WILDERNESS SCHOOL
ALWAYS True

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT
2017

CRICOS PROVIDER CODE 00375B
School Performance Report 2017

The following School information is provided in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Accountability requirements under the Schools Assistance Act 2008. It relates to the 2017 School academic year.

1. School Information
2. Teacher Standards and Qualifications
3. Workforce Composition
4. Student Attendance Records
5. Student outcomes in standardised national literacy and numeracy testing
6. Senior Secondary School Outcomes
7. Post School Destinations
8. Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction
1. SCHOOL INFORMATION

Since its establishment in 1884, Wilderness School has been at the forefront of girls’ education. A non-denominational School for girls, with strong Christian values, from Early Learning to Year 12 and boarding for students Year 7 – 12. Wilderness School understands and nurtures the individual. Our student population in 2017 comprised of local, rural and interstate pupils as well as international students from mainland China and Hong Kong.

Located in Medindie, 5 kilometres from the Adelaide Central Business District, our beautiful grounds provide a serene setting for learning. Wilderness School is a learning community and a community of learners that provides opportunities for girls and teachers to be creative, to interrogate information and to develop critical thinking skills and resourcefulness as well as how to develop and apply their thinking in different contexts. Research lives in our classrooms and our pedagogy, and our teachers regularly pursue opportunities and explore ways for students to thrive in a complex contemporary world.

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

Music co-curricular activities include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNIOR SCHOOL</th>
<th>MIDDLE and SENIOR SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Concert Band</td>
<td>Big Band 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Clarinet Ensemble</td>
<td>Big Band 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Flute Ensemble</td>
<td>Brass Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Concert Choir</td>
<td>Dream Girls’ Choir</td>
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<td>Intermediate String Orchestra</td>
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<td>Intermediate String Quartet</td>
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<td>Jazz Combo 2</td>
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<td>Saxophone Ensemble</td>
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<td>Guitar Ensemble</td>
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<td>Clarinet Ensemble</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Beyond the classroom activities:

- Outdoor Education – surfing, wind-surfing, kayaking, horse riding, bush walking, camping
- Performing Arts Academy for Junior School girls at lunch time
- Poetry and Literature Club
- Chess
- Debating
- National Youth Science Forum [Rotary], ICAS Maths Competitions, Siemens Science Experience (Rotary), Oliphant Science Awards
- STEMinist – computer coding club and robotics for Junior School students
- Committees - Environment Committee, Careers Committee, Student Foundation Committee, Digital Technology Committee, Senior Library Committee, Magazine Committee, Citizenship Committee, Media Team, International Students Committee, Performing Arts Committee, Active for Life Committee and Peer Support Committee

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

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 the following sports in 2017:

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

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
- Middle School Student Representative Council
- Leadership of Music Ensembles
- Leadership of Sports teams
- Leadership workshops
- Membership of SRC Committees
- Sports Committee
- Student Exchange Programs
- 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 Duty
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 2017:

- Eight girls from Year 8 experienced an exchange with St Catherine’s, Toorak (Victoria)
- Ten Year 8 girls experienced an exchange with Pymble Ladies College, Sydney
- Six 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
- Two Year 10 girl experienced a Boarding exchange with Woodforde House, Napier, New Zealand
- 29 girls took part in the China Tour – Chinese language Immersion 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 front of the 2017 *Semper Verus* magazine. The teaching staff at Wilderness School are highly qualified and possess qualifications including Doctorates, Bachelor and Masters Degrees, Graduate Diplomas, Diplomas and Certificates.

19% with 4 or more professional qualifications  
17.7% with 3 professional qualifications  
35.7% with 2 professional qualifications  
27.6% 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:

- Positive Education
- Resilience
- Wellbeing – strength-based education, working from your strengths.
- Mindfulness strengths based practice
- Mindfulness program for children 1-3
- Character Strengths training
- Digital Citizenship
- Counselling
- Creating Cultures of Thinking
- Harvard Project Zero – Summer School
- SACE Clarifying Forums for Stage 2 Mathematics, English, Research Project, Biology, Geography, Music, Physics, Chemistry, Physical Education, Psychology, Music
- Implementation of new Senior Secondary curriculum subjects (Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Physical Education, Geography)
- Literature
- Australian Secondary Mathematics Curriculum
- Copyright
- Coding
- Continuing the CoT Conversation Beyond 2017
- RoboCup competition training EDC Hindmarsh
- 2018 Adelaide biennial of Australian Art Divided Worlds Educators Briefing
- Companion Training for Seasons for Growth Children and Young People’s Program
- Reggio Emilia- An Encounter with Tiziana Filippini
- Reggio Emilia
- REAIE 2-DAY WORKSHOP: Which relationship exists between teaching, learning & documentation? Early Years Focus (birth to 5 years old)
- Alliance of Girls Schools Australasia- Fearless Girls Strong Women
- Introduction to Coding and Computational Thinking
- SAFTA conference (French Teachers)
- Business Education – Annual conference
- Geography Teachers Conference (State and National)
- History Teachers Association Annual Conference
- Mathematics Association Annual Conference
- ACPHER Leadership conference
- ACPHER Australian Curriculum Conference for HPE Educators
- Australian English Teachers Association (national and state conferences)
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Growth Mindsets
- iBooks author
- Leading Success in Others
- Leading Groups
- Cognitive Coaching
- National Positive Education Schools Association conference
- Australian Council of Educational Leadership
- FabLab
- Careers Counselling
- Women in Educational Leadership
- Stage 1 Geography Implementation
- IPSHA Library Hub
- Sensory and Self-Regulation Strategies to Assist Children in the Classroom
- Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Generation Next Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference
- Assessment of Student Learning
- SAETA Stage 1 & 2 English Refresher
- Macq -Lit Spell It [intervention program]
- Year 12 Mathematics Conference
- AHOMINGS Meeting and Professional Development for Heads of Music
- Lego Robotics
- Future Problem-Solving
- Analysing and Teaching Film
- Improving Stem Education & Skills
- Writer’s Week
- HASS
- Pre-lit program
- Asia-Pacific Library and Information Conference
- Invent to learn master class
- Big Data and Artificial Intelligence
- International Congress on Thinking
- Think Tank on Global Education: Empowering Global Citizens
- AISSA VET & Vocational Learning PD & Network Day
- Women in Economics Network (WEN) Event “The changing role of women in resource-based industries”
- Celebrate Reading Conference 2018
3. **WORKFORCE COMPOSITION**

In 2017, there were 81 teachers (including the Principal) employed by the School, none of whom were indigenous employees.

- 81 teachers, 24 of whom hold senior leadership roles
- 24 Peripatetic Music Staff
- Director of Wellbeing and Counselling
- Director of Learning and Teacher Excellence
- One Careers Advisor/VET
- One Career/VET Assistant
- One student exchange 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 94%.

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.

**2017 Percentage of Students at or Above the National Minimum Standard**

**READING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of students</th>
<th>At or above National Minimum Standard</th>
<th>Absent</th>
<th>Exempt</th>
<th>Withdrawn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
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Please note that the data presented reflects the scores of students who sat NAPLAN testing.

### SPELLING

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### GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

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### NUMERACY

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6. SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Once again our students achieved excellent results. There were 81 girls who applied for the ATAR this year. Of the cohort, 75% were placed in the top 10%, with 59% in the top 5% and 26% in the top 1% of Year 12 students.

The position of Dux is shared by three outstanding students who each achieved an ATAR of 99.95: Isabelle Greco, Amelia Craig and Bridget Smart.

Isabelle Greco has been selected for the highest accolade of the SACE, The Governor of South Australia Commendation Excellence Award for Meritorious Achievement which recognises overall excellence in the SACE.

We are also delighted that Laura Montague has been awarded the Aboriginal Student SACE Excellence Award and the Governor of South Australia Commendation Award which recognises students’ exceptional achievements whilst undertaking the SACE.

These are outstanding accomplishments.

Reshma Berggren, Vatsala Bhatia, Sarah Bradbrook, Molly Chapman, Amelia Craig, Harmony Craig, Sarah Dinh, Eliza Geh, Isabelle Greco, Laura Hanlon, Gemma Holzer, Georgia Honan, Celena Le, Amanda Lu, Madeleine McNeil, Lauren Moularadellis, Joanna Nelson, Nicola Ricci, Bridget Smart, Lyna Yue and Kelly Zhou all gained an ATAR above 99. Once again our girls and their teachers can be proud of the results from the 2017 Academic year.

100% of the students studying a full course of SACE gained the SACE certificate. Out of the graduating Year 12 students in 2017, a total of 43 also undertook Certificate III courses as a part of their SACE studies.
74 Merit Listings

There were 74 Merit Listings (for perfect scores) in:
- Accounting
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Drama
- English
- English Literature
- Ensemble Performance
- General Mathematics
- Geography
- Information Processing & Publishing
- Legal Studies
- Mathematical Methods
- Modern History
- Performance Special Study
- Philosophy
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Research Project
- Specialist Mathematics
- Society and Culture
- Work Place Practices

75% were placed in the 10% Nationally
59% were placed in the 5% Nationally
26% were placed in the 1% Nationally

Percentage of Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of Wilderness School</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
7. POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS 2017

8. PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION

It is evident through our high retention of staff and students and the overall feedback given by parents and students at various times throughout the year that ‘life really is amazing’ at Wilderness. At the end of the 2017 academic year 93% of teaching staff were retained. The reasons for leaving were 3 retirements and two resignations.

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 2017 exit survey:

“Wilderness teachers are amazing, they all give 110% and go above and beyond for the students.”

“I want the teachers to keep supporting students as it motivates them to keep pushing and keep striving to do their best.”

“I think Wilderness teachers are pretty perfect.”

“I love all the Wilderness teachers and I miss Wilderness already!”