

Life in the Wilderness

Term 4 Issue #2 | Friday 11 November, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Lifelong Learning

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

As of this afternoon, our Year 12 students have reached the halfway mark of their exam period. I am sure that each student has entered the exam rooms with a mixture of anticipation and quiet confidence, due to the significant preparation and effort they have put in.

The Year 12 exam period is often recognised as the end of a learning journey, but with our steadfast belief in lifelong learning, the question now is 'where will this knowledge take them?'

Some girls may go on to complete further exams, research projects and written assignments. Others will learn hands-on skills which will be developed through deliberate practice. As they build a new weekly rhythm, there are languages, instruments, hobbies and sports they may choose to explore. Beyond knowledge and skills, there are many capabilities and dispositions that our girls will also continue to grow in their everyday lives.

With an abundance of learning still to come after school, we find great joy in hearing stories of our old scholars and the path their learning has taken them.

We received wonderful news late last week that Bridget Smart (2017) has been named as

South Australia's 2023 Rhodes Scholar-elect. This is an incredibly prestigious scholarship opportunity which will enable Bridget to travel to, and study at, the University of Oxford.

Bridget is currently writing her thesis for her Master of Philosophy in Applied Mathematics and Statistics at The University of Adelaide, which focuses on 'building a better understanding of online social networks, and the mechanisms behind malicious behaviour including fake news and misinformation'. She will extend this knowledge by studying a Doctor of Philosophy during her time in Oxford. Bridget is an excellent example of a Wilderness girl who continues to be true and courageous in her learning by asking what she can learn next.

This model of thinking is also demonstrated by our staff, who are supported to pursue their own educational ambitions. Through the Catherine Ye Fellowship, we provide exceptional opportunities to Wilderness' outstanding teaching staff to complete research/study projects (outside of the regular Professional Learning programme which we run at the School).

Two of our current staff members who are recipients of the Catherine Ye Fellowship are Mrs Melissa Foster and Mr Shane Hill.

Mrs Melissa Foster is completing a Master of Education (Reading and Literacy) through Torrens University. Not only is this study beneficial to Melissa's individual development, but it also complements the work that the Junior School is currently doing to review its literacy practices. As one of our Early Years teachers, she found that one of the most rewarding parts of the role was being part of a child's literacy journey; combined with her own special interest in literacy, this sparked her decision to apply for the Fellowship.

"There have been such changes in education in recent years and this has impacted upon the way we teach literacy, especially when we consider social and technological changes," she says. "This course has helped me consider how to keep the teaching of literacy relevant for today's young learners."

Mr Shane Hill is completing a Masters of Instructional Leadership at The University of Melbourne. Through his study, he is seeking to learn how we can assist teachers in using data to inform their teaching and learning practices. In turn, he hopes to enhance students' cross-curricular opportunities and learning, so that students can make the most of the skills they learn in one subject and transfer their understanding in novel contexts.

"The benefit will come from building skills and knowledge to enhance effective teaching and learning that contributes to greater student achievement," he says. "I hope to have a positive influence on teachers through the use of evidence-based approaches to the leadership of teaching and learning."

It is gratifying to see the ambitions of our staff members, not only for their own

professional growth, but also for the enhancement of the School, and most importantly for the benefit of our girls.

Our community is at its best when we are inspiring one another to continue to learn and grow together.



EARLY LEARNING

Big Kids and Grown Ups Begin the Transition to Junior School

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

This week we started our formal transitions into the next year level, which included a Parent Information Evening for our new ELC families and all 2023 Reception parents. We are incredibly grateful for your attendance on Tuesday (excluding, of course, our current Mamie parents) and for your support with the transitions.

It has occurred to me, though, that perhaps it is us as parents who are the most emotional about this next transition and the way that our girls are fine and, for the most part, incredibly excited about becoming 'big girls'. Considering that, I encourage you to reach out to each other, to the educational team and to me so that we may support you, reassure you and remind you that you are not alone in your feelings.

As for your girls, you can be sure that we are carefully considering the information that needs to be shared across the educational teams to ensure that we create optimal learning environments. We are also carefully monitoring the girls' friendships to make sure that they will be supported and happy next year. Your girls are in good hands!

Good luck grown ups with your transition – you can do it!





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Animal Friends Visit for Science Incursion

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

With Term 4 well underway, we have had an action-packed fortnight in the Junior School. Last Friday, our Years 3 – 6 girls commenced their day at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for their annual Junior School Swimming Carnival.

With well organised Year 6 House Captains, the House spirit was high throughout the day as the girls competed in a wide range of open, year level and team games events. Ably supported by the Middle School students, our younger girls had both a successful and enjoyable day in and out of the pool. Enormous thanks to Ms Deb Jarrett, Ms Ashleigh Young, Mr Derek Woodcock and Mr Kieran Jackson for their organisation of an event that truly ran like clockwork.

Thursday 10 November was our annual Junior School New Girls' Day, where all new students joining the Junior School in 2023 joined their current year level counterparts to spend a day transitioning up to their new classrooms and teachers for next year. All new girls were assigned a buddy, who undertook careful training for their important role with Mrs Kate Brennan. The day began with a beautiful assembly presented by the Year 2 students, who shared lots of important information that our new girls needed to know about coming to Wilderness, before returning to their classrooms to undertake a range of fun getting-to-know-you activities with their new teachers. We always look forward to new friends joining us in the Junior School, and with new enrolments strong, this year was no exception.

New beginnings are very exciting and can also bring with them nerves and, at times, worry about changes to come. Speaking positively with your daughters about upcoming changes, the opportunities to make new friends and to learn from new teachers is an important way to demonstrate to them how to embrace change. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with either your daughter's teacher or myself should you have any questions about the upcoming school year.

Rehearsals are well underway during Music lessons for our much-anticipated ELC and Junior School Christmas concerts, which are fast approaching. Information about the requirements for these respective evenings, including what the girls are asked to wear, arrival times and more, will be coming home very soon.

I wish you a wonderful week ahead.

Animal Capers

As part of our Science learning this term – about the basic needs of living things – Reception girls were visited by Jodie from 'Animal Capers'. We had the opportunity to handle some fascinating creatures and learn how to care for them. We met Oscar, the 17-week-old puppy who is a cross between an Australian Shepherd and Border Collie. Oscar was full of energy, but he sat beautifully for us to give him treats! We also met Wiggles the snake, Bluey the blue-tongued lizard, Votarn the owl, Smiles the crocodile and Napoleon the frog. We bravely and gently held and patted these animals. Bluey even licked our noses! Two of our favourite creatures were Peter Pan and Tinkerbelle, the sugar gliders, who were snuggled up in a pouch together. Jodie helped us dip our fingers into honey and they happily popped their heads up to hungrily lick it off!

Melissa Foster

Reception Teacher







MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Final REALISE Group for 2022 Returns

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

REALISE Core Group 4 Reflection

Please enjoy a written reflection from Year 9 students **Bella Carrick, Olivia Lai, Lucy Beaumont** and **Olivia Cardone**, who were part of Core Group 4, who recently returned from their REALISE experience.

Throughout the REALISE program, we have learned how to be capable, independent young women and gain experience into living with others. Our three weeks at Crawford have allowed us to slow down and live in the moment, taking a break from our busy lives both inside and outside of school. Each day consisted of a new adventure, and although some days proved challenging, the rewarding views at our destination made the struggle worth it.

Some of our best days included surfing, solo night, rock climbing and the Indigenous immersion day. These unique experiences helped us connect to the nature around us and appreciate our surroundings instead of being distracted by our phones. The constantly changing weather conditions

also taught us how to become more adaptable whilst still having fun. This will help us in the future when we face life's challenges, including working with new people, living with others and difficult situations we might face.

This experience has provided us with opportunities and skills that we would not have learned otherwise. We would like to thank Ms Rosie Smith, Ms Emily Duck, Ms Eve Woods, Ms Claire Auger and Ms Holli Rawson for giving us freedom to shop, meal plan, cook and clean, but still looking over us and providing us with the guidance we needed. We were so lucky to have the privilege of being able to go on REALISE and experience how life changing this program is.

House Buddy Seminars

Every year, in preparation for New Girls' Day, the Heads of House, Buddy Coordinators and House Captains meet with girls who will be buddies. In this seminar, they discuss what it means to be a buddy, their responsibilities to their buddy, what challenges a new student may face and how they can best support their buddy. The girls write letters to their buddy, introducing themselves and inviting them to New Girls' Day.

Junior School Swimming Carnival

Thank you to all the Middle School students who volunteered their time to help at the Junior School Swimming Carnival. The girls helped with timing, at the results table and in the water, ensuring the safety and confidence of our youngest swimmers.

Year 7 Athletics Champion

Congratulations to **India Goodall** for winning the Year 7 Championship at the Athletics Carnival. We were able to correctly present India with the Judy Thurgood Cup and Centenary Cup (shared) at the Middle School Assembly in Week 3. The additional results of the Athletics Carnival were published in the previous edition of Life in the Wilderness.

Uniform

Girls have recently been reminded that it is an expectation of all Wilderness students to wear their uniform correctly. Girls should be wearing their white summer hat to and from the School with their summer dress.

If the weather is cool, girls will need to wear their blazer if wearing their jumper. No jewellery is to be worn with the School uniform, however one pair (strictly one in each ear lobe, no cartilage earrings) of plain silver, gold or pearl studs no larger than 5mm in diameter or standard size sleepers is permitted.

If girls have PE after recess and sport after school, they may change into their sport uniform at recess and remain in their sport uniform for the remainder of the day. Girls may not arrive at school or leave school at the end of the day in their sport uniform except for when they have a sport practice before or after school.

The full uniform code is detailed on pages 25 and 26 of the Student Diary.





SENIOR SCHOOL

Senior Schoolers Show Their Unity and Identity

[Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School](#)

This week, the Year 12s have begun their final SACE external examinations. The girls have approached these exams in a positive manner and it was pleasing to see many of them at school last week sitting practice exams with their teachers during SWOT VAC. The Year 12 teachers are thanked for their work with their classes and for their preparation of the girls for their final exam block this year. We wish all girls the best in their examinations, which will run until Friday 18 November.

Last week, the 2023 SRC held their Big Lunch with a theme of 'Halloween'. The girls organised a fantastic lunch and began their vision of 'U&I' or 'Unity and Identity', which they will present fully to the School at their assembly next Monday. Throughout this week, the International, Design and Technology and Library committees have collaborated to provide a range of entertaining games and activities for the girls to be involved in during lunchtimes. This has included drone racing, learning how to play various games from other countries (such as mahjong), Nintendo Switch games, a Student versus Staff Mario Kart challenge and an Obanyaki Drive. The girls are congratulated for hitting the road running and we look forward to their other initiatives over the next twelve months.

Over the last month, girls in the Senior School have been exposed to a range of road safety programs relevant to their stage of life. Young drivers are the most vulnerable road users; the statistics are alarming and they are not improving. Last Wednesday, all Year 10s attended the 'Save a Life' presentation run by Darren David. Girls experienced

driving a real car on a simulator and heard essential messages about the causes of distraction for drivers and the real risk of being in a car without your seatbelt on.

On Monday night, I was fortunate to attend the Wildy Film Festival at the Palace Nova Prospect Cinemas. This 'red-carpet' affair celebrated the films created by students in Middle and Senior School as part of their Multimedia course work or with the Media Team. The girls and Mr Hal Bruce are congratulated for the range of short films produced as a part of their coursework.

The Year 11 Drama production *Così* was enjoyed last night in the Newman Theatre by all in attendance. Set in 1972, *Così* is a semi-autobiographical play which explores a life lesson for Lewis, a young director who takes on the task of producing a play with the patients who live in a mental asylum. The Year 11 Drama company 'Mental Minds Theatre' have been developing their interpretation of the play over the past 10 weeks, with the cast and crew crafting a fast-paced, comic and character-driven work to bring to the stage. Congratulations to all girls and staff involved.

Finally, today at 11.00am we remembered those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the theatre of war at our Remembrance Day Service. We can never forget the freedom and opportunities that we have today as Australians due to the dedication, commitment and sacrifice made by so many in the armed forces in the past.

We will remember them. Lest we forget.





BOARDING

Boarders Make the Days Count

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

As girls have returned from the exeat and with less than 25 school days remaining in the year, I have reminded them of Muhammad Ali's quote: "Don't count the days, make the days count." It's easy to get swept away in anticipation of an end goal, like the end of the school year, a big exam or an exciting upcoming holiday. However, it is also important for us to strike the balance of remaining present and enjoying each day that we have together. I know we are treasuring the few days we have left with the Year 12 boarders in the house. As our Year 12s started the exam period this week and begin to transition out of the house, it reminds us that our school year is fast approaching its end. We have distributed advent calendars to each of the girls as they count down – not to Christmas, but to the end of the school year. With only four weeks of the school year left, we are looking forward to balancing our ability to remain present and with one another, while also anticipating the excitement of the summer holidays.

Thank You Event

It was lovely to gather on the lawn with several of our day and boarding families for a Thank You event. Events like this highlight the unique relationship between boarders and their day school compatriots. Having spoken with our 2023 Boarding House leaders, I know they dearly value their relationships with the day girls.

Go Karting, Weaving and Dumplings

Recently, we have had an offering of diverse activities. A small group of girls ventured to the Dumpling Markets along the River Torrens, and we had a group of girls go Go-Karting. On a recent Sunday, we had Tahnae, an indigenous woman, visit us in the Boarding House to teach Ngarrindjeri weaving techniques.





SPORT

Jumping into the Junior School Swimming Carnival

[Ashleigh Young, Director of Sport and Recreation](#)

Friday 4 September saw our Year 3-6 students head to the Adelaide Aquatic Centre for the annual Wilderness Junior School Swimming Carnival.

Our enthusiastic swimmers showed a wonderful level of participation across all events including novelty, individual championship races and team relays, as well as great House spirit. An enjoyable day was had by all at the pool, and this was made possible with the support of our Middle and Senior School volunteers who attended to assist with various duties during the day including time keeping, marshalling and supporting our less confident swimmers to complete their events. Without this support, we would not be able to have the levels of participation we enjoy at these events, so a sincere thank you to our girls for making this possible. We are also thankful for the additional work of the Junior School Staff, Ms Liz McCarthy, Mr Derek Woodcock and Ms Deb Jarrett to make our 2022 carnival possible.

Cedar House came out on top for the day after securing both the Bowen Shield for Team Games and the GA Black Shield for the Overall House Competition.

Congratulations to the championship winners from each year level as listed below:

- Year 3 Champion: **Mia Zhou**
- Year 3 Runner Up: **Giordanna Ruso**

- Year 3 Third Place: **Vasiliki Natsias**
- Year 4 Champion: **Mia Varrichio**
- Year 4 Runner Up: **Grace Lin**
- Year 4 Third Place: **Alana Munt**
- Year 5 Champion: **Grace Tully**
- Year 5 Runner Up: **Ivy Dowd**
- Year 5 Third Place: **Ariana Ng**
- Year 6 Champion: **Matilda Burns**
- Year 6 Runner Up: **Evangeline Lee**
- Year 6 Third Place: **Rachel Chisholm**

A special congratulations goes to **Matilda Burns** (Year 6) who won the Leigh Wilson Trophy with the highest aggregate individual points, as well as the Open 100m Freestyle event.

Bowen Shield Final Placings

1. **Cedar** (770 points)
2. **Sparaxis** (700 points)
3. **Antholiza** (680 points)
4. **Amaryllis/Carob** (625 points)

GA Black Shield Final Placings

1. **Cedar** (2261 points)
2. **Antholiza** (1862 points)
3. **Sparaxis** (1815 points)

4. Carob (1700 points)

5. Amaryllis (1180 points)







CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Preparations Begin for Generations in Jazz

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

Early this term, our band girls auditioned for the 2023 Big Bands, and we were most impressed with their efforts in submitting their auditions in an online format for the first time.

Both Big Band 1 and Big Band 2 commenced rehearsals for 2023 last week, and on Thursday 10 November, the newly formed Big Band 1 were lucky enough to have a workshop with Jordan Murray. Jordan is the newly appointed Artistic Director of Generations in Jazz, and after a three-year hiatus, our students are very excited about travelling to Mount Gambier to compete next year.

Jordan, a professional trombonist from Melbourne, is in Adelaide this week to work with a few selected schools and he is also speaking at the Heads of Music meeting to discuss the new design of Generations in Jazz for next year.

Jordan inspired our girls and already has them playing the set piece for next year's competition at a high standard.

Thanks to the girls for their enthusiasm and efforts – 2023, here we come!

[Instrumental Concerts – Week 5](#)

A reminder that the [Instrumental Concerts](#) are taking place next week, from Monday to Thursday. We hope to see lots of parents coming to support their daughters' musical

achievements.

Mental Minds Theatre Takes Centre Stage

On Thursday evening, the Year 11 Drama students presented an abridgement of the play *Così* by Louis Nowra in the Newman Theatre.

“Nowra’s vibrant play is set inside a psychiatric institution in 1971. Lewis, a young director, takes on the task of mounting a production of Mozart’s *Così Fan Tutte* in the burnt-out theatre. He becomes emotionally involved with his patients-come-actors as his operatic production lurches forward and anti-Vietnam protests rage outside. First produced in 1992, *Così* has become one of the most successful Australian plays produced in the last two decades. A terrific play about madness, illusion, sanity and theatre.”

The girls really had to up their commitment, persistence and focus to present a play of this length which is also so well-written and comic. They have all stretched themselves and the learning has been fabulous.

Jessica Foster

Head of Drama



