



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 1
Week 3 – 2025
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

During our recent Strategy workshops, one word came through strongly in all the groups (staff, students and parents) – community. The element of community that seemed to live most deeply in all groups was connection – the connections between staff and students, between parents both in and outside of class groups, the collegiality of staff, and the strong bonds our students form in their peer groups. While community was not a strong driver in Rudolf Steiner's ideas about education, it is something that lives strongly within our school, and I would say many other Steiner schools around Australia, if not the world.

We are an education of choice for people who believe that education should be about the human being. For families who are looking for a gentle unfolding of childhood into adulthood and understand the inherent forces we all have within us to make the world a better place. These ideals are not exclusive to any worldview, political leaning, or belief system, but they are something that can unite people. When we work consciously as a community we can understand and strengthen those things that we all value. Sometimes, adversity is what can show us this amazing ability we have as a community.

In California, the wildfires have been devastating to communities along the coast. The Pasadena Waldorf School was burnt down in the fires and the community there has come together through adversity to try and rebuild what they had. A wonderful example of the opportunities that can come from disasters like this is the Senior choir of Pasadena singing at the 2025 Grammy awards. If you watch the clip from the short article below (from waldorftoday.com), you can see that they are just like our senior school students. It is very heartening that music is something that is cherished in Waldorf Schools worldwide with a great ability to help heal. We can take courage and strength that our young people have what they need from their education to be great adults in the world.

The Pasadena Waldorf School choir, composed of students including Pedro Carter—many of whom lost their homes in the Eaton Fire, which also destroyed their school—had the honor of performing alongside Stevie Wonder at the Grammys.

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Key dates this week

Monday 17 February

Swimming & Water Safety Lessons

Mount Barker Mountain Pool, 17-21 February

Class 3 & 5	Class 2 & 4
11am-1pm	1pm-3pm

Class 6 Aquatics Camp

Port Noarlunga Beach
17-19 February

Tuesday 18 February

Class 1 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm-7.30pm

Class 2 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm-7.30pm

Wednesday 19 February

Class 9 ML Excursion 2: Australian History

Migration & SA Museums
9am-3pm

Thursday 20 February

Class 10 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6pm-7pm

Class 5 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
7pm-8pm

TERM 1

Monday 3 February to
Friday 11 April

Last day of term 12.30pm finish

Under the direction of PWS Choir Director Ted Masur, the students delivered a moving rendition of "We Are the World" as a heartfelt tribute to the late Quincy Jones, who originally produced the iconic song.

Here's a [video](#) of the PWS students being interviewed by ABC7, followed by their full Grammy's performance.

Kind regards,
Liam Waterford
Principal



Chalkboard drawing by Class 2 teacher, Sally Delara

Upcoming important dates

Monday 24 February

Class 9 ML Excursion 3: Australian History

SA Army Museum
9am-3pm

School Photographs

Primary, Middle and High School
(Kindy will be done in March)



Tuesday 25 February

Class 11 ML Excursion: Big Ideas

CLLMM Research Centre, Goolwa
7pm-8pm 9am-3.15pm

Class 9 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm-7.30pm

Class 12 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
7pm-8pm

Wednesday 26 February

Class 11 & 12 ML Excursion: Geography

Aston Hills Shopping Centre
11.45am-1.30pm

RAP Meeting

Eurythmy building
4pm-5pm

Thursday 27 February

Class 11 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm-8pm

Courier Cup Swimming Carnival

Select student team (CI 4-6), Mt Barker Mountain Pool, 8.15am-3.15pm



Eurythmy for adults

Mondays
9.15am - 10.15am



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 - 10.45am
Meet at School Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesdays
9am - 11am
Cafe only



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class suited for everyone.

Teachers: 8-8.30am
Students: 8.30-8.55am
Parents: 9.15-10am

NEW DAY

“Can you Google it?”

How often have you found that conversations sparked by curiosity, wonder, a difference of opinion, or a thirst for knowledge end in the words, “Just Google it”?

“Just Googling It” poses a challenge to us as educators and carers of young people, who increasingly seem to want THE answer, often without truly considering the question, wondering about potential answers, or debating a variety of possibilities. The additional complexity of AI chat bots (who regularly seem to make up or change answers, or provide surface level responses) throws into question how it is young people come to know about the world, and what they come to see as true and good.

In Waldorf Education we value a sense of wonder, or wondering, and seek to engage our students daily in this process. As adults it requires restraint to answer a child’s question with, “I wonder...” or, “hmm, what do you think?” rather than giving them the correct expert adult answer. It also requires restraint not to ‘Google’ the answer instead of pondering it. Engaging their imagination and their powers for observation and perception, leading them as they grow into adults to inspiration and intuition, is key to our way of working.

There is also the temptation to develop relationships with technology or through technology rather than developing and deepening relationships with each other. The emergence of AI ‘friends’ who get to know you and start to converse with you like a real person is something parents need to be aware of when their young people are accessing tech. Aside from the impact of forming an ‘artificial’ relationship rather than a human relationship, there are risks parents need to be aware of. Snapchat has this to say about its own program:

“It’s possible My AI’s responses may include biased, incorrect, harmful, or misleading content. Because My AI is an evolving feature, you should always independently check answers provided by My AI before relying on any advice, and you should not share confidential or sensitive information.”

This is a challenge young people probably shouldn’t have to face, and are unlikely to have the life skills to determine.

More than ever we need to take steps as parents to ensure that our children are exposed as much as possible to a variety of real experiences that allow engagement of all their senses of perception, and that they have opportunities to seek and find knowledge and conversation that is deeply rooted in human experience, in order that they can determine for themselves what is true and good.

For further information on AI generative technology visit: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/industry/tech-trends-and-challenges/generative-ai>

For information on parental controls, visit:
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/parental-controls>

Following on from our conversations last year about the Impact of Technology on Young People, American social psychologist and author Jonathan Haidt’s 2024 book, ‘The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness’ is out in Australia.

You can find out more about the book here: <https://www.anxiousgeneration.com/>

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

First meeting of 2025

Dear Colleagues, Parents, and Friends,

I'm writing with gratitude and excitement as I begin my role supporting the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for 2025. I look forward to working together to learn more about Aboriginal culture on Peramangk Country.

You're warmly invited to our first RAP meeting of the year on
Wednesday, February 26th, from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Eurythmy building.

As this is my first meeting in this role, I hope to create a welcoming and reflective atmosphere. We'll gather in the Eurythmy room, seated before David Booth's artwork (featured below), a beautiful reminder of the 2024 collaboration between Aboriginal art and Eurythmy.

Everyone is welcome. Your presence and contributions are invaluable as we build relationships and deepen our understanding of Aboriginal culture and history. Your participation will contribute to a brighter future, acknowledging that this land was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

I look forward to our conversation.

With sincere gratitude,

Anna Kotanidis
Eurythmy Teacher
RAP Coordinator for 2025



Artwork by David Booth.

*If you are unable to attend in person, please email office@mbws.sa.edu.au to request a Zoom link.
We'll ensure a smooth experience for all.*

Around Our School

Class 12 Scuba Camp

In Week 1, our Class 12 students embarked on their final school camp, setting off on Tuesday for their scuba camp.

Their journey began in Marion, where they completed their pool training, mastering the fundamentals of scuba diving in a controlled environment. From there, they undertook the long journey to Edithburgh, located on the Yorke Peninsula on Nharangga Country, where the real challenge awaited.

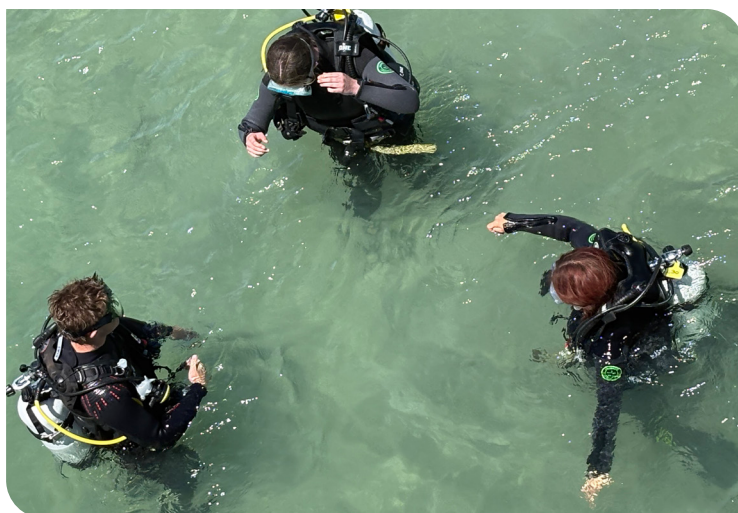
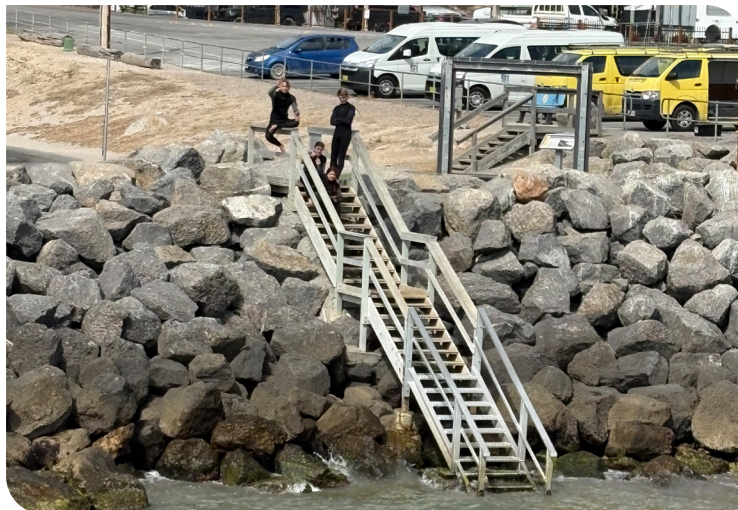
Scuba diving is an experience like no other—both exhilarating and demanding. It challenges the mind and body, pushing individuals beyond their comfort zones. Whether adjusting to the equipment, facing unexpected setbacks, or encouraging one another through each dive, they embraced every challenge with determination and courage.

More than just a physical skill, this camp was a profound learning experience. Students discovered that they are capable of doing hard things, that failure is not the end but an opportunity to grow, and that success is not achieved alone—they need each other to thrive.

As they return with new skills, newfound confidence, and unforgettable memories, this scuba camp marks a fantastic start to their final year of school. The lessons they have learned in the water will no doubt carry over into their lives beyond the classroom.

The Class would like to thank Ian and Elise for planning and preparing the camp, Rose for supporting with Main Lesson and Project work and the amazing instructors Aaron and Skyler for the constant support and encouragement.

Nic Massacci
Class 12 Guardian



Adventures in OSHC Holiday Care

From the OSHC team:

Did you know we had an amazing time at our vacation care during the last three weeks of term? We had a blast keeping our lovely children busy with all sorts of activities! From games and sports to water fun, crafts, and art, we enjoyed barbecues, picnics, and so much more together. It was truly a joyful experience! Be on the lookout for our next vacation care program; we would love to have your children join in on our fun adventures.





MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

MBWS OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE (OSHC) 2025

Providing a safe, engaging and caring environment for children before and after school.

DAYS: Monday to Friday (excluding school and public holidays).

ENROLMENT: Ages 5 to 12 (enquire for special accommodations).

Each child must be enrolled before attending.

Enrollment forms provided via the office or by email.

OPENING HOURS & FEES

MORNING SESSION: 6.30am - 8.45am (drop off anytime)

Breakfast available upon request

\$20 per morning session

AFTERNOON SESSION: 3.15pm-6pm (pick up any time until 6pm)

Snack provided

\$30 per afternoon session

BOOKINGS

- XPLOR APP - select morning/afternoon roll
- OSHC MOBILE - 0491 242 423
- EMAIL - oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au



Child care subsidy up to 90% available!

RUNNING LATE? Notify staff via OSHC mobile 0491 242 423



MBWS School Breakfast Club

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
8.15-8.45AM ON THE LAC VERANDAH
IN COLLABORATION WITH FOODBANK


MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL



2025 Calendars for
sale at the front
office*
\$5 each



**While quantities last.*

From the Canteen

HOT FOOD

Spinach & feta triangle (V)	\$ 5.00
Vegetable roll (V)	\$ 5.00
Sausage roll	\$ 4.50
Pasty (contains meat)	\$ 5.00
Meat pie	\$ 5.00
Toasted sandwich	\$ 4.50
on Brezel bread	
<i>Cheese & tomato (V) or</i>	
<i>Ham & cheese</i>	

SNACKS

Simply DK Potato Chips (90g bag – Classic or Purple)	\$4.00
Fresh Brezel pretzels	\$ 2.50
Anzac cookies (Vegan)	\$ 0.50
Choc chip biscuits	\$ 0.50
Choc chip biscuits (GF)	\$ 0.50
Daily baked treat	\$ 3.50
Bliss ball (Vegan)	\$ 1.00
Juicies ice block (tropical or lemonade)	\$ 2.00

DRINKS

Spring water 600ml	\$ 2.50
Mountain Fresh juice 300ml	\$ 3.00

(V) – Vegetarian
(GF) – Gluten Free

**For all special dietary needs, please speak to the Canteen staff – we can accommodate all requests!*

LUNCH SPECIALS

\$7.50

Monday

Vegetable and corn slice
With garden salad.

Tuesday

Falafel wrap or bowl
With hummus and salsa (tomato, cucumber and parsley).

Wednesday

Sushi
Chicken or vegetarian.

Thursday

Vegetable curry (Cauliflower and chickpea)
In a coconut milk base with basmati rice, raita and papadum.

Friday

Banh-mi roll
With chicken or crispy tofu.



Community News & Events

Calendar of Events Head Heart and Hands Imaginative Play 81A Main Rd Nairne

Workshops in February/March

Making an Autumn Garden Craft
activities for 4 year olds and older
Saturday 22 February at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$18 includes materials

Making a Pirate Doll
for 6 year olds and older
Saturday 1 March at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$18 includes materials

Making A Wet Felted Pirate Island
for 6 year olds and older
Saturday 1 March at 12noon or by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes materials

Making an Autumn Harvest Doll A Felting Project
for 8 year olds to adults
Saturday 22 March at 1pm or by appointment
Cost: \$20 (including materials)

Making Easter Chicks
for 4 year olds and older
Saturday 29 March at 10am or by appointment
Cost: \$18 includes materials

Learn to Dye Rainbow Felt
for 8 year olds and older by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes all materials

Making a Mouse House
for 6 year olds and older by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes all materials

Learn Wet Felting. Making a Playscape
For 7 year olds and older by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes all materials

Making an Autumn Harvest Felted doll
For 7 year olds and older by appointment
Cost: \$20 includes some materials (mini
harvest basket extra)

Making Winter Gnomes
For 5 year olds and older
Cost: \$ 18 includes all materials Coming up
at the end of May

THE GREAT MARBLE GAME IS ON AGAIN

Due to popular demand Saturday 22 February at 1pm. No cost involved
Every child receives a complimentary marble to take home as well as any winnings they make.

Bookings essential Ph or text 0423 202 784

We are happy to open after hours by appointment
Opening Hours Wed to Sat 11am to 2pm
You can find us on Facebook and Instagram



Watta is Country in Peramangk

WELLBEING AND CULTURAL SESSIONS FOR ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND PARENTS & CARERS OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

WOW SESSION- FEB 17TH

WATERCOLOURS WITH ZINIA



Meeting together for social connection
Building relationships
Learning skills together



Mondays 12:30-2:30
Feb 17th 2025
Willows Children Centre



Sessions are free and include light lunch and creche facilities
Please register your interest via phone or email



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Government
of South Australia
Health
Barossa Hills Fleurieu
Local Health Network



ROS: 0432547742



wellbeingonwatta@gmail.com



1 Charles Street, Mount Barker

funded by Mount Barker District Council and BHFLHN



Watta is Country in Peramangk

**WELLBEING AND CULTURAL SESSIONS
FOR ABORIGINAL WOMEN AND PARENTS & CARERS OF
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN**

**WOW SESSION- MARCH 3RD
PAINTING WITH OCHRE**



Meeting together for social connection
Building relationships
Learning skills together



Mondays 12:30-2:30
March 3rd 2025
Willows Children Centre



Sessions are free and include light lunch and creche facilities
Please register your interest via phone or email



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Government
of South Australia

Health

Barossa Hills Fleurieu
Local Health Network



ROS: 0432547742



wellbeingonwatta@gmail.com



1 Charles Street, Mount Barker

funded by Mount Barker District Council and BHFLHN

URAIⁱDLA SUSTAINABILITY FAIR

SUNDAY MARCH 16

From roots to canopy, celebrating progress, inspiring the future

Uraidla Showgrounds, Swamp Rd

10am - 4pm

Tickets \$5, Families \$10

Kids under 12 FREE

Bookings essential



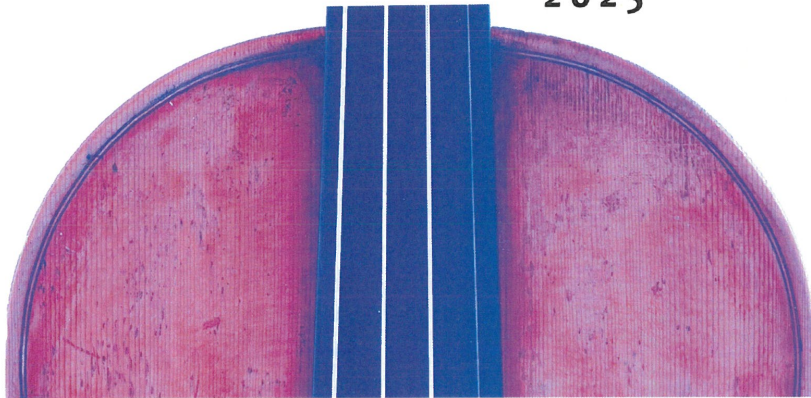
MARTA & MATEJ SUTORA

Present

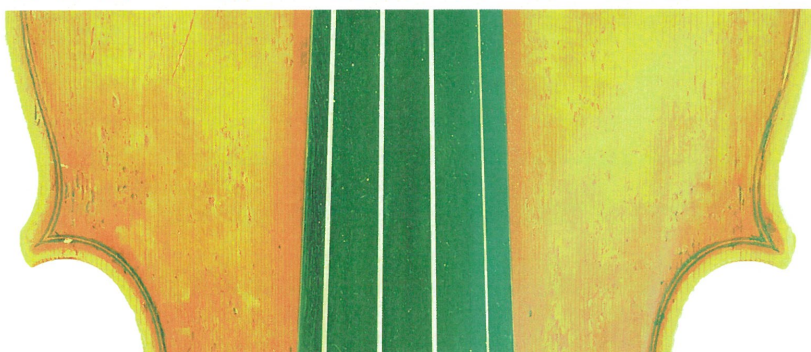
2 VIOLINS & 8 STRINGS

CLASSICAL MUSIC GEMS

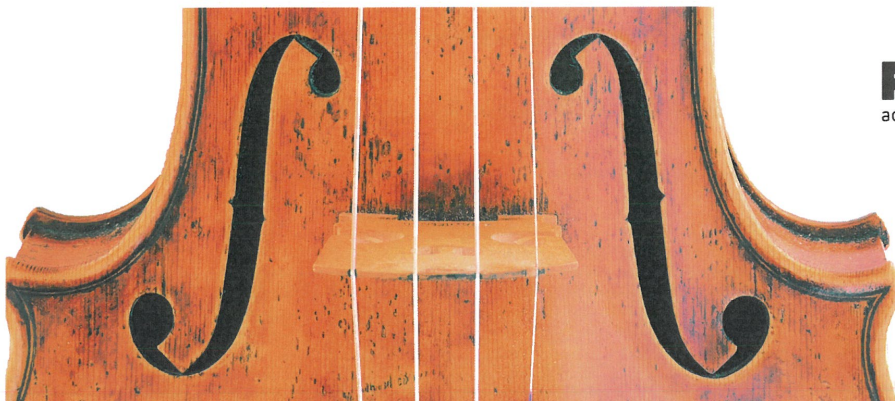
2025



MOZART



SPOHR



Sat, 1st Mar

6 pm

Ayers House
Ballroom

Sun, 16th Mar

4 pm

St Barnabas
Church, Croydon

Fri, 21st Mar

6 pm

Urrbrae House
Ballroom



[adelaidevirtuositrio.com](https://www.adelaidevirtuositrio.com)

FRINGETIX

[adelaidefringe.com.au](https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au) 1300 621 255



* ADELAIDE
* FRINGE * 2025
[adelaidefringe.com.au](https://www.adelaidefringe.com.au)

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ink pot
arts inc

★ ADELAIDE
★ FRINGE ★

Alice in Wonderland

Book, Music and Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt
and Mark Friedman

Based on the classic story by Lewis Carroll

For tickets visit:
Alice in Wonderland | Adelaide Fringe



BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NEW YORK

Saturday 22nd February

Saturday 1st March at 5pm

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday 2nd March at 2pm

The Living Arts Centre ~ 27 Sims Road, Mt Barker SA 5251

Info: quill@inkpot.com.au

www.inkpot.com.au

 **Kiwanis**

 **NAIRNE
COMMUNITY
PHARMACY**
COMMUNITY MATTERS


**MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL**

 **REID
PRINT
PTY LTD**

**adelaide hills
farmers
market** 

JANESCE