



School Performance Report 2016

The following School information is provided in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Accountability requirements under the Schools Assistance Act 2008. It relates to the 2016 School academic year.

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1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

Since its establishment in 1884, Wilderness School has been at the forefront of girls' education. A non-denominational School for girls from Early Learning to Year 12 and boarding for students from Year 7 – 12, Wilderness School understands the needs of individuals. Our student population in 2016 was comprised of local, rural, interstate and international students from China and Hong Kong.

Located in Medindie, 5 kilometres from the Adelaide Central Business District, our beautiful grounds provide a serene setting for learning. Wilderness School is a learning community and a community of learners providing opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to question and to develop the skills of critical thinking, resourcefulness, reflection and risk taking.

Mission

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

Values

At Wilderness our four values inform all that we do. We promote, enable and nurture:-



Adventurous Learning - creative, independent and cooperative learners who seek excellence and success

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

Respectful Relationships - compassionate, kind, friendly and hospitable girls who form and maintain healthy and fulfilling relationships

A True and Courageous Self - resilient, vibrant and spiritually aware girls, confident in themselves and appreciative of others

Learning for Life

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

The extensive **co curriculum** is vital because of the enrichment that it offers to our girls. It allows them to pursue interests and skills beyond the classroom and to engage in a wide variety of activities through which they may find new interests and strengths, broaden their friendships and set and achieve goals. The broad co curriculum program enhances educational possibilities for all girls and enriches the community life of the School.

Music co-curricular activities include:

JUNIOR SCHOOL	MIDDLE SCHOOL	SENIOR SCHOOL
Junior Concert Band Junior Clarinet Ensemble Junior Flute Ensemble Concert Choir Year 2 Strings Year 4 Band	Big Band 2 Brass Ensemble Dream Girls' Choir Intermediate String Orchestra Intermediate String Quartet Jazz Combo 2 Saxophone Ensemble Guitar Ensemble	Big Band 1 Clarinet Ensemble Senior Concert Band Jazz Choir Senior Choir Senior String Quartet Senior String Orchestra Jazz Combo 1 Rock Band

Beyond the classroom activities:

- Outdoor Education – surfing, wind-surfing, kayaking, horse riding, bush walking, camping
- Drama Academy for Junior School girls at lunch time
- Poetry and Literature Club
- Chess
- Public speaking and Debating competitions
- Debating
- Outdoor Education – surfing, wind-surfing, kayaking, horse riding, bush walking, camping
- Poetry and Literature Club
- Chess
- Public speaking and Debating competitions
- National Youth Science Forum (Rotary), ICAS Science Competitions, CREST Awards (CSIRO), Siemens Science Experience (Rotary), Oliphant Science Awards
- Committees - Environment Committee, Careers Committee, Student Foundation Committee, Digital Technology Committee, Senior Library Committee, Magazine Committee, Citizenship Committee, Media Team, International Students Committee

These are, of course, all additions to the curriculum, which offer a wide range of opportunities both within and outside the classroom. Lunch time clubs cater for interests as diverse as Chess, Writing, the Environment, Debating, Junior Theatre, private Music lessons and Community Service.

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

Girls participated in these sports in 2016:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch Football
- Volleyball
- Water polo
- IGSSA Representative Teams
- SAPSSA Representative Teams
- Knock Out Competition – Touch Football

Leadership for Life

At Wilderness we prepare girls for the leadership opportunities that they will encounter in life. All students are encouraged to take up leadership roles throughout their time here. Formal student leadership is encouraged through class representation, the House system and student committees in the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools.

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

Learning to lead is integral to a Wilderness education, preparing girls for full participation as responsible citizens in an increasingly globalised society. Our hope is that our students will have the personal attributes to lead at any level, both wisely and with compassion. Opportunities arise on a daily basis for girls to take leadership roles in class. Subject teachers encourage girls to build on these.

Student leadership opportunities

- Alliance of Girls' Schools Student Leadership conference – Bond University
- Boarding House Captains
- Boarding Prefects
- Buddy program
- Citizenship Committee
- Debating Coaching
- Glee Competition
- House Birthday Co-ordinator
- House Captains
- House Committees
- International Student Ambassador Program
- Junior Student Representative Council
- Leadership of Music Ensembles
- Leadership of Sports teams
- Leadership workshops
- Membership of SRC Committees
- Sports Committee
- Student Exchange Program
- Student Foundation
- Student IT Committee
- Student Media Committee
- Student Representative Council
- Student led assemblies and presentations
- Year 11 Leadership Day
- Year 10 Leadership Camp
- Year 10 Pathways Week
- Year 11 Leaders at Year 8 Camp
- Year 12 Gate Dut

Responsible Citizens

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

Community Service Program supported:

- 40 Hour Famine
- Allergy Awareness
- Arthritis SA
- Bhadure School - Nepal
- Buddy Program
- Cancer Council
- City to Bay Fun Run
- House Committees
- House Days (all proceeds go to Nepal)
- Mother's Day Classic – Breast Cancer Walk
- Nepal Boarding House Fund
- Participation in local ANZAC Day Service
- Reconciliation Week
- Red Cross Blood Bank
- St Vincent de Paul
- Traffic Duty
- Traffic Monitoring with SAPOL

Global Citizens

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

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

Trips and exchanges offered in 2016:

- Eight girls from Year 8 experienced an exchange with St Catherine's, Toorak (Victoria)
- Eight Year 8 girls experienced an exchange with Pymble Ladies College, Sydney
- Four Year 9 girls experienced an exchange to Essington College, Darwin (NT)
- Two Year 9 girls experienced a Boarding exchange with Woodforde House, New Zealand
- Four Year 10 girls experienced an exchange with Diocesan School for Girls, South Africa
- One Year 10 girl experienced a Boarding exchange with Woodforde House, Napier, New Zealand
- Japan Ski Trip
- UK / Europe Music Tour

2. TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Wilderness is a learning community, providing opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to question and to develop skills of critical thinking, resourcefulness, reflection and risk-taking. We believe in lifelong learning and have a strong commitment in providing generous opportunities for staff to participate in a wide variety of Professional Development.

Teacher Qualifications

A complete list of teacher qualifications is available at the back of the 2016 *Semper Verus* magazine. The teaching staff at Wilderness School are highly qualified providing qualifications including a Doctorate, Bachelor and Masters Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

15% with 4 or more professional qualifications

15% with 3 professional qualifications

46% with 2 professional qualifications

24% with 1 professional qualification

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

Some of their Professional Development occurred in the following areas:

- Mindfulness
- Positive Education
- Wellbeing – strength-based education, working from your strengths.
- Mindfulness strengths based practice
- Character Strengths training
- SEQTA – planning for the future
- Digital Citizenship
- Counselling
- Cultures of Thinking
- Harvard Project Zero – Summer School
- Clarifying Forums for Stage 2 Mathematics, English, Research Project, Biology, Geography, Music
- Implementation of new Senior Secondary curriculum subjects (Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History)
- Effective use of the NAPLAN Analysis tool
- Early Career Teacher workshops
- Australian Secondary Mathematics Curriculum
- Copyright
- Coding
- EduTech – Library Congress
- AIM
- Introduction to Coding and Computational Thinking
- SAFTA conference (French Teachers)
- Business Education – Annual conference
- Geography Teachers Conference
- History Teachers Association
- Mathematics Association Annual Conference
- ACPHER Leadership conference
- ACPHER Australian Curriculum Conference for HPE Educators
- SACE Clarifying Forum: Musicianship
- Australian English Teachers Association (national and state conferences)
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Growth Mindsets
- Creating cultures of thinking
- iBooks author
- Leading Success in Others
- Leading Groups
- Cognitive Coaching
- National Positive Education Schools Association conference
- Australian Council of Educational Leadership
- Australian Council of Educational Research – Excellence in Professional Practice
- FabLab
- Australian Council of Educational Research – Research Conference (STEM)
- uLead conference
- Careers Counselling
- Women in Educational Leadership
- Stage 1 Geography Implementation
- IPSHA Library Hub PD
- Sensory and Self-Regulation Strategies to Assist Children in the Classroom
- ATOM, Australian Teachers of Media, Screen Futures Conference
- Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD)
- Generation Next Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference
- Assessment of Student Learning
- SAETA Stage 1 & 2 English Refresher
- Project Zero Sydney: Global Connections in a digital age.

- Macq -Lit Spell It (intervention program)
- Year 12 Mathematics Conference
- AHOMINGS Meeting and Professional Development for Heads of Music
- Senior SACE History afternoon
- Lego Robotics
- Flat Connections Global Educator
- Future Problem-Solving
- Australian Curriculum
- SACE:Monitoring and Clarifying
- Unpacking NAPLAN
- Literatu
- Analysing and Teaching Film
- Improving Stem Education & Skills
- Writer's Week
- HASS

3. WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

In 2016, there were 85 specialist teachers (including the Principal) employed by the School, none of whom were indigenous employees.

- 85 Specialist Teachers
- 28 Peripatetic Music Staff
- Director of Wellbeing and Positive Education/School Psychologist
- One Careers Advisor/VET/Student Exchange Coordinator
- One Career/VET Assistant
- One Health Officer
- One Work Health & Safety Coordinator

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

4. STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORDS

The average rate for student attendance across the School was consistently high. For students in Years 1 - 10 the average attendance rate was 96%.

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

5. STUDENT OUTCOMES IN STANDARDISED NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTING

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

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

2016 Percentage of Students at or Above the National Minimum Standard

READING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	44	100%	1	0	0
Year 5	56	96%	0	0	1
Year 7	54	100%	0	0	0
Year 9	69	99%	0	1	1

WRITING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	44	100%	1	0	0
Year 5	56	100%	1	0	1
Year 7	54	100%	0	0	0
Year 9	69	97%	0	1	1

SPELLING

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	44	100%	1	0	0
Year 5	56	98%	1	0	0
Year 7	54	100%	0	0	0
Year 9	69	94%	0	1	1

GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	44	100%	1	0	0
Year 5	56	100%	1	0	0
Year 7	54	98%	0	0	0
Year 9	69	97%	0	1	1

NUMERACY

	Total number of students	At or above National Minimum Standard	Absent	Exempt	Withdrawn
Year 3	44	100%	0	0	0
Year 5	56	98%	1	0	1
Year 7	54	100%	0	0	0
Year 9	69	99%	0	1	1

Please note that the data presented reflects the scores of students who sat NAPLAN testing.

6. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Once again our girls and their teachers can be proud of the results from the 2016 Academic year.

Of the total cohort:

The position of Dux is shared by three outstanding students who each achieved an ATAR of 99.85: Hannah Bransbury, Kathryn Jannes and Rachel Neef.

Hannah Bransbury received five subject merits and was, therefore, selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of South Australia SACE Award which recognises overall excellence in the SACE. We are also delighted that Ashleigh Bradford was awarded a Governor of South Australia Commendation which recognises students' exceptional achievements whilst undertaking the SACE, an outstanding accomplishment.

Hannah Bransbury, Annabel Clarnette, Annabel Denbigh, Brooke Hoffmann, Kathryn Jannes, Claire Morphett, Rachel Neef, Niki Panayiaris, Sarah Rocca, Claudia Santin, Kathryn Sheridan and Jade Yeung all gained an ATAR above 99.

100% of the students studying a full course of SACE gained the SACE certificate. Of the cohort 31% also undertook Vocational Education Training (VET) with 30% receiving a Certificate III level course.

7. POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS 2016

51
MERIT
LISTINGS



THERE WERE **51 MERIT LISTINGS** (FOR PERFECT SCORES) IN:

Biology	Mathematical Methods
Business and Enterprise	Mathematical Studies
Chinese (Continuers)	Performance Special Study
Drama	Physical Education
English Communications	Research Project
English as a Second Language	Visual Arts Studies
Health	Vietnamese (Background Speakers)
Legal Studies	Work Place Practices
Mathematical Applications	

62%

were placed in
the 10%
Nationally

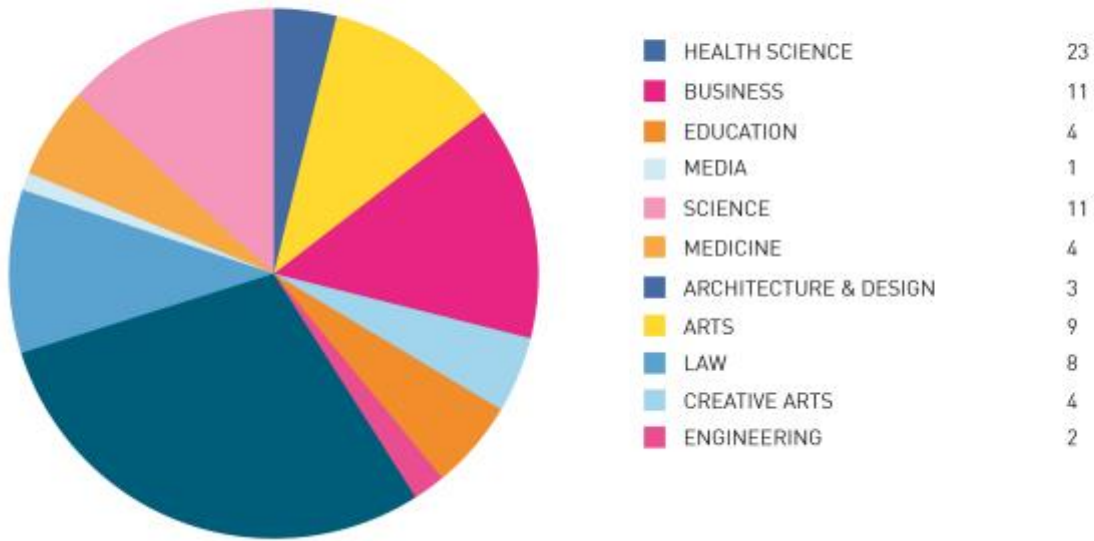
44%

were placed in
the 5%
Nationally

15%

were placed in
the 1%
Nationally

FIELDS OF EDUCATION 2017



8. PARENT AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

In an online exit survey distributed to Year 12 parents, with 95% rating their overall experience of the School as *excellent* or *good*.

Feedback from the exiting Year 12 cohort illustrates the breadth of education and experience offered to the girls and the connection they make during their time at Wilderness. Girls commenting in their exit survey:

"Not only provides excellent education, but is passionate about girls' wellbeing and overall school experience."

"Wilderness School is a place that has given me an education that has transcended usual academic bounds and taught me to be a conscious, respectful and innovative citizen."

"Wilderness School is a place where I feel encouraged to challenge myself to achieve my best."