

Life in the Wilderness

Term 4 Issue #3 | Friday 25 November, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Future-Proofed Education

Belinda Arnfield, Principal

Here at Wilderness, we are always thinking about the future, and always well in advance.

While many people look to the future with excitement about how technology or ways of working may develop, we are keenly interested in the human element.

How can we instil girls with self-leadership and self-efficacy over the generations so that they will never shy away from their ambitions?

How can we give them the tools to manage their mental and physical health and form a strong support network that utilises connections to family, friends and community?

How can we continue to innovate and adapt our learning so that girls can handle the unpredictability of the future—whether in terms of their studies, their relationships or their careers?

Our school has been working with Louka Parry, CEO of The Learning Future, to consider the future of education and what it will mean in the context of Wilderness School.

Louka writes, “An education for tomorrow’s world will not prepare young people for a job, rather it will enable young people to be highly adaptive for a life of learning and work, whilst also being equipped to lead a societal evolution that becomes increasingly

human and socially and ecologically just.”

This has always been our mission—to deliver a sound academic education within authentic and meaningful opportunities, through which our students discover their passions, form lifelong bonds and develop key skills and character strengths in line with the timeless Wilderness values.

Yesterday, our Early Learning Centre commenced the School’s End of Year celebrations with their Christmas Concert and Annie House Graduation. This was a very special occasion for our Annies and their parents, who celebrated the completion of the first, foundational stage of their daughter’s learning journey.

It is especially relevant to consider what their education will look like – and what it will require from us as educators – when these girls graduate from Wilderness in Year 12 in 2035.

There is a lot that cannot be predicted—as much in terms of opportunities as in terms of obstacles—but we believe that by fixing our eyes on what is possible, shaping our preferred future and remaining true to the values that our school has always cherished, then we are well placed for success in the coming years, just as we always have been.



EARLY LEARNING

Time for a Special Christmas Concert

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

Over the past two weeks, the girls have had a wonderful time continuing with their transitions and preparing for their special concert.

We are so proud of the way that the girls confidently transitioned into their new class environments. They made the most of the opportunities they were given and showed their new teachers that they are in fact 'big girls' and ready for their next steps.

The preparations for the Christmas Concert and Graduation have also been the focus of the past two weeks and we were thrilled with our show. It was wonderful to invite extended families to the performance and share in this special moment together. I would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone involved with preparing the girls for this important event. It was certainly an evening to remember!

2023 Booklist - Reception 2023

We wish to remind you that the booklists for 2023 Reception students are now open via [Box of Books](#) for you to complete your order.

Please note that to ensure orders are delivered to the School before the end of the year, Box of Books are asking you to **complete your orders by Friday 9 December 2022**. Please [click here](#) to view the steps to order.







JUNIOR SCHOOL

Gearing Up For a Busy End to the Term

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

As we move into the final weeks of the 2022 school year, there is a sense of excitement and anticipation at the many events that lie ahead of us.

Our Year 6 Executive represented Wilderness at the Remembrance Day Service, held at the Walkerville Memorial Rose Gardens and hosted by the Walkerville RSL. The girls did an exceptional job, showing deep respect and reverence as they lay a wreath at the memorial as part of the service.

We have had an enormously busy Week 6, with both our Year 4 and Year 6 cohorts away on camp. Our Year 4 girls have enjoyed their Outdoor Education camp to Douglas Scrub, where they experienced a unique combination of outdoor education and literature, through their Journey in Literature program. Following the journey of characters in a class novel set in Douglas Scrub, the girls undertook a similar pilgrimage with their teachers.

Our Year 6 girls have been truly adventurous learners on their camp to Kangaroo Island, enjoying surfing lessons, sand duning, hiking and visits to a honey farm, eucalyptus distillery and many beach walks. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Year 6 cohort to form even closer bonds as they prepare to graduate from the Junior School and take the next step on their educational journey in Middle School.

Time has a sense of going even more quickly at present, with the end of the 2022 school year drawing ever closer. We have so many celebrations to look forward to in the coming

weeks, with graduations, prize giving assemblies, concerts and more. I look forward to seeing each of you as we join together to celebrate the year that has been.

2023 Booklist

We wish to remind you that the booklists for Junior School students are now open via [Box of Books](#) for you to complete your order.

2023 Reception to Year 4 Parents:

Please note that to ensure orders are delivered to the School before the end of the year, Box of Books are asking you to **complete your orders by Friday 9 December 2022**. Please select 'delivery to school' to ensure that your order is sent to Wilderness School. Any orders for Reception to Year 4 made after this date will be delivered to your home address (please ensure this is included in your information). You will need to bring the books and stationery items to school on the first day of Term 1.

2023 Year 5 to Year 6 Parents:

Orders must be made by **Friday 9 December 2022** to guarantee delivery before the beginning of Term 1, 2023. Box of Books will do their best to deliver orders made after this date before the beginning of term, however they are not able to guarantee it.

Please [click here](#) to view the steps to order.

Note for Year 5 Parents

2024 Year 7 Academic Scholarship Now Open

Wilderness School offers a limited number of scholarships to girls who have demonstrated outstanding ability. For students in Year 7 in 2024, we have an Academic Scholarship open to students new to the School as well as current Wilderness students.

If your daughter will be in Year 7 in 2024, you may wish to consider her sitting the Year 7 Academic Scholarship examination, which will be held at Wilderness School on **Saturday 4 February 2023**.

For further information, including how to apply, please refer to the School [website](#). Applications close on **Thursday 19 January 2023**.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Natalie Klein, Academic Registrar on 8344 6688 or [email](#).







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcoming Our New Girls for 2023

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

Last Friday, we welcomed all the 2023 Year 7 students to the Middle School with a morning of introductions and activity. The girls were presented with a School and House Ribbon at the beginning of the day and were encouraged to wear them with pride when they return next year.

The girls worked on Claire Ishino-inspired bookmarks in the Art Centre, made edible slime and ice cream in the Science Labs, solved problems to exit the Mathematics Escape Room and enjoyed laser cutting, VR goggles and robotics in the Design, Technology and Engineering (DTE) classroom.

The girls were able to spend time with their buddies, enjoyed a House Meeting and had a Q&A session with the current Middle School SRC.

On Monday, we welcomed all the new students from Year 8 to Year 12 who will be joining our community in 2023. The girls and their buddies all had a chance to meet with key staff and experience some fantastic Science experiments with Mrs Maria Criaris and Mrs Simone Burzacott-Gorman. The girls were also presented with a welcome bag containing ribbons and a Wilderness laser cut key ring.

We hope that all the new students had a wonderful morning, and we look forward to seeing them early next year at their Orientation Day.

Year 9 Film and Animation Shoots

In Weeks 4 and 5 of Term 4, the Year 9 Film and Animation students went on excursion to film their short films on set. During Term 3, they developed their ideas and screenplays, planned their shots and sourced locations and actors. It was exciting to see how all this preparation came together on set. The students were supported with their film making by industry professionals, who came on set to support their creative endeavours.

Many groups also got to work with professional actors supplied by Adelaide Actors Agency and Buckland and Gun Talent. The filming experience was exciting, and a great deal was learned about how to run a professional set on location, such as how to dress and light a scene, how to capture well-composed shots, the professional calls on set and how to work as a collaborative team. The girls are now in the editing stage and we are keen to see how the films will come together. We look forward to sharing them with the community in the near future.

Hal Bruce

Head of Creative Industries

Year 8 Chinatown Excursion

Please enjoy the following reflection from Year 8 student, **Isabelle Weng**, about their class excursion to Chinatown last week.

“The Year 8 Chinese students took part in an ‘Amazing Race’ that began in the classroom and ended up in Chinatown. They used dictionaries to crack clues whilst gaining many new skills. From the classroom, they moved on to Chinatown as the girls raced through completing their challenges and vlogging the pleasant experience of learning many new things whilst having the most fun.

The girls had 12 clues that led them to complete a certain task; these were things such as, ‘What colours are the Chinatown Gates?’ to ‘Order your food in Chinese.’ These clues were written in characters and sealed in individual envelopes. Students had to enhance their character reading skills as well as their ability to speak the language.

This experience was great for the students as they gained key takeaways such as cultural understandings as well as the conventions of the language. As a bonus to this fun and wild experience, the winners of the

race won a packet of Hi-Chew lollies and, of course, bragging rights!"

2023 Booklist

We wish to remind you that the booklists for Middle School students are now open via [Box of Books](#) for you to complete your order.

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SENIOR SCHOOL

Exams and Events

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

Last week, our Year 12s 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, Mrs Assunta Fusco, Ms Jill Bradford and Mrs Heather Hale for their calm and efficient supervision of all exams.

On Monday this week, we welcomed to the School all new Senior School girls who will be starting at Wilderness in 2023. The girls enjoyed a morning of Science activities with their buddies and also met with key staff to begin their preparation for next year. Mrs Simone Burzacott-Gorman and Mrs Maria Criaris are thanked for their coordination of the Science activities for all girls.

Next week Year 10 and 11 girls will begin their Semester 2 exams on Monday. These are an important practice for future SACE Stage 2 exams that the girls will undertake in Year 12. If girls wish to remain at the 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 5 December** at St Peter's Cathedral at 6.00pm. Speech Night will be held on **Tuesday 6 December** at 6.00pm with a rehearsal for all Year 12s and prize winners at 10.45am. The dress for both of these important functions will be summer uniform with blazer and white ribbon.

It is also important that all girls are at school in the final week as Year 10s will complete a Science minimester and the Year 11s will undertake a range of activities which will help them with their preparation for Year 12 in 2023.

Duke of Edinburgh Students Seed Propagation

On Wednesday 16 November, 12 Year 10 students headed down to the Walkerville Rotary Club to give service for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The girls were involved with propagating seeds which will eventually be used to revegetate areas of the Yorke Peninsula. We are grateful for this long-standing relationship with the Walkerville Rotary Club and hope to be involved in the planting of these seedlings in 2023.

Well done to all of the Silver girls who contributed their time to varied service projects through their Award this year.

Lauren Walker

Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

2023 Booklist

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BOARDING

Let's Dance

[Renee Coventry, Head of Boarding](#)

On Friday night, our Years 7, 8 and 9 girls welcomed Middle School boarders from across Adelaide to our second Interschool Social event of the year. We were pleased to welcome boarders from Scotch, Prince Alfred College, St Peter's, Loreto, Pembroke and Seymour. For our younger boarders, this event was particularly exciting, providing them with a platform for meeting peers from other schools in town. Our Year 10 and 11 girls helped out on the night as MCs and DJs.

Welcome to our New Girls

There was a buzz of energy in the Boarding House as we welcomed some of our new girls for 2023. Our buddies and big sisters did a wonderful job of welcoming the girls and supporting them in getting to know the Boarding House community. We also look forward to welcoming our new families for 2023 to the Wilderness community.

Boarders vs Day Girls Netball

Last Thursday, the SRC organised a friendly netball match between the day girls and boarders in the Gym at lunch time. It was wonderful to see our girls proudly wearing their club netball uniforms from home as they played with fierce energy. A wonderful atmosphere was generated thanks to our wonderful mascots and MCs Millie McLachlan

and Myarn Alden. Unfortunately for our boarders, the day girls came out the winners in a 13 to 8 finish.

What is a 'Boarder'?

For our young friends in Reception, the concept of living at school is intriguing and with it comes many questions – which our boarders patiently answered on Friday 11 November as they spent their lunch time with their Reception buddy. Once our pairs had found one another, our younger friends were quick to settle in with questions and wonderings about the life of a boarder. Following a picnic lunch, our boarders guided the Reception girls through the Boarding House, sharing with them their home away from home. The younger girls enjoyed exploring the Boarding House, seeing the girls' bedrooms and lounge rooms and checking out the gym.

It was lovely to see how kind, caring and patient our girls were with their younger buddies, who they later walked back to the Reception classrooms following the lunch time activity. Interestingly, the Reception classrooms are directly next to the Boarding House and I am sure that now our boarders and Reception girls know one another, there will be many friendly greetings from our young buddies as they walk through the Middle and Senior Schools to their specialist classes.

Our Reception teachers, Mrs Melissa Foster and Ms Lauren Trennery, and I would like to continue to foster the connection between our youngest girls and our boarders by holding this event at the beginning of the year in Term 1, as the Reception girls learn about their place in the school and the various aspects of school life.







SPORT

A Strong End to the Season

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

Term 4 Summer Sport is wrapping up for 2022 and whilst the short season has been interrupted with unseasonal weather disruptions, all teams have put in a great amount of effort and enthusiasm to finish off the year with some strong performances.

Some of the notable achievements are included below.

Senior A Touch Football

Our Senior A Touch Football team has concluded their very impressive season. The team finished undefeated in the calendar year in the SA School Girls Touch competition. On the weekend, the team beat Seymour 6-0 to win the Term 4 SACSGSA (South Australian Catholic Secondary School Girls Sports Association) Premiership, to add to their other two titles in 2022.

Middle A Volleyball

The Middle A Volleyball Team finished the regular season in second position, allowing them to play for the IGSSA (Independent Girls School Sport Association) Middle A Volleyball Shield against Westminster. After a remarkably close opening set which finished 23-25 in Westminster's favour, the momentum of the game swung towards Westminster, and they won the second set to take the match. We are immensely proud of

the season our girls had and making the grand final is a fine achievement to celebrate. Well done, girls.

Senior A Basketball

The Senior A Basketball team finished their summer season off strongly, remaining undefeated in Term 4, which led to them finishing in fourth position on the ladder.

IGSSA Touch Football Competition

On Tuesday 22 November, we sent two teams to the newly created IGSSA Touch Football Competition. Both teams were highly competitive on the day and finished the minor rounds undefeated. The Year 7/8 team then played Pembroke in the Grand Final, running out winners 2-0. The Year 9/10 team met Immanuel in their decider and had a comfortable win, with the final score being 5-0.





COMMUNITY

Please Support the Wilderness Christmas Appeal

[April Ridgway, Interim Head of Advancement](#)

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:

- Perfume
- Journal/Pen
- Boxed Chocolates
- Hand cream

- Dressing gown (one size fits all)
- Reusable Coffee Cups
- Nail Polish
- Christmas Biscuits.

Girls in Mamies, Annies 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 on any Wednesday and place them in the box provided in their Form room prior to **Wednesday 7 December 2022** (which is their final House day before the end of the term).

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.

Please view the appeal poster [here](#).



HOUSE NEWS

Cedar House News

Congratulations to Mrs Elisa Stracci, who has been appointed as Head of Cedar House.

Mrs Stracci has been a member of Wilderness staff for more than five years, supporting the girls as a teacher, mentor and sporting coach. She has been a keen contributor to the girls' academic success in French and assisted with the development of the Artemis program as a teacher and curriculum writer.

Elisa stepped into the Acting Head of House role at the beginning of the year, and we are thrilled to see her continue in an ongoing capacity. Throughout the year, she has demonstrated her enthusiasm to support the Cedar girls as they transition through the School and build connections within the House. In this position, and previously as a Middle School Form teacher, she has been committed to supporting the development of each girl's social and emotional wellbeing during their academic journey.

We believe she is the right person to support our Cedar cohorts in years to come, and we hope you will join us in congratulating her success.

As Mrs Stracci will be on maternity leave in 2023, she will be supported by Mr Andrew Mittiga, who has been appointed as Acting Head of Cedar House.

Throughout his career, Andrew has demonstrated experience as an Acting Head of House, mentor, educator and program coordinator to students across all year levels.

As the leader of the Girl Up Club, he coordinates a group of young changemakers within the School to advocate for the rights of girls all around the world and walks alongside

these students as they champion social causes. He was also previously the Global Alliance of Innovative Learning (GAIL) coordinator, leading students with the aim to develop informed, globally active learning communities that encourage contemporary solutions to international issues through collaboration, inquiry, and service-learning initiatives.

Andrew is passionate about wellbeing as a key pillar of education; he completed a Master of Education with a specialisation in Adolescent Wellbeing in 2021, and in 2022, he designed and delivered the inaugural Year 8 Wellbeing Program. This program covered a broad range of concepts – such as perfectionism, helpful and balanced thinking, resilience and gratitude – to equip students with social and emotional skills to help them navigate through the complexities they face.

Andrew is a positive male role model and we are pleased to have him support our Wilderness girls' developmental needs to form strong intrapersonal relationships within Cedar House, enabling them to thrive as they learn next year.

