

Life in the Wilderness

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The First of Many Goodbyes

Jane Danvers, Principal

As Principal, I have always known how truly lucky I am to be surrounded by incredibly capable and generous girls whose kindness radiates beyond the walls of their classrooms, well into the Wilderness grounds.

On Tuesday, I was equally surprised and humbled to learn that this year's SRC Big Lunch was indeed a farewell, held in my honour. Secretly crafted and perfectly timed, the girls went out of their way to create an exceptionally special event.

I would like to congratulate all the girls who organised such a delightful afternoon. From the music performances, scones, jam and cream, and Welsh Corgi appearance, I could not have dreamed of a better way to say farewell to our Middle and Senior students. Thank you girls, it is an occasion I will cherish forever.

We have reached a point in the final term when we start preparing for the transition into 2022.

New Girls' Day is a time-honoured event that sees the girls immersing themselves in fun activities and conversations which resonate with all four of our school values. I was especially proud to see our girls practicing Respectful Relationships as they welcomed

the upcoming and new Wilderness students into our community during their transition visit.

During the day, the new girls were given a glimpse of what life will be like next year as they move up to their next year level, and for some, to a new school. The whole school looks forward to welcoming them into our community and watching them flourish throughout their Wilderness journey.

I am delighted to share that Dr Rhiannon Giles has accepted the role as Interim Head of Middle School for Semester 1, 2022 while Mrs Belinda Arnfield takes on the role of Interim Principal. I know Rhiannon will bring her warm and caring nature to the role and will serve as a familiar face to the girls, having been Head of Cedar House for the last five years.

Last week was an exciting time for the Creative Industries as they showcased our girls' talents in many formats.

Newman Theatre hosted a series of performances, including a rendition of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' from our Year 9 Girls. Hender Hall was transformed into an art gallery with colourful creations, from honey pots, realistic looking Australian foods made from clay, bright planter bags and handmade plates and platters resembling items you would purchase in a store.

We look forward to watching even more performances in the coming weeks as we honour our girls' achievements and celebrate our end of year.

Jane Danvers

Principal



EARLY LEARNING

Early Learning

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

So much of our lives are spent preparing for the next step and this is especially evident at this time of year for our girls who are preparing for 2022. This of course, is vital and important and the driving force for '**becoming**'.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) provides a broad direction for early childhood teachers to facilitate children's learning and guides our curriculum decision-making. However, '**becoming**' is only one of three key themes of the EYLF. **Belonging** and **being** are the other two key themes of equal importance. The EYLF states that these three themes characterise children's lives.

In this time of preparation for the future, whether it is for next week, the concert, Christmas, next year.... please remember the importance of **being** in your child's life and education.

The EYLF (p.7) states that: 'Childhood is a time to be, to seek and make meaning of the world. Being recognises the significance of the here and now in children's lives. It is about the present and them knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life's joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.'

As we bring the 2021 academic year to a close, we will reflect on this important notion of 'being' to ensure that we bring balance to the 'becoming'. Please enjoy the photos of our

girls being in the moment, in this special time of their lives.





JUNIOR SCHOOL

Transitioning to Next Year

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

As we move towards the end of the year, it seems as if time is speeding up!

Not least because of the many rehearsals, finalising of learning tasks and assessments to enable report writing, but also because our teachers feel now more than ever a sense of sadness at their girls moving into another year level.

The deep connections made when working with your daughters for an entire year are inestimable, and it is somewhat bittersweet to see them move up.

This time of year is always a time of great reflection as teachers write your daughters' reports and hand over notes for their new teacher. I have many conversations with the Junior School teaching team where I am struck by the deep care for, commitment to and support they hold for the individual girls in their classes.

As well as the usual end of year events, there has been and still will be an abundance of experiences and opportunities for our girls in the ELC and Junior School.

Animal Capers!

For our girls in Reception, their Science class this term has been a special one with their learning centred around the basic needs of living things. Early in the term, they planted sunflower seeds and the girls have watched with wonder as these tiny seeds began to sprout and are now developing into strong young plants.

A highlight for this unit of learning was a visit by Jodie from 'Animal Capers'. Jodie cares for a range of amazing animals and her visit gave the girls a truly hands-on experience of

these special creatures. There was Smiles the crocodile, Wiggles the snake and Hush the baby possum, among others.

Our girls showed themselves to be truly Adventurous Learners as they gently handled these living animals and learned what they need to remain healthy and happy!



Year 3 Camp

Our Year 3 girls enjoyed an outstanding camp experience at Aldinga last week, participating in a range of Indigenous focussed activities. I encourage you to read the following reflection by Skyler Luong and Maryam Cedra Sawad.

Our first stop was Jubilee playground at Port Noarlunga, at the playground we ate recess. Then we went on a scavenger hunt at the beach and used the pieces to make nature art.

Next, we walked through the scrub and ate lunch before eventually arriving at the Aldinga holiday park.

After we settled in, we got sorted into our dorms. We had some time to set up our beds and empty our food scraps from lunch and recess into the recycle, compost, soft plastic and chicken bin. Then we had afternoon tea which were delicious muffins.

As the sun was setting we went back to the scrub and found a magic spot to do some journaling. Then we got free time where we got to choose between going to the pool or to the playground where there was a bouncy pillow. We had burgers for dinner. Then it was finally time to go to bed!

Most of us were awake at dawn but we stayed in bed until we heard a choir of angels [the teachers] singing "You Are My Sunshine". Then it was breakfast time. All of us had at least one serving of cereal and then we got the choice of toast. Then 3T got to paint boomerangs while 3D got to go for a walk with Trent [He is an Indigenous man who came to talk to us about his culture]. Then we had morning tea which was chocolate chip cookies and fruit. Then we got to swap.

Trent showed us different plants that the Aboriginal people used for medicine, tools and food. He demonstrated the different tools that they made from plants and showed us how to make bush glue from kangaroo poo, grass tree resin and charcoal.

Next, we covered rainbow trout with clay. Trent put them on the fire.

While the fish was cooking Trent told us a story about a boy who never did anything his family told him to because he got lazy and he got punished for that. Then we did some journaling.

Afterwards we ate the trout it was delicious! Some people even ate the eyeballs!!! Then we ate spaghetti bolognese for dinner. After a long day full of activities most of us were very eager to go to sleep.

Friday was our last day, everyone was excited to get back to their families at home, but some people also wanted to stay at camp.

Firstly, choir of angels [the teachers] sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to us in the morning. Then we packed our bags and ate breakfast.

Next some girls made a Stick Man family while others played a game in the scrub called prickly and tickly. Then we had morning tea which was Anzac cookies and fruit, then we swapped around.

Afterwards the bus arrived and the teachers put all our luggage in the bus. Then we went to Aldinga Oval for lunch. We ate sausage rolls, pies and pasties.

Afterwards the teachers treated us chocolate doughnuts. Then the bus took us back to school, where we got picked up by our excited parents!



Next Week

Our Year 6 girls will be experiencing their 'Sea to Summit' bike riding camp next week from Wednesday 24 November to Friday 26 November. They will ride over three days from Henley Beach to Athelstone along Linear Park, camping overnight in between.

Our ELC girls are looking forward with much anticipation to their Christmas Party, to be held next Tuesday morning.

New Girls

This week we welcomed our new girls for 2022 on our annual New Girls' Day, with all Junior School girls enjoying a day with their year level teachers for next year.

This began with a beautiful assembly, hosted by our Year 2 girls, where our new students were welcomed for the day. They then moved with their new teachers for a day filled with fun getting to know you activities.

The girls will all have a final transition on the last day of school (Friday 3 December), where they will find out their class and specific teacher.

It is always a time of year filled with some nerves about the unknown, however, please rest assured that a great deal of time and the utmost care and consideration is given to placing girls in classes.

The way we frame our approach to new experiences with our girls plays an essential role in determining their resilience and confidence moving forward.

Reminder - End of Year Events

I remind you to book your allocated tickets for our ELC Christmas Concert and Annie's Graduation on Thursday 2 December, Junior School Christmas Concert on Friday 3 December and for our Year 6 families, the Year 6 Graduation and Prize Giving Assembly on Monday 29 November. Families of girls who have won prizes will be invited individually to this event.

As much as we would love to be able to extend an invitation more broadly to families and extended families for these events, we are only able to offer a strict 2 ticket per family limit. The social distancing and density requirements from SA Health we are bound to abide by only allow for this.

While it can seem reasonable to grant an extra ticket or two to families, it really is not something we can do, both in terms of the requirements we are legislated to meet and in terms of treating all families equitably.

I am pleased to let you know however, that we will be recording these events and, once ready, sharing them with our families in the weeks following.

I look forward to seeing you in Week 10 and wish you a wonderful fortnight ahead.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School

[Belinda Arnfield, Head of Middle School](#)

Middle School SRC

As the school year comes to an end, we have watched our Year 8 girls transition into the new leaders of the Middle School. As we prepare for next year it was impressive to see the number of applications for the 2022 MS SRC positions. The election will be held next week with speeches and voting, and I look forward to introducing our 2022 MS SRC representatives.

I am excited to announce a new position on our MS SRC committee. Based on the work of two Year 9 girls, Chloe, and Isla, who established a committee with Brooke Porter, Head of Art. We welcome a new Art Representative position to the SRC Committee.

This week we concluded the year with our final Middle School Assembly before prize giving. We were fortunate enough to be led by the Year 9 SRC as they presented their final Middle School Assembly item showing that hard work can also be lots of fun. They should all be very proud of what they have achieved this year and I wish them the best of luck as they transition into the Senior School.

Transition

As we conclude the year, we begin the exciting process of welcoming our future Middle School girls into the school community. New Girls' Day was hosted across two days as we welcomed all 2022 Year 7 girls into the Middle School on Friday 12 November, where they tried their hand in multiple activities including planting rare seeds and learning about our

connection to Nepal with the Science Department. Again, on Monday 15 November, we welcomed our new Year 8 and 9 girls for their New Girls' Day. Girls had the opportunity to meet key staff and engage in fun activities with the Science Department to settle into the Middle School and give them a taste of what life is like at Wilderness.

I would like to congratulate our Year 9 leaders on creating a useful online handbook that our new girls can access to assist in their transition into Wilderness school life.



Creative Industries

Week 5 displayed the many talents of the Middle School girls in the Creative Industries during the Wildy Fringe. We saw Year 7 film animations, Year 9 ceramics in collaboration with the Jam Factory, Drama performances from Years 7, 8 and 9 and a film series made by Year 9 Media students. Overall, it was an exciting week allowing great insight into the many talents of the Middle School girls.

Upcoming Events

For our Year 8 parents and caregivers we invite you to join the Paul Dillion online seminar 'Parenting, alcohol, parties and sleepovers in Year 9: Why this year group can be so challenging and the importance of putting things into place now'.

Paul Dillon is the Director and founder of DARTA. He is passionate about ensuring that the community has access to accurate and up-to-date alcohol and other drug information.

As a school, we have a close relationship with Paul, as he has spoken to our girls on many occasions, leaving a fantastic impression on them.

Parenting, alcohol, parties and sleepovers in Year 9: Why this year

group can be so challenging and the importance of putting things into place now.

Thursday, 20 January 2022

7.00-8.30pm (AEDT)

If you're a parent of a child about to begin Year 9 it's important to prepare yourself for issues around sleepovers, parties and gatherings. Putting things into place now can prevent potential problems in the year (and years) ahead.

This presentation will focus on the positive influence that parents can have on their child's drinking behaviour, even during adolescence, as well as the barriers that they may face during this time. Peer influence is a significant issue at this time and it is important for parents to have clear rules and boundaries in the area of sleepovers, parties, gatherings and alcohol.

This presentation will also examine the latest data on Australian teen drinking behaviour and the growing evidence on the risks associated with this practice.

For further details and registration please go the following link: https://events.humanitix.com/parenting-alcohol-parties-and-sleepovers-in-year-9?_ga=2.98838558.1847493436.1636923312-467732293.1627864130



SENIOR SCHOOL

Surprise Lunch and End of Year Activities

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

Last week our Year 12 students completed their final SACE external exams. All girls are to be congratulated on the way they approached their final exam block with focus and commitment. Mr Matthew Hawkins is thanked for his coordination of the exams, as are Mrs Lina Rogers, Ms Judy Thurgood and Mrs Heather Hale for their calm and efficient supervision of all exams.

Congratulations to the Creative Industries for their coordination of the Wildy Fringe throughout Week 5. The quality of the Year 10 pottery and drama performances were outstanding, as was the commitment of all staff and students involved.

On Tuesday this week, the incoming SRC for 2022 ran their annual Big Lunch. This was a surprise for our Principal, Ms Jane Danvers, with a theme of 'the Queen's Garden Party Lunch' held on Memorial Lawn.

The girls dressed up and enjoyed a wonderful lunch created by the Café, including scones with jam and cream. Musical performances by the Brass Ensemble, the String Quartet, the Rock Band and the Senior Choir provided wonderful entertainment.

This was a very special event for Ms Danvers and provided the girls with the opportunity to show their gratitude for everything she has done for them.

Next week Year 10 and 11 girls will begin their Semester 2 Exams on Monday. These are important practices for future SACE Stage 2 exams that the girls will undertake in Year

12. If girls wish to remain at school during the exam block instead of returning home to study, the Learning Commons will be open for their use during the day.

Finally, a reminder to all girls in the Senior School that they will be expected to attend the Advent Service on **Monday 29 November** in the Gymnasium at 6.00pm.

Speech Night will be held on **Tuesday 30 November** at 6.00pm with a rehearsal for all Year 12 students and prize winners at 10.45am. The dress for both of these important functions will be the formal summer uniform with blazer.





BOARDING

Empty Nest

[Rosie Broderick, Head of Boarding](#)

It has been a busy few weeks in the Boarding House as we welcomed soon to be Boarders and farewelled our beloved Year 12 girls.

This year, the Physics Exam held girls here the longest and their sense of relief was palpable as they finally got to put the books down and pack up the car to the drive home. Our international girls will be here for a few more weeks to sort their arrangements for their interstate moves.

We wish all our graduating Year 12 girls the very best outcome and much success as they enter their next chapter. I have loved watching you grow into incredible young women and can't wait to see what life brings you.

On Thursday night, we welcomed our new Year 7 boarders for a sleepover and transition to the day school. Alongside the buddies, big sisters and captains, all the girls enjoyed an evening of laughs and great conversation as they participated in ice breaker games.



SPORT

Harry Long Basketball Tournament

[Jon Trovas, Head of Sport and Recreation](#)

On Monday 15 November, Wilderness competed in the annual Harry Long Invitational Basketball Tournament hosted by St Peter's College. This event is targeted to Primary-Middle School students from Years 5-7.

The tournament is named after the former long-serving educator and Principal of Mannum Primary School, Mr Harry Long. The tournament originated in Mannum in 1992 and is a very enjoyable collegiate event that students love to participate in each year as the standard of play is high, and matches are played in good spirits.

Wilderness has competed for eight years straight and was delighted to be invited again this year following the cancellation of the tournament in 2020.

A maximum of six teams contests a series of 15-minute round-robin matches to determine the playoffs, with the grand final played over 20 minutes.

Wilderness featured a strong line-up with players selected following our Junior School and IGSSA Basketball seasons. The team comprised of Caitlin Hardin (Year 7), Latisha Kennedy (Year 7), Isabelle Weng (Year 7), Jasmine Brett (Year 6), Sophie Cardone (Year 6), Maya Iannella (Year 5), Matilda Kennedy (Year 5) and Sharon Zhai (Year 5). They were fortunate to be coached by our Senior A Basketball coach and Junior School teacher, Ms Kate Gladstone.

The girls performed well in the opening rounds, only dropping a game in a close 1-point tussle with Westminster School. The grand final was a nail-biting match between

Westminster and Wilderness.

Westminster opened the scoring with a successful 3 point attempt, and it wasn't long before Wilderness responded and took the first half 8 points to 3.

In the final minutes, there was only 1 point between the teams but the Wilderness girls made a phenomenal defensive effort and held on to secure a 12-9 win to take out the 2021 Harry Long Tournament.

A big congratulations to all our girls and their coach!

To top the day off, Caitlin Hardin was named M.V.P. of the tournament and is only the second Wilderness girl to have ever won this award.

It is exciting to see the standard of basketball players moving into the Middle School teams for 2022.





CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Wildy Fringe

[Hal Bruce, Faculty Head - Creative Industries](#)

Showcasing the girls' amazing talents, the Wildy Fringe 2021 was a truly inspiring week of creativity!

The week opened with a Creative Industries Assembly where we heard inspiring speeches given by old scholars Martha Lott and Sarah Wormald, who both work in the Creative Industries.

We were also entertained by a staff and student band who played a fun and jazzy composition created by Jacinta Chronowski-Wong (Year 11) called 'Indy Goes to the Disco'.

The creativity did not stop there with Artist in Residence, Rosina Possingham, joining us on Memorial Lawn at lunchtime to create a community piece of art with the girls.

In short, it was a wonderful day to mark the start of the Wildy Fringe and paved the way for the creative displays and performances to come.

All week, the gallery in Hender Hall displayed amazing ceramic works created by students across the year levels in Art. This was coupled with wonderful animations created by Year 7 students and a beautiful composition created by our senior music girls.

Monday night saw the Wildy Fringe performances begin with the Year 9 Showcase, which focused on 'Theatre for Change' and challenged the audience to consider topical issues. This showcase also featured a welcome to country filmed, composed, and created as part of the Year 9 Music program.

Following this, the Year 10 Drama class performed 'Opening up a Fuzzwollops frame of

Mind', which was absurdist in style and quite hilarious!

Tuesday night offered the Year 7 Showcase, featuring a short animation created in MultiMedia and self-devised Greek theatre plays written and performed by the Drama girls. Our Music girls also took to the stage as a xylophone orchestra, playing two stunning pieces.

On Wednesday evening, the Year 8s had their chance to showcase their talents. The evening began with a performance of 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl, followed by Year 8 Music performing three first nations songs, 'Bele Mama', 'Inanay' and 'Sesere Eeye'. The evening was topped off with two comical plays offered by the Drama girls.

To wind up the Fringe, Thursday night saw the première screening of 'Wesley'. A mini-series film created by the Year 9 Film and Animation students. The red carpet was rolled out and the paparazzi were in full force.

The screening was a huge success, offering many laughs and a grand celebration of the girl's creative work.

The Wildy Fringe was a fantastic week of creative delights. Thank you to all who came and supported the events and congratulations to all the Creative Industries girls involved.







PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy

[Rebecca Foster, Head of Advancement](#)

What a gorgeous and glamorous crowd congregated at the Wilderness School Foundation Art Gallery Gala Dinner on 30 October!







Christmas Appeal

Christmas Appeal

We are thrilled to see the annual Christmas tree on Memorial Hall Lawn once again as we look forward to the festive season and prepare with our families and friends.

While we reflect with gratitude on all of the things in our lives we are thankful for, there are those for whom Christmas can be difficult, particularly if they are separated from their families. For this year's Christmas Appeal, we are proud to be donating items to women in need by supporting Catherine House once again.

Many women in our community suffer homelessness and family breakdown. One way we can contribute to individual wellbeing is to donate a gift card that offers the dignity of choice or an opportunity to take part in the tradition of gift-giving by enabling her to buy a present for her child.

Gift cards in \$25 denominations from Coles Myer, Woolworths, Target, Big W, and Kmart are greatly appreciated.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to give a present, the following items would be welcomed:

- Boxed chocolates
- 2022 diaries
- Journal + pen
- Notebooks + pen
- Dressing gown (one size fits all)
- Perfume
- Keep cups
- Drink bottles

Girls in Mamie's, Annie's, and the Junior School can place their **unwrapped** gift or gift card in the box provided in their classroom. Middle and Senior School students can bring their items and place them in the box provided in their Form Room prior to the end of the term.

Everyone deserves to feel valued and cared for. Let's share the spirit of Christmas with the community during this season through our abundant demonstration of support.

As always, we are very grateful to the Petrucco family, whose kindness continues the Wilderness Christmas tree tradition through their generous gift to our community.

Old Scholars News

On Wednesday 20 October, Emmanuella Baran (Class of 2020) received the Alliance Française Prize for the student with the highest mark in the 2020 SACE French Examination. The ceremony was held by the Alliance Française and The South Australian French Teachers Association at Saint Peter's College.

Congratulations to Emmanuella for her wonderful achievement in French in 2020.



