

Life in the Wilderness

Term 3 Issue #6 | Thursday 28 August, 2025



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

From the Principal

Belinda Arnfield

Term 3 has been full and rewarding, with a wide range of cultural, sporting, and academic experiences. In recent weeks, students and staff have taken part in activities that reflect the strong engagement, curiosity, and collaborative spirit that characterise learning at Wilderness.

Thank you to all students, staff, and members of our community who have contributed to these events. Your involvement is valued and appreciated.

Winter Intercol

Last week's Winter Intercol competition with Seymour College featured competitive matches across Debating, Hockey, Soccer, Netball, Football and Badminton. Our students played with determination and skill, proudly securing the Debating, Soccer and Football trophies. The overall result was close, with Seymour finishing ahead by just six points (two wins). Regardless of the final outcome, the commitment, resilience and teamwork shown by all our competitors was commendable. The support of our spectators, including students, staff, families and old scholars, was also greatly appreciated and contributed to the strength of the occasion.

Thanks are due to Jonathan Koutsikas, Director of Sport, and to the coaches and staff who prepared and supported our teams. Their leadership and commitment made a significant contribution to the overall success of the week.

Music

This week, we welcomed Australian musical theatre performer Amy Lehpamer as our Musician in Residence. Amy led rehearsals and workshops with students in preparation for the Annual Showcase of Music, From West End to Broadway, held at the Adelaide Town Hall on Thursday evening. The Showcase featured strong performances across a range of ensembles and vocal groups, reflecting the dedication and preparation of all involved.

Earlier in August, Wilderness School hosted the Gwen Robinson Piano Competition. Twelve students performed for adjudicator Vivian Choi Milton from the Elder Conservatorium at the University of Adelaide. Congratulations to Year 9 student Jacey Anand, a student of Mrs Urszula Gruszewski, who was named the overall winner, and to all participants for the quality of their performances.

We also acknowledge the recent achievements of seven ensembles who represented the school at the SA School Band and Orchestra Festival, presented by ABODA SA. Big Band 2, under the direction of Damien Hurn, received the Nick Mulder Memorial Award for Best Novice Big Band and a Gold Award as the overall winner in their section. We also thank Cassie Pope, Ensemble and Instrumental Coordinator, for her contribution to the event as part of the organising team.

Drama

Our Stage 2 Drama students recently took to the stage for their final 2025 production, The Virtuous Burglar by Italian Nobel Prize-winning playwright Dario Fo. Congratulations to the Year 12 cast and backstage crew for their work across performance, lighting, sound and costume design.

This week, our Year 9 students also presented their annual drama performance, exploring the theme of success through devised theatre. The production reflected thoughtful collaboration and creative expression.

Preparations are well underway for the remaining end-of-year productions, and we look forward to seeing these come to life in the weeks ahead.

STEM

National Science Week was celebrated across all year levels with a variety of engaging and interactive experiments and discovery activities. I extend my sincere thanks to our Head of Science, Sam Bartram, for his leadership and coordination of these events.

Entrepreneurism and Futures Thinking Showcase

Earlier this term, students, families and staff gathered at the Flinders University City Campus for the inaugural Student Showcase of our bespoke Extension Studies course, Entrepreneurism and Futures Thinking. Developed in partnership between Wilderness

School and Flinders University, this course empowers students to engage with entrepreneurial thinking, scenario planning, and the development of innovative solutions to global challenges.

Student Leadership

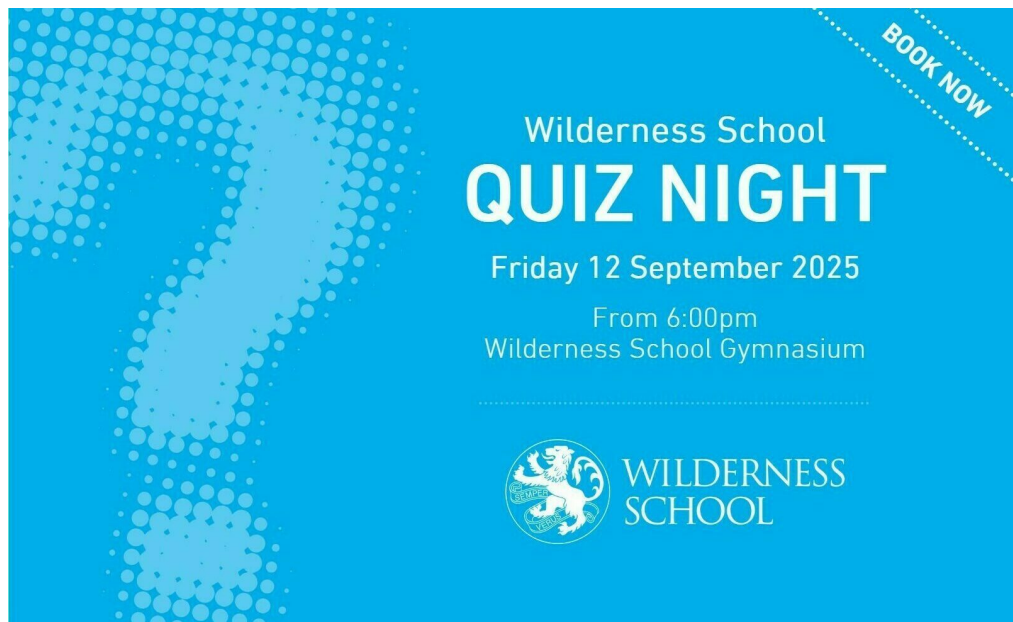
This week, we announced the incoming SRC Executive, Boarding and House Captains, and Committee Leaders for 2026. Congratulations to our new SRC President, Summer Bishop; Vice President, Tianney Hong; and Secretary, Tam Do. We also extend our congratulations to all newly appointed Captains and Committee Leaders as they prepare to take on these important roles within the school community.

Staff Leadership

As our Year 11 students prepare to step into leadership across the student body, staff have also been actively engaged in leadership development through a series of targeted professional learning opportunities. The Staff Leadership Collective has explored themes such as leading through uncertainty and change, and the role of leadership in school culture. These conversations continue to foster a shared sense of purpose, reflection and responsibility as we shape the future of Wilderness School together.

Belinda Arnfield

Principal







EARLY LEARNING

Rich Learning and Wonderful Experiences

[Rebecca Williamson](#)

The past three weeks have been incredibly busy and filled with wonderful experiences. We have enjoyed so much rich learning and, in particular, the connections we have established across the school. Visits to the library, time spent with our buddies in their classrooms, and opportunities to connect with the science department have enriched the girls' learning and truly solidified their sense of belonging in the school community. The older girls especially love seeing the Mamies as they pass by and enter their learning spaces.

We were also delighted and thankful when Isla's nonna and father visited to make the most delicious pasta for the girls. Nonna so capably and confidently fed so many children and, together with her son, taught the girls how to make and shape pasta. It was an experience we will remember for a long time, and we remain incredibly grateful, just as we were when Suraya, Alia's mum, treated us to Singaporean food last term. Enriching the cultural experiences of the girls and celebrating different cultures is so important to us. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our class teacher, Danielle Moir, for making this special day happen as we all had a nonna for a day. If you too would like to cook with our girls, please reach out to Danielle.

Science Week was another highlight. We visited the Coach House to work alongside Reception, spent time in the science labs, and learned about our first Wildy scientist and founder, Miss Mamie Brown. The Head of Science and the technicians set up exciting experiments for us, and the bubble show in the Annexe was a true favourite, sparking curiosity and setting the scene for more learning. The very next week we celebrated Book Week, which was filled with fun, creativity, and community. The girls enjoyed voting in the

library and joining the rest of the school for the Book Week Parade. We are so grateful to our parents who dressed the girls and ensured they arrived early so they could feel settled and ready for the day.

Term 3 is always a busy one, with focus weeks and photos, but these special events give the girls such rich learning across different subjects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the educators across the school who worked behind the scenes to make these weeks so memorable. The buddy program, woven throughout, has also enriched the experiences, building meaningful connections between classes that both groups value deeply.

In many ways, these past three weeks have captured something truly special about our ELC: the way we bring learning to life and continue to foster the girls' place within the wider school. It is their pathway into Wildy, and it is something we treasure.

We are now looking forward to celebrating together at our **Father's Day Breakfast on Tuesday 9 September**, commencing at 8:15am.

Rebecca Williamson
Director of Early Years







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Camp Experiences, Book Week and the Mind Lab Olympics

[Liz McCarthy](#)

Year 5 Outdoor Education Camp

Last week, our Year 5 students undertook their first Outdoor Education camp at our Crawford Campus. This immersive experience was inspired by the novel Storm Boy. Over four days, the girls hiked sand dunes, cooked damper and fish over the fire, built humpies, slept in tents and even spent time pelican watching.

The girls' leadership, kindness and willingness to embrace every challenge with a growth mindset were true highlights for supervising staff team who expressed their pride in the way they supported one another and conducted themselves throughout the camp.

The Year 5 girls were asked to consider something new they learnt about themselves on camp:

I learnt that if I don't try something new, then I'm never going to know what it is like.

Agnes L

I learnt that even if it looks hard, you can always do it if you try. Florence C

This camp I learnt that if I push myself I can walk a long way. Aiza M

I learnt that I can stretch my rubber band really far and it could make a good impact.

Grace K

I am proud of building the humpy's and also being kind and always trying something new.

Ada R

Year 2 Zoo Snoozes

Our Year 2 girls took part in their first overnight camping experience in the last two

weeks, with their Zoo Snooze. Attending in separate classes across two Friday evenings, the girls arrived after school ready with sleeping bags and warm clothes at the Zoo Education Centre. Enjoying a BBQ dinner, keeper talks and night walks, the girls then slept over before having a behind the scenes morning walk prior to the zoo opening. The Year 2's were courageous and wonderfully behaved and we were so proud of the way in which they embraced their new experiences.

Book Week

What a wonderful week we enjoyed with our annual Book Week celebrations.

Commencing in the lead up with the girls reading short listed books in their library lessons and culminating in days of activities and our much-loved dress up parade, Book Week at Wilderness was once again a great success. Thank you to the Library staff, class teachers and families who supported the event in so many different ways, ensuring a valuable and fun filled experience for our girls.

Mind Lab Olympics

Wilderness were proud to host the annual Mind Lab Olympics on Friday 8 August. With approximately 80 students from across the independent school sector attending, the day was one of healthy competition and celebration as they engaged their most strategic and critical thinking skills to compete against one another across the many Mind Lab games. Thank you to Mr Chris Ramsden, from Accelium Australia for his usual outstanding coordination in the lead up and on the day of the event, to Alison Short for her on campus coordination and to Jill Bradford, Carolyn Tasker, Sharen Cartwright and our café staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring the students and staff were well hosted.

Liz McCarthy

Head of Junior School







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Community, Collaboration, and Growth: Highlights from the Middle School

[Rhiannon Giles](#)

It is over 10 years now since I embarked on the collection of data for my own doctoral study and I still remember how challenging it was to recruit participants to complete my survey. This is why I encourage all families to discuss participating in Vanessa Gorman's research for her doctoral study. It will involve your daughter completing a short, anonymous online survey (approximately 10 minutes) about her experiences with resilience and mathematics. Wilderness Middle School Maths teachers have completed teacher surveys and part of this study.

Parent/caregiver consent is required before students can participate. If you would like your daughter to be involved, please complete the hard copy consent form which was sent home with your daughter or print a copy from the recent Verus news post where more information can be found. Please return the consent form to school early next week.

9 AMY Duke of Ed Service Project

The Year 9 AMY girls volunteered this week at The Village Co. as part of their Form Duke of Ed service project. The Village Co. is a registered charity that empowers vulnerable mothers and families by providing essential support and care during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting. This was the first time we had worked with The Village Co. and the experience was a positive one for everybody involved. They aim to foster community connection and advocate for the well-being of mothers and their families through practical resources, compassionate programs, and partnerships that drive positive social impact.

Year 9 Drama presents *Succedere* by Karen Houghton

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Succedere*, performed this week in Newman Theatre.

The coveted Cup of Success is up for grabs at Kemboli High, offering promises of a dream career, a place at the best university, and—of course—honour for your family. But is it really worth it? The stress? The competition? *Succedere* asks: What does success mean to you? And is it even that important?

The production left the audience with much to think about and would have sparked several conversations in the car on the way home.

Saints Coeducation Day

The Year 9 girls recently visited Saint Peter's College for a coeducational learning day. An initiative of the Saint's Prefects, the day centred around learning experiences in Drama and Science. The groups collaborated to solve problems, successfully communicate with each other and produce evidence of their learning.

We thank the Staff and Students at Saints for hosting us and we look forward to further successful collaborations in the future.

Come and Try Athletics

In preparation for the Athletics Carnival next week, Year 7 students and new students to the Middle School, were invited to learn a little more about track and field events. The girls rotated through the events of hurdles, javelin, discus and triple jump, learning how to compete safely and within the rules. We hope that the afternoon provided the girls with the confidence to nominate for events and represent their Houses next week.

The eSafety Commissioner

If you are interested in learning more about parental controls and how to support your daughter online, you can not go past the valuable resources on the website of the eSafety Commissioner.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

One of the latest articles, Stranger danger 2.0: How anonymous random chat app platforms are putting children at risk, explains that 'Stranger danger' used to mean warning kids not to talk to unfamiliar people on the way home from school. Today, those strangers are just a click away. It is well worth a read and may help start important conversations with the young people in your family.

Rhiannon Giles

Head of Middle School







SENIOR SCHOOL

Interschool Events, Assessment Deadlines and SRC Announcements

Kate Hanson

The past few weeks of Term 3 have been filled with interschool events, the last fixtures of winter sport and assessment deadlines. Intercol last week filled our school with spirit and collegiality. We are incredibly proud of our girls and their school spirit.

As the days have grown longer, we have also turned our attention to the opportunities that lie ahead in 2026.

For our Year 10 and 11 students, the focus has been on course selections. Having submitted their choices, the timetable is now being shaped around these preferences. Through the pathways evening, information sessions and individual counselling, the girls have been encouraged to think deeply about their strengths and aspirations, ensuring their courses reflect both interest and future direction. This will be consolidated later this term for Year 10s undertaking work experience and immersion days.

Meanwhile, our Year 12s are entering a critical stage of their final year. With most major assessment pieces due before the end of term, this is a time that requires both perseverance and balance. Prioritising rest, exercise and structured breaks will allow the girls to sustain their energy as they prepare for examinations and the conclusion of their schooling journey. The girls recently participated in a presentation on Meta Learning by Miss Fielke and Mr Snell. This presentation explored examination and revision skills, providing skills and strategies for the final weeks of school and leadership has been at the forefront for our Year 11s, who presented their speeches last week and voted this week. Their reflections on leadership, service and the type of culture they want to help build as Year 12s have been inspiring. The energy with which they

approach their final year is a reminder of the important role student voice plays in our community.

The SRC for 2026 are:

ROLE	STUDENT NAME
President	Summer Bishop
Vice President	Tianney Hong
Secretary	Tam Do
Amaryllis House Captains	Ariana Dimovic Emma Oborn
Antholiza House Captains	Caitlin Hardin Millicent Wilson
Carob House Captains	Shakti Reddy Ella Zacharia
Cedar House Captains	Matilda Barrett Mackenzie Wilkes
Sparaxis House Captains	Isabel Flowers Elena Reu
Boarding House Captains	Beatrice Marshman Mimi Pfeiler
Careers Representative	Agampreet Kaur
Round Square Representative	Katarina Czechowicz
STEM Representative	Jessica Henderson
International Representative	Paris Ung
Library Representative	Anna Evans
Media and Magazine Representative	Eden McConnell
Music Representative	Sophie Proudman

Sports Representative

Ella Meyer

Student Foundation Representative

Isabelle Weng

Year 12 Representative

Leila Thirlwell

Kate Hanson

Head of Senior School







BOARDING

Boarding Fashion Parade

[Carolyn Matthews](#)

Friday August 15 saw over 200 guests join together to raise valuable funds for the Bhadaure School in Nepal. With fantastic live and silent auction items running hot, great local fashion brands modelled by our gorgeous girls, as well as St Peter's College boarders, the night was a great success. We also showcased the crafty talents of two of our boarders Annika Hancock and Tessa Pfeiler. Annika had a run of five of her hand made garments modelled and Tessa made crochet clutch bags for sale on the night. There were also many girls who worked behind the scenes on the night, making it a truly whole house activity. We will eagerly await the final amount we raised but I would like to thank everyone who attended on the night, those who donated items for sale or raffle, and the whole house efforts in putting the night together. Alice Duncan is to be congratulated for all her hard work in organising the donations and our auctioneer, Joe Murdoch, which allows us to raise the all important funds in support of the Bhadaure School.

This week has been an exciting one with leadership front and centre in both the day school and boarding house. It was pleasing to see so many of our Year 11 girls nominating for leadership roles. On Monday night we listened to ten beautifully crafted leadership speeches from the girls who had nominated for leadership roles. Each speech was from the heart and focused on what makes boarding so special and what goals and vision each girl had for the house if she was successful in gaining a role. I am very happy to announce that Beatrice Marshman and Mimi Pfeiler will be our Boarding House Captains for 2026. We have been blessed this year with the fine leadership of Annabel Sanders and Ella Scholz, they and their predecessors have certainly set the bar high and

provided excellent role modelling. Whilst not everyone can have a formal leadership role, all Year 12 girls are leaders and the younger girls in the house certainly look up to them.

We are very keen for the upcoming exeat where girls have the opportunity to have some time away from the house to enjoy less routine and spend time with family and friends.

We are all also looking forward to the Senior A netball final against Immanuel College which will be played on Friday at Immanuel College. There are nine boarders in this team so we are all naturally excited to see our 'sisters' play and hopefully win the game. Good luck to Imo, Missy, Poppy, Daisy, Sharmaine, Sarah, Amelia, Maya, and Tilly.

Carolyn Matthews

Head of Boarding

