of hosting our new Head of Boarding Carolyn Matthews for a day before her start next term. It has been great for the parents, girls and staff to be able to meet and engage with her prior to her commencement. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Carolyn to the Boarding House.









SPORT

## SAPSASA, Reconciliation Round and More!

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

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The winter season is well underway and our girls have hit the ground running across all sports with some teams still undefeated.

It has also been amazing to see our first Wilderness Lacrosse teams back in competition after a few years break!

I have thoroughly enjoyed heading out to various trainings and matches to see our girls and coaches in action displaying all of our School Values and representing our community so strongly. It has also been a pleasure to meet the amazing parents and families who come and support to cheer on the sidelines together.

This term has already been filled with some exciting action to share!

### **SAPSASA Cross Country Carnival**

Earlier this term we took a team of Year 4, 5 and 6 girls to the Park 9 loop to compete in the North Adelaide SAPSASA Cross Country Carnival. All the girls competed really strongly across the 2km and 3km course. Our 11 year old age group proved to be the strongest with 3 Wilderness girls placing in the top 5 of the race. This included the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner Kyras Shah and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Maya Dan. April Waudby finished in the top 5 and all three of these girls have been selected for the North Adelaide SAPSASA Team.

### **IGSSA Reconciliation Round**

Across the last two rounds of competition, IGSSA has been promoting Reconciliation Round. On the first Friday for the round our Senior A Football Team played against Walford at Wilderness in a convincing victory.

Our girls proudly wore their beautiful guernseys and ribbons designed and supported by

old scholars Myarn Alden, Sachi Syme and Holly Binks, paying respect to the past, present and future custodians of Australia. A special thank you to respected Kurna Elder, Uncle Tamaru for performing a traditional smoking ceremony to commemorate this significant week.

### **Congratulations**

Lara Wu

Lara and her partner (player from VIC) won the Under 12 Australian Claycourt Tennis Championship Girls Doubles in Canberra.

### **Currently:**

Lara is top 5 , year 2012 born junior female player in Australia.

Lara is No. 1 , year 2012 born junior player in South Australia.

Lara has also been selected in Tennis Australia Under 12's Team for the European Tour during June and July 2024. Lara is the only girl to be selected in SA for the under 12 group.

### **Knockout Football**

We have some exciting news from our recent Knockout Football Fixture. This is the first time we have entered the Australian football statewide school's competition.

On Monday, we travelled to Golden Grove High School and competed against Golden Grove and Gleeson College, coming out victorious. We now advance to the Semi Finals where we will compete against Henley High School!

### **Bella Pasin**

Year 9 student and Rhythmic Gymnast Bella Pasin recently returned from the Australian National Gymnastics Championship in Queensland.

Bella achieved some impressive results, including a personal best in clubs and ribbon, is ranked in the top 20 gymnasts in Australia/New Zealand and is the 2024 Rhythmic Gymnastics State Champion.

### **eSports**

We are so proud of the fantastic achievements of our students in Round 2 of The Fuse Cup esports competition, featuring the game "Just Dance". Our talented dancers formed two teams, with six Year 6 students and two Year 8 students showcasing their skills.

### **Team Achievements:**

Wilderness Team 1 danced their way to an impressive second place.

Wilderness Team 2 also performed spectacularly, securing third place.

The finals were intensely competitive, with all teams performing exceptionally across all dances. It was a close battle, but Scotch College just managed to edge ahead and claim

the victory by a small margin.

### Individual Championships:

Khloe Lam (Year 8) achieved an outstanding second place.

Angelina Georgiou (Year 6) took home the first place, earning a spot at the National Championships to be held on the Gold Coast in November.

Congratulations to Khloe and Angelina for their remarkable performances and for upholding the Wilderness values with such grace and dedication. All our girls demonstrated represented our school so brilliantly. Your hard work and enthusiasm have truly paid off. We are proud of you and can't wait to see what you achieve next!











MUSIC

## Stunning Performances and Musicians in Residence!

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

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### Student and Ensemble Successes

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the following students, who have been selected from a highly competitive pool of international pianists.

- Jacey Anand
- Alexandrina Cao
- Mia Zhou

These remarkable young musicians have been selected to showcase their exceptional skills at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London this coming June, although regrettably both Alexandra and Mia will not be attending.

Their selection emerged from a rigorous online international piano competition, which attracted participants from the USA, Colombia, Israel, Australia, Japan, China, Europe, and the UK.

These wonderful students have been under the tutelage of one of our piano teachers Mrs Urszula Gruszewski.

The Eisteddfod season is in full swing, and we learned of another amazing student achievement that has been achieved.

Mackenzie Wilkes (10CED) was awarded the AMEB SA & NT Grade Prize Winner for

Musical Theatre Grade 5 singing exam. This is an extraordinary achievement, and we congratulate Mackenzie on her success.

Continuing with the Eisteddfod success stories, this past Friday, May 31, our combined String Quartets took part in **S806 Chamber Music Competition**. Just like at the academy awards, there was some high drama, as our girls were initially and erroneously disqualified from the section for playing over the time limit!

Our Head of Strings, and chamber director Mr Joseph Freer immediately sought clarification, as our girls played only the one piece – and this was the set piece none the less, and were nowhere near the time limit allowed. A large oversight was deemed to have taken place with the timekeeper overlooking the stop button between the ensemble prior to Wilderness, and our girls starting, more than doubling the time that our girls actually clocked.

But we all like a good ending – and the Wilderness students were thrilled to learn that they actually had achieved **second place** before the disqualification, and with the error made clear, our girls were able to receive their award. This is a wonderful achievement for our girls who played in a highly advanced section. Congratulations!

We wish our Junior Dreamers all the best for this coming Thursday when they take to the Eisteddfod stage, under the direction of Miss York.

### **Combined Strings Concert at Ukaria Cultural Centre**

Our Strings program has been undergoing a resurgence recently, under the energetic leadership of our Strings Coordinator, Mr Joseph Freer. Mr Freer was determined that in 2024 the annual Chamber Concert would be held offsite in a venue befitting of classical orchestral music and so on Sunday May 19, the Ukaria Cultural Centre in Mount Barker hosted an exquisite concert featuring the Senior String Orchestras of Wilderness School and Prince Alfred College.

The event was the culmination of numerous combined rehearsals and the dedicated efforts of all the students involved. The afternoon's repertoire was advanced, showcasing the profound talent and hard work of the young musicians. Standout performances included a captivating rendition of 'Summer' by Vivaldi featuring Victoria Phan (12SPA) and a lively interpretation of Irish Legend by Year 11 student Zoe Koerber, both leaving the audience in awe.

The Ukaria Cultural Centre, renowned for its stunning architecture and superb acoustics, provided the perfect backdrop for this celebration of orchestral music. The concert was not only a testament to the power of collaboration but also a demonstration of the transformative beauty of music, leaving a lasting impression on all who attended.

### **Jazz at the Gov**

Week 5 is one of the busiest weeks of the year for the music department. This year's

Musician in Residence Program saw not one, but two highly acclaimed interstate artists join us for our prestigious Jazz at the Gov concert. We were delighted to welcome back Ross Irwin from Victoria, and the revered Emma Pask from Sydney, who was scouted by James Morrison, and spent over 20 years travelling with him around the world.

Ross and Emma spent three days with our girls in workshops, classes and rehearsals, imparting invaluable advice not only for their musical development, but also for lifelong skills. The students were captivated by their exceptional talents and eagerly absorbed every piece of guidance they offered. Jazz at the Gov on Wednesday night was nothing short of spectacular. The girls had the opportunity to play to a full house, with some experiencing their first and last Wilderness concert in their schooling careers.

Highlights of the evening included the award-winning Jazz Choir performing their reimagined version of "One Note Samba," featuring our extraordinary guest artists and the Year 12 Jazz Band who presented the contemporary 'Good To Go'. Despite the week's busy schedule, our Musicians in Residence program and concert at The Gov were both resounding successes.

### **Strings Eisteddfod**

Yesterday our Junior Dreamers Choir competed in the Adelaide Choral Eisteddfod, in the Primary Choirs Division, and for the second year in a row took out first place! Our girls in Year 5 and 6 sang two beautiful pieces and achieved an extremely high score of 96/100!

This year the choir is being directed by Miss Paige York and the girls have flourished under her enthusiastic leadership. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> first place achievement in our Choral program this year – our girls are thriving in this area!

All the girls involved should be immensely proud of their achievements.











GLOBAL LEARNING

## Silver Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey

[Kate Woodbridge, Outdoor Education Teacher](#)

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During week four, 24 Silver Duke of Edinburgh students embarked on their adventurous journey to Northern Ikara-Flinders Ranges. They planned and participated in a 4-night, 5-day hiking expedition along the Heysen Trail.

We were treated by some beautiful sunshine during the day and cool and calm starry nights. In total, the girls walked between 50-60kms over the week. The preparation for this camp involved weeks of route, menu and packing planning working in small groups, building on their teamwork skills to complete challenging tasks.

The girls faced hurdles throughout the week which they adapted to exceptionally and their resilience and courage shone. This trip tested the girls but showed what a great experience they can have by stepping outside of their comfort zone and becoming their true and adventurous selves.







COMMUNITY

## Reconciliation Week 2024

Billie Newton, English Teacher

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### Wilderness and National Reconciliation Week: Now More Than Ever

National Reconciliation Week is significant for our community.

The kick-off on 27 May marks the date of the 1967 referendum which voted to remove the clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The final day of the week, 3 June, marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision, while 26 May marks National Sorry Day, first held in 1998 to acknowledge and apologise for the Stolen Generations.

The week is about exploring what each of us can do to achieve reconciliation in Australia. We were proud to hold a number of initiatives at the School.

#### Sport - Friday May 24

Uncle Tamaru, Elder of the local Kurna community performed a Welcome to Country and traditional Smoking Ceremony at Nantu Wama for the Senior A Football. The girls took a win to beat Walford School, wearing special guernseys designed by old scholar Myarn Alden (2023) with the help of Holly Binks (2022) and Sachi Syme (2022). Thank you to Andrew Mittiga for organising this as part of Reconciliation Round.

#### The Library - Weeks 5 + 6

During weeks 5 and 6, the library featured the voices and images created by First Nations authors and illustrators through picture books. The range was on display in the Library and students were encouraged to select a title to read. Students also engaged with these texts during their library lesson thanks to Katie Silva and Annette Mesecke.



### **Assembly - Monday June 3**

We were Welcomed to Country by Aunty Sherrell Dyer, a proud Kurna woman and past parent, who explained the significance of the Welcome to Country.

The assembly focused on the work of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and looked at the ways literacy is crucial for children from rural and remote communities to navigate a place in the world. Students were involved in an activity which showed them the difficulties faced by Indigenous children in remote communities who try their best to learn, despite the barriers of poor ear and hearing health, culturally inappropriate resources and significant language barriers.

### **Reconciliation Workshop - Monday June 3**

A small group of Middle and Senior School students took part in an art workshop which gave students the permission and understanding to use Indigenous symbolism to represent significant events in the school's 140 year history. This was run by 2023 graduate, Myarn Alden and the finished product, a collaborative painting, will be presented in time for NAIDOC Week.

### **Bake Sale - Friday June 7**

On Friday, we held a bake and Reconciliation ribbon sale to raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. The ILF is a national charity working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander remote Communities across Australia. They are Community-led, responding to requests from remote Communities for culturally relevant books, including early learning board books, resources, and programs to support Communities to create and publish their stories in languages of their choice.









140 DAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## 140 Days to Make a Difference

[Lisa Taplin, Head of Advancement](#)

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Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to empowering tomorrow's leaders. We are proud to celebrate a 140-year heritage of enabling every girl to be the best she can be throughout her life, and greatly appreciate the 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.

In this milestone anniversary year, we are asking for your help. 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 [wilder-ness.com.au/giving-a-today-wilderness](http://wilder-ness.com.au/giving-a-today-wilderness) to find out more.

In anticipation, thank you for investing in our school and the future of girls' education. Your support allows us to continue to be a leader in innovation.





LEARNING, PATHWAY AND INDUSTRY

## Learning, Pathway and Industry

[Caroline Palmer, Careers Counsellor](#)

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### Pathways, Industries and Careers

- [The University of Sydney](#)

### Upcoming webinars

#### Sydney Conservatorium of Music Portfolio Evening

Make your application to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music stand out. Take the opportunity to receive tailored advice from academic staff and gain valuable insights to elevate your portfolio, which is a crucial element of your application to study certain courses at the Con.

Receive personalised feedback on your music portfolio, tour their iconic campus and learn about their courses and [Creative Arts Special Admission](#)

#### **MySydney** Entry and Scholarship Scheme – Monday 24 June 5 – 6pm

Want to learn more about the [MySydney Entry and Scholarship Scheme](#) for student residing in low socio-economic areas? Register for the webinar to learn about the great benefits offered, including entry on a reduced ATAR, a \$8,500 per annum scholarship and a range of ongoing support. Find out about eligibility criteria, how to apply, frequently asked questions and more. [Register here](#)

#### **Regional and Remote Entry Scheme** – Monday 24 June – 6-7pm

Find out how students residing in regional and remote areas can enter their dream course through the [Regional and Remote Entry Scheme](#). Register for their webinar to hear about the great benefits offered, including entry on a reduced ATAR and a range of ongoing support, and learn about eligibility criteria, how to apply, scholarships for regional students and more! [Register here](#)

- [The University of Melbourne](#)

[Interstate applications](#)

[Satisfy subject pre-requisites](#)

[Open Day – Sunday 18 August](#)

[University accommodation](#)

[Onshore Student Recruitment team](#)

[Focus on Melbourne events](#)

- [University of Sunshine Coast UniSC](#)

[Best Field Trip in the World Competition](#)

Open to Year 11 and 12 students - Closes 24 June

- [UNSW](#)

[Early entry schemes](#)

**Information Evenings**

[Science](#)

[UNSW Business School](#)

[Engineering](#)

**Year 12 Information Evening**

Year 12 students can join online to learn about admission pathways, scholarship application tips, UAC preferences and how university works.

[Link](#)

[Girls in Business Camp link](#)

- [RMIT Course Guides](#)

- Western Sydney University

Open Day – Sunday 30 June 10am – 4pm

[Registration link](#)

### **Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre VTAC**

Webinars to support students in their preparations for study in 2025

Tuesday 6 August – 5.30 – 6.30pm – Applying for courses in 2024 - [Register here](#)

Thursday 15 August – 5.30 – 6.30pm – Understanding special consideration (SEAS) and Scholarships – [Register here](#)

Thursday 12 December – 12pm – 1pm – Preferences, pathways and offers – [Register here](#)

### **Career Resources:**

#### 1. Transferrable Skills:

High school is a time where students can develop skills that will benefit you throughout your entire life. As well as school subjects, you also develop a whole bunch of transferrable skills. But what are they, why are they important, and how can you develop them?

Understanding and developing transferrable skills in high school [Link](#)

1. [What's the difference between a career, a job, and work?](#)
2. [Discover the world of virtual volunteering](#)
3. [A Gap Year does not mean a gap in Learning](#)
4. When should you start preparing for a gap year?

It is never too early to start thinking about your future, whether it's deciding on your future study options or preparing for a gap year. [Use this link to find some tips:](#)

5. [What happens if you start failing at university?](#)
6. [What is the difference between a REFERENCE and a REFEREE?](#)
7. [7 ways volunteering can benefit you](#)
8. [ATAR cut-offs and how they work](#)

### **Scholarships**



- Co-op Scholarships for student's [link](#)
- Charles Sturt Uni Transgrid Civil Engineering Scholarship [link](#)
- AIQS Donald Napier Scholarships – for students entering a Quantity. Surveying, Construction Economics, Construction Management (Economics) or other approach course at an QIQS accredited university in Australia [link](#)

#### NIE UCAT and Casper Preparation courses

[Link](#)

[2-day workshop link](#)

[Medical Interview workshop link](#)

[Future Doctors Australia program](#)

#### University of Tasmania (UTAS)

In May I was one of two South Australian careers advisors, along with 20 other interstate advisors, invited to undertake professional development at the [University of Tasmania](#).

We toured facilities in Hobart, including the beautiful [Hedberg Academy](#) and the [Australian Maritime College](#) in Launceston. UTAS offers a wide range of programs including science, agriculture, engineering, music, performing arts, architecture and design, law and economics, and medicine and health. A sustainability major can be studied as any bachelor's degree. UTAS ranks #1 in climate action globally.

UTAS students appreciate the island setting, which offers strong connections to industry leaders, nature and adventure. The relaxed atmosphere of Tasmania contrasts with the hustle and bustle of big cities, making it an ideal study environment.

Generous relocation and accommodation bursaries and [scholarships](#) are available to encourage students interested in studying at UTAS.

One student we heard from was 'Laura', hailing from the Barossa Valley who sought to pursue something different from her peers. With prior experience in transport logistics from working with her family, she opted for the [Bachelor of Global Logistics and Maritime Management](#). Laura is enjoying the degree, which she hopes will provide her with the opportunity to work internationally after graduation.

#### **Career Focus**

[How to become a Music Therapist](#)

YouTube video [link](#)

#### **Marcus Oldham Victoria**

Students interested in careers in [Agribusiness](#), [Agriculture](#) or [Equine](#) sectors are

welcome to register for their Open Day, either in person or via webinar, next month.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm AEST

**Format:** Hybrid event with in-person and live-streamed sessions

**Registration:**

Students can register at <https://marcusoldham.vic.edu.au/open-day>. During registration, they can select the course information sessions they wish to attend, and a personalised schedule will be sent closer to the event.

**What to Expect:**

- Course Information Sessions: Learn from our course directors about the structure, opportunities, and application processes for each program.
- Campus Tours: Explore our campus, including learning facilities, accommodation options, and equine facilities.
- One-on-One Chats: Meet with Marcus Oldham lecturing staff for personalised discussions about courses, career goals, and any questions students may have.
- Meet our students: Our students will be around all day to chat to prospective students about their journey to Marcus, their goals and what it's really like to study and live at the College.

**Appointments**

Students, keen to learn more about university or pathway options are encouraged to make an appointment through the [pathways.wilderness.com.au](https://pathways.wilderness.com.au) resource.

