Life in the Wilderness

Term 4 Issue #1 | Friday 3 November, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Follow Your Dreams

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

Whenever I have the pleasure of hosting a school tour for prospective families, I am reminded of the great deal of care that parents take in deciding which school is right for their daughter. We feel honoured that many parents choose us for some, or all, of their daughter's schooling journey. From day one until their last day of school, we are honoured to walk alongside girls and their families as they grow and learn.

It is a celebration of that journey when our Year 12s reach their final weeks of school. During the many traditional events that acknowledge the milestone of graduation, we reflect on our shared journey, and on the mark the girls have made on our community.

Year 12 lunches, held at the end of Term 3, celebrate the bonds within their Form groups. At House Breakfasts, as girls from younger year levels offer speeches about our graduates, Year 12s hear directly about the positive impact they have made.

The final day of school is an emotional one. The Walk of Honour is a rite of passage, as Year 12s walk from the Lower Junior School up to the Running Track, receiving well wishes, hugs and handmade gifts from students and staff. It is symbolic of our values at Wilderness School—particularly the relationships that are formed and strengthened during their time at School. On the Walk of Honour, it is clear how deep those bonds run.

Through life's challenges and changes, fellow students and teachers have been constant figures of support for the girls. It was a fitting coincidence that in 2023, the Walk of Honour fell on the same day as World Teachers Day— what a beautiful way for girls to thank their teachers, and for our educators to see the results of their efforts.

The Valedictory Dinner is when girls celebrate with their families, offering thanks for the endless support through long evenings of study, co-curricular activities and decisions about the future.

As parents watch their daughter walk across the stage to collect her Wildy lion at Valedictory, they share our immense pride in the person she has grown up to be. At events like these, it means so much that we can stand alongside our parent community, celebrating them as well.

Our theme for this year's Valedictory Dinner was 'Follow Your Dreams'; we hope that these girls will aim high as they pursue their ambitions. By holding tight to the learnings and values of their time here, there will always be a piece of Wilderness beyond the gates with them.

For the rest of our students, there are still a few weeks of learning ahead. We look forward to the final five weeks of end of year assessments, excursions and performances, and to sharing more celebrations with our community.



































































EARLY LEARNING

A Time of Reflection

Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School - Early Years

On Friday 27 October, we were pleased to participate in the Year 12 Walk of Honour. We lined the path at the start of the special walk and presented the 'big girls' with handmade gifts. Even for our little girls, this is an emotional moment as they are swept up in the excitement, the emotive music and the tears of the Year 12s as they parade past in their altered uniforms. Throwing the rose petals over the girls and each other was certainly a lovely, fun way to conclude this celebration. Traditions such as these have been taking place at Wildy for an exceptionally long time and are a wonderful way to celebrate the conclusion of their time with us.

On a reflective note, over the past two weeks, our girls have been thinking about their learning journey this year for their reports by stating the things they have enjoyed and achieved. In particular, the Annie girls have been learning how to write their names and that too has demonstrated significant growth from the beginning of the year. In preparation for the creation of the ELC Keepsake book, the teachers have had some time out of class to reflect upon and write up the collaborative projects that have been undertaken over the course of the year. This has certainly been a fantastic year of tremendous growth and achievement.

During the past few weeks, the girls in the Mamie House have enjoyed making slime and learning about the sound and letter 's'. This is an excellent way to combine Science and Literacy learning and has certainly been great fun! The girls have also been learning

about the UV rating each day, which is particularly important for sun protection and a terrific way to learn about the positioning of numbers on a number line.

The Annie girls have continued with their letter writing and Green Door project. The Green Door opens to the Drawing Room, which has been preserved in its original form and serves as a reminder of the long history of Wilderness. This project has taken an interesting turn as the girls have discovered magical fairy dust nearby... we cannot wait to see what happens next!

To conclude, please remember the upcoming dates:

• Tuesday 21 November: Transition Visit #1

• Thursday 23 November: ELC Christmas Concert and Graduation – Gym, 5.30pm



































JUNIOR SCHOOL

Making the Most of Every Moment

Liz McCarthy, Head of Junior School

As we edge into November, there is always a sense of 'time speeding up'. With three weeks of our eight-week final school term for 2023 having passed, our Junior School teachers are making the most of every moment available, both in and outside of the classroom.

Teachers are preparing to write their students' Semester 2 reports, with assessments and reflection upon the growth of each girl in their care being a high priority. They are also still finding time to plan many exciting learning opportunities outside of the classroom, with our Year 2s visiting the Tea Tree Gully Heritage Museum, our Year 5s attending Once Upon a Festival at Immanuel Junior School, our Year 2 girls hosting a visit for the Year 2 boys from Prince Alfred College and our Years 30–06 Swimming Carnival all occurring during this week alone!

Given the busy nature of the coming weeks, I felt it would be worthwhile to draw your attention to some important Junior School dates:

- Thursday 2 November: ELC and Reception Parent Information Evenings
- Friday 3 November: Junior School Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 8 November Thursday 9 November: Year 6 Musical

- Monday 13 November Thursday 16 November: Year 5 Ballarat Educational Tour
- Wednesday 15 November Friday 17 November: Year 3 Outdoor Education Camp
- Tuesday 21 November: Junior School New Girls' Day
- Wednesday 22 November Friday 24 November: Year 6 Outdoor Education
 Bike Camp
- Thursday 23 November: Annie House Graduation and ELC Christmas Concert
- Tuesday 28 November: Musical Theatre Club End of Year Concert/Presentation
- Thursday 30 November: Ballet at Wilderness End of Year Concert/Presentation
- Monday 4 December: Junior School Prize Giving Assembly and Year 6 Graduation
- Friday 8 December: Final Day of School and JS Christmas Concert.

There will also be some class- and year level-specific excursions coming up, which the relevant teachers will communicate with you as needed.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 5 student, Lila Nassery, whose artwork was selected out of more than 500 submissions as the winner of the 2023 Science Alive/SA Power Networks Stobie Pole Art Challenge.

Having designed an artwork that told a story about renewable energy in her local community, Lila now has the job of selecting a stobie pole in her local suburb to paint with her design. We look forward to seeing Lila's artwork once it is completed!

Oliphant Science Awards

As always, Wilderness School was well represented in this year's Oliphant Science Awards, with entrants across the broad range of categories. Congratulations to the following girls for their achievements in this highly regarded competition for 2023.

Prize Winners:

- 1st Place: **Lila Nassery** and **Elizabeth Le** (Year 5) Year 5/6 Games
- 2nd Place: Lara Nassery (Year 2) Reception to Year 2 Posters

• 3rd Place: **Lara Nassery** and **Isabel Wilson** (Year 2) – Reception to Year 2 Models and Inventions.

Highly Commended:

- Ariana Ng (Year 6) Year 5/6 Models and Inventions
- Isha Wechalekar, Maryam Cedra Sawad and Sharanya Reddy (Year 5) Year 5/6
 Models and Inventions
- Adeline Wilson and Lila Nassery (Year 5) Year 5/6 Models and Inventions
- Amelia Davis (Year 4) Year 3/4 Posters
- Josie Richter (Year 4) Year 3/4 Posters
- Lara Nassery (Year 2) Reception to Year 2 Photography.

I look forward to seeing you at the many wonderful upcoming celebrations that will culminate our year together.





























MIDDLE SCHOOL

Strengthening Relationships

Rhiannon Giles, Head of Middle School

Our Year 8s participated in the Rube Goldberg challenge, using found or discarded household items to create chain-reaction contraptions. This fun, team-based challenge engaged the girls' STEM learning and all four groups were greatly invested in designing, building and watching their machines in action. Thank you to the Science teachers who organised the afternoon.

REALISE

Core Group 3 were privileged to have three weeks of beautiful sunshine for their REALISE experience. The three weeks were filled with building and strengthening core group relationships and adapting to the challenges faced throughout the program. Some of the key highlights were the views and fear-facing opportunities while rock climbing at Dyuritte (Mount Arapiles), the sections of challenging winds as well as glassy water of the Coorong expedition and, of course, the full day spent surfing in the clear and chilly waters of Long Beach, Robe. The girls developed their learning about themselves, others and the environment, with many students reflecting on their personal growth and newfound independence.

Rosie Smith

Acting Head of Outdoor Education

Year 8 Camp

In Week 10 of Term 3, our Year 8s from Core Groups 3 and 4 embarked on their Outdoor Education Camp in Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park. Residing at Roses Gap, an incredible off the grid campsite in the Northern Grampians, the camp featured the students getting out of their comfort zones in many aspects. This included an overnight bushwalk in the beautiful Barigar region along the Grampians Peak Trail and participating in other challenging activities like high and low rope courses, canoeing, initiatives and rock climbing. The girls were also involved in duty group activities, learning vital cooking and cleaning skills which will prepare them for REALISE next year. Throughout the six days away from home, relationships were strengthened, independence was developed and key life skills were learned, creating a highly successful and exciting time for the girls.

Kate Woodbridge

Teacher of Outdoor Education

Save the Date: 2023 Wildy Film Festival

Showcasing and celebrating the work of our Year 9 Film and Animation and Year 10 Certificate III Screen and Media students, this year's Wildy Film Festival will be held at The Mercury X Cinema on **Thursday 7 December** at 7.00pm. Featuring 10 short films across three film classes, the festival includes an eclectic array of cinematic modes and thought provoking pieces, where students have responded to a range of themes and stimuli.

Our guest speaker on the night will be Dr Josh McCarthy, Senior Lecturer of Visual Effects at the University of South Australia. Tickets will be available soon via Trybooking.

Jason Forrest

Teacher of Drama and Media











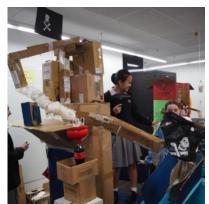


















SENIOR SCHOOL

Farewell Year 12s

Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School

Last week, we celebrated the achievements and contributions of our Year 12s during their final week of school. This special week was filled with a range of meaningful events that allowed us to honour the graduating class of 2023 and provide them with a fitting send-off. As a school community, we are proud of their accomplishments and excited about the prospects that lie ahead for them.

The House Breakfasts on Thursday morning were a resounding success. Each House gathered for breakfast, reminiscing about the Year 12s' memorable moments shared during their time at Wilderness. The breakfasts highlighted the bonds of friendship and House spirit between the girls.

On Friday, the annual 'Walk of Honour' saw our Year 12 students walk from the ELC through the School as a symbolic journey of their time at school. This event is an emotional and heartfelt event which celebrates the support and love our students have from the Wilderness community.

The highlight of Year 12 Leavers' Week was the unforgettable Valedictory Dinner, held at Adelaide Convention Centre on Friday 27 October. This magical evening was a beautiful culmination of the students' school journey with their parents and caregivers. The Valedictory Dinner truly showcased the sense of unity and camaraderie that defines our school community. Thank you to Mrs Andrea Petruzella and Miss Bethany Slaughter from Marketing and Communications for their coordination of this very special event.

The Year 12s now shift their focus to the final exams, beginning in Week 4. Good luck to all girls as they prepare to excel in these final exams. We are confident that their diligence and determination will shine through in this crucial phase of their academic journey.

The baton has now been passed to the Year 11s and the 2024 SRC. We look forward in the next couple of weeks to the 2024 SRC first assembly, where they will share their theme for the 2024, and the SRC Big Lunch.

Finally, as we head towards the end of the year, a reminder of some key dates for all Senior School girls. These include:

- Monday 27 November until Friday 1 December: Year 10 and Year 11 Exam Block
- Monday 4 December: Advent Service St Peter's Cathedral, 6.00pm
- Tuesday 5 December: Senior School Speech Night Wilderness Gym, 6.00pm.

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Jason Forrest

Teacher of Drama and Media



























































BOARDING

Leaving a Legacy in the Boarding House

Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding

The past week has been one of laughter and tears for our Year 12 boarders, their families and friends. It was particularly lovely to celebrate the warmth, closeness and kindness that exists between our Year 12 boarders and their younger 'sisters' at our Boarding House dinner on Thursday night. What was so evident through the farewell speeches was that our Year 12 cohort has left a legacy of care. Each one of our Year 12 girls has had an impact that will live on with our younger girls in the years to come and for that we are so very grateful. Learning away from home brings its challenges, but also its joys, fostered through the very special and unique relationships that girls forge while living in their home away from home. Learning not only comes from teachers, curriculum and textbooks, but also from experiences. As boarders, our Year 12 girls take with them experiences that will offer life lessons for years to come. My hope for our girls is that as they go through their final few weeks at the Boarding House, they can savour the moments with their younger boarding sisters. I know that we will all miss them dearly and treasure the time that we have together before bidding them farewell.

BOUNCE Excursion

It was lovely to see several Year 11 and 12 girls get out for a bounce at BOUNCE with Boarding Supervisor, Cass. This provided a much-needed stress release for our Senior girls and many giggles as well.













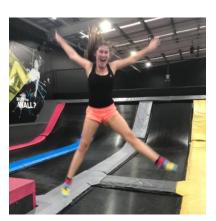




















SPORT

Football and Lacrosse Successes

Ashleigh Young, Director of Sport and Recreation

Summer Term 4 sport is underway and with only short seasons, the girls are again enjoying being out in the sunshine playing Touch, Tennis, Basketball and Volleyball. Families are reminded that Clipboard is the sport department's main form of communication, and all match and training details are updated regularly.

Football at Wilderness

The Football program continues to go from strength to strength at Wilderness and our girls of all ages have been getting in on the action.

Our littlest girls in Years 1 and 2 did AusKick earlier in the year and then had the special opportunity to play at half time of the AFLW game between Port Adelaide and Geelong, which featured our very own Sachi Syme (Class of 2022) playing for Port Adelaide Football Club. Our Year 3s through to Year 6s have just started their seasons and are being guided by senior players, with all three of our teams recording wins in their first games.

In the school holidays, seven Wilderness girls participated in the SANFL Girls

Development Carnival with Rose Newman (Year 11), Sasha Hardin (Year 11), Bella

Carrick (Year 10), Iris Newman (Year 9), Caitlin Hardin (Year 9) and Isabella Beaumont

(Year 9) representing North Adelaide Football Club and Missy Doudle (Year 10)

representing the Norwood Football Club.

Iris, Caitlin and Isabella have also been selected by the Adelaide Crows Academy and will play in curtain raiser games for the AFLW team.

Congratulations girls!

Wilderness Lacrosse

During the school holidays, six students represented South Australia at the U15 National Lacrosse Tournament in Ballarat. Lucia Andrae (Year 10), Layla Woodall (Year 10), Jessica Felstead (Year 9) and Rowan Parsons (Year 9) played for the Comets, and Layla Balestrin (Year 9) and Katarina Czechowicz (Year 9) played for Lightning.

The Comets (coached by Ms Bec Keller) came home undefeated, winning all six of their games. For Ms Keller, Layla W and Lucia, this is their second time taking out the national tournament after also winning in Perth in 2022.

During the week, Lucia and Rowan were each awarded Most Valuable Player for their standout performances.

In other lacrosse news, Isabel Jackson (Year 10) has progressed through the most recent U20 Australian squad training camp and has been selected in the refined squad to play in the Southern Crosse Tournament in January. Isabel also was the recipient of the Greaves Medal for the U18 Most Valuable player in South Australia for the 2023 Season.

Our youngest lacrosse girls in Years 30–06 played their first games against St Peter's Girls Collegiate School at the end of last term in some friendly games at the Park Lands. It was fantastic to see the girls' skills improve and the smiles on their faces as they grow in confidence.

With the recent announcement of Lacrosse's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, the future looks bright for our talented lacrosse players!

Absentee Reminder

Girls and parents are reminded to please notify the sports department if their daughter is going to be absent from co-curricular sport. This can be done by email if advance notice is known. In the case of Saturday morning absences, please ring or text 0467 961 518 to advise of the absence.





























MUSIC

Band and Choir Auditions

Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music

Band Auditions 2024

Thank you to all girls who completed a recorded audition for our 2024 concert bands and big bands. These were announced on Tuesday, and rehearsals commenced this week with the new line ups. Congratulations to all the girls!

Choir Auditions 2024

Information regarding our choir auditions went out on Tuesday, and auditions will take place on **Wednesday 8 November** (Week 4). Girls need to register their name, and will be contacted with the time of their audition. All information with details of the audition requirements was sent to all students in Years 6D-D11.

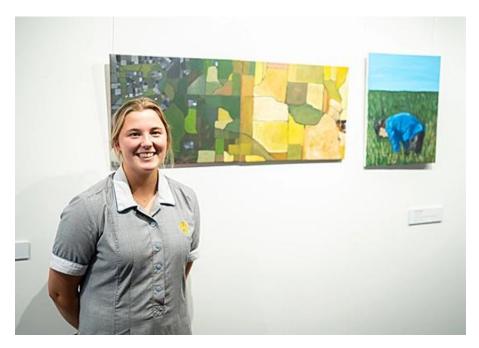
Instrumental Concerts - Week 5

Our annual instrumental concerts will take place in Week 5. You would have received an invitation with the details of the day, time and location from your music tutor if your daughter is playing. We look forwards to these concerts each year; the work from both the tutor and the student across the year is acknowledged and celebrated in a beautiful

World Teachers Day - Music Educators Award

On Friday 27 October, Ms Cassie Pope received an award at the World Teachers Day awards ceremony, held at The National Wine Centre. Ms Pope received her award for Outstanding Contribution to ABODA (Association of Bands and Orchestras). Cassie is currently the secretary of ABODA in South Australia and commits wholeheartedly to pursuing opportunities for students and teachers across the state involved in bands and orchestras alike. This award is one that is very much deserved. Congratulations Ms Pope!





ART

Year 12 Art Exhibition 'Universe17' Opening Event

Brooke Porter, Head of Art

On the evening of Wednesday 18 October, a gathering of invited guests convened to commemorate the accomplishments of Year 12 Visual Arts students at the grand opening of an exhibition entitled 'Universe17'.

The creations by the 17 Art students this year employed a diverse range of artistic mediums to convey a spectrum of concepts, centring on themes of the environment, family and personal identity. Marked by their individuality, this exhibition artfully harmonised their pieces, collectively forming what I refer to as their 'Personal Universes'.

Leah Grant, our guest speaker and this year's Artist in Residence, addressed the gathering during this event, extending her heartfelt congratulations to the students for their remarkable efforts. In her speech, she empathetically delved into the students' creative process and the courage it takes to exhibit work that is deeply personal. She also took a moment to recognise the unwavering commitment and support of both the students' parents and teachers, who have played pivotal roles in nurturing and facilitating their creative endeavours.

The exhibition's official opening was gracefully presided over by Principal, Mrs Belinda Arnfield, and it was a joyous occasion for family, friends, staff and invited guests, who all came together to relish the experience. This event truly served as a triumphant celebration of the Art students' accomplishments, as they skilfully harnessed their

critical and creative faculties to transform their unique concepts into captivating visual expressions.







































GLOBAL LEARNING

Round Square Exchange Program

Stephanie Andrews, Head of Global Learning

It was with much excitement that we began our Round Square International Exchange Program this year. Unlike previous exchange programs Wilderness School has been involved with, this program focuses on individual exchanges with individual schools, providing a personal experience for our girls and the students we are hosting.

This year saw us begin the Exchange Program by welcoming **Daisy Colmer** (from Cobham Hall in the UK) into Year 12 for four weeks in Term 2 and **Kelly Lloyd** (from Dainfern School in South Africa) for five weeks in Term 3. We also sent Year 10 students **Maddy Jones** to Marvelwood School, USA and **Lily Erbe** to Bridge House School, South Africa in Terms 3 and 4, respectively. We are looking forward to sending girls to Canada, the USA, Japan and South Africa in 2024, and receiving exchange students from their respective schools. We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences next year.

Here are some reflections from Daisy, Kelly and Lily.

Daisy Colmer:

For four weeks, I was given the opportunity to visit Wilderness School and experience Australian culture through a Round Square exchange. I was grateful to be hosted by the Balestrin family for the duration of my time away. A few days after I arrived, I was taken up to Gorge Wildlife Park where I had an amazing time, got to feed the kangaroos and hold a koala!

I was shown around the beautiful Glenelg Beach and Adelaide Hills.

On my first day at Wilderness School, I was immediately greeted with smiles and hugs. As the first day continued, I chose my subjects and was shown around the campus. During my stay, my host family took me across Adelaide and let me be fully immersed in life here. The activities that I was involved in ranged from having a simple dinner out with friends to experiencing my first AFL match. Catrina Balestrin (Year 12) also ensured that I felt fully welcomed among friends and that I tried all the 'Aussie snacks' like Tim Tams, Vegemite and fairy bread. The highlight of my trip was the memories that I have made and the friendships I will always hold onto.

I will be forever grateful for this opportunity and the experience I have been given, and I hope to be able to come back in the future.

Kelly Lloyd:

Coming to Wilderness, I expected to be at school learning new topics through unique styles of teaching and assessing. I am pleased to say that whilst being here, I have been exposed to a new way of thinking and working that I will take home with me. I also expected to make new friends, but never imagined what strong bonds I would create. Being away from home was tough, but I am so grateful for my amazing host family, the Andraes, who have made me feel at home and comfortable from the beginning of my trip. My host family have put so much effort into entertaining me, and I would have to say that the highlight of my exchange was when I held a koala at Cleland Wildlife Park. Whilst being privileged to learn so much about Australia, my exchange has also taught me so much about myself. I have learned how much love and passion I have for my country, South Africa, and how much I have to say about my heritage. Being here has taught me so much and I am incredibly grateful for the trip I was given. In no way was I let down during my stay; I expected a trip filled with highs at school and adventures around the city and that is exactly what I have received. I learned so much and I am incredibly grateful for the trip I was given. I would recommend an exchange to anyone who has

an opportunity to go on one; you will be given an individual experience that will teach you so much about yourself, new people and new cultures.

Thank you to everyone at Wildy for giving me such a valuable experience here that I will never forget.

Lily Erbe:

The next week, we headed to Knysna Heads where we visited heaps of beaches and did lots of pretty sunset boat rides. Every day we would go stand up paddle boarding through the canals. We visited an elephant farm where rescued elephants go; I was able to get up close and personal to the elephants and even feed them. Visiting the local markets has definitely been a highlight. Many local people set up handmade stands of gorgeous jewellery, along with traditional South African things.

Jemma (my host sister) and I have been getting along so well. We have so many similar interests and like the same things. I cannot believe I have already been here for over three weeks! It has gone so fast and I really do not want to leave. Overall, it has been an amazing experience so far and I cannot wait for what is yet to come.









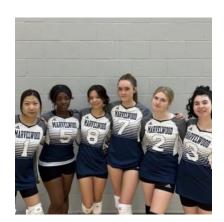














CAREERS CORNER

Careers Corner

Caroline Palmer, Careers Counsellor

42Adelaide

Year 11 students Anastacia Sampson-Ly and Natasha Lippett are undertaking a Stage 2 Digital Technologies subject through 42Adelaide this year. Anastacia was quoted in the following LinkedIn article about a recent workshop she participated in through the subject.

HerTechPath

On Thursday 21 September, four Year 10 students – Layla Woodall, Madison Chau, Emily Nguyen and Olivia Lai, accompanied by Mrs Caroline Palmer and Mr Thomas Keller – attended a 'Careers Pathways for Girls in STEM' workshop hosted by Planit. Supporters included Aplo, Salesforce, Adelaide Football Club Foundation, Harrison McMillan and Flinders University, along with the team at Planit, who shared insights throughout the day. Genevieve Rueger, Blackhawk Helicopter Pilot/MFS Firefighter started the day with her inspirational career story. You can find Genevieve's 2023 International Women's Day keynote here.

For useful resources, visit HerTechPath.

Related Resources:

• 42Adelaide

- University of Adelaide Computer Programmer Boot Camp
- Code like a Girl
- Planit Bootcamp
- Software Testing Training

University of New South Wales

Learn more about their new program - Bachelor of Cyber Security.

James Cook University

Why Study at JCU? Click here to learn more.

The University of Queensland

Learn more about what your daughter can do with her degree at the University of Queensland.

The University of Melbourne

Learn more about pre-requisites for entry into courses at The University of Melbourne.

Hansen Scholarship Program: Applications will open in February 2024 for the Hansen Scholarship Program, worth up to \$108,000. Each year, The University of Melbourne recognises students from around Australia who have demonstrated outstanding academic success, a resilience to adversity and a commitment to helping and leading others. Through financial support, tailored mentoring and extracurricular activities, they equip Hansen Scholars with the skills and knowledge to make an impact at Melbourne and beyond.

Benefits of the program include:

- Generous financial support
- Free accommodation at Little Hall residence
- Guaranteed place in a professional master's degree
- Joining a supportive community of high achievers

- Making powerful industry connections
- Support for your daughter's personal growth.

Find out more here.





