



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 4
Week 3 – 2025
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School Community,

The week after a cancelled event can feel slightly surreal, particularly when the temptation is to second guess the decision. While the weekend wasn't as wet and wild as we had predicted, the storm that came through around 2pm on Saturday was wild enough to throw lightning directly over the school. With such a large (and precious) contingent of people who would have been at our school, the decision to cancel shows the living expression of our value of care.

While the actual day may have been cancelled, there were still strong expressions of community in the leadup to the Spring Fair. With each class mobilising to make the day a memorable one, there were many, many hours of work throughout the school, and all of this work has not gone unnoticed. The spirit of our school lives and thrives on the contributions of our community, and while the day didn't go ahead, the spirit of these contributions will echo into the life of the school. One example was the Class 9 parents who gathered on Wednesday night to make Curry for the Curry stall – I heard from one of them that the experience was one of joy and laughter. Even though it may have been in vain (although we had many families enjoy the fruits of their work over the weekend), the experience itself was worth it. I particularly want to give a shout out to the Class Four parents and the Spring Fair Committee. Their energy, enthusiasm and strength have been indomitable!

Many families through the school supported the event and their work will also not be in vain as we bring their valuable contributions to the Twilight Market. This will be an opportunity to see what a different style of community event for our school might look like. I hope to listen closely to the needs of our community in spaces like these and look ahead to creative and meaningful ways of giving them expression. This is the opportunity that cancelling the Spring Fair and moving to the Twilight Market gives us, a space for a conversation around what community engagement and community events look like for our school now and into the future. I look forward to having this discussion and hearing your thoughts.

Have a wonderful week.
Liam Waterford, Principal

Key dates this week

Wednesday 29 October

Class 1 Play

Classroom
3.30PM - 4.30PM

RAP Meeting

Eurythmy Room
4pm - 5pm

Class 4 Camp Meeting ([Zoom link here](#))

Meeting ID: 842 0879 2555
7pm - 7.30pm

Melaleuca Kindy Paret/Teacher Meeting

Melaleuca Kindergarten
5pm - 6pm

Banksia Rose Kindy Paret/Teacher Meeting

Banksia Rose Kindergarten
6pm-7.30pm

Thursday 30 October

Class 6 Play

LAC - 11.45am - 12.30pm
LAC - 6pm - 7pm

Class 9 & 10 German Excursion

Hahndorf Inn Restaurant
12noon - 2.30pm

OSHC ~Afternoons Only

Monday–Friday PM

School finish–6.00pm
(\$30 flat rate)

To book, please email
oshc@mbws.sa.edu.au

Save the Date

Class Twelve

Special Project Presentations

Friday 14 November 2025

5pm - 7:30pm

Saturday 15 November 2025

10am - 3pm

Mount Barker Waldorf School

Living Arts Centre



Photo credit: Hamish Robinson

Upcoming Events

Monday 3 November

Nightingale Dolls Tea Party

Nightingale Kindy

9am-12.30pm

Tuesday 4 November

Class 2 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom

6.30pm-7.30pm

Class 9 Kayak Camp Meeting ([Zoom link here](#))

Meeting ID: 852 7361 3405

7pm-7.30pm

Wednesday 5 November

Banksia Rose & Melaleuca Dolls Tea Party

Kindergartens

9am-3pm

School Tours

9am and 4pm

Friday 7 November

Class 5 Greek Olympics Excursion

Sheidow Park Primary School

10am-4pm



If you have any feedback for the MBWS Board, please contact them via email at: secretary@mbws.sa.edu.au



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL



Eurythmy for adults

Mondays
9 am - 10 am

NEW TIME!



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 – 10.45am

Meet at School
Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesdays
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop

**PARENT CRAFT
ON
HOLD**



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class
suited for everyone.

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

Class 12 Project Presentations: A Celebration of Learning and Growth

It's an exciting time of year for our Class 12 students as they move through a series of 'lasts' and savour each day — often counting down with the familiar question, "How many sleeps until we graduate?"

One of the most significant focuses in these final weeks is the preparation of their speeches for the **Class 12 Project Presentations**. Having submitted their 5,000-word formal thesis and completed their Practical component, whether through an artefact or a site visit, students are now finalising their journals. These journals capture their process, problem-solving, and reflections, and help them clarify what they most want to express in the final piece of their project journey: their presentation to the community.

Crafting a presentation is much more than writing a speech. Students are considering their overarching message; what they've learned, how they've grown, and what they hope you'll take away. The Class 12 Project Presentations are a much-anticipated rite of passage, imagined by students long before it's their turn. Their talks are as much about sharing their unfolding sense of self, purpose, and connection to community as they are about the journey of their project itself.

We warmly encourage you to attend a few presentations with your children, even if this step is still well in their future. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to be inspired and begin dreaming about their own turn in years to come.

Although public speaking can be daunting, our Class 12 students are buoyed by the support and interest of their community. They feel held and encouraged by your presence and they are really looking forward to sharing their work with you.

We also extend our thanks to all who make this event such a memorable community experience: to the Class 10 students for preparing and selling food, and to the Class 11 students for their assistance on stage.

This is a special moment in the life of our Senior School. We look forward to seeing you there, to sharing it with all members of our wider school community and to celebrating the achievements of our graduating class.

Eleanor Waterford
Assistant Principal

Possum Possy

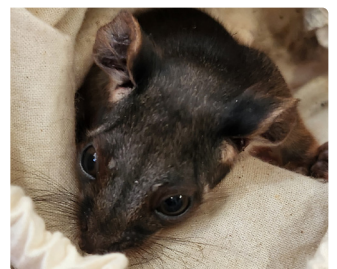
Last week a young possum was found on the ground on Thursday, 23 October, when we had that really windy day.

Some middle school students brought it to me and let me know where it had been found.

I then asked two of my senior biology students to find and return it to its home, and with the help of the maintenance team they were able to do so.

It is living in one of the possum boxes (Jeremy would have more info on the history of these if you think it's interesting) and seemed in very good health.

Cathy Burnard
Science & Maths Teacher



Wellbeing Survey

As a school we are always interested and open to improving our ways of caring for the mental health and wellbeing our students, right from Early Childhood through to the senior years of High School.

We are grateful to work with the impulses of Rudolf Steiner, whose insights into the development of the human being have provided us with a curriculum and pedagogical approaches that are purposefully nurturing and health giving in so many ways- from the focus on warmth, nutrition and connection with nature in younger years, through imagination and an awakening of the artistic, creative and aesthetic, to initiative, connection, empathy, relationship, optimism and purpose. Supporting the development of the body, soul and spirit of each child through engaging their will, their feeling and their thinking, our curriculum promotes connection with the self, connection to the world, and connection with other human beings.

Our challenge as a school is to bring these insights from Steiner into the context of our times and the children in our school. To support this work, Nic Massacci and Elise Duffield have been engaging in a pilot project with the Association of Independent Schools South Australia (AISSA) working with other schools on the implementation of a Consent and Respectful Relationships Curriculum that is specific to our context. We have been working with several other schools, including the Milkwood Steiner School in Darwin, to consider what we are already doing well, and what actions we could take as a school to improve.

As part of this process of implementation, we are gathering information from our staff, from our students, and from parents and caregivers. In addition to evaluating our existing curriculum, we will be surveying community members to highlight what we are doing well in the mental health and wellbeing space, and what we can do better. Staff have been sent a survey, and students will be invited to complete a survey as part of their wellbeing lessons in years 5 to 12. The surveys have been provided by Be You, a branch of Beyond Blue. More information about the student surveys will be available on your student's Schoolbox page and the [Wellbeing page](#)

I would like to invite you as parents to also contribute, by completing the "Be You Family Survey". These surveys are anonymous, but are linked to our school portal and are summarised. Paper copies are available from the front office if you would prefer. The link to complete the Family survey is here: https://beyou.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8BrqyFHxHoj4DXv?survey_id=11133406540

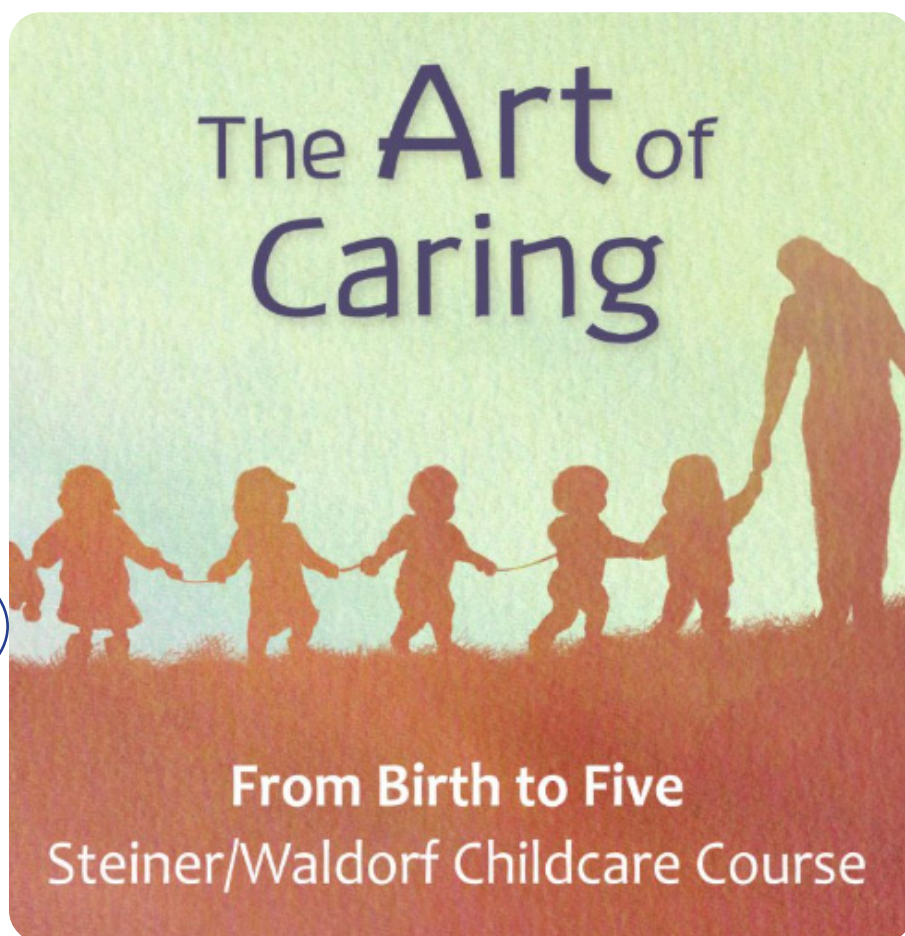
Elise Duffield
Assistant Principal





Offered through the
Sydney Rudolf Steiner College

**Click here
to register**



Steiner/Waldorf Childcare Course from Birth to Five

Developed out of the growing demand for Steiner/Waldorf Childcare, this comprehensive part-time course aims to equip Parents, Educators, childcare providers, and playgroup leaders with the essential tools to create a warm and nourishing environment for the children in their care.

Presented by some of our most experienced Early Childhood educators, the course covers in-depth talks and practical workshops on child development and the art of conscious caring to prepare participants with the necessary foundational knowledge of Steiner/Waldorf education.

Presented online via weekly webinars from February to September, with one 3 day in-person Seminar in April 2026.

Webinars begin Tuesday, 17 February 2026

Total Course Fee: A\$2,000, with a pay-in-4 payment plan available.

ARE YOU A PARENT OF A 5-8 YEAR OLD?

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

10-15 MINUTE ONLINE SURVEY

GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN 1 OF 3 \$100 VISA GIFT CARDS

We're conducting research on the relationships between screen time, nature play, and psychosocial well-being in young children.

Your responses will provide valuable insights into developmental research!

This project has been approved by the UniSA Human Research Ethics Committee (ID #207022).



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- Parent of a 5-8 year old
- Living in Australia
- Aged 18+
- Proficient in English

For further information, please contact Charli Williams via email: wilcs010@mymail.unisa.edu.au

Are you a parent/caregiver of a child aged 5-8?

Earlier this year, I shared a survey as part of my Psychology Honours Research exploring screen time, nature play, and psychosocial well-being in children.

My thesis has since been completed, and we are now reopening the survey to collect a larger sample with the goal of preparing the research for publication.

If you, or someone you know, is a parent of a child aged 5-8 years, I'd greatly appreciate your time in completing or sharing the survey. Your participation will help to boost knowledge in this rapidly changing area of children's lives!

Charli Williams

To find out more: https://unisasurveys.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_79UZDF8RI1DH52K

Inkling Trio



4pm–6pm Sat Nov 8th 2025
Anthroposophic Book Centre
96 Halifax Street, Adelaide 5000
\$25 pre-book or cash at the door
<https://events.humanitix.com/inkling-concert>

4 FREE WORKSHOPS FOR GIRLS!

1 FUN DAY!

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

10am - 12.30pm:
Cooking, Art or Dance



2 - 4pm:
Drama



Let Your Imagination Soar!



Suitable for girls aged 10+

Mount Barker Community Centre, 3 Dumas Street

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc>



WHAT'S ON!

at your Community Centre

November 2025

Date

Time

Yarn and Yarn for women <i>Craft, connection and relaxation</i>	4 week program starts Tues 4 Nov	10am—12pm
"Brush and Bloom" Art Exhibition <i>Mount Barker Community Library</i>	28 Oct to 22 Nov	9am—5pm
Arts Workshops for Girls aged 10+ <i>Thanks to the Zonta Club of Mt Barker</i>		
Cooking Workshop for Girls	Sat 1 Nov	10am—12.30pm
Art Workshop for Girls		10am—12.30pm
Dance Workshop for Girls		10am—12.30pm
Drama workshop for Girls		2—4pm
Mt Barker Photography Interest Group first meeting	Tues 4 Nov	3pm
Tech Help Drop In Sessions	Wed 8 and 22 Nov	2—4pm
Celebrating Pride of the Hills Celebrate LGBTQIA+ pride, inclusion, and visibility in the Adelaide Hills! Live music, food trucks and market stalls <i>Pop up Park</i>	Fri 14 Nov	5—9pm
Finding a way forward, together Mental Health Information Sessions	Thurs 20 Nov	Session 1: 2pm Session 2: 6pm
One Step One Community Walk Against Domestic Violence, Free BBQ, Guest Speakers <i>Walk from The Haven to the Pop Up Park</i>	Wed 26 Nov	6pm—8pm
The Internet of Things Living Smarter with Connected devices	Fri 28 Nov	1—2.30pm

Bookings essential for all events. Most events can be booked online:

<https://events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc>



MOUNT BARKER
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Like us and share [W mtbcc.org.au](https://www.mtbcc.org.au) 83912747 enquiries@mtbcc.org.au 3 Dumas Street Mount Barker SA 5251