



WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

ALWAYS  
*True*

2022 SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCE



# CONTENTS

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

It relates to the 2022 School academic year.

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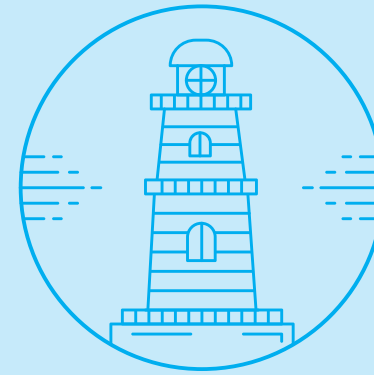
# SCHOOL INFORMATION





## 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 2022 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

- Big Band 1
- Big Band 2
- Concert Band
- Dream Girls
- Guitar Ensemble
- Intermediate Flute Ensemble
- Intermediate String Orchestra
- Intermediate String Quartet
- Jazz Choir
- 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 4 Band
- Year 7/8 Choir

# Beyond the classroom activities

- Anglicare Foster Care Program
- Australian Brain Bee Neuroscience Competition
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- Ballet
- Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge
- Bike Ed
- CREST Awards (CSIRO)
- Chess
- Code Camp
- Coding Club
- Cyber Safety
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Debating
- Diplomacy Competition
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- Ethics Olympiad
- EVATT United Nations SA Youth
- 'Girl Up' Club
- Grok Cyber Live
- Girls Day Out STEM Quest
- IPSHA Poetry Competition
- Meet the Writers
- Mind Lab Olympics
- MTA Car Service Sessions - Andrew Parker
- Musical Theatre Club
- National Youth Science Forum (Rotary)
- Oliphant Science Awards
- Outdoor Education
  - Junior School: Nature Play, Adventures into Language and Bike Riding
  - Middle School: Bushwalking, Orienteering, Kayaking, REALISE
  - Extended Stay Residential Program, Sailing, Surfing, High Ropes, Rock-climbing, and Camping

- OzClo Computational Linguistics
- Pathways Week
- Paul Dillon - Drug and Alcohol Research Training Australia
- Philothon
- Poetry and Literature Club
- RAA Street Smart
- Rostrum Voice of Youth
- Round Square International Conference
- Save a Life Australia - Driver Education Program
- Siemens Science Experience (Rotary)
- Simpson History Prize
- SONY Camp
- SUBS in Schools Competition
- Tournament of Minds
- 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 Club
- 'Girl Up' Club
- House Committee
- International Students Committee
- Library Committee
- Media Team
- Music Committee
- Performing Arts Committee
- Peer Support Committee
- Round Square Ambassadors
- 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
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Hockey
- IGSSA Representative Teams
- Lacrosse
- Minkey
- Multisport
- Netball
- Netta
- Rowing
- SAPSASA Representative Teams
- SSSSA Sport Competitions
- Soccer
- Swimming
- 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
- 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
- '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
- Middle Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Music Captains



- Music Ensemble Leaders
- New Girl Buddies
- Poetry Representative
- Round Square School Ambassadors
- Sports Representative
- Student Foundation Representatives
- Student IT Committee
- Student Media Team
- SRC Executive Committee
- Student led assemblies and presentations
- Team Captains and Junior Coaches
- Year Level and Form 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
- Anglicare (BeacHouse Event, Fun in the Wilderness Program for Vulnerable Children, Care Packages for Foster Carers and Move-in Packages for Vulnerable Young Adults)
- Arthritis SA
- Bahadure School - Nepal
- BIO-R Planting Festival
- Buddy Program
- Cancer Council
- City to Bay Fun Run
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- Girl Up – United Nations Foundation
- House Committees
- House Days
- Mother’s Day Classic – Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
- Nepal Boarding House Fund
- Local ANZAC Day Service
- Reconciliation Week
- Red Cross Blood Bank
- Remembrance Day Service
- Rotary Seed Propagation
- Samaritan’s Purse
- Smith Family
- Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp
- St Vincent de Paul
- Student2Student Buddy Reading Program
- Traffic Monitoring with SAPOL
- Treasure Boxes
- Variety Children’s Foundation Picnics
- Wilderness in Nepal: Walk Everest in a Day
- Wrap with Love

# 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.

In 2022, we held our first post-COVID-19 international trip with students travelling to Oxford, UK and Berlin, Germany to attend the Round Square International Conference.

Within the School environment, students participated in global collaborations including a virtual conference on environmentalism.



# 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 2022 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.

Of our teaching staff:

- 15% with 4 or more professional qualifications
- 22% with 3 professional qualifications
- 43% with 2 professional qualifications
- 20% 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 opportunities included the following:

- Assessment Design
- Assessment Moderation
- Australian Association of Teachers of English National Conference
- The Australian Association of School Business Administrators Conference
- Coaching for Learning Impact
- Cognitive Coaching
- Collaborative Teams At Work
- Creating safe spaces for deep collaboration
- Developing Minds - Culture
- Differentiation
- Edutech
- Effective Assessment Design
- Employment Law
- Five Ways of Being Leadership Masterclass and Symposium
- Geography Teachers Association of South Australia Annual Conference
- Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum
- ICT Management and Leadership
- Leading Change
- Managing People
- Master of Education
- Master of Business Administration
- Microsoft Power Applications
- Moderation of Standards Training
- National Education Summit: Libraries
- Outdoor Education for SACE
- Research Project
- Return to Work - Workcover
- Rubric Writing
- Science of Reading
- SEQTA - Advanced
- Seven Steps Writing
- SHINE
- South Australian English Teachers Association Annual Conference
- Supporting Writers at Risk
- The Science of Language and Reading
- Version 9 Australian Curriculum
- Year 12 Mathematics Curriculum

# WORKFORCE COMPOSITION





In 2022, there was a range of staff employed by the School to support each girl to be the best she can be.

- 88 teachers (including the Principal),  
32 of whom hold senior leadership roles
- 27 peripatetic Music staff
- 2 student counsellors
- 1 Director of Learning and Teaching Excellence
- 1 Careers Counsellor
- 1 Careers Assistant
- 1 International Student Coordinator
- 2 health officers

Wilderness School teaching staff have current Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect - Education and Care Training, 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 91.25%.

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

# JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTCOMES



## Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy Testing

Wilderness School is committed to maximising student outcomes by providing innovative and responsive academic programs that meet the needs of all our girls. This section highlights some of the outcomes that demonstrate the success of Wilderness students across the curriculum.

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.

# 2022 percentage of students at or above the National Minimum Standard

## READING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	100%	0	0	0
Year 5	52	100%	1	0	0
Year 7	80	100%	0	0	2
Year 9	87	100%	0	0	3

## WRITING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	36	100%	1	0	0
Year 5	49	100%	4	0	0
Year 7	78	100%	2	0	2
Year 9	81	100%	6	0	3

## SPELLING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	100%	0	0	0
Year 5	52	100%	1	0	0
Year 7	80	99%	0	0	2
Year 9	87	99%	0	0	3

## GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	100%	0	0	0
Year 5	52	100%	1	0	0
Year 7	80	99%	0	0	2
Year 9	87	99%	0	0	3

## NUMERACY

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	37	100%	0	0	0
Year 5	51	100%	2	0	0
Year 7	80	99%	0	0	2
Year 9	86	100%	0	0	4

# SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES





Once again our students have achieved excellent results. There were 93 girls who applied for the ATAR this year.

Of the cohort, 68% were placed in the top 10%, with 50% in the top 5% and 20% in the top 1% of Year 12 students nationally. The median ATAR achieved was 95.05.

There were 19 girls who each gained an ATAR of 99 or more.

The position of Dux is awarded to Olivia Tallent who attained an ATAR of 99.95. Olivia was also awarded the Tennyson Medal, which honours the top student for English Literary Studies in the SACE graduating class. She was also selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award for Meritorious Achievement, which recognises overall excellence in the SACE.

# 2022 Accolades

## WILDERNESS STUDENTS ACHIEVED 53 MERIT LISTINGS FOR PERFECT SCORES IN:

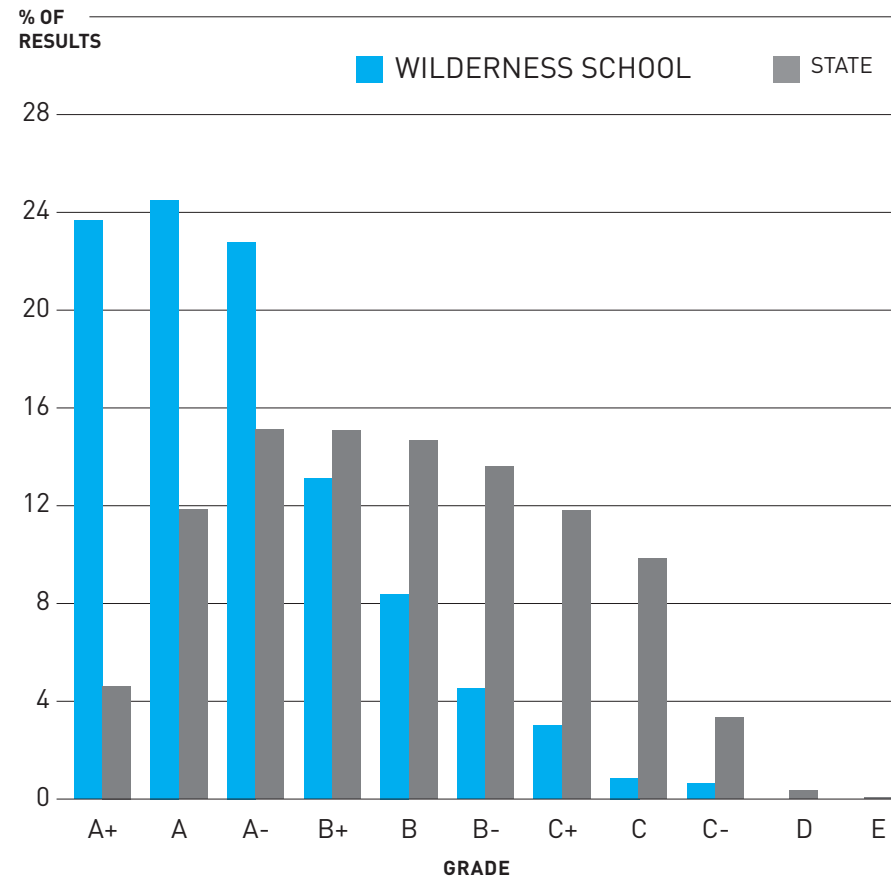
- Activating Identities and Futures
- Biology
- English
- English Literary Studies
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Methods
- Modern History
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Research Project B
- Workplace Practices

**68%** 78% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 10% NATIONALLY**

**50%** 50% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 5% NATIONALLY**

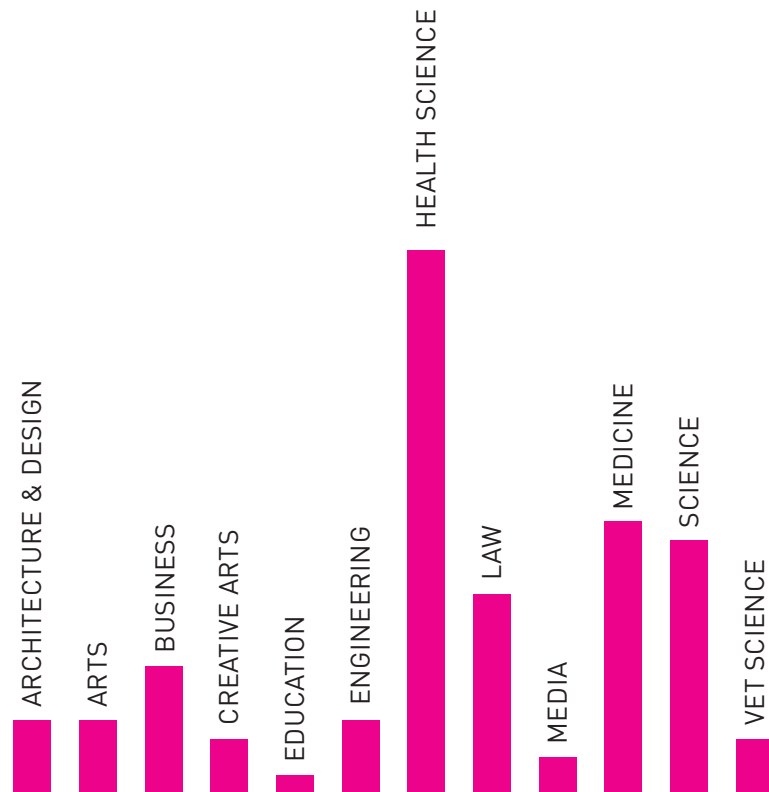
**20%** 20% OF OUR YEAR 12 STUDENTS WERE PLACED IN THE **TOP 1% NATIONALLY**

## 2022 GRADE DISTRIBUTION

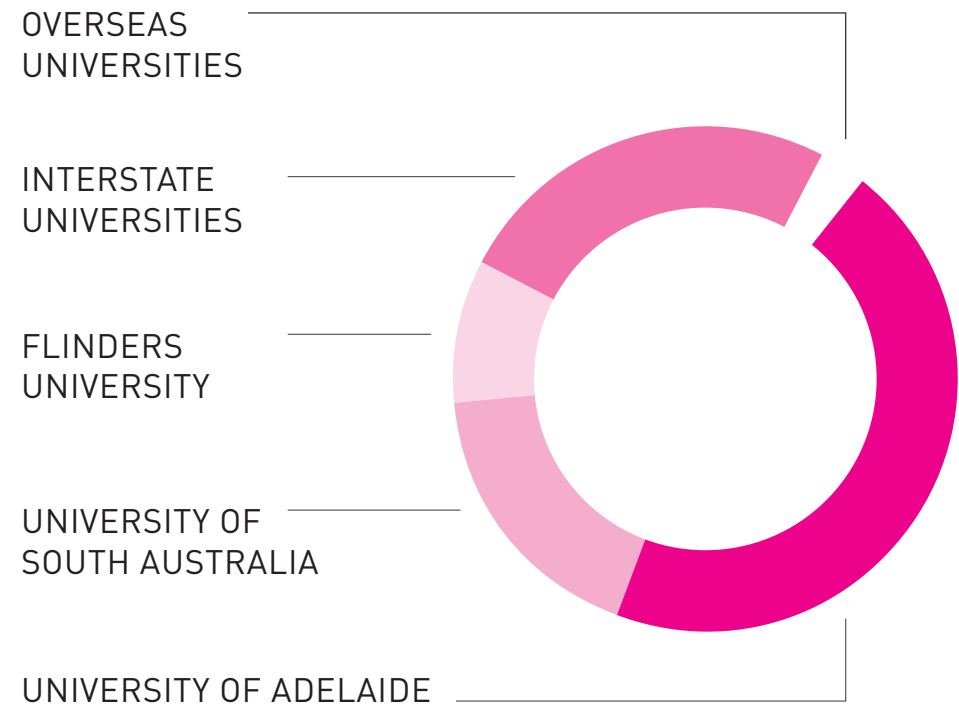


# Post school destinations

## 2023 FIELDS OF EDUCATION



## 2023 TERTIARY DESTINATIONS



# 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 2022 academic year 87.5% of teaching staff were retained. The reasons for leaving were two retirements, two resignations and seven contracts concluding.





WILDERNESS  
SCHOOL

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