

WOODCROFT COLLEGE

Courier

Semester 2 2019



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 Principal's Thoughts
by Shannon Warren
- 6 The End of a Journey
by Andrew Griffiths
- 10 PYP Exhibition
by Karen McCulloch
- 12 Quest Fest 2019
by Tom Charlton and Year 9 Students
- 20 Future Thinkers and Innovators
by Renata Rigante and Tarnya Saunderson
- 24 Canberra Science Quest Tour
by Leone Shapter
- 26 Greentown Hangzhou Immersion
by Tom Charlton and Middle School Captains
- 28 We Will Rock You
by Rachel McCall
- 30 The Arts Showcase
by Renée McCarthy
- 32 Junior School Colour Explosion
by Annette Mikulcic and Scott Sutherland
- 34 Athletics Carnival
- 32 Old Scholar News



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IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 28 January 2020
First day back for Reception to Year 8 students and Year 12 students

Wednesday 29 January 2020
First day back for Year 9 to 11 students

Friday 20 March 2020
5 Year Reunion for the Class of 2015

Friday 27 March 2020
*10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2010
20 Year Reunion for the Class of 2000*

KEEP IN TOUCH

Are you an Old Scholar? We'd love to hear what you have been up to since leaving school.

Share your news with Meredith Baker, our Marketing and Communications Coordinator at: baker_m@woodcroft.sa.edu.au

Update your details at:
www.woodcroft.sa.edu.au/old-scholars

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Cover photo: Kayaking on Year 9 Quest
Inset right photo: Year 10 Future Leaders at Mt Arapiles



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Principal's Thoughts

by Shannon Warren, Head of College

Earlier in Term 4 we were honoured to host Valedictory for our Year 12 students. I would like to share with you some of my parting words as we reflected on their journey and celebrated their achievements.

"I am full of a great deal of admiration for you, and I'll admit, a bit of envy. You are so impressive, so realistic, and so confident. You are making smart, pragmatic choices about the environment, about the media, and about preparing for your future.

It gives me great hope and this is a feeling that has been in short supply of late. To think of this multicultural, multiracial, tolerant, and entrepreneurial group of graduates coming of age, determined to make an impact.

Your values are sound and you understand what is important in life. But maybe that is because this group of Gen Z young people were educated at Woodcroft College!

We live in a world, now more than ever, where we are expected to hold down a hugely rewarding and successful job, raise a well-adjusted family, have a full and fascinating social life, an investment portfolio, go on fabulous holidays, save the world, have the health of an elite athlete and be home in time to put a nutritious meal on the table without so much as a hair out of place. We're supposed to have it together all the time.

I want you to break from this 'cult of perfect' that we have somehow created and embrace the imperfect. Because imperfections are not inadequacies; they are reminders that we're all in this together.

And, embrace vulnerability.

Most modern cultures err on the side of suppressed feelings in an effort to display strength. Vulnerability is anything but weakness. In fact, it takes true strength and courage to allow yourself to be vulnerable.

And, the great part about it is, the gifts we unlock by being willing to be vulnerable far outweigh the difficulty in doing so. By having the courage to be vulnerable and open to ourselves and the world around us, we come directly in touch with our most authentic self. And, in doing so, can live a much more fulfilling and happier life.

So why, out of all of the topics I could have chosen to discuss today, did I choose vulnerability? Well perhaps because I know for all of you, this would be a feeling you would be experiencing today. Along with the excitement and the fear and the sadness you will all be feeling a bit vulnerable. And, that is a good thing. Because vulnerability is the birthplace of connection and the path to the feeling of worthiness.

The most important lesson I want you to take away from what I say today, is to always think about how you are touching other people's lives. The truth is, you cannot fix everything. But what you can do, here and now, is make a decision, because life is about decisions.

And, the decision is that you will use your life in service. You will speak up. You will show up. You will stand up. You will sit in. You will volunteer. You will vote. You will shout out. You will help. You will lend a hand.

I am optimistic for your generation. Thank you for allowing us to be part of shaping the amazing young people you are today. I, for one, cannot wait to watch you fly."





Farewell to Our 2019 Year 12 Students

*You're off to great places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!*

Dr. Seuss



Year 5 PYP Exhibition

by Karen McCulloch, Leader of Learning & Teaching

Our Junior School teaches the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP). Part of the PYP requires students in Year 5 to tackle important global topics with the aim of taking action to make a change.

Students choose to research a global issue that speaks to them personally. Their research culminates in the PYP Exhibition, where parents, peers and teachers have the opportunity to learn about the different topics and what we all can do to make a change.

So, why does the PYP Exhibition matter?

The exhibition is a powerful demonstration of student agency. The learning community participates in the exhibition, supporting and celebrating the development of internationally minded students who make a positive difference in their lives and the lives of others.

It matters because we want our students to be responsible citizens who make a difference in the world they live. We want them to learn that there are finite resources in the world that we struggle to share.

That there are people without basic needs, others with difficulties choosing a positive pathway through life and also a planet that is not being nurtured for the future.

Ultimately, we want them to care and take action.

The Exhibition is:

Student-initiated: Students have a role in choosing the issue that matters to them. They identify what knowledge they will need to acquire, and what skills they will need to develop.

Student-designed: Students design their learning goals and together with their teachers, establish the criteria of what success will look like for them.

Collaborative: Students collaborate with their peers, teachers and mentors throughout the exhibition process.

Some of the topics tackled in this year's PYP Exhibition included puppy farming, pollution, gender stereotypes, disabilities, breakdown of community relationships, social media, commotion in the ocean, mental health issues and the acknowledgement of Indigenous cultures.





Quest Fest 2019

by Tom Charlton, Head of Middle School

I am really proud of our Year 9 students for stepping out of their comfort zone and attending the Quest camp. I know it will hold them in good stead for the future.

Quest Fest is about celebrating the individual growth of all our fine young men and women, and recognising the end of their time in Middle School. It celebrates the values we hold dear at Woodcroft and which really come to the fore in Quest.

After Quest students are asked to reflect on their own experiences and some of these were shared with parents and guests at each Quest Fest event.

Group Dynamics *by Noelani MacDonald, Quest 1*

During Quest, we were thrown into the lion's den in a way, as each of us had to forge strong bonds and friendships with the other five members of our group in a very short period of time while persevering through some mentally and physically challenging tasks set for us by our mentors and instructors.

On one of the activities, orienteering, we ended up taking a two kilometre detour, but once we discovered we were meant to get to a reservoir, not a waterfall, we decided another map reader had to be allocated.

We rushed to the reservoir, and ended up getting there almost an hour early. Since we got there so quickly, it was decided amongst the teachers

that we could survive the 40 kilometre bike ride. We survived, but barely, after a stack and several painful muscle cramps.

Any prior aloofness had to be set aside before any of the more challenging tasks could be undertaken, meaning we had to build trust in each other and learn how to cooperate with people who were practically strangers.

Over the two weeks our group dynamics changed a lot. This change was the most prominent on days four and five. All the group members spoke, communicated and helped each other more.

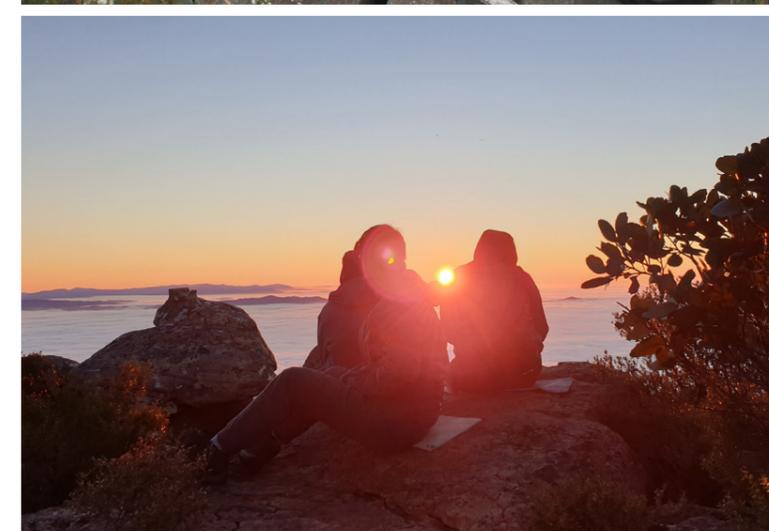
When a member of the group was struggling or just a bit down, the whole group would try their best to cheer them up, this led to the whole group being positive and making it further than predicted in every activity.

For some members staying positive was a challenge but they overcame this and went through every difficulty they came across with a huge smile and heaps of encouragement from the rest of the group.

There have been many unforgettable moments on Quest, but the best occurred during Final Journey.

On day one, we hiked up and down a mountain. That night we saw the sun set over the mountains and saw it rise the next morning. The look of shock and awe on my group members' faces as we watched the sun slowly rise over the cloud banks was absolutely worth every ounce of discomfort I felt on the way to the campsite and throughout the previous activities.

I am still so proud of what my group has accomplished, both during and after Quest.





I have learned so many things about my group members and mentor, that there seems to be a deeper bond between us that I hope will last throughout the rest of our lives.

It seems like the sun has risen on a new period of time, during which each person, student and teacher, has shed their previous judgements of the other group members and themselves in a real effort to grow as a person.

Each human being is an enigma in their own right. Each person has goals for themselves that will eventually shape their future. We have all gone through so much together, bonded as a group, and helped each other in all manners possible, from pushing group mates up hills and carrying each others' rucksacks, to cooking dinner for other group members and holding up the tent!

Quest was an opportunity for us to show our true colours and personalities, not only as students, but as soon-to-be adults, preparing to enter the big bad world with nothing but our wits and what we've learned in our 13 plus years of schooling.

This is why Quest is so important to the Woodcroft College school experience. If a student goes out into the world unable to cooperate in a team, they will be less sought after than those who are able to.

We pushed on throughout Quest and we have all learnt a thing or two about how the world works.

As of the day we returned, my motivational pep talk has been; 'You've climbed a mountain and ridden 40 kilometres in a day. You can do this!'

Rock Climbing *by Jamie Murmann, Quest 2*

I would like to talk about the day that we did Rock Climbing. It was by far the most enjoyable activity for me. It presented itself as a challenge that I wanted to conquer.

The benefits of this activity were that it really brought out perseverance in everybody. People kept climbing up the rock faces again and again. Everybody showed the potential for completing the activity. It was roughly a 45 minute drive to bushrangers bluff but we got to listen to some tunes, so that was alright.

There were three different courses to try, all presenting different challenges, whether there were lost handholds or the walls were more slippery. Each wall, once completed, left another feeling of accomplishment.

I think it also brought the group closer together. There was constant support between us.

I think the point of the activity was to just get involved. If you weren't climbing, you were belaying or giving advice on different ways to complete the course. It was also about becoming more confident. I was terrified to do the abseil, however after doing it, I wasn't as scared any more. On the way down people were able to stare straight into the cave halfway up the cliff. It was interesting to see inside, there were rocks, water dripping from the ceiling and it was hard to believe people slept in there.

I had beaten one of my greatest fears, heights. In doing so I increased my comfort zone. Meaning I was able to do rock climbing without as big a fear as before. The rock climbing I think had one of the biggest effects on people.





Of course mountain biking and canoeing were also a challenge. But I definitely think the rock climbing, which is my first time on bare rock, was by far the most memorable activity that I have of Quest. You were meant to grow as a person, everybody who came back from Quest was better in some way or another.

Whether they were more selfless, confident, enthusiastic about life or having even increased their comfort zone just that slight bit more.

Being able to do new things without being as scared or nervous as before is a serious accomplishment. Which is why I think the rock climbing was the highlight of Quest.

HOPE and FEAR by *Ethan Baker, Quest 3*

Mt Arapiles, the best rock climbing location in Australia, one of the best in the world. The landscape of the rock and mountain just kept becoming more wonderful and amazing.

One of the greatest moments of Quest for me was making it up a level 20 rock climbing wall, which only one other person from my camp completed.

I had discovered a surprising skill that day. I thought it was just a fluke when I made it up the first three walls with ease, I thought they were simple walls. Everyone else tried them, some made it up and fewer found it easy.

I was harnessed up, Samuel was on belay and Hung was on secondary belay and I remember thinking “I have to make it up this wall now, I’ve been talking myself up saying how easy the other walls were”. Maybe it was that thought that aided me in lifting my whole body up higher, with only my arms, to the next place I could hold onto the wall.

“Use your feet Baker” they were all yelling from down below. Mr Greenham wasn’t the only one impressed with my upper body strength, I certainly was. My hands were scratched and sore but that was strangely the only pain I had. I had “gunned” the other three walls as Sam would say, and now I had not only completed this one but did so virtually without the aid of my legs.

One thing I found challenging was canoeing. I hesitantly agreed to go and I assured my partner that if we capsized I wouldn’t be impressed. We didn’t capsize, we got lost. My partner tried to reassure me, “It’s fine Baker we’ll find our way back”. I wasn’t enjoying this at all. However, my mood lightened up and I made the best of the activity. To help allay any fears of capsizing, I recalled one of Mr Fox’s helpful teachings, FEAR = False Evidence Appearing Real.

The worry of judgement for being so far behind disappeared, I never wanted to be the fastest. I anticipated a calm relaxing cruise yet the rest of my group saw it as a chance to race. My partner also wanted to race. Thankfully, he settled for a serene paddle. However we couldn’t escape the rambunctious nature of the group as we pulled into our stop. With some group members capsizing and others barely staying upright.

There was no escaping the splashes, no truces, no alliances, only carnage. It was an extreme event that left everyone soaking and some ill tempered at one another.

Mr Fox’s teachings were absolutely a part of Quest that will stick with me and I’m sure many others. Whether it was HOPE = Hold On, Pain Ends or for a good relationship be interested and interesting or Think (positively) Talk (positively) and Act (deliberately, with purpose). HOPE was certainly one that I benefitted from on final journey.





Future Thinkers and Innovators

by Renata Rigante and Tarnya Saunderson

Throughout the second Semester our students engaged in a number of activities designed to challenge minds and inspire critical thinking. From innovation to ethics and ideas to tackle youth unemployment, our students are inspiring and passionate young people who are deeply committed to improving the welfare of others around them.

Middle School Ethics Olympiad

Our Middle School students competed in the 2019 South Australian Middle School Ethics Olympiad, held at Loreto College in November.

For the first time, Middle School students in capital cities across Australia and New Zealand were able to compete. It was a great opportunity for our budding Year 7 philosophers Josephine Hoare, Charlie Keene, Aidan Knight, Meera Thomas and Winston Varney.

The competition aims to challenge, extend and enrich students' thinking skills as they work collaboratively. In teams of five, students responded to a range of everyday scenarios and were asked to contemplate various ethical implications that touched on the following theories: Virtue ethics, Utilitarianism, Kantianism, Contract theory and Care ethics.

Examples of scenarios used to stimulate discussion included:

Round 1: Friendship – Jealousy, betrayal and lying.

Round 2: Caring - Using nature and adopting.

Round 3: Obligations to others and ourselves - Peer pressure and eating for free.

Our group of enthusiastic students showed tenacity and mental dexterity in considering a range of confronting case studies to battle against other students in Years 7 to 9 from 14 schools across Adelaide.



Innovators on the Couch

In Term 4, Woodcroft College received an invitation to participate in the Onakparinga Youth Enterprise Hub's (OYEH) Innovators on the Couch Challenge.

Students from five schools within the local council area accepted the invitation to create innovative solutions to issues that they identified as youth concerns in the area.

The mental health and wellbeing of young people and climate change were prioritised as urgent concerns.

The opening address talked about the changing nature of the workplace and the importance of innovation in a future-ready society.

Guest speaker, space activist, anchor host of the Australian Flight Channel and Australia's only Junior NASA Space Ambassador, Megha Wijewardane delivered an impressive session outlining his current research and innovative undertakings.

Woodcroft College students Ella Dallimore, Chloe Patterson, Emily Ruddock and Caleb Thomas went on to pitch their solutions to a panel.

Ella and Chloe were concerned about the impact of negative news on youth and created an Instagram page, "The Sun and Stars" to share good news youth stories from the Onkaparinga area in a bid to promote general positivity.

Emily and Caleb designed a prototype for a counselling app which can be used within and outside the school environment in order to improve student well-being and provide access to counselling staff.

Congratulations to our students who delivered impressive pitches with the judges agreeing that their innovations were feasible and had the potential to 'grow legs' to positively impact youth mental health.



Shark Tank eSchool Program

The Shark Tank eSchool Program takes students on a journey from understanding the mindset of entrepreneurs, through to developing their own business ideas and, then pitching and presenting to a panel of judges at the venture showcase.

Our Year 11 Business Innovation students made up nine of the 150 teams involved this year. Students worked in teams of four coming up with a variety of problems that were important to them.

Emily Cronk, Hamish Kerr, Vanessa Mercurio and Rhiannon Scott formed 'Team Skills Based'.

Their team originally investigated problems such as climate change, lack of streetlights in certain Adelaide areas and inequality before settling on youth unemployment in society.

The original idea of not having enough "good" jobs for senior school leaving aged students was at the forefront of their initial discussions.

They decided to tackle this issue head on, identifying that young people have difficulty when job searching purely because entry-level jobs require skills and experience that can only be gained from a job to begin with, resulting in a vicious unemployment cycle.

Their chosen solution was a travelling van that has equipment needed to teach courses to young people such as barista, first aid, customer service, food handling and responsible service of alcohol training.

They pitched the idea of the travelling van visiting schools and other organisations requiring their service to "upskill" youth to be able to gain employment.

'Team Skills Based' pitched against the other teams to a panel of judges and took out the Community Award section.

Prizes included \$1,000 cash, \$2,500 marketing advice from Black Sheep Marketing, as well as receiving one undergraduate course credit towards any University of Adelaide Bachelor program.

Congratulations to 'Team Skills Based' for developing a program to assist young people achieve their career goals by organising hands on training through mobile business visits to schools.



Photo credit: University of Adelaide



Canberra Science Quest Tour

by Leone Shapter, Scientist in Residence

In November, 45 students from Years 5 to 7 had the wonderful opportunity to travel to Canberra to learn about STEM, civics and citizenship.

We began with a visit to Mt Ainslie lookout where we could see the different destinations on our itinerary. We were also able to observe the dryness of the surrounding environment.

The next stop was the Australian Geoscience Centre where we investigated minerals, moon rocks, volcanoes and earthquakes. We even created our own earthquake which was recorded on the seismograph. And, some of us managed to work out our worth in gold!

We explored the many attractions and sights of Canberra including the National Museum where we visited the Pixar DreamWorks Animation Exhibition and learnt about the work behind creating animations such as 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

At the Australian Institute of Sport, we toured the facilities where our Australian athletes train. We had a chance to test our own skills in the Sportex including wheelchair races and the skeleton run!

After the physical exertion it was off to exhaust our brains at Questacon. Here we explored the similarities and differences between humans and robots in the Born or Built Exhibit. A favourite was experiencing the lightning chamber!

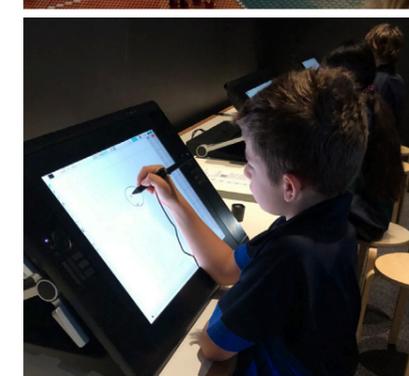
Other highlights of our trip were discovering Australian inventions and research at the CSIRO Discovery Centre. We learnt about the many Australian inventions we use in our world today.

Next on the list was the Australian War Memorial. Then onto Parliament House where we role-played debating a bill, then to the Electoral Education Centre and the Museum of Democracy where we role-played the Franklin River dam project debate of 1983.

We were also able to do a night tour of the National Dinosaur Museum where we learnt how knowledge changes as scientists gather new evidence about what dinosaurs may have looked like when they roamed the earth.

Another night of observation was spent at the Mt Stromlo Observatory where we were gifted with a beautiful clear night and the opportunity to see Saturn and its rings clearly through the telescope.

It was a great experience for staff and students. Their curiosity and willingness to participate in every opportunity presented to them made it a trip they will never forget.



Greentown Hangzhou Immersion

by Tom Charlton, Head of Middle School and Middle School Captains

At the start of Term 4, our Middle School Leaders Ella Besley, Hayden Brown, Ethan Goodeve and Grace Stevens were lucky enough to visit Greentown School in Hangzhou, China.

They stayed with local families and attended the International Festival along with other schools from Germany, Spain, America, England and Sweden.

Our students attended many functions and ceremonies, with the highlight being the Choir and Poetry Festival. Dressed in swag hats with corks dangling down, they recited Dorothea Mackellar's poem 'My Country' and were honoured to win an award on the night.

The students also spent three days in Shanghai. This is a city with a population of 25 million, which is about the same as Australia, so it was quite a culture shock to see so many people.

I was incredibly proud of our students for their manners, their willingness to try new experiences, such as local food, and the way they mixed not only with the Greentown students but also with the students from other international schools.

Our relationship with Greentown school is really important to us and we plan to take Middle School students to the International Festival again next year.

There are only two words that I could use to describe the trip: life changing. I learnt so much about myself during the trip and have become more appreciative of everything that I have.

We had so much fun walking through the city of Shanghai, going on adrenaline-pumping rides at Disneyland and trying the local cuisine.

At the Greentown Yuhua International Festival we made friends from a range of different countries, such as Sweden, America and Spain. We learnt a lot about their cultures as well.

All in all, it was a fantastic trip, and it sparked my love for international travel.

Hayden Brown

Travelling to China was like nothing I had ever experienced before, even the flight was a new experience.

I learnt to adapt to new routines and problem solve when it was difficult to communicate. This experience enabled me to reflect on our own country and culture, and made me appreciate my life in Australia.

I was able to understand the day to day life of a Chinese student and even meet other students from other parts of the world like Sweden, America and Spain.

We attended a leadership day that enabled us to view global issues from the perspectives of other countries and provided us with many skills we can use as leaders into the future.

I enjoyed experiencing a new cuisine, even eating pig trotters and eating rice and dumplings for breakfast!

I am very grateful for the opportunity and hope to experience more new cultures in the future.

Grace Stevens



We Will Rock You

by Rachel McCall, Director of Quality Learning and Teaching

In 2018 we saw the celebration of Queen and Freddy Mercury in the film *'Bohemian Rhapsody'*, the popularity of which confirmed the choice for the 2019 College Musical.

We Will Rock You was chosen to showcase the current crop of brilliant guitarists and to challenge our vocalists with the beautiful harmonies delivered through the classic rock score.

The plot followed two revolutionaries as they try to save rock music in a post-apocalyptic world. Exploring the trend towards manufactured pop in a modern world and the big brother nature of technology, the musical celebrated individual expression and creativity, something our students wholeheartedly took on board.

Tuesday afternoons for three terms found students from Years 6 to 12 learning the vocals, music and choreography.

100 students from Years 6 to 12 made up the cast, dance group, band, costume team and crew. Our talented and enthusiastic principals set the tone for the rest of the cast with their professional,

focussed and committed attitudes.

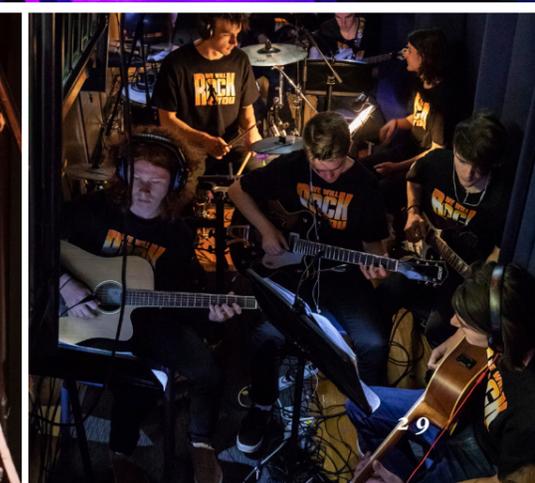
All of this hard work came to fruition in September. The packed audiences over the three performance nights responded with pure joy to our zany bohemians and rocking band.

The Mark Porter Hall took on the appearance of a stadium rock concert with mesmerising lighting and spontaneous audience interaction.

The production was a resounding success. A highlight of the year for the many students involved and the classic songs proved very challenging to get out of our heads.

We are *'thrilled'* to announce that the College musical for 2020 will be the Broadway smash hit, *Wicked!*

We can't wait to see what our students can bring and we hope you will join us again for a magical 2020 and be changed ... for good.



Arts Showcase 2019

by Renée McCarthy, Director of Music

The Arts Showcase is always the highlight of the year for Music students and our 2019 show didn't disappoint.

Hosted by Year 12 Music Captains Joaquin Lee, Elsie Sincock, Josh Thomas and Hannah Young, along with our Band Captain Joe Campbell and Vocal Captain Austin Dobbin, both evenings were a huge success and once again our students performed to a sell-out crowd.

There were many highlights during the evening from our special Year 4 and 5 students performing with their Concert Band mentors to the Year 11 Band's Beach Boys Combo with life-size Kombi, through to our Junior School Band performing *Ghostbusters*.

Our Concert Band medleys are always a highlight of the show. This year they performed a Village People Medley and an Aussie Rock Medley.

Each year we present a finale and the pressure is on to deliver something special. The finale took us 'Back Through The Ages' as the Concert Band performed well known numbers from the 40s to the noughties!

Aided by costumes and choreography for the performers and the audience alike, the 109 piece Concert Band played all the favourites across each decade.

Our very own Heads of School, Tom Charlton and Andrew Griffiths, joined us on stage as Jake and Elwood Blues for *Shake Your Tail Feather*. They gave it their all to huge cheers from the audience.

The band played numbers from Ricky Martin, Bruno Mars and Avicii before finishing with Macklemore's *Can't Hold Us* in an epic finish.

Whatever will we do next year!



Junior School Colour Explosion

by Annette Mikulcic, Head of Junior School and
Scott Sutherland, Head of Junior School Sport

December saw the Junior School hold its second Colour Explosion.

Students started the day with fun activities, run by our amazing Year 4 classes. The younger classes participated in a water obstacle course and a jumpy castle session. The older students had slip and slide races and went on a blow up Ninja Warrior obstacle course.

The Colour Explosion is the final part of a whole day of celebration for the Junior School. Every student negotiated a 400 metre obstacle course of running, walking, climbing, weaving, and crawling as many times as possible in a 10 minute time frame.

Every obstacle had a colour explosion as volunteers sent powder into the air over the students. There were also water stations where students were showered with water by volunteers. The ultimate water station was the MFS Fire Truck with a giant hose from the top of the truck's ladder.

Our community raised \$20,000, most of which will be donated to the Childhood Cancer Council. A small amount will be used to buy curtains for the Junior School Art room.

It was a very successful day with the school community showing enormous generosity. Everyone should be really proud.





2019 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

Middle School Trophy

1st Hardy	1483
2nd McLaren	1368
3rd Reynell	1367
4th Morphett	1182

Senior School Trophy

1st Hardy	1086
2nd McLaren	1020
3rd Reynell	1017
4th Morphett	896

Overall House Shield

1st Hardy	2569
2nd McLaren	2388
3rd Reynell	2384
4th Morphett	2078



Where are they now?

by Cathy Murphy, Director of Marketing and Advancement

The Classes of 1999, 2009 and 2014 were all invited back to Reunions held at the College in November. Along with a tour to see the development of our campus and the chance to connect with teachers, our Old Scholars filled the Mark Porter Hall with much conversation and laughter.



Class of 2014 - 5 Year Reunion



Class of 2009 - 10 Year Reunion



Class of 1999 - 20 Year Reunion

Jacqui Copley Class of 1999

Jacqui has enjoyed some fantastic overseas experiences including living in Canada for three years. This gave her the opportunity to volunteer at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Other travel has included trekking to Everest Base Camp, an African safari and cruising in Alaska. Jacqui is working as a Lounge Manager for Virgin Airlines after completing her Diploma of Management – Hospitality Operations and Sales/Marketing at Charles Darwin University.



Simon Carvell Class of 1999

Simon is a busy dad to four girls and is now married to another Old Scholar from the Class of 2009, Alana Corkhill. They are both heavily involved in the Clarendon Netball Club as committee members, coaching and watching the girls play.

As a qualified electrician, Simon ran his own business but is now working for another company. He has also managed to fit in some travel to Japan, Canada, Thailand and the US.



Roshanak Doroodkar (*nee Golzar*) Class of 2010

Roshanak completed studies in Construction Management & Economics at the University of South Australia. She is currently working as a Practice Manager.

Along with overseas travel including Israel, Turkey, Thailand and Mauritius, Roshanak is married and is mum to a beautiful daughter.



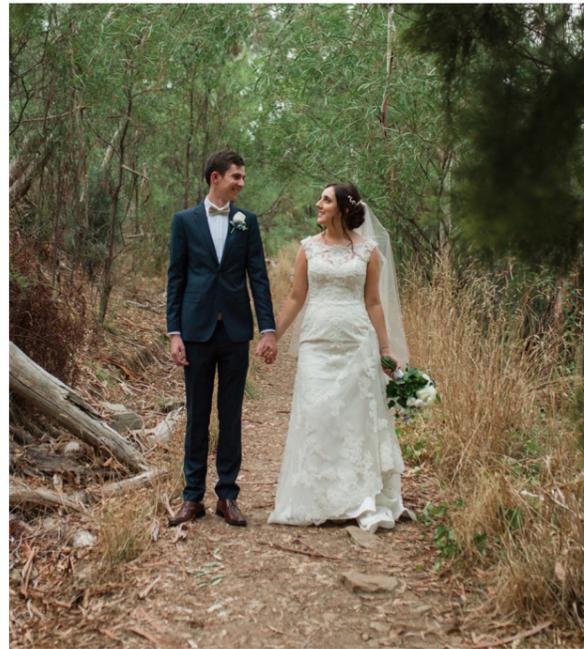
Nicole Skewes (*nee Kerkemeyer*)
Class of 2014

Nicole completed her Bachelor of Economics (Advanced) at the University of Adelaide.

She is currently Assistant Manager, Capital and Funding for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

This year has been an exciting one as Nicole married Toby in April.

Nicole has enjoyed two trips to Europe since leaving school.



Jessica Penglis (*nee Napper*)
Class of 1999

Jessica has travelled extensively to around 50 countries with highlights including volunteering in China working with pandas, sailing down the Ganges and camping in Kenya.

She counts herself lucky to have lived in beautiful cities including London and Zurich. Both of her children were born in Switzerland, but the family is now back in Adelaide.

Jessica has completed post graduate studies in intensive care nursing at Flinders University.



Kelly Pickard (*nee Ford*)
Class of 1999

After leaving the College, Kelly headed to Flinders University to complete a Bachelor of Technology and Bachelor of Science (Honours).

Today, her life is being lived on the road after she and her husband made the decision to sell up and travel Australia with their three children.

'Tin Lid Travels' on Facebook and Instagram is providing a place to share this amazing trip with family and friends.



Laura Bowman
Class of 1999

Laura is now running her own business, Bright Brainz, supporting children with learning difficulties. As someone with dyslexia herself, she is now passionate about helping to change the lives of many others.

Laura is currently studying her Certificate IV in Disability, and Child, Youth and Family Intervention. She is married with two children.



Jasmine Werneburg
Class of 2014

Jasmine is working as a piano teacher and administration assistant while completing her Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice combined with Business Management (Advanced Leadership) at Flinders University.

Jasmine has also experienced a six month exchange in Malaysia and a study tour in Indonesia.

Ben Green
Class of 2014

Ben is busy running his own business. What makes this achievement even more special is that Ben started the business as part of his Year 9 Personal Project. RepairTech has been running for eight years servicing laptops, computers, iPads and phones.

Ben has also managed to fit in a Bachelor of Business Management at Flinders University. Most recently RepairTech has expanded operations into their first service centre in McLaren Vale.

In Ben's words ... "I just thought I would share with you the efforts of the Personal Project and how effectively it has shaped my entire career. Talk about powerful stuff! All of this from a school assignment!"



If you would like to provide an update on life after Woodcroft College we'd love to hear from you.

Please send through your stories, updates and photos to our Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Meredith Baker, via email at baker_m@woodcroft.sa.edu.au.

Next Year we will be hosting our Reunions in Term 1. Please put the following dates in your diary:

Friday 20 March 2020 - 5 Year Reunion

Friday 27 March 2020 - 10 and 20 Year Reunion

To ensure you receive an invitation, please update any change in address details with the College by emailing Tracy Bonser at bonser_t@woodcroft.sa.edu.au or ringing Reception on 8322 2333.

Along with catching up with our Old Scholars face to face at our recent reunions. We are really pleased to be able to share news sent to us by other Old Scholars.

Dillon Simmons Class of 2010

Dil and his wife Louise met through church almost 15 years ago. Now married for over 4 years they live in Port Pirie. After both studying at the University of Adelaide, it was Louise's teaching qualification that led them to leave Adelaide just after they were married.

Dil is now the Secondary Wellbeing Liaison and Louise is the Arts Coordinator at Mid North Christian College.



Dil and Louise are members of the local theatre community, and have performed in nine musicals including 'Footloose', 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Mary Poppins'.

They are about to direct their second school musical and have helped to establish a second theatre company in Port Pirie named "The Magpie Warblers".

Dil is continuing to work towards a creative arts career, writing and recording electro pop music and creating material for tabletop games and blogs. Dungeons and Dragons remains a popular game to play with their close friends each week.

Most Easters will find them cooking at a camp held at Melrose in the Flinders Ranges.

Benjamin Day Class of 2009

Since graduating from Woodcroft College, Ben went on to study Engineering (Mechanical and Sports) at the University of Adelaide, gaining good theoretical understanding of mechanical systems and sports equipment design.

This and his passion for sport led to a graduate year in 2014 at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra. Ben gained sports science experience, and redesigned and rebuilt equipment for the Australian Sailing Team.

After continuing this work in Sydney, Ben spent two months abroad backpacking by himself in Peru and Bolivia.

On his return he applied for a new role with High Performance Sport New Zealand (HPSNZ) testing sailing equipment.

Ben left Adelaide in 2015 with the NZ Sailing Team, travelling to Japan in preparation for the 2020 Olympics. He enjoys exploring our beautiful brother country (NZ) on weekends.

He met his fiancé Emily in Auckland and has recently started a new role at HPSNZ as a Data Analyst.

With the Tokyo 2020 Olympics just around the corner, Ben works with data to help athletes, coaches and sports people learn from their mistakes and enhance their performance.

Ben would like to share the following quote:

'Follow your passion and curiosity, learn from your mistakes, and always seek to improve. You never know what might be waiting for you around the corner'.



Emily Rowland Class of 2015

Emily finished her time at Woodcroft College as Dux of her Class of 2015 after completing the IB Diploma.

After school, Emily moved to Canberra to study at the Australian National University (ANU) and the end of 2019 saw her complete her Honours in Neuroscience.

Throughout her university studies, Emily has also made time to mentor first year students both in her degree and in biology courses. She volunteers at her local retirement community, plays Tenpin Bowling with the Australian National Training Squad, and is an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Now she has added Rhodes Scholar to her list of achievements!

The following is an excerpt from an article on the ANU website celebrating the awarding of her Rhodes Scholarship:

A Rhodes Scholarship AND a degree from ANU, equals one happy neuroscientist.

When Emily Rowland was four years old, her teacher asked her what she was most interested in. You might expect a typical answer to this question to be something like ‘lego’, ‘dogs’, ‘The Wiggles’, maybe even ‘drawing’.

But for Emily it was “the brain”.

Since then, not much has changed. Except now she is on her way to studying a Master of Neuroscience at Oxford University as South Australia’s Rhodes Scholar.

Emily also attributes her honours research project at the ANU John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) on how brain signals convert to physical movements for inspiring her aspirations as a neuroscientist.

“The UK is highly regarded as the place for neuroscience, so I think studying a Masters at Oxford University will provide a solid grounding for my career,” she says.



“I’m hoping to combine neuroscience with another field called structural biology, which looks at the 3D structure of biological molecules like proteins.”

By combining these fields, Emily hopes to make a lot of progress that will help people around the world.

Emily is set on learning as much as she can before she embarks on her journey to change the world for the better.

“My degree at Oxford will give me both depth and breadth in neuroscience, which is helpful when trying to combine two fields.”

Although keen to develop her skills in neuroscience, there is something else that Emily is most looking forward to.

“The Rhodes Scholarship provides you with a community of diverse people that are working towards one broad common goal, they all really want to change the world and the field that they’re working in,” she says of the world’s oldest and possibly most prestigious scholarship.

“I could end up talking to someone practicing humanitarian law, or someone studying economics, or any field that I know literally nothing about, and we could have a really awesome conversation about how they’re changing the world for everyone.

“That’s what I think the Rhodes Scholarship is all about, and that’s what I’m most excited about.”

We congratulate Emily and wish her continued success for the future and an amazing time at Oxford University.



Photo credit (Left and Right): Elsie Percival

