

St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association – President's Report 2026

I welcome the opportunity to reflect on what has been another vibrant and deeply connected year for the St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association. Throughout 2025, our community has continued to celebrate the people, stories and shared experiences that unite past and present students, staff and families in such a special way.

This year has once again highlighted the enduring strength of our Old Scholars network, with hundreds returning to the school grounds to reconnect with friends, revisit treasured spaces and reflect on the role St Peter's Woodlands has played in shaping their lives. There is something truly special about coming back to the place where so many stories first began, and it has been wonderful to witness the warmth, laughter and sense of belonging that each reunion brings.

We were delighted to welcome back close to 60 Old Scholars from the Class of 2020 for what became our largest ever five-year reunion. Later in the year, we celebrated milestone reunions for the Woodlands CEGGS Classes of 1975, 1985 and 1995, marking 50, 40 and 30 years respectively. The Class of 2024 also returned for their much-loved one-year reunion, enjoying an evening of connection with former teachers, school tours and the joy of reliving memories through photos and videos from their years at SPW.

One of the most meaningful highlights of 2025 was the continuation of our Staff Alumni Reunion, made even more memorable by its alignment with the long-awaited opening of the 2000–2025 Time Capsule. It was a truly nostalgic occasion, bringing together former and current staff, Old Scholars, students and members of the broader school community to uncover memories carefully preserved over the past 25 years. The day was filled with stories, reflection and celebration, and concluded with drinks and nibbles shared among friends old and new.

This year also saw the introduction of a new and very special event — a gathering for Old Scholars who completed their secondary education at Immanuel College. Twenty-three former SPW students returned for a celebratory lunch, school tour and catch-up with past teachers. It was a wonderful initiative and one we look forward to continuing in the years ahead.

Our annual Old Scholars' Golf Day at Royal Adelaide Golf Club was once again a highlight of the calendar. Blessed with perfect weather and wonderful camaraderie, we were proud to host the interschool event and to have 15 Woodlands representatives participate. Congratulations to Sue Knott, Denise Hutton and Chris McBride on their winning team performance, with special congratulations also to Sue Knott for claiming the overall individual title.

We are also delighted to announce Scarlett Williams as the 2026 recipient of the Elaine Balfour Ogilvy Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship remains one of the most meaningful ways we honour Elaine's extraordinary legacy, and we look forward to seeing Scarlett represent St Peter's Woodlands at the Bangka Day and ANZAC services.

Our St Margaret's Day gathering in June once again provided a valued opportunity for Old Scholars to come together in fellowship and reflection. Beginning with a thoughtful chapel service and followed by afternoon tea upstairs in the Gillam Building overlooking McKenzie Oval, it was a beautiful occasion enhanced by the warmth of the choir's performance and the joy of shared conversation. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers to form a quorum we were unable to conduct the AGM. As such we have additional documents to endorse at this year's Annual General Meeting.

To all our Old Scholars, families, former staff and friends of St Peter's Woodlands, thank you for your continued connection, support and enthusiasm. It is your involvement that keeps our association thriving and ensures the stories of our shared history continue to grow.

“Old scholars' associations remind us that friendship doesn't fade with time — it simply gathers more stories to hold us together.”

Warm regards,

Ali Cleland '74

President, St Peter's Woodlands Old Scholars' Association