

St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association - President's Report 2024

Ali Cleland, President

It is with great pride that I present this report in what has been a milestone year for St Peter's Woodlands as they celebrated their 25th anniversary. The St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association continues to proudly bring together past and present students, staff, and families from the schools that shaped SPW. In 2024 and into 2025, we have seen more than ever just how strong and enduring these connections remain.

Throughout 2024 and the early months of 2025, the grounds of St Peter's Woodlands have been abuzz with reunions and celebrations. It has been heartwarming to witness so many return to the place where lifelong friendships and special relationships first began.

We welcomed back the Classes of 2023, 2020, 1994, and 1984, and celebrated a particularly special 50-year reunion weekend for the Class of 1974. In addition to student reunions, a memorable Staff Alumni Reunion was held, bringing together many of the educators whose care and dedication have shaped generations. Notably, many within the staff alumni are also proud Woodlands and St Peter's Woodlands old scholars and members of our association. SPW also hosted a gathering for old scholar parents—those whose friendships blossomed through their children's shared experiences at school. All of these reunions are supported by the Old Scholars' Association.

We are also proud to announce **Charlotte Locke** as the 2025 recipient of the **Elaine Balfour Ogilvy Memorial Scholarship**. Charlotte's achievements and spirit embody the values we hold dear within the Old Scholars' Association, and we look forward to seeing her continue to shine. As part of her application, Charlotte produced a beautiful book entitled *Brave Elaine*, demonstrating her deep understanding of the heroics of the scholarship's namesake. The book has been so well received that additional copies have been produced, with members of the Balfour Ogilvy family, the Bangka Day Trust, and the Plympton/Glenelg RSL all receiving a copy.

This year, to mark **Bangka Day**—honouring the courage and sacrifice of those dedicated nurses who gave their lives in 1942—St Peter's Woodlands was well represented. Our current School Captain and 2025 scholarship recipient, Charlotte, was in attendance and personally presented with her certificate by the President of the SA Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust Inc. Also representing us were Mr Paul Mesecke, Community Engagement Manager, and several members of the Old Scholars' Association, including Eve Balfour Ogilvy, accompanied by her daughter and granddaughter.

Woodlands also continues to be proudly represented at the annual golf day, and interest in the school remains strong. We have welcomed many visitors who have contacted the Association Administrator and Community Engagement Manager to arrange tours and to donate nostalgic memorabilia that helps preserve our shared history.

To all our old scholars, staff, and families—thank you for your ongoing connection and support. It is your involvement that keeps our community vibrant and strong.

Warm regards,

Ali Cleland

President, St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association