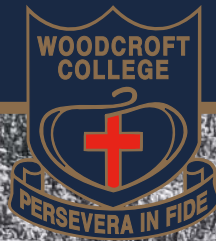


# *Courier*

Autumn 2024



*Find Your Remarkable*





## 2024 EVENTS

**5 Year Old Scholar Reunion (Class of 2019)**

Friday 17 May 2024

**Parents and Friends Quiz Night**

Saturday 24 August 2024

**Junior School Musical: *The Lion King Jnr***

Thursday 29 August to

Saturday 31 August 2024

**College Musical: *Bring It On***

Thursday 12 September to

Saturday 14 September 2024

**1 Year Old Scholar Reunion (Class of 2023)**

Friday 18 October 2024

**30 Year Old Scholar Reunion (Class of 1994)**

Friday 8 November 2024

## ARE YOU AN OLD SCHOLAR?

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

*Share your news at*

[oldscholars@woodcroft.sa.edu.au](mailto:oldscholars@woodcroft.sa.edu.au)

*Update your details at*

[woodcroft.sa.edu.au/old-scholars/](http://woodcroft.sa.edu.au/old-scholars/)

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# UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR, COLLEGE COUNCIL

Wade Burns

**Bringing an idea to life requires vision, determination, and execution. It requires careful planning, genuine consultation and robust engagement with stakeholders.**

This process is demonstrated in our new three-storey Junior School. It is purpose built to meet the needs of our current students and the generations to follow. The linking of functional indoor spaces with outdoor play facilities and greenery will have a positive impact on the learning and teaching experience for our students and staff.

We were so pleased to welcome our Junior School community to the new building for the start of the 2024 school year.

The Council continues to implement the long-term building Masterplan, while managing refurbishment needs across the entire College. We are moving forward with construction of new outdoor sports courts and additional car parks on the site of the old Junior School.

It's important to understand that our investment in facilities goes beyond improving the buildings and grounds.

*Our desire is to create spaces and places where children will forge life-long friendships, where precious moments and memories are created, and where a shared sense of belonging and inclusion is tangible.*

Our Junior School is an integral part of our student journey. As Annette Mikulic left Woodcroft after 29 years, including 12 years as Head of Junior School, we acknowledge the positive influence she has had on the lives of so many.



Her commitment and contribution to the College cannot be understated. The College Council wish Annette and her family well for the future.

In our Senior School, there's no question that Valedictory is a pivotal moment for our Year 12 cohort. We celebrate the culmination of years of hard work, growth, connection and shared experiences. We acknowledge the input of teachers, parents and the broader student support network. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child.

Valedictory is not just a farewell, but a stepping stone to the future. To parents and students alike, we emphasise the importance of embracing challenges, staying curious and remaining persistent. In doing so, we not only discover personal success but also become agents of positive change.

Congratulations to all 2023 graduates. On behalf of the College Council, may your journey ahead be filled with the pursuit of your dreams and the fulfillment of your passions.

*Find Your Remarkable.*

# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Shannon Warren

## Celebrating 30 Years of Woodcroft College Junior School | 1994 - 2024

Woodcroft College first opened in 1989 for high school students, with primary school students joining our community five years later. Our aim then and today is to provide an affordable independent school option for the many families who call the southern suburbs home.

It is hard to believe that three decades have passed since the inception of our Junior School. Over these years, our journey has been one of growth, resilience and unwavering commitment to educational excellence.

Established in 1994 with 90 students from Reception to Year 5, Woodcroft College Junior School emerged as a beacon of educational innovation in our community. From humble beginnings in temporary classrooms, our foundation staff envisioned a nurturing environment where children could flourish academically, socially and emotionally. With determination and foresight, they laid the foundation for the cornerstone of educational excellence in the south.

In the early years, our dedicated faculty worked tirelessly to shape the ethos of our school. Their passion for teaching and unwavering dedication to student success created a culture focused on the whole child that endures today. Together, we fostered a dynamic learning environment where curiosity was celebrated, and every child was empowered to reach their full potential.



As the years passed, Woodcroft College Junior School grew not only in size but also in reputation. At the start of 1999, the Junior School had double streams at all year levels. In 2007, a new Junior School administrative building was completed. This made it possible to expand the library, establish a new art room and improve learning support facilities.

Our commitment to a well-rounded education saw the integration of outdoor learning opportunities, innovative teaching methodologies, cutting-edge technology, and a rich array of extracurricular activities. Whether through sports, the arts or enrichment activities, we instilled in our students and families the values of community connection, a growth mindset, a generous spirit and we inspired confidence.

The spirit of innovation has always been at the heart of our school. We embraced change and continuously adapted to meet the evolving needs of our students and community. From pioneering IT programs to embracing diverse learning needs and traditional aboriginal culture, we sought to equip our students with the skills and perspectives needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. In 2005, the Junior School was accredited to deliver the International Baccalaureate Program, which remains today.





When I arrived at Woodcroft College in 2018, it was clear that the Junior School staff had endured the confines of temporary classrooms well beyond their intended lifespan for nearly a quarter of a century. In this same year, I urged the College Council to consider funding the building of a permanent new Early Learning Centre and Junior School building.

After approval to work with the architects on these two projects, it quickly became apparent that a double streamed Junior School would not accommodate the demand that was now flowing from the newly established Early Learning Centre. The decision was made to construct a three-storey building that would allow three classes at each year level.

After many years of careful financial planning, decision-making, discussion and collaboration, we were pleased to open the doors of the new Junior School at the beginning of Term One this year to a record 516 students, coinciding with 30 years of primary schooling at Woodcroft College.

Setting the standard for the future, the Woodcroft College Junior School community is learning, teaching and working within new high-standard facilities that maintain and build upon the already strong sense of connection and pride within our College.

The building includes classrooms, specialist spaces, a library and communal areas, providing a fitting and inspiring environment for each child's Junior School experience.

Our new Junior School is purpose-built to meet the changing needs of our students as they transition through their primary school years. From the ground floor spaces for our Reception and Year 1 students to our Year 6 students inhabiting a wing in the top storey as they prepare for high school.



Our new building provides a unique Magain Performing Arts space, a dedicated Library, Arts and Technology Studio, and Second Language and Science Labs. The Science Lab includes cooking facilities and allows students to interact with a kitchen garden.

Our specialist learning and teaching spaces are no longer shared. This much-needed functional improvement enhances the experiences of both students and specialist teachers.

Keeping the community feel alive, the sense of community that is loved in the Junior School is not lost. We bring all that the Junior School has to offer under one roof.

While the new building is multi-storey, attention has been paid to creating spaces that allow our community to gather, from the central atrium to the courtyard.

Surrounded by space, classrooms are connected by spacious Learning Commons on each level, creating teaching and learning break-out areas. Large sliding doors between spaces give flexibility and a sense of connection.

Access to the outdoors is facilitated with covered outdoor learning areas on every level, providing a natural green environment to support increased focus and attention. Teachers can change the teaching environment and experience for our students. Additional outdoor areas will include a new sports court and a productive garden.

The new Junior School sits alongside our ELC, allowing students to play outside simultaneously. Shared play spaces are divided by a bespoke spiral fence to keep everyone safe.





As we watched the old Junior School transportable classrooms make their way on the back of a truck down Panalatinga Road, they carried memories of perseverance and the anticipation of a brighter future in a more suitable educational environment.

Throughout our journey, the support of our parents, Old Scholars and community partners has been instrumental. Their unwavering belief in our mission and steadfast commitment to our school have been the bedrock of our success. We have created a vibrant community where every voice is valued, and every achievement is celebrated.

As we mark this significant milestone, we reflect on our achievements and the challenges we've overcome. The past 30 years have seen their fair share of trials, but through resilience and determination, we have emerged more robust and more united than ever before.

As we embark on the next leg of our journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders, thinkers and change-makers. With the same spirit of innovation and dedication that has defined us for the past three decades, we look forward to shaping the future of education and making an indelible impact on the world.

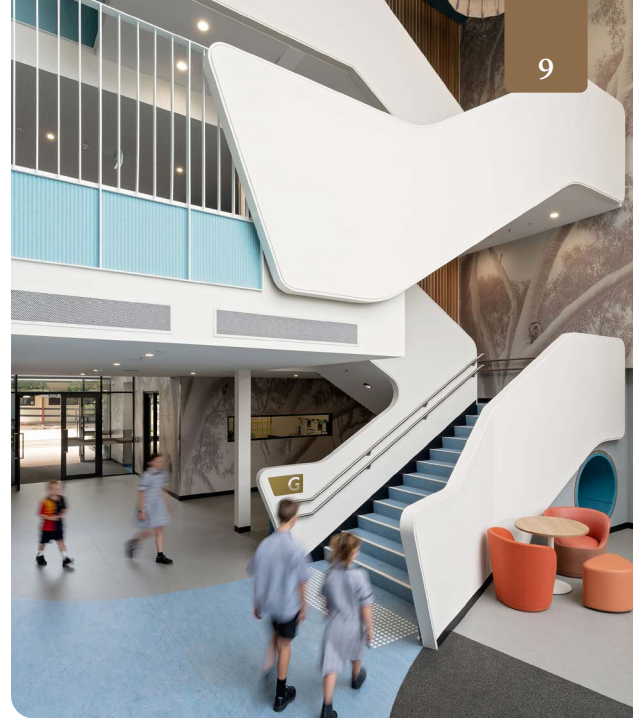
In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been a part of this incredible journey. We have built something remarkable together, and I am excited to see where the next 30 years will take us. Here's to the past, present and future of Woodcroft College Junior School – may our legacy continue to inspire generations to come.













# INVESTING IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR OUR TEACHERS

Rachel McCall | Deputy Principal - Quality Learning and Teaching



**According to recent research, the number one impact on student learning is engaging teaching.**

(Source: The Educator online.com 20 Feb 2023)

Woodcroft College places great value on hiring excellent teachers, followed by support and resources to continue to build excellent classroom practitioners. This includes our Professional Learning Program for our teaching staff.

This program plays a key role in building teacher competency. We want our teachers to feel capable, challenged and supported within their teaching. Just as we do for our students, we focus on building and supporting lifelong learners.

Investing in quality learning opportunities for our staff has a direct impact on the learning experiences of our students in the classroom. Engaged and motivated educators, provide engaging learning experiences for our students.

Each year we plan out a whole staff Professional Learning Program. Our student free days at the start of each term provide the space for our staff to learn and work together.

These learning opportunities align with our strategic priorities as a College. From cultural awareness workshops in line with our Reconciliation Action Plan to wellbeing sessions to support positive mental health, to growth coaching programs to focus on the practice of teaching and building capacity.

*We have created Professional Learning Communities which bring together staff across schools, subjects and year levels to focus on our core business of learning and teaching.*

Individual staff and faculty teams have the opportunity to apply for relevant learning opportunities throughout the year. Many of our staff willingly devote time outside of school hours to develop themselves professionally.

Some of the professional learning in 2023 included:

- Inclusive Education
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- VR, AI and Futures
- Nature play
- Literacy programs
- Adolescent Success Conference
- EduTECH Conference

We also had staff presenting at the last two conferences on the list. We appreciate the opportunity to share our work and learnings with other schools both locally and interstate.



Last year, 10 teachers across 11 subjects were involved in the final assessment processes of marking and moderation for Stage 2 SACE (Year 12). While providing valuable service to the education community, our teachers are also building upon their understanding of assessment standards at Year 12 level. They are gaining ideas about task design and content delivery that they can bring to their own learning programs in future years.

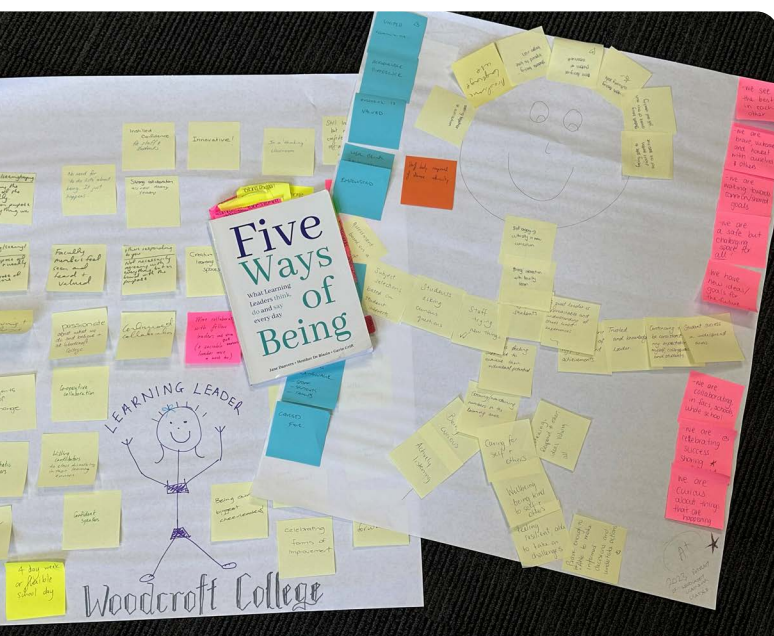
This year, as part of our spotlight on our Guiding Principle of Future Focused, we have launched the Woodcroft College Leadership Development Program.

Current members of our Senior and Middle Leadership Teams will be engaged in a range of Professional Learning workshops throughout the year. Each team will work with experienced leaders including Dr. Paul Teys, Dr. Neil Carrington and Heather DeBlasio. They will engage with leadership theory and strategy, identifying their individual strengths and learning needs, and building their leadership capacity.

Emerging leaders are also invited to apply to participate and have joined a group of early career leaders. These sessions will be led by our Principal, Shannon Warren. The leadership work is contributing to the development of our Leadership Pillars – a set of leadership attributes valued at Woodcroft. These will also be used in work with our students to develop their leadership skills.

Our Guiding Principles underpin our focus on supporting teacher Growth; providing a vibrant learning Community and opportunities to contribute to this, Agency and ownership of their Professional Learning journey, and an emphasis on being Future Focused to ensure that we remain at the forefront of educational thinking, pedagogy and subject knowledge.

Investing in our teachers ensures that our students are supported by motivated educators, who are equipped with the best educational practice and resources, and who belong to a professional community. Our aim is to ensure that every member of the Woodcroft community has the opportunity to *Find Their Remarkable*.





# OUR REMARKABLE STUDENT LEADERS

In February, we formally recognised and celebrated our College Captains and Student Leaders at our 2024 Student Leader Commissioning Service.

We are pleased to share an excerpt of the speech delivered by our College Captains, Josephine Hoare and Leo Oliver.

*Today we are here to congratulate these remarkable student leaders on their selection for leadership positions at Woodcroft College.*

*These students sit before us today with an extremely valuable task ahead of them. Leadership is a position of privilege. It is rewarding and special to be involved in leadership at Woodcroft College, so we hope you feel empowered to play to your strengths and help everyone Find Their Remarkable.*

*The act of representing the student body in a leadership role is not an easy one. There will be hardships, and sometimes you may find yourselves in tough positions. However, we encourage you to persevere and embrace the challenges.*

*Our role as your College Captains is more than a badge, we are here to serve you and guide us all to better ourselves. We will strive to be there for the community, and have time to talk and work together to improve the school or even just to have a chat.*

*Our vision is to leave an impact on everyone's journey in some way, by encouraging all students to give it everything they've got and not be afraid to step out of their comfort zones – both in and out of school.*



*It is our belief that the Guiding Principle of Community plays a major role in improving the wellbeing of students and staff. As the 2024 College Captains, our vision is to focus in on the idea of 'Community' and how we can help reinforce the efforts of the Captains before us.*

*Connection is vital for positive student wellbeing, which we believe can be created with community events and fundraisers, and collaboration between leadership teams. With a changing school environment comes fresh ideas and structures. We will strive to assist students and staff in learning to adapt to the changing school conditions and work towards bridging the gap between the sub-schools.*

*Students, we want to leave you with a quote. "A boss typically manages from the rear, while a true leader strides ahead, leading by example and takes charge, ready to do whatever it takes for the benefit of the team."*

*Please, don't be afraid to reach out. The foundations of this College rely on community and connection, so please seek help if required and really utilise the incredible leadership opportunities.*

*We know that each one of you can make positive change within the community and make your College proud. Congratulations to all and thank you.*





Junior School Leaders



Middle School Leaders



Senior School Leaders



## CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY

The final term of the year is the opportunity to celebrate milestone transitions for many of our students.

From ELC into Junior School; Junior School into Middle School; Middle School into Senior School; and Senior School into study, work or a gap year.

Each of the transitions is marked by celebration and ceremony. It is part of what makes Woodcroft special. Our communities are created and celebrated as they travel together through their schooling journey.

We are also a welcoming community as new students will join Woodcroft along the way. Our Orientation programs in the final term of the year provide wonderful opportunities for new and current students to meet each other. The students interact with their teachers and get a taste of the next stage of their learning journey.

The program is about building readiness and creating positive feelings about the new year ahead. It is about encouraging current and future students to look forward knowing that everyone is going to have new experiences and adjustments.

In Term 4, our first celebration and transition was the farewell to our Class of 2023. Valedictory followed by Graduation Dinner gives our students time to reflect on their journey, to celebrate achievements, to look forward and to reinforce the sense of belonging that is part of their Woodcroft experience.



**From College Captains, Caitlyn Gell's and James Patzel's speech at Valedictory:**

*But the Class of 2023 truly displayed its camaraderie during formal, when everyone took it as an opportunity to speak to someone new whilst admiring each person for who they truly are. It was moments like these that created the special bond between us, recognising us as one of the most unified Year 12 cohorts at Woodcroft College.*

*So, we implore you to continue being the best versions of yourselves outside of school, not by chasing perfection, but by being brave and being brilliant. As we leave this bountiful chapter, cherish the memories made, but also look forward to the life you're about to begin.*



We held three Year 9 celebration events to mark the end of the Middle School journey and transition to Senior School. It was also an important opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Quest camp.

This 14 day experience in the Grampians develops valuable qualities of Perseverance, Selflessness and Community Spirit in the final year of Middle School.

“We come together tonight to celebrate our journey through Middle School. A journey that has been filled with challenges, accomplishments and lifelong memories. Middle School to me has been a time to learn about who I am, and the type of person that I want to be. It has been a time to navigate difficult situations and grow from them, and a time to push myself beyond what I thought I was capable of.” - *Leah Johansen*



“Quest was an amazing experience offering a wide range of things to do and places to see! It creates many great unforgettable memories that you will cherish forever and won’t want to let go of easily, as well as creates new friends and is a wonderful experience outdoors in a controlled environment.” - *Massimo Joannou*

“Middle School is also a training ground for resilience. It teaches us that mistakes in our learning are not roadblocks but rather stepping stones to success. Whether it’s a challenging math problem, a misunderstood friendship, or a disappointing grade, these experiences equip us with the strength to persevere in faith.” - *Conor O’Neill*







“From the very beginning, we were introduced to the three attributes Quest is all about. Community Spirit, Selflessness and Perseverance, and I think we can say that each person displayed each of those qualities. In some way, we all faced challenges, but everyone gave it their all and worked to overcome them. By doing this, most of us have learnt that we are capable of more than we imagine if we give it 100%.

Over the two weeks we were away, each group grew closer, and many new friendships were created, while pre-existing relationships grew stronger. Overall, I feel as if we all managed to develop and achieve things that we should all be incredibly proud of and be excited to move forward with these new skills.” - *Ryan Green*

Our Year 6 students were celebrated and awarded certificates as they completed their primary schooling in our Junior School. Everyone enjoyed musical performances by Vidhya Thomas and Lawson Trembath.

There were wonderful reflections from each of our Year 6 teachers which highlighted the Real Connection and Growth across the cohort. As certificates were presented, our teachers shared what each student had enjoyed over the year and their aspirations for the future.

Our Junior School Captains, Amalia Ingleton and Vidhya Thomas took the opportunity to thank Annette Mikulcic for her positive energy, service and commitment to the Junior School community over 29 years.

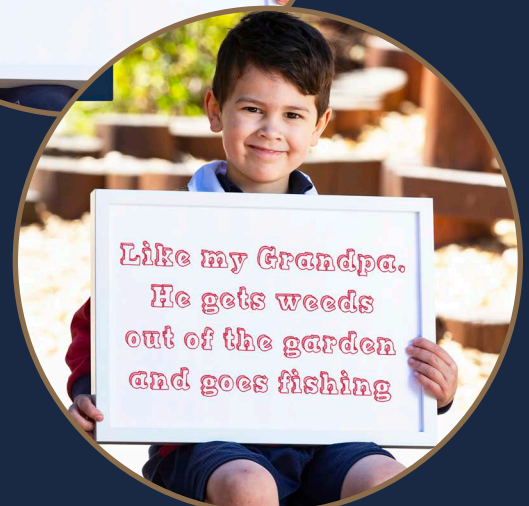
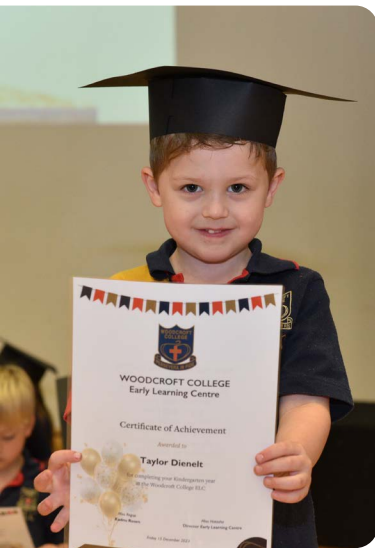




Our final ceremony celebrated the end of the ELC journey and transition into Reception and start to school. With poems and a song, a good dose of pride and some tears from our teachers, our youngest students were presented certificates and acknowledged for their readiness to start school.

One of the highlights was a beautiful video in which students shared what they want to be when they grow up. It was a truly heartwarming and lovely end to the students' time in our ELC.

We wish all our students a positive and rewarding experience in the next stage of their learning journey. We thank all our parents for choosing Woodcroft College, and for sharing the journey and the celebrations along the way.





# CREATING INQUIRING MINDS

*“More than 90% of brain development occurs in the first five years, high quality early education sets children up for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Young children learn best through play-based activities that are suited to their age. When children have inclusive, positive and rich early learning experiences, they are more likely to go on to become successful learners, with high levels of wellbeing.”*

Source: Early Childhood Australia; The Spoke blog published 17 October 2022

We were very excited to open our Early Learning Centre for Term 3 in 2020. Fast forward to 2024 and we can celebrate a thriving Centre. We are grateful to our families who recognise the quality of the early education Woodcroft College is providing in the important two years before school.

From structured play-based learning programs, to developing problem solving and reasoning skills, to building positive social skills and establishing connections to take into our Junior School. Our qualified and passionate teachers supported by our specialist teachers, ensure that our youngest learners are in the best possible environment to support their development and growth.

We are pleased to share some of the learning highlights of our ELC students during Semester 2 last year and the beginning of this year.

Their Units of Inquiry in Semester 2 included “Sharing the planet” and “How we express ourselves”.

The “Sharing the planet” unit was guided by the students’ interests and their voices in deciding the direction of the inquiry. We had Henny Penny hatching chickens visit the ELC to support exploration of lifecycles and how to care for the animals around us.

Our 3-Year-Old Program students had an excursion to the Adelaide Zoo to complete their inquiry around life cycles, habitats and how to care for animals.

In the “How we express ourselves” unit, we invited one of South Australia’s premier puppeteers, Sue Harris to share a beautiful incursion with all our students. Puppet Stuff is the journey into the wonderful world of puppets and puppetry. Students were introduced to an array of puppet types and performance styles in an entertaining and informative way.

Puppets were used to show communication through movement without dialogue. Our students watched wonderful theatre created by glove, rod, mouth, shadow, marionette, Bunraku-style and ventriloquist dummy puppets.

The 4-Year-Old Program students went on their excursion to Stage One Dance Studio. They participated in one hour of mixed dance styles from hip hop to ballet, relaxation and meditation to general movement, parachute work and marching.

To start 2024, children have been enjoying music lessons with Middle and Senior School Music teacher Adam Goodburn. It is one of the many benefits of being an ELC to Year 12 school that we can have specialist teachers work across the College and sub-schools.



Adam is engaging our youngest students with music through games, playing instruments and movement. Our students have been introduced to the 'good morning' song. They end their lessons with relaxation and mindfulness while listening to soft background music.

More recently, students enjoyed their inaugural visit to Calvary Aged Care as part of our new intergenerational program.

The joy the visit brought to the residents was very clear and the ELC students were kind, polite and enjoyed playing with the residents.

Research has shown that intergenerational relationships have a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of both younger and older individuals. By bridging the generation gap, we not only create enriching experiences but also promote a sense of belonging and interconnectedness within our community.

The children have also enjoyed watching our Year 8 Drama students perform a clowning routine. The Year 8 drama students spent the term in mime and clowning workshops to build their skills in physical theatre. They were encouraged to incorporate clowning, slapstick comedy and magic tricks into their routines.

We thank our ELC staff for providing many wonderful learning opportunities. We acknowledge the genuine care, connection and sense of belonging they create for our students and families.

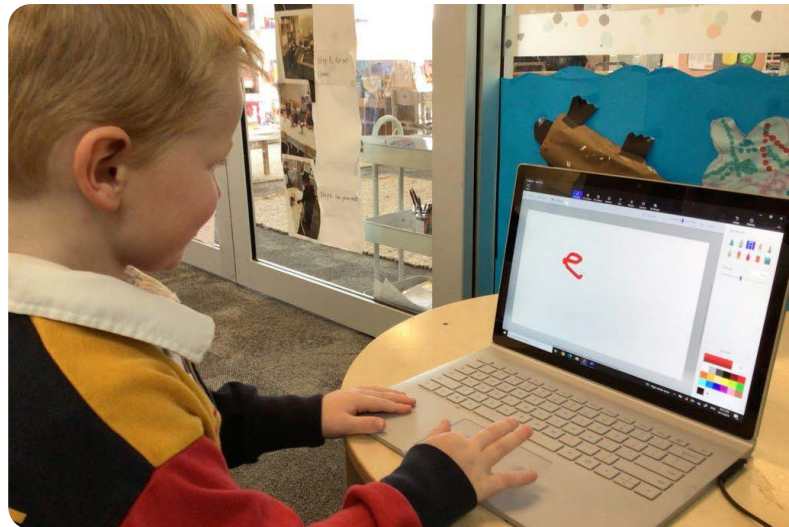
If you are considering a future enrolment in our ELC, we strongly encourage you to complete a Registration of Interest (found on our website) as soon as possible. We are grateful to be experiencing high demand for places – thank you to our parent community for sharing positive word of mouth!







## ELC IN PHOTOS











## JUNIOR SCHOOL REFLECTION - 1994 TO 2023

Annette Mikulcic

**After 29 years, the time has come for me to explore and embrace a new journey beyond Woodcroft College.**

I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride as I look back on my time in our Junior School. The moments shared with students, colleagues and parents have been profoundly enriching. They have made me a better educator, leader and individual.

At the cornerstone of my journey has been the steadfast support of the Woodcroft community and our College Council.

My teaching career began at Pulteney Grammar School in 1989, followed by a move to St Andrew's School in 1990. The launch of the Junior School at Woodcroft presented a unique opportunity. An opportunity without history or traditions. Eagerly, I submitted my application.

I remember the very first time I walked through the school gate for my interview with then Head of College, Mark Porter. Two of our very first Junior School teachers, Patti Bennett and Gerry Knight, welcomed me and led me to the front office in Faith Cottage.

The early days were marked by weekend working bees, establishing gardens and laying pavers. I have seen wonderful changes to our grounds over the years. Then the move from combined classes to single year level classes as our enrolments grew.

I remember planning our first Grandparents' Day and Sports Day. We held annual fundraising fairs and Open Days to support our rapidly growing school. To this day, I feel so privileged to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community.





Information Technology provided different logistical challenges back then. I remember the trek to the Middle and Senior School Library with my class to collect the ten available laptops. The children carried the laptops back to the classroom to be plugged into an array of power boards. It would take almost the whole lesson for setting up and then returning the laptops to the library!

Reflecting on end-of-year celebrations emphasises the tremendous growth and development at Woodcroft College. Carols Night was in the open air before the covered upper courtyard was built. We had a paved performance area and even added a stage and some microphones! I was the conductor and operator of the CD player providing the accompanying music.

When the gym was built, we moved our end of year events from a large marquee to the gym and later the Mark Porter Hall. At last,

we had the luxury of a permanent building structure with seats. These humble beginnings certainly fill me with immense gratitude.

My journey took a new turn when I returned from maternity leave in the role of Enrichment Program Leader. This fulfilled my passion for educating highly able learners. Junior School Coordinator and PYP Coordinator roles followed. I enjoyed wonderful networking opportunities both nationally and internationally.

I became Head of Junior School in 2011 and this marked the beginning of new leadership opportunities. I had the privilege of collaborating with other heads of schools and aspiring leaders across the country. It was an honour to serve as President of the IPSHA (Independent Primary School Heads of Australia), SA Branch.



*As I move forward, I feel immense gratitude for the fond memories of students. And, for the friendships with educators and the experiences that have defined my career.*

I am grateful for the privilege of contributing to the development of the new Junior School. It is an exciting time for the future of our school and our supportive community.

Welcoming back former students as parents is testament to the enduring legacy of Woodcroft College. They are enrolling their children in our thriving Early Learning Centre and Junior School.

There are countless highlights etched in my memory. From Junior School tours to assemblies. From meeting new families to supporting the youngest learners' transition into school. While I will miss these daily interactions, my departure is softened by deep gratitude. Gratitude for our College Leadership Team, Junior School Leadership Team, colleagues, friendships and the unwavering support of our Principal, Shannon Warren.

As I embark on a new chapter of my life, I extend my best wishes to Woodcroft College, from ELC to Year 12. The future holds exciting opportunities!

I am confident that the remarkable community I leave behind will embrace the opportunities with the same dedication and enthusiasm that has defined our journey together.

Exciting times lie ahead, and I am grateful to have been a part of this incredible story.





# JUNIOR WIND ENSEMBLE

Guest Writer, Meera Thomas | Year 12 Student

Woodcroft's Junior School Band was formed in 2010 and was renamed the Junior Wind Ensemble in 2021. The ensemble is conducted by Mr Stott, and accompanied by Mrs Foley, both music teachers at the College.

Consisting of wind instruments and percussion, the ensemble allows younger musicians to share music and be part of the band experience in the Junior School, while developing valuable skills. Mr Stott says, "This ensemble has become a continuation of learning and development for the students who complete the Year 5 Band program. I also started this band to give the students at our College similar opportunities to what I had as a young musician. There is something special in sharing this experience together. Even the simplest cymbal crash adds colour to the music, and this colour translates to emotion, so we all share an emotional connection."

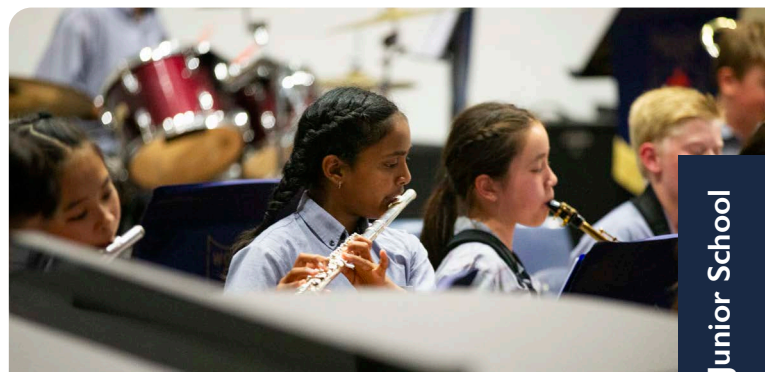
"I have been playing flute in the Junior Wind Ensemble for three years. It is a great way to start playing music with others, and the band has grown to be my second family. The ensemble has helped me develop as a flute player, and I get to teach others what I have learnt over the years." - *Evangeline Tian*



Students learn patience, teamwork, aural and rhythm skills, growing a deeper appreciation for music.

The ensemble performs at the annual ABODA SA School Band and Orchestra Festival, Junior School recitals, and Woodcroft's Sounds of 2023. At the 2022 ABODA competition, the band worked hard to win third place and a bronze medal in their category.

Rehearsals are held weekly in the Junior School. Students interested in joining the ensemble can speak to Mr Stott or Mrs Foley to discuss their instrument and playing ability.





# INTRODUCING NEW HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



In January, we were delighted to welcome Nick Smith to the Woodcroft College community.

Nick was previously the Head of Junior School at Investigator College. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to his new role, and has already made a positive impact on our Junior School.

We caught up with Nick to find out about his plans for the Junior School, as well as to ask him some questions about life in general!

**Welcome to Woodcroft College, Nick! Let's start by talking about what inspired you to pursue a career in education, and specifically, in a leadership role at Woodcroft College?**

Thank you, it's great to be here! As for how I got into education, well, both of my parents are teachers. My wife is also a teacher, and both of her parents are teachers! So, I guess I come from a background of education where we believe in the idea of serving others. I think teaching is one of the most important roles in our society for helping to shape the future.

I love that Woodcroft College is well resourced and offers an affordable, high-quality education. I also have a history of working in Anglican schools and like the values that come with that. The icing on the cake was the brand-new Junior school building!





**Can you share your vision for the Junior School at Woodcroft College and the key values that will guide your leadership?**

I'm big on Real Connection and Community so I want to keep building on this. I believe that building community includes the local area too, not just our College community.

I envision Woodcroft College students being the future problem solvers of the global issues we're faced with. This can be achieved by facilitating programs to help equip our students to tackle those.

**How do you plan to collaborate with teachers, parents and the wider community to enhance the overall education experience for Junior School students?**

Through my interest in building community, I see collaborative opportunities happening informally. I want to keep us growing by being Future Focused. Our students can gain so much from forming connections with the local environment, local businesses, and the broader community.

I also plan to have more formal collaboration opportunities soon, such as regular parent or student focus groups on set topics.

**In your opinion, what are the most critical aspects of fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment for young students?**

It's about relationships. Our teachers having positive relationships with students is critical as this creates a positive learning environment in the classroom. Positive relationships with parents and caregivers are also important too.



*I think it's important to focus on student wellbeing as much as their academic progress.*

**As a leader in education, what's one piece of advice you'd give to your younger self when you were a student?**

Unapologetically, be yourself. Don't try and mould yourself to what other people want you to be.

**When you were in Junior School, what job did you want to have as an adult?**

I wanted to own a sports shop!

**Outside of your professional life, what hobbies or activities do you have? What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?**

I like ocean swimming and swim most weekends except during July when I give myself a break from the cold! I enjoy lots of other water-based activities too. I'm not necessarily good at them but I love how they make me feel. I also coach basketball and football for my children's teams.



# CHARTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM: INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

**The future is in good hands when you meet Abigail Tucker and Vidhya Thomas.**

Abigail and Vidhya chose to participate in the Charter Ambassador Program last year.

Our Junior School Leader of Wellbeing (Year 4-6), Sam Cross introduced the program to our students in 2022. A group of 10 Woodcroft students made a commitment to be part of this important program.

The Child Development Council established The Charter and the Ambassador Program. The Charter is a list of twenty things children and young people should have to be safe, happy and well.

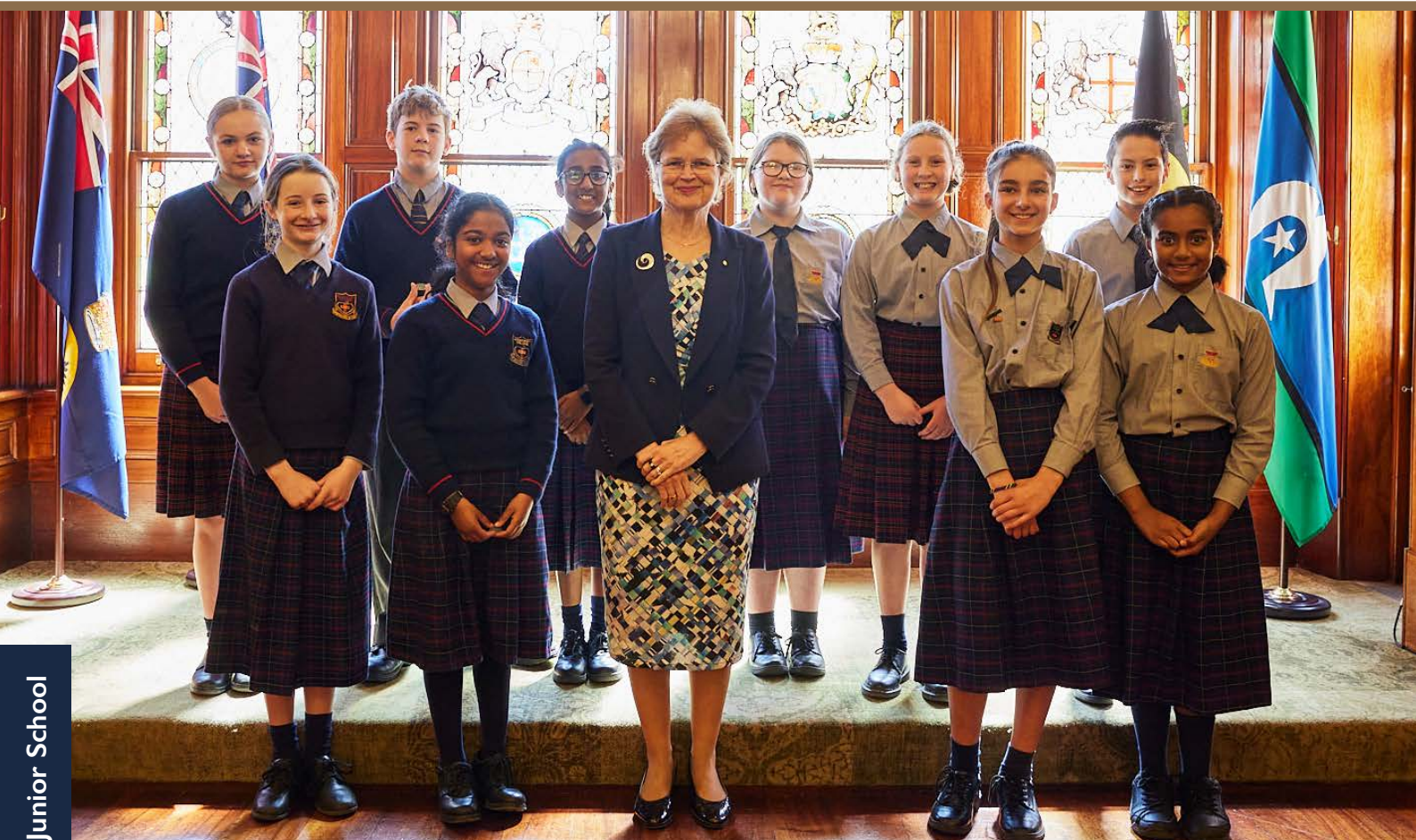
As an Ambassador in the program, our students have the opportunity to have a say about what matters to children and young people.

They can be the voice for the Charter at Woodcroft College as they influence change and learn new skills.

A visit to Parliament House was a highlight for Abigail and Vidhya. They met MPs and had an opportunity to find out what it is like to represent other people's voices.

Vidhya said that learning what happens in Parliament shows what could be in their future. They could be part of influencing issues that are important to people. Although she strongly believes that she can still have a voice and be a voice for others even though she is "a kid".

Vidhya and Abigail listed big issues of sexism, racism, stopping stereotyping and seeking gender equality.





They spoke about issues such as worrying about grades and tests. Issues around body image and the negative impact of being on social media and on our phones all the time. Both students did not have phones. They want others to recognise that while devices are good for information, it is not good to be on them all the time.

Abigail and Vidhya attended a Charter Ambassador Health and Wellbeing Summit at the Zoo. This was an opportunity to contribute to the discussion on what is important in this space.

Taryn Brumfitt, founder of the Body Image Movement spoke at the Summit. Abigail and Vidhya want all young people to know that the perfect images on Instagram are not real. They are grateful that Taryn is being a role model for everyone to be positive about body image.

They are both aware of the importance of mindfulness and sharing this message with their peers. They want to encourage good habits such as yoga.

As one of our Junior School Captains in 2023, Vidhya was grateful for the opportunity to show and develop her leadership skills. They have both appreciated the opportunity to take part in workshops with students from other schools. They have developed their communication skills and are even more aware of issues that impact children and young people.

It is inspiring to meet young people like Vidhya and Abigail who want to be part of shaping the future. Not only for themselves but for their generation and those that follow.







## JUNIOR SCHOOL COLOUR EXPLOSION









# PENS *Against* POVERTY

The Pens Against Poverty schools writing competition invites students in Year 3 to Year 10 to write either a short story or poem. The 2023 theme was 'Voices for Change'.

Tammy from AnglicareSA attended our Middle School Assembly in Term 4 last year to present certificates to our winners. Congratulations to Charli Aitken, Alice Dent, Janna Fuhrmann and Olivia Goncalves on your remarkable entries. Below are their stories and poems.

## Alice Dent

### Hindsight

The world we live in now is an open desert. The days are hot and long, and we must preserve the water we have. Water is expensive, even washing your hands in a public bathroom will come with a bill. There are hardly any animals, just feral birds that fly around the empty and abandoned cities, all the other animals went extinct years ago. The skies are a foggy gray, and the clouds have a green tinge to them. Because of the pollution, everyone wears masks, and we have to check the air quality before doing anything outside. On bad days, a high-tech one, if you can afford it. If you can't, you must stay inside. We are slowly going insane reminiscing on the way we used to live, thinking about how easy it was to not care, to not notice. People tell us to not be mad at the older generations, the ones who caused this. Saying they didn't know that this would happen, but they did.

People used to wake up at any time they want, do whatever they please. You could stay in the shower for hours, waste food just for the sake of it, throw away clothes because they weren't in style, throw everything in the landfill bin because they could. Because they thought it wouldn't affect them.

They didn't care. The government and manufacturers didn't make it easy either, they covered everything in plastic. All the food was wrapped in it, even the food that didn't need packaging they wrapped it in it anyway. Even some paper was covered in plastic, just because it was good business. It either ended up in the ocean or in the streets. Or, if it made it to landfill, it would let out toxic fumes that ruined the air.

This is what our future looks like, what your kids will live through in 2050, which is only 27 years away. Only by changing our ways will we stop this, which means using recyclable packaging, making food locally to reduce food miles and stop clearing forests for agriculture. If we do this, we may be able to stop the end, and save the earth.



## Charli Aitken

### Growing Up

It always used to be “I wish I was older”. We would look up to the big kids and thought they are so cool; they get to do what they want. They can drive around, buy what they want, work at their dream jobs, go to a big school and do all the cool new subjects at their big fancy schools.

Now that I’m older I look back at what I thought was freedom. You can’t just buy what you want, you have to work hard for money at your ‘dream job’ that isn’t so dreamy now that you have to work while also studying at school with high expectations and constant assignments. After moving to a ‘new fancy school’ all your friends are different from primary school and with a busy schedule, school is almost the only time you’ll see them. There’s no time to play anymore and sports that used to be fun are now overly competitive and tiring.

You will wish you could go back to the time where the only thing you would have to worry about was getting to the swings first or winning a race on sports day. The schoolwork was easy, and school was fun. You were excited to get to school every day and play with friends after school and on the weekends.

Birthdays were exciting and you were so happy to be one year closer to being a big kid. You would have a big party with all your friends, and you would play party games and eat sweets until your stomach hurt.

You would play on jumping castles and swim in the pool all day until your cheeks were sun kissed and your fingers were all shrivelled.

You would open presents full of toys that you would bring to show all your friends at school the next day and get upset when you unwrap clothes.

When you’re older maybe you would go out with your friends for lunch or dinner, but nothing felt special anymore. You don’t feel older. You would open presents to be clothes or just cards full of money that you would spend the next time you got to go shopping. If you have a party it’s only with close friends and you spend it going on phones or talking about boys. Parties weren’t fun and games anymore it was just a normal day.

Maybe you would look older but that wasn’t always a good thing. Looking in the mirror hurts now. You are either too tall, too short, or too big. Picking out imperfections and criticising yourself just because you don’t look perfect. Now I’m older and I wonder what little me would think if she saw her older self. Would she still want to grow up if she knew the truth of being a big kid? But still deep inside me she’s still there with the memories that I will never forget.

Now I will forever think “I wish I was younger”.





## Janna Fuhrmann

### Singing Under the Willow Tree

I used to dream of it every night, with a deep longing that left me aching and breathless as I woke up. It filled my mind, the scent of grass invading my senses, the slight rustling of the leaves seeming to wrap around me and lift me up, away from the pressure, away from the stress. Sometimes, I could even feel the bark jabbing into my back, and an ethereal voice surrounded me, humming a tune that filled my heart with a memory... but the words flitted away from my grasp like butterflies. That was my place. My childhood. I remember that every day I would go there, and that voice? That was mine. I would sing to the plants, the trees, the babbling creek. The sound of the music in my words was my escape from the weight of all the expectations.

Not for long.

My visions had turned dark, my dreams became nightmares. The voice distorted, shrieking at me, and the rustling of the leaves transformed into a roaring noise that pounded against the walls of my mind. The putrid smell of rot forced me to the ground, pushing down with a weight that squeezed the air out of my lungs.

But rather than scare me, I felt the need, the overwhelming desire to go back to where my childhood had flourished. I didn't know where it came from, or why, but my body physically shook with the strain of staying in one place.

Now, as I stand here, slowly turning, I finally understand why I needed to come back. The creek has become a river of plastic, the willow brown and sagging. The grass crunches under my feet, and I look down in dismay to see broken bottles crack below me. This is not the childhood that I remember. I slump against the willow and sink down to the ground, bark peeling behind me. Everything seems dull, the colours around me muted.

I slowly open my mouth and a tune emerges of its own accord. Memories wash over me, those butterflies finally coming back and swarming around me, creating a halo over my head. Words and melodies wash over my body, my foot beginning to tap as the song speeds up. A smile breaks out on my face as I spin, brushing the bright green grass with my fingertips. I run to the creek, dipping my hands into the shimmering water and splashing my face, a warm breeze caressing my face.

This is what words were made for.





## Olivia Goncalves

### Sonnet - Voices of Change

System, schedules, routines, they're not supposed to change, the same story recurring forever

That's how I liked it, that's how it was, until one day it changed, and I didn't expect it at all

Everyone said bye, some see you later, but I didn't want to tell them goodbye not now, not ever

The voice in my head that was very rarely there, continued to hide, so insignificant, so small

I'd been on a plane before but nothing like this, we didn't have a ticket back this was a one way trip

I tried to understand, this was for my future but I didn't want change, I wasn't ready to grow

My feet were planted on this unfamiliar land, my new home and my stuff already shipped

The once small voice now louder, screaming at me telling me to not give up and to not let go

From the weather to people to food, everything so different but it wasn't that bad, not one bit

My family all wanted me to be happy and I was starting to think that maybe I can be

I didn't know I'd meet all these people, each with their own story and I kind of loved it

The voice inside me although still wary, decided to give a change to this big new family

I might move on but I'll never forget, for this new home I love, however, still think is strange

It is a place of wonders and place of opportunity, a paradise in my eyes, hate it I could never

It might have taken time and plenty of fear but over the pains and hardships I learned to love change

Change meant excitement, change meant growth, change meant I'd never be alone not now, not ever

So now the voice continues to share with me, guide me, telling me to always seek the unknown

And from what I've learned; change can only be reached at the end of my comfort zone.





## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL







## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL RESULTS

Middle School Trophy			Senior School Trophy			Overall House Shield			Spirit Cup
1st	McLaren	1,331	1st	McLaren	1,104	1st	McLaren	2,435	McLaren
2nd	Hardy	1,235	2nd	Morphett	1,089	2nd	Morphett	2,302	
3rd	Morphett	1,213	3rd	Reynell	1,080	3rd	Reynell	2,254	
4th	Reynell	1,174	4th	Hardy	1,001	4th	Hardy	2,236	



# INTRODUCING NEW HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

Following a comprehensive search, we were thrilled to appoint Tamsyn Voyzey to the role of Head of Senior School in November 2023.

Tamsyn was previously the Head of House (Senior School) at St John's Grammar School for six years and in this time worked with students in both the academic and wellbeing spaces.

We caught up with Tamsyn to get an insight of what we can expect in her new role.

**Tamsyn, Welcome to Woodcroft College! What motivated you to take on the role of Head of Senior School, and what aspects of senior education are you most passionate about?**

Thank you for the warm welcome! What attracted me to Woodcroft College was the *Find Your Remarkable* vision. It really sums up what I am passionate about and what we should be doing – that is helping students to find their own unique pathways.

**Can you share with us your vision for the Senior School, particularly focusing on preparing students for the challenges and opportunities they'll face beyond graduation?**

My vision is that when students finish their schooling at Woodcroft College they have the academic skills they need to proceed; they have the communication and connectivity skills to be able to interact and work with others; and they have a toolbox of strategies that allow them to be resilient with their own health and balance in their lives.

I think it's also important that we help them to find their direction and ideas about potential future pathways once they've left school.



**In your leadership, how do you plan to address the unique needs and concerns of Senior School students to create a supportive and engaging learning environment?**

The key thing for me is getting to know all the students as individuals. We can then identify their specific needs and work with them accordingly. What works for one student, might not work for another.

**Collaboration between teachers, parents and the community is crucial. How do you intend to strengthen these connections to ensure the success and wellbeing of students in Year 10 to Year 12?**

Really clear and open communication is important to me. I think it's also important to ensure there are opportunities for parents to meet with teachers.

Celebrating student accomplishments is also important, particularly when they're coming to the end of Senior School. There's plenty of opportunities to do this and we must make the most of them.





**What's a memorable senior school moment from your own teenage years that has influenced your approach to education and leadership?**

I was the only girl in my Year 12 Chemistry class. This is what inspired me to become a teacher because I wanted to be able to encourage girls to study and enjoy STEM subjects. Ever since this moment, encouraging diversity across all subjects has been important to me.

**As the Head of Senior School, how do you plan to inspire and engage students to become active participants in shaping the College's culture and community?**

It's going to be important for me to work with the College Captains, to make sure they are engaging across all the year levels. It's important to connect with everyone and they will have an important role to assist with this.

**Outside of the academic setting, what's one piece of advice you would give to high school students preparing for their future?**

Take every opportunity that is available to you to find out what you're really interested in.





# BUILDING STUDENT CAPACITY TO LEAD, GROW AND INSPIRE

At Woodcroft College we strive to provide the best opportunities for our students through programs that tap into strengths and build a student's capacity to grow, inspire and lead through Real Connection and Generous Spirit.

Our Future Leaders program for Year 10 students is offered to those who show leadership attributes throughout Year 9 and during Quest camp. The program aims to develop leadership skills through adventurous outdoor activities. It is designed to purposefully stretch students out of their comfort zone, capturing their imagination and the spirit of adventure to create an uplifting and rewarding experience.

Students work towards gaining a Future Leaders Certificate by taking part in numerous activities and self-led expeditions, and for the first time in its 20 year history, one of the expeditions this year was to the snow.

We asked four of our 2023 Future Leaders to reflect on their Future Leader experience and the inaugural snow trip.

**Isobel Thornton**

## What do you enjoy most as a Future Leader, and find the most rewarding?

I have found getting to know the other students and building close relationships very rewarding. Being able to make real connections and hang out with people in a more casual and fun environment has made it possible for me to create more friendships and strengthen existing friendships.

## What values do you think are important in a Future Leader?

A Future Leader needs to be empathetic, driven and open minded. The Future Leader program has taught me how to be a stronger leader and an active group member. This has helped me to understand that a leader needs to be engaging and open minded to ensure the group has a voice and the leader doesn't take on every responsibility. Preparing and getting ready for camps has taught me that a leader has to instruct others while also ensuring they do things for themselves.







## Cara Saville

### **What aspects of the snow trip really challenged you and made you grow as a person?**

The aspects of the snow trip that really challenged me were adapting to the different environment such as walking in the snow and making sure I was hot enough but not too hot that I was sweating. Being up higher than normal also challenged me as the higher altitude made it harder to breathe. Being in the snow made me grow as a person because I overcame new challenges and got to experience things that I never thought I would experience. It was eye-opening because I could see the difference between being in the city and being out in the middle of nowhere and seeing how much humans are changing the environment.

### **Were there any activities on the snow trip that you found daunting or were nervous to try? If so, why and how did you overcome this?**

I found snow cave building daunting and this is one activity I was most nervous about. I didn't know what to expect or if all the snow would just fall on top of me while I was inside. I overcame this by thinking logically about what would happen and reassuring myself that the Outdoor Education staff wouldn't put me in any dangerous situations and, that if it turns into a bad situation, there were people there with all the experience they need to manage it.



## Kailan van Zyl

### What did you do on the Snow Trip?

We did so much on the snow trip and even though the snow was melting, we still managed to find enough snowfall to make the most of it. The bus ride to Victoria was long but fun. We were all together playing cards and listening to music, which made such a good memory. When we arrived at our destination and packed our snow gear for the day, we hiked through the Snowy Mountains, with many snowball fights along the way. It was the first time some of us had seen snow so everyone was very excited. The view of the mountains and hills around us was one of the most memorable moments, as there was no one else around and it made you feel free and calm. One of my favourite days included snowball fights and sliding from the top of one of the mountains, stopping ourselves with ice axes, this was very fun.

### What would you say to our 2024 Future Leaders?

I think the first thing I would say is to take in every moment, as the time goes by quick and you don't realise it at the time. Focus on the good rather than the difficult times and take every opportunity you are given rather than backing out because you don't know when you'll get the chance again. I would also say take the planning seriously, especially the equipment, as it impacts your camp way more than you think. Find excitement in the planning because the camps are amazing and the planning is an exciting part of this. Make sure you have fun and make new connections. You don't know when you will ever get the chance to be in a role like this again, and you need to make the most of it.

### How would you link your experience with our College Values: Inspire Confidence, Real Connection, Generous Spirit, Keep Growing?

I think the experience really showed my confidence as I had to take a lot of risks and overcome feeling scared and nervous. I think without any screens and social media the Real Connection value played a big part of the trip with my experiences as well as we had each other and when we were bored, we would play cards and talk to new people. We were also able to make a real connection with nature and without having the temptation of going on your phone you can sit there knowing you are present in the moment.

Whenever someone was struggling, which was often for me, the Generous Spirit of others was very important. I think this was one of the most important things for me on the snow trip. When making the tents, packing your bag or cooking dinner I was always trying to help and work with the people around me. And when someone asked for help, I would try and help as much as I could. When we had to take snowshoes off and put them on the back of our bags I would try and help people with that, so they didn't have to take the rucksack off their back and this is a great example of Generous Spirit. When I didn't think I was capable of something and I was capable of it, it made me think that I can keep growing and when I take more risks, the more I will grow and Keep Growing.





## Lachlan Fitzgerald

**Where there any activities on the snow trip that you found daunting or were nervous to try? If so, why and how did you overcome this?**

I was nervous to hike towards our Base Camp with my heavy pack, as it was the heaviest pack I had ever experienced. However, once the hike began, I managed to take my mind off it by appreciating the land and talking to the people around me.

**Are there things you have learnt in the program that have helped you in your life outside school?**

I have learnt to become a more social and outgoing person, and I have gained a new perspective around giving back to the community around me.

**How would you link your experience with our College Values: Inspire Confidence, Real Connection, Generous Spirit, Keep Growing?**

I felt that my experience absolutely linked with the College Values, specifically inspiring confidence and building real connection. I have found that going through the same challenges together, specifically the cold and the hike, allowed me to build real, strong and genuine relationships with those around me, and being put out of our comfort zones inspired confidence within the group.



## NEW COURSES FOR YEAR 10 STUDENTS

In the rapidly evolving educational landscape, Woodcroft College remains committed to offering courses that not only educate but inspire. We are pleased to introduce two new electives for our Year 10 students in 2024, Surf n Turf and Architectural Design, Modelling, and Visualisation.

### Surf n Turf

Nestled under the Science Faculty, our new semester-long Surf n Turf course aims to provide a unique perspective on land-based agriculture and the growing aquacultural industries, with a specific focus on horticultural practices and the biology of aquatic organisms.

This course is open to all Year 10 students keen on exploring the vital connection between agriculture and aquatic ecosystems. Throughout the semester, students will delve into various aspects of agriculture, from traditional techniques in South Australia's major agricultural sectors to an in-depth study of the research and innovation in the broader agricultural and aquacultural space.

As the course unfolds, students immerse themselves in the captivating world of marine biology, forming the foundation to explore the thriving field of aquaculture - an industry on the rise in our state. The curriculum is hands-on where students grow horticultural crops, conduct grain trials, culture yabbies and explore the complexities of aquatic ecosystems through the management of aquariums. The course goes beyond the basics, delving into ethical farming practices, sustainable resource use, and the journey from production to plate in both sectors.



*"It's fun and interesting and I love the hands on practical work."*



*"I'm enjoying getting outside and growing things in the garden."*





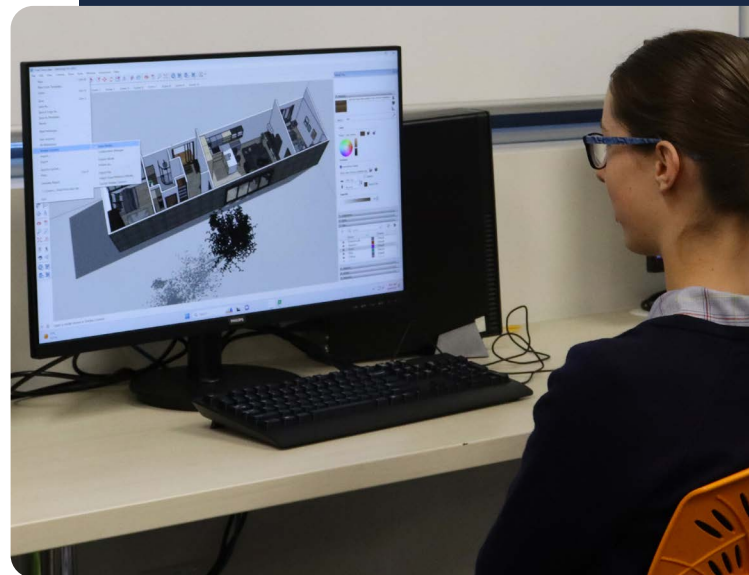
## Architectural Design, Modelling, and Visualisation

In the Innovative Technologies Faculty, Year 10 students at Woodcroft College have the chance to embark on a creative and innovative journey with the newly introduced elective - Architectural Design, Modelling, and Visualisation.

This course is designed for students eager to explore the world of architectural design, from concept to a final product. Over the course of a semester, students delve into subjects, ranging from architectural modelling and visualisation to interior and landscape design.

To commence their studies in the course, students took a tour of our new Junior School building with our College Principal. It was a great opportunity to learn about the design process, including the importance of stakeholder collaboration, environmental regulations, and the laws that govern the sector you are building for.

The jewel in the crown of this course lies in its use of cutting-edge technology. Students use virtual reality technology to bring their architectural creations to life, creating an immersive and interactive experience for end users. Encouraged to be creative and innovative, students apply problem-solving skills to respond to design challenges throughout the semester.







## CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2023 SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Early in Term 4 each year, we hold Valedictory for Year 12 students to mark the end of their schooling journey at Woodcroft College. However, this is not the end of assessments and exams for many in this group as they complete the final stage of their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

So it is with great pleasure and pride that we had the opportunity to celebrate our Class of 2023 achievements at a Special Awards Ceremony held in February this year.

The achievements include Subject Awards, SACE Merits and High Distinctions (for subjects studied at University during Year 12), Remarkable XC Awards for ATARS of 90 and above, Values Awards, and our Dux and Proxime Accessits.

Our 2023 Dux, Montien Boey was unable to attend the ceremony as he has moved interstate to commence his studies. We were pleased his mother and younger brother were able to accept his awards.

With family and friends invited to share in this special event, we are grateful to have the opportunity to add the final punctuation to life as a student at Woodcroft College.

We congratulate our now Old Scholars for their hard work, their determination and commitment to their study, and demonstrating the College Values.

We look forward to continuing our connection through Old Scholar events and we hope, like many other Old Scholars, some will return to support students through our Sport and Music Programs and possibly as teachers in the future.







## Value Awards

### *Inspire Confidence*

Jack Baker  
Holly Ifould  
Lachlan Nash  
Georgie Wooller

### *Generous Spirit*

Sienna Locke  
Hannah McGuire

### *Keep Growing*

Ella-Grace Bray  
Alicia Bruce  
Joel Campbell  
Frazer Payne

## Special Awards 2023

### *Australian Olympic Change-Maker Award*

Jayden Adams  
Ella Gill

### *Jarrad Boorer Memorial Award*

Jayden Adams

### *Woodcroft College English Language Award*

Keely Mullan

## Remarkable XC

Jayden Adams  
Montien Boey  
Ella-Grace Bray  
Chloe Burley  
Kate Fitzmaurice  
Ewan Fleming  
Caitlyn Gell  
Ella Gill  
Roman House  
Holly Ifould  
Ellie Jefferson-Wetherill  
Lachlan Nash  
Hanah Partridge  
James Patzel  
Arav Sandhu  
Meenu Sebin  
Eva Wilde  
WONG Ming Ho Hugo  
Maya Zielinski

## High Distinctions (Flinders University)

### *Engineering Design*

Montien Boey

### *Psychology 1A*

Kate Fitzmaurice

### *Medical Scientists 1*

Roman House

## SACE Merits

### *Activating Identities and Futures*

Holly Fabel (*studied in Year 11, 2023*)

### *Business and Innovation*

Ellie Jefferson-Wetherill

### *English*

Ella-Grace Bray  
Maya Zielinski

### *General Mathematics*

Caitlyn Gell

### *Mathematical Methods*

Montien Boey

### *Research Project*

Roman House  
Arav Sandhu  
Eva Wilde

### *Specialist Mathematics*

Meenu Sebin

### *Physics*

Meenu Sebin



### Proxime Accessit of the College 2023

Arav Sandhu  
Maya Zielinski



### Dux of the College 2023

Montien Boey



## Subject Awards

(based on SACE results)

### **Activating Identities and Futures**

Holly Fabel  
James Patzel

### **Ancient Studies**

Kobi Brown

### **Biology**

Maya Zielinski

### **Business Innovation**

Ellie Jefferson-Wetherill

### **Chemistry**

Arav Sandhu

### **Child Studies**

Caitlyn Gell

### **Creative Arts - Photography**

Roman House

### **Digital Technologies**

Rafael Fryer

### **Drama**

Eva Wilde

### **Economics**

James Patzel

### **English**

Maya Zielinski

### **English as an Additional Language**

WONG Ming Ho Hugo

### **English Literary Studies**

Lachlan Nash

### **Essential English**

Rafael Fryer

### **Essential Mathematics**

Priya Hadler

### **Food and Hospitality**

Sienna Locke

### **General Mathematics**

Caitlyn Gell

### **Geography**

Caitlyn Gell  
Ellie Jefferson-Wetherill

### **German Continuers**

Ella-Grace Bray

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Priya Hadler

### **Industry and Entrepreneurial Solutions**

Dylan Woods

### **Integrated Learning**

Megan Pittaway  
Amelie Rickers

### **Japanese Continuers**

Verlet Ellis

### **Legal Studies**

Ellie Jefferson-Wetherill

### **Material Solutions**

Kobi Brown

### **Mathematical Methods**

Montien Boey

### **Modern History**

Eva Wilde

### **Music Performance - Ensemble**

Morgann Dobbin

### **Music Performance - Solo**

Isabella Gratwick

### **Nutrition**

Kate Fitzmaurice

### **Outdoor Education**

Pema Shimeld

### **Physical Education**

Ella Gill

### **Physics**

Meenu Sebin

### **Psychology**

Kate Fitzmaurice  
Eva Wilde

### **Research Project**

Arav Sandhu

### **Specialist Mathematics**

Meenu Sebin

### **Visual Arts - Art**

Chloe Burley

### **Visual Arts - Design**

Kobi Brown

### **Workplace Practices**

Grace Standish



# NURTURING OUR PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMUNITY

Becky Hirst | Parents and Friends Chair

**As the newly appointed Chair of the Parents and Friends Committee, I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates and plans for the year ahead.**

Since stepping into this role, we've been hard at work formalising our committee positions and membership, and setting up systems to grow a pool of volunteer parents and friends who can help at various events or join subcommittees to work on specific projects.

In February, we distributed flyers for a Parents and Friends Survey during Parent Information Evenings across the entire College. The survey provided valuable insights and allowed us to identify parents interested in joining the committee, volunteering at events, or donating prizes for fundraisers throughout the year.

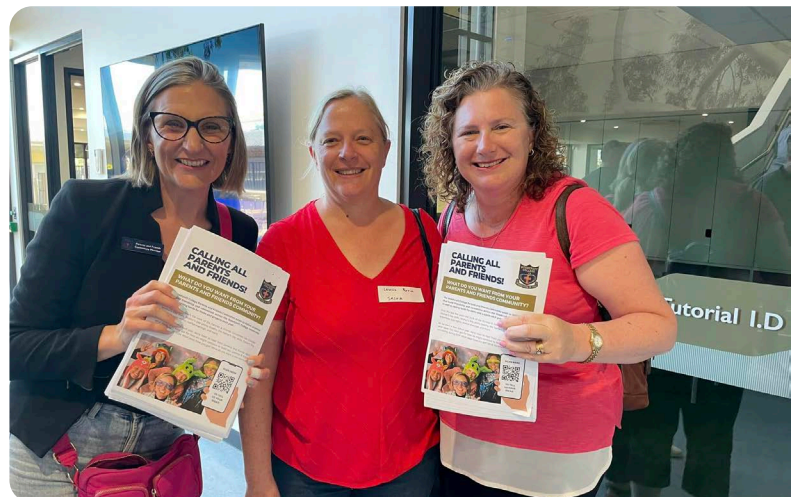
In March, we hosted a Meet and Mingle event at the College where the existing Committee met with those interested in joining or volunteering. It was great to be joined by Nick Smith, Head of Junior School, who is already showing dedication to building community through new initiatives such as Wellbeing Wednesday walks.

We also held an eggs-cellent Easter raffle, raising a whopping \$1,280 for our Parents and Friends grant program. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. Since our inception in 2020, we've raised over \$35,000, funding various projects across the College. We look forward to continuing this grant program and will keep you posted on upcoming projects.

Looking ahead, our popular Mother's Day stall returns on Wednesday 8 May, with the photobooth onsite again on Friday 10 May. Additionally, the Father's Day stall is set for Wednesday 28 August, and we plan to host our before-school Father's Day breakfast BBQ on Friday 30 August.

And mark your calendars! Our much-anticipated Parents and Friends Quiz Night returns on Saturday 24 August 2024. It's an event not to be missed!

As I take on this role, I'm excited for the opportunities ahead. Let's roll up our sleeves, connect with other parents, and embody a Generous Spirit. My motto for the year is "Many hands make light work," so when you see an opportunity, I encourage you to get involved! Scan the QR code opposite to express your interest in supporting us.







SAVE THE DATE FOR  
**THE WOODCROFT COLLEGE  
 PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE**

# QUIZ NIGHT!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND,  
 WITH QUIZ MASTER JAMES MARCHINGTON!

**SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2024, 7PM  
 IN THE MARK PORTER HALL**



**THANK YOU TO OUR  
 QUIZ NIGHT SPONSOR,  
 RAY WHITE WOODCROFT!**

## CALLING ALL PARENTS AND FRIENDS

**CHOOSE YOUR OWN P&F ADVENTURE!**

The purpose of Woodcroft College Parents and Friends is to build friendship and our sense of community along with generating valuable funds to support the ongoing development of the school.

How you get involved is up to you! There are plenty of different opportunities throughout the school year. Let us know how you'd like to be involved by scanning the QR Code or sending us an email.

SCAN HERE



**TO TELL US  
 HOW YOU'D  
 LIKE TO GET  
 INVOLVED**

**PARENTSANDFRIENDS@WOODCROFT.SA.EDU.AU**



## UPDATE FROM OLD SCHOLARS

We are always pleased to receive updates from our Old Scholars. We love to hear about life after Woodcroft and to learn about their experiences, achievements and highlights.

### Jak Rivers-Dixon, Class of 2011

After completing school back in 2011, I didn't really know what I wanted to do for a career. I took a gap year where I worked a few jobs to save as much money as I could. The following year I decided to head to university and study construction management. Near completion of my degree, an opportunity presented itself to lease a shop in the Forbes complex in South Plympton, the same complex that my dad has owned his bakery in for 25 years now. I decided to follow my passion for hospitality and opened what was meant to be a simple sandwich/coffee shop. Very quickly this grew from a small idea to a 70 seater licensed restaurant, staffing around 25 people. Over the years I have finessed the menu and learnt to roast my own speciality coffee at what is known as The Front Page Cafe.

Fast forward a few years to 2022 which is when my wife and I had just found out that she was pregnant after a very unpromising but lucky round of IVF. We went to our local supermarket in Flagstaff Hill and noticed the shop next door had come up for lease. This was the first time in 10 years a shop in that complex had been offered and we decided to take the plunge in opening venue number two. Della's Deli, named after our miracle baby girl who was born just eight weeks before we opened. We opened up in April 2023 and have quickly become a local favourite for our delicious food and house roasted specialty coffee.

One of my regular customers, whom was also a mentor and major influence in my younger years is of course Ms Lorenz. She always supported my passion, gave me opportunities and taught me a lot about hospitality during school, which inevitably has led me to where I am now. So, if you're interested in hospitality, I would encourage you to buy Ms Lorenz a coffee (preferably from The Front Page or Della's ha-ha) and pick her brain, as she has many years of knowledge which can inspire you to go in any direction you desire in the hospitality industry.

As for the future, we plan on having another baby and it wouldn't be fair if Della was the only one with a café named after her! So watch this space.







## Emily Adams, Class of 2019

I always knew I wanted to be in a creative industry. It seemed my graduating Class of 2019 knew this as well as I was awarded "The Biggest Movie Fanatic" by my peers that year.

With the skills I had learnt while at Woodcroft College, it was no surprise that I wanted to strive towards something that would challenge me and put me out of my comfort zone - like the school had taught me for my 13 years studying there.

I wanted to feel the same rush of being on stage at Showcase performing with my trombone, but wanted to be behind the scenes of it all 'to bring that magic to life'. So I decided to combine a dream and my ambition and strive for the silver screen.

Emily is now working at the world renowned Rising Sun Pictures here in Adelaide. They provided the following bio:

*Emily had aspirations for a career in the film industry and her journey began when she was accepted into the University of South Australia's Bachelor of Film and Television degree. Whilst undertaking the course, Emily was exposed to the world of visual effects and discovered her newfound passion.*

*During her second year of study, Emily completed a 'Look Development and Lighting' course which is taught by world-renowned visual effects studio Rising Sun Pictures. Learning from a company who created incredible visuals for some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters, ignited her spark!*

*Emily chose to spend the third year of her degree at Rising Sun Pictures in the VFX Specialisation. During this time, she learnt from artists in the industry, as well as learning about the various pathways and roles, including production, and seized the opportunity to build on her skills.*

*Upon completing her degree, Emily was immediately employed by Rising Sun Pictures as a Production Assistant, and after working hard, learning and building up her skills, she was promoted to Junior Production Coordinator. Emily already boasts an impressive credit list, with her most recent credit on The Marvels and she is very grateful to be provided with the opportunity to work in an amazing, local company like Rising Sun Pictures.*



## Sarah Dey (née Nogaj), Class of 2000

After leaving school I worked in disability services for eight years, completing a Cert IV in Disability.

After marrying Scott in 2008, we welcomed our first son, Bailey in 2009 and second son, Marley in 2011.

I attended Flinders University in 2012 and completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 2016.

Since then I have been working as a Registered Nurse in a private day surgery hospital as a scrub/scout nurse and I absolutely love my job!

In 2020, we decided to take a break from our 9-5 work life and mainstream schooling to travel Australia for 18 months. We completed the whole lap and covered lots of inland areas!

It was great to catch up with some other Old Scholars along the way!



## 2024 OLD SCHOLAR REUNIONS

Please ensure your contact details are up-to-date so you receive your invitation, by emailing us at [oldscholars@woodcroft.sa.edu.au](mailto:oldscholars@woodcroft.sa.edu.au)

**5 Year Old Scholar Reunion | Class of 2019**

Friday 17 May 2024 | Warradale Hotel



**1 Year Old Scholar Reunion | Class of 2023**

Friday 18 October 2024 | Warradale Hotel



**30 Year Old Scholar Reunion | Class of 1994**

Friday 8 November 2024 | Woodcroft College





# 2023 OLD SCHOLAR REUNIONS



1 Year Reunion: Class of 2022



10 Year Reunion: Class of 2013



20 Year Reunion: Class of 2003





## FIRST EVER GRADUATES WELCOMED BACK: CLASS OF 1993

We were thrilled to welcome back 11 of our first ever Woodcroft College graduates from the Class of 1993 for their 30 Year Reunion. In that year, 33 students completed their schooling at Woodcroft.

Our Principal, Shannon Warren had the opportunity to take the group on a tour of the College. The feedback on the development of our facilities, and the growth in the curriculum and extra-curriculum program was extremely positive!

We even had two Old Scholars fly in for this special reunion.

It was lovely to watch the group reconnect and reminisce about the earliest days of Woodcroft.

We presented each person with an engraved glass recognising their special place in our history.

Not content to end the night too soon, we farewelled our first graduates off to The Woodcroft Hotel to continue their catch up.





### Karen Adams

“For me, the value in the reunion was to reconnect with the people I cared about 20 years ago but life had taken us all in different directions.

It was lovely to see the humans they had become, proud mums and dads, successful in their areas of life, and genuinely good, kind people.

I enjoyed seeing the school, learning about the vision of the Principal and was amazed at what the school had grown to. It truly sets a wonderful example of what is possible.”

### Jody Bohn (née McQueen)

“I really enjoyed catching up with some of the people I went to high school with.

The school has so much to offer the local community, and I was particularly impressed with the outdoor classrooms. A welcome change from a traditional classroom.

I enjoyed chatting with Mr Porter and observed that he had not aged in all those years. What is his secret?

I can hardly believe that 30 years had passed, and on that night, I felt 17 all over again.

May we all be blessed to meet again at the next reunion.”



## 2024 OLD SCHOLAR REUNIONS



10 Year Reunion: Class of 2014



20 Year Reunion: Class of 2004



Woodcroft College's  
Production of



**Junior  
School  
Production**

Music and Lyrics by  
**Elton John and Tim Rice**

Additional Music and Lyrics by  
**Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin  
and Hans Zimmer**

**Book by Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi**

Based on the Broadway production directed by  
**Julie Taymor**

Music Adapted & Arranged and Additional Music & Lyrics and  
"Luau Hawaiian Treat" written by **Will Van Dyke**

"It's a Small World" written by **Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman**

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

**Thursday 29 August to Saturday 31 August 2024**

# BRING IT ON

THE MUSICAL™

**LIBRETTO BY  
JEFF WHITTY**

**MUSIC BY  
TOM KITT &  
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA**

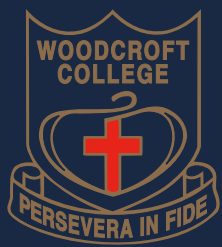
**LYRICS BY  
AMANDA GREEN &  
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA**

Inspired by the Motion Picture Bring It On Written by Jessica Bendinger

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

**Thursday 12 September to Saturday 14 September 2024**





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