



WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

ALWAYS *True*

2020 SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE





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The following School information is provided in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Accountability requirements under the Schools Assistance Act 2008.

It relates to the 2020 School academic year.

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# SCHOOL INFORMATION





## MISSION

To enable each girl to be the best that she can be throughout her life.



## VISION

Wilderness School will be a world leader in girls' education.  
We will equip each girl to succeed in her personal and professional life.



## VALUES

At Wilderness School we  
promote, enable and nurture:

### Respectful Relationships

Compassionate, kind,  
friendly and hospitable girls  
who form and maintain  
healthy and fulfilling  
relationships.

### Adventurous Learning

Creative, independent and  
collaborative learners  
who seek excellence and  
success.

### Responsible Citizenship

Responsible, respectful  
and generous global citizens  
and leaders, who act with  
integrity for a socially just  
world and a sustainable  
future for the Earth.

### A True and Courageous Self

Resilient, vibrant and  
spiritually aware girls,  
confident in themselves and  
appreciative of others.







Since its establishment in 1884,  
Wilderness School has been at the  
forefront of girls' education.

A non-denominational School for girls, with strong Christian family values, from Early Learning to Year 12 and boarding for students Year 7 – 12. Wilderness School understands and nurtures the individual.

Our student population in 2020 comprised of local, rural and interstate pupils as well as international students from mainland China and Hong Kong.

Located in Medindie, 5 kilometres from the Adelaide Central Business District, our beautiful grounds provide a serene setting for learning.

Wilderness School is a learning community and a community of learners that provides opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to interrogate information and to develop critical thinking skills and resourcefulness as well as how to develop and apply their thinking in different contexts.

Research lives in our classrooms and our pedagogy, and our teachers regularly pursue opportunities and explore ways for students to thrive in a complex contemporary world.

# Learning for Life

The academic curriculum is at the core of our daily activities but life at Wilderness offers so much more.

The extensive co-curriculum is vital because of the enrichment it offers to our girls. It allows them to pursue interests and skills beyond the classroom and engage in a wide variety of activities where they can discover new interests, strengths, make new friends, as well as set and achieve goals. The broad co-curriculum program enhances educational possibilities for all girls and enriches the community life of the School.





# Music co-curricular activities

- Band Blast
- Big Band 1
- Big Band 2
- Concert Band
- Dream Girls
- Guitar Ensemble
- Intermediate Flute Ensemble
- Intermediate String Orchestra
- Intermediate String Quartet
- Jazz Choir
- Jazz Ensemble
- Jazz Incorporated
- Junior Band
- Junior Clarinet Ensemble
- Junior Concert Choir
- Junior Dreamers
- Junior String Orchestra
- Piano Trio
- Rock Band
- Saxophone Quartet
- Senior Choir
- Senior Clarinet Ensemble
- Senior Flute Ensemble
- Senior String Orchestra
- Senior String Quartet
- Symphonic Band
- Year 7/8 Choir

# Beyond the classroom activities

- Australian Brain Bee Neuroscience Competition
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- ASX Shares Competitions
- Ballet
- Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge
- Bike Ed
- CREST Awards (CSIRO)
- Chess
- Code Camp
- Cyber Safety
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Debating
- Diplomacy Competition
- Ethics Olympiad
- EVATT United Nations SA Youth
- 'Girl Up' Club
- Grok NCSS Programming Competition
- IPSHA Poetry Competition
- Meet the Writers
- Mind Lab Olympics
- Musical Theatre Club
- National Youth Science Forum (Rotary)
- Oliphant Science Awards
- Outdoor Education: surfing, wind-surfing, kayaking, horse riding, bush walking, camping
- OzClo Computational Linguistics
- Philosothon
- Poetry & Literature Club
- Siemens Science Experience (Rotary)
- Simpson History Prize
- Tournament of Minds
- World Scholars Cup
- Write a Book in a Day
- Young Achievers



# Committees

These are all additions to the curriculum which offers a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Lunch time clubs cater for interests as diverse as chess, writing, the environment, debating, junior theatre, private music lessons and community service.

- Careers Committee
- Citizenship Committee
- Digital Technology Committee
- Environment Committee
- 'Girl Up' Committee
- House Committee
- International Students Committee
- Junior Library Committee
- Media and Magazine Team
- Music Committee
- Performing Arts Committee
- Peer Support Committee
- Senior Library Committee
- Sport Committee
- Student Foundation Committee
- Year Level Representative Committees
- Year 12 Committee

# Sports participation

Our extensive Sports program also provides opportunities for personal development. We encourage every girl to participate at a level appropriate to her ability and to evaluate her performance both at a personal and team level. Sport allows our students, whether captain or team player, to develop qualities of commitment, teamwork and competitiveness as well as a positive attitude to personal fitness.

- Athletics
- Australian Rules Football
- Auskick
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Hockey
- IGGSA Representative Teams
- Lacrosse
- Minkey
- Multisport
- Netball
- Netta
- Rowing
- SAPSASA Representative Teams
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Teeball
- Tennis
- Touch Football
- Volleyball
- Water Polo



# Leadership for Life

At Wilderness we prepare girls for the leadership opportunities that they will encounter in life. All students are encouraged to take up leadership roles throughout their time here.

Formal student leadership is encouraged through class representation, the House system and student committees in the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.



We believe that effective student leadership includes a broad range of experiences for all girls.

We aim to build the understandings and skills of leadership through the curriculum and the many, varied activities of School life in order to assist girls to become respected leaders who act with integrity and model ethical behaviour. In this way students develop their individual capacity to lead and influence others in a responsible manner.

Learning to lead is integral to a Wilderness education, preparing girls for full participation as responsible citizens in an increasingly globalised society.

Our hope is that our students will have the personal attributes to lead at any level, both wisely and with compassion. Opportunities arise on a daily basis for girls to take leadership roles in class. Subject teachers encourage girls to build on these.



# Student leadership opportunities

- Alliance of Girls' Schools Student Leadership Conference – Bond University
- Boarding House Captains
- Boarding Prefects
- Buddy Program
- Careers Committee
- Creative Arts Representatives
- Citizenship Committee
- Community Service Representatives
- Debating Coaching
- Digital Technology Representative
- Environment Representatives
- Events and PR Representatives
- Form Representatives
- 'Girl Up' Club / Committee
- Glee Competition
- Global Virtual Student Collaboration
- Group Dynamics
- GRIP Leadership Conference
- House Birthday Co-ordinator
- House and Sport Captains
- House Committees
- International Student Ambassador Program
- Junior Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Leadership workshops
- Media and Magazine Representative
- Membership of SRC Committees

- Middle Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Music Captains
- Music Ensemble Leaders
- New Girl Buddies
- Poetry & Representative
- Round Square School Representative
- Sports Representative
- Student Foundation Representatives
- Student IT Committee
- Student Media Committee
- Student Representative Council: President, Vice President, Secretary
- Student led assemblies and presentations
- Team Captains and Junior Coaches
- Year Level Representatives
- Year 10 Leadership Day
- Year 10 Pathways Week
- Year 11 Leadership Day

# Responsible Citizens

All our students take part in our Community Service program. Girls are not only encouraged to feel connected to their immediate community, but we believe it is also important for our students to feel part of, and a responsibility towards, the greater community. It is important for them to broaden their horizons.





## Community Service Programs supported

- Allergy Awareness
- Arthritis SA
- Bahadure School - Nepal
- Buddy Program
- Cancer Council
- City to Bay Fun Run
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- Girl Up – United Nations Foundation
- House Committees
- House Days (all proceeds go to Nepal)
- Mother's Day Classic – Breast Cancer Walk (online)
- Nepal Boarding House Fund
- Local ANZAC Day Service
- Reconciliation Week
- Red Cross Blood Bank
- Remembrance Day Service
- St Vincent de Paul
- Traffic Duty
- Traffic Monitoring with SAPOL
- Treasure Boxes
- Women Children's Hospital - Michael Rice Centre

# Global Citizens

Our girls learn that they are citizens of the world. The many international experiences offered to our students provide a passport for their global learning and opportunities to be connected globally.

Every year Wilderness offers overseas trips and exchange programs which enhance global competencies. Our students can practise a foreign language they have learned and experience different cultures firsthand.

Due to COVID, these trips were unfortunately cancelled in 2020. Instead, other virtual experiences were offered.

# TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS





Wilderness is a learning community, providing opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to question and to develop skills of critical thinking, resourcefulness, reflection and risk-taking.

We believe in lifelong learning and have a strong commitment in providing generous opportunities for staff to participate in a wide variety of Professional Development.

### TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

A complete list of teacher qualifications is available at the front of the 2020 Semper Verus magazine.

The teaching staff at Wilderness School are highly qualified and possess qualifications including Doctorates, Bachelor and Masters Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

17.2% with 4 or more professional qualifications

17.2% with 3 professional qualifications

44.1% with 2 professional qualifications

21.5% with 1 professional qualification

At Wilderness we are a community of learners. Our staff participate in ongoing Professional Development which enables them to continue to be leaders within their educational disciplines.

# Some of their Professional Development occurred in the following areas:

- ACHPER Australian Curriculum Conference for Primary Educators
- ACPHER Leadership Conference
- AHOMINGS Meeting and Professional Development for Heads of Music
- Alliance of Girls Schools Australasia Fearless Girls Strong Women
- Applied Mindfulness
- Assessment of Student Learning
- Australian English Teachers Association (national and state conferences)
- Australian Secondary Mathematics Curriculum
- Business Education – Annual Conference
- Careers Counselling
- Collaboration online using Canvas
- Collaboration online using Webex
- Data Driven dialogue
- Differentiation by Design
- Digital Citizenship
- Forum Theatre – Act Now
- Foundation of Fractions Workshop
- Geography Teachers Conference (State and National)
- History Teachers Association Annual Conference
- Introduction to Coding and Computational Thinking
- Improving student's writing with low stakes writing
- Mindfulness based stress reduction

- Implementation of new Senior Secondary curriculum subject – Business Innovation
- Improving Stem Education and Skills
- Lead Teacher Training
- Leading with Literacy
- Learning Design
- Literacy across the curriculum
- Load Management – train harder and smarter
- Mathematics Association Annual Conference
- Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
- Professional Collaboration
- Reggio Emilia - The Environment – As The Third Teacher
- Resilience and connection with Rachel Simons
- SACE Clarifying Forums for Stage 2 Mathematics, English, Research Project, Biology, Geography, Music, Physics, Chemistry, Physical Education, Psychology
- SAFTA Cconference (French Teachers)
- Senior Drama Teachers Forum
- The Big Ideas in Number
- 12 Business Innovation
- Year 12 Mathematics Conference
- Webex – delivering learning online
- Women in Educational Leadership
- Women in Leadership
- Writers' Week



# WORKFORCE COMPOSITION



In 2020, there were 90 teachers (including the Principal) employed by the School.

- 90 teachers, 28 of whom hold senior leadership roles
- 25 Peripatetic Music Staff
- 2 Student Counsellors
- 1 Director of Teaching and Learning Excellence
- 1 Careers Counsellor
- 1 Careers Assistant
- 1 International Student Counsellor
- 1 Health Officer
- 1 Risk & Compliance Officer

Wilderness School teaching staff have current Responding to Abuse and Neglect, Education and Care Training and Certification, Senior First Aid Certificates and a Working With Children Check.

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORDS





The average rate for student attendance across the School was consistently high.

For students in Years 1 -10 the average attendance rate was 95%.

Parents receive a SMS message if a girl is unaccountably absent.

# JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTCOMES



Wilderness School is committed to maximising student outcomes by providing innovative and responsive academic programs that meet the needs of all our girls.

Wilderness is a non-selective School that welcomes students with diverse learning needs and abilities. The literacy and numeracy difficulties experienced by a small number of students are well understood and are addressed with individual learning plans.

Student outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing was not performed this year due to COVID.

# SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES





## Once again our students have achieved excellent results.

There were 110 girls who applied for the ATAR this year. Of the cohort 74% were placed in the top 10%, with 55% in the top 5% and 24% in the top 1% of Year 12 students.

The position of Dux is awarded to Brigitte Alvaro who achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.85.

Brigitte was selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award for outstanding academic achievement, including the development of one or more of the SACE capabilities.

Brigitte Alvaro, Emmanuella Baran, Emily Roberts, Olivia Webb, Jessica Hawker, Josephine Smart, Penelope Casson, Amaima Faisal, Peta Gouskos, Jacinta Rossi, Emily Jose, Eliza Fenton-Mair, Scarlett Miles, Laura Rositano, Lucienne Ruddenklau, Kate Santosh Olakkengil, Isabella Wallwork, Sharanya Kamath, Meg Ritchie, Alana Commons, Kabisha Emad, Isobel Dolling, Alicia Wright, Xinyu Kong, Lucy Duncan and Shania Paronavithana all gained an ATAR over 99.

100% of the students studying a full course of SACE gained the SACE certificate. Of the cohort 89% also undertook Vocational Education Training (VET) with 100% receiving a Certificate III level course.

# 2020 Accolades

## WILDERNESS STUDENTS ACHIEVED 74 MERIT LISTINGS FOR PERFECT SCORES IN:

- Ancient Studies
- Biology
- Business Innovation
- English
- French Continuers
- English Literary Studies
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Information Processing and Publishing
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Methods
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Research Project B
- Society and Culture
- Workplace Practices

**24%**

**24% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS** WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 1% NATIONALLY**

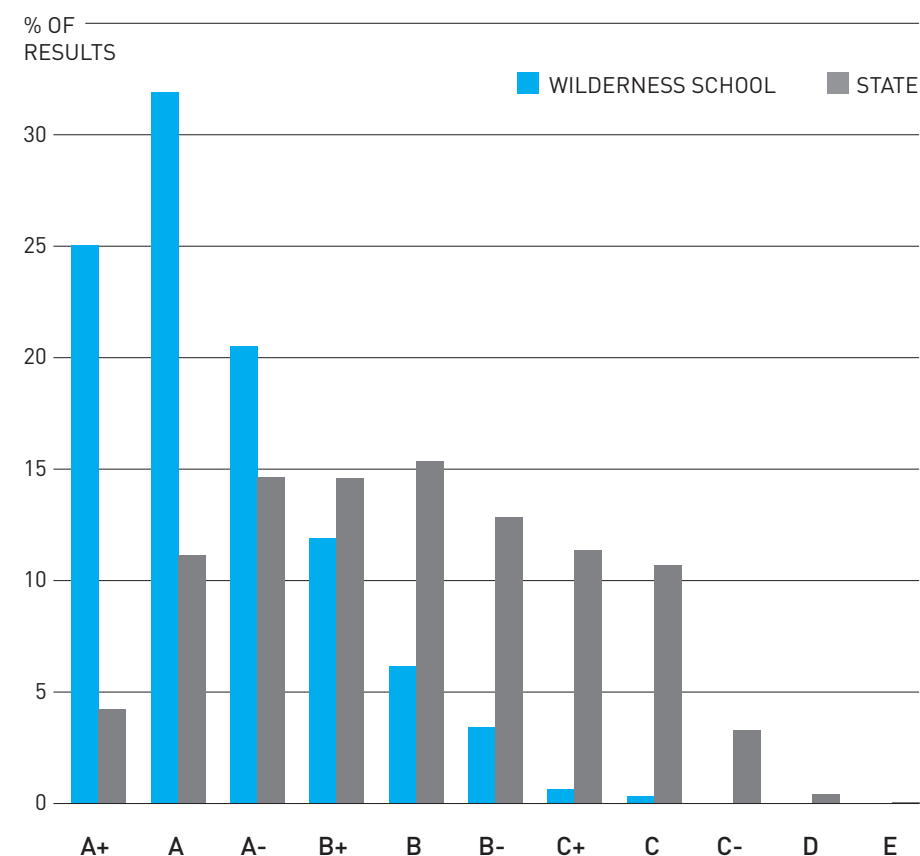
**55%**

**55% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS** WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 5% NATIONALLY**

**74%**

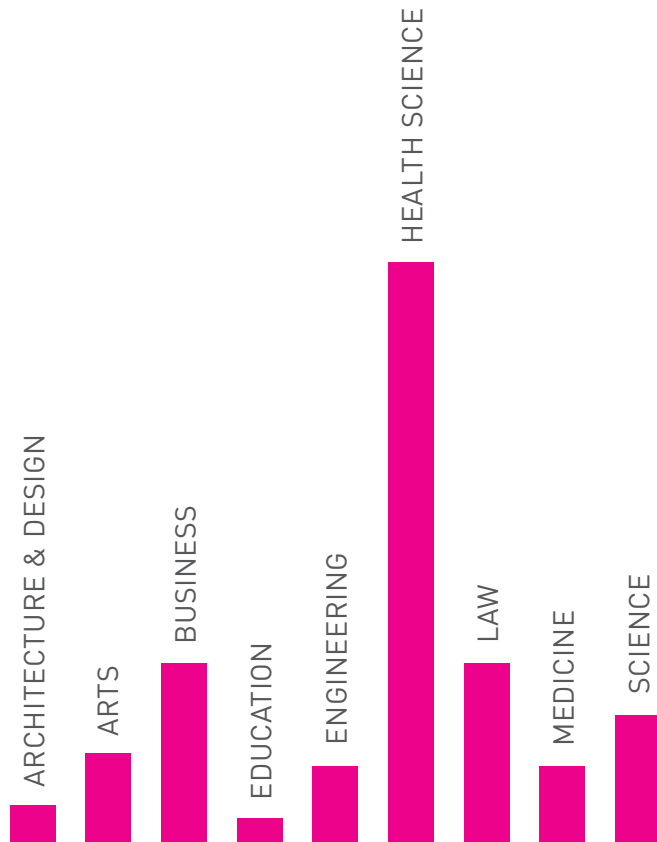
**74% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS** WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 10% NATIONALLY**

## 2020 GRADE DISTRIBUTION

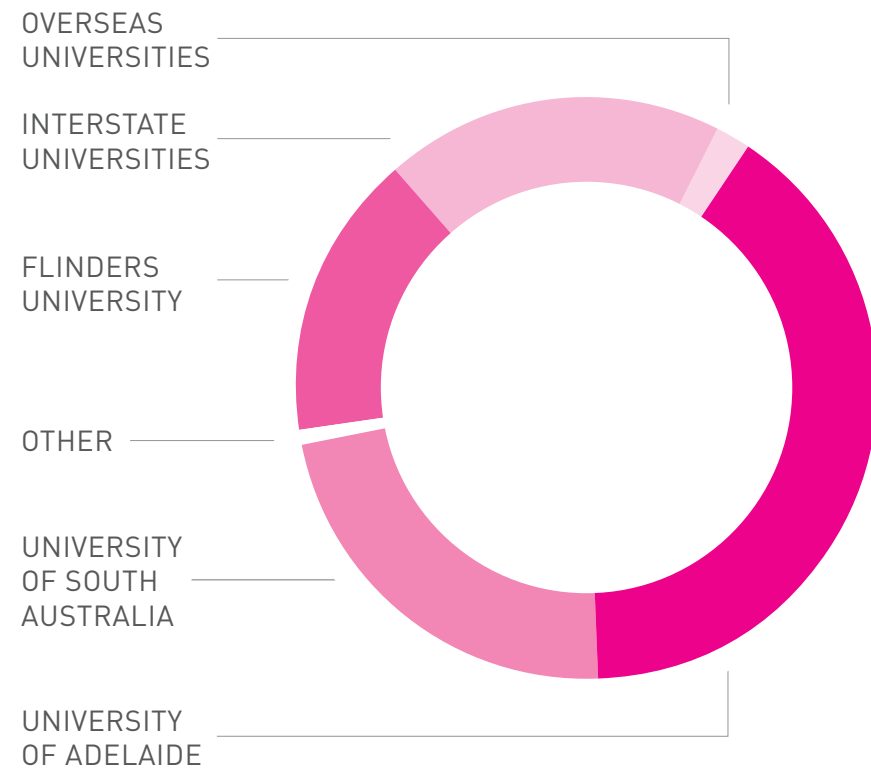


# Post school destinations

## FIELDS OF EDUCATION



## TERTIARY DESTINATIONS 2021



# PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION





It is evident through our high retention of staff and students and the overall feedback given by parents and students at various times throughout the year that there is a high level of satisfaction within our community at Wilderness.

At the end of the 2020 academic year **88.2%** of teaching staff were retained. The reasons for leaving were one retirement, six resignations and four contracts ceased.









WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

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30 Hawkers Road, Medindie SA 5081

Phone + 61 8 8344 6688

[www.wilderness.com.au](http://www.wilderness.com.au)

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