

Life in the Wilderness

Term 4 Issue #4 | Friday 3 December, 2021



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

You will be in my heart always

Jane Danvers, Principal

Since its formation, Wilderness has raised courageous, kind and capable young women who have the capacity and knowledge to live lives of purpose.

For the past 16 years, it has been my privilege to lead this wonderful school.

There are far too many memories and moments of thankfulness to mention. Yet, at the heart of every moment has been my unshakable knowledge that it is an extraordinary gift to be part of this community.

I am proud of so much. Together we have grown and watched our school flourish.

We have cherished our history and traditions while creating new and vibrant spaces for girls to learn and play in. At the same time, encouraging them to think deeply about current social and political issues and to develop advocacy and action with passion and bravery.

I am proud that, at a pivotal time in human history, the focus of our educational program has been to provide carefully curated learning experiences to equip our girls with the capabilities to make their way in what is a complicated and complex world.

I am also proud that Wilderness is a place of belonging. Where each girl is seen, is valued and knows her worth. Where relationships are defined by understanding, respect and love.

I have had the privilege of walking alongside hundreds of families. Sharing their celebrations and, at times, their great sadness. Reminding them that they too are part of our extended network of care.

As departing Principal, it has been the relationships that have made all the difference.

It is with my heartfelt appreciation I thank you for these relationships and for trusting us with your daughters.

The last two weeks of the academic year and my time here at Wilderness have presented a series of emotions. Every corner has offered precious moments to reconnect with community members and an opportunity to say goodbye. These are moments I will cherish forever.

But, this is not an ending; it is a new beginning —a new chapter in the story of Wilderness School.

So finally, no matter how much I will miss the girls, I know I leave them in capable hands and know they will flourish into accomplished women.

I look forward to watching from afar and seeing the pages of each chapter turn with anticipation, and most importantly, holding each of you warmly in my heart.



EARLY LEARNING

What A Wonderful Year

Rebecca Williamson, Assistant Head of Junior School Early Years

As our 2021 academic year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support this year. Relationships in our ELC are so important to us and mean so much.

The Early Years Learning Framework states that, 'In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging. Belonging is central to being and becoming in that it shapes who children are and who they can become.'

Holding our School value of Respectful Relationships at the heart of all we do, we know that our girls feel a strong sense of belonging and pride as Mamie girls, Annie girls and collectively, as Wildy girls.

Next week we will be posting out a very special book to you, documenting the girls' collective projects. Enclosed in a folder with this book, will be your daughter's school report.

When you have the opportunity to delight in these documents, we hope you will be reminded just how special your daughter is to us, how important her education is and how wonderfully unique she is, which, when brought together as an ELC, results in an incredible learning group, supported by wonderful ELC staff.

We are sure that these will be important now but even more so in the future when your daughter looks back on this moment of early childhood.

We would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you

all return in 2022.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

A Spark of Excellence

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

As we prepare to farewell our girls as they begin their holiday break for 2021, it is with enormous pride that we reflect upon the year that has been.

We had the joyful opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of our Academic, Sporting, Co-curricular and Values Prize recipients at our Prize Giving Assembly on Monday.

We know that each of our girls demonstrates excellence in so many different ways; in striving to learn something new, demonstrating great commitment to a team or club or living out the values we hold dear as members of our Wilderness community. The spark of excellence grows as it is shared and it is in this sharing with others that we continue to build upon the foundations of our adventurous learning community.

Our girls' accomplishments in 2021 including the way they treated one another, the effort and persistence they demonstrated, most particularly when things did not go as expected or planned, were what made this a year of great learning, growth and achievement.

It was evident in the outstanding learning observed in our classrooms and in the many JSSRC committee events held across the year. It shone brightly in the Outdoor Education activities our girls participated in and was demonstrated in the sense of joy and healthy competition they brought to their House events, after school sport, debating and music commitments.

Most importantly, it was demonstrated in the quality of their interactions within our community.

Rotary Club of Walkerville Numeracy and Literacy Awards

At the Final Assembly today, we were incredibly pleased to acknowledge the following girls who were awarded the Rotary Club of Walkerville Numeracy and Literacy Award for outstanding progress.

Kailey Reynolds, Ivy Rowberry, Tiah Michailaros, Arabella Hill and Aurelia Di Maria were acknowledged for their outstanding progress in literacy. While Alice Bonar, Florence Carrocci, Eugenia Di Maria, Lily Costoglou and Ariana Ng were acknowledged for their outstanding progress in numeracy.

Year 6 Graduation

We also had the opportunity to celebrate and farewell our Year 6 leaders as they completed their Junior School journey and prepared to enter the Middle School. This group of Year 6's have brought such diversity in their skills, talents and personalities, with each individual playing their part to contribute to the whole. It has been the staff of the Junior Schools' pleasure to watch them grow from the very little girls who joined us either in our ELC, Reception or at various stages along the way into the confident, well-prepared and articulate girls that are in Year 6 today.

Each of these girls is equipped with the understanding, knowledge and personal qualities needed to take this next exciting step on their educational journey.

The ELC and Junior School Farewell Ms Danvers

Farewelling Ms Danvers wasn't ever going to be an easy thing for us to do, however I am happy to report that our ELC to Year 6 cohort did a beautiful job of just this at our special, surprise assembly on Wednesday 1 December. Presenting Ms Danvers with a beautiful book, contributed to by every girl in the Junior School, titled 'Lessons from Ms Danvers', each girl wrote a statement about something she'd learnt from or something she was grateful for about having Ms Danvers as their Principal. We then surprised her by singing a blessing song for her, with the words 'Hambe Gahle' – meaning 'Go Well' as an entire student group.

As Ms Danvers said in her Speech Night address this week, this is not an ending but a new beginning, and we wish our Principal wonderful things for her new beginning in 2022.

Farewell Mrs Heather Davis

This week we also have the task of farewelling long-standing Junior School teacher, Heather Davis as she commences retirement at the end of this year. Heather has been

a Junior School teacher at Wilderness for 14 years and, in that time, has developed a reputation for her absolute commitment to ensuring the girls in her care are nurtured, challenged, catered for and known deeply.

Heather is a teacher, not by the qualification alone, but by the whole-heartedness with which she undertakes her role. Her passion for ensuring her students grow both academically and personally, for her tireless work behind the scenes to individualise each girls' learning and for her seemingly boundless energy for embracing current educational theories while holding true to time-honoured and well-tested pedagogies of learning mean she is one of life's 'true teachers'; one students long remember and whose lessons become embedded at their core.

We thank Heather for all she has been to our community and wish her all the very best as she retires from teaching. We know she will delight in the opportunity to spend time with her precious new grand daughter and to have time to engage in her many passions outside of school.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank each of you, our ELC and Junior School families for your partnership, commitment and trust this year. Working for your girls is a privilege and a delight.

I would like to wish you all the blessings of the coming season and a restful, joyous time with those you love most. I look forward to welcoming you back in Term 1 2022 as we begin another year together.

Liz McCarthy

Head of Junior School







MIDDLE SCHOOL

Final Days and New Beginnings

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

As we farewell the 2021 academic year, the Middle School has been filled with events to celebrate the achievements of the girls and the efforts of our student leaders.

A particularly fun event was the Christmas celebrations in House groups for Middle School girls last week as the Year 7, 8 and 9 girls had the School mostly to themselves due to Senior School exams.

Last week also, we were able to congratulate the Year 7 girls who competed in the Ethics Olympiad against teams that were much older. Well done to our Bronze Medalist's Tam Do, Lily Harper, Iris Newman and Lainie Reu.

A special mention must go to our Blue team Ava Snel, Chelsea Trinh, Isabelle Weng, Felicia Xing and Anna Evans, who received very positive feedback from the judges.

In an extraordinary final week, some of our key staff organised incredible learning opportunities for our girls. With the support of the Middle School staff, Mr Aldo Longobardi and Ms Jessica Foster arranged a Year 7 experience with some brilliant local indigenous artists coming to work with the girls to explore cultural arts traditions and expressions.

Mr Hal Bruce and Miss Laura Franklin enabled a 24-hour film festival, complete with costumes, sets, mentors, and guest presenters.

In Year 9, our English teachers Ms Georgia Fisher, Mr Matthew D'Aloisio, Ms Billie Newton and Ms Bella Drioli-Phillips supported the girls in a 'Story Slam' after being inspired by the stories of our very own Wildy staff members.

Finally, it has been lovely to celebrate this week with some of our families at the Advent

Service, Speech Night, the Middle School Prize Giving Assembly and even the Junior Christmas Concert. Hopefully next year, we will all be able to gather without restrictions and celebrate alongside all of our community.

I hope that you all stay safe over the summer break and enjoy spending some quality time together.

As we move toward the 2022 academic year there are many things to look forward to. I am sure that the girls are excited to start the year with Dr Rhiannon Giles as their Acting Head of Middle School.

I leave you with some lovely quotes that next year's student leaders included in their speeches this year.

I believe a leader should be compassionate, decisive, confident in herself and abilities and have the desire to lead for the reason of improving her environment and community.

Diya Anup Kumar

I will also support and motivate the middle school girls to be courageous and brave in their actions. Your work will always be appreciated and won't go unnoticed. I will take the extra effort to comfort you and give you advice and guidance in all situations. Being here since year 1, I know that sometimes school and friendships can be tricky, and I am here to support you if you need someone to chat to.

Indie Heywood-Smith

If I am lucky enough to be chosen as sports rep my aim is to lift the enthusiasm and spirit around the Wildy community. I want all girls of all ages to always bring their best to the sports community and try something new. You might not have tried it before, but remember, none of us could run, catch, pass, or kick instantly, we had to keep working. We may not always get the results we aim for, but this pushes us to return to training motivated and passionate to get back out there, which is something I believe I can do and inspire in others.

Bella Browning

I will be accountable for this leadership role and I know the importance of being responsible for what I've committed. I tell myself if you do it, do your best. If I become an art representative, I will try my best to be an eligible leader and increase the fun of art in Wildy. I'm not perfect, but I'll try my best and improve myself through the way.

Lucy Gu





SENIOR SCHOOL

Feeling Fortunate

Ben Manifold, Head of Senior School

As we concluded the academic year this week, the Senior School girls participated in a series of practical yet fun activities.

Our Year 11 girls participated in a car maintenance session, helping them learn more about maintaining a car and the important factors to consider when purchasing their first car. Skills we know will serve them tremendously in life, as many take on the responsibility of owning and driving their own car. On Thursday the girls completed a time management program in preparation for Year 12 and spent time planning and preparing for their Year 12 Camp at the beginning of next year. Thank you to Mr Hawkins, Mr Snell, Miss Bickley and Mrs Rocco for their support in preparing and planning these sessions.

Our Year 10 girls participated in Off The Grid, a two-day science practical where girls are split into groups, given a country, and allocated a budget to suit their country's economy, which they use to finance themselves in each challenge.

Creatively thinking outside the square, the girls tackled the challenges head-on. A big thank you to our science staff, particularly our Head of Science, Ms Simone Burzacott Gorman, for developing opportunities like Off The Grid, which supports our girls to be Adventurous Learners.

This week also featured our end of year celebrations for 2021. These events present us with the opportunity to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our girls and to recognise the start of the Christmas season.

As we farewelled our Year 12's on Tuesday night at their last official event, we send them on their way, knowing what incredible women they have grown to be. You, as their

parents, should be very proud.

I would like to congratulate all Senior School prize winners. Our girls' dedication and commitment does not go unnoticed, and I am delighted to commend those who have made extraordinary efforts in various areas.

As I reflect on the past 12 months, I feel incredibly fortunate for the year we have had and for the time we have been able to spend together in person.

As we head into the Christmas break, I thank you for your support again this year and hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season spent with your loved ones.







BOARDING

Thank you, thank you, thank you

[Rosie Boderick, Head of Boarding](#)

As I finish my final week with your daughters, I am reminded just how incredible an opportunity it has been for me to be a part of their life.

Other than the girls; this job has offered some wonderful friendships and very special experiences and memories. Some standouts that come to mind immediately is my four and a half hour flight in a 4 seater, single engine Cessna out of Alice, across the Barkley Table Lands, to visit the Fulcher family on the cattle station they managed on the NT /QLD border. That trip took in a scenic flight through the gorges in the muster helicopter and a drive to the property's coastal boundary in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Remarkable in so many ways.

Landing a couple of fish almost the size of myself with Lily and Pete Politis at their shack at Channel Point, which is out beyond the back of Litchfield National Park was also an amazing experience and one I often remind my husband of, as I hold the family record for the biggest catch.

I would like to thank you for being my rural family, taking me in and being so welcoming. I have enjoyed every moment of this job I know I leave your beautiful girls in the extremely capable hands of our incredible boarding staff.

I want to wish you all a relaxing and joyous Christmas break filled with laughs and good times. Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of your lives.



SPORT

Preparations for 2022

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

As 2021 draws to a close, we are shifting our focus to Sport and Recreation at Wilderness in 2022.

We will be sending out our nomination email to parents/caregivers and girls in the first week of the school holidays to select their sport preferences for 2022. The email will contain detailed information on how to select their sports and information to assist with making selections.

We are pleased to be able to offer Year 1 and 2 after school sport options in 2022. We will also be introducing a recreational option for interschool for our Middle and Senior School girls and a lunchtime recreational activity offering every second week.

Wilderness is in the process of recruiting a Netball, Tennis and Lacrosse Coordinator to help streamline and develop these sports across the School, and we look forward to seeing this additional investment to give our girls the best experience possible.

Perhaps the most exciting news is the recent announcements of the school Masterplan, which includes a Gymnasium Annex that will create additional opportunities for Sport and Recreation for our girls. We look forward to this commencing next year.

While we are strongly focused on the year ahead, we aren't losing sight of our girls' current activities.

Wilderness Rowing club competed in the first of four Schools Premiership Series (SPS)

Regattas on Saturday boating a spectacular 18 crews.

There were many successes across the age groups for the first real test of the season; however a big congratulations must go to our Year 7 and Year 8 crews for a dominating performance to win the most points in their respective age groups.

The rowers finished the day on the Premiership table in 2nd place, 8 points behind 1st, a position they haven't seen themselves in for almost 10 years.

Competing with 12 other rival girl schools, this reflects the shed's strength and success.

We wish them the best of luck as they travel to Renmark to compete in the Riverland Regatta this weekend, and hope to see them retain their position on the Premiership ladder as the crews find more speed with their holiday training and January camp.

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all our staff, supervisors, umpires, coaches and volunteers for their incredible support and input in 2021. And of course, we would like to thank our parents/caregivers and girls for their contributions to the Wilderness Sport and Recreation Program in 2021.

We wish all our community a restful break and look forward to seeing your return in 2022



CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Finishing on a High Note

[Anna Lenartowicz, Head of Music](#)

A huge thank you to all the students who played in the Instrumental Concerts in Week 6 and 7. It was lovely to hear beautiful music coming from each space and how much the girls have developed their musical talents over the year. It was also wonderful to have an opportunity to welcome guests to share in the delight of the night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Instrumental tutors who have taught our girls throughout the year and prepared them for the concerts that are a highlight in our Music calendar.

I would also like to thank you for your ongoing support of our musical ensembles through your attendance at performances.

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons – 2022

Instrumental and Vocal lessons will commence in Week 2 of Term 1. More information will come directly from your daughter's tutor early next year.

Please ensure your daughter takes her instrument home over the holidays so she can keep up with her practice.

Instrumental Tutor Farewells

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two members of our Instrumental team at the conclusion of the 2021 school year.

Sarah Barrett (Teacher of Horn) will be taking time for classroom teaching following the

conclusion of her Teaching Studies.

Pat Arulampalam is reducing her load and will not be continuing at Wilderness next year.

Pat's students gave her a lovely send-off at her Instrumental Concert.

It is obvious the students of both these teachers will miss them very much. We thank them for their commitment and dedication to the girls over the years and wish them all the very best.

ASME Composition Awards

Despite COVID diminishing some aspects of the Music calendar this year, we have had a very successful year with awards in AMEB, ABODA, SA Bands Jazz Festival and Eisteddfods.

It is my absolute pleasure to complete the year by informing you that Jacinta Chronowski-Wong (11ANT) won 1st Place in the ASME 2021 Young Composers Awards (Year 10/11 Category).

The Young Composers' Awards are an annual competition for composers established by the South Australian chapter of the Australian Society of Music Education (ASME) in 1973.

The Award aims to encourage and develop musical composition by both children and young adults and provides an effective platform for the performance of their works.

Another important function of the Award is to produce a body of new music designed specifically for use in schools and colleges.

Jacinta entered one of her compositions that she composed during her Stage 2 Music Explorations subject this year, entitled "The Funky Goose".

In addition to this amazing achievement, Jacinta recently sat her AMEB Grade 8 Clarinet (Comprehensive) Examination and received an A, which is a fantastic result.

Jacinta is the incoming Year 12 SRC Music Representative, and needless to say, 2022 is going to be an exciting year with her leading our music students.

Advent Service

On Monday evening we celebrated Christmas with our beautiful Advent Service, that for the first time was held in the Gym due to strict Covid rules at St Peters Cathedral. The service was staged beautifully and featured all our Senior Choral Ensembles, blessing us with stunning Christmas musical arrangements. The vocalists were joined by our Senior String Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, and with over 140 students on the stage, it was a big and beautiful way to end our year in music.

The Service was professionally filmed and will be made available to view in the coming weeks.







CAREERS CORNER

Careers

[Caroline Rocco, Careers Counsellor](#)

Medical Forum

Six Year 11 Wilderness students were lucky enough to attend a medical forum held by the Wilderness Old Scholars' Association. This was a wonderful opportunity for like-minded students who were interested in studying medicine in the future to connect and gain advice from successful Wilderness women working or studying in the medical field.

Before and after the event, the girls were given the chance to have one-on-one conversations to inquire about their journey in pursuing medicine and how our old scholars schooling compared to current schooling today.

The core of the event was focused on a discussion panel consisting of four old scholars working in a range of medical specialties including a Radiologist, Nephrologist, General Surgeon and General Practitioner all at various stages in their career and life.

Hearing the challenges of their jobs, what drives them to continue working as a medical specialist and how women are viewed in the medical field was both inspirational and beneficial in supporting our decisions to potentially work in a medical field in the future.

Kind regards,
Isabelle Yu (Career Committee Representative)



Year 12 Important Dates

With only a few weeks between now and the Year 12 Results Release, I encourage you to familiarise yourself with the following key dates:

13 December – Year 12 result release date

15 December – Change of preference deadline for Semester 1 offers

21 December – Offer round. Offers emailed by 5pm.

10 January – Change of preference deadline for Semester 1 offers.

14 January – Offer round. Offers emailed by 5pm

1 February – Offer round. Offers emailed by 5pm.

Offers will continue to be made in February and March for courses where there are still places available for semester 1, 2022.

If your daughter is planning to move interstate, please also note the following:

All states and territories (except NSW/ACT)

Change of preference - 1 October 2021 to 4 January 2022 (close on 11:59pm AEDT)

Offers released - 10 January 2022

Accommodation acceptance deadline- 18 January 2022 (11:59pm AEDT)

Offer acceptance deadline - 31 January 2022 (11:59pm AEDT)



PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy

[Rebecca Foster, Head of Advancement](#)

From parents and foundations to old scholars and staff, those who support Wilderness come from many different backgrounds. What they share is a belief in Wilderness' mission and a commitment to advancing it. Two particular examples of this support are expressed through both the Mary Ann Matthews Fellowship and the Catherine Ye Teacher Fellowship.

The Mary Ann Matthews Fellowship was established in memory of the dearly loved Matthews family matriarch, a medical practitioner who was passionate about education through experience. Each year, the Fellowship is awarded to a Wilderness girl who will undertake a project or placement to broaden her perspective of the world. This year, through the generosity of the Matthews family, I am delighted to announce that Anesha Rahman and Himara Jayasundra have been awarded the Fellowship, which will launch them upon a lifechanging adventure.

Anesha plans to volunteer with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in Munt Gibson Sanctuary, Western Australia and Himara will volunteer with HAGAR in Melbourne, undertaking project work with women and children who have survived slavery and trafficking. Well done to both girls for submitting incredibly worthy applications amidst a very competitive pool of applicants.

The Catherine Ye Teacher Fellowship was established to provide exceptional educational opportunities to Wilderness School's teaching staff through financial provision for research/study projects outside the School's regular professional learning program. The Fellowship is made available through the generous support of the Ye family in acknowledgement of the remarkable pastoral care their daughter Catherine [2013]

received while she was at Wilderness.

I am thrilled to announce that this year the Fellowship will be awarded to two recipients: Melissa Foster and Shane Hill. Melissa plans to undertake a Master of Education (Reading and Literacy) at Torrens University and looks forward to contributing to the Literacy program at Wilderness through best practice underpinned by research based evidence. Shane will undertake a Professional Certificate in Instructional Leadership and several other graduate microcredentials at the University of Melbourne. He hopes to develop his skills and knowledge to support pedagogical advancement through capabilities driven curricula at Wilderness. Congratulations to both Melissa and Shane on their impressive achievement!





COMMUNITY

Surprise Talents

[Rosie Broderick, Head of Boarding](#)

We are always thrilled to hear of secret talents and skills that our staff develop outside of the Wilderness grounds.

Recently, we caught up with Bobby Gambrill, one of our long serving Café staff members/ Boarding House Chef's who has been studying Product Design in his own time.

Over the years Bobby has always been attracted to beautiful wood pieces that got him thinking, what if colour was added! Surely that would be an attractive addition to the piece?

Given his many years of working in kitchens, and how well he knows his way around them, it made sense to do something for this space. So began his quest to produce a well-crafted knife block that incorporated modern kitchen tones.

Plywood was the choice of material because it has an attractive end grain when layered. Particular attention has gone into the colour selection, with distinct yet soft undertones which complements the wood finishing.

With a keen interest to explore kitchenware further, he is currently looking into a utensil holder, salt box, breadbox and napkin holder, all with the addition of colour so clients can match to their kitchen colour theme.

He is also currently testing resin, pencils, and other materials to see what else can be used with the plywood.

We are incredibly pleased to see Bobby's blocks in retailers, with selected outlets showcasing his products.

Bobby has kindly offered the Wilderness Community the opportunity to purchase a block

directly through him. The block weighs about 2kg, holds 6 knives and each block is branded with his design signature. The direct price from Bobby is \$160.

We encourage to reach out if you are interested or connect with him online.

Follow him on: [instagram.com/bobbygambrill](https://www.instagram.com/bobbygambrill)

Email: bobbysushi@gmail.com

Phone: 0411282729





PARENTS & FRIENDS

Parents and Friends Association Farewell to Jane

[Jen Guest, P&F Representative](#)

Family – a group of one or more parents and children existing together as a unit.

Mother (Noun) – a woman in relation to her child or children.

Mother (Verb) – bring up a child with care and affection.

Care – the provision of what is necessary for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone.

Affection – a gentle feeling of fondness or liking.

When someone asks me what is Wilderness School like, I truly find it difficult to find the words to express the depth of our Wilderness community. Yes, Wilderness School is defined as an education facility, yet all of us here know and understand the quality of caring, affection, nurturing, and protection it offers to each and every one of our girls.

Recently, I was in a group and asked to describe our current Principal. We sat for a moment and thought, we looked at the interviewer, we looked to the sky, and we pondered. We realized it was difficult to describe Jane Danvers simply as a principal of an independent girl's school. Jane is a principal, a leader, a visionary, Jane is an outstanding academic, passionate business woman and focused professional. Jane gives, cultivates, listens, encourages and Jane cares. This level of care is what makes Wilderness so very special. It cannot be described. It can only be felt.

On behalf of all day and boarding parents, we thank you, Jane, for providing our girls with opportunities beyond our expectations. A safe, caring and nurturing environment, which has allowed our girls to grow, experience, learn, discover and succeed. Over the past 16 years, you have led an exceptional team offering education, development, growth,

a sisterhood, as well as creating a physically beautiful and envied feminine education space.

Jane Elizabeth Danvers – We thank you.



