

UNDER THE MORETON BAY

A newsletter for Old Scholars' of Woodlands, St Peter's Woodlands and St Peter's Glenelg

A QUARTER CENTURY MILESTONE FOR ST PETER'S WOODLANDS



2024 marked an incredible milestone—25 years of St Peter's Woodlands (SPW)! It's been a joyous occasion to unite our current community, old scholars, and alumni to celebrate the legacy and achievements of this wonderful school – the place where our friendships, relationships and so much of our learning began.

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A QUARTER CENTURY MILESTONE FOR ST PETER'S WOODLANDS

A LEGACY OF HISTORY AND TRADITION

Although SPW is a relatively young school, it is uniquely enriched by the history and traditions of its predecessors, St Peter's Glenelg and Woodlands Church of England Girls' Grammar School. The school is privileged to have inherited their deep-rooted legacies, which continue to shape their identity today. Connections to these schools run deep within the community, with many families and staff holding ties that span generation. The Old Scholars Association plays a vital role in maintaining these connections, offering invaluable support and fostering a strong sense of continuity, belonging, and pride among past and present members of the SPW community.

Some of the staff have been with SPW since its inception, carrying forward the vision and values that built our foundation. Some long serving staff are old scholars themselves and members of our association including Joanna Gray ('84), Tassie Mangos ('94), Eleanor Blight ('94) and Natasha Cole ('98).

Other longstanding staff members such as Kate Gulliver, Andrew Pipprell, David Kennedy, Michelle Lewis and Angela Doan have also witnessed SPW's growth and evolution firsthand, contributing significantly to its success.

GENERATIONS OF CONNECTION

The strong bonds within our community are further exemplified by the families who have had three or even four generations of students pass through Woodlands, St Peter's Glenelg and SPW. These cherished connections are a testament to the lasting impact of our school and the vibrant network of old scholars who continue to be part of our community.

[WATCH THE VIDEO OF 25 YEAR CELEBRATIONS](#)



2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 the past 18 months, we have seen more than ever just how strong and enduring these connections are.

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 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. 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.

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, with SPW students, families, staff and old scholars in attendance.

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.

Ali Cleland - President of the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association


**St Peter's Woodlands
Old Scholars' Association**



BANGKA DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, 18 February 2024, Mrs Helen Finlay, Principal of St Peter's Woodlands, stood as a representative of the school and the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association to pay respect at the 82nd anniversary of the Bangka Day Massacre. This solemn service commemorates the valour of our South Australian Army Nursing Sisters, who endured unimaginable horrors during the Bangka Day Massacre in 1942 when the SS Vyner Brooke was sunk off the coast of Bangka Island near Sumatra and the ultimate sacrifice was made by Australian Nurses at the hands of Japanese forces on Bangka Island.

Among those remembered is Liet. Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy, a former student of Woodlands CEGGS and one of the courageous nurses who perished on Bangka Island. To ensure her legacy endures, the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association established a [scholarship](#) in her name.



The Governor of South Australia, Frances Adamson AC with Principal, Helen Finlay.

Honouring Legacy and Courage



ELAINE BALFOUR-OGILVY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is available to Year 5 SPW students through the generosity of the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association and gives a direct subsidy towards the winning recipient's Year 6 school fees.

We had 12 outstanding candidates up for consideration. Each student is asked to submit a letter of introduction and a resume for evaluation, followed by a short interview. The interview panel is made up of the President of the Old Scholars' committee, members of the Old Scholars' Association and the Community Engagement Manager.



CONT. ELAINE BALFOUR-OGILVY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Year 5 student Charlotte Locke who is the recipient of the 2025 Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy Memorial Scholarship!

Charlotte put forward an exceptional presentation outlining her contribution to the school and demonstrated her in-depth understanding of Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy by writing and illustrating her own book titled, 'Brave Elaine'. 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.

"My mum has always inspired me to think outside the box. One day I was watching my brother draw and it sparked the idea to write and illustrate a book about Elaine. I love to draw so it was a fun project for me."

– Charlotte



To read more about the scholarship and the changes of eligibility [CLICK HERE](#)

ST MARGARET'S DAY

Old Scholars gathered in June in the chapel for St Margaret's Day, and then a special afternoon tea hosted in the newly renovated Gillam Building prior to the AGM. Adding to the occasion, the choir performed beautifully, making the significant milestone of 25 years of SPW even more memorable.



OLD SCHOLAR EVENTS & REUNIONS

The Old Scholars' Association proudly assists year-level organisers in bringing past students together for memorable reunion events. These gatherings offer a special chance to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate the friendships formed during school days.

Time may pass and distances may grow, but the connection stays strong. Reunions bring back familiar laughter, shared memories, and that unmistakable feeling of being right where you belong. Together once more—it's as if no time has passed at all.

- Class of 2023, 1 Year Reunion
- Class of 2023, Family Ties Reunion
- Class of 2019, End of Schooling Reunion
- Class of 1974, 50 Year Reunion
- In early November the Class of 1974 kicked off with a casual drink at the Parkside. The main event was lunch at The Ed and on Sunday morning we were inspired by coffee and Chiluly, at the Botanic Gardens. All up about 50 girls rotated through the events.
- Class of 1984, 40 Year Reunion
- Class of 1994, 30 Year Reunion

CLASS OF 2023 - 1 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 2023 FAMILY TIES REUNION



ST PETER'S WOODLANDS OLD SCHOLARS'
NEWSLETTER 2024

REUNIONS CONT.

CLASS OF 2019 - END OF SCHOOLING REUNION



CLASS OF 1994 - 30 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 1984 - 40 YEAR REUNION



CLASS OF 1974 - 50 YEAR REUNION



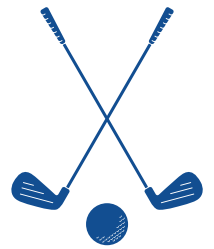
OLD SCHOLARS' GOLF DAYS

The Old Scholars Golf Day, held on Monday, 21 October 2024, was once again a great success. There were 19 playing for our Old Scholars team and a combined total of 100 players across all participating schools: Seymour, Annesley, Wilderness, and Walford. Unfortunately, there were no representatives from St Peter's Woodlands, and we would welcome any SPW golfers for the next Golf Day.



This year's Old Scholars' Golf Day will be held at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club on Monday, 10 November 2025. Further information will be emailed in the coming months.

Simone Rogers (won the individual best score, with Penny Holmes as runner-up. The winning Woodlands team: Juliet Hugo (nee Hay '67), Penny Holmes (nee Hooper '66) and Pru Henschke (nee Weir '69)



OLD SCHOLAR EVENT - YEAR 3 TO 6 SPORTS DAY

A heartfelt thank you to our record number of returning Old Scholars from the Class of 2024 –50 in total!–for their incredible support at the Year 3–6 Sports Day. From judging and marshalling to taking photos, recording results, distributing ribbons, your contributions were invaluable.

It was truly special to have so many familiar faces back. For many of our younger students, you are the ones they once looked up to–and still do. This is a reminder of the strong community spirit that continues to thrive among our Old Scholars.



OLD SCHOLAR SPONSORED EVENTS

GRADUATION AND AWARDS NIGHT

The St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association continue to support our next generation of old scholars by donating individually named memory boxes at the annual Year 6 Graduation Dinner, held under lights on the Nutter Thomas lawns. The Association also sponsor the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars DARE Award, which is awarded to one student from each Year 6 class who consistently demonstrated a high level of application, commitment and a positive attitude to all areas within the DARE - Year 6 Graduate Diploma.



Class of 2024



OLD SCHOLAR SPONSORED EVENTS CONT

YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY



As our DARE – Year 6 Graduate Diploma students embarked on the final days of their last primary school year, there was an air of excitement and anticipation as they prepare for the transition to high school.

Year 6 Transition Day was a mix of enjoyable activities including a celebratory pizza feast (courtesy of our Old Scholars' Association) and valuable insights from our Year 7 and Year 12 old scholars. A highlight of the day is always the visit from some of our phenomenal SPW Old Scholars, this year from the Classes of 2019 and 2023. They returned to share their experiences and wisdom with our Year 6 students as part of a Q&A panel discussion, offering insights into the challenges faced, lessons learned, and strategies that helped them navigate secondary school life. Year 12's Bella Brumfield ('19), Chiara Ferriera ('19) and Zak Atkin ('19) and Year 7's from 2023, Zali Hutchinson, Ray Xu, Zac Murphy, Arabelle Bahr, Sophie Hobart and Tanish Sharma, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your contributions.

JOIN OUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE!

There is only a very small band of volunteers who continue to drive the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association. We need your help to continue to strengthen our association through cultivating and maintaining positive connections with our alumni. We invite you to join our friendly committee. We meet only once or twice a term to plan and support the work of the association and to facilitate and encourage lifetime connections between all within the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholar community

WE NEED YOU!

ST PETER'S WOODLANDS OLD SCHOLARS' NEWSLETTER 2024

DIARY DATES

Month	Date	Event
April	Friday 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class of 2020, Final School Reunion
June	Tuesday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Margaret's Day Chapel Service and AGM
August	Friday 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Alumni Drink at SPW Opening of Time Capsule - 2000 - 2025
August	Date TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Scholars Presidents Afternoon Tea
October	Saturday 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class of 1985, 40 Year Reunion
October	Friday 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class of 2024, 1 Year Reunion Class of 2024, Parents Family Ties Reunion
November	Monday 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Scholars' Golf Day, Royal Adelaide Golf Club
November	Saturday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class of 1975, 50 Year Reunion
November	Saturday 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class of 1995, 30 Year Reunion
November	Friday 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas on the Green
December	Date TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 Transition Day / Old Scholar Pizza Lunch
February 2025	Sunday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bangka Day Memorial Service

UPCOMING REUNIONS

St Peter's Woodlands are happy to support the organisers of upcoming significant reunions. Please contact oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au or Paul Mesecke, Community Engagement Manager.

- 20 Years - Class of 2005 (St Peter's Woodlands)
- 10 Years - Class of 2015 (St Peter's Woodlands)

Need help with your event - reach out and see how we can support. Email: oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au



OLD SCHOLAR NEWS



SCHOOL CAPTAINS

- SARAH MCADAM
- JAMES YOUNG
- SARAH MCADAM

St Peter's Woodlands Class of 2020 has truly taken the leadership of some of Adelaide's schools by storm with School Captain and Head Prefect roles!

Congratulations to Sarah McAdam ('20) at Brighton Secondary, James Young ('20) at Westminster and Zara Hutchinson ('20) at Walford in 2025.



BE THE ONE

Three SPW old scholars, Sam Young ('12), Sam Patterson ('12) and Austin Edwards ('12), now known as social media group "Be The One", were asked to represent Australia for the 2024 Red Bull "Can You Make It" competition. The tournament involved teams of three from various countries having seven days to travel from Milan, Italy to Berlin, Germany with no phone or money - only using Red Bull cans as currency whilst vlogging their journey to share it with the world. So, after 1 week, 2 showers, 3 flights, 4 homeless nights, 5 countries, 211 cans of Red Bull, 3538km travelled, 16,038 points, these boys finished 10th out of 300 teams. An adventure of a lifetime they will never forget.

CHARLIE DISBURY - VOLLEYBALL



Charlie Disbury ('17), is a standout volleyball player from South Australia and an alumnus of St Peter's Woodlands. The 202 cm middle blocker plays for the Adelaide Storm in the Australian Volleyball Super League. Charlie has represented South Australia in national competitions and was part of the Australian U20 team at the Asian Championship in Bahrain. Charlie's blocking ability and energetic style (that energetic style was always on display at school, his SPW teachers say) are key to his team's success. Congratulations, Charlie, on your incredible achievements!

OLD SCHOLAR NEWS



100 YEAR BIRTHDAY BETTINE

Congratulations to Bettine Price (née Redwood, '42), who recently celebrated a remarkable milestone birthday! We were delighted to send her a card on behalf of the St Peter's Woodlands community. Bettine's time at Woodlands (1940-1942) saw her as a dedicated student and a talented athlete, with appearances on the A Grade tennis and basketball(netball) teams and her name proudly displayed on the honour boards as a prefect and House Captain.

What an inspiring legacy! Do you know of any other Woodlands Centurions? Please send us a photo oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au



JOE MELDRUM

Chicago: The Musical dazzled Adelaide audiences with its brilliant, high-energy production, back in August 2024 featured a stellar cast, including SPW's own Joe Meldrum ('07). Joe had returned from the US National Tour of Chicago, where he played Billy Flynn. Joe, a former St Peter's Woodlands student, says his love of performing was sparked after seeing The Lion King for his 10th birthday. He later joined Pelican Productions' Music Theatre Camp and never looked back. Joe describes performing in his hometown as particularly special, given the weight of his upbringing in Adelaide.

OLD SCHOLAR NEWS



JOE GAUCI

Joe Gauci ('13), started his football journey at St Peter's Woodlands. He played for Adelaide United, making 76 appearances from 2020–2024 before transferring to Premier League club Aston Villa in February 2024. Gauci made his Villa debut in a League Cup match and went on loan to Barnsley in January 2025. He debuted for the Socceroos in March 2023 and has since earned seven caps. Joe's quote in the SPW 2013 Yearbook is 'in the future I will play professional soccer', well done Joe – you are inspiring our current students as well.

oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au



MARAGARET MESSENGER & ROSE

Woodlands has a proud history of swimming excellence. In fact, the first two South Australian women to represent Australia at the Olympics in swimming were both Woodlands girls: Denise Wangel (née Norton, '50) at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and Margaret Messenger (née Gibson, '55) at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

One of our foremost swimming talents today is SPW's Rose Kishinets ('25), a Sport SA Rising Star and recent record-breaking SAPSASA swimmer. We recently brought these two generations of swimmers together to meet and share their experiences – and what better place to do this than under the iconic Morton Bay Fig Tree!

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Nothing advised. We love hearing your exciting news about the arrival of an Old Scholar's child or grandchild - please send details to oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au

DEATHS

ROSEMARY MAWBY (NEE SANDO '57), 24 FEBRUARY 2024. AGED 83
Woodlands CEGGS student 1952-1957, Auntie to Sarah Kordick ('89)

REV'D DEAN KINGSLEY ROWNEY, 17 JULY 2024. AGED 95
Former Woodlands CEGGS Priest

YVONNE SCRUTTON (NEE MERRETT), 13 AUGUST 2024. AGED 88
Geography teacher at Woodlands CEGGS from 1968-1988

JULIA BATE (NEE DANVERS '74), 26 AUGUST 2024. AGED 66
Woodlands CEGGS student from 1970-1974

ELVA DICKENSON (NEE WILLAMS '46), 22 OCTOBER 2024. AGED 93
Woodlands CEGGS Boarding students 1945-46,

CHRISTINE LONGMIRE (NEE BANKS '60), 25 NOVEMBER 2024. AGED 81
Woodlands CEGGS Boarding student from 1955-1960

HELEN BRYANT (NEE MACDOUGALL '56), 27 FEBRUARY 2025. AGED 83
Woodlands CEGGS day students 1952-1956

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please keep us up to date and informed of news as it happens. We'd love to celebrate the lives of those who have meant so much to you and the school community. Similarly, we love to join in the celebration of new life. Photos encouraged. Email oldscholars@spw.sa.edu.au



QUILT DONATIONS

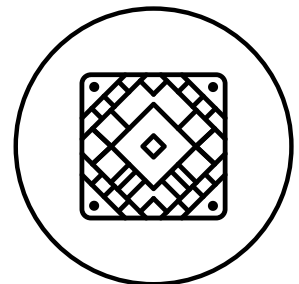
GIVING TOO THE ST PETER'S WOODLANDS OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Angela Boman (née Dixon, '97), an Old Scholar of both St Peter's Glenelg and Woodlands, former Old Scholars' Committee member, and current SPW parent and piano teacher, is working on a stunning textile mural for the school. Using thread painting, appliqué, and embroidery, Angela is creating a large wall hanging that will feature the school's buildings, framed by a border of the principals. Centred around the iconic Morton Bay Fig Tree, the artwork will honour St Margaret's Chapel, Hudd House, St Peter's Glenelg School Hall, the Gillam Building, Nutter Thomas House, and the Law Smith Building—celebrating the rich history of the three schools in a beautiful and lasting way.

This work is intricate and time-consuming but will be an incredible showpiece. If you would like to make a donation to support this art piece, please donate via the Trybooking link below under “Living Museum.” Any donation will assist in bringing this to life. Thank you, Angela!

There is also an opportunity to make a donation to several Old Scholar supported initiatives including the Millington Bursary, Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy Memorial Scholarship or the Living History Museum.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/349624?eid=349624&bof=1>



GIVING TO THE ST PETER'S WOODLANDS OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Please consider giving a donation, as our other form of funds is the ever-decreasing Bank interest rates! Donation payments towards the Elaine Balfour-Ogilvy Memorial Scholarship, Millington Bursary and newsletter costs can be by:

- EFT Payments direct to the Bank Account: BSB 015250 Account Number: 405634781
- Trybooking - <https://www.trybooking.com/TXFC>
- Cheques payable to The St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association and post to 39 Partridge Street, Glenelg 5045

Thank you in anticipation.

EMAIL:

OLDSCHOLARS@SPW.SA.EDU.AU



ST PETER'S WOODLANDS OLD SCHOLARS' NEWSLETTER 2024

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