



ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR



InFlight

Semester 2
2023





In this edition:

Class of 2023 Results
Outstanding Year 12 results

Culture Collectors
International travel returns for St John's

Innovators Awarded
Innovation award recognition

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*Tree climbing fun at Belair National Park during JP Fun Day.
Photo by Jacob Hodgman*



This page: The 2023 Carols at the Cathedral, St Peter's Cathedral (Photo credit: Focus Photography)

From the *Principal*

Recently we welcomed the Class of 2003 and Class of 2013 back to St John's Grammar for their 20-year and 10-year reunions. These well attended occasions are special, a time for our Old Scholars to reconnect with each other and their old School. There is always genuine excitement at the reunions – they represent an occasion for our past students to reflect on, and share stories of, their schooling experience.

We are relishing having so many Old Scholars re-engage with the School either by volunteering, coaching, enrolling their own children or joining our staff team. Did you know that this year six Old Scholars won staffing positions in teaching, wellbeing, co-education and administration?

For those students who were pioneers of a very raw campus back in the early 2000s, their tour revealed a contemporary school yard that was almost unrecognisable, certainly overwhelming. As we wandered through the modern infrastructure and marvelled at the technology-rich learning environments, you could sense the pride at what their old School had become. However, when we talked about the opportunities on offer, our focus on developing great people and nurturing an inclusive community, it seemed that was the thing that resonated most.

"So things have not really changed," was one comment forwarded.

"You are still the same caring place with great teachers, just now you do this same stuff in better facilities."

Another Old Scholar from the Class of 2003 wrote in a congratulatory email:

"I got the sense that the strong values around embracing community, prioritising wellbeing, and accepting and appreciating diversity are still at the core of St John's. It has never been like any other school, never pretended to be, and should always be respected for the strengths it has in its differences."

As we near the opening of our new Education Centre at the end of Term 1 2024, our Old Scholars affirmed just how important it is for our School to keep the focus on what happens inside these emerging facilities.

Now, once again, we can all enjoy another edition of *InFlight* which captures that true St John's spirit and the vitality of a very connected community.

Richard Anderson
Principal

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Class of 2023

The Class of 2023 has achieved outstanding final results. In another eventful year, our students have shown dedication and resilience to generate wonderful outcomes that will now open those doors to their chosen fields of further study and work.

School Dux & Proxime Accessit

Congratulations to our School Dux, Tamsin Savery, who achieved an ATAR of 99.90, and to our Proxime Accessit, Emmanuel Sunartio who achieved an ATAR of 99.70.

Results in a snapshot:

- 32 students were awarded a total of 49 Merits, including 22 students earning 28 SACE Merits across 10 subject areas, and 15 students being awarded 21 Merit Equivalents across 17 University subjects.
- An impressive 7% of our Year 12 cohort placed in the top 1% nationally, with an ATAR above 99, with 31% of our students ranked in the top 5% nationally, with an ATAR above 95.
- 47% of our cohort join our Top Guns, a unique group reserved for students who achieve an ATAR above 90, placing them in the top 10% nationally.
- 61% of all grades achieved were A grades, compared to a State average of 32%, and a special mention to our International Students, who achieved impressive results once again.

These exceptional results occur because our talented students have talented teachers, who year after year, go above and beyond in their support, guidance, and care. Our teaching staff are delighted with the results and we salute their dedication, talent and 'do-whatever-it-takes' approach to help our students generate their best efforts.

Circle of Care Approach

These results are further evidence of the importance of focussing not just on learning and teaching but also on student wellbeing. Our 'circle of care' approach, where we wrap a network of support and ongoing counsel around every student, enables our young stars to give their personal bests in a demanding and challenging year. We also extend our congratulations to all the parents who worked in partnership with the School in guiding and supporting our Year 12 students throughout the year. Generating such outstanding results requires a team effort, and the strong connection between home and school remains formidable at St John's Grammar.

The entire St John's Grammar Community is very proud of every member of the Class of 2023. We wish them all the best in the next stage of their journeys.



2023 Dux

Tamsin Savery

ATAR 99.90

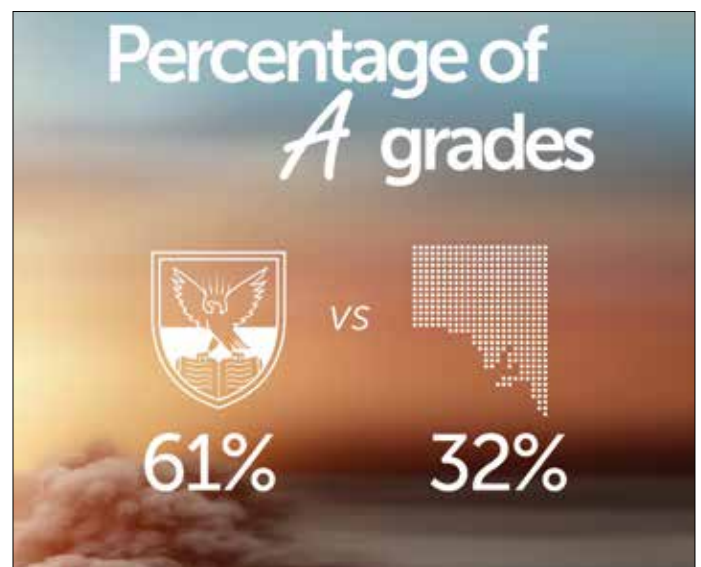
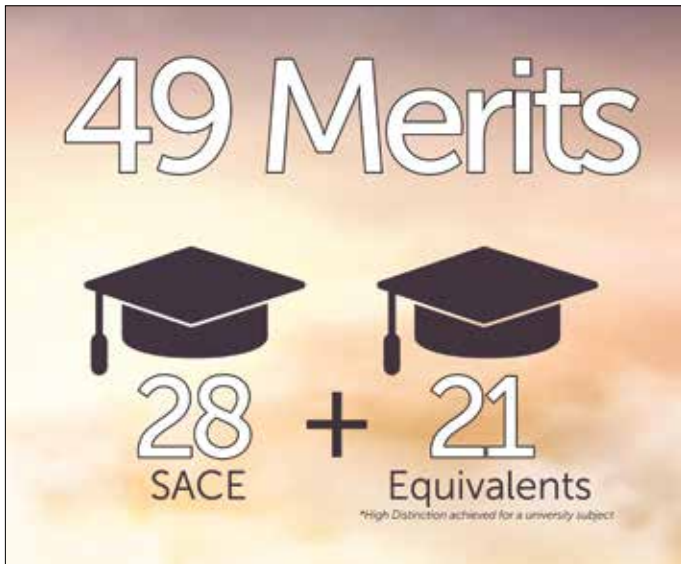


2023 Proxime Accessit

Emmanuel Sunartio

ATAR 99.70

- RESULTS IN A SNAPSHOT -





Asian Sports Day



Culture Sharing Day



New International Students



Indonesian Language and Cultural Trip



Language Fair



Vietnam Language and Cultural Trip



Yasufuruichi Sister School

CULTURE COLLECTORS

With International travel back in full swing after COVID-19, our year was filled with exciting overseas trips, and special visits. For those unable to travel, the culture came to us, with a number of culture sharing events and special days to share and learn about different cultures. The next few pages are filled with photos from our overseas travels, as well as the fun events that brought the culture to us in 2023!



FUN-FILLED FAIR

A fun-filled fair of Indonesian and Japanese culture greeted our Year 5s and 6s as part of the Language Fair, organised by our innovative Year 8s. As our Junior School students rotated through a number of activity stations, our Year 8s relished the opportunity to have a hand in all parts of the event, right from concept, through to organisation and then facilitation on the day. The Year 8s first set their learning and success criteria, before seeking solutions and devising new concepts to deliver a Fair that showcased culture in an engaging and age-appropriate way, and also allowed our Year 8s to be graded for their efforts. In its fifth year, the Language Fair was a great success, not only due to the fun of the day, but also because it provided another unique avenue for student agency.

WILD WELCOME

We were delighted to welcome our newest International Students to our re-opened Boarding facilities earlier in 2023. A visit to Gorge Wildlife Park was a fun way to welcome our students with an up close and personal experience with some of our cute and cuddly wildlife, before surveying Adelaide from a different perspective at the Mount Lofty Lookout.



SPORTS FOR ALL

Culture and camaraderie were the order of the day, as our Year 7s threw themselves into a variety of sports and challenges originating from Indonesia, China and Japan for Asian Sports Day. From Sumo Wrestling and Tamaire to Oodama Korogashi and Sepak Takraw, students also delighted in novelty events, such as chopstick racing and sarong games to round out the schedule. This high-energy session devised by our Languages team, saw students learn about cultures in a hands-on way.



SHARING IS CARING

A whirlwind global tour was made possible in a lunch time at our Culture Sharing Day. With Asia in the spotlight, students were able to 'visit' Japan, Vietnam, China, Korea and Indonesia by savouring tasty treats, playing games and engaging in fun challenges. The green tea ice cream stall was a particular hit, and 'bush tucker' also featured among a broad menu of tasty treats. We were even fortunate enough to have the students visiting from our Japanese sister school, Yasufuruichi High School, sharing with us their beautiful calligraphy and origami skills. What a treat to have a worldwide adventure without even leaving the school grounds!



VIETNAM VOYAGING

After being placed on hold during international travel restrictions, in 2023 our Year 9 students were once again able to resume 'The Journey' to Vietnam.

'The Journey' is a two-week long trip to Vietnam; an experience designed to engage our student travellers in meaningful service and to broaden their cultural understanding. Students took in a variety of destinations, including Ho Chi Minh City, the Mekong Delta, Hoi An, Hanoi and Sapa.

This trip is specifically tailored for young, inquiring minds and gives students the opportunity to explore Vietnam and also engage with the people and contribute to communities. The trip takes in many sights of Vietnam from one end to the other. Students explored guerrilla tunnels of Cu Chi,

took part in an Amazing Race style activity, and a hands-on cooking class, all while developing a greater understanding of Vietnam's history and the development issues it has faced in the past and today.

Community service was a vital part of this trip, with students working alongside a remote community in a challenging house building project. A visit to the Thien Phuoc orphanage, which is run by the Sisters of Mercy, gave students the opportunity to consider life for these children and to be able to give back through volunteering their time.

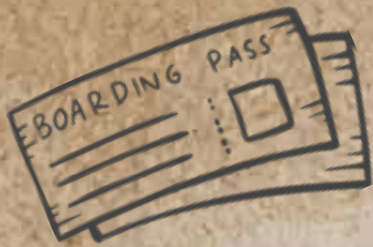
All kinds of accommodation was experienced, from homestay in villages and along the Mekong River, through to overnight trains and hotels.





Part of the requirement for each student is to raise funds towards St John's Grammar's partner charities in Vietnam, including: KOTO (a hospitality training centre for disadvantaged street children), Thien Phuoc Orphanage, and towards the students' house building project for families in the Mekong Delta.





JAPANESE JAPANESE

Friendships Blossom During Yasufurichi Visit

Under the most spectacular blue skies, we were delighted to welcome back visitors from our Sister School, Yasufuruichi High School in Hiroshima, Japan for the first time in years.

Accompanied by their Sensei, Keiko Tsuchimoto, twelve students got a taste of the St John's Grammar School experience over a two-week period.

Not long after arriving in Adelaide, our new friends were honoured at a special welcome ceremony in our Language Centre Gardens.

It was exciting watching friendships blossom as we planted two cherry blossom trees in the garden to symbolise this special sister school relationship.

To follow, our Yasufuruichi guests enjoyed some South Aussie 'tucker' including lamingtons, pies, Minties, Tim-Tams, and a variety of Kirks soft-drinks.

With the support of our families and the wider St John's Grammar community, we hosted our Japanese guests; a great cultural learning experience for all!

This experience was reciprocated later in the year when our own Japanese Language students travelled to Japan. How reassuring it must have felt to see a cohort of friendly faces welcoming them to Japan.

The pictures below capture the tree planting ceremony on the Secondary Campus with our Yasufuruichi guests.



JAJUNT

Visiting Japan

After a 5-year hiatus, 23 students from Year 10 and 11 who studied Japanese visited our sister school, Yasufuruichi High School in Hiroshima, Japan. Following Yasufuruichi's visit to us in July, we were delighted to now be the guests, and were warmly welcomed by the families. Our students experienced new food, new people, new culture and a new lifestyle, they were completely taken out of their comfort zone and stepped up to the challenge amazingly. Although, it helped that they were treated like celebrities at school!

Their Japanese language became authentic and confident as they bonded with students in their home group, classes and club activities. They experienced Kendo, traditional cooking, a tea ceremony, calligraphy, general classes and visited the local Junior School. There were a few tears upon leaving their new friends, but pledges were made to stay in touch for another visit to Japan some time in the future!

Our student group then embarked on a cultural exploration visiting Himeji, Kyoto, Nara and Tokyo. They climbed to the top of mountains, met wild deer, visited shrines, temples, towers, hedgehog cafes, Tokyo Disneyland, ate all the local foods and lots of green tea ice cream from vending machines, took bullet trains, buses and local trains in rush hour, not to mention traversing the busiest intersection on earth!





INDO ADVENTURES

During the 2023 Term 3 holidays, 14 students spent 11 days furthering their Indonesian studies with a visit to Indonesia. There's nothing quite like real-world experience in the country they are studying!

For the first time, this overseas journey had a specific aim on top of the 'usual' international experience, visiting our new sister school, 'Man Insan Cendekia', located in the city of Gowa, on the island of Sulawesi.

Travelling via Jakarta and Makassar, the group arrived at the Islamic boarding school and was welcomed like royalty, with local students lining the streets and waving flags and signs. The instant friendships made led to an easy immersion into the culture, with an education in sports, games, and local school life.

With a few tears shed upon leaving (but many new Instagram friends added!), the students then travelled to Sanur, Bali, to participate in activities such as Batik making in Ubud, taking in the sunset views of the Tanah Lot temple, learning the epic Hindu tale of the Ramayan at Garuda Wisnu Park, and witnessing enormous sculptures, as well as the breathtaking sights of the Uluwatu cliff temple.

Any trip abroad presents its own cultural challenges but all reports were that our students represented the School with remarkable aplomb and grace, leaving an outstanding impression at our new sister school, and with the teachers who travelled with them.

Minds broadened, culture experienced, lessons learned, an education at St John's Grammar School really does take you places!



INNOVATORS

St John's Grammar has been recognised as

Over June and July 2023, *The Educator* invited schools across Australia to participate in the publication's 5-Star Innovative Schools awards. Now in its ninth year, this report recognises the schools at the forefront of change and innovation. Entries were open to all educational professionals who believe their school is pioneering a new direction in education.

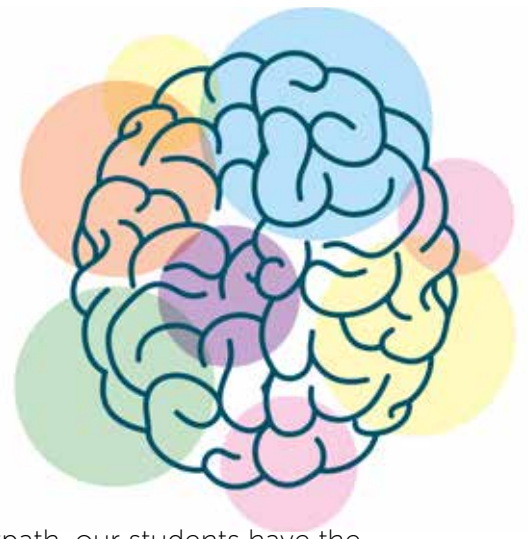
From teaching approaches, to learning spaces, and curriculum design, the report looks at schools reshaping the future of education. By the end of the judging process, the entries were narrowed down to 35 of the country's most forward-thinking schools, which make up The Educator's 5-Star Innovative Schools 2023 list.

Our naming as one of the most innovative schools on this prestigious list recognises our School's efforts to be at the forefront of change and innovation, pioneering a new direction in education. From our teaching approaches to learning spaces and curriculum design, we have been actively shaping the educational landscape of the future.

Two key drivers of our journey to embrace innovation are our *Innovative Agency Program* from ELC - Year 12 and our *Flightpath* program both of which nurture our budding enterprising culture.

AWARDED

one of Australia's most Innovative Schools.



INNOVATIVE AGENCY FRAMEWORK

St John's Grammar's Innovation Agency Program is a multidisciplinary student agency program designed to explicitly teach and transfer both agency and digital technology skills to solve real-world problems. Through this framework, our students are learning vital skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. We believe that by equipping our students with these skills, we are preparing them to thrive in the future, where these skill sets will be in high demand.

A whole-school approach to embed innovative practices across all disciplines ensures our teachers actively integrate innovative teaching methods, technologies, and project-based learning opportunities into their lesson plans. By linking these practices to the St John's Innovative Agency Framework, we empower students to think critically, creatively, and entrepreneurially in every academic pursuit. Whether it's an innovative history project that incorporates multimedia elements or a Science experiment that encourages students to propose unique solutions to real-world problems, our students are constantly challenged to apply their knowledge and skills innovatively.

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES

The Signature Experience program embeds unique initiatives at each year level to further build upon and explore ways to discover, generate and innovate. From the elective innovation competition 'Shark Tank' in Year 5 and MiSpace passion projects in Year 6, to the Business Enterprise Solutions Teams (BEST) in Year 7 helping local businesses innovate, or the Innov8 problem-solving competition in Year 8 - each of these Signature Experiences provide unique ways to double down on their budding skill sets and gain real-world and practical experience.

For some, an introduction to these programs and their skill-building capabilities is not enough; they want to take their ideas further. That is where our Flightpath program comes in to allow students to take their dreams to reality.

FLIGHTPATH

Through Flightpath, our students have the opportunity to refine, research, and promote their innovations with the guidance of real-world engineers, innovators, and industry experts. It provides that important link to industry to enable our students to take flight with their ideas. In partnership with New Venture Institute (NVI) at Flinders University, Green Technologies, and Lot 14, we created a groundbreaking industry link that has taken our students' learning to new heights.

During the pilot phase of Flightpath, our students gained rich insights and applied STEM experiences. They worked on key skills to promote innovation, engaging in the design thinking process, communicating their ideas through augmented reality and virtual reality, linking coding concepts to design, collaborating with real-world engineers and innovators for design and market validation, and even pitched their ideas to industry professionals.

This immersive experience has provided our students with invaluable real-world exposure and opportunities to apply their learning in practical and meaningful ways.

IMMERSIVE INNOVATION

Fostering innovation and cultivating a passion for problem solving is also nurtured through a range of programs and initiatives across our School.

This year, we saw our students excel in Robotics, develop world-changing concepts at our Festival of Ideas, challenge their brains at competitions such as Write A Book In A Day and Tournament of Minds - these, are just some of the opportunities, there's no shortage of avenues to champion big ideas, blend critical and creative thinking or cultivate change.

Over the page are just a handful of initiatives that fall within the innovation realm that our students have embraced.



These are some of the initiatives that demonstrate how we foster innovation and agency at St John's Grammar.



BATTLING BOTS AT VEX CHAMPIONSHIPS

One of the School's standout initiatives is our comprehensive Reception - Year 12 Robotics Program. This program provides students with extensive opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of robotics and programming to apply theoretical concepts to real-world challenges. Through hands-on activities, students learn to design, build, and program robots, honing their problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills.

In 2023, St John's Grammar School joined forces with Pedare Christian College to host the VEX Robotics Competition at the Tonsley Innovation District. More than 350 students attended from across the state, representing dozens of schools and making this the biggest event of its kind in SA (only pipped in size by the actual National Championships that this event led towards). In front of local businesses and leaders in the innovation arena, our senior team took out the top honours of 'Skills Champion', 'Tournament Champion', and the award with the most prestige, the 'Excellence Award'!

Then, in November, the VEX Australian National Championships was held. St John's Grammar had two championship teams, our senior team consisting of Karmen Tang, Peter Knight, Eric Gu and Aidan De Sousa, and our inaugural

Junior School team of Thomas Cobiac, Archer Diment, Jackson Burford, Bryce Counsell, James Fox and Sam Williams.

From first dipping their toe into the competitive robotics arena in Term 3, our Junior School team held their own in the competition, despite being 'newbies'. An incredible feat given the size and calibre of this competition. The senior team also worked well in a highly competitive field and won the Judges Award which is highly regarded.

The criteria for the award are as follows:

- Team displays special attributes, exemplary effort, or perseverance at the event.
- Team overcomes an obstacle or challenge and achieves a goal or special accomplishment.
- Team interview demonstrates effective communication skills, teamwork, professionalism, and a student-centered ethos.

Some St John's Grammar students also volunteered at the event including Archie McDonald and Adelaide Beckwith (along with sibling, Marcus Beckwith). They helped to score and referee the main events.

We are proud to have secured St John's Grammar's position as a highly competitive school in the robotics field.





STEM DAY

STEM Day came alive at the Junior Campus during Science Week. Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a large focus, with students creating AI art, trying to 'beat the AI' in 20 questions, and delving into Space exploration innovations with NASA 'spin offs'. Students learnt about drones and applications of this technology from seed planting, farming and even surf life saving. Next, students were taught drone safety before flying their own drones. Programming VEX robots and completing a series of guided activities and challenge courses enabled students to practice their programming skills – something that has been recognised as a highly valuable future skill. Meanwhile VR headsets in the Science Lab saw students travel to far flung places, and Christmas cheer came early with an array of light up circuit creations designed by our Year 6s. What an opportunity for exploration!



TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

Three teams represented St John's Grammar at the State Final of the Tournament of Minds competition. The Junior School team won Honours, finishing in the top 15%, and the two Secondary School teams each won their events in The Arts and Social Science categories.

The wins for the Secondary teams saw them compete in the International Finals which were held in Melbourne in October.

At the International finals, despite fierce competition, our teams just missed making it to the top three in their categories. However they were awarded the only *Tournament of Minds Spirit Award* and they also won the *CBD Game On Amazing Race* challenge the day prior to the competition. We are so proud of their achievements and their stellar efforts as ambassadors for our school interstate. In the spirit of the event, our students benefitted greatly from this open-ended challenge and problem solving program. With an aim to develop diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment, we felt our students rose to the challenge and extended their horizons.



FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

Students went 'Soaring Together Into The Unknown' for the 2023 Festival of Ideas. In a showcase of entrepreneurial and innovative talents, a huge variety of stalls, exhibits, displays, performances, presentations and activities were brought to life by our students. Even some of our parents joined the event showcasing the creative and diverse thinking among our community. The event is designed to challenge students' thinking, to champion big ideas, and show the work required to bring an idea to life. The greatest part of the event was the cross-campus collaboration, whereby all ages of students were able to tinker, create, explore and share ideas - whether they be big or small. To round out the event, our Early Learning Centre students visited the Secondary Campus for their own mini-Festival. Due to the hot forecast on the actual Festival, our little Eagles were given their own special day to explore and marvel. Students watched in awe as all types of products were manufactured in our Design & Technology Precinct, before a nature break in our special garden. Wide-eyed wonder continued as students were guided by Middle School students in an exploration of the campus.



FLORA

The newly renovated White Chapel Art Gallery came into blossom at the perfect time, breathing life into 'Flora', the 2023 Year 7 - 11 SALA Art Exhibition.

In August, our community gathered for the special opening event to view the students' work and explore their artistic approaches. We were humbled to have multiple generations of families, old scholars, proud staff, and discerning art enthusiasts from the wider community viewing and exploring our students' work.

Author, illustrator, and St John's Grammar School parent, Nicole Stewart, was our guest speaker for the evening, talking about the experience of creating her new book *'What's Out There?'*, a discovery of extraordinary Australian natural and cultural history with a quirky twist.



SUSTAIN

The 2023 Year 12 Art Class had their artwork on display at our White Chapel Art Gallery for their penultimate exhibit, 'Sustain'. The opening night saw families, students and our wider community converge to bear witness to these exquisite pieces. Alongside the art pieces, students' practical statements elaborated on the creative processes.

The art on display included everything from paintings and photography through to etched poetry and projected displays. Despite the diversity of works, the common thread was the importance of things that 'sustain' the soul.





ART SHOW AT THE CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY

The Junior School was a riot of colour and texture as our students' artwork adorned the walls of the Centre for Creativity as part of the Junior School Art Exhibition. Taking inspiration from both local and international artists, the finished results made for a cheerful exhibition that celebrated colour, texture, form, shape and line.

Students delighted in the opportunity to explore new techniques and mediums to extend on their

creative talents. They also found it exciting to see other students' pieces take shape, and recognise the varied creative executions. The chance to display their works in an exhibition and share their creative talents in such a prominent way made our students glow with pride.

Our Junior School teachers even had input into the exhibition with some of their works being featured in a special teachers' display!



JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

In late November 2023, our Year 3 - 6s held their Junior School Swimming Carnival at the North Adelaide Aquatic Centre. House spirit was alive as students competed in a range of events, from the serious to the novelty. Gooch House took home the Shield with 410 points, Moffatt scored 399, Prince 368, and Halstead 230.



Our Individual Age Group Medallists were:

- 8-9 YO Winners: Ryan Zhao and Isabelle Goddard
- 8-9 YO Runner-Ups: Jinhua Shangguan and Alwin Zhang
- 10 YO Winners: Harry Hayes and Abby Gaetjens
- 10 YO Runner-Ups: Aiden Bateman and Eloise Thomas
- 11 YO Winners: Keira Steinhardt and Lenny Mitchell
- 11 YO Runner-Ups: Patrick Gentle and Ella Zhang
- 12 YO Winners: Alex McDermott and Audrey Lee
- 12 YO Runner-Ups: Ethan Leow-Williams and Luna Fenghuang



The Year 6 Champion Trophy Winners were Audrey Lee and Alex McDermott







Songs Of The Seasons TAKE TO THE STAGE AT CABARET

In the final week of September 2023, the St John's Grammar School Cabaret was a resounding success, with more than 120 Secondary students coming together to awe and impress. The 25-song extravaganza held at Norwood Concert Hall focused on the theme of *Songs for the Seasons*. From soloists to ensembles, the range of talent on display was impressive and a huge credit to our outstanding Music and Performing Arts team. As well as the onstage performers, a host of students helped stage this event in a range of technical and management roles. By involving students at every year level from Year 7 to Year 12, this event is a demonstration in the power of harnessing the collective talents of our Secondary cohort. Musical numbers, dance performances, witty comedy and compering, all took centre stage with voice and choral performances a huge feature of the event. This selection of pictures by Focus School Portraits gives just a taste of the showcase that was the 'Songs of the Seasons' Cabaret.



NEWS

FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES



MEANINGFUL MENTORSHIP

The Rite Journey (TRJ) in Year 9 provides students several rites of passage as they transition from their adolescence into young adulthood. As well as taking stock of where they are now, students are given the opportunity to connect and learn from meaningful mentors as they begin to contemplate their futures. One of the much-loved annual traditions for TRJ sees our Year 9 boys take to the lawn bowl green alongside a significant elder male in their lives. As well as camaraderie and competition while the all-male group battle it out, this day provides an opportunity to connect and have meaningful discussions about what it is to become a great adult.



NETBALL NAIL-BITER!

- It was nail biting day all-round for our Netball champions, with multiple teams representing the school at the Netball SA Stadium in Mile End. Our Year 7/8 team turned their game by 11 goals in the final quarter, finishing ahead by two when the siren sounded.
- Meanwhile, playing the featured game on Court 1, the Open Girls team were goal-for-goal against Blackwood High. At full-time, with an equal score of 33, the Open Girls went into not one, but two overtime rounds. Spurred on by a determined chorus of spectators, our Year 12s took an incredible win, with two goals in the dying seconds of their second overtime. What a result!



MARY MAGS DINNERS

- A cast of staff, parents and students took to the kitchen to prepare hundreds of meals for the needy, via the Mary Mags Meals initiative. For nearly 30 years this city-based endeavour has cooked over 80,000 free meals on Saturday nights for those in need. As well as preparing, cooking and serving the meals, there is fundraising involved to purchase the \$1000 worth of food required to feed the needy.
- Inspired by this mission to combat loneliness, hunger, and social isolation, St John's students and teachers now work together to fund and supply meals for at least two of these dinners per year.



BACK TO THE NEST

As part of their final farewells, a large contingent of Year 12s returned to where their schooling journey began - the St John's Grammar Early Learning Centre. It was a trip down memory lane for our sentimental students, who relished the opportunity to reminisce and join in an afternoon of fun at the ELC.

With the help of the very enthusiastic 4-Year-Old Program students, our Year 12s indulged their playful sides with dress ups, endless games of chasey, construction galore, sand pit digs and some even got lost in worlds of imagination. Interspersed with quiet moments of reading and sharing, our oldest students savoured simple childhood pleasures. It was a lovely moment to reflect on how far they'd come as they prepare for the new adventures that await beyond school.



Anthony Albanese @AlboMP

Got a special visit from the winners of the My First Speech competition, run by Parliament, in my office today.

Amy, Chelsea, and Aled's speeches on mental health, housing and healthcare were just brilliant.



3:40 PM · Oct 17, 2023 · 79.8K Views

MY FIRST SPEECH GIVES CHELSEA A WINNING VOICE

Congratulations to 2023 Year 12 graduate, Chelsea Adams for winning the Australian Parliament's 'My First Speech' competition in the Year 12 category. This challenge asked students from across the country to imagine themselves as newly elected Members of Parliament giving their first (or 'maiden') speech to the House of Representatives. Limited to just 90 seconds, Chelsea chose to address awareness and advocacy for Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), a condition close to Chelsea's family. Her choice paid off, with Chelsea being invited to speak in Parliament House and attend a number of meetings. It was there that Chelsea met Prime Minister Albanese who took a selfie with Chelsea and her fellow competition representatives and posted about it on his own feed!

Chelsea was one of only six Year 12 students nationally who reached the finalist standard required by the judging panel (chaired by The Hon. Milton Dick MP, the current Speaker of the House of Representatives).

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES



STATE TRIATHLON PODIUM FINISH

In December, a strong contingent of students participated in the Triathlon State Championships at West Lakes. The day began with individual events, with St John's Grammar having six students competing in either the State Trials or the Come 'n'

Try Event. Both formats required each student to complete a swim, ride and run at various distances. With just under 100 students competing from various schools, we had some fantastic results with Joshua Collings, Damian Draganic, and Maya Helps all being invited to trial for the South Australian Triathlon team to compete at Nationals in 2024.

The teams' event saw 10 teams representing St John's Grammar across almost every category. Against stiff competition, our students showed plenty of skill, determination and resilience in the face of injuries, rain and bike malfunctions. Their efforts were rewarded with a number of our teams recording some outstanding finishes. With 7 of our 10 teams finishing in the top 10, we knew we would be in the mix for the Whole School Combined Shield. With 18 schools and colleges competing on the day, we walked away with a 3rd place finish, another strong performance in an event that we have a proud tradition in.



TOY DRIVE BRINGS CHRISTMAS JOY

The Junior School Toy Drive saw our community very generously donating games, soft toys, puzzles, sporting goods, books, and more (along with some considerable financial gifts) via Baptist Care SA's Westcare Centre. As well as giving the joy of gifts at Christmas time, this initiative supports those currently enduring hardship who may not otherwise be fortunate to receive. Additionally, our Middle School gathered a huge amount of food goods, creating 18 food hampers for Anglicare, and our Senior School led the way with the Backpack for Kids Christmas appeal. Pictured here with some of the Toy Drive collection are (l-r) Ella (Reception), Chaplain Stacie, Danielle (Year 5), and Rupert (Year 4), in the Junior School Chapel.



BASKETBALL VICTORY

The Year 9/10 Division 1 and the Year 7/8 Division 1 Boys Basketball teams were victorious in their Grand Finals, rounding out the school year. It goes without saying that these wins were two really tough and hard fought victories. As well as the glory of the win, we were excited to watch some highly skilled basketballers take flight. The boys have been super lucky this year to have numerous opportunities to put their Basketball skills to the test, whether it be in school Basketball, Intercol, Anglican Cup and Knockout competitions. Our girls' teams also are growing and improving and it's exciting to see them go from strength to strength. Basketball is looking strong and we are excited to see what the year ahead brings.



HISTORICAL BELL FINDS PROMINENT NEW HOME

The Bell of St Barnabas Theological College has found a prominent new home as a beautiful installation in the Retreat House gardens. This historical piece commemorates all who were engaged in study, prayer and service at St Barnabas College and Retreat House, Belair. The bell, first located in the bell tower outside the St Barnabas Chapel, was first rung in 1965. It is now retained as a symbol of recognition of the prayer, services and care provided by the past and present members of our Anglican community.

To celebrate its installation as a proud feature at the Secondary Campus, a number of special guests were invited for a morning tea in December 2023. The invited guests included long-serving board members with a vested interest in developing and shaping the historical Retreat Gardens at the front of the Secondary Campus, as well as members of the School's leadership team. Pictured, in attendance on the day, from left to right were: John Bray (Current Board Member), Richard Anderson (Principal), Peter Mussared (Past Board Member, pictured in front), Arthur Galantomos (Director of Operations), Gillian Clampett (Past Board Member), Kirsti Evans (Business Director) and Jodie Benveniste (Chair of the Board).



WABIAD

A mighty 74 students, divided across 10 teams took on the challenge of the *Write A Book In A Day* competition in 2023. This competition sees students create, write, illustrate and publish a book in 12 hours, following a set of unique parameters and provided random words. The finished projects are published for families and children undergoing cancer treatment in Australian hospitals.



One of our Year 9 teams, *'Something Or Other Novelists'* won Best Illustrated Book for Middle School in the SA/Vic/Tas division in the competition. The team consisted of Evie Holyoak, Isla Morrison, Lotte Kennedy-Dinan, Ruby Harris, Steve Xin, Luella Choimes, Lexi Clayton, and Lucy Waltham. This same team was also in the top three last year in their division for Best Book. The very talented illustrators on this team are Luella and Lotte, who were also supported by Lucy and Lexi.







FUN JP DAY

Twice a year, our Reception to Year 2s converge on Belair National Park for JP Fun Day. We are fortunate to have this beautiful space as an extension of our school grounds, with the Park 'in the backyard' of our Junior School. With the freedom to explore, our students enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of adventuring. From traversing the natural terrain, building hideouts and forts and taking wild leaps across dry creek beds, through to using the vast sports fields, letting their artistic sides loose with elaborate chalk drawings and squealing with joy beneath a brightly coloured parachute; the JP Fun Days create enduring memories for our youngest students. These photos show the students enjoying their JP Fun Day at the end of Term 3 in 2023. Thanks must go to our Parents & Friends Association who organised and provided our little adventurers with delicious nourishment throughout the day.



: NEWS FROM AROUND THE CAMPUSES :



CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL

We were delighted to once again stage our *Carols and Service of Lessons* at St Peter's Cathedral in North Adelaide.

Among the hallowed cloisters, we listened with reverence to the majestic sounds of our choristers, soloists and musicians. This annual event is a wonderful showcase of our school-wide musical talent and marks an important observation of the true meaning of Christmas.





48 HOUR FILM PROJECT

Our Stage 1 Media Studies students never shy away from a challenge, and it was a challenge they received when they participated in the 48 Hour Film Project. This global event takes place in over 100 cities around the world, with more than 71 Adelaide teams taking part. After receiving their compulsory cues (a lemon, a coach, and the line of dialogue "Close your eyes and count to ten.") and assigned individual genres (the St John's Grammar team received Spy and Comedy), students had just 48 hours to write, shoot, edit, and submit a short film! The team - Riley Hinton, Dhruv Rao, Adam Gleadle, Sasha Babina, Tiana Chung, and Rebecca Hunt, as well as volunteer extras Lee Li and Alyssia Angilletta - worked tirelessly in their inaugural year in the competition. The students were creative, professional, and used the skills they have built over years of study to great effect. Their work was screened on one of the five screening nights at the Palace Eastend Cinemas, and out of the 63 successfully submitted films they were one of 13 teams that made it to the awards night. Screened to a sold out audience in the ExiMax cinema, they took away best Crew Award for Riley Hinton, Best Student Actor for Dhruv Rao, and Best School Film for St John's Grammar.



OLIPHANT AWARD RECIPIENTS SHINE BRIGHT

St John's Grammar students scooped the prize pool at the Oliphant Science Awards in 2023, and were also awarded 2nd place overall for the Defence Science & Technology Group Secondary School Prize. The following students are to be congratulated on their efforts to produce excellent projects that showed creativity and a passion for learning and discovery in Science.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

St John's Grammar has an established history of excellence at the International Youth Silent Film Festival, and 2023 was no exception. Students work with pieces composed by internationally renowned theatre organ composer Nathan Avakian, creating three minute long silent films. Open to young film makers under 21, entries are short listed and this year two St John's Grammar entries were screened at the Capri Theatre in Goodwood. Sasha Babina and Zoe Logan won Best Cinematography and second place with their Wes Anderson-inspired film, *The Picnic Thief*. Back after their win in 2022, Riley Hinton and Dhruv Rao took out first place once again. All four students now have the opportunity to attend the international grand final in Portland Oregon in 2024, an experience Dhruv took part in last year where he gained valuable connections and insight into the film industry.

- Isaac Wilson: 3rd, 9-10 Photography category
- Willem Schinckel: 2nd, 7-8 Games category
- Jesse Obst: 2nd, 7-8 Science Writing category
- Jess Gacic & Elsie Malzard-Moody: 2nd, 9-10 Games category
- Ella McDermott: 2nd, 9-10 Science Writing, and winner in the Australian Institute of Energy Prize for her letter to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy about carbon capture, use and storage

Highly Commended recipients:

- Josh Collings (Photography)
- Jayla Naaraat (Posters)
- Liv Tijdhof (Posters)
- Neve Mathwin (Posters)
- Rose Freeman & Thomas Hobbs (Multimedia)
- Luella Choimes (Posters)
- Sara Gjini (Posters)



ELC BUSH TIME

Bush Time was a firm favourite with our ELC in 2023. While immersing in nature, relationships were strengthened, new friendships were built and the challenges of an unfamiliar environment meant those who sometimes lead, let others take charge. We saw a sense of calm in some children and a 'light bulb' moment for others, while many seemed freed to make their own choices. Each week they returned with determination to build on a skill from their prior visit. The sense of accomplishment was huge, persistence and courage paid off, and the joy the children expressed was beautiful to behold. Bush Time in 2024 will see us partner with Park Rangers and develop our understanding and appreciation of Country with local Elders. Visit our YouTube Channel to see Bush Time in action [youtube.com/@stjohnsgrammarschool](https://www.youtube.com/@stjohnsgrammarschool)



ELC DADS & DOUGHNUTS

In the lead up to Father's Day in 2023, our ELC combined dads and doughnuts at drop off with spectacular results. This winning combination saw lots of dads spend some extra time exploring at the ELC with their little ones. And despite the lovely alliteration, it wasn't just dads devouring doughnuts, the invite was open to all significant parental figures, so we enjoyed the company of mums, carers and grandpas. From reading to feeding the fish, playing ball, drawing, and walking the gardens, or just enjoying the chance to sit back and watch children delighting in the early morning excitement, it was a lovely way to begin the day.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION



P&F PLAN PERFECT PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
Victoria Park Social Club set the scene for the inaugural 'Parents Night Out'. A combination of prizes, paella and partying made for a perfect night out to connect with other parents. As an initiative of the Parents & Friends Association, it was great to see our families able to take time out to enjoy a 'grown-up' social outing, after a long hiatus due to COVID-19.



QUIZ NIGHT

The P&F Quiz Night was once again a highlight of the School Calendar in 2023, with our community packing out our Sports Hall for a night of fun and frivolity. From quiz questions to sliding coins, raffles, guessing games, right through to cryptic puzzles and auction bidding, there was something for everyone to enjoy! Best of all were the shared laughs, the wry amusement, the howls from finding out the answer you had was (or wasn't) correct, and saluting the winners with a nice drop from the Wine Wall.



BOARD NEWS

We farewell Reg Wymond in gratitude for his significant contributions to the School. We also thank outgoing Chair, Jodie Benveniste and outgoing Board Member, Felicity England, for their valued service over many years.



REG'S ENDURING LEGACY

Former long serving Board Member and Chair, Reg Wymond, passed away in early July 2023. Reg joined the Parents Association in 1993, and led that group in the Dorothy Pargeter (former Principal) years. He then transferred his leadership and business prowess to Governance in 1998 and was a 10-year Board member, including as Chair from 2000 to 2009. Reg was a true pioneer of the Secondary Campus, he steered the acquisition of this site with only 60 students, just a handful of staff and with very under-developed resources. His belief and passion helped to drive growth and set the strong fiscal and administrative foundations for what we enjoy now. Reg founded our current Foundation back in 2009, and served the Board until 2019, making his service to St John's span a highly impressive 26 years. He performed his duties in partnership with his wife, Sue, who was equally invested in our school, as was his daughter, Katherine, who is an Old Scholar. The new and recently opened Wymond Centre of Technology is named in his honour.



THANK YOU JODIE

Jodie Benveniste has retired from her Board role, having served for 11 years, and as Chair of the Board for the past six years. Jodie was a parent of the school, with both her children, Wirra and Jett, recently graduating after having commenced at the school in ELC. Jodie cites that seeing the school from both the parent and the Board perspective revealed to her how much goes into creating a place where there's learning and achievement, community connections and deep care for every student and family.

Jodie is proud to have helped the school to transition into new school leadership, boost enrolments, ensure financial sustainability, improve our infrastructure, and navigate through a global pandemic. Under Jodie's leadership she saw improved governance systems, a more robust risk framework, and she cites her enjoyment working with the School's leadership team to set a sound strategy for the School's future.

We thank Jodie for her stellar guidance and many valued contributions to the School.



THANK YOU FELICITY

Felicity England joined the Board in 2003, making 2023 her 20th and final year of service. Felicity credits that over the years she has gained as much from her Board colleagues as she has contributed.

For Felicity, joining the Board represented an opportunity to use her legal skills and enrich critical and strategic governance. Felicity knew the School as an Old Scholar from the time when it was only a Junior School.

After 20 years of wonderful service to our St John's community, Felicity can now ease back into 'just parent mode' for a couple of years, and enjoy seeing the benefits of the hard work invested into the school.

In honour of the contribution Felicity has made to the School, the Robert England Building, named after Felicity's father, who was a St John's Council member and chair and was a key driver in acquiring the ELC and Secondary sites, will now be named the England Building, a fitting dedication to a remarkable family legacy.



Old Scholars' Wine Tour - December 2023



ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR
OLD SCHOLARS

OLD *Scholars*



facebook.com/stjohnsgrammaroldscholars



stjohns.sa.edu.au/community/old-scholars

Old Scholar News

OUR OLIVER IS A RHODES SCHOLAR!



Photo credit: Photojo

For the second time in St John's Grammar School history, one of our alumni has been awarded the oldest (and possibly most prestigious) international graduate scholarship in the world - the Rhodes Scholarship!

Oliver Douglas (Class of 2018) will now join the esteemed list of Rhodes Scholar winners, which includes Nobel Prize recipients, global leaders including Prime Ministers and Presidents of numerous countries, acclaimed writers, scientists, philosophers, filmmakers, and many other luminaries in their fields (such as our first Rhodes Scholar winner, the Class of 2005's Josh Makepeace!).

Awarded on the basis of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service, the Scholarship supports students who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future' - a path we are very pleased to have had a role in shaping.

Oliver is currently completing his fourth year of a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) majoring in history at the University of Adelaide. He has previously received the Lynda Tapp Prize and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship, among other academic prizes.

Established in 1903, the Rhodes Scholarship is a fully funded, full-time, postgraduate award that enables talented young people from around the world to study at the University of Oxford. Oliver intends to undertake a Master of Studies in History at Oxford, particularly examining the functioning of British democracy when it faced serious challenges during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Following the Master of Studies, Oliver plans to explore British democracy and its challenges in greater depth through a doctorate in the Faculty of History. Congratulations Oliver, it's so wonderful to see you continue to soar high!



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

We were delighted to welcome past international student, Youn Jung Lee (Class of '09) back on campus while she was in Adelaide on her honeymoon. Ms Lee and her husband, Kwangho Lee, toured the campus reminiscing on her time at the school and the changes it has undergone since her graduation.

Thank you for visiting us, Youn and we hope to see you again next time you visit Australia.

UPCOMING REUNIONS

**CLASS OF
2018**

5 YEAR REUNION
Saturday 13 April
www.trybooking.com/COCPP

**CLASS OF
2019**

5 YEAR REUNION
Saturday 11 May
www.trybooking.com/COWOH

**CLASS OF
2004**

20 YEAR REUNION
Saturday 8 June
www.trybooking.com/COWOQ

**CLASS OF
2014**

10 YEAR REUNION
Saturday 14 September
www.trybooking.com/COWOK

**INVITATIONS WILL BE EMAILED SO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR
DETAILS NOW TO ENSURE WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU!
WWW.STJOHNS.SA.EDU.AU/UPDATE-YOUR-DETAILS**



**St JOHN'S
GRAMMAR**

Playgroup

WEDNESDAYS 9.00 - 10.30AM

Centre for Creativity at St John's Junior School
www.stjohns.sa.edu.au/the-journey/playgroup

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



YOUN JUNG LEE (2009)

Youn's high school years at St John's Grammar were formative and filled with memories that she cherishes dearly. Following her graduation in 2009, Youn pursued her passion for hospitality by earning a degree in Hospitality Management from Le Cordon Bleu in Sydney. After graduating, Youn returned to Korea, and since then, has been building her career in the hotel industry.

In 2022, Youn completed a master's degree at Sejong Graduate School majoring in hospitality management and currently, she works as a hygiene manager specialising in food safety at Sofitel Ambassador Seoul & Serviced Residences. This year, Youn is set to embark on a new adventure as she plans to leave for Hong Kong to pursue Ph.D. studies for the next 3-5 years.



JOCK GORDON (2003)

Jock completed his schooling in 2003 started a technology degree at University before taking time away to found a web agency where, after 5 years, launched an App called MenuPad.

MenuPad provided unique ordering solutions for restaurants. Jock sold his product to a company in the USA which allowed him to explore other life opportunities.

He travelled non-stop for a few years living in Berlin and the USA as well as parts of Asia before settling more permanently in Lisbon. Jock took an interest in western psychology and Tibetan Buddhism. He has supported the development of monasteries and a hostel for young Tibetan children as well as a clinic for Tibetan medicine which services around 3000 people a year. Jock's company MindOnly has wellness web sites like attachmentproject.com which educates people on attachment psychology and has been interested in psychometric research into relationships.



An avid traveller, his entrepreneurial drive means life is full and challenging. Reflecting on his time at school, Jock was most appreciative of supportive nature of the teachers which set him up for an appetite of adventure. He is looking forward to visiting home this year and touring the school.



CHELSEA ADAMS (2023)

Chelsea Adams (2023) was one of only 40 students in the state to receive a Governor’s Commendation for Excellence in SACE. Chelsea was recognised for her involvement in the National Youth Science Forum, Duke of Edinburgh and SA SRC. Additionally, she was commended for her efforts undertaking university subject studies in Year 12, her commitment to the School’s performing arts programs and mentoring in Homework Club.

LACHLAN MIEGEL (2023)

Lachlan Miegel (2023) has received the prestigious Hansen Scholarship Program with the University of Melbourne. While at the University of Melbourne, Lachlan has his sights set on studying mechanical engineering. The Hansen Scholarship Program is worth \$108,000 and the key benefits include a tailored academic and mentorship program and free accommodation at Little Hall residence for the duration of his undergraduate degree.

JULIE PHAM (2023)

Julie Pham (2023) has been awarded the International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) 2024 entry scholarship. This scholarship contributes 30% of tuition fees for the Bachelor of Business (Hospitality Management) and will see Julie spend the first half of each year studying on campus with the second half of the year in paid work placement at high-end hotels in Australia and overseas.



PHIL HOPTON (2008)

Phil returns to St John’s Grammar as our new Assistant Head of Middle School. Phil graduated from Flinders University with Bachelor of Education/Bachelor of Health Sciences in 2014 and has joined us from Adelaide High School.

Phil’s role at Adelaide High saw him apply his teaching, coaching and leadership skills to drive improvement in a special entry cricket program, as well as supporting students to achieve personal excellence by striving for the best version of themselves through Health and Physical Education. Phil has an ambition to continue enhancing the Middle School experience through student leadership, service, community and wellbeing for all.

The opportunities and experiences from his time as student at St John’s Grammar helped Phil shape his direction post-school. As a former House Captain, Cricket and Football Captain, Phil’s passion for Cricket has seen him achieve a Level 3 coaching accreditation, having coached high performance underage teams at SACA over the past 10 years, with great success. Phil also continued to play Football since leaving St John’s Grammar, namely at West Adelaide in the SANFL, Blackwood in the Hills FL and currently at Edwardstown in the Adelaide Footy League.

On a personal level, Phil is married to old scholar Natalie Hopton nee Zesers (2007) and has two daughters Daisy - pictured (4) and Marley (3) and is also the twin brother of Hugh (2008) and older brother of James (2013).

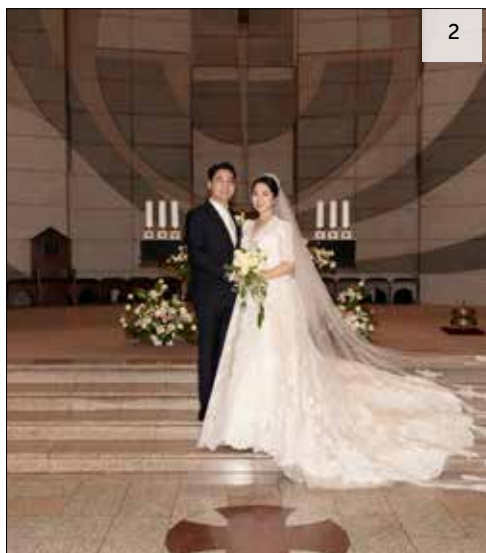


INAUGURAL WINE TOUR WITHSTANDS WILD WEATHER

At the end of 2023, a group of Old Scholars braved the unseasonal elements for an Adelaide Hills wine tasting tour. Although the skies were gloomy, the scenery was still divine and spirits were bright as the group visited three wineries. On the itinerary for the day were Deviation Road Wines and Between the Vines, both in Longwood, and Nepenthe Wines in Balhannah. As well as sampling some of the Adelaide Hills finest produce and wines, our Old Scholars enjoyed small breaks in the weather to play bocce!



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NOTICES

(1 & 2). Youn Lee (2009) married Kwangho Lee on 9 September 2023. The wedding took place at the Catholic church near Youn's childhood home (Mok5 dong Catholic Church, Seoul).

(3). Isabelle Henshall (2013) married Andrew Harris in Belair National Park on 13 January 2024.

(4). Dorothy Pargeter (former Principal, namesake Pargeter building) celebrated her 90th birthday in the Pargeter building at our school. Pictured is Dorothy with Board Member, Mr John Bray.

(5). Reg Wymond (Past Board Member) sadly passed away in July 2023. Our deepest condolences to Sue and Katherine, and the extended Wymond family. Reg's name and enduring legacy lives on through the Wymond Centre for Technology on the Secondary Campus.

We'd love to share your news!

Send your announcements and a photo to Lucy Shelton, Community Development Coordinator at lshelton@stjohns.sa.edu.au

FREE ENTRY



ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR
Parents & Friends
Association



COMMUNITY SPRING FAIR *in belair*

Sunday 13 October 2024
10am - 4pm

St John's Grammar School - 29 Gloucester Ave, Belair

FOOD KIOSK | PETTING ZOO | BOOK STALL | AMUSEMENTS | LIVE MUSIC
FACE PAINTING | MARKET STALLS | MORE TO COME...